

Peatland restoration

Display of peatland restoration activities by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust on Astley, Cadishead and Little Woolden Mosses.

Craft activities for children (and adults can join in too!)



Hulme Community Garden Centre



Hulme Community Garden Centre (HCGC) is a unique community led inner-city horticultural project, as a not-for-profit organisation with a mission to bring the community together through gardening. It is a fully stocked Garden Centre and Nursery but also a volunteer, education and training hub working with socially excluded people across Greater Manchester.

HCGC grows using organic methods, is underpinned by principles of sustainability and seeks to build social capital in a greener city while promoting health and well-being.

<http://www.hulmegardencentre.org.uk/>

Event organiser: Prof. Simon Caporn, Manchester Metropolitan University, with contributions from members of the British Ecological Society Peatland Research Group

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<http://www.manchestersciencefestival.com>



The science and beauty of peatlands



Saturday 22 October 2016
10:30am - 3:30pm

Peat bogs are richly biodiverse and a source of fascination for many scientists. Look at plant life, invertebrates and microbes through microscopes; see how bogs store carbon and affect water; and find out more about the preserving powers of peat. Hear a new poem about Lindow Man by Ralph Hoyte, and Lindow Man's last thoughts re-created by archaeologist Rick Turner.

Hulme Community Garden Centre,
28 Old Birley Street, St. George's, Manchester,
M15 5RG

What are peatlands?

Boggy, mossy places with fascinating and rare plants and animals.



Spot the *Sphagnum* species!

Activities: Microscopes allow close inspection of plants and insects

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## The carbon stores of peatlands

Peatlands breathe carbon – see this in action!

*Demonstration:*

A state-of-the-art Los Gatos greenhouse gas analyser shows peatland gas exchange happening right now!



## Peat's unseen side (what lies within?)

Fungi, bacteria and insects



*Activities:*

Get up close and personal with microbes and invertebrates!

Peat chemistry:  
Acidity tests

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Novel ways of restoring bog plants and *Sphagnum* farming

Sphagnum is needed to restore peatlands but natural sources of this and other bog plants are scarce.

Answer: micro-propagation!

Activities:

Have a look and feel of plants grown by micro-propagation



Beadamoss

See how they are used in conservation & restoration

Micro-propagated *Sphagnum* moss – an environmentally-friendly alternative to peat compost!

Peatlands: environmental & human archives

Peat has amazing properties which allow the preservation of, for instance, prehistoric 'bog oak' trees and 'bog bodies' such as Lindow Man.

Demonstrations:

- Mapping ancient woodland by drones



- Find out how bog oaks are dated!

- View subfossil tree stumps and trunks with new 3D imaging technology

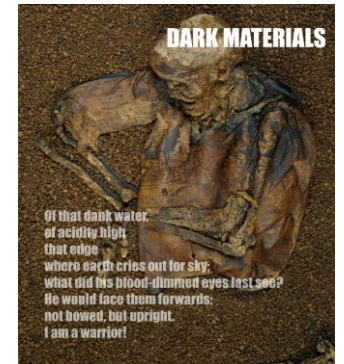
- Peat cores: what they tell us about ancient humans and their environments

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## Bog bodies in words

Listen to both:

A new poem :  
*Dark Materials*  
about Lindow Man, by Ralph Hoyte



*Long ago Lindow dawn* imagined prose by Rick Turner, the archaeologist who found Lindow Man in 1984