

Thu 11/08/2022 09:20

Dear Colleagues,

New UN Resolution

The UN General Assembly has recently recognised the right to a clean, healthy, sustainable environment as a 'human right'. The UK government voted in favour, but made it very clear that they consider it non-binding. Perhaps a missed opportunity in the light of the levelling up policy, but work continues to add clauses to the levelling up Bill to ensure access to nature for everyone. Both the Labour Front Bench and Greens have been really supportive. Those leading the campaign have asked supporters such as FSC to have an "Access August" push on [increasing signature numbers](#) over the summer, to show politicians that there is public support when they get back to work on the Bill in the autumn. If you haven't already done so, please take a few moments to sign.

FSC Blencathra

I was really pleased to be able to visit Blencathra last week. The team are now in the 4th week of delivering the Holiday Activity Programme on behalf of Cumbria County Council, and running at full capacity. Places are fully funded for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, so for many it's their first experience of exploring the beautiful upland environments they have on their doorstep. This week includes ghyll scrambles, discovery walks and orienteering sessions and each day participants are getting a healthy hot lunch too. The team are rightly proud to have also welcomed Ukrainian refugees last week and this week who are participating in the programme.

FSC Millport

I was also able to visit FSC Millport last week and to talk to some of the staff and the Centre manager Elke who was able to share some of her thoughts for the future. It was also good to see a group of German students making the most of the research facilities there. The paddle steamer Waverley called in to the pier when I was there, it was a splendid sight, reminiscent of the bygone era when the population of Glasgow used to go 'doon the watter' for their summer holidays rather than jetting off to Spain.

Generation Green Booklets on their way to Centres

Generation Green has been hugely successful in connecting thousands of young people to the outdoors. They have done this through attending our natural history courses, virtual field trips, day and residential field trips and receiving our wildlife guides. As part of the Generation Green legacy, every centre has been sent two copies of a "connecting to nature" booklet. We hope that centre staff will use the activities in this booklet as inspiration to bring more moments of nature connection to students while undertaking fieldwork. The activities outlined can also be used for future projects where connecting to nature plays a strong theme. Each activity has been specifically selected with accessibility in mind, to help ensure that every young person can have the chance to be immersed in the outdoors.

Health and Safety

As you see below, we have a new Health and Safety Manager, so I would like to pay tribute to all the work that Helen Robertson put into this area of work before she took up her new role as Head of Education and Operations East. It's not everyone who can enthuse about the subject but Helen did so. Along with her attention to detail she ensured that our systems are robust and up to date. This served us particularly well during Covid and its aftermath, but also plays a huge ongoing role in maintaining our reputation, giving confidence to teachers and parents.

Susan Appleyard's last day

Susan's role has been far more than being my PA, but as Governance Support Officer she has played a vital role in making sure that our charity is run well. Charities have come under increasing scrutiny in recent years and rather like health and safety, having good governance practices in place is essential for our reputation. I'm grateful for all her hard work and we wish her a very long and happy retirement.

Welcome to FSC

Mark Fletcher is our new Health and Safety Manager at Head Office

Joe Lewis has joined Preston Montford as Casual General Assistant

Mike Crysell is the new Handyperson at Nettlecombe

Hilary Bushell is returning to Blencathra as Hospitality and Catering Assistant, and also joining us in that role are Lucy Warren and Ell McGrail-Lock at Castle Head

Christopher Rosy has joined Epping Forest as a Tutor

Edgars Novikovs is the new Relief Lead Cook in the north.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark