

# Home life



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# Doing it online

There are a range of housing services and information available on our website [wandsworth.gov.uk/housing](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/housing)

## Apply for housing and transfers

[wandsworth.gov.uk/hcs/housingoptions](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/hcs/housingoptions)

## Report a repair to a council property

[wandsworth.gov.uk/repairs](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/repairs)

## Report a waste problem

[wandsworth.gov.uk/waste](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/waste)

## Report graffiti

[wandsworth.gov.uk/graffiti](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/graffiti)

## Pay your council tax

[wandsworth.gov.uk/paycounciltax](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/paycounciltax)

## Pay your rent

[wandsworth.gov.uk/rents](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/rents)

## Other payments

[wandsworth.gov.uk/payments](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/payments)

## Talk to us online

### weekly e-newsletter

[wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news)



[facebook.com/wandsworth.council](https://www.facebook.com/wandsworth.council)



[twitter.com/wandbc](https://twitter.com/wandbc)

## Report It app



### Wandsworth Report It

makes it easier for anyone to report problems like flytipping, graffiti and other environmental issues. Search for the Wandsworth Report It app on the Apple, Android or Windows app store.

## My Account

Create an account and you will only have to sign in once to access the main council services.

[wandsworth.gov.uk/myaccount](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/myaccount)

## Housing contacts

### Housing Customer Centre

90 Putney Bridge Road,  
London  
SW18 1HR

### Western Area Housing Office

38 Holybourne Avenue,  
Roehampton  
London  
SW15 4JE

Housing hotline: 020 8871 6161

### Housing Area Teams

Central: 020 8871 5333  
Eastern: 020 8871 7439  
Southern: 020 8871 7288  
Western: 020 8871 5530

If you do not know your area team email: [hms@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:hms@wandsworth.gov.uk)

### Wandsworth Emergency Control (housing emergencies, out of hours)

020 8871 7490

### Home Ownership

[housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk)

### Downsizing options

[allocationteam@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:allocationteam@wandsworth.gov.uk)

### Landlords looking for tenants

[privatelandlords@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:privatelandlords@wandsworth.gov.uk)

**For breakdowns, leaks and servicing of heating/hot water systems speak to your gas contractor:**

**Battersea, Clapham and Central Wandsworth** (or throughout the borough if your heating is supplied by a central communal boiler.)

Smith and Byford Ltd 0800 028 0824

**Putney, Roehampton and Tooting**

T.Brown Group Ltd 0800 977 8472

To find out your gas contractor 020 8871 7040

## Other council contacts

### Adult social services

020 8871 7707

### Births, Deaths, Marriages and Voting

020 8871 6120

### Child social services

020 8871 6622

### Environmental services (including pest control, private housing)

020 8871 6127

### Finance (including council tax, benefits, rent, service charges)

020 8871 8081

To make a telephone payment  
0800 021 7763

### Parking and Streets

020 8871 8871

### Rubbish, recycling and litter

020 8871 8558



## Welcome to the winter edition of Homelife.

Our annual home ownership open day was a great success again this year with over 1000 visitors dropping by to talk to our dedicated Home Ownership Team. The Civic Suite was bustling with residents keen to find out about the different schemes available to help them buy a home, including Right to Buy and Shared Ownership (see pages 4-5).

I am pleased to announce that the council successfully bid for funding from the London Fire Brigade to help residents prevent fires in their homes. The funding has been spent on fire retardant bedding for elderly and vulnerable residents. The fire brigade visited residents at the Lennox Sheltered Scheme in Roehampton to deliver sets and offer fire safety tips (see page 13).

As Christmas approaches, I am delighted to see that the Rotary Christmas Day party is celebrating its 55th year. This is such a wonderful event which provides elderly residents with a free meal and entertainment on Christmas Day. The event would not be possible without the volunteers who make the day so special. If you'd like to be involved see page 19.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Homelife. If you have any suggestions please contact me at [HMSI@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:HMSI@wandsworth.gov.uk)

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Cllr Clare Salier**  
Cabinet Member for Housing  
and Regeneration



# More council homes get gigafast broadband

More people living on estates in Battersea, Wandsworth and Roehampton are getting the chance to sign up for broadband offering some of the fastest connection speeds in London.

Wandsworth has the largest number of full fibre-enabled homes in the capital, and we want to make the service available to more than 10,000 properties by the end of the year.

Wandsworth is working with a company called Community Fibre Ltd to install 'Gigafast' broadband in council-managed blocks. So far more than 5,500 homes across the Savona, Patmore, Carey Gardens, Doddington, Kambala, Rollo and Surrey Lane estates have the capacity to access the service.

The council has now announced that properties on the Winstanley and York Road estates, St James Grove, the Ashburton, Wendlesworth, Arndale, William Willison and Alton estates will be next in line. Work will be carried out over the next few months.

The Gigafast service has clocked download speeds of over 1,000 megabits per second – around 47 times faster than the UK average of 22.8 megabits per second (Ofcom figure). It uses optical fibre cables installed directly into people's homes, rather than the old copper technology.

Using Gigafast broadband means that families are able to download films, music and browse on multiple devices

at the same time with no drop in performance. Equally, those who work or study from home could benefit from increased internet speeds and better accessibility.

