

ALTON

ROEHAMPTON SW15

ALTON NEWS

Autumn 2023

Issue 36

www.AltonEstateRegen.co.uk

Twitter: @AltonMasterplan

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/Roehampton

PORTSWOOD

SPACE ♥

**REGENERATION EARLY
IMPROVEMENT PLAN -
UPDATE**

**MOBILE YOUTH CENTRE
LAUNCHED**

NIGHT TIME STRATEGY





ALTON ESTATE REGENERATION

Early Improvement Plan - UPDATE

Following a summer of engagement with the community, we are nearly ready to submit plans to the Local Planning Authority to bring forward the works to the Alton Activity Centre and Downshire Field.

We would like to thank you all for the extremely valuable feedback we've received, which has helped shape the new designs for these spaces and we are really excited to begin making positive changes on the estate for residents and the broader community.

Plans for the Activity Centre:

- Improved access around the playspace
- New full-sized multi-use playspace
- Safe spaces for girls
- Under 5's play zone
- Art and craft spaces
- Outside shelter

A reduction in the height of the fence and increased access to the space will ensure a more welcoming and inclusive environment for the community to enjoy.

Following consultation by the planning team, a decision will be taken on consenting these plans at a Planning Applications Committee in the new year. We will update you again in the next edition on estimated timelines for delivery.

Plans for Downshire Field:

- New path connections and improved loop path
- Trim trail for fitness
- Biodiverse meadows
- New natural playspace
- Additional seating

We have been really mindful about the heritage status of the open space on Downshire Field; the designs are sympathetic to its natural feel and new installations will be sourced from sustainable materials.



FONTLEY WAY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Gerard House on Fontley Way is rapidly approaching completion as Stack London keep up the momentum during the winter months!

Stack have been hard at work completing the internal decorations to the 14 units and communal area.

The bin store and bike store are almost complete, ready for refuse to be stored and bikes to be secured.

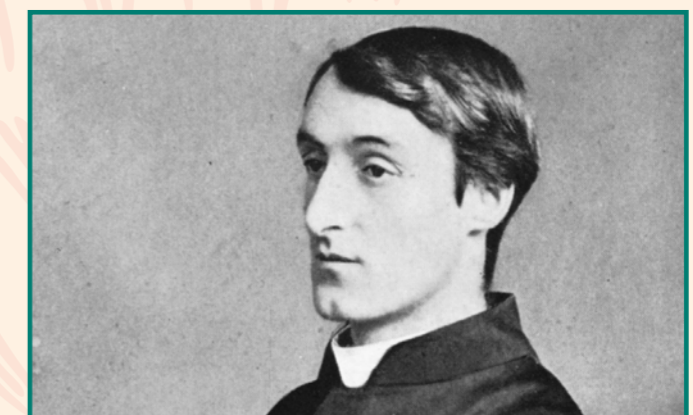
The additional car parking spaces will be marked out during the landscaping work, providing 10 additional parking spaces to the estate.

Final snagging work, ground landscaping, and the new playspace are the final elements of the build being completed in December, before Gerard House is ready for occupation in the New Year.

Keep your eyes peeled for the next edition of Alton News which will show pictures of the completed building and landscape!

The block, consisting of 14 new council homes, has been named after the former English poet and writer, Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844 - 1889), who lived and studied in Manresa House on the Alton Estate.

Gerard Manley Hopkins.
Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images



News from the Housing Development Team

HOMES FOR WANDSWORTH PROGRAMME UPDATE

We recently held a public consultation on proposals to develop land adjacent to Farnborough House, as part of the Homes for Wandsworth programme.

Proposals for land adjacent to Farnborough House

Our proposals present a unique opportunity to provide 38 much-needed new council rent homes within a high-quality sustainable scheme, which will help to meet the needs of our residents now and for generations to come.

Our proposals also include significant landscape enhancements and improvements, including new playspace, a woodland walk, and shared amenities for all residents of the estate.

Consultation and Next Steps

In November 2023, consultation events were held to share detailed proposals to develop land adjacent to Farnborough House with the local community and obtain feedback on the plans.

Thank you to everyone who attended the events and provided feedback to the project team. Your local knowledge, thoughts and suggestions are important to help finalise our plans and ensure the very best schemes are brought forward.

The project team is now collating all feedback received and finalising the proposals for land adjacent to Farnborough House. We are targeting submission of a planning application for the site in early 2024.

Visit our consultation website to find out more about our plans and sign-up to our mailing list for project updates: www.bessboroughroad-farnboroughhouse.co.uk



Proposals for land at Bessborough Road

In July 2023, a planning application was submitted to Wandsworth Council to develop garages and car parking spaces on Bessborough Road. The plans will provide eight much-needed specialist homes for people with learning disabilities within a high-quality sustainable scheme, alongside high-quality new landscaping, enhanced playspace, and improvements for wheelchair/pushchair access.

