



Power in Place: Friday 26 June Day Agenda

A unique urban micro-conference in the beautiful surrounds of nature for anyone running or starting a green or growing space in Ladywood and beyond.

Time	Session	Location
From 10.30am – close	All Day: Festival Marketplace	Main field
	<i>Drop-in surgeries with: Ladywood NNS, Edgbaston NNS, Act On Energy, Money Advice Trust, National Lottery Community Fund – Environment, Birmingham City Council's Public Participation Team – Food Waste Recycling.</i> <i>Stallholders include: Friends of Edgbaston Reservoir, Warm Earth, Aquarius, Kings Trust, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF), Midland Mencap, Age UK, CASBA Advocacy, Birmingham Mind, Incredible Surplus, Greenpeace Birmingham, National Trust.</i> Browse our vibrant community marketplace – meet funders, connect with local groups, projects and organisations working for a healthier, greener Birmingham.	
10.30am-11am	Coffee & Calm	

	Enjoy a peaceful coffee on the terrace before the day opens. Try relaxing yoga surrounded by birdsong. Suitable for all, no need for equipment– come as you are. Enjoy a morning mindfulness session in the beautiful surrounds of nature.	Red Shed Community Café & Terrace Main field Off Grid Zone
10.45am-11.45am	Green Connections	Bonga Tent
	<i>Open & welcome from Martin Holcombe (CEO, Birmingham Settlement), networking hosted by Ladywood NNS (Neighbourhood Network Scheme).</i> A pacy networking session connecting local groups growing or thinking about growing greener neighbourhoods. Share ideas, make connections and meet like-minded folk.	
11am-2pm	Friends of the Field: Community Compost Build	Compost Zone
	<i>With Birmingham Settlement 'Friends of the Field'.</i> The Friends of the Field volunteer group meets every Wednesday and Friday at the Nature & Wellbeing Centre to help care for the 3-acre space. Drop in for as long or as little as you like to find out more about life as a green volunteer and get hands-on to co-build a new community compost bay – reducing waste and supporting growing across the site.	
12pm–1.30pm	Campfire Conversations (Main Session)	Nature Zone
	<i>Includes a welcome from Martin Holcombe (CEO, Birmingham Settlement), Hosted by Lizzie Forrester (Income & Communications Manager, Birmingham Settlement) supported by Chris Blythe (BOSF).</i>	

12.10pm

Inspiring and honest stories from the people, organisations and groups working with and for communities. Gather round the campfire as our speakers share their journeys of starting and nourishing community green and growing projects in interesting and unexpected spaces –what has worked (and what hasn't!) and what they have learnt along the way.

1. What's already growing in Birmingham?: Wonderful work is happening in the city - from projects transforming overlooked spaces into places of growing, creativity, learning and community connection.

With **Hayley Guest** (Creative Lead, **SPECTRA**) and **Jo Capper** (Collaborative Programme Director, **Grand Union**).

Hear how SPECTRA, a neurodiverse creative collective working to lift the capacity of learning disabled people to influence change, has transformed the community garden of the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH) into a place of rest, play and nature connection. The Commons is more than a garden - it's a place of inclusion, creativity and belonging, showing how green spaces can be designed with and for disabled people and the wider community.

Grand Union is reimagining what community growing can be. Through its Growing Project, an ambitious long-term programme combining art, gardening and community action, Grand Union is cultivating spaces for wellbeing, creativity and connection. From floating canal gardens to innovative soil restoration increasing biodiversity on post-industrial land to therapeutic gardens in supported housing projects, a medicinal Bothy and a new community-led, regenerative Flower Farm enterprise, discover how Grand Union is using creativity and cultivation to transform places and support people through difficult times.

*The conversation will also feature contributors from **Warm Earth, St Germain's, Community Medicine Birmingham** and others working to nurture community green spaces in neighbourhoods, and shared public places.*

12.40pm

2. Tales from Another City: What can we learn from the other side of the Midlands? In conversation with Nottz Garden Project, a Nottingham-based CIC on a mission to increase access to fresh food and plant knowledge, reclaim neglected land and break down barriers to gardening.

13.00	<i>With Nottz Garden Project</i> 3. Tiny Gardens Everywhere: Explore the power of the micro. Not everyone has access to a garden, but every windowsill, balcony, container and street corner has potential. Explore inspiring and creative examples of small-scale growing that supports biodiversity, wellbeing and community connection, and discover how thousands of tiny actions can contribute to a greener city and the wider Local Nature Recovery Strategy. <i>Sarah Carter</i> (<i>Project Officer, National Trust Sky Gardening Project</i>), <i>Jo Capper</i> (<i>Collaborative Programme Director, Grand Union</i>), <i>Alison Thompson</i> (<i>Founder, The Patchwork Meadow</i>). Audience Q & A.	
1.30pm-2.30pm	Wellbeing Through Nature	Wellbeing Tent
	<i>With Birmingham Mind</i> A welcoming and inclusive wellbeing session exploring improving mood through grounding techniques and nature. All welcome, biscuits provided. Come along to get tips and share your ideas!	
Meet the team 10.30am-4.30pm, workshop 12pm-3pm	EXPLORING A ROLE FOR EVERYONE: BLOCK PRINTING WITH CIVIC SQUARE	Creative Shed
	<i>CIVIC SQUARE</i> <i>with artist Natasha Taheem.</i> What role could you play in the care and repair of our homes, streets and neighbourhoods as more pressure is put upon us? We invite you to join some of the CIVIC SQUARE team to explore how there is <u>a role for everyone</u> in neighbourhood retrofit, at a time of accelerating climate risk. Through a hands-on block printing workshop led by artist and Re_Club practitioner Natasha Taheem, explore how everyday practices of repair, reuse, reimagination, resistance and more can become entry points into wider neighbourhood transformation, led by the people who live there.	

