
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

3 August 2009 – Community Involvement Working Group meeting – Regional Assembly – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

5 August 2009 – Green Space National Forum – Birmingham – Contact Sarah Moore on 0118 946 9065

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

4 September 2009 – Nottinghamshire Parks Forum meeting – venue t.b.c. – Contact Sarah Daniels on 01623 457 300

22 September 2009 – Leicestershire Parks and Open Space Forum meeting – Abbey Park – Contact Bob Mullin on 0116 291 4483

14 October 2009 – **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** – Lincolnshire – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

13 January 2010 – **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** - Derbyshire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

Other Diary Dates

16 July 2009 – A new climate for heritage? workshop – Nottingham Arena – [More](#)

24 July 2009 – Breath of Fresh Air – Rosliston Forestry Centre – gdd@groundwork.org.uk

24 & 28 July 2009 – Learn how to run a green space apprenticeship scheme – contact mshepherd@cae.org.uk

27 July to 2 August 2009 – National Fishing Week at Westwood Lakes, Boston – Contact Rob Perkins on 0778 661 0768

3 to 5 August 2009 – Designing Outdoor Play Environment & Conference – Sheffield – [More](#)

13 August 2009 – 6C's Strategic GI Board meeting – Regional Assembly – Contact Sharon Jefferies on 0116 305 7851.

22 August 2009 – 25th Anniversary of Blisworth Tunnel Opening – More information [here](#).

29 to 31 August 2009 – IWA National Waterways Festival & Boat Show Nottinghamshire – Contact 0844 800 6538

31 August 2009 – The National Forest Wood Fair – Beacon Hill Country Park, Leicestershire – [More](#)

7 to 9 September 2009 - Designing Outdoor Play Environment & Conference – Sheffield – [More](#)

8 October 2009 – East Midlands EXPO 2009 – Leicester – Contact Maria Coles on 01664 502 581 or www.emra.gov.uk

10 Oct 2009 – Leicestershire & Northamptonshire Union Canal 200th Anniversary – Foxton Locks, nr Market Harborough – Contact 0116 279 2657

National News

Celebrating 60th anniversary

Natural England in the East Midlands is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act by running a series of events during 2009 at Derbyshire Dales NNR and Saltfleetby Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR. The act, passed in 1949, established a vision for the natural environment. It paved the way for the creation of today's 14 UK National Parks, 49 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 294 National Nature Reserves (NNRs), 4000 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 2,900 miles of National Trails.

For further details of celebrations across the Peak District please see [here](#) and about celebrations across the country see [here](#).

Mam Tor top of 7 sites

Mam Tor in Derbyshire is one of seven National Trust's top spots' for star gazing this August. 2009 is the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) commemorating the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei's use of a telescope to study the sky. It's a great chance to discover the stars and all the wonder they hold.

The National Trust are offering free guides which are available to download from 20 July at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/darkskies

Have your say on England's publicly owned forests.

Anyone with an interest in England's woods and forests is invited to play their part in deciding the role of a modern Forestry Commission Public Forest Estate for the 21st Century. The Forestry Commission is asking people to get involved in a Study to consider the future long-term role for the publicly owned woods and forests managed by the Forestry Commission for the benefit of everyone.

If you want to let the Forestry Commission know your views, or you want to find out more about consultation events taking place in your area please see [here](#).

The consultation was launched on 6th July 2009 and finishes on 28th September 2009.

For more information please contact Stuart Burgess Forestry Commission on 01223 346027 or email stuart.burgess@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

Postcards from the park 2009

Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund have again joined forces with GreenSpace to re-launch this competition for its 3rd year. The competition is open until 3 August 2009. Winners will be invited to a special event in London on 4 September 09.

Why not advertise this competition within your organisation and help raise the profile of our green spaces?

BIG's Strategic Framework

Earlier on this year Big Lottery Fund carried out a consultation called Big Thinking, which asked you how they should spend their budget in the next six years.

They have now developed their Strategic Framework, based on the findings from the consultation. One of the key differences in their approach in the future will be an enhanced UK-wide target that at least 80 per cent of their funding will go to the Voluntary and Community Sector over the next six years. You can find out more by reading their [Strategic Framework](#) web pages.

Increase in number of volunteers

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of people looking for opportunities to volunteer according to the Institute of Volunteering Research.

Also a recent survey by CSV of former volunteers showed that nine out of ten said volunteering increases job prospects.

For more information, please contact Suzi Darsa on 0207 520 8928 or suzi.darsa@volunteeringendland.org

Free Workshops on Apprenticeship Scheme

CABE Space is offering free workshop places on 'Learn how to run a green space apprenticeship scheme' on 24 July in London and 28 July in Oldham.

Places are limited. Booking deadline is 14 July. For more information visit [here](#) or contact CABE Space on mshepherd@cabe.org.uk

Designing Outdoor Play Environment & Conference

Hosted by the University of Sheffield, these two-day events aim to provide an opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and experience of designing outdoor play environments. [More](#)

Cost £440 per person for two day event – places are limited. The cost includes:

Welcome reception, evening meal on arrival, 2 nights en-suite accommodation, 2 breakfasts and lunches, conference dinner and speakers and workshop facilitators.

Local News

Community Spaces success in East Midlands

The programme is still open for small and medium grants (£10,000 to £49,999) until 2011, but is now closed for large or flagship grant. East Midlands is slight lower than the national average in applications received, therefore Groundwork welcomes and encourages more applications.