Customers don't have to pay a line rental charge as with other providers, and downloads are unlimited. The Gigafast service costs residents £50 a month to subscribe to the unlimited 'gigabit per second' speeds, with other packages also available for residents who do not need a full speed service.

The council's Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Clare Salier said: "Ultrafast broadband means residents on our estates will be able to use multiple device, easily work from home or run a small business, stream as much media as they want and truly make the most of fast online access.

"I'm delighted that our partnership with Community Fibre has already connected so many homes, and I would urge residents on the next wave of estates to find out what this service could offer them."

To find out more or sign up for Gigafast broadband in your home visit [www.communityfibre.co.uk](http://www.communityfibre.co.uk)

# Home Ownership Team

## Improving purchase options for council tenants



# Residents flock to open day

In October, the council hosted their annual affordable housing event at the Wandsworth Civic Suite. Over 1000 visitors turned out to find out more about low cost home ownership options in the borough.

The council's Home Ownership Team gave one-to-one advice about getting on the property ladder.

Independent financial advisers, legal experts and housing providers were all on hand to advise on topics such as mortgages, the buying process and to showcase brand new shared ownership units emerging in Wandsworth.

One lucky visitor won a £100 Argos voucher when her details were picked at random from over 100 exit surveys filled in by visitors on the day.

The lucky winner was Chamairy Wilson from Battersea. She said: "The open day has been good. There was lots of information about the different routes you are able to go down to buy a home."



If you want more information about the council's home purchase schemes, an information pack or application form, please contact:

020 8871 6161  
Email: [housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk)  
[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership)



## Right to Part Buy

Sarah from Battersea spoke to the team about buying a share of her council property through the Right to Part Buy scheme.

“Buying my property outright is not an affordable option for me, but the team have just told me about Right to Part Buy where I can buy a percentage of my flat. I am definitely going to look into this as I never thought I would be able to own my own home.”

**Right to Part Buy** is a unique scheme which allows Wandsworth Council residents to buy either 25% or 50% of their council home at a discount and pay a low rent on the rest. To be eligible to apply, you must be a secure tenant with at least three years tenancy. You must not have received Housing Benefit in the 12 months before your application and you must pass an affordability test. This is a great scheme to help council tenants take their first steps towards buying a home.

## Shared Ownership

Virginia said:

“I have lived in the borough for 11 years and now and want to find out about buying my own home. I came to the open day to find out more about Shared Ownership.”



Virginia (left) and Suzanna (right)

**Shared Ownership** helps locals who cannot afford to buy a home at full market value. It allows you to part buy, part rent a home. Shared Ownership can help you invest in your own home at an affordable rate. To be eligible for a property in Wandsworth you must live or work in the borough.

Turn to page 6 to see some of the latest Shared Ownership properties available in the borough.

## Right to Buy

Right to Buy is a popular option for council tenants wishing to purchase the home that they live in. Tenants can receive a discount of up to £104,900 off the market value of the property. You must have at least three years tenancy to apply.

To read our helpful Right to Buy information booklet and to find out more about the home purchase process visit [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership)



If you want more information about the council's home purchase schemes, an information pack or application form, please contact:

020 8871 6161  
Email: [housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk)  
[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership)



# New shared ownership developments in the borough - apply now!



## Vista, SW8 - Peabody

A brand new scheme to be launched in the new year with 54 homes available (19 one-beds and 35 two-beds). For further information you can contact the sales team on 020 7021 4842 or check the website [www.peabodysales.co.uk](http://www.peabodysales.co.uk)



## Falcon Road, SW11 - Thames Valley Housing

A combination of nine modern one and two bed apartments in Battersea. Located in SW11, with great rail connections, the development is ideally placed.

For further information you can call 020 8607 0550, email [sales@tvha.co.uk](mailto:sales@tvha.co.uk) or sign up for updates on the website [tvhsales.co.uk/properties/search](http://tvhsales.co.uk/properties/search)



## Embassy Gardens, SW11 - Optivo

A new scheme consisting of 14 one-bed and 24 two-bed homes will be launching shortly. This contemporary development in the Nine Elms regeneration area boasts a location close to the Thames with excellent transport links into central London. For further information you can call 0800 012 1442, email [sales@optivo.org.uk](mailto:sales@optivo.org.uk) or [www.optivo.org.uk](http://www.optivo.org.uk)

**Please note:** Wandsworth Council tenants with over two years tenancy can use the House Purchase Grant towards buying a shared ownership property and will receive a high priority.

To find out more about new shared ownership homes sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at [wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news)

# Council awarded for animal welfare work

**National animal charity, the RSPCA, has awarded Wandsworth for its commitment to animal welfare.**

Wandsworth achieved the gold standard in both the stray dogs and housing categories – both of which the council has consistently achieved since the awards began in 2008 - for animal-friendly policies and for going above and beyond the statutory requirements for animal welfare.

Wandsworth has a dedicated Animal Welfare Team which helps track down lost pets, responds to complaints about dangerous or nuisance animals and encourages responsible pet ownership. Their work includes school visits and a work experience programme, courses in safety around dogs, a free neutering service for registered dogs (in partnership with the Wandsworth and Wimbledon branch of the RSPCA) and one-to-one advice for residents whose dogs may cause anti-social behaviour or nuisance to others.

