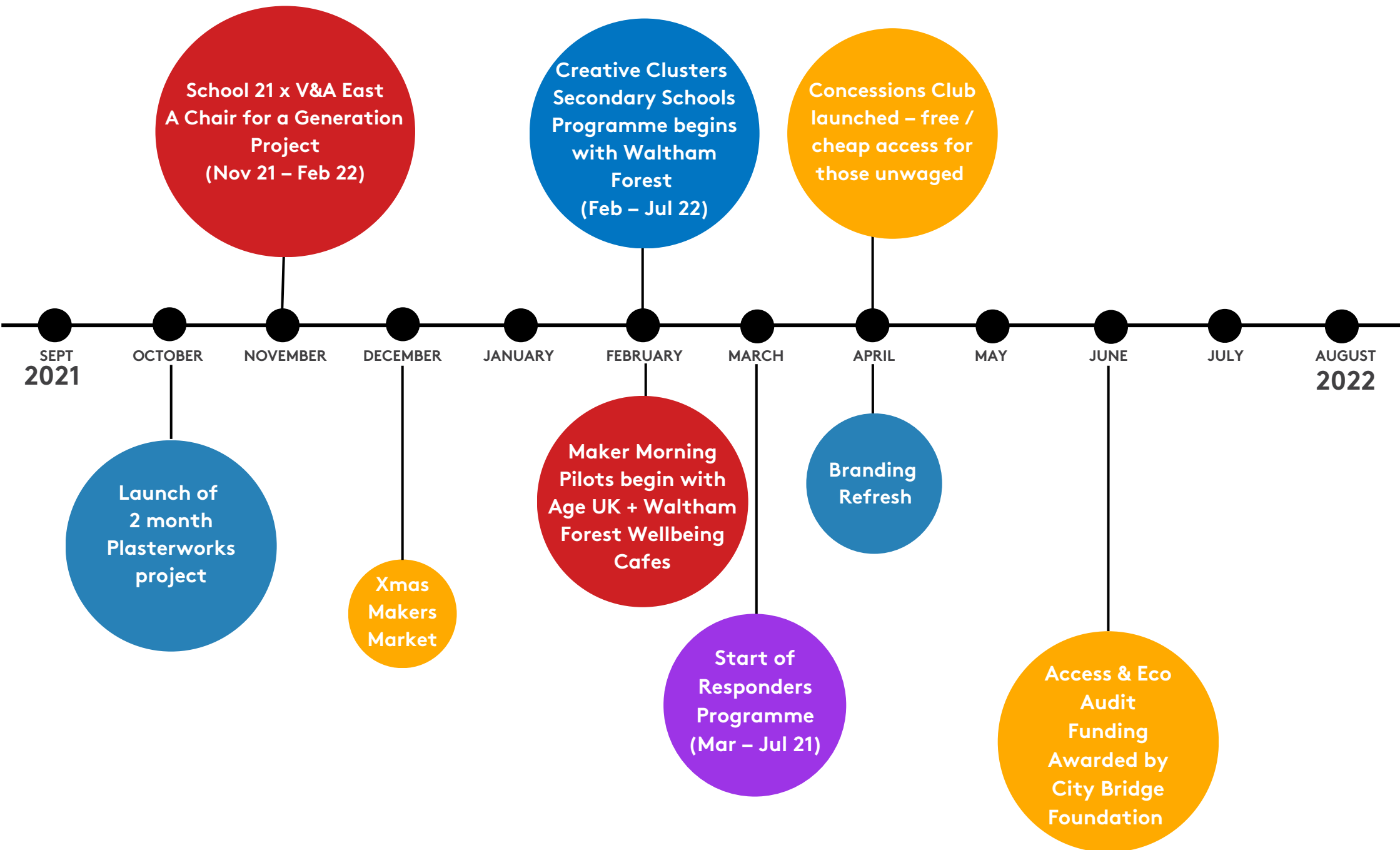


A DECADE ON 2021 - 2024

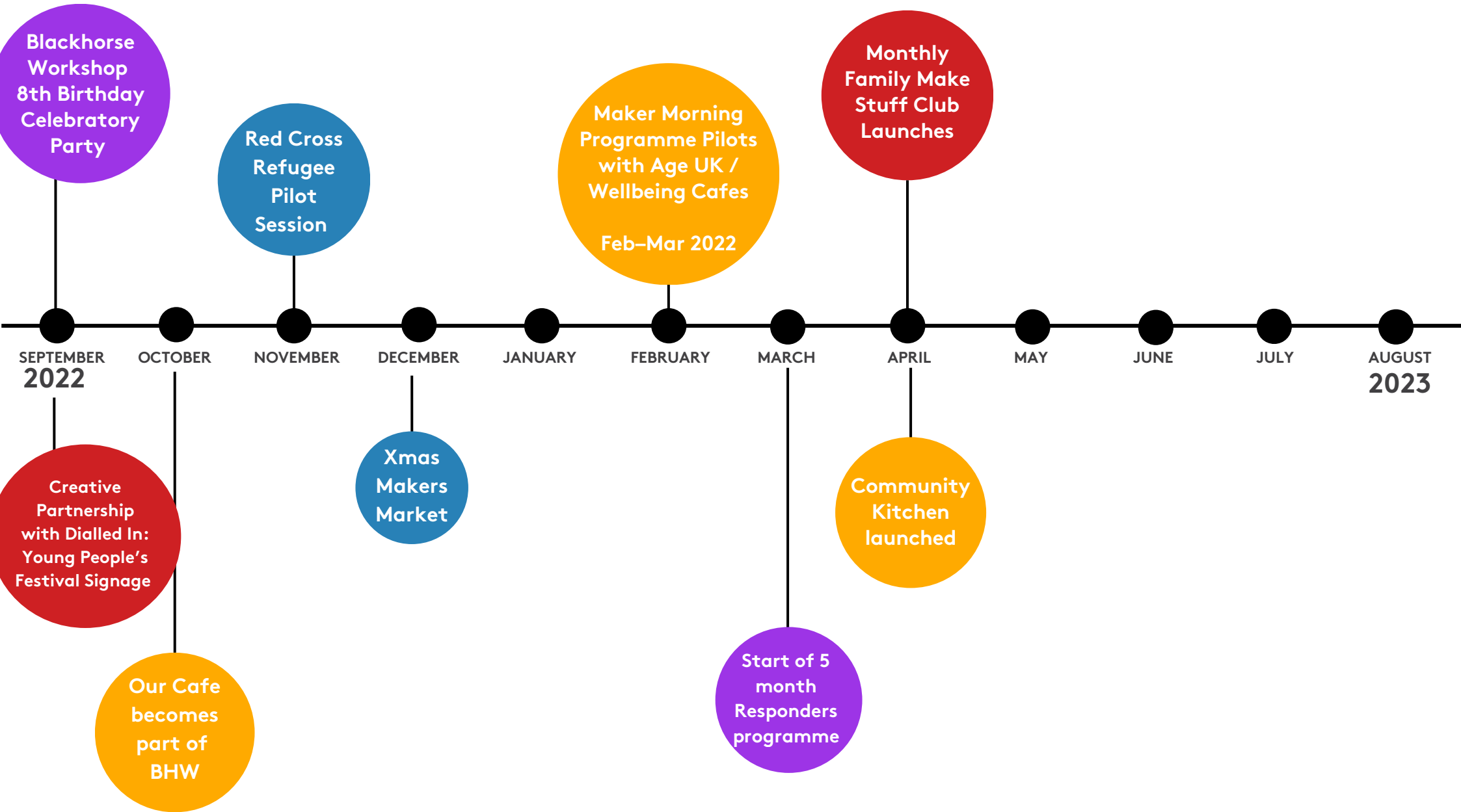


5 YEAR IMPACT REPORT

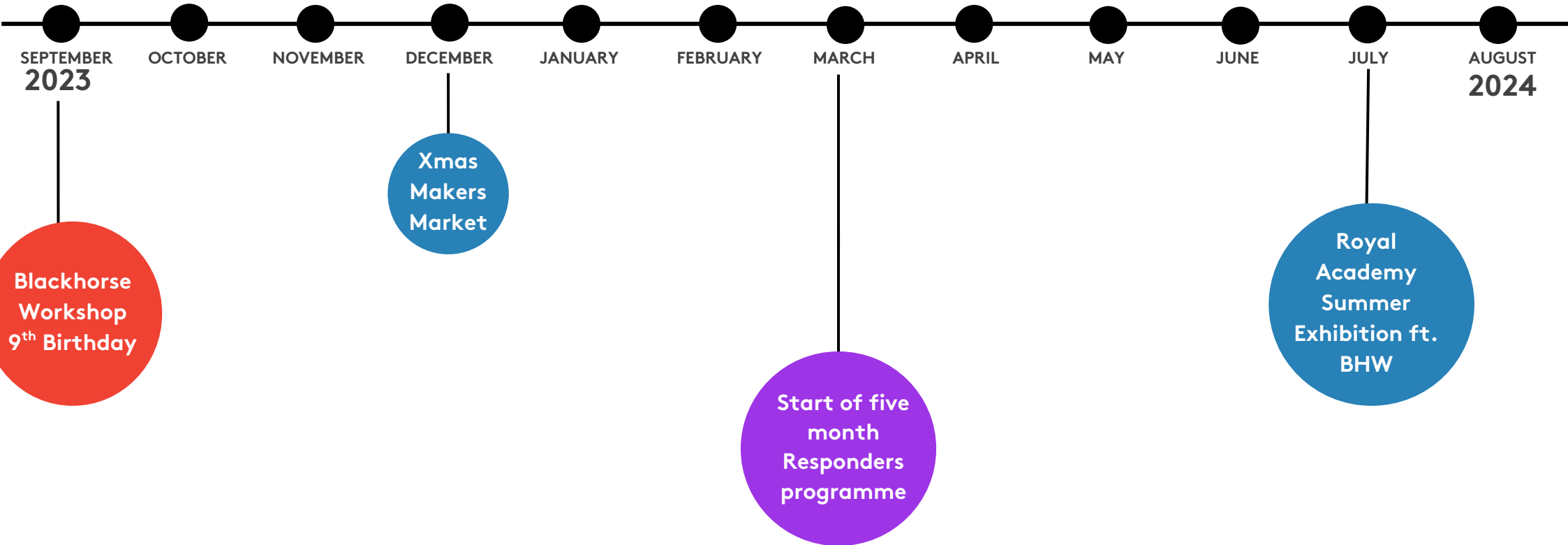
2021-22 ACTIVITY TIMELINE



2022-23 ACTIVITY TIMELINE



2023-24 ACTIVITY TIMELINE



'Ten Years of
Making It
Together 10th
Birthday
Showcase
Exhibition and
Party

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

Community
Kitchen
returns

DECEMBER
2024

New leadership
– Harriet
Warden and
leave after 10
years; Jo Clarke
joins as Director

Xmas
Makers
Market

2024 ACTIVITY TIMELINE



1. Supporting people to make a living doing what they love

BYRON CLARKE

Providing local, affordable workspaces



When and what inspired you to start your own business?

I grew up on a farm, making stuff, constantly tinkering and building stuff fixing things; and generally being very hands on. That manifested into studying furniture design at university – and then from there I fell in love with chairs. I thought ‘these are fun, let's make more of them!’ and that’s gradually snowballed into doing a Masters and then establishing a practice.

How did you discover Blackhorse Workshop?

It was through a friend. Because I was doing a Masters in Kings Cross and the facilities were pretty bad, hard to access and so many things I was trying to do were met with ‘NO’. So, I needed to find somewhere I could make stuff. And a friend who had used Blackhorse Workshop recommended it – I ended up working on my first big commission out of university here.

What is important to you about Blackhorse Workshop? And what does it give you?

