
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 funded by organisations annual membership, therefore membership is encouraged. For more information please visit www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands.

GSEM Diary Dates

12 August 2010 – Funding working group meeting – venue t.b.c. – contact Ruth

20 August 2010 – Community Involvement working group meeting – Evington Park – Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

7 September 2010 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network – Leicester – Bob Mullins on 0116 291 4483

10 September 2010 – Nottinghamshire Parks Officers Group – Rufford Abbey Country Park – Contact Tim Downes on 01623 463 765

10 September 2010 – Derbyshire Green Spaces Forum meeting – Amber Valley – Chris Beal on 01773 570222

22 September 2010 – Northamptonshire Green Space Forum – Barnwell Country Park - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771

13 October 2010 – **GSEM steering group meeting , also all day open meeting focusing on Green Flag Awards** – Corby, Northamptonshire - Contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771 - date t.b.c.

Other Diary Dates

12 to 23 July - Climate EM: Changing Climate Weeks – www.climate-em.org.uk

24 July to 1 August – GreenSpace: Love Parks Week – www.loveparkweek.org.uk

3-4 September 2010 – Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens: 30th Anniversary Conference – Nottingham - admin@farmgarden.org.uk or 0117 923 1800

21 September 2010 – IPGS workshop: Influencing and Advocacy – Birmingham – admin@ipgs.org.uk or 0118 946 9069

23 September 2010 - GreenSpace Conference: green Flag and showcasing best practice from the innovation awards – Contact Caroline Carsey on 0118 946 9068

National News



Join the campaign
24 July - 1 August 2010

The key message of Love Parks Week remains continued investment and support for parks. Why not register your green space event and support this campaign message.

Last year LPW had 600 events registered with over 400,000 people enjoying parks and green spaces. This year looks set to beat that with over 540 events registered and an estimated 320,000 people and counting getting into their local parks.

There are many ways tools available for you to download from the LPW website to help your green space organisations this important week and your event:

- Register events
- Campaigning tool
- Promotional material: poster, banner, flyer and template press release
- General resources: event ideas and plan it
- Also register for LPW updates

You could maximise awareness by advertising this week on your organisations website, add logo to your email signature or use this week to write an article in your organisations newsletter about the importance of parks for people.

Postcard from the Park

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and BIG Lottery Fund (BIG) have again joined forces with parks charity GreenSpace to launch the 'Postcards from the Park' photo competition.

Postcards from the Park celebrates the unique part that parks play in community life and promotes the joint 'Parks for People' Lottery funding scheme. [More](#)

You can watch the vodcast and listen to: Chris Packman, TV Presenter and Conservation Expert, Mike McCartney, Celebrity Photographer and Competition Judge, and Drew Bennellick, HLF express why parks are important to wildlife and people and how this competition and parks for people grant contribute to UK parks.

The competition opens on 21st June and closes on 1st August.



2009 regional winner for EM

National mentoring scheme for Green Flag Awards

If you are considering applying for one of the Green Flag Awards but are not sure if your site is suitable or meets the standard, then the Scheme Manager are keen to talk to you. A national mentoring scheme has been available for many years where a judge visits your site and offers recommendations. For more information kept Britain Tidy on 01942 612621 or greenflagawards@keepbritaintidy.org

Applications for the awards open in October 2010 and close in January 2011.

Interested in being a Judge?

The Green Flag Award Scheme grows in popularity every year, so they are always looking to recruit new judges. If you have experience in nature conservation, ecology, parks and landscape management, community engagement, environmental issues, horticulture or a related discipline, [get in touch](#).

Community Wildlife grant

Community Wildlife will fund projects that bring local people together to discover, enjoy or protect the wildlife in their local area.

BIG have teamed up with the [BBC Wildlife Fund's Go Wild](#) campaign to bring you the Community Wildlife programme.

This new programme will fund projects that bring local people together to discover, enjoy or protect the wildlife in their local area.

The programme has three rounds: 21 July, 22 September and 24 November 2010. [More](#)

ParksMatch website launched

ParksMatch is a website designed to help you find solutions to a green space or parks related problem and also share stories of your success. Funded and supported by CABI Space and run by the Institute of Parks and Green Space, ParksMatch encourages you to share green space skills across the country and create mentoring projects. [More](#)

FCFCG Celebrates 30 Years

FCFCG celebrates its 30th birthday in 2010. To mark the occasion they are celebrating community farming and gardening in the UK with a series of events, starting with a 30th anniversary national gathering and conference in Nottingham on 3-4 September.

