

FREE webinars for IOL Members



Knowledgable hosts from
across the outdoor
learning sector



Winter/Spring Webinar Programme 2025/26

FREE for Members

Non IOL Members £35*

(*£37 after January 1st 2026)

SEE THE FULL PROGRAMME + BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar.html>

IOL Members FREE webinars

£35 / £37 non Members



Keep track of your bookings - Winter 2025/6

Date	Time	Webinar title	Booked
2 Dec	2.00pm	An Introduction to the Scottish Junior Ranger Award	
4 Dec	4.30pm	'Its opened up my world' Outdoor Learning as a tool for increased biodiversity and human cohesion	
10 Dec	4.00pm	Learn about the National Outdoor Learning Award (NOLA)	
10 Dec	10.00am	Play to Thrive: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Outdoor Learning for Future Generations	
18 Dec	3.00pm	A Pause with Purpose: Reflecting on What Matters in Your Work and Wellbeing	
5 Jan	4.00pm	Exploration and Outdoor Learning within large scale nature recovery programs. Impacts and Reflections of Discovery Outdoors role in the Shirebrook Valley Species Survival Project	
7 Jan	5.00pm	Findings from research into LGBTQIA+ outdoor community groups	
8 Jan	4.30pm	Experiential Learning "Maximising learning from experiential events"	
13 Jan	5.00pm	An introduction into Children's Social Care: using the outdoors therapeutically to work with children, young people, and families, who have an involvement with children's service	
20 Jan	10.30am	"The Tide is Turning: Imagination is Back" Outdoor Learning from the authentic children's perspective in 2026	
27 Jan	7.00pm	An introduction to reflective practice	
3 Feb	3.30pm	Getting risk assessment right	
19 Feb	10.00am	Mental Health First Aid - Recognising and supporting mental health distress on activities	

There may be more webinars yet to be announced!

An Introduction to the Scottish Junior Ranger Award

IOL FREE webinar
Free everyone

Tuesday 2nd December 2025 at 2.00pm (1 hour)

About the webinar

The **Scottish Junior Ranger Award** was developed to provide young people of secondary school age with a structured framework that allows them to develop many of the skills regularly attributes to Rangers and other Countryside Professionals.

During the 1 hour webinar we will present a cohesive picture of the awards development to where it is now and plans for the future.



Host

Jane Evans is a Countryside Ranger from the Northeast of Scotland with a strong focus on youth engagement with the outdoors.

www.scra-online.co.uk



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/an-introduction-to-sjra-webinar.html>

'It's opened up my world' Outdoor Learning as a tool for increased biodiversity and human cohesion

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members £35

Thursday 4th December 2025 at 4.30pm (1 hour)

About the webinar

We will share details about our work with farmers of south Devon, refugees, young people with learning difficulties and other marginalized people. People have learned together about biodiversity using traditional ecological data gathering methods while also learning about each other and their local landscapes.

- What might happen when farmers shout 'Get ON my Land!'?
- What might be the impacts on people and wildlife?
- How are farming families coping with the crisis in food and wildlife and incomes?
- How might local people once again feel welcome in the countryside and feel able to protect it?
- How can our rural spaces become more diverse and richer in human kindness?

We have done so much outdoor learning over the last 2 years and look forward to sharing our dreams for a future where outdoor learning can help create rural spaces full of human and wildlife diversity, thriving businesses.

Ideas, resources and rationale for approaching farming families to access space for outdoor learning which might also support the farm.

Host

Jane Acton - Jane is part of an agroforestry organic social enterprise, supporting human and nature recovery. As an ethnobotanist her background is BSc Plant Biology at University of Wales Bangor, MA Environmental Anthropology Goldsmiths College conducting research among native speaking women on Anglesey and High Andes Peru. Level 3 Forest School Trainer teaching across SW England and China, 15 years in public service managing children and family services. Singer, dancer, writer.



 <https://www.commonflora.co.uk/abundantlife>

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/opened-up-world-increased-biodiversity-human-cohesion-webinar.html>



Play to Thrive: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Outdoor Learning for Future Generations

Free
webinar
for everyone

Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 10am - 11.30am

About the webinar

Presented by: Play to Thrive, Future Generations Alliance.

Play to Thrive webinar brings together specialists from outdoor adventure, education, and the environment.

The session introduces how children can foster agency, awareness, and responsibility:

- Agency through risky play in outdoor adventure.
- Awareness of the potential outcomes from learning through choice.
- Responsibility of understanding our place in the local ecosystems to which we belong, for Future Generations.

