



monthly ebulletin - May 2009

Welcome to the monthly ebulletin for May. You can navigate through the stories by using the shortcuts to each section in the box below.

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greenspace scotland

great places, great cities conference – 4 & 5 June, Glasgow

We are pleased to announce that Alex Neil MSP, Minister for Housing and Communities, will deliver the closing address at the *Great Places Great Cities* conference on Friday 5 June. This will conclude a truly international 2 day conference, involving keynote speakers, presentations and tours exploring the role of open space and green networks in creating sustainable cities.

We have had a great national and international response to our call for presentations and posters; full details of the speed presentations and poster sessions at the conference will be available on our website and in a special conference e-flyer next week. Go to www.greenspacescotland.org.uk.

www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/GreatPlacesGreatCities for more information or to book your place.



project of the month



The Commonwealth Orchard - creating a positive grassroots legacy for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

The Commonwealth Orchard is a Scotland-wide scheme to plant community, school and Children's Orchards. The idea is to plant new



trees, celebrate and map existing orchards, and to pick and eat the produce as well as to use orchards for a wide range of arts, events and community uses.

In locations across Glasgow and Scotland (and perhaps also across the Commonwealth countries), children will plant fruit trees, and soft fruit plants, to be ready to pick and use for the events in 2014.

The Children's Orchard, which has already planted in schools, parks and in other common grounds, will coordinate and develop the project, working with a range of partners, including education, social work, health promotion, land services and of course, children!

The Commonwealth Orchard was launched at the New Year in the East End of Glasgow at Beardmore Park and in Edinburgh at Ferryhill Primary. Planting has also taken place in Stirling and in Oakwood Primary in Glasgow. Other planting and community orchard events are planned over the next months.

The dream of the Commonwealth Orchard is to have all children across Scotland the chance to plant and look after a fruit tree and to make their contribution to a more fruitful future!

Robin Harper MSP, speaking at the launch at Ferryhill Primary, said *"I think every school in Scotland should have an apple tree, preferably more than one, and preferably as many different kinds of tree as possible. We need to do everything we can to reinforce the idea of locally grown food and healthy eating. It was heart warming to see how much genuine interest the planting of a few apple trees inspired in the children who took part. With apples as with everything else think global, act local."* [more information](#)

On Saturday 6 June **greenspace scotland**, will host a [study tour of community projects](#), including the Children's Garden, as part of the Great Places Great Cities conference. Delegates who are booked will be able to attend the study tour free of charge.

[greenspace scotland project database](#)

Remember - to access full details on any project, including community engagement strategies, funding information and project outcomes, you need to be a Network Member of **greenspace scotland**. Membership is FREE and available to any organisation delivering greenspace projects in Scotland. To find out how you can join the fast-growing greenspace network, click [here](#)

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network news

funding boost for Edinburgh greenspace projects

Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) has awarded over £100,000 to the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, to support projects that will improve opportunities for play and adventure throughout Edinburgh. Projects will be carried out in partnership with local communities and the City of Edinburgh Council. Sites to benefit include: Hailes Quarry Park - the creation of a youth shelter, bike track and learning discovery area; Ravelston Park - improvement of old tennis courts to provide a multi-use games area; and Muirwood Park - provision of new equipment for a play area in a small community park.

Central Scotland Forest Trust launches *Positive Planning 2* leaflet

Central Scotland Forest Trust has launched a leaflet setting out how the planning system can support, deliver and enhance the Central Scotland Forest. A number of case studies are included in the leaflet which is aimed at planning officers, elected members and developers. The full report and leaflet can be found on the CSFT [website](#) under Publications. For further details please [email](#)

Tayside work on biodiversity

The first Tayside Biodiversity Festival will be held from 1-10 May, involving over 60 events (see events section below). The festival will also launch the ZOOM In2 project, which will distribute recyclable cameras to people who will take monthly photographs of their favourite places for a year. New publications on orchard management and biodiversity in community gardens are also available for download [here](#)



Aberdeen Greenspace Trust tackles graffiti

Pupils at Northfield Academy in Aberdeen have created a new mural on a vandal-prone wall at the local community swimming pool. Aberdeen Greenspace Trust and the City Council's arts development team supported the pupils in the creation of an urban wildlife scene.

recycling in the garden - or taste from waste!

