

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

7 September 2010 – **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** – Exeter – Contact Roger Gates on 07838 584617

The Open meeting will include a workshop on VFM Open Space Management. If anybody has any case studies, they would like to share at the meeting, please contact [Roger](#)

Saturday 23 October 2010 -
Regional 'Friends Of' Forum - Exeter

A one-day Regional 'Friends Of' forum is scheduled to be held on Saturday 23rd October at a venue in Exeter. It is hoped that this region-wide event will allow community groups and 'Friends Of' groups, with the support of their local authority partners and other regional organisations, to come together from across the South West. It is envisaged that this will enable good practice and learning that has been developed, to be demonstrated. Such networking will enable established and newly formed community groups to establish 'buddy' type relationships

and support each other in the management of their respective open spaces.

Further information on this event will be circulated in due course.

Other Diary Dates

2 August 2010 – **History of Parks** – BBC 4 9pm

I have been informed that the above programme reliving the history of parks is to be screened on BBC4 in early August. As yet I have been unable to find out any further information but as and when I do, I will let you know.

3 August 2010 - **Setting up an allotment project** - Leeds

A one-day BTCV course covering how to go about starting a project, from legal and health and safety elements to choosing the right plot. For further information, contact [BTCV](#)

21 September 2010 - **Influencing and Advocacy** - Birmingham

A one-day IPGS workshop designed to enhance influencing and advocacy skills, allowing a positive, lasting impact on people attendees work for and with. For further information, contact [IPGS](#)

12 September 2010 - **Environmental Art Competition** - Bath

Picture Framers, Framecraft, are launching a new Art Competition this summer.

People of all ages are being called to enter any piece of artwork they have created which promotes an environmental message. There will be two main competitions - Adult and Junior. The competition is free to enter and is open to everyone from the Bath and Bristol area.

Entries must be submitted by Wednesday 8th September 2010 and the judging will be on Sunday 12th September 2010 in Green Park Station, Bath by a panel including representatives from the art and environmental community.

The public are invited to come along to the event and view and purchase the artwork which will be displayed on the Market Square. 15% of any artwork sold will go to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

Competition Rules and Entry forms can be found at [Framecraft](#)

National News

Update on Ministerial Appointments

The new Coalition government has now announced its ministerial appointments. Key appointments relating to the green space sector are:

Caroline Spelman MP - Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Jeremy Hunt MP - Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media & Sport

Chris Huhne MP - Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change

Emergency Budget reveals funding reduction

Park departments have discovered the extent of funding cuts following the Emergency Budget. Local Authorities now face a 25% deficit. Further reaction, including a predicted boost for contractors as outsourcing becomes more likely, can be found at [Hortweek](#)

The news came shortly after sector representatives attended last month's GreenSpace conference, Saving your Service, which gave delegates a chance to discuss methods of dealing with budget shortfalls. A complete report on the event, including presentation slides and transcripts, will be available shortly. If you require further information, please contact Caroline Carsey by calling 0118 946 9068 or emailing carolinec@green-space.org.uk

Postcards from the Park 2010

This summer sees the launch of Postcards from the Park 2010, a national photography competition organised by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) and GreenSpace.

Now in its fourth year, this competition continues to grow with thousands of entries received each year. It encourages everyone to get out and about in their local public park and photograph what they love most about it. Categories include wildlife, heritage and people at play.

The overall winner will receive £1,000 of Jessops vouchers and finalists will be in with a

chance of winning an overnight stay in London and seeing their photo exhibited at a London Gallery. The closing date is Sunday 1 August 2010. [Postcardsfromthepark](#)

Natural England publishes accessible natural green space guidance

Natural England has released a new guidance document aiming to ensure that people have high quality natural spaces on their doorsteps. 'Nature Nearby' reinforces Natural England's conviction that everyone should have access to good quality natural green space near to where they live. [More](#)

Woodland Trust 'More Trees More Good' Campaign

A new Woodland Trust campaign has been launched to demonstrate the essential part trees play in making towns and cities healthier, cleaner and more prosperous, and underlines the need to green the UK's urban landscapes. The 'More Trees More Good' campaign advocates the annual planting of 20 million native trees right across the UK for the next 50 years. [More](#)

Losehill Hall release new course brochure

Losehill Hall have published their latest [course brochure](#), with details of all their courses from September 2010 to March 2011.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge

Fields in Trust has launched a project to permanently protect playing fields across the UK. Launched by Prince William, The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge will give communities an opportunity to vote for a playing field in their area to become part of the scheme and be permanently protected as a tribute to the Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

Fields in Trust is an independent organisation dedicated to protecting and improving outdoor sports and play spaces. Established in 1925,

they work to strengthen communities and improve the UK's health and well-being. [More](#)

Co-operative Membership Community Fund

The Co-Operative Membership Community Fund offers grants between £100 and £2,000 to groups to help local communities. In 2009 the fund gave away over £1m to 938 groups. Applications are open for the award for groups who carry out positive work in the community. [More](#)

Funding to look after and celebrate heritage

Heritage Lottery Fund's programme, *Your Heritage* is offering grants between £3,000 and £50,000 for projects that relate to the heritage of the UK. Applications are welcomed from anyone wanting to learn about, look after and celebrate heritage. There are a number of programmes available including *Your Heritage*, which is intended for community groups and *Young Roots* which aims to engage young people with their local heritage. [More](#)

Pesticide register for the Amenity Sector

BASIS, the independent standards setting and auditing organisation for the pesticide industry, has introduced a register for those responsible for the management and application of pesticides. People working in the amenity sector, who are responsible for pesticides, can join the new registration scheme. [More](#)

Acute Oak Decline (AOD) Spreading

A growing number of cases of a new disease, Acute Oak Decline (AOD), is affecting native oaks across Britain. The spread of the disease, coupled with a lack of government research funding, is creating extreme concern among tree and forestry organisations.

