

Thu 09/07/2026

Dear Colleagues,

Parliamentary Drop In

Last week, as part of our ongoing Access Unlimited Coalition work with Outward Bound, YHA, Scouts, Girl Guiding and National Landscapes, we held a morning drop in event in Portcullis House. These allow busy MPs and their staff to call in for a quick chat, a briefing and a photo opportunity. We had some simple asks ready and many are only too willing to help. It's a cost effective way to engage with MPs as it only requires a friendly MP to book a room for us to use for free.

Of the 10 who came along, three have our centres in their constituency. Tim Farron (Blencathra and Castle Head) and Caroline Voaden (Slapton) are actively supportive but Rachel Gilmour (Nettlecombe) has never responded to us before until now, so it was good to meet her and make plans for a centre visit.



Outdoor Learning Ten Minute Rule Bill gets a 2nd Reading

On Tuesday Slapton's MP Caroline Voaden introduced a Ten Minute Rule Bill asking for government to follow Scotland's example and guarantee residential, but also more outdoor lessons and time outdoors throughout the school day. There will be a 2nd reading in October and although it is unlikely to become law (although the same was said about Scotland) it helps keep the issue and the benefits in the spotlight.

We were asked to help with her speech so it's really good to hear some of our own phrases and case studies to demonstrate the multiple benefits of outdoor learning. You can [see the speech here](#) starting at 12.40.

Centre Fundraising Success

Juniper Hall's new funded programme has grown from relationship-building within the local community, particularly through involvement with the Friends of Box Hill committee. Through these discussions, Friends of Box Hill shared their ambition to inspire future generations to value and help protect the Box Hill landscape.

Together, staff explored how this could be achieved through education, leading to the idea of funding day visits for local primary schools. From September, 20 school groups will be able to visit Juniper Hall for a fully funded day of environmental learning, helping children understand the special qualities of the local landscape, learn practical ways to care for it, and encouraging families to return and enjoy Box Hill in the future.

The project is also strengthening our partnership with the National Trust. While the National Trust no longer directly delivers educational sessions at Box Hill, we are keen to work closely together to reconnect young people with this important landscape. As part of the partnership, Juniper Hall will promote National Trust family activities and events to visiting children on this project, while the National Trust Visitor Centre will help showcase Juniper Hall's public events and opportunities to engage with nature such as our Wellbeing Weekend, Duke of Edinburgh courses and 'Wild Night' events.

Trustee News

We say goodbye to Trustee Chris Lane this week after many years of involvement and service. Chris' first stint as a Trustee was back in 2000, bringing his valuable teaching experience to the charity. He has certainly waded through a lot of board and committee papers in his time and I want to thank him for his hard work and dedication to our charity.

Sadly this week we heard that former Trustee and Honorary Treasurer Malcom Beatty died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family. He brought a huge amount of experience and wisdom to his role as a Trustee and this was underpinned by his commitment to environmental education.

Special Mention

This week's nominee is Robyn Landy (ETL at Nettlecombe) for giving up a very valuable and rare office day in the first week of July to answer the call of our partner organisation - the Geographical Association- to co-deliver teacher training. Robyn jumped in with little prep in a new location and did an outstanding job, on what was an office day sandwiched between two groups. We really do appreciate her professionalism and willingness to go above and beyond.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Eve Bazeley has joined the team at Juniper Hall as Lead Housekeeper

Also, this week: Sam Harley has been promoted to the role of Senior Tutor at Flatford Mill

Kind regards

Mark