

Home life



Queen's birthday parties

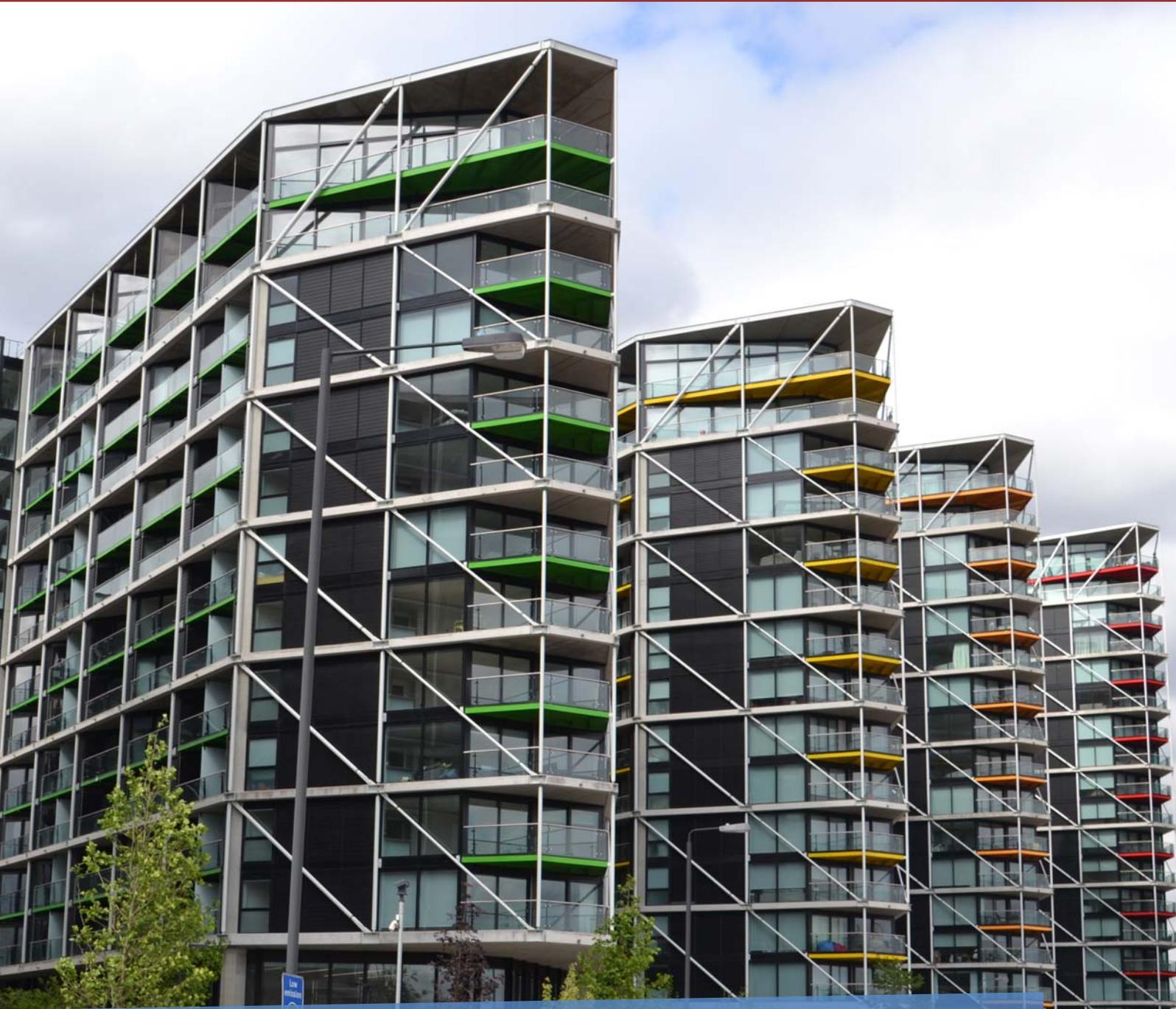
page 10 and 11

Community gardens

Page 13

Housing cheat fined £12k

page 20



Hundreds of homes for sale

See pages 3, 4 and 5.

Work Match

securing jobs
for local
people



Gillian secured a role at the new Debenhams in Wandsworth Town Centre

Getting Wandsworth people into work

The council's Work Match local recruitment team has now helped more than 500 unemployed local people get into work and training – and you could be next!

The friendly team can help you shape up your CV, prepare for interview and will match you with a live job or training vacancy which meets your requirements.

They can match you with jobs, apprenticeships, work experience placements and training courses leading to full time employment.

They recruit for dozens of local employers including shops, architects, professional services, administration, beauticians, engineering companies, construction companies, supermarkets, security firms, logistics firms and many more besides.

Work Match only help Wandsworth residents into work and it's completely free to use their service. Get in touch today!

www.wandsworthworkmatch.org

wandsworthworkmatch@wandsworth.gov.uk

(020) 8871 5191



Sarah was matched with a job on Ballymore's Embassy Gardens development in Nine Elms.



Sheneiqua now works for Wandsworth Council's HR department.



Marc Evans secured a role at Astins Dry Lining



Welcome to the summer edition of Homelife.

Last month, residents across the borough were celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday with some marvellous street parties. A joyful event like this is an ideal time to bring our communities together.

