

Green Heart Festival launch weekend will be the biggest free community event the University of Birmingham has ever held. Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June.

With the completion of the Green Heart in January this year, we now have 12 acres of communal park land for staff, students and the local community to enjoy. With spaces for performances, socialising, meeting and studying, we are already beginning to see the space being well-used by staff and students. As envisaged in the 1920s, the Green Heart has opened up views across the whole campus.

Green Heart Festival

To celebrate our new space, I am delighted to invite you to the Green Heart Festival. Starting with a launch weekend on 7th and 8th June, it will consist of 12-months of events which will be delivered by and for students and staff, as well as providing opportunities for our local community to get involved. The launch weekend will be the biggest free community event the University of Birmingham has ever held, with an exciting programme of events and a tremendous opportunity for us to celebrate our incredible staff and students.

Saturday 7th June – Community Day and Prom Concert

On Saturday 7th June, from 1pm onwards, we will be bringing our Community Day back to campus with family-friendly activities delivered by our academics and students showcasing research from each college. Colleagues in Sport and Fitness will provide activities for all ages, from Zumba to circuits, and the University's Brass Band and Samba Band will perform and run workshops.

From 7.30pm on the Saturday evening, the University Symphony Orchestra will once again deliver a free community prom concert. The Orchestra will perform an array of musical favourites, with prom classics such as Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance and Rule Britannia, opera arias, and sensational show tunes, plus a few surprises along the way.

Sunday 8th June – City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Song Festival

On Sunday 8th June during the day and the evening, we will be joined by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, who will lead a Song Festival, conducted by internationally renowned conductor, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla. Community choirs from across the UK will be joining the CBSO, with up to 3,000 singers performing Handel's Zadok the Priest and Stravinsky's The Firebird among others. Alongside the music, Sport and Fitness will lead yoga and pilates sessions through the day, promoting wellbeing for singers and community-members alike.

Open to everyone - you, your friends and family can reserve your free tickets for any part of the weekend on the Festival website.

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12-month festival programme

The weekend will mark the beginning of a year-long festival with a programme of activities led by students and staff from across the University.

The festival is split into four seasons:

- Summer – Celebration
- Autumn – Change
- Winter – Illumination
- Spring – Hope

The 12-month programme is integrated with the Arts and Science Festival, and the summer season will include a series of children's performances of Shakespeare, led by students, Clean Air Day activities, an art exhibition linking creativity and health organised in conjunction with the College of Arts and Law and the Barber among many other events. Look out for more details on the University's events pages in the coming weeks.

We are grateful to the many sponsors who have enabled us to deliver the festival weekend and year-long programme of activity – including Willmott Dixon, Churchman Thornhill Finch, Host and Pensworth Dairy, with students being supported by a dedicated grant-making fund sponsored by Ede and Ravenscroft.

There are many opportunities to get involved in the Green Heart Festival, so if you want to find out more or submit your own event, you can do so on the Festival website.

The Green Heart Festival is a unique opportunity for us to come together as a community and celebrate all that we excel at, and I hope you will join in on 7th and 8th June.

Best wishes,

David Eastwood

Vice-Chancellor and Principal