	Give an old item of clothing a new lease of life through block printing. Using a collection of wooden printing blocks, participants can print onto fabric patches or bring along a garment to customise and transform. Drop in, experiment with pattern and make something uniquely your own. Whether you're refreshing a favourite jacket, tote bag or t-shirt, you'll leave with an item that is uniquely yours. For best results, bring an item that is made of natural fibres e.g. cotton, linen, denim, silk.	
1.30pm-3pm	Film screening: <i>The People's Emergency Briefing</i>	Off-Grid Zone
	Hosted by Greenpeace Birmingham An eye-opening new film bringing the latest evidence on what's happening with climate and nature and the impact on everyday life in the UK. Followed by a guided discussion. <i>Age rated 16+ (film 50 mins followed by discussion).</i>	
1.45pm-2.30pm	Climate Action Demonstrator Tour	Meet by the pond
	With Martin Holcombe (CEO, Birmingham Settlement) and Sam Marsh (Birmingham Settlement Nature & Wellbeing Centre Manager). Take a guided tour of Birmingham Settlement's Nature & Wellbeing Centre demonstrator site. Discover how an underused 3-acre space has been transformed for people and nature. Explore growing and wellbeing projects and see climate action in practice through community composting, living green roof, rainwater harvesting, solar power and ground source heat pumps - and be among the first to hear about ambitious plans for the site's exciting next phase of development.	
2.30pm-3.15pm	Navigating complex systems: Q & A	Amphitheatre
	Hosted by Lizzie Forrester (Income & Communications Manager, Birmingham Settlement) with Deborah Needle (Green Champion	

	for Involvement, City of Nature Alliance), Katie Clark (Funding Manager The National Lottery Community Fund Environment Programme), Malwina Chrobakiewicz (Ladywood Neighbourhood Network Scheme Project Manager), Chris Blythe (BOSF). Whose land is it, and where can we start? Join this informal Q&A session and put your questions to people with experience of community-led greening and starting out. From permissions, partnerships and ownership models to practical tips on setting up, we'll explore the opportunities and challenges of creating greener neighbourhoods. Whether you're nurturing an idea, facing a barrier or simply curious about what's possible, ask questions and discover the support available to help turn ideas into action.	
2.30pm-5pm	Seeing in Colour	Off Grid Zone
	With Community Energy Birmingham (CEB) CEB is a volunteer-led community benefit society helping Birmingham residents cut carbon and reduce energy bills through community-owned renewable energy, practical advice and local climate action. Drop-in to see life through a thermal imaging camera, discover how this colourful technology can help make homes warmer, greener and more energy efficient.	
3pm-6.30pm	Neighbourhood Picnic & Play	Various

2pm-4pm 4pm-5pm	<i>Hosted by Birmingham Settlement.</i> We warmly invite friends and neighbours to join us for a community picnic on the field! Bring a blanket and picnic or grab something from the Red Shed Community Cafe, meet neighbours, drop-in to activities and enjoy time together. • RECLAIM! Co-design your dream community garden, imagine a greener future using found and recycled materials. • Sports, kids crafts and classic family games. • Plant with Pat – try a Plant with Pat session – our friendly volunteer-led beginners gardening drop-in. If you've never grown anything before, Pat will show you how! • Nature Navigators inclusive nature activities – explore the Overnight Moth Trap, get hands-on with pond dipping.	Small dome Main field Creative Shed Plant Zone Meet at the pond
3.30pm-4.30pm	Birds & Butterflies of Edgbaston Reservoir Walk	Meet at Reservoir gates
	<i>With Chris Millward (Friend of Edgbaston Reservoir, Brum Biosphere, Team4Nature Founder).</i> Go on a fascinating wildlife walk. Explore the birds, butterflies and biodiversity of the Edgbaston Reservoir, an important urban nature reserve for the city as you learn more about the work of this 'Friends Of' group. Sign-up on the day at their marketplace stall.	
4.30pm-5pm	SHE: Through the Wild	Amphitheatre
	With Keneish Dance A contemporary African-Jamaican live music and dance experience honouring the woman as provider, nurturer and life-	

	force. Through movement, music and storytelling, shackled histories of restriction are transformed into a joyful reclamation of nature and freedom. Like rivers that sustain, soil that nourishes, and fire that warms, SHE: Through the wild becomes the heartbeat of community - cultivating love, resilience and connection across generations. <i>Part of Healing Arts Birmingham week.</i>	
Time 5pm- 6.30pm	Film screening: <i>The People's Emergency Briefing</i>	Bonga Tent
	<i>Hosted by Greenpeace Birmingham</i> An eye-opening new film bringing the latest evidence on what's happening with climate and nature and the impact on everyday life in the UK. Followed by a guided discussion. <i>Age rated 16+ (film 50 mins followed by discussion).</i>	
5pm- 6.30pm	Campfire Open Mic: Neighbourhood Voices	Nature Zone
	<i>Hosted by Birmingham Settlement</i> For the people – gather round the campfire for stories, poetry, song and conversation. Sign up on the day at the Birmingham Settlement Information Stand or take a slot when you arrive and share your voice in this relaxed and welcoming open mic celebrating neighbourhood, creativity and collective power.	

Power in Place is organised by Birmingham Settlement as part of the 3-day Neighbourhood Futures Festival. Register for the day and explore the full programme [here](#) or scan the QR Code below.



Festival site map overleaf.

Birmingham Settlement Neighbourhood Futures Festival

26-28 JUNE 2026