Likewise, community gardens are some of the most popular activities springing up on your estates. Amateur gardeners young and old alike are making the most of them; sharing skills, growing fruit and veg and using them as great places to meet new friends and neighbours.

If gardening is not your thing and you're over 60, why not go along to our Men in Sheds project or join a community choir (page 16).

On a more serious note, recently a man, who claimed he was homeless to secure a home, which he then sublet has been taken to court and ordered to repay £12,000 (see page 20).

Subletting council property is an area of grave concern as it denies those people in genuine need and who are waiting for housing a roof over their head.

The council's fraud team carry out spot checks on tenants to prevent illegal letting of council property. We seek the toughest action against anyone found to be subletting or falsely claiming benefits.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Homelife, if you have any suggestions please contact me by email (see below).

Cllr Paul Ellis
Cabinet member for housing

email: homelife@wandsworth.gov.uk



(l-r) Cllr Govindia and CE Nick Apetroaie take a glimpse inside the apartments

More lower cost homes unveiled in Nine Elms

More than 100 new shared ownership homes at the Riverlight development in Nine Elms have been unveiled.

The 116 modern homes are on sale now and are selling quickly. They include a mix of one and two bedroom lower cost properties and will be ready for people to move into over the summer.

Existing Wandsworth residents have been given priority over buyers from outside the borough to buy one of these fantastic shared ownership properties*.

The new affordable homes are part of Viridian Housing Group's Riverlight development on Nine Elms Lane. Battersea Power Station is next door where a whole new town centre is now being built, complete with a new tube station, riverbus pier and riverside walk.

Viridian chief executive Nick Apetroaie said, "We are delighted to be able to launch our very first shared-ownership homes in Nine Elms. We know it's difficult for first-time buyers to get on the property ladder in London. By working with the council, we are now able to offer these fantastic affordable properties to residents in this sought-after part of the capital."

Wandsworth Council leader Ravi Govindia, who visited the new development, said, "It's great to see more high quality, low cost homes to buy coming onto the market here in Nine Elms. I'm sure these new properties will be in high demand and local buyers will be at the front of the queue."

Around 20,000 new homes are planned at Nine Elms, with around 4,000 offered to local residents at reduced prices.

Want to buy an apartment at Riverlight?

You can check your eligibility for shared ownership housing with the council's home ownership team:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/sharedownership

email: housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk
020 8871 6016.

*subject to eligibility, terms and conditions



New homes for sale

Apply today for a chance to be a home owner

Home Ownership Team

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

Looking for a home? We're looking for buyers

Around 170 high quality new homes are for sale now or in the coming weeks on a shared ownership basis.

By delivering hundreds of affordable homes the council is helping local people who want to buy their first home, but can't afford open market prices.

The new shared ownership apartments are located all over the borough, including Battersea, Balham, Putney and Wandsworth Town.

Here's a look at some of the properties for sale. If you're interested give the team a call.



Plough Road, A2 Dominion, SW11

Modern 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments in a popular area of Clapham Junction. Boasting very good transport links and a fantastic location for commuters. 020 8825 1204

Visit: www.fabrica.co.uk/Plough-Apartments

St John's Hill, Peabody Housing, SW11

Two and three-bedroom properties are available at St John's Hill, Clapham Junction. 0800 022 4040

Visit: www.peabody.org.uk



Battersea Police Station, Thames Valley Housing, SW11

Contemporary one-bedroom apartments due for sale soon. Near Battersea Park, with good connections to central London. 020 8607 0550

Visit: www.tvha.co.uk



Riverside, Viridian Housing, SW18

A selection of modern apartments at Riverside Quarter in Wandsworth, ideally located near the River Thames and town centre. 0800 012 1442

email: sales@viridianhousing.org.uk



Boundaries Way, Paragon, SW12

One and two bedroom modern apartments in the heart of Balham, close to the town centre with excellent transport links to London and the south east. 01932 235801

email: sales@paragonchg.co.uk



Tileman House, Viridian, SW15

Contemporary apartments on Upper Richmond Road in close proximity to Putney town centre. 0800 012 1442

email: sales@viridianhousing.org.uk

Sign up for the weekly e-newsletter: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news
To see if you qualify for affordable housing in Wandsworth visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership

You can use the House Purchase Grant towards buying a shared ownership property and will receive a high priority.

020 8871 6016

Email: housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership



£2½m available

The council has set aside millions of pounds in the form of grants to help tenants become new home buyers.

This year, around £2.5m will be available via the house purchase grant scheme for tenants who want to buy a home. Eligible applicants can get up to £80,000 to help towards buying a property.

This is a hefty deposit which could even be enough to buy a property mortgage free in some parts of the country or abroad.

Grants can also be used towards buying a shared ownership property within England, where you part buy and part rent. Or you can use the grant towards adapting a family home that you can

move into within England. This might include building an extra bedroom space, such as a loft conversion.

Last year, more than thirty tenants were lucky enough to be awarded a grant and had their house buying dreams come true.

If you're interested in applying you'll need to have been a Wandsworth council tenant for at least the last two years and meet the eligibility criteria. See the website for more information or contact the home ownership team.*

*grant scheme is subject to change.

Shared ownership available to more people

A change in government policy means that even more people can apply for shared ownership.

