



# Annual Report

for the year ended 31st March 2013

## Mission

The Hornbeam Centre supports and serves vegetarian food which is locally grown, organic and fairly traded, develops local projects focusing on conserving resources and helping people live more sustainably, and provides an affordable space for local groups to meet.

## New projects

Launch of the *Low cost living project* which aims to

- reduce the impact of Waltham Forest's residents on the environment,
- reduce household expenditure,
- engage communities in environmental awareness, and
- increase environmental volunteering, & improve health and wellbeing through environmental activities.

Launch of our *Volunteering project* which matches the needs of individuals with worthwhile environmental volunteering opportunities for a number of local organisations in Waltham Forest and neighbouring boroughs.

Launch of *Green Adventures* which compiles and provides an on-line listing of environmental and outdoor events in Waltham Forest over the next 12 months.

## Other initiatives

- Weekly Thursday evening Curry Club
- Extension of cafe opening hours from 4 to 6 days per week commencing April 2013
- Focussed campaign to attract and retain more volunteers
- Improved centre promotion & marketing,
- Improved room booking system



## Other Activities

- Vegetarian/vegan café open 50 weeks from Weds to Sat.
- Hosted organic fruit and vegetable market stall every Saturday, plus seasonal plant sales.
- Hosted organic fruit & vegetable box scheme delivered to over 100 local households.
- We have supported Transition Walthamstow in promoting awareness of climate change and sustainability through individual and community action.
- Jointly with Forest Recycling Project (FRP) ran seasonal 'Fayres' which featured stalls for sales of arts, crafts and others items by local people, promoted repair and reuse of household items, and encouraged healthy eating



## Events

- Played a substantial role in Apple Day which attracted 1,200 attendees at Vestry House Museum
- Further developed monthly Open Mic evenings which now attract much local talent and a full house
- Hosted 3 E17 Art Trail exhibitions.
- Co-hosted with FRP a number of music events such including 2 Stowfest evenings, and a Jazz flavours evenings, and benefit gigs.
- Hosted 10 baking courses run by the Hornbeam Bakers' Collective
- Hosted many other skillshares & workshops including WWOOFing, sprouting & container salad growing, fermented foods, draughtbusting, cycle maintenance
- Launch of the under 5s Kids kitchen programme

## Throughout the year

- Every Thursday – Knitting & Sewing Group open to all.
- Accessible and affordable meeting facilities available for local groups including Waltham Forest Cycling Campaign, Transition Walthamstow, Bakers Arms Book Group, WF LETS, WF Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, E17 Junior Guitar, Bakers Arms Book Group, Italian Conversations, Green & Labour parties.
- Provides exhibition space for local artists as well as E17 Arts Trail subscribers
- Entertainment evenings including quiz nights, special music events.
- Provided opportunities for volunteers in running the café, serving on the market stall, and providing event & general promotional support.



*Hornbeam works in partnership with  
Forest Recycling Project, Organiclea, HEET and Transition Walthamstow & Transition Leytonstone.*