It gives me access to a wood shop and metal shop – and everything that comes with that. It’s really affordable and accessible, given how expensive life is in London. And it’s effectively allowed me to do this without having to invest thousands of pounds on machinery and space – that burden has been taken away. There’s a really cool community of people doing really fun stuff, which is really inspiring. Lots of information and knowledge sharing between makers is a massive thing that’s really great about this space.

1. Supporting people to make a living doing what they love

Providing professional and creative opportunities

Sum of Its Parts – Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2024

In 2024 we were selected for the world-famous Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Held every year since 1769, the Summer Exhibition displays works in a variety of mediums and genres by emerging and established artists.

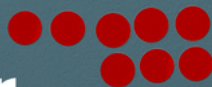
Our collaborative piece was titled Sum of Its Parts. The artwork was comprised of a welded mesh frame, adorned with an assemblage of artefacts provided by the many individual makers, visitors and staff that access our space, who contribute to the evolving community that can be found here at Blackhorse Workshop. The sculpture responded to the provocation of 'Spaces for Making' and was exhibited in the RA's Architecture Rooms between 18 June to Sunday 18 August 2024.

The artwork was continually 'in progress' in the run-up to the exhibition, with material objects adorning the frame via cords, hooks and appendages. These talismen were contributed for a material archive, creating a totemic object that evoked the rich patchwork of individuals, and a gathering of things and people. The collaborative work and process acted as a metaphor for both the building of a public space and the community that is found here at Blackhorse Workshop.

“I can officially
say my work has
now been
exhibited at the
Royal Academy
of Arts.



Summer
Exhibition
2024



How can we ensure creative opportunities and careers are open to all?

