

“

Progress is impossible
without change.”

- George Bernard Shaw

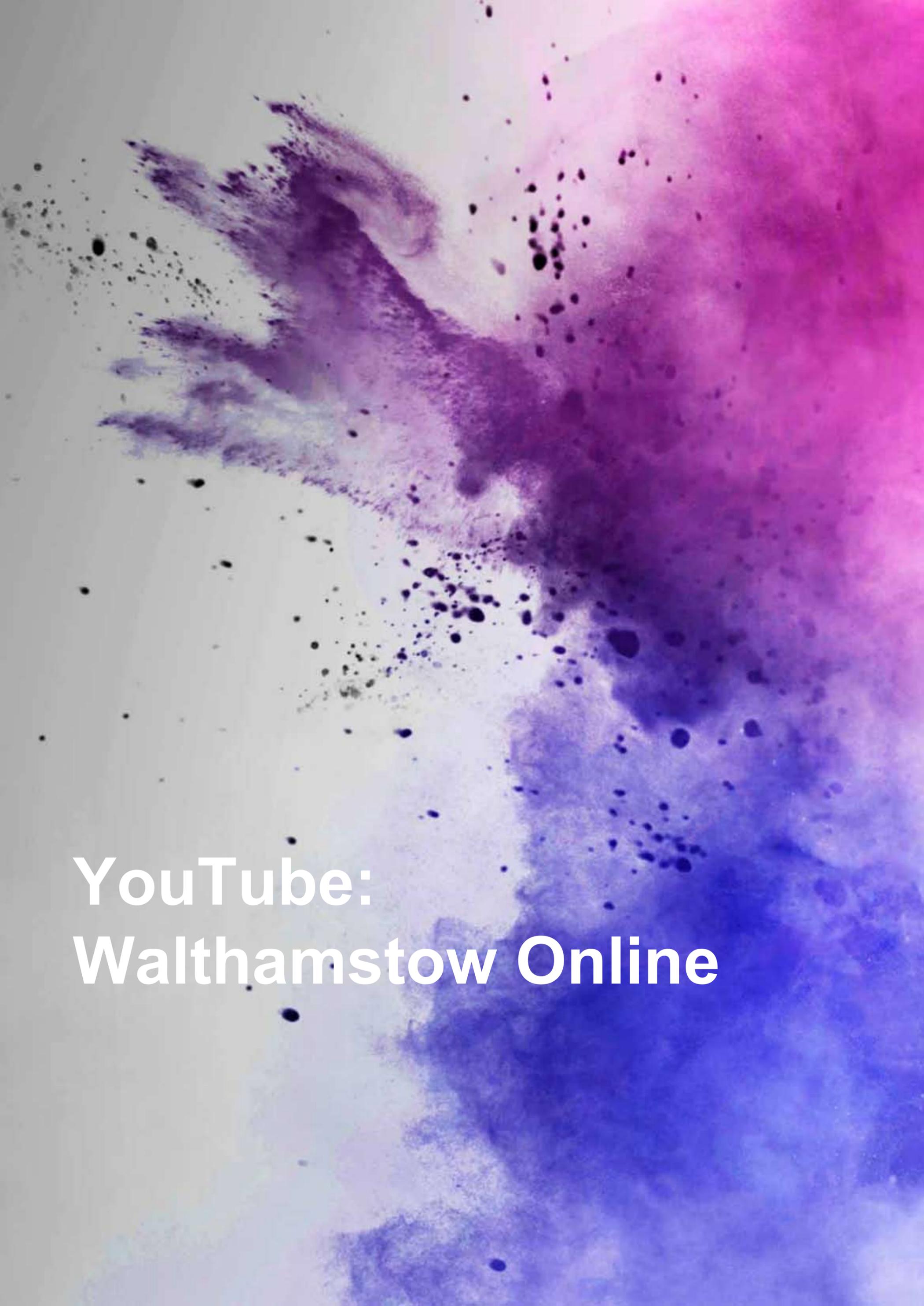


Waltham Forest Community Hub

Annual Report

2015/16

www.wfchub.org | info@wfchub.org | 020 8223 0707



**YouTube:
Walthamstow Online**

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ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

Management Committee Members

Gina Pathan
Faiz Yunis
Shahid Majid
Anita Jethwa
Pritty Rana
Khayyam Aslam
Afzal Malik