The application was determined at planning committee on 24 October 2023 and received unanimous approval from voting members. Details of the application and its supporting plans and technical reports are still available to view on the council's website, and can be found by using reference number **2023/2779** in the planning application search section: **Planning Application Search (wandsworth.gov.uk)**.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT QUARTERLY ROUND UP

Over the past few months, the Alton Regeneration team has been involved with a full and varied programme of events and activities on the Alton estate, including:

HEAR THEM ROAR!

There was strong support for the Lionesses at our Women's World Cup crafting event, held a week before the tournament started.



Attendees made flags to support the team they wanted to win and designed their own football kits using various combinations of colours and styles. Most stuck to a traditional kit featuring shorts, a t-shirt and socks, although we did see a onesie!

We are pleased to report the only disagreement that afternoon was about the merits of Arsenal versus Chelsea!



WHAT A DRAMA

Over the Summer holidays, Izzy from On the Clouds Kids held three free drama classes for families on the Alton estate.



During the first class, Paul the Parrot taught attendees about stage direction. The children then had to pretend to sneak past the scary cat guarding the sweet factory.

Once they escaped past the cat, they got to walk on marshmallows and drink from the chocolate river.

Although all in our imagination, we can almost still taste the gorgeous chocolate now!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT QUARTERLY ROUND UP (CONTINUED)



FLOWER POWER

For the last couple of years, we have been fortunate to receive a large quantity of plants from Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club once the tennis championship has finished.



This year, we partnered with the charity Groundwork London, who provided planting expertise as well as compost, mulch, and tools for our post-Wimbledon planting event.

Groundwork offer volunteering opportunities to local firms, so we spent a lovely day in early August with Groundwork,



a volunteer team from estate agents JLL Residential, and local residents planting up the verge on Danebury Avenue with an array of Wimbledon-coloured (green, purple, and white) plants and flowers. So many people stopped to compliment the planting! Please feel free to water and weed the verge if you live nearby.

SPRING IN BLOOM

The sun came out for our October half term Spring bulb planting event, however the kids seemed more interested in the worms than the bulbs!

They also found a Stink Shield bug, which was quickly returned to its leaf when they found out why it has that name!

Thank you to the Putney Rotary Club who kindly donated crocus corns, which were shared between the planting event and Minstead Gardens & Manresa sheltered housing schemes. We can't wait to see them flower in the Spring!

If you would like to be notified of future planting events please email jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk and she will add your name to her 'gardening' contact list.



CELEBRATING SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH AT THE ALTON ARTS HUB



Age UK Wandsworth celebrated South Asian Heritage Month this summer with a series of art workshops and an exhibition displaying works produced by elders from the South Asian community and the Gwynneth Morgan Day Centre in Wandsworth.

South Asian Heritage Month runs from 18 July to 17 August each year, and seeks to commemorate, mark and celebrate South Asian cultures, histories and communities.

Participants were invited to explore their creativity in weekly workshops at the Day Centre, where they produced paintings and drawings inspired by the works of South Asian artists. Completed works were then finished with bespoke frames at

the Roehampton Community Shed, before being put on display.

The exhibition ran from 23 to 27 August and was attended by local ward councillor Graeme Henderson and Fleur Anderson MP, along with members of the public and the artists with their unpaid carers, who were delighted to see the work on display!

The exhibition will soon be transferred to Age UK Wandsworth's Day Centre - keep an eye on their website for details ageuk.org.uk/wandsworth. Alternatively, you can check out the works on Age UK Wandsworth's Instagram page.



RUN WALK SCOOT 23



In September, we held our third annual Run, Walk, Scoot event with a new, longer route stretching from the Alton Primary School to Heathmere Primary School.

Participants completed the course on foot, by scooter, or by pushchair in the case of the really young ones. Everyone who reached the finish line at the Rainbow Steps on Danebury Avenue, having received a stamp at every designated venue along the route, was awarded a special Alton medal.

It was lovely to see residents taking part who have collected medals from all three years. For the second year running, Orleen and her family were first to finish!

Thank you to our friends from the Putney Rotary Club for your help on the stands along the route, to all those that took part, and to the rain for holding off until the last medal had been presented!



ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY WEEK

In August we celebrated the third annual Roehampton Community Week. This year was bigger and better than ever with 80 exciting events, held across 21 venues in Roehampton, over 3 weeks!



SUMMER LOVING

We kicked off Community Week in style with our over 60's Summer Party.

The event began with Rah Rah Theatre's sing-along summer show, followed by a buffet, and DJ Decades playing everyone's favourite summer tunes.

Guests were given flower garlands and headbands to get them in the mood, and the staff wore hula skirts!

The day itself may have been cloudy and overcast outside, but the sun was definitely shining on all our guests in the Manresa Sheltered Clubroom.

The party event also featured a surprise birthday cake for one attendee! It was lovely to see so many new faces.



EVERYBODY SALSA

On a beautiful afternoon during Roehampton Community Week, the SW15 Women's Network and the Alton Regeneration Team invited everyone to join them by the rainbow stairs at the top of Danebury Avenue for a 'Flash Mob' Salsa party.

