

Home *Life*

Wandsworth Council's housing newsletter [wandsworth.gov.uk/housingnews](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housingnews)



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Useful contacts

There is a range of housing services and information available on our website wandsworth.gov.uk/housing

Housing contacts

Housing Customer Centre

90 Putney Bridge Road
London SW18 1HR

Western Area Housing Office

Roehampton Parish Hall
Alton Road, London SW15 4LG
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@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Joint Control Centre (formerly known as Wandsworth Emergency Control) (housing emergencies, out of hours) 020 8871 7490

Home Ownership

housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

Downsizing options

allocationteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Landlords looking for tenants

privatelandlords@wandsworth.gov.uk

Details of how to make a complaint are on our website at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/complaints

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

■ For properties across the borough where heating is supplied by a **central communal boiler.**

Smith & Byford

020 8722 3431 or 0808 196 1791
CommercialServices
@smithandbyford.com

■ **Battersea, Central Wandsworth and Earlsfield** with an individual domestic heating system.

PH Jones

020 3657 0304 or 0333 004 2333
[wbcrepairs@phjones.com](mailto:wbc repairs@phjones.com)

■ **Putney, Roehampton and Tooting** with an individual domestic heating system.

T Brown

0800 977 8472 or 020 8786 1244
repairs@tbrown.com

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

Report It App

You can report issues directly to the housing department through the council's app!

This is a quick and easy way to tell us about any issues with cleaning, gardening and maintenance on your estate.

Report it in just three easy steps:

- 1 Choose your location
- 2 Take a photo
- 3 Choose the council housing estates category

Once you've submitted your report, it will go straight to our dedicated estate services team to be dealt with.

Search for Wandsworth Report It on the Apple, Android or Windows app store

Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/reportitapp



Welcome to the first Homelife edition of 2022

This year marks 50 years of resident engagement at Wandsworth Council. Input from our tenants and leaseholders is crucial to shaping our services and I look forward to the events that the department will hold over the coming months to celebrate this occasion (see page 17 for more information).

I am pleased to announce that in January the council agreed to support a freeze in rents for council tenants from April 2022, benefiting around 17,000 council tenants, as well as continuing to freeze some fuel charges for district heating, which will benefit over 3,000 residents. We know council residents are under financial pressure and I am pleased with this decision (see below).

Last month, the Mayor of London provided the green light for the Alton estate regeneration. I welcome this positive news which will have a long lasting benefit for the community. The scheme includes a variety of homes across a range of sizes and tenures, purpose-built community space, additional retail space, modern GP facilities and an accessible hub for new businesses (page 5).

The council's Housing for All programme continues to progress well and has achieved some key milestones

recently, including 71 new council homes at Sphere Walk in Battersea and homes at 1a Arnal Crescent, Wandsworth (pages 12 and 13)



This summer, the country will be celebrating the Queen's 70 years of service with a four-day bank holiday from June 2-5. I look forward to seeing the Wandsworth community coming together to celebrate and reflect with friends and neighbours. The council is waiving all fees and charges for anyone organising a street party to celebrate this year's Platinum Jubilee (page 4).

I hope you enjoy this issue of Homelife. If you have any suggestions please contact me by email on hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.



Cllr Jonathan Cook
Cabinet Member for Housing

Freeze on council rents and fuel charges

In January 2022, councillors agreed to freeze rents for council tenants from April 2022, benefiting around 17,000 council tenants.

In addition, the council will continue to freeze fuel charges and apply a full credit against the weekly fuel costs for residents served by most communal heating and hot water systems.

This credit has been in place since April 2021 and means that both tenants and leaseholders served by certain systems will continue to pay nothing for their fuel. The heating and hot water fuel charge freeze will benefit over 3,000 residents.

The freezes have been made possible by prudent management of council rents and finances and its ability to purchase gas supplies in advance at very competitive rates.



Councillor Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Council, commented: "The pandemic has presented challenges for all of us and this will be compounded by the unprecedented increase in fuel prices we are seeing across the globe. Wandsworth Council is always on the side of our residents and will continue to do what it can to help those with the least, the most."

Marlene Price, Vice Chair of the Borough Resident's Forum welcomed the decision: "I really welcome the council's decision to freeze rents and heating and hot water charges for council residents at a time when many household budgets are under great pressure."



No charge to organising Jubilee street parties

Wandsworth is waiving all fees and charges for anyone organising a street party to celebrate this year's Platinum Jubilee. The nation will be marking the Queen's 70 years of service with a four-day bank holiday from June 2-5.

The usual £60 fee will be waived for people organising a jubilee party for their street or neighbourhood during May or June, although the vast majority of parties are expected to take place over the four-day bank holiday.

There will also be a minimum of red tape with organisers able to submit all the information needed to apply for a road closure and fulfil the legal requirements via a simple online form. They will also be provided with clear guidelines on issues such as health and safety.

Party organisers are advised that they will need to complete the online form with a minimum of four to six weeks' notice to give engineers time to organise for the road to be legally closed. Residents must bear in mind that there are some streets that cannot be closed for a party.

Leader of Wandsworth Council Councillor Ravi Govindia said: "Wandsworth people have a fantastic community spirit and hold the best street parties, so I hope to see a sea of bunting over the long Jubilee weekend."

