

# Birmingham Open Spaces

Autumn 2007

## Weblinks

### BOSF

[www.bosforg.uk](http://www.bosforg.uk)

### Open Spaces Toolkits

[www.wildlifetrusts.org/  
urban-greenspace](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/urban-greenspace)

[www.cabe.org.uk/  
default.aspx?  
ontentitemid=1718](http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?ontentitemid=1718)

### Community RePaint

[www.communityrepaint.  
org.uk](http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk)

### Funding Database

[www.green-  
space.org.uk/community/  
fund\\_search.php](http://www.green-space.org.uk/community/fund_search.php)

## New BOSF Funding for Groups

This year BOSF are working with Birmingham Environmental Partnership and Birmingham Trees for Life to create 3 **new** funding pots for Open Spaces user groups.

### BEP Events & Activities Fund

This fund is open to all BOSF members and offers up to £1,000 to enable your group to put on more events and activities in your open space.

The money is being targeted at new events and activities that promote the use of your space during the traditionally quieter months of autumn and winter.

### BEP New Groups Fund

This is a new small grant of up to £200 to help new friends groups get started. This money can be used for things like publicity, hire of meeting

rooms, questionnaires to find out the priorities of a community. If you know of an open space that needs a group or some people that want to get a group started please pass the information about this fund on to them.

### BTFL Tree Planting Fund

The first round of this fund has already identified £14k of BOSF member group projects to support. The second round has a similar amount in the pot.

They want to receive bids from BOSF groups with tree planting plans. This fund is limited to open spaces that are part of BCC's Leisure, Sport & Culture Department.

Application forms and more information about these funds are in this mailing.

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## BOSF Autumn Conference

### Using Open Spaces to Promote Health Monday 17th December 2007

This year for our Autumn Conference we are looking at ways to use your open spaces to make a wider impact on Birmingham and its communities. Using open spaces to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of Birmingham is a priority for many organisations.

The conference will be an opportunity for:-

- User groups and parks professionals to meet with providers and commissioners of health services in your area
- Sharing examples of best practice and ideas for projects
- Identifying health and well-being funding and development opportunities for your open space.

Attendance is free, but, as ever, places are limited. Please use the booking form in this mailing to secure a place.

## Two New Guides for Open Space Groups

**Connecting communities, neighbourhoods and nature**, produced by The Wildlife Trusts, is a practical toolkit to support people working on, or interested in, developing environmental / nature based projects. The Toolkit covers good practice that can be applied to a wide range of community involvement environmental projects and includes examples from gardening schemes, allotment and healthy eating projects to wild-flower meadows in housing renewal areas and street scene greening initiatives.

The Toolkit is designed to work in conjunction with the 'Urban Greenspace Support Pack: Working with groups' which was published earlier this year. Both publications use a mixture of key facts, case studies and best practice, but also suggest a number of practical activities that can be adapted to suit the needs of different groups or organisations.

Copies of the Toolkit and Support Pack are available, whilst stocks last, either in hard copy or as

PDF files on a memory stick from the Urban Greenspace Team on 01772 317 246. You can also download both documents from the Urban Greenspace website at [www.wildlifetrusts.org/urban-greenspace](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/urban-greenspace)

**It's Our Space: a guide for community groups working to improve public space**  
This guide, produced by CABE, is to help anyone involved in a public space project for the first time. It gives examples of great outdoor spaces led by community groups and highlights lessons from their experiences.

It is neither a substitute for the need to employ an experienced design professional; nor does it provide a comprehensive guide to involving and consulting people. It seeks to inspire people to demand better places and in doing so challenges users of this guide to think carefully about leaving a legacy of excellence in the projects that emerge. To find out more visit [www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?ontentitemid=1718](http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?ontentitemid=1718)

## Opportunity for Help on Environmental Projects

Do you have a task that a team of volunteers could deliver for you? If yes contact CSV.

Local companies approach CSV (Community Service Volunteers) looking to dedicate one day to a job within a community setting. You can be as creative as you want with tasks for the volunteers.

Community Team Challenges can include mainte-

nance work, gardening, painting, cutting and clearing spaces, fencing, installing tree-guards and benches, bulb and tree planting, path work and much more.

Many companies will participate in these activities as part of their overall 'corporate social responsibility' policy. If you would like to register a project please contact: Megan Murray CSV Employee Volunteering on 01858 469887.

## Community RePaint

In 2006, 400 million litres of paint (retail and trade) were sold in the UK. Of this, it is estimated that approximately 80 million litres are unused, stored in homes or garages or just thrown away. That's enough paint to fill 33 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

Community RePaint provides a solution to this problem by providing an outlet for unwanted reusable paint while helping local communities and

individuals. If your project needs some paint to add new sparkle Community RePaint have a new website that includes a post code search locator to help you find where you can get paint for a community or charitable redecoration project and where you can donate paint left over from doing the front room.

