

Thu 18/01/2024 08:30

Dear Colleagues,

TV and Radio Coverage of our Signs of Spring Project

From the way in which WhatsApp lit up last Thursday evening, many of you managed to catch Amy Bandaranayake's excellent interview on The One Show but if you missed it you can see it [here](#) and it's the first item. Since then Radio Wiltshire asked for an interview and there has been more press interest. The project was picked up again on TV on the BBC's Morning Live programme which you can [see here](#) at about 38 minutes in.

Both TV and radio stations have put prominent links to our website on their own programme websites and sightings are coming in from all over the UK. Media requests are usually at very short notice so thanks again to Amy for sticking her head over the parapet and to all those in the background who helped with locations, background photos and logistics.

Signs of a GCSE in Natural History

Having become concerned that there had been no updates for many months, we were pleased and more than a little relieved to meet with staff from the Department for Education who shared in confidence the outline of the proposed qualification and sought our feedback. A full public consultation is likely to be held in March, but we liked what we saw although it is still subject to change.

Mental Health First Aider Network

There is now a Mental Health First Aider Network of Field Studies Council staff. They have been trained to provide support for us all. They will be encouraging Wellbeing initiatives across different teams and are another point of contact to reach out to if you want a chat or are needing some help finding support. As part of the training, they have access to lots of resources and can help signpost to local and national support groups.

Details of who they are and how to contact them can be found in this [Month's Wellbeing Newsletter](#). The monthly newsletter will now be available on the [Staff News Page](#), as well as previously the Slack #wellbeing channel, and is emailed directly to managers – ask them to forward it if you would like a copy. I'd like to thank Rosie Molton for her work on this important issue and all those who have stepped forward to do the training.

Staff News Page

If, like those involved in Health and Wellbeing, your team or project would make a good item for the [news page](#), or could have a dedicated page that can be updated regularly please get in touch with Joy Blizzard to discuss the idea. Don't forget the importance of good quality photos too. Updates and new items can then be flagged up in the Catch Up for us to follow up when convenient.

Special Mention

"I think it is important that we say hurrah when our staff do amazing things" was the message from the person who has nominated the following for a special mention. Quite right too. During Covid, Charlie Foster who is currently Senior Tutor at Flatford, (along with Janine Maddison, Dave Morgan and Sara Marsham) wrote a chapter for a book that has been published this year. The chapter is called "Developing a virtual sense of place". The book is [Encountering Ideas of Place in Education](#), published by Routledge.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Beth Cluer has joined Rhyd-y-creuau as a Hospitality & Catering Assistant
Jayde Broadbent has joined the North region as a Regional Senior Tutor

Mark