Please ensure your application is eligible by checking the criteria carefully. Unfortunately about one quarter of applications received are ineligible.

Community Spaces grants are available to community groups across England. Anyone wishing to apply should request an application pack by calling 0845 3 671 671 or visiting www.community-spaces.org.uk

John Greasley, Chair of Friends of Bennion Pools, said, "We're incredibly excited about the community being so involved in this project. New paths will make it accessible for wheelchairs and prams, and we have great plans for environmental games and activities for local children."

The Friends of Bennion Pools group is hoping to launch their project to the public at the beginning of July.

Volunteer and turn Notts even greener

Green minded folk are being invited to step forward and make their mark on the county's environment.

The Forestry Commission has teamed up with Ashfield District Council to stage a special taster day on Sunday (12 July) offering people more information on volunteering opportunities in the great outdoors.

The event runs from 10am to 2pm at Brierley Forest Park Visitor Centre, Ashfield. The taster day is free, but to take part in the activities you will need to book on 01623 822447.

Changing landscapes scheme

Round 2 re-opens on 17 July and closes on 30th Sept. 2009. Unique to the National Forest, it is a scheme that offers funding to any landowners for the creation of new woodlands and associated habitats. It pays 100% costs of woodland and habitat creation and management.

For more information please contact Matt Brocklehurst on 01283 551211 or cls@nationalforest.org or see [here](#).

GreenSpace East Midlands forum manager

Interested in Skills and Training? We are looking for volunteers to join our Training Working Group which will work toward improving skills and opportunities in our sector.

Community Involvement Working Group circulated their questionnaire early this month, please fill in and return these before 27th July 2009. Your contribution is appreciated.

Why not join your local County forum? This is a great networking opportunity and way of contributing to the development of our sector. Dates are listed above. If your County doesn't have one, contact Ruth Rolls about starting one.

Love Parks Week 2009

34 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 your event visit www.loveparksweek.org.uk

Corby Forest Schools' Excellence

Corby Learning Partnership and Corby Borough Council have won the prestigious Local Government Chronicle & Health Service Journal's Sustainable Communities Award for Corby Forest Schools.

The Corby Forest School Project is an inspirational process that offers children regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland environment, where the project is working in partnership with the Forestry Commission.

Breath of fresh air

Breath of Fresh Air is a regional partnership of Big Lottery, BTCV, Groundwork, the National Trust, the National Forest Company, Natural England, the Woodland Trust & the Wildlife Trust.

On Friday 24th July they invite you to join them at Rosliston Forestry Centre to find out more about their plans for the region's Cultural Olympiad, and how you and your organisation can get involved.

Refreshments and lunch will also be provided. Please RSVP by Friday 17th July 2009 to: gdd@groundwork.org.uk

GreenSpace News

Green Flag Award & the Regional Forums:

The GreenSpace Regional Staff will develop and implement a plan to enable consultation and feedback from judges via the regional forums. This will be developed and reported via the GreenSpace National Forum.

GreenSpace have recruited a **Green Flag Award Training Officer** this month, who will take forward the judges training.

Following the success of the regions and the **CLG strategic grant**, the East Midlands and South West have recruited full-time forum managers, namely Ruth Rolls and Roger Gates. The South East and East are recruiting part-time managers. Michelle Parker starts in August for South East. The total number of staffed English regions will be six of nine. It is anticipated that additional CLG funding will be bid for this year and next year to continue to support the newly staffed regions and other emerging regions, as well as the national team.

GreenSTAT: New benchmarking functions have been released as part of the analysis tools to allow clients to benchmark nationally, by region, by local authority type and population size. Data exports of raw data in excel can be requested from the team. The GreenSTAT team will be developing support services for clients including training courses which will be made available in the autumn.

Useful Resources

CABE have recently re-launched their website and created two new pages: one for green space managers, details [here](#) and another for community groups, details [here](#).

They bring together all the relevant CABE content, publications and resources for those groups into one place.

Feedback on the new pages are welcome, including thoughts on if 'green space managers' is the best collective name for everyone who

works in the green space sector! Please contact nmathers@cabe.org.uk.

Play designers and landscape architects

Are you looking for someone to design your play space? Children's Play Information Service has a database of over 70 play spaces designers and landscape architects, and more are being added every week. [Contact CPIS](#) for an up-to-date list.

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).

GSEM Network

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

Sadly, we had no replies to last issues question about supporting rural playing field managers.

Question 1

Nottinghamshire Parks Forum is collecting information in their County about:

- Charge for car parking (up to 1hour – up to 2hours – over 2hours)
- Charge for fun fairs per site per day (small i.e. up to 6 rides – medium i.e. 6 to 12 rides – large i.e. over 12 rides)
- Charge for community Gala/ fun days (full and concessions)
- Annual charge for ice cream concessions (medium – large)
- Annual charge for hot food catering van
- Filming rights per site per day

This information would be of interest to others too, so please share this information

and forward it to Ruth. Please note, a table can be sent for you to complete.

Question 2

Leicestershire County Forum has been collecting information about calculating Section 106 developer contribution for the maintenance of green spaces created during housing developments. They would like these details for comparison and guidance. This may be an opportunity to produce some County guidelines. This information is also useful for many authorities in East Midlands so if you wish to share your information then please email Ruth Rolls at rrolls@gsem.org.uk.

Question 3

Do you have, or know whether there is, guidance on Sustainable Drainage Systems for new housing developments?

Please send all 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. These 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. Likewise, if you would like to unsubscribe, please email writing 'unsubscribe' in the subject heading.

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