

---

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 all green space sector organisations on the mailing list.

The work of GreenSpace East Midlands (GSEM) is funded by annual membership, therefore the membership of your organisation is essential for the sustainable future of this forum. For more information please visit [www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands](http://www.green-space.org.uk/eastmidlands).

### GSEM Diary Dates

For events please contact [Ruth Rolls](#) on 01604 807 771 unless details otherwise given.

8 Sept 2011 – Managing our cultural heritage of public green spaces workshop – Evalston Castle, Derbyshire – [More](#)

20 Sept 2011 – Leicestershire Parks, Open Spaces and Countryside Network - Bob Mullins on 0116 291 4483.

21 Sept 2011 – GSEM Heads of Service meeting – Loxley House, Nottingham – 2.30pm to 4pm – [Ruth Rolls](#)

23 Sept 2011 – Derbyshire Green Space Forum - Ilkeston – [Ruth Rolls](#)

29 Sept 2011 – GSEM Workshop: Management plans and field assessments - Evington Park, Leicestershire – [More](#)

30 September 2011 – Nottinghamshire Parks Officer Group – Rufford – Tim Downes on 01623 463735

### Other Diary Dates for 2011

6 September 2011- Let Nature Feed Your Senses National conference - Sensory Trust - Cheshire - [More](#)

6 to 8 September 2011 - Institute of Groundsmanship Saltex - Windsor - [More](#)

14 September 2011 - How can social and community enterprises access public sector assets? – London - [More](#)

16 September 2011 – Trees in Crisis – Treeworks – London - [More](#)

29 September - 2pm - 4pm – CLES Community activism and resilience – Manchester - [More](#)

8 October 2011 - Here today – Who’s here tomorrow? A focus on young people in horticulture – [Institute of Horticulture](#) - London

12 October 2011 -Investigating the Future for Charitable Giving and Fundraising: The Implications of the Giving White Paper - [More](#)

12 October 2011 – FCFCG: EM Networking event – Nottingham – [Marie Wellings](#)

31 October 2011 - Funding and finance workshops at the NCVO Trustee Conference – London - [More](#)

1 November 2011 – FCFCG: Simply Governance workshop – Leicester - [Marie Wellings](#)

29 November 2011 - Delivering Productive Public Services – London - [More](#)

7 December 2011 – Planning for Parks: The Next Field training course – Birmingham - [More](#)  
Discount for GreenSpace, RTPI & IPGS members

15 & 16 December 2011 - Future Cities 2011 - International Symposium – London – [More](#)

18 January 2011 – Planning for Parks: The Next Field training course – Sheffield - [More](#) -  
Discount for GreenSpace, RTPI & IPGS members

Advertise your business here!

For details and advertising rates contact [Ruth Rolls](#).

This newsletter goes out to over 200 professionals in the green space sector most of whom manage green spaces across the East Midlands from both the public and voluntary sector.

Advertising in this newsletter will also support the work of GSEM, a charity, helping to provide news and information for the sector who improve green spaces and infrastructure for local communities.

## National News

### Organisations must join forces to save green space

GreenSpace is calling on organisations to continue the impetus generated from recent media coverage of green space benefits and the rise in awareness following Love Parks Week. [More](#)

### Award scheme looks for Nation's Favourite

The Green Flag Award scheme – the national standard for parks and green spaces – is urging everyone to show their support for their local park or green space as voting for the nation's favourite park reaches the final stages.

The People's Choice Award is an annual online vote that gives the public the power to decide which one of the 1,290 parks or green spaces flying the Green Flag Award or Community Award this year, should be named the site of the year. [More](#)

Voting for the award closes at midday on 12 September, and the winner will be announced on the 21 September.

### Green Flag Award 2012/13

The Green Flag Award Scheme opens for applications in October 2011. [More](#)

GSEM supports the Green Flag Award scheme in the East Midlands providing resources following workshops and meetings over the last couple of years, as well as a frequently asked question sheet.

