

A LATE SUMMER LETTER FROM BOARC

SEPTEMBER 2022

Hiya friends,

Grateful for some rainfall over the last week here on Bidston Hill. The sandstone ridge here means that there's not a lot of top soil and the hill dries out very quickly. Forest fires are a common occurrence here, but we continue to see new life emerge.

The environment should be at the forefront of everyone's agenda right now, and we're trying to navigate this within a very old and Listed building. All help and suggestions welcomed - plus a little high-five to the lovely folk at Friends of Bidston Hill, a volunteer forestry group that maintains the hill and meet up for Friday Group every Friday morning. Join them!

Please read through the text below to find out what we're up to

Draft Ideas for an Affiliates Group

BOARC want to encourage porous activities around the space through autonomous activities and honest reflection as an organisation and as a resource for all to engage with. The Affiliates model has been looked at for a number of years, drawing from joyful experiences in similar artistic study sites across the world. The idea is to facilitate your own expanded and interactive projects within a communal site of working/non-working, study and play whilst actively shaping BOARC through collaboration in a steering group of sorts.

Encouraging thematic focuses throughout the year which are accessible to anyone interested, this could take the shape of extended gatherings, working weeks or ongoing workshops at BOARC. We hope that such gatherings would also lead to dynamic entanglement with Bidston Observatory, continuing to shape the organisation through your own iterative discourse and autonomous remodelling. The idea is to ensure BOARC moulds to you whilst opening up your practices and values to the group. Opening up the space and your creativity to extended support through play, practice and working it through with the people around you.

The communal activities we foresee draw from the organisation of weekly gatherings such as the Annual General Exchange, Summer Solstice and Spellcraft in which workshops, group readings, performances and art-making take place around a particular theme.

We believe in BOARC and we believe in access to creativity, however defined, and want to unravel the physical legacy here to engage in the challenging and fantastic exchange of energy, time and wisdom with you.

Overalls Weekend - September 23rd to September 25th 

On the final weekend of September, we're inviting any folks interested in staying with us to help with the extended snag repair list that has built up over the last year here at Bidston Observatory. Dishing out the paintbrushes, feather dusters and screwdrivers - as well as copious hot beverages - we're hoping to get all those jobs done that require a little more focused attention ahead of the colder months. We're talking hard to reach spots like behind the radiators, painting the ceilings that have begun to peel, and doing the big furniture repairs / rearrangements aka THE DEEP CLEAN!

There'll be some carpentry jobs, a fair bit of gardening and more than enough painting to fill a couple days out. We'll kick back in the evenings with some films or music and a big team scrum. Free to stay from 10am on Friday 23rd September to Sunday 25th September, we'll run through a couple days of work (Friday/Saturday) with the extended group before enjoying the spoils of our hard work by resting on the Sunday.

We're really not very sure if anyone actually wants to help do the cleaning around here - but it seems fair (read aspirational) to say that there are only limited spaces available. So if you fancy it - we'll provide meals and beds, if you provide your intentional, loving labour - please send an email and we'll put you down for the weekend.

Annual General Exchange - October 28th to November 6th, 2022

And just like that - summer was gone. Alas, it means we've got the Annual General Exchange at BOARC coming up fast. As ever, some more tangible thematic focus will exist soon enough, but - for the time being - please stick the dates in your calendar and let us know if you want to come and stay.

This is usually our busiest period and spaces will be taken fairly quickly! So get involved...

Resources at BOARC

With that all in mind, we'd like to remind you what resources Bidston Observatory currently has available in and around the space. All information can be found on the website, whilst the best way of finding out more is by staying here for a number of days and exploring these things in the immediate physical realm - that is to say, induct yourself!

Unfortunately the Basement and First Floor both have 26 steps and there is no lift access. Toilets, bedrooms and kitchen spaces are all accessible from the ground floor. If you have any access requirements for your stay, please get in touch and we will create a specific Access Rider for you.

More info about Access  can be found on the site.

If you've got any ideas or want to feed into an upcoming event at BOARC please get in touch.

That's all folks! Hope to see you very soon,

BOARC