

Thu 13/07/2023 08:30

Dear Colleagues,

Biologists: don't be bashful

The Royal Society of Biology is celebrating Biosciences with [Biology Week](#). Field Studies Council would like to create an audio recording focussing on ecology for the celebration which takes place later in the year. We are looking for one or more guests for the recording. We would like you to speak about an ecology topic for which you have a passion. This could be your specialist subject such as botany or UK habitats or you may want to talk about what you really enjoy when teaching ecology to our visitors and enthusing the next generation. We'd love to hear from you.

We are a Member Organisation of the Royal Society of Biology and a number of staff are involved with joint events, educational resources and working on policy. It's good to see the re-emergence of the importance of ecology. Even the House of Lords have realised the need for greater numbers of ecologists if the UK is to meet our climate change commitments. If you are interested in being part of Biology Week, please email Amy Bandaranayake a.bandaranayake@field-studies-council.org by Friday 28th July.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Residentials

If you know anyone aged 16-25 do please flag up our DoE Gold Residentials. They are booking up well and some of our new offers are almost full. These residentials are suitable for anyone of that age, even if they aren't doing their DoE, although the courses do count towards the residential element of the award. They really are a fantastic experience. We do still have some availability this summer and are taking bookings for the Autumn term. In particular we do really need to fill our Autumn courses and Nettlecombe's Geology Camp and Conservation with John Muir Award. Our full schedule of residentials for young people is [here](#). Please do spread the word.

Course Discounts for Staff, Higher Education Placements and Trainee Tutors

Field Studies Council staff benefits include a discounted rate for our adult natural history courses. It's a good way to enhance your own knowledge, pursue an interest and experience one of our courses for yourself. There are also some opportunities to go on a course for free in exchange for helping out the Biodiversity team in a number of ways. You can find out more about the various offers available to all staff, Higher Education Placements and Trainee Tutors [here](#)

National Bespoke Biodiversity Courses

The Biodiversity Programme team are seeing an increasing demand for [group, on-demand and bespoke training requests](#) from a variety of national organisations which is a new way of working alongside the annual scheduled programme. Contracts for national bespoke training development and delivery have recently been agreed with Costain, the Woodland Trust and the Environment Agency with similar conversations progressing with four others. Many organisations are now viewing our [course listings](#) as a menu of courses available to book for groups on request. We already have 16 organisational bookings confirmed at times and locations that suit their needs.

Special Mention

I've received a lot of special mention nominations recently, which is a good thing and do please keep sending them in. If your nomination hasn't appeared yet, don't worry. It is safely in the queue.

This week's special mention is for Andy Lewendon, the Lead Chef at Preston Montford. Andy has been working for us at Preston Montford since the 14th of July 2003, so this Friday will mark an impressive 20 years of service. Andy has seen a lot of change in the organisation with different staff

coming and going, but he has continued to train and support the kitchen teams with professionalism and care throughout and has been an exceptional leader in the PM kitchen.

He has cooked many 1,000s of delicious meals for school children, adult groups and staff during this time and continues to cook with passion and skill. He still enjoys a joke with the customers at the serving hatch, frequently goes above and beyond to meet individual dietary requests and has even managed to remember most of the tutor team's names! Thank you for all your hard work and commitment over the last 20 years.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

There are no new starters this week, but there are some internal changes:

Helen Hulett has been promoted to become Blencathra's new Head Chef.

Elaine Davies-Long at Head Office will be the maternity cover for HR & Payroll Officer as Bethan Bebbington is going on maternity leave at the end of the month.

Congratulations to all of you.

Mark