Why not book onto a GSEM workshop on Management Plans and Field Assessments to help you prepare for your application. [More](#)

### Extra, extra, free copies of Green Places!

September [Green Places](#) magazine is out now – includes stories on 9/11 memorial, Brockholes nature reserve & Love Parks Week! Want to snag a copy? You're in luck!

Green Places have 10 trial copies available- just make a £5 donation to our [justgiving](#) page & choose 'make a one-off donation'

## Programme confirmed for national conference for community groups

The programme and workshops have been confirmed for the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS) conference. It is believed that this is the first national conference aimed at green space community groups.

It takes place in Birmingham on Saturday 17 September - World Parks Day. The booking deadline is 9 September. Please pass on these details to friends of and community groups. [More](#)

## Health conference to take place in November

The next GreenSpace conference, Prescribing Green Space, will take place in London's Mayfair Conference Centre on 23 November. The event, which will focus on how to unlock the health value in parks, will feature prominent GP and new GreenSpace trustee William Bird as keynote speaker.

More information will be available soon. Please email [Caroline Carsey](#) to express an interest and receive future updates.

## Campaign for National Parks is 75!

CNP are celebrating their 75th anniversary. To celebrate, they want to encourage even more people to “get into National Parks” – to experience their natural beauty, cultural heritage and wildlife and to understand the threats that they face and what we can, and must, do to protect them. [More](#)

## Government releases green space guides

The Department for Communities and Local Government has released two new resource documents. [Potential funding for community](#)

[green spaces](#) and [Get the green space you want](#).

The documents sum up support offered by the localism bill in an effort to promote the government's Big Society agenda.

## Urban nature a good return on investment

New research has shown urban nature sites can generate up to £20 in community benefits for every £1 spent.

Greenspace Scotland's [SROI research](#) monitored investment in four separate projects and calculated the social, economic and environmental benefits generated in each case.

## Share your views on environmental laws

Natural England has launched an eight-week [public consultation](#), seeking views on how to help people to comply with laws protecting wildlife and the natural environment.

They would also like opinions on how these laws should be enforced if regulations are broken, after being awarded new powers by Defra.

## Lantra's announces arboriculture courses

Lantra have released details of two newly-revised [utility arboriculture courses](#), Site Safety Awareness and Site Operations, comparable to the NPTC assessment.

The courses are aimed at those working in proximity to electrical equipment for the purpose of maintaining or clearing trees and vegetation.

## Tranquility formula could increase health

Bradford researchers have developed a toolkit for measuring tranquillity that could enable neglected or overlooked urban parks to flourish and become a haven for stressed city workers. [More](#)

### **Community action against crime: innovation fund**

The Home Office has announced this new grant fund to encourage creative new approaches to tackling crime – the community action against crime: innovation fund.

Worth £5 million in 2011/12, with a further £5 million set aside for 2012/13, the innovation fund will be used to encourage greater community activism, and to enable communities to develop innovative approaches to tackling the local crime issues that matter to them. [More](#)

### **Government publishes White Paper on Public Services reform**

The Government has recently published the long-awaited public services reform White Paper. Titled 'Open Public Services' the White Paper lays out a series of proposals that will significantly reshape the way these services are commissioned, paid for and delivered.

The proposed reforms will open up public service contracts to social enterprises, mutuals, voluntary organisations and private companies. Under the changes, contract opportunities would be opened up in just about every public service other than national security, frontline policing and the judiciary. [More](#)

### **Coalition publish two social enterprise guides**

The Social Enterprise Coalition have produced two more guides called 'Explaining Social Enterprise' and 'Enjoy what you do: work in social enterprise'

Both guides are free to download from the SEC [website](#).

### **Social enterprise training and events**

Social Enterprise East Midlands have developed a programme of training to assist you to bring your social enterprise idea to market. The three introductory workshops focus on the know-how and skills that you will need to set up your new business. These participative and practical modules will give you the foundation and tools to start your social enterprise. [More](#)

### **World Parks Day**

The fourth World Parks Day will take place on Saturday 17 September 2011.