Improving accessibility of the Workshop

Making it easier to get started with making

Working with local young people

Developing Projects with local partners

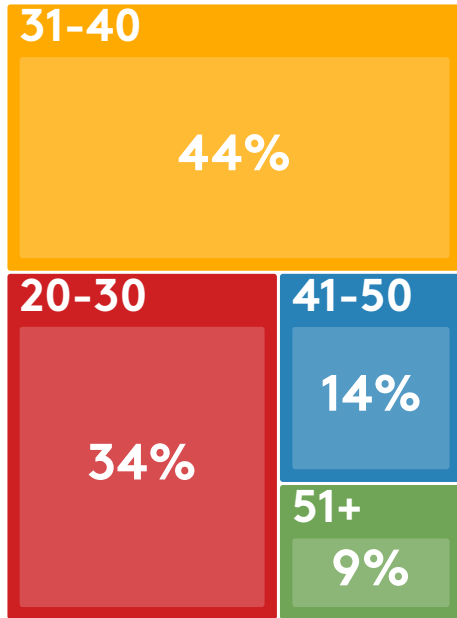


2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

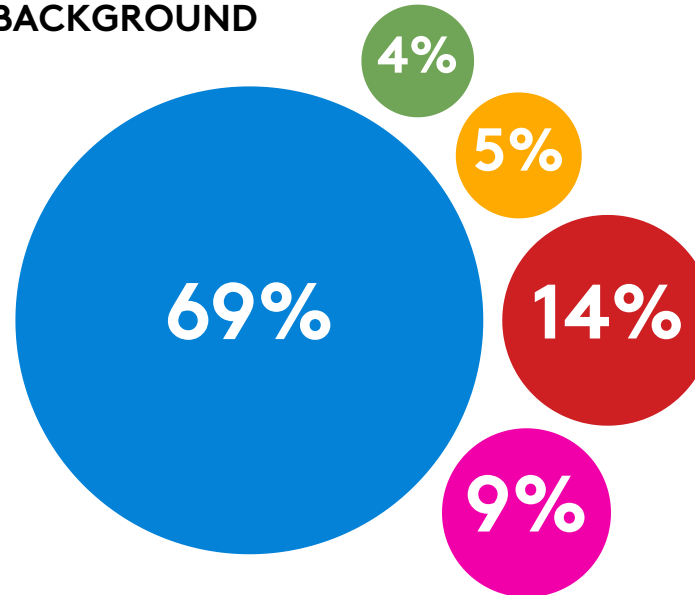
COURSE ATTENDEES

Looking at who uses the Workshop

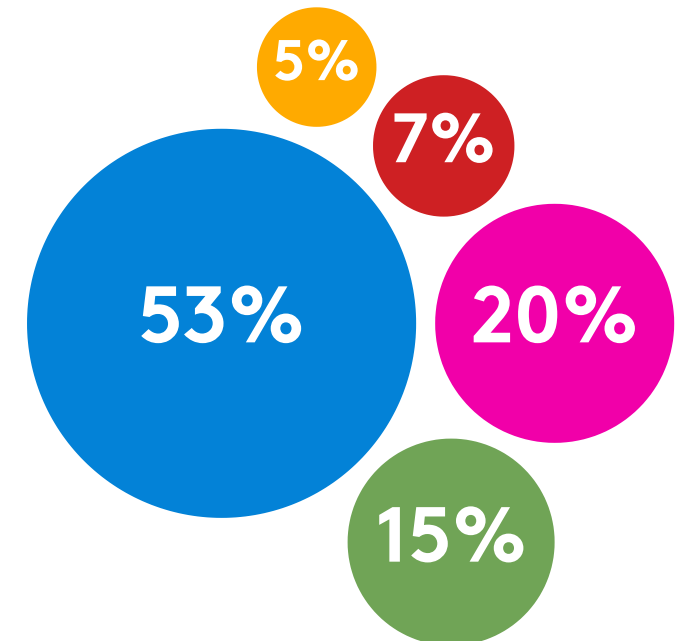
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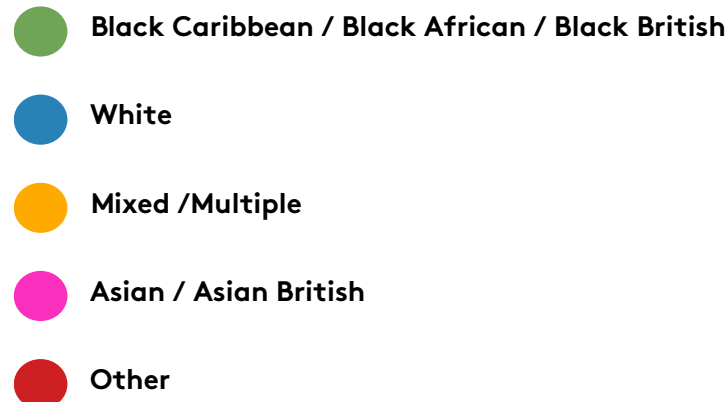
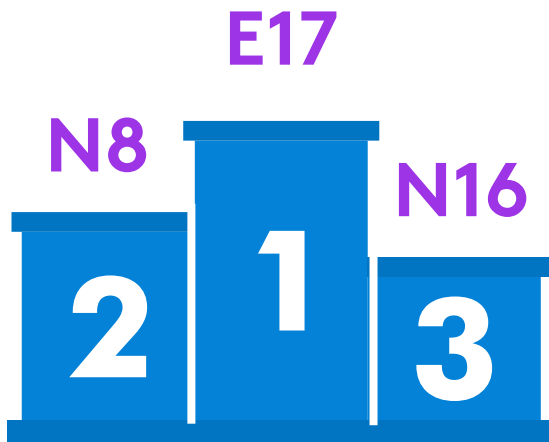
ETHNIC BACKGROUND



ETHNIC BACKGROUND WALTHAM FOREST RESIDENTS



TOP 3 POSTCODES



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Improving accessibility

In May 2022, the CAE (Centre for Accessible Environments) carried out an audit on the accessibility of the Workshop which highlighted a number of key recommendations:

- provide height adjustable workbenches
- install hearing enhancement systems where needed
- conduct a feasibility study to install lift to first floor
- provide disability awareness training for all staff



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Making it easier to get started with making

CREATIVE CAREERS PROGRAMME

Over the last couple of years, we have started hosting regular work placements and running creative careers sessions for teenagers, providing demonstrations and the chance to weld. As part of these sessions, we tour the Workshop and share routes into creative careers, signposting opportunities for apprenticeships and training.

V&A EAST x SCHOOL 21 COLLABORATION NOVEMBER 2021 – FEBRUARY 2022

Ten students from School 21 in Stratford spent half a day a week over three months at Blackhorse Workshop as part of their Real-World Learning Programme. Collaborating with the V&A East team, the young people were asked to create an object that responds to their vast collection of furniture. The resulting piece will be displayed in the new V&A East Storehouse, within plans to make the museum's collection more accessible to the public.



“

I'd definitely recommend people to do work experience at Blackhorse Workshop. I will also mention this lovely workspace to every and anyone at any chance I get.

”

HOLMEWOOD SCHOOL

Creative careers sessions for 30 of their sixth form students

BIG CREATIVE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Since the start of the year we have been working with Big Creative Education to deliver three-day Work Experience placements every other month. So far we have hosted four student placements.

“

Best part of Work Experience at Blackhorse Workshop?

Working in an environment that is easy going yet productive alongside amazing members of staff.

”

CREATIVE CLUSTERS, WALTHAM FOREST

This is a six-month pilot working with eight local schools in Waltham Forest to bring students to gain real life experience in Blackhorse Workshop, to offer them an insight into the possibilities of working in the Creative industries.

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Making it easier to get started with making

INTRODUCING MAKING

Our mission to help people get started with making continues – we looked at the gap between people attending inductions and their likelihood of booking a bench and realised that the jump to independent working was perhaps too big a step. So we developed Supported Sessions, where a Technician is on hand in Woodwork, Metalwork and Woodturning to offer advice and guidance for people who have done a bit of learning and want to practice and develop their skills. We also reviewed our taught courses structure, and in September 2023 we introduced a clearer way of defining our classes:



Health & Safety inductions

Everyone must complete an induction before using the Workshop independently, to meet health and safety requirements.

'Intro to...' courses:

A starting point to learning about tools and machinery and developing skills. These usually involve making a specific product. Suitable for complete beginners.

Projects courses:

Practicing skills covered on the Introductions through making products. Whilst these courses can be taken by complete beginners, we recommend the introductory courses first.

Masterclasses:

these develop specialist skills and techniques, and usually don't involve making a specific product.



Turning stats 2022 to 2024

HOURS OF LATHE BOOKINGS	3,600
HOURS OF SUPPORT	2,064
COURSE ATTENDEES	220

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

BLACKHORSE RESPONDERS: MARCH-AUGUST, 2022-ONGOING

**BLACKHORSE
RESPONDERS**
MAKE - MESSAGE - MOBILISE



Blackhorse Responders is an award-winning creative activism programme for 16-25 year old makers. Created to explore the use of design to transform attitudes and give young people a voice to speak out and engage others creatively about the issues they care about.



