

Brightside

The magazine of Wandsworth Council

Issue 175 March 2016



Council tax still UK's second lowest [p3](#)

Comment on proposed 20mph speed limit [p9](#)

Buyers needed for shared ownership homes [p16-17](#)



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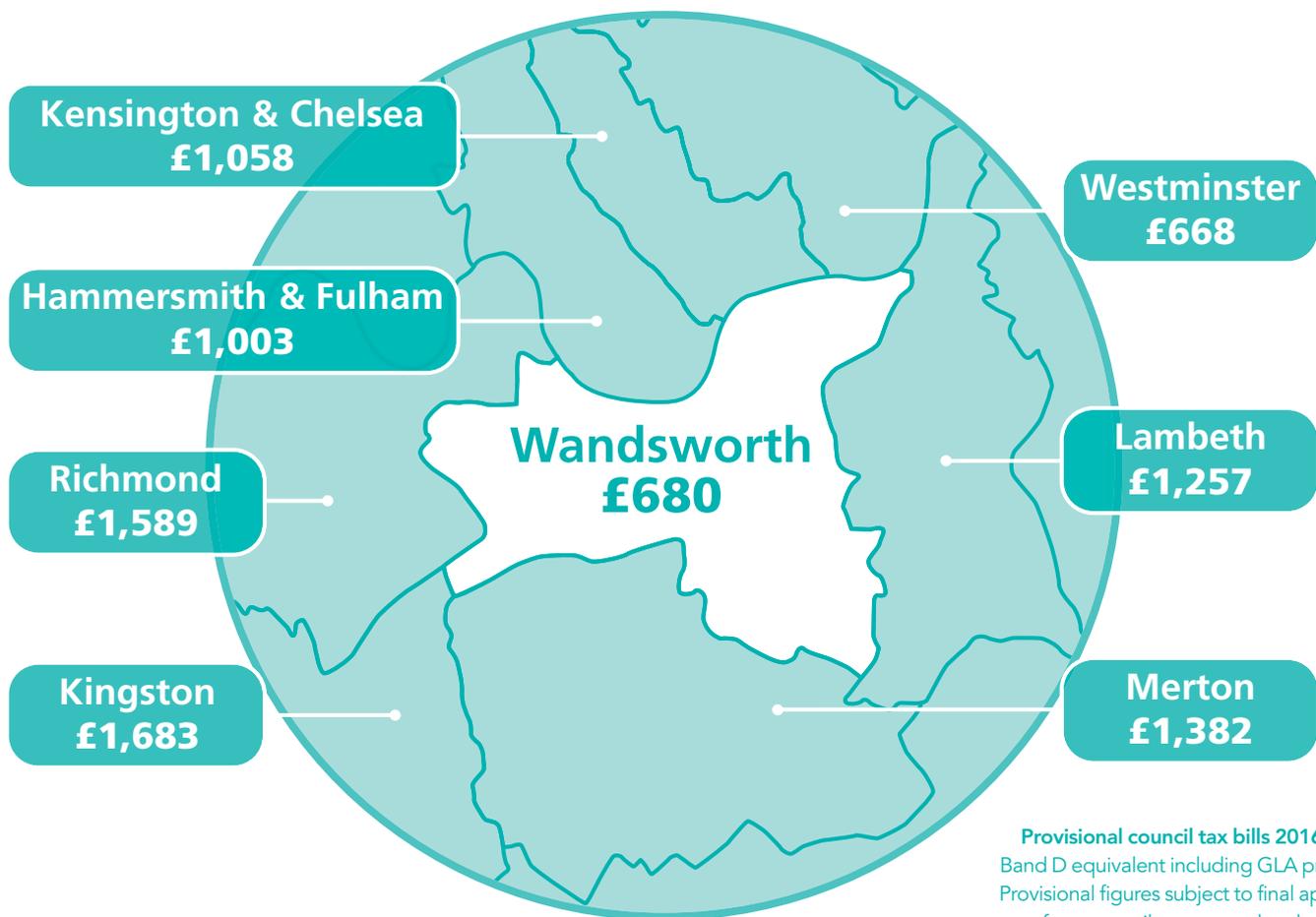
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Provisional council tax bills 2016-2017
 Band D equivalent including GLA precept.
 Provisional figures subject to final approval
 from councils concerned and may not
 account for local levies.

Council tax bills staying low

Wandsworth's Band D council tax bills are set to be the second lowest in the country again next year and around half the London average.

Annual bills for 2016/17 will be £674.22 for the majority of the borough, but homes close to Wimbledon and Putney Commons will pay an extra £26.97 which the Commons Conservatives spend on the upkeep of these open spaces. The average charge across the whole borough will be £679.91.

Most households would pay £57 a month if splitting the bill over 12

monthly instalments. The average bill across London is over £100 a month and the most expensive is roughly £140.

The council is proposing to increase its share of the tax rate by 3.99 per cent this year, but this is being offset by the Mayor of London reducing his share. So overall the average Band D charge will be £3.42 lower from April.

This would be only the second time in ten years that the council has raised its share of the bill and half of the extra revenue raised will be spent exclusively

on adult social care.

Guy Senior, council finance spokesman, said: "Like all councils we have to manage with reduced Government funding next year and a modest increase in our council tax income will help absorb the impact and protect front line services. Because we have kept bills so low for so long our tax rate will still be the second lowest in the country."

Manage your council tax online at:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/your_accounts

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www.wandsworth.gov.uk

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Big changes to children's services

Over the last three months major changes and improvements have been made to the council's services for children in need of help and protection, and services for looked after children.

They include restructuring the senior management team, increasing management capacity, strengthening risk assessment procedures and a review of 'front door' services where children are referred to the council if there is a concern.

The changes follow an inspection by Ofsted last November which showed that services did not meet the higher standards now required and were judged to be inadequate. The council responded immediately and the

inspectors have expressed their confidence in the approach taken to drive up standards.

Social care cases are being reviewed to make sure decision making is correct and that children are getting the support they need. The inspection also found significant strengths within the department including below average social worker caseloads, the Family Recovery Project and outstanding engagement with young people.

A long term action plan has been developed which is being closely monitored to ensure improvements are delivered as quickly as possible and are sustained. The changes include stronger supervision arrangements and the creation of a new council commit-

tee dedicated to scrutinising children's social care.

Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services Kathy Tracey:

"I am very sorry that our services fell behind the high standards required of modern social care and we are now entirely focused on improving these vital services. Ofsted are confident in our response to this challenge and we will turn this around as quickly as possible.

"A key strength we have on this journey is the quality of our front line social workers who do some exceptional work in supporting young people. The issues Ofsted found were more to do with process and oversight which are issues we are now putting right."



Garden SOS

A fundraising drive is underway to help build a sensory garden at the Church Lane complex needs hub in Tooting for adults with learning disabilities.