Wandsworth was also the first council in the country to introduce compulsory pet microchipping for council tenants and leaseholders which helps to curb anti-social behaviour on your estates and reuniting dozens of lost pets with their owners each year.

The council reunited 65 stray dogs with their owners in the past year. A further 19 were taken to rescue centres because their owners could not be identified. All 19 of these dogs had not been microchipped or their microchip details were not up to date, both of which are now legal requirements. The council provides free microchipping for council tenants and leaseholders.



## Free chipping and neutering

All dogs aged six weeks or over must be microchipped by law.

Council tenants and leaseholders can get their dogs microchipped and neutered for FREE while stocks last.

Book an appointment today!

Contact  
[dogcontrol@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:dogcontrol@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## Free pet health checks

In the near future, the council will be holding FREE pet health sessions on estates across the borough.

If you live in a Wandsworth council property bring your cat or dog along for a free check-up.

For more details email  
[dogcontrol@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:dogcontrol@wandsworth.gov.uk)



## Health workshops in your community

**The council recently ran health and wellbeing workshops with the Al Muzzamil Mosque in Tooting.**

The workshops which were open to the whole local community were fun and relaxed. They were well attended with locals keen to find out more about improving their health and wellbeing.

The four two-hour workshops covered a range of topics, including support for parents of children with learning disabilities, healthy eating, physical activity and mental health and wellbeing.

Wandsworth Council's Health Trainers aim to empower and help participants to improve their own wellbeing and promote the wellbeing of their family, friends and wider community.

As part of Wandsworth Council's commitment to health and wellbeing, we are offering free health workshops to individuals and organisations based in the borough.

Health Trainers can help you find your way to a happier, healthier future either through one-to-one or group workshops. The team explore various health and wellbeing topics such as healthy eating, getting active, stopping smoking, setting goals and signposting to other services.

If you are interested in booking a Health Trainer workshop for the new year please contact 020 8871 5052 or [healthtrainers@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:healthtrainers@wandsworth.gov.uk)

# New council homes taking shape across the borough

The council's housing department is building more and more council homes for social rent in Battersea, Putney and Tooting.

## Stewarts Road, Thessaly Road and Savona Street, in Battersea

A total of 57 new council homes, across the three sites on the Patmore and Savona Estates, are under construction to help meet local housing demand. The 57 new homes, which are a few minutes' walk from Battersea Power Station, are expected to be complete from the summer 2018. These rented houses will be prioritised for local estate tenants who want to downsize, or overcrowded households - once these households move in, the homes they leave behind will be offered to other local people in need, creating chains of beneficial moves.

The homes are to be named after local First World War heroes who were awarded the Victoria Cross. (See page 11)



Building work on the Stewarts Road site has reached two storeys



New family homes on Limpsfield Ave are now complete

## Nutwell Street, Tooting

Two new three-bedroom, semi-detached council houses for rent are being built and are expected to be complete later this year, when they will be offered to local people on the council's housing register.

## Limpsfield Avenue, near Wimbledon Common

Two brand new, three-bedroom semi-detached houses in Limpsfield Avenue have now been let out to their new tenants. The properties include high-efficiency boilers and photovoltaic panels to reduce energy bills.

The council's housebuilding programme has seen more than 250 homes built on under-used spaces of council land with a further 260 plus homes in the pipeline all for low cost rent. Twenty-three sites across the borough are either in the early stages of construction, or have been granted planning permission. These are expected to become available for local residents in the next three years.

By building on council land, Wandsworth Council saves land purchase costs and achieves exceptional value.

Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Clare Salier said: "For many years Wandsworth has built new council homes through its Hidden Homes programme on under-used plots of land, an approach which other local authorities have since taken up. However, we recognise that we need to do more to provide local homes and have tasked officers not just to deliver the 260 homes in the pipeline but to identify other sites where homes for rent and for sale, prioritised for local residents and workers, can be built."



Building works underway on Nutwell Street, Tooting.





## Plans approved for a bigger and better Northcote Library

### Residents living in and around Battersea's Northcote Road could soon be able to visit a bigger and better library in the heart of their neighbourhood.

In September this year, councillors backed proposals to replace the existing 1960s library building with a new larger and better public library and community centre offering a wider range of services.

Following public consultation, the latest proposals are for a modern three storey library, incorporating an improved children's section complete with buggy parking space, enlarged study accommodation, upgraded computer areas and a coffee outlet next to the area for newspapers and magazines.

The new library building would also incorporate a separate community centre for use by local groups, including a nursery. It would also create a new business suite on its second floor offering small businesses and the self-employed work space and meeting rooms for hire.

The existing library building that fronts Northcote Road is now nearly 50 years old and was built at a time

when library services were much more limited in their scope. Its design is outdated by modern standards with limited space for computers, poor ventilation and no space for prams or buggies.

Last year was another record year for local libraries with the largest number of book issues in the capital. Recent figures from CIPFA showed that in 2015/2016, Wandsworth residents were London's most dedicated library users, borrowing more than 1.4m books.

Earlsfield Library has recently been completely redecorated, Battersea Library has been upgraded and the children's library at Tooting has been totally refurbished. Work has now started on a brand new Wandsworth Town Library while plans are being drawn up to replace another two branches at York Gardens and Roehampton with new state-of-the-art buildings offering a wider range of services.

