

08.30

Dear colleagues,

### **INVESTORS IN PEOPLE (IIP)**

As mentioned in my catch up of 14 September, you should have received an email sent directly from our Investors in People consultant ([boboptimus@aol.com](mailto:boboptimus@aol.com)) on Monday 25 September 2023. The email tells you what you need to do and for those that missed it you can find a link to the survey [here](#). Please do share your views by participating in this online survey. Your answers are anonymous as the data goes directly to IIP and FSC only see the collated results. The deadline for all responses is **23:59 on 9 October 2023**. Please help us to understand where improvements need to be made. If you have not received your email please contact [hr@field-studies-council.org](mailto:hr@field-studies-council.org), and a team member will contact our IIP consultant to rectify the situation.

### **Savvy tech people needed!**

We're nearing closer to the annual Slapton Ley Research Seminar (Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November) and the team organising are hoping for your help. The team are planning to record the seminar allowing anyone to watch presentations at a later date – particularly universities who have already requested this access. To do this, Slapton would like to access recording technology, including a recording camera, tripod and microphone. If you know of anyone, ideally in the Devon area, who is a keen filmmaker or is savvy with recording technology, who could either offer their equipment for the day or even better volunteer to record the event themselves, please do let us know. It may also present a great opportunity for an individual to bolster their CV or gain volunteering experience. We would of course include mention of the individual/ organisation, alongside any relevant logos, in the videos as thanks. Please contact Em Kendall ([e.kendall@field-studies-council.org](mailto:e.kendall@field-studies-council.org)) with any contacts or help you can provide, or for more details.

### **Bioblitz**

The tutors at Margam took part in this year's Home River Bioblitz. [The Home River Bioblitz](#) - a global citizen science endeavour to document the animals, plants and fungi living in and around rivers. It is a collaboration among citizens to show the importance of free-flowing rivers as hosts of much of the world's biodiversity. This is the fourth year the worldwide event will take place with participation in over 70 locations across six continents. The weekend-long, community-driven event encourages people to connect to and explore their local river environments and zoom in on wildlife they may otherwise pass by. The logged [iNaturalist](#) observations of the local species will add to an overall understanding of riverine ecology around the world, generating valuable data for science and conservation.

A **bioblitz** is an event where groups of scientists, naturalists, river enthusiasts and volunteers of all ages gather to conduct a field study of biodiversity over a short time within a designated area and document it using iNaturalist. The Home River Bioblitz focuses on rivers and streams as freshwater ecosystems are the most threatened in the world. Next year Margam aims to organise a much larger effort from the charity bringing in as many centres as possible and inviting members of the public.

If anyone wants any more information on this please contact Cam- [c.jaramillo@field-studies-council.org](mailto:c.jaramillo@field-studies-council.org)

### **Primary schools video**

A great new video has been created showcasing what a primary school residential visit with us is like. It will be shared with schools who are booked to show parents what to expect ahead of their child's visit. The video will also be a useful addition to the website, social media channels and events to

introduce new audiences to a Field Studies Council experience. You can watch it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhrOR8-OGaM&t=8s>

### **Westfield Rewards**

As part of the Westfield Health package, which is available to all employees at no cost, everybody has access to Westfield Rewards. Within this scheme, there are a number of money saving offers and one recently added is the option to purchase Morrison's instant vouchers at a 5% discount. These vouchers can be used to pay for a range of things, including Fuel at Morrison's forecourts. Westfield Rewards offers a wide range of discounts aimed at helping you to save money on everyday shopping.

### **New energy supplier**

Staff from the Infrastructure team have recently completed a thorough selection process to renew our energy contracts for electricity and gas. Our energy contract is important as it represents both a large financial cost to our charity, as well as an opportunity to demonstrate our sustainable values. I'm delighted to confirm our continued commitment to source green renewable energy across the charity.

Our new electricity supplier is EDF. They will supply us with renewable green energy generated in the UK, backed by [REGOs](#). [Click here to find out more](#) about how EDF source their renewable energy. We will continue to purchase our mains gas from Ecotricity. [Click here to find out](#) more about Ecotricity Green Gas.

It's important to note that energy costs have risen significantly for us all over the past 12 months, and Field Studies Council will also be impacted by price rises. Lots of staff across the organisation already follow energy efficient behaviours and practices and we'll continue to install more LED lighting and other measures to increase our efficiency and manage our energy costs in the future.

### **Welcome to Field Studies Council**

Tamar Reay and Eloise Bucklebury join Blencathra as a Hospitality & Catering Assistants

Lucy Killen joins Rhyd-y-creuau as a Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant

Terry Abraham joins Blencathra as a Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant

### **Departures**

John Blair – Centre Manager at Flatford Mill will be leaving us next month. John joined the FSC in February 2013 and has been a significant contributor to the development of our charity and of course to Flatford Mill during those ten and half years. His last day with us is 20 October. He leaves us to be CEO at <https://www.interact.org.uk> a very worthwhile charity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for his support and commitment to the FSC.

### **Opportunity**

Our Chairman- Professor Pete Higgins- has let us know about the following opportunity at the University of Edinburgh which would ideally suit someone with both outdoor activities, skills and qualifications and an environmental teaching background:

#### **Teaching Fellow in Outdoor & Environmental Education.**

Moray House School of Education, The University of

Edinburgh [https://elxw.fa.em3.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/CX\\_1001/job/8507](https://elxw.fa.em3.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/CX_1001/job/8507)

Professor Higgins has also co-authored a book which *'more deeply explains how well constructed outdoor learning experiences can benefit children and young people's academic development and health and wellbeing'*. Please do take a look:

**Outdoor Learning Across the Curriculum Theory and Guidelines for Practice.**

Simon Beames, Peter Higgins, Robbie Nicol & Heidi Smith (University of Edinburgh)

<https://www.routledge.com/Outdoor-Learning-Across-the-Curriculum-Theory-and-Guidelines-for-Practice/Beames-Higgins-Nicol-Smith/p/book/9780367819330>

**Next Board meeting**

The Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday 5 October and the papers will be posted in advance. Your staff rep for that meeting is Sian Lane so please raise any issues or concerns with her.

Mark