

BIG LOCAL



# NEWS

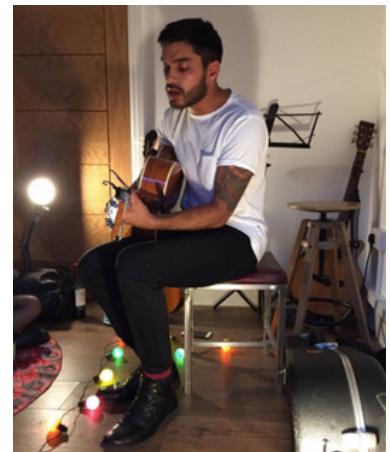
...Autumn 2023...

CRAFTED BY  
THE  
COMMUNITY



## Community Chest Grants What could you do for the community with £750?

It's back! Our popular Community Chest grant scheme has returned for the autumn and the application process has never been easier. You could land up to £750 to kick start a community project or give a cash boost to an already existing project. The Community Chest grant is available for activities and events that bring people together and help community wellbeing. Projects can take shape in many different ways whether via sports, art, music, or by celebrating a significant festivity. Since its launch in 2016 our Community Chest has funded over 100 projects with the involvement of 250+ volunteers and benefited over 3000 people. The photos here show just some of those projects in action. Could your project be next? Hurry as the deadline for applications is the 15th October!



For more info visit  
[wmbiglocal.org/  
community-chest-grants](http://wmbiglocal.org/community-chest-grants)



WM Big Local  
Community AGM  
9th November

Join us for a special evening at the Big Local Theatre as we share stories from across our projects and look ahead at what's to come over the next year for William Morris Big Local. It's a great chance to meet the people involved and connect with locals. If you would like to attend please email [info@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:info@wmbiglocal.org)  
6.30pm – 8.30pm on Thursday 9th November  
Big Local Theatre, Big Creative Academy, 38 Clifton Avenue, E17 6HL

We are hiring! Events and Community Engagement Coordinator - check page 2 for more details

# COMMUNITY

## Job opportunity with WM Big Local



(The William Morris Birthday Tea Party earlier this year)

### Events and Community Engagement Coordinator

(28hrs)

- 12 month fixed term post
- Competitive salary
- Good holiday entitlement
- Applications deadline 1st October
- Visit [www.wmbiglocal](http://www.wmbiglocal) for more information
- Email enquiries to [jobs@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:jobs@wmbiglocal.org)

We are looking for someone who loves working with people, running events, delivering community activities and doesn't mind a job where no two days are the same!

This 12 month fixed term post will deliver our Community Living Room based at Priory Court and will coordinate our community events and core communication work.

The role promises a really unique and rewarding experience that will see you working alongside residents, staff and partner organisations to make the local area even better!

## Priory Court Community Living Room

What is a Community Living Room exactly?!

You may have seen them advertised around Waltham Forest and wondered what it's all about. Well the Community Living Room is a social space where you can hang out, enjoy free refreshments, make use of open Wifi, and if you so wish, take part in one of many activities on offer.

Activities include arts n crafts, knitting and crochet, quizzes, board games, table tennis and pool. In some ways it's like a social club with stuff going on for all ages! Everyone is welcome and there is no need to pre-book, just drop in!



The Priory Court Community Living Room is open every Monday and Thursday from 12.00 - 5.00pm for more details please phone us on 07947766251 or email [info@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:info@wmbiglocal.org)

**THE SNUG**  
Building connections, supporting minds

Move & Motivate  
Personal training Group with Jesse

For the love of Food healthy eating with Alfred

COMING SOON Creative Writing for those with anxiety and depression Survivors Poetry Yoga for beginners with Rachel

The IT Club Computer training

The Hearing Voices Group with Hannah & Kris

MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING

ARTSNUG CREATIVE COLLAGE WITH JANE

SOUNDCASTLE MUSIC CREATION FOR EVERYONE

CREST

THE SNUG  
4 Greenleaf Rd  
Walthamstow  
London  
E17 6QQ

For dates & times contact us below  
For more information contact  
[chris.osullivan@crestwf.org.uk](mailto:chris.osullivan@crestwf.org.uk)  
[linda.mccairns@crestwf.org.uk](mailto:linda.mccairns@crestwf.org.uk)  
07919 520422

TIME TO TALK WALTHAM FOREST

Waltham Forest Healthy Living Community

The Snug is a new community space on Greenleaf Road with a host of activities to benefit mental and physical wellbeing. Contact 07919520422 for more info.

