
Our mission is to provide a united voice dedicated to promoting, advocating and lobbying for the regeneration and sustainable future of quality green spaces throughout the East Midlands.

This News and Information bulletin is produced by Ruth Rolls, GreenSpace East Midlands forum manager. Its objective is to support GSEM members. It is currently also circulated free of charge to other green space sector organisations.

The work of GreenSpace East Midlands (GSEM) is mostly funded by organisations annual membership, therefore membership is encouraged. For more information please visit www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands.

GSEM Diary Dates

12 June – Notts. Park Forum – Rufford Abbey – Contact Sarah Daniel on 01623 457 300

23 June – Leics. Parks, Open Spaces & Countryside Network – Harborough – Contact Matthew Bills on 01858 821 283

1 July – **GSEM Steering Group Meeting** – Brixworth Country Park – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

7 August 2009 – Derbyshire Greenspace Forum – Derby Arboretum – Contact Andy Pashley on 01246 345099.

It will be proposed at the next GSEM steering group meeting that future meetings are held on every second Wednesday of every quarter month and rotated around counties.

For example –

14 October 2009 in Lincolnshire, 13 January in Derbyshire 2010, 14 April 2010 in Nottinghamshire, 14 July 2010 in Leicester and 13 October 2010 in Northamptonshire.

Other Diary Dates

1 - 7 June – Volunteers Week – national annual celebration and 25th anniversary. Their website promotes various events across the Country. [More](#)

6 June – Official Opening Ceremony of Ashwood Acre Pocket Park, Hartwell. [More](#)

12 June - Green Flag Award Seminar – Aston University, Birmingham – Contact Jessica Reid on 0118 946 9068

16 June – Managing Risk in Play Provision – Nottingham – 020 7843 6003. [More](#)

15 - 17 June – Ifpra European Congress – Finland – Contact ifpra@vyl.fi or visit their website. [More](#)

24 June – GreenSpace Conference, Space to Grow - Contact Jessica Reid on 0118 946 9068. [More](#)

October 2009 – Environment, well being and healthy lifestyles – are now calling for papers – Contact Chris Gidlow on 01782 294 330. [More](#)

National News

New hope for orchards under threat

According to the National Trust, more than 60% of traditional orchards have vanished since the 1950s. An orchard officer has been recruited to champion the cause as part of a funding bid from Natural England's Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action fund. [More](#)

Public debate about British Waterways

A national debate started on 18 May in the House of Commons will continue for six months with various stakeholders to help decide on the long term future of British Waterways (BW).

The proposal is for BW to be moved out of direct state control and into a new 'national trust' for waterways. [More](#)

Greening our cities could help to tackle recession

CABE claim that a major shift of public money towards the greening of towns and cities is needed, to tackle both climate change and the recession and create places people want to live in.

They also claim that the spend on grey schemes, like buildings and expanding roads, is out of kilter with spend on assets like street trees, parks and green spaces.

[More](#)

New best practice guidance on Open Space Strategies

CABE Space launches new practical guidance to local authorities and their stakeholders on how to prepare, deliver, monitor and review an open space strategy. It reflects the latest thinking on the role of open spaces in tackling climate change and improving the quality of people's lives. [More](#)

Pathways through participation: what creates and sustains active citizenship?

New research project carried by three Voluntary sector organisations will explore how and why people get involved and stay involved in different forms of participation in their communities. It aims to increase knowledge of people's pathways into participation and of the factors that shape this over time.

The research launched in April is funded Big Lottery Fund and will continue for two and a quarter years. [More](#)

Local News

GreenSpace East Midlands has appointed a full-time Forum Manager.

Ruth Rolls took up her appointment in May. She has over 15 years work experience in horticulture, environmental and heritage education and community empowerment in the parks sector as well having worked as a countryside ranger and volunteer for the Wildlife Trust.

One of her first roles will be to speak and meet the forum members and stakeholders. This will help her ability to understanding of the regions green spaces and her ability to represent and create effective networking opportunities. She is interested in hearing from members on how they feel the website, news and information, steering group and working group meetings can be improved or any other new ideas.

