



Our Members have a shared vision of Outdoor Learning as a highly valued form of development, education and employment in UK society.



Annual General Meeting Institute for Outdoor Learning

Monday 19th May 2025 at 7pm. Finish 8pm.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Approval of AGM minutes 21st May 2024
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chair of Trustees Report
Includes presentations to share the voluntary work by members who are using the IOL to contribute to outdoor learning and illustrate the IOL 'pillars' - Voice, Community, Workforce and Standards.
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Election of Trustees
- 7 Any other Business

AGM documents can be found on the IOL website [Governance](#)

Chair's Report: 24/25

Thanks to our members, volunteers and IOL team for their support and contribution to developing the work of the IOL in championing outdoor learning.



Chair's Report: 24/25



Golden Thread:

To ensure sustainability (financial, planetary and organisational) runs through all we do.



Chair's Report: 24/25

Championing Outdoor Learning

Development Planning: 2022 to 2025

Year	Key Aim	Key Action	Key Outcome
Yr1: 2022-23	Recovery, Aspiration & Investment	Proactive response to post-covid & post-OLA and the cost-of-living crisis	Stabilise membership
Yr2: 2023-24	Implementation & Consolidation	Develop 'Great Product IOL' ... What do we stop-continue-start?	Hold membership with focus on retention
Yr3: 2024-25	Confidence and Sustainability	Deliver and share 'Great Product IOL'	Grow membership, and partnerships

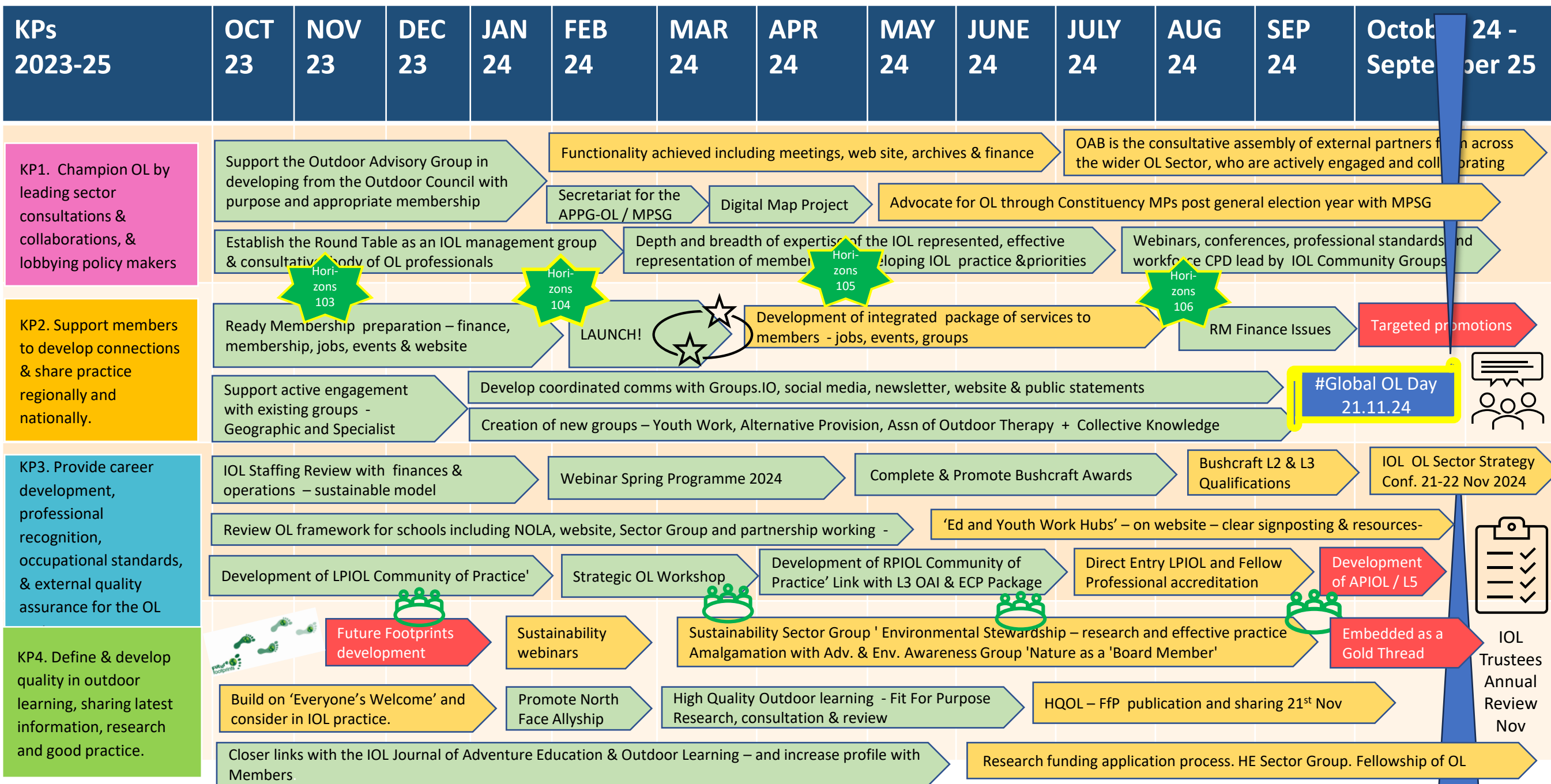
'You do not merely want to be considered just the best of the best. You want to be considered the only ones who do what you do' Jerry Garcia



