

# WELCOME TO A PLACE OF CURIOSITY AND CREATIVITY

As an official partner of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games the University of Birmingham is celebrating with a cultural programme that showcases inspiring connections between research and creativity.

Drawing together international research and creative collaborations, themed exhibitions, art installations, music, community participation and conversations about the Commonwealth, we explore stories of Birmingham and the West Midlands, the present moment and our place in the Commonwealth through diverse perspectives and voices at the University and beyond. Here are some of the highlights.



Most events are **FREE** but you may need to book. Please visit our events pages for details on all events in the programme and how to join in - [birmingham.ac.uk/events](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/events)

The University of Birmingham is home to a number of significant national collections, public museums and performing arts venues, all of which are hosting special events during Birmingham 2022



## Winterbourne House and Garden

Explore an outstanding example of Edwardian Arts & Crafts architecture. Formerly home to one of Birmingham's major industrial families, this exciting museum and botanic garden offers a haven of peace and tranquillity. [winterbourne.org.uk](https://www.winterbourne.org.uk)

## Barber Institute of Fine Arts

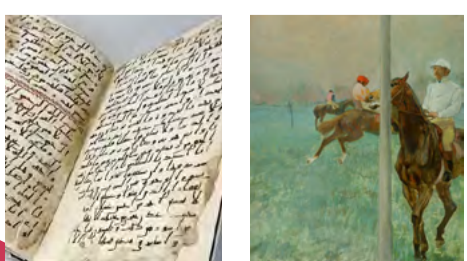
From Botticelli and Bellini through Gainsborough, Gauguin and Van Gogh, to Monet, Magritte and Frank Auerbach, the Barber's stunning collection of paintings spans seven centuries. [Free admission - barber.org.uk](https://www.barber.org.uk)

## Cadbury Research Library

Home to the Birmingham Qur'an, the Library houses the University's historic collections of over 200,000 rare printed books and over 4 million manuscripts, archives and photographs. [birmingham.ac.uk/crl](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/crl)

## Lapworth Museum of Geology

Explore life over the past 3.5 billion years through one of the UK's most outstanding geological collections of rocks, fossils and dinosaurs. [Free admission - birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/lapworth)



## EXHIBITION

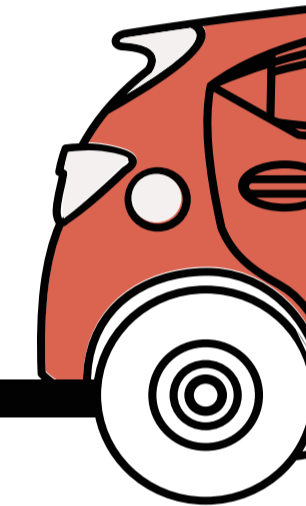
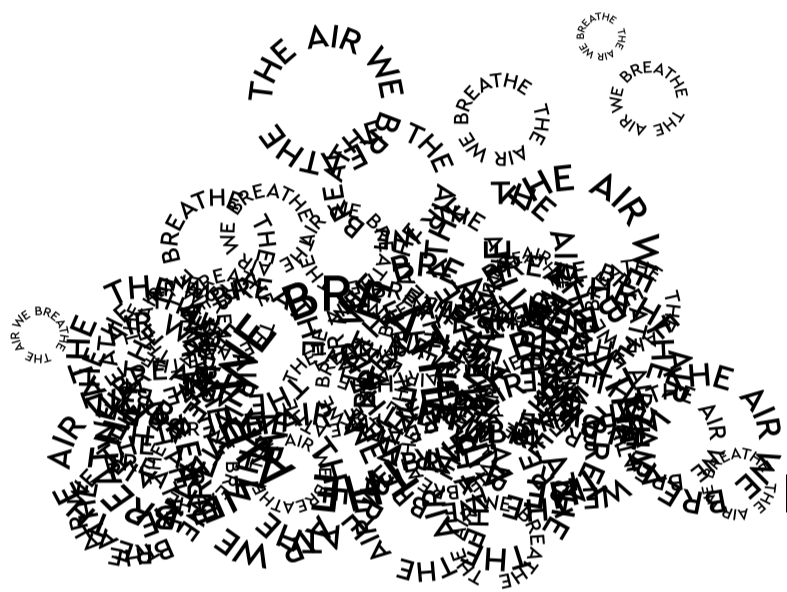
# The Air We Breathe

The Exchange, Centenary Square, Birmingham  
4 October 2021 - 30 June 2022

The air we breathe keeps us alive. What's in it matters – to our health and to the environment.

