

**** NEWS RELEASE ****

Building Green make the UK's first green roof workshop a success

Brighton community group 'Building Green' ran the UK's first DIY green roof workshop at Stanmer Park on Saturday 17 May.

The event was a great success, and saw 25 people build and take home their own mini-green roofs.

The workshop was run by green roof experts Dusty Gedge and John Little, who spent the morning in the Earth Ship, teaching people about the benefits of green roofs. In the afternoon, everyone took up drills and screws and constructed mini-roofs, which they planted up with wildflowers and Sedums.

Green roofs are becoming more common across Brighton & Hove. Already an established feature of towns and cities in Germany and Switzerland, living surfaces on buildings will soften our views across Brighton & Hove, provide a home for wildlife, absorb rainfall, and can help buildings stay cool in summer.

James Farrell, Chair of Brighton & Hove Building Green said: "We wanted to provide the community with hands-on knowledge of green roofs. We hope the participants from today go on to build their own successful projects at home, and help us spread the word about the value of green roofs."

[Ends]

Editor's notes

1. Photographs of the workshop are available on request.
2. Building Green (www.building-green.org.uk) is a community group promoting green roofs and walls for a healthy Brighton & Hove. It is supported with funding from Brighton & Hove Council.
3. Green roofs are already established across Brighton & Hove for example at the Crew Club (Whitehawk), Hedgehog (Bevendean) and Atlanta (Bevendean). The Edwardian green wall at Madeira Drive is one of the finest in the country.
4. Dusty Gedge is an international green roof expert, founder of livingroofs.org (www.livingroofs.org) and was a star of Channel 4's 'Wild Thing I Love You'. John Little runs the Grass Roof Company - www.grassroofcompany.co.uk.
5. The Brighton Permaculture Trust (www.brightonpermaculture.co.uk) hosted the event at the Earthship in Stanmer Park.

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