

Thu 12/09/2024 08:31

Dear Colleagues,

Another Successful Young Darwin Scholarship Programme Completed

A big thank you and well done to Mollie Clay from the Biodiversity team for leading and delivering, and to teams from Slapton, Rhyd y Creuau and London for delivering another successful Young Darwin Scholarship Programme this summer. Scholarship weeks were also delivered with partners in Birmingham and at Doddington Hall and Gardens.

The programme was as popular as ever with 242 young people from diverse backgrounds across the UK applying for 75 places across the 5 weeks. Each week saw young people immersed in a packed programme of environmental activities from botanical surveying to bat watching providing them with valuable knowledge, skills and experience for their first steps into a green career.

Recently Uploaded

A [Q&A article](#) with new Chair of the Board Jeff Sissons is now on the Staff News Page so you can find out a little bit more about him, his career and his thoughts on what's next for the charity.

The [Occasional Staff Newsletter for September](#) has also been uploaded and you can [see past editions here](#).

All that glitters is not gold, it's a nuisance.

I'm aware that some centres have had significant clean up jobs after the departure of some of our exclusive group bookings. Glitter and candle wax in the carpets being just two of the additional challenges being tackled by staff, so I wanted to acknowledge the extra effort made by so many of you to get centres back up to scratch ready for our next guests. Thank you all.

Curriculum Review Panel Announced

The twelve person panel has been [announced](#). They will be overseeing the review of the curriculum and assessment in England, chaired by Prof Becky Francis. If any members of staff or trustees know or have worked with any of the panel members please let me know.

Movement for Good Charity Draw

There's an opportunity to nominate Field Studies Council to win £1,000 in a charity draw. It is quick and easy, just [click here](#). Our charity number is 313364. £1,000 would support 2 cohorts of 12 A level geography students to undertake field work at one of our day centres or 1 x Young Darwin Scholar over a 3-year period. The more nominations we get, the greater the chance of winning (although it's one nomination per entrant so please don't try to put in multiple entries). The next draw is 23rd September.

Expenses Claim Form

There have been some slight changes to the 2024 Expenses Claim Form over the past few months. The new form to download can be found here  [2024 EXPENSES CLAIM FORM](#) or by searching for '2024 Expenses Claim Form' on the Intranet.

For those who teach about rivers

Just in case you ever get asked "why do we need to know this stuff?", a government [news story](#) has recently come out about how high tech sensors and real time monitoring of rivers will help provide earlier flood and drought warnings.

Special Mention

Over two days at Preston Montford, 22 education staff were studying for their Award in Education and Training. After a hard day training the education team relaxed in PM bar with a quiz involving a science and nature round, a round about the geography of the Field Studies Council and a creative task. Here they are creating wonderful natural art.



Welcome to Field Studies Council

David Skuce has joined Nettlecombe as a casual minibuss driver

Jack Griffith has joined the team at Epping Forest as General Assistant

Elen Jones has joined Rhyd- y- Creuau as Education Support Assistant

Tommaso Barbieri, Mark Henderson and Sami Padley have all joined Castle Head as Hospitality and Catering Assistants.

And also

Fran Rix has moved to a new role of Countryside Worker Apprentice

Rachel Scott has been promoted to Education Team Leader at Bishops Wood

Edward Moss has been promoted from Trainee Tutor to Tutor at Blencathra

Elaine Davies-Long has been promoted to the role of HR Officer.

Previous Catch Ups can be found [here](#) and a new article has been posted on the Health and Wellbeing Page [here](#).

Best regards

Mark