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

Staff

Monwara Ali
Musa Ballikaya
Abed Mallam
Emmanuel Benedetti
Shaun Scanlon
Sonita Turner
Linda Jethwa
Frank Ndeze
Ali Cabdulqadir
Shpetim Dauti

Centre Development Manager
Monitoring & Finance Officer (until May 2015)
Building Management Officer
Finance Officer
Youth Worker
Youth Worker
Project Worker
Caretaker
Part-time Caretaker (until November 2015)
Sessional Caretaker

Volunteers

Ainhoa Rodriguez
Demi Jethwa
Erika Kwasyte
Ernesta Andriusyte
Idris Kayran
Louise Vadeau
Maruf Ali
Mohamed Mahamed
Ozgean Ilie
Refa Begum
Suleman Haider
Tia Jethwa
Abubakar Mohamed
Andreea Saran
Javon Boothe
Muhammed Awais
Sue Oudit
Sue Carter
Daniel Barry
Tommy Andersson

Roger Blackham
Kusum Gondhia
Carl Hunter
Courtney Oudit
Andy Mirror
Miranda Dauti
Donald Dauti
Sarah Wason
Muhammed Ali
Kirsty Scanlon
Cathy Grey
Monawer Farooq
Alice Mackay
Jaswinder Sehmi
Farah Ashraf
Helen Crockford
PC James Benge
Pervin Hussain
Rhiannon Finnamore
Helen Lerner



Bankers
Auditors
Legal

The Co-operative Bank
Young & Co.
Russell-Cooke Solicitors

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

Waltham Forest Community Hub Ltd. (formerly The Asian Centre Waltham Forest Ltd. until 8th July 2015), incorporated in 2005, is a registered charity and Company Limited by Guarantee that:

- Offers a range of courses and activities for the local community
- Caters for different age groups, cultures and ethnic groups
- Provides space for community groups, statutory organisations and individuals
- Is mobility friendly and open to all

Vision

To create a cohesive community where individuals take responsibility to make positive change within their lives and their community.

Mission

Committed to improving the quality of the lives of local people by engaging them, inspiring them and supporting their active participation in society.

Aims

To fulfill our vision and mission by:

- Providing community resources
- Engaging and empowering youth
- Improving employability
- Promoting community cohesion
- Promoting sustainability



“

Creating a path to
continue moving
forward.

”

- Abed Mallam

Worked with

150

young people.

Organised the Walthamstow Village Festival which attracted over

3,000

people.

Provided volunteer placements for

39

local residents.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The past year will always be remembered as a year of 'big change' for our organisation as we proceeded to change the name of our charity in July 2015 and then launched into rebranding with a new logo and a new website. We strengthened our internal policies and procedures by developing better structures and systems to enable us to improve our delivery. We owe our success to the enthusiasm and great team work between trustees, staff and volunteers. We were fortunate to have the commitment and support from Gina Pathan (in the capacity of Chair) and Pritty Rana (in the capacity of Trustee) during crucial times. At times when commitment was required at short notice and support was sought by staff, trustees went beyond their call of duty to keep momentum going and move forward. Although they have since left the Board of Trustees, they will both be remembered as important advocates of positive change.

Our organisation's aim has been to deliver projects and activities that meet the following five areas of need:

- Providing community resources
- Engaging and empowering youth
- Improving employability
- Promoting community cohesion
- Working towards sustainability

We met our charity's aims and objectives by delivering services of a high standard, which was the direct result of huge commitment from our staff and volunteers. Not only were we supported by a strong team of staff and volunteers, but also the local community who have been instrumental in enabling us to successfully deliver community cohesion activities. Grant funding from the Community Development Foundation and the London Borough of Waltham Forest as well as donations from local businesses continued to support and strengthen the delivery of our work.

One of our biggest challenges were to acquire funding to enable us to coordinate and deliver the Walthamstow Village Festival in the summer. Due to delays with funding we were set back and hence had to schedule the event for 19th of September 2015, which was later than we had originally planned. All hiccups aside, this year was just as successful as last year as we managed to pool together as much support as possible to make it happen. The Festival attracted local residents in many ways; as volunteers, performers, traders, donors and visitors.

Following another successful year of community activities, which included many challenges, we are now looking ahead to yet another year of enthusiasm to work closely with the community to make lasting positive change.

