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- 1.2 Conservation Workday Billesley Common, 10am to 2pm, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- 1.3 Conservation Day Balaams Wood 11am start, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- 1.4 Greenwood Craft Demonstration Handsworth Park 11am to 1pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January
- 1.5 Winter Bird Walk Edgbaston Reservoir 1pm to 3pm Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January
- 1.6 Conservation Workday Weekend Cannon Hill Park 11am to 1pm 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January
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# 1. Events

## 1.1 RSPB Bird Watch Sutton Park 11am to 3pm, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Join the RSPB and prepare for the Biggest Bird Survey in the world! Find out how to spot the birds in the Park and take part in the survey. For more information please phone 0121 355 6370

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/suttonpark](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/suttonpark)

## 1.2 Conservation Work Day Billesley Common 10am to 2 pm, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Meet at Haunch Lane entrance. Come and join the local friends group and ranger with some practical conservation work. Wear suitable outdoor clothing.

## 1.3 Conservation Day Balaams Wood 11am start, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Meet at Ormond Road entrance. Please wear boots or wellingtons, suitable clothing and bring a packed lunch.

## 1.4 Greenwood Craft Demonstration Handsworth Park 11am to 1pm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January

Come along and see a demonstration of using green wood to produce useful or decorative items.

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/handsworthpark](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/handsworthpark)

## 1.5 Winter Bird Walk Edgbaston Reservoir 1pm to 3pm Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Enjoy a leisurely walk around the Reservoir, and learn a little of how our feathered friends survive the adverse winter conditions, find food and maintain their habitats.

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/reservoir](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/reservoir)

## 1.6 Conservation Workday Weekend Cannon Hill Park 11am to 1pm 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January

This is a chance for you to help the rangers with their conservation work programme. For further details telephone 0121 442 4226

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/cannonhillpark](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cannonhillpark)

## 1.7 Conservation Workday The Dingles 10.30am to 1pm, Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Clean up and practical tasks. Meet at Coleside Avenue.

## 1.8 Events and Regular Groups at Northfield EcoCentre

### **The Age of Stupid Film Screening: Thursday 21st January, 7.30pm. Booking Essential**

Oscar-nominated [Pete Postlethwaite](#) stars as a man living alone in the devastated future world of 2055, looking at old footage from 2008 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?

### **Cycle Maintenance Workshop (Part 1): Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 10 – 12pm. Booking Essential**

Bike Safety Checks, Setting up your Bike, Mending a Puncture. (Part 2 date to be announced)

# BOSF Information Sheet – 21<sup>st</sup> January



**Valentine's Day Event: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 10am – 1pm. Booking Essential**

Come and make beautiful chocolates, truffles & gift boxes for your loved ones!

Workshop by **Loaf** - promoting real food in Birmingham - [www.loafonline.co.uk](http://www.loafonline.co.uk)

**'Beautiful Northfield' Photo Competition Launch: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 10am**

**Clothes Swop: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30pm – 7.30pm**

**Ecotots Mothers Day event: Thursday 11 March, 3.30pm – 4.30pm**

## REGULAR GROUPS

**Campaigns: every other Thursday evening, 6.30pm to 7.30pm** (starting back on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010)

Find out how to make a difference politically to benefit you and the environment.

**Sewing & Crafts: every Friday morning, 10am to 12pm** (starting back on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2010).

**Family Hour [new!]: every Thursday, 3.30pm - 4.30pm** (starting from 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010)

Family craft activities using recycled materials and story time for the under 7's. Advice on reducing your energy bills for parents while the children are busy.

**Gardening [new!]: every Thursday morning, 10am to 12noon** (starting from 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010)

Come and help maintain and develop our organic garden and join in with some of our garden workshops (details to be announced)

## To find out information or to book

Telephone: 0121 448 0119 Email: [jane@northfielddecoentre.org](mailto:jane@northfielddecoentre.org)

[www.northfielddecoentre.org](http://www.northfielddecoentre.org)

## 1.9 Forest School Taster Days - June and September

Please find PDF and Booking Form attached; alternatively please visit our website for more information.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us at the Forest Schools Birmingham Team.