Chair's Report: 24/25

Roadmap 2023 – 2024




Updated October 2024










Chair's Report: 24/25

Highlights

HIGH QUALITY OUTDOOR LEARNING 2025



Author
Dr Dave Harvey led the HQOL 2025 project. He runs his own consultancy, training and research business - daveharveyoutdoorlearning.co.uk/



Background

High Quality Outdoor Learning (HQOL) was first published by the English Outdoor Council in 2015, updating the earlier High Quality Outdoor Education (HQOE) from 2005. HQOL expanded on the traditional emphasis on outdoor pursuits, adopting a broader, more inclusive approach aligned with contemporary thinking (1). The guide referenced supporting documents and academic research, focusing on outcomes to provide a benchmarking framework for practitioners and organisations.

The 2015 version retained the original ten outcomes from HQOE, derived from practice rather than academic research. Later studies confirmed these outcomes could be achieved through various outdoor learning (OL) approaches, demonstrating their ongoing relevance. Since publication, HQOL 2015 has been widely adopted within the sector, including translations into Welsh and Chinese.

With growing awareness of outdoor learning's benefits and a robust evidence base, this revision ensures relevance and connection to current practices and agendas.

Scope and development

Building on HQOL (2015), HQOL 2025 expands its scope significantly by integrating a quality model that encompasses structures, practice and outcomes. Whereas the original document focused on children and young people, HQOL 2025 recognises outdoor learning as a lifelong endeavour, also including recreational contexts. The updated guide reflects the growing role of outdoor learning in the health and care sectors, accommodating adult participation as well as young people's.

HQOL 2025 is aimed at practitioners, providers, decision-makers, and non-specialists. As well as the full guide, IOL have also published a separate guide for policy and decision makers. IOL members will also be able to access each individual section as separate documents.

HQOL 2025 brings together research, standards and practitioner experience from the UK and further afield. Successive drafts underwent extensive review by the IOL's Trustees and the LPIOL community of practice, their contributions helping to shape content and ensure its relevance and currency.

Content

The guide consists of two main parts. The first part sets out the societal context for outdoor learning and the potential benefits, supported by extensive research references. This section is also available as a separate document aimed specifically at policy and decision-makers. The second part focuses on the structures, practice and outcomes associated with high quality outdoor learning (2).

- **Structures:** These encompass physical and organisational features critical to effective practice and achieving outcomes.
- **Practice:** This covers programme delivery and activities that practitioners can influence. Core elements include safety management, inclusion, relationships, environmental awareness and sustainability, intended outcomes and continuity of learning.
- **Outcomes:** These are the results of outdoor learning experiences. They may be defined by participants, providers, funders, or emerge naturally from the process. Outcomes might reflect specific group characteristics, such as teamwork, or align with organisational frameworks.

The guide is not a prescriptive manual. Providers and practitioners can use the descriptions of high-quality practice and reflective questions as a basis for self-evaluation and improvement. It also informs external observers, helping articulate good practices that may otherwise be implicit. The guide combines global research and practice with a UK perspective and while it outlines common good practices, the diversity of outdoor learning settings and approaches means that quality must be interpreted in context.

Conclusion

HQOL 2025 is more than an update, it offers a holistic perspective on high-quality outdoor learning, blending good practice with research. By addressing structures, practice and outcomes, the guide highlights how outdoor learning contributes to societal challenges faced by all age groups.

If you are interested in a hard copy of High Quality Outdoor Learning 2025 please email us at institute@outdoor-learning.org

References

1. EOC (2015) High Quality Outdoor Learning, English Outdoor Council
2. Harvey, D (2024) Assessing quality in outdoor learning, Horizons 104.

