



Let's connect!



# NEWSLETTER

March 2026 No.1



## 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](#)



## 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....](#)

### A coffee break curio

Curious what your plot of land here on Earth looked like millions of years ago? Thanks to Ancient Earth, an interactive map, you can time travel at the touch of a keyboard. It's a bit of a rabbit hole; you can get lost in it!

Discover what you can explore [here...](#) and with this [interactive map](#).

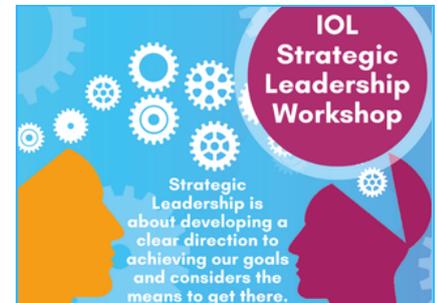


## Strategic Leadership workshop event 2026

We're pleased to announce that the 2026 Strategic Leadership workshop event will take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September at FSC, Preston Montford, Shrewsbury.

It will be £270 per person.

There will be details soon when we open bookings. Watch this space!



## 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....](#)



- Big discounts for IOL Members
- Reach a targeted readership of outdoor professionals and practitioners
- The magazine is considered by outdoor professionals to be a vital part of their continuing professional development

[www.outdoor-learning.org/voice/horizons-magazine.html](http://www.outdoor-learning.org/voice/horizons-magazine.html)

### COMING SOON IOL Freelancer & Sole Trader

#### ONLINE FORUM WEBINARS

A series of webinars this Autumn. Watch this space for more details...

They will be held on evenings in the Autumn 2026. Each session will be recorded and these will be made available to anyone who books on. The following subjects may be covered:

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

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

### Local School Nature Grants

Open to schools and early years settings in England, Scotland and Wales, this outdoor learning grant fund has four elements — an outdoor learning training course for your staff, a school grounds climate survey, a Climate Curriculum Kit (valued at £150) and £500 of outdoor equipment chosen from a catalogue of over 100 items. Since their launch in 2017, our Local School Nature Grants have helped over 4,500 schools across England, Scotland, and Wales to improve their outdoor learning provision, enabling thousands more children to profit from time in nature. [Read more...](#)



### What's the difference between a wood and a forest

(A Woodland Trust blog) Wildlife refuges, carbon guzzlers, life support systems – our woods and

forests are essential to the health of people and the planet. They both contain trees and they both support a range of flora, fauna and fungi, so how exactly is a forest different from the woods? [Read more...](#)



### Extreme Sports on BBC R4 Thinking Allowed

What can the worlds of mountaineering and endurance running reveal about changing ideas of freedom, identity and the body? Laurie Taylor talks to Sarah Lonsdale, Senior Lecturer in Journalism at City, University of London, about her new book Wildly Different. [Listen here...](#)



### 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.](#)



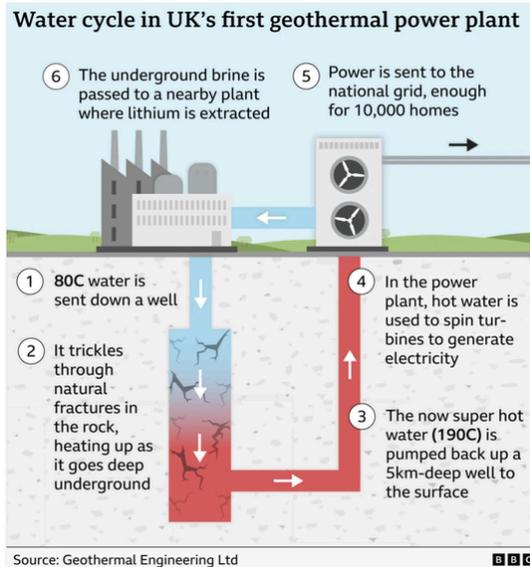
### Earth's heat to power 10,000 homes in renewable energy first for UK

The UK's first geothermal power plant has been turned on, providing a completely new type of renewable electricity using hot water from underground.

The Cornish plant will be switched on after nearly two decades in development which required Geothermal Engineering Ltd (GEL) to drill the deepest on-shore well in the UK.

The water, super-heated by rocks, will help drive turbines to generate electricity for 10,000 homes, but will also provide the UK's first domestic supply of lithium - a critical mineral used in green technology.

The British Geological Survey said it was a "major step forward" for geothermal but high drilling costs could make replicating the project difficult. [Read more...](#)



### How responsible are climbers for each other's safety? Mountaineers react to manslaughter

Climbers and mountaineers have always had to make difficult decisions during expeditions about how to



stay safe, which routes to take and whether to turn back. They might not know whether they'll get exhausted, if the weather will get worse, or how big the risk of a serious accident is.

But in the last week, debates about how to make these decisions, as well as who is responsible for them, have broken into the mainstream. It comes after an Austrian man was convicted of gross negligent manslaughter over his girlfriend's death from hypothermia while climbing Austria's highest summit, Grossglockner, in January last year. [Read more...](#)

## 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](http://www.outdoor-learning.org/workforce/job-listing.html)

## 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!**



High Ashurst, Mickleham, Dorking, Surrey  
[www.surreyoutdoorlearning.uk](http://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](mailto: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