



# Newsletter

Summer 2018



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#### Our focus



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 latest newsletter with stories from our projects and the local area. We are a community group run by local residents and funded by the National Lottery. We work to improve our neighbourhood and base all of our priorities on what local people feel is important. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it interesting!

## **Summer Get Together & AGM!**

Thursday 19th July 2018

7.00pm - 9.00pm

Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory Court, E17 5NB

We'd love you to join us at our next community Get Together on Thursday 19th July which will also serve as our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our Get Togethers are a great opportunity to find out more about the Big Local programme, meet the people involved and hear from the projects we link up with and support. They are always a friendly and informative occasion and this time around we are going to be holding interactive sessions for each of our themes; *Strengthening the Community, Improving Open Spaces* and *Supporting Enterprise*. You'll be able to speak to our theme leads, find out what activities are planned and discover ways in which you could get involved. Not only that but we'll have some delicious food and refreshments served up as part of our community social.

**\*\*New Partnership members wanted\*\*** Big Local is about community activism and tapping in to the local wealth of people's skills, knowledge and expertise in order to do good for the area. We are always looking for more local residents and organisations to link up with and we are now also looking for additional people to join our Partnership. The Partnership is a group of local residents with the responsibility of steering the Big Local and making it a success. New Partnership members will be able to join up at our Get Together so to register your interest or to find out more information about what's involved please get in touch with Gabriel our development worker. Contact Gabriel on 079476 766 251 or [devwmbl@gmail.com](mailto:devwmbl@gmail.com)

## Improving Open Spaces

Summer is a beautiful time of year in Walthamstow with our streets, parks and open spaces full of life and colour from the many trees, plants and flowers growing in amongst the hustle and bustle of urban life.

However, we have heard from many residents over the years who would like more done with our urban environment to improve people's quality of life. That is why improving outdoor spaces is one of our key themes with a mix of small, medium and big sized plans to help achieve this. We've recently formed a theme group of enthusiastic residents to help move things along and anyone interested in helping improve outdoor spaces can join. Ambitions for the year ahead include a front garden and balcony improvement scheme and piloting a tool lending library.



(Bedford Road - making the most of their tree pits! )

To kick start our plans we launched a round of "Green Grants", a funding pot for local groups and residents to help improve an unloved space or encourage people outdoors. We were delighted with the range of applications received and we've been able to fund 10 exciting projects in this round. These include resident groups from Elmsdale Road and Gaywood Road adding plant life to their streets, Gnome House Community Centre greening its front area and an under 5's cycling programme coming soon to Lloyd Park. Details of all the funded projects can be found on our website and will also be shared at our Get Together. Keep an eye out in this newsletter for updates too!



(Balance bike sessions for kids - coming soon to Lloyd Park)

Meanwhile we'd like to say a massive thank you to the gardeners, volunteer groups and resident associations who add so many little touches to front gardens, parks and streets to make this time of year a real treat for the senses. We know it's hard work but it is hugely appreciated!

There is still lots more potential to improve the area and the quality of life for all of us so please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you'd like to help us turn plans into reality.

For full details of our Open Space plans please visit our website [www.wmbiglocal.org](http://www.wmbiglocal.org) or get in touch by phone or email.

## WM Big Local Social Enterprise Programme Launched

In our last newsletter we hinted at a new support programme on the way for people with business ideas that do good for the community. Chris Shutt from Unltd gives an update from the programme and details of what's on offer.



On the 10th of May we launched our social enterprise support programme for the area in partnership with the William Morris and St James Street Big Locals. We held it in the former Co-Op building (now Bank Job) on Hoe Street and presented to a packed room of people all brimming with enthusiasm and business ideas.

Since the launch I've been meeting with individuals to talk through their ideas and been providing advice on how to project plan and make an application to our awards scheme.

We have three grant awards for people at different stages in their social enterprise journey; a Try it Award (£500), a Do it Award (£5,000) and a Grow it Award (£15,000). All come with 1-1 support, mentoring and access to workshops and business development training. This means that even if someone has no background in business they can still succeed. All they need is an idea and motivation!

Unltd has supported over 16,500 social entrepreneurs since 2002 and the types of venture supported vary from getting young people more active, to tackling dementia, to supporting migrants into work and training. But all ventures have had one thing in common; the power to do social good.

The next three years in partnership with Big Local look really promising and I'm delighted to be supporting the next wave of social entrepreneurs to succeed.

If you have a business idea that could do social good you can contact Chris directly on 07545 933 796 or [ChrisShutt@unltd.org.uk](mailto:ChrisShutt@unltd.org.uk)



(The Social Enterprise launch event at Bank Job, the former Co-op bank on Hoe Street)

## Strengthening the Community

Bringing the community together is at the heart of what Big Local is all about with residents and local groups working together to make the area even better for everyone's benefit. This year and beyond we want to continue uniting people through a programme of activities and events and encourage community groups to strengthen and grow.



(Our William Morris Tea Party earlier this year)

Back in early spring we held a William Morris themed Tea Party in Lloyd Park and spoke to lots of people who stopped and chatted with us and enjoyed tea and cake. We asked people what they liked about the area (Lloyd Park coming out top) and what could help strengthen the community. We were bowled over by some of the amazing suggestions including getting the area to participate in a world record of some kind! Overall people wanted to see more community events so we will definitely continue to support existing events and help create new ones and we will absolutely be back with another William Morris Tea Party next year!