The centre is part of the Adult Learning

Disability Day Service, run by the charity One Trust on behalf of the council. The council provided £30,000 of funding towards the garden which covers about half the cost. If you want to help raise money, email will.olmi@onetrust.co.uk.

Councils threaten legal action over third runway

Solicitors acting for Wandsworth, Richmond, Hillingdon and Windsor and Maidenhead councils have warned the prime minister that he could face court action unless the long running Heathrow expansion saga is brought to an end.

Three years ago David Cameron reopened the third runway debate despite clear policy commitments that it would not be built. A final decision was expected by the end of 2015, but ministers have since extended the deadline to "the summer" this year.

The councils' solicitors, Harrison Grant, have now written to the prime minister setting out the legal case against the scheme, including air pollution and

noise impact grounds. They also highlight serious flaws in the work of the UK Airports Commission which recommended expanding the west London airport based on a misunderstanding of the law.

The letter argues that expansion at Heathrow should now be ruled out and reminds Mr Cameron about the rights of residents who relied on his promise that there would be "no ifs, no buts, no

third runway". It argues that prolonging the Heathrow expansion debate without any credible reason or genuine attempt at consultation is causing great distress to Londoners and is an abuse of power.

In 2010 Wandsworth Council and its campaign partners overturned the previous Government's plan to expand Heathrow in the High Court on environmental impact grounds.



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For further information on this scheme and other letting opportunities, call us on (020) 8871 7333 or email privatelandlords@wandsworth.gov.uk





Up to 70 per cent discounts for new Battersea homes

The council has struck a deal that means hundreds of homes will be up to 70 per cent cheaper to rent or buy at Battersea Power Station.

The legal agreement between the council and Battersea Power Station Development Company covers 374 homes in Phase 4a of the project. The first should be ready to live in by 2019.

Discounts for the rental properties will be between 20 and 70 per cent, with the average being around 40 per cent below the market rate.

To find out if you qualify for affordable housing in Wandsworth contact our homeownership team.

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

To obtain a copy of Brightside in large print or audio version please telephone (020) 8871 7266 or email brightside@wandsworth.gov.uk

Your Brightside

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* To be eligible to purchase a home at Balham Boundaries, you must live or work in the Borough of Wandsworth. You must be registered with Wandsworth Council on their housing register and for further information please contact Wandsworth Council by email at housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk or telephone 020 8871 6016 for an application form.

Building ambitions

More than 1,500 young people from across Wandsworth and Lambeth have been finding out about careers in construction, engineering, design, landscaping and model making through the Nine Elms Education Links programme.

The unique project, run by the council's children's services team, uses the vast regeneration programme going on in Nine Elms as a learning resource and inspiration for local students.

The area's developers, architects and construction contractors have donated thousands of hours to supporting Education Links, which involves high quality work experience placements, career taster sessions, construction site visits and a range of specialist skills workshops linked to the curriculum.

Recent success stories include Osman Butt from Graveney School who has secured an apprenticeship with



Carillion, the contractor building phase one of the Battersea Power Station masterplan.

The Nine Elms development programme is expected to last another fifteen years so will offer a steady stream of careers opportunities long into the future.

Nine Elms Vauxhall 'Careers Expo'

Wandsworth school and college students aged 14 to 18 can find out about career opportunities in Nine Elms at an open day later this month.

When: 9.30am - 12.30pm,
Wednesday 23rd March

Where: South Thames College,
Wandsworth High Street

It's a chance to meet employers, try hands-on skills demonstrations and learn about apprenticeships, traineeships, college courses, graduate schemes, work experience and other ways into work.

Check if your school or college is going

eboorer@wandsworth.gov.uk



Employing a Personal Assistant - Key advantages

- You choose who is supporting you
- We help you to select & employ your PA: All the activities around staff selection advertising/recruitment/ criminal record (DBS) checks and payments are done with the support of our Direct Payment support service partners
- You have complete control over your day to day activities and your support (when / what / who / how often)

For general enquiries about adult social care services contact the council's Access Team:
Phone: 020 8871 7707
Email: acessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/acis

If you have any questions about your direct payment contact the councils Brokerage and Direct Payments Team:
Phone: 020 8871 7676
Email: Mbrokerage@wandsworth.gov.uk





Local heroes

Local residents and Wandsworth charities have been recognised for their community spirit in a string of recent awards ceremonies

Seven unsung local heroes were presented with a 2015 Wandsworth Civic Award, pictured above, which recognise residents who have selflessly volunteered their time.

The one-off Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **William J Gallagher** for his 40 years of tireless work helping develop services for older people and people with disabilities.

Other winners were **Venessa Bobb** for her work for autistic children and their families, **Antony Croker Poole** for crime prevention work, **Alan Housden** who volunteers for many borough organisations, **Peter Ramell** for his work in schools, churches and community groups, **Barbara Ryan** who has raised funds for St George's Hospital and **Sue Yoxall** who helps prevent crimes against the elderly.

People who grow and cook local food to benefit their community were recognised in the inaugural Mayor of Wandsworth's **Grow Wandsworth Awards**. The winners were **Wix's Lane Women's Gardening Group**, **Christchurch CE School**, **Falcon Residents Association**,

The **Wendlesworth Community Garden** and **Tooting Foodival**.

Local groups also benefited from the ongoing **Golden Ticket recycling prize draw**. Two local residents have won the £5k prize so far and have nominated community groups to share an additional £2,500 community prize. They are environmental group **Transition Town Tooting**, **FAST** which helps young people on the Patmore Estate, **Share Community** which works with disabled people, community kitchen **Graveney Canteen**, the **Doris Emerton Court Residents Association** and **Wandsworth Radio**.



Tooting Foodival

Coping with caring

A new free service is offering training to Wandsworth residents caring for a person with dementia. Sessions are available individually and in group workshops. Coping with Caring is funded by the Wandsworth CCG and delivered by MindCare Dementia Support. For more information call [\(020\) 3328 0360](tel:02033280360) or email wandsworth@mindcare.org.uk



Winning picture

The winner of the Wandle photo competition was **Misty Mitcham Common** by **Bill Mudge**. Other winners included this picture of the **Ram Brewery** by **James Stokoe**. The competition was held in all four Wandle boroughs, including Wandsworth, by the **Living Wandle Landscape Partnership**, **Wandle Valley Forum** and **Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust**. The winning picture can be seen on the new **Wandle Valley Regional Park** website at wandlevalleypark.co.uk

Green light for Formula E

Battersea Park will again host the exciting climax to this year's **Formula E** world championships after the organisers were granted planning permission to stage the electric car races in July.

Last year's inaugural weekend of racing attracted more than 55,000 spectators – including 9,000 Wandsworth residents - and saw the final race won by **Sam Bird** from **Roehampton**. Conditions have been imposed to reduce disruption for local residents, especially from noise disturbance, while the construction arrangements have been amended to ensure the event's impact on the park is minimised.