Chair's Report: 24/25

Highlights


ACTIVITY	DETAIL	IMPACT	
Investment in a new membership platform: Ready Membership	Secure and efficient access for IOL members to integrated services including events, networking, website and account management.	The IOL is able to respond to members needs more effectively and now has the capability to manage growth in new members and markets	

MEMBERSHIP
SNAPSHOT

788
Individual members

497
Organisational members

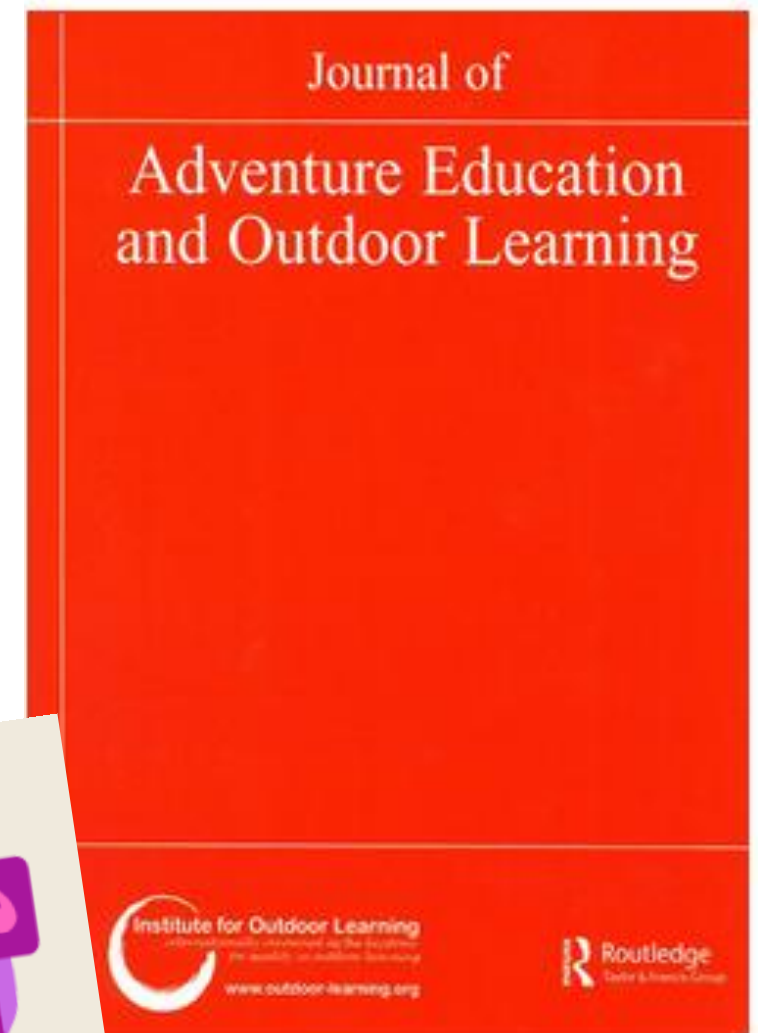
17,250
Outdoor sector reach of the Institute via a 2024 corporate membership Survey

Members Webinars & Events	68 Events scheduled with 1526 delegates in the last twelve months.	A 23% increase in webinar bookings and non-member registrations for events	
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Our average monthly churn rate for Organisational membership is 0.9% , the lowest ever		The Round Table meets quarterly with 22 community group representatives invited.
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Chair's Report: 24/25

Highlights



“ In 2023 our members asked us to return to a printed Horizons magazine ”

“ Each quarter we post 1,376 printed copies of Horizons in 100% compostable wrapping ”

Chair's Report: 24/25

Highlights



RPIOL

Registered Practitioners of the Institute for Outdoor Learning plan, prepare and lead safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions to achieve intended outcomes.

[IOL Awards and Accreditation \(outdoor-learning.org\)](https://www.outdoor-learning.org)



APIOL

Accredited Practitioners of the Institute for Outdoor Learning (APIOL) have a passion for outdoor learning and have experience planning, leading and evaluating programmes for individuals and groups. The APIOL Award recognises the holistic skills and knowledge of professionals who deliver outdoor learning programmes.



LPIOL

Leading Practitioners of the Institute for Outdoor Learning (LPIOL) are champions of outdoor learning and have a depth of experience and evidence of influencing the wider sector beyond their workplace or specialist interest area.

Chair's Report: 24/25

We couldn't
have done it
without **you**

To all our staff,
members, supporters,
Trustees and
volunteers ...

Thank you ..

BRIAN KITSON
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

The IOL Impact Report clearly demonstrates the tangible benefit that the IOL delivers in supporting the development of the sector across all our work streams. None of this would be possible without the dedicated support, energy and enthusiasm of our members and volunteers who are at the heart of what we do. As an organisation we rely on the engagement of our membership to enable us to make a difference. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of the Institute over the last 12 months.





Voice

IOI Member Presentation

Dr Sara Collins

We are calling for the government to introduce a
Nature Premium
to guarantee regular time in nature for
ALL children and young people,
with additional funding and support for those who need it most.

We urgently need a Nature Premium to help our children
Grow Up Greener.





Community

IOI Member Presentation

David Watts

Outdoor Learning & Youth Work
Sector Specialist Group

Outdoor Learning Youth Work

Recognising how a joined-up approach can deliver socio emotional outcomes for young people.