Last April, the government widened the criteria for those who can apply for the scheme. Now those earning up to £90,000 may apply to buy an affordable home, dependent on eligibility criteria.

This means even more people living and working in Wandsworth are eligible to join our affordable homes register.

We've helped 311 people to buy shared ownership properties over the last year. And this year, we've got hundreds of affordable homes for sale across the borough (see opposite).

Right to buy: More than £100,000 discount

You can get up to £103,900 discount on the price of your property through the council's right to buy scheme.*

If you want to buy your council house or flat, give us a call or go online www.wandsworth.gov.uk

*All council schemes are subject to eligibility, terms and conditions.

Investing in the
Brighter Borough



Apply for a grant today!

Community groups are being reminded that it's their last chance to apply for round three of the Wandsworth grant fund.

The council is urging community groups and charities, like residents' associations, to apply for the Wandsworth Grant Fund, which offers money for community projects and services.

You have until 19 July to apply for a grant. It is open to local voluntary and community groups who can deliver either projects or services for local residents. You can apply for up to £10,000 for projects that will benefit your community. These range from projects like improving your environment and neighbourhood, promoting and delivering engagement activities, health and well-being programmes to arts and cultural initiatives.

To find out more contact your resident participation officer, who may be able to assist with your grant application. Or for further information visit:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/wgf

020 8871 6203

Deadline: 19 July 2016.

homelife@wandsworth.gov.uk 5

Artwork unveiled

A series of sculptures have been unveiled at the heart of an estate in Clapham Junction.

The newly installed artwork at St John's Hill estate coincides with the completion of new homes created by Peabody Housing Group.

Artist, Rodney Harris, worked closely with residents and the local community to design four brick relief sculptures. The community artwork which reflects its history is an integral part of the regeneration of the estate in Battersea.

Phase one of the regeneration project has created 153 modern homes, which have been set aside for existing tenants to return to this summer. A further 350 new homes will be developed as part of the major regeneration scheme, making a total of 500 new homes, of which 279 will be affordable for social and intermediate rent and the rest for sale.

Leader of the Council, Cllr Ravi Govindia commented, "These impressive works celebrate the estate's history and will be enjoyed by many generations to come. This council has long believed that art and culture have a vital role to play in successful regeneration."



A dream bungalow by the sea

A tenant's dream of moving to the seaside came true when he was transferred to a beautiful bungalow in Clacton-on-Sea.

Mr Johncock moved through the Seaside and Country scheme, which helps people aged over 60 transfer to other parts of the country like seaside towns or the countryside.

Mr Johncock told Homelife just how easy his move, into a housing association bungalow by the sea, was with the support of the council's moves and mobility team, "I'm so happy in my bungalow and being so close to my daughter. I'd have done it years ago had I known just how easy it would be.

"My daughter, Elaine, applied on my behalf for a transfer through the Seaside and Country scheme. I'm getting on a bit and we thought it would be best if I lived closer to her and my family in Clacton-on-Sea.

"I lived in my council flat for 30 years, so although I wanted to move I was very worried that it might be too much. The council have been great. April McAneny, from the team, sorted out a removal service, she's helped me every step of the way.

"Elaine and April have organised everything, new carpets, decorating, furniture, everything. They've been wonderful.

"I received an incentive payment because I was leaving a council house after many years. I've used some of it for new furniture and a cooker. It's come in very handy. I didn't have to pay for removal because the council were able to help with the costs.

"I'm very happy. I've got a lovely bungalow by my daughter and the seaside."

The team offer a range of flexible incentives, like a cash award of between £2,000 – 5,000 based on the number of bedrooms vacated, help with decorating, removal costs and they can even help you apply for a move



through the scheme. They make moving home as smooth as possible.

If you are a council tenant and want to move to a smaller property contact Moves and Mobility:
020 8871 7666
Or www.london.gov.uk
(search seaside and country)



Views sought on homes, estates and neighbourhood

Last autumn, the council carried out a comprehensive survey on three estates in North Battersea to find out what council residents thought of their homes and neighbourhood, and what improvements they would like to see.

There is a major regeneration of Nine Elms taking place that will transform the area around Carey Gardens, Patmore and Savona estates over the next 15 years and the council wants the local community to benefit from the wider redevelopment and improvement taking place.

Sixty per cent of residents took part in the survey, with results showing that, overall, they liked living in the area, with high levels of satisfaction for their homes and estates with ratings ranging 73% - 93% across the three estates. While some wanted to see only minor changes and improvements, particularly to the local environment, others wanted to explore other improvement options. Overall, fifty per cent of residents were interested in understanding what the options were for a medium (34%) or substantial (16%) level of change to either improve their homes, blocks, environment or provide new homes. The results showed that there were particular areas and localities where improvement and change was required than others.

Next steps - listening to residents

In response to this consultation, the council is committed to working closely with residents in partnership with the Co-ops and residents' associations to further explore improvement options. A specialist independent consultant has been appointed and has already undertaken an initial meeting with resident representatives to look at what options might be considered and how best to approach the development and improvement options.

This will be followed up by further estate specific meetings and workshops, culminating in a public event in autumn that the consultants will use to obtain feedback on what options residents would like to be progressed. Options involving significant investment will be costed by the council and financially assessed to find out what could be achieved.

