



Welcome to the William Morris Big Local quarterly newsletter!

Wow, what a great summer it's been with so many fantastic events taking place locally like the Garden Party and Stow Festival and internationally with our incredible success at the Olympics and Paralympics! Even though the nights are drawing in and temperatures are cooling, we're still full of enthusiasm and excitement and you'll see why when you read on!

Famous Walthamstow designer and social activist gets a fitting portrait

Over the summer, local residents were asked to choose their favourite pattern for a mural of William Morris, one of the borough's most famous past residents, to be painted on an external wall by Bedford Road carpark. Art collective Wood Street Walls and William Morris Big Local set up a vote for people to choose from six designs and the result was a very close run thing. Over 1,000 people voted in total and the winning pattern, 'Willow Bough' won by just 3 votes from second favourite 'Bourne'. The winning design was then painted by local artist ATMA with the support of Walthamstow artist HATCH over the course of three days. The result is a fabulous work of art for all to see and can be found overlooking the William Morris Gallery car park. We feel that it is both a fitting tribute to the famous man and a wonderful visual addition to the ward. Thank you to everyone who voted and we hope you are enjoying the finished piece!

Mark Clack from Wood Street Walls will be giving a 'making of the mural' talk at our Public Forum on the 1st November including photos and a video montage of the project.



William Morris Big Local - COMMUNITY CHEST FUND

We are delighted to announce the launch of our Community Chest Fund. This is a small grants programme that makes funds of up to £500 available to local groups and organisations that want to run a one-off or short-term community activity or project for the benefit of people in the William Morris Ward.

When we spoke to local residents at the Walthamstow Garden Party and at our last public meeting we found that the majority of people (81%) wanted the Community Chest to be used for Community Cohesion and Intergenerational projects. These are types of project that help build relationships and unite the community and create a sense of belonging and togetherness. Example projects might be food and music festivals, community film nights, skill sharing clubs or help a neighbour scheme, but these are just a few ideas and the possibilities are numerous!

The grant is open to local community groups and small charities based or working in the Ward. Please spread the word if you know a group that could benefit from the grant and put it to good use! If you are an individual with an idea or part of a newly formed group then we'd love to hear from you too but before you apply we may need you to seek the support of an established community group or charity.

The funding window is only open for a short time and funds are limited so please be quick to not miss out!

For more details and to apply please visit our website at wmbiglocal.org or you can contact Gabriel Edwards by phone on 07947 766 251 or email coordinator@wmbiglocal.org

Public Forum

Our next Forum is on Tuesday 1st November

7.00pm – 9.00pm at Gnome House, 7 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6DS

This is an opportunity to find out what we have been doing, what's coming up and to meet the Partnership members. We also want to hear what is important to you and for you to give us your ideas on how to improve the William Morris Ward.

At this Forum we will also have presentations from Wood Street Walls and Waltham Forest Arts in Education.



News from Gabriel our Development Worker

I'm now into my fifth month with William Morris Big Local and feeling well and truly settled in. The residents on the Partnership have been excellent to work with and it feels great to be giving shape to the Big Local Plan and people's aspirations for the Ward. I've joined at a busy time and there's been a lot to get up to speed with but I've still found time to get out and about to meet people and discover what goes on in the William Morris Ward and where there are opportunities to do good work.

We've had some great feedback from you about Green Spaces and what areas of the Ward you think could do with some attention. I'll be using the information to talk with the Council and green fingered organisations to try and put some of the ideas into action. Watch this (green) space!

I work Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and can be reached on 07947 766 251 or at devwmbml@gmail.com.

News of our Funded Projects!

Youth Club at Gnome House!

A creative youth club for 10-14 year olds has been able to continue at Gnome House on Blackhorse Lane for another academic year. The project is run by local charity Waltham Forest Arts in Education Network and takes place every Saturday during term time. Every week the youth club has indoor and outdoor chillout zones; musical instruments including guitars and keyboard, opportunities to paint, design and draw. There are also games, laptops, table tennis, plus regular trips to the local park to play football. Guest tutors will come to the club



throughout the year to run film, music, drama and other creative sessions.

The youth club is free to drop in on Saturdays 11.30am–2.30pm. Contact Chantelle by email on info@wfaen.org.uk or call 07535 326157

Under 5's Nature Explorers at Lloyd Park!

Run by the Conservation Volunteers (TCV) in Lloyd Park, Nature Explorer sessions help under 5's and their parents to discover and learn about the natural environment around us and how to make the most of our parks and greenspaces. Fun and interactive activities take place once a month and include, bark rubbings, colouring, planting, seed sowing, meeting the park keepers and learning how to make natural playdough!



Contact Vicky Peet on 07870678571 or v.peet@tcv.org.uk to find out more and to sign up your under 5!

Chair's Corner - Chrys Christy

It's been a busy summer all round and the Partnership have met on a number of occasions revisiting our priorities, ironing out the details of our Community Chest and releasing funds for five great projects in the Ward, including the Youth Club at Gnome House, Nature Explorers at Lloyd Park, a new over 50's club at William Morris Community Centre and the return of school holiday roller skating sessions at Priory Court.

Meanwhile we've had a great response from people interested in joining the Partnership. Those interested have been able to meet with Gabriel, find out more about the Big Local and some have even been guests at our Partnership meetings to sample what it's like before deciding whether to put themselves forward to join. We will be formally welcoming those who do at the Forum (our public meeting) on the 1st November. I'd also like to personally invite you to come to the Forum. We will be sharing all our latest news, seeking your views and hosting presentations from local organisations who've received funding from WMBL.

Let's Skate at Priory Court!



Let's Roll will be hosting an all ages, all ability roller skating session at Priory Court Ball Court every school holiday between October and June. The sessions will be free and all skates and equipment provided with qualified instructors to help you improve your skating technique. The first session takes place this half term on the 25th October from 1pm – 5pm so come on down and get your skates on!

Contact Amanda Henry on 07737425489 or letsrollcic@gmail.com for more details.



Our Priorities

Green Spaces & Environment – we aim to increase the availability and use of green spaces, promote wellbeing through outdoor activities and increase overall pride in the look and feel of the William Morris Ward.

Intergenerational Working – we want to build relationships between the generations by uniting voices, sharing skills and experiences, and ensuring adequate provision of services and activities are available for all ages.

Improving Community Spaces – we seek to provide support to community spaces by encouraging their use for grass roots activities, identifying opportunities and funding streams for community spaces, and championing investment in our community centres.

Improving Local Economy – we aim to combat the challenges faced by deprivation, unemployment, rising rents and economic inequality. We also want to support local businesses to succeed.

Contact Us

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Phone - 07947 766 251 (Mon, Tues, Weds)

Email - coordinator@wmbiglocal.org

Website – <http://wmbiglocal.org>

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