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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.

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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](http://www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands).

### GSEM Diary Dates

11 February 2010 – Funding Working Group meeting - Rufford Abbey - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

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

25 February 2010 – The 1<sup>st</sup> Northamptonshire Green Space Forum meeting – East Carlton Country Park – Contact Ruth Rolls

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

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

18 March 2010 – The 1<sup>st</sup> Green Flag Award Demonstration Day – Brixworth Country Park – To book please contact Ruth Rolls

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

7 May 2010 – Derbyshire Green Space Forum – Elvaston Caste – Contact Ruth Rolls

18 May 2010 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – details t.b.c

13 July 2010 - **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** - Leicestershire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

### Other Diary Dates

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

11 February 2010 - Derbyshire Community Foundation Funding Sessions – Amber Valley CVS - Contact Lindsay on 01773 514856

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

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](#)

25 February 2010 - Trustee Network Northamptonshire (6.30pm) – john@cvsnorthamptonshire.org.uk

25 February 2010 - A Beginner's Guide to Commissioning – Nottingham - [More](#)

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

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

4 March – Federation of City Farms and Community Garden Regional Conference – Coventry – Marie Wellings on marie@farmgarden.org.uk - [More](#)

19 March 2010 – Creating Child Friendly Communities regional conference – Nottingham – Free - [More](#)

23 March 2010 – Play England’s National Conference – London - [More](#)

20 April 2010 - GreenSpace Conference – Details t.b.c.

5 & 6 June 2010 – BBC’s Spring Watch Wild Days Out – Helen Sykes on 0115 902 1895

## National News

### Spring falls back

The date for transmission for Springwatch, part of BBC’s Breathing Places 2010, has changed. It will now begin on Monday 31 May (the Bank Holiday weekend) - a week later than originally planned. This means that the focus for activity - Springwatch Wild Days Out - will be the weekend of 5 and 6 June.

Helen is very keen to hear from local authorities and organisations that are organising biodiversity themed events during 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June that might be interested in joining the BBC campaign.

Please contact Helen Sykes on 0115 902 1895 or [helen.sykes@bbc.co.uk](mailto:helen.sykes@bbc.co.uk)

### Inspire Mark

London 2012’s Inspire programme will help bring the benefits of the 2012 Games to every part of the UK – giving millions the opportunity to participate as never before.

Non-commercial organisations delivering projects and events genuinely inspired by the London 2012 Games can apply to have them recognised through the Inspire programme. These projects and events will be awarded the Inspire mark, part of London 2012’s brand family.

There does not need to be a funding relationship with the Cultural Olympiad for projects to apply to use the Inspire logo. Any new projects that reach new audiences, forges new partnerships and inspire sport, culture, sustainability or volunteering and are inspired by the 2012 games can apply.

Regional and national media activity often focuses on the Inspire Mark projects so it is also a means to showcase your success and take advantage of the marketing machinery already in place for the Cultural Olympiad.

If you have a project that you think would be suitable for the Inspire Mark, you should speak to Paul Brookes, Creative Programmer in the East Midlands in the first instance on 0115 989 7564. [More](#)

### Funding for community voices

Community Voices aims to inspire, engage and support disadvantaged and isolated communities across England to get their voices heard through digital media. Digital media of any format can be used, such as video, online or radio.

A total of 26 grassroots projects will be funded in accordance with the following: ten grants of £1,500; ten grants of £7,000 and six grants of £14,000.

Isolated and disadvantaged communities in England are eligible to apply. Applicant organisations are those involved with the community such as charities, housing

associations, local authorities, or individual members of a community.

Applications are now being invited with a deadline of 28 February 2010. [More](#)

### **National Apprenticeship Week**

As part of National Apprenticeship Week Communities Secretary Mr Denham announced £700,000 to put into 61 council pots so they can cultivate 175 new horticulture apprenticeships.

This will help young people develop new 'green-fingered' skills and get public parks and gardens growing in some of the country's most deprived areas. The grants follow an overwhelming response to the 60 places created last year. [More](#)

### **Futurebuilders Fund closed to applications**

The fund was initiated in 2004 to provide finance to third sector organisations, helping them build their capacity to deliver public services. [More](#)

### **Heritage Link name change**

The Heritage Alliance is the new name since the appointment of Lloyd Grossman as Chair in December 2009. [More](#)

## **Local News**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Green Flag Awards demonstration day**

GSEM has organised the first Green Flag Awards demonstration day in the region at Brixworth Country Park, Northamptonshire on 18 March 2010.

This is a learning opportunity to find out about the scheme's criteria for the green flag award, green pennant award and green heritage site's, how desk and site assessment are marked from two experienced Judges and the latest plans for the scheme.

