

UP OUR STREET



Autumn 2026



Welcome to Eastside Community Trust



**EASTSIDE
COMMUNITY
TRUST**

We are an award winning community organisation working in Easton and Lawrence Hill. We run Easton Community Centre and Felix Road Adventure Playground. We are passionate about our community and putting local people in control so together we can build healthy and happy neighbourhoods.

STAY IN TOUCH

Join our Facebook group:
Up Our Street

Find us on Facebook
@eastsidebristol

Follow us on Instagram
@eastside_bristol

For local news, events
and jobs every fortnight,
sign up to our ebulletin
(newsletter) on our website.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Easton Community
Centre will be closed from
**Monday 14 September to
Monday 2 November** for
renovations to our toilets.

Please email **contact@
upourstreet.org.uk** if you
have any questions or
concerns.

GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

Up Our Street is a
community magazine
that speaks from many
perspectives, sharing
community life through
positive stories from
East Bristol. It aims
to build a sense of
pride and belonging,
inspiring residents
to get involved with
activities in their
neighbourhood.

We print 14,000 copies,
four times a year,
and hand-deliver to
community hubs and
households in Easton
and Lawrence Hill.

Contact **comms@
upourstreet.org.uk** if
you have story ideas,
interesting local news,
would like us to cover
an event or community
project you're part of, or
to advertise.

SPACE HIRE

Do you need a space for a meeting, conference, birthday
or other event?

We have you covered! Our spaces are fully accessible,
flexible, fun, and affordable.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



Funded by
UK Government



CONTACT US

0117 954 1409
contact@upourstreet.org.uk
eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk

Drop in and see us:
Easton Community Centre,
Kilburn Street, Easton,
Bristol, BS5 6AW

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Welcome to the Autumn 2026 issue of Up Our Street

What a summer! Thank you to everyone who visited Easton Community Centre, took part in an activity at Felix Road or celebrated our neighbourhood at a street party. We have enjoyed planting new flowers, learning cooking skills or watching the football together. Much appreciation

goes to all our team and neighbours who have looked out for one another during the hot weather too.

What will you join in with this autumn? There is lots to celebrate together whether that is International Day of Peace in September, Black History Month in October or World Kindness Day in

November. There is so much going on at the community centre to support your wellbeing, learning or culture. And if household budgets are a bit tight in the run up to the festive season, there is lots on for free.

We hope you enjoy this edition. Thanks for reading.
Kate Monkhouse

Meet Eastside Trustee: Kate Monkhouse

Hello, I am Kate, a trustee of Eastside Community Trust. Being a trustee means working alongside staff and volunteers to think through the opportunities and challenges of running the community centre and adventure playground. As a board, we volunteer our time and skills because we love bringing people together in this neighbourhood.

When I moved to Easton, the community centre was one of the first places I came to that really helped me to feel at home locally and get support with everyday

life at wellbeing classes or the repair café. Not to mention dancing my socks off in a the odd dance class! I value the shared space for different generations to connect and have important conversations about topics like climate change.

One of my favourite things to do is to be out and about in the streets of Easton. If you keep your eyes open, there is so much to notice on the way to the shop or the park. For the last five years, I have been taking photographs of street art. There is a lot of joy and humour to be found in



images and messages that reflect our city's values of solidarity and diversity.

This winter, I am planning to co-ordinate a Window Wanderland in Easton – a chance for us to light up our windows with creative collages. Let me know if you would like to be involved:

contact@upourstreet.org.uk



How would you use Eastside Community Trust's spaces, expertise, comms and networks if you had access to them?



At Eastside we've been thinking about how we can support Easton and Lawrence Hill residents to lead on the action they want to take within their communities. How can we, as an organisation, encourage a peer network of residents interested in social action, connecting and sharing?

A natural first step was to ask residents themselves, and so we turned for advice to our members.

Through a series of focus group sessions and a survey sent to all members, we asked them not only how they would use Eastside's assets but also what needs to be in place for this to work, as well as what challenges they could foresee and how could we minimise them.

Members had lots of ideas about what they would like to do, from community events-meals, film nights, jam/open mic sessions, street parties and trips- to connecting with

people with shared interests, skill-sharing and organising peer-support groups. They thought Eastside could contribute by offering their spaces, communication channels-community noticeboards, Up Our Street and newsletter, as well as sharing our know-how and networks. To members a main challenge could be how much support Eastside can realistically provide; transparency in terms of what we are able to offer came up as an important way to minimise this risk.

Having the opportunity to sit down and hear Eastside's members insights was wonderful, these conversations provided a clear direction of travel for our Activate Eastside strand of work. More to come soon!

From Eastside Trustee, **Maca Gomez-Guiterrez.**

Interested in becoming a member? Head to our website: eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk



Do you know someone in Easton or Lawrence Hill who always goes the extra mile? Someone who quietly makes a difference, offers a helping hand, or inspires others through their kindness and dedication? Now's your chance to shine a spotlight on them.

Who Can You Nominate? Anyone who is: Living, working or studying in Easton or Lawrence Hill Making a positive impact through kindness, generosity, helpfulness or inspiration Willing and able to attend the awards ceremony on Thursday 22 October 2026.



From community gardeners and classroom assistants to youth leaders and food bank volunteers, we welcome nominations from all walks of life.

To nominate, visit our website eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk, scan the QR code, or pop in and see us at Easton Community Centre

**Nominate by
Monday 21 September**





Abiir's Corner

One of the things I enjoy most as a Community Connector is bringing people together and creating opportunities for residents to connect, have fun, and feel part of the community.

We've got some lovely activities coming up over the next few months.

Join us for a Nature Walk for Women and Girls with Steppin Sistas, where we can enjoy the outdoors together, get some fresh air, and take time to connect with nature and each other.

We'll also be hosting a Bollywood Night an evening to celebrate culture, music, food and community in a relaxed and welcoming space.

Our Community Meals continue to be a wonderful way to meet neighbours, enjoy good food, and build friendships.

Everyone is welcome, whether you're coming for the first time or are already a familiar face.

Behind the scenes, we're also working closely with other local community groups to strengthen our partnerships, share ideas, and make sure we're creating activities that reflect what local people want and need.

By working together, we can build a stronger, more connected neighbourhood where everyone feels welcome.

We'd love to see you at one of our upcoming activities!