The IOL OLYWSSP acts as a forum for organisations/individuals at a strategic and practitioner level to identify and influence areas for collaboration and share and build on existing good practice.

Outdoor learning youth work is more than facilitating activities in outdoor settings, when delivered with professional intentionality it is:

- a deliberate and values-driven practice that integrates the principles of youth work with the experiential and transformative possibilities of the outdoors.
- delivered by a trusted adult, dedicated to fostering socio-emotional growth through intentional, relationship-based practice in dynamic outdoor environments.



The impact OLYW is having on Outdoor Learning

Progress to date

Adventures Away from Home is a transformative programme for disadvantaged and under-represented young people that empowers lives, builds essential socio-emotional skills, and stands as a beacon of progress in breaking down barriers to opportunity

Funded by DCMS and coordinated by UK Youth in 24/25 AAfH was delivered by 69 passionate grassroots organisations and reached over 9,000 young people across all nine regions of England.

I'm
Enough
(YP Comment
AAfH)

What's on the horizon

OLYW Professional Training Module

Announced by the SoS DCMS 15 May - £4.7 million to increase access to outdoor learning, to help young people foster positive relationships with movement and physical activity and develop their socio-emotional and life skills.

[Institute for Outdoor Learning](#)



Workforce

IOI Member Presentation

Luschka Van Onselen

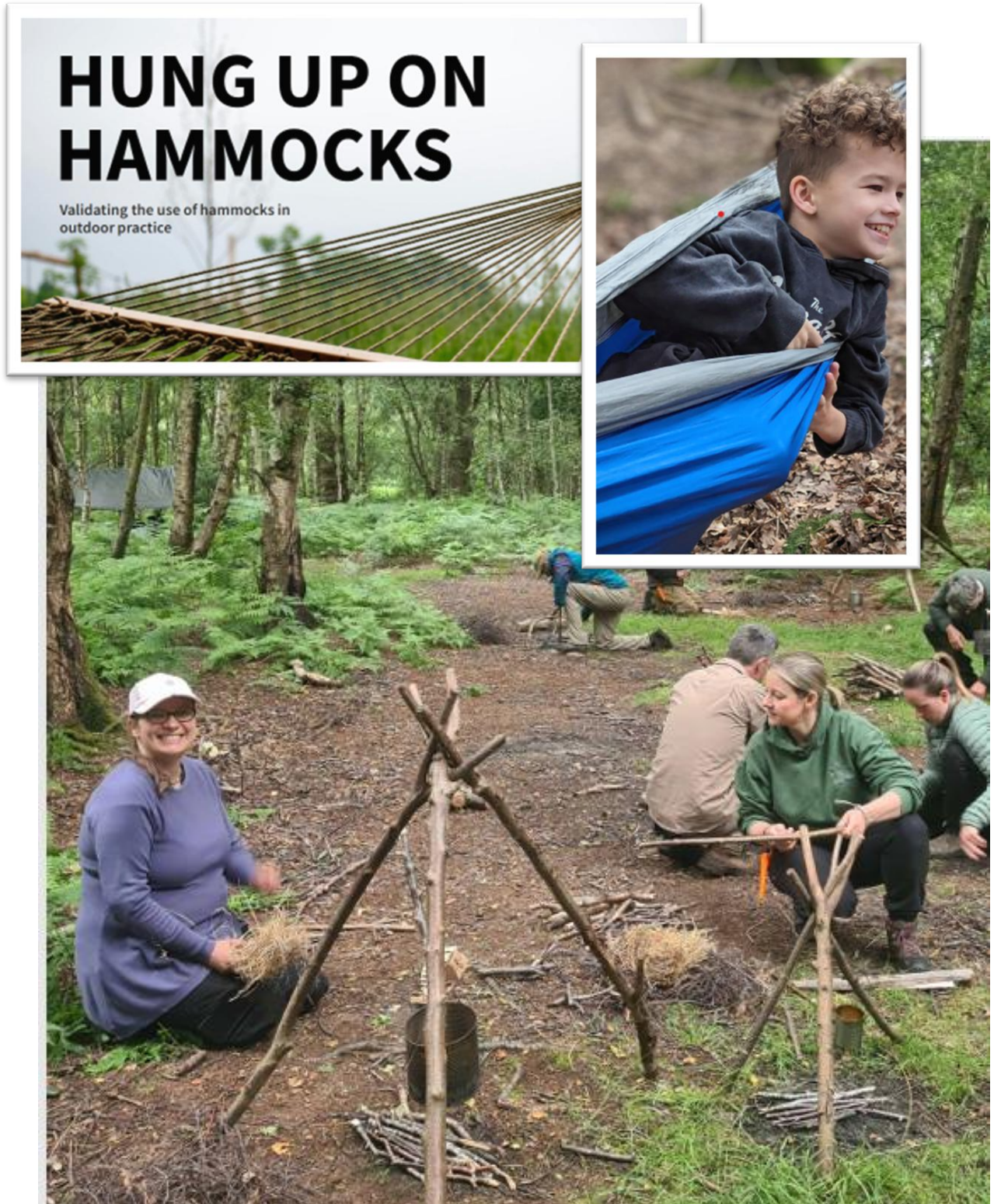
Bushcraft Professional Practice Group

Bushcraft Professional Practice Group

We currently have a full executive with no vacancies. At the last AGM we asked members to vote for an extension of terms served, so that we can bring our step-down dates into alignment. They agreed, and the current exec is in place till our November AGM.

