

## August 2007 Information and News Items

**This service is funded by the subscriptions of  
GreenSpace East Midlands Forum members**

### **AWARENESS - [Raising awareness of the importance of parks and green spaces.](#)**

A record 538 **Green Flag Awards** have been awarded across England and Wales this year. Parks minister Baroness Andrews announced the sites reaching the national standard for parks and green spaces, adding that another 60 community-run sites had been awarded Green Pennants, while a further 31 had achieved Green Heritage Site accreditation. The [East Midlands](#) secured 42 Green Flags for its parks, including 13 Country Parks. The Pavilion Gardens at Buxton is our only Heritage Site and we have three Green Pennant Sites.

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You may know that the BBC is currently running its [Breathing Places](#) campaign - aimed at encouraging people to get outside and Do One Thing for nature and wildlife.

They are now gearing up for a major promotional drive in the autumn, teaming up with landmark BBC TV programmes such as Autumnwatch and Nature of Britain.

One aim is to have a series of events across the UK on the last weekend in October - a Wild Weekend of volunteering activity.

There will also be a series of outside events based around tree planting in early November.

The events will be promoted by local and regional networks and the on-line Where I Live sites.

They would like to hear of any events you have planned for around the same time and that they may be able to encourage people to take part in.

It may also be possible to join forces with some of the events they hope to stage.

If you have any events you think they might like to know about or would like to find out more then contact

[keith.benton@bbc.co.uk](mailto:keith.benton@bbc.co.uk) (for tree planting and other aspects of the Breathing Places campaign) and

[darren.taylor@bbc.co.uk](mailto:darren.taylor@bbc.co.uk) (for wild weekend)

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**Foot and Mouth disease: [Access to the countryside](#).** Apart from a small area in Surrey (some land and rights of way in the protection zones), the countryside remains open. There is no need for people to stop visiting the countryside and, at the present time, the only impacts on visitor attractions outside the Protection Zones are those which result from the restrictions on animal movements and events involving susceptible animals

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The Waterways Trust and British Urban Regeneration Association have launched the [Waterways Renaissance Awards 2008](#). Entries are invited in ten categories, including 'Natural environment', 'Community', 'Education and learning', 'Recreation and tourism' and 'Area-based regeneration'. The closing date is 21 September.

## **COMMUNITY - [Involving communities in their local park.](#)**

GreenSpace has recently launched its new website. The Community section of the website will become a 'one stop shop' for providing information to Community Groups involved with parks and green spaces.

As part of the Community Network they can choose to receive [Community Green Place](#), a monthly newsletter that keeps them up to date with all things community related including national and regional news, events and features such as community group focus.

If you know of a group who has not already done so and would be interested, please encourage them to [register](#)

If you have any questions concerning the GreenSpace Community Network please contact Diana Jones on 0118 946 9060 or [dianaj@green-space.org.uk](mailto:dianaj@green-space.org.uk).

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You might be interested in these video clips of [South Park](#) in Darlington. I wonder if any similar video diary has been created in the East Midlands. Please let me know if you are aware of such a link that might be used in a future 'news and information'.

## **IMPROVEMENT - Improving parks through innovation and partnership.**

### FUNDING:

**Natural England** has a current funding opportunity within the region which is focused on working with house builders and others to deliver green infrastructure as part of new development. We are looking for schemes in growth areas and/or growth points (3 Cities, Grantham, Newark and Lincoln) that deliver the best examples of developers installing greenspace to deliver the ANGST (Accessible Natural Greenspace standards). Selection will be on the basis of criteria covering best quality and value and the power of the scheme to demonstrate good and widely adoptable practice using ANGST to deliver greenspace benefits. I have attached the criteria for selection of projects and an application form which should be returned to me by the 17th August.

All projects involving funding must be under way by 31 March 2008 and have a firm completion date by the end of March 2009.

The overall budget for this region is understood to be around £20k. Within the region NE may only decide to support 1 or 2 projects in this current bidding round.

Should you wish to discuss this opportunity then call Dean Skrabania on (0115) 9005383.

I have received the following advice from Georgina Walters McLeod of EMDA, "I am specifically working on delivery of **Green Infrastructure projects** and would be interesting to know of potential GI projects you are aware of via the network. Green Infrastructure is outlined in the Regional Economic Strategy and to deliver against this emda are looking at supporting best practice GI projects in the East Midlands. The definition of GI we are working with is as follows:

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional greenspace which sits within, and contributes to, the type of high quality natural and built environment required to deliver 'sustainable communities'. Delivering, protecting and enhancing this network requires the creation of new assets to link with river corridors, woodlands, nature reserves and urban greenspace and other existing assets. If properly planned and managed, Green Infrastructure should also contribute to wider Environmental Infrastructure through local climate and air quality amelioration, floodplain management, and coastal sea defences.