Want to get involved?

abibir@upourstreet.org.uk





Supporting Health and Wellbeing at Easton Community Centre



At Eastside Community Trust, we believe that when people feel well, connected and supported, our whole community thrives. That's the idea behind **Thriving Eastside**, our growing programme of health, wellbeing and advice activities designed to help local people live happier, healthier lives.

Whether you want to get more active, meet new people, learn something new or access practical support, Thriving Eastside offers something for everyone. Our wellbeing programme includes a wide range of movement and fitness activities, such as **Balance and Stretch, Chair Yoga, Family Yoga, Tai Chi, Bollywood Dance, Circuits, Wing Chun and Buraanbur**, all delivered in welcoming and inclusive spaces for people of different ages, abilities and fitness levels.

Wellbeing is about more than physical health, which is why we also offer opportunities to connect, create and belong. Activities such as **Cuppa 2 Connect, Busy Minds, Collage**

Club, Shared Reading, Everyone Makes It, Lego Club, SEND Family Club, Stay and Play, Sewing Social and the Eastside Repair Café bring people together, reduce isolation and help build stronger community relationships

Through our regular drop-in sessions, local residents can access help from organisations including **Citizens Advice, St Paul's Advice Centre, Shelter, Housing Matters and CSE Energy**, as well as support with IT, finances, benefits, housing and energy issues.

Thriving Eastside continues to evolve in response to what local people tell us they need. We are always delighted to welcome new faces, so whether you're looking for support, friendship, better health or simply something new to try, come along and discover what Thriving Eastside has to offer. Find out more about upcoming activities on our **What's On** page at eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk



BOARD GAME EVENINGS

AT EASTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tuesdays, 5PM TO 7PM

Everyone welcome (under 16s to be accompanied by an adult)

Bring your own or play ours:

Draughts

Dominoes

Chess

Playing cards

Cribbage

Master Mind/Code Breaker

Backgammon

Shut the box

Guess Who?

Uno

Connect Four

Scrabble

Monopoly Bristol version

Articulate

Trivial Pursuit

Cluedo

£2 per person



Every Monday!

Self Defence for girls + women



Join our weekly self defence classes for women and girls, with Imogen.

Mondays 4:45pm to 5:45pm
Easton Community Centre

£2 per person, please book in advance, call 0117 954 1409 or email contact@upourstreet.org.uk

Imogen Thomas is a highly experienced martial arts and self-defence instructor. She is a feminist self-defence trainer, known for conducting workshops for women, focusing on practical techniques, situational awareness, and empowering women to stay safe from harassment

A New Beginning at Café Conscious: Community, Healing and Connection

After more than a year closed, Café Conscious has reopened, bringing fresh energy and a renewed focus on supporting the local community.

For Deniece, who runs the café, it's a moment of real positivity after a challenging period. "I'm really happy," she says. The space now operates as a partnership, with Saada providing food while Deniece leads on activities and community groups.

Café Conscious has always been a place that adapts. Originally a Jamaican restaurant, it has evolved over the years in response to changing times, from the pandemic to shifts in the local area. "We just go with the flow," Deniece explains. "It's always grown naturally."



A Space for Women and Community

As it reopens, the café is taking on a slightly new direction. Deniece is focusing on creating a safe, welcoming space for women to come together, share experiences, and support one another.

Her plans include:

- Wellbeing groups where women can talk openly
- Creative activities like knitting and crocheting
- Workshops on menopause, nutrition, and natural health
- Gentle exercise and strength-building sessions

"I want it to be somewhere people can be themselves," she says. "A place to talk, feel supported, and build each other up."

There's also a strong sense of giving back. Some activities will support local causes, for example, handmade items created in groups will be donated to hospitals and charities.

Growing Through Challenges

The café's reopening follows a tough year for Deniece, both personally and professionally. A sharp drop in customers, alongside life changes and pressures at home, meant there were moments when everything felt uncertain.

But she credits the people around her for helping her through. "I had amazing support," she says. "I couldn't have done it without them."

That experience has shaped her vision for the café today: a place where others can find the same sense of connection and care.

Looking Ahead

Deniece hopes for the future are simple but powerful, to build a strong, supportive community where people feel more confident, connected, and resilient.

Plans are already taking shape, including:

- Community groups and volunteer opportunities
- A local allotment project, where young people can grow food and cook for others
- A focus on natural, healthy living and everyday wellbeing

"We can't fix everything in the world," she says, "but we can create something positive together."



Get involved:

Café Conscious is looking for volunteers and community members to help shape its next chapter, drop by and say hello.

**Cafe Conscious, 182 Avonvale Rd,
BS5 9SX**



A Sabbatical of a Lifetime

When Felix Road Adventure Playground's Manager, Ollie, set off on a six-month sabbatical with his partner Caris, the aim was simple: make the most of their health, youth and curiosity while they could. Seeing friends and family unable to fulfil their own travel dreams due to illness had reinforced the importance of embracing opportunities now rather than waiting for retirement.



Their journey took them across China, South Korea, Japan, the Philippines and New Zealand, chosen for their mix of cultures, landscapes and seasons. "We wanted variety," Ollie explains. "Snow, beaches, cities, wildlife and different cultures, and we both share an interest in East Asia."

One especially memorable moment was in northern Japan, where Ollie proposed to Caris in a remote hot spring resort surrounded by deep snow, forests and a mountain stream. "It felt magical," he says. The trip also brought unforgettable wildlife encounters, including watching hundreds of eagles in Japan and seeing dolphins, whales, albatrosses and kiwi conservation projects in New Zealand.

Along the way, Ollie was struck by the warmth of people he met, particularly in China. Despite language barriers and cultural differences, he generally felt welcomed wherever he travelled. The biggest challenge was communication, especially as a vegetarian trying to navigate unfamiliar menus and ingredients.

The sabbatical also highlighted what makes Easton special. While many places they visited were culturally homogeneous, Ollie missed the diversity and sense of community found around Felix Road and Easton Community Centre. "There are so few places where people from so many different



backgrounds come together, have fun and feel comfortable with each other," he says.

Returning home, he found joy in the familiar sight of children inventing games, building friendships and creating chaos at Felix Road. "It's hard to be here and not feel happy when you see how much fun the kids are having."

