

WANDSWORTH HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2025

Programme of Events:

13th June – 13th July



WANDSWORTH
LIBRARIES

BETTER



CLLR KEMI AKINOLA, DEPUTY LEADER OF WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

As the Cabinet Member for Culture, I am delighted to introduce Wandsworth Heritage Festival for 2025 – our year as London Borough of Culture. Heritage and culture are indelibly linked – both have community at their core, and both enrich our understanding of ourselves. Wandsworth's heritage lies in the many communities who collectively call our borough home; the eclectic buildings and architecture which shelter and inspire us; and the parks and open spaces that offer habitats for our wildlife. Many events in our programme explore these themes.

You may have noticed the timing of the festival is slightly unusual this year – for the first time, Wandsworth Heritage Festival is sharing a week with Wandsworth Arts Fringe. Our programme this year aims to show how heritage and culture intersect with one another, inspire one another, and form part of one another. It has come together, as it does every year, due to the willingness of local voluntary organisations and enthusiastic individuals to share their knowledge and throw open their doors.

This is just the beginning of our year as London Borough of Culture. I hope it gives you a flavour of all that is to come, and that it encourages you to get involved and delve into the heritage of our wonderful borough.



*CLLR Kemi Akinola, Deputy Leader,
Wandsworth Borough Council*

Front cover: A man playing a barrel organ to an audience on Weimar Street

Back cover: From Wandsworth Fringe performance, The Visit - 575 Wandsworth Road,
2023 © David Cotter

WHF X WAF!

This year, we are delighted to be sharing a week of Wandsworth Heritage Festival (WHF) with Wandsworth Arts Fringe (WAF). Wandsworth Arts Fringe is brought to you by Wandsworth Borough Council, supporting the arts and culture industries across the borough. Every year WAF brings together hundreds of creatives. It is emphatically inclusive and welcomes participation from artists across all art forms – including street performances, dance, exhibitions, comedy, theatre, music, and everything in between.

WAF is an opportunity to try something new, take creative risks, test new ideas and reach new audiences. We hope you enjoy the many events which are part of both festivals and explore where culture and heritage connect.

WANDSWORTH HERITAGE SERVICE

The archives and local history library for the Borough of Wandsworth are located on the first floor of Battersea Library.

For more information including opening times and access to our service, please visit our website: better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/wandsworth-heritage-service

Follow us on Instagram: [@wandsworthheritageservice](https://www.instagram.com/wandsworthheritageservice)

Search our catalogue: www2.calmview.co.uk/wandsworth/calmview/

Watch our playlist on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@WandsworthLibraries/playlists>

If you have any access requirements, due to the nature of some of the events and/or restrictions of the venues, please inform the relevant organisation before booking a place.

For access requirements relating to events which do not require advance booking and do not have contact details, please contact heritage@gll.org or **020 7223 2334**.

You can also contact us by the phone number above if you do not have internet access and require us to book events for you.

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Most images are from the collection of Wandsworth Heritage Service.

EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS

Held throughout Wandsworth Heritage Festival and/or Wandsworth Arts Fringe. Please note, **Wandsworth Arts Fringe** runs from **6th June – 22nd June**.

Please check welcometowandsworth.com for booking information and opening times.

Exhibition: Before we were Proud

Organised by Steve Reeves

Before We Were Proud documents the personal histories of older LGBTQ+ community members through photography and written interviews. This project aims to preserve their stories and ensure their experiences are not forgotten.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Throughout Wandsworth Arts Fringe and Wandsworth Heritage Festival during Battersea Library opening hours
- Free
- Battersea Library, reference library, 265 Lavender Hill, SW11 1JB
- For further information visit welcometowandsworth.com

*Vito Ward, one of Reeves' portrait subjects',
© Steve Reeves*



Art Installation: The Lighterman

Organised by G23LAB

Streatham Cemetery is a very special green space providing much-needed tranquillity in a hectic corner of Wandsworth. Resting here are a collection of extraordinary people, just some of whose stories will be told by Tracey and Geoff on their informative and entertaining tour!

