

Groundwork News

Changing places, changing lives

Gosport & SE Hampshire edition October 2010



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Groundwork Solent



Gardening with Gusto!

Dawn Tracey, Gosport Area Inclusion Worker, thought the Youthy garden was looking a bit drab and needed a bit of colour injected into it. So for the past three weeks Mix-Up, along with Dawn, have been digging up all the grass and weeds along one side of the Youthy garden.

Jo Fraser, Youth Project Assistant for Groundwork Solent says, "The young people have done a fantastic job and have worked really hard to get the top layer off the ground, I am really proud of them. However, the ground is so compacted that it is going to be quite difficult to embed any plants. So our Estates Manager and Community Task Force Workers will give the ground a good digging out and prepare it for planting".

In the meantime the young people of Mix Up will go on a well deserved trip to a nearby garden centre where they will all get the chance to choose a winter plant. Each plant will be taken home and nurtured for a couple of weeks before being brought back to the

Youthy for planting. Pictures on the left show two of the budding Mix Up gardeners.

CSCS Success!

As part of the Future Jobs Fund Scheme employees are given training to help them in their current roles and to improve their chances of future employment.

One such training was for a CSCS card Construction Skills Certification Scheme. Holding this award demonstrates an understanding of quality of work and health and safety on sites.

Those who wanted to gain the award were given handbooks and guidance and on Tuesday 12th October Groundwork Solent hired the CSCS bus, a mobile test centre. 13 Community Task Force Workers took the opportunity and 70% passed. Two other workers have been given the opportunity to study for the CSCS award.

Other training has included CV writing and job hunting skills, first aid and driving lessons.

Community Project makes Champions

The Gosport and Lee-on-the-Solent In Bloom celebration evening on took place on Friday 15th October.

Many of the groups and organisations supported by Groundwork Solent were receiving awards, including Gosport Borough Council at the South East In Bloom awards.



In particular the Lee-on-the-Solent Residents Company Ltd won the Gold Community & Neighbourhood award for their Help for Heroes Garden. The residents invested their time and efforts to develop a tranquil area to honour those who serve and have served in the armed forces. This will make an exceptional meeting point for the Remembrance Day march next month.

PEOPLE

PLACES

PROSPERITY

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Thanks to funding and support of Gosport Borough Council and DCLG, Groundwork Solent is delivering real community regeneration and long-lasting environmental improvements across the Borough. We work in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector organisations to improve quality of life in 3 areas:

People- through skills-learning and encouraging citizens to become more active

Places- delivering environmental improvements

Prosperity- helping businesses and individuals fulfil their potential

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Outdoor Sessions

The Give, Gain and Grow group have successfully completed 3 outdoor sessions working on site near Priddys Hard. The group worked really hard and cleared a pathway through part of the nature reserve.

The group was led by Groundwork Solent Estates Officer, Keith Percival, who said "It was great to see the group's enthusiasm and involvement in the sessions."

Groundwork Comes to Town

Groundwork's Community Task Force is about to start work in neighbourhoods around the Town Ward in Gosport. Working with Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and local residents we will help improve the environment and maintain areas of open space in places like White Lion Walk, Seahorse Walk and Seafield. We also want to involve local residents and young people in taking an active role in looking after communal areas.

Our Community Task Force team provide jobs and training for young people who have been out of work for more than 6 months. Whilst gaining skills in horticulture and grounds maintenance they will help improve local neighbourhoods.

Tim Houghton, Groundwork's Executive Director explains: "The key to maintaining a high quality and attractive open space around where we live is the degree to which residents take responsibility for doing things to help themselves. I know it is hard - lots of people have tried to make improvements only to see them vandalised or not looked after. We must persevere as residents have done at Seahorse Walk where the open space is very colourful [shown above]. If we can provide some ongoing involvement and support I'm confident we can break that cycle and make long lasting difference."



Leesland Park Play Area Confirmed

Community Spaces funding has been approved for the redevelopment of the children's play area in Leesland Park.

The Friends of Leesland Park received the notification at the end of September and are delighted that the hard work of their members and support of Groundwork Solent has paid off.

The announcement allows Groundwork to start work towards the detailed designs and start the tendering process. The play area will be ready for a launch event at Easter. In the meantime there will be lots of opportunities for volunteer participation so everyone can be involved in this great project.

Images from the design are shown below.

