

Brightside



What's going on this christmas

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To obtain a copy of
Brightside in large print
or audio version
please telephone
(020) 8871 7266
or email brightside@wandsworth.gov.uk

YOUR BRIGHTSIDE

Your Brightside is distributed by London Letterbox Marketing. We expect all copies of Brightside to be delivered to every home in the borough and pushed fully through the letterbox. This issue of Brightside is being delivered from **November 28 to December 1**. Your next Brightside will be delivered from **January 30 to February 2**. If you don't receive your copy call us on (020) 8871 7520. Brightside is the civic magazine of Wandsworth Council.

It is produced by the council's corporate communications unit. It is the only publication delivered to every household in the borough.

We would like to thank all our advertisers for their support. Brightside will consider display advertisements from non-council bodies (excluding recruitment) and reserves the right to decline advertisements.

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- Editorial (020) 8871 8902
- Advertising (020) 8871 7266

If you have a comment about the magazine please telephone: (020) 8871 8902/6173 or email: brightside@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Brightside is printed on environmentally friendly paper, please recycle.



Heathrow fight continues

The battle continues to stop the expansion of Heathrow and protect residents from the misery of aircraft noise.

Wandsworth Council will tell a new aviation commission that increasing capacity at the airport would have a devastating impact on quality of life for flightpath communities including Putney.

The council is preparing evidence for the aviation commission, headed by Sir Howard Davies, which was launched by the Government to examine the case for airport development across the UK.

The authority will unpick the case for a third and fourth runway and wants a guarantee that 'runway alternation' will be maintained to give residents some respite from overhead planes.

Wandsworth will tell Sir Howard that

allowing both runways to be used in tandem for arrivals and departures – a system called 'mixed mode' – would be just as damaging as creating new landing strips.

And the council will argue that extra capacity at Heathrow would not guarantee better connections between the UK and emerging trading partners. Airlines can choose where they fly and will naturally use extra runway slots to increase services to established, profitable destinations rather than risky new routes to places like China.

Wandsworth and its 2M campaign partners have successfully blocked previous attempts to introduce mixed mode and overturned the previous Government's plans for a third Heathrow runway in the High Court.

►► **Find out more at**
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/aviation.

Carers group

The Carers Forum Wandsworth is a group open to all unpaid carers which campaigns for recognition and rights.

To find out more call Daniel on (020) 8675 0811 or email daniel@wandsworthcarers.org.uk.

Shopping help

If you find shopping on your own difficult, Wandsworth Shopmobility provides wheelchairs and scooters, help from volunteers and door-to-door transport.

To use the service or volunteer to help call (020) 8875 9585.

MS support

The Wandsworth Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society meets monthly. Anyone with or affected by MS is welcome to attend. For more information ring (020) 8874 4373.

Car charge points

The council has installed four on-street electric vehicle charging points to help the fledgling electric car market gain a stronger foothold in south west London.

They are in Coverton Road, Tooting, St John's Avenue in Putney, Spencer Park in Wandsworth Common and Grant Road, Clapham Junction. Visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/driveelectric

Tax break for less well-off

Pensioners and the borough's least well-off families could be given a £600,000 tax break.

Council proposals would cushion the impact on the borough's poorest households of the Government's reform of council tax benefits, in effect saving them from a tax increase.

The Government is cutting the funding it gives to town halls to pay for council tax benefit by ten per cent – meaning a total funding cut of £600,000. Ministers have told local authorities to come up with their own schemes from next April and said they will hand them the grant to administer it.

Wandsworth is now consulting the public on its preferred approach, which is to maintain the existing rules and protect benefit entitlement at current levels. Instead of forcing the poor to pay, the council would pick up the cost of the shortfall in grant.

Finance spokesman Cllr Guy Senior said: "In many other parts of the country, people on low incomes may soon find themselves having to pay council tax for the first time.

"Here in Wandsworth, with our long record as a low tax authority, we do not wish to start increasing the tax burden for those least able to afford it."

Council tax bills in Wandsworth are the lowest in the country. The borough's Band D bill this financial year is £682, compared to a London average of more than £1,300.

►► **Find out more about council tax in the borough at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax.**

Application closing date is 8 February 2013

Have you applied for a nursery place in a school?

Contact the Family Information Service for more information on (020) 8871 7899 or email fis@wandsworth.gov.uk

If your child was born between September 2009 and August 2010, your child can have up to **15 hours free** nursery education from September 2013. Closing date: Friday 8 February 2013, for council schools.



New park in power station plan



Detailed plans for the first phase of the Battersea Power Station development have been submitted to the council.

The enormous development project in Nine Elms was granted outline planning consent in 2011. The new application provides a detailed specification for the first stage of the development.

Phase 1 consists of two buildings of varying heights between eight and 18 storeys. These will be built to the west of the power station building on land which is currently vacant. They would provide 800 homes, a hotel and space for cafes, restaurants, bars, a gym, pool, spa, theatre and office studios. A new six-acre public park would form the setting for the new buildings.

A Malaysian consortium completed the purchase of the iconic site earlier this year. The new owners are implementing the approved masterplan for the 39-acre power station plot which includes the complete regeneration of the listed power station and a full mixed-use redevelopment including new homes, offices, shops, restaurants and hotels as well as community, cultural and leisure facilities.

▶▶ [To view the application and provide feedback online visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning.](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planning)

Get connected on Streetlife

You can now connect more easily with the council via local community website streetlife.com.

Wandsworth Council now has its own page on the social network, used by more than 20,000 local people. You can communicate directly with us, catch up on council news and events and get handy links to online services.

Streetlife is a space for Wandsworth residents to voice opinions and share practical information and advice with people living nearby. The website first launched in Battersea with the support of the council, and has since opened its doors to communities across the nation.

"It's like chatting over the garden fence but with lots of people, and at times that suit you," said Nina Whittaker of streetlife.com. "A recent survey of users found that online interaction is strengthening community spirit and helping to build stronger, friendlier communities."

Another feature enables users to share, lend and borrow with each other. This could be belongings, or skills and knowledge. Find out more at www.streetlife.com.

Safety and reassurance at the touch of a button

WATCH

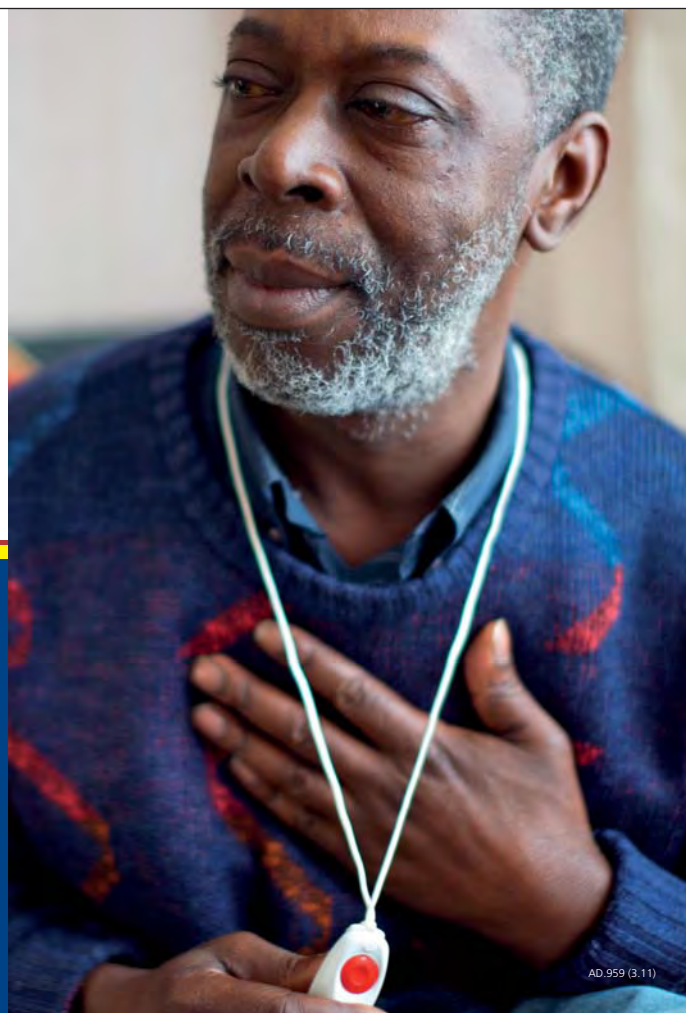
Wandsworth's alarm service

(020) 8871 8198

wandsworth.gov.uk/watch



number one for
service and value



AD_959 (3.11)

Library contract awarded



An innovative plan has been agreed to enhance and safeguard the borough's library and heritage service.

