

DISCOVERING PLACES

NEWSLETTER MAY 2011 – Issue 2

Hello,

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our Discovering Places newsletter and to all our new subscribers.

We received some great responses from our inaugural newsletter in March and are pleased to be able to bring you all the latest developments from Discovering Places headquarters.

Spring has certainly arrived; the Royal Wedding went without hitch; the Easter bunny filled up our bonnets and all the while the sun kept on shining. This edition of our Spring newsletter celebrates the launch of our brand new website, shines the spotlight on Meet The Species, the first of our major projects to get underway and focuses on how you can get involved with the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter and the website. Do log on to London 2012 on 18th May as there is a big announcement. I can't say anything more but it will be HOT off the press!!

Our newsletter comes to you via The Heritage Alliance; the delivery partner for Discovering Places. Please do forward onto your friends, colleagues and networks who can subscribe to future editions by emailing us at subscribe2DP@discoveringplaces.co.uk

Happy reading.

Claire Horan
Project Manager

DISCOVERING PLACES WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Ready steady go... our brand new [Discovering Places website](#) officially launched today.

Packed full of information and links to our exciting projects, it's a great way of keeping up to date with all the latest developments here at Discovering Places.

Follow the link above to find out about some of the amazing events that are happening on your doorstep up and down the country and discover a world that you never knew existed.

TAKING PART IN THE CULTURAL OLYMPIAD

Here's a little reminder about what it's all about.

The London 2012 [Cultural Olympiad](#) is the largest cultural celebration in the history of the modern Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Spread over four years, it is designed to give everyone in the UK a chance to be part of London 2012 and inspire creativity across all forms of culture, especially among young people.

Millions of people around the UK are already part of the Cultural Olympiad, through the [Inspire programme](#) and [Open Weekend](#).

The [Uncover Discover](#) section on the Discovering Places website will showcase many of the Inspire mark projects around the UK that are celebrating the Natural, Historic and Built Environments.

OPEN WEEKEND – TAKE PART

Register your event for Open Weekend 2011 today!

London 2012 Open Weekend, supported by BP, 22nd – 24th July 2011, is your chance to showcase the best in your region and celebrate one year to go to the Games.

With events across the UK, this year promises to deliver another diverse and innovative programme – the line up already includes night sky-gazing in the North East and an outdoor jazz festival in the South East. So whether it's hosting a family fun day, a football tournament, a Roman Bath tour or a craft festival, get your creative juices flowing and get celebrating!

After registering you will be given access to the Open Weekend Brand Centre: a resource to help you promote your event using a selection of specially-created assets. From mid-June we will also send you a promotional toolkit, equipping you with all you need to decorate your venue.

Don't miss this opportunity to demonstrate the talent in your local community and participate in a moment of history.

Register by close of play on **Friday 27 May** for guaranteed inclusion in the public launch, which takes place on 6 June.

Find out more about organising an event at london2012.com/openweekend or contact the London 2012 Open Weekend team at openweekend@london2012.com.

VOLUNTEERING

The London 2012 Games Maker campaign to find volunteers to help run the games has now closed but there are many other avenues you can take to find an opportunity to volunteer.

If you are involved with running a local museum, historic building or 'friends of' association then you might be interested to know that in many regions of the UK there are more volunteers than volunteering opportunities. The links below will also help you find guidelines and suggestions in how to develop volunteering opportunities and find volunteers.

In 2012 when the games begins there is anticipated to be a huge influx of people to the UK to support the games and these people will be looking for many other things to do...

Volunteering England

[Volunteering England](#) is a great resource. They cover the full range of activities involved in developing volunteer roles, recruiting and supporting volunteers. [Follow these simple steps](#) to get you think about what volunteering roles you require. There's also a great [online best practice bank](#) to help you understand fully how to manage the process.

Do-it Volunteering

[Do-it](#) is volunteering made easy. They connect people, communities and organisations to inspire positive social change. Searchable by postcode, area of interest or type of activity, Do-it enables people across the UK to find

opportunities to engage in their local communities. We work to ensure that Do-it really is the inspirational face of volunteering, and a one-stop-shop for budding volunteers. Check out their [easy guide](#) to get started or for more information contact partnerships@youthnet.org

Volunteer Centres – for grassroots and local organisations looking to recruit a handful of volunteers, get in contact with your local Volunteer Centres. You can find them online, via Do-it above or your local council. They can advise on best practice and also post opportunities for you with no charge at all.

V Inspired - If you're between 16 and 25 years old and keen to get involved take a look at vinspired.com for volunteering opportunities.

Volunteer Centres - Your local volunteer centre will be able to provide you with advice and support on volunteering, and should offer a range of opportunities with hundreds of different organisations. [Find your nearest volunteer centre](#)

Volunteering Opportunities in your local area

You can also get involved now in one of the many [volunteering opportunities in your local area](#)

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

We are really excited about our three major national projects. Meet the Species, Discover Explore and Walk the World. All three promise to be really inspiring, entertaining, fun and educational and this month we're shining the spotlight on Meet The Species.

MEET THE SPECIES – under starters orders 20th May 2011



Discovering nature's hidden secrets – Bristol BioBlitz

The race is on to uncover 2,012 wild and wonderful species in the run up to the London 2012 Olympics and [Meet the Species](#) officially gets underway on Friday 20th May at the [Bioblitz in Tyntesfield](#).

Meet The Species is delivered in partnership with the [Bristol Natural History Consortium](#) (BNHC), under the guidance of project manager, Frankie Hogan.

'Meet the Species' events will be running across the UK this spring and summer, and we're welcoming people of all ages to join us on this marathon hunt to find everything from mini-beasts to sea mammals.

At each Meet the Species event, experts will be on hand to help identify animal and plant species and officially tick them off the 2,012-long list and create an ongoing scientific record. And along the way, they'll get people grass sweeping, rock pooling and porpoise watching.

If there isn't an event near you then don't worry. You can log on to the Meet The Species website and start exploring there. You can join the online community and start finding out about the species on your doorstep or download toolkits on who to run your own event. Learn how to record your findings and submit them to the MTS headquarters so they become part of the largest UK wide scientific research project.

By the time the Olympic torch reaches London, these nature detectives from Bristol to Bull Bay in Wales and the tip of County Antrim will not only have caught up with all these species but also found out more about the wildlife they share their lives with.

Savita Custead, Chief Executive of the Bristol Natural History Consortium, said:

"In its very first year the Meet the Species race is going UK wide. We hope thousands of people will join in, get hands-on with nature and make some wild new friends. Together we plan to tick off all 2,012 species by the start of the London 2012 Olympics and discover a whole lot more about the wildlife on our doorstep."

Claire Horan, Project Manager for Discovering Places, The Heritage Alliance, said:

"Meet the Species is what the Discovering Places campaign is all about – inviting people to step outside and uncover some hidden treasures. With Meet the Species and hundreds of other community events, Discovering Places is helping people discover more about the extraordinary environments in which they live in and the stories these places have to tell."

For more information about the project and how you can get involved please visit [Meet The Species](#)

If you've enjoyed reading about Discovering Places and wish to be kept up-to-date with future news please subscribe to our newsletter by emailing subscribe2DP@discoveringplaces.co.uk

Your feedback and suggestions would be welcome so please do email any comments to claire@discoveringplaces.co.uk

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The Heritage Alliance, Clutha House, 10 Storeys Gate, London SW1P 3AY. Tel 020 7233 0500.

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