## Crackdown on tenancy fraud saves £2.8million

Forty eight council and housing association homes were recovered from tenancy fraudsters and let to people in genuine need from September 2016 to September 2017.

The crackdown has saved the council an estimated £2.8million in temporary accommodation costs.

Figures from September show that 268 investigations took place in the previous 12 months, with a further 82 still in process.

Tenancy fraud can take many forms, including unlawful sub-letting, keeping a council home while living elsewhere, or falsifying a claim to succeed a property.

Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Clare Salier said: "We won't hesitate to take action against fraudsters who are not only depriving homeless and overcrowded households of a home, but who are also cheating other law-abiding, rent-paying tenants and Wandsworth taxpayers."

The investigations were the result of joint working between the council, South London Legal Partnership and South West London Fraud Partnership.

The council rents out around 17,000 properties in Wandsworth. Each year thousands of spot checks are carried out to ensure that these flats are occupied by their legitimate tenants.

Anyone with information about council homes being sub-let or misused can report this to the South West London Fraud Partnership on (020) 8871 8383 or email [SWLFP@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:SWLFP@wandsworth.gov.uk)

# Wandsworth Enterprise Week helps local businesses

Wandsworth  
**enterprise**  
2018 **week**  
March 5 - 10 Celebrating 5 years of business support in the borough

Wandsworth Enterprise Week provides a range of free support, advice and events to local businesses to help them flourish, develop and expand. The dates for Wandsworth Enterprise Week 2018 have been confirmed as March 5-10.

The council's flagship business event brings together more than 20 events

which include workshops, one-to-one advice clinics, panel discussions, networking receptions and master classes; speakers, support and advice from industry experts in a focussed programme, to help and support entrepreneurs grow their existing business or assist and motivate those who are considering starting one.

Now in its 5th year, Wandsworth Enterprise Week is a highlight of the local business calendar which has directly inspired, guided and motivated over 6,000 local entrepreneurs since the programme launched in 2014. Google, Virgin Start Up, NatWest, the Prince's

Trust are just a few of the organisations that have been involved in the event and previous speakers include: Tim Campbell and Margaret Mountford (The Apprentice); Charlie Mullins, (Pimlico Plumbers); and Jo Fairley, (Green and Blacks Chocolates).

Local businesses and organisations interested in finding more about sponsorship and advertising opportunities in the run up to and during Wandsworth Enterprise Week should contact Jenni Asiama, [jasiama@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:jasiama@wandsworth.gov.uk) or visit [www.wandsworthenterpriseweek.biz](http://www.wandsworthenterpriseweek.biz)

## How to prevent condensation

**Condensation can lead to dampness and mould, but there are simple ways of preventing it.**

Condensation is water which collects on a cold surface, such as windows and walls.

It is caused by warm moisture in the air. You will notice it when you see your breath on a cold day or when your bathroom mirror mists over when you have a bath.

Read our top tips:

- The single most important step is to ensure good ventilation in kitchens and bathrooms. Open windows slightly and use an extractor fan when using these room
- Keep all occupied rooms ventilated - do not block up air vents or turn off extractor fans
- Close kitchen and bathroom doors whilst using these rooms to prevent steam escaping
- Put lids on pans when cooking
- Do not put wet washing on radiators to dry
- If you hang your clothes up to dry inside, open a window slightly
- Heat your home, even when you are not at home. Constant low heating is better than extreme
- Vacuuming helps to remove mould spores and dust. Mould feeds on dust
- Use a dry cloth to wipe away moisture from windows, sills, mirrors or walls each morning
- Where mould has started to develop, wash it off using a mild bleach solution or mould remover

# New homes honour local heroes

**New council homes in Battersea are to be named after local First World War soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross.**

Haine Court, Lascelles House and Edward Foster Court are being built on the Patmore and Savona housing estates, which will provide 57 new homes for low cost rent for locals. The new homes are expected to be completed in phases from mid-2018 onwards.

They are named after First World War soldiers 2nd Lieutenant Reginald Haine, Captain Arthur Moore Lascelles, and Corporal Edward Foster, who were born within present-day borough boundaries and received the highest armed forces award for gallantry in the face of the enemy, the Victoria Cross.

**Edward Foster** lived in Tooting and was a council dustman before joining 13th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, a 'pals battalion' raised by the Mayor of Wandsworth in 1915. On 24 April, 1917, the 31-year-old was engaged in fighting near the French village of Villers-Plouich. The battalion was held up by a German trench position strengthened with barbed wire and a machine gun. Cpl Foster stormed the trench but during hand to hand fighting he lost his gun and used grenades to dislodge the enemy. He recovered his gun then used it to knock out the machine gun position. As well as the Victoria Cross, he was awarded the Médaille Militaire, France's third highest decoration for bravery. Cpl Foster survived the war and lived in Tooting until his death in 1946.

**Reginald Haine's** family lived in Wilna Road, Earlsfield, when he was born. 2nd Lt Haine was serving in the Honourable Artillery Company near Gavrelle in northern France, and on 28 and 29 April, 1917, his position came under fire from a larger German force. The young officer led six counter-attacks that seized key

positions along with 50 prisoners and two machine guns which he defended until the morning when he took the initiative again and recaptured lost ground. He had led his men with exceptional courage for 30 hours of continuous fighting. 2nd Lt Haine survived the war and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Army, receiving a Military Cross for action on the North West Frontier in 1919, and in the Second World War he commanded a Home Guard battalion. He died in 1982.