**Forest Schools Birmingham** <http://www.forestschooolsbirmingham.com/>

*...connecting people with nature...*

## 2. Training

### 2.1 Free Training Courses from Centrain National

For more information contact:

Centrain National

Cannon House

43-44 New Bartholomew Street

Digbeth, Birmingham. B5 5QS

Tel: 0121 665 6550 / 0121 665 6540

- **Emergency First Aid at Work – 1 Day**

Certification is dependent on successful continuous assessment of the student, there is no final exam. Those students who complete the course and are deemed to have reached the required standard are issued with a certificate that is valid for three years.

- **First Aid at Work (FAW) 3 Day**

Students are independently examined on the final afternoon of the course. Upon successful completion certification is valid for three years.

- **Food Hygiene – 1 Day**

People operating a food business have a responsibility to ensure that food handlers engaged in the business have a suitable level of training and instruction in food hygiene. A food handler is any person who handles or prepares food whether open (unwrapped) or packaged. Food includes both drink and ice.

- **Confidence Building – 1 Day**

Confidence Building and Assertiveness. This is a **1-day course** which aims to help the individual develop greater awareness of negative influences that undermines confidence and develop new perspectives and strategies that will enable the individual to become a more effective and assertive communicator.

### 2.2 Training Courses for Studying Moths in the West Midlands

For some years now there has been an excellent moth training course programme available in Warwickshire, but not elsewhere in the West Midlands region, so the following programme has been put together to give recorders from Herefordshire, Worcestershire, West Midlands, Shropshire and Staffordshire an opportunity to start up or to improve their knowledge of moths and moth recording. Courses are aimed at total beginners to studying

moths, but also to recorders of intermediate level. Whatever your skills, the courses will stretch your knowledge.

## **May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday (T1) – An Introduction to Moth Trapping for Beginners -**

Introducing moth identification of easier moths, moth traps and books, in the new Wyre Forest Community Discovery Centre, Worcestershire (grid ref SO750740) 10am to 4pm. (Maximum of 25 participants – booking essential)

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tuesday (T2) –** Moth identification training course for beginners and intermediates, looking at grassland moth species caught the night before at Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley, Shropshire, (grid ref SO754840) 10am to 4pm. (Maximum of 15 participants – booking essential)

**July 18<sup>th</sup>, Sunday (T3) –** Moth identification training course for beginners and intermediates, looking at ancient woodland moth species caught the night before at Woolhope Village Hall, Haugh Wood, Herefordshire, (grid ref SO611358) 10am to 4pm. (Maximum of 15 participants – booking essential)

**August 8<sup>th</sup>, Sunday (T4) –** Moth identification training course for beginners and intermediates, looking at heathland moth species caught the night before at the John O’Leary Centre, Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase, Staffordshire (grid ref SK006153). 10am to 4pm. (Maximum of 15 participants – booking essential)

**September 13<sup>th</sup>, Monday (T5) -** Moth identification training course for beginners and intermediates, looking at leaf mines, Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley, Shropshire, (grid ref SO754840) 10am to 4pm. . (Maximum of 25 participants - booking essential)

## **Please make sure that you book for training courses, don’t just turn up, as places are limited.**

Please bring packed lunch for all courses. Training course places will be offered to applicants who apply first. Trainees can book for just one course, several courses or the whole programme of courses (T1 to T5). Trainees that book for all 5 courses should come out of the programme with a good grounding in moth identification and be able to adequately trap and identify moths on any site unaided.

Training courses will all be classroom based, but for the first four events with some examination of live moth specimens (that were trapped the night before). For the last event, at least part of the day will be spent out of doors examining trees for leaf mines – so please bring suitable outdoor clothing for this.

The Training Course programme is sponsored by OPAL, Butterfly Conservation West Midlands Branch and the Field Studies Council. If trainees wish to purchase a moth trap then this will be possible on the course if they contact me before the event.

