



# NEWS

MAKING  
HERE  
BETTER

...spring 2020...

Cover images of planters on Palmerston Junction, by Giulia Hetherington



## Green Fair 2020

The boring, grey, day-to-day of urban life will be blown away by our Green Fair in Lloyd Park on 30 May.

It will be a day celebrating all things greener, healthier and wilder, from food growing and seed sowing, to parks and outdoor play. Find out more about the event and how you can be involved on **page 4**.



## Can you dig it?

Why fork out for garden tools when you could borrow or hire what you need? That's the concept behind a totally new kind of place we're creating.

Our garden tool lending library will stock all kinds of tools. Whether you want to green up your balcony or cut back your overgrown garden, we'll have what you need, as well as friendly gardening advice.

The library will be opening in May on Priory Court, just off Winns Avenue. Forest Recycling Project are going to be running the library, and will be preparing the building and stocking it with tools.

Could you help to make this a truly blossoming project?

We need people to help paint the building and build planters, and we'll also need people to help run the library when it opens. You don't need to have any expert knowledge of gardening and all volunteers will get tool library perks, like free membership.

Email [greg@frpuk.org](mailto:greg@frpuk.org) to get involved.

## Money for green projects

We're giving out grants of up to £50k for projects that will improve local outdoor spaces. Find out more on **page 7**.

## Priory Court development



Residents of Priory Court, and surrounding roads, have expressed their concerns about proposals to build four new blocks of flats on the estate, in the area currently occupied by the shops, nursery, community centre and green play space. Sixty Bricks, the council-owned developer, has held a number of engagement events since October to gauge views and, as a result, has made some changes to its original plans, including alterations to the proposed community centre, and stating that new facilities will be in place before the existing ones are lost. However, many residents remain strongly opposed to the proposal to build the new blocks, which will significantly increase the density of accommodation, and they are challenging the development. Priory Court Action Group has been set up to bring the community together, and to campaign for positive changes on the estate, including increased infrastructure and improvements to existing housing. The group can be contacted on [priorycourt19@gmail.com](mailto:priorycourt19@gmail.com).



## Lloyd Park skate park

The skate park in Lloyd Park has grown over the winter. A new scooter park provides space for younger children and beginners, while the main skate park has been extended in key places: "The changes don't look like much but they've made a significant difference to the usability of the park," says Daniel Turner, of the Skate Park User Group. "The original design had some flaws where the riding area was just not big enough, which caused people to keep landing in the mud, and created bottlenecks where there wasn't enough room to wait for your turn."

Funding from William Morris Big Local enabled the User Group to make improvements to the main park while Waltham Forest Council built the new scooter park. "The skate park is really important to the local area," says Daniel, "as it provides a free and accessible safe space for people to express themselves physically and creatively."



## Big local history

The Priory Court estate was built between 1946 and 1949, and provided much needed housing after homes had been destroyed in WW2. It has been home to thousands of people since then, with an active community centre at its heart. This picture dates from the 1960s, before the blocks were redeveloped in the 90s.

Do you have a memory of the local area to share? Email your old photos to [helenwmb1@gmail.com](mailto:helenwmb1@gmail.com)



## The bees knees

Bees Knees sewing and quilting club meets every Tuesday from 12 to 2pm at Priory Court Community Centre. Lizzie Lindsay is a member. "It's good to come here and meet up with other people," she says, "you get ideas for things to make, and we all help each other." Bees Knees has seen Lizzie through some tough times. During the past three years her son has had two strokes, and has had to move into a residential home. Lizzie spends a lot of her time visiting her son, and coming to the sewing club gives her a welcome space to socialise and be creative. "It's marvellous to come and see friends and new people – you get to work together and get on with people." Lizzie's projects have included aprons and a cover for her sofa, as well as a patchwork blanket for her son. "It's so rewarding to complete things," she says. You can drop in to Bees Knees for a free taster session, or email [lizjohnopen@gmail.com](mailto:lizjohnopen@gmail.com) for more information.