And what's his favourite thing about Easton? Beyond its diversity, it's the feeling of a genuinely lived-in neighbourhood: colourful streets, green spaces, street art and a strong sense of community woven through its winding roads. After travelling halfway around the world, it's a reminder that some special places are closer to home.

Congratulations Nirmal!



Nirmal Singh, Eastside Community Trust's Kitchen Coordinator for Felix Road Adventure Playground has been recognised in the King's Honours list for 2026! Nirmal will receive a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the community in Bristol. British Empire Medal (BEM) is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, service, or achievement in their local community and a sustained commitment in that has delivered real impact. An achievement or contribution of a "hands-on" service to the community in a local geographical area. Nirmal cooked over 17,000 meals for children in Easton and Lawrence Hill last year with her team Hero and Rani, truly deserving of this title! Nirmal will receive her medal from Peaches Golding CBE,, Lord-Lieutenant and His Majesty's representative in the City and County of Bristol.

BRISTOL TREE CRAFT at Felix Road Adventure Playground



The Green Machine
Is back at Felix Road
Adventure Playground
from 30 September
to 4 November.
Every Wednesday
3.30pm to 5.30pm

Get stuck in with a mix of outdoor
craft, from wild pottery to willow
weaving, woodwork to metalwork.

All children under 8 must be supervised
by their parent or carer at all times.

bristoltreecraft.co.uk/the-green-machine



AUTUMN at Felix Road Adventure Playground

HALF TERM: Monday 25 Oct to Sunday 1 Nov
12pm to 5:30pm - lots of opportunities for adventure!

WAVEY NIGHTS Tuesday and Wednesday, 5:30 to 7:30pm - Youth sessions for 11 - 16 year olds

BRISTOL TREE CRAFT Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5:30pm
- Green machine, outdoor craft, willow-weaving, woodwork

HALLOWEEN PARTY- Thursday 29 October, 12pm to 5:30pm Join us for a spook-tacular afternoon with party games and fancy dress!

GIRLS' GROUP - Every Friday, 3:30pm to 5:30pm

DIWALI PARTY - Sunday 1 November 1pm to 5pm
Family fun day for Diwali with food, performances, henna, music and more

All children under 8 must be supervised by their parent or carer at all times.

FOOD IS FUEL FOR PLAY! Children's meals are free during half term, and £1 at weekend events. Halal and vegetarian option available Food is served from 1pm - 4pm, on a first come, first serve basis.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

AT FELIX ROAD ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

- Music
- Food
- Free Play
- Art & Crafts
- Halloween Games
- Prizes to be won!
- House of Horrors!

Thursday
29 October
12 to 5:30pm

THE MOST
SPOOKTACULAR
time of the
YEAR

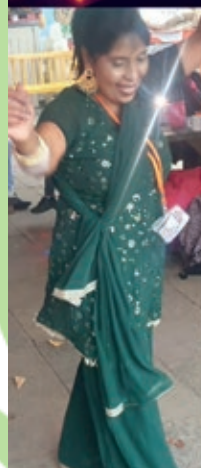


Diwali Party!

AT FELIX ROAD
ADVENTURE
PLAYGROUND

SUNDAY
1 NOV
1-5PM

RANGOLI
HENNA
DANCE
MUSIC
FOOD
PLAY



A Lasting Tribute to a Community Champion

Up Our Street sat down with Easton resident Yeshawa Selassie to talk about the new mural dedicated to her father.

The artwork, painted on the building that served as his cultural centre for more than 30 years, honours Ras Bandele Selassie I, the Rastafari High Priest of the Southwest of England, who passed away in Spring 2024.

For his youngest daughter, Yeshawa, seeing the completed mural for the first time was an emotional moment. "It exceeded my expectations," she said. "The artists did an amazing job. It was like he was there. It captured his essence, what he stood for and what he's remembered for."

Known throughout the community for his open-door approach, Yeshawa's father helped people from all walks of life. Whether someone needed guidance, support during difficult times or simply a place to sit and feel safe, the centre was always there for them. "I haven't met anyone who had a bad word to say about him," Yeshawa reflected. "Sometimes people would come just to be in his presence."

The family worked closely with three local artists to create the mural, selecting the portrait, wording and symbolic elements together. Each artist brought their own expertise, resulting in a powerful collaborative piece that reflects both the man and his legacy.

That legacy continues today through the Rastafari Cultural Centre, which remains a welcoming community space, offering workshops, cultural activities and a place for people to connect. Yeshawa has also taken on some of the roles her father once held, including leading monthly gatherings.

"It wasn't something I planned," she said. "It just naturally came into being."

Asked what made her father such an influential figure, Yeshawa's answer was simple: "His passion to help people, his wisdom, patience and his love."

Today, the mural stands as more than a work of art. It is a reminder of a life devoted to service, unity and community, and of a legacy that continues to inspire Easton and beyond.



Congratulations to Salah Hassan!

Lots of you might know Salah Hassan, one of our wonderful playworkers at Felix Road Adventure Playground. But what you might not know is that for the last few years, when Salah wasn't playing football or having water fights with the children and young people at the playground, he was studying for his BA in Business and Economics at UWE Bristol. Salah recently graduated with an impressive 2:1 degree with Honours! Huge congratulations from all at Eastside, Salah. And doesn't he look dapper in the grad gear!



Community Volunteer Spotlight: Steve Woods

If you've ever joined a litter pick in Barton Hill or dropped into Easton Community Centre for help with a computer problem, there's a good chance you've met Steve Woods.

Steve has lived in Easton since 1977 and says volunteering has always been part of his life. "It's a part of who I am," he says. "I think it's partly in the family DNA. On both sides of the family we've always been contributors rather than just consumers."

His volunteering journey began at school and continued through student activism, including campaigning against apartheid. Since then, he has thrown his energy into a wide range of community projects, from local campaigns and festivals to IT support and litter picking. He was even a sub-editor for Planet Easton – the magazine that ran out of Easton Community Centre in the early 2000s.

What keeps him going? "Dissatisfaction is a strong driver," he laughs. Steve is passionate about improving the area and making sure public money is spent wisely. "I want to see my council tax spent in my area where I live."

