

Thu 29/02/2024 08:31




Dear Colleagues,

Adventures Away from Home

At the start of the year I mentioned the good news that we had been awarded grant funding of almost £60K for [Adventures Away from Home](#). The project is to deliver residential and day activity for disadvantaged young people and the first residential started yesterday at Flatford. We have 20 individual bookings from schools and many of those schools are new to us.

Such externally funded projects often have tight delivery timescales and a fair amount of additional admin. Staff from business development, marketing, sales as well as the Education and Centre Admin teams have been working flat out on the project to make it happen and deal with lots of last minute changes and requests. So far, the Blencathra teaching team have worked around a training day, Nettlecombe has moved tutors around and Di Warren at Flatford has done several variations on rooming allocations. Thank you to all involved.

The Occasional Staff Newsletter

I sent out the first of a new, short  [newsletter](#) yesterday and I'm glad to see that a number of you have already read it and taken a look at the  [2024 Business Plan](#) and the  [goals for the 10 Year Plan](#). Staff Newsletters were fairly common in the early years of the charity, but they were rather exclusive and even had large letters on the cover indicating that they were for "academic staff" only. I understand that the archives tell of a furious row over the spelling of bank full/ bankfull/ bank-full. It got so heated that the editor resigned in what can only be described as a shower of sparks. This newsletter aims to be more inclusive and less controversial.

Those who teach about rivers may be interested in this

The government has announced 40 new Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects. NFM seeks to reduce flooding and improve biodiversity by introducing more natural systems such as leaky dams, additional pools, ponds and restoring habitats that can slow the flow of water and improve its quality. The 40 projects across England range in type, scale and habitat and you can [find more about them here](#).

Salad Days

In response to customer feedback, the Catering Teams have been busy looking at our food offer and testing ideas and recipes out on lucky members of staff. The result of this is that salad bars are now in place in all centres and are becoming a standard part of the packed lunch from this month. This will offer guests more variety, healthy options and will keep them fully charged for longer on their busy fieldtrips.

Special Mention

I've been asked to thank all those involved in Safety Week held at Preston Montford recently. As is usual, so many helped make it successful whether by stepping in to deliver a session, making attendees feel welcome or providing delicious food. The salad options mentioned above were very popular. However, Janet Williams and Liz Wilcox in the PM Office were mentioned in particular for all their help in the smooth running of the week.

Welcome and Welcome Back to Field Studies Council

Martha van der Vliet has returned to Millport as a Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant
Katy Dowdall joined Castle Head as a Tutor
Janette Chandler and Judith Savage have both joined Preston Montford as a Hospitality & Catering Assistants

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