Want a 20mph limit in your street?



Deputy leader of the council and environment spokesman Cllr Jonathan Cook and community services committee chairman Cllr Kim Caddy

Lower speed limits could be introduced in all Wandsworth's residential streets if local people agree.

A borough-wide consultation is asking residents if they support the idea of reducing vehicle speeds in quieter and narrower residential roads. Main roads and arterial routes would not be affected.

Environment spokesman Cllr Jonathan Cook said: "Lower speeds would mean safer streets and quieter streets and

could have a beneficial effect on air quality too.

"A recent study by Imperial College found that many diesel vehicles produce fewer harmful emissions at 20mph than at 30mph while smaller petrol and diesel engines both generate fewer particulates when driven at this lower speed."

"We have already introduced some 20mph limits in places where groups of residents have requested them – but

we think the time is now right to look at this issue on a borough-wide basis. Our view is that these changes can only be effective if they have the active backing of local people and that it would be wrong to change the rules without first asking residents if they agree."

To take part visit

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/20limit or request a copy of the questionnaire from Issac Kwakye, Engineering and Highways, Frogmore Complex, Dormay Street, SW18 1EY.

WANDSWORTH
Wellbeing Hub

NHS
Wandsworth
Clinical Commissioning Group

Not sure where to go for help?

The Wellbeing Hub can put you in touch with organisations, self-help groups and activities available in the local community.

- Local services run by charities and community groups in Wandsworth
- Self-help groups
- Lifestyle services to help you with exercise, your weight or to stop smoking
- Self-management courses run by The Wandsworth Self-Management Service
- Educational courses to help manage your long-term conditions
- Psychological counselling for conditions such as stress, anxiety and depression

Find out more by calling **020 8812 6700** or visit **www.wandsworthccg.nhs.uk/hub**

Wandsworth PPI-Team @NHSWandsworth

Men in the shed

Over 55 and keen to get out the house?

Battersea Men's Shed is a chance to meet like-minded people and work together on projects such as wood-working or furniture restoration.

No skills are necessary because members



learn together and help each other.

The scheme is mainly aimed at men, but women are welcome. It's run out of a specially-created workshop at Dimson Lodge, Battersea Church Road by supported housing services - part of the council's housing community services department

If you want to go ring Geoffrey Cox

☎ (020) 7223 5335 or

email Elaine Curley

✉ ecurley@wandsworth.gov.uk

Help care for borough's trees

The Wandsworth Tree Wardens are local volunteers who promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment through the planting, care, nurture and cultivation of trees throughout the borough. They mainly focus on street trees, but also keep an eye on those in parks and on commons.

Activities over the past year have included planting an oak tree on Wandsworth Common to mark the 40th anniversary of national tree week, helping to brief councillors on the benefits of urban trees and helping to find locations for 220 new trees planted over the winter.

If you would like to find out more or get involved, visit

🌐 wandsworthtreewardens.org

Sick and tired of feeling sick and tired?

Do you have a long-term health condition? Or are you caring for someone with a long-term health condition? Would you like to learn more about how you can manage your health and wellbeing using self-management techniques? If so, why not attend a free self-management course today, provided by your local NHS.

- The Expert Patients Programme (EPP) is a six week self-management course for anyone living with any long-term health condition.
- The New Beginnings (NB) course is based on the EPP and has been specifically adapted for people living with, or who are in recovery from, a mental health condition.
- The Looking After Me (LAM) course is aimed at carers. The course focuses on helping you make time to look after your own health needs.



For more information and advice about all of our FREE courses, please call: 020 8812-6750 or email us on expertpatients@wandsworthccg.nhs.uk
Alternatively visit our website: www.wandsworthccg.nhs.uk/selfmanagement

WANDSWORTH
SELF-MANAGEMENT

NHS
Wandsworth
Clinical Commissioning Group

Get your dog chipped

From next month a new law means that all dogs over six weeks old must be microchipped or their owners could face a fine of up to £500.

Wandsworth has welcomed the news as it has long campaigned for a national microchipping law. In 2009 it made it compulsory for all dogs on its estates to be chipped and registered and has been working closely with the RSPCA and the police. So far 1,518 have been chipped, many of them Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and a further 1,527 have been registered.

The council's dog control team offers a microchipping service. This is free for council tenants and leaseholders, and is offered at a reduced rate for other Wandsworth residents. To book, find out more about dog chipping or discover where else you can get your dog chipped

☎ (020) 8871 7606

✉ dogcontrol@wandsworth.gov.uk

Find out more at

🌐 www.wandsworth.gov.uk/dogchipping

Children's Centre consultation

The council is consulting about proposed changes to its Children's Centres and would like your views.

The proposed changes are set out in the consultation document. Complete it online at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/ccsurvey.

If you would prefer a paper copy please contact (020) 8871 7156 or ask a member of staff at a Children's centre for a copy.

The consultation runs for 12 weeks from 1 March 2016 to 24 May 2016

Thank you for taking part.

Dawn Warwick
Director of Children's Services



healthwatch Wandsworth

“Your local voice
for health and
social care”



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3rd Floor Trident Business Centre
89 Bickersteth Road
London SW17 9SH

+44 (0)20 8516 7767

enquiries@healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk
www.healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk

We are patients, service users and carers who want to improve local services. Get in touch to share your experience of using these services, volunteer with us or join our mailing list.

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🐦 [Twitter.com/hwwands](https://twitter.com/hwwands)



How to shape your borough and get your voice heard

Apply to the Wandsworth Grant Fund

This new scheme offers grants to local community and arts groups and charities. Read more about it on page 23

Take part in a consultation

The council asks local people for their views on many local issues. Most recently this has included potential new cycle quietways and a borough-wide 20mph speed limit. Sign up to the weekly newsletter at wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news to be notified of ongoing consultations or visit wandsworth.gov.uk/consult

Meet your local councillors

There are regular Let's Talk meetings where residents of each ward can discuss local issues with councillors and senior officers. Find out about upcoming meetings at wandsworth.gov.uk/letstalk. Ward councillors also hold weekly surgeries in libraries. Visit wandsworth.gov.uk/councillors

Make a difference

Register to vote

If you want to vote in this year's London mayoral election and the upcoming European referendum you must be registered to vote. It's quick and easy – you can do it in five minutes online at gov.uk/register-to-vote.

The council's particularly keen to get young people signed up – they are the group least likely to be registered. The borough's Youth Council (pictured above) represents the views of young people in Wandsworth, inspecting services and feeding back to councillors.

They are spreading the word to young people around the borough. The council's electoral registration team is also talking to local students to encourage them to sign up, as well as other groups less likely to be registered like people in care homes. Find out more on the opposite page.