This event will include a conference session, workshops and site visits, as well as a civic reception and a celebration celidh. A special garden plot using the shape of the FCFCG logo has been created in the grounds of Nottingham Castle for visitors to view. [More](#)

National Culture Forum

The National Culture Forum was established in 2005 to bring together all the professional bodies representing those working across the cultural sector in the public sector. It provides advocacy for the sector and promotes its professional development.

Following on from success of the first two years of the Leading Learning Programme, the NCF is running a third high quality leadership programme between September 2010 and July 2011. Programme participants can gain

accreditation towards an MA in Cultural Leadership from City University.

Deadline for application is 30 July. There is a special offer for early birds - £1000 off the fee for applications by 23 July, also fees can be spread over two financial years. For more information please contact Sue Isherwood on 01749 871110 or leadership@cloa.org.uk.

Urban wildlife and green spaces get £5.8 million boost

Access to Nature Programme funds 29 new projects in England's towns and cities.

Thanks to £5.8m of new grants from the Access to Nature programme, thousands of people in towns and cities all over England will have the chance to improve green spaces in their area and get closer to nature on their doorsteps. [More](#)

Parks for People continuing

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) remains committed to working in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in making a success of the Parks for People programme and have allocated £10 million in its grant budget for 2010/11 towards the programme in England.

Therefore HLF in the East Midlands is actively seeking interest in the Parks for People programme and would welcome enquiries from interested groups about their ideas for potential projects. The closing date for applications this year is 31 August. [More](#)

New magazine for Royal Horticultural Society

RHS new magazine call 'Growing Communities' is for RHS community groups including RHS Britain in Bloom and RHS It's your Neighbourhood participants, and RHS affiliated societies. [More](#)

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces.

This is the federation's new name. It was formed several years ago and is made up of representatives from community forums across the country. It exists to promote,

protect and improve the UK's parks and green spaces by linking together all the friends and users forums and networks throughout the country. Greenwood Community Forest is a member of the Federation. [More](mailto:community@green-space.org.uk) or community@green-space.org.uk

European Year of Volunteering 2011.

In the European Union, almost 100 million citizens of all ages invest their time, talents and money to make a positive contribution to their community by volunteering in civil society organisations, youth clubs, hospitals, schools, in sport clubs, etc.

For the Commission, volunteering is an active expression of civic participation which strengthens common European values such as solidarity and social cohesion. Volunteering also provides important learning opportunities, because involvement in voluntary activities can provide people with new skills and competences that can even improve their employability.

This is especially important at this time of economic crisis. Volunteering plays an important role in sectors as varied and diverse as education, youth, culture, sport, environment, health, social care, consumer protection, humanitarian aid, development policy, research, equal opportunities and external relations.

[More](#)

Call for greater grassroots funding from the next government

The Community Sector Coalition has published a report calling for more grassroots funding from the next government. The report, *Unleashing the Potential*, suggests that doing so would give community groups a better say in the way they grow rather than relying on top-down funding. [More](#)

Parish Councils adapting to climate change

Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) have worked collaboratively to produce a new

guide for local parish and town councils entitled: *Adapting to climate change; a guide for local councils*. [More](#)

Local News

New format for GSEM Open Meetings

On 6 July GSEM trialled a new format for the open meetings which changed from a half day to a whole day.

The open meeting held at Abbey Park, kindly hosted by Leicester City Council saw participants from public, voluntary sector and private sectors, visit Watermead Country Park in the morning, followed by 5 presentations in the afternoon on the theme of International Year of Biodiversity.

This format will now be implemented at future open meetings. The next meeting is due in mid October and will be kindly hosted by Corby Borough Council. The day will focus on Green Flag Awards, with a site visit to Hazel and Thoroughsale Wood in the morning followed by presentations and workshops in the afternoon looking into aspects such as Management Plans. For more information contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771.

Walk on the Wildside (WOW!)

WoW! Is one of 29 new projects funded by Access to Nature Programme across England.

