



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CREATIVES ARTS FESTIVAL 2026!

Monday 26th – Saturday 31st October

We're Washwood Heath and Ward End's *Neighbourhood Creatives* and we're putting on a week-long arts festival! It's filled with family fun activities and performances across the area.

All events are **FREE!** This handy guide will help you find out what's happening, where we'll be popping up, and how you can get involved.

This Neighbourhood Creatives programme is brought to you by Birmingham's own China Plate Theatre, with Braidwood Trust School for the Deaf, Dolphin Women's Centre, Hodge Hill Arts Forum, Hodge Hill College, Lakeside Café, The Unity Hub, The Washwood Heath Adaption & Sustainability Hub (WASH), Ward End Library and Ward End Wellbeing Centre. It's part of a three-year arts programme, leading towards some lasting public artwork to be made in collaboration with you!

So, bring your family and friends, come along and see a show, take part in an activity, or help us make something for the future!

WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THE WEEK?

As you unfold this guide, you'll see a day-by-day programme of all the performances and activities taking place across the festival.

We'll also be co-hosting a week-long programme with four different organisations: **Curl Girl Productions, The Unity Hub, The WASH** and **Ward End Wellbeing Centre**.

Each of them will work with an artist over the course of the week to make something new with residents and local groups – whether that's a piece of artwork, bringing new life to a green space or putting on a show. On **Saturday 31st** you can come and see what they've been up to – and get involved yourself!

To find out more – or if you know a young person aged **8-11** who'd like to get involved in putting on their own **'Play in a Week'** with Curl Girl Productions (everything from creating the costumes to acting in the show!) – then email us on festival@chinaplatetheatre.com



LIBRARY OF IDEAS

Over the next year, Neighbourhood Creatives are looking to make the **ME-WE-HERE Art Trail** – a collection of artworks made with people living and working around Ward End Park.

Together with our three artists **Nilupa Yasmin, Rochi Rampal** and **Maral Mamaghanizadeh**, local partners and residents, we've begun to put together a **Library of Ideas** for what this trail might be. This is inspired by what has been said, what we have seen, and what has been made with the community so far.

We're inviting you to come along to the **Lakeside Café** at the Dolphin Women's Centre during the festival week to visit the Library of Ideas exhibition and learn more about the trail, its route and how you can be part of bringing it to life! Across the week there will be opportunities to meet our artists and take part in a range of drop-in creative activities inspired by the ideas.



MONDAY

THE GREAT BIG BUG SHOW



11.30am & 2.30pm
Ward End Library | 45 mins
Suitable for ages 4-11

Join poet Simon Mole and musician Gecko for a family show full of poems, raps and songs all about your favourite bugs (and some you haven't heard of yet!) Meet & greet with the cast after the show.

COMMUNITY LUNCH



12 – 2pm
Lakeside Café | Open to everyone

Join the Neighbourhood Creatives team for a free bowl of soup, hot drink and a chat as we open the festival and our Library of Ideas exhibition. Hear from our three ME-WE-HERE artists about their ideas and take a walk around the trail route!

TUESDAY

OAKMOBILE



10am – 4pm
Ward End Park House (in front) |
Show every 10 mins | Suitable for all ages

Step inside the mysterious silver OakMobile from Talking Birds, to meet the Storyteller, whose friend The Robin needs your help to get the world back in balance! Nature-themed, multi-sensory storytelling for groups of up to 7 people. Ramp accessible.

CASTAWAY



11.30am & 2.30pm
Ward End Park Car Park (the courts) | 30 mins
Suitable for all ages

CastAway by Highly Sprung is a breathtaking outdoor performance, featuring a gyroscopic flying machine – where performers soar 26 feet above the ground! – that confronts our throwaway culture and its impact on waterways.

WEDNESDAY

LORI – A WORLD OF LULLABIES



11am & 2.30pm
Ward End Library | 40 mins
Suitable for ages 2-6

Step into the magical world of Lori. A playful, interactive performance for younger children and families, using storytelling, dance and music. Presented by Sampad South Asian Arts & Heritage.

