

Creating Nature Towns and Cities: agenda and speakers

5 June 2025, 9.30am – 4.15pm

A free online conference for local government, public sector, voluntary and community leaders working together for greener, thriving and more prosperous UK towns and cities.



**Nature Towns
and Cities**

Agenda: Creating Nature Towns and Cities



Morning

9.30am - Welcome from Nature Towns and Cities

9.45am - Keynote speakers on creating greener towns and cities:

- **Baroness Hayman (Minister for Access to Nature)**
- **Councillor Sam Lux (Nottingham City Council)**
- **James Scott (Urban&Civic)**
- Intro and close: Oliver Harmar

10.30am – Reflect and connect

11am – Perspectives: **How nature can transform urban places for people**

David Luckin, Lisa Dodd Mayne, Graham Duxbury, Paul Lawrence, Tom Stratton. Chair: Hilary McGrady

12pm – Discussion: **The power of working together to create change**

Tayshan Hayden-Smith, Kersten England, Chantelle Lindsay. Chair: Roisha Hughes

12.45pm – Lunch with networking from 1.15pm

Afternoon – part 1

1.45pm – Welcome back

- Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive, The National Lottery Heritage Fund

2pm – Choice of three sessions

1. Project showcase: **Benefiting people and communities**
 - Eastside Greenway, Belfast
 - Edinburgh Nature Network
 - Better Place, Bradford
2. Spotlight on: **How to involve more voices in influencing decision making**
 - Lucy Reid, DemocracyNext
 - Harold Garner, Camden Council
3. Practical and energising workshop: **Design your own change with systems thinking**
 - Best for participants who are action-oriented, ready to lead, and want practical next steps



Afternoon – part 2

2.45pm – Break

3pm – Choice of three sessions

1. Project showcase: **Supporting nature and tackling climate change**
 - Clyde Climate Forest, Glasgow
 - Enfield Blue and Green spaces strategy
 - Derriford Community Park, Plymouth
2. Spotlight on: **How to work together to deliver change**
 - Sam Evans, Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Kieron McGlasson, Sow The City
 - Bryony Carter, Nextdoor Nature
3. Reflective and creative workshop: **Design your own change**
 - Best for participants who are navigating complex change, feeling uncertain or under pressure

3:45pm – Plenary and close

- Mete Coban, Deputy Mayor of London
- Tony Juniper, Chair, Natural England

9.45am: Keynotes

Led by Oliver Harmar, our keynote speakers will delve into the importance and benefits of urban green space and access to nature close to home.

Looking at cross sector collaboration and place-based leadership, this session sets the scene and explores some of the practicalities of creating greener towns and cities.

Hear from **Baroness Hayman** (Minister for Access to Nature) about urban greening in government policy, **Councillor Sam Lux** on improved access to nature in Nottingham and **James Scott** (Urban&Civic) about the importance of networks in positive change-making and development.

Baroness Hayman of Ullock

Minister for Access to Nature



Councillor Sam Lux

Nottingham City Council



James Scott

Group Director of Strategy, Urban&Civic



Opening and closing remarks: Oliver Harmer Chief Officer, Strategy, Natural England



11am: Perspectives on how nature can transform urban places for people

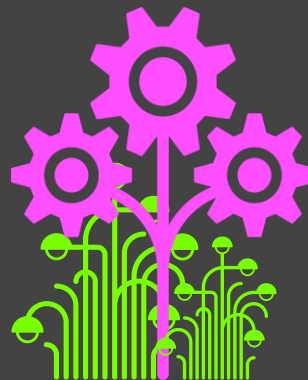
When nature lives nearer, we all live better.

Listen to our panel of speakers as they unpick this statement and discuss how having urban green spaces benefit people closer to home.

Panellists will bring different perspectives and experience on the opportunity to transform people's lives through urban green space.

Chair: Hilary McGrady

Director General of the National Trust



David Luckin

Head of Community Funding and Partnerships, The Co-operative Group



Lisa Dodd-Mayne

Executive Director, Place, Sport England



Graham Duxbury

Chief Executive, Groundwork UK



Paul Lawrence

Chief Executive, City of Edinburgh Council



Tom Stratton

Chief of Staff, The RSA



12pm: Discussion on the power of working together to create change

This session will discuss the power of working together and practical steps to take to get the most out of inclusivity, partnerships and collaboration.

With a mixture of speakers, this discussion will explore how people from across a range of organisations and roles can work together to bring about change, and why we need to do more to work together successfully.

