

Roots & Sky: Opportunities and Challenges for the Rooftop Gardener

Urban microfarming within an organic-biodynamic-permacultural context

Saturday 30 September 2017
Argent College, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham

9am	Arrival and Registration Small group tours of Argent College Rooftop Microfarm Coffee available	The Hive	
9.30	Welcome & Introduction	Main Conference Area	Aonghus Gordon - Executive Chair, Ruskin Mill Trust Dr Mandy Nelson - Director of Research & Collaboration, Ruskin Mill Trust
10	Keynote Address 1: On the emergence and benefits of urban farming and the role of rooftop spaces	Main Conference Area	Chris Blythe - Director of the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens
10.40	Keynote Address 2: Aerial allotments, maxing urban spaces	Main Conference Area	Dave Richards - Reading International Solidarity Centre, Founder of RISC and Global Schools Network Project, Permaculturalist and Agro-Forester
11.20	Coffee Break Small group tours of Argent College Rooftop Microfarm <i>Please sign up for parallel workshops during coffee break</i>	The Hive	
	Urban Farming - Three Perspectives	Main Conference Area	
11.45	Food Security, Food Sovereignty	Main Conference Area	Dr Marina Chang - Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University
12.10	Human Health - Environmental Health	Main Conference Area	Dr Margi Lennartsson - Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University
12.35	Biodynamic Agriculture in a Changing World (Revisiting biodynamics in the modern context)	Main Conference Area	Berni Courts - Deputy Principal (Biodynamics), Ruskin Mill College
1pm	Lunch Small group tours of Argent College Rooftop Microfarm	The Hive	
2	Parallel Workshops		
	The use of rooftop gardens to promote health, wellbeing and quality of life within the university setting		Dr Mike Morgan - Social & Therapeutic Horticulture, Coventry University
	Education - The educational aspects and potentialities of the rooftop environment		Aonghus Gordon - Executive Chair, Ruskin Mill Trust
	The edible roof - how to design and use it		Dave Richards - Reading International Solidarity Centre, Founder of RISC and Global Schools Network Project, Permaculturalist and Agro-Forester Matt Hayes - Biodynamic Land Manager (Urban), Ruskin Mill Trust
	Certification standards for urban farming		Dr Margi Lennartsson & Ulrich Schmutz - Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University
3	Coffee	The Hive	
3.15	Plenary: Roof gardens - blue skies thinking; facing the challenges, meeting the opportunities	Main Conference Area	Dr Mandy Nelson - Director of Research & Collaboration, Ruskin Mill Trust (Panel Chair) Lynda Brown - Executive Director, Biodynamic Association Dr Julia Wright - Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University Aonghus Gordon - Executive Chair, Ruskin Mill Trust Dr Margi Lennartsson - Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University Dave Richards - Reading International Solidarity Centre
4	Close	Main Conference Area	