While the opportunity to explore improvement and change can be offered where the opportunity arises, the council way remains one of working with its residents to ensure any plans are informed and shaped by them, so that they can directly benefit.

Our thanks to the committee members of all three estates for their involvement and work on this project.

For further information on the survey results see www.wandsworth.gov.uk/surveyresults

Couples tip-top flat earns them £500

Mr and Mrs Alloway were delighted with a windfall courtesy of the council's reward scheme, which pays up to £500 to tenants that leave their home in good condition when they move.

Tony and Ann Alloway who recently downsized to a smaller home said, "We found out about the reward from our housing officer when we were going through our transfer. It was great to find we had been nominated and awarded the money.

"It's gone towards things for our new home. So, it's well worth keeping your house or flat in good condition as we did. We've lived there for 26 years and felt it fair to leave it in great condition as it really belongs to the council."

The scheme recognises and rewards tenants who leave a tidy home and have a clear rent account when they move out.

Council inspectors nominate tenants, so often you won't know until you are awarded the payment.

It's simple, just make sure you leave your home in good condition when you move. This means removing old furniture and making sure all the council fixtures and fittings are in place.

The maximum payment is £500, although partial payments are also made to those who nearly make the grade.

Housing advice and options online

Simply fill out a form for a chance to find out instantly a range a housing options based on your current circumstances.

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housingoptions

Community leader steps down

An end of an era has come after a local resident retires from his duties as chairman after three decades.

Graham Harris, chairman of Doddington West residents' association, has stepped down after 34 years of dedicated service to his local community.

Graham took a look back at what he and his neighbours have achieved at the estate in Battersea, "I have lived on Doddington estate for over 30 years. I arrived to a large, grey council housing estate, it had a bad reputation but there was a spark of community spirit and a small residents' association, which I eagerly joined and have been part of ever since.

"During my thirty plus years we have seen many changes. We've had a major refurbishment of the estate, which resulted in bright, colourful homes and improvements to our security to prevent anti-social behaviour and make residents feel more secure in their own homes.

"Through the area housing panel we've received funding for many projects that benefit our community. For example, we've recently received funding for the outdoor floodlit-football area.

"We hold lots of community events and days out, especially the community garden group. Our day out in Southend-on-Sea has become a popular feature every year.

I have continuously believed in the Doddington community spirit. Residents have the ability to take on challenges and win, through sheer determination. I am very proud to be able to say I am a true Doddington resident. I have campaigned for residents' rights to ensure that their comfort and well being is paramount.

"I've met a vast number of people. It's been important to have a rapport with the council and I'm delighted to be able to call many of those very good friends.



"Although I have stepped down, I am still very much a part of the community. I will continue in many of my other roles and encourage that community spirit that I recognised when I first arrived on Doddington estate.

"It is now time for the residents' association to take on a fresh start with younger residents making decisions and guiding us through the next 30 years. I wish it well."

Marc Howell, area housing manager for Battersea who has known Mr Harris for many years said, "Doddington West has a great sense of community and much of this is down to Graham who has worked tirelessly on behalf of residents for the past 30 years.

"Whilst Graham has been behind some very visible improvements and community initiatives on the estate much of his work on behalf of residents is unseen such as his unfailing attendance and contributions at the area housing panels and his regular contact with the housing department on behalf of individual residents or estate issues.

"Doddington is a much better place for the work undertaken by Graham and I know this view is shared by my predecessor, Martin Byrne and many of the residents. He is also a very nice bloke!"

£1,000 prize on offer

Sign up to pay your rent by direct debit for chance of landing a £1,000.

Five prizes of £1,000 is up for grabs for tenants who sign up to pay their rent by direct debit.

Direct debit is the simplest way of paying bills. It's a safe, secure and convenient. You don't need to worry about remembering to pay your bills as your rent will come out of your bank account the same time each month.

Council tenants who sign up to pay by direct debit before the closing date will be eligible for the prize draw. Existing tenants who already pay by direct debit will be entered automatically.

To be in with a chance of winning call 020 8871 8987 (choose option 4)

Closing date 28 October 2016.

*One thousand pound in shopping vouchers

Survey update

The council improves the way it carries out satisfaction surveys.

Since April, instead of carrying out random surveys, now the housing team only contact residents who have had direct experience of a service and ask questions about it.

For example, we may be in touch if you've reported a repair or anti-social behaviour or had works carried out.

We're always keen to hear your views so don't miss your chance to take part in one of our surveys when you're asked.

To find out more about other ways you can be involved please see our website 'Get Involved'.

www.wandsworth.gov.uk



Local students explore Nine Elms careers

Hundreds of students attended an open day aimed at showcasing the wide range of job opportunities on offer at Nine Elms.

Students met some of the biggest investors and employers across construction, retail, administration, property and more at the Nine Elms Jobs showcase.

The Nine Elms development is a multi-billion pound investment programme, which is transforming into London's newest and most exciting business district and cultural destination. This means there's an impressive range of jobs, apprenticeship and graduate programmes for students and local people.

Students at our local colleges and schools had a first-hand opportunity to see what's available and discuss their career aspirations directly with Nine Elms employers.

