



WMBL Newsletter

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IN THIS ISSUE

BIG LOCAL NEWS

THE TOGETHER PROJECT LOCUS COMMUNITY SPACE

BEATROOTS GRIME MUSIC

CHRISTMAS EVENTS SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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 lottery funded community group working to improve our neighbourhoods and our priorities are based on local people's views of what's important. We hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter and maybe even feel inspired to get in touch and be part of helping us to make this area even better.

From all of us at William Morris Big Local we wish you a wonderful run up to Christmas and a fabulous festive holiday.

Our focus for the New Year and beyond!

At our most recent public get together we presented three themes that will be at the core of our new Big Local Plan 2018-2020. We are currently putting the final touches to it ready for the beginning of next year. In the meantime here is a sneak preview of what's to come;

- Improving outdoor spaces and the outdoor experience for people that live, work and play in the William Morris area. This includes parks, play areas, crossroads, street corners, high streets and side streets.
- Strengthening the community by creating more opportunities for people to come together to learn new skills, have fun, socialise and feel connected to this area. This includes making the most of our existing and new community spaces and encouraging more activities, programmes and get togethers to take place for the benefit of everyone.
- Support local business and enterprise – There are some great things already happening in Walthamstow with new businesses and start-ups popping up around us. We are committed to supporting people with ideas and enthusiasm for social enterprise and social entrepreneurship – people and not-for-profit businesses that can make improvements to our community.

If you are interested in any of these themes and want to find out more about them please don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

Our focus



Improve outdoor spaces
& the environment



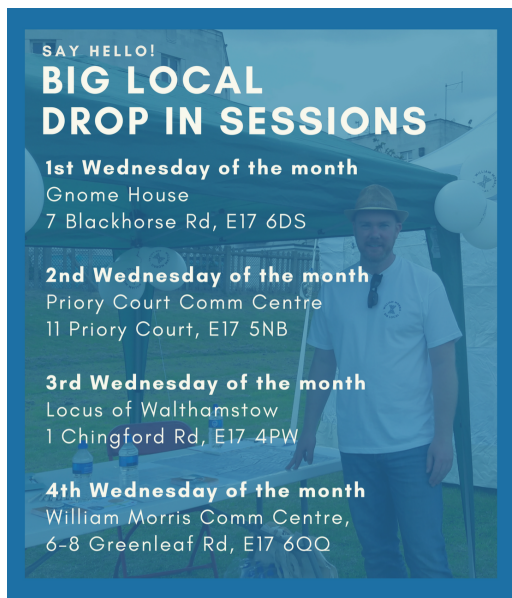
Bring people and
grassroots groups together



Support local business
and enterprise

Big Local Drop in Sessions - On Tour

Our friendly community development worker Gabriel Edwards has taken his public drop in sessions on tour! Every Wednesday morning you can come and talk to him about all things Big Local. Whether it's finding out more information on what we're up to, floating some community improvement ideas or to discover how you can get involved in our programme don't hesitate to drop in and have a chat. Some of the best projects we've been part of have started with a simple conversation!



Gabriel's drop in sessions take place at the above locations from 9.30am to 12.30pm every Wednesday morning.

Super Heroes unite to defeat evil (litter)

William Morris Big Local joined a team of local super heroes last month and helped clean up around Priory Court Community Centre. A super hero themed litterpick was run by the centre during October half term with help from contractors Osborne and Aston Group. A dedicated team of local residents filled up 8 whole bags of rubbish in just under 2hrs! There are plans for more litter picks with everyone agreeing that it should be a regular thing to help keep the area nice. In the new year William Morris Big Local will be launching an outdoor space improvement programme to support our community to make the surrounding areas look and feel better.



We are looking for people to get involved and help us turn lots of great outdoor ideas into reality. So if you've been wanting to sort out a local 'grot spot' or help beautify a tatty concrete corner then don't hesitate to get in touch!

Introducing The Together Project

"A brand new local project has brought smiles to the faces of older residents living in a care home by arranging visits from happy groups of children and their parents. Louise Goulden, founder of The Together Project explains more"



Louise Goulden with her son Heath

It's a terribly sad fact that people in residential care homes are over twice as likely to rate themselves as 'severely depressed' than the rest of the population. The sense of being shut away from the rest of society, with few visitors, can take its toll.

The Together Project is a not-for-profit company that creates joyful experiences between generations. I wanted to tackle loneliness in care homes as our first focus, so I set up Songs & Smiles, a weekly singing and social group for babies and toddlers, their parents and care home residents. I've been running a trial at Ross Wyld on Forest Road since July and the feedback from everyone involved has been incredible. I'm now crowdfunding to take it out across the borough and then the rest of the UK; you can watch our video and support our campaign at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/thetogetherproject.

We've successfully reached our target, and even set a stretch target to make the project go even further. Every pound raised helps us improve people's quality of life.