ARE YOU READY FOR THE MAYOR AND LONDON ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS?

On Thursday 5 May, voters in Wandsworth will be going to the polls to elect the Mayor of London and Members of the London Assembly.

Many areas of London life are affected by the work of the Mayor of London and the London Assembly, such as policing, transport, housing, planning and the environment.

The referendum on whether or not the UK should remain part of the EU will be held on 23 June.

Residents should check that they have done everything they need to do to make sure they can vote in these important elections

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Only those on the electoral register can vote at an election or referendum.

British, Irish, Commonwealth and European Union citizens over the age of 16 can register.

To register to vote visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

The deadline to register for the Mayor and London Assembly elections is Monday 18 April 2016.

The deadline to register for the European Referendum is Tuesday 7 June 2016.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CANDIDATES?

A booklet with information about the Mayoral election candidates will be delivered to all registered electors in London in mid-April. You will also be able to view it on the London Elects website.

For more information visit
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/vote or
www.londonelects.org.uk

CAN'T GET TO THE POLLING STATION?

Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on polling day.

If you know you won't be able to get to the polling station in person on Thursday 5 May (for example you are going on holiday) you can arrange for a postal or proxy vote.

Postal voting

If you choose to vote by post, your ballot papers will be posted to you in advance of the election.

The earliest you can expect to receive your ballot papers is Thursday 21 April. If you are going away around this time, you should appoint a proxy.

Proxy voting

You can appoint someone you trust to vote on your behalf.

To apply for a postal or proxy vote, visit our website and download an application form.

TIP Send your application back by email to make sure we receive it before the deadline!

Deadline to apply:

- postal vote 5pm on Tuesday 19 April.
- proxy voting 5pm on Tuesday 26 April.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT





Ambitious plans for Tooting Common

Ambitious plans to restore some of Tooting Common's most prominent historic features and breathe new life into this much loved green space have been given the seal of approval by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The council has been awarded just under £1.4m of National Lottery funding as part of a wider £1.9m scheme to revitalise some of the common's best-loved features.

The project will restore ancient habitats and boost biodiversity, while also offering new volunteering opportunities for local people that not only improves the common but gives those who take part useful new job and life skills.

The scheme will see new acid grasslands created and the lake renovated and while the Woodfield Pavilion will be restored to offer toilets and meeting space for local community groups. The cash will also pay for extensive refurbishment work at the lido and restore a unique 1930s drinking fountain (pictured above right).

In addition it could also fund proposals that are currently subject to public consultation, for the removal of the road surface at Dr Johnson Avenue so that it can be returned to the common as part of a tree-lined pedestrian and cycling route.

Local people will be consulted on the future of trees in Chestnut Avenue,

where many of the existing trees have been found to be suffering from bleeding canker - an infectious disease that proves fatal in many cases.

An employment skills and learning project will also be set up to give volunteers accreditation in horticultural and conservation skills.

Environment spokesman Cllr Jonathan Cook said: "We have exciting plans to improve the common and provide a better open space for residents to enjoy. This work will also help make sure that the common's important historical features and its biodiversity are preserved for future generations."

Get free business advice

GLE is offering Wandsworth business people free, informal advice at one-to-one drop-in meetings.

GLE offers small businesses loans backed by Wandsworth Council. Speak to an adviser on every second and fourth Thursday of the month between 2pm and 4pm at Trident Business Centre, Tooting.

Find the most suitable sources of finance for your business, see if you are eligible for up to £70,000 from the Wandsworth Business Loan Fund and help strengthen your business plan. Since 1999 GLE has helped 166 Wandsworth businesses raise finance and UK-wide has helped create more than 11,400 jobs.

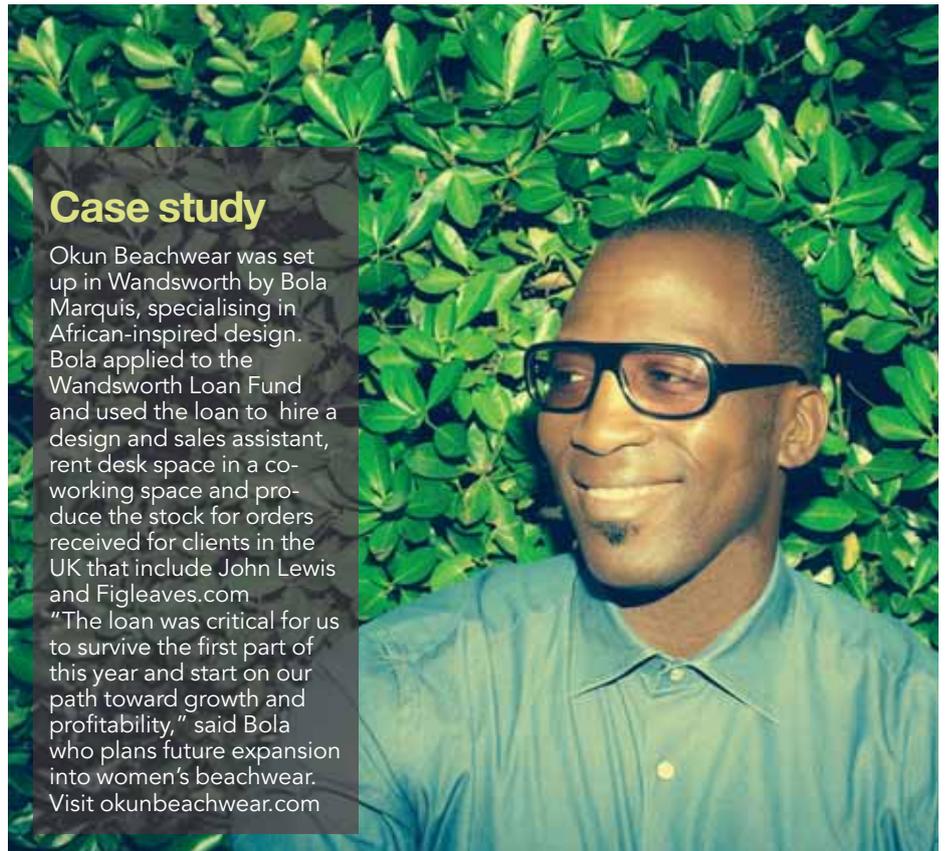
☎ 0845 603 2820

✉ wandsworthloans@gle.co.uk

🌐 bit.ly/wandsworthloans

Find out more about other support for business

🌐 wandsworth.gov.uk/business



Case study

Okun Beachwear was set up in Wandsworth by Bola Marquis, specialising in African-inspired design. Bola applied to the Wandsworth Loan Fund and used the loan to hire a design and sales assistant, rent desk space in a co-working space and produce the stock for orders received for clients in the UK that include John Lewis and Figleaves.com

"The loan was critical for us to survive the first part of this year and start on our path toward growth and profitability," said Bola who plans future expansion into women's beachwear. Visit okunbeachwear.com



Wandsworth Business Loan Fund

Contact us: 0845 603 2820, wandsworthloans@gle.co.uk,
Visit glebusinessloans.co.uk or bit.ly/wandsworthloans

Provided by:
GLE oneLondon

THE BRIGHTER BRIGHTSIDE
Wandsworth

member of
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Regional Growth Fund

Local buyers needed for **200** new shared ownership homes

In the next few months a total of 200 high quality new homes will be offered to local residents to buy on a shared ownership basis.

