



## CHAIRS Report to AGM 13.03.2019

Looking back over 2018 we have once more excelled ourselves as a District.

We have taken on the National Woodcraft Folk theme of Widening Participation running open activities in Forest Lane Park and at the Gate Library at open events.

Our DFs and kinsfolk organised our second camping trip for students from Forest Gate Community School.

In response to our members expressing concern about personal and friends safety we ran first response training for pioneers and Venturers.

We also used small grants to open out our group activities. A highlight being our Halloween night at the Lodge that attracted over 100 people, 30% who had never been to a Woodcraft Session before.

Woodchips 0-3 continues to bring in good numbers and also ran a ceilidh before Christmas, this raised awareness of refugees and of the group itself.

Woodgrange Skyline elfins have become expert guerrilla gardeners and still have a Woodchips group, one of our old pioneers, Aisha, has been helping Angus run the group.

Magpie pioneers have been put on hold whilst the viability of the group is reviewed. Magpie pioneers joined Woodgrange Rodsloch pioneers, boosting the group.

Magpie groups had a number of residentials including a trip to Woodcraft Folks new campsite Biblins. They also attained the John Muir award and Newham WCF have become a registered provider of the John Muir award.

Woodbine group are slowly building in numbers, changing their name from RDLAC to Woodbine in homage to Irene Poole.

Our venturer group re opened and is taking on campaigns including stopping the arms fair. Our Venturers are representatives on national venturer committee, VCamp planning committee and London Region Committee.

Although the DFs closed their group last year they continue to help out locally at group nights and events and organising national DF events.

Jack Walker continues to chair London region and Stuart Walker is vice chair (operations) of General Council.

As well as organising a training camp and district camp the district participated in London region camp, hosting a French delegation. The elfins and pioneers travelled to Cudham and enjoyed a badger themed weekend, thanks to our DFs and kinsfolk for their support. A small number of Newham Woodies travelled with some Scottish Woodies to Austria where they planned a summer camp and explored Participation with other youth groups from around Europe.

I'd like to thank all our leaders and volunteers for all the hours of work they put in to creating so many memorable moments for our local children and young people.

I'd also like to encourage our friends and parents to think how they can help us expand the work we do so that even more children from Newham's diverse communities.

Blue skies  
Suzannah Walker