A contract to manage the service has been awarded to charitable social enterprise Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL). The recommendation follows a competitive tender process involving three organisations from which GLL was deemed to offer the best value for money for local tax payers.

GLL will run the service from April next year for a period of eight years. The change will produce significant yearly savings and, crucially, strengthen the service at a time when many other councils are closing branches.

Under the contract, GLL would be expected to continue providing core library services free of charge to users, while library buildings will remain in the ownership of the local authority. All 146 staff will be managed by GLL.

GLL, the UK's first leisure trust, has been responsible for running a variety of community services and spaces across the country since 1996.

Primary deadline January 15

The deadline for applying for a place at a Wandsworth primary school is January 15. The council has produced a booklet, Choose a Wandsworth Primary School, which gives information on individual schools and guidance on the admissions process.

Visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions.

Clegg visit

Deputy prime minister Nick Clegg chose Putney workhub and nursery Third Door to deliver a keynote speech on flexible parental leave. Third Door at Point Pleasant provides both a workspace and flexible daycare so that local professionals can work while their children are looked after nearby. The facilities are also available separately. Visit www.third-door.com.

Free wi-fi

Free wi-fi is now available at all the borough's libraries and library halls. Find out more by asking the librarian at your local branch, or visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries.



Community Advice Day

Hundreds of people went along for advice on everything from benefits and pensions to health and housing at the council's annual Community Advice Day at the Civic Suite. Representatives from more than 50 organisations and council services went along to man stalls, and there were talks all day, including the police's Special Crime Directorate on identity fraud, Job Centre Plus on advice for lone parents, updates on housing benefits changes, latest news from the Department of Works and Pensions, a talk from South Thames College on courses and how to enrol and information on financial assessments on social care costs.

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to do
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extraordinary
to do something
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Are you someone special, with room in your life, and your home? Whether you're married or single, gay or straight, a homeowner or renting, and whatever your cultural background, we'd like to hear from you if you're interested in fostering older children.

As well as a spare bedroom, you'll need to adapt and be flexible. Fostering is challenging and rewarding, but we offer lots of support, and enhanced fees and allowances to enable you to make a lasting difference to a teenager's life.

To find out more about looking after a Wandsworth teenager:

Visit our website

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fostering

Visit our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/wandsworthfostering

Email carerrecruitment@wandsworth.gov.uk

Call (020) 8871 6666



Discover the rewards of fostering



Drug dealers kicked out

A woman has been evicted from her council flat after her teenage son and her lodger used it to deal class A drugs.

A judge in the county court granted the council an eviction order after hearing that the woman's 17-year-old son and 23-year-old lodger had been convicted of selling cocaine and heroin from the property.

The court ruled that by permitting these illegal activities, the tenant, who cannot be identified for legal reasons, had breached the conditions of her tenancy.

The judge was told that a police raid on the flat in Ellisfield Drive, Roehampton, had resulted in the seizure of a quantity of drugs.

The council's tenancy agreement was drawn up in close consultation with residents who live on the borough's housing estates and is designed to tackle illegal activities, anti-social behaviour and nuisance behaviour, including harassment, noise, graffiti and not properly controlling children and pets.

Over the past three years 22 tenants have been evicted from council-owned accommodation for breaching the tenancy conditions as a result of their criminal and/or anti-social behaviour.

▶▶ **For more information about tenancy conditions and other issues related to council homes in the borough visit www.wandsworth.gov.housing.**

Lollipop patrollers

Around half the borough's lollipop patrollers are expected to be retained, as the council continues discussions with a major national company about a sponsorship deal and 16 schools agree to directly fund the service.

The council has carried out an in-depth review of the service in light of the fact that very few, if any, young children are allowed to make the journey to school unescorted while older children that do walk to school on their own safely cross roads that do not have patrollers every day.

Only a small minority of schools in the borough actually have a patroller. Evidence suggests that school crossing patrollers do not have any effect on accident figures.

The town hall's transport spokesman Cllr Russell King said: "Virtually all young children are brought to school by their parents. Parents simply don't allow small children to make the journey to school on their own, especially if it involves crossing busy roads.

"However, we absolutely recognise that some parents do appreciate the value and reassurance that the patrollers offer and that is why we have been discussing sponsorship arrangements with this large national company."



Anti-fraud project launched

Dozens of older residents have been given the inside track on common cons as part of a groundbreaking project designed to protect potentially vulnerable people against fraudsters.

The joint initiative between Wandsworth Council and the Metropolitan Police aims to reduce the number of people aged 65 and over who fall victim to investment scams, fake lottery wins and cold callers. Last year twice as many people aged 65-plus were victims of fraud than those under 65 in the capital.

Anyone who thinks they are a victim of fraud should call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or report it online at www.actionfraud.police.uk. Download a guide to the most common scams at www.met.police.uk/fraudalert. You can request a hard copy from Wandsworth Council's Community Safety Division by calling (020) 8871 6603 or emailing syoxall@wandsworth.gov.uk.

WANDSWORTH

24

seven

[wandsworth.gov.uk/
24seven](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/24seven)

News and online
services for
Wandsworth
taxpayers





Supermarket signs up for scheme

Sainsbury's in Putney has signed up to the WAND card scheme, which helps families with disabled children get concessions and other support while they're out and about.

The scheme, which was officially launched at Battersea Park zoo in September (pictured), benefits eligible children and young people on the council's Disabled Children's Register. The scheme will be rolled out to other Sainsbury's branches in the borough in the new year.

Find out more at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis, or call (020) 8871 7899.

Keeping tabs on design

An independent panel of experts will scrutinise the design quality of development proposals across the borough to drive up standards of architecture and urban development.

It is an advisory body, independent of the council, and does not hold formal decision making powers. Find out more at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/designpanel or email bsellers@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Tennis upgrade

Tennis courts at the borough's flagship sports complex at Barn Elms are getting a £150,000 upgrade.

The cost of bringing them up to Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) standards includes a £30,000 contribution from the London Marathon Charitable Trust. The council also plans to refurbish the tennis courts in Battersea Park in the next financial year as part of a £230,000 improvement scheme. Visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/barnelms.

Awards boost

Record numbers of the borough's young people are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. More than 1,000 young people enrolled last year. Find out about this and other schemes for young people at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/youth.

Less in the bin more in your pocket

find out how to reduce waste

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/reducewaste



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nottinghillhousing.org.uk/batterseareach

 **FIRST STEPS**
to home ownership in London



For eligibility t&c's visit: www.nottinghillhousing.org.uk
Image shown: Computer generated

More homes unveiled

Another 38 affordable homes have been created on Battersea's Rollo Estate as part of the council's pioneering Hidden Homes initiative.

This follows a £7.5m housing investment programme jointly funded by the council and the Homes and Communities Agency.

They bring the total number of Hidden Homes built by the council over the past decade to 238. These have been allocated to local families in housing need for rent, and to first time buyers living in the borough on a shared ownership basis.

Since it was launched in November 2002, the Hidden Homes scheme has transformed vacant and disused spaces on housing estates like laundry rooms, storage areas and defunct boiler rooms. It has successfully brought back into use redundant spaces on housing estates that are either eyesores or could otherwise become havens for anti-social behaviour.

The cost of building these new homes has also represented a good value deal for taxpayers because the council already owns the land - so there is no expensive land purchase involved.





Open the door

More than a thousand people keen to get on the housing ladder turned up at the Affordable Housing Open Day. The town hall event was packed full of information and advice on buying your first home, including information about the different home ownership schemes, including shared ownership, right to buy and house purchase grants.

Representatives from local housing providers, independent financial advisors and solicitors and the council's Home Ownership Team were all on hand and council leader Ravi Govindia went along to chat to visitors (pictured). Find out more at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership or call (020) 8871 6016/6017.

Discount for homebuyers

If you are a council tenant, did you know you could buy your home with a discount of up to £75,000?

