

Thu 27/08/2026

Dear Colleagues,

Preston Montford Open Day

Last week's open day welcomed 70 visitors with ages ranging from the very small to the more senior. Fun was on offer in the adventure area which has a climbing tower, bouldering wall, low ropes course and peg pole challenge. Activities on offer included shelter building, pond dipping, face painting, nature room, craft room, and a guided nature walk.

The kitchen team rebranded themselves as the 'snack shack' and sold tasty cakes through the day and hot meals at lunch time. The centre was enjoyed by all despite the rain showers. With teachers, nursery workers, university lecturers and cub scout leaders included in the visitor numbers, the team generated 3 or 4 potential booking enquiries on the day to follow up on. Thank you to all the staff who all worked extremely hard to show off the centre and ensure that visitors had a good time. I'm glad to hear that they are already talking about next year.

Win a corporate volunteering day:

We have launched a competition for corporates to win a volunteering day with us at a centre of their choice. This will allow us to connect with more businesses who would like to support our work, whilst contributing to our nature recovery and centre plans.

Applicants just need to complete a short form to enter, so please do share far and wide with your friends, family, and networks. Existing contacts and partners are eligible to apply, as well as new contacts: <https://www.field-studies-council.org/2026/08/17/win-a-company-volunteering-day/>. Competition closes 30th September, with the winner notified w/c 5th October 2026.

If you have any questions, please email Elise in the fundraising team.

Youth Panel member research update

Back in July, I wrote about the plans that Youth Panel member Millicent had to undertake research exploring whether youth voices are influencing environmental policy, governance and campaigning. She has continued to work incredibly hard to gain support for this project and it has paid off. She has just been awarded a Research tuition fee scholarship from the University of York. I've emailed to congratulate Millicent on such an incredible achievement. As part of the project, she will also be involving the wider Youth Panel members too.

Alongside seeking support for her research, she has also continued to be an inspiration to other young people, especially those from the care-experienced and estranged community. In her own words "To every young person who has ever been told explicitly or implicitly that your circumstances determine how far you can go... they don't. Keep going. Find another way. And when you get there, leave the door open behind you." I'm sure we all wish her well in this exciting venture.

Welcome to Field Studies Council

Zoe Sayers has joined the team at Slapton as Tutor.

Special Mention

Successful marketing and sales involve using many channels and approaches and when conditions are tough it can be quite a slog. So, the team was really pleased to get the following feedback *"BTW, I just had a primary School from Scotland enquiring about Millport, never been before, but loved the brochure they received by post and were inspired by it. Want to come next Spring"*.

Best regards

Mark