To find out more about street closures and to apply online visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/streetparties. Organisers can also email streetworks@wandsworth.gov.uk for advice.

Wandsworth Grant Fund seeking new applications

The Wandsworth Grant Fund has supported hundreds of local community and voluntary organisations to start new projects that support residents across the borough. We are particularly seeking new projects which help in the recovery from the impact of Covid-19.

YouthLegal in Roehampton was awarded a grant in July to provide specialist non-EEA immigration legal advice to young people and families. Its priorities are to help young people aged 16-25 years old and families with children apply for citizenship, if eligible, and to ensure that the needs of young refugees are met by applying for their extensions of leave to remain and settled status. For more information, go to www.youthlegal.org.uk.

The South West London Law Centre were also awarded a grant to establish a Housing Legal Adviceline pilot. For over four months they supported 40 residents with their housing issues, which included possession proceedings, homelessness advice, fleeing domestic abuse and unlawful eviction. The adviceline provided one off advice as well as referrals to housing and other specialist services. It is hoped that they will be able to continue and extend by providing training to other community partners following this pilot.

The fund is seeking new applications for projects of up to 12 months, with three application deadlines during the year. The next deadline is Monday 4 April 2022, for projects which could begin between August- October. Grants of between £500 to £10,000 are available.

For further information about how to apply go to the our website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/wgf, or email the team on wgf@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.



Alton regeneration is given green light by the Mayor

Wandsworth Council is now set to begin work on its ambitious regeneration of the Alton estate in Roehampton. Proposals for the area include a variety of homes across a range of sizes and tenures, purpose-built community space, additional retail space, modern GP facilities and an accessible hub for new businesses.

Leader of the Wandsworth Council, Councillor Ravi Govindia, said: "In Wandsworth, we believe that developments are about much more than simply bricks and mortar and the Alton estate regeneration is a prime example of that. In November last year, we launched a revised Community Engagement Strategy to encourage and enable residents to get involved in improving and helping to shape the future of their community.

"We have never wavered in our commitment to improving the community of Roehampton and I am delighted that we have finally received the green light from the Mayor of London."

The Mayor of London has now confirmed he is content for the council to determine the planning application for the long-awaited regeneration.

The proposed transformative regeneration of the

estate has strong local support and was approved by the council's own Planning Committee by nine votes to one, with cross-party support in October 2020, subject to a final decision by the Mayor.

Councillor Jonathan Cook, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "We welcome this positive news and are pleased that the Mayor has recognised the overall benefit this large scheme will provide to Roehampton. By regenerating this area, we are able to deliver a variety of new homes that are designed to be accessible and adaptable, with access to private outdoor space.

"We can now start the process of seeking a new development partner and give residents some much needed certainty about the delivery of this long-awaited regeneration."

Tackling the climate emergency



Wandsworth working towards 1,000 electric vehicle charging points

By the end of March another 215 charging sockets are set to be fitted to lampposts and other on-street locations. This will bring the total number of publicly available charge points in Wandsworth to 936 with further installations planned.

Wandsworth has been a trailblazer for Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure and continues to host more public charge points than almost any other local authority across the UK, continuously expanding the offering for those without access to off-street charging.

The expansion of EV charging points support residents affected by the recently expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), which now includes all parts of the capital within the north and south circular roads. Electric vehicles are exempt from ULEZ charges.

To view a map of the borough's charging points visit www.zap-map.com. For more information about owning an electric vehicle in the borough visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/driveelectric.

Energy advice and support for residents

The Housing and Regeneration department recently worked with Wandsworth's Public Health and local not-for-profit organisation Thinking Works to increase the WRAP ('warm and well') offer for council tenants. 100 additional visits were commissioned for tenants on the Surrey Lane and Alton estates.

Uptake of the service was extremely high, with 125 visits completed. Residents were able to receive on average five small energy and water measures, including LED bulbs, radiator reflector panels and carbon monoxide detectors.

Nearly half of households were supported to apply for the Thames Water 50% Water Help discount, collectively saving households over £12,000 annually. Residents are eligible for this discount if their household income is less than £19,747, excluding disability benefits.

For more information visit: www.thameswater.co.uk/help/account-and-billing/financial-support/waterhelp. For more information about Thinking Works visit: www.thinkingworks.co.uk

In 2019 Wandsworth Council declared a climate emergency, setting a target to be a carbon neutral organisation and the greenest inner-London council by 2030. We will be keeping residents up to date with the actions being taken and encouraging you all to play your part in tackling the climate emergency.

Carbon neutral by 2030 | **Zero Carbon by 2050**



No Mow May 2022

No Mow May is back this spring and Wandsworth Council will be following on from last year's successful participation. This year, the council is extending this initiative to over 100 of the borough's housing estates, giving local wildlife in Wandsworth a boost.

The nationwide project involves suspending grass cutting for at least a month to allow the wildflowers that are found naturally occurring in our lawns time to flower, providing food for bees and other pollinators.

The majority of lawns will continue to be cut as usual to offer amenity space for residents to use, but areas both large and small will be set aside in a wide range of settings. Many areas will continue to be left uncut into June and July offering additional food and habitats into the summer.