Local resident and incredibly talented, professional Salsa singer, Nolita Golding, got the crowd on their feet with some lively Latin beats. Her powerful voice filled Danebury Avenue with the sounds of summer. Residents of all ages danced the afternoon away.

To find when and where Nolita is next performing, follow her on Twitter @NolitaGolding



MAKE AND CREATE

During Community Week, we held two very popular workshops where residents of all ages learnt new skills.

The first taught basic sewing techniques where attendees choose between making a hand puppet with Symone or a leather* purse with Donna. Quicker seamstresses were able to make both!

For the second workshop, Symone demonstrated how to create different tie dye patterns before giving everyone a bandana to practise on. Some attendees brought their own plain white t-shirts which they transformed into colourful designs of self-expression.

*Faux leather was also available

Did you know...

Some of the earliest examples of tie dye are from the 5th century in China. However, in the Western World, tie dye didn't become popular until the 1960s.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT QUARTERLY ROUND UP (CONTINUED)



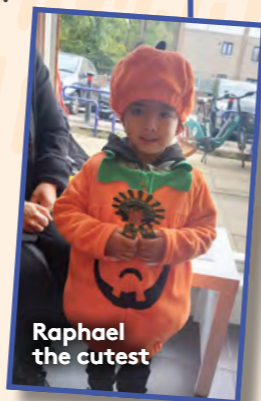
FANGTASTIC BATS & SPOOKY GHOSTS

Our half term Halloween Party was another haunting success.

Due to its popularity last year, we opened up both our units at Portswood Place. At the Alton Arts Hub, children played Hook the Pumpkln, took part in our free prize tombola, and had their faces painted by the incredibly talented Orleen.

At Portswood Space, kids (& some parents!) enjoyed making ghosts & decorating bats. The prize for the spookiest costume was awarded to Penny who came as a 'Skelly-Witch' and the cutest was won by Raphael who came as a pumpkin, complete with 'beret' style stalk.

If you would like to be notified of future family events please email jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk and she will add your name to her 'family events' contact list.



BREWING HAPPINESS



As we age, the value of good company and warm conversation becomes even more precious and, what better way to cherish these moments, than over a steaming cup of coffee?

That's why we were excited to support a brand new Over 60's Coffee Morning, run by residents for residents. If you are looking for a relaxing, friendly group to share a cuppa, chat, board games and occasional bingo and quizzes with, you will definitely find it in Portswood Space every Friday morning.

At the launch in October, residents shared a selection of lovely cakes, including homemade bread pudding made by Jean from the Over 60's Café. They also played board games, including



Connect 4, which most people hadn't played for years. It was good-natured, but highly competitive!

The Coffee Morning is a fantastic opportunity to meet your neighbours, form new friendships, and strengthen existing ones. It's a chance to share stories, experiences, and create a sense of unity within our community. Come enjoy a selection of coffee, tea, and scrumptious snacks.

The Over 60's Coffee Morning takes place every Friday, 12-1pm at Portswood Space (4 Portswood place, SW15 4ED), and is free to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Keep an eye on our community noticeboards, websites and Twitter page for information on upcoming events and activities, including:



Santa's Grotto • Stalls • Crafting • Refreshments • Entertainment

Roehampton Christmas Market

Saturday 9 December • 1-3pm
Portswood Place, SW15

Illustration: Gexorlan

Always a Warm Welcome



There are many regular free activities and events taking place on the Alton estate where you will receive refreshments and a warm welcome.

Monday 10-11.30am Baby & Toddler Club at Roehampton Methodist Church, Minstead Gardens
A space to play for all children aged 0- 5 and their grown-ups. Refreshments provided

Tuesday 10-11am Coffee Morning at Roehampton Library, Danebury Avenue
Relax with a book and complimentary tea, coffee & biscuits



11am-1pm Chantelle's Community Kitchen at Portswood Space, Portswood Place
Nutritious homecooked meals to eat in or take away

Wednesday 10am-12noon SW15 Women's Network Coffee Morning at Alton Activity Centre, Ellisfield Drive
Refreshments, crafting activities and chat for women



2-6pm Cosy Corner at Roehampton Methodist Church, Minstead Gardens
Crafting, games and jigsaws with hot drinks and toasties

Friday 12noon-1pm Over 60's Coffee Morning at Portswood Space, Portswood Place
Join friends for board games, art, crafting and occasional bingo and quizzes with hot drinks and snacks



Saturday 10am-4pm Health Café at Manresa Clubroom, Fontley Way
Activities for all ages, health advice and hot and cold food



First Mobile Youth Centre Launched... ..on the Alton!

On Monday 18th September, Wandsworth Council launched a new mobile youth bus that ensures young people have access to education, and mental and sexual health services on their doorstep.

The Mayor, Councillor Juliana Annan, Councillor Kate Stock and Fleur Anderson MP were in attendance as the new service - the first of its kind in the borough - was launched on Downshire Field (also known as the Bull Green). Over 100 young people and families from across the borough joined us to celebrate the unveiling of the youth bus with community partners.