Speaking of community events, WM Big Local will be taking part in the huge event that is the Garden Party in Lloyd Park on the 14th and 15th July. We will be on the "Island" section of the park with craft activities, games for the kids and an interactive focus on our outdoor spaces theme. Then on the 5th August we'll be heading to the fantastic Mela at Chestnuts Field and over to the Lloyd Park picnic on the 7th August. Summer really is our favourite time of year. Hope to see you out there!



(The Walthamstow Garden Party and Mela, just two of the great local events happening this summer)

## William Morris Ward Association

We have been supporting the launch of a ward wide association to unite residents around common issues affecting our neighbourhoods. The association has met three times now and is getting very well established. Discussions to date have revolved around neighbourhood safety, traffic issues and cleaner streets with the relevant authorities being invited to hear resident views and help solve problems. The next meeting will be at The Salvation Army, 434 Forest Road on Wednesday 4th July, 7.00pm - 9.00pm. At the next meeting the council's highways team will be joining to share plans on improving the paved areas of Palmerston junction.

For more information about the Ward Association please contact Peter Stanton at [peter\\_stanton@ntlworld.com](mailto:peter_stanton@ntlworld.com)

## Community Chest Projects

In April this year we opened up our community chest grant scheme for projects that strengthen the community and provide opportunities for local people. We received more applications than ever and were hugely impressed with the wide range of projects that came forward. Here are some of the great activities that have now received their grant and are ready to go:

### Art to the Heart

A new project run by local resident Sam Farleigh, a trained art therapist, encouraging anybody who wants to get back into art or try it out for the first time - just for fun!

Every Wednesday, 6.30pm-8.00pm, from 18th July at Locus of Walthamstow, 1 Chingford Road, E17 4PW



### Girls Youth Club at Gnome House (pictured below)

Youth Club for girls aged 8+ with dance, games, sports, cooking, art and chilling just some of whats on offer!

Every Saturday from 11.00am - 1.00pm.

Gnome House, 7 Blackhorse Lane, E17 6DS.

Contact 07535326157 for more information.



### William Morris Community Centre - Summer Fete

Kick off the summer holidays with a bagful of fun at William Morris Community Centre summer fete! Great for all ages.

Sunday 22nd July, 12.00-5.00pm

William Morris Community Centre, 6-8 Greenleaf Road. E17 6QQ

### Keep Fit at Priory Court

A new keep fit class for anyone of any ability aged 18+.

Classes are free, just turn up!

Mondays, 12.00 - 1.00pm at

Priory Court Community Centre, 11 Priory Court, E17 5NB



### Life After Cancer Support Group

Support group for local people who have experienced cancer, for their partners, friends & family. This is a space for people who want to connect, support, listen, hear others and share their experience. Sessions will take place at Quakers Meeting House on Jewel Road. Contact [hello@life-aftercancer.co.uk](mailto:hello@life-aftercancer.co.uk) for more information

We'd like to thank everyone who applied to our Community Chest grant scheme earlier this year. The community chest fund will open again this coming Autumn. Watch this space!

To keep up to date with our funded projects and funding windows follow us on Twitter & Facebook or check out our website.

## Chair's Corner

by Chrys Christy, Chair of WM Big Local

WM Big Local will be supporting and funding many different projects and activities over the next few months. We are so proud to be able to work with local residents and groups. Do keep an eye on our website for dates and come and enjoy the activities.

There are so many ways to get involved with WM Big Local. Come and volunteer when we have events or join our partnership and sub groups. Make sure you have joined our mailing list (or updated your preferences) and keep up to date with all that is going on



(Dominos and Ludo sessions down at Priory Court)

## Games Club & Big Local Drop in Sessions

For a couple of months now, people have been re-discovering the joys of playing board games down at Gnome House and Priory Court Community Centre. There's been laughs, learning and friendly competition, but thankfully no cheating! Anyone over the age of 18 can join the club which is free and run by dedicated Big Local volunteers. We are delighted to be launching a third session per month at Salvation Army. If you fancy helping to run any of our sessions please get in touch.

Big Local information sessions also take place alongside the games club for anyone wishing to find out more about WM Big Local.

Games Club & Information Drop in Days:

1st Wednesday of the month at Gnome House

2nd Wednesday of the month at Priory Court Community Centre

3rd Wednesday of the month at The Salvation Army

There is no games club on the 4th Wednesday of the month but you can still visit Gabriel for information drop in at William Morris Community Centre, 6-8 Greenleaf Road, E17 6QQ.

Contact Gabriel for more information on 07947 766 251.

## Summer Word Search



S	J	C	A	M	P	M	C
W	G	L	A	M	C	H	M
I	J	M	M	P	Y	Y	Z
M	V	K	B	E	A	C	H
S	U	M	M	E	R	M	S
M	H	O	T	E	B	H	U
K	O	I	G	U	F	U	N
W	A	T	E	R	O	Q	E



BEACH  
CAMP  
FUN  
HOT

SUMMER  
SUN  
SWIM  
WATER



## Contact Us

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TO RECEIVE UP TO DATE BIG LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS!**