



Let's connect!



## NEWSLETTER - September 2025 No.2

SEPTEMBER

"And then the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep, and autumn was awakened." – Raquel Franco

### IOL Adventure For All Conference

**28th-30th November at Bendrigg Trust, Cumbria.**

Join us for dynamic two-day event at Bendrigg, a specialist outdoor centre for disabled people. Whether you're an educator, practitioner, or centre manager, this event is packed with inspiration, insight, and opportunity.

#### Three key booking options:

- Full event Friday to Sunday
- Saturday to Sunday
- Saturday only

**BOOK NOW** >>

Non members also welcome. Exhibitor option.

**Not to be missed if you're looking to develop /ensure inclusive outdoor learning.**



### IOL Bushcraft Autumn Conference

**7th, 8th, 9th Nov 2025**

At Robin Hood Activity Centre near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Delegate rates are the same as for last Autumns Conference. **BOOK NOW.**

Full Conference bookings include 2 nights camping and all meals

- IOL Members £142
- FSA Members £157
- Non Members £215
- Full Conference bookers **optional upgrade** to 2 nights indoor (shared single sex bunk rooms. Bring your own sleeping bag and pillow) £24



#### Single Days (include meals)

- IOL Members Saturday £84
- IOL Members Sunday £58
- Non Members Saturday £120
- Non Members Sunday £95

**BOOK NOW** >>



### Outdoor Learning Providers can apply to the Adventures Away from Home Fund

**The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has selected UK Youth to co-ordinate Adventures Away from Home 2025/26.**

UK Youth is delighted to launch the next round of Adventures Away from Home (AAfH) 25/26 funding, designed to provide young people facing significant barriers with equitable access to outdoor learning. AAfH supports outdoor learning providers in delivering free 1-day, 1-night, or 2-night outdoor learning experiences for young people aged 11–18 (and up to 25 for those with SEND).

With an increase in available funds, UK Youth are seeking outdoor learning providers to help it reach 30,000 under-represented and disadvantaged young people across England.

Launched on Monday 8th September, you can apply for funding until 10 am on Friday 26th September 2025.

The funding is open to not-for-profit and charity outdoor learning providers (including local authority-owned outdoor centres) and is designed to support the wide range of organisations that use the outdoors to inspire and develop young people, including farms and sports organisations and who can reach young people who otherwise would not have access to these opportunities.

[Read more...](#)



### What kids told us about how to get them off their phones

(An article from the USA by Lenore Skenazy, Zach Rausch, and Jonathan Haidt.)

Children who were raised on screens need more freedom out in the real world. One common explanation for why children spend so much of their free time on screens goes like this: Smartphones and social-media platforms are addicting them. Kids stare at their devices and socialize online instead of in person because that's what tech has trained them to want. [Read more...](#)

### Bushcraft Assessments diary

**Bushcraft Competency Assessments (BCC).**

Places are limited so book ASAP.

- IOL BCC Assessment - DERBYSHIRE  
**14<sup>th</sup> October 2025** 2 places available.
- IOL BCC Assessment - KENT  
**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025** 2 places available.

[Read more...](#)



## Collective Knowledge Project - promoting safety

The Collective Knowledge Project has grown out of an Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee (AAIAC) working group. It was initially set up in 2023 to look at new ways of sharing safety lessons and knowledge across the sector. Through partnering with the University of the Highlands and Islands North, West and Hebrides (UHI North, West and Hebrides) and the IOL, we have been able to access funding through Interface to help move the project forwards.

The project has had the following three phases;

**Phase 1** – a retrospective study to test the process of a sector wide incident-reporting system.

**Phase 2** – to develop a participation and incident-reporting tool, that could be used across the sector. This has led us to...

**Phase 3** – run a Participation and Incident Snapshot Survey in 2026.

The intention of the project is to connect relevant knowledge and information to individuals and providers in the sector to reduce incidents, improve quality of provision, and support individual / provider development by encouraging a greater understanding of safety and risk management.