The maximum discount available under the Right to Buy scheme was increased in April from £16,000. The level of discount each tenant receives through Right to Buy will depend on the length of time they have been a council tenant and whether they live in a flat or a house.

As a rough guide, this means if your house is worth £200,000 and you have lived there five years, you could buy it for £130,000.

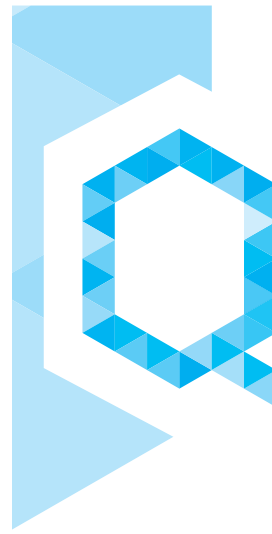
To find out how the discount is calculated and to download an application form, visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/righttobuy.

Better connected

>> WANDSWORTH CONNECTED >>

Super-speed fibre optic broadband could soon be installed in the borough's council estates. The council is looking at working with a private company and is currently gathering information on the market and gauging interest among residents before beginning the official tender process.

As part of its Wandsworth Connected campaign, the council wants to ensure estate residents can get online as easily as the rest of the borough. Currently 85 per cent of Wandsworth residents have some form of internet access – up from 74 per cent in 2007 – but the figure falls to around two thirds among council tenants.



RIVERSIDE QUARTER

Launching early 2013
18 exclusive
1 and 2
bedroom
apartments

Available to
buy through
Shared
Ownership

Situated next to the River Thames, and close to Wandsworth Park, register now for more information about this unique development and riverside living.



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sales@nhhg.org.uk (Quote RQ12)
nottinghillhousing.org.uk/riverside

 **FIRST STEPS**
to home ownership in London



For eligibility t&cs visit: www.nottinghillhousing.org.uk
Images shown: Previous block at Riverside Quarter and local area

Telephone Scams

Protect your **bank** and **credit card** details.

Your bank will **NEVER** ask you for...

- ✗ Your personal details, passwords or PIN numbers.
- ✗ The Security number on the back of your card, **3 digit number on the signiture strip.**
- ✗ Or send a courier/bike messenger to collect your card.

Don't give them to anyone!

For further advice call **020 8871 6567**



FREE GRIT keeps ice at bay



Tonnes of free grit has been handed out to residents to help keep pavements clear this winter.

The council has offered residents up to 50 kilos of grit to help them cope with frozen footpaths. The aim is to encourage people to help others in their neighbourhoods – especially the elderly and disabled, or those with young children – who might otherwise find it hazardous to venture outdoors in a cold snap.

Last year the council gave away more than 15 tonnes of grit to local residents, community groups and neighbourhood watch co-ordinators.

The council works flat out to clear snow and ice from the borough's 230 miles of roads and 450 miles of pavements. But this takes time and residents are offered grit so they can help speed the process up and, using their local knowledge, concentrate on paths used by elderly and vulnerable people.

The council has also expanded the number of salt bins across the borough so that members of the public have an immediate stock of grit close at hand.

►► **For general advice about clearing ice from footpaths and to find the location of your nearest salt bin visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/snow.**



Garden win

Thrive's Herb Garden and Old English Garden in Battersea Park were named best community gardens in the annual London in Bloom awards. More than 100 disabled people attend Thrive's Battersea Garden Project each week to improve their health and learn the skills they need to get a horticulture job. Find out more at www.thrive.org.uk.

Tobacco crack-down

Ministers have been urged to ban 'proxy' tobacco sales to stop adults buying cigarettes on behalf of young people. The call has come from Wandsworth Tobacco Control Alliance – a group spearheaded by the council which includes representatives from GPs, pharmacists, the Fire Brigade, health services and other groups to reduce smoking levels in the borough.

Find out more about the work of the Wandsworth Tobacco Control Alliance at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/tca.

Help keep streets safe

The Wandsworth Street Pastors are looking for more volunteers to patrol the borough's streets and help vulnerable people. Call 0786 2728056, email wandsworth@streetpastors.org.uk or visit www.streetpastors.co.uk.

Call 111

The new NHS 111 service launches in Wandsworth this month. It's a new number to call when you need medical help fast, but it's not a 999 emergency.

When you call 111 you will be assessed, given advice and directed immediately to the local service that can help you best. Calls are free from both landlines and mobile phones and the service is available 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

Film fund

Filmmakers are being offered grants of up to £3,500 to help kick-start their short film projects.

The Short Film Fund 2012 is run in partnership by Wandsworth and Kensington and Chelsea councils, with support from Film London and Skillset. The deadline for applications is December 5. Visit www.filmlondon.org.uk/boroughfilmfunds.

MY WANDSWORTH

Rebecca Michael

I've lived in Wandsworth for over 20 years and I just love it. The diversity of the borough is wonderful. I often spend afternoons shopping in the trendy Northcote Road and like taking walks along the riverside walkway.

One of the best benefits of living in the borough for me is the Council Tax, which is so cheap compared to other London boroughs.



Giving young people a voice

What do JLS, Alexandra Burke, Tinie Tempah and Leona Lewis have in common?

As well as being hugely popular UK artists, they all took part in courses or projects run by Battersea-based Urban Voice UK.

Based in Culvert Road, Urban Voice UK is a not for profit organisation that recognises that success is a skill that has to be learned. It works with young people in their teens and twenties who may have low aspirations and poor life skills, shows them what's possible, and teaches them how to make it happen.

Courses include the eight-week Reality Check, where young people are taught how to set goals and stay motivated, Gateway 2 Music, teaching the basics of the music industry, and The Business, a course for women from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds who want to get back into work and progress their careers. Past students have gone on to start their own businesses and study at top universities.

The council's chief executive, Paul Martin, and head of youth services, Virginia Wall, went along to the first session of another course, Youth Get Real, to chat with students. These discussion dinners encourage students to think about their core values and their place within the world.

To mark its 20th anniversary, Urban Voice UK will be staging a talent competition, Project Talent, at the BAC on Lavender Hill, on February 1st, 2013. The winner will get a cash prize and a recording and management contract and, together with other finalists, will be chosen for the Artist Development Programme. This provides training and real experience of life in the industry and after they complete the course artists will be put forward for TV Talent shows. JLS and Alexandra Burke successfully completed the course in previous years.

Urban Voice founder Tony Biola said he wanted young people to understand that the ability to succeed is something that can be learned.

"I want our youth to understand that you must train for success – just like our athletes trained before competing in the Olympics and Paralympics this summer. I want to demonstrate to our youth that you can achieve, whatever situation you find yourself in."



One of the special guests at the talent competition will be Urban Voice graduate Ruth Brown. Ruth, who comes from Wandsworth, appeared on the BBC1 talent show The Voice. She completed the 14-week Music Plus course, in which students stage and perform their own showcase. "Taking the Urban Voice UK course made me more determined than ever to succeed," said Ruth. You can also gain a BTEC Level 2 qualification.

- Urban Voice UK's Grow Your Tenner campaign allows the public to support its work by donating a seed £10, which is matched by fundraising website Local Giving. To make a donation or register for a course, go to www.urbanvoice.uk.com. For sponsorship and more information email hello@urbanvoiceuk.com.

- The council offers a range of activities and support to the borough's young people. Find out more at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/youth.





STAY PUT STAY SAFE

Safety for you and your household

People who are the victims of domestic violence or hate crime* may risk losing their home because they just don't feel safe there anymore.

The council's Stay Put Stay Safe scheme (SPSS) helps make victims' homes more secure. Since the scheme started, more than 170 homes have been made safer under the scheme. No forced entries have been made to any of the properties and nobody has been assaulted in their homes due to failure of security.

Wandsworth residents who are victims of hate crime, or domestic violence where the perpetrator does not live in the property will be considered for the scheme and assessed on a case by case basis.

- Find out more about SPSS from the Housing Projects Team on (020) 8871 7333, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm or email housingprojects@wandsworth.gov.uk
- For information, advice and support for Wandsworth residents experiencing domestic violence visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/domesticviolence
- For an independent and confidential advocacy service for victims of domestic abuse contact Wandsworth Safety Net on (020) 7223 1234, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
- The One Stop Shop is a drop-in service offering confidential advice and legal support for people experiencing domestic violence. Every Monday (except Bank holidays) BAC, Lavender Hill, SW11 5TN; 07884 340 117.

