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Growth in Hertfordshire: Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities

FUTURE: Adam Wood and Jon Tiley illustrate the issues of housing and economic growth in Hertfordshire

CONNECT: Dave Wells recognises the potential of GHP in dealing with growth issues

PROJECT: Funding news and works start at Stevenage's Town Centre Gardens

PROJECT: Bright Sparks exciting research on perception of rural and urban environments.

LATEST

Members of the LANS team were invited to attend the fifth annual **Interdependence Day Forum** on "Migration, Human Dignity and Interdependence", Mexico City, 10-12 September 2007. This is an international conference set up by CivWorld and political theorist Dr Benjamin Barber to discuss the process and implementation of democracy in the wake of the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Tony Beckwith was invited to talk about GHP, our work methodology including Perception Area, and Gunpowder Park's new project, The Art of Common Space. The conference was attended by over 60 international participants. The presentation was well received and the Green Heart Partnership newsletter was given out to interested delegates.

South Oxhey Library

Hertfordshire County Council has been awarded £1.4 million by the Big Lottery to fund a comprehensive redevelopment of its Library in South Oxhey. GHP have been asked to assist with community engagement for the project.

Heritage Lottery Fund award for Stevenage Town Centre Gardens Improvements



Stevenage Town Centre Gardens Consultation Workshop.
Photo: Tania Coates©

NALGAO (National Association of Local Government Arts Officers) "Growing Arts & Communities", Cambridge, 5-7 September 07. Tony Beckwith and Dave Wells gave two presentations on the successes and working methodology of GHP and the use of the CONNECT model. These were very well received, interest ranging from ADOs, Arts Council and members, and GHP have since been invited to present to Local Authorities in Norfolk. The Conference was a partnership event between NALGAO, Arts Council England, EUCLID, Arts Professional, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and other local authorities in the eastern region. It explored how local authority arts services are one of the major contributors to the wide spectrum of arts practice, delivering on both local and central government's core objectives.

Watford Bushey Arches

improvements scheme designed by artist Tony Stallard has received the go-ahead after funding was approved from both Watford Borough Council and Hertfordshire Highways.

CIWEM (Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management) fifth Annual Conference "The Global Environment 2007 Global Challenges, Global Solutions" 9-11 October, London. Tony Beckwith gave a presentation entitled "The Landscape of Change", focusing on how repositioning and managing artists and creative practitioners as makers of change is generating a positive and dramatic impact on the quality of life and the sustainable future of our environment and communities.

The Town Centre Gardens Masterplanning document

produced by GHP and HTA Landscape Design was '**Commended**' at the **Landscape Institute Awards** this week. The award was in the Marketing & Communications category at the prestigious awards ceremony which honours the best in landscape design.

Stevenage Borough Council:

Pocket Park Project – negotiations with principal contractor Amey Lafarge are ongoing and work will start early next year.



Emma Smith (left) and Sadie Stowell (right). Photo: Gary Mantline ©



Drawing from children consultation. Emma Smith and Sadie Stowell ©

Emma Smith & Sadie Stowell SubRural

Green Heart Partnership has sponsored one of Gunpowder Park's Bright Sparks research and development awards, that may inform GHP's involvement in Hertfordshire's sustainable future landscape design

Completed September 2007

What is the essence of a rural landscape? How do rural landscapes evoke emotions which are different from urban environments? Artist Emma Smith and landscape architect Sadie Stowell have begun an ongoing creative investigation into how the rural landscape is perceived and how these perceptions can be reproduced or simulated within inner city environments.

Approaching their research from an artistic rather than scientific point of view, their project aimed to provide a new creative direction in urban landscape design and art by identifying the elements of the natural landscape that are of positive emotive benefit, such as smell, colour, light, and sound and how they might use these 'trigger factors' to evoke the same response within an urban setting. Over a year Emma and Sadie conducted workshops with both children and adults in the urban context of the London Borough of Lambeth, and the distinctly rural context of Hertfordshire and they consulted with behavioural science professionals to conclude what mental triggers and associations can specifically evoke an essence of 'the rural' and as such evoke well being.

Their extensive research has been published on a new website, www.subrural.co.uk, which charts the progression of their collaborative research process, presenting statistics collected from their workshops. The site also includes information on: environmental arts practices, environmental psychology, urban design, the history of artist and landscape architect collaborations, well being, and information on sites in inner London which still communicate a sense wilderness of nature.

Emma Smith is a visual artist based in London, who is currently working on a one year collaborative commission and residency at the Whitechapel Gallery. She has completed over 13 residencies within schools, and runs regular workshops with a variety of community groups including those for Mental Health, Vulnerable Women and the Elderly, as well as working on several gallery education programmes throughout London. Sadie Stowell is a qualified landscape architect who combines her previous training in Fine Art which explored colour, texture, natural form and shape with her creative three-dimensional approach to landscape design.

Emma and Sadie's workshops took place at the following schools: Paxton Primary School, Lambeth, London, Norwood Secondary, Lambeth, London, Ashwell Primary School, Hertfordshire, Hexton Primary School, Hertfordshire. Partners and supporters included Catherine Davis, County Arts Development Officer, Hertfordshire County Council, Professor Adrian Renton & Faye Eaton Adams, Institute For Health And Human Development, University of East London, Janet Pell, Marketing and Development Manager, Landlife Liverpool, Liz O'Brien, Social and Economic Research Group, Forest Research, Judith Hanna, Principle Specialist Social Science, Natural England and Amanda Outen, Project Officer, Green Space.



Drawing from children consultation. Emma Smith and Sadie Stowell ©