

DECEMBER

ST. MARGARET'S HOUSE NEWSLETTER & EVENTS LISTINGS



Christmas is just around the corner and at St. Margaret's House we're reflecting on everything we've accomplished in 2015 and making plans to grow throughout 2016. On a practical note, The Gallery Café will be closing at 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. They'll also be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. East London Community classes will be on hiatus from 24 December - 4 January. But even with these closures, there is still a lot going on across our projects in December. Read on to find out more.

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MAKE A CHRISTMAS GIFT AT THE CREATE PLACE



If you're looking for Christmas gift ideas then The Create Place might have just what you're looking for! Make something unique in Jo Faulkner's Hand-printed Homewares workshop or treat your best friend to a Nail Art Workshop in January. I Can Make Dolls' Clothes is hosting a workshop for children aged 7-12 years where they'll make a fabulous Christmas dress for their doll. E-mail roxi@stmargarethouse.org.uk to book a place. Our weekly sewing, beading and craft classes run on a donation basis, so you can make something special on a budget and support a community venture at the same time. Check out our timetable of classes at www.stmargarethouse.org.uk/thecreateplace.

UPDATES ON OUR COMMUNITY HUB PROJECT

St. Margaret's House commissioned local East London artist Jane Laurie to paint a mural on the shutters in front of our fitness studio, The YogaNest (27 Old Ford Road). The painting is part of Jane's ongoing endangered species series, which aims to draw attention to the plight of endangered species from around the world. The clouded leopard featured on our mural is native to South Asia and there are thought to be less than 10,000 living in the wild. We are currently looking into having murals painted on the other shutters along our stretch of Old Ford Road and look forward to these works of art brightening up the community.



EVENTS AT THE GALLERY CAFE

Some fantastic events will be rounding off 2016; the phenomenal guitarist (from the Cinematic Orchestra) Stuart McCallum, writer: Joyce Hampton on the history of Bethnal Green and Simone Spagnolo will be giving what is sure to be a mesmerising classical performance in the Chapel, among many others. We are also currently on the look-out for an enthusiastic volunteer to run our monthly open-mic, every first Monday of the month - food and drink will be provided. Please send applications to George at events@stmargarethouse.org.uk.

ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE

As 2015 draws to a close, we've been reflecting on everything that's happened in our projects throughout 2015. The Gallery Cafe won the Time Out Love London Award for Best Cafe in Bethnal Green for the second year in the row. East London Community Wellbeing transitioned to offering all of their early morning and lunchtime classes by donation. Our social media following has grown to more than 12,000 across our platforms and our Community Organiser, Isabel Mannix, has conducted more than 350 listenings in the community. You can read our 2015 annual report (and the past editions as well) here: <http://www.stmargarethouse.org.uk/annual-reviews>.

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY EXHIBITION

The Gallery Cafe at St Margaret's House is pleased to host painter, curator and social entrepreneur Jane Langley's new show entitled Every Picture Tells a Story. After studying painting at the RCA and teaching at the Byam Shaw and City & Guilds of London Art Schools, Langley has curated exhibitions with The Pattern Lab including exhibitions at the V&A, the Museum of Domestic Design and Architecture and Pitzhanger Manor House and Gallery. She is now the Founder and CEO of Bluepatch.org, Britain's sustainable showcase and a movement to support independent, ethical business. Inspired by child like imagery from 'how to do craft' books, the exhibition presents a series of pigment prints which invite the viewer to invent, imagine and narrate their own story.



FEEDBACK SOUGHT FOR COMMUNITY HUB

St. Margaret's House is looking to create a mixed-use development to the rear of our premises. This will contain a community hub and a range of other possibilities: a performance space; space for artists, social entrepreneurs and start-up opportunities; housing and offices for groups from the third sector. The approved development includes the demolition of two single storey buildings with a redevelopment of the site by the erection of a three-storey building and a roof extension over no.15 Old Ford Road. During December we will be undertaking fabric investigations in number 15 to ensure the roof extension is feasible. We want this project to fill real community needs and have genuine community support. This is the beginning of what will be a large-scale project and we are asking for your comments, advice and encouragement. To find out more email tony@stmargarethouse.org.uk.

YOGA FOR JEDIS

This unique Vinyasa Yoga course is running over three Saturdays in January. Can breath work help you control the Force? Does Chubaka have a favourite Warrior pose? And what does a Ki-Adi-Mundi headstand look like? In three episodes, this course will help you develop or revisit your Vinyasa practice from a fresh perspective: that of Yoda, Luke and even Anakin. With lots of music, quotes (and even possibly outfits!) from the Star Wars saga, each class will offer a really playful and fun experience of Vinyasa. But the course will also invite students to reflect on some of the more profound concepts shared by both Yogic and Jedi traditions, such as the impermanence of the material world, or the need to see beyond our senses by unlocking intuition. Elements of meditation and breath work will be included alongside the physical asana practice. The classes will be designed as Open Level as therefore suitable for Yogis and Jedis of all levels of practice, apart from complete beginners. For more details and to book your spot visit: <http://www.stmargarethouse.org.uk/whats-on/yoga-for-jedis-3-class-series>.

ON THE ESTATES WITH ISABEL

This month community organiser Isabel has been meeting and listening to people from different organisations. A local resident of Globe Town told her that certain issues which effect local residents are not being dealt with. They plan to set up a meeting for residents to come together and talk about what they feel needs addressing and how they can support each other. Isabel has been supporting the resident by helping them find a venue to hold their meeting and ensure they have everything they need for it to go ahead. Isabel has also been supporting a resident from Russia Lane to help them find out how they could bring residents together on their estate and how they could use the resident's hall to its full potential, as it is not being used very often. They would also like to have bingo and dancing events and a monthly car boot sale as they feel these would help residents to get to know each other and have fun at the same time. Isabel is going to be doing some more listenings in the Gallery Café throughout December. And if anyone is interested in doing a listening with her, please pop into cafe and say hello...