The Lighterman is a light sculpture celebrating Putney's maritime heritage representing both the highly skilled workers who operated the shallow barges ("lighters") that offloaded goods at Putney Wharf, and the lights that facilitated safe navigation of the vessels transporting those goods upriver.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Running from the 6th June - 13th July
- Free
- Located at Putney Wharf Tower, Brewhouse Lane, SW15 2JQ
- For further information visit welcometowandsworth.com

Performance and workshops: That Witch Helen

Organised by Sybil Theatre and Catie Ridewood

A feminist retelling of the Trojan War told by the woman who gets blamed for it all. Performances will be accompanied by workshops for local women focussed on sharing women's history and preserving our own stories through oral history techniques.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Workshops on Saturday 14th June and Tuesday 17th June (various times)
- Performances on Saturday 21st June and Sunday 22nd June (various times)
- Workshops are pay what you can, performances are £12 (£10 concession)
- Workshops will be held at Tooting Library, 75 Mitcham Road, SW17 9PD
- Performances will be held at The Arches, St Mary's Church, Putney High Street, SW15 1SN
- Booking for workshops and performances is required – book via welcometowandsworth.com

Performances and audience engagement: Afternoon Tea (at the Fringe/In the Museum)

Organised by Fritha Fallon Dance Diversion

Artistic Director Fritha Fallon will curate delightful and curious encounters with the culture and heritage of Wandsworth. Audiences can look forward to a live event with dance, music, film and poetry that forges sensory connections with mysterious treasures that have been collected from across the borough. Families will be invited to meet eclectic characters, art and artefacts as they reveal their fascinating stories linking the past, the present and the imagined.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Throughout Wandsworth Arts Fringe
- Booking required – book via welcometowandsworth.com

Community Art Project: The Voices of Wandsworth

Organised by Roopa Design

If a butterfly could hear you, what would you say?

Originating as an immersive installation of 500+ origami butterflies reflecting messages from across the borough, the project now journeys to Roehampton's Alton Estate. Through workshops and performances, residents will share new messages and stories, culminating in a vibrant installation and live event.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Various times throughout 6th June - 13th June
- Free
- Roehampton Family Hub, 166 Roehampton Lane, SW15 4HR
- For further information visit welcometowandsworth.com

Community Project: A Celebration of (Horti)culture

Organised by the Paradise Cooperative

Celebrate art, nature, and community in this unique programme of events at the Paradise Cooperative. Includes community storytelling, offering an opportunity to share personal stories and reflections on our connection to the natural world; Arts and Gardens, offering an opportunity to explore nature through drawing, painting, and collaborative art; and Culture of Sharing, celebrating the longstanding social culture of sharing plants.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Throughout Wandsworth Arts Fringe
- Free
- Paradise Cooperative, Dobbins Field, Heathfield Road, SW18 3HT
- For further information visit paradisecooperative.org and welcometowandsworth.com

Sound Pavilion: Falcon Road Bridge

Led by artists Jaspar Joseph-Lester and Ben Judd, designer Krity Gera, and composers Asher Levitas, Amy Blier-Carruthers and Amy Crankshaw.

Sound Pavilion is intended to work as a place to listen and breathe, a space for new perspectives and insights about the local area. The artists will work with community groups to develop a series of recordings that address ideas around what it means to belong and how this can be communicated through sound and space. Sound Pavilion will host these recordings and will be a site of inspiration for new soundscapes.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Throughout Wandsworth Arts Fringe
- Free
- Falcon Road Bridge underpass, Battersea
- For further information visit welcometowandsworth.com

Exhibition: Our Hospital – Exploring the Heritage of St George’s

Organised by Art at St George’s, St George’s Hospital Charity

Part of the ‘Our Hospital: conserving, curating and responding to St George’s Art and Heritage Collection’ project funded by the National Lottery Fund.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Running from the 18th June until Summer 2026
- Free
- Located on Lanesborough corridor ground floor, Lanesborough wing, at St George’s Hospital, Blackshaw Road, SW17 0QT
- For further information visit welcometowandsworth.com



Franciscan Junior School orchestra, c1970s

SCHEDULED EVENTS:

Walk: Echoes of Us

Organised by When Blossom Comes

Co-created with local residents, Echoes of Us is an immersive audio trail through the Winstanley and York Road Estates uncovering stories of changing landscapes and community belonging.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Friday 13th June, 6pm
- Saturday 14th June, 2pm and 6pm
- Sunday 15th June, 2pm and 6pm
- £1–£10 (pay what you can)
- Meet outside the main entrance of York Gardens Library, 34 Lavender Road, SW11 2UG
- Booking required – book via eventbrite.com/o/when-blossom-comes-107331661941

Workshop: Home is Where the Art Is

Organised by Hilaire x History Speak CIC

Begin with an introduction to artist Khadambi Asalache’s work and a hands on paper-cutting workshop inspired by his designs. Followed by a self-guided walk through Wandsworth’s hidden artistic gems ending at Khadambi’s iconic home, 575 Wandsworth Road, to create poetry inspired by the day.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Saturday 14th June, 10am, 11am, 1pm, and 2pm
- £5
- R.O.S.E. Community Clubroom, 22 Ascalon Street, SW8 4AN
- Booking required – book via welcometowandsworth.com