If you want to buy your first home, but can't afford open market prices, this big increase in supply could be your opportunity to get on the housing ladder.

The new shared ownership flats are located all over the borough, with the majority close to the Thames in Nine Elms, north Battersea.

If you're interested you can check your eligibility with the council's home ownership team or fill out our online enquiry form.

wandsworth.gov.uk/sharedownership

homesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

020 8871 6016



Carter's Yard



Shared Ownership... explained

What is it?

It's a scheme that allows you to buy a share of your home from a housing association and pay rent on the remainder. It makes buying costs much lower.

How does it work?

You buy a share of a home using a combination of your savings and a normal mortgage. You pay rent on the share you don't own and usually a service charge.

Why do it?

You don't need such a big deposit or mortgage. This means people with lower incomes and savings can afford it. It gets you on the housing ladder, so you start to gradually build up equity as you pay off your mortgage.

What if I want to buy more?

You can buy up more of your home over time which means your rent would go down accordingly. If you can afford it you can buy the property outright.

Who is eligible?

Wandsworth residents who don't own a home and earn less than £71,000 a year. You can earn much less than that, but you'll need to prove you can afford all the costs.

What are the upfront costs?

All costs will be explained to you and typically will include a 10 per cent deposit of the share you're buying, moving costs, stamp duty, solicitors' fees, etc. You'll also need to find a mortgage lender that is willing to give you a mortgage.

What are the on-going costs?

You'll need to pay your mortgage, your rent, any service charge and normal household bills.

What if I want to sell?

You can sell at any time and the value of the property will be split between you and the housing association according to how much you both own. Remember the value of housing can go up or down.

What are the risks?

Like all homes, yours could fall in value. If you cannot keep up with your payments you could risk losing your home and your deposit, so it's vital you understand all the costs before you buy.

Show me an example

If a home costs £400,000 you could buy a 25% share for £100,000.

You could use a 10% deposit (£10,000) and a 90% mortgage (£90,000).

You would need to pay monthly rent, service charge and mortgage repayments.

How do I find out more?

Contact Wandsworth Council's home ownership team or visit our website (see opposite).

Case study

“Aveen Kelly, who works for the council, bought a shared ownership home in Tooting last year. She said: “I love my flat and I'd really recommend shared ownership. There's no way I could afford to buy without it.”



Tileman House



FREE ENTRY - FREE ADVICE - FREE TALKS

EMPLOY WANDSWORTH 2016

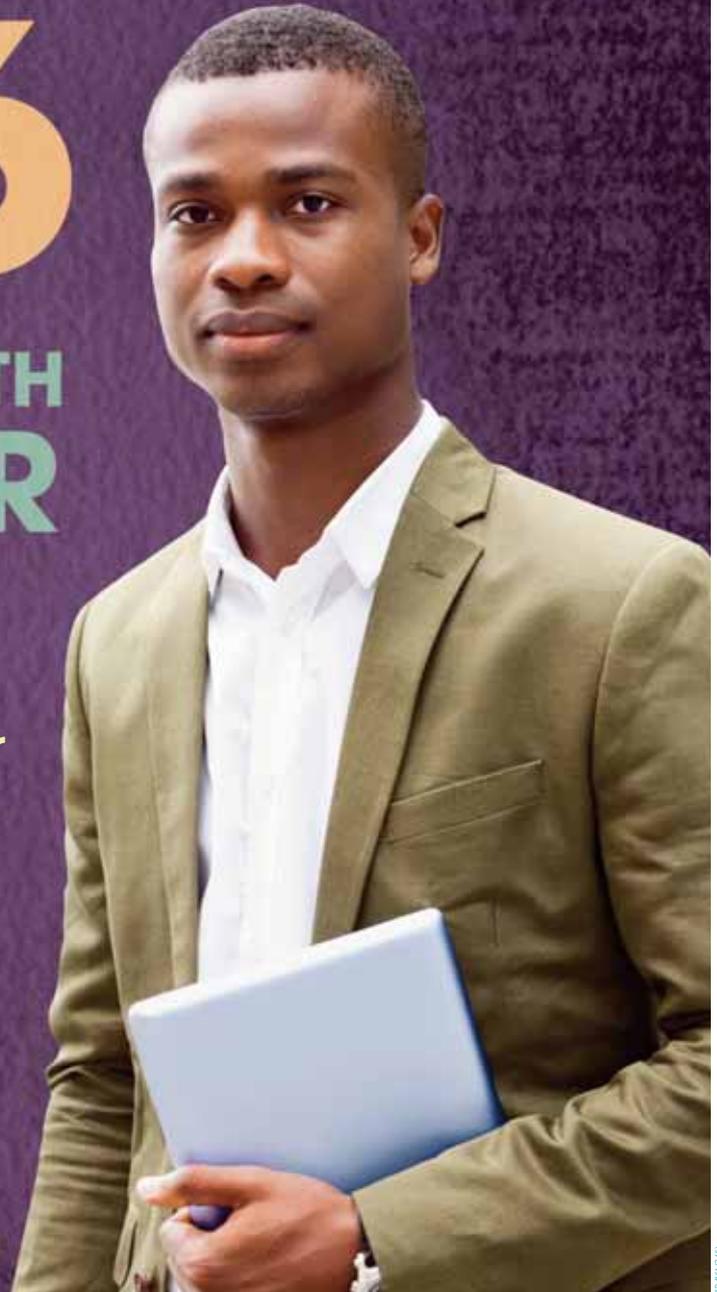
VISIT THE WANDSWORTH
JOBS FAIR

Meet companies offering
hundreds of jobs and career
opportunities at all levels

Friday 22 April 2016
10am-3pm

Civic Suite

Wandsworth High Street London, SW18 2PU



Register at
www.employwandsworth.org





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



Edward secured a role at Astins Dry Lining

400 local jobs and counting

The council's Work Match local recruitment team has now helped more than 400 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!

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. She said "If I had to say three things about the apprenticeship programme I would say it's worthwhile, supportive and life-changing," she said.



Mosaic School

More places and better schools

Parents can now choose from several new or improved schools that opened earlier this year, or plan to open in September.

Floreat in Earlsfield has been officially opened by Secretary of State for Education Nicky Morgan. The school currently has a thriving nursery and two reception classes and will provide places for more than 450 children by 2022.