## Games Club finds Salvation!

Launched in early 2018, our Games Club's aim was to rediscover the fun of playing table top games in a relaxed and friendly environment for adults of all ages. Of course we didn't have a monopoly on the concept but we wanted to encourage residents to bring their old favourites for people to learn and share – in effect for our members to articulate what they wanted to play.

Fast forward to 2020 and the Games Club was a victim of the pandemic.

During this difficult period it felt like we were all at risk of losing our marbles. We had to wait until autumn 2021 to relaunch the Games Club and the Salvation Army on Forest Road became a regular home for it.

Since the relaunch, membership has really taken off with laughter and the good times coming back. Often you'll find three or four different games going on in the room at the same time. On the 12th September we handed over the running of the games club to Salvation Army who have kindly taken it on for the future and made it a permanent offering. So do come along and check it out on a Tuesday afternoon, you'll be ensured a warm welcome and free refreshments are provided!

**The Games Club takes place every Tuesday between 1pm – 4pm at Salvation Army, 434 Forest Road, E17 4PY**

*There are 5 names of table top games hidden in the above article. Can you find them all? Answers at bottom of page!*



## Volunteer Driver sought for Youth Club



Youth charity Worth Unlimited is looking for a friendly, reliable volunteer to drive their youth outreach van on Mondays or Thursdays and help make a big difference to young people in Waltham Forest.

Their youth outreach van is a safe space for young people to meet with each other, engage in positive activities and receive information and support from the youth work team.

As a volunteer driver you will ensure that the van is safe to drive and take it to different outreach locations and interact with the young people who come along to the sessions.

You don't need a special licence, just a regular clean car driving license, a lot of patience and, most importantly, you will be passionate about seeing young people develop their gifts, skills, talents and character to develop as change-makers in our world!

For further information or to put yourself forward for the role please email: [helen.perry@worthunlimited.co.uk](mailto:helen.perry@worthunlimited.co.uk)



*The five hidden game names are: Monopoly, Articulate, Pandemic, Risk and Marbles*

YOUNG LOCAL

# YOUTH CLUB

TEXT CREATED  
FROM GRAFFITI PROCUSED BY  
THE YOUNG LOCALS

THURSDAYS, 5:30-7:30PM

BIG CREATIVE ACADEMY, 38 CLIFTON AVENUE, WALTHAMSTOW, E17 6HL

A SAFE SPACE FOR 10-15 YEAR OLDS TO SOCIALISE AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES THROUGH GAMES,  
SPORTS, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES.

WELCOME BACK  
TO YOUTH CLUB!

Our Youth Club is back for another year and we're delighted to be based at Big Creative Academy again for a third year running. We've got all sorts of great things planned for the year ahead from creative activities to dance, sports, and table tennis competitions! If you're not already a Young Local member, what are you waiting for?! Sign up at [youth@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:youth@wmbiglocal.org)



Artwork  
by Tahir



## COMPETITION TIME!

For the first half term back at Youth Club we are running a competition for all young local members to design a new Youth Club poster.

The winner will be supported to bring their ideas to life digitally, ready for the poster to be printed and put on the Big Local website.

Plus, they will win a £30 gift voucher of their choice!

We're looking for a fun, colourful, eye-catching design that includes all of the following key information:

Address: BIG CREATIVE ACADEMY, 38 Clifton Avenue, Walthamstow, E17 6HL

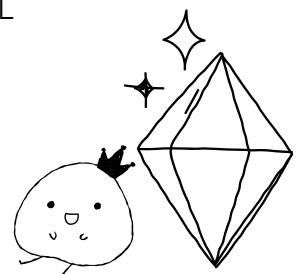
Day and Time: Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm

Ages: 10-15 year olds

Activities: arts & crafts, sports, board games, consoles and more

Contact Details: [youth@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:youth@wmbiglocal.org)

Entries must be emailed or handed in by Thursday 12th October.



