

SPEAKERS' FORUM — GREEN GATHERING 2025

THURSDAY 31st JULY

- 2pm ***Copse: The Cartoon Book of Tree Protesting* - Cartoon Kate Evans**
The 1990s road protests. Equal parts inspirational and dysfunctional. Cartoon Kate Evans brings you the least commercial author talk of all time, where she reads extracts from *Copse*, a book that has been out of print for 23 years. Hecklers welcome, if you too were in the trees.
- 3pm ***Migration Is a Climate Issue - Pandering to the Far-Right Risks Disaster* Philippa Metcalfe**
As the far right grows in the UK, Europe, and the US, so does climate denial and the rollback of green policies. Countries most responsible for climate change spend heavily on militarised, high-tech borders to block migrants forced to flee its effects, rather than tackling the crisis. This talk will explore how these trends threaten both migrant justice and climate action, showing they're part of the same fight against exploitation and domination.
- 4pm ***Community Organising and Climate Justice* - Anny Cullum, ACORN the Union**
When the biggest threat to working class people is climate change but this isn't often the actual or perceived biggest issue for low income households across the country, how can we use community organising methods to bring people from all walks of life into the climate movement?
- 5pm ***Climate Emergency Centres* - Phoenix**
How can we turn empty buildings into hubs of climate action and community resilience? Phoenix introduces the Climate Emergency Centres network — grassroots, self-funding community spaces transforming vacant properties into local solutions hubs. Learn how these centres foster collaboration, share skills, and build practical responses to environmental and social crises, all while supporting people and planet.
- 6pm ***Reclaim the Streets — Criminal Justice Act 30 Years On* - Shane Collins & Phoenix**
It's been 30 years since the first Reclaim the Streets street party, how an anti roads group grew into the most audacious cultural force which along with the Criminal Justice Act of 1995 criminalised and brought together a wide range of people who went on to make waves.
- 7pm ***Campaigning investigative photojournalist documenting struggle and protest from the inside* - Nigel Dickinson**
For over forty years, Nigel Dickinson has been a campaigning documentary photographer, photojournalist and filmmaker. His work focuses on the human condition, the environment, marginalised communities, resistance, sustainable development, identity and culture. Nigel often works in collaboration or embedded within communities or resistance groups. His work is widely published & exhibited, from the Tate Gallery, via the Venice Biennale to Indigenous Dayak villages deep inside Borneo's tropical rainforest...
- 8:30 ***Blockade - Resisting the War Machine* - Zoe Broughton**
Zoe Broughton has spent over 25 years using video to support social and environmental justice. From undercover investigations exposing animal cruelty to filming Greenpeace actions and community campaigns, her work shines a light on urgent issues. She now trains activists to use video effectively, offering practical skills for filming, editing, and rapid response media using just a phone.
- 10pm ***#ClimateScam? Who's Shaping the Climate Debate?* - Clare Wallerstein**
Summer 2024 was the hottest ever recorded globally, yet many still believe the climate crisis is a hoax. Why? In this eye-opening documentary, we follow Jaz, a young mobile hairdresser and TikTok-savvy Gen Z-er, as she embarks on a journey to uncover the truth. Through interviews with leading climate scientists, activists, and sceptics, she unravels a web of misinformation and conspiracy theories that should concern us all.