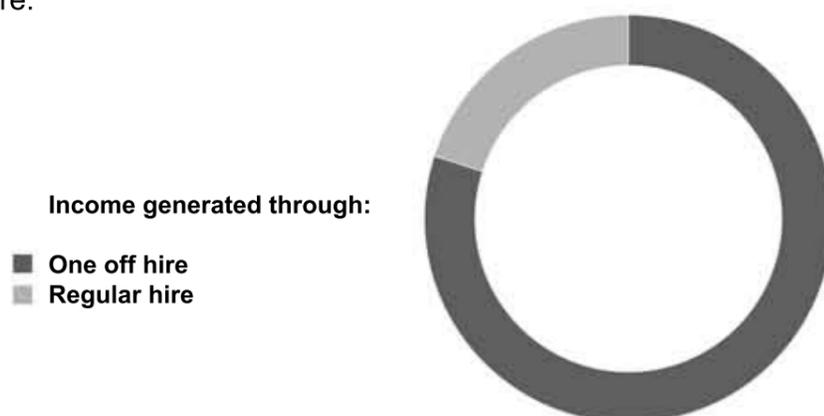
Our youth provision, activities for older people, community and fundraising events benefitted from the generosity of local residents who offered their time and commitment to help with the smooth running of our charitable activities.

ACTIVITIES

Providing Community Resources...

Regular user groups / hire of venue and resources

Our building accommodated 11 different groups who delivered regular community activities. Throughout the year, we accommodated Forest Pathway College, which is a Pupil Referral Unit for Year 11s. The building generated income through, hall, room, flip chart, tea urn, Internet, refreshments and projector hire.



Community Centres' Consortium - This is a consortia of 3 community centres; Waltham Forest Community Hub and William Morris Community Centre in Walthamstow and Jubilee Centre in Leytonstone, which we have been leading for the past 2 years. The consortium was commissioned by London Borough of Waltham Forest.

We set up a Community Venues Forum and coordinated 2 meetings; one in January and one in July. The purpose of this particular network is to bring together small voluntary sector organisations that run community venues to support each other by discussing common challenges and sharing good practice. The Forum enabled us to connect with other charities and deliver Charity Leadership training as well as share our good practice around volunteering and bookings procedures.

Engaging and Empowering Youth...

We provided a safe environment for 13-19 years to benefit from regular youth activities and one to one mentoring on Mondays and Fridays. Throughout the year we had 150 young people registered on our database and a consistent regular attendance of 25-30 young people at each session. We were able to deliver structured recreational and educational activities that supported our ethos of developing young people to take responsibility for their community through volunteering opportunities.

We delivered our first ever Youth Residential in April, which benefited 12 local young people. The Residential offered young people an opportunity to experience and benefit from team building activities that encouraged bonding and effective communication. The young people stayed in log cabins and were supervised and supported by Staff and a volunteer. After the Residential, young people offered to volunteer during future community events; i.e. the Festival, Sponsored Fast & Christmas Lunch.

On 28th November 2015, 6 Youth Club members and 5 staff took part in a sponsored dry fast for 10 hours. The intention was to raise much needed funds for our youth club. This involved a communal sleep over as well as volunteering for two local charities; Branches and Walthamstow Toy Library. The fast ended with a delicious homemade 'Feast'. The young people who took part in the sponsored fast were able to learn about discipline and appreciation for the smaller and important things in life. The participants far exceeded their fundraising target by raising a staggering £1,147.

We held an end of year celebration to acknowledge the achievements of staff, volunteers and members of our Youth Club. Young people were given recognition through an award ceremony, for all their support over the year. Staff commitment was acknowledged through individual affirmation and young people celebrated the year out with food and drink. The young people who helped to raise funds were offered a provisional place on the next Youth Residential in 2016.

YouTube Links:

Residential: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOz8fVtPOvM>

Fast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sgJije0J5A>

ACTIVITIES

Improving Employability...

We worked towards improving employability by offering volunteering and training opportunities. As a result, we received the support and commitment of 24 volunteers who supported the organisation throughout the year. We provided 6 references for employment.

We provided:

- First Aid training
- Safeguarding & child protection training
- Charity Leadership training for trustees of small charities
- Food Safety training
- Volunteer Management training
- Challenging Behaviour training

On 23rd April 2015 the following 6 volunteers were awarded certificates at a Recognition Event in the Town Hall for their commitment to our organisation:

- Roger Blackham
- Andy Mirror
- Linda Jethwa
- Sue Oudit
- Courtney Oudit
- Daniel Barry



Promoting Community Cohesion...