Walk: Tales of the Iron Lane

Organised by Saqib Deshmukh, Director of Insaafi

Explore the many stories linked to the Surrey Iron Railway and its route through Wandsworth. This will be an interactive guided walk/tour of the route of the railway from Summerstown to where it meets the Thames. It will look at the history of the area and industrialisation through the lens of migration from the Huguenots to more recent migrants that have followed, showing how they have contributed to the borough.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Saturday 14th June, 11am
- £5 (free tickets available for those on Universal Credit)
- Meet outside Starbucks on Plough Lane, SW17 0BW
- Booking required – book via welcometowandsworth.com



Balham Picture Playhouse, c1910s



Harry Tate on horse, Tom Tweedy and Tom Tweedy Jnr

Walk: A Literary Tour of Wandsworth Common

Organised by Wandsworth Libraries & Heritage Service

Join librarian Courtney McKean on a walk in and around Wandsworth Common exploring subversive suburban fiction (*Across the Common*), writers who fought for the preservation of the Common (John Buckmaster and Tom Taylor), links to childhood classics Winnie-the-Pooh and Peter Rabbit and literary connections to HMP Wandsworth (including authors Oscar Wilde and Chris Atkins and titles *A Clockwork Orange* and *Atonement*).

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Saturday 14th June, 11am
- Free
- Meet outside Northcote Library, 150 Northcote Road, SW11 6RD
- Booking required – book via Northcote.Library@gll.org

Walk: Clapham Literary Walk

Organised and led by crime fiction writer Julie Anderson

A walk around Clapham Common discussing the famous writers who have lived and worked there, or near there, from the seventeenth century to today. Led by local crime fiction writer and trustee of the Clapham Book Festival, Julie Anderson. Please note, this walk will be repeated on Thursday 10th July at 6.30pm.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Saturday 14th June, 3pm
- £10 (Concessions £7)
- Meet outside Clapham Common Tube Station, The Pavement, SW4 7AJ
- Booking required – book via payhip.com/claphambookfestival

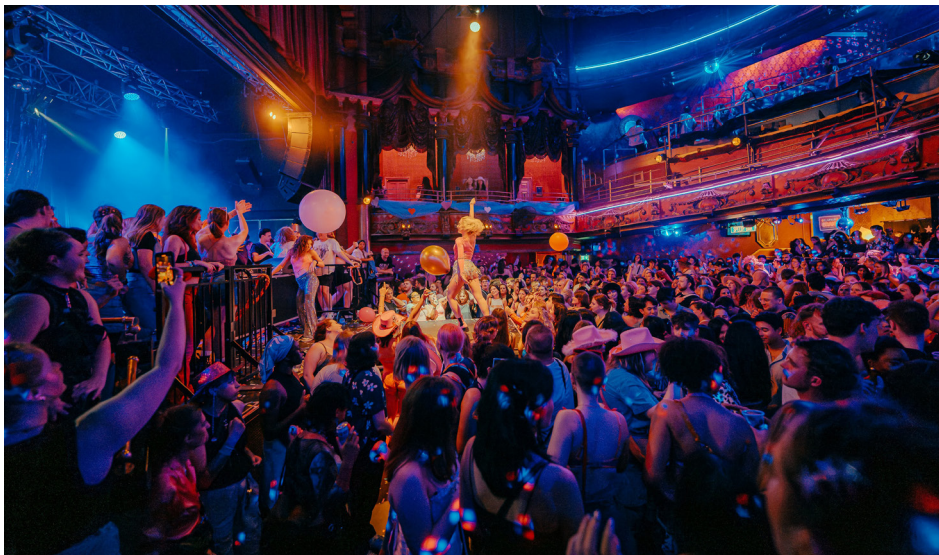
Tour: The Dead Centre of Streatham

Organised by the Streatham Society

Despite the rebuilds, St Leonard's Church is Streatham's oldest building and its well-preserved medieval crypt and churchyard provide a rich architectural history as well as fascinating stories of Streatham's long departed residents.

Led by local historian John Brown and Lambeth tour guide Trudy Kuhn.

- Monday 16th June, 1pm
- £5 donation to St Leonard's Church
- St Leonard's Church, Streatham High Road, SW16 1HS
- Booking required – book via tinyurl.com/bdz49nc8



Interior of the Clapham Grand mid performance, reproduced by kind permission of the Clapham Grand

Talk: Basket weaving, Toy Making & the Art of Recovery

Organised by Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability

The RHN has developed a variety of creative forms of therapy over the past 170 years. This talk will discuss the evolution of occupational therapy and how the hospital has utilised it for the wellbeing and enjoyment of patients. Join our archivist and art therapists for a lively and therapeutic talk with an artistic flair!

