



Let's connect!



## NEWSLETTER - September 2025 No.1

SEPTEMBER

"September days are here, With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer."  
— Helen Hunt Jackson

### 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 Student, Apprentice, ECP & Legacy	£20 / £40	£30 / £60
Standard Rate	£30 / £60	£40 / £80



**BOOK NOW**





## 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...](#)

only 2 places left!

BOOK NOW



## 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.

BOOK NOW



### Three key booking options:

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

**Discounted early bird member rates if booked by 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.**

Non members also welcome. Exhibitor option. **Not to be missed if you're looking to develop /ensure inclusive outdoor learning.**

## Bushcraft PPG Autumn Conference

7th, 8th, 9th Nov 2025

At Robin Hood Activity Centre near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. [WATCH THIS SPACE](#) for info and ticket launch.

**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...](#)



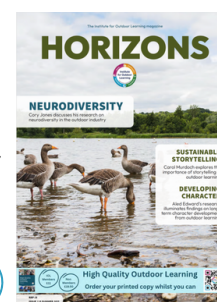
## Contribute to Horizons

**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 [Horizons Editor](#).

FIND OUT MORE



## 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)



## Countryside Code Stakeholder Survey 2025

As ambassadors for the outdoors, the countryside code is a critical tool. If you believe it does its job well as it is, or could be approached in a different way considering the changing demographic (and volume) of visitors to the outdoors, this looks like your opportunity to voice your opinion - and those of any organisations you represent! The survey closes on 28 September. [Find it here...](#)



## CLOtC Conference - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 - IOL Member Discount

CLOtC National Conference 2025 on Wednesday, 12th November the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds.

Don't miss your chance to be part of the CLOtC National Conference 2025: Creating Connections, Engaging All, Enriching Lives. 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!). Find out more about the CLOtC National Conference [here](#).

IOL Member discount



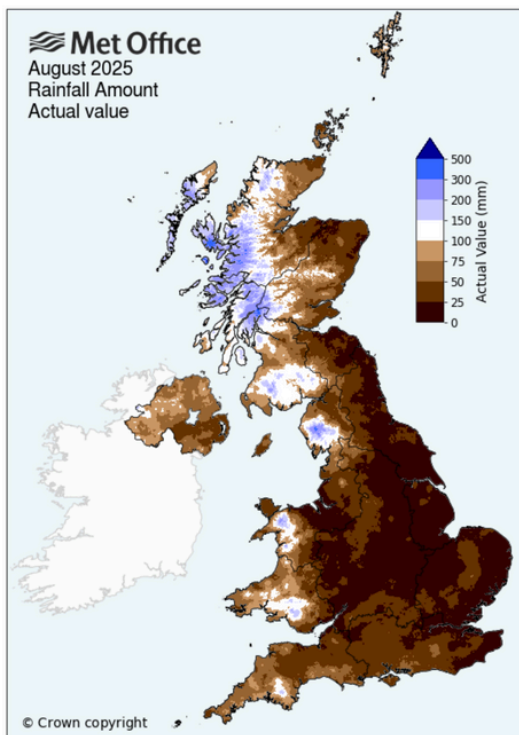
## What does Ofsted say about outdoor learning?



In the Early Years Inspection Handbook (Ofsted, 2022b) there is the specification that for a setting to receive a 'good' grading, children should have the opportunity to go outside to take part in physically active play and they should experience risk and challenge outdoors.

[Read more...](#)

## MetOffice Rainfall Map - August 2025



(A good illustration. As if we didn't know about the lack of rain...!)

Provisional Met Office statistics confirm that summer 2025 is officially the warmest summer on record for the UK.

Analysis by Met Office climate scientists has also shown that a summer as hot or hotter than 2025 is now 70 times more likely than it would be in a 'natural' climate with no human caused greenhouse gas emissions. [Read more...](#)

## Three-year-olds helping anxious teens spend more time in school

*"Siena never thought she'd be taking lessons in communication and confidence from a three-year-old."*



Some schools have 'vertical' pastoral form groups, and youth and family-based groups may be made of children and young people of different ages which differs to the Year Group/Class-based way of accessing outdoor learning. We are interested in hearing about your experiences of outdoor learning with a broad range of ages. [Email IOL](#). (Read a BBC news report 'Meet the three-year-olds helping anxious teens spend more time in school' [here:...](#))

## Vast areas of peatland destroyed since peat ban announced exactly 3 years ago



It has been three years since the UK Government announced that it would ban the sale of peat for use in the amateur gardening sector, yet there is still no sign of legislation to enact the ban. On August 27th 2022, the Conservative Government promised to ban the sale of horticultural peat by 2024, "to protect peatlands and the natural environment". [Read more....](#)

## Third of children do not play outdoors after school, UK research finds



One in three children do not play outdoors after school and a fifth do not at the weekend, according to research that found outdoor play has a beneficial impact on young people's developing social and emotional skills. [Read more...](#)

## Why outdoor education is an essential part of every childhood



The benefits from participating in education outdoors far outreach simply having fun in the fresh air. With nature as an inspirational backdrop, outdoor experiences provide opportunities for development and growth, including exploration, hands-on learning and risk-taking. When combined within a supportive program designed for discovery and accomplishment, children gain skills and establish strong foundations for strengthening both life skills and subject knowledge. [Read more on the Field Studies Council website.](#)

## OS Maps launch first hazard reporting tool for walkers

Nothing ruins a beautiful walk in the countryside faster than unexpected obstacles. Whether it's a quagmire of mud that can leave entire families with sopping wet socks hopping around hopelessly trying to retrieve wellies.

Or a group of angry-looking cows staring you down 50 metres away on the field edge pathway ahead (giving your dog the jitters). OS Maps is introducing its new Community Alerts feature, a live hazard reporting tool into the app that is a first of its kind for outdoor activities.

[Read more...](#)



## Outdoor education is not optional, it's essential



**A piece by Celia Hogan, who will be one of the presenters at the IOL Conference this November**

- in The Post, New Zealand. When people hear the words 'outdoor education,' they often imagine tramping trips or camping under the stars. But outdoor education is far bigger than that. It is one of the most powerful ways we have to equip young people with the skills they need for life. [Read more...](#)

## The National Heritage Lottery Fund Boost for Brathay Trust's 80-Year Legacy



IOL is happy to have supported this bid.

Brathay Trust has successfully secured a significant development grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for its 'Brathay Blueprint: Boats, Buildings and Brighter Futures' project. [Read more...](#)

## 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.

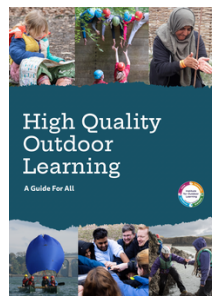
If you'd like to order one of the **very few** spare copies [ORDER NOW!](#)

**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!**

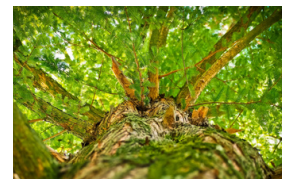
For more information on why you need HQOL25 in your life, go to [HQOL 2025](#).



## The genius of trees

How forests have shaped humanity, from chocolate cravings to our ability to dream. Since our early ancestors came down from the canopy, we may think we have learned how to live without trees. But our lives remain intertwined in incredible ways.

A thoughtful article in the Guardian Environment. [Read more...](#)



## Scientists make 'superfood' that could save honeybees



A honeybee "superfood" that could protect the animals against the threats of climate change and habitat loss. Bee colonies that ate the supplement during trials had up to 15 times more baby bees that grew to adulthood. [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.

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## Who to contact at IOL

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