

Newsletter

Autumn 2019



IN THIS ISSUE

HOW A SMALL GRANT
CAN MAKE A BIG
DIFFERENCE

GREEN GRANTS &
GREENER TOGETHER

COMMUNITY LUNCHES
AUTUMN HARVEST
GRANDAD'S ISLAND

COMMUNITY CHEST &
MULTICULTURAL
GRANTS

Job Vacancy

Communications &
Admin Officer
28hrs per week

Do you have experience as a Communications Officer with traditional and digital communication skills, stakeholder engagement and administration expertise? Do you want to support a vibrant community-led partnership that improves people's lives and the area they live in? We are looking for a new member of staff to join us as we scale up the delivery of our exciting plans.

visit www.wmbiglocal.org for
more information

William Morris Big Local

A community project for the local area

Welcome to our latest newsletter which has grown in size due to the number of events, activities and projects we've been putting on over the summer and that are coming up in the months ahead. We are a community organisation run by local residents and base all our activities and projects on what local people feel is needed. We hope you find this newsletter interesting and maybe inspires you to get in touch whether to come along to activities, events or even volunteer on our programme to help us make even better things happen in our area.

Get Together Time!

Join us as we celebrate the past year and look forward to an exciting year ahead.



Big Local Get Together & AGM
6.30pm - 8.30pm Thursday 19th September
Creative Works, 7 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6DS

Once a year we take a look back at what WM Big Local has been up to with a fun evening of talks, performances and presentations that showcase some of the many projects, people, groups and organisations that have been a part of our programme. We also take a look forward at the year ahead and share our plans for *Strengthening the Community*, *Improving our Outdoor Spaces* and *Supporting Local Enterprise*. The evening is topped off with delicious refreshments and a community social. The event is also a perfect opportunity to discover what we are all about and how you could join us in helping move projects forward whether as a volunteer, partner organisation or receiving funding to make things happen.

We are currently looking for new Partnership members to join our group of residents that steer WM Big Local and make important decisions about the direction of the programme. If you would like to find out more about this opportunity or about the event in general please contact Gabriel our development worker on 07947 766 251 or devwmblocal@gmail.com

How a small grant can make a big difference

Meet Juliana Shalla, a young mother who moved to Walthamstow from Albania 4 years ago. Before she arrived here she had always been interested in English literature and had been inspired to teach children English in Albania at weekends as it wasn't offered on their school curriculum. This grew into a lifelong love of the language and led to her graduating with a degree in English. This enabled her to teach the subject in Albania for 5 years before she moved to Walthamstow. After Juliana read our Spring newsletter she answered a call out for performers for our Easter Fun day. She then put together an impressive program of singers, dancers in traditional costume with music and offerings of Albanian food. Juliana's enthusiasm to connect and engage with her wider community shone through. She applied for our Community Chest grant to provide English lessons for members of the local community to help strengthen their language skills. She was successful and has run a series of 10 weekly lessons for up to 18 students who clearly love learning with her. The lessons return in September at the Salvation Army on Forest Road.



Juliana Shalla

Juliana's English class in full swing!

Our Community Chest grant returns this Autumn and will be launched at our AGM on the 19th September. If you have an idea that would benefit our local community why not apply for funding of up to £500 to help turn your vision into reality!

Juliana says "I was looking for years to have this opportunity, to have my own English classes and to help the community, this dream has come true only because of William Morris Big Local! I always have helped people by encouraging them to achieve their goals and with the support that William Morris Big Local offered to me, I was very happy. They gave me a hand to rise up and I gave my students my hand to lift them up!"

If you are interested in ESOL classes or know someone who is you can get in touch with Juliana on 07587665225

Green Grant awardee Rasheeqa creates a Healing Garden

Local wild herb expert Rasheeqa Ahmad applied for one of our green grants last year and since then has set about creating a Community Healing Garden in the heart of the William Morris area. With the help of enthusiastic locals, she took on the tidying up and replanting of an unused brick flower bed on the corner of Forest Road and South Countess Road.

It is now rich in edible and medicinal herbs, trees and shrubs such as Apple, Redcurrant, Mint, Blackberry, Sage, Elder and Bay trees to name but a few. The idea is that a self sustainable garden will develop over the years. Volunteers meet at the plot on the first Sunday of the month to weed, plant, socialise and learn about what's growing.

Rasheeqa says " It has been a heartwarming experience as we have drawn locals from the surrounding area, including families with young children who have taken an active part in growing the healing garden. Neighbours living a few doors away from each other who didn't know each other before this are now vitally connected through this local hub and it feels like those involved feel a real guardianship in it"

For more information go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityHealingGardenWilliamMorris>



Rasheeqa Ahmad



Greener Together - Live!