It operates in a diverse inner city area of Nottingham and brings together different faith, ethnic and interest groups within the community on guided walks, talks, trips, organised activities and volunteer work parties. It will also enable over 2000 children from five primary schools to visit local woodland and take part in environmental learning activities. [More](#)

Regional Adaptation Network Launched

Climate East Midlands has launched a new regional adaptation network to enhance information-sharing amongst partners and stakeholders. To help partners prepare for

inevitable climate change, the network will focus on increasing our understanding of the risks and opportunities that climate change may bring, and on sharing examples of good practice adaptive actions. [More](#)

Changing Climate Weeks

Climate East Midlands is pleased to present a programme of events across the region, with plenty of opportunities to learn about and get involved in the region's drive to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change.

The programme is organised in conjunction with a range of partner organisations and runs for a fortnight starting on 12 July.

Climate EM hopes to follow this up with a second wave of events in the autumn. [More](#)

Second Allotment Officers Forum

Allotment Regeneration Initiative (ARI) organised a second Allotment Officer's Forum in Nottingham on 16 June following the success of the first meeting in Leicester.

This is a meeting for Allotment Officers to discuss issues that are of most importance to them. Issues discussed included: funding, Allotment Associations, allotment management systems/ benchmarking, finding more land for allotments, bee keeping, green pennant awards and allotment strategies.

ARI supports each region with a Mentor. Trevor Matthews covers the East Midlands and can help with allotment questions or signpost you to most relevant organisation. Contact him on tmatthews.ari@googlemail.com or 0845 478 6313.

The next meeting is due in December time in Derbyshire. Please contact Trevor or Sanja Ratkusic on Sanja@farmgarden.org.uk, for further details.

Elms return to Bosworth

In Leicestershire, Bosworth in Bloom has been supporting local efforts to reintroduce the English Elm.

The Leicester Elm Project, run by Leicestershire County Council, hopes to re-establish the species using saplings propagated from surviving mature trees, which appear to carry a genetic resistance to the Dutch Elm Disease that had devastating effects in 1970's and 1980's to the British countryside

The first 12 trees were planted in Market Bosworth Country Park. [More](#)

GSEM Update

GSEM Membership subscriptions

GSEM is a membership organisation, it aims to serve and support its members, this is why we are interested in hearing how we can improve our service and welcome suggestions on topics you would like covered.

GSEM therefore encourages membership from the public, voluntary and private sector too. As an unincorporated association we are also exploring areas of partnership working where we help achieve your objectives as well as our own. For membership information and partnership information contact Ruth Rolls on 01604 807 771. [More](#)

GreenSpace East Midlands membership automatically includes membership of the national organisation [GreenSpace](#) and its associated benefits;

- One discounted place per organisation at GreenSpace conferences
- Main contact receives six copies of Spaces&Places, the bi-monthly magazine featuring a wide range of news and features per year
- Main contact receives twelve issues of the e-mail newsletter The Bench per year
- Discounts on GreenSTAT subscription

- Discounts on organisational sign-up to IPGS, the Institute of Parks and Green Spaces
- Discounts on organisational sign-up to GreenSKILL
- The opportunity to influence the policy and direction of GreenSpace and vote at Annual General Meetings.

- Build contact with the regional cultural sector.

Plans for 2010/11

- Accessible open spaces study and dissemination of the results.
- 'Advocacy' Day (Green Spaces: meeting the challenges of a new agenda) for elected members and LA heads.
- Quarterly Open meeting: Biodiversity; Green Flag Awards and Health and well-being.
- Maintain steering group meetings and forums management.
- Deliver Green Flag Award Demonstration Day.
- Design (print & publish) final draft research reports from funding and community involvement working groups.
- Create a virtual network for circulations of information for the community involvement wg.
- Deliver learning session on 'an ageing workforce: involving young people'.
- Membership drive (renewals and potential members).
- Establish a county forum in Lincolnshire meeting to ensure Lincolnshire represented in news reporting mechanism to GSEM steering group and GS national forum.
- Deliver at least 11 monthly News and Information bulletins.
- Keep the contact list up to date.
- Attend all county forum meetings.
- Deliver working group meetings.
- Share responsibility of care taker of EMGIN.
- Continue to support Breath of Fresh Air partnership.
- Explore partnership work with Climate EM.

Friends of and community engagement discussions

The community involvement working group are discussing friends of groups and community engagement including a guided walk around Evington Park, Leicester during the afternoon at their next meeting is on 20 August at 1.30pm to 4pm.