World Parks Day is an opportunity to celebrate our parks and green spaces. [More](#)

### **Government incentive to grant Planning Permission for more residential moorings**

Housing Minister Grant Shapps has urged local authorities to consider how new powers restoring local control over housing provision and planning can enable people to choose to live on a boat in order to help meet local housing needs. As new moorings could be eligible for the New Homes Bonus, the Minister said that there was a strong incentive for local authorities to grant planning permission for more residential moorings. [More](#)

### **Government proposal to abolish the Inland Waterways Advisory Council**

A [consultation](#) on the proposal to abolish the Inland Waterways Advisory Council has been launched by Defra. The Government announced its intention to abolish IWAC in July last year as part of the Arm's Length Bodies Review.

IWAC was originally set up by the 1968 Transport Act as the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council and reformed in 2007 by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to advise Government, navigation authorities and other interested persons about the use and development of inland waterways.

However, as the Government has announced plans to move management of inland waterways from British Waterways and the Environment Agency to a new charity in April 2012, its view is that there will no longer be need for an organisation to provide advice for policy development.

### **International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration newsletter**

September headlines:

- PLA/IFPRA ASIA-PACIFIC CONGRESS, 2011
- BRITISH SCHOOL, ROME – RESIDENCY (January-March 2012)
- FRANCE – World Heritage Trees Felled.
- NEW ZEALAND – Plans to rebuild Christchurch as a Garden City
- ITALY - Venice Tourist Tax to save City
- GLOBAL – International Authors on Climate Change
- USA – Material Landscapes
- GLOBAL –Secret Life of Mammals
- UK – Launch of Biodiversity Seed Hub – see below
- BELGIUM – Threatened Species Born at Zoo
- AUSTRALIA – Pesticide Threat to Great Barrier Reef

- CHINA – Country Music Festival at Heritage Site
- EVENTS DIARY

[More](#)

### **Launch of Biodiversity Seed Hub**

The [Royal Botanic Gardens](#) at Kew has launched the UK Native Seed Hub, an initiative drawing on the Millennium Seed Bank's extensive collection of native British seeds, as well as its horticultural/scientific expertise and partnerships with other conservation organisation. Initially, the project will support restoration of lowland meadows or semi-natural grassland. Once this model is established, it will provide a blueprint for supporting restoration in another forty priority habitats listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

### **Plan to protect England's wildlife unveiled**

Hundreds of thousands of hectares of "priority habitats" for wildlife will be created under a new government strategy to protect England's wildlife, while existing important habitats and sites of special scientific interest will be restored. Urban green spaces will be one of the first areas of focus, as government-sponsored research has found that having access to a green space improves people's physical and mental health. 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services' is a result of the global agreement last year at the Convention on Biological Diversity conference in Nagoya, Japan, to slow and eventually halt the loss of species. [More](#)

### **New guide to help community orchards blossom**

A new, simple 'how to' guide for communities wanting to start up, share or save their own community orchards has

been published by the Department of Communities and Local Government. [More](#)

### 'Kids closer to nature' iphone app

Arla Foods have launched the 'kids closer to nature' programme to encourage children of all backgrounds and locations to experience the great outdoors and take them closer to nature on a daily basis. The free iphone app directs people to their nearest greenspace. Arla Foods also have 'closer to nature' grants to help local communities flourish. The grant scheme will support activities such as turning a derelict ground into flowerbeds, making an overgrown path accessible or growing a vegetable patch at your local school. [More](#)

### Community food growing trends

This online resource provided by the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens, is aimed at potential community groups, the public, local authorities, researchers, students and anyone else interested in this field, who want information on the complex variety of schemes and initiatives that are emerging as a result of the demand for local food growing.

Covering topics from land sharing schemes to guerilla gardening. [More](#)

### Make a difference in your community

If you are feeling inspired by what the communities in the TV series have achieved, check out our campaign, [Village SOS Active](#). Here you will find tools and advice - as well as the chance to get some Lottery funding - to help you start up your own community enterprise. Register [here](#) or call on 0845 434 9123 for more information.

