

# Wood Green IS GREEN



Haringey Council, and our partners, are investing in making our places better so our communities can live healthy lives, work and play.

The quality of the local environment is very important to the community and it is the reason that many people live here. We want Wood Green to be a place where everyone can access the green and open spaces, where people are active and live longer, healthier lives and a place where people feel safe and secure in their own homes and neighbourhoods.

Wood Green has an incredibly strong community of residents and business who are committed to improving the area. A big congratulations to Future Wood Green and GrowN22, Parkside Malvern Residents Association and the Wolves Lane Centre, who have all been awarded grants for public realm and open space projects this year.

Haringey Council have also secured funding to deliver improvements along the routes connecting Station Road, the High Road and the area around the Chocolate Factory and Coburg Road. Work will include the refurbishment of the entrance to Alexandra Park at the Penstock Tunnel and investment in green infrastructure, public realm, public art, lighting and signage in various locations. In this newsletter, you will find out more about some of these 'green' projects underway.



# HELPING WOOD GREEN GO GREEN!

Over the past few months resident groups, businesses and charities have been coming up with project ideas to improve Wood Green and help it go greener.

The council has commissioned muf Architecture/Art to meet with groups and understand how their work can inform the design guidance the council has asked muf to produce. A project manual will offer broad guidelines for the area and suggest what materials to use and how to make the most of the buildings, roads and open spaces but also ask bigger questions connected to the environment and how to improve the quality of peoples' lives in our area.

"It is obvious that people here want Wood Green to be greener and that's a real challenge given the lack of space for greenery. So, the design guidance is a piece of the jigsaw that aims to show how you can do small-scale, grassroots change," said muf co-founder, Katherine Clarke.

Once Katherine and her team have a comprehensive list of worthwhile projects to improve our area, the plan is for a shortlist to be drawn up and locals to give their feedback about which projects should be delivered. Projects include; making the most of the New River for recreation, education and biodiversity; creating 'insect corridors' (to help protect bees, butterflies and moths); and

bringing more greenery to the area outside the library.

But there are a host of other project suggestions aimed at improving the quality of life for people in Wood Green.

"For example, there's one to improve the diagonal crossing by the tube station as we've been told the crossing time is not long enough for people with disabilities to use," said Katherine.

If you have an idea and would like to give your feedback contact us at **woodgreenregeneration@haringey.gov.uk**



## GOING BACK TO NATURE

Over the past couple of years social enterprise company GrowN22 and volunteers from the community have worked hard to create the Westbury Banks Nature Reserve.

Just off the busy Westbury Road in Wood Green it's 150 metres long and comprises four different banks boasting a variety of plants, a walkway, a rockery, a pond, bug hotels and much more to come.

"The possibilities are endless," said project manager Luke Newcombe of GrowN22. "Before we came along it was pretty much a jungle and the amount of fly-tipping here was just unbelievable – we cleared out three tonnes' worth! Two years on and we've done all this work and have created a great log staircase for people to walk down into the reserve."



The reserve is a Noel Park Big Local initiative managed by GrowN22. The Noel Park community was given money to celebrate what is great about Noel Park so residents decided to provide the initial funding for Grow N22 to start work on the reserve.

"I'm new to this area and every day I pass this place on my way to the tube," said Ali Hepple. "I'm so glad I came because it's amazing what they're doing here. A nature reserve brings people together and it's good for the community and it educates us all about growing, food, seasonality and plants."

The nature reserve is just one of many green projects run by Grow N22 across Wood Green. They specialise in transforming disused and neglected spaces into gardens and growing spaces for the community. To find out more or volunteer visit

**[www.GrowN22.com/Westbury](http://www.GrowN22.com/Westbury)**

## DUCKETTS COMMON IMPROVEMENTS

Haringey Council have been working with the Friends of Duckett's Common to improve the green and open space at Turnpike Lane.

Improvement works are well underway, with most projects due to complete in the next month. The boundary railings and main entrance archway are being repainted and railings at the northern edge realigned. The path is being patch repaired and upgraded bins and benches installed.

To make the space more cycling friendly, a contra-flow cycling scheme for Hampden Road is being created. There will be a new raised table and entrance improvements to the Common at the Hampden Road/ Willoughby Road junction.

The Council is also working with owners of the Roj Café kiosk to deliver an extension to the kiosk to create an indoor seating area and toilet. This will allow customers to sit and enjoy food and drink from the café all year round, and help to activate the north end of the common.

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## WOOD GREEN LIBRARY GARDEN

Future Wood Green, Wood Green's Business Improvement District (BID), has been awarded funding through the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund Community Grant Scheme to transform the front of the Library area on the High Road. Working with the Council, the BID submitted an application for funding to create a new community garden outside Wood Green Library.

