

**WHAT'S ON
JAN - APR 24**

GRAND • JUNCTION

**AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
PADDINGTON**



**GRAND JUNCTION AT ST MARY MAGDALENE'S,
A VENUE FOR COMMUNITY, ARTS, AND HERITAGE**



Welcome!

Welcome to Grand Junction at St Mary Magdalene's.

Join us in January to stave off the winter blues. Arab Christmas by candlelight, an extraordinary cultural fusion from Angrosori, or dancing the night away at the Burns Night Ceilidh are all recommended. Or sign up to one of our many and varied classes for an inspiring start to 2024.

There is excitement in the air as we count down to Elixir Festival in April, a cultural celebration to mark Eid with music and theatre to which everyone is invited. The festival includes the return of Olive Jar, following a sold out run last summer. Olive Jar received high praise from audiences, many who shared the feeling that "watching the actors' personal stories, we touch on the universal stories that bind us in humanity" (North West End). We are also thrilled that the hugely talented Egyptian/Scottish Ayoub Sisters will headline the festival, described as 'incredible' by Classic FM, with their album Arabesque topping the iTunes Classical Album chart. Full festival details on p.8.

In March, Peregrine Orchestra play their first concert at Grand Junction with a programme of Elgar, Bach, and Mendelssohn inspired by Elgar's Enigma Variations and conducted by Dan Collins, a member of the world-class vocal ensemble The Sixteen.

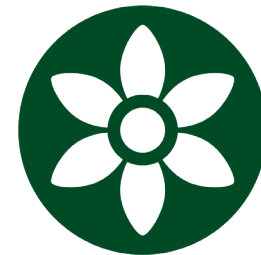
We continue to serve local families with our monthly Art Parties and a brilliant show from Half Moon Theatre, Boxed In. If you are a fan of exploring heritage, then our free tours programme continues, plus further events in the Our Shared Heritage talks programme. Find details on p.14. and p.9.

We hope to see you soon!

Lucy Foster
Creative and Community Director

GRAND JUNCTION EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Winter/Spring Calendar of Events



6 JAN	Arab Christmas: A candlelit evening of Arabic, Syriac, Coptic, and Byzantine chants
13 JAN	Free Lunchtime Heritage Tour
15 JAN	Weekly Grand Junction classes and term begins for classes and workshopss
17 JAN	Angrosori: Slovakian-Norwegian orchestra featuring special guests, Nils Henrik Asheim and Iva Bittova
26 JAN	Burns Night Ceilidh: Celebrate burns night with haggis, dancing, and music from the Ceilidh Liberation Front
27 JAN	Family Ceilidh: Join Ceilidh Liberation Front for a fun-filled family afternoon of music and plenty of dancing!
27 JAN	Burns Night Ceilidh
7 FEB	Free Lunchtime Heritage Tour
13 FEB	To The Table: Food Sharing and Community Gathering Event
15 FEB	Mira Silk Road Collective: An evening of Uyghur poetry, music and dance
17 FEB	Free Lunchtime Heritage Tour
23 FEB	Arabs Are Not Funny comedy night
29 FEB	Nadine Kaadan Talk: Diversity and Authenticity in Children's Publishing
2 MAR	Peregrine Orchestra: works connected to Elgar's Enigma Variations
6 MAR	Free Lunchtime Heritage Tour
6 MAR	Fariha Shaikh Talk: Global Victorians and Literature
9 MAR	Go Green Festival: A free fun filled afternoon for the whole family with craft activities and food
15-16 MAR	Spring Ceilidh
16 MAR	Free Chapel Tour
16 MAR	Art Party
22 MAR	S. Carey: The multi-instrumentalist and singer will be joined by special guests
23 MAR	Boxed In: family theatre show from Half Moon Theatre
27 MAR	To The Table: Iftar meal special
4 APR	Free Lunchtime Heritage Tour
3 – 5 APR	RealVoices: community choirs sing choral covers of pop, rock, indie, and folk
6 APR	George's Marvellous Music: Commemorating the centenary of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue
12 APR-2 MAY	Elixir Festival: A cultural celebration for Eid, featuring the return of Olive Jar, concerts, and workshops. All are welcome.
13 APR	To The Table Eid celebration concert special
13 APR	Free Lunchtime Heritage Tour
13 APR	Art Party
25-27 APR	Olive Jar: A theatre performance celebrating London's Arab communities and their extraordinary stories

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS FOR WINTER/SPRING 2024



ARAB CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

6 Jan, 20.00, £18 + bf

Join us for Christmas in the Arab world. A candlelit evening of Arabic, Syriac, Coptic, and Byzantine chants. Artists performing include oud virtuosos Joseph Tawadros and Attab Haddad, Lebanese singer Samar El Murr, Greek Orthodox liturgical Christmas chants with Najib Coutya, and more. See our website for full lineup.