Oasis Academy Putney will open in September. Once fully occupied, the school will provide places for 420 four to 11 year olds.

St Mary's RC School in Battersea is being totally rebuilt by Taylor Wimpey Central London as part of its Battersea Exchange development.

Pupils are expected to move in from September, with the school remaining open during construction. The new school will be fully open in September 2017 and will increase to

around 480 pupils.

Mosaic School has moved to its new home in Roehampton. The school has two reception classes and has been rated outstanding by Ofsted.

Ofsted's most recent annual report into the quality of schools and teaching in London found that 96 per cent of Wandsworth's primary schools were classed as either good or outstanding. This is the second highest best quality score in London and a two percentage point improvement on the previous year.

At secondary level, the proportion of the borough's schools rated as good or outstanding also improved year on year with a one per cent rise to 94 per cent.

St John Bosco Catholic secondary School has moved to its new site in Battersea and has increased to seven forms of entry.



St Mary's School



Floreat School



Oasis School



Matcha car club launched across Wandsworth

A brand-new car club service called Matcha has been launched across the borough – and Brightside readers can take advantage of a special promotional price.

Matcha has been launched by Ubeeqo, the innovative mobility start-up that delivers transport options for Londoners. The car club offers local people even better access to pay-as-you-go vehicles, with 29 new cars in the borough and plans to increase the local fleet over the course of the year.

The cars can be picked up from on-street locations in Tooting, Battersea, Roehampton, Putney, Southfields, Earlsfield and Wandsworth Common. Subscribers can book the cars by the hour and bookings can be made via an easy-to-use mobile phone app.

It is simple to register either on the website or by downloading the free, commitment-free app. All bookings include 50 miles and fuel for free.

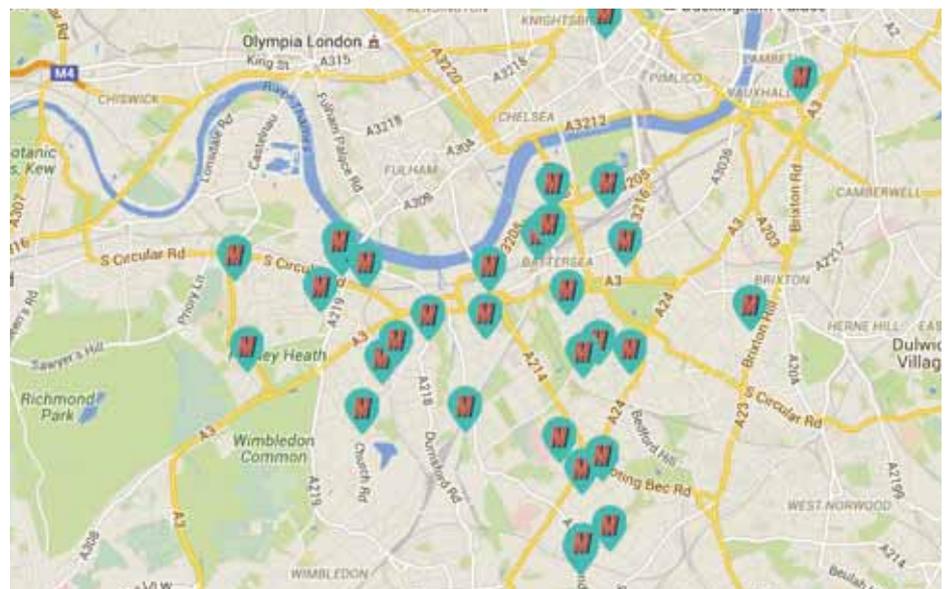
In addition to Matcha car club your free registration with Ubeeqo will also allow you to access additional mobility solutions such as car rental

(Europcar) and taxis.

Wandsworth Council has been supporting the growth of car clubs for the last eight years by providing dedi-

cated on-street parking bays across the borough. Read more at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/carclubs



To take advantage of the special £35 promotional price, register at matcha-europcar.co.uk, choose one of three Matcha offers available and use the promotional code **WANDFREE**.

All change for Garratt Lane

Garratt Lane from Earlsfield to Wandsworth is fast becoming a regeneration hotspot with new homes, shops and a brand new primary school making the area one of London's most sought after districts.

In Earlsfield

The train station has been revamped and given a new entrance to reduce passenger congestion

The council is looking at replacing the ageing Brocklebank medical centre in Garratt Lane with a fully updated, bigger, GP-led community healthcare facility. A new 420 pupil primary school – Floreat Academy – has been built (see p20) as well as its neighbouring 50 place nursery

There are plans to build 160 new homes on council-owned 'brownfield' sites fronting Atheldene Road, Wilna Road and Waverton Road.

In Wandsworth

Further north towards Wandsworth the vacant 1960s tower block which formerly housed the council's housing department will be part of a major new regeneration scheme in partnership with South Thames College, providing 200 new homes, a better library, new shops and improved teaching facilities for the college.

A new state-of-the-art library will open out onto a new public square with seating and a play space for under fives, while new pedestrian routes will provide better links between the Old Burial Ground, Garratt Lane and the high street. Further investment will see the installation of public art, landscaping and seating in the burial ground.

A quarter of the 200 new homes are to be offered to eligible local residents to rent or buy at a discounted rate. Meanwhile major improvements to Southside Shopping Centre are now almost complete.

Leader of the council Ravi Govindia said: "These schemes represent one of the biggest regeneration projects in London with well over £1bn of new investment flowing through the area. Hundreds of new jobs and homes are being created here alongside major improvements to the local environment."





Cash for community projects

A string of local project has been awarded a share of more than £188,000 from the Wandsworth Grant Fund.

Forty-four arts groups, community projects, charities and local organisations have received a grant in the second round of funding under the grant scheme, launched last April. This follows the 28 local projects which shared a total of £179,405 in the first round last summer.

The new fund has streamlined the way the council allocates small grants. Just one team now manages the administration of various different grants that were previously overseen by several council departments, including funding towards the Wandsworth Arts Fringe.

Read more at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/wgcf

Successful applicants included:

Fearless - the youth service of the Crimestoppers Trust. This programme is new to Wandsworth and aims to educate and empower 11-16 year olds by increasing their awareness around crime, and in particular the issue of weapon crime.

Share Community's 'Yes Chef!' project recruits and trains young people aged 18-25 with mild to moderate disabilities in catering skills and employability.

Puppets with Guts will use its interactive puppet spectacle 'Citizen Squid', (pictured above) based around ideas of compassion and displacement, as a starting point to work with 10-11 years olds from the Queenstown & Patmore Estate area.

CARAS youth club (pictured right) provides social, emotional and practical support to refugees and asylum seekers in Wandsworth. Young people aged 11-19 can relax, make friends, have homework help, cook and eat together in a safe, welcoming place where they can feel a sense of belonging in their new community.