Chair: Roisha Hughes CBE

Trustee, The National Lottery Heritage Fund



Tayshan Hayden-Smith

Founder, Grow to Know



Kersten England CBE DL

Chair, Bradford Culture Company



Chantelle Lindsay

Wildlife conservationist, TV presenter and Nature-connection facilitator



2pm: Choice of 3 sessions



1

Project Showcase: benefitting people and communities

Learn how tried and tested solutions can help transform your town or city with our first project showcase.

Hear from organisations as they discuss how they've made a change in their place, what they learnt from it, and what benefits were felt by the people, place and community, followed by a Q&A.

Chair: Saira Ali

Nadine McAuley, Eastside Greenway, Belfast
Gill Thornton, Better Place, Bradford
Alexandra Hoadley, Edinburgh Nature Network

2

Spotlight on... How to involve more voices in influencing decisions

At this workshop, we'll look at the steps that need to be taken to engage, inspire and support communities. How can you bring in more voices to influence decision making? What do you need to be in place to be able to do this effectively? What are the benefits of involving more voices?

Chair: Rory Crawford

Lucy Reid, DemocracyNext
Harold Garner, Camden Council

3

Workshop: Design your own change with systems thinking

A practical, energising session for decision-makers who want to take bold, doable action in their place. A Brilliant Thing CIC will guide you through a systems thinking activity that links small personal actions to wider change.

Facilitator: Kerry Tottingham



3pm: Choice of 3 sessions

1

Project Showcase: supporting nature and tackling climate change

Learn how tried and tested solutions can help transform your town or city with our second project showcase. Hear from three organisations on how they've delivered projects to support nature and tackle climate change, followed by a Q&A.

Chair: David Coughlin

Allys Ludlow, Clyde Climate Forest
Ian Russell, Enfield Blue and Green spaces strategy
Jerry Griffiths, Derriford Community Park, Plymouth

2

Spotlight on... How to work together to deliver change

This workshop will explore participation and partnerships and look at what's possible around sharing decision-making. What can you learn from working with others? We'll look at different delivery models and how you could use them.

Chair: Casey Morrison

Bryony Carter, Nextdoor Nature
Kieron McGlasson, Sow The City
Sam Evans, Greater Manchester Combined Authority

3

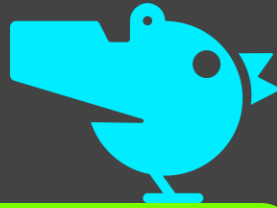
Workshop: Design your own change with reflective practice

A reflective, creative session that helps leaders explore the deeper story of the change they want to lead. Led by A Brilliant Thing CIC, this session is gentle and visual and will help you identify your needs for the journey ahead.

Facilitator: Kerry Tottingham



Afternoon



Throughout the afternoon hear from further speakers on their experience of leading change to improve access to urban green space, and what this work means to their organisations.

The afternoon will be opened by **Eilish McGuinness** (Chief Executive, The National Lottery Heritage Fund).

To close the day **Mete Coban MBE** (Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy), will share his reflections on this agenda and the opportunities he's excited about. **Tony Juniper CBE** (Chair of Natural England), will close the day and reflect on the progress we've made today and how important it is we take this work forward.

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive, The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