BLACKHORSE RESPONDERS PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

STRUCTURE	AIMS	HOW WE ACHIEVE IT
MESSAGE Exploring ways to creatively engage with and challenge opinion	To understand the importance of being an active citizen, and recognise their potential to enact change To provide increased exposure to, and awareness of, creative ambition	Inspirational guest speakers and offsite trips explore and develop individual passions, demonstrating the practical activation of ideas and how to campaign for change. Workshops and creative sessions introducing practical fabrication skills
MAKE Equips Responders with the tools and skills to start bringing their ideas to life through making	To develop a creative mindset To develop skills needed to work with others	With the support of guest creatives, ideas are discussed, prototyped and realised with support from Blackhorse Workshop technicians The Responders form collectives around emerging themes, developing and making their projects in a group
MOBILISE Seeks out opportunities for engagement with different local and creative partners –a chance to take ideas and present them in a public context	To be able to confidentially communicate, defend and support their ideas To increase a sense of community through networking and building relationships	Blackhorse Workshop facilitates opportunities for the Responders to showcase their work in different spaces, encouraging public engagement and debate around their chosen topics. Actions occur within the community at local events

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

BLACKHORSE RESPONDERS: MARCH – AUGUST, 2022–ONGOING

Our Responders programme starts with a 'Message' section, exploring ways to creatively engage and challenge opinion. Inspirational guest speakers and offsite trips explore and develop individual passions, demonstrating the practical activation of ideas and how to campaign for change.

The programme encourages the investigation and exploration of issues in our local community whilst building the skills in how to communicate a message with the public.



“

One of the most surprising things to the young people, in their experience participating in the public engagement moments, were that 'people actually like our ideas and found it fun to get involved'. Through this process they learnt that 'people in our community have really interesting ideas and opinions' and 'how amazing is it to create something with the public'.

”

19 x weekly sessions
13 x local young people
7 x Saturday trips



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

BLACKHORSE RESPONDERS (CONTINUED)

Confidence in communicating ideas was strengthened through hosting conversations and exhibiting creative work at the Artillery Arts Mile Long Street Part in Walthamstow Central.

In August 2022, V&A invited Blackhorse Responders to showcase their final pieces as part of their 'Friday Late: Transformation Station' for London Design Festival. This was another great opportunity to explore creative interaction.

Throughout the programme the group participated in a number of 'public moments', from performing spoken word pieces in Stoneydown Park's Speakers Corner, working with Artillery Arts to host a stall at their Mile Long Street Party in central Walthamstow, and culminating in a showcase event at Walthamstow Pride. These public moments gave the young people the opportunity to engage in issues they care about and creating meaningful connections.

“

It has helped me come out of my shell, socially, and explore my creativity and share my ideas and beliefs in a safe space.

”

Guest Workshops & Visits:

Rabbits Road Press: Risograph Painting
PenTing Poetry: Spoken Word
Olivia Twist: Illustration
Cheer Up Love: Photography
Kay Rufai: Social Engagement
Bold Tendencies: Creative Venue
Hannah Davey: Greenpeace
Sam Griffic: Prototyping

“

My role in my local community has changed; I feel like I'm researching more and finding solutions for issues around my area that can be changed or I have already witnessed as a local.

”



WALTHAM FOREST PRIDE

Young people spent the day engaging hundreds of people with their work, whether that was adding their thoughts to the gender utopia book or making their own pronoun necklaces from metal punch blocks. They networked directly with their local community, gaining contacts and connections in different areas of the creative industries and diverse local organisations.



2.Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

BLACKHORSE RESPONDERS CONTINUED

The “Make” section of the programme explores an array of different approaches; from making placards exhibited at Wiggle Wonderland’s installation for London Festival of Architecture, to taking Domestic Data Streamers inspired pieces to the public at Walthamstow’s Mile Long Street Party



[Link to full report](#)

2023 Group: Gender
(self-described):
Male he/him 6
Female she/her 7
Non-binary or
Transgender they/them 3

2023 Group Ethnicity
(self-described):
White British 4
European/White Other 5
Bi-Racial/Mixed heritage 4
Black British 2
Asian British 1

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all Working with local young people

BLACKHORSE RESPONDERS CONTINUED

Knowing the strengths of Walthamstow and the surrounding area, we were able to develop new partnerships with Waltham Forest's youth and community services, such as joining their Cultural Education Partnership network, and working closely with their community events team to offer participants a range of additional employment and creative opportunities – such as set design with the South Asian Music festival DialedIn. We now offer a weekly round up of local programmes, jobs and traineeships to share with the young people.

Through building on relationships with local schools and youth networks, we have been able to recruit more widely and build awareness of the Responders programme amongst young people.

One of the Responders participants has been employed to support our Makernoons programme for isolated local residents at the Workshop, has joined the Youth Board of Material Witnesses Exhibition at St Mary's Walthamstow, and has been employed by the V&A Childhood Museum. Others have made higher education choices shaped by conversations and workshops on the programme including studying Politics and Set Design



Over 50% of the young people have gone on to actively participate in community projects, youth boards and local employability programmes

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

ACTIVATORS

Co-founded with the 2022 Responders cohort, Activators is a follow-on programme for anyone who has previously taken part in our Blackhorse Responders programme. These monthly sessions seek out new opportunities to present work, develop ideas, grow networks and connections and develop skills in the workshop. We help to develop creative confidence, navigate towards fulfilling your ambitions, and look at ways to get started on that journey. This is an opportunity to work independently or join forces with others to challenge perceptions, change attitudes and create a positive community.



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



Our creative weekly after school making sessions for 9–11-year-olds (9–13 year olds for SEN sessions) follow a hands-on curriculum focusing on learning to use tools; and developing skills and confidence by making small projects using hand tools from clocks to marble games. Our termly SEN After School Club has a smaller group size and trained SEN facilitator.

“

The course gives children the ability to believe in themselves and achieve goals through developing practical skills. The tutor is also lovely.”

— Parent of Make Stuff Club Participant

”

“

It’s a new skill for her, and it was great to try something with an element of “danger” to it. Sometimes SEN kids get mollycoddled, so it’s extremely refreshing to be in a place where they are presumed competent!!

— Parent of Make Stuff Club
SEN Participant

”



**MAKE STUFF CLUB: MONDAYS 4-5PM &
SEN MAKE STUFF CLUB THURSDAYS 4-5PM
10 YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 9-11 OR 9-13 WORK ON WEEKLY AND LONGER
TERM PROJECTS**

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Working with local young people

WEEKEND FAMILY MAKE STUFF CLUB WORKSHOPS

Our Family Making sessions are accessible for beginners and are open to parents and guardians with a child 7-12 years old. These classes are ideal for children interested in making. Over three hours, families learn the basics of woodworking.

Both child and adult cover skills such as measuring, marking out, hand sawing, drilling with some additional machinery inductions for adults.

Each session focuses on a different object – such as a wooden calendar, planter, marble run – so that the participants take away an object with them at the end of the day.



“Really helped my confidence – which means his will improve”

— Parent of Family Make Stuff Club SEN Participant

“It has helped him slow down and fully immerse himself in the task at hand.”
— Parent of Family Make Stuff Club SEN Participant

MONTHLY FAMILY SESSIONS: SATURDAY or SUNDAY 10-12PM
UP TO 15 YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS AGED 9+ MAKE A DIFFERENT PROJECT EACH TIME

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Concessions Club

SINCE JANUARY 2022

Our Concessions Club offers low income makers a range of benefits access to the workshop, including

- free places on courses
- half price inductions
- discounted bench hire

The objective is to ensure we reach a wider audience, and serve community interests, especially post pandemic with more creatives receiving Universal Credit.



