

# WMBL Newsletter

Sept/Oct 2017



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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 new look newsletter packed with stories of what we've been up to and the projects we've been involved with. We are a lottery funded community group working to improve the local area 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!

### Summer of fun!

We hope you've had a great summer and have been enjoying all of the brilliant things that Walthamstow has to offer even if there hasn't been as much sun as we'd have liked! We've been out and about soaking up the fun and getting involved at some of the fabulous local community events like the Walthamstow Garden Party, the Mela and the Picnic in the Park. We got to speak with hundreds of you and talk about all the good (and not so good) things about the area and share our aims for making the William Morris Ward even better. We've made some really great connections with residents, community groups and local organisations and loads of you have signed up to stay connected with us and get involved.

Our attendance at the summer events was also a great chance for us to proudly show off our new look and logo created by local designer Aimee Capstick. Maybe you were one of the lucky people who got a WMBL badge, pen or bag from our stall. You may even have been one of the clever people who managed to beat our Giant Connect 4 Champion and win a whole WMBL goodie bag!



## WMBL Get Together

Our Get Togethers are public events for local residents to meet and share what's going on in their area and help strengthen ties and build connections within our community. Our next Get Together is on Wednesday 13th September and will be a great evening filled with delicious food, presentations from local community groups and a chance to meet with the people involved in the William Morris Big Local. We will have updates from our project and be sharing information on the themes for our new WM Big Local Plan. We will also have a presentation from Big Creative Academy who are kindly hosting our Get Together at their new location on Clifton Avenue (the former Willowfield School site). Previously based at Uplands Business Park the 16-19's school is really looking forward to being part of our local community and we can't wait to have a look inside their new place! People who came to our last Get Together said they really enjoyed it and loved talking with fellow residents and seeing what WM Big Local is involved in. If you missed our last Get Together make sure to join us this time around for a fun, friendly and informative evening!

### WMBL Get Together

Wednesday 13th September, 7.00pm - 9.00pm

at Big Creative Academy, Clifton Avenue, Walthamstow, E17 6HL



## Introducing Big Creative Academy

Our next Get Together is being held at Big Creative's new site on Clifton Avenue (the former Willowfield School site). Principal Sacha Corcoran gives us some background on the Walthamstow based creative school.



Sacha Corcoran

Big Creative Academy is a ground-breaking 16-19 school for excellence in creative arts. We have 're-imagined education' and aspire to be regarded by young people, parents and employers as one of the leading providers in London. We have an innovative approach fusing character and vocational education. The Academy is industry-focused meeting the skills requirements of employers and our students bridge the skills gap in creative industries, an economy in the UK of £81bn.

Our students are our greatest asset. They have won national talent competitions, one is signed to Sony Records and students have collaborated in performances with the Barbican. Half of our graduates progressing to higher education are the first in their family to go to university, many from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Academy has an ethos of wellbeing promoting character education for students and positive psychology throughout our staff team. We invite the community to join us in our journey.



## William Morris Ward flourishing from the WMBL Community Chest

Back in May we opened the second round of funding under WMBL's community chest and invited residents and groups to apply for funding of up to £500. "I love the community chest as it enables residents and small groups to try out new ideas to improve the spaces around them," says Angela Rouse, one of the WMBL Partnership members. "Our funding criteria are relatively broad and easy to meet if you are genuinely interested in doing something for the people or spaces around you. This means that the ideas that people submit are wide-ranging and really creative. To date we have approved funding for the set-up of a resident group, several street parties, Asian poetry evenings, a feasibility study for a green wall at a school, grime music sessions, weaving and drumming events, and much more. I can't wait to see what submissions we get for future rounds!" We'll be inviting some of the people that we have funded to share some of their stories from the projects at our forthcoming Get Together on the 13th September. There'll also be the chance to speak with us about how to go about applying for funding for future rounds.