The idea for this project came from feedback from both businesses and the public. Both felt the planters outside

the Library could be significantly improved...and now they will be!

The BID is partnering with local social Enterprise Grow N22 to create this new green space. They are keen for as many people of all ages and abilities to be involved in this project from the very start. If you would like to get involved in the design of this space or join the new "Friends of the Library Garden Group" email [info@woodgreenbid.co.uk](mailto:info@woodgreenbid.co.uk) or call 020 3011 0504.



## IF YOU GO DOWN TO WOOD GREEN TODAY...

You're sure of a big surprise. For just a stone's throw from the tube station you'll find London's only regular coppice worker.

Working in the coppiced woodlands of London and Hertfordshire Iain Loasby uses the wood he collects to produce a range of sustainable products which he sells online and from his workshop in Blue House Yard. Coppicing is a traditional form of woodland management in which the trees are cut back to ground level to stimulate growth.

"Most of what I use comes from Furzefield Wood near to Potters Bar," said Iain, "Furzefield is a nature reserve so there are fairly strict limits on what I can cut down and I'm up there most days."

What Iain does with the wood he finds is impressive, ranging from: making firelighters, stakes and plant supports to fridge magnets, bags of charcoal



and huge candles made out of pine logs. But what is so good about coppice products?

"They are very sustainable," he said. "If you cut down the trees they grow back time after time. Coppicing has been happening for thousands of years in many woods and they are still there which is arguably the best credentials for sustainability of any human endeavour. And with a minimal carbon footprint it's far better than buying all of these mass-produced, imported items such as bamboo because you are supporting the management of woods which would otherwise be declining in their biodiversity values."

For more details visit  
[www.rivenwoodcoppice.com](http://www.rivenwoodcoppice.com)

## ENHANCING CRESCENT GARDENS

Major landscape improvements for Crescent Gardens the greenspace on the High Road, opposite the Civic Centre are underway.

In the improved park you will see a series of 'rain gardens' to collect run-off from the adjacent roads. Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in the form of circular basin features, swales (open drainage channels) to carry water between the basin and rain gardens, new tree planting and meadow style planting.

Alongside reducing the risk of flooding, these improvements will help enhance bio-diversity, prevent both air and water pollution and re-invigorate the park space for people of all ages to explore and enjoy. For more information or to comment on the scheme, please email us at [frontline.consultation@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:frontline.consultation@haringey.gov.uk) and put 'SuDS' in the email header.

## A MINI EDEN PROJECT FOR THE COMMUNITY

Volunteers are helping transform an old nursery and garden centre into a thriving community food hub and local attraction.

The Wolves Lane Centre in Wood Green is an impressive complex of glasshouses and outdoor growing space dating back to the 1960s. Two years ago it was taken over by a coalition dedicated to restoring the centre with an ambition to making it a hub for growing and distributing food. As a result it now houses various sustainable businesses such as Edible London but, more than this, there are plans to restore the Palm House, cactus house and café as visitor attractions.

"The potential is endless," said retired botanist and Wolves Lane volunteer, Pamela Harling. "We want it to become a vibrant community hub that's running workshops for people and allowing people to come and learn how to grow plants. The site has a long history of helping people with learning disabilities and we would also love school groups to come back and visit us which they used to do in the past."

Pamela is one of a green-fingered army of volunteers who visit the centre every Tuesday to help with the maintenance and restoration.

At the current time the centre is only open to the public on Sundays between noon and 4pm. Once a week the volunteers open up so visitors can enjoy the local attraction, tuck into homemade refreshments and meet some of the local businesses housed here.

The centre is always looking for more volunteers and no experience is necessary. For further details and to find out more about Wolves Lane visit [www.wolveslane.org](http://www.wolveslane.org) or email [volunteer@wolveslane.org](mailto:volunteer@wolveslane.org)



### IS THAT A GIANT SQUIRREL?

Well done to Parkside Malvern Residents Association for bringing forward a new mural in Martins Walk. You'd be 'nuts' not to go and see it!



## PENSTOCK TUNNEL

Penstock Tunnel sits under the Great North Eastern Railway line and together with the pathways at each end of the tunnel, connects Alexandra Park and Wood Green Cultural Quarter. Currently the tunnel suffers from water ingress, and the pathways at either end feel unsafe and unattractive.

Haringey Council are working with specialist designers We Made That to improve the tunnel and its entrances and approaches to draw people into the heart of Wood Green from the west of the borough. Potential improvements include drainage, signage, lighting, landscaping along with integrated delivery of artwork as part of the project. For more information email [woodgreenregeneration@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:woodgreenregeneration@haringey.gov.uk)