
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

6 January 2010 – Derbyshire Greenspace forum meeting – Buxton – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

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

22 January 2010 – Community Involvement Working Group meeting – EMRA offices - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

11 February 2010 – Funding Working Group meeting - Rufford Abbey t.b.c. - Contact Ruth.

23 February 2010 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – Loughborough – Contact Colin Bailey on 01509 632530

10 March 2010 – Training Working Group meeting – Nottingham t.b.c – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

12 March 2010 – Nottinghamshire Park Officers Group meeting – Rufford Abbey – Tim Downes on 01623 463 735

14 April 2010 - **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** - Nottinghamshire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

Other Diary Dates

11 December 2009 – Regional Network Meeting for the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies – Riseholme College, Lincoln – [More](#)

11 December 2009 – Growing with Disabilities – horticulture and composting for people with disabilities – West Midlands - [More](#)

13 January 2010 – Adapting to Climate Change in the Sherwood National Character Area: Pilot Study, Stakeholder Workshop – Nottingham - Robert Johnston on 0300 060 2523

25 January 2010 – Implementing TAES course – London – GreenSpace [More](#)

26 January 2010 – Marking your park and promoting its events – Reading – IPGS - [More](#)

26 January 2010 – Funding for Growth suitable; Rural Development Programme England – Newark – [More](#)

15 & 16 February 2010 – Peer-led Challenge Course – London – GreenSpace [More](#)

10 February 2010 – EMRA’s Environment Advisory Group meeting – EMRA offices – Contact Alison Hepworth on 01664 502 599

12 February in Leicester, 23 in Derby, 24 in Lincoln and 25 in Northampton – Enjoying water in the Midlands workshops – Claire Quigley, EA on 07710903486 or [More](#)

24 February 2010 – Play England’s Community Play Seminars – Birmingham - [More](#)

23 to 26 February 2010 – CABE Space leaders programme – near Bradford - [More](#)

2 March 2010 – GreenSpace Conference – Sustainable Parks: Sustainable Future – Liverpool – [More](#)

National News

IPGS launches website

The Institute of Parks and Green Spaces (IPGS) has launched a brand new website that will enable it to keep members fully up to date with its development and activities. The site contains a wealth of information, including membership details, news from the sector upcoming training courses and policy position statements, which are constantly being updated.

IPGS is the UK’s only institute solely dedicated to parks and green spaces and related issues. It aims to advance the sustainable management and maintenance of parks and green spaces by promoting excellence in the profession and developing partnerships with others to help deliver its aims and objectives.

To find out more visit www.ipgs.org.uk

Park ranger wins national award

Senior park ranger Steve Richards has been voted Public Servant of the Year at the Guardian’s Public Service Awards 2009.

Steve has worked in Burnley’s parks for 31 years, and won praise for his enduring

commitment to the parks and cemeteries under his stewardship. Described by the council’s director of community services as “a shining example of an employee who always goes the extra mile”, Steve and his team have also managed to achieve Green Flag Award status for 40% of Burnley’s parks. [More](#)

Towards an Excellent Service

Following the success of last year's Implementing TAES training courses, GreenSpace, supported by CABE Space and Communities and Local Government (CLG), can now offer further opportunities to access TAES training.

The two courses, Implementing TAES and the Peer-Led Challenge, will take place in central London on 25 January and 15-16 February respectively. Discounts are available for IPGS/LPGSF members and for organisations wishing to attend both courses.

Towards an Excellent Service (TAES) for Parks and Open Spaces is a parks specific version of the Excellence model that has helped transform the performance of cultural services and the perceptions about their impact on communities over recent years. [More](#)

Discovering Places

GreenSpace has been asked to play a central role in delivering *Discovering Places* in the region, an exciting project which is part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad is a major engagement programme for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It will enable people, especially young people, around the UK to experience London 2012 in their town or street and to increase participation and capacity in cultural activity.

Three core values will be at the heart of every project:

- Inspiring and involving young people;

- welcoming the world (through internationalism or the celebration of UK communities); and
- delivering a positive legacy.

Discovering Places will explore the historical, built and natural environment and landscape of the UK through a series of open days, participation and performance events from 2010 onwards at both iconic and undiscovered urban and rural sites across the UK. This project is part of the ambition to encourage community regeneration and social inclusivity.

It is managed in partnership with Heritage Link and collaborates with organisations such as English Heritage, CABE, Natural England and the National Trust and is part-funded by the Olympic Lottery Distributor.