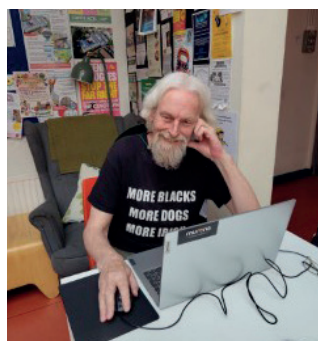
Steve believes community action can make a real difference and has been helping to organise Barton Hill litter picks for a few years. While litter picking certainly makes the area look better, he believes its biggest impact is encouraging community pride. "If you've got a bunch of us out there volunteering in high-vis jackets, it encourages other people to stop and ask how they can get involved."

Alongside keeping streets tidy, Steve helps people tackle everyday technology problems at Easton Community Centre. The questions are often simple but important: how to attach a file to an email, create a website, or navigate new software. A long-time advocate of open-source technology, he believes digital skills are increasingly important but adds that we shouldn't forget people who prefer offline ways of connecting.



"It's still important to have spaces like the community centre and magazines like Up Our Street".

His advice for anyone considering volunteering is straightforward: "Don't be shy. Do it. It's made my life a lot richer. I've met people I wouldn't otherwise have met and been to places I wouldn't otherwise have been."



Inspired? Why not borrow our litter picking equipment, drop in to Easton Community Centre!



Connecting Culture, Community and Climate in Easton & Lawrence Hill

A new Bristol initiative is bringing climate change conversations closer to home by weaving them into culture, storytelling and everyday community life.

Climate Connections, created by Sheetal Jethwa of South Asian Voices Bristol CIC, aims to create space for meaningful discussions about climate change within South Asian communities. The idea grew from a simple observation: while climate change is having a significant impact across South Asia, through extreme heat, flooding and other environmental challenges, these experiences are not always discussed openly within communities here in the UK.

“We’re very much impacted by climate change through our families back home,” says Sheetal. “But we don’t always have the space to talk about it here.”

South Asian Voices Bristol CIC was founded to amplify stories that are often overlooked, exploring issues such as mental health, cultural identity and intergenerational experiences. Climate Connections builds on that mission by encouraging people to share their experiences, concerns and ideas in a way that feels welcoming and accessible.

At the heart of the programme is the belief that stories can connect people in ways that facts alone cannot. While climate change can sometimes feel like a distant or

overwhelming issue, storytelling helps bring it to life through personal experiences and family connections.

A key part of the project is a monthly radio show on **BCFM**, based at Easton Community Trust broadcast on the first Monday of every month. Each episode explores a different aspect of climate change, combining expert insight with local voices and lived experience. Community events and workshops will also take place in Easton, Lawrence Hill and neighbouring areas, creating opportunities for people to come together, learn from one another and explore solutions.

For Sheetal, the strength of the project lies in its community-led approach. “We’re not here to preach or tell people what to do,” she says. “It’s about listening, creating dialogue and helping people feel part of the solution.”



GET INVOLVED

Listen to Climate Connections on BCFM on the first Monday of each month, or catch up online using the station’s “listen again” feature.

To find out more, share your story or get involved:

Visit: www.savbcic.co.uk

Email: sheetaljethwa79@gmail.com



Supporting local people to create a greener Easton & Lawrence Hill



Our Greening Eastside Community Connector, Jose Barco, shares an update on the first eight months of the project.

Since February, Greening Eastside has been supporting community groups, residents and local initiatives caring for nature across Easton and Lawrence Hill through **Nature Together**, a Bristol-wide programme helping communities create greener, healthier and more climate-resilient neighbourhoods.

We began by listening, meeting the people already leading local projects and identifying where support was needed to help ideas become reality.

In just a few months, we've mapped **more than 31 community-led initiatives** across the two neighbourhoods. Together they tell an inspiring story of local people caring for parks, creating pocket gardens, transforming alleyways, growing food, protecting trees and wildlife, improving green spaces and bringing neighbours together.

Today, we actively support these initiatives by connecting people, helping organise volunteers, navigating permissions, developing ideas and accessing funding.

Small grants have helped local projects move forward, including improvements at **Lower Chelsea Park/Colston Road Shared Alley, St Mark's Alley, Brixton Road Pocket Garden, Clark Street Community Garden and Church Avenue Community Garden**. We've also worked with Avon Wildlife Trust to deliver biodiversity mapping sessions at Felix Road Adventure Playground and local parks.



Our growing WhatsApp community now includes more than **80 local people** committed to nature and biodiversity.

We've also supported four community groups to develop applications to the **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** fund, which are currently progressing through the application process.

One of the biggest challenges communities face is understanding how to gain permission to improve public spaces. That's why, building on learning from these projects, we're working with Bristol City Council to pilot the new **Nature Permit Scheme**. Thirteen local projects will help shape the scheme, making it easier for communities to green streets and improve shared spaces across Bristol.

Easton and Lawrence Hill already have an extraordinary amount of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for creating a greener future. The next step is bringing these ideas together into a shared vision.

That is why we are launching the **Easton & Lawrence Hill Community-Led Nature Plan**.

Read on to learn more.



Nature isn't somewhere else. We are part of it.

When nature thrives, people thrive. Trees provide shade during heatwaves, improve air quality and help cool our neighbourhoods. Healthy soils absorb rainfall and reduce flooding. Parks, community gardens, green verges and other local green spaces support physical and mental wellbeing while creating habitats for wildlife.

As the climate changes, these everyday neighbourhood spaces are becoming more important than ever.

Creating healthier and more resilient communities cannot be left to governments and environmental organisations alone. Communities also have a vital role to play.

The Community-Led Nature Plan will bring together local knowledge, lived experience and practical ideas to create a shared vision for how nature can flourish across Easton and Lawrence Hill in the years ahead.

Rather than being written by outside consultants, the plan will be shaped by the people who live, work and spend time here.



The plan will help identify opportunities to:

- protect and improve existing green spaces;
- increase tree cover and shade where it is most needed;
- support biodiversity and create habitats for wildlife;
- identify places that could become pocket gardens, community growing spaces or greener streets;
- strengthen community leadership and connect local initiatives;
- help attract future investment and support for neighbourhood greening.

Most importantly, we hope this process will help build a stronger movement for nature across the neighbourhood.



Help Shape the Community-Led Nature Plan



Over the coming months, residents, community groups and organisations will come together to share ideas, identify opportunities and help create the plan.

Whether you attend one event or several, we'd love to hear from you.

