

Thu 09/01/2025 09:03

Dear Colleagues,

Re-boot and Raise 2025

Earlier this week I sent out the latest [Occasional Staff Newsletter](#) which flagged up that new fundraising challenges will be coming in 2025. [Re-boot and Raise](#) is looking to raise £10,000 of sponsorship for our Grants for Schools programme. Based on the figure of the 514 miles between our most northern and southern centres, we are looking for teams who will cover that equivalent distance by walking, cycling or even swimming during the month of March. There is lots more information including how to register as a team on the website [here](#).

Field Studies Council in the Media - reflecting on 2024

It's a year since we featured on The One Show and in the 12 months since, staff engagement with the media has really taken off. At the recent Leadership Forum a jar of chocolates was used to demonstrate just how many individuals had done radio interviews, podcasts, featured in articles or been filmed for our own campaigns.

Hearing yourself on radio or seeing yourself in print isn't always the most comfortable thing so thank you for stepping up. Staff really do make excellent ambassadors and it's an area we want to grow and develop. Free radio training is available so contact Joy if you or your centre would like to try. We'll be collating the stats on our media work for this year after December's press work has been calculated and will let you know the results.

Signs of Spring 2025

We are running the Signs of Spring survey again this year in conjunction with the Royal Society of Biology. Data is already being added with a daffodil sighting - most appropriately- in Wales on the 1st January. We want to build on last year's success. There's more information [here](#).

Thank you

I've been sent a follow-up in the wake of Storm Darragh. A big thank you to Mark Taylor, Maintenance Officer at Margam, who went over to Dale Fort on his day off to support Tom, Bob and the team in the clear up after the storm. Mark helped with repairs to C-Block roof to help keep out the worst of the winter weather. Many thanks Mark for putting himself out to support nearby colleagues.

Epping Forest Indoor River

Not more storm problems, but a great example of creative thinking by Trainee Tutor Kelsie. She adapted the GCSE rivers course to be more accessible so that a disabled student could take part in fieldwork. The student was unable to visit the fieldwork sites, so Kelsie put together an 'indoor river' using old guttering and a bucket of water. Kelsie was able to demonstrate the fieldwork techniques and use leaf litter to show the limitations of measuring velocity.



Despite having limited movement in her arms, the student was supported by her teachers and was able to pour water to create the 'river flow' giving her an interactive experience too. We haven't got the required photo permissions so we've had to crop the images but I hope this still gives a sense of Epping's Indoor River.

Some Sad News

I'm sorry to report the recent death of a Field Studies Council stalwart, Dr John Crothers. John was a marine biologist who started with the us at Dale Fort in 1963 and then moved to Nettlecombe Court as Warden in 1968 until he retired in 1999. His area of research was Dog Whelks and he published extensively. He edited the Field Studies Journal for many years and was involved in the early days of the AIDGAP identification guides project. He was a Fellow of the Linnean Society and edited their specialist guides *Series of Synopses of the British Fauna* for over 30 years. I will be writing to his widow Marilyn to express our condolences.

John's funeral will be at Nettlecombe Church on Thursday 30th January at 2pm and the wake will be held at the centre. Please let Dan House know if you want to attend and he can arrange accommodation if needed.

SLT Question Time

On the last morning of conference there will a chance to ask a question at SLT Question Time. You do not need to be attending conference to have your question asked. Please add your question to [this form](#). For those attending conference there will also be an opportunity to share questions to be asked on the first afternoon/evening.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Matt Healey has joined the team at Castle Head as Residential Centre Manager.

Rose Goodman has joined the team at Castle Head as Tutor.

Catherine Speight is the new Caretaker at Kindrogan (although technically she's a returner having worked at Malham many years ago)

Also this week:

Georgia Hunter has returned to Field Studies Council as Regional Senior Tutor for Day centres. Nenah Verkaik has been promoted to the role of Senior Tutor at Juniper Hall and Ana Forbes to the role of Regional Senior Tutor in the South region.

Hugh McNally has taken on the additional role of Casual Minibus Driver at Nettlecombe.

Jake Tucker has been promoted to the role of Acting Lead Cook at Slapton.

Claire Ward has been made a permanent member of the Hospitality and Catering team at Castle Head and Aileen Wilson and Sammy McGhee have been made permanent members of the Hospitality and Catering team at Millport.

Best regards

Mark