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Tuesday 17th June, 1pm
- Free
- This is an online event
- Booking required – book via rhn.org.uk/events/open-lecture-wandsworth-heritage-festival-basket-weaving-toy-making-the-art-of-recovery/

Talk: The Clapham Grand – a Modern Palace of Variety

Organised by the Clapham Grand

Join manager Ally Wolf either in the afternoon or the evening in the historic setting of the Clapham Grand. Ally will reflect on the life of the Grand since the laying of the foundation stone in 1900 to its present day incarnation as a modern palace of variety and how its move to programming variety led to its continual survival against the odds.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Tuesday 17th June, 2 - 4pm, and 7 - 9pm
- Free
- The Clapham Grand, 21-25 St John's Hill, SW11 1TT
- Booking required – book via eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-claphamgrand-30765733090

Talk and workshop: Froebel's Principles of the Gifts and Occupations

Organised by the University of Roehampton

An exploration of the work created by students of the Froebel Educational Institute based on Froebel's principles of the Gifts and Occupations and their influence on artists such as Klee, Kandinsky, Mondrian, and architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Participants will also get the opportunity to explore their own creativity by using a selection of the Gifts and Occupations during the session.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Wednesday 18th June, 1pm
- Free
- Meet in the reception of the University of Roehampton Library, Roehampton Lane, SW15 5SZ
- Booking required – book via archives@roehampton.ac.uk

Talk and discussion: Extraordinary Women of Wandsworth

Organised by the authors of 'Extraordinary Women of Wandsworth'

An update on scope and progress and examples of those women and their stories who will be included in the upcoming publication of the same name. The book's authors are Jenni Bowley, Chris Everett, Jenny Rossiter, and Elaine Wein.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Wednesday 18th June, 7pm
- Free
- This is an online event
- Booking required – book via eventbrite.co.uk/e/extraordinary-women-of-wandsworth-tickets-1275211595209

Performance: N'Alcordanza

Organised by Lucía Piquero Álvarez and Sophie Douglas

This work, with a mixed cast of community and professional dancers, explores significant anecdotes from our elders' lives, gathering stories in movement to mould into a performance made of everyday moments reflecting on memory, absence, and transmission. It is a celebration of the vital experience and knowledge of our elders, together with them.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Friday 20th June, 12.30pm and 3.30pm
- £10 (£7 concessions)
- Royal Academy of Dance, 188 York Road, SW11 3JZ
- Booking required – book via welcometowandsworth.com

Art Installation: The Clockwork Underpass

Organised by Dr Adam Stanovic and Dr Daria Biaocchi

This audio-visual installation plays tribute to the cinematic heritage of Wandsworth. It is situated where key scenes from Stanley Kubrick's 'A Clockwork Orange' were filmed, and features sound and images from various cinematic works associated with Wandsworth.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Friday 20th June, 1pm - 5pm and Saturday 21st June 1pm - 5pm
- Free
- Trinity Road/Wandsworth roundabout underpass, SW18 1JT
- Booking not required – for further information visit welcometowandsworth.com

Performance: SHOP

Organised by People Show

Over a two-week period People Show will devise their 150th show from scratch inspired by Southside Shopping Centre and its visitors. Expect a funny, visually striking, imaginative, and unforgettable experience.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Saturday 21st June, 11am, 1pm, and 3pm
- Free
- Southside Shopping Centre, Wandsworth High Street, SW18 4TF
- Booking not required – for further information visit welcometowandsworth.com



The Royal Duchess Theatre, Balham

Tour: Heritage Tour of Sambrooks Brewery

Organised by Sambrook's Brewery

The tour will be conducted by brewer John Hatch and will last 60 minutes. You can expect to start with two third pint samples of the two beers we will be focussing on. You will then move on to the Heritage Centre where a range of artefacts will be on display. John will explain the significance of the artefacts, describe the brewing process and, no doubt, recount one or two of his famous anecdotes!

The tour will conclude with a relaxing pint of cask ale in the Sambrook's Brewery Tap.

Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

- Saturday 21st June, 12pm, 2pm, and 4pm
- £25
- Sambrook's Brewery Tap, 40 Ram Street, Ram Quarter, SW18 1UR
- Booking required – book via sambrooksbrewery.co.uk/pages/tours

Duchess Theatre Balham, c1900s

Tour: Henry Tate Gardens

Organised by the Streatham Society

Henry Tate, the sugar magnate, lived here from 1885. A philanthropist and art collector, he opened his gallery here to the public once a year and later donated most of his collection to the Tate Gallery, which he established in London.