Chelsea kicks ran some drills and a match for the children, Alayna Haiydarby put on mixed martial arts and self-defence sessions, and Kimber youth club encouraged children to sign and mark a Roehampton mural. Amongst the food and festivities, children were given a tour of the bus and participated in gaming events using the new Nintendo Switch, Playstation 5 and DJ equipment.

The Youth Bus is based for two days per week in Roehampton. It was funded by the Alton regeneration as part of our re-provision of youth

facilities on the estate. Additional funding has come from the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit, providing flexibility to regularly visit other locations across Wandsworth on a six-day route. The proposed initial route will be reviewed quarterly.

This is an exciting moment for young people aged 11-18 years across the borough, as they have access to a purpose-built space which includes a music studio, interactive white board, and game consoles. There is no need to book, just turn up!

The bus brings services directly to our young people, in a way that's flexible and enables them to safely engage, learn and interact with each other. Working with partners, including voluntary sector youth organisations, it allows young people to access mental health support, skills and employment guidance, sexual health advice, citizens advice and much more.



"This is great news for children and young people in our local communities."

Kate Stock, Cabinet Member for Children



The bus's initial route is:

- **Mondays 3pm-7pm,**
100 York Road, Battersea
- **Tuesdays 3pm-7pm,**
Portswood Place, Roehampton
- **Wednesdays 3pm-7pm,**
Furzedown Rec Ground, Tooting
- **Thursdays 3pm-7pm,**
Clapham Junction
(Grant Road exit), Battersea
- **Fridays 3pm-7pm,**
236 Arabella Drive, Roehampton
- **Saturdays 2pm-6pm,**
Wandsworth Common
(next to Skylark Café),
Dorlcote Road, Wandsworth



Kate Stock, Lamees Bazuti, Wandsworth Mayor Juliana Annan and Putney and Roehampton MP Fleur Anderson at the launch

Kate Stock, Cabinet Member for Children, said: *"This is great news for children and young people in our local communities. I'm really pleased that this new service in Wandsworth will travel to the heart of our communities where young people are, giving them a safe place to go, providing engaging activities and offering them someone to speak to."*

"With our new youth bus, we have listened to what our children and young people have told us they wanted, through our listening and engaging events over the summer."

"It takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes a community to raise a generation. We are really hoping this will be the next step in offering a more diverse, agile and needs-led offer for all children and young people in Wandsworth."

Lamees Bazuti, a young resident who attends activity centres in Wandsworth said: *"I can really see all the amazing benefits the bus will bring for many young people in this area and I am excited to see what happens next."*

Young people using the interactive white board



MEANWHILE USE ON THE ALTON ESTATE



Over the last few editions of Alton News, we have been filling you in on the small improvements we have been making to brighten up the paved areas around the old Co-op block at the top of Danebury Avenue. Our latest additions are difficult to miss - a set of four baths overflowing with colourful flowers in bloom!

As part of our commitment to 'upcycle' and 'reuse abandoned materials' in our meanwhile use projects, following the strong support for these categories in our meanwhile use survey, we decided to extract four of the steel bathtubs and their wooden frames from the vacant properties above the former Co-op. The Roehampton Community Shed worked hard to restore and paint the wooden frames to stabilise and support the baths, drill holes in the bottom of the baths for drainage and spruce them up to create beautiful freestanding planters.



On 18th August, the Alton Greened community gardening group, led by Housing Community Champion, Vicky Pigott, got together during Roehampton Community Week to plant up the baths in front of the Welcome to Roehampton mural. It may have been the first grey day in a couple of weeks, but the newly planted flowers certainly cheered everyone up!

This site is the location of the proposed 'Village Square' in the Alton Regeneration's Early Improvement Plan and, therefore, meanwhile use offers the opportunity to temporarily utilise the open space whilst making the area more visually attractive, usable and welcoming, before such a time that the Village Square is delivered.

The bath planters are the final feature of a series of planters that have been introduced to the old Co-op area, adding to the bench planters and the sustainable living wall previously built.

Please follow in young CJ's example (above) and help us to water these plants whenever you can!



**Calling all
gardening
enthusiasts!**

If you are interested in getting involved with community gardening projects on the Alton Estate, please contact vicky.marie.pigott@gmail.com and jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Message from Community BlueScapes to the Alton Community



"When it comes to the impact of climate change, it is the community who are best placed to know what's happening in their immediate neighbourhood, and who can best shape the right solutions for positive action".



Helping residents co-design their community spaces

At Community BlueScapes we are harnessing the collective power of local people - householders, community groups and organisations. We are creating space for discussion, learning, and sharing. The more we work and plan together, the more we can achieve together for the places we live.

Community BlueScapes is a partnership between Barnes Common Limited, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. We have been awarded £6 million of funding by Defra - the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - as part of their nationwide £200 million flood resilience programme, to build communities and spaces along the Beverley Brook that are better adapted to our changing climate.