The launch of Discovering Places is a weekend of activities focusing on the natural environment on people's doorsteps over the May Bank Holiday weekend, 1-3 May 2010. If you are interested in participating or finding out more about the project, please contact Catharine Bull on C.Bull@heritagelink.org.uk or [More](#)

Cardiff welcomes Glasgow park apprenticeships

Horticultural apprentices from the Glasgow City Council parks department recently spent a week of work experience with Cardiff City Council's parks service. The scheme, which will also see Cardiff's apprentices move in the opposite direction, aims to improve working relations between the two local authorities and is designed to aid training and development opportunities for the new wave of park workers. [More](#)

CABE core strategy guidance

CABE has released a new publication to help local authorities take a spatial approach to developing their core strategy. The document, Planning for places: delivering good design through core strategies, includes a number of case studies and is available free of charge from the CABE website. [More](#)

Rainbow project

Black Environment Network (BEN) has won funding from CLG (Communities and Local Government) to run The Rainbow Project, offering valuable free training places for members of ethnic minorities who want to gain the knowledge, skills and contacts to play their part in opening up opportunities for their community. The programme also trains environmental professionals or volunteers to successfully reach out to ethnic communities.

The Black Environment Network was established to promote equality of opportunity with respect to ethnic communities in the preservation, protection and development of the environment. [More](#)

Growing in the community

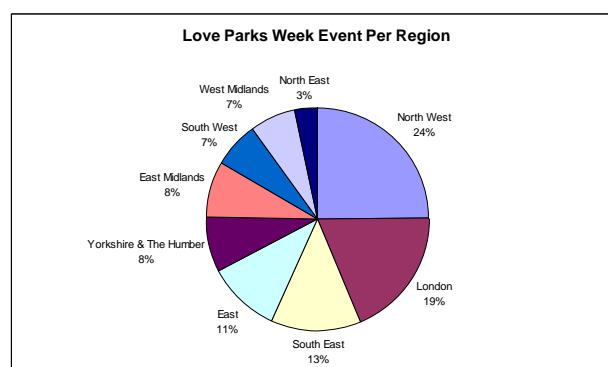
The second edition of 'Growing in the Community – a good practice guide for the management of allotments has been published by Local Government Association. [More](#)

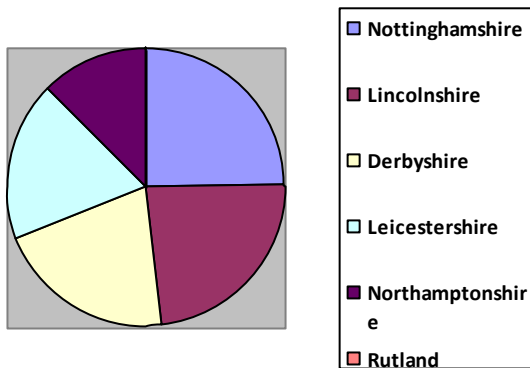
Guide to green space apprenticeships

CABE has launched an online good practice guide to green space apprenticeships. The guide is designed to help local authorities, landscape contractors and other to plan and manage horticulture apprenticeship programmes. [More](#)

Local News

Love Parks Week 2009 statistics





Love Parks Week 2010 will be held on 24 July – 1 August so why not start planning your events now and don't forget to make the most of publicity to promote the benefit of green spaces to the community.

Football reduces crime

A group from Nottingham, which has helped reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through sport and education, has been awarded the 2009 BBC Power of Sport Award, supported by Sport England. [More](#)

New allotment forum in EM

Nearly £350,000 has been awarded to the national Allotments Regeneration Initiative. The grant will fund the ARI Mentor Network, to offer expert advice and support to local communities wanting to set up or rejuvenate allotment sites. Allotment managers will also benefit. Regional forums will be arranged to spread good practice in allotments management and build supportive networks.

The inaugural meeting for local authority allotment officers was held on 18 November at Abbey Park, Leicester. During the meeting Officers discussed allotment strategies, rents, health and safety, associations, water supply, vehicle access, wells, multi-plot allotment holders, disposal of allotment waste etc.

These officers met Trevor Matthew, the East Midland Mentor. Through this voluntary role it is envisaged that the forum will share information, network and meet every 6 months. For more information contact, Trevor on 0845 478 6313 or tmatthews.ari@googlemail.com

Cultural and Sport Planning Toolkit

Living Spaces – cultural and sport planning toolkit was launched in March 2009, there has been a series of workshops including that last one held in East Midlands on 3 Dec. 2009.

The toolkit seeks to address: gaps in how planning policy addresses cultural and sporting uses and their spatial dimension; cultural and sport agencies' roles in relation to the planning system; how tools have been developed either on a sector-specific basis or a geographical basis, but there is no single point of access.

The workshop expressed how nationally, planning has a key role to play in the creation of sustainable communities: communities that will stand the test of time, where people want to live, and which will enable people to meet their aspirations and potential (PPS1, 2005). Cultural activities have a key role in creating sustainable communities.