A guided walk in the grounds of the mansion by Robert Doyle of the Streatham Society.

- Sunday 22nd June, 2pm and 3pm
- £5
- Meet at the lodge gates, Henry Tate Mews, Streatham Common North, SW16 3HA
- Booking required – book via eventbrite.co.uk/o/streatham-society-31488784265



School play performed at West Hill, c1970s

Tour: Art and Artefacts of Whitelands College

Organised by the University of Roehampton

Includes works by William Morris, Edward Burne-Jones, John Ruskin, Kate Faulkner, George Frederic Watts, Omar Ramsden and Alwyn Carr, Anna Richards Brewster, Douglas Chander, Arthur George Walker, Oswald Hornby, and Joseph Birley.

- Monday 23rd June, 2pm
- Free
- Meet in the reception of Whitelands College, Holybourne Avenue, SW15 4JD
- Booking required – book via wcarchives@roehampton.ac.uk

Walk: Twixt the Commons – The Development of a Victorian suburb

Organised by the Clapham Society

Timothy walker, author of *Twixt the Commons* will lead this walk looking at the development of the area between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons, from the 18th to the 21st century.

- Monday 23rd June, 6.30pm
- Free
- Meet outside Clapham South Tube Station, Balham Hill, SW12 9DU
- Booking required – book via tehwalker@uwclub.net

Talk and short film: The Story of the Fitzhugh Estate

Organised by the Friends of Wandsworth Common

Sharon O'Neill presents a talk and film highlighting the 1950s estate overlooking Wandsworth Common. Designed by London County Council architects under Sir John Leslie Martin (principal architect of the Royal Festival Hall) the talk illustrates the key elements of its modernist design.

- Tuesday 24th June, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm)
- Free
- Naturescope, off Dorlcote Road, SW18 3RT
- Booking required – book via history@wandsworthcommon.org

Talk: The Wandle Portrayed

Organised by the Wandle Industrial Museum

Art and literary works relating to the River Wandle selected and presented by honorary archivist Alison Cousins. Includes work by both local and well-known artists.

- Wednesday 25th June, 6.30pm
- Free
- Wandsworth Town Library, 9 Courthouse Way, SW18 4QG
- Booking required – book via Heritage@gll.org

Talk: Railways of South West London

Organised by the Wandsworth Society

Michael Woods' talk will cover some of the history of current rail services in the area including Clapham Junction Station, the London Brighton & South Coast Railway, the London & South

Western Railway, the Richmond Line, the South London (now Windrush) Line, the West London Extension Railway (now the Mildmay Line) and the Kenny Bell and Eurostar services. Also the 1988 Clapham Junction Rail Accident as well as a passing look at Underground and Freight services.

- Wednesday 25th June, 8pm
- Free
- West Side Church Hall, Melody Road, SW18 2QQ
- Booking not required

Talk: Radical Putney – Mapping the Romantics

Organised by Dr Selina Packard and Dr Philip Seargeant

Putney was home to some of the major figures of the Romantic Movement, including Mary Shelley, Henry Fuseli, and Leigh Hunt. This talk reveals the hidden map of where they lived, and shows how we uncovered the location of White Cottage, where Shelley lived for three years.

- Thursday 26th June, 6.30pm
- Free
- Putney Library, 5 - 7 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DR
- Booking required – book via Heritage@gll.org

Film Screening: Common memories – Life in and around Wandsworth Common

Organised by the Friends of Wandsworth Common

Discover what life was like on and around the Common over a 50-year period from the 1930s to the 1980s in this fascinating film. Long-term and previous residents share their memories and provide a unique insight into how much our locality has changed.

- Thursday 26th June, 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)
- Free
- Naturescope, off Dorlcote Road, SW18 3RT
- Booking required – book via history@wandsworthcommon.org

Talk: The Music Hall Artistes of Lambeth Cemetery

Organised by Tooting History Group and the Friends of Streatham Cemetery

How did over 250 music hall artistes and entertainers come to be buried in Tooting? What was life like as a music hall artiste in Victorian and Edwardian times? What songs did they sing? What acts did they perform?

Join Karen Ellis-Rees of London Overlooked/Tooting History Group and Peter Winbourne for an evening of stories and song about the once shining music hall stars who now rest in Lambeth and Streatham Cemeteries.

- Friday 27th June, 7.30pm
- £6, light refreshments provided
- Chapel, Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, SW17 0DH
- Booking required – book via <https://bit.ly/4bSPVxQ>



Talk: Mapping Rich and Poor: Charles Booth's Enquiry

Organised by the Wandsworth Historical Society

Charles Booth's Inquiry into the Life and Labour of the People in London was undertaken between 1886 and 1903 and included Wandsworth. It was inscribed onto the UNESCO Memory of the World register in 2016 – 100 years after the death of Booth. In this talk, Indy Bhullar, Curator for Economics and Social Policy at LSE Library, delves into the enquiry's findings.

