

NOVEMBER
2019

Gm2Lf
a formula for change

BIG
LOCAL
WORKING
FOR YOU.

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Changing Times

WINTER EDITION

Stars Hit the Red Carpet

On Wednesday 23rd October 2019, the Grace Mary to Lion Farm (GM2LF) Big Local held their first ever Red Carpet Awards Event at Oakham Church.



Thank you to everyone that came along and supported the event. With over 100 people there, it was amazing to see such a big turnout.

Well done to the 33 amazing, talented and inspirational stars who received an award.

Awards were given to:

- * Big Local in Bloom Poster Design Competition Winners
- * Big Local in Bloom Garden Winners
- * Big Local Little Voices
- * SMWS Freestyle Karate Members
- * Friends of Rowley Hills
- * St James Primary School and Grace Mary Primary School
- * Kate Cross, GM2LF Big Local



Poster Winners



Garden Winners



We also took the opportunity to wish the National Lottery GM2LF's funder) a Happy 25th Birthday with a mannequin challenge. Check out our Facebook page to see the fun video.

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As part of the event people were able to see the Making Memories exhibition.

Making Memories took place during the summer 2019. 35 pupils from St James and Grace Mary Primary School spent two days working in the Rowley Hills Nature Reserve. They spent time learning about the area's history, sketching and painting the views, as well as comparing and discussing archive photographs of the local landscapes.

For more information visit:

www.livingmemory.live/making-memories



We would like to thank the Living Memory Project, Hannah Boyd, Richard Franks and the Friends of Rowley Hills for making this wonderful project happen.



Big Local Little Voices are Thriving....



Big Local Little Voices (BLLV) recently attended a national Big Local Connects event at Nottingham University to deliver a workshop all about our group and what we have been working on.

Three members of the group represented BLLV at the event, they showcased their video and completed an interactive task amongst the room full of Big Local volunteers from all over the country. The task was to discover what people think affects young people in today's society. The workshop was very successful and has had a lot of positive feedback. The group gave the attendees something to remember them by with a surprise visit from Gracie the Lion who made an appearance to participate in the Floss Dance to finish the workshop.



In other news BLLV have now set up a youth business in Printing funded by GM2LF Big Local. The money raised from sales is to be regenerated into the community to improve our local area.

Please visit the Facebook Page – 'Big Local Little Voices Printing and Merchandise' and support your local youth group with their business.

Big Local Little Voices
Printing & Merchandise

This is a Youth Business set up to raise money to improve the local community.
Funded by Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local.

Any Photo, Message or
Name

Vinyl
Printing

Sublimation
Printing

Email - bllv.gm2lf@gmail.com

@biglocallittlevoices

Biglocal Little Voices Printing & Merchandise

GM2LF Local Trust Big Local COMMUNITY FUND

Wallace Youth Project

Wallace Youth Project, have had a very successful and busy year celebrating 25 years of voluntary youth provision in the heart of the Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local area.



The young people have experienced a weekend on a narrow boat touring the canals, (Wallace Feel the Freedom) learning new skills and building new relationships with their peers.

The young people found this trip to be hard work, but thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This helped the young people to gain independence, trust each other and build good relationships with the voluntary workers involved.

The project was funded by the Community Fund from the National Lottery. The young people would like to say a big thank you to everyone who plays the lottery, if it wasn't for you all, this adventure would not be possible.



With the underspend from the narrow boat experience the Community Fund gave permission for Wallace Youth project to continue the Wallace Feel the Freedom project. All young people who attend youth club at Darley House, Wallace Close on a Tuesday at 5.30pm, had the opportunity to attend West Midlands Safari Park bonfire and fireworks show on Sunday 10th November.



For further information regarding Wallace Youth Project, and all the club has to offer for young people, please contact Tracy Lowe on 07817175998.

Wallace Youth Project



Celebrating 25 Years

Wallace Youth Project, would like to thank all residents that attended the 25th Anniversary Party in the Park at Darley House on the 19th August 2019.

The party was a great success, thank you to GM2LF Big Local, Sandwell Council and The National Lottery Community Fund for all the funding we received to make this party a memorable day.