They are also looking for case studies. For more information contact Helen Cooper at Helen.cooper@mha.gov.uk or [More](#)

Horticultural Week Awards

November saw Horticulture's Week Landscape and Amenity awards ceremony take place in London. Nottingham City Council won the Open Space Management Team of Year award.

Green Flag Award Scheme deadline

Deadline for application is the 31st January 2010. [More](#)

East Midlands has 63 Green Flag Award winning sites. This is median compared to other English regions. East Midlands has higher than average number of Green Pennant Awards but lower than average Green Heritage Sites award when compared to other regions.

More applications are encouraged and there are now opportunities to share information

and best practice at GSEM autumn open meetings and at a demonstration visit being planned for March 2010.

Ruth Rolls, Forum Manager has some statistical comparison information about the award scheme by, region, counties and types. Please ask if you would like a copy.

GSEM Update

Mapping of accessible open spaces

Natural England and GreenSpace East Midlands are working together on this exciting partnership project. It extends work Natural England has already achieved in mapping 12 datasets.

GSEM role is to request and collect datasets or other mapping information to help complete a map of the East Midlands to the best of our knowledge. We will be also collecting information about licensing, copyright, terms and conditions of the intended use of this data. The end product is likely to be a web based map that is intended to be an indicative guide that will encourage users to carry out further research. The data set will be combined and converted into statistical analysis map and illustrating access provision through a colour key.

This regional map will add to the other GI tools being created by East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network partners. It will also be useful for local authorities carrying out research work when applying for funding, planning green space creation as well as a regional advocacy tool to evidence the need to create or improve access provision in East Midlands.

We are also collecting information about PPG17/ open space strategies to write a report providing a regional overview.

Training working group

The group recently met for the second time, a Ted Talbot has been elected as Chair and it

was decided that Terms of Reference should be drafted before the next meeting.

The working group are looking into organising an exciting meeting in March 2010 based around sharing information about a wonderful project in Nottingham City that started about 6 years ago. This project demonstrates how you can encourage young people into a career in green spaces and demonstrates the personal benefits for the individuals, our green spaces and for our communities.

The group is finishing off reviewing regional and national surveys and will concentrate on a few key aspects where they can make a maximum impact to the region's training and skills issues.

Community involvement working group

The draft survey report is being finalised and will be circulated to GSEM members and participants soon.

The working group are looking into holding an Annual Regional Community Event in May 2010, where community groups can come together to sharing information, network and advocate community groups massive contribution to quality green spaces.

The working group will also be collating community group contact details (with permission) to create a regional database for advertising the annual event, circulating future surveys and information sharing.

Funding working group

The final draft of the funding working group report will be proposal to be approved at the next GSEM Steering group meeting on 13 Jan.

If you would like to get involved with this funding working group please contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

Make it Safe, GreenSpace conference - news

This was a very interesting and enlightening conference. The presenters have worked to

resolve their green spaces issues, using an evidenced based approach and working in close partnership to find the solutions which often involved thinking outside of the normal approach. They showed flexibility and adaptability during their projects procession, leading to their success.

GSEM Membership - Thank you to four local authorities who have renewed their membership for 2010/11. Thank you also to the four local authorities who have signed up to a three-year commitment. This contribution helps the forum go from strength to strength and provide our green spaces a united voice.

29% of local authorities in East Midlands are members. We also work in partnership with a government advisory body.

Membership Renewal - Letters have been sent about renewing your membership for 2010/11. This is circulated now as many organisations are currently organising their budgets for next year.

Letters have also been sent to potential members and will be followed with an encouraging phone call from the forum manager later in the year.

Department of Communities and Local Government grant enabled the forum to increase the forum managers post from part-time to full-time this financial year. This contribution will be greatly reduced next year so increasing the number of members and receiving renewal from existing members are essential to continuing success of the forum.

GSEM Steering Group and Open meeting

January 2010 Steering Group meeting discussion points–

- Terms of Reference
- Action Plan
- Media Diary
- Allotment Regeneration Initiative

January 2010 Open Meeting - This open meeting is aimed at organisations that are planning events for 2010 and wish to find out about national and regional initiatives. Green Space Managers know how important events are for connecting people to place. Members and non-members are welcome to attend this afternoon meeting.

- Bandstand Marathon 2010 – Jessica Tickell from Igniting Ambition EM
- Breath of Fresh Air - Rebecca McIntyre from Groundwork UK.
- Discovering Places – Catharine Bull from Heritage Link.
- Love Parks Week 2010 – GreenSpace

GreenSpace News

Update in next issue.

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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