
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

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

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

19 November 2009 – Training Working Group meeting – Venue t.b.c – 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

17 September 2009 – The Future of Culture, Tourism and Sport: 5th national conference – London - Contact Laura Brownlee on 020 7324 4372 - [More](#)

19 September 09 - World Parks Day – [More](#)

29 September 2009 - GreenSpace conference, Raising the Standard – Manchester - Contact 0118 946 9068 or [More](#)

6 to 8 October 2009 – 'Fruit and Vegetables in Public Gardens' Conference - West Dean – [More](#)

8 October 2009 – East Midlands EXPO 2009 – Leicester – Contact Lesley Chapman [More](#)

8 October – 2nd EMGIN Conference – Leicester – Contact Ruth Howden on 01604 237 648

9 October 2009 – Tranquil Spaces conference – London Zoo - 020 7983 4303

9 October 2009 – 6Cs GI Project – Final Stakeholder and wider event – Derby – Contact Sharon Jefferies on 0116 305 7851

21 October 2009 – Environment, well being and healthy lifestyle 2009 - [More](#)

18 November 2009 – East Midlands Allotments Officers' Forum inaugural meeting – Contact Di Appleyard on di@farmgarden.org.uk

National News

Allotment expansion

The government has been urged to dramatically expand the number of public allotments by using brownfield sites and encouraging landowners to donate unused land to local communities.

The New Local Government Network (NLGN) is calling for the government and local councils to make better use of the estimated 3,500 hectares of unused brownfield land to create new community allotments. [More](#)

Nottingham City wins national award.

Nottingham City Council won Best Service Team: Parks, Grounds and Horticultural - Sponsored by SGM (UK) Ltd on 10 September in Cardiff.

The APSE Service Awards are unique in the local government calendar, dedicated to awarding excellence in front line local government public services. The awards attracted over 400 entries from councils across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. [More](#)

UK Older People's Day 2009

UK Older People's Day is now in its third year. They want to build on the huge success of last year by getting even more people involved in the celebrations across the UK in 2009. Last year, over 50,000 people took part in 900 local events across the country in the weeks around 1 October. Events varied from allotment projects to tea dances, exercise classes to achievement awards, and ranged from a couple of hours to multi-day festivals. [More](#)

Play England's future plans

Play England approaches the final year of their original 5-year plan. They are asking for your views on the work so far and the direction our future plans might take. [More](#)

Free maps for school children

Schoolchildren across England, Scotland and Wales have the chance to get their hands on free Ordnance Survey maps, as the national mapping agency launches the free maps for 11-year-olds scheme. [More](#)

Ordnance Survey is working with Natural England to offer teachers an additional resource. A booklet entitled The Language of Landscape, also created with help from the Geographical Association, will be distributed to teachers in England and features practical lesson ideas and tips on further incorporating map work into the curriculum. [More](#)

Local News

Greening the economy at the EXPO

East Midlands EXPO is an annual free event. It provides an opportunity to see how the vision of a vibrant economy that values all our people and protects and enhances our environment locally and globally can be achieved.

It will take place on Thursday 8th October at the Walkers Stadium in Leicester. GSEM will have a stand along with an anticipated 70 other exhibitors.

The '**15 Minutes of Fame**' sessions are the chance for exhibitors to showcase what it is that they do. Each talk will take place at a table seating around 10-12 delegates. There will be several tables in use at any one time, with 4 sessions throughout the afternoon.

conferences/workshops:

- The second annual East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network Conference – *EMGIN*
- Summer in the City – Dealing with extreme weather in urban areas – *EMRA*
- The best things in life are free; the best things in business are resource efficient – *Envirowise*
- Preparing for the Carbon Reduction Commitment - *The Local Government Information Unit (LGIU)*
- Skills needed for a low carbon economy – *RCE for Education in Sustainable Development*
- Delivering low carbon homes – *EMCBE*
- Flourishing Together – *ESE in EMRA*
- Learn to Trade Carbon - *LGIU*

The Local Producers Market also offers the opportunity to purchase some locally produced goods to take home and enjoy. [More](#)

The second annual East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network conference

The East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network (EMGIN) promotes the multiple public benefits of green infrastructure to planning authorities and the private sector as well as providing a platform for the sharing of ideas and experiences of those professionals and volunteers who are delivering green infrastructure around the region. The network aims to encourage the integration of green infrastructure in all future physical infrastructure developments.

GSEM members and contacts are invited to register for this free conference. There have been a number of notable achievements and therefore the programme will include the launch of the *emda* GI toolkit, regional EMGIN and 6C's updates, a new series of regional seminars for planners to raise awareness about GI and also the update of work underway to produce the East Midlands Environmental Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Suite following on from the success initially achieved in Northamptonshire.