Please book direct with myself, Dave Grundy, by phone, post or email;  
DGCountryside, 5, Melrose Avenue, Woodfield Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham, B12 8TG.  
Tel: 0121-446-5446 or Mobile: 0777-898-0924  
*Email: [dgcountryside@btinternet.com](mailto:dgcountryside@btinternet.com)*

**2.3 Footprint Bid Writing Workshop, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 10am to 1pm**  
Voluntary and Community groups in the Northfield and Edgbaston constituencies you are invited to a **FREE** workshop on

Venue: Oddingley Community Hall  
18, Oddingley Road, Northfield, B31 3BS

**FREE** Lunch and refreshments provided.

Come along to this confidential, independent workshop delivered by a professional community consultant who has 25yrs of financial and fundraising experience to support you.

### **What will we be doing?**

How to measure the wider impact your organisation has on the community, what benefit your organisation brings to individuals, families and neighbourhoods. How do you measure this? How do you link your outcomes to national, regional and local targets? How do you measure the impact your organisation has on these targets? We will be looking at how you can do this and providing tools that you can use with your organisation to help you write funding applications that meet the funder's criteria as well as meeting your organisations mission & objectives.

**Tel: Admin Officer Leanne or Development Officer Carole 0121 459 6963 or  
E mail: [office@swbca.org.uk](mailto:office@swbca.org.uk)**

## **3. Funding**

### **3.1 Foundation offers gifts to help young people**

A local foundation is calling for bids from organisations undertaking capital projects to help rehabilitate children and young people in the fight against the triple threat of

inequality, poverty and maltreatment. The **Norton Foundation** is inviting proposals from local organisations in Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire, who are planning **capital projects to help young people aged up to 25**. The successful organisation will be given a £100,000 contribution for their prospective project.

More: <http://www.vcsmatters.org/foundation-offers-two-100-000-gifts-help-young-people>

## **3.2 Biffaward Small Grants Programme Now Open**

Biffaward, one of the largest landfill communities fund scheme has announced that they are now accepting applications through their small grants programme, for projects that enable communities to improve local amenities and to conserve wildlife. Grants are of between £250 and £5,000, but projects must not cost more than £10,000 in total.

To be eligible projects must be site-based within ten miles of a Biffa operation and 10 miles of an active landfill. Biffaward seeks to support access and improvements to amenities such as furnishing community buildings; cycle paths; recreational facilities; playground equipment; park improvements; access improvements to nature reserves. They will not fund equipment or running costs.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

<http://www.biffaward.org/about/soverview>

## **3.3 Tudor Trust Grants Programme**

The Tudor Trust, one of the largest independent grant making trusts in the UK has announced new funding guidelines for the period 2009 – 11.

Under the new guidelines, the Trust will continue to make grants across their established funding areas. These are: youth, older people, community, relationships, housing, mental health, substance misuse, learning, financial security and criminal justice.

The Trust will also be open to hearing about work in areas the Trust has not funded before. The Trust makes grants in the region of £19 million per year and aims to support smaller community, voluntary and charitable organisations and is looking to make around 350 projects per year for up to three years.

Grants can take the form of core funding (including salaries and running costs), development funding, project grants or capital grants for buildings or equipment. There is no maximum or minimum grant amount that an organisation can apply for. Applications can be submitted at any time.

<http://tudortrust.org.uk/HowTudorfunds/tabid/66/Default.aspx>

### **3.4 Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – Food Strand**

The aim of the Food strand is a £3 million funding strand over three years (2008 – 2011) with the aim of promoting an understanding of the role of food in enhancing quality of life.

It will prioritise the enjoyment and experience of food rather than its production and we seek to enable as many people in the UK as possible to access, prepare and eat nutritious, sustainable food. The Foundation is interested in work that influences policy and practice across a range of food-related areas.

The Foundation expect to support a mix of practical projects that have wide significance, and some research and policy based work. Applications can be submitted at any time.

<http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/funding/food.html>

### **3.5 The War Memorial Trust**

The War Memorials Trust is open to applications for the protection and conservation of war memorials in the UK.

