



The Worshipful Company of Gardeners Lecture at The Royal Geographical Society

Wednesday 5th April, 2017

from 5.30pm



Spending cuts are impacting on our parks and green spaces nationwide as never before. At the same time the benefits of these open spaces to physical and mental health, welfare and social cohesion are being recognised in report after report, most recently in the House of Commons select committee inquiry into public parks.

We recognise that within parks there is a need for water conservation measures, for bird and insect welfare and for modern waste disposal methods that will be environmentally manageable. How can we further the debate here in London? We have one of the most beautiful cities in the world with a heritage of huge areas of parkland which are all under threat from reductions in spending.

Our four speakers will present ideas for multiple partnerships in the management of green spaces both large and small.

Loyd Grossman CBE is chair of the new organisation being established to oversee the management of The Royal Parks. He will be able to give us a view on how the new governance arrangements could provide greater freedom to fundraise and manage parks.

Jeff Barg is Associate Director of Planning and External Policy Relations at Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. He will describe the urban regeneration projects and community farms which are a way to engage residents in the city of Philadelphia.

Daniel Raven-Ellison is a guerrilla geographer. He will present his vision of London as the world's first National Park City, where people and nature are better connected.

Sven Stimac has been involved in world expo and horticultural exhibitions for over 15 years. He also worked as a project manager for the European Space Program EURECA. Sven will talk about the provision, funding and development of city parks in post-World War II Europe.

London and the City of London have a vital role to play on the world stage. We have an exciting opportunity to work together to promote and enhance one of our most valuable assets.

For booking information and to apply for places, please see the booking form