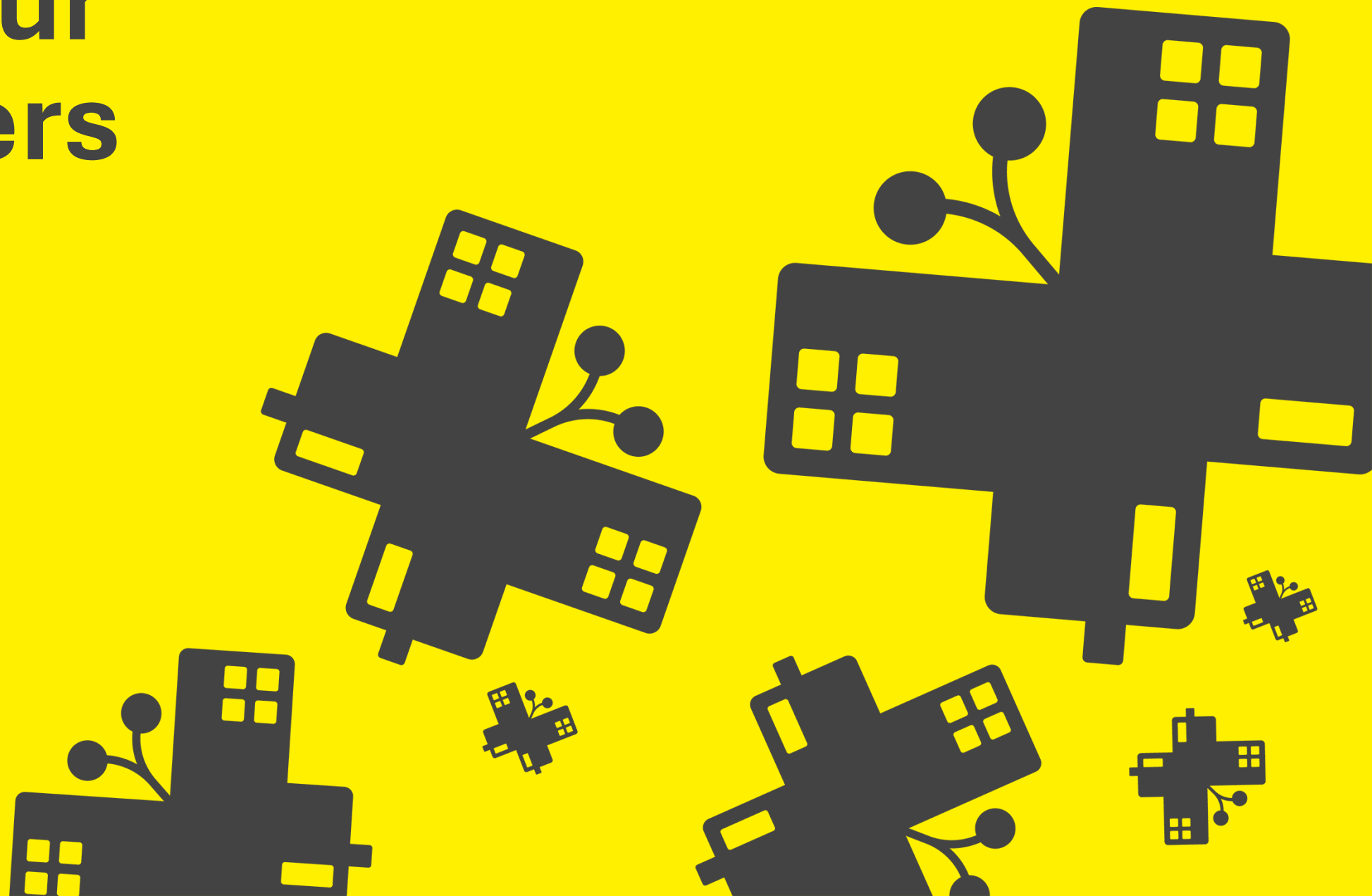
Mete Coban MBE, Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy



Tony Juniper CBE, Chair of Natural England



Meet our speakers



Keynotes



Baroness Hayman of Ullock was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 9 July 2024, with responsibility for biosecurity and animal welfare. She was previously shadow spokesperson for Defra in the Lords between October 2020 and July 2024, as well as Shadow Spokesperson for Levelling Up, Housing, Communities and Local Government from December 2021 to October 2023.

In the Commons, Baroness Hayman served as shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from 2017 to 2019. She was elected as MP for Workington in 2015, where she was the first female MP to represent a constituency in Cumbria. Baroness Hayman was raised to the Peerage in July 2020.



James Scott is the Group Director of Strategy and Planning and a founder member of master developer Urban&Civic. Prior to Urban&Civic, James specialised in planning and environmental law at Dechert LLP and was part of the senior executive team of Lend Lease Europe.

Having previously served as a non-executive director of East Thames housing association and sat on the Development Committee of L&Q, James is also a senior advisor to Dorrington PLC and a non-executive of Natural England.



Sam Lux was elected to Nottingham City Council in May 2023, and joined the cabinet a year later as executive member for Climate, Leisure and Culture. She is a leading advocate for decarbonisation and nature restoration, and is part of Nottingham's health and wellbeing board, and planning committee.

Sam has a background in climate policy and engagement. As a local authority officer, she instigated a public engagement programme to promote carbon neutrality, and in the civil service, she helped drive a national COP26 campaign encouraging small businesses to make net zero commitments. Most recently, Sam helped develop green economy strategy at a government-owned development bank.

In 2019, Sam was awarded a Nottingham Roosevelt Scholarship. She travelled across 11 US cities to learn about progressive urban sustainability initiatives.



Mete Coban MBE became the Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy in July 2024, overseeing the climate action plan for the capital.

Before becoming Deputy Mayor, Mete was a Councillor and Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Environment, and Transport in the London Borough of Hackney, delivering a £61 million Green New Deal to tackle the climate crisis. He pioneered Hackney's Community Energy Fund, providing clean, green, community-owned energy to 39 not-for-profits.

Mete is widely credited with making politics more accessible to young people as the Founder of the youth-led charity My Life My Say.

In the New Year's 2020 Honours List, Mete received an MBE for services to young people.



