Woodberry Down wins funding for a new wildlife garden

A new garden is set to transform the overgrown land behind Savernake and Cannock into an inspiring wildlife garden for residents, school pupils and visitors.

Grant funding of £23,500 from the Greater London Authority’s Pocket Parks programme will be matched by London Wildlife Trust; Berkeley Homes; Genesis Housing Association; and the Woodberry Down Community Organisation (WDCO), to help create a new oasis for the estate by Spring 2014.

Geoff Bell, Chair of WDCO, said: “We are delighted to be able to support this scheme. Residents who live in the area of the pocket park will probably have to wait some time to benefit from the overall regeneration of the estate. But now they can look forward to a great new facility on their doorstep.”

London Wildlife Trust will use the funding to contract its wildlife garden specialists and encourage local volunteers to build the garden and raise the profile of Woodberry Down as an increasingly environmentally-friendly place to live and work, and encourage students and parents to use the garden for outdoor learning activities.

Other partners for the project include Hackney Homes and Manor House Development Trust.
Local Labour on Woodberry Down: Zaynab’s story

Zaynab Mahmoud was born in Hackney and has lived on Woodberry Down for 12 years. Along with her two children, she was among the first wave of people to move into the new apartments built by Berkeley Homes on the Old School Site.

Since leaving school, Zaynab has had several jobs in industries including catering, marketing, telesales and retail, but these left her searching for job satisfaction. With an interest in practical trades and the regeneration that is going on around her, she looked into construction. This led her to a Hackney College open day, where she found out about the possibilities and opportunities for skilled workers and realised her passion for all things electrical. Self-funding her way through qualifications including an NVQ Level 2, she also gained invaluable practical experience working as a volunteer electrician on the Olympic Park site.

Although Zaynab gained employment with a small local firm, her goal was to work on the regeneration project that had provided her and her family with a new home. Therefore, when a leaflet for the Building with Berkeley jobs fair came through her letterbox, she booked the day off work to attend.

At the event, Zaynab met Mike and Julian from Brenbar Electrical, who offered her a position in their team on the current Kick Start site 3 (formerly Oakend) that very same day. Zaynab said “Brenbar are very supportive and enable me to do different jobs on site to build on my experience”. She has now been working with Brenbar for over a month.

Building with Berkeley Youth Event

On 30 October, Berkeley Homes, in conjunction with Young Hackney, held a young people’s construction event at The Edge youth hub, for residents of Woodberry Down and the surrounding area.

The event was aimed at young people interested in the construction industry, providing them with information and real-life examples of what they could potentially be doing as an apprentice. We asked four of our apprentices to come along and talk about their experiences on site, how they got to where they are, what training they have received and their aspirations for the future.

Also on hand to offer advice on apprenticeships, training and career paths were the Building Lives Academy and Reds10 who offer paid apprenticeships across the construction industry and Prospects who offered careers advice.

Of the young people who attended the event 100% were Hackney residents, 38% were residents of the Woodberry Down Estate and almost all (95%) were not in education, employment or training. Reds10 and the Building Lives Academy set up seven interviews for apprenticeships, two of these were for Woodberry Down residents.

If you are interested in working on one of our live sites and would like more information on job and/or apprenticeship opportunities, please contact Dean Jones or Emma Barker on 020 8809 1789.
Genesis’ tenants and residents association

Genesis Housing Association is holding a public meeting to set up TRA for the residents of Hornbeam & Rowan and Watersreach, Reservoir & Green Lanes.

TRAs are a forum for residents to come together and address issues or concerns they have regarding their homes as well as developing a sense of community and neighbourhood.

They are open to all residents of the specified area, regardless of age. Look out for letters from Genesis Housing Association or contact the Genesis Resident Involvement Team on 020 8548 2109 for more information.

Share your memories

Woodberry Down Community Organisation’s history project is now up and running.

Woodberry Down: the People’s Story is principally financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and will tell the story of Woodberry Down from the end of the Second World War to the present day.

