

Thu 02/11/2023 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

Orielton Lease and Malham Final Settlement

This week has seen two large and complex projects completed. Firstly, the lease has been signed on Orielton by the party who plan to purchase it outright. Because of the complexity of the titles, it was agreed that we would lease the property so that they could move in and crack on with their plans whilst the sale completes. The advantage for us is that we will get an annual rental of £30k for the duration of the lease for a maximum of two years and the tenant is taking on the repairs and insurance immediately, freeing us from a significant financial burden.

When we handed our centre at Malham back to National Trust at the end of August, we were liable to pay for any dilapidations (deterioration). The National Trust's surveyors had originally assessed these as being £394k. After a huge effort and months of work and repairs on the site the National Trust reduced their claim to £160k to reflect the work undertaken. However they have just accepted our offer for £120K. That's a huge saving.

So very well done to everyone involved in bringing these two projects to a very successful conclusion on the same day. In particular members of Andrew Walker's Infrastructure Team especially Rhys Davies and Stephen Lane and also our catering manager Chris Wilkinson and Bob Weston from Dale Fort.


Margam's 80th Anniversary Competition

Margam chose to celebrate the 80th by offering a free two night residential to two schools who won a competition to design an 80th anniversary badge. The residentials included a packed timetable of outdoor activities as well as tree planting to mark the occasion. Pupils from Mynydd Cynffig and Bodringallt Primary Schools really enjoyed their stay and sent in some beautifully drawn thank you cards to the team who made it so special. There's a rather good portrait of Centre Manager Sian Lane which you can see at the [end of this article](#).

8 out of 10 Bats

This is Chris Packham's new YouTube wildlife show since Autumnwatch is no more. It has had some great reviews and has featured a number of new presenters and younger wildlife enthusiasts. We were rather pleased that both Chris and Christina Sinclair (who as you will hear used to work for Field Studies Council) did another hugely enthusiastic recommendation of our fold out charts. You can see the [clip here](#) at about 29 minutes in.

Westfield Health

With the end of the claim year in sight, don't forget to make the most of your  [Health Cash Plan](#) during this year. The plan will help towards the costs of a range of routine checkups, treatments and therapies.

Special Mention

I've had a nomination in that relates to an anniversary. Ten years ago, during October half term of 2013 Anelma Roberts, Robyn Landy and Sam Thurston all joined the Field Studies Council on the Trainee Tutor scheme. Now as Senior Tutor, Education Team Leader and Sustainability Manager they continue to do great work for the charity and their time, energy and efforts for the charity should be commended. Thank you.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

David Benbow joins Dale Fort as a Chef

Previous Catch ups and more staff news can always be found here on the [Staff News Website](#)

Mark