

# Growing Success

## A new plan for Greenwood

*A great deal has changed since Greenwood's first tree was planted in 1991. The local landscape has been transformed as former coal sites and derelict land has been planted with trees. Ponds and meadows have been created along with footpaths, bridle paths and cycle ways. Most positively, more and more people have got involved in improving, using and celebrating the Greenwood Community Forest.*

The Greenwood Partnership, made up of local authorities and other key organisations, has driven this forward. The Partnership has been responsible for working with local people to consider the needs of the area and putting new projects in place to meet those needs.



*Local people caring for green space.*



*New leisure opportunities.*

Over the last year, the Greenwood Partnership has been reviewing its successes and looking at plans for the future. A new Strategic Plan will be published later this year, to redefine Greenwood's purpose and main aims for the years ahead. Turn to page 4 to take a look at what's already been achieved and our plans for the future.

## Check out our new website



*There's a new look to the Greenwood website.*

New features have been introduced including interactive maps of places to visit, educational resources and an events page. There's lots of information about how you can volunteer, help to plant trees or look after your local green space. Visit us at **[www.greenwoodforest.org.uk](http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk)** and tell us what you think.



# Greenwood's salute to volunteers

*This year's Greenwood Community Awards ceremony, held at Bestwood Country Park, was another runaway success. A record number of nominations were received and awards were presented in 12 categories by Councillor Wendy Golland, Gedling Borough Council, Vice Chair of the Greenwood Partnership Board.*

*Practical task winners Bestwood Volunteers*

*Friends of Kings Mill Reservoir with Jack Norman centre back - young volunteer winner*



*Award winner Michael Straw with Ashfield Rangers*



*All our Greenwood award winners*

Over 160 volunteers enjoyed a delicious barbecue before Colin Barson, Chair of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum, gave a presentation about achievements by the Friends groups over the last year. Talking about the volunteers, he said: "Thank you all for nominating those who put in that bit extra; and for turning out in rain, sun and snow to help improve the environment for the benefit of the local community and the Greenwood as a whole. I hope you realise just how important you are, and I congratulate each and every one of you."

## **Volunteer Team**

Friends of Quarry Lane

## **Long Serving Volunteer**

Kath Parkes Friends of Boughton Brake

## **Non Environmental Volunteer**

Sylvia Sadler, Golden Amblers

## **School Involvement**

King Edward Primary School, Mansfield

## **School Involvement**

Sutton Road School, Mansfield

## **School Involvement**

Garibaldi School, Forest Town

## **School Involvement**

Ashfield School, Kirkby-in-Ashfield

## **Senior Volunteer**

Michael Straw, Friends of Brierley Forest Park

## **Senior Volunteer Team**

Alan & Barbara Eames,  
Friends of Peafield Park & Hornby Plantation

## **Practical Task Team**

Bestwood Volunteers

## **Practical Task Team**

Rufford Conservation Volunteers

## **Young Team Effort**

Moor Lane Youth Project

## **Team Showing Endeavour**

Royal Mencap Society

## **Young Volunteer**

Jason Field, Friends of Vicar Water

## **Young Volunteer**

Jack Norman, Friends of Kings Mill Reservoir

## **Volunteer Showing Endeavour**

Glen Hanson, Bestwood Volunteers

## **Young Volunteer**

David Stoneley, Friends of Quarry Lane

## **Young Team**

Dale Smith & Wayne Marriot, Oak Tree SAFE

# Girl Power wins the day

Four young girls, all aged between 13 and 19 years old, have proved that they can organise a successful community event for local residents. Mayfield Summer Slam took place on a green space next to Mayfield Street, a row of terraced houses fairly isolated from the rest of Kirkby in Ashfield. The Greenwood Team, together with partners Notts County Council provided essential support and encouragement.



## Mayfield Summer Slam gets underway

The park has suffered from vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the past and the girls got together to improve the environment and show others that, with a bit of help, their local park could have a real community focus.

Notts County Council Youth worker Dave Wilby said: "The children living on the street have few options for recreation and there is very little for them to get involved in. I think it's fantastic what these girls have achieved and they really pulled out all the stops on the day."

Emma Gray, 14, one of the young organisers said: "The day was fantastic, we had a really great time and everyone really

enjoyed it. All the Mums came out and had a good natter, and there was no fighting or falling out between the kids. It's what this street really needs."

Following the event, residents agreed to get together to form a committee to help make Mayfield Summer Slam an annual event.



Cameron enjoys the Hungry Caterpillar

# THE BIG DRAW



The Campaign for Drawing  
[www.campaignfordrawing.org](http://www.campaignfordrawing.org)

## Bringing the Outside In

It's the tenth anniversary of The Campaign for Drawing's THE BIG DRAW and the rangers at Bestwood Country Park want you to get your creative juices flowing and draw whatever takes your fancy in the park and add your artwork to the BIG display indoors.

Whatever your age or ability, drawing is a great way to express yourself and great fun too! Just turn up at the environmental education centre next to Alexandra Lodge anytime between 10am and 3pm from Thursday October 29th to Sunday November 1st and get stuck in! For further information call 0115 927 3674. Schools please note you can also get involved by contacting Jackie Adams on 0115 975 3782.

