

Thu 10/08/2023 08:30

Dear Colleagues,

Green Fund announcement

Thank you to all who have been involved in developing, submitting and assessing Green Fund 2023 project applications. Green Fund is our internal funding scheme for projects designed and delivered by our staff. Projects are focussed on reducing our carbon emissions towards Net Zero, supporting nature recovery and boosting biodiversity, and engaging staff and visitors to help Field Studies Council become more sustainable. I'm delighted to say the following projects have been funded and will take place this year:



- Bat engagement and monitoring (Helen Lewis at Dale Fort)
- Support and monitoring of local Red Squirrel populations (Sam Haworth at Blencathra)
- Installation of a new compost toilet (Fiona Adie at Slapton)
- Inspiring insect garden (Steven Glynn at Bishops Wood)
- Reducing and separating waste (Simon Ward at Flatford Mill)
- Wormery composting (Ellie Sutton at Nettlecombe)

Congratulations and well done to all the successful applicants. I know many staff will be looking forward to hearing about how the projects develop, their impacts and everything we learn from them.

Getting Bugged Down with Margam

Last week the education team at Margam had a very fruitful visit to [Crymlyn Bog](#) with Natural Resources Wales. The team were scoping out a new study site but also developing a new partnership. NRW are at the start of a new project called [LIFEQuake](#) aiming to restore peatland and bogs in Wales. The Field Studies Council are helping the NRW team reach their education goals by bringing groups to the site. The team already have resources ready for A Level Geography Carbon and are developing Biology, Environmental Science and KS2 options for the site as well.


Annual Reports from the mists of time

I'm trying to track down a copy of a couple of our Annual Reports. One for 1950/51 which is missing from the full set at Head Office and I'd like a spare copy of the  [1963/4 report](#). If any centres have old copies I'd be grateful if you could post them. Printing and paper costs at the time were high so they don't look very fancy and could easily be overlooked. Most early version are an exercise book with a light green, probably very faded cover. Those of you who paid attention at the staff conference might remember that we were not always called the Field Studies Council so the 1950 report may  [look like this](#).

Centre Visits by Members of the Welsh Parliament


Since the last catch up, another MS has arranged a visit to her local centre which should help inform the debate when the bill to ensure residentials for all comes up in the Senedd. We are not blind to the politics of the situation which includes very enthusiastic support for Sam Rowland's bill from fellow Conservatives. The issue could *possibly* become an opportunity to bash Welsh Labour's record on education as well as advance the cause of outdoor learning. But Trojan horses are sometimes the only horse in town, and we can make pragmatic use of this one.

Staff Handbook including two new policies

An  [updated version of the Staff Handbook](#) has recently been uploaded to the Intranet. This includes two new policies: Menopause Policy and Guidance in Section 30; Gender Policy Section 31,

and minor changes to various other sections which are summarised on the Record of Amendments in the appendix. As the Handbook applies to all Field Studies Council employees, I strongly encourage all staff to remind yourselves of the contents.

Guest Editor

Carina Parkinson has kindly agreed to be guest editor when she returns from leave in time for the catch up on the 24th. In the meantime, please continue to send me any content for the catch up by 9am on Wednesday. There's a  [a little guide](#) if you would like to send something in.

Welcome and welcome back to Field Studies Council

Ell McGrail-Lock returns to Castle Head as a Casual Hospitality & Catering Assistant

Joseph Lewis takes up an additional role a Head Office as a Casual Administrative Assistant

Special Mention

This week our President Tim Burt and his wife Elizabeth celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Tim's contribution to our charity over the years has been immense but the staunch support and commitment of Elizabeth throughout their married life deserves special recognition. Congratulations to them both.

Mark