

Thu 30/11/2023 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

Signs of Spring

We'll be working with the Royal Society of Biology on a new project, Signs of Spring. Launching in the new year with a survey it will encourage people to spot and record when they see particular signs of spring such as snowdrops and daffodils emerging.

The survey is open to all, and there will be a live map to chart the responses of people around the country. We'll be sending posters to promote Signs of Spring to visitors in centres and would also appreciate any sharing of social media posts to maximise participation and the impact of the project. More information [is here](#).

Signs of Funding?

Yesterday morning the Government [announced a further £2.5M](#) to help children experience the benefits of the great outdoors. This initiative builds on the success of the Generation Green project in which we were a partner. No further details have been forthcoming so far, but I will keep you posted.

Calling all Welsh Residents

Last week saw the introduction of the Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill to the Senedd which aims to guarantee a residential for every Welsh child. We have been working with Sam Rowland's team and local politicians for some time. More support will be needed to have any chance of getting the bill through which would be a huge boost for our Welsh Centre business. The bill got to this stage by just one vote.

For any staff or trustees who live in Wales, or if you have supportive relations or friends, please consider asking the five Members of the Senedd that cover every constituency to either support the bill, or if they are already on board to thank them for their ongoing support. You can see how they have voted on progressing the bill [here](#).

Fortunately, there's a handy website which will do most of this work for you: <https://www.writetothem.com/> will identify your MS and generate an electronic letter. Please don't forget to include a home address and postcode as an MS can only deal with people from their own constituency.

Short is always good when contacting politicians but please consider just flagging up the benefits for all Welsh learners not just those than can afford it and that local jobs and livelihoods also depend on a thriving outdoor learning sector. There's [more info here from Sam Rowlands MS](#) who is proposing the bill.

Thank you to Mark Fletcher

Mark, our Health and Safety Manager handed in his notice and started new employment in August but agreed to provide health and safety advice and cover for a few hours a week in the interim period until we were able to recruit Luis Monteiro. This provided a level of reassurance for our charity and a smooth handover for Luis. I'd like to thank Mark for his work on our safety systems whilst in the role and continuing commitment to us. We wish him the very best in his (not so) new role.

Brendan reaches new heights

Brendan Leach from the Digital Team has been nominated by a colleague who has calculated that if all the devices that he has either setup or fixed this year were laid end to end the pile would be a couple of metres short of the top of the Gherkin. That's an impressive 173.93 meters to be precise so a well-deserved Special Mention for Brendan.

Roll out of Management Development Training

Last week we ran the first Management Development Course over two days at Preston Montford, attended by managers from across the organisation. This is part of our People Plan and the training will be rolled out to all our managers during 2024. It's good to see that participants enjoyed themselves.



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

Mark