In the last year we have:

- Hosted two well-attended conferences which deliver high quality CPD for our all attendees.
- Representatives from the PPG have attended conferences, shows and festivals, increasing the visibility of the PPG and the IOL by running courses, talks and stands.
- Delivered bi-monthly newsletters that are widely read and distribute PPG news as well as informative industry-based articles.



Bushcraft Professional Practice Group

Bushcraft Competency Awards

[Bushcraft \(outdoor-learning.org\)](http://bushcraft(outdoor-learning.org))

***(L2 / SCQF L5) Skills**

***(L3 / SCQF L7) Award (5 units) Certificate (8 units)
Diploma (16 units)**



- 8 Full completions of our awards in the last year and certificated.
 - BCA - 0
 - BCC - 5
 - BCD - 3
- Taken on new assessors which means that assessment locations are better spread across the country.
- We have been in talks with an external company about turning our award courses into nationally recognised qualifications - this is a slow, but thorough process that is still in progress.



Standards

IOLE Member Presentation

Glen Probert

Leading Practitioner of the IOLE
(LPIOLE)

Community of Practice Group

Glen Probert

[Glen Probert \(LPIOL PGCE\) | LinkedIn](#)

- ❖ Lead Outdoor Education Manager for Entrust Outdoors
 - ❖ LPIOL
 - ❖ AAIAC Committee Member (CLoTC Quality Badge Rep & Assurance)
-
- ❖ AHOEC & OEAP member
 - ❖ Titanic Brewery Foundation Trustee



LPIOL Community of Practice

‘A community of practice is a group of individuals who share a common interest or profession, collaborating to share knowledge, improve skills, and achieve common goals.’

- Created in 2024
- 40+ members (2 recent)
- All accredited or aspirational LPIOL's included
- Mainly orchestrated through an online discussion forum
- Working groups & meetings as necessary for the opportunities that arise

2024/25 Highlights

- Contributions towards HQOL 25
- Support of the IOL Round Table
- Collaboration on Horizons article, research & publications
- Input on IOL response to HSE AALA inspection proposed changes
- Working group exploration and development of Fellowship and associated professional access pathways



