

Thu 04/05/2023 08:34

Dear Colleagues,

Nature for Everyone Campaign

In the Government's recent Environmental Improvement Plan a commitment was announced that the public would be able to access green space or water within a 15-minute walk from home. However, details on how this is to be achieved were lacking. Improving access to nature has been largely left out of Government plans. A report out this week [Mapping Access to Nature in England](#) highlighted the scale of the problem: in a third of local authorities more than 70% of households don't have access to nature within 15 minutes' walk. Rural as well as urban communities have some of the worst access.

Field Studies Council is one of the many organisations supporting the [Nature For Everyone campaign](#) which is currently urging the Government to agree to a vital change to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. The changes would require local planning authorities to prioritise addressing health inequalities, with improving access to nature as an essential part of local plans. It's by enshrining access to nature in legislation that warm words and aspirational targets actually acquire some teeth.

You can help keep up the pressure on the Government. If you haven't already signed the [Nature for Everyone petition](#), please consider taking a minute to do so

Margam's 80th Celebrations

As part of our ongoing 80th year celebrations, Margam will be launching a badge design competition for all primary schools in Wales. The prize is for two primary schools to come to the centre for a two-night residential in October.

Coming to a Centre Near You

Sustainability Manager Sam Thurston is currently touring his way around centres to talk with staff about sustainability. As you'll know, we have ambitious carbon reduction targets in place and there will be a chance for you to find out more from Sam about these and other environmental initiatives when he visits.

Royal Patronage

The Coronation has come around rather quickly. A few staff have asked about whether there is any news on this charity's patronage. The short answer is no. Don't read anything into that fact we didn't get an invite to the coronation either. I imagine it's a huge task to sort it all out, and we have been asked to just wait until a decision is made as to whether we are able to have a royal patron and if so, who it might be. In the meantime, if we ever need to refer to our Patron we have been asked to use the phrase 'The former Prince of Wales'.

Welcome to Field Studies Council:

New Tutors Sarah Cutts at Juniper Hall and Christopher Baierl-Kwok at Epping Forest.

Stephen Cox is our new Day Centre Manager at Epping Forest.

Yanick Smedley is Slapton Ley's new Maintenance Assistant.

Sharon Williams is the new Chef at Rhyd-y-Creuau.

Vicki Wood, although not new to Field Studies Council, has been promoted to her new job of Day Centre Manager at Amersham and Bishop's Wood.

Mark