Thank you also, to the Litter Watch, Oldbury Fire service, PCSO Alan Wiltshire and his colleagues, our neighbourhood Officers Francis, Ian and Alana from Blackheath Neighbourhood Office for attending.

The party had a very special community feeling and brought the whole community together. We really hope everyone enjoyed it, and look forward to the next 25 years of voluntary youth work in the area.



What's on each week in and around our Big Local Area

Monday

Rounds Green Library, 10.30am - 12.30pm .
Colour Yourself Calm. (Adult puzzles & colouring sheets) Mon, Wed & Fridays

Lion Farm Action Centre, 9.30am - 12.30pm
Advancing Card Making session.

Rounds Green Library, 11am - 12.30pm. Basic
IT Courses. Using a computer, sending emails
and the web. To register contact the library.

St James Church, 1-3pm Indoor Carpet bowls.
Take gentle exercise and socialise, open to all
abilities.

Lion Farm Action Centre, 1 pm-3pm Art
Group. Informal art session, paint and relax.

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3:30pm - 5pm. After
School Club. Dance session for 8-12 year olds
(Term time only).

Holy Cross Church, 6pm - 7.30pm Karate (All
ages).

St James Church, 7pm—8.30pm Slimming
World. A friendly group for those that want to
lose weight or feel better about themselves.

Tuesday

Lion Farm Action Centre, 9.30—11.30am Job
Club. Providing support to find employment,
help with CV writing and advice and guidance.

Oakham Evangelical Church, 9:15am Carer
and Toddlers. Pre-school play, make new
friends and Carers get a chance to meet.

Oakham Library, 11.30am - 1.30pm Tividale
Senior Citizens Club. Bingo, raffles, day trips
and refreshments included.

St James Church, 9.30am - 11am Stay and
play toddler group. (Term time only) St
James Church 9am—12pm. Place of Welcome

Lion Farm Action Centre, Lose Fat & Chat –
have a private weigh in, share tips and
achievements.

Lion Farm Action Centre, 1pm- 3pm Over 50s
Club. Scrabble, dominoes and card games.
Includes tea and biscuits.

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3.30pm - 5pm. After
School Club - indoor and outdoor activities
for 8-12 year old (Term time only).

Wallace Youth Club, 5.30pm-7.30pm
8-16 years old. Great opportunities and
activities for young people.

Wednesday

Lion Farm Action Centre, 9.30-11.30am Job
Club. Providing support to find employment,
help with CV writing and advice and guidance.

Rounds Green Library, 10.30am - 12pm
Knit and Natter.
Sandwell Council Housing, 10am – 12pm

Lion Farm Action Centre, 1.30pm—3.30pm.
How to use a computer and stay safe online'.
Online computer training (Age 16+).

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3.30pm—5pm. After
School Club - indoor and outdoor activities
for 8-12 year old (Term time only).

Oakham Library - My time Active, Sandwell
Healthy Lifestyle Services, Want to lose
weight? Be more active. Every Wednesday .

Holy Cross Church, 5.45pm - 6.45pm Rainbow
Guides.

Holy Cross Church, 6pm - 7.30pm Brownie
Guides.

St James Church, 6 pm- 7.30pm Tividale
Shotokan Karate Club (Age 5+). Also held on a
Friday 6-7.30pm.

Thursday

Lion Farm Action Centre, 9.30-11.30am Job
Club. Providing support to find employment,
help with CV writing and advice and guidance.

Oakham Evangelical Church, 10.30am. TLC
Club for senior citizens, meet up, chat and
take part in activities. Just £3.50 which
includes lunch.

Holy Cross Church, 9.30am - 11am Tots & Co,
Parent and Toddlers group.

Lion Farm Action Centre 11:30am-1:30pm.
How to use a computer and stay safe online'.
Online computer training (Age 16+).

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3.30pm—5pm. After
School Club - indoor and outdoor activities
for 8-12 year old (Term time only).

Portway Lifestyle Centre, 7pm-8pm Karate for
beginners.

Portway Lifestyle Centre, 8pm - 9pm Karate
for those aged 18 plus unless accompanied by
an adult

St James Church, 7-9pm RE:Act Youth Club.
Offering a range of craft, sports and a place
relax and meet up with friends.