You'll need to register on EMGIN website to book for the conference. [More](#)

6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan Stakeholder Event: Presentation of final recommendations and launch of wider stakeholder review.

Friday 9th October 2009 - from 9.30am to 12.45pm - venue: The Riverside Centre, Riverside Court, Pride Park, Derby. DE24 8HY

The event is aimed at stakeholders who are involved in planning, managing and delivering green infrastructure and sustainable development across the Growth Point. If you would like to attend please complete the [registration form](#) on the 6Cs GI website. Please forward this invitation to relevant colleagues and contacts.

Please note that delegate numbers at this event are limited. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis and registration will close on Wednesday 30th September 2009.

6Cs GI – second round of strategic green infrastructure growth fund allocation.

The 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Project Board has a remaining indicative allocation of £1.4m available for Strategic Green Infrastructure (GI) Capital only projects across the 6Cs Growth Point. A second round of project development, submission and appraisal will take place between October 2009 and January 2010. Projects will need to demonstrate their contribution to both 6Cs Strategic GI priorities, as defined in the emerging 6Cs GI Strategy and Action Plan, and local Housing Market Area (HMA) Strategic GI priorities.

For more information contact Sharon Jefferies on 0116 305 7851. [More](#)

Bandstand Marathon -

This marathon is on 27 September. It is a great way to breathe new life into bandstands, provide local musicians with a platform, and new audiences with access to live music. It is already upon us for this year but there is plenty of scope for further inclusions in 2010 & beyond.

This initiative is part of the Cultural Olympiad and is being organised by Superact. [More](#)

The Igniting Ambition team provides practical support for this initiative including coordinating the press, which they are doing this year in Loughborough, where Taiko drummers will be performing to celebrate Loughborough playing host to the Japanese 2012 team.

East Midlands in Bloom

The University of Leicester Botanic Garden was announced the winner of the Greenspace East Midlands Award for Best Horticulture within a Public Park at Cleethorpes on 9 September.

The University present extremely high horticultural standards throughout the freely accessed grounds, situated in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. Lovely floral features complement mature trees and formal pools and this year, coinciding with the judging, an extensive exhibition of outdoor sculpture and art forms were also present to delight and enthral the visitors. All in all they were deemed a very worthy recipient of the award. [More](#)

Heritage Open Days

Between the 10 to 13 September, several gardens and countryside sites within East Midlands opened their doors such as Wollaton Road Allotments, Limewoods in Lincolnshire and Thornton Park in Northampton.

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission.

Why not consider organising an event within your historic park or green space to celebrate Heritage Open Day next year. [Here](#).

Lessons from nature

Bush-savvy students from The Dukeries College in Ollerton, Nottinghamshire, have become the first to complete a ground-breaking forest experience course deep in Sherwood Pines Forest Park.

Seven students aged from 11 to 13 years old swapped the classroom for the verdant 1,200 hectare (3,000 acre) Forestry Commission estate, near Edwinstowe, to take part in a six week bushcraft programme.

For further information contact Joanne Broadhead on 01623 822447 or joanne.broadhead@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

CLS grant deadline

National Forest Company's Changing Landscape Scheme Round 2 is now open. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 30 September 2009.

Awards for All

Eight projects in the region celebrated grants totalling £68,690 under the Awards for All programme this month.

Among them was ECOworks, who receive £9,996 to plant fruit, bushes and nut trees in two of Nottingham's most deprived areas.

Gina Seed, Manager of the project, said: 'Nottingham Fruit Forest', as we're calling the project, will make a real difference. People will have access to fresh seasonal fruit at no cost, kids will learn where food comes from and eat

healthily, communities will be brought together and pass on their knowledge, and we're reducing food miles to boot."

Beyond BIG

What happens when your Lottery funding runs out? That's what BIG will be discussing in the coming months. Achieving sustainability without grant funding is extremely difficult, and may only be possible for certain types of project such as training and skills development, where there is something to charge for or sell.

On November 10 BIG will be in Leicester discussing issues of sustainability with groups coming to the end of their funding. The day will have a range of speakers from inspirational projects, and workshops on subjects including volunteers, social enterprises and sustainability. Before then, they will be discussing these, and other related topics, on their new website designed specially to support this event. Please join the Beyond BIG [networking page](#) and tell us what you think.

GSEM Update

Request for nominations

GSEM wishes Richard Welburn, Chair of GSEM forum and Andy Pashley Vice-chair, all the best and a big thank you for the dedication and support they have willingly given to the establishment of the forum over the past several years.