Bees Knees received a £500 Community Chest grant from William Morris Big Local

## Walking and talking

"I'd let myself go – got lazy! It came at just the right time for me." Noel D'Souza heard about Walk and Talk for Your Life from a neighbour. Walk and talk is a ten week course for older adults which combines group exercise with conversations about health and well-being. Having completed the initial course, Noel now goes to weekly follow up sessions with course leader Nick, a specialist in exercise for older adults. "I'm on a mission to become healthy again," says Noel, "and this course has really helped my physical and mental health. Everyone on the course looks forward to the sessions."



For more information go to [wtlwalthamstow@gmail.com](mailto:wtlwalthamstow@gmail.com) / 07562 475706

Walk and Talk for Your Life has been partially funded by a William Morris Big Local Community Chest grant. Go to page 7 for more on our grants.

## Recipe of the season: sauerkraut

Recipe from Nick Bender of Walk and Talk for Your Life – who also runs occasional sauerkraut-making workshops.

**Ingredients:** Half a head of cabbage, salt, garlic, spices, e.g. turmeric, chilli, ginger. You'll also need a glass jar.

**Method:** Shred cabbage quite thinly and put into a large mixing bowl. Add a generous amount of salt, one clove of diced garlic, and your choice of spices. The flavours will intensify during the fermentation process, so add sparingly. Squeeze and press the cabbage in your hands for 10–20 minutes until brine is produced. Transfer cabbage and brine into a glass jar and ensure cabbage is completely submerged. Add boiled water if you need to. Keep at room temperature for 2–6 weeks with the lid slightly loose. Taste the sauerkraut during the fermentation process, and once you're happy with the flavour, close the lid and keep it in the fridge. It can keep for 3–6 months.



## Join us at the Green Fair

On Saturday 30 May our 2020 Green Fair will be happening in Lloyd Park. We'll be hosting stalls, talks and workshops on all things green, gardening and the outdoors. We had a great time running last year's Greener Together event, and this year our space is bigger, so we're looking for more stalls to take part. If you're part of an organisation or community group, or you're a resident who loves greening and outdoor activities – get in touch with us and get involved.

For information about having a stall, or to join the team of volunteers planning and helping on the day contact: [helenwmb1@gmail.com](mailto:helenwmb1@gmail.com)



## Stowathon

Stowathon VII will be 24 hours of free live music at the Rose & Crown pub from midday on Sunday 24 May to midday on Monday 25 May.

This much-loved annual bank holiday event involves hundreds of local musicians and performers covering everything from folk to punk, choirs to electronic music. This year it's supporting The Limes Children's Centre – a safe space for children and young people with disabilities to play, learn and develop.



## Get into the creative industries this summer

Unique opportunities for 18 to 25 year olds will be available this summer in E17. Urban by Nature is a collaboration between Wood Street Walls and William Morris Big Local, and has been awarded over £200k in funding to deliver creative and cultural activities in the Wood Street and William Morris areas.

Projects that Urban by Nature has planned for this year include: A large scale mosaic mural in collaboration with artist Carrie Reichardt, which will provide an opportunity for young people to take part in the making of the mural and potentially get paid experience at Glastonbury Festival.

Lake Of Stars London 2020 – a one-day, multi-venue arts and music festival celebrating culture from across Africa and the rest of the world. There will be opportunities to learn about festival production as well as performance opportunities for local residents.

Locus of Walthamstow will be running events for young people interested in the creative industries, including talks, mentoring for emerging artists, zine nights, and a flea market for local makers.

If you want to get involved or find out more about Urban by Nature email [devwmb1@gmail.com](mailto:devwmb1@gmail.com).

All events and activities are free unless otherwise specified.

## Events

### International Women's Day

Sunday 8 March, 11am to 6pm  
Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory Court,  
E17 5NB  
Inspiring talks and discussions, food co-  
operative, health, well-being and therapies,  
and a stay and play for children.

### William Morris Tea Party

Tuesday 24 March, 2 to 5pm  
Lloyd Park  
Our annual commemoration of William Morris's  
birthday. We'll be celebrating in front of the  
William Morris Gallery with tea and cake, craft  
activities and games. Join us and wish the big  
man many happy returns.

