

MAY

ST. MARGARET'S HOUSE NEWSLETTER & EVENTS LISTINGS



The trees are in bloom, gardens are overflowing with flowers, and the warm weather might really be here to stay. As everyone seems to be out soaking up the sun, we're glad to see so many people enjoying the café terrace and garden on weekends. Our classes are bustling and our calendars are full. We're celebrating the fast approaching summer with our own seasonal events and lots of opportunities to get involved in the St. Margaret's House community. Read on to find out more about what's happening here in the coming months.

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FIRST ANNUAL BETHNAL GREEN FESTIVAL



On 20 June 2015, St. Margaret's House will be hosting the first annual Bethnal Green Beer Festival. Join us in the garden and our large hall between 1 and 8pm on Saturday, 20th June. You can look forward to drinks from a variety of local craft breweries as well as a delicious vegan barbecue served up by The Gallery Café. There will be live music and great entertainment throughout the day. Tickets are £5 in advance and can be purchased from: wegottickets.com

THE GREAT KNITTING TEA PARTY

To celebrate National Volunteers' Week, The Create Place is hosting The Great Knitting Tea Party. Led by art instructor Virginia Hawke, beginners to experienced knitters are invited for a knit and natter with tea. Everybody is welcome at this free event. Just pop into The Create Place at 29 Old Ford Road between 1:30 and 4pm on Tuesday 19th May.



OFFICE AVAILABLE FOR CHARITIES, COMMUNITY GROUPS, AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Did you know that St. Margaret's House is home to more than 30 local organisations? We provide low-cost office space to charities, non-profit groups, and social enterprises who all support the community in their own ways. Our premises are ideally suited for socially minded projects who might want to collaborate with our other users and would enjoy making use of our meeting rooms and café. With our own projects, including the community shops and yoga studio, St. Margaret's House offers a friendly community environment that quickly feels like more than just a work space. We currently have three office spaces available to rent. To inquire about availability or to set up a viewing, please e-mail Sarah at comms@stmargarethouse.org.uk.



MAY UPDATE FROM THE ESTATES



Over the past month, our community organisers have been visiting the estates in Tower Hamlets, listening to residents, and helping them put together projects that benefit the community. In the last month Georgia has been working with a group of volunteers on Saturday afternoons in Middleton Green Park, getting to know the local groups and individuals that use the space, and supporting them to connect around ideas for activities in the area. She ran a workshop for volunteers and local people

at The Create Place which explored stories of community using objects, text and art materials. Everyone brought an item representing something of value to them in the community, which inspired discussion and creation of some artworks. A local group that she has been working with to develop activities also came to the Create Place for a self-led sewing workshop, drawing on the sewing skills of its members. Caitlin has set up a book club on the Aylesbury Estate (if you'd like to join, please e-mail Caitlin.heathcote@corganisers.org.uk). Kim has been working with a group of women on the Digby Greenways Estate to support their attempts in resolving noise and internal repair issues on their block. As usual, the community organisers would like to listen to what you have to say about where you live, and are also looking for volunteers to help them get to know the community. Get in touch at bethnalgreenorganisers@outlook.com

TEACH A WORKSHOP AT THE CREATE PLACE



The Create Place is our arts and craft workshops, where we host craft drop-ins, workshops, after school clubs, and provide low-cost room hire for charities and community organisations. We're always looking for volunteers with a skill to teach. In exchange for your time, we'll provide the space and materials for you to put on the class for free. Whether you have fine art skills you'd like to share, a fun craft you're keen to teach, or another creative idea and you're interested in giving back to the community, please get in touch with Nigel and Roxi at thecreateplace@stmargarethouse.org.uk.

MAY ECO TIP

Don't throw away your raw vegetable waste and grass cuttings. Put them in a compost bin, so that they'll turn into rich, nutritious soil. If you don't have space in your own garden, why not team up with your neighbours and use a communal space? This is a great way to build community and reduce waste at the same time. Just put up a flyer in a local cafe or the entrance of your building to find out who is interested in taking part. You can use the compost for your own growing endeavours, or donate it to a local community garden.