Bringing together cutting-edge research from across the University of Birmingham, The Air We Breathe is a brand new exhibition and public programme exploring the relationships between people, air quality and the environment.

Opened to mark the start of the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay and forming the backbone of the University's cultural programme, The Air We Breathe explores the interconnectedness of air quality and climate change. And in the year marking the launch of Birmingham's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and COP26, examines how the UK's second city is rising to meet the challenge of air quality and its impact on our health, wellbeing and the environment.



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

# CULTURAL PROGRAMME

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
March - September 2022



#GameChangingBirmingham

OFFICIAL PARTNER  
**BIRMINGHAM 2022**  
commonwealth games

## CONVERSATIONS

### Commonwealth Conversations

Throughout 2022

Built on Empire, Birmingham has long and sometimes complex associations with the Commonwealth. Commonwealth Conversations is a series of explorations and discussions taking place throughout 2022 giving staff, students and the public opportunities to reflect on the origins and evolution of the city and the multifaceted roles of the University of Birmingham in this story.

**Event: Monday 14 March**

**11.30-12.00:** *Imperial University, Global University: Exploring Histories of Empire at the University of Birmingham*

**12.30-13.30:** *My Commonwealth Story: Story Exchange*

**Great Hall, Aston Webb building, University of Birmingham**

**Future Events**

*Entangled Histories: Reflections on Approaching Histories of Empire, Colonialism, and Commonwealth at the University of Birmingham*

*My Commonwealth Story: Storytelling Festival*

Please check online for further information and details of how to book and join in.



## EXHIBITIONS



### Creativity and Curiosity

Spring 2022

Explore an exhibition of unique artwork selected from the international art-science project, Creativity and Curiosity. Visual artists Lone Parkin and Gillian McFarland have developed an inspiring body of artwork through on-going dialogue with astrophysicists, planetary scientists and cosmologists from institutions in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands including award-winning astronomer Dr Amaury Triaud from the University of Birmingham. This interdisciplinary encounter will stimulate the mind and the senses!

**Alan Walters Building, University of Birmingham**  
[creativityandcuriosity.com](http://creativityandcuriosity.com)

## EXHIBITIONS

### A History through Objects: Research and Innovation at the University of Birmingham

May - September 2022

For more than 140 years, our researchers have made new discoveries and provided new ways of understanding the world and humanity's place in it. This new exhibition showcases our pioneering research and discovery, revealed through objects. Drawn from both past and present, they all share one thing in common: they are created here in Birmingham. Explore the corridors and spaces of the Aston Webb Building to discover more about research at the University of Birmingham and how it has made a difference in the world.

See online for opening times and accessibility of buildings



## EXHIBITIONS



### From City of Empire to City of Diversity: A Visual Journey

Monday 4 April - Friday 29 April

This exhibition tells the story of Birmingham's evolution from a City built on Empire to the amazingly diverse city it is today. The centerpiece is an incredible collection of photographs taken by Birmingham photographer, Ernest Dyche, between 1910 and 1980.

Documenting the evolving diversity of our city in the post World War Two era, most of the sitters in the photographs are probably Commonwealth migrants to Birmingham from the Caribbean, South Asia and Ireland. The exhibition includes stories and reflections from Birmingham's diverse contemporary community.