* A hate crime is defined as a targeted victim because of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, class, ethnicity, nationality, age, sex or gender identity.

Emma's story

Mum of two Emma (not her real name) separated from her partner after suffering domestic violence for several years. Her ex-partner persisted in coming to her home and when she did not allow him in he would smash the windows and kick the door. Eventually the family slept in shifts because he had threatened to burn the flat down.

Emma had lived in her home for more than 15 years and had family and good friends that lived nearby. After speaking to a friend who had had the SPSS scheme completed, Emma decided it would provide her with the safety and security she needed without having to leave her home.

After her individual assessment all accessible glass was protected with a security film which prevents a sustained attack or a brick. Her mailbox was sealed, and an external mailbox was fitted outside the flat to prevent the risk of an arson attack and her family were trained in fire safety by the fire brigade. All external door locks were reinforced, and in the event that her ex partner were to get in, a sanctuary room fitted with a secure door was created in a bedroom. Her home was also flagged for priority attendance by the police should she ever need to call them.

For a number of weeks her ex-partner made several attempts to get in but because he was unable to break through the security measures he soon gave up.



Wandsworth
**VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND GIRLS
FORUM**

Why not... Get tested for HIV?

The earlier the better



WORLDS AIDS DAY
1 DECEMBER

**You can be
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GUM
clinics in
Wandsworth**

**The Courtyard Clinic
St George's Hospital
Blackshaw Road
London
SW17 0QT**

**Phone: 020 8725 3353/3354
www.courtyardclinic.nhs.uk**

**Monday: 8am - 6pm
Tuesday: 11am - 4pm
Wednesday: 11am - 1pm
Thursday: 8am - 6pm
Friday: 9am - 11am**

**No appointment is needed.
Same day HIV testing available on
Monday and Thursday mornings.**

**Roehampton Clinic
Queen Mary's Hospital
Roehampton Lane
London
SW15 5PN**

**Phone: 020 8487 6861/6862
www.roehamptonclinic.nhs.uk**

**Monday: 8.30am - 12pm
Tuesday: Appointments only
Wednesday: 8.30am - 10am
Thursday: 8.30am - 10am
Friday: 8.30am - 12pm**

**No appointment is needed for
walk in times above.**

**Both clinics also offer appointments. Please call to find times and book.
You may also want to call your GP as many practices now offer testing.**



World AIDS day - December 1

More than 120,000 people in the UK are believed to be HIV positive, and about a quarter of those are unaware that they have the infection. Once someone has HIV, it can weaken the body's immune system and without treatment can develop into a collection of diseases known as AIDS. There is no vaccine currently available and once infected there is no cure.

HIV tests are readily available and if HIV is diagnosed, new treatments enable a near to normal life expectancy. For further information about HIV testing in Wandsworth contact a sexual health adviser on (020) 8724 3342 or visit www.swish.org.uk.

World AIDS day is always held on December 1 to raise awareness, support those infected and remember those that have died. The wearing of a red ribbon is used to remind people and governments that HIV needs to stay high on the agenda. For more information and to find out how you can get involved visit www.worldaidsday.org.

Every year the sexual health service at St George's Hospital and the Department of Public Health based at the council work together to raise awareness locally. This year activities include stands in St George's Hospital, Wimbledon station and Tooting Broadway.

Make a... **green pledge**



to help the environment

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/greenpledge





Unlock your *Family secrets*

...ready or available in soon as I can
back here, though I was so very
glad to be at home
I will just copy out the
verses & send them off. Goodbye.
Oh, the Christmas tree was a
great success. Baba went pale
with surprise as she came into
the room & found it. Thank you.
Edward Thomas

Discover a treasure trove of archives at the borough's Heritage Service that can help you travel back into the past.

TV star Alex Kingston made some amazing discoveries about her ancestors after studying a range of historical records held at Battersea Library.

Ms Kingston, well-known for her appearances in ER and Dr Who, took part in the BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are' series and made some surprise discoveries - including the fact that one of her female ancestors had once run a brothel.

Her research took her to Wandsworth because her great grandfather, who was killed in the First World War, lived in the borough.

By checking the historical documents held by the service she was able to start tracing her family back hundreds of years - and in the process unearthed not only her Jewish roots but also that her great, great, great grandmother had once run "a house of ill-repute" in Westminster.

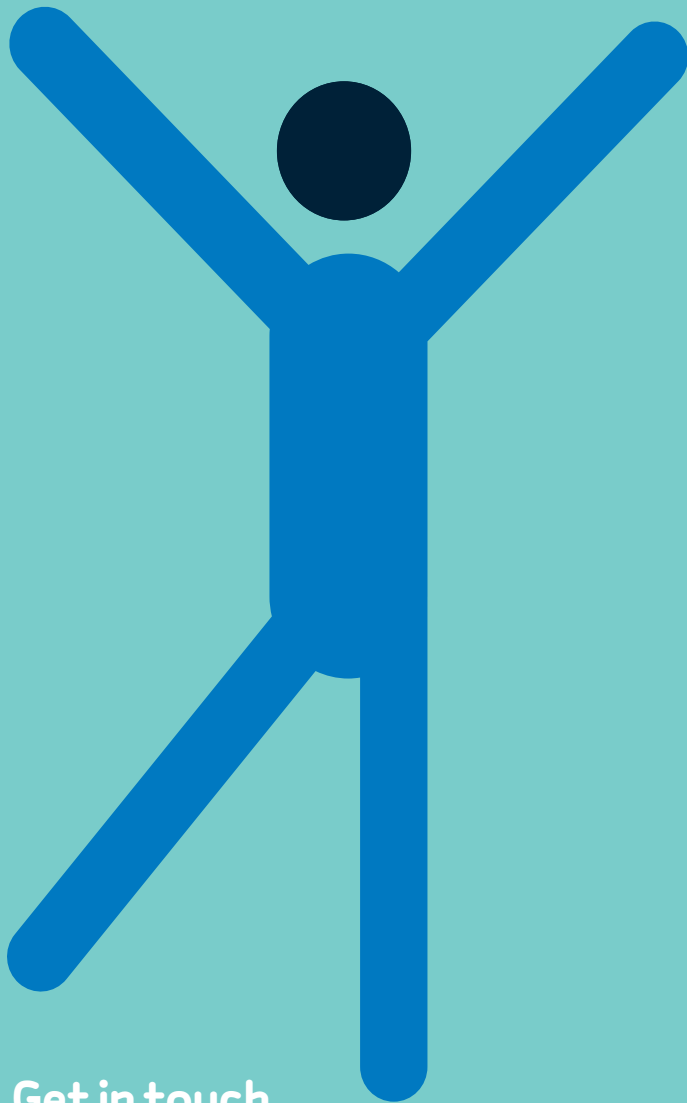
Staff at the heritage service can give advice on how to start your research and where to look for information, as well as being able to suggest other historical sources that could cast more light on the lives of your relatives.

The Heritage Service is open 9am to 5pm on Monday, Friday and Saturday, and between 9am and 8pm Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call (020) 8871 7753 or email heritage@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Sources accessible at the Heritage Service include:

- Census records from 1841 to 1901
- Electoral registers for Battersea from 1885 and Wandsworth from 1892
- Local newspapers going back to 1865
- Free access to Ancestrylibrary.com in the search room
- Ordnance Survey maps
- Photographs
- Town plans
- Records of current and previous governing bodies including the civil parishes, Metropolitan Borough of Battersea, Metropolitan Borough of Wandsworth and the current borough council
- Diaries and letters of local residents. The picture shows a letter from the poet Edward Thomas
- Records relating to the Second World War
- Records of local organisations including businesses and political parties
- Local history books

Time to quit?



Wandsworth Stop Smoking Service

With our professional help
you are **4 times** more likely
to quit smoking for good

You can get stop smoking
support without needing
an appointment:

- Pop into any pharmacy
in your area
- Get in touch for up to date
times and locations of our
drop-in clinics

Get in touch...

Freephone: **0800 389 7921**

Email: **stopsmoking.team@wpct.nhs.uk**

Estates regeneration moves to next stage

All summer we've been asking local people what they think about our improvement projects in Battersea and Roehampton. You can get a flavour of the comments on these pages

Both schemes aim to create even better places to live for residents in and around the Winstanley and York Road estates in Battersea and the Alton Estate in Roehampton by improving the quality of the physical environment, housing and community facilities and services.