On Saturday 27th July over 300 people joined us at Lloyd Park for Greener Together - Live, a day of talks, stalls and all things green, wild and healthy!



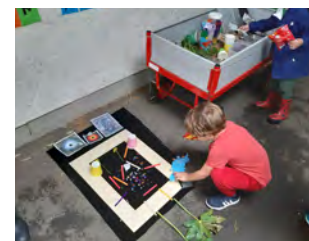
(Vicky Peet of TCV speaks to the audience in Winns Gallery)

The wet weather couldn't dampen the mood as we celebrated our vital open spaces and explored the fun ways in which we can interact with the great outdoors. Inside Winns Gallery we had an array of both enthusiasts and experts sharing their "what if..." vision for a greener, healthier and wilder Walthamstow. These brilliant speakers spoke of green walls, outdoor play, skateparks, healthy walks, foraging, re-wilding, educational programmes and giving up single use plastics. A truly inspirational day where children got creative with planting seeds and veg, making seed bombs, craft activities and wood block printing - all to the theme of nature and wildlife! Given the success of the day and the smiling faces of those who left pondering bee friendly bus stops and edible wild foods we plan to make this an annual event.

Greener Together Live was part of the London National Park Festival Week helping to mark London becoming a National Park City - www.nationalparkcity.london



(Nick Bender - Healthy Walks)



(Crafty kids activities!)



(Plant sales with Forest Flora)

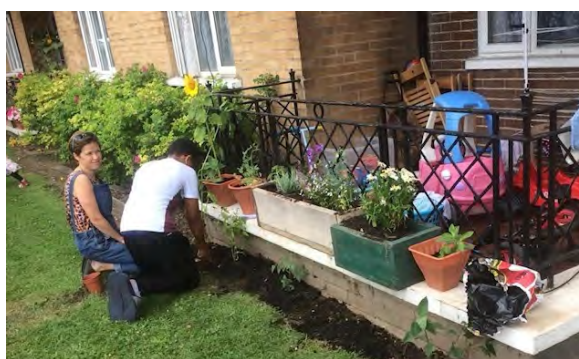
Photos courtesy of
Justin McDermott -
dustymcd@gmail.com

Greener Together in streets, gardens and balconies!

Local greening experts Forest Recycling Project were chosen by us to help residents carry out improvements to their open spaces. Jo Wilson from FRP explains more.



Have you noticed the planters on Queen Elizabeth Road front walls and windowsills, and on the balconies of Lloyd Park House? Our Greener Together project partners Forest Recycling Project have been working with residents to bring little pieces of nature into their front gardens and balconies. At a series of events over the spring and summer residents of all ages assembled their own planters from recycled scaffolding boards and filled them with their choice of colourful plants. Residents have big ideas for more greening projects, and we also have an open spaces group who are working on brilliant ideas such as a Tool Lending library and green benches, so watch this (green) space. To see more pics or find out more about this initiative check out [GreenerTogether17](https://www.facebook.com/GreenerTogether17) on Facebook or email greenerwilliammorris@frpuk.org



COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS

Our Community Chest grant is opening again for applications at our AGM Get Together on 19th September. We fund activities that bring the community together, counter social isolation and provide opportunities and activities that otherwise wouldn't be there.

Individuals, community groups and small organisations can apply for up to £500 for projects that benefit people living in the William Morris Ward.

We've funded Lunch Clubs, Keep Fit sessions, Youth Groups, Art Therapy, Poetry Slams, Music nights, Street Parties, Community Fetes and much more.

For information check out our website or come along to our AGM on the 19th September and speak to us directly about how to apply!



MULTICULTURAL GRANTS



On the 17th August WM Big Local held a multicultural event in celebration of Eid. Over 100 people packed into Harmony Hall for a night of performances, music, poetry, dance, food and socialising. With everything from Irish and English folk music to Albanian singers and South Indian Dancers it was a real feast for all the senses. Everyone felt included and welcome and a special talk about Eid was held so that people could learn more about the meaning behind the celebration.

We would love to see more events like this that celebrate different cultures and allows people from all backgrounds to learn and appreciate one other's heritage. We believe that this can help remove some of the fear and mistrust that can fester in our community and lead to negative attitudes and hateful behaviour.

Multicultural Grants of up to £500 can be applied for to put on events that reflect different faiths and cultures and will be launched at our AGM Get Together and website on the 19th September.

For more information about these and our Community Chest Grants please contact Gabriel on 07947 766 251

UPCOMING LOCAL ACTIVITIES

WM WOMEN'S GROUP



Want to feel more connected to your community?
Meet other local women for friendship, enjoy tea
or coffee and socialise in a safe space.

