



# Newsletter

Spring 2019



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## William Morris Big Local Our Local Community Project

It's that time of year again! Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter. We are a community group run by local residents and funded by the National Lottery. We work together to improve our neighbourhood and base all our priorities on what local residents feel are most important to them.

We welcome new volunteers with open arms - so if you have any time to spare and would like to get more involved in your community, please do get in touch!

### Ever thought about Volunteering?

Read more inside!



## Easter Fun Day at Priory Court

We are holding an Easter Fun Day on Easter Saturday 20th April at Priory Court Community Centre. We will be having an open Mic session so we are looking for any local community groups or individuals to showcase your talents! Dancers, singers, poets, spoken worders, rappers, freestylers - dont be shy - please step forward! Join us for an Easter Egg hunt and general fun & games. The event will run from 2-5pm. Refreshments provided.



Improving outdoor  
spaces & the  
environment

Bringing people &  
grassroots groups  
together

Supporting local  
business & enterprise

## Staff News

We are delighted to welcome Catherine onto the team as our new Communications and Admin Officer, who says:

I am delighted to join Gabriel and the team here at William Morris Big Local and can't wait to get involved with all the exciting projects we have planned. In my role as communications officer, it will be an honour to spread the word and connect WM Big Local with other great local organisations. Walthamstow is an area of such varied talent and people, it is inspiring to be part of its ever changing social fabric - I've met so many great people already! Our three core themes are close to my heart and I relish the challenge to help deliver our carefully crafted vision of a happier, more connected and inclusive community.

## We've Moved!

Good News! We have been warmly welcomed by Creative Works, a brand new shared workspace and creative hub based at the Blackhorse Lane development. The space is gloriously open plan, with freelance workers using roaming desk spaces mixed with private offices and meeting rooms full of local, creative talent. It's a perfect base for us to forge on with our exciting programme of plans.

Creative Works is part of the Big Creative Education which supports and trains young people, helping them get into creative industries (fields such as music, gaming, media, film, TV, performing arts and so on). Another great local initiative of which we are proud to be connected to.

For more information, see [creativeworks.space](http://creativeworks.space) or email [hello@creativeworks.space](mailto:hello@creativeworks.space)

## St Georges Day Lunch

St Georges day lunch at Priory Court Community Centre on Tuesday 23rd April. Come along and enjoy pie & mash and some good old fashioned community spirit in the form of Pearly Kings and Queens, and possibly a sing a long! From 2.30-4.30pm. All welcome.

## Big Lunch returns in June!

The Big Lunch is a simple idea. For a few glorious hours, cars stop, shyness stops and neighbours come together in the street to meet, greet, share, swap, sing, plan and laugh.

This year marks the Big Lunch's 10 year anniversary. To celebrate, you can apply for up to £200 to host your own Big Lunch: whether that be on your street or in a preferred community space.

Big Lunch weekend takes place 1st and 2nd June. Applications open on April 1st until April 28th. Contact us on 07552 364380



**Get together with neighbours in a nationwide act of community and friendship.**

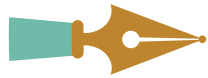
## Community Chest - £500

Have you been thinking of starting a small project that would be really good for the area but need a bit of money to get it going? Or are you part of a local group that runs activities for the benefit of the local community?

Our small grants programme is back this April and the money can be used for any activity or project that brings the community of the William Morris Ward together. This could be anything from lunch clubs to dance classes. Our community chest to date has funded 30 different projects, reaching over 1,000 participants.

If you are a newly emerging group or collection of volunteers unfamiliar with applying for grants then we can support you with the process. The community chest fund is open from 1st - 28th April. Contact us on 07552 364380

**Ever thought of dedicating some time to your community? WE would LOVE more volunteers to get on board and help us deliver our programme of events. Please contact Catherine on 07552 364380**

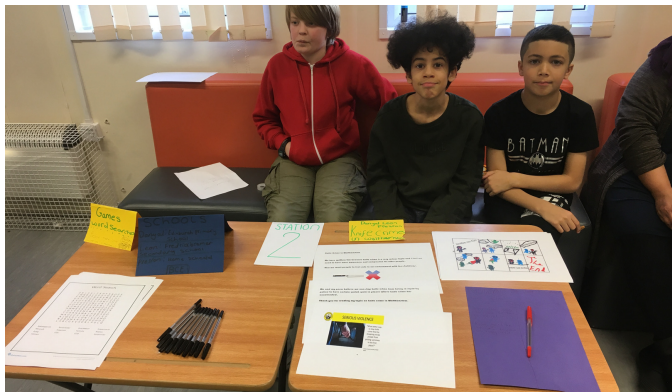


## Local kids try their hand at journalism!



'Amazing, inspired, exciting and fun'. Just some of the words that kids and parents used to describe a jam packed half term activities week at Big Creative Academy in February. WM Big Local teamed up with the NXT Creatives programme which offers young people the chance to explore their creativity, get active and try out new things. February's activities included indoor climbing at Yonder, graphic design skills with Apple technology and making beats. For a Big Local special activity we tasked the 10-14 year olds to become journalists and asked them to completely re-imagine our newsletter and create a youth edition. The ideas that the young people had were totally inspired with comics, drawings as well as articles on Lloyd Park, game addiction, what's going on in the area, and how to create a vision board. The submissions are going to be put together with a small editorial team of young people to help with the final designing stage and the youth edition will be hitting your doorstep soon!

