



## PRESS RELEASE

12 April 2011

### **Families flock to Wormwood Scrubs Annual Fun Day**

Over 400 people enjoyed a sunny day out at the Wormwood Scrubs Annual Family Fun Day in Hammersmith & Fulham's largest nature reserve, the Scrubs, on Saturday 9 April 2011. Locals attended the event to celebrate the benefits of the nature reserve and enjoy an array of exciting activities in the spring sunshine.

The free annual event, organised by Groundwork London together with Hammersmith & Fulham Council, has become widely anticipated by the local community and provides an opportunity to bring people together and get them directly involved in making use of the nature reserve. Locals who attended came face to face with farm animals at the mobile farm and petting zoo and experienced a sense of grandeur as they were escorted around the park by horse drawn carriages. Children impressively scaled the heights of the climbing wall, learnt bush craft skills, created puppets using recycled materials and were treated to story readings courtesy of Hammersmith and Fulham Libraries, all whilst being serenaded by the tropical sounds of a steel pan band.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council cabinet member for residents' services, Cllr Greg Smith, said: *"Once again, the Wormwood Scrubs Annual Family Fun Day proved to be a huge success with hundreds of families attending and enjoying one of the borough's most beautiful parks. This event is always hugely popular and the council is delighted to work with Groundwork London to organise such a popular event."*

Paul Clay, Senior Nature Conservation Officer at Groundwork London said: *"It's really rewarding to see so many people outside using the park. It's great that an event like this can bring the community together and shows there are endless possibilities for what the scrubs could be used for."*

Groundwork London has been involved in nature conservation in west London since 2002 and played an integral role in bringing about the designation of a Local Nature Reserve within Wormwood Scrubs Park. Since then, many new opportunities have opened up for the local community to get involved and engage with London's 'wild side' first-hand.

This year, Groundwork London has been working on projects with local children from Old Oak Primary School. Their pupils' hard work resulted in a consultation survey being produced to assess local opinion on how they would like the scrubs to be used. They also worked on the '2111' project, for Generations Together, where children were asked to make models based on their ideas of what they thought the scrubs would look like in 100 years time. The remarkable models were proudly displayed on the day.

Local resident and member of the Friends of the Scrubs, Susie Gretz who assisted Groundwork on the 2111 project, said: *"I really enjoyed working with Groundwork on the project. We spent a lot of time working with the primary school, particularly on the 2111 project and taking them on a walk around the entire Scrubs. It's great for kids to get a grasp on open spaces."*

Groundwork London's runs volunteering groups to encourage local residents, schools and colleges to appreciate wildlife in their local green spaces. The groups enable people to take positive action



and improve biodiversity and spaces for wildlife by making physical improvements to the park. These regular volunteer sessions allow local people to give something back to their community by getting their hands dirty. So far this has led to thousands of native trees being planted, selective scrub-land being cleared, paths being created and the wildflower meadows sown. In addition to the added aesthetic value, the wildflower meadows form new habitats for a myriad of birds, insects and other species as well as creating foraging routes for endangered bats.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors:**

**Groundwork London** builds sustainable communities in areas of need through joint environmental action.

To do this, we deliver practical projects with our partners in four key areas:

- **Communities & Young People** – engaging communities in decision making, realising the potential of young people;
- **Urban Landscapes & Open Space** – improving the quality, use and enjoyment of public open spaces through the delivery of appropriate landscape architectural solutions;
- **Environmental Services** – promoting positive environmental behaviour in schools, communities, businesses and organisations;
- **Employment & Skills Training** – delivering skills training and employment opportunities.

Last year, we invested over £10m of funding in London's most deprived areas, delivering over 800 projects that helped change places and lives.

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