In 2021 a selection of trial sites was surveyed by members of the SW15 Hedgehogs conservation group, who found that there were enough nectar producing flowers to feed up to 25,000 bees. The expansion of the number of participating estates will help ensure that there is forage available to support many more of these vital pollinating insects.

If you would like to discuss No Mow May in more detail, please contact the council's Horticultural Services via ian.harrison@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk or call on 020 8871 7900.

Energy efficiency improvements set to begin

Last year, the department applied for Phase 2 of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme.

The Green Homes Grant scheme aims to raise the energy efficiency of low income and low energy performance homes by installing measures such as insulation upgrades, LED lighting and renewable heating technologies.

Following this successful bid, energy efficiency improvement works are set to begin in March on a selection of tenanted council homes, with the deadline for measures to be installed by the end of June. The fund will contribute up to a maximum of £5,000 per property with the council providing at least one third of the costs of works. Tenants of homes included in the scheme will be contacted directly.



How to prevent condensation and mould at home

Condensation often leads to persistent mould growth and can cause worry for households. Condensation can occur in any home. However, residents can take practical steps to prevent this occurring. This article sets out what condensation is and how households can prevent condensation and the build up of mould.

What is condensation?

Condensation is moisture on the surface of things like windows and walls that, if left, can turn into black mould and have an unpleasant odour.

When humid air settles on cold surfaces it turns into condensation. If water droplets cannot dry off through good air flow or are not wiped away this may become a problem and mould may grow.

The main sources of condensation are steam, tumble dryers and drying washing on radiators. In most cases, condensation can be prevented by allowing the warm, moist air to escape through an air-vent or open window.

Often, condensation can be seen on windows and sills. When more severe, condensation and mould will affect walls, or it may even soak into wallpaper, paintwork and furniture. It can often be found in corners of rooms where there is little airflow.

How to prevent condensation and mould

Condensation can be a real problem for residents but here are some tips to help you:



- Keep your home ventilated – the single most important step to prevent condensation is to ensure good ventilation, especially in kitchens and bathrooms.
- Heat your home - maintain a warm environment. Constant low heating is better than extreme hot and cold.
- Vacuum regularly - vacuuming helps to remove mould spores and dust. Mould feeds on dust.
- Reduce excess moisture levels – the steps below will help to direct moisture outside the home and prevent condensation in your home.

Preventing excess moisture at home

DO

- Open windows slightly, use an extractor fan when cooking and showering/bathing and do not cover air vents.
- Close kitchen and bathroom doors when these rooms are in use to prevent steam escaping into colder rooms.
- Dry clothes outside if possible, use a condenser tumble dryer or make sure the air vent goes outside.
- Open a window if you hang your washing up to dry inside.
- Cover pans when cooking and do not leave kettles boiling.
- Open windows when running a bath/showering.
- Clear windowsills of clutter, so it's easier to open windows.
- Leave a gap between furniture and walls.
- Do not brush sills as this spreads spores.
- Wipe windows, sills, mirrors and walls with a clean dry cloth each morning to remove any water that has settled overnight.

DON'T

- Remove internal doors.
- Block up air vents or turn off extractor fans.
- Use unvented tumble dryers.
- Dry washing on radiators.
- Leave any visible mould to build up – see below for tips on how to remove mould.
- Use paraffin heaters as they are a major source of condensation and can be dangerous. This form of heating is banned in flats and maisonettes by the council.

DO



Credit - Druv

DON'T



Credit - Smitt

What to do if you already have condensation and mould

- Wash the mould growth with bleach and water (one-part bleach to four parts water) or clean with a mould remover spray (fungicidal spray).
- Leave surfaces to dry with plenty of ventilation.
- Do not reuse cloths infected with mould/spores as this will spread the problem.
- Always wear gloves when removing mould.
- After treatment, consider redecorating using a good quality anti-fungal paint to help prevent mould from recurring.

If you find patches of mould on walls, condensation may be the cause. If you are taking steps to minimise condensation but mould persists, please:

- If you are a council tenant, please contact your estate manager.
- If you are living in privately rented accommodation, please contact your landlord or report an issue of disrepair at: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/private-housing/private-housing-tenants/report-a-problem-in-your-property

Damp vs condensation

Many people mistake penetrating damp for condensation. Condensation is trapped, settled moisture due to lack of airflow which may result in mould spores growing.

But sometimes people confuse more severe condensation that has soaked into wallpaper and paintwork with penetrating damp. Damp only occurs when water enters the fabric of a building from say a leaking pipe, roof or the foundations.

Damp can cause mould on walls and furniture, make timber window frames rot, encourage the growth of mould and mites, and increase the risk of respiratory illness.

Damp can sometimes be caused by condensation, so reduce condensation to reduce the risk of damp.

Five benefits of volunteering in Wandsworth

Volunteers are often the glue that holds a community together. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place.



Volunteering is a two-way street, and it can benefit you and your family as much as the cause you choose to help. It can help you make new friends, expand your network, boost your social skills, and make you more attractive in the job market.