## Last Year's Highlights



THE YOUNG LOCAL CLUB HAS BEEN CO-DESIGNED WITH THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE COME UP WITH THE CORE OFFERINGS. YOUNG PEOPLE WHO JOIN THE CLUB CAN HELP DEVELOP NEW ACTIVITIES AND TRULY SHAPE WHAT GOES ON AT THE CLUB.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE BOARD GAMES, CRAFT, FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, HULA HOOP, DANCE, GAMES CONSOLE AND MUSIC.

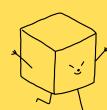
### Donations Sought

We are looking for donations of any unwanted PlayStation 4 games to add to our small collection at youth club.

Driving, sports and platform games are particularly popular!

If you have any old games that you'd like to donate, they can be dropped off at:

- Big Creative Academy, 38 Clifton Avenue, E17 6HL
- or
- Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory Ct, E17 5NB



## CONTACT US: [YOUTH@WMBIGLOCAL.ORG](mailto:YOUTH@WMBIGLOCAL.ORG)

# OUTDOOR SPACES

## Walthamstow Tool Library - 3 years and counting!

Hello from the Walthamstow Tool Library team!

We're absolutely thrilled to be celebrating the Tool Library's 3rd anniversary, and there's a whole lot to cheer about!

Our community has grown to over 400 members and a stock of 1500 items. This is a testament to the power of sharing and the spirit of collaboration that thrives within our wonderful community.

As we welcome the passing of summer we can't help but reflect on the beautiful gardens that bloomed over the year. Our tools have been put to excellent use, transforming ordinary spaces into something truly special. Now, as we transition into autumn, the demand for our apple presses is on the rise, and it seems like our trusty sanders are never on the shelf for long. Your enthusiasm for DIY projects warms our hearts!



As we celebrate our 3rd birthday, let's also celebrate the spirit of community, collaboration, and saving money, especially in these challenging times. Thank you for being a part of our incredible journey, and here's to many more years of sharing, learning, and DIY adventures together.

We also want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your generous donations, your time, and your commitment to making the Tool Library a fantastic resource. Your support is what keeps us going, and we couldn't have achieved all this without you.

*Walthamstow Tool Library is run by Forest Recycling Project with funding from WM Big Local.*

*For all enquiries contact [tools@frpuk.org](mailto:tools@frpuk.org)*

## Get ready for Vertical Food growing in 2024!

*Discover the magic of Vertical Polycultures in Walthamstow with Daniele Di Paolo, Green Grant Awardee*

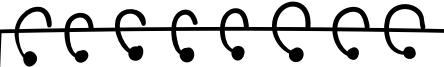
Imagine a vibrant urban garden that thrives vertically, with lush green canopies of edible plants stretching towards the sky. Welcome to the world of Vertical Polycultures, a unique community project that's taking root right here in Walthamstow thanks to the imagination of designer Daniele Di Paolo and funding from WM Big Local.

### *What's a Vertical Polyculture?*

Vertical Polycultures are living sculptures that combine sustainable agriculture with the artistry of wickerwork. These stunning structures, woven from willow, host a variety of companion plants that work together in harmony. From delicious vegetables to beautiful flowers, these living gardens are a testament to nature's resilience and our connection to it.

### *Get Involved – join the project!*

Whether you're passionate about nature, eager to learn, or simply looking for a unique community experience, there's a place for you in the Vertical Polycultures project. You don't need to be a gardening expert or a seasoned weaver to participate; everyone is welcome. In winter 2023 we'll be forming four groups to design and build four Vertical Polycultures around Walthamstow. By summer 2024 expect to be already enjoying produce grown on these structures!



### NEEDED – P.A.T TESTER

As the Tool Library has grown we now need a second P.A.T tester (Portable Appliance Test). If you or an organisation that you work for might be willing to donate one we'd make a great home for it!



