

MOUNTAINHALL

COMMUNITY GREENSPACE

June update: Happy solstice

Hello from the Mountainhall Community Greenspace team

The Greenspace is looking really beautiful! With lots of plants and wildlife showing themselves for the summer months, it's a really lovely place to be.

Our Community Panel met for the second time this month, with lots of positivity about the direction of the project. We are happy to share that the Dialectagram made with Miranda and Pippa will be exhibited in the Treatment Centre building soon. We love sharing photos taken by community members! We hope you might send us some to share? We also offer some foraging recommendations, as well as a call out to help collectively manage the greenspace.

● Community Panel meet up

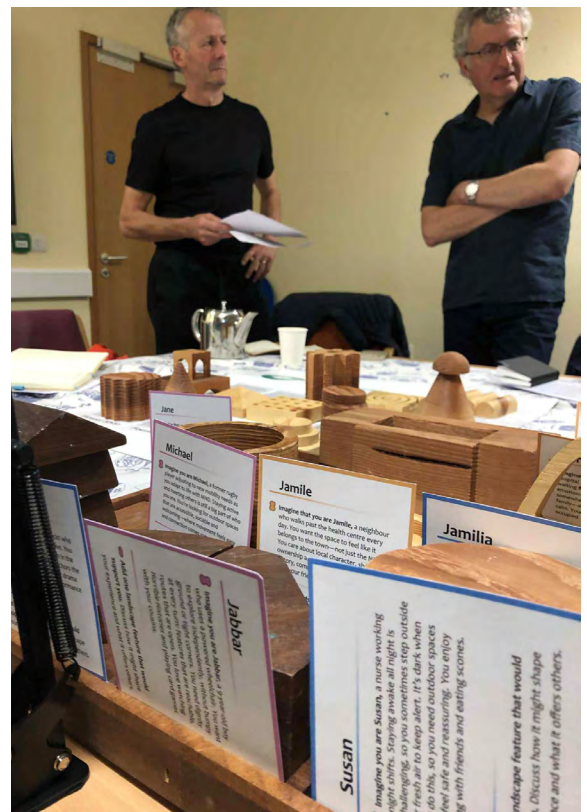
Thank you to the Community Panel members who attended our first in-person meeting this month. This was only the second time our community panel members have met, and a really great step for this community project.

The DesignHOPES research team guided our conversation through the Landscapes Mosaic Game, this helped us unify our understanding of our collective visioning for the greenspace. It was lovely how aligned our ideas felt; feeling the site should be open, welcoming, peaceful, and a place to learn and connect to nature.

We were lucky to be joined by Miranda and Pippa, who led on a drawing activity where we drew people engaging with the space. It was lovely to spend some being creative and a wonderful tool to imagine the potential use of the space. These drawings will contribute to The Dialectagram, which offers a visual representation of the project so far.

Please don't feel disheartened if you were unable to join the last Community Panel meet up. We are giving this project the proper time and care it deserves, and there will be plenty of future possibilities to engage with the Community Panel.

If you are not already, and would like to be involved in the Community Panel. Please add your name and contact here: <https://forms.gle/9bUFzyPi7vHcg3hK6>





Community Panel meet up June - photos by Emily Tough



● Dialectagram

Miranda and Pippa have been working on a Mountainhall Community Greenspace dialectagram. The idea of a Dialectagram was coined by Scottish illustrator Mitch Miller in 2009, meaning 'dialogue' and 'diagram'. By collecting local stories and images and presenting them as a mapped visual to give a much more well-rounded view on place. This interview gives a nice insight into this process: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47056109>



We are working towards exhibiting our own Dialectagram in the Mountainhall Treatment Centre foyer. This will be an important step in the continued public engagement for the project, and we are glad to have collaboratively made artwork to showcase the project and the greenspace.

If you have any drawings or photographs from the greenspace that you would like to contribute to this exhibition. Please email mountainhallgreenspace@gmail.com

● Online community

We love seeing Alan's photographs appear on the facebook page. He has a real talent for revealing the small, intricate beauty found on the Mountainhall greenspace. Thank you for sharing your photos Alan!

If you are on facebook, it would be lovely to see your photos or anecdotes from the Mountainhall greenspace on there. It's a good way for us to stay connected, and it would be great to keep this online community looking lively.

Find our community page by typing in **Mountainhall Greenspace Community** into facebook.