WDCO has now elected a steering committee to oversee the project and appointed Eastside Community Heritage to help run it. Eastside is one of the UK’s leading oral history charities who put together WDCO’s exhibition on PC Robin Redmond, currently on display at the Redmond Community Centre.

If any reader has memories of any of these topics, please e-mail wdhistory@hotmail.co.uk or phone Eastside on 0208 553 3116. There will also be volunteering and training opportunities details of which will be announced soon.

Resident profile: Micky

Lifelong resident Mirati Souleiman, known on the estate as Micky, is preparing to open a barbershop on Woodberry Down.

The Woodberry Down estate regeneration project is delivering thousands of new homes as well as retail and community facilities, and Mickey proves that with the new developments come new opportunities. He has already successfully established the new Woodberry Down Football Club, who are currently top of their league.

He said: “When we were about 10, all the guys in the area used to play football at the cages; we were there all the time. This year I thought: ‘Why don’t I get all the boys back together and start a community team representing Woodberry Down?’ It was difficult at first, eventually nine people started showing up for football but as the word got around and everyone saw how serious it was getting, we are now up to 37 people.”

Wanting to start his own business, Micky gave up a career in graphic design, and settled on opening a barbershop. It will not only offer a hair cutting service, but with his teaching qualification, he will also provide training for those interested in learning this trade. Mickey said: “I’m excited about it! The barbershop is a big step in my life, and there are a lot of people interested already.”

Micky is clearly community-focused and hopes that the regeneration of the area will bring with it more of a community where everyone knows each other and helps each other out.

For more information on either of these projects, please contact Micky at: info@mickysbarbers.com or woodberrydownfc@gmail.com

The People’s Story will trace the history of Woodberry Down through a number of different themes. These include:

- The life stories of residents – old and new
- Woodberry Down community activity, such as the Save the Reservoirs campaign of the early 1990s
- The old comprehensive school and the John Scott Health Centre
- The Jewish and Turkish communities.

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Get prepared for winter

Are you worried about the onset of winter? Are you finding all the recent headlines about energy prices a concern? Then put your mind at ease by taking advantage of a free home energy advice visit from the Manor House PACT project.

Delivered in the comfort of your own home the visits are designed to help you save money on your electricity and gas bills and include:

- Free energy saving measures, including draught proofing, light bulbs, radiator panels and water saving devices
- Tailored energy advice to help with understanding bills
- Referrals for help with insulation or heating, where eligible
- Referrals for a Handyman service, where eligible
- Referrals and information about other Manor House PACT opportunities in the area

The home visit will be carried out by one of our trained energy assessors, at a time convenient for you. The visits typically last between one and two hours and will include fitting practical measures there and then to help you save energy straight away. If you are interested in booking a visit or if you know someone who lives local that might benefit from a visit please email Andy Roberts at manorhousepact@mhdt.org.uk or call him on 07889 756 718 if you would like further information.

Social sustainable assessment

An innovative new framework has been created for the Berkeley Group, by Social Life and the University of Reading, to measure social sustainability in new housing and mixed use developments.

The framework uses the concept of social sustainability to bring together and measure a wide range of factors that influence local quality of life and the strength of a community. It is based on what is known about creating and supporting thriving communities from academic research, policy and practical experience.

Berkeley Homes have commissioned Quod to undertake a social sustainability assessment on Woodberry Down and they, along with their consultants, Face Facts, will be undertaking a series of resident questionnaires (and several more detailed interviews with partners to assess and understand what life is like for the first residents of the new units.

You may be visited by a member of the Face Facts team who will record your answers to inform the assessment. Genesis, Hackney Council, Hackney Homes and Premier Estates are all aware of these questionnaires and will be allowing access to blocks, both existing and new.

Masterplan planning application

The revised masterplan was submitted to Hackney Council’s planning department in September, following an 18 month consultation.