I'm about to start recruiting volunteers to help with Songs & Smiles across Waltham Forest: whether you'd like to lead a singalong, help facilitate or take a behind-the-scenes role, we'd absolutely love to hear from you. Please email louise@thetogetherproject.co.uk or leave your details on our website www.thetogetherproject.co.uk. I find it an incredibly rewarding project to be a part of and I hope you will too.



Focus on Locus

A new community space opened up in the summer at Bell corner. The team from Locus explains more

Locus of Walthamstow (LOW) was opened in June 2017 by two local business owners, Stella and Khary, bringing an exciting, community-focused, creative hub to the Bell Corner area of Walthamstow. Locus offers space for a pop-up shop, an acoustic practice room, co-working space, an art gallery and a multi-function creative hub room, available to let at standard and community rates. Since opening, we have been focusing on filling our calendar with exciting and educational adult workshops such as Tunisian crochet, life drawing, hand drumming, beginners Spanish, British Sign Language, and Terrarium making to name a few. We also host a variety of art exhibitions by local artists such as David Barette and Dewi Natelegawa, as well as events such as movie nights and performances by local singers and spoken word artists.



(The exhibition space and a live performance. Just two of the many fabulous things going on at Locus)

We have an exciting calendar of events for the upcoming weeks and into next year, including a silver ring workshop, hosted by our current pop up tenant Rie Tenabe, a free interactive workshop for single parents hosted by Libby Liburd, a dress making workshop and a Tunisian crochet workshop. Looking forward to 2018, we'll be hosting beginners French classes and we're hoping to have a mix of other language classes such as Mandarin, and our very popular life drawing class will be making a highly anticipated return.



(The pop up shop)

Individuals, local and community groups interested in using any of our spaces should email us for more information at info@lowalthamstow.com. Workshops and classes are all bookable on our website www.lowalthamstow.com.

Community Chest Spotlight - Beatroots

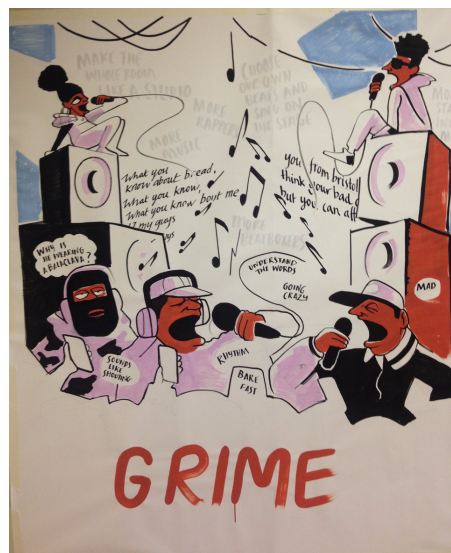
by Emma Betts, Director of Beatroots



(Jonny Glover (left) with LEMZI)

Thanks to support from William Morris Big Local through its Community Chest fund, we were delighted to run our first grime taster session on Wednesday 27th September at Priory Court Community Centre in partnership with Waltham Forest Community Hub's Stow Youth in Action group. A lively group of seventeen young people, between the ages of 11 - 16 years, attended the session, delivered by Leytonstone born grime / hip-hop artist LEMZI.

During the session, LEMZI invited the young people to listen to, explore and discuss different urban genres before going on to give a mini impromptu performance at the insistence of everyone there. After a refreshment refuel, the group split in two and in an impressively short space of time, created some of their own lyrics which a member of each group then performed. Before the workshop came to an end we asked a number of the young people for their views on the shape and content of a longer-term project. The session as a whole was brilliantly captured by Jonny Glover, an illustrator from the organisation More than Minutes.



What next? Following a second taster session at The Epicentre in Leytonstone in partnership with Peabody Housing, we are reflecting on the feedback the young people provided at both sessions and using this to inform a longer-term programme next year. We will also be signposting the young people to related opportunities being delivered by partners including Waltham Forest Music Service. Please keep an eye on the Beatroots website for further updates - www.beatroots.org.

Tis the Season to be Jolly!

Fancy getting into the Christmas spirit? Here's a few festive events happening near you!

Low Christmas Market - 1 Chingford Road, E17 4PW
Tuesday 7th & 14th December
5.00pm til 8.00pm

William Morris Community Centre Christmas Fete - 6-8 Greenleaf Road, E17 6QQ
Sunday 10th December
12.00 til 5.00pm

Gnome House Winter Warmer, 7 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6DS
Saturday 16th December
11.00am til 3.00pm

Priory Court Community Centre Festive Party, 11 Priory Court, E17 5NB
Saturday 16th December
1.00pm til 5.00pm



Santa's Office - Spot the difference & colour in!

A mischievous elf wants one of Santa's cookies. Can you find the seven differences between the two pictures of Santa's office?



Contact Us

William Morris Big Local, Office 1,
William Morris Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Road, Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

Phone 07947 766 251 (Mon, Tues, Weds)

Email coordinator@wmbiglocal.org

Website wmbiglocal.org

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