

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

15 June 2010 – **Steering Group Meeting and Open Meeting** – Exeter – Contact Roger Gates on 07838 584617

The Open meeting will include a presentation from Richard Crowe (2012 Creative Programmer SW) on the Cultural Olympiad.

Other Diary Dates

15 June 2010 – **Grassland Recreation Study Day** – Wiltshire

This one-day CMA course will be looking at cattle and farm equipment followed by a discussion about grassland restoration and then a visit to a site that was re-seeded a few years ago. The course is free to CMA members and £35 for non-members. To book, please e-mail cma@writtle.ac.uk

25 June 2010 – **Getting down to business** – London

A one-day conference organised by Local Action on Food, to explore what steps can be taken to help community food growing projects generate income and become economically viable. Further information can be found at www.sustainweb.org.

2 July 2010 – **Climate Change: Effective Communication** – London

A one-day course designed for professionals and individuals active on climate change, who want to communicate their message confidently and effectively. Further information can be found at www.talkaction.org.

14 July 2010 – **Facilitation Training Day** - London

A one-day course aimed at making your facilitation effective and engaging. Further information can be found at www.talkaction.org.

15 July 2010 – Southwest CMA AGM and Study Day – Gloucestershire

Southwest CMA are holding their AGM and also hosting a Study Day looking into management issues and the many recreational opportunities that exist within the Forest of Dean. The day is free to CMA members and £35 for non-members. To book, please e-mail cma@writtle.ac.uk

National News

Coalition Agreement Published 20 May 2010

The new Coalition government has now published its key policy areas. The full document is downloadable from Direct.gov [here](#).

Section 11 of the document is dedicated to policy on Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and is detailed below:

- The Government believes that we need to protect the environment for future generations, make our economy more environmentally sustainable, and improve our quality of life and well-being. We also believe that much more needs to be done to support the farming industry, protect biodiversity and encourage sustainable food production.
- We will introduce measures to make the import or possession of illegal timber a criminal offence.
- We will introduce measures to protect wildlife and promote green spaces and wildlife corridors in order to halt the loss of habitats and restore biodiversity.
- We will launch a national tree planting campaign.
- We will review the governance arrangements of National Parks in order to increase local accountability.
- We will work towards full compliance with European Air Quality standards.
- We will take forward the findings of the Pitt Review to improve our flood defences, and prevent unnecessary building in areas of high flood risk.
- We will examine the conclusions of the Cave and Walker Reviews, and reform the water industry to ensure more efficient use of water and the protection of poorer households.
- We will work towards a 'zero waste' economy, encourage councils to pay people to recycle, and work to reduce littering.
- We will reduce the regulatory burden on farmers by moving to a risk-based system of regulation, and will develop a system of extra support for hill farmers.
- We will investigate ways to share with livestock keepers the responsibility for preparing for and dealing with outbreaks of disease.
- We will take forward the Marine and Coastal Access Act and ensure that its conservation measures are implemented effectively.
- As part of a package of measures, we will introduce a carefully managed and science-led policy of badger control in areas with high and persistent levels of bovine tuberculosis.
- We will promote high standards of farm animal welfare. We will end the testing of household products on animals and work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research. We will promote responsible pet ownership by introducing effective codes of practice under the Animal Welfare Act, and will ensure that enforcement agencies target irresponsible owners of dangerous dogs.
- We will ensure that food procured by government departments, and eventually the whole public sector, meets British standards of production wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall cost.
- We will investigate measures to help with fuel costs in remote rural areas, starting with pilot schemes.
- We will create a presumption in favour of sustainable development in the planning system.
- We oppose the resumption of commercial whaling, will press for a ban on

ivory sales, and will tackle the smuggling and illegal trade on wildlife through our new Border Police Force.

- We will bring forward a motion on a free vote enabling the House of Commons to express its view on the repeal of the Hunting Act.

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces

The National Open Spaces Forum has changed its name to the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS), to more accurately reflect the group's remit. The group exists to promote, protect and improve UK parks and green spaces by linking together the friends and users' forums and networks throughout the country.

Their latest meeting took place in Birmingham on 15 May, in which members agreed a campaign to support Love Parks Week in order to call for continued investment and support for our valuable assets.