Gather, talk & share some 'you' time in a relaxed,
supportive and welcoming environment.

Bring along your little ones - they can make new
friends too! Refreshments provided.

10.00am - 12.00noon on:
THURSDAY 12th & 26th Sept
THURSDAY 10th & 24th October
THURSDAY 7th & 21st November
THURSDAY 5th & 19th December

Priory Community Centre, 11 Priory Court, E17 5NB

For more information please contact:
Fatema 07565 330486 Chrys 07931 513452

WMBL is based at
Creativeworks
7 Blackhorse Lane
Walthamstow E17 6DS

+44 (0) 7947 766 251
devwmb@gmail.com
wmbiglocal.org



**SAT 21ST
SEPTEMBER
MIDDAY**

**AUTUMN
HARVEST
LUNCH**

**DROP OFF
STORE
CUPBOARD
DONATIONS**

A sit down, delicious home cooked three-course lunch for 30
residents of the William Morris Ward to eat, talk and enjoy an
afternoon of community togetherness!

If you have a neighbour or friend who would benefit from a
social afternoon, please bring them along.

In good old harvest tradition we will have donation boxes for
people to contribute to. The donations will go towards
Christmas hampers for those in extra need.

FREE TO RESIDENTS

Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory Court, E17 5NB

Please call to book your place
Peter: 07811 743 337 or Gabriel: 07947 766 251

SEE YOU THERE!

JOIN IN FUNDED BY WM BIG LOCAL

WM GAMES CLUB

Rediscover the fun of playing table top
games at our relaxed and friendly club
for adults of all ages. From card games
to board games come and enjoy playing
your old favourites as well as learning
a few new ones along the way! A great
opportunity to spend an afternoon
meeting new people in a lighthearted
and welcoming environment.

EVERY TUESDAY TELL A FRIEND!
2.00PM - 5.00PM BRING ALONG A FAVE GAME
ASK FOR THE GAMES CLUB ROOM
SALVATION ARMY, 434 FOREST ROAD, E17 4PY

ALL AGES WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

"We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old
because we stop playing"

WMBL is based at
creativeworks.space
Blackhorse Lane
Walthamstow E17 6DS

+44 (0) 7947 766 251
devwmb@gmail.com
wmbiglocal.org



kids hip hop

At
Harmony Hall
With
The Blair Academy

EVERY TUESDAY 5PM-6PM
5-11 YEARS
SEN FRIENDLY

£6 PER CHILD- CASH ONLY

HARMONY HALL
10 TRURO RD
WALTHAMSTOW
LONDON
E17 7BY

Email to book, in order to avoid disappointment!
theblairacademy@gmail.com
www.theblairacademy.com
@theblairacademy

Grandads island with Artillery at Walthamstow Garden Party

WM Big Local teamed up with local art charity Artillery to help fund a fully creative experience for local residents in the William Morris Ward to take part in the 'Page to Pavement' programme.

Anyone who attended the Walthamstow Garden Party this year will have been greeted by an amazing riot of colours and shapes depicting the world of Grandad's Island's - a picture book by local author Benji Davies. Local arts charity Artillery put on the most incredible collection of arts and crafts activities that saw residents making giant birds, bees and butterflies, flowers, trees and create a giant mosaic from individually painted tiles. There were story telling sessions, music and a parade of the birds and creations.



(Grandad's Island at the Walthamstow Garden Party)



(Author Benji Davies reading Grandad's Island)

After the success of the Garden Party, WM Big Local has funded Artillery to continue the fun and creativity with a multitude of activities set to take place in the William Morris Ward. Over the coming weeks Artillery will be bringing the book to life in schools, community centres, street corners and parks and anyone of any age can take part. The programme will finish in October with an outdoor celebration and street parade for the whole community to show off the colourful creations. We will be creating a story map and listings of your activities, exhibitions and performances taking place from 4 - 13 October. It's free to take part - complete Artillery's simple form to provide details of your event for the printed guide.

Email for an information pack on how to take part: events@artillery.org.uk Keep the journey going!

Over 6,000 visitors passed through Grandads Island!

Taking inspiration from the award winning book "Grandad's Island" by Walthamstow-based children's author and illustrator Benji Davies, Artillery - the team behind the E17 Art Trail - recently launched their latest project "Grandad's Island: from Page to Pavement". Already translated into 35 languages the book reflects the borough's rich and diverse cultural heritage and the project was named as a "hero" project in the winning bid for the Mayor's first London Borough of Culture.