“

I was recommended Blackhorse Workshops Concession Club, following a life changing medical diagnosis, at a point when I felt very low with not much motivation for anything. Coming to Blackhorse has given me the opportunity to learn new skills which has helped build my confidence and given me motivation to try new things. It's a really friendly, creative and very supportive environment. Thanks to Blackhorse, my mental wellbeing has really improved.

”

The criteria for joining our Concessions Club range from Job Seekers Allowance to Carer's Allowance to retirees, and once on the list, people are contacted as places become available. Course places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to those who have not attended a free course in the past. Some exceptions have been made, such as for those seeking asylum who may not be able to produce evidence of low income.

38 people currently on the Concession Club list
20 course places have been offered and taken
7 half price inductions given
33 concessionary bench bookings booked

“

Blackhorse Workshop has provided me with so many opportunities to develop skills in an informal, supportive, inclusive environment where everyone from all walks of life and skill level feels empowered. I'm truly grateful to them for teaching me to develop my skills. I love that they provide concessions for low income individuals too – such a huge help in getting the members in the community, who would be otherwise unable due to financial problems, to get involved.

”

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Local Partnership Projects

PLASTER WORKS: OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2021

During the autumn of 2021, we partnered with sustainable design studio, Good Waste and Waltham Forest Council to deliver another innovative public making experience: Plaster Works.

This time the focus was on highlighting the hidden potential of building waste material – showcasing the design potential of recycled plasterboard, from a transformed disused high street shop in Chingford Mount.

The project was an opportunity to:

- engage with new schools from the Borough
- engage with new audiences in a new area of Waltham Forest
- support high street regeneration post-Covid
- explore a local sustainability issue

We recruited 7 young people aged 18-25 (not in education or training) who were interested in exploring creative solutions to waste, meeting new people and getting involved in their local area. Through three workshops, based at the Good Waste Design Studio and Blackhorse Workshop, they were introduced to the material research, the process for converting the material for reuse, and tested the technique of ‘Scagliola’ before making shelving units for the interior set.



“ Thank you so much for organising this amazing workshop over the past couple of days. The pupils were so pleased with their bowls and they loved the experience, as did I.

—Andy Dolan, Teacher
Heathcote School



7 unemployed young people helped with the build
240 school children visited
27% of visitors were under 12 years old

Funded by London Borough of Waltham Forest
and Arts Council England

2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Local Partnership Projects

PLASTER WORKS CONTINUED

The young people finished with a week of renovating the shop space and installing the furniture, preparing the space for the public experience. The group were invited to apply for the paid host roles to deliver the workshops to schools and the public, and two of the participants were employed for the duration of the project.

“

I learnt to adapt to different situations of people, and the ability to think on my feet

—Charlie Derbaer, NEET Participant

”

77 public activity sessions
705 tickets sold
77% of attendees were new audiences

1 young person went on to take up our free bursary desk and make work for her Barbican show

“

For me these workshops became about more than mixing plaster and made me re-realise how much I love hands on design work and gave me the extra motivation to revisit my portfolio and start applying to jobs in design again, so I'm grateful for that boost.

”

—James Thompson, NEET Participant



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Local Partnership Projects

PLASTER WORKS CONTINUED

THE PROCESS

The project began with researching local business waste streams. We discovered an abundance of Plasterboard from the many builders operating locally. Through a period of experimentation, Good Waste identified a process for extracting the plaster from the material through the application of heat, that enabled the plaster component to be reused. By crushing it further and mixing with pigment a marbled effect could be created using traditional Italian plasterwork techniques that could then be applied to surfaces.

Blackhorse Workshop's technical team designed a series of two-part moulds made from wooden offcuts that could be used to cast bowls for the public activity. An agricultural corn crusher was repurposed to become a device for crushing the plasterboard.

“ I learnt so much about different processes and working with materials through the development stages. It also really inspired me and my own practice. I also felt I developed key skills in terms of delivering workshops and interacting with the wider public

— Jabha Anan,
NEET Participant

”



PLASTER WORKS



GoodWaste



2. Opening up creative opportunities and careers to all

Local Partnership Projects

DIALLED IN SOUTH ASIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL: SEPTEMBER 2022



Dialled In is an artist-led movement that platforms South Asian music, art and culture. In 2022 they held a festival in the industrial estate close to Blackhorse Workshop. Keen to work with young people in the area, they approached us to partner with them to provide a week long training opportunity to pick up set design and making skills with a live project outcome.

For Blackhorse Workshop it was a chance to build new relationships with local South Asian audiences and collaborate with another cultural partner working in the neighbourhood.

We recruited a team of ten young people from Waltham Forest (aged 15-25) to respond to a technical design brief set by the festival designers to build some 'D-Boxes' to help the audience to navigate the venues across the site. Over a five-day workshop, supported by Blackhorse Technicians, our participants were inducted into the Workshop's machinery in order to construct the boxes, and to our spray booth to achieve a professional painted finish.



Ten young people aged 15 – 25 ,of Asian, Indian, Pakistani, Mixed Black & South Asian origin.

All young people are now members of Blackhorse Workshop

3 young people took up a free course at Blackhorse Workshop thanks to the Dialled In Festival team, including a Bespoke Picture Framing Course, an Advanced Welding Course and a Level 2 Machine Shop Induction

All young people were introduced to a wider understanding of the creative industries and the roles that exist within them

How can a creative space help to sustain a sense of community in a rapidly changing area?

Developing projects based on local needs

Open days, community parties and markets

Creating communities through the Workshop cafe

Developing our SEN provision



3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Projects responding to local need

MAKERNOONS (FORMERLY 'MAKER MORNINGS': SINCE APRIL 2022

“

As the sessions progressed, regular members have taken more of a hands on role with demonstrating what they have learnt to help new attendees.

One member designed a telephone holder and lead a session where everyone was invited to make one. He has now been fully inducted on all of the Workshop machinery assisting with running the sessions.

”



Makernoons (initially set up as 'Maker Mornings') are a weekly drop-in programme that supports isolated residents. Partnering with local community organisations such as Age UK, the Adult Social Prescribing Service and the Red Cross the programme, it has run since April 2022 and has been a huge success .

We started by speaking to different community groups locally to identify who might benefit from being introduced to the workshop and how we can support these organisations where needed. The two key themes identified were tackling isolation and loneliness and we worked with the Adult Social Prescribing service and Age UK (a relationship which developed out of our Plaster Works project) to run a series of pilot making sessions off site at different venues. To bring in new members, we have been continuing to deliver off-site pilot sessions, one with a Women's group from Leyton Orient.

Average 14 attendees
each week

Founded with funding from
Waltham Forest's Make it
Happen grant scheme and
the National Lottery

3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Projects responding to local need

MAKERNOONS (CONTINUED)

The group has been introduced to a variety of techniques and they now demonstrate considerable confidence in using tools and equipment, and have begun to focus on working on their own projects. In celebration of Blackhorse's 8th Birthday, they collectively made one of the featured games, hand turned skittles, and draughts and noughts and crosses games for Parkette & Play. For our 2023 and 2024 Christmas Market, participants made and sold items, with the profits going directly back to Blackhorse Workshop.



“ We’ve seen first hand the confidence boost that people get as they master new skills. One person has purchased a drill of her own and has put up pictures and shelving around her house. Her levels of anxiety and need for help have visibly decreased as she gains the confidence to trust that she knows the next steps.

”

Mainly over 60s but with three ladies in their 30s, and one lady in her 40s. A mixture of men and women, mainly more women attending on a regular basis.

Predominantly white British, but with two attendees of African descent, and one from Iran.