There are over 50 cases of the disease now confirmed at sites across Britain, with further suspect sites yet to be confirmed. [More](#)

UK Landscape Award

The UK Landscape Awards, supported by Natural England, will showcase the ways in which communities are involved with landscapes.

Communities and organisations are being asked to nominate their landscape projects for the Awards. [More](#)

Name change for Land Restoration Trust

Public space management charity the Land Restoration Trust has been renamed the Land Trust. The new name should more accurately reflect the Trust's remit, which now involves a broader range of objectives, all with the aim of delivering their vision of creating high quality and sustainably maintained open space.

The not-for-profit organisation provides a cost effective management solution for open space and green infrastructure.

The Land Trust has also launched a new website as part of the re-branding process. The new site has two distinct parts, one for the communities who use the Trust's spaces and one for businesses and organisations looking at the Trust's land management services. [More](#)

Local News

GSSW Meeting – June 2010

Richard Crowe (London 2012 Creative Programmer) attended June's Open Forum meeting to give a presentation on the Cultural Olympiad, which provided an update for the Green Space Sector.

GSSW Website being updated

The pages of the GSSW website are currently being updated. This will be completed in the near future.

Activity questionnaires

Activity questionnaires have been sent out as part of the 10-11 membership mail-out. Information provided by GSSW members in these questionnaires will hopefully inform GSSW as to which of its delivery objectives should be prioritised in the future. If you have not already done so, please take 5 minutes to complete these questionnaires and return to [Roger](#)

GreenSpace News

Love Parks Week 2010

Love Parks Week 2010 is now upon us, celebrating everything that our parks and green spaces have to offer.

A record-breaking half a million people are expected to celebrate Love Parks Week this year, with 850 events taking place up and down the country.

Over 120 events are taking place in the South West, which is treble the number of events that took place in 2009.

The Love Parks Week team can help with any questions or queries you may have, just drop them an email at info@loveparksweek.org.uk

National mentoring scheme for Green Flag Awards

If you are considering applying for one of the Green Flag Awards but are not sure if your site is suitable or meets the standard,

then the Scheme Manager is keen to talk to you. A national mentoring scheme has been available for many years where judge visits your site and offers recommendations. For more information, contact Keep Britain Tidy on 01942 612621 or greenflagawards@keepbritaintidy.org

Applications for the awards open in October 2010 and closes in January 2011.

Interested in being a Judge?

The Green Flag Award Scheme grows in popularity every year, so there is always a desire to recruit new judges. If you have experience in nature conservation, ecology, parks and landscape management, community engagement, environmental issues, horticulture or a related discipline, contact greenflagawards@keepbritaintidy.org

New Staff join GreenSpace

Simon Chapman has joined GreenSpace as its new Regions and Community Manager and Lucy Fowler is the new Administrator for Regions and Community. It is intended that these roles help to manage, co-ordinate and support the work of the regional staff.

Members Corner

This section contains questions or topical issues which will hopefully elicit responses from other regional members. It is envisaged that such information sharing will enable a co-ordinated approach to problem solving. There are 3 separate queries from GSSW members this month:

- 1) **John Flannigan of North Somerset Council** is interested to hear from anyone with experience of tendering out street scene contracts and the advantages and disadvantages of such contracts and whether they actually provide value for money? If you are able to assist, please contact [John](#)
- 2) **Carl Dallison from Weymouth & Portland Borough Council** requests assistance in dealing with a Town Green application that has been submitted. If anyone has experience of dealing with Town Green applications, please contact [Carl](#)
- 3) **Gareth Harrison-Poole from Plymouth City Council** asks:

We are currently having a challenge to the PPG17 approach to our green space audit. Does anybody have examples of what they have done when developers over provide on one type of green space but under provide on another? How have negotiations played out and what decisions have been reached upon appeal? Please can you send your replies to [Gareth](#)

If you are able to help with any of the above queries, please copy your responses to [Roger](#) to help build our web resource.

Membership News

Membership Renewal – Membership packs and letters were sent out in May, regarding 2010/11 membership of GSSW. This mail-out has now been followed up with phone calls to encourage continued membership and support for GSSW in 2010-11.

Your contributions help GSSW to further develop and thus provide our green spaces in the South West, with a united voice. Department of Communities and Local Government grants enabled the forum to increase the forum manager's post from part-time to full-time in June 2009. This DCLG contribution will be greatly reduced in 2010-11, so increasing the number of regional members and receiving renewals from existing members will be essential to the continuing success of GSSW.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to those of you, who have already renewed your membership for 2010-11.

Please contact [Sue](#) or to find out more about membership please contact [Roger](#)

Benefits of joining GreenSpace can be found [here](#).

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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 Chair of the GreenSpace South West Steering Group, petejwilko@hotmail.com

Simon Chapman at GreenSpace co-ordinates and manages the activities of all of the regions, simonc@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.

Printing is bad for your environment! Please forward to others.