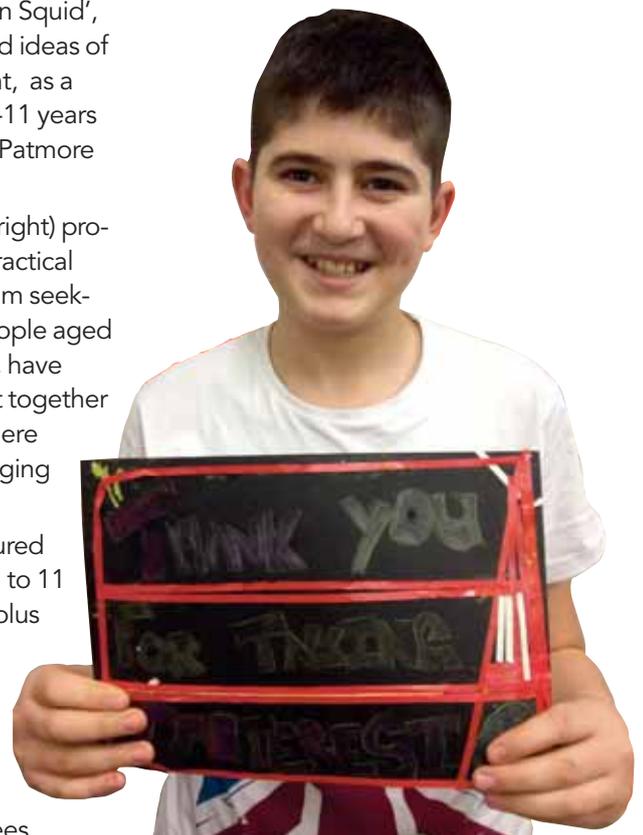
The Mini Cooking Club (pictured above right) is teaching seven to 11 year olds basic cooking skills plus kitchen hygiene, safety and nutrition and healthy eating.

Other projects and groups getting significant amounts of funding include:

Community Action for Refugees



and Asylum Seekers, Chelsea FC Foundation, Business Launchpad, Paul's Cancer Support Centre, Dolphin Special Needs Swimming Club, Future Skills Training and Emergency Exit Arts.



Telephone Scams

Protect your **bank** and **credit card** details.

Telephone scams are on the increase in Wandsworth.

Don't become a victim

A typical phone call goes like this:

- The criminal (who maybe a man or woman) may cold call you on the phone claiming to be from your bank, the police or a well known store.
- They claim that your bank card has been used fraudulently and needs replacing or someone has been arrested using your details and card.
- They may ask you to give them your PIN number or type it in on the phone keypad.
- They may suggest you hang up and phone the number on the back of your card or phone the Police. Don't be fooled into doing this. The criminals keep the line open at the other end so you are still talking to them!
- Finally they send a courier or mini cab to collect your card.

- Your bank will **NEVER** ask you for this sort of information especially your PIN number.
- Your bank or the police will never send a courier or mini cab to collect your card.
- If you receive one of these calls put the phone down straight away and call the Police and report it from **ANOTHER** phone or wait 10 minutes before using your phone.
- **IF YOU HAVE BEEN A VICTIM REPORT IT TO YOUR LOCAL POLICE.**

Be very careful if you get one of these calls.

If you would like more information call **101**





Get control of your health

Middle aged and feeling it? Wandsworth is supporting a new national campaign to help people take control of their health.

One You is about looking at all the different parts of your life and making the small changes that can add up to a real difference. Making better choices today can have a huge influence on our health, could prevent conditions like type 2 diabetes, cancer and heart disease, and reduce the risk of suffering a stroke or living with dementia, disability and frailty in later life.

That's easier said than done, which is why there's support out there in Wandsworth to help you stay positive and fight back.

Get moving – find out about the ways you can move more in your daily life. You don't need to be a fitness fanatic – just get off the sofa more.

Eat better – get tips on how to tweak your diet to be healthier.

Be smoke free – there's plenty of support available here in Wandsworth to help you quit.

Drink less – advice and support on cutting down on the booze.

Sleep sounder – many people struggle to sleep all night as they get older, but it can make a real difference to your mood and health. Get simple tips on how to sleep better.

Stress less – simple techniques can help you cope with everyday stress.

Get checked – Checking your body's most important systems are all running smoothly is a great place to start. Ask your GP if you are eligible for a free NHS Health Check.



I decided to go to the council's Get to Know Cancer pop-up shop for a general check-up and chat. I'm glad I did because they quickly saw my blood sugar was too high to read, and I was taken straight to hospital. I would urge everyone to keep an eye on their health.



Wandsworth resident in her 40s

How are you? Take the five minute quiz

The How Are You online quiz is available on the council's One You pages, and on the national website. See how your health is now, make a few changes and check again to see if what you are doing is working.

Find out more about One You and the support available in Wandsworth at [wandsworth.gov.uk/oneyou](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/oneyou)

YOUR CHANCE
TO WIN
£5,000

when you
RECYCLE RIGHT
IN THE
Golden Ticket
Recycling Prize Draw



To enter the **£5,000 Golden Ticket** prize draw, just fill out a Golden Ticket and pop it in your clear recycling sack or bank along with the clean and dry items listed opposite.

You can submit a Golden Ticket each time you fill a clear sack or use your recycling bank. But remember, only tickets found with the correct recycling items at the recycling plant will be entered into a draw. So the more you recycle the correct materials, the more chance you have of winning. The winner will also be invited to nominate up to five local community groups* to receive a share of a £2,500 community reward.

If you have run out of Golden Tickets you can collect more from your local library or leisure centre, the council's Customer Centre at the Town Hall, or from Housing and Community Services reception in Putney Bridge Road. Or visit wrwa.gov.uk/GoldenTicket to print your own.

The next draw will take place on 31 March 2016.

Good Luck!



*Community groups must meet the competition criteria and register in advance, making a commitment to encourage recycling.



For more details visit
wrwa.gov.uk/GoldenTicket



what's on?

EVENTS FOR MARCH
TO MAY 2016

Wandsworth Fringe 2015 photograph by Deborah Jaffe



How to be listed

Send details (including access for people with disabilities) by end of April to:

whatson@enablelc.org

We cannot guarantee that your entry will be inserted.

This is a free service.

The information in this guide has been provided by the

advertisers themselves. Wandsworth Council and Enable accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or for any event not organised by the council or Enable.

What's On is compiled by Enable leisure and culture, a public service mutual organisation.

enable
leisure & culture

Children's events outlined in yellow

May 6-22

Wandsworth Fringe

The Fringe is back! Street performances, family workshops, exhibitions, music and dance – there'll be an incredible 110 live performances and events led by dynamic artists – local and national – right on your doorstep.