With work now underway at the Castelnau estate community in Richmond - giving their community centre's grounds a makeover with the final design to be decided by the people who use the centre - we're turning our attention to the Alton Estate. We want to bring people together, to tap into the huge pool of skills and expertise that exists in your community, and to use that to shape climate resilient neighbourhoods.

Community BlueScapes are working closely with the Alton Regeneration team and will be joining them for some of their activities over the coming months to get to know you and to learn more about your climate hopes and concerns and, more importantly, how you would like to participate.

Come and say 'hullo' when we're in the area. Some of the Community BlueScapes team joined our Alton Estate colleagues on the weekly information stall on Danebury Avenue on 20th October and again on 25th October to help with the family bulb-planting session. We hope to meet and chat with more of you soon.

Best wishes,

Nick Oliver

Community Action Manager for Community BlueScapes





ENJOY THE MAGIC OF RICHMOND PARK THIS WINTER

Winter walks in the park are a must as the weather starts to change. Walking through the changing trees and seasonal landscapes are a great 'pick me up' as the days become shorter.

This year, why not warm up with a coffee at one of the new kiosks in the park. Two Grab & Go kiosks have been installed at Ham and Kingston Gates, and the kiosk at Pen Ponds has been replaced with a new, more sculptural structure.

Once you've grabbed your coffee, you can head over to Holly Lodge in the park for a beautiful horse drawn carriage ride with the majestic Shire horses. Experience the park like never before on an hour-long ride through the park in all its festive glory! There is also the opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the stables. The rides take place from the end of November to the beginning of January. Proceeds from the rides will help fund sustainable conservation initiatives using the working Shire horses in The Royal Parks. Carriage rides must be booked in advance. For more information, please visit our website: royalparks.org.uk/whats-on

On 7th December, the Holly Lodge Centre will be hosting its Christmas Concert in Christ Church, East Sheen. The evening promises to be a festive occasion full of songs and readings, featuring choirs from local schools and celebrity readers. The centre is also running a special festive programme for children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities, including their Victorian Christmas. For more details, please visit the website: thehollylodgecentre.org.uk

You can also send the magic of wintery Richmond Park to your nearest and dearest with a Christmas card from The Friends of Richmond Park. With Christmas cards of an icy Pen Ponds, deer in the snow, and the park's wonderful trees in winter, there are so many seasonal designs to choose from. The 2024 calendar is also available with amazing photos of the park's wildlife and landscape from all year round. Sales of both products help to fund projects in the park. Check them out on the Friends' website frp.org.uk/shop or at The Visitor Centre by Pembroke Lodge.



Pen Ponds kiosk



Ham Gate kiosk



Brave The Shave

In July, we were delighted to host Symone and her friends and family at Portswood Space, as she 'Braved the Shave' in aid of Macmillan Cancer Nurses who are currently supporting her Nan. Symone had hoped to raise £100, but she smashed her target with donations of nearly £700!

Symone was well known and easily recognised by her vibrant green hair, but she shaved it all off for this important cause. Symone's young son was the first person to have a go with the clippers, followed by other guests and Fleur Anderson MP. There aren't many people who can say that their local Member of Parliament cut their hair!

Well done, Symone, we think you rock the look!

If you would like to run a charity event at Portswood Space or the Alton Arts Hub in Portswood Place, contact jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



Going, going, gone! Symone with her son (left)



Symone with Fleur Anderson MP and Brave the Shave cakes (above)



Recycle More, Recycle Right

National Recycling Week was held in the UK from 16-22 October, so we took the opportunity to run our annual Recycling Week Challenge to encourage residents to recycle more and recycle responsibly.

We had a selection of clean household rubbish and two tubs. One tub represented recycling and the other general waste. Residents were asked to decide which tub each waste item should go in. We were delighted to be joined by Councillor Judi Gasser, the Cabinet Member for the Environment, and Nick Oliver from Community Bluescapes (see Page 15). Cllr Gasser said "This is such a fun and easy way to highlight what can and what can't be recycled".

Everyone who took part received a certificate and badge.





Roehampton Sports & Fitness Centre Welcomes You!

Looking for ways to spend quality family time during the Christmas period? Families can access fun activities over the holidays thanks to Roehampton Sports & Fitness Centre

Roehampton Sports & Fitness Centre located on Laverstoke Gardens, off Danebury Avenue, offers a range of fun indoor activities and sports for little ones throughout the year. As many parents and guardians start thinking of how to keep children busy during the school holidays in December, there are activities across the centre for the whole family to get involved in!

Children aged 3 months to 8 years can enjoy the 3-storey area complete with a slide, foam shapes, and much more that plays host to the centre's 'Soft Play' sessions. They can also whizz around bouncy castles and have soft play fun in 'Active Play and Bounce' sessions, giving them an activity they can learn and love throughout childhood, with skills they can take into adult life.