This webinar is part of the emerging Play to Thrive, Future Generations Alliance, developed within the Institute for Outdoor Learning to build cross-sector collaboration for the benefit of children under twelve.

Schedule

- 10 am: Welcome and introduction: Jo Barnett, CEO, Institute for Outdoor Learning
Framing the Play to Thrive, Future Generations Alliance within the IOL.
- 10.05: Context and rationale: Michaela da Cunha
- 10.15: Talk One: Dr. Michael Down: Risky Play
- 10.30: Talk Two: Young adults: Lived experiences of children and outcomes.
- 10.45: Talk Three: Michaela da Cunha: Spatial systems for Future Generations.
- 11.00: Interdisciplinary Task to take away.
- 11.05: Questions and answers. Discussion.
- 11.20: Round-up: Michael Down / Young adult voice / Michaela da Cunha
- 11.25: Final briefing: Jo Barnett.
- 11.30: Finish

Hosts

Michaela da Cunha is a visionary consultant with 30+ years' experience creating nature-based, future-ready environments that centre children's authentic voices. From pioneering the UK's first all-girls multisport programme to designing interdisciplinary playgrounds and imagination-led landscapes, she translates children's perspectives into actionable, measurable programmes that boost creativity, resilience, wellbeing, and innovative problem-solving. She is the founder of Real Time Out and developer of Imagination-Mapping Futures (I-MAP Futures), an approach that turns local outdoor spaces into environments that strengthen children's sense of self, physical literacy, and connection to place. Michaela is currently contributing to the establishment of the Play to Thrive: Future Generations Alliance.

www.realtimeout.com

Dr Michael Down, Risky Play & the Development of Autonomy in Childhood. He is an academic at The University of Notre Dame Australia (Fremantle, WA). His research has predominantly looked into adventure, risk, and wellbeing for adolescents, but has recently focused on active outdoor play and risky play.

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/play-to-thrive.html>



Learn about the National Outdoor Learning Award (NOLA)

Free for all participants

Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 4.00pm (1 hour)

About the webinar

The **National Outdoor Learning Award (NOLA)** recognises, captures and celebrates the personal development outcomes of participants during an outdoor learning experience.

This webinar, delivered by Dr Roger Hopper, the developer of the award will outline the theoretical and practical development of NOLA, its benefits and how to implement it in diverse outdoor learning contexts.

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/national-outdoor-learning-award-nola-dec2024.html>



Who is it for?

Instructors, Teachers, Educators, Managers, Leaders

Learning outcomes

Awareness of how NOLA was developed. Awareness of benefits of NOLA for participants, practitioners and organisations. Awareness on how to implement NOLA in diverse outdoor learning contexts.

Host

Dr Roger Hopper is the developer of the National Outdoor Learning Award and a Lead Practitioner of the Institute for Outdoor Learning. Roger is a multi-disciplined practitioner with over 25 years experience of delivering, managing and leading outdoor learning in multiple outdoor contexts across all age groups and diverse needs.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/learn-about-nola-webinar.html>



A Pause with Purpose: Reflecting on What Matters in Your Work and Wellbeing

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members £35

Thursday 18th December 2025 at 3pm - 4.30pm

About the webinar


This reflective practice session is an invitation to slow down, reflect, and realign. As the Winter Solstice draws us into stillness and renewal, you're warmly invited to honour this seasonal turning point. We'll invite nature to support us as we take time to pause and reflect on what matters most in our work and our wider world. This may be the first time you've reflected purposefully like this or reflective practice might be part of your leadership, teaching or life. Everyone is welcome to this space to reconnect with your experience, draw out insight, and take stock of where you are. Together, we will:

- Invite nature to support you to reflect on our experiences this year and what they're telling you.
- Reconnect with what's important.
- Reflect on challenges and learn from them.
- Cultivate insight, clarity and resolve.

Facilitated by Claire Bradshaw, an outdoor coach and coaching supervisor, the session offers both structure and flexibility, supporting solo reflection as well as optional group connection. Grounded in the rhythms of the season and inspired by nature's cycles, this is a chance to realign and move forward with intention.