FRIDAY 1st AUGUST

- 10am **Doing Democracy Deliberately** - *Jonathon Shaffi and Frances Foley*
Jonathon Shafi is a Campaigns Organiser for the Electoral Reform Society working on a range of initiatives designed to extend real local democracy into communities across Scotland.
- Frances is Deputy Director at Compass and has a background in deliberative democracy, participatory campaigns and distributed organising.
- 11am **Working in the Misinformation Age** - *Maria Franchi*
How do we have better conversations with those who we don't agree with? In this workshop Maria will support us to explore ways to cross the many divides that have always been there but seem wider than ever. This will be an interactive session where we work together to understand how to approach with curiosity when there is conflict.
- 12pm **Revelations From the Spycops Inquiry** - *Tom Fowler & Shane Collins*
Since 1968, over a thousand political campaigns and activist groups have been targeted by the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) and the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU). Undercover officers were deployed into the lives of members of the public to manipulate and abuse them in the name of averting 'subversion' and 'public disorder'.
- They used the identities of dead children and deceived women into long term intimate sexual relationships, manipulating both personal lives and public life as part of their deployment. In 2015, the Undercover Policing Inquiry was called to examine these abuses, questioning both the officers and activists. Over the last year it has examined deployments between 1982 and 1993, come hear an update on the revelations and what we can expect when the inquiry reconvenes in October.
- 1pm **Climate Breakdown Panel** - *Emma River-Roberts WCCA, Laurie Laybourn, Rupert Read & Rebecca Gibbs*
As we face into the climate impacts era how should we prepare and work together for what lies ahead for us and the places where we live. This will include the the consequences of climate breakdown for trade unions and working-class communities, highlighting how they are mobilising to safeguard their livelihoods and enhance their collective well-being.
- 2pm **Community Climate Resilience** - *Alan Heeks & Rebecca Gibbs*
The Network for Social Change is funding a project aiming to strengthen the social connections within local communities in the face of mounting disruptions from climate and the polycrisis. This 3–6 year project is funding pilot programmes and a Community of Practice, and exploring ways to share and propagate knowhow.
- 3pm **Resistance Panel** - *Clare Farrell XR, Sarah Lunnon JSO, Mel Kee GNDR, Tyrone Scott WOW, Francesca Nadin*
From climate breakdown to global injustice, this panel brings together frontline organisers and movement strategists to explore radical resistance. Expect insights on direct action, coalition-building, and the power of collective defiance in the face of crisis.
- 4pm **Fear of Fire: On the Planet and in the Home** - *Simon Fairlie*
Simon Fairlie is a seasoned activist, writer, small-scale farmer, editor of *The Land* magazine, author of *Meat: A Benign Extravagance* and *Going to Seed: A Counterculture Memoir*, and pioneer of micro-dairying at Monkton Wyld Court. Drawing on five decades living close to the land — as a shepherd, stonemason, and co-founder of a low-impact farming community — he brings a nuanced critique of industrialisation and a vision for human-scale resilience.
- 5pm **Gaza** – Lowkey
Lowkey is a British-Iraqi rapper and activist known for his powerful critiques of colonialism, imperialism, and media bias. His work amplifies Palestinian voices and challenges censorship, combining artistic expression with direct political activism and solidarity.
- 6pm **Find Lights in a Dark Age** - *Chris Smaje*
Writer and agroecologist Chris Smaje explores themes from his new book *Finding Lights in a Dark Age*, offering a hopeful vision grounded in localism, land-based livelihoods, and moral economies. Rejecting top-down technofixes, Smaje makes the case for grassroots resilience, distributive

politics, and the power of small-scale farming in an age of ecological and political crisis.

7pm **2073 + Q&A**

2073 is an epic science-fiction thriller set in a dystopian near-future. Military police patrol the streets, surveillance drones fill the skies. The film is a fusion of fiction & archive linking today's global threats of authoritarianism, big tech & climate collapse. An urgent call for action before we lose our minds, our humanity and our freedom.

8:30 **Plan Z: From Lab Coats To Handcuffs + Introduction by Director Vladimir Morozov**

When the UK Government ignores mounting evidence for climate breakdown, three British scientists turn to civil disobedience to warn the public themselves, risking arrest, a criminal record and their professional reputations. A window into the world of reluctant activism, Plan Z explores the power of protest when established routes of influence fail.

