

Thu 06/03/2025

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to those of you whom I met and who looked after me so well during my visits to Millport, Blencathra and Castle Head this week. It was great to see you and to hear your thoughts and ideas for the future.

Reflections on Education Training

It is just over a month since 75 people attended the Education Staff Training at Preston Montford in January. The last time they had this opportunity was 2018, so it's been a long time coming! The three days of training involved primary delivery best practice, teaching for SEN, GIS for beginners and intermediates, creative urban techniques, managing challenging behaviour, including biodiversity stories and sustainability links in delivery and much more.

The training was a resounding success, with hugely positive feedback, and importantly, focussed time to plan how to follow up in centres, with each team working on a planning sheet to take back with them. Some feedback from newer staff members mentioned how valued, reassured, and included they felt and from the more established tutors there was positive praise for the range of activities and time to embed. Also of course the best bits were the conversations both social and work-based that brought us all together as a Charity and allow solution sharing, support, and friendships to develop.

Thank you to everyone who attended, presented, and facilitated making this event so successful. Below: a model class showing rapt attention and also nature yoga.



International Women's Day 8th March

In the run up to Saturday, we have reflected on the vital role that women played in getting our charity off the ground and their ongoing impact in every team today. We have spoken to just a few about what inspires them and any advice they can offer about working in the sector. You can [read the blog here](#).

Salary Sacrifice Pension Schemes

With the start of a new tax year and domestic bills on the rise again, please do take a look at our voluntary Salary Sacrifice Scheme. Whilst we cannot offer individuals financial advice, choosing to invest in this way could result in National Insurance savings for both you and Field Studies Council, so increasing your take-home pay whilst also reducing the Charity's salary costs. As most of you are probably aware the hike in the charity's National Insurance bill starts in April.

Further information, including how you opt-in, can be found [here](#). Members of the finance team are also happy to explain more about the how the scheme operates in your team meetings. If you would find that helpful, please email Carl Leah.

If you aren't already a member of one of the schemes, we would encourage you to consider joining. Information about both schemes can be found here:  [Pensions](#). Joining one has an added incentive in that Field Studies Council will also add money to your pension pot whilst you are in one of the schemes. Using the salary sacrifice scheme should then create some savings in National Insurance for you.

Reboot and Raise Virtual Hike

The charity challenge is well under way and there are plenty of friends and colleagues stomping, swimming and cycling towards their goals. You can encourage them in their efforts by sponsoring them. [Find out more here](#).

Welcome to Field Studies Council

At Margam Max Stone has joined the team General Assistant and Shauna Ellis is the new Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

Claire Asparassa and Adam Freeman have both joined the team at Dale Fort as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistants.

Also this week:

Emily Day has been promoted to Tutor at Juniper Hall.

Previous catch ups can be found [here](#).

Best regards

Mark