

The Mill

*People making things happen

Keep in Touch

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Book-making group for carers

Veronica Lindsay-Addy, a volunteer for Waltham Forest Carer's Association, brought her idea to The Mill: a book making group for carers. Her plan was for carers to benefit from meeting others with similar responsibilities and participate in an informal, creative activity - and her group quickly established itself at The Mill.

The group met once a month, and participants spent time creating sewn books which illustrate their ideas, interests and passions. Participants created books about their passions, such as gardening or all their mementos from a life of travelling.

"It's often the small, everyday things in people's lives, such as putting on lipstick in the morning, or taking photographs of flowers in the garden, that make a difference to people's sense of themselves," says Veronica.

"Creating books allows people to come together, focus on something personal to them and chat with others about what is going on in their lives".



Veronica Lindsay-Addy (above) set up a book making group for carers at The Mill

Veronica's group plans to exhibit their books locally in the future, to showcase all the talent and ideas generated by the group.

"The Mill is a perfect location for this activity because it's a creative, welcoming venue," Veronica says. "If you don't have a lot of money and live in this area, you can drop in at The Mill and it's a beautiful place that is open to everyone".

What's your big idea? Call in at The Mill, and we'll see what we can do to make it happen.

Dates for your diary

There's always something happening at The Mill and you're welcome to join us!

Midsomer Mill Garden Fete

2 - 5pm on Sat 22 June

The Mill Garden Squad

11am on the 1st Saturday of every month

Community Breakfast

Our monthly community breakfasts are a wonderful way to meet your neighbours and start the day with great food and brilliant company. The next one is 30 June at 11.30am

Artworks @The Mill exhibitions

'Walthamstow Marshes' extended until the end of June

'SOFTer'
July 4th - August 11th

£1 million for St James St

The Big Local Trust has awarded £1m over ten years to be spent by the residents of the St James Street area on projects that are important to local people.

At this early stage of the pro-

cess we're helping to get the word out about this unique opportunity, and encouraging anyone with an idea or a passion for the neighbourhood to come on board.

Get involved in this project by contacting Trevor: stjamesbiglo-

cal@gmail.com, or by dropping your contact details for him at The Mill.

Keep an eye on the project's Twitter feed (@stjamesbiglocal) and Facebook page (St James Street Big Local), and find out more at www.localtrust.org.uk.

New people at The Mill - a warm welcome!

The Mill has grown from strength to strength – and so has our team of trustees and staff.



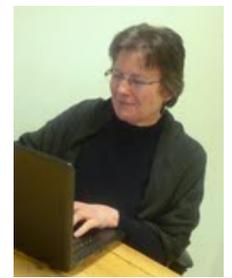
Sylwia, Sian, and Danny (above), our new trustees

Danny Herbert, Sian Bird and Sylwia Dudek have joined our Trustee Board, and bring years of expertise and enthusiasm to The Mill.

We've also appointed two new members of staff. Alison Manning is our new Volunteer Co-ordinator, and Carolyn Abbott is our Assistant Administrator.

Why not join in?

The Mill is run by the generosity of all our volunteers and Alison will be holding volunteer drop-in



Carolyn (above left) and Alison (above right) have joined us

sessions every Saturday between 12pm and 2pm, to talk with anyone who would like to volunteer their time and talents! Everyone is welcome to pop-in.

Bright sparks from Willowfield School

Last year, The Mill announced a competition to give a series of small grants to run activities which would benefit young people or the elderly. One of the most engaging ideas was a plan put forward by some students from Willowfield School, who wanted to run a creative arts workshop for other students.

The workshop involved 15 hours of activities for kids aged 10 to 14 - and was devised entirely by 12 to 14 year old Willowfield pupils, who arranged all the publicity, marketing and recruitment to make the group a success.

And all the hard work was worthwhile, resulting in a series of arts sessions for which they can justly be proud.

Edwyn (animation), Hollie (method acting) and Zain (blog-



Students from Willowfield ran creative arts workshops

ging) all put a lot of thought into planning and then carrying out their sessions, and the six 'pupils' who attended enjoyed a lively but instructive time.

Gul-Afshan and Hafsa attended the workshops and explained: "The group is really fun - we do lots of comedies and laugh all the time with new friends and with people we know already from school".

The Mill is so proud of hosting this group, which owes special thanks to Libby Liburd, who ran a very successful Bronze Arts Award group to help focus and develop the students workshop

plans, as well as young Mill volunteer Kim Dennis who helped organise all the events.

Exciting new work

After the success of The Mill in its first eighteen months, we have been invited to help out with some work just down the road in Lea Bridge. Lea Bridge Library is thriving, and The Mill has been asked by Waltham Forest Borough Council to work with local residents so that greater use is made of the community space upstairs.

The commission will help bring funds directly to The Mill, and secure its future for everyone, as well as helping local residents in Lea Bridge make use of all their expertise and gifts in their own local space.

This is a new venture for The Mill, as we consider whether we can work with other communities in East London to help enjoy the same success we have here in Walthamstow. So watch this space!