We'll start work on masterplans for each area by next summer, and these will set out a detailed, long-term vision and business case for future improvement work. These masterplans can only be developed with the help of local people.

The council's leader, Councillor Ravi Govindia, said: "Our goal is to give residents as many opportunities as possible to have their say on regenerating these parts of Roehampton and Battersea – and I would like to extend my thanks to those who have already engaged with us. But this is just the start and I look forward to continuing the conversation with members of the public in the months ahead."

If you are a Roehampton resident visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton, call 020 8871 5505 or email roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk.

For anyone living in or around the Winstanley and York Road estates, visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/winstanleyyorkroad, contact project manager Philip Morris at pmorris@wandsworth.gov.uk.



Dennis Booth runs a community football project in Roehampton. It helps young people learn focus and discipline, and trains them up to a level at which many are able to develop pro or semi-pro careers in the game. Find out more by calling him on 07722 102777.



You can also find out more by visiting
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/winstanleyyorkroad.
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton.

17

Can you grow a
activate the green spaces?

What you told us in Winstanley and York Road

- People feel that their area has improved over the past year, but concern over things like crime and anti-social behaviour remains an issue.
- The majority of residents like their homes and living in Battersea. However, residents have expressed a desire to see improvements to the physical condition of the environment outside their homes - inside blocks and on the estates.
- There's a strong desire for more opportunities for community activities and events.
- Some 70 per cent of respondents wished to be involved in future decisions about the local area.

What you told us in Roehampton

- More than half of respondents want to see improvements to the quality of existing housing in the area.
- Improving facilities for young people on the estate and improving the general environment and shopping facilities were also popular changes.
- Support was shown for redevelopment, with many people prepared to see the demolition of some buildings to pave the way for more housing to be built.
- People think that ways of combating crime and antisocial behaviour, and generally improving safety, should be factored into improvement plans.

An art collective has teamed up with residents of Roehampton to create a map inspired by memories, aspirations and ideas for the future of their community.

It shows areas around Allbrook House and Danebury Avenue that both adults and children want to see changed by creating things like garden/growing areas, introducing cycle paths or painting buildings.

The map was created after Wandsworth Council's arts team and the public health department at NHS Wandsworth commissioned artists Avant-Gardening to give people an additional, more creative, channel through which to express their views over desired improvement work.

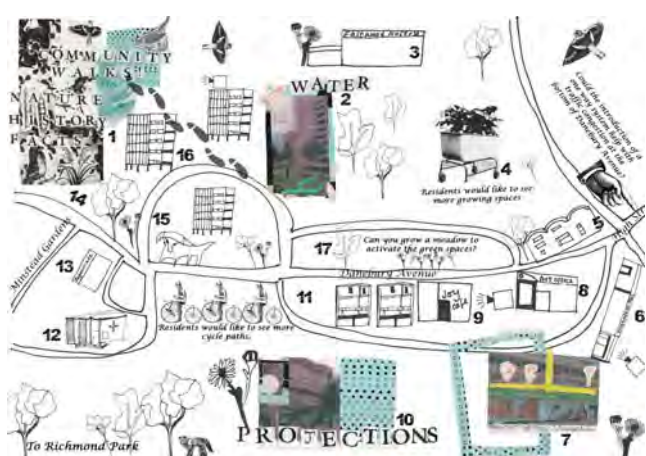


STORM

(Support, Trust, Opportunity, Rebuilding and Motivation), formed in 2004 to provide support to single mothers in the Winstanley and York Road area, steer youngsters away from knife and gun crime, help get people back into work and increase social cohesion.

The group provides a range of help and support, including a youth club, cultural activities, a job shop, literacy classes and an annual conference.

Find out more at www.stormempowerment.org.uk.





The future's bright for Wandsworth Town

The £1bn regeneration of Wandsworth town centre is gathering pace, with major new developments in the pipeline.

Debenhams has announced it is opening a new store in Southside Shopping Centre in 2015 on the site of the Arndale Walk. The £40m scheme is in addition to a further £50m investment in Southside, which will see new retail space along the Garratt Lane frontage, and an improved first floor.

Centre manager Neil Churchill said: "We are extremely pleased to welcome Debenhams to Southside. Their commitment to Wandsworth aligns with our long term vision for the centre as it develops a reputation as one of south west London's leading retail destinations. Our great range of retail names and the growing mix of restaurants and cafes are testament to the continued retailer confidence in the centre."

Elsewhere in the town centre, the demolition of the derelict Lyon House office block will make space for 41 flats – 37 per cent of which will be affordable – and offices.

The scheme also features space for new shops to move into the high street. The developer has agreed to contribute £125,000 towards town centre highway improvements, including helping fund a reconfiguration of the Wandsworth one-way system. The council believes that switching part of the gyratory back to two-way working would relieve pressure on the high street and help it flourish.

Work is also progressing on the transformation of the Business Village site behind the High Street. This will see 416 new homes, commercial office and retail space in a scheme that will open up new town centre public areas.

Residents can find out more about a new proposal to redevelop the Ram Brewery site in Wandsworth at two public exhibitions. They are being held at the Ram Brewery site on Thursday, November 29, from 4.30pm and 7.30pm and on Saturday, December 1, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Visit www.therambrewery.com.



Wandsworth Business Village

Here is a round-up of major town centre redevelopment schemes:

Currently on site –

Osiers Road residential

Riverside Quarter
mixed residential/retail/
commercial

Wandsworth
Business Village
mixed residential/retail/
commercial

Cockpen House
mixed residential/retail/
commercial

Southside Shopping
Centre Phase 2

Sainsbury's Garratt Lane
mixed hotel/retail

East Hill Hotel

New applications

Ram Brewery
mixed residential/retail/
commercial





St Mark's hosted a community festival in the summer.



Helping the community thrive

At the heart of the Clapham Junction community, St Mark's Church has shown that the Big Society isn't just a slogan – it can be a reality.

The Battersea Rise church has developed an extensive range of services and outreach programmes to help all Junction residents – not just the 700 church members. It has developed links with the council, the local MP and other voluntary organisations to create a network of support for local people and also runs the Wandsworth Mediation Service, featured in the June edition of Brightside.

Here are some of the ways St Mark's helps

- CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Counselling service: Free debt counselling service. To book an appointment ring freephone 0800 328 0006
- Wandsworth Mediation Service: Providing a community mediation service to neighbours, families and communities in conflict
- The CAP Money Course: A free three-session course to help you get back in control of your finances

- SPEAR: A free interactive six week course to help 16-24 year olds kick start their career
- CHEER: Monthly lunch for those parenting alone
- Night Pastors: Helping to make Clapham Junction a safer place at night
- Infuse: A weekly café for young people
- Future Skills Training: Working with young people who are excluded or at risk of exclusion from mainstream education
- Wandsworth Foodbank: Providing emergency food to those in need (opening Easter 2013)
- Monthly tea-parties for the elderly
- Eat and Meet: Monthly gatherings for residents of the Clapham Estate and the surrounding area
- Family Life: marriage and parenting courses

Case study

Jane (not her real name) first came to CAP October 2010. She had a large amount of debt and could see no way out. CAP took on the negotiating of her debts with her creditors and worked out an affordable budget for her to live off. CAP also paid for a food shop for Jane and she went on one of the CAP Discovery Breaks, which are holidays provided by CAP for clients and their families. At the beginning of 2012 Jane became debt free.

To find out more about any of these community projects, contact Dan Burrows at dan.burrows@stmarks-battersea.org.uk or call (020) 7326 9417.

Training the UK's OPERA STARS

Hidden away behind Wandsworth High Street is one of the borough's cultural gems.

The National Opera Studio (NOS) made its home in Wandsworth town centre nine years ago. It provides intensive training for a small number of highly talented singers who go on to perform in companies in the UK and overseas, including the Royal Opera House and English National Opera. Coaching includes languages, acting, music, movement and song repertoire, and focuses on understanding the music, as well as learning the technical skills to sing it.

"Many people are unaware that we are here, but we're keen to break down barriers and become part of the local community," said Executive Director David Fletcher.

"The core business of what we do is training some very, very talented singers – and that has to be behind closed doors. But by getting them to perform in front of local people they can get performing experience and the NOS can get out more into the local community."