Friday

Lion Farm Action Centre, 9.30-11.30am Job
Club. Providing support to find employment,
help with CV writing and advice and guidance.

Holy Cross Church, 8.30am - 9.30am
Tea and Toast.. 12pm - 1.30pm. Free lunch at
"Fathers Kitchen". 2.30pm. Mass – short
simple said service.

Lion Farm Action Centre, Community Garden
open Mon - Fri, 10am—2pm. Restrictions
apply during school holidays.

Rounds Green Library, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Friday Coffee Club. Social meeting, plenty of
chat, laughs with tea & biscuits.

Holy Cross Church, 10am - 12pm IT centre
open, free online courses. 1.30pm Bingo.
2.30pm Cards and Dominos.

Lion Farm Action Centre 1:30pm-3:30pm
Craft group. Try your hand at something a
little crafty-includes card making.

Lion Farm Action Centre, 3:30pm - 5pm. After
School Club. Dance session for 8-12 year olds
(Term time only).

Oakham Evangelical Church, 7pm Friday Youth
Club. Activities and chance to meet friends.
For young people aged 11 plus.

Saturday

Rounds Green Library, 10-11am
Councillor Surgeries Bring your ideas
and concerns to your local councillors

Portway lifestyle Centre, 10.30-
2:30pm Eminence Dance Works
Creative Dance Group for all

Oakham Library, 10:30-12pm
Breakfast Club for Children 8 and
over. Free Toast and drinks

Portway lifestyle Centre, 9.15am
Body Pump

Rounds Green Library, 11am -
11:45am Colouring and Craft Club
Colouring sheets and puzzles

Holy Cross Church, 1pm - 2pm,
Freestyle Karate Sessions

Sunday

Oakham Evangelical Church,
10am Communion Service a time to
stop, reflect and refresh
6:00pm Evening Family Celebration,
A lively family friendly service.

St James CofE Church, 10-11am
Morning Worship and Sunday
School. A friendly traditional church,
sharing God's love to all.

Holy Cross CofE Church,
4pm Sunday Mass. A friendly group
meeting for relaxed worship and
prayer. Chat and cuppa afterwards.

Newbury Lane Methodist Church,
10:45am Morning Service and
Junior Church
6pm Sunday Evening Service

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Holy Cross Church	01384 257888
Lion Farm Action Centre	0121 544 3094
Newbury Lane Methodist Church	0121 552 2145
My Time Active (At Oakham Library)	0121 366 0966/0800 011 4656
Portway Lifestyle Centre	0300 012 0121
Oakham Evangelical Church	01384 859012
Oakham Library	01384 255563
Rounds Green Library	0121 552 2879
St James Church	0121 552 5491
Wallace Youth Club	07817 175998

**If you would like to submit an article for inclusion on the website or in this newsletter
please email Helen Trueman: helen.gm2lf@outlook.com**

Mention of products or services in this newsletter should not be construed as an endorsement or recommendation by the GM2LF Big Local Partnership.

A Safer, Cleaner Community

Dump Your Junk 2019

Working in Partnership with Tipton Litter Watch, GM2LF Big Local organised 4 Dump Your Junk events across the Big Local area in August

A Big Local thank you to everyone who took part and helped to fill 4 skips and collect over 60 bags of rubbish.

The 88 people who got involved have been given free coach travel and free entry tickets to Winter Wonderland in Telford on 1st December 2019.

Thank you to Litter Watch and the amazing team of dedicated volunteers. We would also like to say thank you to Sandwell Council's Neighbourhood Team - Rowley who helped out and supported with the litter picks.



Work in Schools to Combat Youth Violence, Knife Crime and Support to Stay Safe



During September and October, the GM2LF Big Local Partnership worked with Loudmouth Education & Training to deliver their theatre in education programmes on safeguarding to nearly 300 children in the three schools across the area, Grace Mary, St James and Oakham Primary School.

Loudmouth ran two programmes:

- Helping Hands on staying safe, including work around grooming, domestic abuse and the NSPCC PANTS rule.
- Youth Violence Assemblies on Knife Crime

The team at Loudmouth delivered the sessions by using drama and discussions as a safe and engaging way to support children in learning about safe contact with others and explore youth violence with a particular focus on knife crime and county lines. The aim is to raise awareness, support and safeguard children from an early age.