This application is now being reviewed by the planning department, and is open to a 21-day statutory consultation period, closing 9 December 2013. The masterplan proposes to deliver a 30% increase in public open space compared to the old masterplan; bigger courtyard gardens; shops; improved road crossings; a narrowing of Seven Sisters Road; and up to 3,912 new homes.

To view the final plans and make representation, please visit: www.hackney.gov.uk/planning or see the plans at the Hackney Service Centre, 1 Hillman Street, Hackney E8 1DY, Application reference number: 2013/3223.
Mr. Clark, welcome to the Woodberry Down community. What have been your highlights of your first few months at Skinners’ Academy?

Thank you. There have been a number of highlights already but the main ones have been meeting so many keen, motivated and friendly pupils and working with an incredibly committed and motivated staff.

What are your philosophies, both personal and wider school values, that impact the academy and its students?

I believe that a truly great school is typified by two things – one where all pupils, regardless of background or ability, consistently achieve highly; and two where the whole person is developed – schools shouldn’t be exam factories, important though exams are, but should also actively encourage sport, music, drama, leadership, enterprise, personal responsibility, personal integrity and more.

The above is achieved by developing the Academy on four pillars: strong, clear, non-negotiable standards of behaviour; genuine pastoral care where all pupils are supported, but without looking for excuses; a broad and exciting curriculum and range of extra-curricular activities; and exciting and inspiring teaching and learning.

What is your vision for the academy in the next 3-5 years?

Ultimately, to be the best, or at least one of the best, schools in London.

What do you wish the Woodberry Down community knew about Skinners’ Academy that they may not yet know?

I’d really like the community to recognise two main things. Firstly, that we are a really ambitious school where every pupil, regardless of background or ability, should be able to do well, and secondly, that it is a place where young people can grow and develop in a disciplined, caring, supportive and dynamic atmosphere.

Finally, for now, Mr Clark, what three pieces of advice would you give to young people in our community as they strive to be successful through education and beyond?

My favourite saying, told to me when I first started teaching: “Always aim for the stars and, one day, you may hit the ceiling, the roof or beyond.”

We are all different, but we can all achieve highly; we shall all achieve in different ways but through hard work, determination and commitment we can all be successful.

Be bold, brave and adventurous – there’s a big and exciting world out there and at Skinners’, we are working hard to ensure that our students gain a solid foundation to enable them to go into the world using their education, talents and skills – in a way that will be fulfilling for them and hopefully beneficial for the community.

Training

PTLLS (Prepare to Teach in Lifelong Learning Sector) levels 3 & 4

So far, 20 local people have started a five week PTLLS course in November. More places are available to unemployed local people until the end of the year.

Woodberry Works Club

Woodberry Down resident Rahi landed a job as the receptionist at the Edge youth hub. “I have been off studies since July, and I have been struggling to find work. Woodberry Works really helped me look for work and notified me with posts available which presented me with an opportunity to work with the young community at Hackney’s youth hub The Edge. I am excited, bring it on!”

For more information on work and training contact Felix Fry at the Redmond Community Centre

E: Felix.fry@mhdt.org.uk
T: 020 8356 7587
Woodberry Down news

Woodberry Down community feast

This year the Woodberry Down community feast will explore the history of the estate, celebrate its present achievements and contribute to the future development.

Come along and celebrate with friends and family at the annual community feast: there will be an exhibition, entertainment, games, competitions and food!

Time capsule

What would you put in a time capsule to represent Woodberry Down? Bring your suggestions along and be part of history.

WDCO Exhibition

See the launch of WDCO’s community history project, “Woodberry Down: the People’s Story”.

This will include an interactive exhibition and a showing of the film, A Palace for Us, which includes interviews with Woodberry Down residents.

There will also be a chance to become involved in the history project. One way you can become involved on the day is to bring your old photographs of Woodberry Down so they can be copied and used for future exhibitions.

Calling all budding artists!!!