The NOS is in Chapel Yard – an old industrial area of Wandsworth town centre that has been extensively regenerated in recent years and is now home to modern new offices.

As part of its bid to become part of the local community, the NOS plans to come up with a more consistent programme of working with borough schools. In the meantime local people can enjoy a programme of free lunchtime and evening events. The next lunchtime recital is on December 4.

Find out more at www.nationaloperastudio.org.uk



Nicolas Darmanin is one of the NOS trainees. He said

"The National Opera Studio is a place like no other. Having studied for a masters degree at one of the leading conservatories in the UK I was excited to continue my studies at the NOS which is in a league of its own. Opera provides a classical basis for much of theatre and performance today and as singers we feel a responsibility to keep this wonderful art form alive for the enjoyment of generations to come.

"I would recommended the NOS to any young singer as a tremendous place of learning and nurturing of young talent, a place of endless opportunities to learn operas and to gain experience to work on an international platform."

Gym upgrade

Putney leisure centre had a £400,000 upgrade, with improved changing rooms and new gym and fitness equipment.

The centre's state-of-the-art gym has been enhanced with the introduction of new V-Plates pro vibration machines, TRX total resistance exercise equipment and Techno Gym indoor cycling bikes. In addition, all the other cardiovascular equipment in the leisure centre's Kinetika gym has been replaced with the latest range of Precor Fitness machinery.

The changing room upgrade, which has been funded by DC Leisure, which operates the borough's seven leisure and sports centres, is aimed at their customers who have an all-inclusive Kinetika membership.

The improvements at Putney are part of a wider sum of £825,000 being spent by DC Leisure on improving sports and fitness facilities across the borough.

Already £74,000 has been spent on new gym equipment at the Wandle recreation centre while new equipment, flooring and other improvements have also been installed at the gyms at Balham and Tooting leisure centres. Balham has also had its three squash courts refurbished.

For more information about local leisure centres, visit www.dcleisurecentres.co.uk.



NOMINATE SPORTING HEROES

The UK's golden year of sport will be celebrated at Wandsworth's annual Active Wandsworth Sports Awards.

Nominations are now open across nine award categories to recognise the contribution of local volunteers, coaches, teams and clubs.

The Mayor's Award recognises how an individual or organisation has increased opportunities for disabled people, while individual sportspeople are recognised in the Junior Sports Person of the Year (aged 13 and under) and the Sports Person of the Year (aged 21 and under).

Fill in the nomination form at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/active or call (020) 8871 8154 to have one posted to you.

Nominations close on Friday 21 December, the awards ceremony is on Thursday 7 February.



Keep up to date with sport and leisure in the borough by following Active Wandsworth on Facebook, or @activewandsworth on Twitter.

Don't waste your Christmas

No waste collections:
25 December and 1 January

Collections run a day late between
26-29 December and 2-5 January

Waste Services

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/waste

email: wasteservices@wandsworth.gov.uk

phone: (020) 8871 8558

Please recycle



what's on?

WELCOME TO WHAT'S ON IN WANDSWORTH
YOUR GUIDE TO ART EXHIBITIONS,
THEATRE PERFORMANCES,
CHILDREN'S EVENTS AND
SOCIETY MEETINGS

Children's
events are
shaded
yellow

EVENTS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY



Saturday December 8 – Sunday January 13

Midnight's Pumpkin

Kneehigh's seasonal show with a difference – Prince Charming's search for a bride takes in a talking pumpkin, ugly sisters, a batch of severed toes, formation dancing and a particularly stringent midnight curfew. Tongue in cheek production suited for everybody 6-106. Tickets £25, concessions £20, balcony and children's tickets £15. BAC Lavender Hill SW11. www.bac.org.uk Call 7223 2223.

How to be listed

To be included in the February/March edition send details (including access for people with disabilities) to:

whatson@wandsworth.gov.uk

or by post to:

What's on editor,
Room 231,
Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street,
SW18 2PU
to arrive by Wednesday January 9.

We cannot guarantee that your entry will be inserted. This is a free service. The information in this guide has been provided by the advertisers themselves. Wandsworth Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or for any event not organised by the council.

Free entry
Wheelchair access
Hearing loop

Until December 18
(Mon-Sat 10am-4.30pm;
Sun 9 Dec 1-5pm)

Multi-charity Christmas Card Shop

Buy your Christmas cards and help charities – at least 75p in the pound goes to charity. St Mary's Church, Putney High Street SW15. Or shop online www.cardsforcharity.co.uk

Thursday November 29
12.30- 2.30pm

Carers' Rights Day

Free event to help carers get information and advice on benefits and access practical support. Earlsfield Library, 276 Magdalen Road, SW18. Call 8877 1200.

Saturday December 1
12-6pm

Crafty Pint Handmade Christmas

Craft workshops making Christmas gifts, decorations

and cards. **Entry £5 includes a £5 discount off your first workshop.** First 50 bookings win a Crafty Pint lucky bag. Tooting Tram & Social, 46-48 Mitcham Road SW17. Pay on the day or book at www.craftypint.co.uk. Email gillian@craftypint.co.uk or call 07792 776218

Monday December 3
8-10pm

Aspects of Wagner

With David Mellor, a Vice-President of Putney Music. **Annual subscription £30. Visitors' temporary membership per meeting £8. Young people under 18 free.** Putney Music, Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, SW15. www.putneymusic.org.uk Call 8788 0827.

Wheelchair

Tuesday December 4
1-2pm

Lunchtime Song Recital

Elin Pritchard, Soprano & Nicola Rose, Piano, Gavan Ring, Baritone & Laila Barnat, Piano. National Opera Studio 2 Chapel Yard Wandsworth High Street, SW18. Seat reservations:email info@nationaloperastudio.org.uk or call 8874 8811

Tuesday December 4,
4-6pm

Volunteering session

Find out about volunteering opportunities. Battersea Library, Lavender Hill SW11. www.volunteeringwandsworth.org.uk or call 0300 365 9950.

Wednesday December 5
- Saturday January 5,
various times

Dick Whittington goes Bollywood

Poor Daljit Whittington, sick of never having any money, sets out on a journey with only his pet cat. Destination: Mumbai – he's heard a rumour that the streets are paved with gold! Pantomime with Bollywood glitz. Tara Arts Studio 356 Garratt Lane SW18. Box office 8333 4457. www.tara-arts.com

Thursdays December 6
and 20 10am and 2pm

Suitcase of Songs and Stories

Explore our fascinating collection through creative play, interactive stories and silly songs. Stay on after to play with our themed toys or take advantage of 10% discount in the café. For

what's on?

DECEMBER - JANUARY

children 0-5 years. **£3 child, accompanying adult free.** Wandsworth Museum, 38 West Hill SW18. To book a place call Zoe 8870 6060 or email bookings@wandsworthmuseum.co.uk

Thursday December 6 – Sunday December 9 7.45pm, weekend matinée 3pm, no Sunday evening performance

The Snow Queen

Hans Christian Anderson's enchanting story. Young Gerda embarks on an epic adventure to save her best friend Kai from the powerful spell of the Snow Queen. Will she reach him in time? **Tickets £10, £7, £5 (G64 members). £30 family ticket (2 children, 2 adults).**

Group 64 Youth Theatre at Putney Arts Theatre, Ravenna Road SW15. Call 8788 6935. Email group64@putneyartstheatre.org.uk

Thursday December 6 7.30-10pm

Open Mic Nights

Test out your new material in front of an audience, just turn up and sign up on the night. BAC Lavender Hill SW11. www.bac.org.uk Call 7223 2223.

Friday December 7 7.30-9pm

Holy Trinity Christmas Fair

Attractive Christmas gifts, raffle for giant Christmas hamper, hot food and mulled wine, carol singing. Children's activities. Proceeds to charities. Holy Trinity Church 74 Trinity Road SW17. Call 8870 1550.