Host

Claire Bradshaw is a qualified coach, coaching supervisor and experienced coach trainer based in the High Peak. She established her boutique coaching and training consultancy in 2014 which she built on her core belief that transformation happens when we co-create spaces where people feel deeply heard and where, with the gift of our unwavering attention, they can do their most powerful thinking. Her approach is rooted in spaciousness, connection, nature and deep listening and these guiding principles shape all of her work. You can connect with Claire and subscribe to her Consciously Connected newsletter here:

 www.clairembradshaw.co.uk



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/pause-reflecting-on-what-matters-work-and-wellbeing-webinar.html>

Exploration and Outdoor Learning within large scale nature recovery programs. Impacts and Reflections of Discovery Outdoors role in the Shirebrook Valley Species Survival Project

Monday 5th January 2026 at 4pm (1 hour)

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members £37

About the webinar

Overview: Species Survival Fund (SSF) is a two-year nature recovery programme that's investing £25million in 20 projects across England. The program is being delivered by the National Heritage Fund on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Discovery Outdoors was chosen to lead educational programming as part of the project at Shire Brook Nature Reserve.

In this Webinar, John Bray will provide insight into the program from the wider team, share the ongoing story and reflect on the impact created by bringing learning outdoors as part of the project.

Outcomes:

1. Shared insight into the Species Survival Fund and Shire Brook Nature Reserve as a case study for nature recovery
2. Examples of activities and resources that connected young people with nature as part of this project
3. Most school teachers who visited as part of the program did not know the reserve was there. For many children it was their first visit, despite the majority of schools being relatively local. Is funding outdoor learning a way of supporting communities as well as schools?

Host

John Bray is a respected Educator with over 20 years of experience in Secondary Education in the UK, Malawi, USA and Switzerland. John is co-founder and Director of Learning Outdoors at Discovery Outdoors, a social enterprise on a mission to create opportunities for every young person to build a connect with their local natural environment.

John is extremely passionate about the role that nature has in our lives and the importance of engaging a new generation of custodian citizens for our natural green spaces.



https://www.instagram.com/discovery_outdoors_sheffield/

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/johnbraydiscoveryoutdoors/>

www.discoveryoutdoors.org

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/exploration-ol-reflections-of-discovery-outdoors-role-in-the-species-survival-project-webinar.html>

Findings from research into LGBTQIA+ outdoor community groups

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members **£37**

Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 5pm - 6.30pm

About the webinar

This presentation shares findings from research into LGBTQIA+ outdoor community groups, exploring how they create spaces of safety, belonging, and connection to nature. Using the lens of queer ecology, the study shows how these groups challenge exclusionary narratives in outdoor learning and re-imagine relationships with the more-than-human world. Participants described the mental health benefits of being outdoors in affirming communities, as well as the empowerment that comes from engaging with nature in ways that reflect diverse identities and experiences. The session will consider how outdoor educators can draw on queer ecology to develop inclusive practice, supporting LGBTQIA+ people to feel represented, valued, and able to thrive in outdoor spaces. It also introduces neurotransecologies as a distinct framework for valuing the unique experiences of neurodivergent trans people and their relationships within and with nature.

<https://www.muddypuddleclub.co.uk/indigoraewild>

This is based on my published research in the JAEOL. Here's a link:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14729679.2025.2486841#abstract>



Host

Indy Wild is a facilitator, trainer, and researcher in outdoor education with a focus on diversity, inclusion, and neurodivergent learners. Their work explores how LGBTQIA+ and neurodivergent communities engage with nature, the barriers they face, and how outdoor spaces can foster belonging, wellbeing, and justice. Currently developing a PhD around their emerging framework of Neurotransecologies, Indy examines how trans and neurodivergent ways of sensing and relating to the natural world can reshape understandings of ecological connection and care. Their interdisciplinary approach brings together social justice, health, and environmental education to promote more inclusive outdoor practice.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/findings-from-research-lgbtqia-outdoor-community-groups-webinar.html>

Experiential Learning: “Maximising learning from experiential events”

Thursday 8th January 2026
at 4.30pm (1 hour)

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members £37

About the webinar

Share the host, Bob Larcher's experience of experiential learning.

Explore the core principles and frameworks I use to achieve the maximum of learning from experiential events.



Aimed at....

Anyone involved in experiential learning; teachers, trainers, instructors.

Host

Bob Larcher is a British leadership development practitioner living and working out of Toulouse in France. His clients include multinationals, start-ups, charities and the public sector. Since his first leadership development events in the mid-eighties, Bob estimates that he has run more than 4000 days of leadership training, coaching & facilitating. He is an APIOL and has been a member of the IOL (and its previous incarnations) for almost 40 years.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/experiential-learning-maximising-learning-from-experiential-events.html>

An introduction into Children's Social Care: using the outdoors therapeutically to work with children, young people, and families, who have an involvement with children's service

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members £37

Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 5pm - 6.30pm

About the webinar

There is a long history of working with groups and individuals deemed by society as being at risk or in need of support. While some of the language has evolved over time, much of the thinking around the needs of this population remains unchanged. At its best, this type of work carefully balances the worlds and professions of psychology, outdoor learning, and social care/work, along with other aligned professions.