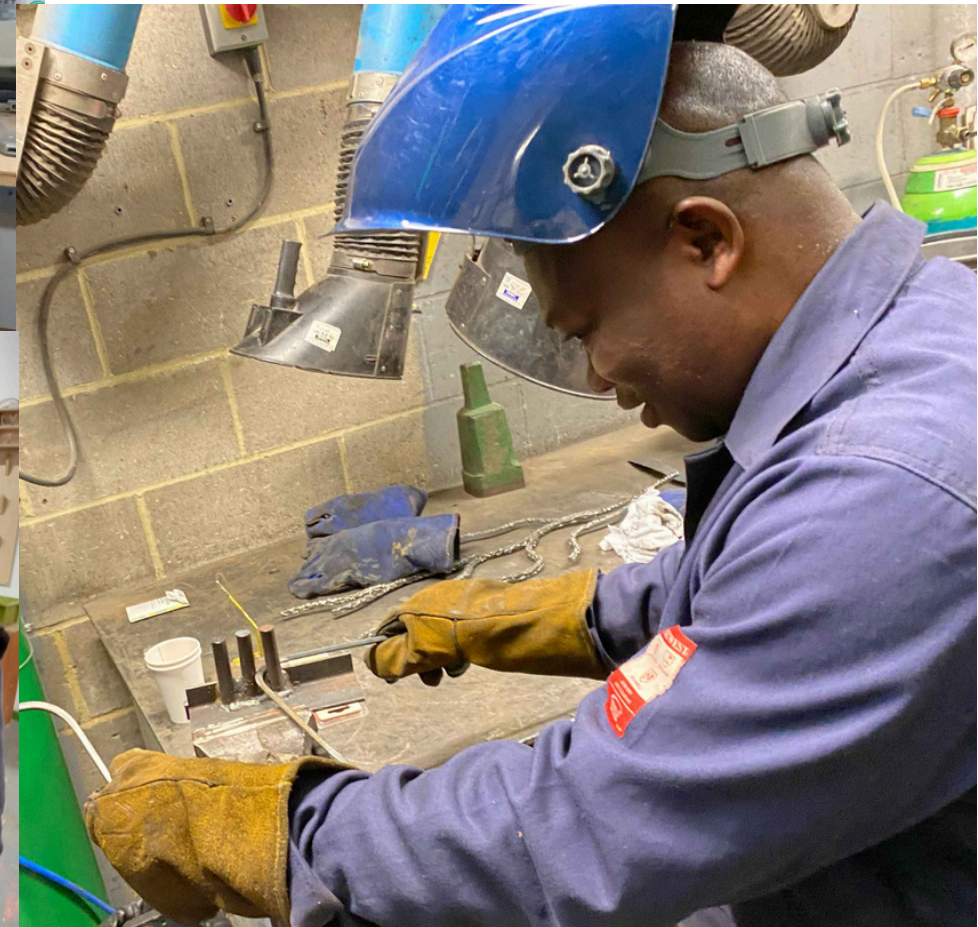
3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Projects responding to local need

RED CROSS MALE REFUGEE PROJECT: APRIL–JUNE 2023



This project developed from running an initial pilot session with a group of 16 male refugees from the Red Cross in November 2022. All those attending the initial pilot had no prior metalworking skills, and through this session were introduced to hand working metalwork techniques using copper and exploring patination.

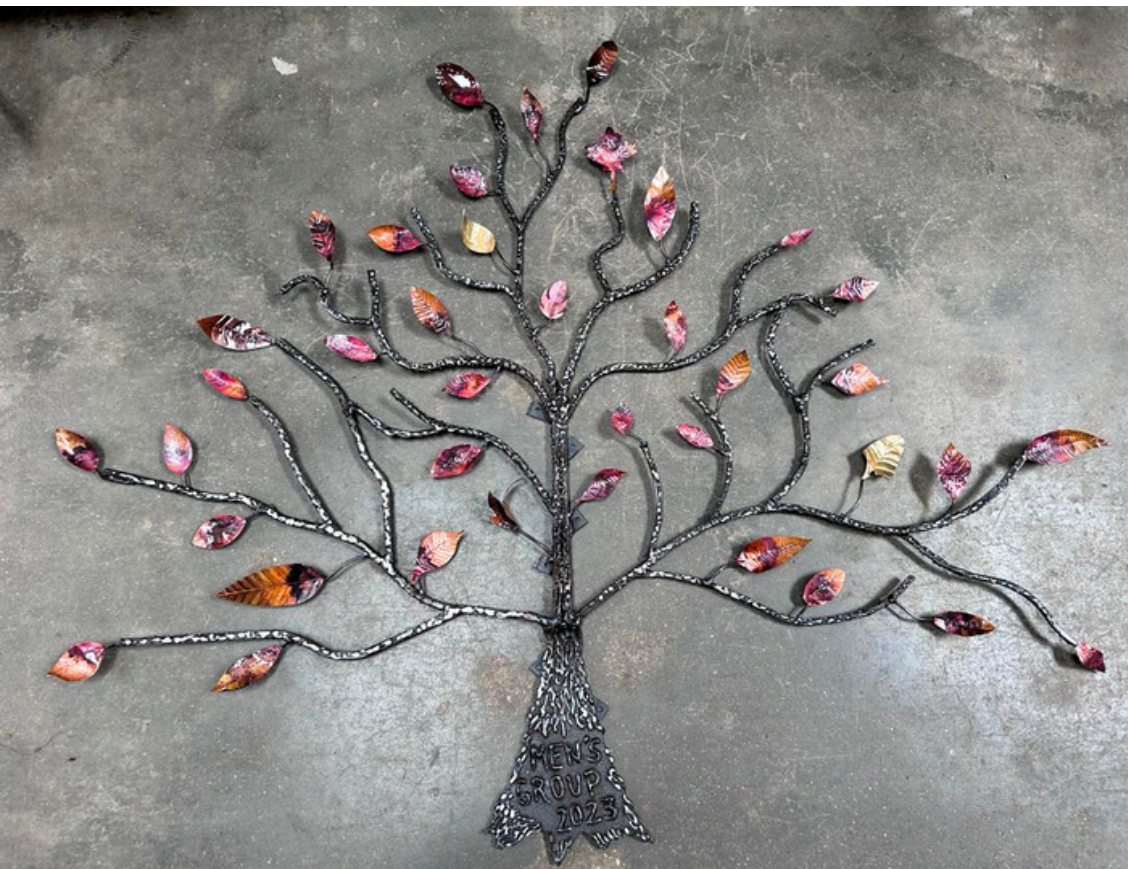


Following the success of this pilot, we developed a four-week project delivered over three months in 2023, with the aim of establishing a supportive network for the men, many of whom were separated from their families and with challenging living situations. By working together to design and build a collective sculpture for their regular meeting space in Dalston, the group were able to form new friendships, forge new connections whilst picking up new skills and relief from personal struggles.