Presented by Arts Canteen and Grand Junction



ANGRUSORI FEATURING NILS HENRIK ASHEIM AND IVA BITTOVÁ

17 Jan, 20.00, £16 + bf

The Slovakian-Norwegian orchestra are joined by guests Nils Henrik Asheim and Iva Bittová for a very special concert at Grand Junction.

See musicians from Norwegian Kitchen Orchestra and Slovak Roma musicians as they seamlessly blend contemporary improvised music from Norway with traditional music of Slovak Roma.

Presented by Hudson Record and Grand Junction



FAMILY CELIDH

27 Jan, 15.00 – 17.00, £6 Kids / £12 Adults

It's Burns for the bairns! Join us for a joyous afternoon of rebellious song and dance for all the family as we celebrate Scotland's favourite son, Robert Burns.

Open to dancers of all ages and abilities (no experience necessary!)

Presented by Nest Collective



BURNS NIGHT CELIDH

26 and 27 Jan, 18.30 – 22.30, £25 / £18 Conc

Join us for a glorious evening as we don the tartan and tam o'shanter, get that whisky flowing and those floors shaking, all in celebration of Scotland's favourite son, Robert Burns. Ceilidh dancing is open to all abilities (no experience necessary!).

A delicious haggis dinner, with a veggie alternative, will be available to buy on the night and we'll have a full whisky bar too.

Presented by Nest Collective



MIRAS SILK ROAD COLLECTIVE

15 Feb, 20.00, £18 + bf

Experience an enchanting evening with the Miras Silk Road Collective - a collaboration of artists from Uyghur Homeland, Turkey, Hong Kong, and the UK. Delight in mesmerizing performances of classical maqam, folk songs, and instrumental pieces on traditional instruments, spanning Turkish, Azeri, Uzbek, and especially Uyghur musical traditions. This concert is in honour of the resilience of the Uyghur people against cultural erasure policies by the Chinese government.

Presented by Miras Silk Road Collective



ARABS ARE NOT FUNNY

23 Feb, 20.00, £17 + bf

Don't let the name of this night fool you!

The legendary comedy night is back at Grand Junction, featuring a line-up of top comedians showcasing the comic talents of the Arab world and surrounding regions.

See our website for the full lineup.

Presented by Arts Canteen and Grand Junction

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS FOR WINTER/SPRING 2024

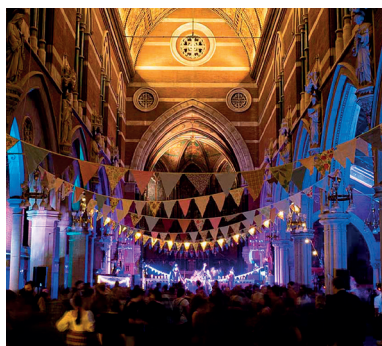


PEREGRINE ORCHESTRA

2 Mar, 19:30, £17 / £12 Conc + bf

One of London's most exciting new amateur orchestras, present a programme of Elgar, Bach, and Mendelssohn. Conducted by founder and Artistic Director Daniel Collins (a member of the world-class vocal ensemble The Sixteen), the programme is based around works connected to Elgar's Enigma Variations, and the links between the three composers. www.peregrineorchestra.org.uk

Presented by Peregrine Orchestra and Grand Junction



SPRING CEILIDH

15 & 16 Mar, 19.00, £20 / £15 Conc

Join The Nest Collective to herald the arrival of spring with a rip-roaring, rambunctious ceilidh. Just days before the Spring Equinox signals the shift into the warmer part of the year, we'll be celebrating the return of the sun the best way we know how – with music, merriment, and a good old knees-up!