We all wish Ron Marquand a happy retirement and thank him for his valuable contribution in establishing the forum.

Love Parks Week 2009

25 events in East Midlands are registered on the website from over 300 nationally.

Love Parks Week takes place between 25 July and 2 August 2009. For more information and to register you event visit www.loveparksweek.org.uk

Don't forget the useful resources such as press release templates on the website.

East Midlands Woodland Bird Project

Launched by RSPB & Forestry Commission, this project provides funding to land owners in key areas in East Midlands to improve woodland habitat to support sixteen vulnerable bird species. Wild birds are considered a good indicator of general state of health of our wildlife and countryside and they are one of the Government's 15 headline indicators of progress towards sustainable development. For more information please contact Tristan Galletly, Derbyshire woodlands officer on 01629 816 641. [More](#)

Preparing for CAA - culture and sports contribution

Ruth attended a workshop about the above on 20 May organised by Cultural Improvement Partnership East Midlands (CIPEM). Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) started on 1 April and is led by Audit Commission working with six other inspectorates. It is a key element of National Performance Framework. It is an independent evidence base for central government on progress against national priorities providing a means of rationalising and coordinating inspection of local services delivery against local priorities.

CIPEM has more information about outcome of this event. [More](#)

The Audit Commission has a section about CAA on their website. [More](#) Local Government Association has a presentation about CAA. [More](#)

Big Replant Day

Oakham in Bloom volunteers are celebrating Volunteers Week by encouraging new volunteers to join them planting this year's summer bedding around the town. [More](#)

GreenSpace News

Skills and development manager

Stuart Mansbridge joined GreenSpace in April. He will be establishing and coordinating more training and development opportunities in the green space sector. He'll also be developing IPGS.

In East Midlands, there is an opportunity for us to continue the development of our own training working group in East Midlands with his support. If you are interested in joining this working group, please contact Ruth on 01604 807 771.

CABE's has more information about Skills to Grow Strategy. [More](#)

Space to Grow – GreenSpace conference

The next GreenSpace conference, Spaces to Grow, will take place on 24 June in Birmingham. The conference, which will focus on how to capitalise on the benefits of growing food in public green spaces and allotments, is organised in association with the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) and IPGS.

For more information contact Jessica Reid on 0118 946 9068 . [More](#)

Useful Resources

CABE redesigned their website to include learning pages for green space managers. [More](#)

CABE released a young person version of SpaceShaper. Training will follow in October 2009 onwards.

IDEA, the Improvement and Development Agency have a section on their website about how central government is now placing increased emphasis on community empowerment. [More](#)

Don't forget the variety of resources available on the GreenSpace website in the Community section. [More](#)

GSEM Website

The GSEM website is gradually being updated, please contact Ruth Rolls with your comments or suggestions on how this could be improved.

Please visit the website as it does contain a wealth of information. There is also a section for members only (you will require login details to access this).

Recent updates include:

- April minutes from GSEM steering group.
- May minutes from Derbyshire GreenSpace Forum Meeting
- Summaries of meetings attended by Ruth Rolls including Paying for Ecosystems and Comprehensive Area Assessment – the contribution of culture and sport.
- Latest diary dates

GSEM Network

In this section, you can ask members and others a green space question. Between us we have an enormous pool of information. Please share your expertise, experience or view point to help others.

Question 1 – Northamptonshire ACRE previously supported rural playing fields managers (usually Associations or Parish Councils) through a part-time post and regular newsletter but due to changes in their funding this is no longer possible.

They are interested to know if and how playing field managers are supported in other Counties/ Districts and by whom?

Please send your responses to Ruth Rolls by email. These will be collected, summarised and circulated via bulletin and the website.

Contact us

Ruth Rolls – GreenSpace East Midlands forum manager – rrolls@gsem.org.uk or 01604 807 771 or 07553 406 884

There are other regional forums across Britain, we are supported by Sarah Moore, GreenSpace. Contact 0118 496 9065 or sarahm@green-space.org.uk

If you would like to subscribe to this monthly news and information bulletin then please email rrolls@gsem.org.uk and write 'subscribe' in the subject heading.

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