Visit the website [verticalpolycultures.org](http://verticalpolycultures.org) or scan the QR code below to sign up and embark on this exciting journey.



# LOCAL ECONOMY

## Money makes the world go round

Despite us all being individuals we human beings have an awful lot in common. We need air to breathe, water to drink and a good night's sleep to refresh our body and mind. Whether we like it or not we also need money to go about living our lives and supporting the ones we love. One way or another we are all trying to bring in an income and better our lives. However with the cost of living and the big squeeze on households and businesses things have been far from easy lately.

A strong Local Economy is so important for making a healthy community and a little can go a long way when it comes to how you spend your money. We've long been champions of shop local schemes and supporting independent businesses and now we've developed three initiatives that might just see individuals and independent businesses boost their income. Read on and get in touch if any of these schemes interest you!



### Got things to sell? Need a stall?

Whether you are an individual wanting to do a table top sale or a small business looking to get your items out in the public eye sign up for our Community Market!

This will be the perfect day to sell, exactly one month before Christmas! Limited pitches available. Hurry!

#### Pitch Prices:

Business = £15

Individuals = £7.50

(all proceeds go towards the running costs of the market)

To register email us at [info@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:info@wmbiglocal.org)

## Around the World in William Morris Ward

Want to put your businesses on the Map?

We are compiling a fun interactive map of the diverse independent businesses based in the William Morris Ward. This map will be both digital and printed and encourage people to explore the world through the businesses based right on their doorstep. This might be food, clothing, toys, games, equipment or anything sold locally that represents different parts of the world (including the good ole U.K of course!)

Are you a businesses – want to be on the map?

Email us at [info@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:info@wmbiglocal.org)



## Hidden Independents

Digital film maker/documenter?

We are looking to commission a local person with the skills to deliver a docu-series about local independent businesses and the people behind them. Entitled "Hidden Independents" the series will be made up of 10 short features that will see you working with brilliant local businesses and give them a spotlight to tell their story and raise their profile. Email us at [info@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:info@wmbiglocal.org) for more information.

Independent Business? Need more exposure? Sign up now to be part of the Hidden Independents series: [info@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:info@wmbiglocal.org)

## We Support our Local Team - Walthamstow Football Club!

With all of the hype and attention around the English Premier League you'd be forgiven for not knowing that Walthamstow has its very own Football Club which so happens to be the second oldest club in London!

Initially founded as Leyton FC in 1868, the club has undergone various incarnations over the years and became Walthamstow FC in 2018. They play in the Isthmian League Division One North which features regional semi-professional clubs and is the 8th tier of the football league pyramid.

The club also plays in the F.A Cup, F.A Trophy and lower league equivalents of the League Cup which all makes for an exciting season for the 'Stow'.

Unlike top flight games, you can buy a ticket at the turnstile on matchday and then stand or sit where you like. Standing allows you to get so close to the action – you can hear the players calling out to their teammates and can hear every crunching tackle! Don't be put off by the club's lower league status, this is real football with real fans and you'd be surprised at the quality of football played on matchdays.

So do you fancy seeing some proper local football? Why not pop along one week and get swept away by the atmosphere where you can expect to hear a cracking vocal support from the 'Rabble' (listen out for their take on Spandau Ballet's Gold).

Tickets are affordable with great concessionary rates. Plus every penny goes back into the running of the club to help them in their search for even greater success!

Walthamstow FC home games are played at Wadham Lodge (situated off Chingford Road) For more information about the club and matchdays visit their website [www.walthamstowfc.com](http://www.walthamstowfc.com)



(Walthamstow FC Fans 'The Rabble' celebrate a crucial goal that took the club to the playoffs last season)

We would like to thank Aston Group for the pick up and drop off of our newsletter to the dedicated volunteers that deliver it to 5,000 local households.



**WILLIAM MORRIS BIG LOCAL** is a community organisation with the aim of improving the local area.

This newsletter was put together with contributions and articles by local people.

If you would like to get involved with the production or distribution of this newsletter or would like to get in touch about anything else Big Local related please do get in touch!

call us on 07947 766 251 or email [info@wmbiglocal.org](mailto:info@wmbiglocal.org)

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