Presented by Nest Collective



S. CAREY

22 Mar, 20.00, £22.50 + bf

See multi-instrumentalist and the second-longest serving member of the indie folk band Bon Iver, Sean Carey at Grand Junction for a solo show with a string's trio.

Presented by FORM



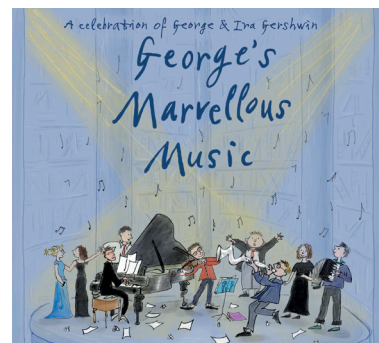
REAL VOICES

3, 4 & 5 Apr, 20.00, £15

Join the community contemporary choir from South London at Grand Junction as they perform choral covers of classic pop/rock favourites, indie gems, modern alt-folk anthems, and recent chart hits.

Across the three dates we will have choirs from Vauxhall & Brixton (3 Apr), Tooting, Clapham & Deptford (4 Apr), and Crystal Palace & Balham (5 Apr).

Presented by RealVoices



GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MUSIC

6 Apr, 20.00, £18 / £12 Conc

Celebrate Gershwin's legacy at George's Marvellous Music! Commemorating the centenary of the iconic Rhapsody in Blue, this special event showcases a silver clarinet which played at the premiere all those years ago.

Presented by Sanglots Theatre

ELIXIR FESTIVAL



A new festival celebrating arts, music, and storytelling from the Middle East and North Africa.

12 April – 2 May

Join us for a rich programme of theatre, music, Eid celebrations, workshops, and food celebrating contemporary arts from the Middle East, North Africa, and Anatolia. Loved by audiences, the Olive Jar will return for four additional performances, along with music presented by Arts Canteen and a unique night programmed by Young Shubbak. Everyone is welcome.

12 April	Ruba Shamshour
13 April	To The Table Eid music special
13 April	Aleppo Tarab Ecosystem
18 April	The Ayoub Sisters
19 April	Olca Bayir
25 – 27 April	Olive Jar
2 May	Young Shubbak

See website for line up and details:
grandjunction.org.uk

Supported using public funding by Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Grand Junction and Shubbak Festival presents

Olive Jar

Directed by Elias Matar

جرة زيتون



Olive Jar returns! A unique theatre performance that celebrates London's Arab community and the extraordinary stories that ordinary people can tell

25 - 27 APRIL

TOURS, TALKS & EXHIBITIONS



OUR SHARED HERITAGE AT GRAND JUNCTION

Grand Junction's Our Shared Heritage project, a two-year programme funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, explores and celebrates the stories and experiences of diverse communities local to the venue, fostering cultural exchange and dismantling barriers to engaging with the Victorian heritage of St Mary Magdalene's church. We have collaborated with the community through a variety of activities to explore and share their own stories, including personal, inherited, and historical stories of arriving and settling in West London along the timeline of our building's history, 1878 to the present. This year is the second year of the project and we are hosting more activities and events, including a series of heritage talks, guided tours of the venue, weekly storytelling art workshops, and a final exhibition in summer 2024.

TOURS

General highlights heritage tour

12.30-13.30
Sat 13 Jan, Wed 7 Feb, Sat 17 Feb,
Wed 6 Mar, Thu 4 Apr, Sat 13 Apr,
Free

Join our friendly and knowledgeable Volunteer Guides for a Highlights Tour and learn about St Mary Magdalene's rich Victorian heritage. Appreciate the great vision of architect G. E. Street who employed the best artists and crafts people of the day to create this Gothic Revival masterpiece, and marvel at the building's recent extensive restoration work.

Chapel tour

12.30-13.30, Sat 16 Mar, Free

Located in the Undercroft of St Mary Magdalene's Church, The Chapel of St Sepulchre is a complete work of art in itself. When the founder and first vicar Fr West died in 1893 the chapel was created as a memorial to him. An early work by the architect Sir Ninian Comper, the enormous amounts of carved stone, stained glass, gilding, and ornamental paintwork take us back in time to the 15th century. Join us to learn about the heritage of this hidden gem and its recent restoration.