IOLE Member Presentation



Voice

Dr Dave Harvey



Workforce

High Quality
Outdoor Learning
2025



Community



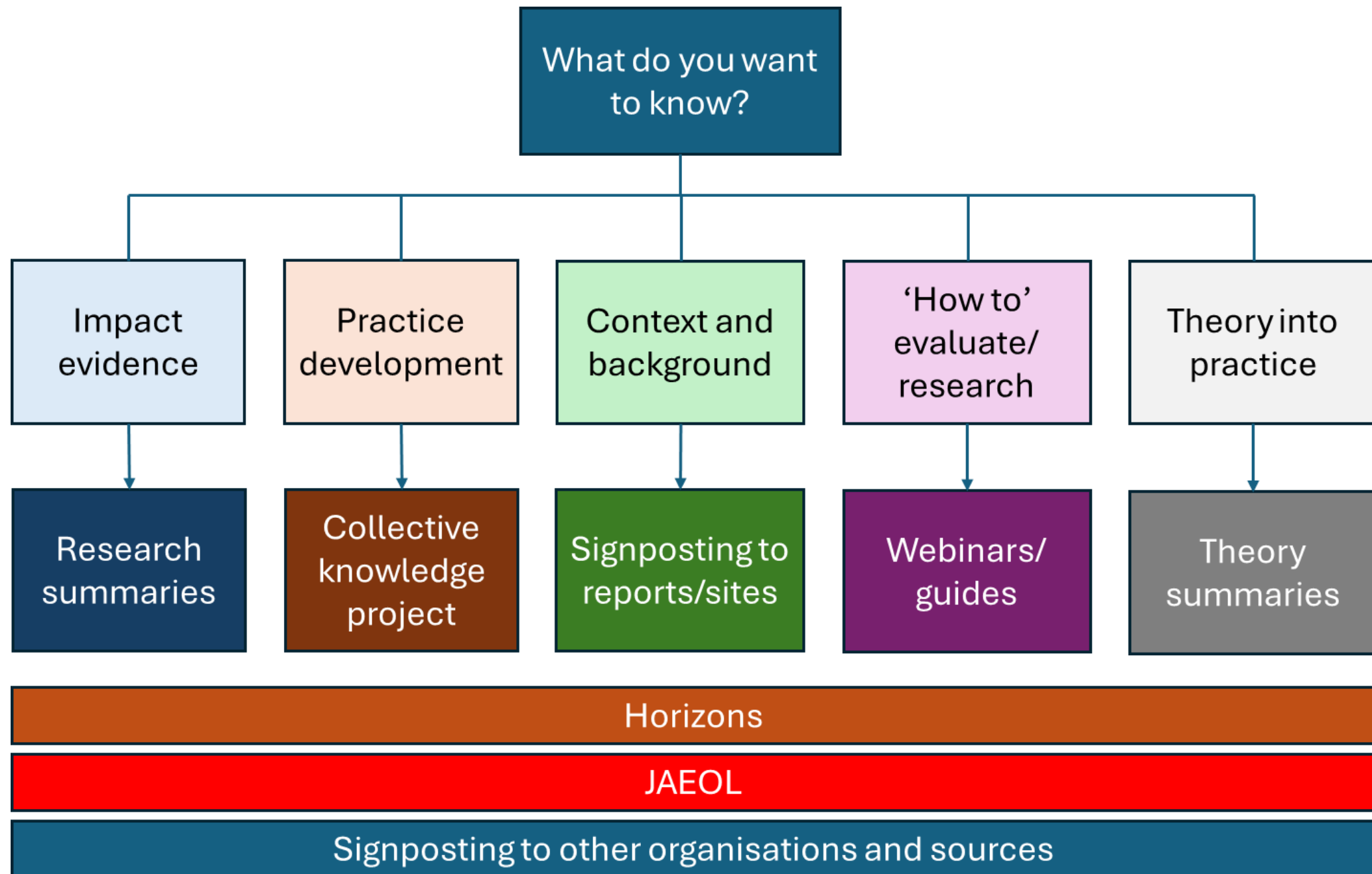
Standards

High Quality Outdoor Learning 2025

- Launch - Strategic Thinking workshop 21/11/25
- IOL / AHOEC Central and South
- CLOtC conference
- IOL NW conference
- AHOEC conference
- Ernest Cook Trust Opening Outdoors Conference
- Outdoor Learning Stakeholder Group
- Surrey Outdoor Learning Conference
- Scottish outdoor centres quality framework
- Westminster drop in
- APPG launch
- MP engagement
- IOL Webinars
- Horizons articles



Knowledge and skills hub



Finance Report

October 2023 to September 2024

Our Key Aim for this period was Implementation & Consolidation.

Being first and foremost a membership charity, stabilising membership was essential for this and not doing anything was not an option.

Investments were made with the following key projects in this period:

- New membership management system and website – ReadyMembership
- Return to a Hardcopy Horizons – members most requested benefit.
- High Quality Outdoor Learning 2025.

We had sufficient reserves to have made those investments and expect to see a return on these in the next 18 months with an increasing membership and increasing member engagement following that.

Andy Robinson
Chair of IOL Trustee Finance Committee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

The Institute for Outdoor Learning (Company Limited by Guarantee)
For the year ended 30 September 2024

	NOTES	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	2024	2023
Statement of financial activities					
Income					
Sundry donations	2	5,540	-	5,540	18,620
Income from charitable activities	3	60,158	-	60,158	51,911
Income from generating funds activities	4	181,798	-	181,798	192,396
Total income		247,496	-	247,496	262,927
Expenditure					
Cost of generating funds	5	126,411	-	126,411	99,654
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	183,156	-	183,156	184,745
Total expenditure		309,566	-	309,566	284,399
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		(62,070)	-	(62,070)	(21,472)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		128,964	10,836	139,800	161,271
Incoming resources		-	2,450	2,450	-
Total funds carried forward		66,894	13,286	80,180	139,799

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Election of Trustees May 2025

Trustee	Status	Election 2025
Dan Cook	In 2 nd term	
Heather Crawford		Standing for re-election for 2 nd term
Louise Edwards	In 2 nd term	
Asa Gurden	Resigned March 2025	
Mike King	Mike King – resigned and retired from Ex-Officio Chair role April 2025.	
Brian Kitson (Chair, Nov 24)	In 1 st term	
Mark Lavington	Resigned Feb 2025	
Nick O’Loughlin	In 3 rd term	
Steve Randles		Standing for re-election for 2 nd term
Andy Robinson		Standing for re-election for 2 nd term
Jim Whittaker	In 1 st term	

[Trustees \(outdoor-learning.org\)](https://outdoor-learning.org)

Trustees Resignations May 2025



Mike King

Resigned and retired from Ex-Officio Chair role April 2025.