Saturday December 8 12-4pm

Christmas Funderland

Bungee trampoline, climbing wall, bucking reindeer ride, Santa's Grotto, face painting, henna tattoos, BBQ, hog roast, mulled wine, candy floss, bouncy castle, funfair games, pocket money stall, stocking filler gifts, festive fayre (poinsettias, pantone, chutneys, mince pies). **Entry £1 for adults, free for children and OAPs.** Beatrix Potter School, Magdalen Road SW18. www.thebighutch.com

Saturday and Sunday December 8-9, Saturday December 15 to 24, 10am-4.30pm

Santa is Coming! Tell Santa what you would like for Christmas. To see Santa **£3.50, plus usual entry**

December 11 and 13 6.30pm
Zumba fitness Weekly classes. Dodington Rollo Community Centre, Charlotte Despard Avenue

fee £6.50 child (2-15 years), £7.95 adult, £26 family ticket. Children's Zoo Battersea Park, SW11. Call 7924 5826 www.batterseazoo.co.uk

Saturday December 8, doors 4.30pm, show 5pm

Young Performer Final

Young talented people, who have auditioned and practiced over the last few months, perform live. Singers, rappers, dancers, bands... Cheer on this year's talent. **Tickets £4 advance, £5 on the door** Civic Suite, Wandsworth Town Hall SW18. Box office 7729 9944.

Saturday December 8 7pm

Christmas Concert

Conductor Stephen Rhys presents in his final concert, Rutter's *Magnificat* and Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit* as well as Catherine Hamilton singing Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate* and Paul Rhys' *First Piano Concerto*. **Tickets £15, conc. £12.** Putney Choral Society, St Paul's Church, Augustus Road SW18. Box office 07909 981278. www.putneychoralsoc.org.uk **wheelchair**

Saturday December 8 1-4pm

Wrote it? Quote it! Workshop

Write and perform your poetry, plays and prose more confidently and effectively with playwright/ director Danusia Iwaszko and the Chalk the Sun tutor team. **Cost £10** (thanks to a Wandsworth Council arts grant). Chalk The Sun at Balham Bowls Club, 7 - 9 Ramsden Road SW12. To book email creativewriting@chalkthesun.co.uk or www.chalkthesun.co.uk or call 07852 483001.

December 11 and 13 6.30pm
Zumba fitness Weekly classes. Dodington Rollo Community Centre, Charlotte Despard Avenue



Saturday December 8 7.30pm

Candlelight Advent Concert

Start the festive season in style. Instrumental and vocal music by the sublime Janiculum ensemble of harpsichord, violin and cello with Marie Vassiliou (soprano) and Harry Nicoll (tenor). Exquisite seasonal 18th century music to familiar carols and folk songs. Mince pies and (family friendly!) mulled wine. **Tickets at door £10, £5 youth/senior, children under 11 free.** Putney Methodist Church, Gwendolen Avenue SW15. Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/putneymc/ www.putneymethodistchurch.org.uk/events.htm

SW11. Call Sima 07949 193 721.

Tuesday December 11 7-8.30pm

Meet the VSO

VSO is searching for skilled professionals and this is your chance to learn about volunteering. Returned volunteers will share their experiences. **Free but booking essential.** Carlton House, 85 Upper Richmond, SW15. Book at www.vso.org.uk/events and search for "meet VSO London"

Thursday December 13, 10am - 12noon

Volunteering session

Find out about volunteering opportunities. Wandsworth Town Library, Garratt Lane SW18. www.volunteeringwandsworth.org.uk or call 0300 365 9950.

Monday December 17 8pm

Douglas Skeggs: Prague: 'The Winter Queen'

Join us for this lecture. **Visitors £5.**

South-West London Decorative & Fine Arts Society, Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, SW15. Phone 8789 0047.

Wednesday December 19 – Saturday December 22 7.45pm Saturday matinée at 2.30pm

Jack and the Beanstalk

Christmas would not be as magical without a pantomime. A giant beanstalk, magic beans and a boy called Jack will ensure an enchanting start to your Christmas festivities. **Tickets £15/ £10. Group booking discount 10 tickets for the price of 9. Family ticket £48.** Putney Light Operatic Society, Putney Arts Theatre, Ravenna Road SW15. Box office 07594 464 or www.ticketsource.co.uk/plos

Thursday January 3 7-8.30pm

Overeaters Anonymous Tooting Bec Group

A 12-step fellowship of individuals who are recovering from compulsive

Wednesday January 9 for seven weeks
Learn to sail
First Class Sailing are running an RYA Day Skipper Navigation class at the Alma Pub, Wandsworth Town. For more information and to secure a place visit www.firstclasssailing.com/alma email info@firstclasssailing.com or call 020 3006 3717.



SOUTH-WEST LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY

Johannes Brahms
EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM
Op. 45

Soprano Rachel Chapman
Baritone Colin Campbell
Piano Ben Lewis-Smith, Richard Moore

Conductor MARTIN EVERETT

Saturday 8 December 2012, 7.30 p.m.
St Anne's Church, St Ann's Hill, Wandsworth, SW18

Admission - £10, £8 concessions and free admission under 12 years
Tickets - contact bookings@swlcs.org.uk or 020 8354 5566

Next Concert: 23 March 2013

Saturday December 8 7.30pm

Brahms - A German Requiem

With conductor Martin Everett. **Tickets £10, concessions £8, free for under 15 years.**

SW London Choral Society, St Anne's Church, St Ann's Hill SW18. Box office 8354 5566 or boxoffice@swlcs.org.uk www.swlcs.org.uk **wheelchair, loop**



**Wednesday January 2
– Tuesday January 15**

Christmas tree recycling

Take advantage of our two-week collection and recycling service of your real Christmas tree. We will collect your tree on the same day as your rubbish and recycling. www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling

overeating and other food problems. No charge - come along any Thursday. Building 28, Springfield Hospital, Glenburnie Road SW17. Call Aly 07881 296327. www.oagb.org.uk
Wheelchair.

**Thursday January 3
– Saturday January 19
7pm, matinee 2pm**

A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings

The very old man crashes into the feather-strewn yard of poor peasants, who fear that he is an angel come to take away their sick child. A tale questioning greed and how people react to the unknown. **Tickets £15, concessions £10, previews £10.** BAC Lavender Hill SW11. www.bac.org.uk Call 7223 2223.

**Sunday January 6 –
Sunday January 13
11am-5pm**

The Christine Wright Memorial Fund Art Fair

Paintings, photographs, pottery and works of art.

Refreshments, string quartet, bar. Parking. In aid of Mesothelioma (Asbestosis) UK. Thames Rowing Club, Putney Embankment SW15. To donate art work contact Cathy Whitrow 8788 1221 cw@dforc.co.uk
wheelchair

Term begins January 7

Spring term art courses

Learn something different for the New Year. Courses include Introduction to botanical drawing and painting with watercolour and digital design and photography courses. Go online for course details including charges. Putney School of Art and Design Oxford Road SW15. Call 8788 9145. www.wandsworth.gov.uk/psad

Tuesday January 8 7pm

South Atlantic Saga (Ascension Island, St Helena and the Falklands)

With speaker Joan Taylor Earlsfield Townswomens Guild, Earlsfield Library, Magdalen Road SW18. Call the Secretary 8870 0753.

**Saturday January 12
7.30pm**

Barbara Dickson with Nick Holland

Singer/pianist/ actress whose career spans three decades and many platinum albums makes her first appearance at St Luke's. **Tickets £18, concessions £14.** St. Luke's Music Society, St. Luke's Church, Thurleigh Road SW12. Box office 07951 791619. Book online www.slms.org.uk

Monday January 14 8pm

A Singer's Journey

The distinguished mezzo-soprano Rosalind Plowright OBE in conversation with the society's Ian Partridge. **Annual subscription £30. Visitors' temporary membership per meeting £8. Young people under 18 free.** Putney Music Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, SW15. Call 8788 0827. www.putneymusic.org.uk
wheelchair

**Tuesday January 15
7-9pm**

Stardust People Choir

Jazz improvising choir led by Cleveland Watkiss. **Cost £80.** Choir is every Tuesday. World Heartbeat Academy, 58 Kimber Road SW18. Book: www.worldheartbeat.org or 07973 631203.