TALKS SERIES



Nadine Kaadan: Diversity and Authenticity in Children's Publishing

29 Feb, 18.30 – 19.30, £5 / £3 Conc

Awareness of the importance of diversity, inclusion, and the need for representation in children's literature is growing, but this is not without its challenges in remaining authentic. Award-winning children's book author and illustrator Nadine Kaadan delves into the key issues, addresses concerns around cultural appropriation and tokenism, and explores what we can do to have empowered and genuine representation in children's literature.



Fariha Shaikh: Global Victorians and Literature

6 Mar, 18.30 – 19.30
£5 / £3 Conc

In this fascinating talk, Dr Fariha Shaikh will shine a spotlight on the voices of those who were colonised, bringing their significant contributions to the history of British literature to the fore. She will delve into the rich network of Black, Asian and Indigenous authors that existed in nineteenth-century London. Until now, these authors have either been left out of literary histories or have been seen as somehow lesser than their British counterparts.

EXPLORE OUR HERITAGE ONLINE

Grand Junction volunteers collect and preserve the important history of our building and the surrounding area. These can be found on our specifically created heritage pages on our website: grandjunction.org.uk/heritage
Follow @stmarymagschapel Instagram to learn more about the newly restored chapel of St Sepulchre

COMMUNITY @GRAND JUNCTION



TO THE TABLE

Tuesday 13 Feb, 27 Mar, 18.00 – 20.00

13 Apr, 15.00 – 17.30

Free, Registration required

A celebration of our different cultures

Enjoy engaging creative activities and share delicious free food with your neighbours in a celebration of what it is to live in a community. Children are welcome and activities will be provided for them.

To The Table on the 27 March will be an Iftar meal special to break the Ramadan fast with **neighbours**. Spaces will be available to pray.

To The Table Eid music special on the 13 April will be a special Eid celebration concert with food and live performances from Middle Eastern musicians.

Both events welcome everyone in the community, whether you observe Ramadan and celebrate Eid or not.



GO GREEN FESTIVAL

9 Mar, 14.00 – 17.00

Free. All are welcome.

Come along to Grand Junction and learn about being sustainable, create art from recycled materials, enjoy some free healthy food, plant bulbs outside the church and learn about food growing.

Lots of free and fun activities – perfect for a family day out.

Thanks to Westminster Community Homes Ltd for funding this event.



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ART WORKSHOP

Tuesdays (term time), 16 Jan -26 Mar, 13.00 – 15.00
Free, Registration required

Join our weekly art workshop to create and take home your own beautiful works of art celebrating your culture.

Whether you come on your own or bring a friend, this is a fun and friendly creative workshop to chat with your neighbours, enjoy delicious free food, express your voice through creativity, and make art inspired by your culture and heritage to take home.

You don't need to have previous art experience! This session is open to all levels and is led by talented artist Alaa Alsaraji, who will be there to assist you in bringing your ideas to life. Alaa will teach you new art forms, including clay, drawing, painting, digital art, rug making and more, as well as sharing tips and techniques to help you develop your skills. Alaa speaks English and Arabic.

The workshop will lead to a final celebration exhibition this July where all involved will have an opportunity to share their work.



ALAA ALSARAJI – ART FACILITATOR

Alaa is a London-based, Iraqi visual artist, facilitator and arts editor of Khidr Collective. Through her creative practice, she aims to explore themes of belonging, reimagining home, and community, predominantly using the medium of digital illustration. www.alsarajialaa.co.uk

The art workshop is open to anyone of Middle Eastern and North African heritage.

If this feels like it could be for you, come give it a try!

Get in touch to find out more on our website or email enrolment@grandjunction.org.uk

The workshop is part of the Our Shared Heritage project, which has been made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



ADULT CLASSES

Sign up to a class at Grand Junction to try something new, learn a skill, or meet new people. Many of our classes are delivered in partnership with **Westminster Adult Education Service**.

All classes are free or low cost.

To enrol, please visit our website www.grandjunction.org.uk or send an email to enrolment@grandjunction.org.uk



LANGUAGE CAFÉ (ENGLISH)

Mondays, 15 Jan -25 Mar, 11.45 - 12.45,
Free. Registration required

Friendly and welcoming sessions to meet local people, improve your English, and gain confidence. Discuss a new topic each week and enjoy a class trip once a term. Everyone welcome! Once a week on Mondays.