- Friday 27th June, 8pm
- Free
- Friends' Meeting House, 59 Wandsworth High Street, SW18 2PT
- Booking not required

Tour: The Chapel of St Mary's Convent, Roehampton

Organised by the archivist, St Mary's Convent, Brentford

St Mary's Convent was built by an order of Catholic Sisters, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, between 1876-1903. The guided tour, of approximately one hour, comprises the chapel, vestibule and gallery with beautiful frescoes by Sr Mary Tommaso SMG.

- Saturday 28th June, 10am and 2pm
- Free
- St Mary's Convent, High Street, Roehampton, SW15 4HJ
(please note: the convent is via the blue door behind the small iron railing)
- Booking required – book via paul.shaw@psmgs.org.uk or **020 85687305**

Open weekend: Wandsworth Prison Museum

Organised by Wandsworth Prison Museum

View a collection over 470 objects telling the story of Wandsworth Prison and its development. Learn about Oscar Wilde, the acid bath murders, Ronnie Biggs, Krays, executions and escapes. World Wars, spies and traitors. Some colourful staff and prisoner stories.

- Saturday 28th June and Sunday 29th June, 10am-1pm, 2pm-5pm
- Free
- Wandsworth Prison Museum, North Gate Car Park, HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Road, SW18 3HR
- Booking not required – for further information contact Wandsworthprisonmuseum@justice.gov.uk

Plaque Unveiling: Constance Cummings-John

Organised by Summertown 182

Constance Cummings John (1918-2000) was the first woman to serve as Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone. She was an educator and activist, and lived for part of her life here in Tooting! Join us as we unveil a plaque to celebrate her. Part of the Balham and Tooting Community Association Fun Day.

- Saturday 28th June, 2pm
- Free
- Outside 20 Broadwater Road, Tooting, SW17 0EF
- Booking not required

Tour: The Story of the Fitzhugh Estate

Organised by Friends of Wandsworth Common

A tour of the 1950s modernist Estate overlooking Wandsworth Common designed by the London County Council under Sir John Leslie Martin (principal architect of the Royal Festival Hall). The talk and tour by resident Sharon O'Neill highlights its modernist design and includes a viewing of one of the flats.

- Saturday 28th June, 2pm
- Free
- Fitzhugh Estate – meeting point confirmed on booking
- Booking required – book via history@wandsworthcommon.org

Poetry reading and discussion: Dr Velma McClymont

Organised by Womanz Vue publishers

Also known as children's writer Kate Elizabeth Ernest, Dr Velma McClymont is an author, poet, activist, and academic who grew up in Battersea and found inspiration in Battersea's reference library. Join her as she reads from her most recent poetry collection, *Walk-Foot Woman* and other poems, as well as her prose which includes her recent historical novel, *Little River*, and her children's books written under the name of Kate Elizabeth Ernest.

- Monday 30th June, 6pm
- Free, free refreshments will be served
- Battersea Library, 265 Lavender Hill, SW11 1JB
- Booking required – book via Heritage@gll.org

Talk: Streatham's 'Sleeping Beauty'

Organised by the Streatham Society

An Illustrated talk about Streatham Hill's magnificent theatre, one of South London's most lavish 'sleeping beauties' designed by W C R Sprague, the architect responsible for some of London's most beautiful theatres.

The talk will be given by David Harvey and Liz Burton, members of the Friends of Streatham Hill Theatre campaigning to bring theatre to Streatham.

- Tuesday 1st July, 7.30pm
- Free, donations welcome
- St Leonard's Church, Streatham High Road, SW16 1HS
- Booking not required

Walk: Wandsworth's Wonderful Weeds

Organised by the South London Botanical Institute

A stroll exploring pavement plants and discussing their origins. Led by botanist and folklorist Roy Vickery, who is currently compiling the Plant Lore archive (plant-lore.com). This walk is accessible for wheelchair users (accessible toilets available in the Battersea Arts Centre).

- Wednesday 2nd July, 11am
- £5
- Meet outside the entrance to the Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 5TN
- Booking required – book via slbi.org.uk/events/

Talks and activities: Coronation Gardens Fountain Celebration

Organised by the Heritage of London Trust and the Friends of Coronation Gardens

Join the restoration team and volunteers to see and hear about the progress of the restoration of the 120-year-old Coronation Gardens Fountain in Southfields. Restoration will include reconnecting the fountain to the water supply and installing a newly commissioned bronze statue to replace the original which once stood above the drinking bowl.

