



Let's connect!



NEWSLETTER

February 2026 No.4



The IOL JobSite



The premier website for outdoor learning job vacancies

- SUPPORTING the outdoor learning sector
- SIGNPOSTING for job seekers
- Helping to FILL WORKFORCE vacancies with FREE ADVERTS for organisational IOL Members, and affordable rates for non-members
- Job adverts on the IOL JobSite are SEARCHABLE by category, region, contract type and salary



JOIN US www.outdoor-learning.org/workforce/job-listing.html

Chief scout warns tourist tax could stop children's camps

In an article in the Times online (which you need to have a subscription for) Dwayne Fields is urging exemption for under-18s, saying Labour's proposed visitor levy could add costs to youth sleepovers and residential trips. "Of all the schools the camp is far and away the best for teaching boys the desired character-attributes," Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, wrote in his 1920 manual Aids to Scoutmastership. "A week of this life is worth six months of theoretical teaching." But this principle is under threat from government plans for a "tourist tax" on holidaymakers in England, one of his successors has warned. Regional mayors and other leaders could be allowed to introduce a visitor levy on overnight accommodation to raise revenue for local projects.

Dwayne Fields, who succeeded Bear Grylls as chief scout in 2024, said he wanted overnight stays for under-18s and charity-run hostels, campsites, activity centres and meeting places, to be exempt. In a letter to The Times, Fields also said the overnight levy would apply to scout groups hosting a sleepover in their own huts. Read more...



Photo: Andrew McBoom

IOL AGM 2026 online 19th May 7pm. Join us as we look forward to the next year of IOL. Register free [here](#)....

SOLE TRADER Organisational IOL Membership - A new IOL membership category of Organisational membership



The IOL has introduced an additional organisational membership category for Sole Traders.

You get to access the benefits of organisational membership (including course listing and course accreditation, but not job adverts) AND the benefits of Individual membership (including personal accreditation; APIOL, LPIOL).

This new category is very useful if you want to deliver IOL Bushcraft training, as you need to be an IOL organisational member to become an approved provider and an approved trainer.

What does it cost? £213 per year or only £18.50 per month by Direct Debit. [Read more](#)....

Horizons 112 is out now online!

Your printed copy will arrive any day! Take a look at the contents to see what's in this new issue...



CONTENTS

SCANNING THE HORIZON Find out all the latest news from around the Institute for Outdoor Learning. PAGE 10-17	SPOTLIGHT This issue, we're shining a light on government engagement. PAGE 8	ASPIRING LEADERS Learn all about the Aspiring Leaders programme on the 10th anniversary. PAGE 10-11	LESSONS FROM TRAGEDY Sally Hazell reflects on what we can learn from the 'never/forever' postcardboard tragedy. PAGE 15-17	GO WITH THE FLOW Down Thomas continues our series on curriculum based outdoor learning by taking a look at which activities are crucial to teach around the water cycle. PAGE 35-36	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33
THE LANGUAGE OF BUSHCRAFT (2/2) James Christie's series on bushcraft continues, with lessons learned from the Amazon. PAGE 30-31	THE POWER OF TRANSITIONAL OBJECTS Lizbeth van Oosteren's series on alternative transition continues with a fascinating look at transitional objects. PAGE 28-29	LESSONS FROM TRAGEDY Sally Hazell reflects on what we can learn from the 'never/forever' postcardboard tragedy. PAGE 15-17	GO WITH THE FLOW Down Thomas continues our series on curriculum based outdoor learning by taking a look at which activities are crucial to teach around the water cycle. PAGE 35-36	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33
BUSHCRAFT MASTERY Adam Logan offers his view on the importance of bushcraft in higher education. PAGE 18-19	WHY CHOOSE YOUTH WORK? Find out how you can bring youth work into your own practice. PAGE 12-14	LESSONS FROM TRAGEDY Sally Hazell reflects on what we can learn from the 'never/forever' postcardboard tragedy. PAGE 15-17	GO WITH THE FLOW Down Thomas continues our series on curriculum based outdoor learning by taking a look at which activities are crucial to teach around the water cycle. PAGE 35-36	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33
IOL CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS Find out all about the Institute for Outdoor Learning International Conference 2025. PAGE 20-22	ANOTHER NIDVENTURE! Read on for another adventure with Nidderdale High School. PAGE 23-24	WHAT'S THE GOAL? How much do you know about the team goal in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award? PAGE 25-27	GO WITH THE FLOW Down Thomas continues our series on curriculum based outdoor learning by taking a look at which activities are crucial to teach around the water cycle. PAGE 35-36	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33
ANOTHER NIDVENTURE! Read on for another adventure with Nidderdale High School. PAGE 23-24	WHAT'S THE GOAL? How much do you know about the team goal in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award? PAGE 25-27	GO WITH THE FLOW Down Thomas continues our series on curriculum based outdoor learning by taking a look at which activities are crucial to teach around the water cycle. PAGE 35-36	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33	SHOUBETTES AND SHAPES Shelagh's table confuses her series on outdoor identification by highlighting winter tree ID. PAGE 31-33

It's the IOL Bushcraft Conference this weekend. Have a great time everyone!



High Quality Outdoor Learning

A Guide For Educational Settings



High Quality Outdoor Learning - a new Guide for Educational Settings

Printed copies are available for pre-order now!

If you want to know what High Quality Outdoor Learning looks like in your school (or other educational setting) this is the document for you!

From £1.40 per copy. Discounts for quantity.

ORDER HERE

Free to download from the IOL website. Use this QR >>>



HQOL is now available as a Chinese translation. You can find it here.