The Trust currently runs three different grant schemes, which provide support to projects that aim to repair, conserve and preserve the war memorials in their existing form as well as reinstate the memorial in its original design.

The Trust only offers grants to projects that relate to existing war memorials and not for the creation of new war memorials or projects for which work has already started and/or is completed. Graves of any type are not eligible for support under any of the schemes. The grant scheme you will need to apply for will depend on where in the UK the memorial is located and whether it is freestanding or not and what work needs doing.

For further information on what scheme is the most appropriate to apply for please contact the Conservation Officer on 020 7233 7356 or Email: [conservation@warmemorials.org](mailto:conservation@warmemorials.org)

### **3.6 Government Announces £33 Million in Grassroots Grants**

The Government has announced that over £33 million in grants have been given to over 13,000 charities and voluntary organisations in the first full year of the Government's Grassroots Grants scheme.

The £130 million scheme, launched in September 2008, is aimed at helping small voluntary and community organisations provide much needed help in their communities and reach out to the most vulnerable people. Grants have been spent on a range of

community activity from healthy food parcels for deprived communities to social activity for carers - helping communities to thrive and deal with the individual challenges that face each local community.

The programme which is administered by local Community Development Foundations, will run until March 2011 is still open for applications. Small and local community groups with annual incomes below £30,000 can apply for the grants of between £250 and £5,000. <http://www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/grassroots-grants>

### **3.7 Fair Share Trust UK Ltd**

The Fair Share Trust, part of the Fair Share Initiative was created to target areas throughout the UK that have previously received less than their 'fair share' of National Lottery funding.

The focus of the programme is medium and longer term revenue projects, not short-term one-off projects, and grants of between £5,000 and £250,000 can be made to almost any kind of organisation (including schools), as long as the work undertaken is not primarily for private gain or individual benefit.

Grants awarded must address the three wider aims of the programme, these are; to build capacity; increase social capital; improve 'liveability' - and must also meet the local priorities set by the Local Panel. Each of the Fair Share Trust areas have been given a specific amount of funding in England this is £859,378k per area, in Northern Ireland it is £2,250,000 for the whole programme, in Scotland it is £5,750,000 for the whole programme, and in Wales it is £3,250,000 for the whole programme. There are 77 Fair Share areas across the UK. Previous projects funded include Kirton Lane Primary School, South Yorkshire, which received a grant of £35,000 to install play equipment in their playground to keep pupils healthy and active.

For more information on the programme and to find out which areas are eligible please click on the link below.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and should be made to your local agent (Community Foundation).

<http://www.fairsharetrust.org/index.php>

### **3.8 UnLtd Sport Relief Awards UK**

UnLtd, the charity that supports Social Entrepreneurs, is accepting applications under its Sport Relief Grants Programme.

UnLtd Sport Relief Awards are funded by Comic Relief and provide opportunities for young people to bring communities together, to help promote understanding and solve problems through sport, arts and recreational activities.

The UK wide funding programme is for 11-21 year olds, who are prepared to go the extra mile and use their passion for sport and arts to bring respect and understanding to their communities by setting up their own projects. There are three funding streams that young people can apply for. These are “Try it” which provides grants of up to £1,000 for young people to try out their idea; “Shape it” which provides grants of up to £5,000 to develop ideas; and “Do it” which provides grants of up to £10,000 to grow projects. Applications can be submitted at any time.

<http://unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=110&PageName=sportrelief>

### **3.9 Skills for The Future Programme Opens for Applications (UK)**

The Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) has announced that the new Skills for the Future programme is now open to applications.

This is a new £5million grant programme that will deliver up to 1,000 paid training opportunities for people across the UK seeking a career in heritage. It will not only support traditional conservation training but also a wide variety of skills needed to engage people with heritage and utilise new media and technology.

The programme is open to applications from organisations and partnerships - for example of community and voluntary organisations, professional bodies and learning and training providers and will provide grants of between £100,000 and £1 million for projects which provide paid training placements to meet a skills gap in the heritage sector, and fully support trainees to learn practical skills. To support applicants the HLF is running a number of pre-application workshops in December and January.