- Thursday 3rd July, 10am
- Free
- By the drinking fountain in Coronation Gardens, SW18 5ND
- Booking not required

Walk: The Wandle's Industrial Heritage

Organised by the Wandle Industrial Museum

Local historian John Sheridan leads this walk from Earlsfield Station to the mouth of the river Wandle, with illustrations and descriptions of former mills and industrial activities along the route.

- Thursday 3rd July, 12pm
- Free, but donations to the Wandle Industrial Museum are welcome
- Meet at Earlsfield Station, Garratt Lane, SW18 3NY
- Booking required – book via john.sheridan08@gmail.com

Plaque Unveiling: Jeanie Nassau Senior

Organised by the Battersea Society

Jeanie Nassau Senior became the first female civil servant when she was made Inspector of Workhouses. She was critical of the existing arrangements and promoted what we now call fostering.

All welcome to the unveiling of a plaque in her honour on the Battersea Arts Centre, the site of her former home Elm House.

- Friday 4th July, 2pm
- Free
- Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 5TN
- Booking not required

Walk: Mostly Medical

Organised by the Clapham Society

Gillian Robinson will lead this walk charting Nightingale Lane's medical history. Learn about the Nightingales Home, Queen Elizabeth House, Audiology House, and the former South London Hospital for Women.

- Saturday 5th July, 12pm
- Free
- Meet opposite the Hope Pub at the end of Nightingale Lane near the entrance to Wandsworth Common Station, SW17 7EG
- Booking required – contact thenightingales95@gmail.com

Film Festival and Garden Party: Celebrating 130 years of Trade Union Heritage in Battersea and Wandsworth

Organised by the Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Union Council (BWTUC)

Join us to watch a selection of films documenting and celebrating our trade union heritage, followed by our annual John Burns garden party which will feature speeches on Labour movement history, culture, and contemporary affairs. Held in the Bread & Roses pub, which is owned by BWTUC.

- Saturday 5th July, 12pm
- Free
- Bread and Roses pub, 68 Clapham Manor Street, SW4 6DZ
- Booking not required

Walk: John Burns' Battersea

Organised by the Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Union Council (BWTUC)

The tour will commence at the restored grave of John Burns MP, taking in notable places associated with Burns, including his former residence and the town hall. Walk led by qualified tour guide Rex Osborn, a Labour councillor in Wandsworth.

- Saturday 5th July, 1pm
- Free
- Meet at the Bolingbroke Grove/Battersea Rise entrance to Battersea Rise Cemetery, SW11 1HE
- Booking not required



Talk: Oscar Wilde and Wandsworth Prison

Organised by Wandsworth Prison Museum

Writer Oscar Wilde was at Wandsworth Prison from July-November 1895. This talk details his time at the prison 130 years ago.

- Sunday 6th July, 11.30am
- Free
- Meet at Wandsworth Prison Museum, North Gate Car Park, HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Road, SW18 3HR
- Booking required as places are strictly limited to 20 – book via wandsworthprisonmuseum@justice.gov.uk
- Due to prison regulations, those attending the talk will be required to send name and address details and be in possession of photographic identification.

From Hazelfest, Oily Cart theatre group, Wandsworth Arts Fringe, 2023 © David Cotter



The Junction Cinema Battersea



Bingo machines in former Granada Cinema, Tooting, c1990



Noel Streatfeild with young library patrons and the Mayor of Wandsworth at the opening of Roehampton Library, 1961



Readers in Roehampton Library, 1961

Talk: From Putney to Wolf Hall – The Wandsworth Origins of Cromwell

Organised by Wandsworth Libraries & Heritage Service

Dr Sean Cunningham, Head of Collections at the National Archives, uses historical documents to show how Cromwell's Putney origins helped to shape Henry VIII's reign. The talk will include information on using the National Archives to trace local and family stories.

- Monday 7th July, 6.30pm
- Free
- Putney Library, 5 - 7 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DR
- Booking required – book via Heritage@gll.org

Talk: South London's Greatest Show-place: The Tooting Granada

Organised by the Tooting History Group

Historian Richard Gray charts the story of our 'most extravagant palace of film' through its history, architecture and entertainment.

Richard Gray is the author of *Cinemas in Britain*, a history of cinema architecture.

- Tuesday 8th July, 7.30pm
- Free to Tooting History Group members, £2 to non-members
- United Reformed Church, Rookstone Road, SW17 9NQ
- No booking required

Walk: Home to Many – Wild Flowers in Battersea Rise Cemetery

Organised by the South London Botanical Institute

Alongside some of Battersea's former residents, Battersea Rise Cemetery is also home to many wonderful wild flowers. This walk led by botanist and folklorist Roy Vickery offers the chance to learn more about them.

