

Exciting times for the Institute for Outdoor Learning



Karen Brush has joined the Institute for Outdoor Learning as Managing Director.

Karen (40) worked in the Information Technology industry where she was a Business Consultant for organisations such as Hewlett Packard and Digital Equipment Corporation, working throughout the world. She moved to Cumbria in 1999 and continued to lead a specialist IT Security organisation based in Leeds.

In 2004 Karen was appointed as Visitor Services Director at Cumbria Tourist Board.

Karen's interest in the outdoors has been a constant part of her life; she is a member of Penrith Mountain Rescue Team and a trainee dog handler with the Lake District Search and Rescue Dog Association.

The Institute for Outdoor Learning

Based at offices in Plumpton, near Penrith, IOL supports, develops and promotes excellent practice in learning through outdoor experiences.

Membership of the Institute for Outdoor Learning offers a wealth of services to its members.

As a charitable organisation 'IOL' is run by its members with the aim of supporting safe, high quality outdoor and adventure-based education, development training and recreation through professional development, networking and the supply of a variety of specialist services.

Recent developments have included an accreditation scheme for outdoor practitioners – the first of its kind in the UK.

IOL has active regions throughout the UK and through these offers networking opportunities and professional development courses/seminars; many of which are free to IOL members.

Membership of IOL is open to individuals and organisations. Key member benefits include free legal advice, preferential insurance coverage and rates, big discounts on gear, books and training.

With special interest groups and expert members IOL have successfully lobbied at Government and local level on issues affecting learning outdoors – whether that be climbing or canoeing, environmental or curriculum, therapy or arts, and safety.

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