To find out more check out their website <http://www.communityrepaint.org.uk/>.

# Funding your project just got easier

As well as our own Birmingham External Funding Support Unit GreenSpace has created a searchable database with information on available funding for parks and environmental projects.

The Funding Database along with the existing publication, 'Claiming Your Share', is now available online and enables users to quickly find relevant and available funding streams. Funding opportunities are constantly changing and many funds do not raise awareness outside of their locality. It is hoped that the database will provide a more interactive and responsive service that can

be updated quickly.

To try the database go to [www.green-space.org.uk/community/fund\\_search.php](http://www.green-space.org.uk/community/fund_search.php) For more information, to provide feedback or to recommend available funding, please email [davidh@green-space.org.uk](mailto:davidh@green-space.org.uk) or call David Hewitt, Fundraising Officer on 0118 946 9060.

To contact the Birmingham service go to their webpage by typing "BCC External Funding Support" into the search box on the Birmingham City Council website - [www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk). - Or ring **303 0010**

## Japanese Knotweed

How prevalent is the dreaded Japanese Knotweed amongst BOSF members ?

We have several areas that are rapidly spreading on Billesley Common and members of The Valley Riverside Project are very concerned that the City Council is still not making a commitment to control it..

I know that trials have taken place and methods of treating the weed have been documented. Can BOSF Members help us to encourage the City Council to act soon?

Is it possible for volunteers to undertake training so that we can understand how it spreads and also to support the process of treating it with herbicide?

The longer the weed is left to spread the more costly it will be deal with.

Any help or support would be welcomed thanks. Contact BOSF if you have any ideas & we'll pass them on to member groups.

*Pat Rowland, Secretary, Valley Riverside Project*

## Great Parks, Great People – Conference for Community Groups

GreenSpace are holding a **free** conference in **Birmingham** on **20 October** at Austin Court about the role of communities in open spaces. They've even asked BOSF to make a presentation!

The conference will focus on key issues affecting community groups across the UK and help groups to meet the challenges. The aims of the conference are:

- To consider examples of inclusive community representation.
- To learn about projects working with young people as positive contributors
- To look at examples where groups have be-

come involved in strategic management of their parks

- To discover what the "Strong and Prosperous Communities" White Paper means for community groups

### Who should attend

Volunteer members of community groups involved in green spaces. To find out more visit <http://www.green-space.org.uk/conference/greatparksgreatpeople.php>

To book, please contact Oonagh Kelleher on 0118 946 9060 or email [oonaghk@green-space.org.uk](mailto:oonaghk@green-space.org.uk).

# Funding Opportunities

**UnLtd Sport Relief Awards** provide opportunities for young people to bring communities together, to help them promote understanding and solve conflict through sport and being active.

Funding of £250-£5,000 is available for entrepreneurial young people (11-21) who have great ideas and who want to make a difference. For example, with this money you could engage young people from different backgrounds by organising an indoor cricket mini-world cup. Or perhaps you could help reduce violence in your area by getting young people to channel their energies into football rather than fighting. Or how about organising a skateboarding competition for kids that will reduce tensions in the local area. ...all it takes is one great idea. So what are you waiting for? This could be your chance to get your community moving and score some skills on the way!

For more information call 0845 3670 770. Application forms and guidance are available at [www.unltd.org.uk/sportreliefawards](http://www.unltd.org.uk/sportreliefawards)

**COMIC RELIEF: SMALL SCALE REGENERATION PROJECTS** provide local community groups & community enterprises that address social and economic deprivation within specific geographic areas grants of **up to £5,000**. The focus of the programme is on small scale local projects which were started by local residents who came together to try to make their community better. Applications can be made at any time More information is available here: <http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/uk/application/dc-preview.php> Or call 020 7820 5555

**O<sub>2</sub> It's Your Community** is a new award scheme to enable people to make a difference in their local environments.

The scheme offers awards of up to £1000. Awards should be for the benefit of the community, or to build community spirit.

To find out more visit <http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/ActLocalAwards.php>

**GREENPRINTS FLAGSHIPS** is a volunteering programme which offers funding and practical support for greenspace improvement projects carried out by **young people aged 16-25**

This exciting new programme has been developed using the experience and expertise of national organisations.

- SITA Trust and v will provide funding over a two-year period for green space improvement projects designed, implemented and evaluated by 16-25 year old volunteers
- BTCV and the regional Wildlife Trusts will support the practical delivery of the projects by providing mentor-support for volunteers

GreenPrints Flagships provide grants of **up to £10,000** and practical mentor support for longer-term projects designed, implemented and evaluated by 16-25 year old volunteers. Projects can last for up to 6 months and should focus on **improving a community greenspaces** for the local community and wildlife.

More information is available from The SITA Trust, (01454) 262910 or [www.sitatrust.co.uk](http://www.sitatrust.co.uk)



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