Morning speakers



Dave Luckin leads a wide range of community investment and engagement at the Co-op, one of the world's largest consumer co-operatives, with more than 6 million members. His career spans the private sector, community sector and academic research, and has focused on communities, sustainability and responsible business for more than 25 years. He was awarded a PhD in sustainable development and environmental taxation from Nottingham Trent University. Dave is a trustee of the People's History Museum, chair of Making a Difference Locally, and Chair of the Community Council at Co-op Academy Brierley, a special school in Leeds.



As Executive Director, Place at Sport England, **Lisa Dodd-Mayne** heads up the Place directorate supporting the "Uniting the Movement" strategy. This includes capital and planning teams, National Sports Centres, place-based investment through partners and the Collaboration and Learning function.

She is a Director on the Manchester Active Board, the Manchester Institute of Health & Performance and represents Sport England on the Active Partnerships National Organisation Board. Lisa has experience in higher education, having been Director of Sport and Active communities at University of Warwick. And in Local Government working at Wakefield Council as their Director of Sport & Culture and at Coventry City Council heading up their sports team.



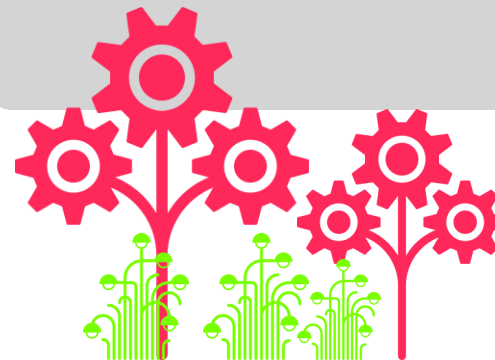
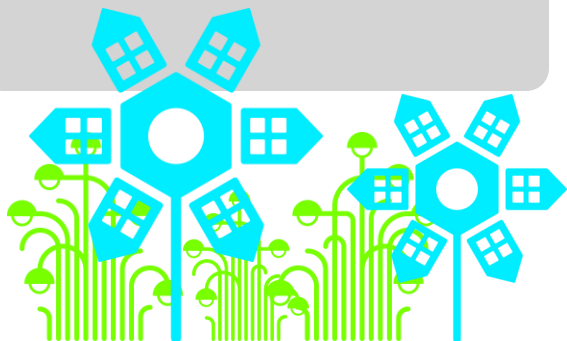
Graham Duxbury is the Chief Executive of Groundwork UK and leads work on behalf of the Groundwork federation to build national relationships and partnerships, generate income, develop programmes, and share learning through policy, research and communications.

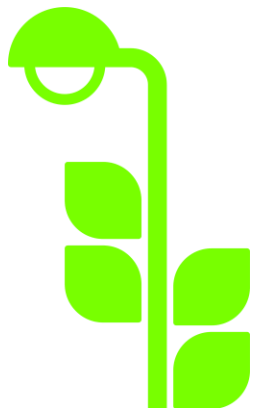
He has contributed to a wide range of Government and voluntary sector groups and task forces on subjects including parks and green spaces, access to nature, youth employment, fuel poverty and community empowerment. He was awarded an OBE for services to communities and the environment in 2020.



Paul Lawrence is Chief Executive at the City of Edinburgh Council and lead officer for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. Paul was previously the Executive Director of Place, with responsibility for Economic Development, Environmental services, Culture, Housing, Planning & building standards, Parks and Greenspaces, Regulatory Services and Transport.

Paul was previously Corporate Director for Place at Stockport Council. Paul started his working life in the cultural sector, before becoming Head of Cultural and Economic Development at Newcastle City Council in 2000. He later became Assistant Chief Executive with responsibility for Economic Policy, City Region Partnerships, and Corporate Communications.





Tom Stratton is Chief of Staff at the RSA. He leads the RSA's Prosperous Places, Social Connections and Global impact programmes, and is a member of the RSA Executive Committee.

Prior to joining the RSA, Tom was the Senior Economic Advisor to the Levelling Up Taskforce in the Cabinet Office, leading the cross-Whitehall negotiations of UK Government's twelve levelling up missions. He was previously the Deputy Head of Research at the Industrial Strategy Council and worked as an economist at the Bank of England from 2011 to 2020.



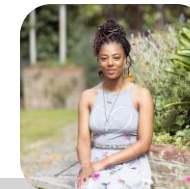
Born and raised in Ladbroke Grove, **Tayshan Hayden-Smith** is more than a community leader—he is a creator of spaces, a champion for justice, and an advocate for the transformative power of nature, art, and activism. His deep-rooted connection to place and community has shaped a life dedicated to meaningful change. Through his work with Grow to Know, he uses changemaking and placemaking to rebuild hope, reclaim identity, and inspire joy and justice.