If there are any community groups in your area, or any who may be interested in starting a local area forum, find out more on the GreenSpace website. [More](#)

Reaching Communities Programme reopens

The Big Lottery Fund has made a series of changes to its 'Reaching Communities' programme which should make it easier for smaller groups to apply. 'Reaching Communities' funds projects that respond to needs identified by communities, particularly those helping hard to reach people or groups. The programme gives awards between £10,000 and £500,000 and will continue to provide funding for up to five years. £300m will be awarded to projects until 2013. [More](#)

The RHS Alan Titchmarsh Award 2010

The RHS campaign for school gardening has been re-launched for 2010. The award has been set up to encourage and support schools who have reached level 4 on the campaign's benchmarking scheme, offering them £250 in vouchers to further improve and develop their garden. [More](#)

Kerrygold Community Awards

Irish butter producers Kerrygold have launched a Community Awards programme. The awards will recognise and reward 10 winning projects where groups of individuals have worked together to achieve something for the local community.

Anyone who has a great idea for a community project and requires funding may enter, whether their idea is linked to area regeneration, sustainable living or the environment. [More](#)

Closing date for WREN's Main and Small Grant scheme

Applications are still being accepted by Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) for their main and small grant schemes for community projects that maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity. The next round of applications closes on 30 June 2010.

WREN is a not-for-profit business that helps benefit the lives of people who live close to landfill sites by awarding grants for environmental, heritage and community projects. [More](#)

Community Groups involvement in Neighbourhood Renewal Training

Holden Publishing is an organisation that supports good practice in the field of neighbourhood renewal and sustainable communities. They publish the Journals of Neighbourhood Renewal and Culture & Urban Development and are now launching a dedicated training programme for practitioners in these fields. Training sessions in 2010 are to be held across a range of UK locations. [More](#)

'Green' exercise quickly 'boosts mental health

A recent news article details research which suggests that combining activities such as walking or cycling with nature boosts well-being. [More](#)

Registration now open for Discovering Places launch

Discovering Places is a London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme to inspire the UK to discover their local environment through a series of activities and events promoting the environment. Discovering Places will take place on 23-25 July as part of Open Weekend, the UK-wide celebration marking the countdown to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. More information on Discovering Places is available [here](#).

People organising events in parks during this period can use the UK's interest and awareness of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to reach new audiences by registering to be part of the Open Weekend media and PR campaign.

Open Weekend also coincides with the launch of Love Parks Week and GreenSpace would

appreciate event organisers mentioning LPW when registering their event in order for the campaign to be as effective as possible. [More](#)

Social Sustainability Toolkit: inclusive design

The Toolkit integrates inclusive design in all stages of the design and construction process for capital builds. A free download of the toolkit commissioned by South West Regional Development Agency, funded by Cornwall Council and developed as a collaboration between Sensory Trust and the Eden Project can be found [here](#)

Local News

Continued partnership working between GSSW and Natural England

GSSW and Natural England have recently met to begin scoping out some possible collaborative projects that will further develop the role of communities in managing their green spaces throughout the South West. It is envisaged that this will involve linking with existing projects involving GSSW members and assist in enabling the long-term community management of green spaces. Further updates will be provided as this partnership agreement develops.

Update on HEALING SW Access to Nature bid

GSSW have been continuing to liaise with Natural England over the above application, which was submitted in March. The application will be considered by Natural England's 'Access to Nature' Project Board in the near future, when a decision to support or not support the application will be made. Updates will be provided, once any information is forthcoming.

GreenSpace News

Preparation for Love Parks Week celebrations underway

Preparation is now well underway for Love Parks Week 2010, which will take place between 24 July and 1 August. Organisations and community groups holding events during this period are being urged to register on the website and join the campaign for continued investment and support for parks.

There is a list of [ideas](#) on the Love Parks Week website that might provide inspiration. There are also [promotional materials](#) and a [campaign toolkit](#) to get you started.

Love Parks Week events will help to send the message that parks are an essential part of every community and put these important assets on the agenda. Even if you're not holding an event, you can keep in touch with the campaign by clicking on [Get involved](#) and registering for updates. Last year saw 600 events take place and over 350 have already been registered for 2010. [More](#)

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

GreenSpace South East Forum Manager (Part-time) Job Advert

Fixed-term contract for one year with good potential for extension

For more details and a copy of the job description click [here](#)

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.

Activity questionnaires have been sent out with 2010-11 membership packs (see Membership News). 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. Please take 5 minutes to complete these questionnaires and return to [Roger](#)

Membership News

Membership Renewal – Membership packs and letters were sent out in May, regarding 2010/11 membership of GSSW. This mail-out is now being 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](#).

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

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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