



# Newsletter

Spring 2018



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### Our focus



Improve outdoor spaces  
& the environment



Bring people and  
grassroots groups together



Support local business  
and enterprise

## William Morris Big Local

### A community project for the local area

Welcome to our latest newsletter with stories from our projects and the local area. We are a community group funded by the National Lottery working to improve our neighbourhood and base all of our priorities on what local people feel is important. We hope you enjoy the read!

### Let's Get Together!

Tuesday 20th March 2018

William Morris Community Centre, 6-8 Greenleaf Road, E17 6QQ

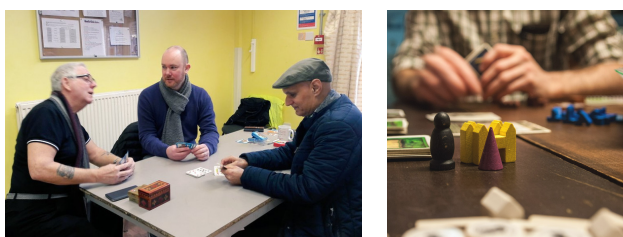
Our next community Get Together event is going to be an evening filled with delicious food, presentations, performances, and a chance to meet the people involved with William Morris Big Local and hear what's going on. It's been a little while since our last event and loads has happened since so that means it's going to be jam packed full of interesting stuff.

WM Big Local Plan - On the night we will be launching the new WM Big Local plan for improving the area with its key focus being; *Strengthening the Community, Improving Outdoor Spaces and Supporting Enterprise*. These themes have been put together using information and feedback collected since the beginning of the Big Local programme and developed by residents on the Partnership. There are a host of programmes and projects lined up for the next 3 years that people can get directly involved with so do come along and find out more!

Small Big Local Grants - The 20th March also sees us launch two small grant schemes available to community groups, small charities and collections of individuals wanting to carry out grassroots projects. The first is our highly popular Community Chest grant aimed at bringing the community together through shared activities and events. The second is our 'Green Grant' which is an exciting new scheme to help groups of people make improvements to outdoor spaces near to them. Full details and application forms will be available at the Get Together and our development worker will be on hand to help with any enquiries.

## Just Play - WM Games Club!

There is a saying that goes “we do not stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing”. Well at Big Local we felt it was time to roll back the years a bit and so from March onwards we will be hosting a table top games club for adults of any age to take part in. We'll be breaking out a load of classic games from cards and dominoes to draughts and board games. Ludo seems to be a popular request so far but we're happy to play anything! The sessions will be hosted by our super friendly volunteers and there'll be refreshments served up to keep players' energy levels up! There are also rumours of us getting a Carrom Board which is a traditional Asian game kind of like a playing pool with draught pieces. We can't wait to try it and Mr Khan one of our volunteers is going to teach us. Adults of all ages are welcome and sessions are free of charge. Small donations asked for refreshments.



Sessions take place on the 1st Wednesday of the month at Gnome House, 7 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6DS, and on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Priory Court Community Centre, E17 5NS. 10.00am - 12.00 noon at both venues.

## WM Community

Bringing the community together is at the heart of what Big Local is all about with residents and local groups working together to make the area an even better place to live. We are going to build on our existing initiatives and offer more ways for community groups and organisations to put on quality activities and events.



We are kicking things off with a free tea party on Saturday 24th March from 2.30pm - 4.30pm at William Morris Gallery to celebrate the birthday of William Morris, Walthamstow's famous designer. There will be William Morris themed cakes, friendly chat and an appreciation of all things Morris. It will be hosted by our lovely Partnership members who are keen to talk to people about how we could make this a big annual event. Get in touch with us and register if you'd like to attend!

We are also developing an association to cover the whole of the William Morris ward that will be made up of residents and other interested people. The association will come together to highlight issues of common interest and then come up with joint solutions for them. Do get in touch with us if you are interested in joining.

## Focus on Enterprise

Many of us when we hear the word business might immediately think it's just about making money, creating jobs or contributing to the national economy. These are certainly important factors but at Big Local we are interested in the types of business that can also change the world for the better at the same time. If you've ever bought a copy of The Big Issue, shopped at the Co-op or bought paint from Forest Recycling Project then you will have been supporting a business with a social heart that aims to tackle social problems, improve people's life chances and support communities. Crucially these businesses are not-for-profit and put all of the money they make back into the business that supports their social objectives. These types of business are known as social enterprises and the people who create them are called social entrepreneurs.



(Forest Recycling Project)



One of the key activity areas of our new plan will see us support local people who have the ideas and ambition to become social entrepreneurs no matter how big or small. We also want to support and further encourage existing businesses that make a positive difference to our community. This is the beginning of our enterprise journey and as a first step we are delighted to announce that we have secured a three year partnership with Unltd. They are a national organisation that support new and emerging social entrepreneurs and will be available to assist with advice, training, mentoring and grants to help people develop their ideas into social businesses. Chris Shutt, Unltd Programme Manager will be at our Get Together event with more information but you can already get in touch with us if you'd like to find out more about the programme.

