Woodberry Down Community Organisation would like to make a special appeal for all residents to use the local shops.

Following its completion, Brian’s newsagent, Gold Star supermarket and the Post Office are now located under the Residence Tower in Woodberry Grove. However, not everyone realises the new location of these shops, which is why WDCO feel it is necessary to spread the news.

By using these shops, you are putting money back into your community as rent collected from each unit funds activities and facilities, such as the new Redmond Community Centre, for the wider estate.

Three new shops will be let soon, WDCO understand that one of these is likely to be a coffee shop, which is undoubtedly needed since the closure of Eric’s Café.

WDCO believes it is important that a wide variety of local shops, which meet people’s needs, is available in the regenerated Woodberry Down. This is something we are pressing for in the current review of regeneration plans.
Construction update from Berkeley Homes

KSS1 – The Old School Site
We are pleased to report that ‘The Old School Site’ is complete.
We have now handed over all 175 apartments in the ‘Residence Tower’ which were completed in December 2012. The shops are also complete allowing the retailers from the existing parade to move in and Hackney is seeking offers for the vacant units.
On 8 November 2012 the north side of the park was opened alongside Goodchild Road.

KSS2 – Woodberry Grove North (Block 3)
On 14 December 2012 it was agreed, with Genesis, that this phase of development was complete.

KSS3 – Oakend & Shops
At the beginning of September the new estate road was opened allowing residents access to the rear of the estate so we could close the junction of the unnamed road leading to Newton Close.
Piling to Block 3, which commenced on 11 September 2012, is now complete; we have reached the 1st floor slab level which will hold 95 private sale apartments.
This completes all 220 affordable units on this phase of the development.
The new park is almost finished, and will be completed as soon as the weather improves.

KSS5 – Horston & Sherwood
Block 2: Brickwork is now complete so the scaffold has been stuck and balconies installed. Internal fit-out is now at its final stages with quality control inspections on going.
We are confident of achieving our completion date of end of March 2013.
Block 3: A joint inspection with Genesis on the 14 December 2012 confirmed all works are now complete. These 51 social rented units will be available for occupation shortly.

Phase 2 Block E – Pewsham
Demolition of the 3 houses was completed in December. 85% of the piling that started on the 9th October 2012 is complete and the rig has returned to complete the rest.
The north end of Spring Park Drive has been closed to accommodate the new footprint of the building. A new road will be opened on completion at the end of 2014. Block E construction has now reached the 1st floor in the South/West Corner.

The first of 3 Tower Cranes was erected in November 2012. Demolition on the front of Woodberry Grove is well under way with 151 Woodberry Grove now gone and the south parade of shops currently coming down. We hope to have the whole parade down by the end of February.
Four Steps to Success

Local business and regeneration partners turned out to hear how entrepreneurial residents of Woodberry Down found success starting their own businesses with the support of the Genesis Four Steps to Starting Your Own Business programme.

The evening featured speeches from residents who have overcome challenges to become self employed, start their own business and employ other local people. Charles Gurassa, Chair of Genesis Board, presented certificates to celebrate these achievements and told the audience he had been inspired by what he heard.

Also inspired by these successes, over 20 more residents signed up to the programme on the night, with many others keen to meet the Four Steps business advisors to discuss their ideas and take the first step.

New local businesses attended the event, providing an excellent opportunity to share tips and their experience of the Four Steps programme with guests whilst meeting potential clients.

Genesis’ Four Steps to Starting Your Own Business offers residents in the area free tailored advice and support, with a dedicated business advisor, helping them through every step of setting up, launching and trading as their own business.

Sion, a budding painter and decorator, said “I’ve always wanted to start my own decorating business since I did an apprenticeship at college, it’s really hard to find starting jobs now, so this scheme might be the push I need to get the ball rolling.”

Residents who showcased their new businesses included, Myell Design a tailor, who makes clothes for those who have difficulties dressing themselves and Beyond Feelings a local counselling service.

For more information or to sign up to the programme call Genesis on 020 7563 0441/0442 or email woodberry.down@genesisha.org.uk

Transforming Woodberry Down – Review of the Masterplan

Thank you to all residents who attended the Design Review Days in September and January, which have produced a lot of ideas and feedback that will help shape the proposals for the future of Woodberry Down.

All residents should have now received the second newsletter that has been produced to keep you informed of progress with the review. This also included the latest proposals presented to Partners – Berkeley Homes, Genesis Housing Association, Hackney Council and representatives from WDCO.

The masterplan team continues to develop these ideas in more detail and considers the feedback from Residents presented at the Design Review events.

The January Review followed the same format as in September with an exhibition, and informal workshops. The review was held over two days, 31st January and 2nd February to ensure as many residents as possible could take part.

As we believe that residents should be involved throughout the review, we have also set up a Residents Advisory Group, which provides an opportunity for the masterplan team to discuss ideas with residents as they develop. This group is open to all residents and had its first meeting on 9 January 2012.

If you are interested in joining the Advisory Group, would like more information on the review or the Design Review Day, please contact George Cochrane on 07503 623367 or georgecochrane342@btinternet.com
Woodberry Down news

**WILD ABOUT BUSHCRAFT**
18th – 21st of February, 10am – 3pm

Are you 8 to 18 years old? Do you live in Hackney? Think you can survive in the wild?