The Senior Citizens' Project was a one-year project funded by CDF, from Jan 2015 – Dec 2015 to benefit local people aged 55+. Monthly sessions which promoted social interaction and cohesion took place at 2 venues. We were able to collaborate with East Thames Housing Group, which manages St. Mary's House and this led to a Coach Trip in July. Thereafter, an Intergenerational Coach Trip, which was shared by older people and Youth Club members, took place on 24th Aug 2015.

On the 21st December 2015 we held a sit down Christmas lunch party for local Sheltered Housing residents aged 55+ and their carer's. This was a part of the Senior Citizen's Project, which was initially funded by the Community Development Foundation. Over 80 plus people attended and enjoyed a Christmas meal. Guests included the Mayor of London Borough of Waltham Forest, Stella Creasy MP and local Councillors. Young people of our youth club volunteered to serve food as well as interact with the older people. This was an excellent example of intergenerational work which bridged the gap between the young and the old.

ACTIVITIES

Following last year's success, we coordinated the ever popular Village Festival again on 19th September 2015 from 12 to 6pm. The biggest challenge was being able to raise the necessary grant funding to make the event happen. The Festival enabled us to make local connections and build trust with the local business community as well as generating a huge amount of local support. The Festival was a family friendly event packed with music, arts and crafts, street food and attraction for all ages. There was an outdoor stage for musical performance in the Vestry Road Playground with a great line up of artists/bands performing. We hosted an indoor Makers Market within the building with 22 stalls. There were approximately 50 outdoor stalls set up on Orford Road and Vestry Road. The first 22 stalls were offered to local charities and groups for a contribution of £10. The Festival helped to raise the profile of 22 local community groups.



After a year of absence, on 3rd of Oct 2015 we held a Ladies Night Fundraiser, which raised £600. This was another one of our popular events, which attracts a huge amount of local interest. This was a networking and rewarding event for local women, in particular our female volunteers, offering entertainment and a raffle. The event was attended by approximately 75 women. The money was raised for our Youth Services.



YouTube Links:

Christmas Lunch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elbnegHoSvQ>

Festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcbKJYOS0NY>

Promoting Sustainability...

We have undergone a year full of many positive changes and challenges. In April we adopted QuickBooks and invested in a better financial management system. We registered for online banking and also introduced a Card Machine. In July we changed our charity's name and thereafter adopted a new logo. A new website was built, with a conscious effort to develop our marketing and advertising in a manner that would enable greater transparency and accountability of our charity's work.

On 24th of November 2015, a regular user group, Ladies tea afternoon was banned from the Centre after its members were exposed through the Dispatches programme on Channel 4 the night before. The group had been hiring a room on Tuesdays and had been under a 12-month undercover investigation for being linked as ISIS sympathisers. We followed protocol and were quick to get in touch with the council and the police. We were audited by the Council and supported by the local community throughout this difficult time and as a result we were able to minimise the reputational risks that the programme caused.



“

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.

”

- H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

**Instagram:
Walthamstonline**

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2016

	Mar 2016	Mar 2015
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	£18,021	£20,023
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank and in hand	£68,020	£58,716
Debtors	£4,503	£1,529
Grants Due	£0	£8,952
Creditors amount falling due within one year	-£14,194	-£16,241
Net Current Assets	£58,329	£52,956
Total Assets	£76,350	£72,979
Funds		
Restricted Fund	£0	£10,269
Unrestricted Fund	£76,350	£62,710
Total Funds	£76,350	£72,979

Draft. Full accounts will be available on request.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS

Funders

London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF)
Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund)
Community Development Foundation

Supporters

Hoe Street Ward Councillors
Voluntary Action Waltham Forest (Partnership work)
John Larkin
Walthamstow Village Resident's Association (WVRA)
Walthamstow Toy Library
Branches (Homeless Charity)
Sheltered Housing and Pensioner's Association
Walthamstow School for Girls
Petals In Bloom
Hoe Street Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team
Churchill Children's Centre
Turning Point
East Thames Housing Group
Estates 17
Nisa Local
Spar
Eat 17
The East London Sausage Company
Froth and Rind
London Beard Company
Mother's Ruin

A big thank you to all our funders, partners, supporters and volunteers! Without whom, we would not have been able to offer our services.

USER GROUPS

The following groups used our premises on a regular basis to deliver activities during the 2015/16 fiscal year.