Whether you want to do your part or make your mark, there are many great reasons to volunteer. And those that benefit from your help will just be happy you did, no matter the reason. Here are just five benefits of volunteering in Wandsworth:

- 1** It's good for the community. You can make a tangible impact whilst engaging and connecting with people in the community you might not otherwise meet.
- 2** It is scientifically proven to make you happier. One result of this positive impact on the community is people feel happier and have a greater sense of purpose. Volunteering is one of the most rewarding things you can do.
- 3** It reduces stress. Volunteers report higher levels of self-esteem and richer interpersonal relationships with non-volunteers.
- 4** It keeps you healthy. Good mood + less stress = better health.
- 5** It develops professional skills. Volunteering can improve skills needed to thrive professionally. It can make you stand out in the recruitment pool; employers love to see volunteering experience on CVs.

How do you find the volunteer opportunity that is right for you?

There are numerous volunteer opportunities available. The key is to find something that you will enjoy and are capable of doing. It's also important to make sure that your commitment matches the organisation's needs.

In Wandsworth, there are over 900 voluntary and community organisations. You could start by looking at organisations such as Age UK Wandsworth; Alzheimer's Society Wandsworth; Hestia; Katherine Low Settlement; Mushkil Aasaan; Regenerate RISE; The Furzedown Project; Wandsworth Asian Women's Association and Wandsworth Carers Centre. Or visit the council's website for more information about our voluntary and community sector and local volunteering opportunities: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/volunteering

Local Elections - 5 May 2022

Get ready to vote for your local Councillor!

All seats on Wandsworth Council will be up for election on Thursday 5 May 2022. If you're not yet registered to vote, make sure you apply by Thursday 14 April 2022 so you don't miss out. Register online at gov.uk/register-to-vote or call 020 8871 6023.

New local council wards

Following last year's boundary review, Wandsworth now has 14 three-councillor wards and 8 two-councillor wards. The name of your electoral ward and/or the location of your polling station may have changed too. Details about the changes were sent to all electors earlier this year and further information can be found at wandsworth.gov.uk/vote





Open the door Home Ownership

Open the door to your first home!

If you live or work in Wandsworth and you earn up to a maximum household income of £90,000, speak with Wandsworth's Home Ownership Team and find out about the affordable housing options that are available.

These options include schemes such as:

- ➡ **Shared Ownership** - where you can part buy/part rent
- ➡ **Intermediate Rent** - where you can benefit from a discounted rent

AND schemes specifically for council tenants such as:

- ➡ **Right to Buy** - where you can buy your tenanted property
- ➡ **Right to Part Buy** - where you can buy a percentage share of your tenanted property
- ➡ **House Purchase Grants** - where you can use a grant to vacate your tenanted property and buy another on the open market
 - Grants of up to £120,000

All schemes are subject to eligibility

For information call **(020) 8871 6161**



HOUSING FOR ALL programme progresses well

The council's Housing for All programme commits to delivering 1,000 new council homes by 2027. The programme is progressing well - over half of the 1,000 homes have either been completed, are in construction, have planning consent or are at the feasibility and consultation stage. All new homes within the programme are prioritised for Wandsworth residents and key workers.

Over the last few months, the council celebrated a number of milestones.



Seventy-one new council homes completed at Sphere Walk

Sphere Walk, on Shuttleworth Road in Battersea, was previously a disused recording studio and lock-up garages. The brownfield site has now been given a new lease of life providing 71 low-cost homes, of which 62 are social rented and nine will be available for equity share.

Sphere Walk has been developed with a 'fabric first' approach, meaning that measures to reduce energy demand and carbon emissions are built into the building's materials. The scheme also includes sustainable drainage systems, green roofs and electric vehicle charge points.

Leader of Wandsworth Council, Councillor Ravi Govindia and Cabinet Member for Housing,

Councillor Jonathan Cook, visited the development prior to completion in January.

Councillor Ravi Govindia, said: "We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved here. Over the last two years this site has been transformed from brownfield land into an attractive, high-quality building that we hope our residents will be proud to call home."

Councillor Jonathan Cook, added: "All across the borough, Wandsworth Council, along with our partners, is delivering a range of housing to suit the diverse needs of our residents. Sphere Walk is a fantastic example of what can be achieved with good planning and design to deliver a scheme that is just as high quality as a commercial development."

100% affordable scheme on Putney Vale estate approved

An application for a four-storey building on an underutilised site on the Putney Vale estate was approved in December by the council's Planning Applications Committee.

The land behind 178-204 Stroud Crescent will provide 14 new homes, including two wheelchair accessible homes.



Each of the new homes will come with outdoor space, in the form of a garden or balcony, as well as bicycle storage facility, additional parking and children's play area aimed at the under 5s. Proposals for the site also include landscaping improvements, providing new and better-quality trees.

Four new social rented homes

Work has now completed on 1a Arnal Crescent, Wandsworth, and the council is due to take possession of the building imminently.

The council contracted local builders Porchfern, a West London based small business, to provide four new social rented homes within the four-storey building. It is anticipated that residents will begin moving in from February 2022.

Each apartment comes with its own balcony, providing residents with outdoor space. The building also features cycle storage, solar panels and attractive landscaping. The ground floor flat has been designed and built as fully wheelchair accessible, with automatic entrance doors, wider doorways and hallway and a space for charging a wheelchair. It also features a fully accessible kitchen with an adjustable worktop with hob and sink and a wet room with contemporary shower rails and seat.

