



MANOR HOUSE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

WD Community Choir's First Live Performance



Some members of the choir
on route to the Union Chapel



Welcome to the January edition of the Manor House Development Trust e-newsletter, this month we are pleased to report that the Woodberry Down Community Choir performed at its first concert on the 14th December at the Union Chapel, Islington. It was a star-studded event with the Woodberry Down Choir on the main stage as well as other local choirs. The MHDT would like to express its thanks to choir leader, Hannah Thorley, who prepared the choir in just four weeks for the event.





The Woodberry Down Choir began in November as a pilot project, but since its set up it has gone from strength to strength with regular attendance from residents. The performance was a night of success, full of music and fun and a confidence boost for all involved. The WD Choir will continue in 2010 and we are always recruiting for more residents to join.

The Choir will be meeting in the new year on the **28th January 2010** between **7 - 8 pm**. If you would like to join the Community Choir please contact: **Leslyanne Forman** on **020 8356 1626** or email **Leslyanne.forman@hackneyhomes.org.uk**

Woodberry Down Kids Give Panto 5 Star Rating!



Hackney Empire, London

Rating: 5 - stars



On Wednesday the 16th December the MHDT took 45 residents to the Hackney Empire Theatre to see Aladdin. The group was made up predominantly of Woodberry Down children. Parents and children reported that they enjoyed the show and some commented that they had never been to a theatre before or a Pantomime which is a winter tradition across much of Britain.

Community Chest Update



Following the successful applications from the Grace Women's group and International Turkish Music and Dance, the Community Chest team have received lots of fresh interest from a number of groups within the Woodberry Down area.

Grants of between £500 and £1000 are STILL available to community or voluntary groups for projects or activities that will benefit the Woodberry Down area and its residents. We are especially interested to hear from groups led by Woodberry Down residents!!

For more information or to request an application pack contact Vitolina Samu on: **020 8900 4780** or email: **vitolina.samu@ghg.org.uk**

MHDT Annual General Meeting

The Trust AGM was held on Monday 7th December 2009. Members elected and voted **John Ryan**, a local independent Board Member, to carry on as Chair for 2010.



MHDT 2009 Highlights

1. **MHDT moves offices to the RRRC**
2. **The expansion of the MHDT with new staff – Jessica, Lesleyanne and Caroline**
3. **Community outings, summer trips, pantomime trip - over 300 residents involved over the year**
4. **Successful set up of Woodberry Down community groups e.g. WD Community Choir**
5. **Management of Woodberry Works and RRRC**
6. **Regular board meetings, Awayday and AGM**
7. **New board members join the Trust**
8. **Woodberry Down Priority Community Facility plans approved and outer building shell completed**
9. **Successful contracts with Parkside, London Wildlife Trust and Elevate for the provision of youth activities within the WD area**
10. **MHDT newsletter launched**

New Staff

The MHDT would like to welcome Lydia Opare-Kwarteng to the MHDT team, Lydia will be working with Caroline Tomiczek on various Woodberry Works projects



What's happening in 2010?

Lots of new exciting Community Activities!

Woodberry Down Family Cycling Club

Manor House Development Trust identified the need for families from the Woodberry Down estate to take part in cycling proficiency training. Within the estate there are many that have bikes and are able to cycle but need training on 'safe cycling' and a basic understanding of the highway code. Residents requested this during engagement with the Well London team regarding intergenerational projects. It was thought that this would be a great project to benefit residents of all ages, and encourage families to take part in a healthy activity together.



Dates: February 20th for six weeks, Saturdays 1- 4pm to view poster click [here](#) contact gail@stabikes.org.uk



Woodberry Down Young peoples Football Team

The football pitches on Woodberry Down have now been renovated and in 2010 Woodberry Down will have their very own football team!

Training will be provided by Access to Sport and we currently have two MHDT volunteers recruiting for the football team now. If you are interested in getting involved in the WD football team please contact the

MHDT office on 020 8356 1796

Luncheon Club for Woodberry Down Elders

Luncheon club planning has recommenced and an inventory of equipment, currently at Wyersdale House, is now taking place. Start date coming soon...

Woodberry Down Walking Group

Walking sessions will begin in the New Year and will run for six months, focused at young people and parents. Anyone interested in becoming a Walk Leader can attend Walk Leader Training. Training will focus on:



- How to lead a walk
 - The benefits of physical activity
 - Motivating people to walk
 - Monitoring safety

The first training session will take place on **Thursday 4th March, 9.30 am – 3.30pm** at City Edge (Mare Street). Please contact **Leslyanne Forman Tel: 020 8356 1626** or **Darren English Tel: 020 8356 4897**

What's new with our existing projects?

Well London

Well London is a project managed and co-ordinated by the Manor House Development Trust for residents on Woodberry Down



Woodberry Down Health Champion Update:

The Woodberry Down Health Champions are currently exploring their own voluntary areas of interest on the Woodberry Down Estate and will present new ideas.

Woodberry Down Grow Bag Scheme

In the five weeks prior to the Christmas break, local residents came out in all weathers to set up the grow bag site. So far there are 32 x 1 tonne grow bags filled with soil, compost and manure. More bags will be filled as the weather improves. As part of the winter growing season residents have been busy planting organic garlic, broad beans, purple sage, rosemary and thyme. A wildlife habitat has also been created out of a fallen tree limb, twigs and leaves - ideal for all winter hibernating creatures. A talented local resident very kindly built a wooden seating area for two residents who were unable to bend over to garden the large composting area, this was built from wooden pallets and an old tree which had fallen in a Hackney park due to disease.



WD grow bag site

Over 50 people have signed up to adopt a grow bag already and there is a reserve list, if you are interested please contact:

Sam Alexander on 020 8510 5418 or email: sam.alexander@groundwork.org.uk. There will be more grow bags available for adopting at the end of February.





Training courses February to March

Due to the successful uptake of courses in 2009 more courses will now take place between January and February 2010, including construction taster for women and young people, First Aid, Food Hygiene and H&S/CSCS. All courses are completely FREE - groups and individuals can contact **Lydia** at the **MHDT office**:
020 8356 1796 Lydia.opare-kwarteng@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Ways Into Work Job and Training Fair at the RRRC

A job fair will take place at the Robin Redmond Resource Centre on Friday 12th February 2010, between 11am - 4 pm you can view poster [\[here\]](#)



For more information please contact Katie on:

Tel: **020 8900 4781** or **0752 590 9910** Email: waysintowork@ghg.org.uk

Dates For Your Diary:

January:

29th Community Development Workers Forum Meeting @ RRRC
11am to 1pm

Every Tuesday Genesis Mentoring Scheme every Tuesday from 2.30 - 5.00pm at the Parkside Youth Centre contact: **Sharon Gaspard** on **0781 0814197** or **Fabian Gilbert** on **020 8900 4768**, alternatively you can email sharon.gaspard@ghg.org.uk



February:

1st MHDT Board Meeting

TBC Luncheon club due to begin

20th, 21st, 27th, and 28th (4 day course)

FREE Level2 NVQ Community Activator Training with Well London you can view poster [\[here\]](#) Contact: **Sonia Gouveia** on **020 7343 1756** or email s.gouveia@centralymca.org.uk

12th Ways into Work job fair 11am - 4pm

20th Cycling Club begins, Saturdays 1 - 4pm

Next Issue: The next newsletter will be distributed in the second week of February. Please contact us at mhdt@hackneyhomes.org.uk if there are any stories/ info that you wish to be included or if you have any feedback about the newsletter. If you wish to be taken off our mailing list please contact the email address above