10pm **Short campaign videos followed by a Q&A with protesters featured in the films**

A selection of short campaign films highlighting frontline struggles for climate justice, land rights, and radical change — followed by a Q&A with activists featured in the footage. Hear directly from those taking action on the ground about the challenges, victories, and strategies behind the scenes.

SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST

10am **The Battle for Wales: Why 2026 Is a Landmark Moment in the Fight Against the Far Right**
Cllr Kim Bryan

As Reform UK gains traction in Wales and across the UK, what are the implications for progressive politics, the future of devolution, and the 2026 Senedd elections? In the session I look at both local and global to unpack the narratives driving the far-right surge and what political organisers and community leaders can do to push back.

11am **Democratic Renewal in an Era of Turbulence - Clive Lewis MP**

Trust in politics is collapsing, there are escalating threats to people and planet, and the authoritarian right is on the march. So, what does a renewed and deepened democracy look like which stands up to those challenges — and how do we get there?

12pm **Scrap Carbon Capture — Not a Solution to Pollution - Dr Andrew Boswell**

The Government has already committed over £30 billion for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). This talk will explain why this is set to make climate worse not better, and present the ScrapCC campaign demands for an independent scientific review and for CCS to be dropped from UK Climate plans.

1pm **Far Right and Reform Panel - Kim Bryan, Frances Foley & Tyrone Scott**

In an era of growing far-right influence, this panel brings together activists and campaigners to explore the intersections between rising extremist movements and progressive reform efforts. Through personal experience and political strategy, they unpack how media, misinformation, and grassroots campaigning can both empower resistance and build a hopeful vision of change.

2pm **Green Party Leadership Hustings: Ellie Chowns MP & Zack Polanski AM**

Ellie Chowns is the Green MP for North Herefordshire, having won the previously 'true blue' seat with a huge swing to the Greens in 2024. In Parliament, she leads for the Greens on foreign affairs, housing, education and more.

Zack Polanski AM is Deputy Leader of the Green Party of England & Wales. An elected member of the London Assembly and Chair of the Fire Committee.

3pm **Love, Anger & Betrayal: Just Stop Oil's Young Climate Campaigners - Jonathon Porritt**

Radical climate campaigners — particularly Just Stop Oil — have been shafted by draconian new laws introduced by the Tories but now enthusiastically supported by Labour Ministers. Yet the climate crisis deepens by the month — and still nothing much happens in response. So what happens next?

4pm **Positive Tipping Points - Prof Tim Lenton with Laurie Laybourn**

Come and hear why climate tipping points are the biggest risk we face, and how we can all play a part in triggering positive tipping points that accelerate us out of the climate crisis.

- 5pm **Lifehouse: Collapse-Preparing Communities as a Way of Seeding Transformation** - *Dr Gail Bradbrook*
Gail will outline the theory of change as well as some of the practicalities for how we can find a way through the dark times we are in and that are set to worsen. This involves a detailed focus on building the new democracy within growing mutual aid networks in our communities and a collaboration across networks and organisations like we haven't yet managed.
- 6pm **Geoengineering, Trap or Tool ?** - *Laurie Laybourn*
As climate breakdown accelerates, geoengineering is increasingly discussed as a possible solution — but at what cost? In this thought-provoking talk, Laurie Laybourn explores the risks, ethics, and political realities of large-scale technological interventions like solar radiation management and carbon removal. Should we see geoengineering as a last resort, a dangerous distraction, or something in between?
- 7pm **Battle of the Beanfield** + Q&A with *Gareth Morris & Andy Worthington*
40 years of state oppression — from the Battle of the Beanfield to Just Stop Oil and Palestine Action. Marking the 40th anniversary of the Battle of the Beanfield, and tracing how it has led to increasing authoritarianism in the years since, most recently manifested via punitive prison sentences for environmental protestors, and the recent proscription of Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation.
- 8:30 **Finite** + Introduction and Q&A with *Director Rich Felgate*
In Germany, concerned citizens step forward to save an ancient forest from one of Europe's largest coal mines. They form an unlikely alliance with a frustrated community in rural England who are forced into action to protect their homes from a new opencast coal mine. *Finite: The Climate of Change* is an insider's view of the world of direct action; a raw, authentic and emotional insight into the David and Goliath battle between frontline communities, activists and fossil fuel corporations.
- 11pm **Surprise Palestine Film**
Stories of resistance, resilience, and life under occupation — through the lens of Palestinian voices.