**Arthur Moore Lascelles** was born on 12 October, 1880, at Wilby Lodge, Nightingale Lane, Balham, although his birth was registered in Streatham. He was an acting captain in 3rd Battalion Durham Light Infantry when his position at Masnières in France came under heavy bombardment on 3 December, 1917. Despite being wounded by shrapnel Capt Lascelles encouraged his men and organised his unit's defence until the attack was repulsed. Continued heavy fire eventually overran his position, prompting Capt Lascelles to mount a desperate counter-attack which, against all odds, drove back the enemy. He was killed in action less than a year later at Fontaine-au-Bois on November 7, 1918, just days before the Armistice was signed.

Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Clare Salier, said: "These servicemen fought with extraordinary courage, and it is only right that a century on we continue as a borough to honour them and to commemorate their heroism. Through the provision of new council homes, the names of these bravest sons of Wandsworth live on in serving their community."





# New plaque unveiled on housing estate in Summerstown

**The new plaque celebrates the famous historic athletics track which once stood on the site of Burmester House.**

For just over a decade in the mid nineteenth century, there was an extraordinary athletics venue just off Garratt Lane in Wandsworth. Crowds in their thousands flocked regularly to attend sporting spectacles at Robert Sadler's Copenhagen Running Grounds in Summerstown. Locals and visitors alike would come for a few drinks and a wager on some of the biggest sporting celebrities of the age. The runners came from all over the country and much further afield, most famously the native North American known as

'Deerfoot' who ran in his traditional costume.

Sadler ran his business from Althorp Lodge, which was demolished around 1900. This is now the site of Burmester House. The track itself was behind this, now a tranquil housing estate built in the 1950s which gives away no clues to its former existence. The story of Copenhagen Running Ground was uncovered by local historian Kevin Kelly who is still searching for a photo of the former Althorp Lodge.

In September this year, Robert Sadler's great great grandson Robin unveiled a plaque in front of a crowd of almost two hundred people. As part of the ceremony, sporting historian Simon Inglis gave a speech in which he urged the crowd: "Everytime you go past this spot, just imagine you can hear the roar of the crowd as Deerfoot comes round the bend and hundreds of your



ancestors lose vast amounts of money."

Geoff Simmons from Summerstown182, who organised the ceremony, said: "The new plaque will inform many more people of the running ground's former glories and we hope it will introduce a whole new generation to its remarkable story."

The plaque was an initiative of the Summerstown182 Community History Project. Funds were raised from local walking tours as part of the Wandsworth Heritage Festival.

# Fire Brigade deliver specialist bedding to sheltered residents

The London Fire Brigade visited sheltered residents on the Lennox Estate in October to deliver specialist fire retardant bedding packs and offer fire safety advice on preventing fires.

Wandsworth Council successfully bid for £25,000 funding from the London Fire Brigade to help vulnerable residents prevent fires. The funding was used to give 240 sets of fire retardant bedding, sofa throws, duvets and pillows to 25 sheltered housing schemes and other elderly or vulnerable residents across the borough.

The London Fire Brigade estimate that one in three accidental fires are caused by smoking. Fire retardant bedding can help reduce fire related injuries for people who are risk of accidentally dropping cigarettes or perhaps don't have the mobility to ensure butts are properly extinguished.

London Fire Brigade Station Commander Manager for Battersea Fire Station, Nic Myatt explains: "It's so easy to fall asleep while smoking, or for some vulnerable residents to forget that they have lit a cigarette, and that's when dangerous accidents happen. Residents with mobility problems can struggle to escape what could start as a small cigarette fire in bedding and so fire retardant bedding is an important way of protecting them from that risk.

"Last month we were pleased to distribute the first bedding sets to residents from the council's Lennox sheltered scheme in Roehampton. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet residents and offer advice about fire safety in the home.

"Last year our figures showed that around three fires a day are linked to smoking, with around two people a week being injured. Sadly, people often fall asleep smoking or just



carelessly dispose of matches and cigarette butts which can smoulder and cause fires. Overflowing ashtrays or a cigarette dropped while snoozing in bed are typical causes of fatal fires.

"Fire retardant bedding is designed to not only help prevent fires but to prevent vulnerable people getting injured or far worse.

"It has been extremely rewarding to work with staff from Wandsworth Council's Supported Housing department to identify people in Wandsworth who stand to benefit the most from this scheme. By working together with the council we can improve safety, reduce risk and protect those most at risk."

The project has been paid for by the Brigade's Community Safety Investment fund which was set up to help vulnerable people across the capital. It aims to help protect people from the risk of fire by providing solutions like fire retardant bedding and sprinklers.

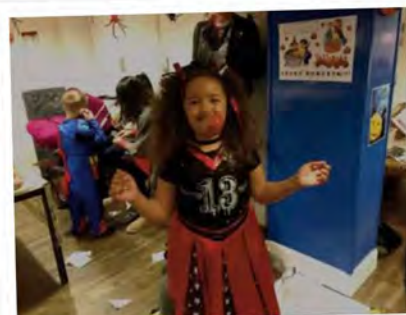
The Brigade's Community Safety Investment Fund has led to more than 10,000 fire retardant bedding packs, night dresses, sofa throws and other fire prevention kits being handed out to help protect those most at risk across the capital.

Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Clare Salier said: "I am delighted that the council's bid for funding was successful and that we've been able to work in partnership with the London Fire Brigade to deliver the specialist bedding packs to residents across the borough. The safety of our residents is the most important consideration for us. Fire prevention advice and help is just one of the ways we can work with residents to improve fire safety in the home."



## Trick or treat

In October, residents across the borough organised Halloween Parties. Neighbours came together for spooky fun and games including apple bobbing and fancy dress.



Apple Bobbing at Battersea Fields



Fancy dress at Kambala



Face painting at Battersea Fields



Pumpkin carving



Totteridge kids show off their pumpkins



Women of Wandsworth's Halloween party



Spooky costumes



# Women of Wandsworth celebrate 10th Birthday

In November, local organisation Women of Wandsworth celebrated their 10 year anniversary with a party at City Hall.

Women of Wandsworth, also known as WoW, is a non-profit community organisation which was set up in November 2007. The group do a great deal of work in their community. They work to solve common issues for local parents and they organise a host of activities and events throughout the year.

On 7 November, WoW marked their 10th anniversary with a celebration at City Hall. They were presented with certificates of appreciation for their volunteering and hard work by GLA assembly member for Wandsworth, Cllr Leonie Cooper. WoW brought City Hall to life with an intergenerational dance performance, karate and art as well as and an amazing film of WoW events and campaigns over the past decade.

Falcon Estate resident Senia Dedic was a founding member of WoW. She said: "We wanted to make sure that local parents' voices were heard by organising a weekly parent forum. The forum was a chance for parents to talk about their concerns. We invite the relevant people to discuss and find solutions to problems relating to education, housing, children's happiness, disabilities and health and more. Our concerns over high child care fees were even raised in Parliament.

"At WoW, we organise afterschool

activities for children which means local children can get to know one another and helps parents to reduce childcare costs. Our regular trips out of London are very popular with local families and we regularly organise community events. We particularly enjoy our intergenerational parties which bring local children and older residents together.

"We have worked with Thomas's School Foundation to deliver affordable Karate classes for children, and partnered with National Citizen Service to arrange youth mentoring schemes.

"We are also very proud of improving the employability of single mothers and helping parents set up their own businesses, through the work of our Enterprise Club. Four of our Mothers' businesses have now been shortlisted for the Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce Business Award.

"We are delighted to be celebrating our 10th anniversary! And have many more ideas for the future."

Congratulations to the Women of Wandsworth for reaching such a significant milestone. We look forward to another decade of amazing and varied work from WoW.



## Cooking masterclass

Children from the Kambala estate got stuck into a new cooking club organised by local resident Donna Barham.

The classes were a chance for the youngsters to have fun and meet neighbours, but also taught them the basics of preparing food and cooking. Each week the group learnt to cook something new and then sat down to eat their homecooked meal together.

Donna, who is a Housing Community Champion, applied for funding for cooking equipment from the council's Community Champion Fund. The fund is available for nominated champions to help projects on their estate.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ian Lewer attended Kambala Community Hall to present the children with certificates for the cooking club.

The children loved taking part in the class. Lily said: "I like preparing the food, watching it cook in the oven and then eating it!

Serenity said: "We have learnt about lots of different vegetables and how to make pastries."

## Nine Elms News



## Estates get makeover with help from US Embassy

Over a hundred volunteers came to the Savona and Carey Gardens estates in Nine Elms to help spruce up the neighbourhood. This was part of the US Embassy's annual Day of Service, organised in conjunction with Wandsworth Council.

The new US Ambassador Robert Wood Johnson joined Wandsworth Council leader, Ravi Govindia, to welcome volunteers from across the local community. Rolling up their sleeves were representatives from the US Embassy, Wandsworth Council, Savona Residents' Association, local residents from the Savona and Carey Gardens Estates, members of local businesses and developers.

Ambassador Johnson and the team took on a range of jobs, including cleaning, litter picking and repainting. Everyone also got stuck into some gardening; new and existing flower beds on the estate were planted.

In its third consecutive year in Nine Elms,

the Day of Service is an annual event to mark the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the US.

Ambassador Johnson said: "As we move our new American ground to the Nine Elms neighbourhood, we do so in the spirit of working with the local community."

Leader of Wandsworth Council, Cllr Ravi Govindia, said: "A big thank you to all those involved for their hard work in making a huge difference to the neighbourhood which will be enjoyed by local residents for a long time."

One of the areas of focus for the volunteers was the garden at the ROSE Community Centre, at the heart of the



Savona Estate. As part of the day, Councillor Govindia unveiled a new outdoor kitchen: high on the local residents' wish-list and kindly donated by Barratt London.

The Day of Service is the latest event in the US Embassy's well-established programme of community engagement alongside Wandsworth Council. Ahead of their move to Nine Elms next year, the embassy has supported a wide range of cultural, horticultural and volunteering initiatives in the local area to help build community ties.