To find out about training and job opportunities in Nine Elms
 email: wandsworthworkmatch@wandsworth.gov.uk
 Or visit: www.wandsworthworkmatch.org

CAB moves to Battersea

Citizens' Advice has moved to a new purpose-built centre in Battersea library.

The free consumer advice service, Citizens Advice Wandsworth, has relocated to a larger and more welcoming centre in Battersea library at Lavendar Hill.

Citizens' Advice offers information, support and advice on issues such as rent arrears, bills, welfare benefits and consumer rights. Last year, the charity helped around 9, 200 local people. It is part-funded by the council and this new arrangement is expected to strengthen joint-working between the two public services.

Find out more about Citizens Advice Wandsworth services and opening hours at www.wandsworthcabx.org.uk

NEWS: Nine Elms and the surrounding area

Jobs available

Battersea Power Station job opportunities for local people across the site including labourers, carpenters, administrators and various other roles.

Please contact 020 8871 5191 or email: wandsworthworkmatch@wandsworth.gov.uk



Riverlight homes go on sale

More than 100 affordable properties are available to buy through the council's shared ownership scheme (see page 3)



Northern Line

Extension works are continuing on the Northern Line at Nine Elms.

For more information contact 0343 222 2424 or visit: nle@tfl.gov.uk

If you would like to know more about development in the area contact 020 8872 8698.

The Queen's 90th birthday

Residents throughout the borough joined to celebrate The Queen's 90 birthday.



Ishan shares an amazing cake to celebrate the Queen's Birthday.



Haven Lodge: Janet Crawley, Joyce Niel, Bubbles Niel, Sean Crawley and Clara Fernandes party with 'The King'.



Laura gets in the party mood



Local residents having fun at Carey Gardens Co-ops street party



The streets were full of laughter at Convent Co-op



Party games get underway

Day celebrations

What's on guide

Summer in Wandsworth

Get Active Wandsworth Festival

Saturday July 9, 12-5pm

Come and enjoy the 7th Annual Get Active Wandsworth Festival. The park will be packed full of great free activities for people of all ages to get involved in. Plenty for the kids to do - bouncy castles, fair ground rides, face painting, taster sessions with sports coaches and more. Come along, enjoy and most importantly get active.

**King George's park,
Wandsworth, SW18 4DN**
Twitter: @activewands
www.enablelc.org/active
email active@enablelc.org
020 8871 8154

Foodstock

**Saturday 30 July 30, 12-8pm and
Sunday 31 July, 12-7pm**

New for 2016 - food, drink and music event. Celebrating local produce and brewers. Local brewer Sambrooks will be attending offering over 20 beers, all named after local points of interest in Wandsworth. Advance tickets £2 adult, child under 16 £1, on the door £4 adult, child £2 (fees apply)

**British Genius site, Battersea
Park SW11 4NW**
Website: enablelc.org/foodstock

Live at the bandstand

Saturday July 16, 12-6pm

Theme - rockabilly and rock and roll - 5 - 6 bands, 15 food stalls, 1 bar (Bedford Pub), 5 - 10 arts and craft stalls, vintage stalls, children's area.

**Battersea Park Bandstand
SW11 4NJ.**
Website: enablela.org/bandstand



The crowning glory looks too good to eat!



Local residents having fun at Alton and Manresa street party



Manresa scheme: Cllr Cooper joins local residents at their street party



Joan 'meets' the Queen



Princesses for the day



Local rock stars in the making

COMMUNITY GARDEN SPECIAL

Community gardens flourish in the summer

Green fingered residents across Wandsworth are growing vegetables, improving their estates and having fun.



New garden gets seal of approval

Just next door to the roof garden, residents of Rollo community garden in Battersea were keen to show the designs for their new garden when the former Mayor went along for a visit.

The chairperson of Rollo residents' association, who welcomed Cllr Nardelli, explained that creating a community garden gives local people the opportunity to get involved in local activities. The chairperson said: "Our new garden, which is in the early stages of development, means that we can invest in our own space and play a part in the enrichment of the community. We look forward to meeting other residents and getting together to develop the garden over the coming year."

If you're green-fingered or fancy improving your gardening skills why not pop along to Rollo community garden. Speak to you RA or resident participation officer for more information.

Eager gardeners learn new skills

In May, the former mayor visited Doddington Roof Garden to see the fruits of residents' labour.

This long-established community garden runs regular community events and gardening workshops for residents. Locals can share and learn skills at weekly groups for gardeners of all ages and abilities. The former Mayor of Wandsworth Cllr Nardelli who met with the morning garden group said, "It's wonderful to see such an oasis of colour and activity in a city garden. This community garden has become a central hub where local residents share a love of gardening and enjoy fresh produce and social activities all year round."



Award winning garden grows

Wendelsworth garden, who won an award at the Mayor's Grow Wandsworth competition earlier in the year, is growing from strength to strength.

Residents have now created a second garden on the estate to produce even more home grown fruits and vegetables. The former mayor met with gardeners in May to plant the first of many fruit trees on the site.

Wendelsworth RA welcomes people of all ages and abilities to get gardening and get involved in their local community. For more information contact wendlesworthRA@gmail.com



Residents grow their own

Residents of Edgecombe Hall have built their garden from scratch using reused materials.

Starting out with just one spade and a bucket full of enthusiasm they have created the beginnings of a wonderful community garden.