The closing date for applications is the 19th March 2010.

### **3.10 Comic Relief Grants Programmes Open for Applications (UK)**

Comic Relief has announced that their UK grants programme is now open for applications. Applications will be invited from the voluntary and community sector throughout the UK including:

- Constituted voluntary and community groups
- Charities
- Social enterprises
- Co-operatives
- Faith organisations

- Community interest companies.

Under its UK grant making programme, Comic Relief makes grants that address the following themes:

- [Mental health issues](#)
- [Domestic and sexual abuse](#)
- [Refugee and asylum seeking women](#)
- Young people, in particular those that [are sexually exploited and trafficked](#), that have [alcohol](#) and [mental health problems](#)
- [Project that use sport to support community development](#)
- [Older People](#)
- [Projects that support local disadvantaged communities.](#)

Comic Relief provides both capital and revenue and can pay for up to 100% of projects costs but they encourage applicants to get some of their funding from other sources. There is no minimum or maximum grant in most of the programmes, but where there are limits, these are clearly stated in the programme guidelines. Grants on average vary between £25,000 and £40,000 per year, and rarely exceed this upper limit.

The closing date for applications is the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

[http://www.comicrelief.com/apply\\_for\\_a\\_grant/uk](http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk)

### **3.11 Sport England's Small Grants Programme (England)**

Sport England has announced that its Small Grants Programme is open to any bona fide non-for-profit club or association, statutory body or educational establishment. The programme aims to support local community projects which seek to increase participation, sustain participation or develop opportunities for people to excel at their chosen sport. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available for projects whose total costs do not exceed £50,000.

Projects that the programme will support can include:

- helping a club expand its age range by helping it to buy extra team kit or paying additional coaching fees
- helping youth clubs to work with local sports clubs to get more young people playing sport.

Applications can be made at any time and support is available from the funding helpline on 08458 508 50, or [visit their website: http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/funding.aspx)

## **3.12 Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards (UK)**

The Tesco Charity Trust has announced that it will once again be seeking applications through its Community Awards programme in early 2010. The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £500 and £4,000.

The funding it gives goes towards providing practical benefits, such as equipment and resources for projects that directly benefit children, the elderly and adults and children with disabilities, living in the local communities around Tesco stores in the UK. There are two categories of Community Awards. Grants to support children's welfare and/or children's education (including special needs schools) and grants to support elderly people and/or adults and children with disabilities.

Previous projects supported have included sensory garden or room projects, outdoor classrooms, breakfast and after-school clubs, holiday play schemes, befriending schemes, luncheon clubs, youth clubs and part-funding to purchase minibuses.

The grants programme for children's welfare will be open for applications from 1 December 2009 to 31 January 2010. The grants programme for elderly people and/or adults and children with disabilities will be open from 1 February to 31 March 2010.  
<http://www.tescocharitytrustcommunityawards-applications.co.uk/init.pl>

## **3.13 Co-op Group Community Dividend Fund (England and Wales)**

The Community Dividend Fund uses the 'odd pence' donated from Co-operative Group Dividend cardholders in order to fund projects that benefit local communities. Community and voluntary groups as well as charities are able to apply for funding of between £100 and £5,000 to support projects that benefit the local community. To be eligible, the project must benefit a local community in which at least one Co-operative group business trades. The types of activities supported must fulfil a perceived need in the local community by addressing community issues such as combating crime and anti-social behaviour, promoting education and improving health. Activities must also target disadvantaged groups or areas and be in line with co-operative values and principles. Applications can be made at any time.

<http://www.co-operative.coop/ethicsinaction/communities/fundsandfoundations/>

## **3.14 Emerging Festivals Fund Programme**

A special grant funding scheme has been established under the aegis of the Birmingham Cultural Partnership to support new and emerging independent festivals which have the best potential of raising Birmingham's profile.

Approximately 10 project grants will be available ranging from £500 to £5,000 towards the aim of festivals contributing to Birmingham's Local Area Agreement target for improving visitor perceptions of the city.