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust have developed a new flyer with ideas to reduce, reuse and recycle in the garden. Want to find out some ideas for reusing old tyres, teapots and teabags? Download a leaflet [here](#)

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scotland news



town centre funding announced

The Scottish Government has launched a £60 million regeneration fund for town centres, which will be open to any Scottish area identified as a town centre in its local plan. Funding will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects to revive town centres, with an emphasis on partnership working and economic, social and environmental benefit.

[more](#)

review of Architecture and Design Scotland published

The Scottish Government's policy and financial management review of Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS) has concluded that there remains a clear role for a national body promoting good quality design in Scotland. Key recommendations included the need for a simplified governance structure, a reconsideration of the core functions of A+DS, a clearer relationship with

Ministers and other built environment organisations, and a sharper focus on a limited number of key priorities. Sebastian Tombs, Chief Executive of A+DS, responded: *"This review gives A+DS a clear remit to champion the opportunities that planning reform offers to create better buildings and spaces in Scotland. Additionally, we will be targeting skills development to help raise the capabilities of place-makers to create places that the people of Scotland deserve; places that work, which provide real choices and are place where people want to be."* [more](#)

Scottish parks receive Heritage Lottery funding

Four public parks will be transformed after securing £4.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Over £2.63m has been earmarked for Duthie Park in Aberdeen, while MacRosty Park in Crieff was awarded £1.16m and Burngreen Park in Kilsyth was given a grant of £420,300. Finally, £570,000 has been allocated to Cambuslang Park as part of the Fund's Parks for People programme, which aims to revive urban areas that have been neglected or vandalised. For more information [visit](#)

Scottish biodiversity week – events and freebies!

Running between 16 and 24 May, the week aims to stimulate public interest about nature, promote understanding of biodiversity and encourage people to help conserve biodiversity. It will involve a wide range of enjoyable events, and Scottish Natural Heritage are providing free banners, posters and seedpacks for event organisers. For more information, and to publicise an event or request resources click [here](#)

local food grows and grows

The rise of local food initiatives in greenspaces has been highlighted by Third Force News, who showcased projects such as Portobello's first community orchard, the Linlithgow project and the Edinburgh Community Backgreens Association as part of a move towards local food production and consumption. **greenspace scotland** network member John Hancox, chair of the Children's Garden at the Botanic Gardens in Glasgow, has developed a Local Food Scotland Map which can be viewed [here](#)

Scottish sites win Waterways Renaissance Awards

The Waterways Renaissance Awards recognise public open space projects that revitalise areas linked to waterways. The 2009 winners include the Speirs Lock Masterplan Framework in Glasgow, which was recognised for strategy and masterplanning, and the Kirkintilloch Canal Festival, which won an award for recreation and tourism. Animating the Canal in West Dunbartonshire was commended for its work on regeneration and the natural environment.

Scottish Planning Policy – consultation and SEA

The Scottish Government's new consolidated Scottish Planning Policy document is out for consultation until 24 June, and consultation events are planned during May (see Events section below). [more](#)

A Strategic Environmental Assessment of Scottish Planning Policy was published on 1 April and is available at [here](#)

Langholm to get 'Extreme Makeover'

The Langholm Initiative has been chosen to feature in a forthcoming series of "Ty's Great British Adventure", where large-scale community projects are delivered within a week. The makeover project in Langholm will become a five part TV series. During the filming Ty and the team will be looking for community members to pitch in and help to make a significant improvement to benefit Langholm. The Langholm Initiative has been consulting widely with the local community regarding possible improvements to the Kilngreen, a well-loved open space, so have a firm idea about the needs and aspirations of the community. [more](#)

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UK & International news

green infrastructure – the Sustainable South Bronx view

Following the ParkCity conference last month, CABI has published an interview with Majora Carter of Sustainable South Bronx, who speaks about green infrastructure, green jobs and sustainable places. Sustainable South Bronx is a non-profit environmental justice organisation, and you can hear more about their work at the *Great Places, Great Cities* conference in June. Visit [website](#) for this and other interviews from the ParkCity conference.