# A New Plan For Greenwood

**In total**  
To date, Greenwood's partners have:  
Planted over 1,300 hectares of new woodland  
Brought 890 hectares of woodland into management  
Created or managed another 1,259 hectares of other habitats such as ponds and meadows.

## Looking back: a brief history

1990 ▶ 1991 ▶ 1992 ▶ 1993 ▶ 1994 ▶ 1995 ▶ 1996 ▶ 1997 ▶ 1998 ▶ 1999 ▶ 2000 ▶ 2001 ▶ 2002 ▶ 2003 ▶ 2004 ▶ 2005 ▶ 2006 ▶ 2007 ▶ 2008 ▶ 2009

### 1990-1994

- The Greenwood Partnership is established.
- The first tree is planted at Dob Park in November 1991.



### 1995-1999

- Our first million trees are planted.
- Greenwood charcoal project demonstrates how high quality charcoal can be produced from local woodlands.
- Local schoolchildren benefit from launch of Bestwood Environmental Education project.
- Sponsorship secured by England's Community Forests helps to create Mansfield's Timberland Trail, an 8-km walking and cycling route linking Mansfield to many countryside sites.



### 2000-2004

- All local MPs celebrate the new millennium by taking part in tree planting events at Blidworth Tip, Farnsfield and Vicar Water Country Park.
- Inaugural meeting of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum.
- Greenwood produces its award-winning "Break Free" walking packs.



### 2005-Present

- The Greenwood Community Woodland Handbook is launched to guide communities in carrying out projects to enhance the local environment.
- Greenwood's "Park Life" involves nearly 13,000 participants in 162 innovative events to improve health by encouraging physical activity at seven country park sites.
- "Lesson in a Box" provides teachers with a resource pack of educational materials for new outdoor classrooms.
- The Nottinghamshire Landscape Challenge Scheme is piloted to encourage private landowners to plant new woodlands.



## Looking forward: our new strategy

The new strategy will build on Greenwood's achievements and concentrate on what we do best. Our overall aim is expressed in a new mission statement that stresses the importance of involving people and creating a mosaic of habitats:

The mission is supported by an agreed set of principles, which give an indication of the Partnership's values and ways in which we will work. These include the intention to work innovatively, and to encourage participation and enjoyment by all parts of society.

*To work in partnership to enable Nottinghamshire's communities to create, care for and to use woodlands and other high quality accessible green spaces in a sustainable way that benefits the environment, landscape and the local economy.*

### We will do this by:

- Developing a strategic approach to "green infrastructure" so that provision of green spaces offers the best range of public benefits
- Creating new woodlands and other natural habitats to regenerate the landscape
- Giving our partners help to manage and promote their local green spaces to make them even better.
- Encouraging access for all, making it possible for everyone to take part in activities and enjoy the countryside.

- Recognising the value of volunteers and community groups.
- Helping more people to use green space to benefit their health.
- Finding new ways of making woodland products more profitable, to help the local economy and help manage woodlands better.
- Helping our schools and towns to adjust as our climate changes

*For further information about the strategy, contact Malcolm Hackett, Project Manager on 01623 827328.*

# Simon's

## access to the environment

*Simon Taylor recently joined the Greenwood team as a work placement student, keen to change careers for one in the great outdoors. He hopes that skills and experience gained from working with the Greenwood Team will help when he comes to look for employment in the environment sector.*

### Keeping green spaces accessible

Within the UK, nearly 20% of the population has some form of disability. If you include less able people such as those with temporary disabilities, elderly people and pregnant women, this rises to 42% of the population.

Access Audits are conducted by asking a number of simple questions:

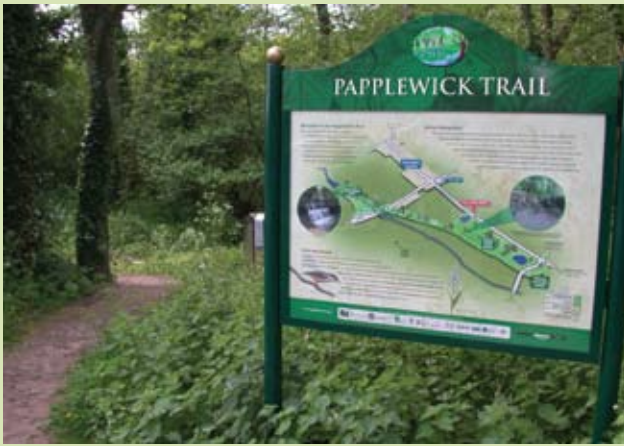
- Do I know about it? Is there suitable information about the site? Are people aware of what the site has to offer?
- Do I want to go there? How is the site perceived? Is it attractive? Would I want to travel far to get there?
- Can I get there? Where is the site located? Is there suitable public transport?
- Can I get around when I am there? Is the site well designed and barrier free?
- Does this site have significance to me and do I understand what is here? Is there a good quality explanation of why the site is special? Is it in a range of different formats?
- Would I come again or recommend to friends? Was it a good quality experience?