Community-Led Nature Plan Survey

Available now until 15 October

Share your vision for nature in Easton and Lawrence Hill, tell us about the places you value and identify where more nature is needed.



Greening Eastside Feast & Collective Story Harvest

20 September | 3pm to 7pm

Join residents, community groups and partners for food, music and conversation as we gather the stories and aspirations that will help shape the plan.



Community Nature Assembly

13 September | 10am to 5pm

Easton Community Centre

Explore what we've heard so far, identify key themes and begin co-designing the plan together.



Easton & Lawrence Hill Community Nature Summit

7 November | 2pm to 6pm

Review the first draft of the Nature Plan and help refine it before publication.



Community-Led Nature Plan Celebration

29 November | 10am to 2pm | Kilburn Hall, Eastside Community Trust

Celebrate the people, partnerships and projects that have shaped the plan and explore how we can continue turning ideas into action.



STAY CONNECTED

Join the **Greening Eastside WhatsApp Community** to hear about local projects, events, volunteering opportunities and neighbourhood news.



Get Involved!

We're also looking for volunteers to support engagement activities, community events, nature mapping, school outreach and neighbourhood conversations.

For more information contact:

José Barco

Greening Eastside Community Organiser

jose@upourstreet.org.uk

07739 195011 (WhatsApp only)

Nature in Action



These are just a few of the many community-led projects helping create a greener Easton and Lawrence Hill.

St Mark's Alley Revitalisation

What was once an overlooked alleyway is becoming a greener, more welcoming space for residents.

Local people have worked together to introduce planting, artwork and ongoing maintenance, creating a safer and more attractive environment while supporting biodiversity.



With support from Greening Eastside, the project received a small grant and help navigating permissions, demonstrating how even small neighbourhood spaces can bring people together and create lasting positive change.

Lower Chelsea Park / Colston Road Shared Alley

Residents transformed a shared alleyway through a community weekend of planting, building and creative activities.

Neighbours cleared rubbish, built wooden planters and planted fruit, flowers and vegetables. Community art activities, mural painting and composting workshops brought together residents of all ages.



More than 50 people participated, many meeting their neighbours for the first time.

The project created

opportunities for community connection while improving a valued shared space.

One resident reflected:

"It's looking beautiful and it was great to meet so many neighbours. Such a lovely community to be part of."

Easton Community Garden

Easton Community Garden has long been a place where people come together to grow food, learn new skills and build community.

The garden provides opportunities for people of all ages to connect with nature while supporting biodiversity, wellbeing and community resilience.



The group welcomes new participants to its regular Sunday sessions and is currently seeking people with horticultural and permaculture experience to join the leadership team.

Brixton Road Pocket Garden

What began as a small resident-led project has evolved into a colourful community space.

The pocket garden brings neighbours together through planting and maintenance days while providing important habitat for pollinators and making the street a greener, more welcoming place to live.

Supported by Greening Eastside, it demonstrates how local action can transform underused spaces into valued community assets.

Read more about these projects, and others, on our website.



This Is Only the Beginning

These four projects are just a snapshot of what's already happening across Easton and Lawrence Hill.

Since February, Greening Eastside has identified more than **31 community-led initiatives**, from wildlife projects and community gardens to

park groups, alleyway transformations and neighbourhood greening activities.

As the Community-Led Nature Plan develops, we hope more residents will join this growing movement and help create a neighbourhood that is greener, healthier and more resilient for generations to come.

Taking Lawrence Hill to London: How Local Voices Are Shaping a National Housing Justice Campaign



Residents from Lawrence Hill are helping shape Shelter's next national housing campaign, ensuring local experiences influence housing policy and accountability across the UK.

Up Our Street spoke to **Shaban Ali**, Chair of the Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Forum, about why housing justice matters and how local communities can drive change.

For Shaban, the issue is deeply personal. Having lived in a Lawrence Hill tower block for more than a decade, he understands the challenges many residents face. He also experienced the Barton House evacuation, an event that continues to affect local families.



"We're passionate about housing because we understand how important safe and adequate housing is," he says. "The evacuation is still something that's very present in people's lives."

Alongside fellow community leader **Fadumo Farah**, Shaban recently travelled to London to work with Shelter on a new campaign focused on improving housing conditions and strengthening accountability in both social and private housing.

"We felt humbled and excited because housing is such an urgent issue right now," he says.

A core aim of the campaign is to ensure people with lived experience help shape solutions from the outset.

"There are families living in temporary accommodation, people dealing with damp and mould, and people struggling to get repairs completed. It's important that those experiences are heard directly."

Meeting residents and campaigners from across the country highlighted how widespread these challenges are.

"I realised these problems aren't unique to Lawrence Hill," says Shaban.

"There was comfort in knowing you're not alone, but it was also upsetting to see how widespread these housing problems really are."

For Shaban, community involvement is essential to creating lasting change.



"The beauty of this campaign is that local people have a seat at the table. We have representation and agency."

He points to Lawrence Hill's response to the Barton House evacuation as an example of community power in action.

"People who had never engaged with the council before came together and successfully pushed for change."

His message to residents facing housing difficulties is clear:

"Don't suffer in silence and don't suffer alone."

Shaban hopes the campaign will deliver faster repairs, greater accountability and better support for tenants, while helping residents recognise that their voices matter.

GET INVOLVED

Follow the Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Forum on Facebook and look out for opportunities to support Shelter's campaign when it launches later this year.



Photo Story: Easton and Lawrence Hill in pictures.



Photographer, Carrie Hitchcock shares with Up Our Street historic pictures from her community collections: Easton Lives 2001, and Barton Hill Youth Centre 1982 & 1990, and tells us the inspiration behind the images.

What first attracted you to photographing people and communities?

From the beginning I wanted to photograph people and try to represent them, or capture something real about them. I was and am a committed socialist and feminist and I wanted to represent what I saw as social/communal truths and the ways people working live together.



Why is it important that communities can document their own lives and stories?

Communities that have been marginalised rarely get the opportunity to represent themselves. Although I admired the work of the documentary photographers of the 30's who raised awareness of and humanised poverty, I was more inspired by groups such as Bootle's Art in Action in the 70's that put the camera and printing process in the hands of the community. I wanted to do that too.



You founded the Barton Hill Photography Project. What inspired you to start it?