SUNDAY 3rd AUGUST

- 10am **Let's Build 1,000 Microgrids in the UK by 2028** - *Nick Rosen*
The Government won't help, business and banking are not interested — so we have to do this ourselves. And we can. Every household in Britain spends an average of £1,800 a year on energy. It's OUR money. We can spend it a different way.
- 11am **Snog, Marry, Avoid: How will our monkey brains *really* respond to the climate crisis?** - *George Marshall*
What do evolutionary and cognitive psychology tell us about how we will respond to extreme climate in 2050? Will we cooperate, fight, pray, ignore... or just party?
- 12pm **Food Security** - *Clive Lewis MP, Chris Smaje & Simon Fairlie*
In a moment of intensifying ecological strain and growing inequality, this panel brings together voices committed to rethinking how we feed ourselves. From national policy to local land stewardship — Clive Lewis, Chris Smaje, and Simon Fairlie will examine food sovereignty, community resilience, and the fight for agroecological justice in an age of climate crisis.
- 1pm **Grenfell: Justice Delayed, Injustice Continued** - *Karim Mussilhy (bereaved family member & Vice Chair of Grenfell United) with Rebecca Gibbs*
Eight years on from the Grenfell fire, the final Inquiry report exposed catastrophic failures, yet none of the Phase 1 recommendations have been fully implemented. Corporations responsible are only now being investigated — no arrests, still profiting from public contracts. Now, the government plans to bring down the tower against the wishes of many of the bereaved families. This talk will confront the ongoing failure to deliver justice and the attempt to quietly erase Grenfell from public memory.

- 2pm **Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Movements for Change** - *Dave Morris*
What inspiration and strength can we get from the empowering movements and struggles of the last 50 years?
- Come and hear and share reflections about anti-roads, miners' strike, claimants unions, poll tax, McLibel, Reclaim the Streets, hunt-sabbing, women's movement, neighbourhood action groups, anti-racism, climate camps, experiences of grassroots self-organisation and networking, collective decision making, direct action, long term vision, and planting the seeds of the future...
- 3pm **Psychedelics and the Politics of Healing: Science, Stigma and the Future of Medicine** - *Dr Rayyan Zafar PhD*
In 2025, over 100 clinical trials and major research hubs — from Imperial to Johns Hopkins — are revealing psychedelics' potential to treat depression, PTSD and addiction. But the real challenge? Getting them into hospitals. Despite growing evidence, stigma and politics continue to shape the discourse. Dr. Rayyan Zafar, who is at the forefront of UK research, explores the science driving this revolution — and the political hurdles. Can we turn data into policy, and promise into practice? The future of mental healthcare might just depend on it.
- 4pm **Postcards From Prison — Stories From Released Prisoners** *with Jonathon Porritt*
Powerful testimonies from people recently released from prison, highlighting journeys of resilience, hope, and change. Joined by writer and campaigner Jonathon Porritt, the talk explores the links between social justice, rehabilitation, and broader struggles for a fairer world.
- 7pm **Free Party: A Folk History** + *Introduction by Aaron Trinder*
The untold story of the free party movement and how its impact sparked a revolution around the world, from raves and festivals, to politics and protest.
- 10pm **The Line We Crossed** + Q&A
A British story of dissent, drawn from the frontlines of climate resistance. Through the experiences of those who stood in defiance, it traces the quiet unravelling of our protest rights. The film challenges audiences to question what makes dissent effective and where the line of acceptability is.