



SKILLS

ESSENTIAL TO FOOD
AND FUEL SECURITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

Page 04



YOUR SECTOR
Considered views on its
future shape

Page 10



APPRENTICESHIPS
How does our sector view
apprenticeships?

Page 16



**WHOLE FARM
REVIEW**
Scottish farms assured
of quality advice

WorldSkills UK Garden Designer 2010

Patricia Fox of Aralia Garden Design, who won a Ball Landscape Design Excellence Award and a prestigious award at Chelsea in 2009, has signed up to design the WorldSkills UK Landscape Gardening Competition Garden in 2010 and test the skills of student competitors.

Patricia said, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to design for such a prominent and rewarding competition. Designing for such a small space is never easy but I look forward to the challenge, and wish the contestants the very best of luck."

The 2010 regional heats will be hosted at the Malvern Spring Gardening Show and Gardening Scotland, with the Malvern Autumn Show hosting the national final.

For more information, visit www.ball.org.uk or call 02476 690 333.



greenSKILL opportunities for the green fingered

Growing numbers of green space workers have signed up to greenSKILL – an online employee development tool, developed by Lantra, in partnership with GreenSpace. It enables those involved in this type of work to record their practical skills against national standards and progress their careers.

Richard Welburn, Head of Parks and Green Spaces at Leicester City Council said, "We piloted the greenSKILL system and found it helped team management and skills development within our 227 strong workforce. It also offers wider opportunities and we look forward to other local authorities coming on board."

Stuart Mansbridge, Skills Development Manager of The Institute of Parks and Green Space, said, "The adoption of greenSKILL by Green Flag, an award scheme for parks and green spaces, will enable our volunteer judges to record, track and plan their professional development. It will also provide the sector with a real indicator of its skills base."

A Green Flag award demonstrates that a park/green space is not only environmentally sound, but it is well used, managed and held in high regard.

For more information contact Lantra on 0845 707 8007.

Young scientists compete to save 'planet earth'



Budding scientists, engineers and business students competed in a three-day environmental science challenge held at British Geological Survey (BGS), Nottingham as part of a new WorldSkills UK environmental science competition. The winning team from Newcastle College scooped gold after presenting an energy plan for a mythical island based on progressively phasing in a tidal barrage and biomass generation, in addition to encouraging household energy efficiency measures. The team comprised Thomas McEwen, Craig Dobson, Byron Johnson and James Buchanan who are pictured with Dr Tom Moot of Natural England, a key sponsor of the event.



Conservation charity dedicated to staff development

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has adopted Lantra's Skills Manager, an online solution to support the Trust in its appraisal and review process and help identify effective training and skills development plans for staff.

Dr Gordon McGlone OBE, Chief Executive of the Trust said, "Since becoming an Investor in People in 1995 we have tried to satisfy our staff and volunteers' skills requirements. Lantra's Skills Manager will allow us to understand better the needs of

individuals and teams, and to provide the support that will help them work better for Gloucestershire's wildlife."

Lantra's Skills Manager will set standards for training and skills development that will be aligned with the Trust's corporate goals and objectives. Staff will use Lantra's Skills Manager in conjunction with managers to follow a structured appraisal process to record skills, qualifications and skills gaps with a development plan to achieve them.

Tony Bird, UK Head of Business Development at Lantra said, "Wanwickshire Wildlife Trust ran a successful pilot, and Wildlife Trust Wales have started a trial. We hope Skills Manager will become the widespread choice for supporting staff development throughout the environmental conservation sector."



Gloucestershire

Photograph: Margaret McGlone