**NXT Creatives run after school and school holiday activities for 7-18 year olds.  
NXT CREATIVES also have a great easter holiday programme,  
please text 07575 053 994 if interested or visit [www.bigcreative.education](http://www.bigcreative.education)**



**Some future stars in the making showcasing their article idea for a newsletter focused on their age group.**



**Young people receiving their certificates for participation in the programme.**



## Greener WM Big Local by Jo Wilson of FRP



Domestic gardens make up roughly half of an average city's green space. While back gardens are often well-looked after, it's easy for front gardens and balconies to become neglected. With growing evidence that exposure to nature can make people feel good, improving these prominent spaces is a significant opportunity.

William Morris Big Local has commissioned local charity Forest Recycling Project to run a pilot project. It will empower communities to transform grey, unloved front gardens and balconies into colourful, nature-rich spaces that brighten the days of all passers-by. To select the pilot locations, we analysed the ward, observing levels of footfall and visibility. We also surveyed residents of five shortlisted locations to gauge interest. For front gardens, we will work with residents of Queen Elizabeth Road, and for balconies, residents of Lloyd Park House.

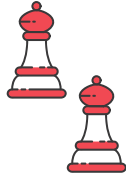
We will fully support residents to participate in the pilot - no green fingers necessary! From developing the vision, to installing the plants, to looking after them (hopefully long into the future), the community will have a stake every step of the way. We will provide plants and containers in return, as well as knowledge, support and inspiration. We're also developing a facility for residents to borrow garden tools. While the project is about individual spaces, the final result will be greater than the sum of its parts. By creating a public meeting point and holding regular events, we will encourage people to share skills and ideas, celebrate their collective success and make their neighbourhood greener together. Although we're starting with one street and one block, we hope the project will go ward-wide. Keep up with us on Twitter (@greenertogether) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/greenerthere17](http://www.facebook.com/greenerthere17)) or send us an email: [greenertogether@frpuk.org](mailto:greenertogether@frpuk.org)

**If you would like more information about these green projects or would like to help in any way please get in touch with us at: [greenerwilliammorris@frp.org](mailto:greenerwilliammorris@frp.org) or phone 0208 539 3856**

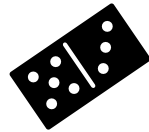
## What's On

### WM Games Club

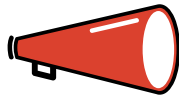
Our popular board games club returns! Please join us for an afternoon of board games in a relaxed and friendly environment - a chance to socialise and meet new people. Refreshments provided.



**Every Tuesday from  
March 12th, 2-5pm  
Salvation Army  
434 Forest Road  
Walthamstow E17 6DS**



### What do you want?



### WM Womens Group



Gather, talk and share some 'you' time in a relaxed, supportive and welcoming environment. Tea, coffee and a comfortable space provided for local women to connect. These sessions are child friendly. Refreshments are provided and the session runs from 10am through to midday. Please tell a friend or neighbour!

**Priory Court Community Centre  
Thursday March 28th & every fortnight  
William Morris Community Centre  
Tuesday April 2nd & every fortnight  
For more information please call:  
Chrys 07931 513452**

Walthamstow has rightly received a lot of attention for being a strong and vibrant community and has become a hive of creative activity in recent years. Whilst this has created new and exciting opportunities, many people in our community face day to day challenges and hardships that can make it feel like art and creativity isn't relevant or going to help in any way. This is why members of the William Morris and Wood Street communities have united to build a programme that is going to create positive change in the area by expertly using the art and creativity we have available to us. We believe that it can play a valuable role in improving local people's lives, especially those who are missing out or used to be creative and haven't found ways back in. Go to [www.wdyouw.co.uk](http://www.wdyouw.co.uk) & have your say. Your voice matters!

#### A few words from our Chair, Chrys Christy

Spring is most definitely in the air and we look forward to a busy few months ahead. So many projects and events are coming to fruition. There are many ways to get involved in your community, whether you can spare a few hours or commit to more time we would love to hear from you! I also hope to meet you at any of our upcoming events.

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



Email us: [devwmb@gmail.com](mailto:devwmb@gmail.com)  
or [comms.wmb@gmail.com](mailto:comms.wmb@gmail.com)  
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