

FEBRUARY



February brings new plans for the Create Place, our community shop where we offer free and low-cost workshops and classes, to incorporate a Makers Nest. So we are currently inviting proposals from artists, writers, designers, knitters, sewers, entrepreneurs to name but a few! If you are looking for affordable space to work or to run your own workshop, please email George at roombookings@stmargarethouse.org.uk. We also have updates on the Community Hub so make sure to read the note from our director and drop a line with your suggestions

 facebook.com/stmargarethouse  [@StMargaretsLDN](https://twitter.com/StMargaretsLDN)

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Shagpile are casting off the January Blues and holding their bi-monthly party 'Cut-a-Rug' in The Gallery Cafe; Come down to shag, shimmy and shake your thing, or simply soak up some sweet swing music from this month's guests: Fox and Kavuma!

We also have a great selection of movies for the free Cinema nights on Tuesdays so drop in, grab a bite to eat and then sit back and relax.

PIECE OF CAKE BY BILLY WHEELER

'Piece of Cake' is the recent work of East London based illustrator and animator Jim Billy Wheeler. Admiring themes of simplicity, textures and crisp mark making within his illustrations, Wheeler is inspired by sequences and repetition of imagery. His playful drawings, which present charming qualities of naivety and uniformity, communicate his experimentation with humour and word play.

Influenced by his surrounding and experiential associations, this site specific project sees the artist reflecting on the cafe environment, where he expresses themes of food culture. Playing with rhythms and collections of images, this series brings a witty and immersive food experience to the space.



THE CREATE PLACE



Starting February 3rd we are hosting a super series of **FREE** Graphic Design weekly workshops with Grafik Bites. The first 4 classes in February cover Photoshop: intro, adjusting pictures, retouching people, composing and editing and March is all about Illustrator.

There are only 12 available places each month so make sure to find out more and book your seat on weeklify.com/grafikbites.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

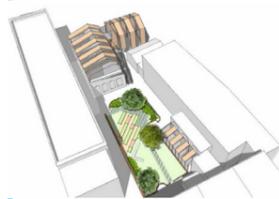
Isabel continues working with the residents in Globe town, and their recent meeting concluded with a plan to expand the area of the project in February in order to enable more voices to be heard!

She is discussing with a local congregation finding solutions to improve community weak points and also plans to be an observer on a series of night 'listensings' conducted by the church so let's see what news she has for us in the next newsletter. Isabel managed to conduct over 475 'listensings' with local residents since the project began in August! If you'd like to do a listening with her, and get a free cup of coffee at The Gallery Cafe while doing so, come and meet her at St. Margaret's House or send an email to isabel@stmargarethouse.org.uk.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2015 we were busier than ever.

- Our **office spaces** available for rent were fully occupied for most of the year and our meeting rooms were rarely empty.
- Our excellent **Café** once again won the Time Out magazine award for **Best Café in Bethnal Green**.
- Our **events programme** was more diverse than ever, with music and spoken word in the café, the chapel and our halls, the Mulberry Rooms.
- **The Create Place**, our community shop, working with local arts and crafts makers now provides a rich mix of classes, workshops and drop-ins.
- Our health and fitness project, **East London Community Well-being**, which includes our new studio, the Yoga nest, offers a wide range of exercise, yoga and dance classes.
- **Ayoka**, our charity shop, has had a thorough makeover and attracts more customers and volunteers than ever and
- Our **Community Organising** project continues development into its second year.



Our plans for 2016 include an exciting new project. St. Margaret's House is looking to create a mixed-use development to the rear of our premises. This will contain a **Community Hub** with a range of possibilities that might include: a performance space; space for artists, social entrepreneurs and

start-up opportunities; housing and offices for groups from the third sector. The planning permission 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 number 15 Old Ford Road.

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. We have already had some very interesting feedback and expressions of interest so we invite you to send your comments, advice and encouragement at tony.hardie@stmargarethouse.org.uk.

The image above by Wayward Studios shows a concept view of part of the proposal. For the full picture go to our website www.stmargarethousehouse.org.uk/communityhub

St. Margaret's House is here to serve the local community. The more support we get the more we can do, so please join in, get involved, let's make a difference.

Tony Hardie
Director, St. Margaret's House