They collected old and discarded material and gave it a new life. For example, unwanted bed frames and wood pallets have become DIY garden equipment such as cloches and polytunnels. The gardeners are growing a range of produce to eat and cook together. Next year, they plan to plant even more including soft fruits like raspberries.

Jelena Dargovic, member of the RA said, "We are focusing on reusing and building things for ourselves. We want to reduce waste and improve our neighbourhood whilst having fun and saving money."



All residents are invited

**Sundays
11:30am
Meet in the garden.**

For more information email: edgecombehallra@gmail.com

To get involved or find out about setting up your own community garden contact your Resident Participation Officer.

Community art project gets underway

A residents' association in Wandsworth has been awarded £13,500 from the Evening Standard to fund a community arts project.

A series of workshops, run by a local professional artist, began at Sudbury House in June. During the sessions, enthusiastic residents learn new skills, share ideas and create artwork which will be installed to improve the appearance of the communal areas of Sudbury House, Arndale estate.

Residents are taking inspiration from local landmarks and history and hope to create a warm and welcoming environment in the entrance hall of the building. The workshops are a chance for residents to meet their neighbours, learn new skills and get involved in their community.



Sudbury House RA said, "We were amazed to be chosen for the grant out of 300 applicants. It is important to us to bring the community spirit to Sudbury House. This project will bring us together while brightening our home, giving us something to be proud of and remind us of how lucky we are to live in this vibrant place called Wandsworth."

Are you a Sudbury resident and want to get involved? Come along to a workshop: Tuesday 5 July 4-7pm and Saturday 16 July 2-5pm.

For more information please contact Jo Baxter
020 8871 8694

Special needs support on your doorstep

Two local women have set up charity to support children with special educational needs.

SenTalk is a new voluntary service for autistic children and their parents. Sessions take place at Kambala clubroom and are aimed at offering support and information to families.

The two co-founders, Annaliese Boucher and Ago Wierzbicka both understand the challenges of having a child with special educational needs. Annaliese spoke to Homelife about their new charity and why they set it up, "I'm a member of the clubroom committee and we are both parents with children on the autistic spectrum, which means they have special educational needs.

"The processes of diagnosis and education can be stressful and emotionally draining for the whole family. So, it simply made sense to introduce a new local service like SenTalk to offer support and make sure other parents and children have help.

"SenTalk provides a free space for parents, carers and children in our local community clubroom. Parents get information and



[l-r] Annaliese and Ago offer a friendly welcome

a chance to be with others who understand what they may be going through, whilst children can play in a relaxed atmosphere.

"We want to raise awareness of social communication disorders such as autism spectrum disorders and behavioural conditions like ADHD, particularly in children and are inviting parents to come along to join in."

SenTalk

Kambala Clubroom (near York Gardens)

Third Tuesday each month

10am - 12 or 4.30 - 6.30pm

(afternoon sessions must be booked)

For more information see: www.sentalk.org



Dinoday in Roehampton was a roaring success

Over 900 people came to Alton estate to meet Tiny the dinosaur.

Adults and children alike enjoyed the chance to feed and play with the interactive, life-size stegosaurus. Tiny was accompanied by a dinosaur expert who presented exciting shows about the creatures and how they lived. There were also a range of activities on offer throughout the day including digging for fossils, a treasure trail and dinosaur themed crafts.

The event was organised by the Roehampton Outdoor Art Movement (ROAM) as part of the Wandsworth Fringe Festival. ROAM is a group of local residents, businesses and schools working together to bring exciting cultural and creative events to Roehampton.

Chloe Osborne, from ROAM said, "The green was overflowing with curious people of all ages. It was great fun and we're excited about the new people who have signed up for future events."

For more information about upcoming events visit www.wandsworthfringe.com

Your resident participation team



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



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



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



Bernard Brennan
western team
(020) 8871 5505
bbrennan
@wandsworth.gov.uk

Training for TMOs

Look out for new council-led courses coming your way.

The council has teamed up with councils across London to bring a whole host of training courses for tenant management organisations.

30 July 2016: BUSINESS PLANNING: What is business or strategic planning, what the benefits are, and how to put this in place.

24 September 2016: INVOLVING RESIDENTS: Review current resident involvement; explore the main barriers to involvement and how to tackle them; tools and techniques for reaching a wider cross-section of the community.

29 October 2016: RISK MANAGEMENT/HOUSING MANAGEMENT: What is risk management and how to assess risk. As well as wide range of housing management issues including waiting lists and transfers, tenancy conditions and breaches of these, disputes, ASB, Right to Buy and complaint procedures.

26 November 2016: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: How to involve young people in your TMO and effectively engage with young people in your area.

All courses are held at Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP.

FREE for Wandsworth TMOs Co-ops. Spaces are subject to availability.

For more information please contact your resident participation officer

Or call 020 7525 7712.

Music to the ears

Community choirs from across the borough were singing from the same songbook when they joined together for 'The Big Sing'.

The harmonious gathering was a tremendous grand finale for four choirs that were put together as part of the community development "Local Vocals Project" for residents aged 55+.

The choirs have been meeting weekly in sheltered housing clubrooms, where they have they rehearsed a mix of traditional folk songs with professional singing tutors.



The project created an opportunity for communities to come together, make new friendships and have a really fun time. Singing with others can be an uplifting experience and can actively promote mental health well being.