Any December birthday can be turned into a day to remember for younger ones, with a range of parties available at the centre. 'Footy Party' is one of the centre's party choices, where children can enjoy an hour of football games, a mini match, and a penalty shootout.

From booking a court with the family to watching your child learn something new for the first time, Roehampton Sports & Fitness Centre, operated by Places Leisure, also works with the National Governing Bodies to facilitate a range of sports available to the community, such as badminton, football, basketball, and table tennis.

The gym is another space in the centre to spend time with the family. Following a recent refurbishment that gave the gym a more modern look and feel, it is somewhere to get a great workout in, with a range of versatile equipment to accommodate everyone. Personal training sessions are also available.

"It's exciting times at Roehampton Sports and Fitness Centre as we are broadening our range of activities and opportunities for everyone. If you are thinking of improving your health by becoming more active, we would love for you to come and visit the centre. We will enthusiastically encourage you on your health and wellness journey."

Sionne Gordon,
Healthy Communities Manager, Wandsworth Council

"Having grown up in Roehampton, I am passionate about engaging the local community and providing a safe, welcoming place for all to get healthy and active"

Lindsey Claringbould, Roehampton Manager



Reiss - Duty Manager/personal trainer, Lee - Fitness Manager, Curtis - Duty Manager, Kenzie - Customer care. (Left to right)

Enjoy free off-peak gym access if you're on Universal Credit. Kids on free school meals get free off-peak junior gym membership too. Special discounts for carers are also available. Visit the centre to sign up and make the most of these offers!

Exercise on Referral has recently made a triumphant return to Roehampton Sports and Fitness Centre. This initiative provides individuals with a tailor-made fitness plan, designed by qualified exercise specialists. The program's revival brings a renewed opportunity for Roehampton residents to tackle health problems head on and use regular physical activity to promote a healthier lifestyle. If you have a health condition, ask your GP to be referred to 'Exercise on Referral', and we will then contact you to arrange an assessment.

"We offer a range of unique facilities across Wandsworth and our aim is to get as many people active as possible and to become the heartbeat of the community. We work closely with the council to provide affordable experiences for all"

Ed Lane, Contract Manager



Sionne Gordon, Lindsey Claringbould and Ed Lane. (Left to right)

Creating active places and healthy people for communities to thrive is a part of the wider mission of Places Leisure, a social enterprise that successfully manages six other leisure centres on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

Ensuring all communities face no barriers when staying active is also a large part of the enterprise's drive. Accessibility is fundamental to the centre - visitors can find accessible parking, wheelchair ramps, hearing induction loops, braille signage, and accessible lockers. Assistance dogs are also welcome to come along.

Sessions, sports, and birthday parties can be booked in person at the centre or online. For more information about Roehampton Sports & Fitness Centre, visit: www.placesleisure.org/centres/roehampton-sports-and-fitness-centre/



FOOD SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY

Roehampton Community Box

The Roehampton Community Box is available to anyone that lives within the SW15 postcode or has children that attend a school within SW15.

For a £4 contribution you can select about £40 worth of groceries including food, toiletries and cleaning products.

Based at 166 Roehampton Lane, it is open Wednesday from 9.30am to 4pm and Thursday from 9.30am to 12.15pm. This is a self-referral scheme that requires to book a timeslot. Please email: communitybox@racketscubed.com



Roehampton Community Box

Food Bank

If you are facing hardship, many local organisations can refer people to Wandsworth Foodbank for emergency food and support.

Visit Wandsworth Foodbank's website wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk for information about referral routes and locations. Or you can call **Trussell Trust's** free helpline on **0808 208 2138** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, closed on public holidays) to talk confidentially to a trained adviser who can refer you to your nearest food bank.

Roehampton Foodbank is open on Fridays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm and based at Roehampton Methodist Church, Minstead Gardens.

Chantelle's Community Kitchen

Chantelle's Community Kitchen (CCK) is a new initiative that launched at the beginning of August to provide free, nutritious, homemade meals for residents to either take away or eat in. The kitchen is open every Tuesday from 11am – 1pm at Portwood Space (4 Portwood Place, SW15 4ED).

We caught up with Chantelle Bent who, alongside Jo from our team, is responsible for launching Chantelle's Community Kitchen.

Before we start, we must congratulate you on setting up this amazing enterprise and compliment you on the name.

The name was Jo's idea. She didn't feel 'Roehampton Community Kitchen', which was my original name, sounded very warm or welcoming. I must admit, I was initially a bit reluctant to put myself in the spotlight, but the name has grown on me!

Why did you want to set up CCK?

I could see a need for it as everyone is feeling the ramifications of the cost-of-living rise, regardless of their age or employment status. I was aware that we have a high level of food poverty in Roehampton, but little support was available locally without meeting criteria to get some help.

How long does it take to make all the meals?

We start on Mondays at 9am, when 3 volunteers and I receive our delivery. We are then in the kitchen preparing and cooking until the early afternoon. A team of volunteers and I then return on Tuesday morning at 9am to finish cooking and packaging the meals, ready for when we open at 11am.