Then come and enjoy “FREE” bushcraft and wilderness sessions during the half-term week with the London Wildlife Trust at the Woodberry Down Young Hackney Hub, N4 1SN

Email fcarmo@wildlondon.org.uk or phone 07834 867 419

Wild About Bushcraft is funded by the Home Office Community Fund. The project aims to tackle gun, gang and knife crime by engaging young people in outdoor activities.
Get High working at heights training

The Get High: Working at heights training programme pilot ran during December 2012 at The Reach Climbing Centre in Woolwich. This programme provided an intense experience for the trainees involving early starts, travelling between Hackney and Woolwich, plus the physical exertion of scaling ropes and climbing walls. Two ‘Be Safety’ trainers delivered a course that was clear, encouraging and helped build both skills and confidence.

Abseiling IRATA Level 1, which took place in the first week resulted in the accreditation of two trainees and an immediate job offer for one participant. This involved rope, harness and helmet training.

In week two the trainees learned PASMA – the safe use of mobile access towers, ladder use, first aid, working with asbestos and IOSH Health and Safety. The programme finished in early January with window cleaning and fall protection.

Get High is funded by Young Hackney and delivered by Be Safety, with recruitment support from MHDT and links with Brighter Environment.

We will be running the programme again as it is a great opportunity for people to learn skills that are in demand. If you are interested in working at heights call Felix for a chat on 020 8356 7587.

The Youth Hub

The new Youth Hub is now open.
The opening times are 3.30pm – 5.30pm Monday – Friday.
The hub is open for all children from ages 8 -19 and there will also be an 18 - 25 year old drop-in for a couple of hours once a week.
As the year came to a close there was only one way to celebrate – with a Community Feast.

On the 13 December 2012 Redmond Community Centre was home to the annual Woodberry Down event, bringing members of the local community together for fun, food and entertainment.

The event showcased a collection of talent from Immediate Theatre, singer Shaniqua Lear alongside mobile magic by Mike the Magician and DJ.

Provided in partnership with Hackney Council, Genesis Housing Association, Berkeley Homes, WDCO and the Manor House Development Trust, the opportunity to share estate updates was not missed.
Stalls included partner and service information as well as community projects such as ‘CRE-NAMIC’ security solutions and Access to Sports.

As a result, the feedback received showed that 74% of respondents felt better informed about community activities and more than half felt their questions were answered.

Interactive activities were spread across 4 rooms; the Batak Wall proved a hit with attendees of all ages. The massage therapy, Kid’s soft play and Arts & Crafts table were also very popular, as was the roasting of marshmallows over an open flame in the Yurt provided by the London Wildlife Trust.

With so much positive feedback on the night, we would like to thank everyone who supported the event, particularly our volunteers and those that attended.
Community highlights

Resident’s new homes

Over the last few months Genesis Housing Association moved over 100 families from Woodberry Down, into their brand new homes on Woodberry Grove North.

The new apartments: Maplewood and Birchwood are managed by Genesis. The moves are managed by the Council’s Decanting team and Genesis are on hand to ensure residents are settling in well.

New properties will continue to be completed in coming months, with more residents able to move in the early part of 2013.

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Beyond Feelings is a new community counselling service offering low cost counselling, massage therapy and support to the Hackney community.

We offer a number of services including:
- Massage Therapy with Healing Hands for a stronger body, mind and soul
- One to One Counselling Support for your unheard feelings
- Workshops and Group sessions aimed at tackling addictions, managing anger and strengthening relationships

Are you experiencing:
- Relationship Difficulties
- Domestic Abuse
- Loneliness & Isolation
- Anger
- Bullying

Women
Do you want to lose weight by clearing heavy burdens from your mind first?

Men
Do you feel vulnerable, insecure, unappreciated, pressured or unloved?

If you are being affected by any of these issues and would like to speak with one of our counsellors please ring us on:
0795 281 4417 or 0777 496 7119

E: info@beyondfeelings.co.uk  W: beyondfeelings.co.uk

Beyond Feelings  Community Counselling Service
Community Interest Company - Registered Company Number: 07574945
Community highlights

Building Lives
The first two groups of Building Lives Hackney trainees have completed the programme; they have been working at the new Building Lives Academy in Stamford Hill since August. MHDT worked with Building Lives, Harrow College and Hackney Homes to set up the project, and helped recruit the trainees. The training has covered a range of construction skills to provide strong industry foundations.

50 of the trainees will be selected to go on to become Building Lives apprentices working with a number of contractors in Hackney: this will prove tricky as they’re all so good! Plus the apprentices will be trained in some green construction skills as part of Manor House PACT.

If you’re interested in construction training give call Felix at MHDT for a chat on 020 8356 7587.

Local Labour
Berkeley Homes are pleased to announce that our ‘Local Labour’ for 2012 was maintained at over 20% of the projects total workforce. We are happy to have achieved our goal.

January has seen the total workforce across the project fall due to completion of both KSS1 and KSS2. We are working with our procurement team to ensure that both the new Phase 2 & KSS3 projects achieve even better figures than our most successful to date.