**Thursday January 17
7.45 for 8pm**

Talk: Richard Chellev on the history of Merton Priory

Founded in 1117 and dissolved in 1538, learn of the site's history, and the project to found an education and information centre on the chapter house's site. Wandsworth Society, West Side Church, Melody Road, SW18 Call 8870 5626. www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk
wheelchair

**January 17-19, 7.30pm
(4pm and 7.30pm on 19)**

Pantomime -

Sleeping Beauty

Dance, songs, jokes and fun. Tickets £10 adults, £5 children. Wimbledon Park Primary School SW19. Box office 07535 117169 or online www.southfields.theatregroup.org.uk



Christmas in the Town Centres

Wandsworth: December 1 Wandsworth Museum: Past, present, future workshop 1.30pm. Southside Shopping Centre: Christmas card making workshop, 2pm; West Hill school procession 4.50pm. Wandsworth Town Library: Christmas themed storytime 3pm. All Saints Church: Carol service 4pm; library quiz prizewinner revealed 4.55pm. Christmas lights switch-on by Wandsworth Mayor, with mulled wine, mince pies 5pm.

Clapham Junction: November 29, 6pm – Northcote Road: Christmas lights switch-on and carols, December 1 6pm – St. John's Hill: Street of a Thousand Trees lights switch-on, December 4 6.30pm - Battersea Square: carol singing and Christmas tree lights switch-on.

Putney: 30 November 3-7.45pm. School choirs, lantern procession, Christmas lights switch-on at 6pm, live music and market. www.wandsworth.gov.uk/putney

Tooting: December 4, 4pm St Nicholas' Church, Mitcham Road: Christmas tree lights switch-on and carol singing by Sellincourt School pupils.

**January 18-20 and 25-27
(various performances)**

Cinderella

Well-loved pantomime, great fun for children but plenty to keep the adults amused too. **Tickets £9 adult, £5 child, £5 concessions.** New Stagers is always looking for new members – men under 35 particularly in demand! New Stagers Theatre Club St Anne's Church Hall, St. Ann's Crescent SW18. Call 07814 611 239. www.newstagers.co.uk

**Thursday January 24,
4pm-6pm**

Volunteering session

Find out about volunteering opportunities. York Gardens Library, Lavender Road SW11. www.volunteeringwands

[wandsworth.org.uk](http://www.wandsworth.org.uk) or call 0300 365 9950.

**Saturday January 26
1.30-3.30pm**

Shopping like a Victorian

Become a Victorian child! Dress up in costume, master the spinning top and Jacob's Ladder and create your own peg doll or thaumatrope to take home. Drop-in family workshop, **£3 child, accompanying adult free.** Southside Shopping Centre, Wandsworth High Street SW18. www.wandsworthmuseum.co.uk

**Saturday January 26
9am-3pm**

UK Cold Water Swimming Championships

Leap into the ice-cold water of an open-air, fresh-water pool. Or, cheer on the 400 swimmers, keeping warm with hog roast and hot drinks. Stalls and attractions including a bicycle-powered cinema and pop-up pub. **Spectators entry £2.** If you want to swim, register asap – tickets sell out fast. Tooting Bec Lido, Tooting Bec Road SW16. www.slsc.org.uk/cwsc



Ends: Saturday January 19

Christmas Show: Transformations

The perfect opportunity to purchase beautiful design and craft gifts. Natural materials, undulating lines and gorgeous hues are the order of the day. Featuring luxurious silk scarves and stoles from Anne Selby, beautiful turned boxes and vessels made from the finest of woods by Kevin Hutson, and stunning glassware from Peter Layton. The De Morgan Centre, 38 West Hill SW18. Call 8871 1144. www.demorgan.org.uk

Help make it a happy Christmas



Your help is needed at the 50th annual Christmas Day lunch for elderly people held by the Rotary Club of Battersea Park.

Many of the borough's older residents face spending Christmas day alone. The event, held in a fully heated marquee in Battersea Park, ensures they can enjoy the day in the company of others. Visitors receive lunch, an afternoon's entertainment, a visit from the Mayor of Wandsworth and a goody bag.

Around 400 people attend the lunch each year, many coming back year after year. It is completely free, but relies on volunteers to help it run smoothly.

To register as a volunteer call (020) 8696 6540 or visit www.rotarychristmasday.org.uk If you would like to donate then please visit www.justgiving.com/rotarychristmasday.



Join the Zero Waste Challenge

Get the rubbish out of your life this January!

During January, we're encouraging everybody to take part in a Zero Waste Challenge, to cut down their waste by as much as possible for one week.

Anything you do to reduce your waste will have a big impact, and you'll probably save some energy and money too. Enter for a chance to win £100 funding for a good cause of your choice. You can do the challenge alone, or with your household, place of work or school.

Find out more at: wwa.gov.uk/zerowaste

Win £100 funding for a good cause



>> WANDSWORTH CONNECTED >>

Talk to us online



weekly e-newsletter
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/24seven



www.twitter.com/wandbc



www.facebook.com/wandsworth.council



www.youtube.com/WandsworthBC

Doing it online

Using our website helps keep your council tax bills low

Pay your council tax

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax

Pay a parking fine

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/parking/payment

Apply for a parking permit/parking

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/parking

Join the e-library

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries

Search planning applications

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/planningregister

Check your refuse collection day

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/refusemap

Request a housing repair

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housingonline

Check local roadworks

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/569/roads-road-works

Other contacts at the council

Benefits Service

(020) 8871 8080

benefits@wandsworth.gov.uk

Carers information and support

Wandsworth Carers Centre

(020) 8877 1200

info@wandsworthcarers.org.uk

Children's Social Work Service

(020) 8871 6622

cssduty@wandsworth.gov.uk

Consumer Protection

(020) 8871 7720

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Community Care Services

(020) 8871 7707

accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Council Tax

(020) 8871 8081

counciltax@wandsworth.gov.uk

Education

(020) 8871 8013

edadmin@wandsworth.gov.uk

Electoral Services

(020) 8871 6023

electoral@wandsworth.gov.uk

Environmental Services

(020) 8871 6127

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Family Information Service

- including Nurseries

(020) 8871 7899

fis@wandsworth.gov.uk

Food Hygiene

(020) 8871 6139

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Fraud Hotline

0800 783 2263 (freephone)

fraudhotline@wandsworth.gov.uk

Graffiti Removal

(020) 8871 7049

graffiti@wandsworth.gov.uk

Health, care and wellbeing

(020) 8875 0500

acis@wandsworth.gov.uk

Home Ownership

(020) 8871 6016

housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

Housing Advice

(020) 8871 6840

housingadvice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Housing Repairs and Tenancy

Call your area team or management organisation

hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

Leisure Centres & sports facilities

(020) 8871 8154

sportsservices@wandsworth.gov.uk

Libraries

(020) 8871 6369

libraries@wandsworth.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

(020) 8871 7696

watchlinkmanager@wandsworth.gov.uk

Noise Complaints

- council properties

(020) 8871 7490

hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

private properties

(020) 8871 7869

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Parking

(020) 8871 8871

parking@wandsworth.gov.uk

Parks

(020) 8871 6347

parks@wandsworth.gov.uk

Rubbish, Recycling and Litter

(020) 8871 8558

wasteservices@wandsworth.gov.uk

Births, Deaths, Weddings

and Civil Partnerships

(020) 8871 6121

registeroffice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Youth Clubs

(020) 8871 7553

youthservice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Tell us what you think

You can post comments on all our news stories www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news

Make a complaint or comment on a council service

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/forms/form/166

Come to a Let's Talk meeting www.wandsworth.gov.uk/letstalk

Contact your local councillor www.wandsworth.gov.uk/councillors



why wait... to find your path?



Start a new course this January

South Thames College brings you quality education all year round with a range of new courses starting in January.

Higher Education

If you missed out on university in September, don't worry, it's not too late to get back on track with our degree level courses starting in January.

HNCs and HNDs are offered in Business, Management, Computing, Sport, Games Design, Media, Music, Hospitality, Hair & Beauty, Travel & Tourism, Health & Social Care and Teaching.

Fees are affordable, standards are exceptional and our tutors are industry experts. What more could you want?

Adult Leisure and Professional Development

From Cake Decorating to Film Appreciation, Zumba to Wine Tasting, Musical Instrument Repair to Photoshop... the list goes on.

Make the most of your days, evenings and weekends in January.

Under 24 and still not on a course or career path?

You don't have to wait till September – we can start you straight away on Level 1 courses in Beauty Therapy, Sport, Hairdressing, Music, Business and Health & Social Care.

Improve your job options with a full time course at South Thames.

Find out more – call or check our website:

020 8918 7777

www.south-thames.ac.uk