### St George's Day

Thursday 23 April, 12 to 3pm  
Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory Court,  
E17 5NB  
A St George themed celebration with food, music  
and a dose of good cheer. All welcome.

### Fish & Chip Lunch

Friday 24 April, 12 to 3pm at Waltham Forest  
College  
Fish & chips for over 50s (veggie option also  
available), followed by games and  
activities. Booking essential: contact Helen  
on 07552 364 380 or helenwmb1@gmail.com

### Green Fair

Saturday 30 May  
Lloyd Park  
Stalls, talks and workshops on all things  
green, gardening and the outdoors.

### Stowathon

Sunday 24 May to Monday 25 May  
Rose and Crown, 53 Hoe St E17 4SA  
24 hours of free, live music, raising money for  
The Limes.

For latest events listings go to:  
[wmbiglocal.org/events](http://wmbiglocal.org/events)

## Regular activities

### Gentle Exercise

Every Monday, 12 to 1pm  
Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory  
Court, E17 5NB  
Fitness for anyone 18+, including chair based  
exercises suitable for people with reduced  
mobility.

### Afternoon Tea for over 50s

First and third Mondays of the month. 1 to  
3pm.  
Priory Court Community Centre  
Tea (or coffee), cakes and conversation in a  
warm and welcoming environment.

### Games Club

Every Tuesday, 2 to 5pm  
Priory Court Community Centre  
Board games and cards. Everyone welcome and  
refreshments provided.

### Women's Group

Every other Thursday, 10am to 12pm. Upcoming  
dates: 12 & 26 March.  
Priory Court Community Centre  
Meet other local women for tea and  
friendship. Little ones welcome too.

### Just Box

Every Friday, 6pm  
Priory Court Community Centre  
Boxing classes for adults and children 7+.  
£3 for juniors, £5 for adults.





## Basketball for all

Joshua Wehner of Flames Basketball has been playing on the Lloyd Park courts since he was at primary school, but there was one problem: although the courts had been in the park for over twenty years, there were no markings on the tarmac. Joshua applied for one of William Morris Big Local's Green Grants to rectify the situation, and now one of the courts can be used for training and matches.

Joshua now has his sights set on improving the second court in the park, and is also in the process of receiving a social enterprise grant through our partners Unltd, for his basketball club. "I want to show local young people how they can create positive lasting change in their local area," he says.

See opposite for more information on applying for grants.

## Have your portrait taken



Local photographer Rosalind Stephens is looking for people to take part in her project, *Queers in the Forest*. The project aims to challenge stereotypes of what queer looks like and promote a safer environment for queer people. It's open to anyone who identifies as queer – so if you'd like to have your free portrait taken and exhibited at Winns Gallery go to [rosalindstephens.com](http://rosalindstephens.com) to register your interest. Rosalind received funding towards her project through our Community Chest grants.

## Host a party for your street



Street parties are a great way to get together with your neighbours and meet new people. Last summer we helped to make community parties happen all over the local area.

Emma Lawrence applied for a Community Chest grant to fund a street party on Greenleaf Road. "The application was very smooth and straightforward," says Emma.

"The day was great, having fabulous weather helped and so did all the efforts made by everyone on the street, especially our DJ."

"The most challenging thing for me was to delegate – this year I'm getting more people involved!"

Would you like to have a party on your street? Our Community Chest grants are open for applications now – see details opposite.

## Apply for money for your community project

The William Morris area of Walthamstow is one of 150 locations in England to have been allocated £1m of Lottery Funding to make a lasting positive difference to the area and people who live here. William Morris Big Local is a resident-led project that aims to bring together all the talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations who want to make their area an even better place to live. Based on what local people have told us they want, our aims are to bring local people together, improve outdoor spaces, and support local business. And we have grants available for large and small projects that share these aims. So whether you're part of a community organisation with big plans, or just someone who'd like to make your street a bit more attractive, or get to know your neighbours better, there is almost certainly a way that we can help you out.