Any project coming forward needs to align with the Regional Economic Strategy and deliver economic outcomes. The most important RES priority actions are 6b – 'Improve damaged environments' and 'Protect and enhance Green Infrastructure'. Other relevant RES Priority Actions are: 2f – 'Increasing visitor spend'; 7b – 'Infrastructure for employment related schemes' and 'Previously developed land and buildings'; 7c – 'Supporting infrastructure for housing growth'; 9b – 'Built and green environments'. You can find a link to the RES here <http://www.emda.org.uk/res/>

As an agency we have a responsibility not to displace funding so wouldn't be able to support maintenance costs of a park for instance - where the local authority has responsibility. "

If you want to discuss potential projects to further develop the East Midlands Green Infrastructure network then you can contact Georgina on 0115 988 8484

**Biffaward to offer £7m in grants:**

Biffaward, a national fund managed by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, is offering up to £2.4m a year in grants to help protect and rebuild the UK's biodiversity.

The funding, which will be available for the next three years, is encouraging more environmental and community groups to apply for the funding, which is available from halls, museums and play areas to ponds and nature reserves.

A local example of Biffaward support is the £295,668 for the Calke Abbey National Nature Reserve Biodiversity Development Project, Derbyshire. In September 2004, 79 ha of Calke Abbey's wood pasture of ancient oaks was designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR); Biffaward funding is bringing about many community benefits as well as habitat improvements for species such as the Spotted Woodpecker, Kingfisher, the threatened native White-clawed Crayfish, rare insects and fungi.

#### POLICY AND RESEARCH

Natural England has just completed some research amongst health professionals to determine their attitudes towards greenspace and how relevant it is, or could be, as part of the health care they provide for their patients. It intends to use the findings to shape the next steps of its **health campaign**.

Attached to the covering message is a 2 page summary of the research. I have copies of two related detailed reports which I can supply to anyone who is interested – just let me know.

If you have any information or feedback from health professionals about their views on greenspace, whether it contradicts or supports these findings, Peter Ashcroft of Natural England would be interested to hear from you.

Health Policy, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, GL52 3RA  
Office 01242 533350; fax 01242 584270;  
peter.ashcroft@naturalengland.org.uk

**Urban design - the remedy for poor health:** Transport and planning policies are creating places that discourage physical activity and contribute to heart disease and rising obesity rates, according to a report released today by the [National Heart Forum](#), [Living Streets](#) and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

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Parks charity GreenSpace has today joined forces with Preston City Council to launch [Park it \(in neutral\)](#) - a project aimed at **reducing carbon emissions and tackling climate change** through better management of parks and green spaces.

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In January 2007, the government announced that it was carrying out a review of the provisions in the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 that relate to [voluntary workers](#).

Section 44 of the 1998 Act defines a voluntary worker as someone who works for a certain type of organisation (i.e., charities, voluntary organisations, associated fund-raising bodies and statutory bodies) and who receives no monetary payment or benefit in kind, other than reimbursement for expenses incurred, subsistence and/or accommodation as is reasonable in the circumstances of the employment, and any training necessary to carry out the work. Voluntary workers are excluded from qualifying for the national minimum wage by section 44 of the 1998 Act.

The review proposes no changes other than provision for those participating in the national framework for youth volunteering also to be excluded from the national minimum wage. Consultations on these conclusions are currently taking place and will conclude on 4 September.

[Neighbourhood Management and Social Capital](#) is a report from Department of Communities and Local Government that explores the role of neighbourhood management in developing social capital at the neighbourhood level. Drawing on case studies from three neighbourhood management pathfinders it: discusses the meaning of social capital and how it is used in policy; describes the range of activities that can be seen as contributing to social capital in the three neighbourhoods; explores how their impact can be assessed; and concludes by identifying key lessons and recommendations from the three case studies.

The summary on page 7 provides a useful introduction and flags up that Parks and local public places have a significant role to play in nurturing and building social capital.

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**Consultation on [updating the commons registers](#): implementation of part 1 of the Commons Act 2006**

This consultation paper sets out proposals for secondary legislation to implement part 1 of the Commons Act 2006. Part 1 deals with the updating and maintenance of registers of common land and town or village greens by commons registration authorities. The consultation sets out details of our proposals to implement the whole of part 1 in England, with the exception of sections 16 and 17.

**[Annual update of the state of our environment, society and economy](#)**

The latest picture of the UK's environmental, social and economic wellbeing was published at the end of July, and for the first time includes some measures of [personal wellbeing](#) in the population.

## MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Defra has asked wild bird reserves in the South East of England, East Anglia and Northamptonshire to undertake patrols for dead wild birds. This follows recent detections of [avian influenza](#) H5N1 in France, Germany and the Czech Republic and consultation with ornithological experts.

Chief Veterinary Officer, Debby Reynolds, said: "The risk of avian influenza to the UK remains low but increased, and our current control and monitoring measures reflect this. We will continue to monitor the disease situation and we are keeping our levels of surveillance under review. We are also very grateful for the valuable voluntary contribution from the organisations who we work in partnership with to carry out this surveillance work."

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Natural England's '**Walking the Way to Health Initiative**' (WHI) is celebrating a snowball success this month, having trained an impressive 30,000 volunteer walk leaders across four hundred and fifty walking schemes nationwide.

See references to [Wellingborough Hearty Walks](#) in Northamptonshire and [Best Foot Forward](#) in Nottingham.

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A Supplementary Planning Document, [Achieving Positive Planning through the use of Planning Obligations](#), has been made available as one example of how a local authority (Bristol City) is approaching the issue of planning obligations and how they may be used to support recreational and public realm provision and management. Any further examples, comments or updates would be helpful in supporting further advice and research.

There was a good turn out to the **first East Midlands play forum meeting**, held on 16 July in Leicester. The main focus of this first meeting was to establish whether there was indeed a need for an East Midlands play forum. It was agreed that there was, to offer help and support and to provide a strong regional voice for play. The group has decided to meet quarterly with the next meeting to be held in Nottingham in October. If you would like more information please contact Suzanne Hoare at [shoare@ncb.org.uk](mailto:shoare@ncb.org.uk) or on 0115 8524021.

## NEWLETTERS

[Children's Play Update](#)

**EDUCATION - [Creating skilled professionals for the parks and green space sector.](#)**

During the summer Lantra has held a number of meetings with employers to identify the [qualifications and training](#) available. To supplement this work it is now consulting on the following:

- Which qualifications you value?
- Which ones are fit for purpose?
- Are any new qualifications needed?

This is your opportunity to make sure your voice is heard and you get the qualifications and training you want, just follow the link above. You may feel that the GreenSpace Sector is not adequately covered; if this is the case, it would be useful to record your view.

If you are prepared to act on this matter, please could let me have a copy of your response, before the closing date, so that I can collate it with others from the region and pass Richard Welburn, Chair of the Forum, who can then represent these views directly to Lantra on behalf of the region?

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The [Winston Churchill Memorial Trust](#) is calling for entries for travelling fellowships for 2008. The scheme offers British citizens the opportunity to travel to research something relating to their occupation or something of personal interest that can help their community.

Next year's categories include 'Making a living in the countryside', 'Craft workers and teachers involved in the built environment' and 'The recruitment and use of volunteers in the community'.

The closing date for applications is 16 October.

CABE Space are producing an **overarching skills strategy for the urban green spaces sector**, initial version to be published September 2007

This will bring together all the current skills strategies relevant to the sector with the aim of: stimulating debate and further research into the state of skills in the sector; to form a sound basis to assess current provision and identify the gaps; act as a tool to improve communication and partnership working. The document is for: the professional institutions; skills agencies, industry bodies; the third sector, major employers and education establishments.

## TRAINING EVENTS

### **Friday 31st August Health initiatives and physical activity and greenspace**

Venue: Stockport                      Organiser: GreenSpace North West

Although final details are still being worked on, GSNW are fortunate in having John Senior, Manager Strategic Partnership, Australia, attending the conference to discuss perspectives on parks in Australia and particularly health related initiatives. Some background information on John is attached to the cover message. The presentations will focus on the relationships between health initiatives and physical activity and greenspace using Australian and UK case studies.

The conference is free and space is limited to 60 attendees so we therefore need to gauge expressions of interest.

If you might be interested in attending, please contact Karen Connor pf Stockport MBC on 0161 474 4439

### **3rd and 4th September [World Congress on parks](#)**

### **5th and 6th September Technical tours of parks**

Venue: Dublin                      Organisers: the International Federation of Parks & Recreation Administration

To date there are approximately 150 delegates from 27 countries registered to attend.

The congress has received recognition by the Government of Ireland: President of Ireland, Mary McAleese will welcome the delegates and Ireland's Prime Minister, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern will attend a State Reception.

Over 40 speakers from the USA, Canada, UK, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Japan, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand as well as Ireland will address the theme Parks: A Celebration of Diversity.