Driven by a mission to create change that is beautiful, sustainable, and impactful, Tayshan is committed to crafting spaces and stories that ripple far beyond their origin—locally, nationally, and globally. As a father of two, his work is profoundly personal, grounded in a vision of legacy: one of action, resilience, and possibility for future generations.



Passionate about building community, social justice, equality, diversity and healthy democratic practice, **Kersten England**'s career has included work in the voluntary and community sector, higher education, central government and 30+ years in local government. Between 2009 and 2023 she was a local authority Chief Executive, in York for 6 years then 8 years for the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

Kersten's current portfolio of work includes: Chair of the Bradford Culture Company, the delivery organisation for Bradford City of Culture, Chair of The Young Foundation, Trustee of the National Literacy Trust, a Commissioner for the National Preparedness Commission and the Co Director of the Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership for Yorkshire Universities.



Chantelle Lindsay is a Wildlife Conservationist, TV presenter and Nature-Connection Facilitator. She has been in love with nature ever since she can remember, associating it with awe, peace and joy. Working with London Wildlife Trust for 6 years, she has led on a landscape-scale Woodland restoration and community engagement project in South London, designed and delivered a programme of nature-based wellbeing sessions for young people on mental health waiting lists and now, is back in the Woods as Senior Nature Recovery Officer for the Reuniting Sydenham and Dulwich Woods project. She co-hosts CBeebies' Chantelle and Rory's Teeny Tiny Creatures, and advocates for the planet, diversity, inclusion, justice and the empowerment of Young People. Chantelle is dedicated to ensuring nature spaces are inclusive and accessible to everyone.

Morning chairs and hosts



Oliver Harmar has 22 years' experience across the public, private and research sectors, as a Chartered Scientist and Environmentalist. Oliver became Chief Officer, Strategy in February 2025, developing and implementing Natural England's strategy through partnership working, and advising government on relevant policy and legislation.

Previously, Oliver was Chief Operating Officer for Natural England leading 1800 staff to deliver nature recovery and maximise all the benefits to people and places. Oliver also spent 13 years with the Environment Agency, leading a team improving coast and river health, managing flood risk, and strengthening climate resilience.

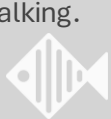
Following a PhD in Geography, Oliver started his career in research and then moved to engineering consultant Halcrow.



Since 2018 **Hilary McGrady** has been the Director General of the National Trust, a charity that cares for historic places and green spaces in the UK. She joined the Trust in 2006 as Regional Director for Northern Ireland, later becoming Regional Director for Wales and the London and the South East region, and in 2014 Chief Operating Officer.

Originally trained in graphic design, Hilary's career path started in the drinks industry in brand and marketing. In 1998 she moved to Director of a national arts charity and was seconded in 2002 to CEO for Belfast's bid for European Capital of Culture.

Hilary was born in Northern Ireland where she still resides to this day. She is married with three children and her interests include the arts, gardening and hillwalking.



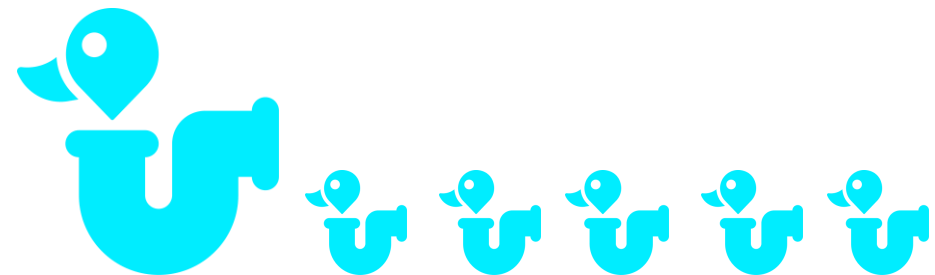
Roisha Hughes CBE is Chief Executive of John Whitgift Foundation and a trustee of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. She chairs that Nature Towns and Cities collaboration between the Heritage Fund, Natural England, National Trust and other partners, and is delighted to be contributing towards ensuring our natural heritage is preserved and enjoyed by as many people as possible.

Roisha has spent much of her career working in the public sector in roles where partnership working was essential to deliver good outcomes for the public.



Suzy Glass is co-CEO of BRAE, a strategy and innovation organisation focussed on climate and nature. She is a strategic designer who specialises in building and facilitating multi-stakeholder innovation programmes.

Prior to founding BRAE, she spent 20 years working in the public, private and third sectors, including founding a number of start-ups. During her career she has worked in digital innovation, social innovation, and run a number of sector-level development and transformation programmes.



Afternoon speakers



Nadine Mcauley joined EastSide Greenways in October 2023. She started her environmental career with The Conservation Volunteers, training and supporting adults into employment within the sector. Through this role she developed a passion for raising awareness of the importance of nature and green spaces on our social and emotional well being and the need to protect our natural world.