### Big Green and Big Active

The local community has consistently told us that improving outdoor space is a priority. So we've decided to make some larger funds available for improvements that will enhance our open spaces and help people feel more connected to them. The following grants are available to make green projects happen in our area:

**Big Green:** up to £30k match funding for projects that provide a greening transformation in the William Morris Ward

**Big Active:** up to £50k funding to encourage people to connect to and participate more with our outdoor spaces. This can be used for enhancements to spaces as well as activities.

Full information on these grants can be found at: [wmbiglocal.org/biggreenactive](http://wmbiglocal.org/biggreenactive) or call Gabriel on 07947 766 251 if you'd like to discuss them.



### Multicultural Grants

A fund for local community groups, faith groups, residents and charities who would like to put on interfaith events, celebrations, mini-festivals and cultural learning events which are open to everyone. Up to £500 per applicant is available for events that are accessible to all ages, backgrounds and cultures and will help bring people together and strengthen community ties.

For more information and to apply go to [wmbiglocal.org/multicultural](http://wmbiglocal.org/multicultural).

### Community Chest

Our Community Chest is a small grants scheme that makes funds of up to £700 available to local people, groups and organisations to run open events and activities for the community. Examples of activities that have been funded by Community Chest grants in the past include street parties (up to £250), support groups, art therapy, and keep fit. If you have any ideas about fun events or activities which could strengthen our local community we'd love to hear from you.

For more information and to apply go to [wmbiglocal.org/communitychest](http://wmbiglocal.org/communitychest).

### Enterprise

Our grants for businesses are administered through UnLtd, an organisation which supports social enterprise. If you have a social enterprise, or an idea for one, contact [cherylndione@unltd.org.uk](mailto:cherylndione@unltd.org.uk) to find out more.

## Big Local partnership

William Morris Big Local is run by local residents. Our partnership is a group of residents who are responsible for guiding the overall direction of the organisation.

**Susan Wills** is one of our partnership members.



I joined the partnership a few months ago. Having lived and worked in the area for over 25 years, I know the William Morris ward pretty well, but it's been an eye-opener to fully realise just how much is going on in this little patch of Walthamstow. I teach English at Waltham Forest College, and outside of work, my interests include local history and gardening, so I'm particularly interested in the support that we can offer to community projects and green spaces. Spring is just around the corner – a good time to apply for one of our new Big Green or Big Active grants! I also enjoy the way that William Morris Big Local helps to bring people together, and I'm looking forward to taking part in the Women's Day event at Priory Court Community Centre on Sunday 8 March. Hope to see you there – or at another Big Local event soon.

## Volunteering

We chat about volunteering to local resident Andy Godfrey.

### How did you start volunteering?

About three years ago I became involved with trying to improve the grotty appearance of the Palmerston junction. Initially this took the form of small scale gardening projects in front of the ugly wooden advertising hoardings, but once the Mini-Holland project reached the area, we got involved in maintaining the planters and new trees. We've also gardened at the community herb garden at the top of South Countess Road, and are involved in our local Ward Residents Association.

### What's good about being a volunteer?

There's a lot of satisfaction in seeing the results of our gardening efforts, and it's also been fun learning a little bit about herbs. I get a buzz out of the positive reactions of residents when they see us out in the street getting our hands dirty.

### What do you feel that you get out of your volunteering?

There's a sense of empowerment: once you decide to get involved you quickly discover that there are so many like-minded people all around to encourage, help and support you.



## Inspired to volunteer?

There are lots of ways to get involved with William Morris Big Local, from joining in with a gardening project or helping out at an event, to volunteering at our tool lending library. If you'd like to be part of making your local area an even better place to live, and getting to know other people in your local community at the same time, email [helenwmb1@gmail.com](mailto:helenwmb1@gmail.com) to find out more about how you could volunteer.

## Poetry corner

This issue, a spring haiku by one of our William Morris Big Local poets, inspired by our community work:

Raindrops on concrete,  
people dancing in the hall.  
Green stirs in the earth.

Are you a budding, or accomplished, local poet? Send your submissions for the summer issue to [helenwmb1@gmail.com](mailto:helenwmb1@gmail.com)