This development is part of the council's commitment to deliver a range of housing options suited to the diverse needs of Wandsworth residents and workers, through development on its own land.



Affordable housing to be built in Nine Elms

Work is set to start on 57 new homes on the site of the former Patmore Centre on Patmore Street, SW8.

Of the 57 new homes, 39 will be affordable rent and 18 will be shared ownership. Two five-storey buildings will provide much-needed affordable housing options prioritised for Wandsworth residents and workers.

Plans for the development include green roofs, communal air-source heat pumps, water efficient fittings and electric vehicle charging points. Every home will have private outdoor space provided by a balcony, garden or terrace.

There will be bicycle storage, car club membership and a new shared street with enhancements to existing public space – plus a new and improved children's play space and replacement multi-use games area, as well as a new community room for the use of the Patmore estate Management Co-operative.

The council have now appointed a development partner to deliver the new homes on the site of the disused community centre.

The area is part of the Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea opportunity area which is delivering 20,000 new homes, including 4,000 affordable homes, and 25,000 new jobs.

Read about the changes at www.nineelmslondon.com

Get involved with Power to Connect

Power to Connect is a partnership between the council and Battersea Power Station which has handed out more than 1,600 donated laptops since the start of the pandemic. This was set up in response to Covid-19 to ensure children without computers at home did not miss out on online learning.



Now the partnership has a long-term plan to target digital exclusion and enable all families to access online services and learning. The partnership is asking local businesses to get involved in its work helping local families get online. Power to Connect is working to bring together a network of key supporters asking organisations to pledge an annual contribution of devices or money so work can continue in the community.

As well as providing hardware, it is also running free digital skills sessions for parents to teach them the skills they need to get the most out of devices, and to keep their children safe online.

If you are interested in the free digital skills sessions or in becoming a key supporter, email hello@powertoconnect.co.uk

Find out more about Power to Connect at www.powertoconnect.co.uk

Free devices to help vulnerable people keep connected

Wandsworth Council is reminding vulnerable people that they can apply for easy-to-use communication tablets to help them keep in touch with loved ones and carers.

The council, in partnership with Alcove, provides Carephone devices to vulnerable and clinically vulnerable people in order to tackle loneliness and isolation. The Carephones can be easily used by people who otherwise would be at risk of social isolation to make video

calls with family, friends, care workers and other approved service providers.

The devices can be used by people with little or no technological expertise and will enable care workers to perform tasks that do not require face-to-face visits, helping to reduce the risk of Covid -19 transmission.

If you think you or someone you know would be eligible and benefit from a Carephone, email digitalsupport@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.

Find at more at wandsworth.gov.uk/video-carephone-service.

Building safety update

Fire Prevention Advice

Everyone has a responsibility to be careful to avoid a fire. Here are some tips to prevent fires in the home:

- If you smoke be very careful to dispose of smoking materials correctly and ensure lighters and matches are out of reach of children.
- Clean and maintain electrical appliances regularly.
- Ensure you register your appliances so you will be informed if they are recalled: www.registermyappliance.org.uk/registration
- Take care when cooking.
- Avoid charging gadgets such as phones and e-cigarettes overnight.
- Don't run appliances such as washing machines and tumble dryers while you are out or asleep.
- Have a nighttime routine which includes closing internal doors and unplugging electrical items.
- Never leave a candle unattended.
- Don't store anything flammable on balconies.

Wayfinding Signage

In the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report Phase 1, several recommendations were made which require a change in the law. This included a requirement for building owners in residential buildings with storeys over 11 metres in height to install signage visible in low light or smoky conditions that identifies flat and floor numbers in the stairwells. The council will be carrying out a programme of works over the coming months to ensure this requirement is met.

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND COVID-19

**Are you isolated at home
and feeling unsafe?**

**Are you frightened of your partner
or a family member?**

**Are you worried that someone you know
is experiencing abuse?**

National and local services are still here for you:

National Domestic Violence Helpline 24/7
0808 2000 247

Safety Net Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
020 7801 1777

Metropolitan Police
If in an immediate danger call 999
For non-emergencies, dial 101

Crimestoppers - Anonymous line
0800 555 111



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**





Forest Garden on the Ashburton South estate ready for planting

Residents of the Ashburton estate and friends are getting ready to start planting a forest garden this spring on a small patch of land on Hayward Gardens.

The project is being organised by Putney Community Gardens with support from many local groups and individuals and follows two years of consultation.

A forest garden is a great way to grow food, medicinal plants, plants for fibres and dyes and other uses while enabling the land to regenerate and become a functioning habitat.

If you'd like to be involved in planning, planting or longer term care for the forest garden, please contact info@putneycommunitygardens.org



New footpath

Funded by the council's small improvement budget, Hershams Close Residents Association put forward another great proposal to create a footpath by Shawford Court.

The footpath leads from Shawford Court to the bus stop on Alton Road. Residents have used this area as a short cut for many years and the new path has been welcomed by locals.

Roehampton Christmas Tree Project

In December, the Alton estate hosted a pop-up art installation *The Roehampton Christmas Tree Project* in collaboration with Estate Art.