The project has three overall objectives;

**Collection** – awareness of current trends and themes across the sector

**Curation** – information and knowledge stored in a useful and accessible format

**Communication** – encourage and develop ways of sharing knowledge and information widely and effectively.

[Read more...](#)

**We have four free webinars available for anyone who would like to know more...**

Click on any below to book and get more info.

- **Sept 25th at 7-8pm**
- **Oct 9th at 3-4pm**
- **Oct 21st at 7-8pm**
- **Nov 4th at 7-8pm**

### Do you want to promote safety?



Do we have an accurate view of incidents in the outdoors?

Are you keen on sharing lessons and experiences?



Help us with this by getting your organisation to participate in a **RESEARCH PROJECT** that is aiming to answer these questions and more!



In a UK-wide joint project, we are running a 12-month 'Participation and Incident Snapshot Survey' in 2026.



We are looking for participation from a wide range of organisations involved in the delivery of outdoor adventurous activities



You would be asked to submit your organisations relevant participation and incident data over six separate two-week blocks throughout 2026 (i.e. total of 12 weeks).

Consent to Participate Deadline – 19th December 2025

First two-week block to report – 26th January to 8th February 2026



Our aim is for this to enable us to have a greater understanding of;

- Participation Levels
- Overnight stays
- Incidents and the relationships between features

Primary researcher, Peter White: [PETER.WHITE@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:PETER.WHITE@uhi.ac.uk)

Ready to agree to Participate?

Scan the QR code to access the online Consent Form



For more information please visit: [Snapshot Survey 2026](#)



Ethics Approval ETH2425-1040, from the University of the Highlands and Islands



**NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES**  
**A TUATH, AN IAR IS INNSE GALL**



Overall the aim is to ensure that safety knowledge and lessons from previous incidents are not forgotten and are retained to help support the workforce and organisations of tomorrow.



## Strategic Leadership - 2 day workshop

7th - 8th Nov 2025 - Humphrey Head OEC, Cumbria.

For those with a senior and strategic role in their organisation, or who are seeking to develop their career to take on higher levels of responsibility. Location at the rocky end of the Grange Peninsula, overlooking the sea on both sides. Cost: £265pp for IOL Members. Options to book for accommodation or camping. [Read more and book here...](#)



## Outdoor Learning & Youth Work Group next online meeting

Date of next full meeting of Outdoor Learning & Youth Work Group – 8 Oct 25 1pm-3pm – Zoom. anyone working in sectors with young people is welcome to join. [Register here](#) for this meeting.

## PRINTED! High Quality Outdoor Learning



**THANK YOU everyone who has ordered printed copies.**

The printers have the order and will get going on the printing. If you'd like to order one of the **very few** spare copies [ORDER NOW!](#)

**We will not be holding a stock.**

High Quality Outdoor Learning 2025 is aimed at practitioners, providers, decision-makers, and non-specialists. It brings together research, standards and practitioner experience from the UK and further afield. IOL Members get a huge discount on the RRP of £19.50. **Log in to the website and get your HQOL25 for £11!**



For more information on why you need HQOL25 in your life, go to [HQOL 2025](#).

## CLOtC Conference - IOL Member Discount

Wed, 12th Nov 2025 at the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds. The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC) is offering a special 10% discount for just 10 IOL members – but be quick, there are only 65 tickets left in total and this offer is strictly first come, first served: contact Emily at [emily.carlill@lotc.org.uk](mailto:emily.carlill@lotc.org.uk) with your IOL membership number. (CLOtC members receive an additional discount!). Read more [here](#).