Details of the aims, objectives and key criteria of the scheme may be found in the Emerging Festivals Fund Programme Prospectus. Would-be applicants are advised to seek a surgery with the Project Manager to discuss their project proposal prior to completing their Final Application Form.

All enquiries, prior to surgery appointments should be made by email to [arts.grants@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:arts.grants@birmingham.gov.uk) with "Emerging Festivals" and the name of your organisations in the subject line. Copy of application form and prospectus enclosed.

### **3.15 V Match Fund, deadline: 5 February 2010**

**V's Match Fund** aims increase investment in youth volunteering from private companies, charitable trusts/foundations and individuals by doubling the value of their investment. The private sector investment can be cash or gifts in kind and investments range from £10,000 to £250,000.

The funding is for new opportunities for 16 to 25-year-old volunteers, which have clear community benefits and address one of the following:

- Health and wellbeing
- Environment
- Supporting children and young people
- Community cohesion
- Poverty
- Human rights

You need to demonstrate how you will engage young people who have never volunteered before, including hard-to-reach and under-represented groups.

For more information see the vinspired website at <http://vinspired.com/about-us/matchfund>.

### **3.16 Community Initiatives Fund – West Midlands**

Application Deadline:	Maximum Value:
29 January 2010	£ 10,000

The Community Initiatives Fund is provided and administered by the West Midlands Police Authority. Funding is intended to support community based initiatives in the West

Midlands which contribute towards the objectives in the Authority's Local Policing Plan or in the local crime and disorder strategies. The principal aim of the fund is to provide small grants to help a project succeed and encourage community contact with local neighbourhood officers. The fund's objective for 2009-10 is "to improve community safety and increase reassurance within the community to those living with mental health issues."

Proposed initiatives should fulfil the following:

Help to improve community safety and increase reassurance to those living with mental health issues.

Identify groups or communities with a high need.

Set clear targets.

Establish measures for monitoring and assessing the performance of the project.

Have effective management structures in place.

Have an appropriate, clear plan and justification.

Funding may not be used for:

Staff or employee costs.

Building and other major works.

Projects which are currently paid for by existing public funding.

Projects being organised primarily by other statutory bodies.

An application form and further information can be found on the West Midlands Police Authority website.

<http://www.west-midlands-pa.gov.uk/comminitiativesfund.asp>

## Addresses and contacts

For further information on how to obtain this funding opportunity locally, please contact the following:

### Paul Norton

West Midlands Police Authority  
Lloyd House, Colmore Circus Queensway  
Birmingham. B4 6NQ

Telephone:

0121 626 5685

### 3.17 The Bodfach Fund - Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010

The Bodfach Trust Grant is provided and administered by the Bodfach Trust and is available for TSOs in the UK.

The scheme is intended to support projects in the following areas:

- The elderly.
- Young people.
- Affordable housing.
- Public parks and green spaces

Applications are made by submitting an application form which should include:

- Details of the organisation and its finances, including a copy of the most recent accounts.
- Brief details of the proposed project.
- Details of the amount of funding being sought.

Further information can be found on the website

**Sally Dyson**

Bodfach Trust

20 Kent House

Aylesford Street

London

SW1V 3QB

Telephone: 020 7976 5785

Email: [trust@bodfach.com](mailto:trust@bodfach.com)

Website: <http://www.bodfachtrust.org.uk/grants.php>

## 4. Useful Websites

### 4.1 Green Places Journal

The Green Places Journal is produced by the Landscape Design Trust. It is an independent voice for public open space. If you wish to view their back issue, they can be found at their website:

<http://www.landscape.co.uk/>

### 4.2 BBC Breathing Places

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces/>

### 4.3 Birmingham City Councils Funding Search engine

You may have noticed that Birmingham City Council has recently updated its webpage's. During this update process, the Grantnet button on our page has been lost.