We also have a **Mountainhall Greenspace** project on I-Naturalist to record the biodiversity found there. I-Naturalist is a community platform which ID's plants and insects whilst recording important data on biodiversity.

I-Naturalist can be downloaded as an app onto your phone, which makes it easy to upload photos, get identifications, and contribute to our understanding of the Mountainhall greenspace! It's a lovely way to pass the time and a great way to contribute to this project!

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/mountainhall-greenspace>



Mountainhall Greenspace Community - photos by Alan Sprung

● Foraging

Our greenspace has lots of foraging potential! Currently, we have raspberries galore! The raspberry bushes are easy to spot, their little white flowers have just turned into delicious pinky red aggregate (meaning a cluster) berries. Eat them as you pick, or they are delicious added into your baking, or to turn into jam to savour their goodness for months to come.



Raspberries - photos by Emily Tough

Our greenspace is also currently filled with Germander Speedwell, which are the beautiful little blue flowers knotted throughout the meadows. These can be used to make tea, or used in salads or as a colourful garnish to our cooking and baking.

There are also many wildflowers throughout Mountainhall Greenspace, and it doesn't take long to collect a beautiful bunch to take home.

Please be sensible when foraging for food. You must know what you are consuming, and be mindful to pick away from, or above, dog weeing spots.



Germander Speedwell - photo by Alan Sprung

- **Help manage the greenspace!**

There has been a small patch of Himalayan Balsam found on our Mountainhall Greenspace. It would be really useful if anyone using the space could contribute to pulling it out before it flowers and seeds.

Himalayan Balsam originates from The Himalayas (it's in the name) and was introduced to the UK as an ornamental garden plant in the 1830's. It is however, a very fast growing, persistent plant and over competes with other plant life. The flowers are pink with bonnet shaped petals, the seed pods literally pop which sends seeds everywhere. They are most commonly found by rivers and waterways as the water carries the seeds downstream. The seeds and flowers are edible, with a nice strong legume'y taste. You can eat them as they are, or even fry the seeds. By eating the seeds you are helping contribute to the management of this fast spreading plant.

Currently! The Himalayan Balsam found at Mountainhall Greenspace is isolated in one location. We are hoping enough of you will come and pick the plants before they flower and seed, as we would like to keep it's spread to a minimum. It pulls up easily, and with a gentle tug you can pull up plant and root. The roots die out once exposed so you can just drop it where you picked it.

Here are some photos to help you identify the Himalayan Balsam. They are found towards the crossroads entrance, as you follow the path into the greenspace, you come into a clearing. On your left the grassy meadow goes gently up hill towards a row of trees, they are found on the edge of these trees.





Unfortunately, the conversation of protecting biodiversity in our landscapes has sometimes been misused in xenophobic arguments. The idea of non-native plants being invasive is an over simplification of ecology.



We ask you to steer away from the term native, as our plant life, alongside human life, has moved and fluctuated greatly in our long and short term history. It's difficult to pinpoint any moment in history we can specify as 'native'.

If you would like to read up more on this, here is a useful article: <https://www.jackwallington.com/you-say-native-i-say-indigenous/>



If you do get a chance to contribute to maintaining our **Mountainhall Greenspace Community** landscape. It would be great to see! If you felt comfortable sharing in this way, we would love to see you on the facebook page, or email: **mountainhallgreenspace@gmail.com** and it could contribute to the next newsletter. Our online community is only a very small front facing version of what community could be. But it's a good place to start while we are building up a sense of who is using the space and for what. We look forward to seeing more of you in person as time goes on...

Help build a real sense of community spirit!

- **Survey**

We would love to hear your thoughts on the direction of the project. If you could take the time to fill out, and share, our survey. <https://forms.gle/kvGZ8nhngtrUoXpn6>

- **Whats next...**

The stakeholder group are meeting up throughout July. We are going through the same design process with The DesignHOPES Landscapes Mosaic Game to help us collectively decide on the direction, and ambiance, of the project. We will be cross referencing our design statements with the Community Panel, during a stakeholder, Community Panel meeting at the end of August.

This will be a pivotal step as we learn how to take this project forward with stakeholders and community members.

With best wishes,
Emily
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<https://www.propagate.org.uk>

Propagate are a regenerative food collective specializing in local, community and sustainable food projects.