### An update on the future governance of The Royal Parks

The Government in July issued a [statement](#) about the future management of the Royal Parks, which outlines plans to create a new Royal Parks Board appointed by the Mayor of London.

### Local News

#### 2000 in park fun at Arnold



Good weather, a variety of free entertainment and beautiful surroundings attracted an estimated 2,000 people to the picnic in the park event, held on Friday 29 July in Arnot Hill Park, Arnold.

The event, which was organised by Gedling Borough Council, was held in celebration of national Love Parks Week. Arnot Hill Park is Gedling Borough's flagship park, which recently won a national Green Flag Award for the fifth consecutive year. [Arnot Hill Park](#)

#### Mosaic in the Peak District

Mosaic is a national project, led by the Campaign for National Parks, which aims to build sustainable and long-term engagement between ethnic minority communities and the National Parks. The project was awarded £932,314 through Access to Nature, a scheme run by Natural England and funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

The Mosaic model of community engagement has proven not only effective in engaging new audiences with the

countryside, but also very successful at creating long-term and sustainable change – as opposed to just one-off visits. The key to this success has been recruiting and training volunteer Community Champions, who promote the National Parks to others, and also looking at what organisational changes the National Park Authorities can make to reach new audiences.

Mosaic works with ethnic minority communities in over 20 cities and all 10 National Parks across England. Over the last two years, Mosaic has recruited 185 Community Champions, who have introduced the National Parks to over 6,000 new people and given 1,886 days in volunteer time. In the Peak District alone, there are 26 active Community Champions and they are some of the most active and amazing volunteers. [More](#)

### Fore-runners for new community planning

At Uppingham in Rutland, local business and the community are working together on a neighbourhood plan for the town centre that will promote economic growth and social wellbeing.

They are one of the 36 areas announced on 31 August of the next wave of 'front-runners' to test out neighbourhood planning, bringing the total to 126 across the country. Each front runner's local council is being given £20,000 to support work on neighbourhood planning and free advice from planning experts will be available for the local community. [More](#)

### Planning for Parks

This is a new training programme to help parks, landscape and planning officers - and others with an interest in the subject - get to grips with their green and open space strategy projects.

The courses are being organised and delivered by The Next Field and JPC Strategic Planning and Leisure through their *Big Green Campus* learning partnership, with the third course targeting Midlands authorities to be held at mac Birmingham - overlooking Canon Hill Park - on Wednesday 7 December.

As an alternative, the course is also running in Bristol (11 October), London (16 November), Sheffield (18 January) and Manchester (date tbc)

Course fees are £99 (plus VAT), reduced to £85 (plus VAT) for GreenSpace, RTPi, LI and IPGS members. [More](#)

### University of Nottingham offers research support

The University of Nottingham is currently running a programme which enables social enterprises across the East Midlands to access the research expertise of its PhD and early career researcher staff.

If you are looking at undertaking a research project and would welcome support from the programme, the University would like to hear from you. They may also be able to undertake research for a network or group of organisations with a shared interest in a particular theme or issue. [More](#)

### World Heritage Site gains HLF support

A £2.5 million plan to safeguard and restore the iconic landscape setting of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site has just received a boost from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Over £100,000 funding has been awarded to help the Lower Derwent Valley Landscape Partnership work with communities and develop more detailed

plans in order then to apply for the full, earmarked amount.

Further details from [Matt Croney](#) at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust 01773 881188.

### Limestone Journeys

Limestone Journeys is an exciting new Heritage Lottery Fund programme which aims to conserve, enhance and restore the distinctive landscape character and heritage of the Derbyshire Magnesian Limestone, which is mostly located in Bolsover District.

The scheme aims to act as a lever for regeneration in the Bolsover area. This will be done by creating experiences for individuals that will improve lives, prosperity, and protect this very important historic and natural landscape.