I began to feel that I wasn't really representing people and their lives truly, and that they ought to have the means to represent themselves.

Mainstream Art and Commercial Photography hold a monopoly on the images we see, and therefore the way that we perceive the world outside of our experience. These images, made by professionals, used by those who have wealth and power, depict a very limited view of the world. There is an absence of positive images that reflect the lives, cultures, needs, and strengths of less powerful groups in society.

The Community Photography movement aimed to redress the balance by providing access to skills and resources at a local level and enabling people to use photography to represent their lives themselves.

Now, with social media, people DO have the means to represent themselves, but some views get over-amplified and some don't get heard at all. It can be too easy to post without thinking. With analogue photograph, it's a long process requiring thought.



How can photography help people feel more connected to their neighbourhood?

It is an accessible way to communicate, especially for those who have not flourished in school. Communicate within a community or to decision makers - for example to make practical demands, document lifestyle, and expose social injustice, as well as celebrate and reaffirm peoples' lives/ cultures.



You've spent decades documenting Bristol and its people. What gives you hope when you look at Bristol's communities today?

The same thing that's always given me hope - the ways people work together, love, laugh, co-operate, build communities. Avoiding social media.



What is your favourite thing about Easton and Lawrence Hill?

My neighbourhood: I lived in Goodhind Street from 1987 to 2002. My children were born here, and they went to school here. Easton was the inspiration for my personal photographic work, as well as the subject of commissioned work. I knew most of my neighbours; shopkeepers, policemen, pastors, villains, druggies, children, parents and pensioners. I got to know people, people who I never would have met in the normal course of my life. I had some of the best neighbours you could have, and some of the worst. I felt at home in the area, a great place to live.



Keen to see more photos?

Visit: carriehitchcockphotography.co.uk

Interested to find out more about historic Bristol?

Head over to Bristol Radical History Group's website: brh.org.uk



Meet Ben Onyibo Ameke Robinson: bringing human rights closer to home

From housing and healthcare to community spaces and cultural life, Human Rights Officer, Ben, is helping local organisations use “everyday rights” to create positive change across Bristol.

When people hear the phrase human rights, they often think of international courts or global campaigns. But for Ben, a Human Rights Officer with national charity Just Fair, human rights are much closer to home. “Economic, social and cultural rights are what we call the everyday rights,” he explains. “Things like housing, health, work and having an adequate standard of living. These are the rights that affect people’s lives every day.” Just Fair works to promote and protect these rights across the UK, and Ben’s role focuses on supporting organisations in Bristol and the South West to tackle racial injustice and create lasting social change. His route into the role began with a Master’s degree in International Human Rights Law, followed by frontline work at SARI (Stand Against Racism and Inequality) supporting people who had experienced hate crime and discrimination. “That role showed me the reality of the issues people face,” he says. “Now I’m still working towards the same goal, but through a human rights lens.”

Taking on the big challenges

Over the past year, Ben has spent time listening to communities across Bristol, and several concerns have come up again and again. Housing is one of the most pressing. Residents have spoken about living in homes affected by damp and mould, with serious consequences for their health. “I saw some shocking examples of black mould in social housing,” he says. “That links directly to people’s right to health as well as their right to adequate housing.” Healthcare inequalities are another concern, including long waiting lists and the ongoing disparity in



maternal health outcomes for Black women. Ben also highlights the challenges faced by autistic people and families, particularly where disability intersects with race. Long waits for assessments and gaps in educational support can leave many families struggling to access the help they need. Employment insecurity is another issue, with many people from Black and minoritised communities disproportionately affected by unstable or low-paid work. “These issues are all connected,” Ben says. “When people’s rights aren’t being met in one area of life, it often impacts other areas too.”

Protecting community spaces

One area of Ben’s work has involved supporting a learning network of Bristol charity leaders, including Eastside Community Trust. Together, the group has been exploring how community organisations can champion human rights while remaining within charity regulations.

Reasons to be hopeful

Despite the challenges, Ben sees plenty of reasons for optimism. One encouraging development is the growing work around the Windrush generation. Through a project with Black Equity Organisation, Ben is helping raise awareness of the housing issues experienced by people affected by the Windrush scandal. He is particularly encouraged by the emergence of networks of local authorities working together to address these historic injustices. But perhaps what gives him the most hope is something closer to home. “Bristol has an amazing culture of collaboration,” he says. “You see people coming together, sharing knowledge and supporting one another. That happens across the voluntary sector and in communities every day.” For Ben, the answer to many of today’s challenges lies in stronger community connections.

Local Update for Kerry McCarthy MP

This summer was the hottest on record, but as autumn approaches, many households will be thinking about how to keep their energy bills down.

That's why I want to highlight the support available through the Government's Warm Homes Plan. Installing measures such as heat pumps and solar panels, along with home insulation, can cut energy costs while helping us move towards clean energy.

Heat pumps are particularly effective. They keep homes comfortable all year round and are up to three times more efficient than traditional gas boilers. A typical three-bedroom mid-terrace home could save up to £450 a year by combining a heat pump with solar panels and battery storage.

Lower energy bills are just one benefit. Heat pumps will also play a key role in the transition to clean energy - something I know matters deeply to many people across Bristol.

Because heat pumps are the most efficient and cost-effective form of electrified heating, the Government is offering grants of up to £9,000 to help households make the switch. If you're a homeowner or landlord, applying is straightforward:

- 1. Arrange a home survey.**
- 2. Get a quote from an MCS-certified installer.**
- 3. Ask your installer to apply for the grant through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme on your behalf.**

For more information and impartial advice, you can contact Bristol City Council's energy advice service or the Centre for Sustainable Energy, which helps people improve their home's energy efficiency and reduce costs.



Update from Cllr Yassin Mohamud

Since being sworn in as Lord Mayor, it has been a huge honour for me to get to visit all parts of our city and meet so many people doing important work in our communities.

One extra special event for me was getting to speak at the 20 year anniversary celebration for Bristol Refugee Rights. I arrived as a refugee in this city myself many years ago so I know how important organisations like this are for helping refugees and asylum seekers settle into Bristol, find support, and access education and work.

In a time when the far-right wants to turn us against each other, events like this remind us of our shared humanity and how we have much more that unites us than divides us.



