

Institute for

Environment
Sustainability
and
Regeneration



STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY

Public Lectures in Regeneration

"Green Roofs for Healthy UK Cities: how it can be done, from the city-scale to the back yard"

Dr Nigel Dunnett
Sheffield University

Thursday 29 March 2007

Ashley Building
Leek Road campus
Staffordshire University

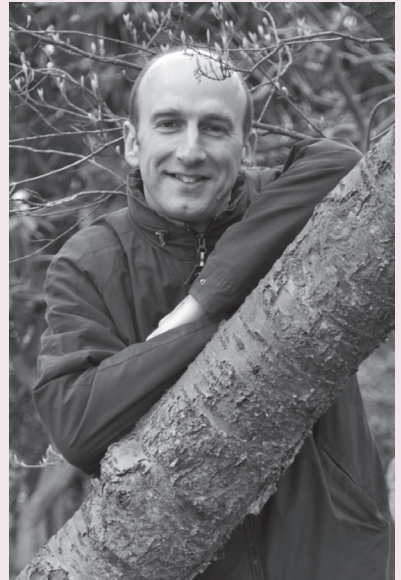
Lecture series supported by



Dr Nigel Dunnett

Dr Nigel Dunnett is co-author of 'Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls', and Reader in Urban Horticulture at Sheffield University's Landscape Department.

Nigel gained his Bachelor's degree in Botany from Bristol University, and then took a Masters degree at Wye College, University of London, in Landscape Ecology, Design and Maintenance. Following a 'Garden Club of America Interchange Fellowship in Horticulture' at North Carolina State University he returned to the UK and gained his doctorate from Sheffield University in 1996. His thesis was on 'The long-term dynamics of herbaceous vegetation in roadside verges at Bilbury in Gloucestershire'. He has lectured at Sheffield University since 1994, and was awarded the title of Reader in February this year.



For Nigel plants, vegetation and biodiversity lie at the heart of notions of sustainable urban development. The promotion of urban environments that are rich in vegetation and nature is central to his teaching and research, combining and integrating his background and experience in both horticulture and ecology. While ecological ideas in landscape architecture have usually been applied at the larger scale, his focus is generally at the smaller scale: in gardens, urban parks, on and around buildings and in high-density built development. All aspects of his work revolve around exciting and novel uses of plants, planting design and the

Lecture series supported by



application of ecological ideas to achieve low-input, diverse and colourful urban landscapes. Applications of his work generally involve aspects of urban ecology or urban horticulture. His recent research contracts relating to the management of urban green spaces and gardens for biodiversity have been undertaken with CABI Space and Scottish Natural Heritage. He is actively involved in consultancy and advisory work, particularly in relation to planting and design of green roofs, and in designing and creating 'pictorial meadows', and he writes regularly as a horticultural journalist for a range of landscape and garden publications, including Gardens Illustrated and The Garden.

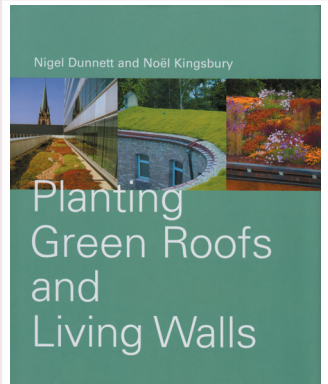
His current research on the growing of plants on building surfaces ranges from work on the potential of native plant communities and species, through to vegetations composed entirely of non-native plants - and all combinations in between. His team, at Sheffield, is currently undertaking a wide-ranging screening programme of grasses and perennials for green roof use to test tolerance to substrate depth and different moisture regimes. A particular focus is on species from dry meadow communities in the UK, North America and continental Europe, and on plants from calcareous grasslands across the temperate world. Other work is on investigating the long-term dynamics of green roof systems, and exploring the influence of vegetation type on green roof performance.

His talk will briefly outline what green roofs are, and place them in a historical and geographical context, and will then focus on two particular aspects. First, using the example of Sheffield, it will show how green roofs can become a symbol of environmental intent not just for an individual building, but also for an entire city, and describe the exciting prospect of the UK's first municipal green roof policy, requiring green roofs on all new developments in the city centre. Secondly, it will illustrate the range of inspiring and exciting possibilities for green roofs, from the large scale commercial building through to garden sheds and domestic buildings.

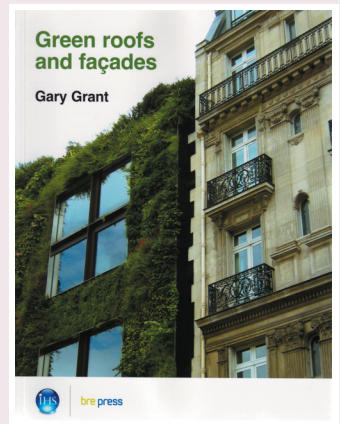
Lecture series supported by



Nigel Dunnett's book 'Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls', co-authored by Noel Kingsbury, was published in 2003 by Timber Press, Portland and is currently available for £16.03 from Amazon UK.



The Building Research Establishment Press published 'Green Roofs and Façades' by Gary Grant in 2006. The book is available from Construction Books Direct (www.constructionbooksdirect.com) for £22.50



Nigel ran an international Green Roof Conference at Sheffield in 2006, and the power point presentations of all the speakers are available as free .pdf downloads at <http://www.shef.ac.uk/landscape/greenroof/Greenfoofppts.htm>

Lecture series supported by