If you are interested in volunteering to support this class through English language conversation, please get in touch at info@grandjunction.org.uk



GRAND JUNCTION COMMUNITY CHOIR

Mondays, 18.00 - 19.00, 15 Jan -25 Mar
Free. Registration required

Join us to sing some great music and meet other people in your community. Singing experience is not necessary - everyone is welcome!

In partnership with Westbourne Community Champions



DRAW AND DISCUSS

Tuesdays, 16 Jan – 26 Mar, 18:00 – 19:30
Free, Registration required .

Insert some art into your Tuesday evenings! Join our Free beginner-friendly art class to explore a variety of approaches to drawing, painting and 3D work. Get creative and meet new people in your local area in a welcoming atmosphere over tea and biscuits. Led by an experienced art and ESOL teacher, this class is very suited to anyone learning English, but all are welcome.



Classes in partnership with Westminster Adult Education Service



COMMUNITY ENGLISH (PRE-ENTRY & ENTRY 1)

Mondays and Wednesdays,
22 Jan-27 Mar, 9.30 – 11.30
Free, Registration required. Entry Level 1
A beginner's level course designed to improve your listening and speaking skills in everyday life situations. You will also learn basic grammar and develop your vocabulary. The class runs twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays.

KNIT & STITCH FREESTYLE

Mondays, 22 Jan – 18 Mar, 13.00 – 15.00
Whether you're a seasoned seamstress or a novice with a needle, this welcoming circle invites all skill levels to gather and share the joy of crafting and textiles. This is an open space to come together each week to exchange ideas, patterns, and techniques, creating a supportive environment where everybody can both learn and contribute. There is no teacher for this session, it is self-led by the participants.

LUNCHTIME YOGA

Mondays, 22 Jan – 18 Mar
12.00 - 14.30,
Fees: £2 per session. Registration required
A beginner-friendly class focusing on strength, flexibility, balance and breathing to boost physical and mental wellbeing. Yoga supports sleep by reducing stress, anxiety and increasing happiness. The class is open to all levels and takes place once a week on Mondays.

WOMEN'S YOGA

Tuesdays, 23 Jan – 19 Mar, 9.00 – 10.30
Fees: £2 per session.
Registration required
A women's only, beginner-friendly class, focusing on strength, flexibility, balance and breathing to boost physical and mental wellbeing. The class is open to all levels and takes place once a week on Tuesdays.

COMMUNITY ART FOR WELLBEING

Tuesdays, 23 Jan – 19 Mar, 10.30 – 12.30
Free, Registration required
Open to anyone interested in experimenting with different methods of drawing, painting, and collage whilst learning about the artists who inspired these approaches. Once a week on Tuesdays.

MINDFULNESS AND BREATHWORK FOR WELLBEING

Wednesdays, 24 Jan – 20 Mar, 12.00 – 13.00
Free, Registration required
An introductory course focusing on staying free from depression, stress, anxiety, and pain. You will learn how to breathe and move toward a mindful body and mind. Once a week on Wednesdays.

AN INTRODUCTION TO VOLUNTEERING

Check website for dates.
Free, Registration required
A short course to help you understand the basic principles of volunteering, and the key practices underlying volunteering your time and skills.



FAMILIES & YOUNG PEOPLE

To book a place on our after-school clubs, please visit our website.
For questions and more information email the team at
enrolment@grandjunction.org.uk



ART PARTY

Sat 16 Mar, Sat 13 Apr
10 – 12 noon Free. No booking required.

Art Party is our Saturday morning family workshop, where we take over Grand Junction with art activities, toys, games and more for the whole family to enjoy. These creative drop-in sessions are ideal for young children aged 0-10.



JUNCTION JUNIORS

Mondays (Term time only),
15 Jan – 25 Mar, 15.45 – 17.15
Free. Booking required.

Junction Juniors is our weekly creative after-school club for children aged 7-11 (school years 3-6). Delivered by professional theatre facilitators, your child will be led through fun and educational drama activities, creating a piece of new performance. No experience necessary. Open to all abilities.



YOUNG ACTORS

Mondays (Term time only),
15 Jan – 25 Mar, 18.00 – 19.30
Free. Booking required.

Young Actors is a weekly creative youth workshop for young people aged 11-17 (school years 7-12). Delivered by professional youth theatre directors, this group will build confidence, develop performance skills. No experience necessary, all abilities are welcome!