Another important milestone for me was chairing my first Full Council meeting in July. This was a spirited affair with both councillors and members of the public sharing their opinions very clearly!

During this meeting we also passed a motion to make Bristol a city of harm reduction around drug addiction. Myself and my fellow Green councillors see every day how drug addiction destroys lives and hurts communities. As a society we need to find ways that tackle this which actually work and which don't just push the problem from one area to another. We will keep listen to our communities and working together to find any solutions we can.

A long-term solution for Stapleton Road's Drug Problems?

by Cllr Cara Lavan

Residents of East Bristol know very well where the local drug dealing and using hotspots are, and frequently witness people using drugs openly in the streets. There are growing calls for a long-term solution to the problem.

Stapleton Road and the surrounding area are particularly badly affected, including Rawnsley Park, Newtown, Riverside Park, Brenner St and the back of Easton Leisure Centre. Older residents have seen the situation go from bad to worse. When the police put extra resources into tackling drugs in one area, we just see it pop up in other streets nearby.

I've spent years working on drug-related issues. I don't believe anyone grows up thinking they want to be a heroin or crack user. But I've also come to see that the destructive cycle of addiction is best broken by support. A criminal justice response only keeps the cycle of crisis and crime going as unmet needs, like homelessness, mental ill health, neurodivergence and domestic abuse go unmanaged.

One of the things I've learned is that over 70% of people using heroin or crack, were abused as children. Using drugs (including alcohol) is one of the quickest and easiest ways not to have to re-live their trauma every day.

One solution to tackling this cycle is to bring in an 'overdose prevention centre'. This could be a building or a mobile vehicle, where people who inject drugs could do so under medical supervision.

"over 70% of people using heroin or crack, were abused as children."

A service like this means many users simply benefit from a check in and a chat about their health at the time of their drug use. This can give them the chance to connect into other support services, like mental health or homelessness. It can be the first step towards them linking up with drug treatment agencies, and getting help to tackle their addiction

There are over 100 such sites around the world, but to do this in Bristol, we need funding and government permission.

We know Stapleton Rd residents are sick and tired of the status quo. This is why we are holding a meeting on 1 October 2026 for a community conversation about a way forward. We have invited leading experts on the topic including Dr Danny Ahmed and former undercover police officer Neil Woods to speak alongside members of the community. No need to book, just turn up.



Stitching Community Together: Meet Mamadou of Gallas Couture

For more than a decade, Mamadou has been a familiar face in Easton and Lawrence Hill, sharing his sewing skills, creating beautiful made-to-measure outfits, and helping local people gain confidence with a needle and thread.

Sewing has been part of his life since childhood, and after moving to Bristol 11 years ago, he began using his skills to support others in the community.

Today, Mamadou runs Gallas Couture, based at Kora Community Centre on Stapleton Road, where he creates bespoke clothing. His work includes everything from African and European-style dresses to wedding outfits and matching garments for community events. Through word of mouth, his designs have attracted customers from Cardiff, Newport, Glasgow and across the UK.

Alongside running his business, Mamadou volunteers every Friday with Eastside Community Trust and Somali Kitchen, teaching sewing. The sessions help people learn practical skills such as threading a machine, making simple repairs and building confidence to create their own projects. "Anyone can learn" he says. "Sewing is a good skill for everybody."

Mamadou believes sewing is not only creative but also practical, helping people mend and adapt clothing rather than throwing items away. He is particularly passionate about encouraging children and young people to have a go. During school holidays, children often visit his workshop to learn simple techniques, and he's already teaching his own children the craft.

When asked what he loves most about Easton and Lawrence Hill, his answer is immediate: the people. "Everybody comes together," he says. "People talk to each other, there is a good community spirit."



sewing SOCIAL

AT EASTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

FRIDAYS from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Everyone welcome!
(under 16s to be accompanied by an adult)

£2 per person

This peer-led social gives the opportunity for you to meet other sewers and to help each other with your projects.

Bring your own sewing projects in or use our collection of scraps and threads.

Sewing machines, needles and threads are provided.

The Sewing Social is peer-led and supported by Somali Kitchen

For more info: contact@upourstreet.org.uk or visit eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY TRUST



10 Years of Growing Together

This year, Raised In turns 10, and we're taking a moment to reflect on our journey.

Raised In was founded on a simple idea: nursery provision can help communities thrive. After seeing the positive impact a nursery could have within a community centre, our founders partnered with Eastside Community Trust to open our first nursery in Easton Community Centre. Today, we're proud to have two nurseries in partnership with Eastside, with our second setting based at Felix Road Adventure Playground.

Ten years later, we've now grown to four nurseries across Bristol (and counting!), supporting hundreds of children and families with high-quality early years education and childcare while helping community organisations build long-term resilience.

As a social enterprise, we do business differently. We work with community organisations, paying

market rent on long-term leases and creating shared value through profit-sharing and community investment. We also pay the real Living Wage and prioritise local suppliers wherever possible.

To celebrate our first decade, we're publishing a 10-Year Impact Report and premiering a new film by Bristol filmmaker Dan Canham, highlighting the people, partnerships and places that have shaped Raised In. The film will be screened at our Impact Day, Raised In Turns 10: Celebrating Impact Together, on 30 September, followed by a discussion on how partnerships can create lasting impact.

Most importantly, it's a chance to say thank you to Eastside Community Trust, all our community partners, our families, team members and supporters. You've all helped shape our story. Here's to the next 10 years!

