

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 South West.

This News and Information bulletin is produced by Roger Gates, GreenSpace South West Regional Development Manager and its objective is to support GSSW members. It is currently circulated free of charge, to other green space sector organisations. The work of GreenSpace Southwest (GSSW) is mainly funded by organisations' annual membership, therefore membership is encouraged. For more information, please visit www.green-space.org.uk/southwest/

GSSW Diary Dates

8 December 2009 – **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** – Exeter –
Contact Roger Gates on 07838 584617

The Open meeting will include a presentation and discussion on the Green Flag Award.

Other Diary Dates

10 December 2009 – **Playing with challenge and risk** – Swindon

This seminar, jointly hosted by Play England - South West and Play England - South East aims to bring together those responsible for managing and designing play provision and explore how to use the risk-benefit assessment process detailed in Managing Risk in Play Provision.

The event will feature expert speakers and will include presentations, discussions and case studies to investigate practical ways of managing risk in play provision.

Booking forms can be downloaded from <http://www.playengland.org.uk/southwest>

10 December 2009 – **South West Regional Network Meeting for the Diploma in Environmental and Land-based Studies (DELBS)** - Exeter

The DELBS is currently looking for employers or employees from any region or industry within the Sector to become Diploma Employer Champions. The Diploma Employer Champions Network (DECN) employer leaflet is attached to this newsletter. For further guidance, please contact diplomaelbs@lantra.co.uk

This Network Meeting could provide a forum to meet practitioners face to face, providing an excellent opportunity to explore the ways that you/your organisation can support DELBS delivery.

If you require further information about the network meeting, please contact Clare.Neale@lantra.co.uk

National News

CABE Space launch *Grey to Green*

CABE Space have launched their campaign Grey to Green to shift funding and skills from grey to green infrastructure. They have set out a position statement proposing the transfer of investment in road building and heavy engineering, to green space networks to make towns and cities healthier and more attractive.

The position statement can be viewed at <http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/why-we-must-map-green-infrastructure.pdf> and there is an associated briefing note entitled 'The Green Information Gap' <http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications/the-green-information-gap> to support the campaign.

New Host Gardens for 2010

The Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme (HBGBS) are seeking new host gardens for their one year traineeship programme.

The aim of the Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme (HBGBS) is to provide practical horticultural placements in gardens that have a proven record of horticultural excellence. The scheme provides a framework of training targets that are useful to both gardens and to gardeners.

The HBGBS is able to offer a bursary of £6,000 towards the cost of a full time placement.

Applications close 5th December 2009. The placement post begins on the 1st September, 2010.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of a trainee placement, please contact fiona.dennis@english-heritage.org.uk

Local News

Towards An Excellent Service (TAES) and Peer-Led Challenge Training Courses were held in Taunton during October. Unfortunately the courses were not well attended but those who did, thought they were very good and will be of use in the day to day running of their services.

Further courses may be run in the South West next year and those attending will have the opportunity to become a member of a pilot 'TAES Improvement Network'.

Planting Places Awards 2010 – Now Open for Applications!

The Planting Places awards – recognising greenspaces that are making fantastic contributions to the sustainability of their communities – will be running for a 3rd year. The awards, coordinated by Sustainability South West, are now open to applications from any public greenspace in the South West of England. This includes everything from parks, community gardens and allotments to green routes (ie cycle paths), play spaces and even cemeteries and rooftops. The greenspace can be any size. It can be privately funded, community, conservation group, NHS Trust or council land. But it **MUST** be free and accessible to the public, and for public use and enjoyment.

Applications can be submitted by a local community group, local authority, NGO, NHS Trust, private organisation or

individual. Completed application forms must be returned to Sustainability South West by 5pm on Monday, 25 January 2010 by email to lynn.gibbons@sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk or by post to *Sustainability South West, 3rd Floor, Bush House, 72 Prince St, Bristol BS1 4QD*. The application form and more information is available at http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/planting_places/planting_places_awards/

A regional **Green Infrastructure Growth & Delivery Event** is scheduled to be held in **Taunton on 28th January 2010**. This event is intended to help facilitate better engagement and understanding amongst local authorities and the key agencies about the critical role of green and blue infrastructure in developing strategies and infrastructure delivery plans. Further details of this event will be provided once they are available.

To discover more about Green Infrastructure and supporting resources, try the following link:

[CABE's Sustainable Cities Green Infrastructure](#)

GSSW and 'Walking the Land' will be submitting their Stage 2 application for '**Access to Nature**' funding in December. The Stage 2 application has gradually been developed over the last 6 months by working with member organisations and regional partners. It has now been decided to re-name the project '**HEALING SW**' (Healthy Exercise, Arts & Learning in Natural Green Spaces of the South West). The rationale for this change is to emphasise the recreational, community

involvement, environmental and awareness raising aspects of the project.

If the bid is successful, it will improve access and opportunities for learning, creativity and health across the South West region.

GreenSpace News

Love Parks Week 2010 will take place between **Saturday 24 July and Sunday 1 August**, offering yet more opportunities to get involved and celebrate our parks and green spaces! GSSW would like the campaign to grow and have a bigger impact in the South West, so please start planning now and mark the week in your 2010 diaries.

To find out more and register your events, please go to:

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

Green Flag Awards

Green Flag 2010 applications now open
The first stage of the Green Flag Award application process is now open. Previous applicants should have been emailed a username and password to allow them to access the application form, which was made available on 1 November, but new site applications must register online. All applicants have until 31 January 2010 to submit their site for consideration.

2009 was the first year the awards were managed by the consortium of Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV and GreenSpace, and saw a record number of flags awarded to sites across the country, with over 1,000 sites across England and Wales gaining the accolade. [More](#)

Membership News

It is time to renew your membership please – for all outstanding membership payments please contact [Sue](#) or to find out more about membership please contact [Roger](#)

Benefits of joining GreenSpace can be found at www.green-space.org.uk/southwest/getinvolved/index.php#member

Festive Fun

This Newsletter will be the last one of 2009 and so I would like to wish you a Merry Xmas and best wishes for 2010.

Rent a Christmas tree

ChristmasTreeMan.co.uk rent out Xmas trees. Apparently they deliver trees to your home, provide you with feed to keep the tree healthy and then collect the tree from you after Xmas, before returning the tree to the ground.

This is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint this Christmas. The company were featured on BBC1's 'Country File', this week. In addition, the company is an active supporter of the Woodland Trust. For further information, visit <http://www.ChristmasTreeMan.co.uk>

Contact Us

GreenSpace South West is managed by Roger Gates. If you have any items for inclusion in future newsletters, please contact Roger at rgates@green-space.org.uk or on 07838 584617

Peter Wilkinson is Parks Service Manager at Bristol City Council and Chair of the GreenSpace South West Steering Group peter.wilkinson@bristol.gov.uk

Sarah Moore at GreenSpace co-ordinates and manages the activities of all of the regions, sarahm@green-space.org.uk

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.

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