## Spotlight on The Conservation Volunteers

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) are a firm fixture at Lloyd Park and work tirelessly to improve the park for the local community and the wildlife there. Vicky Peet, Project Officer at TCV explains more.

We work with schools, families, adults and community groups to help make the park a great place for both people and wildlife whilst teaching people about the beauty and importance of nature.

2017 was a fantastic year for us with record numbers of people benefitting from our work. We had such a good year in fact with many successful activities that we got nominated for 'Environmental Champion' in the Love Your Borough Awards. We run term-time and holiday activities and coming up this year we have some great family activities such as a Survival Skills workshops, Bat Nights and our annual Nature Trail, all of which are free. The Lloyd Park Big Picnic will also be making a comeback as it was such a massive hit last year.



We have programmes just for adults too such as bat walks and dawn chorus walks which are a really peaceful and fascinating way of experiencing nature. Adults can also take part in our hands on volunteer programme called the 'Green Gym'. Here volunteers help us to make improvements in the park like habitat creation and bulb planting, but they also benefit from it themselves through the exercise they get! An exciting new venture for us from April will be our work with Lloyd Park Sharing Heritage to help celebrate and promote the rich cultural history of Lloyd Park. We'll be creating a listening project by collecting memories and sounds inspired by Lloyd Park and its people.



To find out more about TCV events or to volunteer with them contact Vicky via email at [v.peet@tcv.org.uk](mailto:v.peet@tcv.org.uk) or Gareth on [gg-waltham-forest@tcv.org.uk](mailto:gg-waltham-forest@tcv.org.uk) Green Gym sessions take place every Friday at 10.45am. Meet by the stable building with the green doors (near to the tennis courts) For a full list of activities at Lloyd Park you can visit the website: <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/lloyd-park>

## We've got (outdoor) space to improve



It's fair to say that here in Walthamstow we've got access to some pretty wonderful outdoor spaces from the beautiful Lloyd Park to the Lee Valley marshes and now the Walthamstow Wetlands (pictured above). But it's probably also fair to say that wandering around our streets and pavements can sometimes feel a bit of a glum experience.

Improving the outdoor spaces around us often comes up in conversation when we're out and about talking with people and has consistently been a hot topic at WM Big Local events. For this reason we have made it a key part of the Big Local plan. The new outdoor spaces plan will include both small scale and ambitious improvements for the area from simple greening projects like planting trees and bulbs through to street art and the creation of pocket parks. There will also be scope to help tackle some of the long-term eyesores and 'grot spots' around us.



(Community led improvements on Wolsey Avenue (left) and at Greenleaf Primary School)

The outdoor spaces plan will be there for everyone to share in and get involved with. The more people taking part in it, the more we will be able to help make the area look and feel better for everyone. We are keen to speak to anyone interested in getting involved whether they are an individual, part of a community group or have expertise in the field to share. Come and see us on the 20th March at our Get Together event or contact us for more information!

At our Get Together on the 20th March we are launching the Green Grant scheme to allow community groups and street associations access to funds of up to £1,000 to improve sites in their area.

We have also launched an outdoor spaces group which is dedicated to making the outdoorspaces plan a success. If you'd like to join or would like more information please do get in touch.

## Chair's Corner

by Chrys Christy, Chair of WM Big Local

It has been very interesting these last few months as we have spent that time chatting to residents about what they would like to see happen in our community. From people with just an idea to experienced community activists we have really enjoyed hearing your ideas and thoughts. Now with an ambitious 3 year plan in place, its time to turn these ideas into reality. There are so many ways you can get involved in William Morris Big Local, from being a volunteer at our events to running your own project or event, to being on one of the sub-groups.

Come and see us at our Get Together on March 20th to get inspiration from other residents who have set up events and projects and talk to us about how we can help with your ideas. We also want to invite you to have tea and cake with us to celebrate William Morris's Birthday on March 24th at William Morris Gallery. We look forward to seeing you at these events

## Family Theatre Show!

hosted by Be-Bop Baby

Two fantastic new children's theatre shows written & performed by local mothers and William Morris Ward residents, are part of the *Lake of Stars* festival on March 10th.

Mirth, Marvel & Maud has an afternoon of children's theatre.

At 2pm under 5's will be treated to The Magic Box & Dr.DeepSpace - an interactive journey through the galaxy;

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-magic-box-tickets-43191868040?ref=estw>

and at 4pm the over 5's are invited into *Heather's House of Stories* to join in a discovery adventure set by the sea.

Peter, Sally & the Sea;

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peter-sally-the-sea-tickets-43192114778>

The festival continues across the road in Centre 17 with free craft & music from Scribble & Smudge and BeBop Baby from 10-4.

For full details visit; <http://lakeofstars.org/festival/>

## Spring Word Search



BIRD  
BUD  
EGG  
FLOWER

LAMB  
NET  
RAIN  
SPRING



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TO RECEIVE UP TO DATE BIG LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS!**