**Tuesday 4 - Thursday 6 September** [IOG Saltex](#)

Venue: Windsor Organiser: Institute of Groundsmanship

Outdoor event for the grounds care, sports amenities, landscaping and estate management sectors

**Tuesday 10 September** [Spaceshaper](#)

Venue: Bar Convent 17 Blossom Street, York YO24 1AQ Organiser: CABE

Spaceshaper is a practical toolkit for use by anyone - whether a local community group or a professional - to measure the quality of a public space before investing time and money in improving it.

Contact: Nicola Mathers Telephone: 020 7070 6785

E-mail: [spaceshaper@cabe.org.uk](mailto:spaceshaper@cabe.org.uk)

**Tuesday 11 September** [Spaceshaper](#)

Venue: CABE 1 Kemble Street, London WC2B 4AN Organiser: CABE

**Monday 17 September** [Spaceshaper](#)

Venue: The Centre for the Urban Built Environment 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester M1 6DW Organiser: CABE

**Monday 17 September** **Looking forward: developing a playful workforce.**

Venue: the Riverside Centre in Derby Organiser: Play England – East Midlands

This is a FREE conference. The event is designed to help you ensure that everyone involved in delivering your play strategy has the relevant the skills, knowledge and support they need to work effectively. The day will be relevant to

anyone involved in writing a play strategy or delivering play opportunities. Topics will include playwork training, Play Rangers and play in extended schools.

To book your place, please return the booking form (attached to covering message) to Suzanne Hoare by **Friday 31 August**.

Suzanne Hoare, Regional Communication and Administration Assistant  
Play England - East Midlands, MWB, 15 Wheeler Gate, Nottingham, NG1 2NA  
Telephone: 0115 8524021 (ext 4251)  
E-mail: [shoare@ncb.org.uk](mailto:shoare@ncb.org.uk)

**Tuesday 18 – Wednesday 19 September**      [APSE Annual Seminar 2007](#)  
**Delivering Local Services : Local Solutions in a changing world**  
Venue: The Sage, Gateshead      Organiser: Association for Public Service Excellence

**Wednesday 19 September**      [Green space strategies](#)  
Venue: Himley Hall, Dudley      Organiser: Community First Partnership

A seminar organised by CABE and the West Midlands Parks Forum, facilitated by Community First Partnership, features case study presentations from local authorities about the development and delivery of green space strategies and PPG17 audits. See link for booking, which needs to be made by 31 August.

**Wednesday 19 – Thursday 21 September**      **National Parks: the next ten years**  
Venue: Derbyshire      Organiser: National Parks conference office

Speakers at the Association of National Park Authorities Conference 2007 include Professor Diana Liverman, University of Oxford; chair of Natural England Sir Martin Doughty; Lord Hattersley and Matthew Parris  
Email: [nationalparks@confpeople.co.uk](mailto:nationalparks@confpeople.co.uk)

**Thursday 20 September**      [Drought and Flood: water management for parks and gardens in a changing climate](#)  
Venue: University of Reading      Organiser: Royal Horticultural Society

Will our gardens, parks and green spaces disappear as temperatures increase and we face more extreme weather with drought and flood conditions? This conference will discuss the problems that will be encountered with water as the century progresses and what actions can be taken to plan for these problems.

**Thursday 20 September**      [The impact of outdoor recreation on changing social behaviour\(s\)](#)

Venue: Priory Rooms, Birmingham      Organiser: Countryside Recreation Network

The seminar is aimed at managers and decision makers who are facing the challenge of changing societal behaviour(s); whether this is reducing the incidence of anti-social behaviour, increasing social capital and self-esteem, improving social cohesion, or raising people's levels of physical activity. It is also aimed at providers of outdoor recreation who, through their work, can facilitate such behaviour change. This seminar explores the use of outdoor recreation as a mechanism for changing such behaviours.

**Friday 28 September**      [Writing, Developing and Delivering Service Level Agreements](#)

Venue: Manchester

Organiser: APSE

**Wednesday 3 October**      [Pounds for Parks](#)

Venue: Austin Court, Birmingham

Organiser: GreenSpace

The conference will focus on 'alternative income generation and sustainable funding for parks and green spaces.' **Don't forget to claim your discount if your organisation is a member of GreenSpace East Midlands Forum.** More than 40 places have already been booked and the last GreenSpace conference sold out well before the event; so if you wish to attend, **book as soon as possible.**

**Thursday 4th October**      [Marketing your Service Area](#)

Venue: Manchester

Organiser: APSE

**Wednesday 21st November      Accessible Outdoor Environment for All:  
Shared Understanding**

Venue: Sheffield

Organiser: Countryside Recreation Network

Details not yet available.

<p>Ron Marquand GreenSpace East Midlands Forum Manager Tel: 01246 270829 Mob: 0779 6846231</p>
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