Richard is retiring from this voluntary position and starting a new one as a Trustee of GreenSpace Forum Ltd. Therefore October's meeting will be the last meeting he'll be chairing, although he has kindly offered his continued support until a new Chair is recruited.

Andy Pashley is retiring from this voluntary position due additional work commitments but intends to keep in touch with the forum's activities and work. He hopes to resume active involvement again in the future.

Therefore two volunteer opportunities have arisen for Chair and Vice-chair of the GSEM forum. This is an exciting time for the forum as it expands its activities and representation across the East Midlands. By Chairing the

steering group you'll have an active role in directing the future of the forum.

If you are interested in nominating yourself, please contact Ruth Rolls, Forum Manager for further information.

Map of accessible open spaces

This is an exciting partnership project where Natural England would like to work with GreenSpace East Midlands. It compliments and extends work they have already achieved in mapping accessible open space using robust mapping datasets.

GSEM role is to collect datasets held by local authorities to help complete a map of East Midlands particularly of our urban green spaces. The end product will be a web based map that is intended to be an indicative guide that will encourage users to carry out further research.

This regional mapping data has been endorsed by EMGIN and will add to the existing GI tools. It will also be a useful tool for local authorities carrying out research work when applying for funding, planning green space creation or connectivity scheme as well as an advocacy tool to evidence the need to create or improve access to green spaces in East Midlands.

Green Flag Awards scheme open meeting

The open meeting on 14 October in the afternoon will focus on Green Flag and Pennant Awards.

The open meeting is open to all members and non-members. The meeting is aimed at organisations that are new to green flag and pennant awards, judges and existing green flag award winners. It intends to provide an update about the scheme, opportunity to share information and knowledge, and identify feedback for the Green Flag partnership.

Presentation from: Michele Walde, GFA training and development manager, Queen's Park, Chesterfield and other winning parks. To receive an agenda or more information please contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

Training working group

The working group had a successful inaugural meeting. The quick 'hot topics' survey was a great success.

The key messages from the meeting are:

- Are all park and green space managers aware and have a copy of the CABI Space's Skills to Grow strategy as the key document about this subject. This document can be downloaded [here](#).
- more information is required from local authorities and green space organisations in order to inform and direct the working groups activities and provide evidence for advocacy work, but this will be completed carefully, taking into account other recent or planned surveys locally and nationally.
- this working groups provides opportunities for collaborative activities, for key organisations to join in these discussions and create a united voice.
- there are lots of opportunities to improve training and skills in our sector within our region.
- there are some good examples of proactive work in our region that would make good case studies and examples that could be shared.

If you would like to join this group or receive a copy of the minutes or summary of hot topics please contact Ruth Rolls, forum manager.

The next meeting is 19 November; venue to be confirmed.

Breath of fresh air (BoFA)

BoFA is a regional partnership and part of the Cultural Olympiad activities. GSEM has recently joined this partnership.

We will be able to present how parks and green space across the region can get involved by registering appropriate events and using the BoFA logo and Inspire Mark in January's GSEM meeting.

GreenSpace News

Membership renewals have been sent for all staffed regions.

Shaun Lowman, Communications Assistant has now started. Caroline Carsey is the new Communication Officer: Events will start shortly. She replaces Jessica Reid who left to become a full-time student earlier this month.

Next Conference 29 September in Manchester on good practice from Green Flag Awards.

Please promote World Parks Day 19 September 09. Events taking place on that day can be badged. [More](#)

There's a new website for the international partnership, Parks For Life. Click [here](#).

GreenSTAT: Developing an abridged version in consultation with clients and the London Parks Benchmarking Group (LPBG) over the next year

GreenSKILL: Now available for organisations to use, please contact Stuart Mansbridge for more information.

GreenSpace Fund: Preston pilot is now well underway, linking to the LSP and using their Environment Working Group as the local decision-making board.

Quality Manual: Developing the approach for the QM, linking to the GSNF, LPBG, GFA.

Green Flag Award: Working with the regions to develop GFA engagement based on the recent proposal at the GSNF. Michelle Walde is looking to hold Mystery Shopping training events in the autumn.

Summary of GreenSpace national forum meeting is available from the forum manager on request.

Useful Resources

Funding Central is a free smart website for all third sector organisations, including community groups, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income

strategies appropriate to their needs. Delivered by NCVO and funded by Office of the Third sector. [More](#)

GSEM Network

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

There are no questions this month.

Answer - Reference material, information and regional example about **Sustainable Drainage** has been collected and is now available to others on request.

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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