

Thu 01/05/2025 08:55

Dear Colleagues,



Sam's Marathon Effort

Firstly, many congratulations to Sam Thurston who completed the London Marathon in 4 hours 23 minutes. I know that quite a few colleagues were tracking his progress and cheering him on.

It's a huge achievement, especially on such a warm day. Sponsorship is still coming in so we don't yet have a final total, but it will include over £88 raised in the auction of Rab clothing. Very well done Sam.

Shaping Our Future – Building the Next Phase of Our Strategy

The Senior Leadership Team have been working closely with trustees and the Leadership Forum to look ahead and plan how we ensure that Field Studies Council remains resilient, relevant, and impactful in the years to come. We are now in the early stages of developing a new organisational programme — a coordinated set of projects and initiatives that will help us deliver our long-term strategy and secure a more financially sustainable future.

Right now, we're reviewing and refining over 200 ideas and activities that were generated through recent workshops involving staff and trustees. These range from ways to grow our income and reduce costs, to ideas for improving access, expanding reach, and strengthening our charitable impact.

Next, we'll begin grouping these activities into themed projects and identifying which teams might lead them. This will help us shape a clear programme that supports the whole organisation and reflects the creativity and passion we know exists across our organisation. More updates will follow as this work progresses, and there will be opportunities for wider involvement soon.

Electric Vehicle Scheme

If you were not able to attend the recent online event, you can [see it here](#). More information is in [Section 33 of the Staff Handbook](#).

Thank you to Rhyd-y-Creuau Staff

The Biodiversity Team held their recent gathering at Rhyd-y-Creuau and wanted to thank all of the staff there. Everyone was warm, accommodating, and helpful during what was a very busy weekend. It made for a great backdrop to a really valuable in-person catch up.

David's Birthday Fundraiser

Hot on the heels of Sam, our Fundraising Officer David is taking on his own fundraising challenge on Monday 5th May. To celebrate his upcoming 40th birthday, he'll be attempting to walk 40 miles in one day, doing 4 laps of the Isle of Cumbrae where our Millport centre is located. It's a big challenge for a self-proclaimed exercise hater.

Re-boot and raise

David will walk 4x round the Isle of Cumbrae

Sponsor David

David will be walking 40 miles on Monday 5th May.

He will be raising money for the Field Studies Council, to fund environmental education for disadvantaged young people.

Cuts to school funding and the increasing cost of living mean children in disadvantaged areas are missing out. These trips can change lives, and we need more young people to learn about nature so they can protect it. This is why David is raising money to provide free and subsidised trips to those who need them.

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to read more and support or sponsor David!

www.field-studies-council.org/support-us

Field Studies Council

FINANCIAL REGULATOR

He'll be sharing updates on his [fundraising page](#) and hopefully a link so you can track his progress live on the day. You can also find an amusing account of why he's doing the challenge. Do keep an eye on our social media channels for posts you can share with your networks.

Special Mention - farewell to Rosie Molton

Rosie started with Field Studies Council 10 years ago. In her time with us she has worked on the Slapton Nature Reserve, completed the trainee scheme, worked as a tutor at both Flatford Mill and Slapton, before becoming a Regional Senior Tutor in the Southwest. Rosie has been a valued, reliable, diligent member of many teams and has worked supporting staff mental health and on the People Roadmap. We are sad to see Rosie go but wish her all the luck in the world as she moves nearer her family and takes up a new role at Doddington Hall. The nomination read *"Rosie, you really have embodied the Charity's values and been a fount of knowledge and inspiration. Good Luck!"*

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Alex Stott has joined the team at Rhyd-y-creuau as Hospitality and Catering Assistant.
 Helen Binding has joined the team at Nettlecombe as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant.
 Jess Coldwell has joined the team at Blencathra as Chef.

Also this week:

Nicole Ferreira has been promoted to Assistant Cook at Slapton and Sami Padley has been made a permanent member of the team at Castle Head as Seasonal Hospitality and Catering Assistant.

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

Best Regards

Mark