Cameron calls for new parks and greenspaces

Conservative Party leader David Cameron has outlined new plans for the creation of parks and green spaces in a bid to compensate for the impact of future development on the UK's biodiversity. [more](#)

first survey of affordable housing design

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and CABI have completed a first survey of the design quality of affordable housing in England, which includes consideration of streets, play spaces and recreation areas. It shows that nearly two thirds of schemes were judged to be 'average', while under a fifth were judged either 'good' or 'very good'. The report makes recommendations to improve new social housing, and can be downloaded [here](#)

consultation on spatial planning and health

NICE is consulting on 'Spatial planning for health: local authorities and primary care trusts' until 15 May – click [here](#) for the document. They are also inviting membership applications for the Programme Development Group on spatial planning for health. [more](#)

guidance on sustainable urban drainage systems

CABI has collated some case studies and resources that explore how to coordinate flood management through the use of sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS). CABI suggests that SUDS are of increasing importance to the green infrastructure of neighbourhoods, and that parks can be part of a system to help to reduce flooding within the surrounding areas. [more](#)

designing the 'great British garden'

Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell has launched a nation-wide competition by to design a "great British garden" at the London 2012 Olympic Park. Run in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society, the contest will ask amateur gardeners to submit ideas expressing "the unique qualities of a British domestic garden" for a site within a contemporary parkland. Six finalists will be shortlisted before being put to a public vote in September. The garden will be part of over 100 hectares of open space that will be created in the Olympic Park, which will include 45 hectares of wildlife habitat.

Civic Trust goes into administration

The built environment charity Civic Trust has announced that it has gone into administration due to a lack of funding. The organisation was established in 1957 to help communities make better places in which to live, work and play, and managed the Green Flag Award scheme until February 2009. The Scottish Civic Trust is unaffected by this announcement.

Love Parks Week – website launched

Love Parks Week runs between 25 July and 2 August, featuring events





in parks throughout the UK. The new website is now online, featuring new resources, an improved What's on guide and information about how to get involved in the campaign. Go to [website](#) to start planning and registering your events or to sign up for further updates on the campaign.

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research

making our cities sustainable – new research gateway

A new customised search engine has just been created to open up results from a £38 million UK research programme focused on Sustainable Urban Environments (SUE). Providing research, tools and evidence for practitioners and policy makers on all aspects of urban sustainability, the SUE Search engine is available [here](#)

school travel survey shows value of small investments

Sustrans have published the results of the first ever Scottish national survey into school travel, providing proof that where relatively small amounts of money are invested in promoting sustainable and active travel to school, the number of children travelling by cycle or on foot rises sharply. This has a beneficial effect on local traffic congestion and air pollution, as well as children's health. [more](#)

children not exercising enough

A government survey for the Change4Life campaign has found that three quarters of children do not take part in the recommended hour of daily activity outside school. Commenting on the findings, Tam Fry of the National Obesity Forum said that it was not acceptable to simply expect children to exercise in their local park when in many instances these were run down. [more](#)

under 10% of children play in natural environments

Research by Natural England has found that countryside and woodlands have become out of bounds to children, with fewer than one in ten playing in these places. Favourite places to play have changed over time, with a strong shift towards indoor play. The work indicates that contact with nature has halved in a generation, and that the majority of children now want more opportunities to play outdoors. Click [here](#) for further information.



GoWell reports annual findings

The new GoWell annual progress report provides an overview of activity between April 2008 and March 2009. It includes key findings or recommendations alongside a description of work over the past year. The report includes data which links physical activity with neighbourhood characteristics, neighbourhood audits of greenspace accessibility, a play areas audit. This and other resources can be viewed on the GoWell [website](#)

study on the benefits of community land ownership

A new study of ten Scottish community projects shows that community land ownership provides environmental, economic and social benefits. The study, by Petra Vergunst, concludes that community landlords provide local facilities and through these economic regeneration, a sense of community and empowerment, and ultimately a higher degree of self-determination. Importantly, she notes that these benefits can also be experienced by communities who have developed co-managed or leased assets and common property approaches. [more](#)

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funding

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Offers grants ranging from £1,000 to £30,000 under two overarching themes of rural issues and urban deprivation. Deadlines are ongoing throughout the year. [more](#)

BT Community Connections

Organisations working in any field of community benefit can apply for a laptop and a year's worth of broadband connection. The deadline for applications is 11 June 2009. [more](#)

Climate Challenge Fund

Designed to enable communities to develop their own solutions for reducing carbon emissions, this fund is aimed at the community sector. Carbon reduction must be the focus of every proposal, with communities central to the decision making. The fund is £27.4 million from 2008 until 2011. [more](#)

LloydsTSB Foundation for Scotland

The Foundation are running funding surgeries across Scotland during early May, which will allow registered charities to discuss potential projects, discuss funding needs and receive tips and advice on applications. More information [here](#)

People's Millions

People's Millions is open for applications until May 15th and will provide grants of up to £50,000 for 14 projects in Scotland. The themes are providing opportunities for people to enjoy their local area (indoors and outside) and improving local facilities for everyone to enjoy. Final award decisions will be put to a public vote on ITV. Further information and an application pack can be downloaded [here](#)