Please note that this can now be found on the Adults and Communities home page( you

may need to cut and paste into your browser)

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/adults](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/adults)

#### 4.4 Financial Website

Financial advice and training for small charities and voluntary groups:

<http://www.cash-online.org.uk/index.php>

#### 4.5 GreenSpace

<http://www.green-space.org.uk/>

#### 4.6 IPGS

Institute solely dedicated to parks and green spaces and related issues:

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

## 5. Information from Green Space

### 5.1 Sustainable Parks: Sustainable Futures Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> March 10

As the climate changes it is important that parks and green spaces are able to adapt and help to mitigate the worst effects, but it is also vital that they do not miss the opportunity to put themselves forward as flagships for environmental management. Increasingly organisations are looking to prove their environmental credentials and attain environmental management standards, such as ISO 14001 or EMAS, and will be looking to park services to play their part. With sustainability also being one of the key criteria of the Green Flag Awards, park managers will need to examine their management plans and policies and be aware of the latest guidance and techniques.

As well as contributing to the worldwide effort to reduce carbon emissions, sustainable practices can also provide sites with the opportunity to manage drought and flood risk, reduce damage costs, increase biodiversity and help to safeguard parks' assets for future generations. Park managers need to plan ahead for changes in the climate, but how can they develop an environmental policy and management strategy that all staff can contribute to? How can park managers minimise use of pesticides? What are the most effective methods for conserving energy and other resources?

Sustainable Parks: Sustainable Futures will address these questions and more. This one-day conference, held in partnership with IPGS, will offer delegates the chance to attend a wide range of presentations and workshops and will provide the opportunity to learn about a variety of effective approaches, practical suggestions and examples that can be implemented in their own parks and green spaces.

## What you will learn

- How to approach environmental management standards and the sustainability elements of the Green Flag Awards
- How to improve water and energy efficiency
- What to consider when looking to improve the sustainability of park buildings
- How to manage flood and drought risk
- Ways in which your parks service can manage waste and recycling
- How to achieve sustainable design and planting
- Why parks professionals need to contribute to green infrastructure strategies to ensure that they are sustainable and reap the full economic, social and environmental benefits

**Please note:** The full programme and venue will be announced on the GreenSpace website when confirmed. The venue will be in a central location in Liverpool, accessible from Liverpool Lime Street Station. If you wish, you may provisionally hold a place – please call 0118 946 9068.

## Who should attend?

Sustainable Parks: Sustainable Futures will be of interest to park managers, heads of service, policy makers, councillors, community groups, landscape architects and all other public, private and voluntary sector professionals who are currently working with, or have an interest in, parks and public green space.

## Cost

Attendance is £180.00 for IPGS and GreenSpace members and £230.00 for non-members (prices include VAT).

A limited number of subsidised places, priced at £90.00 (prices include VAT), are available to community groups and those in full-time education. Please phone 0118 946 9068 to apply for these places.

## Booking information

**Post:** Complete and return the attached booking form to the address provided.

**Fax:** Complete and fax the attached booking form to 0118 946 9061.

**Telephone:** Call the events team on 0118 946 9068 to provisionally book your place.

**Online:** Go to [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk).

## 5.2 Love Parks Week 24<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010

Love Parks Week 2009 saw over 600 events take place across the UK, with around 400,000 people getting outdoors and enjoying all the parks have to offer. As well as highlighting how important parks and green spaces are to communities, the campaign also called for continued investment and support for these valuable assets.

Love Parks Week 2010 will take place between 24 July and 1 August, offering even more opportunities to get involved and celebrate parks and green spaces! We'd like the campaign to continue to grow and have a bigger impact, so why not start planning now and mark the date in your diary?

For more information visit the GreenSpace website <http://www.green-space.org.uk/>

## 6. Other Information

### 6.1 Quadron Newsletter Groundbreakers Issue 5

The 5<sup>th</sup> Issue of Quadron's Groundbreaker Newsletter is attached.

### 6.2 RSPB – Big Garden Birdwatch

Spend just one hour gazing out the window this January and do your bit for Britain's garden birds.