Cirque Bijou Umbrella Project 1 - Courtesy of Gravity Fields



# Nine Elms hosts Winter festival

Explore amazing things happening in Nine Elms with events and activities as part of the Winter Trails festival.

Running until 21 December, here are a few of the highlights:

### Meet Me By The Balloons

Riverside Walk

1 December – 21 December

A trail of colourful illuminated balloons will grow throughout the festival.

### Winter Union: Parkour workshops

Riverlight Quay

16 December 11am-3pm

Parkour performances and workshops for all ages. An entire day of free 30-minute workshops for all abilities, plus live shows by the performance team. No experience necessary, sign-up on the day.

### Battersea Power Station Winter Festival

Circus West Village

30 November – 21 December

Enjoy Christmas lights and mulled wine on the riverfront. Open every week from Thursday to Sunday.

### Dark Waters: Midwinter Storytelling Walk

21 December, 6.30pm

Dark Waters is a magical night expedition by the river with tales of the Thames to warm your heart and chill your blood. A storytelling adventure with live music. Warm up with a drink afterwards on the Battersea Barge. Reserve your place online.

Visit [nineelmslondon.com/wintertrails](http://nineelmslondon.com/wintertrails) to find out more.

## Fond farewell to resident participation officer

After four years as resident participation officer for the western area, Bernie Brennan is moving to his new role in the regeneration team.

Bernie said: "It's been a pleasure to meet and work with so many residents through residents' associations, resident management organisations and other community groups. I hope I have been able to assist in bringing communities closer together and help improvements to the local environment."

Sarah Stevens has taken over as resident participation officer for the western area. Sarah has worked in the housing department for 25 years and brings a wealth of knowledge about the area, housing management issues and much more.

## Your resident participation team

There are a variety of ways to get involved in your community and decisions about your housing.

Speak to your resident participation officer.



**Foday Kamara**  
southern team  
(020) 8871 8639  
fkamara  
@wandsworth.gov.uk



**Jo Baxter**  
central team  
(020) 8871 8694  
jbaxter  
@wandsworth.gov.uk



**Sandra Evangelista**  
eastern team  
(020) 8871 8638  
sevangelista  
@wandsworth.gov.uk



**Sarah Stevens**  
western team  
(020) 8871 5505  
sstevens  
@wandsworth.gov.uk

## Get ready for winter

### It is important to make sure you are ready for the winter months.

The cold weather in December to March can pose a greater risk to you. We are working with Age UK Wandsworth, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Wandsworth Older People's Forum and WRAP to help keep you safe and warm.

- Book a WRAP Winter Warmth assessment including FREE energy saving measures such as electricity monitors and radiator reflector panels (those who are on a low income, have a long term condition or disability, or are aged 65+ are eligible)
- Get your flu vaccine – available from your GP and some pharmacies [www.nhs.uk/flu](http://www.nhs.uk/flu)
- Plan ahead - make sure you have a supply of your prescription medication in case of bad weather
- Always complete your whole course of prescription medicines
- If you feel unwell, get immediate advice and help from a pharmacist, before it gets too serious. Visit [www.nhs.uk/staywell](http://www.nhs.uk/staywell) for more information
- Have hot meals and drinks - stock up on tinned, dried and frozen foods so you can make a hot healthy meal even if you can't get out of the house in bad weather
- Wear layers – a few thin layers of clothing will keep you warmer than one thick layer and tuck curtains behind the radiators to keep heat in the room
- Keep moving if you can as this will help you keep warm. If walking is a problem try moving your arms or legs whilst sitting or wiggling your toes and fingers
- For more info contact WRAP who can offer advice and support on benefits, heating costs, falls prevention, and much more. Freephone 0800 118 23 27, text 07928 394482, email [enquiries@thinkingworks.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thinkingworks.co.uk)



## Could sensor alarms help you?

The council offers two services which can help older or disabled residents remain independent in their home.

### WATCH alarm service

If you fall or are taken ill, your phone may be out of reach, but with WATCH lifeline you can call for assistance from anywhere in your home just by pressing the red button on your pendant.

Pressing the pendant button sends an alarm signal to our 24 hour control centre. Our experienced officers will be able to speak to you in any part of your home through the lifeline alarm unit. We will give you advice and reassurance and if appropriate visit your home to assist. You can be reassured that help is on hand at the touch of a button.

### Telecare

The Telecare service provides a more specialist service than the WATCH alarm. It offers range of sensors around the

home to give you care and reassurance. When activated, the sensors will send an alert to the 24-hour control centre.

Some alarms are push buttons while others are automatic sensors meaning you don't need to worry about being unable to press for help. Different sensors can pick up on different situations – for example if you've had a fall, there's water overflowing, the cooker being left on and even a front door being left open.

Telecare can help to support carers and improve people's safety and independence at home.

**With WATCH and Telecare** there is always somebody ready and waiting to hear from you in an emergency, even if you live alone. This can be valuable where an adult has the onset of dementia, is



confused or is prone to falls and trips.

To find out more about what alarms and sensors are available and how they can help you or a loved one contact us today on 020 8871 8198



Volunteers having fun at last year's party

## Rotary Christmas Day celebrates 55th year

Every year, the Rotary Club hosts a Christmas Day lunch and tea party for elderly people of Wandsworth.