Awards for All

Awards for All was re-launched on April 1st with a new application pack and process. The grants of between £500 and £10,000 are for projects which improve opportunities for people to take part in the arts, sport and community activities. Further information [here](#)

Strategic planning and skills development service

Pilotlight Scotland is offering a free strategic planning and skills development service for small charities and social enterprises. The scheme works by matching the charity or social enterprise with members of the business community to provide a transfer of skills and experience. Further details and case studies [here](#)

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jobs

Growing Communities Fieldworkers Ongoing Freelance work

£125 per day, based on a 7.5-hour day (pay review pending)

'Growing Communities In Scotland' is a new Big Lottery funded partnership between Trellis, Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and the Allotments Regeneration Initiative. They are looking to recruit a team of freelance fieldworkers who will work under the Partnership's Fieldwork Co-ordinator to provide advice and support to community and therapeutic gardening projects across Scotland and to help organise regional gatherings and training events. They aim to recruit four to specialise in supporting community gardens and farms and two to specialise in therapeutic horticulture. Priority will be given to people who are based on or working with a FCFCG member or Trellis network project.

Download the job pack [here](#) or contact Vicki Ferguson [email](#) | 01738 624348. The closing date for applications is 12pm Friday 8 May.

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events and training

1-10 May - first Tayside biodiversity festival

Nearly 60 events right across the region. The Festival Programme can be downloaded [here](#)

7 May – preparing hospital site biodiversity plans

At Ninewells Hospital Dundee, this event for NHS Scotland staff includes presentations on preparing Site Biodiversity Action Plans and a site walk. For further details 0141 332 0703 | [email](#)

4-8 May - public participation professional training

A comprehensive, internationally recognised skills development programme sponsored by Hilton Associates. The programme material represents over 15 years of research, development and experience by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). [more](#)

9 May – earth and water: the essentials

Sustainable garden design masterclass at SAC in Edinburgh, organised by the Society of Garden Designers. [more](#)

single SPP consultation events

A series of consultation events are being held in May which anyone interested in national planning policy can attend. The events are in Glasgow (7 May), Aberdeen (13 May), Inverness (14 May) and Edinburgh (20 May). More information on the events is available on the [website](#)

9 May – environmental games for youth workers

Find out about a range of environmental activities to do with young people in an outdoor setting at the event at Vogrie Country Park, Gorebridge, Midlothian. Contact The Green Team on [email](#) | 0131 558 9571 for more information

13 May - active travel national conference

The second Active Travel National Conference will be held in Perth Concert Hall under the title of Walking, Cycling, Connecting Communities. [more](#)

14 May - managing parks and greenspaces for people and wildlife

An introductory course for contract managers, supervisors, landscape contractors and direct labour workforces with an interest in gaining ecological knowledge. Contact Tracey Miller. [email](#) | 0131 311 6500

16 - 24 May Scottish biodiversity week

A chance for everyone to get out in their local greenspace, woodlands, fields and hillsides and enjoy Scotland's natural heritage. The Biodiversity Implementation Team, (bit@snh.gov.uk) is co-ordinating publicity and promotional materials for Scottish Biodiversity Week. [more](#)

20 May - regeneration: sustaining development through the recession

The conference will bring together expert advisors and practitioners in the field of regeneration, to discuss and facilitate meaningful debate on the issues facing regeneration projects in Scotland in the current climate. [more](#)

28 May – third annual GoWell event, Glasgow

This morning event will present new findings from the community health and wellbeing study conducted in 2008, along with a general update and workshops for community members, housing, health and regeneration practitioners and policy-makers. [more](#)

4, 5 & 6 June – Great Places, Great Cities international conference

For more information and to book click [here](#)

13–14 June – course in sustainable house design & construction

The course, at Falkland Centre for Stewardship in Fife, will be presented by international Eco-Architect Peter Cowman, Director of Living Architecture Centre. [email](#) | 07974 950 836 / 020 3287 2949

17 June – Scotland's housing: the right responses in a recession

One day Holyrood Events Conference at the Royal Society of Edinburgh, including a session on social housing, communities and cohesion. More information [here](#)

23 June - planning and access – working together for community benefit

Scottish Natural Heritage 'Sharing Good Practice' event at Battleby. SNH Sharing Good Practice programme of events for 2009 - 2010 is now available on the SNH [website](#)

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www.greenspacescotland.org.uk

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