The Partnership is led by Creswell Heritage Trust and made up of: Bolsover Countryside Partnership; Bolsover District Council; Community & Voluntary Partners; Derbyshire County Council; Derbyshire Wildlife Trust; The Forestry Commission; Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group; Groundwork Creswell; Junction Arts; National Trust and Natural England.

It has been successful in gaining £1.9 million in funding from HLF. [Limestone Journeys](#) was officially launched on the 27 May 2011.

### Swapping suits for spades

Staff from an accountancy firm swapped their suits and ties for gardening gear as they put in a shift at Fosse Meadows Nature Area in Sharnford.

The 15 volunteers from KPMG East Midlands worked with Blaby District Council's countryside officer to take out 355 metres of old fencing and netting to allow easier

access to growing woodland. The exercise was set up through [Leicestershire Cares](#), an organisation that co-ordinates businesses who want to help with local community projects, often through staff time and volunteering.

### Seasonal Canine Illness

Are you aware of it? The Animal Health Trust has a website that provides more information about this mysterious and potentially fatal disease for dogs that seems most active between August and November. They also demonstrate their work in researching the causes of this illness.

[More](#)

### Village SOS: Newstead, Nottinghamshire

Newstead Enterprise, which has been awarded a grant of £433,140 from the Big Lottery Fund, is based in the former mining village of Newstead. For the past year the community has been transforming the site of the former pit tips into a thriving Country Park. They've engaged over 400 members of our community so far, and given accredited training to over 40 hard to reach young people. [More](#)

### GSEM Update

GSEM aims to help improve learning, knowledge and skills of professionals and volunteers in the sector through sharing regional expertise through its workshops.

#### Management Plans and Field Assessment – Evington Park – 29 September

The day will predominantly involve participating in exercises on: Management Plans and field assessment. These will be followed with open discussions sharing experiences guided by two Green Flag Award judges. This workshop will be suitable for those wishing to: identifying areas for improvement, carry out internal quality

audits, write a management plan or apply for an award. [More](#)

These workshops are free to GSEM members. There are also some subsidised places available for community groups and parish councils

### **Community Engagement – Huthwaite, Nottinghamshire – 27 October 2011**

Neighbourhoods Green study visit series comes to East Midlands. This study visit, delivered in partnership with GSEM will explore best practice examples of community engagement and open up the discussion amongst professions on sustainable delivery methods and partnerships as well as connecting housing associations with local authorities. t.b.c

Next GSEM steering group meeting is 19 October – details to be confirmed.

## **GreenSpace News**

DCLG have released a summary of responses to the [Community Right to Buy](#) consultation. GreenSpace made a response to the consultation and a quote from our response in relation to question 45 which is about enforcement of regulations has been used in the summary of responses on page 79:

*“It should be a requirement that local authorities always publish details about the enforcement process alongside their Lists to act as a deterrent”*

## **GreenSpace National Forum**

DEFRA and DCLG presented on Natural Environment White Paper and Big Society respectively, at the GreenSpace National Forum meeting in August. Also discussed was how to harness lost skills from the sector. [More](#) Forum Manager has circulated notes to GSEM members from this meeting.

It is anticipated that the theme for the next meeting will be changes to planning. The next meeting is on 3 November 2011. The GSEM

steering group will discuss what will be reported from East Midlands before the meeting.

## **GSEM Network**

GSEM offers members (and currently others) a service to pose a green space question to other members and sector professional.

Between us we have an enormous pool of knowledge. Sharing your expertise, experience or observations helps others in the sector.

GSEM is exploring with GreenSpace how we can display answers to Network Question from around the country in an accessible and convenient way online.

GSEM Network Question – recent question circulated about installing drinking fountains.

## **Contact us**

[Ruth Rolls](#) – GreenSpace East Midlands forum manager –01604 807 771 or 07553 406 884.

[Eddie Curry](#) is Chair of the GreenSpace East Midlands Steering Group and is Head of Parks and Open Space at Nottingham City Council.

If you would like help or require further information, relating to the management of parks and greens spaces and/or the services related to them, please get in touch.

If you would like to subscribe to this monthly news and information bulletin then please [email](#) 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