

Thu 14/03/2024 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

Executive weekend - a huge thank you!

I wanted to say a big thank you to the team at Preston Montford for hosting the Executive Weekend for us this year. A lot of work went into coordinating bedrooms, catering, organising classrooms, transport and making sure everyone was taken care of. It was especially tricky due to other bookings on site at the same time. All the details, big and small, were thought of and really made organising this event a very easy and smooth experience. It was a brilliant success.

Thank you also to Carina who helped greatly with the many moving parts and then spent Mother's Day taking the minutes at the Board of Trustees meeting on the Sunday.

I hope all those who attended and led sessions enjoyed the few days over here in Shropshire and we look forward to next year's Executive Weekend with location and dates to be confirmed.

Supporting No Falls Week

Every day is a school day and I didn't know until recently that there is a Ladder Association. However, when you read that over 1 million businesses and 10 million workers carry out work involving some form of working at height every year it's not surprising that they are one of the organisations supporting No Falls Week. We will be joining them as they seek organisations to get involved. [No Falls Week](#) is organised by the charity No Falls Foundation and will take place 13th – 17th May. I know that our maintenance teams and centre staff in particular do make up some of those 10 million workers so our Health and Safety Manager Luis Monteiro will be signing us up and expect to hear more during that week.

In the media this week

Marketing Officer Olivia Watts now has a new monthly column in the Amateur Gardening Magazine. She is writing on behalf of Field Studies Council and will be shining a light on the kinds of creatures that live in our gardens. Her first article is about the Bee-Fly and you [can read it here](#).

Jennie Comerford's Retirement

Apologies for any cross posting, but it's almost the last chance to leave a message for Jennie before we host a traditional Bring and Share lunch for her on Monday. If you are in the area you will be most welcome. Jennie is known for crafting particularly thoughtful messages in cards to others so now is a good chance to return the favour. You can [sign it here](#).

International Women's Day

You may have seen our social media post from the Leadership Forum. Staff nipped out in a coffee break to re-create a photo from the 1961 archives. It celebrates just a few of the many women who now work for the charity in a number of roles. Then and now:



Welcome, welcome back and congratulations:

Michael Camm at Dale Fort has been promoted to Lead Housekeeper

Raymond Kerr has joined the North region as a Relief Head Chef and Eloise Bucklebury at Blencathra was appointed as the new Chef

Sam Nobbs has joined Nettlecombe Court as a Maintenance Officer

New Hospitality & Catering Staff joining us include Max Blance at Rhyd-y-creuau, Petya Serbezova at Flatford Mill, Madalina Gere at Juniper Hall, Claire Ward at Castle Head, Chloe Chisling at Nettlecombe Court and Thomas Morriss has returned to Castle Head.

Previous catch ups can be found on the staff news website [here](#).

Best regards

Mark