The Christmas trees, which formed the art installation, were creatively decorated by local primary and nursery school children. The trees went on display on the side of the old Co-op building at Danebury Avenue. An event was organised by Estate Art to turn on the lights, which included with a DJ and tasty treats.

A special thank you to Lynne Capocciana of Estate Art for initiating and organising this project and Roehampton Community Week for their support.



50 years of resident engagement

The Housing and Regeneration department is celebrating 50 years of resident engagement.

The department is proud to report that we have been involving our residents for half a century through both formal and informal structures. Residents have been getting involved at a level of their choosing be that through community gardens, residents' associations, area housing panels, as housing community champions, focus groups or readers panels to name a few.

We value residents' input and engaging with our tenants and leaseholders is paramount to the department. In 2019 we published our Resident Engagement and Consultation Strategy which was agreed through a residents' working group. The strategy outlines the ways in which the department will maintain and improve engagement across the borough, ensuring that residents are encouraged to get involved in issues that affect their housing. The Government's Social Housing White Paper emphasises the importance of giving social residents a strong voice and we are working to ensure that residents' views are at the heart of what we do. To read more about the strategy and ways to get involved please visit the website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/resident-involvement-with-housing-decisions or contact your Resident Participation Officer.

We will be celebrating 50 years of residents engagement throughout the year and look forward to being able to hold in-person events with our residents to commemorate the occasion. Keep your eyes peeled for information on upcoming events and how to get involved. If you are interested in holding an event, please contact your Resident Participation Officer.



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.

Southern Team



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

Central Team



Siovhon Crombie
(020) 8871 8694
siovhon.crombie@wandsworth.gov.uk

Eastern Team



Lee Bushell
(020) 8871 8638
lbushell@wandsworth.gov.uk

Western Team



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

sheltered housing news

Carey Gardens Christmas party 2021

After a long time with restrictions on socialising, the Sheltered Housing Officers were able to host one of the year's key events - The Carey Gardens Residents' Christmas party.

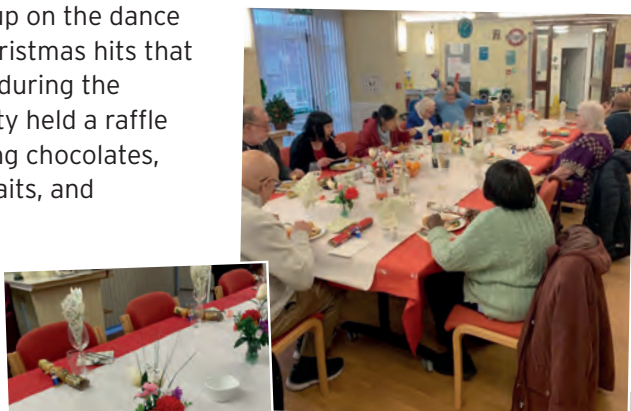
Residents came together for an afternoon of feel-good fun. The Christmas spirit was radiating through the lounge at Carey Gardens, with the room full of people coming together to laugh, smile, sing, and dance.

For older members of the community, the last couple of years have been difficult due to the severity of Covid-19 and isolation rules. These difficulties made this year's Christmas party extra special.

The residents got up on the dance floor, loving the Christmas hits that were being played during the gathering. The party held a raffle with prizes including chocolates, wine, picture portraits, and pampering items.

The community enjoyed a set meal menu of a roast dinner with all the trimmings and a choice of puddings, served by Sheltered Housing Officers Mobola Whenu and Kelly Wilson.

A long-standing resident Bryan Daley said: "It was a brilliant party. The best one we have had in fact, and my neighbour Gillian thoroughly enjoyed herself too which was nice to see."



Sprinklers for Kirton Lodge

Residents of Kirton Lodge have welcomed the installation of sprinklers in their homes. The 21 homes in Iron Mill Road also had new doors and windows fitted as well as kitchens, intercom systems and a fully revamped reception area.

The work is part of a scheme to install sprinklers across all sheltered housing blocks and temporary accommodation.

Thelma James, 93, who has lived in Kirton Lodge for 29 years, praised the installers for their high safety standards. She said: "The workmen were lovely, and it was such a shame I couldn't give them a cup of tea because of Covid-19."

Councillor Jonathan Cook, Cabinet Member for Housing, visited the Lodge last week. He said: "It is great to see the improvements to the place and how happy residents are with them.

"It is also good to see that the council's sprinkler programme is well underway with a number of other scheme's being completed very soon."



Do you want to find out more about sheltered housing in Wandsworth?

Sheltered housing is independent living in purpose built and scattered schemes. It is occasionally misconstrued as a care home or extra care accommodation. Accommodation is designed with the needs of older people in mind and usually consists of modern one- or two-bedroom self-contained flats for people aged 55 years or over.

Properties are available to rent from the council and are designed to help maintain independence in a friendly, supportive, and secure environment. Schemes offer security and peace of mind, with sheltered housing officers available to give support and reassurance. Wandsworth currently operate 26 sheltered schemes in the borough.

The sheltered housing scheme is a popular option for residents who may want to move to a smaller property that is easier to maintain (downsizing), feel safer in a community scheme setting, want to make new friends, or who may want that extra support.