Deeper Life Christian Ministry
E17 Designers (arts exhibition)
Fit Steps presented by Jacky Logan (dance based fitness class)
Forest Pathway College (PRU)
Hadri Taekwondo
Ladies Tea Afternoon (weekly discussion group) (contract terminated)
New Apostolic Church
Reiki Project
Sakina Trust (Mosque)
Stella Creasy MP (One to One Surgery)
Walthamstow Village Farmers' Market



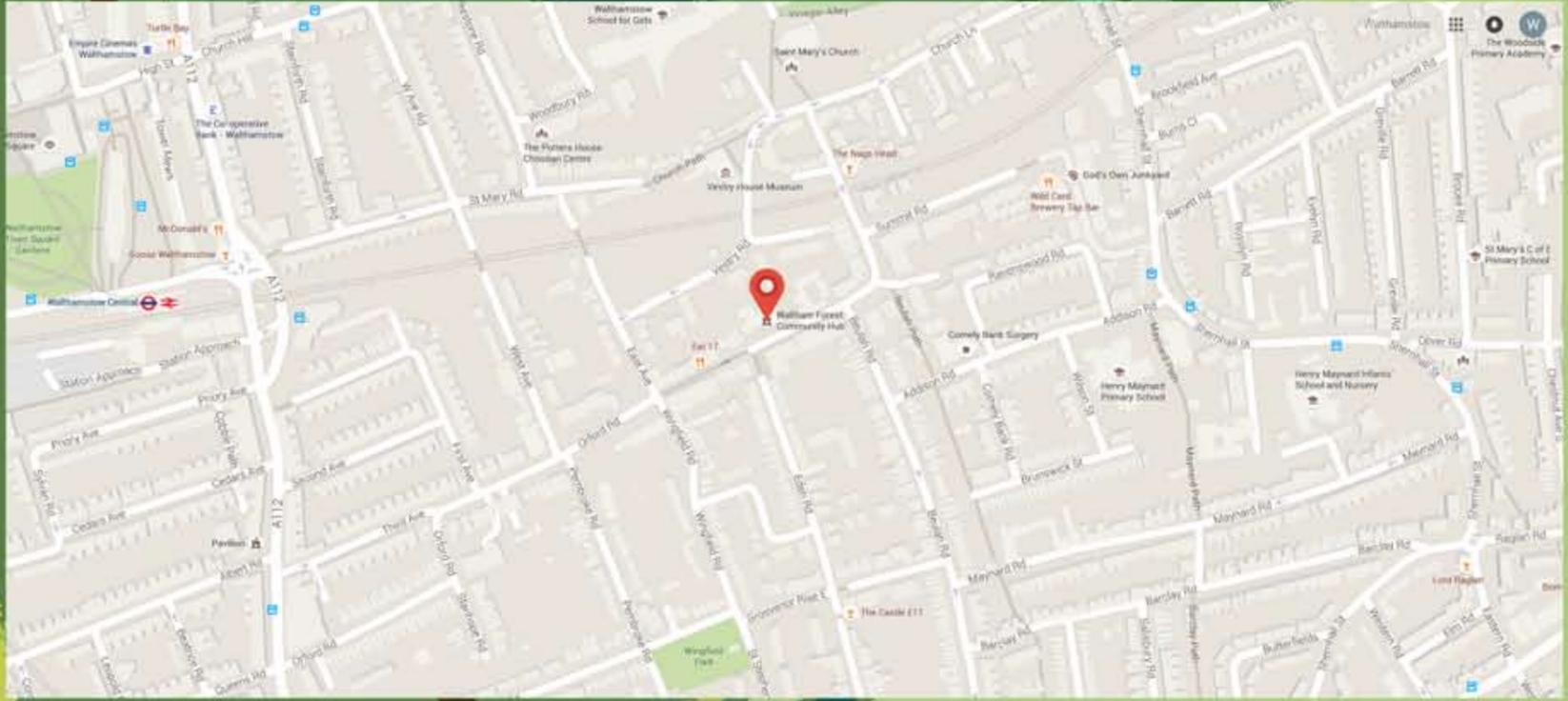
“

If opportunity doesn't
knock, build a door.

”

- Milton Berle

Twitter:
@wfchub



Buses: W12 runs along Orford Road, 58, 69 & 97 stop nearby.

Tube: 5 minute walk from Walthamstow Central.

Waltham Forest Community Hub
Orford Road
Walthamstow
London
E17 9LN

Company No. 5642169.
Registered in England and Wales.

Registered Charity No. 1118523

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