

Thu 08/02/2024 07:30

Dear Colleagues,

Visits

I enjoyed having the opportunity to talk to some of you during my visits to Castle Head, Blencathra and Millport last week. It is always great to hear your views, and ideas on how we are doing and what we could do better. I am looking forward to seeing many more of you over the coming weeks and months.

Signs of Spring

Although I'm writing this whilst snow is forecast, we want to maintain the momentum of the [Signs of Spring project](#) after such a great start. In just one month we reached approximately 10 million people including via The One Show, which attracts an average 1.3 million viewers and Morning Live, which draws up to 1.4 million. There were another 36 separate pieces of coverage including several radio stations and national trade publications.

There are 10 specific signs to record including the easy to spot daffodil. We are aiming to get 1,000 recordings for at least one of the signs before the project closes in June. Please take a moment to [record your latest sightings](#).

Successful Sustainability Workshops

Sustainability Manager Sam Thurston has been working his way around centres to deliver face to face staff workshops focussed on environmental sustainability. Over 150 staff took part and Sam would like to pass on his thanks to everyone who got involved.

Sam shared that the passion, creativity and energy staff showed towards meeting our sustainability goals shone through. He found that staff were keen to discuss wide ranging topics from our estates and biodiversity, how we manage our waste and how we heat our buildings.

Feedback from all the sustainability workshops will be shared with all staff soon, focussed on the areas in which staff feel we can do better and the areas we can be proud of and shout about.

Another Excellent Radio Interview

Last week, staff at Margam worked with Margam Abbey and the BBC for the Radio Wales Sunday Morning programme celebrating the Church's Creation Sunday. Tutor William Walsh gave a really good interview about what visitors might see and hear when they come on a visit. It's a masterclass on how to 'paint pictures' for a radio audience. You can hear the [clip here](#) at about 11 minutes in.

Radio Training

Senior staff have recently had refresher training on dealing with the media in a major crisis. Some are still recovering. But as you will have noticed from recent catch ups, there are lots of opportunities to successfully engage with the media when there isn't a crisis.

Our work and projects make for great radio and most local stations want to talk to the person who is the closest involved rather than the most senior. The more interviews we do, the more requests we get because the BBC database of contributors is shared across all stations.

We need a larger pool of staff who would be able to say yes to doing an interview. If your team or centre would like to have some media training Joy is happy to deliver it. She's had 20 years of doing media work including tough interviews and has coached others to give it a go. The training is fun,

supportive and makes for a good team building. Unlike media crisis training none of your interviews will be recorded and analysed. The training won't commit you to anything but just knowing what's involved, how it works and what local radio is looking for is also valuable. Email j.blizzard@field-studies-council.org for more information.

Race Equality Week

The theme for this year's Race Equality Week is #ListenActChange and some really thought provoking materials are available. There are also some daily, 5 minute challenges for teams or individuals to help us listen, act and change. For details and how to get involved [click here](#).

100 Free Tickets for [National Outdoor Expo](#) up for grabs on 23rd and 24th March

Biodiversity and Publications will be at the show and we have been offered 100 free tickets. The offer is only open until Tuesday so act fast. [Here's the link](#).

Welcome to Field Studies Council: New starters and changes

Edward Gent and Shynne Foers start as Tutors at Nettlecombe.

Steven Allen joins Castle Head as a casual minibus driver.

Gem Simmons at Rhyd-y-Creiau and Samuel Thompson at Nettlecombe have changed from being Seasonal to full time Tutors.

Luke Embley has been promoted from Trainee Tutor to Tutor at Slapton.

Cathy Christmas has taken up an additional role as permanent part time Hospitality & Catering Assistant for Preston Montford.

Mark