**Atrium, Muirhead Tower, University of Birmingham**  
Free

### ChocFest Community Project, led by The Bone Ensemble

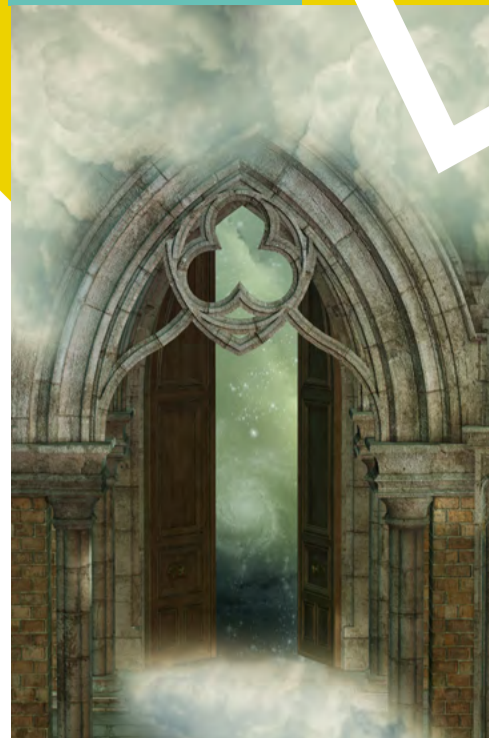
Summer 2022

ChocFest is an exciting community mini-festival, led by Birmingham-based theatre company The Bone Ensemble and features new music and performances to get people talking, thinking – and yes, eating! – all things chocolate. Reigniting and celebrating Bournville's historic connection with Ghana – the Commonwealth country where cocoa originates – ChocFest will tell the stories of working people across the continents who all have had a hand in the journey from cocoa pod to Dairy Milk.

ChocFest will be created with performers and musicians from the UK and Ghana, communities and organisations in Bournville and Stirchley, cocoa-growing communities in Ghana, experts in African History and Responsible Business, and Birmingham production company, OPUS, who have teamed up to realise the project.

Please look online for details of how to participate!

## LECTURE + SCREENINGS



### Fantasy Worlds Weekend: in honour of J.R.R. Tolkien

Friday 27 - Sunday 29 May

Birmingham is not only the place where J. R. R. Tolkien spent his childhood; it is a prime location for inspiring and thinking about fantasy worlds across time and media. This one-off weekend is aimed at celebrating and developing Birmingham's rich heritage of fantasy, inviting you to reconsider the city in relation to fantastic world building in the wake of Tolkien's achievements.

Head to campus for the University of Birmingham's first Annual Tolkien Lecture, delivered by renowned Tolkien scholar Dr Dimitra Fimi and lose yourself in Peter Jackson's epic filmic exploration of mythology and magic.

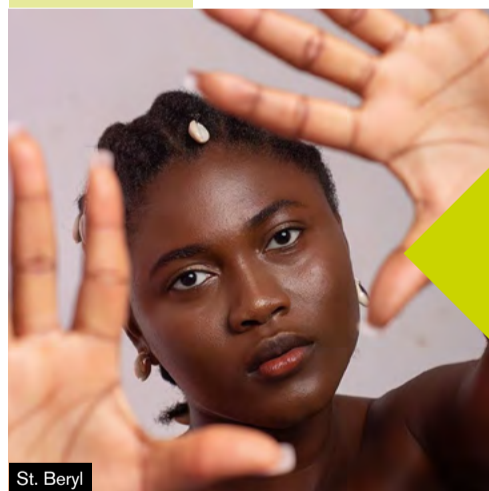
**Lecture: Friday 27 May 2022, 7pm**

*Inaugural Annual Tolkien Lecture: Dr Dimitra Fimi*

**Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham**

Please check online for further information and details of how to book and join in.

## MINI FESTIVAL



St. Beryl



Bone Ensemble

## CONCERT



### The Black Peril

Saturday 11 June, 7.30pm

Award-winning saxophonist, composer, poet, MC, and producer Soweto Kinch is joined by dancers and leading jazz musicians to present *The Black Peril*. A politically and racially-engaged production, the show's historical inspiration can be traced to the episodes of civil unrest in 1919 that erupted across the western world one year on from the Armistice Declaration. What should have been a moment of triumph and social cohesion disintegrated into violent disorder and racial conflict. The production is a reflection on this history as well as a celebration of 100 years of the 'black music' that followed.

**Elgar Concert Hall, The Bramall, University of Birmingham**  
Tickets: £5-20



**FULL PROGRAMME ONLINE**