IOL Freelancer and Sole Trader Online Forum Event

You spoke. We listened! Watch this space for more details...

We consulted on the day and timing of this conference that we are putting on especially for all you Freelancers and Sole Traders, and we knew that there wasn't a perfect time for it but it turns out that the morning of the 25th March really wasn't great for lots of you.

We have decided that we will change the date, time and format of this. It will now be a webinar series, held in the evenings, in the Autumn. We know that many of you still will not be able to make this, but we would remind you that each session will be recorded and these will be made available to anyone who books on.

The following subjects are on the list to be covered:

- Self-Care
- What High Quality Outdoor Learning looks like in daily practice
- Managing Challenging Behaviour in an Outdoor Learning Environment
- The Employer Perspective
- You as a business'- setting up, getting known, managing bookings and planning ahead
- Tax & Finance
- What no signal? Communication Solutions - Forum of sharing
- DofE Expedition Resources
- Insurance
- Safeguarding - Duty of Care - your responsibilities
- Incident Management
- Awards updates
- Accessible OL

If there is another subject that you think we should include, please [let us know](#).

We are finalising the details so **bookings open soon**.

IOL Bushcraft Competency Certificate

Are you ready for your BCC assessment?

This is designed to assist and support teachers, instructors and leaders to follow accepted practice and develop a high level of safety and competency in a range of bushcraft skills.

It is relevant to for those working in all areas of outdoor learning - education, personal or professional development, therapy, expeditions, etc.

- 23 April, Jack Raven Camp, Kent. Details and [Book here](#)
- 30 Sept, Jack Raven Camp, Kent. Details and [Book here](#)

[Bushcraft Awards web page](#)

[BCC web page](#)



What's changing in schools?

The new Every Child Achieving and Thriving schools white paper is about reforming education to ensure every child benefits from an enriching and inclusive school experience.

A series of documents setting out the key information and proposed reforms in the schools white paper and SEND consultation document for parents and those working in the sector. [Read more...](#)

SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER

Every Child Achieving and Thriving

What's changing in schools...

1. Broader curriculum: arts, sport and life skills alongside core learning
2. 90% of primary pupils meeting literacy and maths standards
3. Better use of deprivation funding to boost outcomes for the most disadvantaged children
4. Digital Individual Support Plans for pupils with SEND
5. Stronger home-school partnerships, attendance hubs and expert support teams

More than 90 deaths this season: Are we seeing more avalanches?

It is not unusual for avalanches to be in the news in the northern hemisphere at this time of year, the height of the annual ski season.

In the Alps - where there have been more fatalities than usual this year - puts a spotlight on avalanches and how prepared winter sports enthusiasts should be for them.

[Read more...](#)



Make the most of your IOL Membership: Free info webinars

30 minutes free webinars to find out more about your membership. Click on the dates to book.

- 23rd March 2026 12.30pm - 1pm
- 9th April 2026 4pm - 4.30pm
- 27th April 2026 1pm - 1.30pm
- 5th May 2026 4pm - 4.30pm

We will show you how to access, manage and make the most of membership benefits and give you an introduction to the charity that champions outdoor learning and supports those that work within this sector. [Find out more....](#)

'Reimagining matter': Nobel laureate invents machine that harvests water from dry air

Omar Yaghi's invention uses ambient thermal energy and can generate up to 1,000 litres of clean water every day.

[Read more...](#)



New support available for schools to inspire budding geographers

Ordnance Survey (OS) will reach out to 1,800 primary and secondary schools serving some of the most deprived areas of Great Britain to offer a free education resource for the teaching of geography. Digimap for Schools is aligned with the national curricula across Great Britain and enables students aged five to 16 and above to understand and investigate their world while gaining crucial digital and data skills. [Read more...](#)

How lichen hold the secret to a breath of fresh air

There are around 1,800 species in the UK each tolerant to different environments and atmospheres.

That means lichen can be a good indicator of air quality as rather than living off the item they're growing on lichen absorb what is around them. And it is that property scientists are using to help study air quality. [Read more...](#)



This Winter's IOL FREE webinars 17 so far and the last one is coming up soon! Seeing the Forest for the Degrees

Tuesday 3rd March at 4pm.

Integrating the principles of forest school and outdoor learning in tertiary education. tertiary education moves away from the traditional lecture format, Lucy Thornton and Ely Blyth of the SRUC's Wildlife and Conservation Team explore the opportunities of integrating forest school and outdoor learning principles in degree and further education provision. [Info & BOOKINGS!](#)



BOOK NOW ➔



Feedback from a recent webinar participant....

"As a relatively new member of IOL I'd not done one of their webinars yet, so this was a fantastic introduction to what they offer members."

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM CONFERENCE 24 APRIL 2026

Rooted in Nature, Growing Through Learning

In its 9th year, SOLD'S hugely popular, 'Learning Beyond the Classroom' Conference is back and we want to you join us!

Why attend?

- ✓ Outdoor Learning Industry leading speakers
- ✓ Choose from a huge variety of outdoor learning workshops
- ✓ Network with fellow outdoor educators
- ✓ Free resources and materials to use in school
- ✓ A day in the outdoors!

What are you waiting for?

CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

SOLD High Ashurst, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey
www.surreyoutdoorlearning.uk

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL)

Warwick Mill Business Centre, Warwick Bridge, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA4 8RR
+44 (0)1228 564580 institute@outdoor-learning.org



Who to contact at IOL

- Jo Barnett, CEO
- Richard Retallick Business & Operations Manager
- Dave Brooks Membership
- Fiona Exon Job Adverts & Events
- Steve Ulyart IT & Accounts payable