## Free webinar - Women's Leadership in Protected Landscapes

An invitation from Women's Leadership in Protected Landscapes to a free webinar 19th Sept 11am-1pm. An event for safe discussion spaces and the exploration of new ways of working. The line-up is stellar and the debates promise to be as lively as ever. [Read more...](#)

## Call for presenters

**The Winter programme is taking shape but we still have a few slots available for more webinars.**

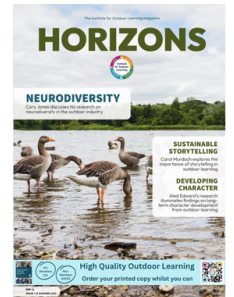
Do you have skills, knowledge, best practice, activity ideas or sector updates that you'd like to share with IOL Members? Would you like to host a webinar in the Winter series?

Contact Fiona at IOL.

## Contribute to Horizons Contributions are welcome!

If you are part of the Outdoor Learning community we welcome your stories, no matter whether you are starting out, mid-career, or a veteran with a wealth of experience.

Contact the [Editor](#).



## Association for Outdoor Therapy Conference 2025

**'Sharing practices and building perspectives' in Outdoor Therapy.**

**8-9th November 2025** at Plas y Brenin.

With a diverse range of presentation topics across a wide range of outdoor workshops in nature, indoor presentations, and main speaker session topics, this is an exciting opportunity to engage, network, reflect and learn with like-minded professionals, in developing understanding and sharing practice, and contributing to the shaping of future developments of outdoor therapy in the UK **BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!** (Members, Non Members, Concessionary rates)

**Download the brochure to share.**

**Join the AOT** (free for IOL members)



## IOL International Conference 2025

21 - 22 November ONLINE

This is an online event for **international partnership working** and **cultural exchange**.

The Conference will encourage interaction between **outdoor learning practitioners** from around the world and be **inspiring and relevant** to practitioners.

**Conference plans are evolving and there is so much going on. A brochure and more details will be available soon!**



### Theme: 'What is Outdoor Learning for?'

#### Objectives

The Conference will encourage interaction between **outdoor learning practitioners** from around the world and be **inspiring and relevant** to practitioners.

### Some of our 8 guest Speakers...

National and international thinkers from different continents, including:

#### Naila Kiani

Pakistan's foremost female high altitude mountaineer, aerospace engineer, banker, tech startup co-founder, Mum of 2 and adventure athlete. First ever female in Pakistan's history to summit 12 of the world's 14 8,000m peaks. She champions the education of women & girls, and the empowerment of young people through sport.



#### Dr. Pat Maher

Managing editor of the Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning (JAEOL) and Full Professor of Physical and Health Education at Nipissing University.



#### Dr. Hellen Nkatha Muthomi (Ph.d)

Sports & recreation management scholar and a full time faculty in the Dept of Recreation & Sports Science, School of Business, Economics & Tourism, Kenyatta University, Kenya.



### Some of the 18 workshops...

- **The impact of Health and Safety Legislation on outdoor learning opportunities in schools.** Presenter: Chris North, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand.
- **Developing reciprocity with Country: Biosecurity in Australian outdoor environmental Education.** Presenters: Sam Price-Rees & Robyn Fox, Associate Lecturers - Bachelor of Ed (Sec) / Bachelor of Recreation & Outdoor Environmental Studies and the Bachelor of Recreation & Outdoor Environmental Studies. Australia. (Photo of Sam Price-Rees)
- **The Healing Power of Chasing the Sun: Guiding Boys to Roaring Courage through Outdoor Learning.** Presenter: Hawi James Ouma, a Professional Co-Active Coach in Kenya.



## TICKETS



**IOL Members and \*other affinity membership, not for profit organisations** (\*by invitation)

**Non IOL Members are also very welcome**

**Early Bird / \*Full price** (\*after 21 October)

**Early Bird / \*Full price** (\*after 21 October)

Discount rate	IOL Members and *other affinity membership, not for profit organisations (*by invitation)	Non IOL Members are also very welcome
Student, Apprentice, ECP & Legacy	£20 / £40	£30 / £60
Standard Rate	£30 / £60	£40 / £80



**BOOK NOW** >>



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