To take part email events@artillery.org.uk more information at www.artillery.org.uk



Harvest Lunch for older residents

We love to do a seasonal lunch and now that it's Autumn we are rustling up a lovely harvest lunch for anyone that would like to enjoy a three course meal surrounded by friendly people in a welcoming atmosphere. Local residents and food enthusiasts Peter Stanton and Gill Jacob have been cooking beautiful seasonal meals over the last year at Christmas and at Easter and now have a lovely menu lined up for Harvest including soup, pies, veg and fruit trifles!



The lunches are put on for our older residents, especially those who might feel lonely or isolated for any reason. If you would like to join us for this free delicious meal or know of someone that might like to join don't hesitate to get in touch with either Peter on 07811 743337 or Gabriel on 07947 766251

Call out for donations for Christmas food parcels

We are seeking donations from the community for packaged and tinned foods, festive treats, as well as essential toiletries so that we can put together food parcels for those in most need when Christmas comes.

Drop off locations will be open from the 21st September at:

Salvation Army, William Morris Community Centre and Priory Court Community Centre



Lunch and social afternoons at Waltham Forest College

An inspirational and unique collaboration with Waltham Forest College saw us co-host a monthly delicious lunch of Fish & Chips cooked by catering students and served on site at Mallinson Restaurant. Now that College term has started again we are bringing them back! After lunch, the Health & Social Care students entertain guests with games such as Bingo, Jenga, jigsaws and art activities. Both the students and the guests get to benefit in equal measure as the students gain valuable experience for their course and the attendees enjoy an afternoon making friends and sharing stories. A heartwarming and important intergenerational initiative which will continue in October. If you would like to register for the new season of college lunches please get in touch with Gabriel on 07947 766 251.



Thank you to the students and staff at Waltham Forest College for last term's wonderful experiences, we can't wait to continue this really worthwhile (and delicious) partnership!

Walk and Talk For Your Life! Exercise and socialising combined

Walk and Talk for Your Life is a socialising and group exercise programme for older adults (55 and older) that is starting its next course on October 1st at Priory Court Community Centre. The course combines balance, strength exercises and walking with discussions on a variety of health topics related to older adults, such as nutritional guidelines, ways to improve sleep, and falls reduction strategies. The initial group ran from May to August and was incredibly successful with the participants noting its therapeutic benefits and helpful both socially and mentally. It's a great way to get out with others and think about exercise in a new way.

For more information about signing up for the next course email:

Nick at WTLWalthamstow@gmail.com. The cost is £2 per class.

Chrys Christy - Chair's Corner

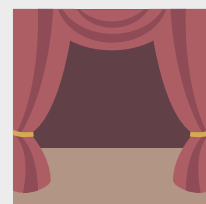
What a Summer we have had. We have taken part in the Garden Party, TCV Picnic in the Park, Priory Court Community Fun Day and William Morris Community Fun day. We have also put on our own events such as Greener Together-Live! and just recently our Multicultural evening in Harmony Hall. We have all enjoyed being involved with these important events and the opportunities it has given WM Big Local to hear from residents. We are constantly looking for new ideas/projects that can enable residents to get involved - so please do get in touch or come and see us on 19th September at our AGM. Finally a big thank you to our Partnership, our staff Gabriel and Catherine, as well as our talented and enthusiastic volunteers for making our events so enjoyable and memorable.



(Chrys with staff and volunteers at our multicultural event and at the LLOYD Park Picnic)

Community Christmas Panto - unleash your inner performer!

Local resident and musician Tom Lynch is on the hunt for people that would like to appear in and help with a Community Christmas Panto this year. Following the success of past street pantos, including a fun take on Jack & The Beanstalk, Tom is looking to get a group together to put on a great show with music, lights, drama and festive entertainment!
Call Tom on 07774 749 533 for more information or to sign up!



Volunteer Experience - Sue Burton

Sue has lived in Walthamstow for 20 years and recently retired. For the first time she has been able to truly start discovering the place where she lives after years of commuting to and from work. Sue got in touch after seeing one of our social media posts and has already volunteered at two of our events and interested in joining our Partnership - the group of residents who help shape our programme.



Volunteers Sue and Chiddy welcoming guests at our Multicultural event

It's great to be getting out and about more in my local area, meeting so many lovely people and feeling part of a group that is working to improve things for everyone in the community. I'm also volunteering at Forest School sessions at the Wetlands and really enjoying discovering all of the great delights that Walthamstow has to offer!"

If you would like to join our friendly group of volunteers and residents who help make our area even better do get in touch. We have lots of different ways you can get involved from doing a few hours here and there to being a dedicated Partnership member and helping with projects.

Thanks for reading!

We are based at Creative Works 7 Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow, E17 6DS

Email us: devwmb@gmail.com

Website: wmbiglocal.org