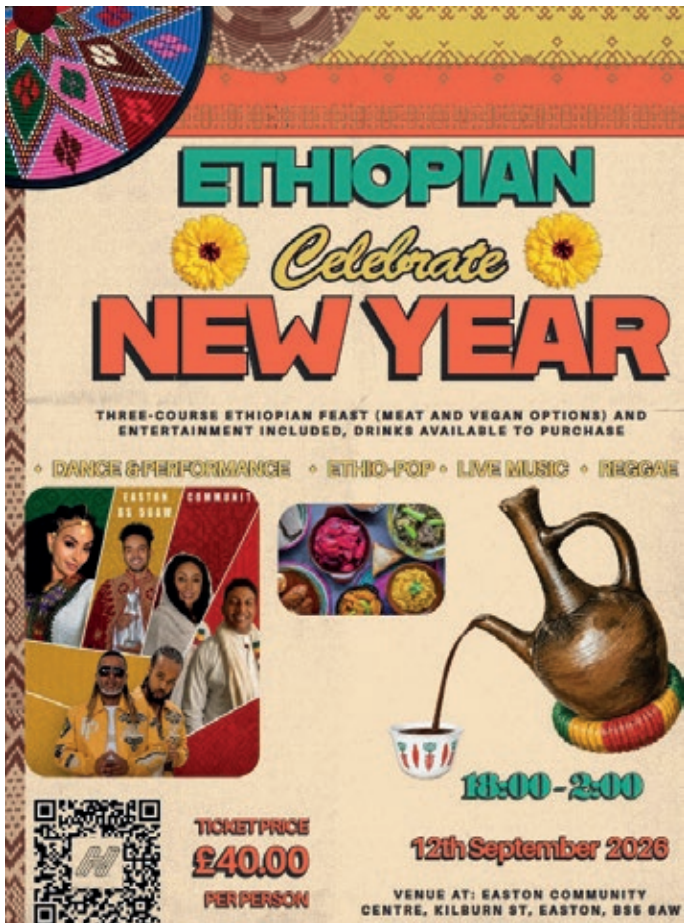
Readers' Corner

My work experience, by Martha from City Academy

I'm Martha Roddis at City Academy in Year 10. I was interested in doing work experience with Green Schools Project as I thought the work they do was really important so through my mum I got in touch. My favourite part of the placement has been learning more about the programme they teach and how the schools can intertwine it into the curriculum. I've really enjoyed learning about what roles in the organisation and how each role is such a crucial part. Luckily nothing has been too challenging due to the team being so helpful with everything. This experience has definitely made me consider a future career in sustainability work and just shown how important it is. I think for other people doing work experience they should definitely consider working in places like Green Schools Project as it's been such a good learning experience. My favourite part about Easton and Lawrence Hill is the diversity and sense of community.

We love hearing from you! Got something to share? Whether it's a write-up, poem, photo or drawing, send in your submissions to **comms@upourstreet.org.uk**





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18:00 - 2:00



EASTSIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Bristol Steppin Sistas
walking in the footsteps of our Ancestors

Women of Colour Mother & Daughters Countryside Walk

(Daughters aged 13+)

Sunday 13th September

12:00 PM

Pensford

One mile easy walk

Take time to connect, enjoy nature, and spend quality time together in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

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“ From transition to GCSEs, staff have been relentless in their **commitment to the young people** in their care, **pastorally and academically**. We appreciate Fairfield’s **incredible community spirit** and the **diversity and inclusion** it embodies.”

Parent



For Open Events, please visit
www.fairfield.excalibur.org.uk

THRE FOLD

Threefold is a Community Youth Theatre group in the heart of Easton

Company 2
Where play gets serious

Age 10-12 (Years 6&7)
Wednesdays 5:15-6:30pm



"This year we made a show imagining a world where AI takes over and humans can upgrade themselves! We made and recorded our own song in the BCFM studio, choreographed a dance and wrote our own scenes. We also did a spooky horror story which was something we had all wanted to do all year. Next year I'm most looking forwards to making something to perform at the Bristol Old Vic as part of a big youth theatre festival. It's going to be epic!"

Stella

Company 1
Where games and stories meet

Age 8-10 (Years 4&5)
Wednesdays 4-5pm



"First we made a show about going on a school trip that turned magical where we met a dragon! We went on two theatre trips this year with Threefold and I got to perform on stage at Bird Man! I love it here because we have fun playing games together and use our imaginations to make our own stories. At the moment we're exploring a zoo that has hybrid animals, I invented a Sliger (A slug tiger)"

Olamilekun



Company 3
Where it's over to you

Age 13-19
Fridays 5-7pm



"A highlight was performing our work at the Bristol Old Vic and Trinity Centre this year to a packed audience and being in a professional theatre! The play was about some siblings that go on a mad adventure and it was really fast paced and fun, I think my favourite part was when we got to squirt the audience with water pistols, and I had a really funny and dramatic scene where I was in a car crash which was so much fun to perform. I love Threefold, we get to work with loads of different artists, go on trips and meet new people it's a really friendly group."

Suhanna

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Eastside in Numbers

2025 - 2026

12,901 Attendances

1672

children attended a session at Felix Road Adventure Playground

1670

adults attended a session at Easton Community Centre

1065

sessions held across our sites

343

evaluation forms completed

93%

of people rated their experience 4 or 5 out of 5

54%

rated their sense of belonging as 5 out of 5

92%

said they felt a sense of belonging

48%

rated their pride in the area as 5 out of 5

88%

said they have pride in the area

75%

connected with someone they didn't already know

89%

said they feel informed about the neighbourhood

92%

said that attending events with Eastside made them more likely to participate in community life

59%

rated their contact as 5 out of 5 for improving their wellbeing

92%

said their wellbeing had improved

62%

rated Eastside projects/places as 5 out of 5 for accessibility

65%

rated Eastside projects/places as 5 out of 5 for being inclusive

58%

rated Eastside projects/places as 5 out of 5 for sustainability

982

booking enquiries

£102,835

in room hire income

1483

places for Free School Meal children delivered in summer 2025

September

12th Ababo's Supper Night - Ethiopian Night

13th Easton and Lawrence Hill Nature Assembly

13th Steppin' Sista's nature walk

14th Easton Community Centre closed to public for 6 weeks for toilet refurbishment

16th Litter pick - Riverside

17th Community Meal

30th Bristol Tree Craft at Felix Road Adventure Playground

October

1st Community Meeting - drugs harm reduction

15th Community Meal

22nd Eastside Thank You Awards at Trinity

25th Half term at Felix Road Adventure Playground

26th Easton Community Centre fully reopens!

29th Halloween Party

Autumn at Eastside

November

1st Diwali Party at Felix Road Adventure Playground

7th Easton and Lawrence Hill Nature Summit #1

7th Women's Night - Bollywood

15th Sunday Dinner Club with Team Canteen and Ababo's Cuisine

19th Community Meal

21st Fun Palace - get ready for winter

29th Greening Eastside Feast, Social + Nature Plan Celebration

29th Eastside Film Night

December

6th Eastside + BCFM Christmas Market

12th Women's Night - Dancehall

17th Community Christmas Get Together