For more information about Loudmouth and their other programmes, which are available all year round, visit: www.loudmouth.co.uk



What's Happening in Lion Farm...



BBC Children In Need fund Lion Farm Action Centre to support local children.

Lion Farm Action Centre has secured funding for another three years to support children aged 8-12 years.

The funding commenced from September this year and will continue until July 2022.

Most of the children who will benefit from the project are pupils at St James' C of E Primary school. The project delivers a free of charge After School Club five days a week during term time including dance sessions on Mondays and Fridays and also includes a free collection service from St James' School.

This funding has enabled LFAC to extend its session times and the number of children supported.

If you would like more information please contact Sharon Offley on 0121 544 3094 or email Sharon.lfac@yahoo.co.uk



Lion Farm Action Centre has joined up with the FareShare scheme to distribute surplus food from supermarkets in the community.

Each week LFAC collects surplus grocery and bakery items from ASDA, Oldbury and TESCO Express, Rowley Village to give away to local residents.

The aim of the scheme is that surplus food is used in the community rather than going into landfill sites while at the same time helping local people.

Collections from ASDA are each Monday afternoon and collections from Tesco Express are each Wednesday morning.

Food can be collected from The Vicarage at St James Church, Shelsley Avenue, B69 1BG.

For more information, please contact Kate Cross on 0121 544 3094 or email lionfarmactioncentre@yahoo.co.uk



Free Martial Arts Classes At Holy Cross

Funded by the GM2LF Big Local, SMWS Freestyle Karate meets every Saturday 1pm - 2pm at Holy Cross Church, Ashleigh Road, Tividale, B69 1LL.

The group offers free lessons and is open to all ages and abilities. Sessions are delivered in a fun, engaging and safe environment by very experienced and skilled coaches.

For more information please contact Stephen Miller on 07557 524647.

Facebook: Stephen Miller (smws freestyle)



Win £25 - Tell Us What Matters

The Grace Mary to Lion Farm (GM2LF) Big Local is about making the area an even better place to live.



The GM2LF Big Local has National Lottery funding for another 5 years, however we want to continue GM2LF beyond the 5 years and for the foreseeable future. Local Trust Big Local

To help us do this we need your help! Please tell us what you would like to see happening in the area and what matters the most to you. This information will then support the focus of the GM2LF Big Local for the next 5 years.

PLACE A TICK BY THE 5 PRIORITIES WHICH MATTER THE MOST TO YOU

Strengthening the Community

1. Enhance churches as community hubs
2. Improve community safety (work with the police, fire service etc)
3. Strengthen and sustain new and existing activities
4. Improve networks of organisations and increase partnership working

Bringing the Community together

5. Find and develop a central resource and community hub to improve support for people
6. Increase the physical signs of Big Local (e.g. outdoor spaces, community spaces and play areas)
7. Enhance the community spirit, where neighbours look out and care for one another
8. Increase opportunities for the community to come together and actively participate in GM2LF

Investing in the Future Generations

9. Work with children and young people to increase their confidence and skills to shape their own community
10. Increase the support and training for volunteers to care for the area
11. Improve the development of community leaders as role models

Communications

12. Improve communications so people know what is happening (e.g. the newsletter)
13. Make sure organisations continue to listen to, and work with local people

Please return your questionnaire by Friday 20th December 2019 to Helen Trueman, by post: LFAC, The Vicarage, Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury B69 1BG. Or by quoting the 5 numbers via email: helen.gm2lf@outlook.com, or telephone: 07724 584241

Your name _____

Postcode _____

Tel number _____

The winner will be drawn randomly and contacted early January 2020.

Contact GM2LF Big Local



Visit our website: www.gm2lf.org Like us on Facebook: Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local (GM2LF) Follow us on Twitter: @GM2LF_Official

General Enquiries

Helen Trueman, Email: helen.gm2lf@outlook.com Tel: 07724 5842411 Post: Lion Farm Action Centre, The Vicarage, Shelsley Avenue, Oldbury, B69 1BG .

Money Matters Support

Natalie Harris, Financial Engagement Worker, Tel: 07894 465112 Email natalie.gm2lf@outlook.com