Our targets for Local Labour 2013 are as follows:
- Achieve 25% local labour across each project
- Have one apprentice per subcontractor
- Total of twenty apprentices on site by Christmas 2013
- See ten apprentices complete an NVQ on our projects
- Create a labour programme which will see apprentices sustain employment for the duration of the project
Community news

Manor House PACT updates

*The Manor House PACT project, funded by The Big Lottery Fund, is getting underway with the appointment of three new people to work on the three-year project.*

Vivien Macdona has joined as PACT Marketing and Administration Assistant and Mark Mckenna as PACT Coordinator, both based with Manor House Development Trust. PACT Energy Assessor Miriam Burke has joined Groundwork London.

PACT stands for the four project principles of Prepare, Adapt, Connect and Thrive and aims to build resilient, sustainable local communities. There are some exciting activities planned for the next three years, including opportunities for training.

One of the things local people have told us they want is shared meals. PACT will therefore involve regular meals as a way of bringing people together to get to know each other and to learn more about the project. The first PACT meals will start soon: check out the PACT website for updates, join in the conversation and get involved.

We’ll be recruiting volunteers along the way – again check out the website and watch this space for details.

[www.manorhousepact.org.uk](http://www.manorhousepact.org.uk)

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Celebrating 400 years of the New River

Finding ways of celebrating all that is good and special about our local area is one key part of Manor House PACT. The 400th anniversary of the New River in September 2013 seems an important thing to celebrate, so it will play a key part in both the festivals and Open Spaces strands of the project.

A small group have started meeting regularly to talk about initial ideas for the Manor House New River Festival 2013. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with the event and to tell us what you would like in the festival.

For more information visit: [www.manorhousepact.org.uk](http://www.manorhousepact.org.uk)

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Share your New River stories

Have you ever lived near the New River? Do you have memories and stories of the river, whether past or present? Did you play by the river as a child? What’s your relationship with the river now? We’d love to hear from you.

Local audio journalist Sarah Peters and painter Henny Beaumont are collaborating on an exciting audio-visual documentary to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the New River. Manor House Development Trust is supporting the project, which also aims to create an interactive app for mobile phones.

They are very keen to interview and photograph local residents across the generations, so please get in touch with them at: [eyesandearsn16@gmail.com](mailto:eyesandearsn16@gmail.com)

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[Photo by Hugh](#)
Community news

Turkish and Kurdish Tenant Housing Group

This group provides members of the Turkish and Kurdish communities who live in Hackney Homes properties the opportunity to come together and discuss relevant issues such as general maintenance and repairs.

In cases of major repairs, the group works alongside Hackney Homes to help assess progress. Some of the key achievements of this group include:

- Regular and consistent attendance at daytime meetings
- Building and strengthening relationships between group members
- Focusing on developing confidence and self esteem by attending ESOL classes.
- Views and opinions on the quality of housing service provision.

If you are interested in finding out more or to become a member please contact the Resident Participation Team on 020 8356 7845 or email to getinvolved@hackneyhomes.org.uk

Top Team!
The Woodberry Down Football Club are currently top of the London County Saturday Youth Football League table and have reached the semi-finals of the London Cup. What a remarkable achievement, given they are only in their second full season.

Funded by Young Hackney with support from Manor House Development Trust and Genesis Housing Association. The team was born out of weekly sessions at Woodberry Down, started by Access to Sports aiming to give young people a chance to play competitive football and represent their community.

Woodberry Down FC meet at drop in sessions on a Monday from 5 – 7pm at Newnton Close. Anyone aged 8 – 19 are welcome to come along.

For further information contact The Access to Sports project on 020 7686 8812

Park Opening

Genesis and partners, at the recommendation of the community safety steering group, will host a three day event to mark the opening of the new Woodberry Grove North Park in Spring 2013.

The intended three day programme will aim to provide a mixture of sporting activity, picnic fun, youth entertainment whilst paying homage to the work by the children involved in designing the park space with Berkeley Homes.

Watch this space for further details…
Community news

Supporting the community

Volunteer Centre Hackney works with Hackney Homes to provide a range of volunteer opportunities for employed and unemployed Hackney Homes residents exclusively. Current volunteer vacancies include:

- Breakfast Club Volunteer - De Beauvoir Primary School
- Provisions Marketing Volunteer
- Garden Swap Volunteers

To find about these or other vacancies contact Leah Phibbs on: 020 7241 4443 ext. 27 or email leah@vchackney.org

Ward councillors

**New River**

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

Cllr Michael Jones, holds no surgeries, but is available by appointment on: 07960 610 045.

Cllr Sean Ned Mulready, last Sun of the month, 1pm, Stamford Hill Library, Portland Ave, N16. Cllr Mulready is also available on: 07860 475 701.

**Brownswood**

Cllrs Brian Bell, Oli De Botton & Feryal Demirci (on a rota basis) 1st Thurs each month, 7pm - 8pm, Amwell Court Community Centre, Green Lanes, N4. 3rd Sat each month, 12.30pm - 2.30pm, walkabout surgery.

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