

Thu 28/03/2024 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

### **Geographical Association Conference**

The annual [GA conference](#) is approaching fast and lots of staff feature in the [programme](#). Robyn Landy and Sam Thurston will be showing how to include climate change and sustainability in everyone's fieldwork. Emma Kendall is leading a session on urban fieldwork investigations and Ian Tester is delivering one on supporting students in the Non Examined Assessment. Jess Pugh and Dawn Cook from the sales team will be running our stand.

### **Other Events**

As part of ongoing work to attend a broader range of exhibitions beyond the 'usual suspects', marketing's Olivia Watts and Anna Lewis were kept very busy at last weekend's National Outdoor Expo at the NEC in Birmingham. We almost sold out of the Wild ID guide bundles and 500 mini guides to butterflies were given away and were really popular. Good opportunities to follow up were made. Later in the year we will be at the Christian Resources Exhibition to showcase our centre hire option for faith groups which is becoming quite a growth area.

### **Free Course Places Up for Grabs**

The Biodiversity team would like to offer 20 FREE places on their up-and-coming [Discovering Ferns- Online](#) course. It is for any member of staff who is interested. It's a beginner's course so if you have thought about looking into this subject or want to gain a little more knowledge to add to what you know, it's a great place to start. This course is available to study in your own time. If this course is identified as CPD, please discuss this with your line manager and follow the training approval process.

Space is available on the course running between Tuesday 2 April – Tuesday 7 May 2024. The three live webinars which make up part of this course (which will be recorded) will take place on Tuesdays between 5.30-6.30pm on the 9th, 16th and 23rd April. This offer is on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested, please email [biodiversity@field-studies-council.org](mailto:biodiversity@field-studies-council.org) by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March** and they will book you on.

### **Staff Wi-Fi Network: a request from Digital**

Personal devices such as phones, tablets, games consoles and smart TVs should only be joined to our Visitor Wi-Fi. We need fast and reliable Staff Wi-Fi to do our jobs, but we are seeing an increasing number of personal devices taking up precious bandwidth and triggering security alerts. If you bring devices to work or live onsite, please check that your devices are connecting to the correct Wi-Fi.

### **Health and Wellbeing News**

Some but not all staff received Rosie Molton's Wellbeing Newsletter and its contents deserve a wider audience. Being mindful that staff would like fewer emails however, we are going to make more of the [Staff News Pages](#) so that you can help yourself to the big range of useful Health and Wellbeing information and I'll be sending out regular reminders about the pages as they update. The April Wellbeing post will be uploaded shortly and I'd like to thank Rosie in particular for the work that she has put in.

### **Welcome to Field Studies Council**

Thoralf Kretzschmar joined Castle Head as a Casual Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

### Special Mention

Trainee Tutor Lily McGuinness is leaving Castle Head on Friday but wanted to nominate the team there for a special mention. *“They are incredibly supportive, friendly, and unwaveringly hard-working. Each member of our Education Team has inspired me to excel as much as them in the activities we deliver, but also to improve my wider outdoor skills in my free time. It has been a privilege to work with them, and I will miss playing Bananagrams with everyone whenever we get a rare spare moment”*. I’m so pleased that Lily has made the most of her time with us and we all wish her well with her next step.



### And finally: Farewell to Jennie Comerford

National Grants Officer Jennie officially retires shortly. Head Office held a traditional highly calorific bring and share lunch to mark her departure. Gifts and a Jennie themed cake (gin flavoured icing and a personalised campervan) ensured a proper send off for someone who will be very much missed by her many friends and colleagues. Jennie has lots of adventures planned and we all wish her well. Keep in touch Jennie!

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

Best regards and have a Happy Easter  
Mark