This walk is accessible for wheelchair users, but there are no accessible toilets in the cemetery.

- Wednesday 9th July, 11am
- £5
- Meet at the entrance to Battersea Rise Cemetery, Bolingbroke Grove, SW11 1HE
- Booking required – book via slbi.org.uk/events/

Talk: The Quest for P Y Betts – Memories of a Wandsworth Common Childhood

Organised by the Friends of Wandsworth Common

P Y Betts had a promising writing career then disappeared from view. Fifty years later, she wrote a poignant and very funny memoir of growing up near Wandsworth Common during the First World War. We uncover P Y Betts' story and the places and people that she brought so vividly to life in her book *People Who Say Goodbye*.

- Wednesday 9th July, 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)
- Free
- Naturescope, off Dorlcote Road, SW18 3RT
- Booking required – book via history@wandsworthcommon.org

Walk: Clapham Literary Walk

Organised and led by crime fiction writer Julie Anderson

How much do you know about the famous writers – prize-winners, best-sellers and literary giants – who have lived and worked around Clapham Common? Want to find out more? Why not come on the Clapham Literary Walk? Ranging from the seventeenth century to the present day and led by Julie Anderson, a local CWA Dagger-listed crime fiction writer and Chair of Trustees of the annual Clapham Book Festival.

- Thursday 10th July, 6.30pm
- £10 (concessions £7)
- Meet outside Clapham Common Tube Station, the Pavement, SW4 7AJ
- Booking required – book via payhip.com/claphambookfestival

Talk: Uncovering the Secrets of your Home

Organised by Wandsworth Libraries & Heritage Service

Whether your home is old or new, Archivist Emma Anthony shares some of the resources you can use to dig into its past and its people.

- Friday 11th July, 2pm
- Free
- Battersea Library, 265 Lavender Hill, SW11 1JB
- Booking required – book via Heritage@gll.org

Drop in: Meet the Archaeologist

Organised by the Wandsworth Historical Society

Archaeologist Pamela Greenwood shares some of the archaeological finds she has dug up in Wandsworth. From a protective witch bottle to clay pipes and everything else in between. Handling is encouraged. This is a family-friendly event where children and adults of all ages are welcome!

- Saturday 12th July, 11am-2pm
- Free, with free refreshments
- Battersea Library, 265 Lavender Hill, SW11 1JB
- Booking not required

Book Launch and Street Party: "Remember 1975"

Organised by the Furzedown Project

The Furzedown Project celebrates 50 years of service to the local community in 2025. To mark this milestone, Furzedown resident Martin Beaver has completed a history of the organisation which will be launched at our street party.

- Saturday 12th July, 11am-4pm
- Free
- The Furzedown Project, 91-93 Moyser Road, SW16 6SJ
- Booking required – book via services@furzedownproject.org

Plaque Unveiling: Elsa and Edith Lanchester

Organised by the Battersea Society

Edith Lanchester (1871-1966) was a socialist, feminist, and suffragette who gained some notoriety in 1895 when her family had her incarcerated in the Priory Asylum for planning to live with her lover Séamas Sullivan. Her daughter Elsa Lanchester (1902-1986) had a long career on stage, film and television. She is most remembered for her role in the film, the Bride of Frankenstein.

This plaque will commemorate both mother and daughter on the site of their former home. All welcome.

- Sunday 13th July, 2pm
- Free
- Outside 27 Leathwaite Road, Battersea, SW11 1XG
- No booking required

Walk: A Stroll Around Battersea Park

Organised by the Friends of Battersea Park

Finish off the festival with a gentle stroll around Battersea Park taking in four important sculptures.

- Sunday 13th July, 2pm
- £5 donation to the Friends of Battersea Park
- Meet just inside the Rosery Gate in the South East corner of the park, SW11 4BE
- Booking required – book via fhradcliffe@gmail.com



Mayfield School pupil sculpting, c1970s



“MICE AND MEN.”
PEGGY to MRS. DEBORAH.—“*I promise you I’ll not be recognised.*”

Shakespeare Theatre, Mice and Men production, c1900s



Back cover: From Wandsworth Fringe performance, *The Visit* - 575
Wandsworth Road, 2023 © David Cotter

We aim to ensure the information provided is correct at the time of going to print but there may be unavoidable last-minute changes in events. Any changes will be posted in libraries, our website: better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/wandsworth-heritage-service and on X: [@wandsworthlibs](https://twitter.com/wandsworthlibs)