

HORTICULTURAL OFFICERS' UPDATE FROM BRISTOL



Dear Horticultural Officers

For those that have attended the Horticultural Officers' Conferences on previous occasions you will appreciate, I am sure, the value to networking and communications, which forms part of the reasoning behind this update. Our aim, for the next few months anyway, is to keep you informed of developments, events and discussions. If you feel this would be appropriate to colleagues please can you ensure it is disseminated?

A number of attendees (and even one that didn't attend!) have contacted us about the value of a mailing list; however, since we have not received a consensus on this we have issued this email with all known contacts Blind Carbon Copied (BCC). Please note that if you respond to this email by 'REPLY TO ALL' then your personal contact address will be revealed.

With this in mind; and if you have any news or information which you feel is of interest to the whole group, we are happy to disseminating this, on your behalf for the remainder of 2014 when we hand over this information to Giles at the University of Reading.

Horticultural Officers' Conference Bristol 8-11 April 2014

External Estates, at the University of Bristol, hosted the Horticultural Officers' Conference for April 2014 in a number of venues in and around Bristol. A full programme included tours, visits, demonstrations and presentations. Twenty nine attendees came from twenty five different Universities and included a number of new members to the group. Sponsorship and demonstrations were given by Ransomes Jacobsen with presentations by Coblands nursery, Rock Pipit (Value Management), Mike Oxford (Ecological Consultant) and Bristol Zoo on Wild Place (conservation project). Tours included the University main campus, its sports facilities at Coombe Dingle, several of its historic gardens (including Humphrey Repton landscapes) and the University of Bristol Botanic Garden at Stoke Bishop. Visits were arranged at Bath Spa University at Newton Park campus (with grounds designed by 'Capability' Brown); and Tyntesfield, a spectacular Victorian Gothic Revival house with gardens and parkland owned by the National Trust. A visit to Bristol Zoo's conservation project 'Wild Place' was also included.

Many of you who attended the Bristol Conference enquired about Green Walls. We are pleased to attach planning notes for your information.

Over 45% of the Universities that attended provided feedback (thank you) on the conference. Views have been very favourable and any lessons that we have learned, as well as suggestions for improvements or topics for inclusion, will be passed onto Giles at Reading.



European Green Capital!

Recently, Bristol won the European Green Capital Award for 2015; and has been declared the best city to live in according to Money Super Market; which compared 12 of the biggest cities on a series of criteria. The list included the cost of living, housing, employment rates and life satisfaction.

Raising the Standard Green Flag Award Seminar: 12:30pm on Tuesday 12 August to 1:00pm on Thursday 14 August 2014

NEWS!

They are offering a special discount for members of the University Horticultural Officers Group!

For the first time ever the Green Flag Award scheme is hosting a seminar just for universities and colleges across the UK to help them raise the Standard of their green spaces.

Alan Stealey Head of External Estates will be giving a short presentation about the Horticultural Officers Group on your behalf! Full information has been sent as an attachment to this email.

This three day seminar is an opportunity to hear about how the Green Flag Award scheme can help you develop and maintain beautiful green spaces around your campus. Not only that but give you the chance to speak to other Green Flag winning sites on how they have achieved the international standard and share best practice. You will be able to hear from experts in the sector, see practical presentations from industry suppliers and walk through the Green Flag criteria with judges, to help you quickly identify the areas of improvement on your own campus.

Raising the Standard - Green Flag Award Seminar

**Edge Hill University
St Helens Road, Ormskirk, L39 4QP**



The Horticultural Officers' Group has developed a **website**. Tom Vasey from Newcastle University has created the site with further developments planned. A designated surplus from the Conference will be put towards this work.

<http://www.universityhorticultural.co.uk/index.php>

Horticultural Officers' Conference 2015

Reading University will be hosting the next University Horticultural Officers' Conference (UHOC) in September 2015 and will be making contact with horticultural officers' in due course. I am sure that Giles Reynolds is actively making preparations for a great conference! A number of Universities have tentatively offered to host conferences in forthcoming years, and this is much appreciated.



TO NOTE:

Retirement: We also say a fond farewell to **John Downing from Keele University**. By way of appreciation - and with the approval of the Group - a gift was sent to John, in recognition of his support and contributions made to the Group since its first meeting and his attendance at the conferences. We wish him a long and happy retirement and we understand that he has contacted a number of you to express his thanks.