GREEN KIDS CLUB

Tuesdays (Term time only),
16 Jan – 26 Mar, 16.00 – 17.30
Free. Booking required.

Green Kids Club is our newest children's after school club for children aged 7-11 (school years 3-6). Children will be inspired to think about recycling, environmentalism, food growing, and improving their local area through creative conversations and fun arts and crafts activities

FAMILY THEATRE



HALF MOON THEATRE AND DARYL & CO. PRESENTS BOXED IN

23 Mar, 11.00 and 14.00
Pay What You Can

A playful show about (mis)understanding the rules. Boxed In follows the journey of someone who struggles to understand the rules that surround us all. Sometimes stop means go and go means stop. Are you supposed to go this way or that? Sometimes it's up and sometimes it's down.

The show is perfect for ages 3-6 and their grownups.

45 minutes (no interval) including a post-performance playtime.

We never want the price of a ticket to be a barrier for anyone who wants to experience the magic of theatre at Grand Junction. That is why we have introduced a Pay What You Can scheme on all our family theatre shows. When booking a ticket you'll be given a choice of four different ticket options:

- **£5 Pay What You Can Ticket (Recommended)** – £5 per person.
- **£2 Pay What You Can Ticket** – £2 per person.
- **£7 Pay More If You Can** – £7 per person.
- **Family of 4 Ticket Deal** –

There is a Pay What You Can family ticket available for the three price points mentioned above.

All you have to do is choose the price bracket that best suits your current budget.

See our website for more details.

VOLUNTEER



Be part of the volunteer team at Grand Junction! We are looking for volunteers to work as stewards at our music events, as learning assistants, marketing support, administration, heritage researchers, and more.

Visit our website for further details or email volunteering@grandjunction.org.uk

VISITING THE CHURCH

VISITOR GUIDES

Ten Best Things: On arrival pick up our guide to the ten best things to explore in the church.

Young Explorers: Pick up our Grand Junction Young Explorer activity booklet. With fun facts, an explorer trail, and colouring activities, it will keep the whole family busy!

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The church will be open for visits at the following times between January – April 2024:

Mondays: 10am – 4pm
Wednesdays 10am – 4pm

Very occasionally we are not able to open at the above times. If you are travelling to visit us, we recommend ringing ahead to check. Please also contact us if you are interested in visiting the church at a different time, as we may be able to accommodate you.

Email info@grandjunction.org.uk
or call **0207 266 8258**



GRAND JUNCTION CAFÉ

Enjoy delicious food and drinks at our canal-side café. Speciality coffees, homemade cakes, freshly made sandwiches, and more. Come and try our new menu which has plenty to warm you up this winter.

Open Monday – Sunday, 9.30 – 15.30

Follow on Instagram for mouth-watering updates:

@[@grandjunctioncafe](https://www.instagram.com/grandjunctioncafe)





WORSHIP

The Parish of St Mary Magdalene is a living worshipping community, part of the Church of England, and the proud home of Grand Junction.

On Sundays we meet at 10am for a parish mass.

On weekdays small reflective services are held in the undercroft chapel.

Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.

For the latest updates about these and other parish events see the parish website st-mary-magdalene.co.uk

For enquiries about the Christian faith or events (including baptisms, wedding services, and funerals) contact The Rev'd Natasha Woodward (priest-in-charge) on natasha.woodward@london.anglican.org or call 020 3490 5305.

HIRE

Interested in hiring one of our spaces?

The spaces in the church and new building are suitable for conferences, meetings, performances, parties and much more.

Contact: Elena@grandjunction.org.uk

ABOUT PADDINGTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Grand Junction is run by Paddington Development Trust, a local, non-religious charity. PDT was formed in 1998 by local residents who remain at the heart of everything we do. Our mission is to bring people together and support them to take charge of their own individual and shared futures. We do this through volunteering projects, supporting people into employment, self-employment, training, and through projects that enhance the built environment and provide additional facilities for local people.

Further information at: www.pdt.org.uk



BOOKING:

Online booking and further details at: www.grandjunction.org.uk

Enquiries: info@grandjunction.org.uk or 020 7266 8258

For the latest updates on new events and news, sign up to our newsletter at www.grandjunction.org.uk/contact

Follow us on Social Media    @grandjunctionw2

Grand Junction at St Mary Magdalene's, Rowington Close, London W2 5TF



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