Many outdoor professionals have run sessions for children in care or their local youth justice service, especially if they have worked at an outdoor residential centre for any length of time. But what is the potential to develop this work further? What are the real and perceived barriers to working in this area? What skills might be relevant to a 21st-century outdoor professional?

This webinar is an opportunity to discover more about:

- The different types of children's services in England
- The entry points for a child or family accessing the various services in this sector
- Some of the terms used, such as Section 14, Section 47, Child We Care For, LAC, etc.
- The historical collaboration between the outdoor professional world and these groups
- Answers to any questions you may have (if we know the answer)

This session can be adapted to the needs of the participants and aims to provide a launch point for working in this sector. Led by a Children's Social Care manager who heads an Outdoor Therapeutic team in their Local Authority, this session aims to boost participants' confidence in their understanding of work in this area.

Host

Roger Hiley - I have been involved in leading and coaching for very nearly 30 years; of which a lot of this has been through an involvement at the Riverside Centre in Oxford. Since 2010 I have been lucky enough to manage the team, which is now called the Riverside Outdoor Therapeutic Team. The team operate as social pedagogues, using the outdoors as a medium for change with children, young people and families who have an involvement with Children's Social Care in Oxfordshire.

I am a Leading Practitioner, joint rep for this community and an Accredited Practitioner coach/assessor.

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/intro-children-socialcareusing-outdoors-therapeutically-webinar.html>



"The Tide is Turning: Imagination is Back" Outdoor Learning from the authentic children's perspective in 2026

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members £37

Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 10.30am (1 hour)

About the webinar

"When I was a child...." we took imagination for granted. Today, children's voices are too often unheard. This webinar explores what children really think, feel, and experience, from the perspective of being active outdoors, and why it matters now more than ever. Discover insights that could reshape how we understand and support children's learning and wellbeing, and see how these ideas can impact their ability to be more innovative, creative, and future-ready.

Host

Michaela da Cunha, Cultural Adaptation & Outdoor Learning Consultant.

I'm a visionary consultant with 30+ years' experience creating **nature-based, future-ready environments** that centre children's authentic voices. From pioneering the UK's first all-girls multisport programme to designing interdisciplinary playgrounds and imagination-led landscapes, I translate **children's perspectives into actionable, measurable programmes** that boost creativity, resilience, wellbeing, and innovative problem-solving. Schools and partners gain **evidence-based insights, fundable strategies, and practical** tools to integrate play, sport, nature, and learning, preparing children to thrive as the UK's most innovative and creative generation.

 www.realtimeout.com

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/imagination-is-back-ol-from-the-authentic-childrens-perspective-webinar.html>



An introduction to reflective practice

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members **£37**

Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 7pm-8.30pm

About the webinar

The aim of this short workshop is to give participants an idea of what reflective practice is, and what it might mean to be a reflective practitioner.

The session will cover:

- a basic introduction to reflective practice
- why reflection is a powerful free tool, that we can all use more
- who and in what settings we may be encouraged to be a reflective practitioner
- some tools and theories that may help us frame our reflections and adapt our future practice.

This session is open to anyone who is interested; it is an introduction, so you need to know nothing about reflective practice before signing up. Traditionally reflective practice has been embedded in work with people, such as youth work, social work, social pedagogy, therapy, coaching, etc. but it can also be helpful in growing business, forming functional teams, or business improvement. This session will focus on an individual, 'becoming a more reflective practitioner', but if there is interest there is a future option to look at reflective group work activities and the embedding of this in day-to-day practice.

Host

Roger Hiley - I have been involved in leading and coaching for very nearly 30 years; of which a lot of this has been through an involvement at the Riverside Centre in Oxford. Since 2010 I have been lucky enough to manage the team, which is now called the Riverside Outdoor Therapeutic Team. The team operate as social pedagogues, using the outdoors as a medium for change with children, young people and families who have an involvement with Children's Social Care in Oxfordshire.

I am a Leading Practitioner, joint rep for this community and an Accredited Practitioner coach/assessor.



BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/an-introduction-to-reflective-practice-webinar.html>

Getting risk assessment right

**Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at
3.30pm (1 hour)**

**An IOL
Members
FREE webinar
Non
Members £37**

About the webinar

EVOLVE Advice's Angela Willerton will take you through the principles of effective risk assessment. She'll discuss how to identify hazards and control measures and suggest tools and tips to help you embed good practice with your team.

www.evolveadvice.co.uk/courses

Host

Angela Willerton - Angela is Associate Adviser at EVOLVE Advice, providing educational visits advice and sign-off for schools and educational settings in the UK and overseas. Angela also delivers specialist training for EVCs and Visit Leaders, giving them the skills and confidence to run safe and memorable educational visits.

Angela has over 18 years' experience in the education sector as a qualified teacher teaching across a range of subjects in several education establishments. During her time as Head of Department for Leisure, Travel and Tourism, she organised a variety of educational visits within the UK, Europe and Africa. She was the visit leader for two cross-curriculum cultural educational visits to Paris and led an overseas tour to South Africa as part of a school partnership project. Working in education has given Angela a substantial understanding of learners, especially those with special educational needs and the particular challenges they face in the classroom and offsite on educational visits.

Angela holds IOSH Level 3 Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health Principles and Practice.

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/getting-risk-assessment-right-webinar.html>



Mental Health First Aid - Recognising and supporting mental health distress on activities

An IOL Members
FREE webinar
Non Members **£37**

**Thursday 19th February 2026
at 10am - 11.30am**

About the webinar

Supporting the mental health of participants during outdoor activities is becoming increasingly important for outdoor leaders and instructors. But what do you do when someone starts to struggle mid-session—on a ridgeline, at the crag, or in the middle of a canoe journey?

This practical one-hour workshop introduces the **F.I.R.S.T. mental health incident procedure** — a simple, structured approach designed to help outdoor professionals respond confidently and compassionately to participants showing signs of mental distress. Led by Cory Jones, mental health first aid trainer and director of First Aid Training Co-operative, the session will begin with a short, focused PowerPoint presentation outlining the five steps of F.I.R.S.T.:

- Find Out
- Investigate
- Reassure
- Support/Signpost
- Take Care

We'll then work through several realistic outdoor-specific case studies, followed by small group discussions and practical reflections. Whether you work with young people, adults, or mixed groups, this session will provide insight and tools to help you manage difficult situations safely and supportively—without needing to be a therapist.

Participants will leave with a clear understanding of how to recognise signs of distress, have supportive conversations, and maintain group safety—even in remote or high-risk settings.

Host

Cory Jones Explorer, Conservationist, Writer and Mental Health First Aider

Cory is an experienced expedition leader with over 30 years in the field, having led remote trips across the high mountains of Pakistan, undertaken canoe journeys deep into the Canadian wilderness, and sea kayaked across the world, having run a kayak centre in the north west Highlands for many years. A passionate conservationist and trained ecologist, his work has always combined adventure with a strong environmental focus.

He is a founder of the First Aid Training Co-operative, a leading provider of wilderness and remote first aid training in the UK and overseas. More recently, Cory chaired a national working group of outdoor professionals to develop practical strategies for supporting individuals experiencing mental health distress during fieldwork and expedition environments.

Cory continues to explore, teach and advocate for safer, more inclusive expeditions that support both physical and mental wellbeing.



 <https://firstaidtrainingcooperative.co.uk/mental-health/>

BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar/mentalhealth-firstaid-recognising-supporting-mh-distress-activities-webinar.html>

How to... Make the most of your IOL membership

FREE webinars
for members

All members are welcome to join us for an introduction to IOL - the charity that champions outdoor learning and supports those that work within this sector. The webinar will help show you how to access, manage and make the most of membership benefits.



The webinars include:

- An explanation of the aims of the IOL and how the charity is organised.
- A 'tour' of the IOL website, membership profiles, maps and accounts.
- Updates on current events and projects.
- A look at the breadth and depth of our volunteer community groups and also the email 'chat' facility, and options for networking.
- An overview of the Awards and CPD opportunities, and useful information including research and the sharing of practice.
- A chance to ask your questions and help us build up a FAQs for the IOL.

The webinars are an opportunity to meet some of the IOL staff team, and to meet other IOL members.

Webinars of 30 or 45 minutes

Various dates and times

Dates and times

- 6th Jan 2026 4pm-4.30pm
- 15th Jan 2026 1.00pm-1.30pm
- 20th Jan 2026 7pm-7.45pm

Pick a date and BOOK HERE

<https://www.outdoor-learning.org/news-events/ems-event-calendar.html>