There will be presentations in the morning, followed by lunch and then site visits in the

afternoon. It is a free but booking is essential by the 10 March.

For more information please contact Ruth Rolls, GreenSpace East Midlands Forum Manager on 01604 807 771 or [rrolls@gsem.org.uk](mailto:rrolls@gsem.org.uk).

### **1<sup>st</sup> Northamptonshire Green Space forum meeting**

GSEM has organised the first Northamptonshire Green Space Forum meeting in Northamptonshire, which is kindly being hosted by Corby Borough Council at East Carlton Country Park for 25 February for 10am to 12.30pm.

On the day there will presentations from GreenSpace, GreenSpace East Midlands, Nottinghamshire Parks Officer Groups and Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network and Corby Borough Council.

For more information please contact Ruth Rolls, GreenSpace East Midlands Forum Manager on 01604 807 771 or [rrolls@gsem.org.uk](mailto:rrolls@gsem.org.uk).

### **Bandstand Marathon 2010**

Organisers of the growing September Bandstand Marathon event, Superact! are also collecting information about our local bandstands to create a directory of information about these historic park features. They welcome information about the following bandstands including information about any that are not listed here or are listed incorrectly.

#### Derbyshire

Hall Leys Park, Matlock  
Victoria Park, Ilkeston  
Crossley Park, Ripley  
Memorial Gardens, Ashbourne  
Queens Park, Chesterfield  
Lovers Walk, Matlock Bath  
Derwent Gardens, Matlock Bath  
River Gardens, Belper  
Pavillion Gardens, Buxton

### Leicestershire & Rutland

Cutts Close Recreation Ground, Oakham  
Western Park, Leicester  
New Park, Melton Mowbray  
Queens Park, Loughborough  
Abbey Park, Leicester

### Lincolnshire

Riverside Centre, Sleaford  
Recreation Ground, Stamford  
Jubilee Park, Woodhall Spa  
Greylees, South Rauceby  
Tower Gardens, Skegness  
Flinders Park, Donington  
Dysart Park, Grantham  
The Arboretum, Lincoln  
Newark Castle, Newark

### Nottinghamshire

Arboretum Park, Nottingham;  
Clumber Park, Worksop  
Langold Country Park, Langold  
Yeoman Hill Park, Mansfield Woodhouse  
Castle Grounds, Nottingham

### Northamptonshire

Corporation Street, Corby  
Rockingham Road Park, Kettering  
Abington Park, Northampton

Please send information to Paul Smith on  
01823 666641,  
paulawsmith@googlemail.com or  
[More](#)

### **Hinckley wins award for its market**

Hinckley was announced as 'Best Outdoor Market' at NABMA 'Market of the Year' competition, sponsored by KPR Midlink on 28 January.

Markets Minister Rosie Winterton congratulated the nation's favourite markets who were recognised at a prestigious awards ceremony.

Ms Winterton said the winners of the 2010 Market of the Year awards demonstrated how traditional markets could thrive in the 21st century, playing a crucial role in bringing town centres to life. [More](#)

### **Derbyshire are asking, are we the first?**

Derbyshire County Council have installed a 'changing places' toilet at Shipley County Park to increase accessibility and longevity of visits to the park. This is the second toilet of its kind in Derbyshire but they believed they are the first in a park location. Call John Holmes on 01773 719 961, if you have a changing places toilet. [More](#)

### **2010 International Year of Biodiversity**

The Winter 2010 issue of Derbyshire Biodiversity news is now available to download. This issue includes:

- 2010 International Year of Biodiversity
- Moorlands and climate change
- White-clawed crayfish
- Wildlife Gardening Course
- Derbyshire Conservation Volunteers
- Tree O'Clock
- Creswell, Clowne and Whitwell
- Mountain Hares

[More](#)

### **Saffron Acres, Leicester**

With a successful four-year allotment project under its belt including; working with volunteers to cultivate a four-acre wilderness into a beautiful community garden in a deprived area of Leicester, Saffron Acres are now recruiting a Horticulture Project Manager.

The project has constructed wildlife walks, created a cornflower meadow and is looking at alternative ways to irrigate the allotment site.

### **First Steps in Social Enterprise**

The workshops are free to attend and will run from 10am until 4pm. They are being held all over the East Midlands. Lunch and refreshments are provided. To book a place telephone 0115 871 4760 or email: [events@seem.uk.net](mailto:events@seem.uk.net)

12th February - Voluntary Action Nottingham  
3rd March - Community Action Derby  
8th March - The Business Exchange, Kettering

11th March - Rutland Volunteer Centre  
12<sup>th</sup> March – The Healthy Hub, Lincoln

### **Involving young people in climate change**

NCB ran a Regional Action Workshop for the East and West Midlands entitled: Involving children and young people in policy and practice solutions for a sustainable and climate smart future. The workshop took place in Birmingham, on 27 January 2010.