INTRODUCTION TO BHARATANATYAM DANCING



12pm | Ward End Library | 30 mins
Suitable for all ages

Come and see some of the vivid movements of the Indian Classical dance style Bharatanatyam. Learn how to tell a story through simple dance moves and hand gestures (Mudras) and try some for yourself! No previous dance experience is required.

THURSDAY

MASTERCHEF MO AND THE MISSING CAKE



11am & 2pm
Ward End Library | 30 mins
Suitable for ages 3-7

Join Little Angel Theatre on an adventure to help find the missing ingredients. With delightful puppets, magic tricks and games, time is running out to bake it till you make it!

PUPPET MAKING – MASTERCHEF MO



11.45am & 2.45pm
Ward End Library | 1 hour
Suitable for ages 5-7

Join Little Angel Theatre to make your very own chef puppet to take home, inspired by Masterchef Mo and the Missing Cake.

SATURDAY

NEIGHBOURHOOD CREATIONS



10 – 4pm
Lakeside Café, The Unity Hubb,
The WASH & Ward End Wellbeing Centre

Drop in throughout the day to see what our artists and participant groups have been up to over the week and the artworks they've made together, walk the route through the park and come and have a look at the Library of Ideas exhibition!

WHAT'S IN YOUR FANTASTICAL WORLD?



12pm | Ward End Library | 60 mins
Suitable for ages 5+

In this craft session, the company of Noori and her Fantastical World will use mask-making and puppetry to spark curiosity and wonder through play. Celebrating friendship, connection and community, come dive into Noori's magical world with us.

NOORI AND HER FANTASTICAL WORLD



2.30pm
Ward End Library | 50 mins
Suitable for ages 5+

A brand-new family movement theatre production by Sonia Sabri Company. Noori lives alone with her loving dad, missing her mum. Bringing together puppetry, mask-work and movement, Noori finds the light within herself.

COMMUNITEA



3 – 4pm
Lakeside Café

Join the Neighbourhood Creatives team as we round off the festival week with free refreshments and a chat about all the fun we've had over the week and how you can continue getting involved with the project!

LORI - A WORLD OF LULLABIES



MASTERCHEF MO AND THE MISSING CAKE



NOORI AND HER FANTASTICAL WORLD

WASHWOOD HEATH & WARD END
26 – 31 OCTOBER

WHERE TO BOOK?

Scan the QR code or visit the link to book free tickets:
<https://buytickets.at/ncaf2026>