Simon, explains: "After twenty-five years in the motor trade, I decided it was time for a change. Our children had become less dependant and we started to think about the future. The main driver for my wife and I was that we had both spent too long in the same jobs and fortunately for us we were both allowed to take time off work to study."

However, as a mature student, taking the leap back into learning was a hard one to make. Simon goes on: "I had been out of education for a number of years, so it was a bit daunting, but now I have completed the National Award in countryside management for woodlands at Brackenhurst, part of Nottingham Trent University."



*Simon auditing access to green space*



### *Moor Pond Wood - part of the pilot project*

Simon's main role at Greenwood has been to undertake access audits on parks and green spaces as part of a pilot project. Sites included Rookery Park in Huthwaite, Mill Dam and Moor Pond Wood at Papplewick and Bestwood Country Park near Bestwood Village.

Each audit identified any problems with information relating to visiting a site, as well as the accessibility of the site itself. Once completed, a report was presented to the land manager. As well as showing the type and location of specific issues, the report also identified opportunities for improving information and accessibility.

Nic Wort, Greenwood's project officer has been mentoring Simon, he said: "Simon settled in very quickly and was soon regarded as one of the team. Following his initial access audit training, he soon got to grips with the audit process and has provided partners with some really useful data about both physical access and information available for a number of sites.

This is starting to translate into improvements on the ground and has led to a second phase of the project which is focussing on the re-surveying of Break Free routes. The aim is to develop a funding bid to include improved promotion and publicity and physical access improvements to a number of sites within Greenwood."

Reluctantly, Simon has had to reduce his work hours with Greenwood, due to college commitments. However, the skills and experience gained through his placement have been passed on as Simon has helped train Greenwood's latest work placement, Kieran Scott. Kieran started in June and will be helping to deliver the second phase of the project.

# Trees for Shade

The focus for the Greenwood Tree Planting Grant scheme is changing this year as we will be addressing the need for Trees for Shade. The Trees for Shade project will have two main elements.

- **General tree planting** around playgrounds and school playing fields. The benefits include filtering UV light, reducing temperatures and providing safe, cool areas for play and outdoor study.
- **Targeted Planting** close to buildings, which will help reduce summertime temperatures in classrooms and around school buildings. This will provide a more comfortable working environment and reduce the need for energy hungry air conditioners.

The Trees for Shade project is an important step forward in adapting to climate change as scientists predict that by 2080, the average temperature will be 4° C higher, which will make us feel pretty uncomfortable as well as affecting our health.

Trees can help by providing shade and have a cooling effect through transpiration [which is water evaporating from tree leaves and other vegetation). Studies show that a 10% increase in tree cover can reduce temperatures in urban areas by 4° C.

So if you are keen to get involved, contact Nic Wort on **01623 827328** or visit our website **[www.greenwoodforest.org.uk](http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk)**



*A shady place to picnic*

# Worm's eye view of Vicar Water

Over the age of fourteen, you don't get many opportunities to go down to the bottom of the garden to count worms. The Friends of Greenwood Community Forum got to do just that when members were involved in worm survey training provided by Greenwood's project officer, Nic Wort. The aim of the training was to encourage the groups to carry out their own soil and worm surveys and report back to the OPAL project team who are carrying out environmental surveys throughout the country.

Over the next few years OPAL (Open Air Laboratories) will be running five surveys across England to learn more about our environment, and they would like everyone to get involved. Visit [www.opalexplornature.org](http://www.opalexplornature.org) to find out more.



*David Falkner is delighted with his find*

green pennant  award

## Friends of Bramcote Ridge Gain Green Pennant

Congratulations to the Friends of Bramcote Ridge who recently received a prestigious Green Pennant Award, for one of the best community-run open spaces in the East Midlands.

Norman Clyde-Watson, Chair of the Friends of Bramcote Ridge commented: "We are particularly pleased, as we have all been working hard together for a long time to improve the site. This year is the tenth anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Bramcote Ridge, giving cause for a double celebration".

Broxtowe Borough Council owns and manages Alexandrina Plantation and Sandy Lane Open Space which together form Bramcote Ridge.

### Next Issue.....

Issue 21 of "Growing Success" will be available in Spring 2010.

Growing Success is available in other formats and languages.

### The Greenwood Community Forest Team:

**Project Manager:**  
Malcolm Hackett

**Community Liaison Officer:**  
Gill Grievson

**Project Officer:**  
Nic Wort

**Shadow Ranger:**  
Keiran Scott

**Administration Events and Promotions:**  
Janet Valenti

**Administration:**  
Lynn Sergant

**Contact the Team at:**  
The Saw Mill, Rufford Abbey  
Country Park, Ollerton  
Nottinghamshire NG22 9DG

**Tel:** 01623 827 322

**Fax:** 01623 827321

**Email:** [greenwood@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:greenwood@nottscc.gov.uk)  
[www.greenwoodforest.org.uk](http://www.greenwoodforest.org.uk)



*Nottinghamshire's Community Forest bringing Sherwood Forest to your doorstep*

A partnership initiative of Nottinghamshire County Council, Ashfield District Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council, Mansfield District Council, Newark & Sherwood District Council, The Forestry Commission and Natural England.