Last year over 700 elderly residents from our borough came to the free Christmas lunch which was run by 300 volunteers from all around the world.

It started in 1962, as a hot meal for a group of 50 elderly residents from Battersea and was run by the members of the Rotary Club and their families, who pulled together to organise and fund the event, including providing their own cars to transport guests. Since then it has grown and grown.

The event is funded and organised by Rotary Club of Battersea Park through fundraising and volunteering. Guests are referred to the event by local housing sheltered accommodations, lodges and residents' associations. Residents can also register for the event themselves.

Irene, 85, told us: "Thank you for your invitation. I always enjoy this event. I am disabled now with muscle weakness and bowel cancer and have no family to help me. I am so grateful for the drivers and helpers who arranged transport to the event and made the day so special."

Elaine, 77, who attended the event last year sent us a letter saying: "The driver to Battersea Park was very cheerful and yellow T-shirt volunteer Musha from Mongolia was a delight. Many thanks for the goody bag with sandwiches, as I didn't have anything to eat when I came home that evening. This is a special time of year thanks to the kindness of everyone at Rotary, all the helpers and drivers. Thank you for such a lovely time."

The event is a chance to ensure no one is alone this Christmas. If you'd like to volunteer or refer a new guest (either yourself or someone you know) who would be otherwise alone on Christmas visit [www.rotarychristmasday.org.uk](http://www.rotarychristmasday.org.uk)



Lennox residents enjoying their cake

## Bake off

A sheltered scheme in Roehampton held a baking competition and sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Over 20 residents came to the event which raised £161.43.

Resident Joan Coombes said: "Many thanks to the sheltered housing officers, Debbie and Sonya who worked very hard to give us a lovely afternoon in aid of the Macmillan nurses."

The prize for best cake was won for the second year in a row by Gill who baked a delicious cake."

## Community lunch

Every month Kambala Estate residents host a lunch for older residents living in and around the area.

Donna who runs the scheme said: "The project is going really well and we now have at least 20 guests at each lunch. We are also hosting Boxing Day dinner again this year with festive games, a quiz and a raffle. We look forward to meeting more neighbours for lunch"

Lunch costs just £5 per person. Contact Donna on 020 7924 3549 or [chair@kambala.org](mailto:chair@kambala.org) or to find out more or to book a space.

# Council resolves financial woes

When a vulnerable council resident's mental health worsened and she slipped into financial difficulty, the Financial Inclusion Team were on hand to help. The team worked in partnership with local mental health services to ensure that financial pressures did not mount up.

The Financial Inclusion team received a call from a mental health team manager from Queen Mary's Hospital to enquire if any help was available for one of her clients who suffers from chronic debilitating mental illness. Unfortunately, when the client relapsed in January 2017, she was unable to claim the benefits she was entitled to. This ended up in the accumulation of over £2500 rent and council tax arrears.

The resident had removed herself from the world by blocking her front door and not leaving her home, not even to buy food. Her neighbours raised alarm after she was not seen for two months and emergency services were called to enter her home. The resident was sectioned under the Mental Health Act and admitted into Springfield Hospital.

The mental health team manager wanted to seek help for her client, but was not very hopeful as she had previously struggled to resolve financial issues and had gone from person to person trying to get help in the past.

Sanela Cox, manager of the council's Financial Inclusion Team said: "Our team took immediate action. We made a housing benefit appeal and within a very short space of time the client was awarded her full Housing Benefit and a backdated payment to the period when she became unwell. This resulted in her rent arrears being paid in full and additional funds in her account. All council tax debt was removed and she was awarded the full council tax benefit she was entitled to. This also meant that she was no longer

required to attend court and the stress of appearing in front of the judge was removed.

"Vulnerable clients can slip into financial difficulties when their health worsens. We don't want our clients to go through the added stress of having to call up and tell their story repeatedly to various departments. We liaise with benefit teams on behalf of our clients and take action to try and resolve the issues."

The deputy team manager from the Community Mental Health Team at Queen Mary's Hospital said:

"I can't express enough how grateful I am to the Financial Inclusion Team for assisting my client promptly, this has made so much of a difference to her life. I am thankful that I didn't have to explain the situation over and over again. The team investigated and supported my client without her having to go through the pain for being referred from one staff to another and their prompt action ensured that she did not have to go through the stress of attending a court hearing. I am grateful for their can-do approach and hard work."

The council's Financial Inclusion Team offers tailored support to residents on a range of financial issues and their practical approach reduces unnecessary stress. Through joint working with other local agencies, they help to get vulnerable residents back on track.

If you need some help and support with financial issues, contact the financial inclusion team today.



## Help make Wandsworth a greener borough

### Wandsworth residents could recycle twice as much.

Approximately half of all household waste is recyclable. This means that for every bag of general waste you throw away, you could fill another bag with recycling for us to turn into new materials.

Wandsworth residents are currently recycling around 23% of their waste. This means we have the potential to double the amount we recycle in the borough.

In Wandsworth, you can put all your recycling in one bin, making it quick and easy to recycle.

Recycling isn't just good for the environment, it also saves money which the council can spend on vital services for you.

## Large print version

Copies of this issue of *Homelife* are available in large print format contact (020) 8871 6800 or email: [hms@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:hms@wandsworth.gov.uk)