Berkeley Homes invites young people up to 16 years old to submit artwork for the hoarding on Woodberry Grove.

The theme is construction on Woodberry Down; you can use images from the newsletters for inspiration or pictures you have taken yourself. Woodberry Down is changing and we would like to capture the process as well as the ‘before and after’.

Please send/bring your entries to Emma Barker at the following address:
Woodberry Down Project Office,
Units A&B Riverside Apartments,
Off Goodchild Road, Hackney N4 2BA

Please ensure that your drawing is on A3 paper and has your name, address and phone number on the back so we can contact you if you win!

You can bring your drawing or create one at the Community Feast as we will be there on the day.

The winner will be announced in the new year and their drawing will be printed on the hoarding on Woodberry Grove … GOOD LUCK!
Harlequins Hitz take on young people from The Edge

On the 28 October Harlequins rugby club played host to 10 young people from Young Hackney’s The Edge youth hub at Woodberry Down.

Free tickets were provided by the Hitz team, associated with Harlequins Rugby, who aim to inspire young people and communities through rugby.

This was the young people’s first experience of a rugby match and included a tour of the Twickenham stadium and museum. Young people were able to touch the ‘hallowed turf’, view the ground from the media box, stand at the stadium’s highest point and take part in a number of interactive exhibitions within the museum.

Feedback from those that attended was extremely positive, with the young people commenting on the camaraderie of both teams’ fans, the physical aspects of the game and what a fun day they had. Young Hackney hopes that this trip will inspire young people to try new sports. A further trip is being planned to watch Saracens rugby club who are based in Barnet.

As a result of this successful trip, Young Hackney in partnership with Access to Sports and Finsbury Rugby Football Club have started delivering weekly rugby sessions at Finsbury Park. Once it gets off the ground, it is hoped that there will be adequate numbers to start up a junior boys section of Finsbury RFC.

The rugby sessions are held every Tuesday 4-5pm for 8-12 year olds and 6-7pm for 13-18 year olds. For more information please contact The Edge on 0208 356 1063.

Black History Month at The Edge

The Edge has been celebrating Black History Month throughout October following the theme Journey and Legacy.

The primary focus was Africa, highlighting various cuisines, artefacts, dress styles, publications and its wide diversity.

Young people engaged in workshops, completed art work and discussed contemporary issues affecting black and minority ethnic groups. Sessions included Young Hackney staff portraying historical figures such as Malcolm X and Rosa Parks.

Young people then took part in a question and answer session, with the younger age groups in particular, displaying a thorough knowledge of historical facts. In addition, young people participated in story telling, African drumming sessions and cooked a number of African dishes. The month ended with a trip to view the ‘Sugar and Slavery’ exhibition at the Museum of London which looks at London’s involvement in transatlantic slavery.
## December dates for your diary

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>ASB Surgery – call 020 8356 3310 for more details</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 December</td>
<td>TRA recruitment meeting – see page 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 December</td>
<td>Masterplan application closing date – see page 4</td>
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<td>11 December</td>
<td>Community Feast</td>
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<td>11 December</td>
<td>Parking drop-in session – at the Community Feast</td>
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<td>13 December</td>
<td>PACT Meal – contact MHDT for details</td>
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### Ward councillors

#### New River
- **Cllr Michael Jones**
  - 2nd Sun each month, 2-3pm, Flat 6 Chattenden House, Woodberry Down Estate, N4 2SG.
  - Cllr Jones is also available on: 07960 610 045.

#### Brownswood
- **Cllr Sean Ned Mulready**
  - Will hold a roving surgery every Sunday. Alternatively call him on: 07860 475 701.

- **Cllr Benzion Papier**
  - 2nd Mon each month, 4-5pm, Stamford Hill Library, Portland Ave, N16.

To find out times and dates for these clrs monthly walkabout surgery, call: 020 8356 3373.

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Return post address: 1st fl oor, Maurice Bishop House, 17 Reading Lane, E8 1NN