

## The Mill Needs You!

The Mill, open 6 days a week, is a community space run for, and by, the community. The Mill offers an honesty library, children's activity room, tea and coffee facilities, meeting spaces and community noticeboards. We rely on volunteers to make our drop-in community centre a success. Volunteers manage the reception desk and ensure our services are accessible to the local community. The Volunteer Team is responsible for running a varied programme of community art activities and events, updating our website and social media, fundraising, and running activity groups from English Language Conversations to Chess, and from Knitting to Community Breakfasts and Quizzes. The Volunteer Team are the heart and the soul of The Mill – they make it what it is – a vital community resource. The Mill was founded by local people coming together to make something happen, and our Volunteer Team continues this mission. Hundreds of people help out at The Mill every month, and there are many ways to get involved as a volunteer. Whether you can spare 2 hours a month or 20 hours a week, or anywhere in between, we want to hear from you. Spring into action this season and join our Volunteer Team! You could help out at events, become an Ace Receptionist, get crafty with our art club, join The Mill Bakers, or get green-fingered in the garden. As The Mill is an independent charity, in addition to relying on volunteers, we need to fundraise to ensure our building stays open (and warm and dry!), that our volunteers have appropriate training and support, and that we can provide the activities and resources that the local community wants. Please consider becoming a Friend of The Mill and donating from £10 a year to help us meet our fundraising targets. Visit our website for more information.

## A New Sign For The Mill

Sam Kennedy, designer and fabricator currently based at Blackhorse Workshop E17, created and installed new outdoor signage for The Mill in mid-January 2015. After meeting Mo Gallacio [former Trustee and current Artworks Manager at The Mill] and having a tour of the space, Sam felt that The Mill “was a supportive, welcoming and above all, friendly place.” In conceptualising a new design, Sam drew inspiration from The Mill's existing struts of wood that make up the façade, and used strips of wood to create an image of an awning to represent shelter and The Mill's distinctive welcoming atmosphere. As soon as the final design was agreed, Sam hired scaffolding and got to work, along with his wife Aiko and friend Robbie. The metal letters of the sign were laser-cut from aluminium, with a black steel surround and the light box was fabricated especially. “First we painted - with fingers crossed for no rain - then hung the rest of the façade,” Sam explained. “I enjoyed working with everyone at The Mill. It felt like I was able to contribute something to the space. It felt good to make something public - for, and with, the local community,” he said. He's now thinking of joining The Mill's chess club on Sundays.



## Ward Funding

The Mill is grateful to have been awarded more ward forum funding this year for community projects. Both High Street and Markhouse Wards will provide funding to the Asian Women's Support Group that takes place weekly at The Mill. High Street Ward also plan to fund ESOL at The Mill through ELATT, and Markhouse Ward will fund a monthly Community Radio Group that will make and distribute programmes, and new noticeboards. Hoe Street Ward is funding

local professionals to host a series of video training workshops at The Mill, and create a film about the 'Walthamstow Village in Bloom' project. In the past, ward forum funds paid for The Mill's first heating, and have supported several different activities and groups. We are very grateful for this support and recommend more residents contact their ward councillors with suggestions for future projects.