Please contact Liz Zachary at  
lzachary@ncb.org.uk or 0207 8436330.

## **GSEM Update**

### **Working Groups**

#### **GSEM community involvement**

The first draft of the community involvement survey report is completed and available to view on the GSEM website. Please send your comments to Ruth Rolls, Forum Manager by 24 February 2010.

The working group is looking to collect case studies for this report.

At the last meeting in January it was decided not to organise a regional community event or collect community group contact details. Further research will shortly be undertaken to determine more detail about the support community officers and community groups would like. This information will inform the forums and others work.

#### **GSEM funding**

The final draft of the funding survey report will be endorsed at the next steering group meeting in April.

The working group is developing an action plan whilst also working on planning an Advocacy Day for elected members and key stakeholders and a Funding Training day for open space managers.

#### **Accessible open spaces study**

Almost all local authorities have now received a letter from GSEM about this study. GSEM are working with Natural England to create a regional map providing statistical analysis of the provision. The letter requests information about maps on the publicly accessible open spaces that your local authority manages, ideally in GIS format.

It is important that these letters are actioned or queries sought from Ruth Rolls as this project needs to move swiftly on in March time. Therefore if you haven't sent your GIS dataset or licence information to Ruth Rolls yet, then please do so very soon.

**GSEM Membership** - Thank you to the 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 to go from strength to strength and provide our green spaces sector with a united voice.

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

A 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.

For the forum to survive and continue to employ a full-time forum manager, it is essential that existing membership is maintained and many new members join.

Local authorities are facing difficult times and it is more important than ever before that we demonstrate our effectiveness at working together, developing best practice and showing leadership in how we manage our green spaces that directly contribute to the health, sustainable communities and other agendas.

Membership renewal reminders will be circulated shortly, as well as membership information to potential members.

### **GSEM Steering Group and Open meeting**

This meeting was held at Losehill Hall, Derbyshire in January but because of the weather it wasn't well attended.

The Terms of Reference, draft Media Diary, final draft of the funding report and first draft of the community involvement report have been adopted and will be endorsed at the next meeting in April.

Presenters came from as far away as Devon to speak about:

- Bandstand Marathon 2010
- Breath of Fresh Air
- Discovering Places
- Love Parks Week 2010

These presentations are available on the GSEM website within the members section.

The next meeting on 14 April will be held in Nottinghamshire and GSEM are open to offers from organisations willing to host this meeting.

The meeting will include an Annual Review, providing an opportunity to influence the future work of this forum and express important issues about managing green spaces.

## **GreenSpace News**

### **New Staff**

- Caroline Carsey, Events officer
- Eloise Kurtis, Executive assistant
- Sarah Cox, Project Officer is now working with the improvements team and will be helping to develop the quality manual and Benchmarking work.

Next Conference **Sustainable Parks: Sustainable Futures** is taking place in Liverpool on 02.03.2010. Contact the communications team for more information.

Love Parks Week 2010 will take place 24<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Institute of Parks Green Space has recently launched a new website [www.IPGS.co.uk](http://www.IPGS.co.uk), with new resources still being added to the website.

IPGS have new training events available the first of which is taking place on 23 March in Reading. The event will look at '**Marketing your park and promoting its events**'. If you would like more information contact [stuartm@ipgs.org.uk](mailto:stuartm@ipgs.org.uk)

GFA Michelle Walde (GFA Training Officer) has now held 4 Mystery shopper training sessions for judges.

If you are not already a Green Flag Judge you can apply on the Green Flag [Website](#). Inductions for new judges will take place around the country in February & March.

Membership renewals, Sue is continuing to chase on current membership payments, and starting to send mail outs for 2010-2011.

GS are currently developing a pricing structure for Town and Parish membership which will be trialled in the South East.

Communities, Matthew Hartgrove is currently updating a list of Local Authority community liaison officers nationally.

## **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.

**Question from Leicester City Council** – They are interested in sharing and comparing Volunteer Policies as they are currently reviewing theirs. Please contact Victoria Hudson at [Victoria.Hudson@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Hudson@leicester.gov.uk)

If alternatively email these to Ruth Rolls who can upload these onto the GSEM website for members to share.

### Contact us

Ruth Rolls – GreenSpace East Midlands forum manager – [rrolls@gsem.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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