Where does your volunteer team come from?

All the volunteers are members of our local community who generously give their time to support the community kitchen. We all come from different backgrounds, have different religious beliefs, and age ranges, but food brings us all together.



Chantelle's launch event...



How many meals do you provide for the community each week?

We provide, on average, 200 cooked meals per week, as well as groceries for the community to take away to make healthy meals at home.

What's on the menu on an average week and what are the favourites?

Each week we have a choice of four meals with at least two suitable for vegans. Some of our guests' favourite dishes are chickpea curry, tuna & sweetcorn pasta, vegan and chicken wraps and coleslaw. The last time we made wraps, they were literally taken as soon as we could wrap them!

The Mayor of Wandsworth officially opened CCK and the local MP has done a shift in the kitchen. That's an impressive start!

I am very grateful to them both for giving their time and words of encouragement and support.

Where does the support to run CCK come from?

The Alton Regeneration Team provided the premises and equipment to enable us to set up.

Funding awards have come from the Roehampton Community Week fund and the Asda Foundation. The local Asda store continues to support us with produce when they can, and Sacred Heart Primary School in Roehampton made a substantial donation of food when we first started. Dons Local Action Group has supported us from the start and the Roehampton Club has been generous providing equipment, supplies and invaluable advice. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported CCK. All donations have been, and continue to be, gratefully received.



Jo Baxter, who is the Community Engagement and Cultural Coordinator from the Alton Regeneration team, has been the most amazing person to work with. Jo and I individually had a vision of setting up a community kitchen and together we made it happen. She is a true asset to the community; she does all that she can to help, and I am extremely grateful for her support.

What's been the most rewarding aspect for you?

Seeing people benefit from our service, hearing people's stories, and knowing that we have helped them to support themselves and their families.

If someone wants to volunteer, how do they go about it?

They can either pop into the kitchen on a Tuesday and speak to me or one of the volunteers, or email me at chantellescommunitykitchen@gmail.com

Follow us on twitter [@CCK_Roehampton](https://twitter.com/CCK_Roehampton)



Asda presented a community foundation cheque



NIGHT TIME OUR TIME

A Night Time Strategy for Wandsworth



WANDSWORTH NIGHT TIME STRATEGY LAUNCH AND EXHIBITION!

Wandsworth Council has been developing a new and first-of-its-kind Night Time Strategy to set out how we can make the night time a better experience for everyone living, working, and visiting the borough.

After two years of work, the Strategy has now been approved and a launch party was held at Wandsworth Town Hall to celebrate.

Roehampton has been one of our key areas to look at, and through our consultation you've told us that issues in the area at night include:

- Safety and crime
- Badly lit paths
- Most of the shops shutting too early
- Too little and unreliable transport



Check out the Night Time Strategy

The aim of the Strategy is to make the night time a more inclusive and vibrant place that provides safety as well as entertainment and suits the communities it serves. From the enjoyment of public spaces to workers' conditions, the Strategy looks at a wide range of issues and solutions spanning the evening and the late-night (from 6pm until 6am).

The Strategy is made up of recommendations across the themes of People, Place, Economy and Transport. As part of the Strategy, we've put together recommendations for town and local centres too, including Roehampton, to help improve the night time in specific areas. They include working with the police to increase presence, introducing more community facilities and activities at night, and considering creative and lighting interventions in areas highlighted as problematic.

To find out more about what's included in the Strategy visit ntswandsworth.commonplace.is or email NTS@wandsworth.gov.uk



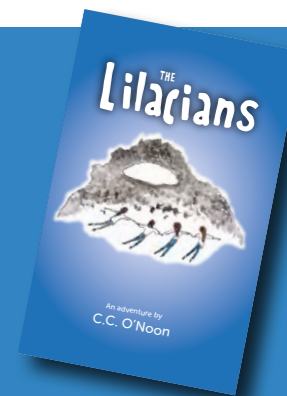
The launch

To mark the launch of the Strategy, the council hosted an evening event at Wandsworth Town Hall on 29 November.

Everyone was welcome to attend. It was an opportunity for the NTS team to share the recommendations in the Strategy, as well as present a sound exhibition from the Sounds of the Borough creative project, in which three Roehampton residents participated.



Introducing local children's author, C.C. O'Noon



Local resident, Christine O'Noon, has just published the first book in her trilogy, The Lilacians. We have been delighted to support her and wish her well as she proceeds towards launching her second book. Here's Christine's story of her time on the Alton estate, and about The Lilacians, in her own words...

"I moved to the West Alton side of the Alton estate thirty years ago and, at that time, many residents who lived in my building had moved there from the East End after the Second World War. Some of those people had been accommodated nearby during the time the tower blocks were being built and they told me how they'd walk to the estate most days to watch as the blocks were being completed and how, after they moved into their flats, traders of all kinds, even fishmongers, would come onto the estate to the tower blocks to sell their produce.

