

GREENSPACE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL FORUM



UPDATE April 2011

Dear Colleagues,



At the start of the new financial year, during difficult times, I'm appealing to everyone to join GreenSpace South East and continue to support our work through paid membership.

Many local authorities throughout our region have renewed or joined us this year, despite extra budget concerns. They agree with our aims to advocate and argue for greater investment into green infrastructure, parks and countryside spaces. GreenSpace continues to work strategically at national level to achieve this, whilst also delivering up-to-date information about training, policies and best practice. As a charity we work on a shoestring budget, as many of you around and about know when I'm on the phone trying to beg, borrow and steal* a venue for a day!

GreenSpace South East runs my part-time (3-days per week) post, Green Flag Award surgeries, Heritage Lottery Fund surgeries, various sub-regional meetings and our annual Open Meeting – all covered by membership subscription costs and the generous help of our local authorities. These updates reach a network of over 400 green infrastructure professionals, from a wide variety of organisations. Maintaining this knowledge network and advocacy base is important as we head into 2011/12. Please join GreenSpace South East today by calling Sue Spencer on 0118 946 9069.

*Disclaimer: I haven't yet stolen a venue – promise!

HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND SURGERIES

We are again working with HLF to hold two days of Park for People surgeries across our

region. The surgeries will be held on 10th/11th May at the Riverside Country Park, Gillingham and Ashted Common respectively. Places are limited and on a first come, first serve basis.

Across the South East we have 367 Registered Parks and Gardens of historic interest ranging from the landscaped gardens of country homes to cemeteries and public parks. There is also a wealth of scheduled monuments and other historic features within our parks and green spaces. Parks for People funding has been successfully used by many authorities to regenerate public green spaces.

The surgeries are designed for those who have an idea for a project to improve a park or open space with heritage value. Details of the scheme can be found by following this [link](#). Other schemes are also available, such as Young Roots, Townscape Heritage Initiative and Landscape Partnerships, but these surgeries only deal with Parks for People funding.

Places are by appointment only, so please contact me to book a spot.



LOVE PARKS WEEK: 23 – 31 JULY 2011

<http://www.loveparksweek.org.uk> – The annual celebration of our parks and green spaces has been launched again. We encourage any and all events that are due to be held, or being planned specifically for this week, to register on the website and use the available promotional material and resources.



We're aiming to get one million people out into their local park. From Tai Chi classes to jazz nights, urban street games to teddy bear picnics, there's an event for everyone during Love Parks Week 2011.

GREEN FLAG AWARD DEMONSTRATION DAY

An enjoyable and relaxing day was had by those attending our second GFA Demonstration Day held at Romsey Town Hall on the 31st March 2011. Over 30 people enjoyed the lovely weather for a morning of presentations, followed by a walk around, and a cup of tea in, War Memorial Park, with assistance from the Friend's group and park staff to discuss the Green Flag Award standards and criteria in detail. Our thanks to Hampshire Association of Local Councils, Test Valley Borough Council, John Morris from Eastleigh Borough Council and the Friends of War Memorial Park, for their help and support.

I'm in the process of arranging another GFA Demo Day in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon area for the summer, so watch this space.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

20th April 2011 **Sussex meeting** @ Arena Sports Centre, Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis
5th May 2011 **National Forum** @ Birmingham (invite only)
10th/11th May 2011 **HLF Surgeries** @ Riverside Country Park, Medway and Ashtead Common
13th May 2011 **Kent meeting** @ Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
23rd May 2011 **Hampshire meeting** @ Winchester City Council
26th May 2011 **Regional Forum** @ Haywards Heath (invite only)

OTHER ORGANISATIONS...

Newsletter links for other organisations that might be of interest...

Historic Towns Forum: [March 2011 Newsletter](#)

Climate South East: [March 2011 Newsletter](#)

Resource for Urban Design Information: [March 2011 Newsletter](#)

EVENTS

12th May, Guildford & 14th June, Maidstone Quality Recycled Materials in Sports and Leisure

Organiser: Environment Council

Location: University of Surrey, Guildford and East Malling Conference Centre

Contact: Eva Beresford, eva@envcouncil.org.uk, 020 8816 7546

Free half-day workshop exploring the use of recycled aggregate materials for sports and leisure surfaces. Topics include tyre shred, compost, soil conditioners, site drainage and recycled aggregate, their performance and versatility.

27-30th June

Good Practice Stakeholder Participation... with a focus on the environment

Organiser: Dialogue Matters

Location: Wye, Ashford, Kent, UK

Contact: training@dialoguematters.co.uk, 01233 813875

The course is held over 3 days and will help participants: explore the benefits and challenges of involving stakeholders in decisions about the natural environment, understand the principles and concepts of stakeholder participation, learn practical facilitation skills and how to design a participation process.

1st-3rd July

Planning, the law and your rights

Organiser: Friends of the Earth and Talk Action

Location: Queen Mary University, Mile End, London

Contact: jelliott@talkaction.org, 020 7324 4774

Power Up is a weekend of workshops and networking to empower people to make a difference. You don't need to be an expert, but you will be active and keen to make a difference. Power Up is particularly for people working in disadvantaged areas and with groups whose voices are not usually heard in decision making. If you're already involved in a local campaign and you want to make sure you are using your rights effectively, then Power Up is for you.

Keep checking the online forum ([here](#)) for the latest events and resources – I usually update this daily.

Kind regards,

Michelle Parker

GreenSpace South East Manager (Mon-Wed)
07898 870 859 | mparker@green-space.org.uk
| www.gsse.org.uk

GreenSpace, Caversham Court, Church Road
Reading RG4 7AD