Nadine also worked for Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful as their Campaigns and Events Officer. She has a Post Graduate Certificate in Mindfulness Studies and is qualified to deliver mindfulness and meditation training. She is particularly keen to promote the benefits of cultivating a mindfulness practice within nature settings.



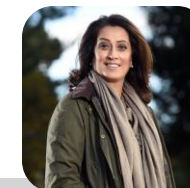
Gill Thornton is Director of Better Start Bradford, leading the successful £50m National Lottery Community Fund bid in 2015. Gill is passionate about the importance of supporting parents and children during the first 1001 critical days.

Gill's vision for the Better Start Bradford programme is to create a lasting change which will benefit babies, children and families in Bradford for generations. "The Better Place Project has been our leading project delivering on this ambition, creating accessible green spaces, play spaces, and safe, clean walking routes for our youngest citizens. Working with parents we have created healthier and cleaner outdoor urban spaces for families."



Alexandra Hoadley joined the Thriving Green Spaces team as an Ecologist in late 2022. Her primary project is delivering the Edinburgh Nature Network – the first urban nature network in Scotland. She has a background in ecology, conservation, community engagement and science communication.

Previous roles include site manager of a local nature reserve, engaging people with green space through events to enhance wellbeing, working on urban river restoration projects and undertaking surveys, such as wetland bird surveys in the uplands of Fife. She has worked across the UK, from Cornwall to Scotland, and holds an MSc in Conservation and Biodiversity from the University of Exeter. In her free time you'll find her out walking in the Pentlands or along the coast.



Dr Saira Ali FLI is a nationally recognised leader in sustainable placemaking, regeneration, and green infrastructure. As Team Leader for Landscape Design and Conservation at Bradford Council, she leads award-winning, multidisciplinary projects that tackle climate resilience, public health, and social equity.

With over 28 years of experience across public and private sectors, Saira champions co-design, heritage-led regeneration, and access to nature in urban environments. She is a Fellow of the Landscape Institute, an advocate for inclusive design, and a regular contributor to national policy and practice on urban nature, wellbeing, and place-based transformation.



Lucy Reid loves the dynamic intersection of coalitions, creativity and civic spaces. She began her career in the arts, managing choirs and orchestras. She went on to spend 16 years in senior roles at the National Trust, where she developed the NT's first holistic city strategy, activating historic buildings and creating green spaces through partnerships and creative programming.

She is Chief Strategy & Creative Officer at DemocracyNext, an international research and action institute working to accelerate the spread of citizens' assemblies. As a volunteer, Lucy chairs Moseley Road Baths, leading a community-driven transformation of one of Birmingham's most significant heritage assets



Harold Garner leads Camden's climate, air quality and energy programmes. He delivered the UK's first Citizens' Assembly on the climate emergency and made Camden the first London authority to commit to stretching World Health Organization guidelines for air quality.

He also led the delivery of Camden's award-winning district energy project, Somers Town Energy in Kings Cross, which connects over 550 homes and the Francis Crick Institute to a low carbon Camden owned energy centre.



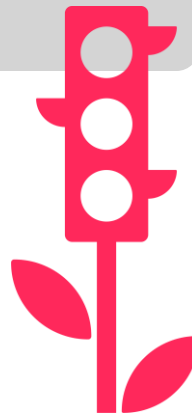
Rory Crawford has worked in the nature conservation sector for 18 years, and is an urban nature and community enthusiast, campaigner and lapsed marine biologist.

He worked on one of the world's first citizen's assemblies on nature - the People's Assembly for Nature - and loves participation. He now works for the National Trust on the Nature Neighbourhoods project, a follow-on partnership between big nature NGOs and 18 community sector organisations that seeks to support and build the capacity of local initiatives to create happier, healthier and greener communities.



Kerry Tottingham is Strategic Lead of **A Brilliant Thing CIC**, working with the NHS, funders, and charities to drive systemic change through co-production, wellbeing, and trauma-informed practice in the workplace.

She led the development of Healing-Centred Design™, a framework that helps leaders and organisations transform adversity into leadership and social impact. Kerry coaches emerging leaders using the framework in The Brilliant Club, a learning programme and with The Brilliant Box, deck of coaching cards for group and personal development. A CMI Level 7 Leadership Coach and Mentor, Kerry guides organisations and partnerships to design strategies for workplace wellbeing and evaluate and develop external social impact. Kerry is an associate with national organisations such as Ideas Alliance, developing peer led initiatives, coproduction and cross sector collaborations.