Community choirs can also break down social isolation and even support people facing a range of health challenges, including dementia.

For further information please email the community and development team at ecurley@wandsworth.gov.uk

Men in sheds

Over 55 and keen to get out the house?

Retired men are sharpening their tools and polishing up their skills through a new council initiative.

Men in Sheds is a chance to meet like-minded people and work on projects such as woodwork or furniture restoration over a cuppa.

People aged 50+ are invited to join other 'shedders' who'd like to design and make personal and group projects at a Shed in Battersea.

Shed co-ordinator Geoffrey Cox describes the idea behind the community initiative, "Most members are practical and want to keep their minds and bodies active. They meet up at our shed to work with other like-minded people to get help, share skills, and swap stories.

Shedders also go out and about doing community projects, such as designing and building shelving for sheltered housing residents.

People with differing abilities are welcome – the shed is as much about learning and making friends as crafting and woodworking.

New members are warmly welcomed to join us, we have all the essential tools of any shed - table, chairs and tea."

Men in Sheds is supported by the council's community development team, who aim to improve health and well-being whilst reducing isolation through a range of group activities.

Battersea Men's Shed - 10am Wednesdays
Dimson Lodge, Battersea
141 Church Road
Call 020 7223 5335





Money advice pop up shop a hit

The council's first money advice "Pop Up Shop" was inundated with shoppers wanting help with bills, benefits, savings and loans.

The temporary advice shop, at Southside Shopping Centre, was the ideal place for local residents to get free money advice. During the week, hundreds of people popped in to find out about ways to reduce bills, deal with rent arrears, and apply for benefits and loans.

Many people were given on the spot advice and others were offered appointments for more detailed support or referred to other agencies. Helen Meehan co-ordinator for the council's financial inclusion team said, "The pop up money advice shop has been a great success offering information and support in one place. We've had hundreds of residents visit the shop with a huge variety of enquiries.

"Having the money advice shop offered a quick and convenient way of sorting out residents problems. People in financial difficulties often ignore the problem until it becomes more serious. We understand how stressful it can be having money worries or being in debt. So, we brought our professional team of money advisers directly to residents so they could get convenient information and advice.

"We resolved many enquiries very quickly and offered immediate assistance. This means there was no need to wait for an appointment or go to different places for help. Shoppers could simply walk straight in and get the advice and information they needed."

If you missed the pop up shop, you can get free advice from the financial inclusion team: 020 8871 8780

Watch this space for the next free money advice shop.



Measles is on the rise - get your jab

Make sure you and your children are immunised against measles to prevent it.

There's been an increase in measles in London. For your own protection and to stop the disease spreading, please make sure you and family have had the measles jab.

Measles is highly infectious and spreads through direct contact with an infected person or in the air through coughing or sneezing.

It is potentially a very serious illness that can cause complications. More serious complications include pneumonia and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). And on rare occasions be fatal.

People at risk are those that have not had two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Adults as well as children can catch measles so check you are protected.

It's a free to get the jab.

Contact your GP surgery or health visitor.

Sign up online with 'My Account'

The council's online 'My Account' gives you access to a range of services using one simple account.

Register with us to pay bills, report an issue, apply for services or to manage your council tax. Over the coming months even more new services will be added to the 'My Account' web service, including parking and housing benefits.

Keep children and vulnerable people safe

Residents are being reminded to call us if they suspect any type of abuse or neglect.

Picking up the phone to report your concerns can be a difficult decision but it is important that you report any concerns you have, no matter how small they may seem.

Even if you are not sure of what you have seen or heard, reporting your concerns means that a professional can check that abuse or neglect is not happening.

Abuse or neglect can take many forms including emotional, financial, physical and sexual.

For example, do you have any worries that a child under the age of 18 is being sexually exploited (this could be in exchange for alcohol, drugs or gifts)? Do you know if a young child is being left at home alone? Have you any concerns about an adult not being cared for properly? Do you have concerns that a vulnerable adult's money is being controlled by someone else? Or do you know an adult who cannot look after themselves?

These are all forms of abuse or neglect – report them

Report concerns

Child/young person to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):

- 020 8871 6622 (weekday office hours 9am-5pm)
- 020 8871 6000 (after 6pm and weekends)

Email: mash@wandsworth.gov.uk

For further information please visit: www.wscb.org.uk/

An adult to the access team:

- 020 8871 7707 (weekday office hours 9am-5pm)
- 020 8871 6000 (after 6pm and weekends)

Email: safeguardingadults@wandsworth.gov.uk

For further information please visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk and search for 'safeguarding adults'

Police: In emergencies 999

Beat the cheats

You can report fraud and benefit cheats on
Freephone 0800 783 2263
Email: swlfp@wandsworth.gov.uk
Or the council's hotline 020 8871 8383

Council tax

Pay by direct debit for a chance to win £5,000'

Alton estate regeneration: continues to move forward

The council's search for a development partner for the regeneration programme on Alton estate is well underway.

The process of selecting a development partner for the exciting regeneration of the estate began in February and it is expected to be appointed by early 2017. So, the council and its stakeholders are around half way through the process.

Appointing a development partner brings the vision of transforming the area by providing high quality housing, more services and an updated village green to Alton estate residents ever closer.