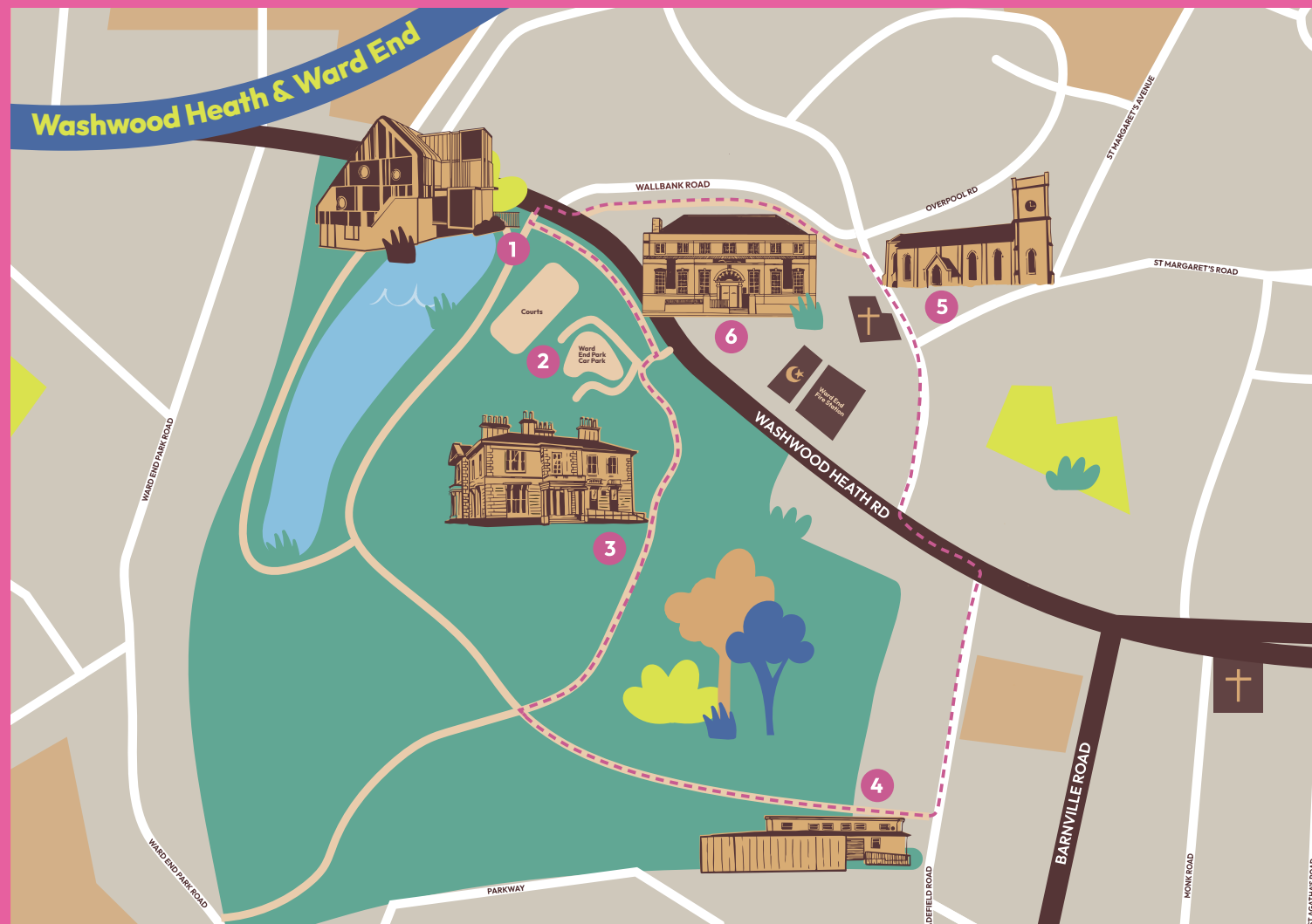
Useful note:

You'll spot on Friday we'll be taking a short break and won't be hosting any public performances or activities. We'll be back on Saturday for a final day of festival fun!

More information:

bit.ly/NeighbourhoodCreatives

@china_plate_theatre
@chinaplatetheatre
@china-plate-theatre-ltd
chinaplatetheatre.com
#NBHCPProject #NBHCAF26



WHERE TO GO

We are popping up at these venues throughout the week – follow the pink dotted lines on the map for the future ME-WE-HERE Art Trail and a suggested route on how to get from venue-to-venue during the festival.

- 1 Lakeside Café,
Dolphin Women's Centre
- 2 Ward End Park Car Park (the courts)
- 3 WASH Project, Ward End Park House
& Allotments
- 4 Ward End Wellbeing Centre
- 5 The Unity Hub
- 6 Ward End Library

Enjoy your walk - please take care and use the pedestrian crossings on Washwood Heath Road!

Neighbourhood Creatives is
produced by China Plate:



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

We will have Neighbourhood Creatives team members on hand at the Library of Ideas exhibition at the Lakeside Café during the week, where you can ask us a question, find out what's going on or book a ticket on the day (subject to availability) and grab a snack!

For information on accessing the festival, please download our **'Getting Around the Festival'** guide from our website, which covers venues and facilities and everything you need to plan your visit.

British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters will be on hand throughout the week. They will be at all the performances and can be at any of the activities or at the Library of Ideas exhibition on request.

If you have any questions or require an interpreter for a particular activity, please email
festival@chinaplatetheatre.com



Please note: All children and young people under 16 should be accompanied by an adult when attending any of our performances and activities. Photography and filming may be taking place during the festival. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the team.