Allys Ludlow is the Urban Tree Canopy Coordinator (Glasgow) at Trees for Cities. Allys is responsible for developing projects with schools, local communities and partners to plant more urban trees and create healthier, greener spaces in our towns and cities within the Glasgow City Region. Allys, also works as part of the Clyde Climate Forest initiative. Allys joined Trees for Cities and Clyde Climate Forest in 2022 and has over 11 years of experience as a Geography and Environmental Management secondary school teacher.



Ian Russell has led the Watercourses team at London Borough of Enfield for over 10 years delivering flood alleviation and sustainable drainage projects including Albany Park River Restoration and Firs Farm Wetlands. The latter is part of a series of constructed wetlands and rain gardens pioneering the use of bioremediation to mitigate the impact of urban pollution on rivers, as well as reducing flood risk and improving spaces for people and wildlife.

Ian's work has increasingly focussed on using nature-based solutions. He is currently leading the Salmons Brook Natural Flood Management programme that aims to reduce flood risk to thousands of urban properties by restoring rivers, woodlands and wetlands in rural areas of the borough.



Jerry Griffiths is a Natural Infrastructure Officer at Plymouth City Council. He leads the programme for Derriford Community Park and Poole Farm, transforming a 150-hectare site in the north of the city into a thriving strategic green space. The team have also revitalised the once-neglected Poole Farm, into a dynamic hub for nature and community—supporting improvements to biodiversity, green skills development, environmental education, health and wellbeing. An innovative ecotherapy program for children and young people, developed in partnership with Livewell, is keeping the team busy and yielding inspiring results. Jerry also led the reintroduction of beavers to the park, contributing to wetland restoration and natural flood management, while further embedding nature-based solutions into the city's landscape.



David Coughlin has a background in youth work, primarily for young people with learning disabilities. From 2018 he has worked at National Trust, initially managing the youth engagement team at Morden Hall Park in south London and since 2022 managing the Urban Forest Accelerator in the Nature Towns and Cities team. David is a Director at FROG Learning, a CIC that supports adults with learning disabilities to make a positive contribution to their local environment through outdoor skills training.





Bryony Carter is Community Organising Manager at The Wildlife Trusts, leading the integration of Team Wilder—a movement-wide initiative empowering communities to take action for nature. She supports local leadership, builds inclusive participation, and embeds community organising across the Trusts.

Most recently, Bryony played a key role in delivering **Nextdoor Nature**, a £5 million National Lottery Heritage Fund programme that supported over 1,600 communities to create and protect nature on their doorstep. Her work demonstrates how grassroots action and people-powered movements are central to tackling the nature and climate crisis.



Kieron McGlasson, Communities Manager and Director, Sow the City, and Green Spaces Fund Advisor. Kieron has been working on community development projects, latterly through environmental projects for 25 years, the last 11 at award winning social enterprise Sow the City.

A huge champion of a strengths-based approach, recent projects have seen him contribute to the national Green Social Prescribing (GSP) programme, leading one of 18 'Nature Neighbourhoods' and locally to Greater Manchester, being the Manchester & Trafford Advisor for Andy Burnham's Greater Manchester 'Green Spaces Fund'.



Sam Evans is Head of Natural Environment at Greater Manchester Combined Authority, leading work to improve the city region's natural environment through developing strategy and policy, delivering key projects and working with a range of partners. This has included the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, projects like IGNITION and Natural Course, and initiatives such as the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund. Prior to that, Sam led the development of the Mayor's 5 Year Environment Plan, launched in March 2019.

Sam joined GMCA in October 2018 on secondment from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs where he was Head of Strategic Coordination. Before that, Sam held various roles in the civil service.



Casey Morrison is the Communities & Participation Consultant for Nature Towns and Cities. He led the Communities workstreams for Future Parks Accelerator, designing a programme of support for local authorities codesigning their Community Engagement strategies.

He previously worked for the Big Lottery Fund Policy Unit, set up an Action Research Social Enterprise and worked across local authority & voluntary sectors for two decades. He has Post Graduate Qualifications in Conflict Resolution, leadership and Management. He's interested in open data, self-organising groups and democratising public space. He's also the chair of Love Leeds Parks, one of the parks foundations exploring the city-wide urban greening role for the VCSE.