The regeneration will take place in phases in order to ensure that residents can move straight into their new homes. There'll be no demolition of residential properties before 2018. Residents will be notified in advance and given assistance and support.

For more information see:
Facebook (search Alton estate regeneration),
Twitter (@altonmasterplan) or
www.wandsworth.gov.uk

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St Mark's Battersea Rise, SW11 1EJ
entrance in Boutflower Road

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during opening hours

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Wandsworth
VAWG
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www.wandsworth.gov.uk/vawg

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Doing it online

Find out your housing options www.wandsworth.gov.uk/hcs/housingoptions

Pay rent, view statements, request and track a repair. Report a communal repair (leaseholders)
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housingonline

Pay your council tax www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax

Council website www.wandsworth.gov.uk

Housing and community services customer service centre

90 Putney Bridge Road
London SW18 1HR

Western area housing office

Holybourne Avenue, Roehampton SW15

Housing area teams:

Central area team(020) 8871 5333
Eastern area team(020) 8871 7439
Southern area team(020) 8871 7482
Western area team(020) 8871 5530

If you do not know your area team contact
(020) 8871 8327 or 6864.
email: hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

Homelife (write to the address above)
or email: homelife@wandsworth.gov.uk

Benefits service(020) 8871 8080
benefits@wandsworth.gov.uk

Garages (to rent)(020) 8871 6870
hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

Graffiti removal(020) 8871 7049
graffiti@wandsworth.gov.uk

Applying for housing/transfers

Housing options
and advice(020) 8871 6840
housingadvice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Illegal subletting(020) 8871 6556

Leasholder
service charges(020) 8871 6299

Rent collection(020) 8871 8987
rents@wandsworth.gov.uk

WATCH emergencies . . .(020) 8871 7741

WEC (council emergencies, noise)
.(020) 8871 7490
hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

Telephone payments 0845 835 0129
view online (charges may vary depending
on your service provider)

Please note: American Express and
Diners cards are not accepted. You will
need your council reference for the
individual service and your payment
details ready.

- Option 1 Council tax
- Option 2 Parking penalty charge notice
- Option 3 Council rents, garages, store shed or heating and hot water charges
- Option 4 Income collection, service charges, major works
- Option 5 Housing benefit overpayments
- Option 6 Business rates

Gas contractors:

Battersea Clapham and Central Wandsworth areas

Smith and Byford Ltd 0800 028 0824

Breakdown, leaks and servicing of individual
heating/hot water systems.

Or throughout the borough where your domestic
heating is supplied by a central communal boiler-house.

Putney, Roehampton and Tooting areas

T.Brown Group Ltd 0800 977 8472

Breakdown, leaks and servicing of heating/hot water of
individual systems.

To find out your gas contractor contact: 020 8871 7040

Cleaning contractors:

Putney and Battersea areas

Lewis and Graves
Phone: 020 8877 1917
Freephone: 0800 111 4613

Roehampton and Tooting areas

ISS Facility Services Ltd
Phone: 020 8788 4703

Gardening

Ian Harrison:
Horticultural Services
Phone: 020 8871 7900
email: iharrison@wandsworth.gov.uk

Some blocks and estates are managed by Resident Management Organisations (RMOs), which means that a resident group provides services to the estate or block. Residents who live in these properties are advised to contact their RMO office in the first instance.

Exciting plans for town centre

Three former office blocks in the centre of Wandsworth will make way for 200 new homes as part of an exciting regeneration project.

London and Quadrant Housing Association will develop the site adjacent to the Old Burial Ground creating hundreds of new homes and shops.

It will also open this area of the town centre by connecting Wandsworth High Street, the Old Burial Ground and Garratt Lane, providing shops, a new public space, improved college facilities and new state-of-the-art library.

A quarter of the 200 new homes (50 properties) will be offered to local residents to rent or buy at a discounted rate. The council supports the regeneration of the site that had formerly been owned by the council and South Thames College.

Construction work is planned to start later this year and adds to the £1bn major investment programme in Wandsworth town centre.



Sublet cheat caught and fined



A council tenant who made thousands of pounds illegally renting out a flat in Battersea had been ordered to repay more than £12,000.

Philip Owen-White was given a flat in Ashley Crescent after telling the council he was homeless and had nowhere to live.

But after getting the flat, he moved to a house he owned in Shropshire and illegally sublet the flat. He made more

than £6,000 through his fraud and it didn't stop there because he also continued to claim council tax benefit.

By illegally subletting the flat he denied other people in genuine need of housing a chance of being offered a council flat.

Mr Owen-White's fraud was discovered when staff carried out a spot check. The council took possession proceedings to regain the property. He was later prosecuted at Kingston Crown Court

where he pleaded guilty to dishonestly subletting the property.

He has been ordered to pay more than £12,000. This includes a fine £1,500, £2,500 towards the council's prosecution costs, a £15 victim surcharge and a further £6,500 plus £1,660 interest as part of the civil possession proceedings.

Each year, staff carry out thousands of spot checks to make sure that flats are occupied by their legitimate tenants. Over the past three years the council has recovered 175 properties that were being illegally sub-let.

You can report subletting on 020 8871 8383 (South West London Fraud Partnership) or email SWLFP@wandsworth.gov.uk

Large print version

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