Whether you are a birdwatching expert or a complete novice, during the weekend of 30-31 January you can put your enthusiasm to good use by participating in an important wildlife survey – the Big Garden Birdwatch.



The first Big garden Birdwatch took place 31 years ago and since then, people across the UK have clocked up more than three million Big Garden Birdwatch hours watching and enjoying the birds in their gardens.

Last year, more than 15,969 people from Birmingham and the Black Country part. On a UK level, more than 540,000 people gave up an hour of their weekend to help with the survey. That's a lot of people!

These records provide the RSPB with a vital snapshot of the UK's garden birds each winter. Over the years, our scientists can record patterns in bird numbers and use this to help prioritise our bird conservation work. The declines seen over time help highlight which birds need our help.

To do your bit for our garden birds, simply spend one hour over the weekend 30/31 January 2010 counting the birds in your garden or local park and record the highest number of every bird species seen at any one time. Every piece of information noted down is useful for the RSPB and helps build a picture of which birds are doing well and which ones aren't.

To find out more and to enter your results, visit [www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch).

Alternatively call 0300 456 8330 to request a Big Garden Birdwatch form to be sent to you (calls charged at standard rate). The hotline number will be in operation from 16 November 2009 to 29 January 2010.

**If you would like some Big Garden Birdwatch survey forms and posters for your park or friends of group, please contact Louise Pedersen, RSPB Birmingham office on 0121 616 6850 or [louise.pedersen@rspb.org.uk](mailto:louise.pedersen@rspb.org.uk)**

**The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing - help us keep it that way. Log on to [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) to find out more or to join us.**

### **6.3 What's the Nation's Favourite Park or Green Space?**

Vote for your favourite Green Flag award-winning site.

Are green spaces in Gateshead more gorgeous than in Glamorgan? Does Birmingham have more beautiful parks than Bradford? Are the cemeteries in Cheltenham more cherished than in Chelmsford? Do people prefer to admire the allotments in Aylesbury rather than Accrington?

If your local park or green space stands out from the rest then visit the Green Flag Award Scheme website [www.greenflagaward.org.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk) and vote by going to the 'Get Involved' section.

If your favourite park or green space isn't listed then why not nominate it to win a Green Flag Award telling us why you think it deserves to win. The site that receives the most votes by September 2010 will receive a special award at the Green Flag Award Scheme's annual awards ceremony in Autumn 2010.

### **6.4 What motivates people to participate in organised walking activity? Natural England Research Report NERR028**

I am pleased to let you know that the research commissioned by Hazel Hynds and Cheryl Allibone has been released and is available to download.

The results demonstrate that social contact is the most significant motivator for individuals to participate in organised walking activity and also that improving health and enjoyment of the natural environment are also important factors for motivation.

This report results from research commissioned by Natural England in order to explore people's motivations for participating in organised walking activity.

A summary of the findings covered by this report, as well as Natural England's views on this research, can be found within Natural England Research Information Note RIN028 – What motivates people to participate in organised walking activity? Please see the link below.

<http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/naturalenglandshop/product.aspx?ProductID=453082b9-5cab-422d-be40-07676b36cb58>

Angela Smith - Lead Adviser Walking for Health and Green Exercise

## **6.5 Bristol Green Space Study**

Please find attached the research Natural England part funded in Bristol on accessible green space and health. An overview of this work is in our Natural Health Service document. The attached document can be distributed for non-commercial research or educational use only.

In summary the findings were that residents in more deprived areas were much more likely to report access to green space as difficult. This was despite no evidence that residents in more deprived areas had poorer access to green space but they were therefore less likely to use their green space than residents of more affluent neighbourhoods. It was concluded that this was either because residents were not aware of the green space close to them, that the quality of green space in those neighbourhoods may be lower and so discourage use, or that in those neighbourhoods there are more negative perceptions of their general environment.

The findings suggest that interventions to encourage higher physical activity via green space may be better addressing the expressed needs of the local communities and issues of green space type, quality and safety rather than simply providing more green space.

Angela Smith - Lead Adviser Walking for Health and Green Exercise  
Walking for Health