Clockwise from top left; Pearl Road street party, Woven Air weaving sessions and an Asian poetry event

### A Poem about Unity

by Mohd Aslam, local resident

There is only one race, the human race  
Look at the colour of blood, not face

Together we can make the world paradise  
Discuss similarities do not criticise

Let us sing together songs of peace and unity  
make all the nations one community

All the nations Jews, Muslim and Christian  
United we stand for peace mission

## Community Chest Spotlight - MovE17



Above & below: MovE17 at the Garden Party and in rehearsals at Gnome House.  
Photos courtesy of Callum Plunkett and Teresa Elwes

Community Dance Group MovE17 received funding from WM Big Local to run a series of dance classes for all abilities to learn the iconic dance piece *Rosas danst Rosas*. The piece was composed in the 1980's by Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker and though well known in the dance world was brought to main stream attention in 2011 when Beyoncé was accused of 'borrowing' it in the music video for her song *Countdown*. Clare Farrow, Director of MovE17 chose the piece because it is straight forward to learn, yet enough of a challenge, and is visually effective whether performed by just a few or by many people all at once. Clare taught the piece to over 30 local people over a series of dance classes at Gnome House and merged some of her existing class members with new recruits.



The whole class then performed *Rosas danst Rosas* at the Walthamstow Garden Party on the 'News from Nowhere' stage and a second time in front of the William Morris Gallery. After the event Clare was delighted with the whole experience saying; "Learning the piece has brought local residents together and they created a dance company. The performances went brilliantly and we were all very excited and proud to have taken part. It was a great experience for all"

To find out more about MovE17 contact Clare Farrow on 07939 125014 or clarefarrow2@gmail.com

## GRIME TASTER WORKSHOP

Explore the history of grime and create and perform your own lyrics with hip-hop / grime artist Lemzi.

PLUS discover how to get involved in an upcoming grime project for young people in Waltham Forest.

Wednesday 27th September  
4.30 – 6.30pm

Stow Youth in Action,  
Priory Court Community Centre,  
11 Priory Court, Walthamstow, E17 5NB

E-mail [emma@beatroots.org](mailto:emma@beatroots.org) to register.  
FREE but booking essential. Refreshments included.

BEATROOTS WF COMMUNITY HUB WILLIAM MORRIS BIG LOCAL LOTTERY FUNDED

## Kids learn how to use 'proper' tools with Blackhorse Workshop

Over the summer local children aged 8-13 have been learning how to create useful things at the Make Stuff Club with Blackhorse Workshop. Every Wednesday in August expert makers at the workshop have been running sessions with the children showing them how to make toolboxes, a samba drum and even a fortress made out of all sorts of materials! The kids have had hands on experience using the workshop tools and learnt all sorts of techniques they haven't yet been shown in school. When creating toolboxes in the first session kids really enjoyed using the pillar drill to make holes and then screwing the pieces together. They also learned how to cut wood, make wood joints as well as sanding and assembly.

Funded by William Morris Big Local the Make Stuff Club has been an initiative to help connect expert makers with the rest of the community and to provide a high quality activity for local kids. Harriet Warden, Creative Director at Blackhorse Workshop said "we've loved the opportunity to bring kids to the workshop and open up the world of making to them."



Meanwhile Blackhorse Workshop has just opened a new installation on Forest Road opposite Blackhorse Tube station. The installation is called 'Sideshow' and will have a series of workshops, exhibitions and a giant interactive marble run built from salvaged bus components! Check out <http://www.blackhorseworkshop.co.uk/sideshow/> for more information!

## Contact Us

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

## WM Big Local's focus

At our Get Together on the 13th September we will be presenting the focus areas we have chosen to take forward under our new Big Local Plan. Our key focus points are based on what people and organisations have told us are important.

Here's a little taste;

- 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.
- 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's some great things already happening in Walthamstow with new businesses and start-ups popping up around us. We want to make sure that the opportunity to start a business or to get help with being self-employed is accessible to local people as well as the new people moving to the area.

We can help unlock the potential to improve the area by channelling the skills, energy and enthusiasm, of the people and organisations around us. If you are interested in being part of any of the above themes don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

## Chair's Corner

by Chrys Christy, WMBL Chair

What a great few weeks we have had! Lovely weather and meeting so many people at the different summer events. One of my highlights was helping my 2 year old make a flying Pegasus with Blackhorse Workshop who we partnered with at the Garden Party. I was also really moved by the Asian poetry night. We are now finalising our plans for the next 3 years and I am so excited by what our community can achieve in the coming months.

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