

# GREENSPACE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL FORUM



## UPDATE February 2011

Dear Colleagues,



Significant changes are fast approaching, both in terms of reductions in budgets in many areas and new legislation that will provide a new focus for future planning and environmental

protection. GreenSpace is continuing to lobby government, responding to all major consultations which impact upon our sector, and forming new partnerships to provide a coherent and strong message. Thanks to the many local authorities and organisations who continue to support our work and ensure that we can continue to advocate on behalf of the South East.

### GREEN FLAG AWARD DEMONSTRATION DAY

I'm pleased to announce our second GFA Demonstration Day is being held at Romsey Town Hall on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. The event has been arranged with the kind assistance of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) and Test Valley Borough Council. The event will provide an overview of all the Green Flag Awards, provide a judges perspective and include a site visit to carry out an assessment.



The event is open to anyone considering applying for a GFA including community

groups and town/parish councils. We have a limited number of bursary places for community groups who are unable to afford the cost of attending – please contact me directly for this information. GFA Judges and members of HALC, plus regional members of GSSE, are entitled to free places. Other delegate places are £35 + VAT. Lunch and refreshments are provided. To book your place, please follow this [link](#).

### ONLINE FORUM

Please take five minutes over lunch to have a quick look at our online forum [here](#). We have several live queries from members in the following topic areas:

- URGENT: Volunteer guides and event protocol
- URGENT: Benchmarking – Friends groups, events and education
- Community access agreements
- Moles!

Anyone with useful information can email me directly; documents, ideas or experiences are all welcome. If you would like to post directly and add to the database of knowledge, and have forgotten your login details, I've got them all here.

Also we have a couple of queries from beyond our region. Firstly, from Barry Lambton of the London Borough of Croydon (07775 705327) [barry.lambton@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:barry.lambton@croydon.gov.uk); he wants to know if anyone has experience of outsourcing their Park Ranger service – he is looking for a contract specification for this element if it exists. Secondly, Donna from the Shaw Trust is looking to see if any LA's have capacity to host volunteers within the park's department. This is only an initial enquiry to see if such a scheme would be viable. If this does interest you, or you can help with any query, please get in touch with me.

## **POLICY AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

With the ongoing rush of policy and consultations now being produced by the Coalition government, GreenSpace has created a new web-page for our responses. Here you will find all contributions and lobbying to government undertaken on your behalf – follow the [link](#) for more details.

## **COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROJECT**

GreenSpace requests your help in distributing and publicising this important survey - Community group representatives can fill out the survey [online](#) before **Friday 25 February**. We aim to gather data on resources and abilities as well as thoughts, ideas and needs of community-based groups involved within parks and green spaces across the UK. The questionnaire should take approximately 15 minutes and will help enable us to continue advocating for such groups, form a report for the sector and help us shape our offering for the future.

The Community Networking Project questionnaire was originally completed in 2003 when over 1,000 responses were received, helping us to quantify the level and value of involvement and identify requirements for the groups in the future. The report was widely publicised and seen as a benchmark study within the sector.

Did you know... approximately 4,000 community groups with a membership exceeding 500,000 are actively and regularly contributing to the management and maintenance of their local green spaces. In addition to this, thousands of city farms, community gardens and allotment sites operate on a self-managed basis and many thousands of groups are getting involved in green space in a less formal, more casual and occasional basis. Their contribution has helped to improve, protect and enrich at least 15,000 green spaces of various types.

## **NATURAL ENGLAND HABITAT GUIDANCE**

Thanks to John Edwards at Surrey County Council for providing information about these new habitat guides. All are downloadable

from Natural England's website by following this [link](#).

## **EVENTS**

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 10am-3pm**

### **Introduction to Forest Gardening**

**Organiser:** Nature Wise

**Location:** Mayow Park Community garden  
Mayow Park Mayow road, Sydeham, London SE26 4JA

**Contact:** Claire White

[growmayow@gmail.com](mailto:growmayow@gmail.com)

This 1 day course will clearly explain the principles of managing a forest garden in an urban setting. Through a series of practical steps. Combining theory and practical exercises, there will be opportunities to practice perennial planting design, and learn about implementing and maintaining your own site. We'll also cover the history of Forest Gardening and its connection with Permaculture. Including shared lunch and a free edible hedge row variety to take home. £25 per person and booking is essential via email.

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011, 10:30am-4:15pm**

### **Landscape Institute Fringe Seminars**

**Organiser:** Landscape Institute @ Ecobuild 2011

**Location:** ExCeL London, One Western Gateway, Royal Victoria Dock, London, E16 1XL

**Contact:**

<http://2011liseminarecobuild.eventbrite.com>

Why Invest in Landscape? is a new campaign from the Landscape Institute, the professional body for landscape architects, which shows how towns and cities around the UK are seeing a good return on their investment in public space.

Three important seminars bring together the Institute's work on the case for investing in landscape; policy on green infrastructure and developments later this year on ensuring green infrastructure projects address the government's localism agenda.

Thanks as always – and join as members!

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