Afternoon hosts



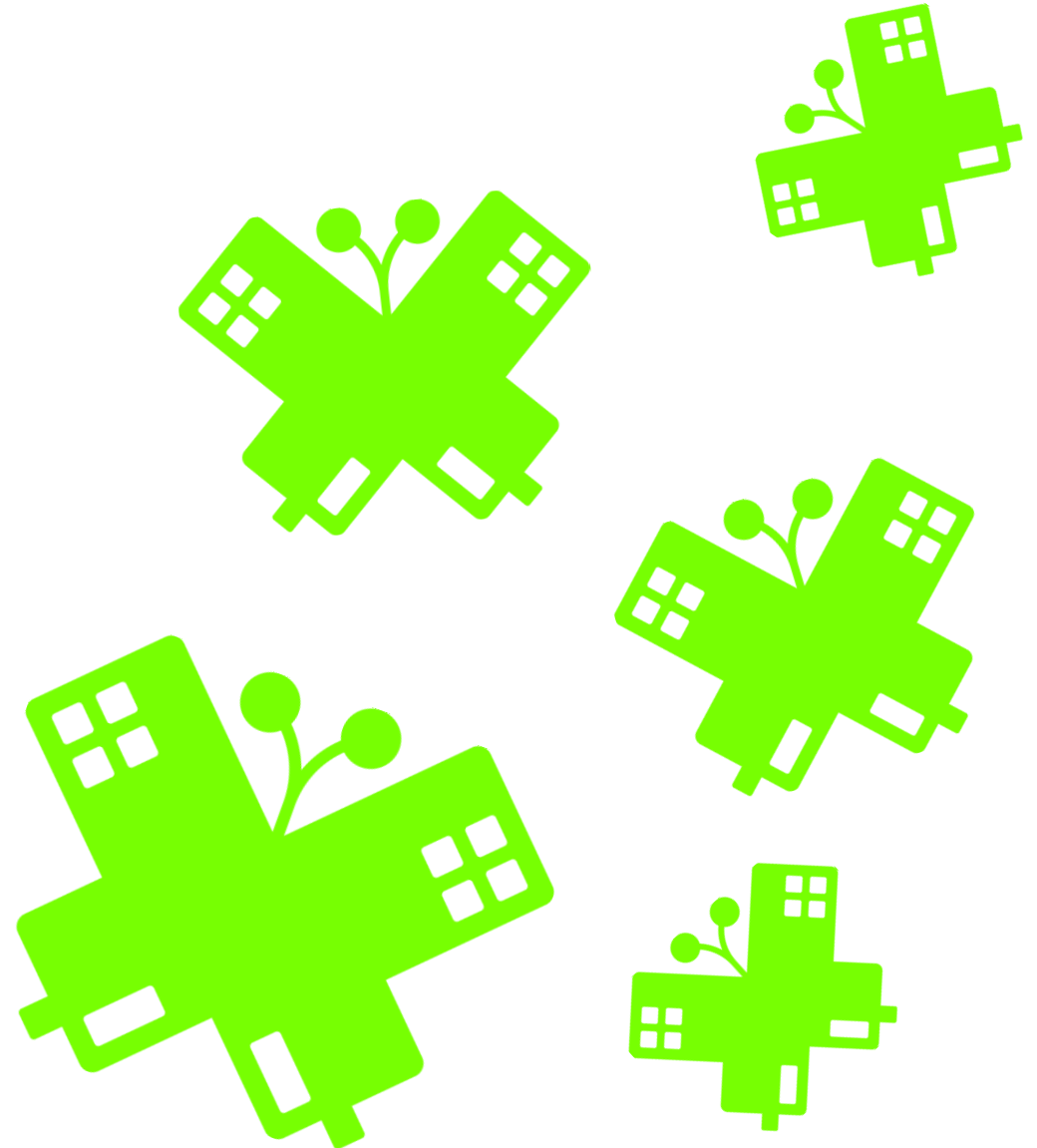
Eilish McGuinness became Chief Executive at The National Lottery Heritage Fund in January 2022, having previously been Executive Director, Business Delivery. Eilish has worked in heritage all her professional life and has extensive experience across the sector and the breadth of the UK's heritage.

She joined the Heritage Fund in 1996 and has held operational and strategic roles including Regional Manager North East, Head of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Major Grants and Special Programmes.

Previously, Eilish worked with Historic Scotland, Historic Monuments & Buildings Branch, Northern Ireland and in the heritage sector in Ireland. She has a degree in History of Art and Archaeology from University College Dublin, and an MA from Queen's University Belfast, where she was a junior research fellow in the Institute of Irish Studies.



Tony Juniper CBE began his career as an ornithologist and went on to join Friends of the Earth, initially leading the tropical rainforest campaign before becoming Executive Director. He worked as an advisor to HRH The Prince of Wales, was President of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and an Executive Director at WWF-UK. He is now Chair of Natural England and a Fellow with the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. He has advised many global businesses on their environmental strategies. His books include the multi-award winning *What has Nature ever done for us?* and *Harmony*, co-authored with The Prince of Wales. Tony Juniper is a frequent contributor to TV and radio broadcasts and is a prolific speaker on environmental themes. He has received many awards and widespread recognition for his environmental work and in 2017 he was appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to conservation.





Nature Towns and Cities



Contact Us

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