

Thu 22/09/2022 09:59

Dear Colleagues,

I'd like to thank those who worked over the Queen's Funeral Bank Holiday and all those who had to respond to the last minute changes of plan. I thought that the funeral was a tremendous send off for someone who gave so many years of service to us all.

Government announcements

Yesterday saw the welcome announcement of an energy price cap and help for businesses, charities and the public sector. Sam Dhadwar and his team will be crunching the numbers and working out the implications for us. Other announcements are due on health, and tomorrow is the mini budget. It will shortly be the start of the party conference season where education policy might get a mention. It has been out of the news spotlight unless it's story about school fuel bills.

At a meeting of Scottish outdoor learning providers yesterday, I heard from those who are being quoted eyewatering increases in their own fuel bills. Some are starting to see the trickle-down effect of school and parental spending pressures. Their customers are looking to shorten bookings or seeking for full rather than partial bursaries or other financial help to cover costs for disadvantaged learners. Our marketing team's focus this autumn is already on the help and support that we can offer schools that want to come to us.

New Sustainability Manager

Sustainability, carbon reduction and the biodiversity crisis are matters close to heart of many who work for Field Studies Council, buy our publications and visit our centres. Sam Thurston has recently started a new role as Sustainability Manager to focus on these important areas. Sam has previously worked in our education teams, in centres and on funded projects such as Nature Friendly Schools and now joins the infrastructure team. It's an exciting new role for Sam and he will be in touch with staff across the charity over the coming weeks and months as he gets to grips with it.

Those who can, do.

This isn't an organisation short of those who like to proffer an opinion or advice, helpful or otherwise. Given the amount of feedback both Joy and I receive about the catch up, it's a shame that so few people ever step up to be Guest Editor when Joy is on leave. There's a slot available on the 6th October. Please drop Joy an email by lunchtime tomorrow if you want to take up the challenge and check the rules of engagement. Do feel free to volunteer for another future edition where you may want to focus on your team, area of work, current projects or centre. We know that colleagues find news about who does what really helpful. Just so you know, I still have the final say over content. Many a pithy comment has ended up on the cutting room floor.

Awards and near misses

It was always going to be difficult to beat last week's announcement that we have a World Champion Powerlifter in our midst so I won't try. However, Generation Green, a project in which we were a delivery partner, has been shortlisted in the [Big Impact Category](#) of this year's Third Sector awards. Winners will be announced on 30th September. Earlier in the month, the Trees for Cities project in which we are also a delivery partner was shortlisted as a finalist in the [Charity Collaboration of the Year](#) category in the Charity Times Awards. We just missed out on the win, but we were up against some great competition. Congratulations to all involved.

Finally congratulations to our Coracle Queens Jennie Comerford, Jess Pugh, Kate Chesshire and Sarah Fenn who formed a Field Studies Council team at short notice and took part in the [World](#)

[Coracle Championships](#). The team submission fee raised money for Macmillan's and with little practice, they paddled across the River Severn and finished in an impressive 5th place in their heat. Had it all been about style over speed we would have won, with Jennie's graceful entry into the water being described by onlookers as "a thing of beauty". Well done to all of you not mentioned above who took part.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Irene Barriga Garcia-Lisbona is our new Tutor at Flatford Mill

Our new trainee tutors have started at their centres: Alexandra Lowe and Louisa Conway at Preston Montford, Nenah Verkaik, Samuel Rawlinson and Ellen Tiffin at Juniper Hall, Anastasia Forbes at Slapton, Katheryn Moyes at Blencathra, Emily Yelland and Rosie Durrant at Epping Forest, James Fuggle at Flatford Mill and Charlotte Davies at Nettlecombe.

Stay safe and keep well

Mark