At the last working group meeting it was decided that it would be helpful to create a virtual network. Therefore if you would like to receive information about future meetings and community involvement news then please express your interest in being added to the working group mailing list to Ruth Rolls.

GSEM Steering Group and Open meeting – Green Flag Award

The Open Meeting will provide a learning opportunity about the Green Flag Award Scheme which includes green pennant award and green heritage site. The morning site visit will include a guided tour of Hazel and Thoroughsale Woods where you'll be able to gain an understanding how a judges carries out the field assessment, what a judges looks for and the questions they might ask. The afternoon is likely to include presentations and workshops about the desk assessment including management plans, also an opportunity for Judges in the region to meet the new JAC representative and share judging experiences of 2010.

Autumn advocacy style day

An advocacy type day is being planned by GSEM funding working group, where elected members and assistant directors can learn about the contribution green spaces make towards our social, environmental and economic priorities and also explore from several case studies to pros and cons of different funding and service delivery models.

This will be a top quality event and we will look to work with commercial supporters to make this day possible.

If you would like to be involved in the discussions and organising of this day then either contact Ruth Rolls or attending the next meeting on 12th August.

Forum Managers brief update

Ruth apologises for any interruption of service caused from IT overhaul at GreenSpace resulting in limited/ infrequent access to emails through web access only.

Northamptonshire Green Spaces Forum held their second meeting, this time at Swanspool Gardens, Wellingborough on 20 May. Meeting included presentations from East Midlands in Bloom, Northampton Borough Council and The Woodland Trust.

The Accessible Open Spaces study is moving from data collection stage to analysis. If your council haven't sent their data in yet please still do so.

Community involvement working group meeting on 10 June was useful and interesting.

On behalf of the funding working group the forum manager has been finding venues and planning draft programme for Advocacy Day for the Autumn.

FM attended the second ARI's Allotment Officers Forum meeting in Nottingham.

FM continues to support Breath of Fresh Air partnership.

GreenSpace News

Communications unit

Conference: The next GreenSpace conference is taking place in Birmingham on Thursday 23 September and will be based around Green

Flag and showcasing best practice from the innovation awards.

Love Parks Week 2010 takes place 24 July – 1 August 2010.

Postcards from the park – The nationwide competition is now in its 4th year. The event is progressing well and has been advertised in a Guardian supplement, and it has proved popular on Twitter.

GreenSpace have appointed a new Marketing and Communications Manager – Kelly Caulfield. Kelly joins us from the not-for-profit itSMF. She has also previously worked within the construction and engineering sectors.

GreenSpace is advertising a new post in the Communications team, "Web Officer" who will work mainly on the GreenSpace website.

Institute for Parks and Green Spaces

IPGS & CABE launched ParksMatch on Wednesday 16 June – a forum for professionals designed as a "skills sharing tool". Contact Stuart Mansbridge for more information.

IPGS have a programme of training events. The next workshop, Influencing and Advocacy. This course was a success at the recent CABE Leaders Programme.

If there is demand for a particular area of training in, the IPGS team can provide specific tailored training courses as long as there is interest from around 8-10 delegates

GreenSKILL: Now available for organisations to use.

For all IPGS enquiries, please contact Stuart Mansbridge for more information .

Regional Forums

Simon Chapman has been appointed as the new regional manager at GreenSpace.

A new team at GreenSpace will focus on policy, research and information, headed by Sarah Moore.

Lucy Fowler has recently been recruited as Administrator for the Regions and Community.

Yorkshire and the Humber have recruited a dedicated forum manager – Caroline Schofield. Caroline will be starting in August.

Overhaul of IT provision for regional staff: converting from home PCs to GreenSpace laptops.

GS have developed a pricing structure for Town and Parish membership which is being trialled in the South East.

GS have developed draft Commercial membership structures to be used in the regions.

The next National Forum meeting is being held on 4 August, and will include presentations from CABE Space (Urban Green Nation research).

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.

No Questions in this edition

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.

Disclaimer – GSEM News and Information e-newsletter is published and circulated by GreenSpace. Any comments, opinions or views expressed in the New and Information do not necessarily reflect the views of GreenSpace Forum Ltd, its staff, partners or funders. Replication or duplication of this publication, in whole, or in part, without written permission is strictly prohibited. © 2009 GreenSpace.