3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

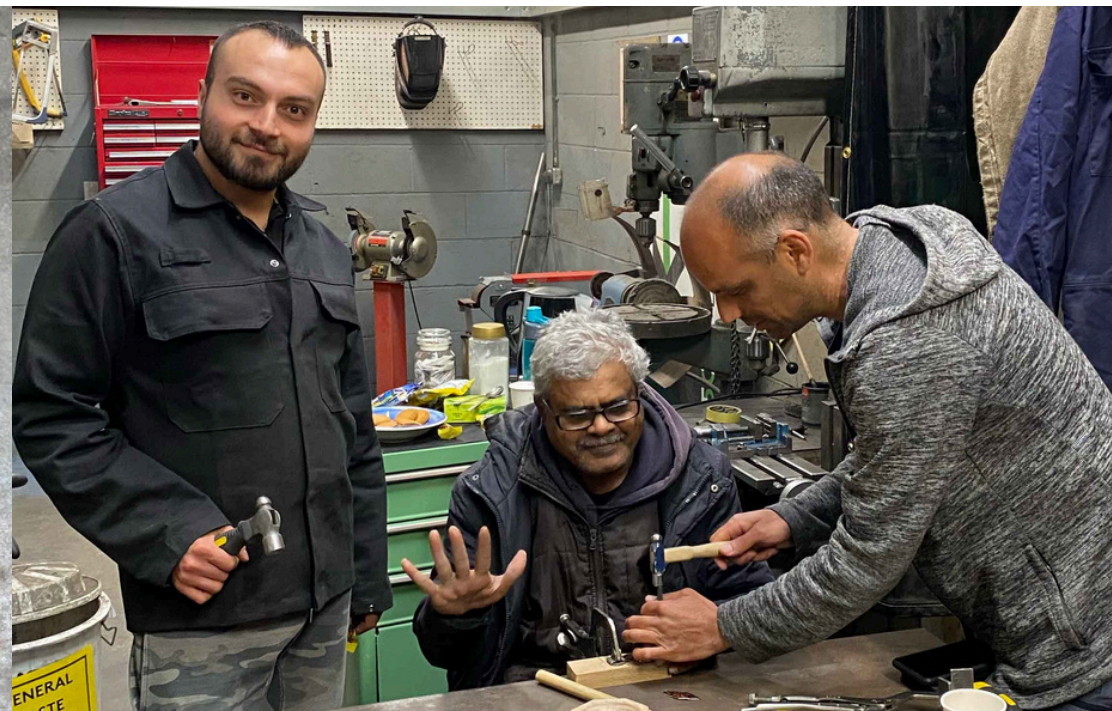
Projects responding to local need

RED CROSS MALE REFUGEE PROJECT (CONTINUED)



The group were taught how to cold forge mild steel, prep the material and MIG weld it together to form a tree form, with leaf shapes made from learning to cut and form brass and copper using a selection of texturing techniques and tools.

The final piece (pictured above) was then installed as permanent sculpture on the outside wall of the Red Cross building, with all involved visibly proud of their achievement. Since then, two of the refugees have returned attending our weekly supported sessions.



16 attendees:
Majority of African
descent with a few
from Eastern Europe
and two from Asia.

All age ranges: the
youngest aged 19, and
the oldest in his late
60s.

3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Projects responding to local need

PARKETTE AND PLAY, AUGUST 2023

For the summer of 2023, as an alternative to our usual one-off annual summer party, we ran a two week takeover of our car park: The Parkette. Built by Blackhorse Member Hugh Laughlin from reclaimed board materials, it included games for kids and adults. The Parkette was a public space to drop in and play, and also hosted music and making events throughout the 2 weeks and a special Caribbean community kitchen. Parkette and Play brought people together and provided a longer period of activities for the local community to enjoy during the holiday including Ping Pong Bat making workshop for kids and a Summer Holiday Make Stuff Club.

Over 500 people attended
over the two weeks

“

Helping to design and build the Parkette at Blackhorse Workshop this summer allowed me to meet and work with new members of our community, experience designing a single space for different groups with different needs and observe how people interacted with my design. It was also really fun!

—Hugh Laughlin, Member”



Supported by Higham Hill
Community Fund

3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Projects responding to local need

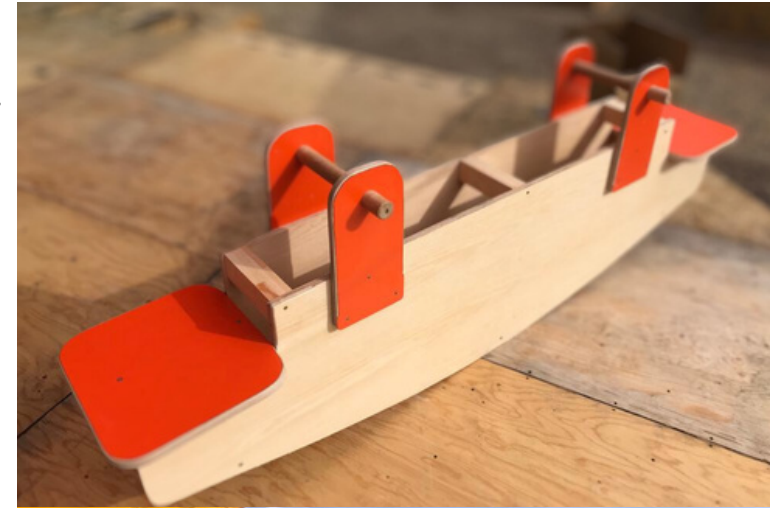
PARKETTE AND PLAY, AUGUST 2023

It provided an opportunity to work with new partners within the community and offer

- A showcase opportunity for local music producers Chosen 1 Records, and live performance from local electronic duo Malibu Hot Flush
- Special Community Kitchen events – Carribean BBQ and talk with Abel Holsborough, a bursary desk member
- Salsa dancing with Marti

And created design opportunities for our members:

- Parkette design and build by Hugh Laughlin
- Ping pong table by Blackhorse Technicians
- Kids rocker made by member Byron Clark
- Table games by the Maker Mornings group
- Stacking blocks by Christine French
- Mural design with illustrator Marcie Wood



3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Annual events

CHRISTMAS MAKERS MARKET

The annual Christmas Market is an opportunity for Studio members, and other sellers to come together and sell their products. The workshop is transformed into a festive night market with music, food and drinks. The market is well attended by the local community and has become a regular fixture on the local Christmas event calendar. The market stalls are affordable and also available to non-members, helping us to broaden our community of makers beyond woodwork and metalwork.



Approx. 150 visitors. each year

18-22 sellers

25% sellers being external

**We offered a free stall to
members of Makernoons
sessions.**

In previous years we have invited external food suppliers to provide an alternative food offering, which both serves as providing opportunities for local businesses and building a wider network – and in recent years have offered a bespoke menu from our cafe. We provide a bar with hot and cold drinks, including mulled wine. The event is family friendly, with children melting free marshmallows on a small fire in the yard, and demonstrations on our forge and wood lathe by our technicians and tutors.

Local choir Sing17 has provided entertainment, approx. 30 members sang contemporary Christmas songs to great applause. The market always has a great atmosphere and brings additional income for our members.

3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Annual events

8TH BIRTHDAY PARTY SEPTEMBER 2022



Activities included:
The Norse Horse – Sleipnir
Odin's eight legged horse

Maker Mornings hand turned
skittles game

Rotating Eight bean bag game
made by member Adam Azmy

Mask Making

“

Blackhorse birthdays are the
best birthdays

”

—Claudia Schenck



3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Running the Workshop cafe

SINCE OCTOBER 2022

After 8 years of running Wood Street Coffee at the Workshop, founder Gareth took the decision to focus on his coffee roasting business and handed the cafe operations over to Blackhorse Workshop.

Since then we have hosted local and Workshop events and have brought the cafe and Workshop together as one organisation.