Times have changed, but thanks to the original planners and landscapers, those original residents, current residents, and myself, are still fortunate enough to live on an estate that has multiple green lawns and large trees that we walk past on the way to the bus stop and shops. On top of that, we are also situated within walking distance of Richmond Park, so there is no shortage of fresh air in our environment.

In relation to the book above, this and two other books that follow on from the first book, are concerned with the adventures of three children after they enter worlds that cannot be seen from their home on Earth. The books are intended for children aged seven upwards. They were written for

the grandchild of a cousin of mine who lives in New Zealand and who I met for the first time just a few years ago, when she visited London.

The first of these books, 'The Lilacians', has now been published on Amazon. The second and third books have not yet been illustrated, so both will be published once that has been completed.

Skipping to the issue of publication, however, overlooks the complex process that preceded that. After writing the books, I very quickly found that writing a book is one thing and getting it ready for publication is another. Fortunately for me though, Antonia from the Alton Regeneration Team directed me to an expert in the field, Mick, who produces the graphic design of this Alton News newsletter! Mick formatted the contents of my A4 draft into book form, and created a book cover and flyers. Within a short time, I also found an editor, Sara, who proofread and kindly cast her expert eye over the contents of 'The Lilacians'. Without them, my books would still be sitting on my laptop in Word, and so I would like to formally thank them now for the assistance they have given me."

To order your copy, visit www.amazon.co.uk and search for The Lilacians

News from the Western Area Team



INTRODUCING OUR NEW TECHNICAL ADMIN OFFICER, REMI JONES



"Hi, I'm Remi and I would like to introduce myself as the newest member of the Housing Western Team. My new role is Technical Administrative Officer which supports the Building Maintenance team, as well being the link with the Admin team on more technical issues.

I have been working in the council now for 3 years, previously within Estate Services dealing with communal repairs and estate cleaning, and speaking to residents on a daily basis. I saw this newly created role and thought it would be a new challenge for myself. It has been very interesting so far, especially visiting site and seeing more of the borough.

In my spare time, I like to travel and see new parts of the world whenever I have the opportunity. I enjoy exploring their cultures and sampling the local foods on offer."

MEET THE REGENERATION TEAM!



We'd like you to get to know the Alton Regeneration team. In the last edition we featured our Head of Regeneration, Mrs Anna Singleton. This time we're shining a spotlight on our Community Engagement and Cultural Coordinator, Ms Jo Baxter!



With her bright red hair, Jo is certainly the most visible member of the team! She joined Wandsworth Council in 2008 and spent 13 years as a Resident Participation officer in the Central Area team before joining the Regeneration team in March 2021.

Jo loves putting on events, supporting residents with projects, and inviting other council departments and organisations to bring their services and activities to the Alton. She was delighted to encourage so many Wandsworth Arts Fringe (WAF) creatives to host their shows on the estate this year (as featured in edition 35 of Alton News).

Outside of work, Jo is a huge fan of the Lionesses football team. The day they qualified for this year's World Cup final coincided with the Flash Mob Salsa event (page 9). Jo borrowed the mic and 'treated' everyone to a rendition of 'Sweet Caroline'. We apologise if your eardrums are still recovering!

Jo is also a big fan of Christmas, so much so, she changed her middle name by deed poll to 'Christmas'. Jo can't wait to welcome you all to the various Christmas events that the Regeneration team has lined up over the next few weeks!

Sign up to receive text alerts

Our text message distribution list will enable residents to receive news and event information relating to the Alton Regeneration quickly and directly.

If you are interested in signing up to receive our text alerts, please call or text **020 8871 6207** or email us at roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk with your name, address, mobile phone number and the phrase/subject line 'Alton text alerts', and we will add you to our SMS distribution list.



Alton Newsletter have your say!

The Alton Regeneration Team try to put together news and articles that we think you'd like to hear. Do you enjoy it? Is it relevant and of interest? What else would you like included?

We'd appreciate your feedback to help shape future editions.

Please send any complimentary comments or constructive criticism to our mailbox, roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk putting 'NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK' in the subject line.

Or call us on **020 8871 6207**.

We look forward to hearing from you.



Roehampton Ward Councillors

Councillor Jenny Yates
cllr.j.yates@wandsworth.gov.uk

Councillor Matthew Tiller
cllr.m.tiller@wandsworth.gov.uk

Councillor Graeme Henderson
cllr.g.henderson@wandsworth.gov.uk

You can also contact the Cabinet Member for Housing:

Councillor Aydin Dikerdem
cllr.a.dikerdem@wandsworth.gov.uk



Regeneration Team

You can contact the Regeneration Team on **020 8871 6207** or [@AltonMasterplan](https://twitter.com/AltonMasterplan) or at roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk

If you would like to discuss anything in person with a member of the team, please contact us and an appointment can be arranged. You can also find us at the Information Stall outside the Base on Danebury Avenue each Friday, from 2pm-4pm.



Councillor advice sessions are held on the first Saturday of every month at Roehampton Library, 2 Danebury Avenue, from 11am - 12 noon.



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