Our schemes are managed by experienced officers who are responsible for the management and security of buildings, as well as the safety and welfare of residents. As well as a range of fun activities, officers will also provide housing related support, such as help to access benefits, health or home care services and local activities.

To find out more information and to apply:

- Visit: Housing & Regeneration Services Reception, 90 Putney Bridge Road, SW18 1HR
- Call: 020 8871 6840
- Email: housingapplications@wandsworth.gov.uk
- Write: Housing Options, Wandsworth Council, Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU

Mary selling poppies for 38 years

Mrs Mary Rulton, aged 98 years old, is still selling poppies for the Royal British Legion on Putney High Street. Mary is a tenant at Glenthorpe and has been selling poppies for 38 years.



Even during the pandemic, Mary would go out on come rain or shine, talking to people who would ask her about her medals and what they represented. Although the pandemic resulted in reduced sales, in 2021 Mary was able to raise a fantastic £577.25.

Mary attended the remembrance parade in November, marching down Putney High street. Mary served in the Second World War, where she operated anti-aircraft positions on the home front, referred to as the gunners.

Tenancy Support Service - help is at hand

A referral was made to the Tenancy Support Service for a Wandsworth Council tenant who was struggling to maintain their tenancy due to rent arrears and enduring mental health needs.

The allocated tenancy support officer and the tenant compiled a support plan that they could work towards together and reviewed this over their time working together.

The tenancy support officer was able to provide support to apply for additional benefits to maximise their income and set up a payment plan for the arrears. Together they were able to contact a debt agency and deal with outstanding debts and allow the tenant to concentrate on things that matter to themselves and their family. Having this breathing space gave the tenant the opportunity to find "the job of their dreams".

Quote from Tenant: 'My Tenancy Support Officer went above and beyond for me and my family, she did this by managing all my difficult calls, getting me out of rent arrears and many more. I honestly feel that this email of acknowledgment isn't enough for what she did for myself and my family. Thanks to the tenancy support service I feel better within myself and my stress has greatly reduced'.

If you meet our criteria and would like support, please call on 020 8871 6617 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm).

regeneration updates

CHRISTMAS 2021 ON THE ALTON ESTATE

Lantern parade and light switch-on

The Alton Regeneration Team were out in full force spreading festive cheer with a jam-packed itinerary of events over the festive period, kicking off with the lantern parade and light switch-on ceremony.

At the end of November, families and school groups assembled at the bottom of Danebury Avenue with homemade lanterns. They were joined by the Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Richard Field, in a countdown before he turned on the Christmas tree lights that heralded the start of Christmas in Roehampton.

The crowd were entertained by an opera singer, who led a sing-along of well-loved Christmas classics as well as new hits, such as 'Do you wanna build a snowman?' from Disney's Frozen.

In preparation for the lights switch on ceremony and lantern parade, the Regeneration Team spent a day at Heathmere Primary School making lanterns with pupils from Years 1 and 2. They also hosted bauble decorating workshops with Alton residents. The baubles had been hand-cut by the Roehampton Community Shed and hung on the Christmas tree.



Dick Whittington the panto

The Alton Regeneration Team hosted two performances of the pantomime, Dick Whittington - one for families and another, slightly risqué version, for residents of the local sheltered housing schemes! Local children also joined the Team to decorate Christmas cards for Age UK Wandsworth's Share the Love appeal. The cards were then sent to bring joy to older, isolated residents in the community.

Roehampton Christmas Market

Two weeks before Christmas, the Alton Regeneration Team hosted a Christmas Market, delivered in partnership with Roehampton Community Week. The event began with a Santa procession to Portswood Place, led by several local children acting as reindeer.

Over 150 children visited Santa in a magical grotto created by Roehampton University's Theatre department. Children collected gifts donated by the Putney Rotary Club. 20 stalls took part selling a range of homewares, crafts, sweet treats, handmade cards, accessories, and clothing, as well as a number of food choices.

Among the entertainment was a choir from the Methodist Church, accompanied by Fleur Anderson MP on the flute. The event raised over £240, which was split equally between two local charities - the Foodbank and Little Village - who provide support to the Roehampton community.

Large print version

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



Our Occupational Therapists in the Housing and Regeneration department

You may have come across Occupational Therapists in the community or in hospitals, but you might be surprised to know that the council's Housing and Regeneration department employs three Occupational Therapists.

Our Specialist Housing Occupational Therapists have a wealth of experience in working with disabled people and are passionate about helping our residents live in or move to homes which enable the best quality of life possible.

Two are employed to help with our new home projects – the two large Regeneration areas of Winstanley/York Road and Alton estates and our 1000+ Homes programme, as well as working with our Planning colleagues, Housing Association partners and developers to ensure that all affordable homes in the borough are designed and built as inclusive and accessible. They are also involved in researching contemporary products to ensure that the new dwellings we are building feel homely.

Our third Occupational Therapist assists our Housing Assessment, Allocation and Adaptation Teams with changes to homes to help disabled residents live more independently, as well as supporting people to move to the new accessible homes we are building.