The cafe is:

A facility for all Workshop users with discounts and suspended coffees

An accessible entry point to the Workshop – a way of becoming familiar with what we do

A lively social hub for Workshop users

A creative interior and design that is in itself inspired by hands on making

Space to showcase the makers at BHW



3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Community Kitchen

SINCE APRIL 2023

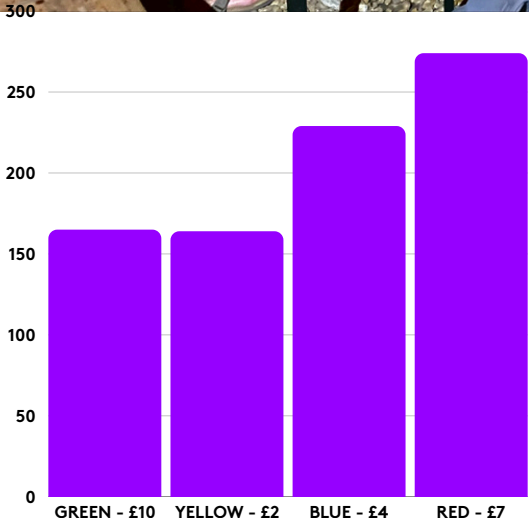
Our Community Kitchen is based on a similar model in operation at the Gleaners Café, part of the Hornbeam Centre, offering a hot vegetarian/vegan meal, of a high standard on a sliding scale price system. The evening runs from 18.30-20.30 and is open to everyone regardless of status, with no judgement. This is not a food bank nor a free/charitable meal, rather a friendly and welcoming environment, encouraging social interaction.

There are four price points, (£3, £5, £8 and £12) and the customer chooses what they wish to pay by choosing the corresponding colour. We also offer a dessert and reduced coffee/tea.

Almost all events now regularly sell out. The evenings have been well attended with regular customers including families, young people and local residents. The food is always complimented; our chef ensures the meal is restaurant standard, diverse, wholesome and served in generous portions.



“ Kevin from nearby sheltered housing was always very complimentary and enjoyed discovering new food. The staff interacted with him, making him feel welcome and ensuring he always got a dessert. ”



“ One family said they looked forward to coming every week as a family and eating together. ”

3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

TEN YEARS OF MAKING IT TOGETHER

TENTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND SHOWCASE, SEPTEMBER 2024

In September 2024, we celebrated 10 incredible years of our makers community here at Blackhorse Workshop with a campaign that celebrated the makers, tutors, members, residents and participants who we have worked with over the years. For our annual birthday celebration we transformed the workshop for a special exhibition of over 40 past and present members. Part of the William Morris Design Line for London Design Festival 2024, the showcase demonstrated the amazing diversity of creativity that has thrived here.



Special tours of the workshop and exhibition highlighted stunning pieces of hand-crafted furniture, lighting design, metalwork, and sculptures, and concluding with demonstrations on our wood lathes and forge.



We received a grant from Waltham Forest towards the exhibition design and install of the Showcase. We also unveiled The Decabeast, whose ten segments were each designed and fabricated by different Blackhorse Workshop groups (such as Grove School, Makernoons, Actiavtors, Make Stuff Club), reflecting the different practices learned and developed here at the Workshop.

3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

TEN YEARS OF MAKING IT TOGETHER

TENTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND SHOWCASE, SEPTEMBER 2024

The council worked with Sam Talbot PR, who brought 15 journalists and stakeholders to visit the Showcase. The event was opened by Waltham Forest Councilor Rosalind Dore, Cabinet member for Libraries, Culture and Sports and Leisure.



50 members took part in our Showcase
(inc. members, staff & Responders)

4 school & college visits with 63 students

142 visitors for our Open House tours and
demonstrations

490 guests joined our afternoon celebration party

We commissioned short film about the last ten years of the Workshop, made by filmmaker Cameron Makin, in which we take a look at the people who make the workshop a community, sharing the stories of how they came to discover us; and how it has changed their lives. We screened this at the celebration weekend, long with other films from our archive.

3. Sustaining a sense of community in a rapidly changing area

Developing our SEND provision

Our offer for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) started growing after we were contacted by Waltham Forest Parents Forum to run sessions for young people with autism or ADHD and we delivered some pilot sessions during October 2022 Half-Term. The sessions were a huge success, and highlighted a need for out of school activities for children who may not be able to attend other mainstream activities, or who were home-schooled. It is becoming clear that the Workshop offers a unique SEND provision, and can start to fill some of the gaps of the education system in this area. Our current offer includes:

SEND after-school club for younger children aged 9-13

Regular Friday sessions with students from Holmewood School for Neurodivergent young people

A work experience placement with a young person from William Morris SEN School

A 6-week Creative Careers programme with William Morris SEN School

Starting in September 2023, we will also be delivering an 8 week making course with the Grove School in Tottenham



“

“The students really enjoyed the session yesterday, They literally had the best day and I have already had parents emailing me asking about your evening youth groups.”

—Tara Young, Head of Sixth Form, Holmewood School

”

William Morris SEN School, Walthamstow

We have been delivering a six-week live brief with students from William Morris School as part of Waltham Forest’s Creative Clusters funding. They are devising their own making activity – to be run as one of the regular Make Stuff Club sessions for the future. One of their students, is now coming every Wednesday for work experience, which is a major step for him.

“

‘It feels so rare to be understood and supported in this way, it means so much.

Thanks again.’

—Parent of SEN child attending Make Stuff Club

”

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Following Harriet Warden and Jenny Dewhirst's joint departure as Co-Directors, in September 2024 we welcomed a new leadership. Jo Clarke joined as our new Director, with Giulia Shah moving up into a newly-created Deputy Director role. The coming year will see us continuing to develop opportunities for our local community and our makers, expanding our programme and conducting deep analytical work to ensure that we are meeting their needs. Some projects on the horizon are:

Programme

With our courses regularly selling out, we will develop our programme to target various groups:

- Developing a teen after-school club for 13-15'-year-olds
- Expanding our courses, with new collaborations underway with Feminist Welding Club, and other makers beyond woodwork and metalwork
- Continue to develop our cafe events and offer
- Continue to develop our co-creation models with local and education partners

Membership engagement

Our members are the cornerstone of Blackhorse Workshop's community, and we will be working closely with them all in the coming year to ascertain what they need, expanding our existing offer of business development opportunities, such as marketing training and profile opportunities.

THE WORKSPACE



At our site in Walthamstow, you'll find a fully equipped wood machine shop and bench space, as well as metalwork area, spray booth and woodturning facilities. Each area has its own health and safety induction which you'll need to complete before getting started. Use of the machinery is at your own risk.

If you're on the hunt for a studio, we have a range of options for makers of all kinds; from desks to self-contained studios and converted shipping containers. We work with a range of material suppliers and also have hardwood specialists Fallen & Felled selling from our yard, for you to source sustainable timber from London-felled trees.

[Read more](#)

COURSES



Introduction to Machine Shop: Chopping Board (incl. Level 1 H&S induction)

10:00 am – 4:30 pm, Sun 5th Jan 2025

£130.00



Introduction to Joinery: Beginners Woodwork

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Mon 4th Jan 2025
Mon 13th Jan 2025
Mon 20th Jan 2025
Mon 27th Jan 2025

£205.00



Woodturning Saturday Session (Lathe Induction Mandatory)

9:30 am – 5:30 pm, Sat 11th Jan 2025

£45.00

[See more](#)

NOTICEBOARD



Concessions Club



Makers showcase:
Anna Cornish
Designer Woodworker



£100 GIFT VOUCHER

Shop:
Gift Voucher
£100.00

New Website with Studio Hyte

In summer 2024 we launched the first stage of our redesigned website, with the wireframes and technical site plan completed. In the coming year we will continue to test and develop the site, improving user experience as well as offering us greater insight into who uses our spaces, how often, what for, and what they need from us.

Venue hire

We are developing an affordable venue hire offer for our cafe and spaces, offering our local community a low-cost option for community and family events.