Chair of Trustees – Ex-Officio

As voted by Trustees Board 7th May 2024

Replaced as Chair of the Board November 2024 by Brian Kitson



Mark (Taff) Lavington

Resigned February 2025



Asa Gurden

Resigned February 2025

Trustees Re-elections May 2025



Heather Crawford

Standing for 2nd term

Proposed: Dave Harvey

Seconded: Andy Robinson

Vote: Appointed



Steve Randles

Standing for 2nd term

Proposed: Nick O'Loughlin

Seconded: Dan Cook

Vote: Appointed



Andy Robinson

Standing for 2nd term

Proposed: Heather Crawford

Seconded: Roger Hiley

Vote: Appointed

Trustee Recruitment 2025

The Institute is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee governed by a voluntary Board of Trustees elected by the membership.

The Trustees fulfil the organisation governance and inform the strategic direction for IOL, as well as providing advice and supervision for the Chief Executive Officer and team.

- Recruiting for 2 x New Trustees
- Vacancies will be advertised on the IOL Website
- Transparent process with application and interview
- Finance and Marketing knowledge
- Summer 2025 for formal start in November 2025.

IOL Staff Team 2025



Jo Barnett

CEO



Richard Retallick

Business & Operations Manager



Fiona Exon-Speight

Media & Events



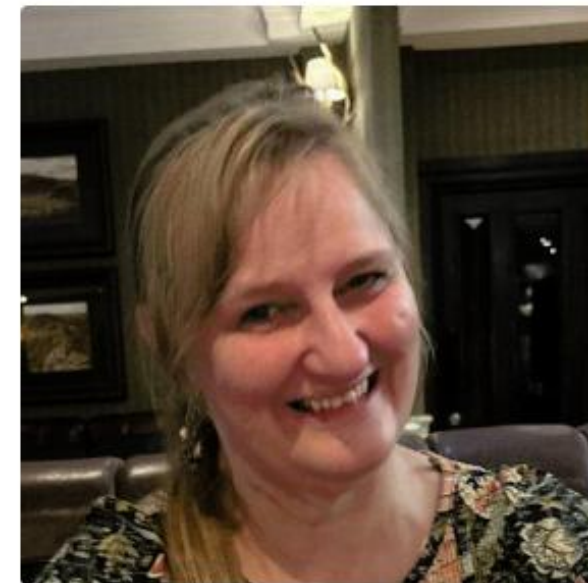
Steve Ulliyart

IT



Dave Brooks

Membership



Louise Keir

Finance

Institute for Outdoor Learning



International GOLD Conference 2025



IOL International Conference 2025

ONLINE

#GOLD2025



At this conference we are seeking answers to the fundamental question of:

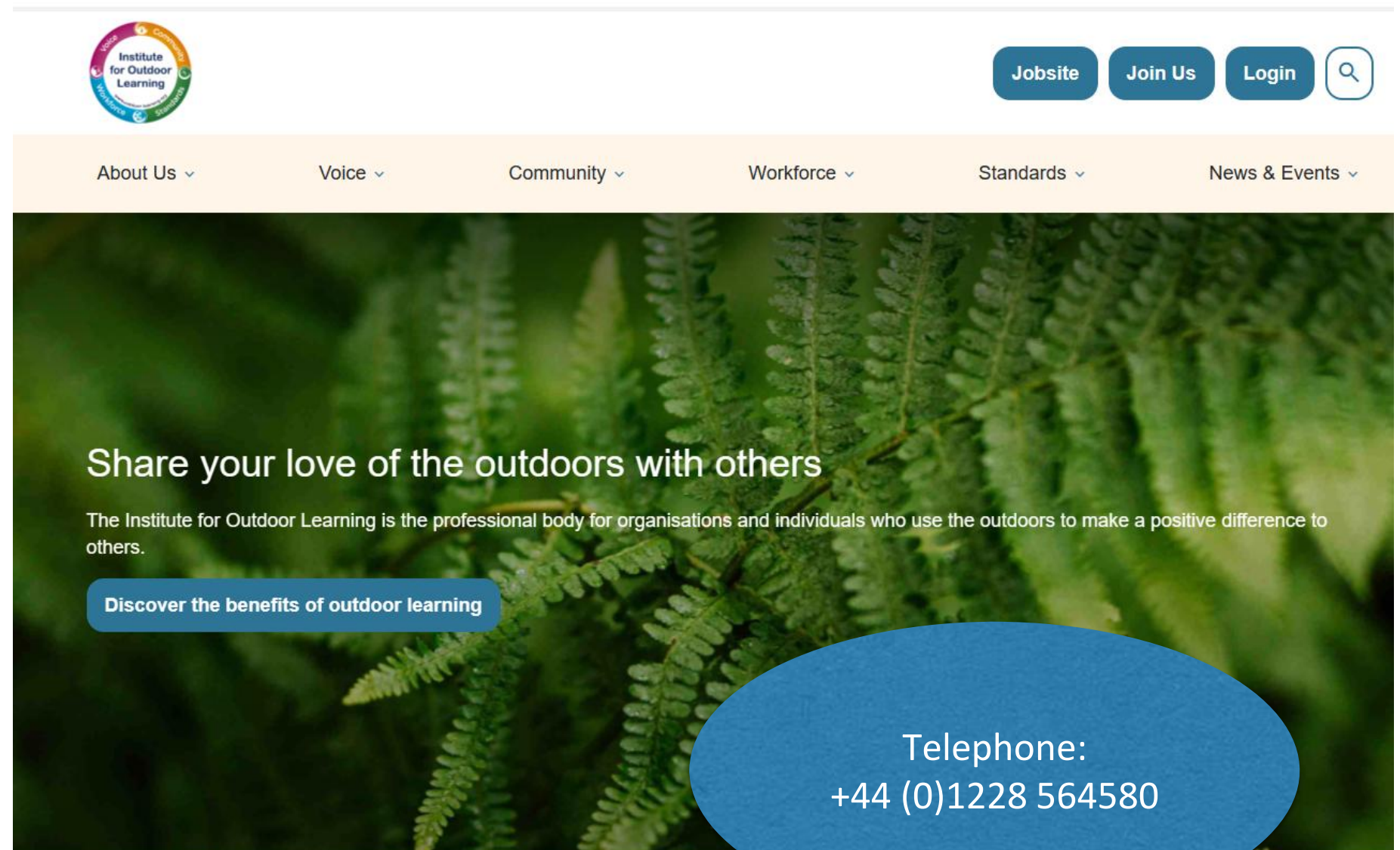
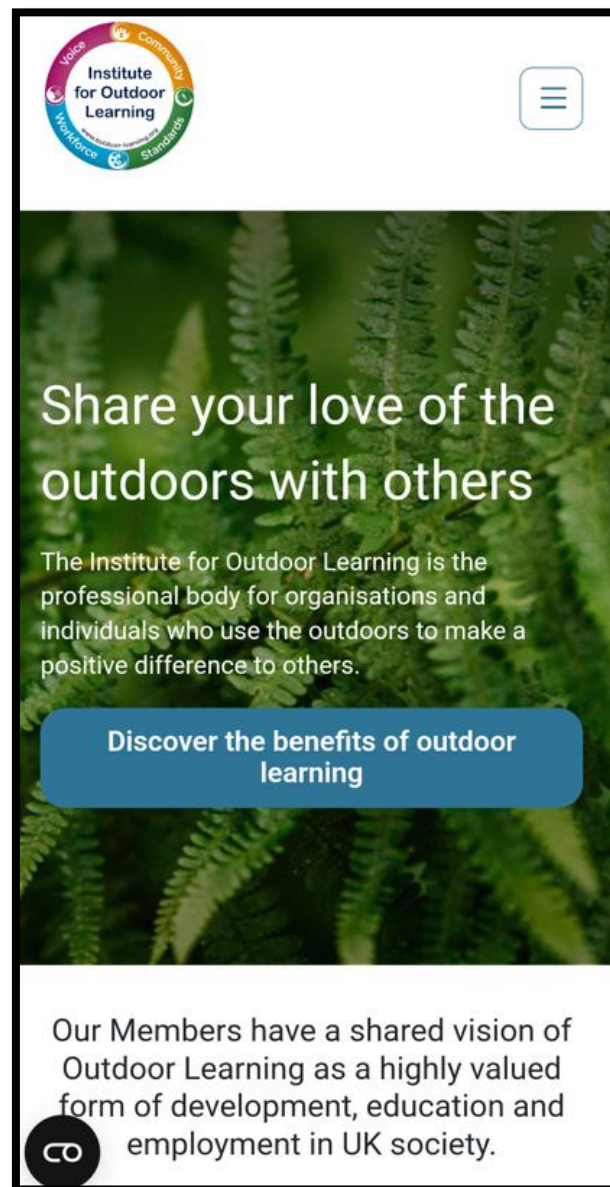
'WHAT IS OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR?'

- This is an **online event** for **international partnership working** and **cultural exchange**.
- Our **international Guest Speakers** will inspire whilst also being relevant to practitioners in outdoor learning.
- Workshops will be **interactive** and encourage dialogue.
- This event is **designed for anyone interested in outdoor learning**, whether employed, self-employed, a volunteer or enthusiast and regardless of the stage of their journey.

Institute for Outdoor Learning

Championing Outdoor Learning

Contact Us



Website: [Institute for Outdoor Learning - Home \(outdoor-learning.org\)](https://outdoor-learning.org)

Email: institute@outdoor-learning.org

Institute for Outdoor Learning