We have employed our Occupational Therapists to ensure that we are designing homes which are accessible, adaptable, and fit for purpose. The photos you see are from our new wheelchair accessible homes, including an accessible kitchen and a bathroom with contemporary shower features



Nine Elms outdoor sport and play areas to open this spring

Outdoor sport and play areas in Nine Elms are being completed in eight spaces across the Patmore estate, Savona estate and at the Yvonne Carr Centre to be open this spring!

Children who live or go to school in Nine Elms will be able to play on swings, see-saws, climbing frames and a zipwire. There will be table tennis available for all ages and sports equipment with a focus on cardio and resistance training such as rowing, leg presses and cross trainers.

To encourage biodiversity, bug hotels and birdboxes will be installed in some areas along with lots of new plants, grasses, and trees ready to thrive in the warm months ahead - perfect for spending time outside.

The outdoor areas, shaped by ideas from residents, are part of Wandsworth Council's programme of upgrades using funding from Nine Elms developments to invest in improvements to the local area.

Find out more at
www.nineelmslondon.com/sport-and-play

Join the Nine Elms community engagement meetings in 2022

Dates have been confirmed for this year's community engagement and advisory group meetings (CEAG).

Run as a virtual or call-in evening meeting, residents can find out what's happening in the year ahead and hear all about exciting changes and opportunities in the neighbourhood, from arts and culture to public spaces and transport improvements.

An open forum, residents can hear from council representatives, local organisations and developers and ask any questions about what's coming up. Join the first meeting of the year on Wednesday 23 March at 5.30pm.

Find out more and register your place by visiting
www.nineelmslondon.com/ceag

Help and advice for European citizens is still available

The deadline for most people to apply for Pre-Settled or Settled Status from the EU Settlement Scheme and secure their rights in the UK after Brexit was 30 June 2021.

However, eligible European citizens and their family members can still apply, and Citizens Advice Wandsworth can provide free help and advice to applicants.

If you have already been granted Pre-Settled or Settled Status, please remember to update your UK Visas and Immigration account if there are any changes to your details, such as your name, your phone number, or your email address.

Pre-Settled Status is valid for five years and will not be automatically upgraded to Settled Status. If you have Pre-Settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme you should apply to switch to Settled Status once you've lived in the UK for five years.

Public authorities such as Department for Work and

Pensions (DWP), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and NHS can automatically access your immigration status information. However, we advise benefits claimants to check their online profile in case they need to provide any additional information.

Citizens Advice Wandsworth can help you understand your options for securing your rights in the UK, apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (settled and pre-settled status), upgrade from Pre-Settled to Settled Status, and to resolve other issues relating to being an EU national.

You can contact Citizens Advice Wandsworth via their website: www.cawandsworth.org/eu, email: euadvice@cawandsworth.org, or telephone: **020 3559 2019**.



Help to grow your business

The council is offering a range of business support for entrepreneurs in the borough who are thinking of starting a new business or wanting to grow their existing one. See below for more information on some of the advice available:

New 1-1 business advice service

The council has partnered with the London Business Hub to launch Wayfinders, a free 1-1 advice service for businesses based in Wandsworth. Entrepreneurs can receive unlimited support and expert advice on a range of topics such as business planning, marketing, funding, social media.

Free digital support and mentoring

The council's Wandsworth Digital programme has been extended to provide more advice to businesses in the borough to learn new digital skills. The programme which is being delivered by Enterprise Nation features workshops such as: An introduction to online Retail Market places (15 March), How to sell on Amazon (29 March), and How to become an Uber earner (13 April). Participating business owners can also access 1-1 mentoring from Google advisers.

A celebration of female entrepreneurship

Women's Enterprise Day, the council's flagship event which celebrates female entrepreneurs takes place on 24 March, at the Elm Grove Conference Centre in Roehampton. Guest speakers include Jacqueline Gold CBE, Chief Executive of Ann Summers and Knickerbox. The event will also feature a panel discussion from female entrepreneurs in the borough, a workshop, and a networking lunch where awards will be presented to female founders.



Digital Boost

Digital Boost is a digital programme designed to help businesses get and grow online. In addition to online masterclasses and online resources/learning, businesses can also book 1-1 mentoring sessions with advisers from organisations such as Google, Bloomberg, BT, and Tech Nation. Topics include: social media, search engine optimisation, content strategy and digital marketing.

Support Programme for the self-employed

BOOST is a free 12-month incubator programme, being run in association with The Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed (IPSE). The programme has been designed to provide guidance and support to individuals thinking of becoming self-employed, as well as those who have recently done so. Some of the benefits participants will receive include:

- Access to webinars and events
- Free basic IPSE membership
- Unlimited access to a free legal and tax helpline
- Up to four hours of 1-1 advice with a Wandsworth based accountancy firm
- Contract/invoice and business plan templates

For more information visit:

www.wandsworthenterprisehub.com

A JOBS AND SKILLS EVENT FOR WANDSWORTH RESIDENTS

EXPERIENCE

JOBS FAIR WANDSWORTH

THURSDAY 24 MARCH 10AM-3PM
SOUTH THAMES COLLEGE, SW18 2PP

Food & Drink, Entertainment,
Recreation, Accommodation,
Events, Tourism...

Reserve your place at
wandsworthworkmatch.org

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