

Thu 25/04/2024 11:22

Dear Colleagues,

Residential Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

The bill that proposed that every child in a maintained school in Wales should have to opportunity to experience and outdoor learning residential was discussed last week in the Senedd. Field Studies Council was one of the many [signatories on a letter](#) urging the new First Minister to support it. We also took the opportunity to write again to all of the members with our centres in their constituency or region, thanking those that we know are in favour and urging others to support the bill. You can [watch the debate](#) from the Plenary session held on 17th April starting at about 15:39. Sadly the proposal to take the bill forward to the next stage lost by one vote. There were warm words from the ruling group and working to see how the ideas of the bill could be taken forward without it.

On a more positive note, Sam Rowlands MS who proposed the bill and Paul Davies MS for Dale came for a visit and Mark Isherwood MS is taking up our invitation to visit Rhyd-y-creuau for the first time, so we look forward to hearing what the Plan B might be.

City Nature Challenge

Join people in cities around the world in an epic, global mission to record as much wildlife as possible. Field Studies Council are joining forces with organisations across the UK to get as many people as possible taking part in the 7th international City Nature Challenge between Friday 26th April – Monday 29th April. Over the four-day challenge, people across the UK – and the world – will be coming together to share observations of nature all around us, using the free [iNaturalist app](#). Last year over 100,000 observations were submitted across the UK.

You can see which UK city regions (some are counties) are taking part this year on the [City Nature Challenge 2024 UK Leaderboard](#) on iNaturalist, any records in the UK can count, as well as see a live feed of wildlife being recorded across your region.

Over the weekend, share your nature sightings. 🌿 Download the iNaturalist app, take a photo of the nature you find, upload and share. The app will help you identify what you've found, and a community of wildlife experts will work together to confirm the exact species. It's more important than ever that we know what wildlife is living in the UK, where it's located and how it's doing – take part with your own photos! If you are on social media, encourage others to take part using #CityNatureChallenge #CNC24 #CNCUK

Cycle to Work

As part of our commitment to reduce our carbon emissions we have recently introduced a Cycle to Work scheme for staff. The scheme provides staff with the opportunity to access financial savings on the purchase of a bike and accessories. It also empowers staff to reduce emissions from commuting and has the potential to positively impact the health and wellbeing of our employees.

Who can apply? The Cycle to Work scheme is open to staff who:

- Have been working at Field Studies Council for a minimum of 12 months.
- Have a permanent contract of employment for a minimum of 30 hours per week, year-round.
- Agree to the scheme conditions - section 32 (page 204 onwards) of the updated [staff handbook](#).

Spread the word: Please print out this poster, share it with staff and if possible display it in an appropriate location, such as your staff noticeboard: [PDF Cycle to Work scheme poster.pdf](#). The poster summarises the key benefits, criteria for the scheme and how to apply. [PDF Here is a link to a helpful FAQ booklet shared by the scheme provider](#). Please note links have been disabled in document.

Question? If you have any questions about the Cycle to Work scheme please email cycletowork@field-studies-council.org.

What next? Two Cycle to Work Q&A meetings are scheduled for next week, hosted on Microsoft Teams. These live sessions are an opportunity to ask questions about how the scheme works. Sam Thurston (Sustainability Manager) and a member of the HR Team will be attending. Invites will be sent to all staff soon. The Teams meetings will take place on:

Tuesday 30th April 10:00-10:30

Thursday 2nd May 2:00-2:30

Field Studies Council in the Media

Yesterday some of the Education Team at Castle Head attended a gathering in Morecambe for locals to help co-create the content and visitor experience for the Eden Project Morecambe, due to open in 2027. Two members of the team were interviewed by ITV's Granada Reports for their views on the scheme and appeared (in Field Studies Council branded clothing) on that evening's report here is a link to the report: <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2024-04-23/morecambe-locals-help-shape-the-future-of-eden-project-north>

I was with my fellow members of the SLT at Millport this week and my attention was drawn to this article in the Times newspaper which refers to the importance of the facilities at Millport in the work of this particular group. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/1530cbd6-9033-45a5-be21-61eb1e3148c2?shareToken=2a84a7abd6226be4d9037f51189024bb>

New starters this week

I would like to welcome the following new starters joining us this week:

Nathan (Nate) Whittaker has started as Centre Manager at Flatford Mill.

Ella Myerscough and Claire Heppenstall joined Castle Head as Casual Hospitality & Catering Assistants

Damon Geard and David Wetherill joined Blencathra as Casual Minibus Drivers and Casual Hospitality & Catering Assistants

Alice Shrimpton at Juniper Hall was promoted to Senior Tutor

Gillian Butterfield and Oliver Moffatt joined Blencathra as Casual Minibus Drivers and Casual Hospitality & Catering Assistants

Helen Murray took on additional responsibilities at Amersham as a Forest School Trainer and Assessor

Ian Williams joined Blencathra as a Casual Minibus Driver and Casual Hospitality & Catering Assistant

Best wishes

Mark