

Jude Lockett



Two East Midlands' schemes reach final of this year's vote for the UK's favourite Lottery funded project.

The National Lottery Awards are an annual search to find the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects. Lottery players raise £25 million each week for Good Causes, and the Awards are a great way to highlight how that funding has changed the UK for the better. Read more about the awards at <http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards/>.

Public voting for the final round of The National Lottery Awards is now open. Click on a link below to read more about the two East Midlands projects that have reached the final, and to cast your vote. The final round of public voting closes at **midday on 8 August**. The winners will be announced on a special BBC1 show later this year. Please note that the projects are not in competition with one another and so you can vote for both.

In the Best Sports Project category
Get Active in the Forest

http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards/shortlistitem.cfm?id_category=6&id_entry=55

and in the Best Environmental Project
Moors for the Future

http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards/shortlistitem.cfm?id_category=3&id_entry=42

Green Flag Awards

A record number of 743 parks and green spaces have been awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award in 2008. Not content to stick to raising the standard of parks and green space on British turf, those in the Green Flag Award team have just taken their first giant step into [international territory](#) (links with two East Midland members, Eddie Curry of Nottingham City and Mel Henley of High Peak Borough).

The [East Midlands](#) has increased its Green Flag Awards from 42 to 56. The Pavilion Gardens remain the only Heritage Site Award winner in the region and we have three [Green Pennant Award](#) Winners. Congratulations to all those who have been successful.

Natural England sets its 'green test' for new developments

Wildlife rich green spaces must be at the heart of all new development for the benefit of the natural environment and people's health and wellbeing, said Natural England on 16 July 2008 as 20 new Growth Points around the country are announced by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Read more at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/press/news2008/160708a.htm>

Councils unprepared for England's ageing population

The Audit Commission's new report, Don't stop me now – Preparing for an ageing population, published on 17 July has found that councils in England, particularly those which have the fastest ageing populations, are not ready to meet the challenges or grasp opportunities as we get older. Although the government's 2005 strategy for older people, Opportunity Age, has the potential to improve the lives of an ageing population, so far it hasn't delivered those benefits to older people across the country, the report finds.

Read more at <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports/PRESS-RELEASE.asp?CategoryID=&ProdID=F9B2600A-62B0-4adc-8A30-BE8FBAC85E7E>

Unrecorded rights of way – Natural England announces new working group

Natural England has announced the membership of a new Stakeholder Working Group on Unrecorded Rights of Way. The new working group, to be chaired by former civil servant, Ray Anderson, will look at issues around recording old routes for walkers, horse-riders and other countryside users. These routes exist legally, but have not been captured on the official maps. The members of the new Group will:

- consider the issues and difficulties associated with the recording of pre -1949 public rights of way that are not currently shown on the definitive map and statement maintained by highway authorities
- work together with the aim of reaching agreement on a balanced package of strategic reforms in law and procedure that in the Group's view would bring real benefit to the various interests potentially affected by the claimed existence of such rights.

Read more at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/press/news2008/150708.htm>

Draft legislation to create more high quality Apprenticeships fit for the 21st Century

New measures to ensure all apprenticeships are of a uniform high quality and have the confidence of both apprentices and employers were announced today by David Lammy and Jim Knight as the Government published its draft Apprenticeships Bill. The Bill, which for the first time will establish a statutory basis for the entire apprenticeships programme, will set out clearly the relationship between different parts of the apprenticeship system and redefine the 'blueprint' outlining what apprenticeships should contain.

Read more at <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=374017&NewsAreaID=2>

Design for Play preview published

Play England has published a preview of its forthcoming guide, Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces. The preview outlines the guide's 10 design principles, which are at the core of a fresh, design-led approach to commissioning play spaces and which are encapsulated in one 'golden rule'. Play England commissioned the Free Play Network to produce the guide, and will publish it with the Department for Children, Schools and Families once it receives confirmation of ministerial support.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/resources>

Events

6 August, National

Get set for the biggest Playday ever!

Final plans are underway for this year's Playday celebrations on 6 August. Nearly 400 Playday events have

been registered through the website so far, which has already exceeded last year's 300, and more exciting events are being submitted daily. It's not too late to get involved in this year's Playday, visit the Playday website for last minute ideas or to find out how Playday is being celebrated near you.

<http://www.playday.org.uk>

Playday is also pleased to announce that Persil will be supporting Playday 2008, as part of their Every Child has the right campaign to champion the benefits of play. This partnership will greatly benefit the Playday campaign, allowing additional support for event organisers, and help bring the campaign messages to a wider audience.

<http://www.persil.com>

16-17 September 2008, Sheffield

Natural Play Environments: Aspirational and hands-on conference with design workshops

Organised by the Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield, and sponsored by CABI Space, the event will provide information on designing play spaces in a more natural way. There will be a limited number of speakers and an opportunity to develop a site design.

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/landscape/events>

15 September 2008, Birmingham

Promotion of Physical Activity, Play and Sport in Children and Pre-school children – NICE Workshop

The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is producing recommendations on how to promote physical activity, play and sport that will support public policies on the commissioning and conduct of schemes and programmes. NICE is inviting those interested to half-day workshops to help to review and develop these recommendations.

Contact: Alicia Tobierre Tel: 020 7874 1771 Email: Alicia.tobierre@greenstreet.co.uk

Job Vacancy: BIG Lottery Fund - Regional Policy and Partnerships Manager

£25,875 - £34,735 pa, Nottingham

As the largest distributor of National Lottery funding, it's up to us to make sure this money has a positive effect on communities across the country. We're currently delivering an average of £2 million each day, putting us in a position to have a real impact on people's lives across the East Midlands. Your role will be to help us develop and co-ordinate regional policy relating to funding programmes. You'll carry out research, produce regional intelligence papers, manage resources and liaise with a whole range of partners and stakeholders. You'll also take a lead on outreach and development planning for our programmes. You will need experience in a policy environment, but you should also have good negotiation skills and a talent for influencing people. The ability to undertake research, give effective presentations and manage a small team will also be essential.

For further information and to apply on line, please visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk quoting BIG 08/088

Closing date: **Wednesday, 20 August 2008.**

Interview and presentation date: **Thursday, 4 September 2008.**

BIG positively welcomes applications from people with a disability who are under-represented in our workforce.

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