Highlights include: a medieval puppet show based on Chaucer in Heathbrook Park, a Russian holiday home installation at The Bedford in Balham, a curated night-time trail for adults around Nine Elms and Silvia Ziranek will be artist-in-residence for a day at Oasis charity shop in Tooting. Kids can feed the dinosaur in Roehampton, get hands-on at making Jack and the Beanstalk masks and enjoy kids shows 'Milkshake' and 'Little Folk', both at The Bedford in Balham.

Boroughwide. <http://wandsworthfringe.com> and tweet @wworthfringe #wafchat

Thursday March 10 1-4pm

Dementia and stroke care support event

The meeting will be of special interest to self help groups, voluntary sector organisations, individuals and professionals. Includes a workshop about understanding dementia and a presentation by the Stroke Association on prevention and awareness. Penfold Community Centre SW18. More info www.life-times.org.uk Bookings: www.eventbrite.co.uk

Saturday March 12 1.30-5.30pm

Science Family Fun Day

Get wet in a water or bubbles show from Science Made Simple, try hands-on experiments, Colour Magic Trail, Family Engineering Challenge and make something to take away. Aimed at families with children aged 3-11, **entry £3 per child, £2.50 for siblings, free for adults.** Supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry. John Burns Primary School, Wycliffe Road SW11.

Sunday March 13 11.30am-3.30pm

Sunday social: cut and paste

Family workshop complementing the current exhibition at the gallery. Create cardboard sets and make costumes. Children must be with an adult. Free, no need to book. Pump House Gallery, Battersea Park SW11. www.pumphousegallery.org.uk or 8871 7572.

Tuesday March 15 4.30-6pm

Junior badminton club
Improve your technique and your game, with an

England badminton level 2 coach. For young people 11-17 years – all abilities. **£3 a session.** Classes every Tuesday, term time only. Burntwood Academy, Burntwood Lane SW17. More information and to book contact Anne-Marie 8871 8386.

Thursday March 17 7-11pm

Flamenco night

Live music and teacher-led dancing on the 3rd Thursday of the month. **£8.** Ask about tango and salsa nights. Battersea Barge, Nine

what's on?

EVENTS FOR MARCH
TO MAY 2016

Elms SW8. www.batterseaspanish.com

**Saturday March 19
7.30pm**

Spring concert

Programme: Rimsky-Korsakov, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. **Tickets £12, concessions £8, children under 16 free – book tickets through WSO website.**

Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra (WSO) at St Barnabus Church, Southfields SW18. www.wandsworthsymphony.org

**Saturday March 19
7.30pm**

French sacred music

Programme includes Faure, Durufle and Vierne. **Admission £12, concessions £10, free for under 15s.**

South West London Choral Society at St Anne's Church, St Ann's Hill SW18. Tickets from www.swlcs.org.uk or 07914 807055.



Go Ape

Treetop fun for adults and children Battersea Park SW11. www.goape.co.uk

**Monday March 21
8-10pm**

Lord and Lady of the Ring

David Cairns closes the season with a portrait of two great Wagnerian opera singers – the soprano Frida Leider and the tenor Jon Vickers, who died in July 2015.

Members and young people free; visitors £5 Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, SW15 1BL.

www.putneymusic.org.uk

**Saturday March 26
1-5pm**

Table top sale

Table hire £10. Penfold Centre 1 Neville Gill Close SW18. Call 07538713409.

**Wednesday March 30
6pm**

Talk: Hats, Huguenots and High Street fashion

Join us for this talk, inspired by the incredible

history of our building and local area, from radical politics to art and architecture. Featuring two visiting speakers. Free but booking recommended. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill SW11. www.bac.org.uk/town-halltalks Box office 7223 2223

**Ends March 30
9.30am-6pm Monday-Friday**

Exhibition: Aura – Lella Russo

Russo is a transformative artist whose work takes an investigative pathway much like the best jazz improvisations. Her inspiration is intertwined with a deep empathy and love for jazz. **Free.** Maestro Arts, 1 Eastfields Avenue SW18.

Friday April 1 8pm

Talk: X-ray investigations into the impact of industrialization on London health

With speaker Jelena Bekvalac, Museum of London. Wandsworth Historical Society, Friends Meeting House, 59 Wandsworth High Street, SW18. Call 8874 6341. www.wandsworthhistory.org.uk

**Wednesday 6 April
2-6pm**

Mixology Workshop for children

Children will create their own smoothie/juice and design a name and label for it. Dance Grooves will play tons of high energy themed dance games and there will be a very fruity, funky disco. Between 5 - 6 pm is 1 hour of free play for kids supervised by their parents. **£25 for 1 child, £45 for 2 children, £60 for 3 children.** For children aged 5 - 12 years. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

For more information, including venue, and to book contact

Community Health & Happiness Fair
"Mind, Body & Soul"
Saturday 19th March 11am-3pm
FREE food & entertainment for ALL ages
Mental health activities & performances
Health checks & information
Katherine Low Settlement
108 Battersea High Street
SW11 3HP
www.klsettlement.org.uk

All Welcome: ବରଦେବତା, Betavendo, بخير, Merhaba, آمينيد خوش
جمع مرجعا بكم, Bienvenue, سب کا خير مقدم, Soo dhrwaq, Ben-rhdo

Saturday March 19 11am-3pm

Community Health & Happiness Fair 'Mind, Body & Soul'

Offering a range of physical and mental health checks and activities. And for the public "patients" to give feedback about how to make best use of these services. Food, entertainment and activities for children. **Free** Katherine Low Settlement, Battersea High Street, SW11. www.klsettlement.org.uk

emily@dancegrooves.dance or call 07956 235 248.

Ends April 3, opening times Wed-Sun 11am-4pm

Exhibition: Progress Report from the Strategic Sanctuary for the Destruction of Free Will

Artists Pil and Galia Kollektiv will transform the gallery into a makeshift film set. **Free entry.** Pump House Gallery, Battersea Park SW11. www.pumphouse-gallery.org.uk or 8871 7572.

Saturday April 9

Arts Easter workshop Workshop and performances and a display of artwork created by Pencil



March 25-28 10am-5.30pm

Easter egg trail

Bu a quiz sheet to help you find out which animal has the Easter eggs. **Entry fee £6.95 child (2-15 years), £8.95 adult, £29 family ticket. Quiz sheet £1.50.**

Children's Zoo, Battersea Park, SW11. Call 7924 5826 www.batterseapark-zoo.co.uk

Wheelchair

& Help, CoDa Dance and you!
Southside Shopping Centre, Wandsworth High Street SW18. More information, including times www.pumphousegallery.org.uk

From Monday April 11

Art and design summer term

Myriad art and design classes ranging from pottery to book illustration to life drawing. Join us for summer term or try a taster session before committing. Classes are popular so book early Putney School of Art and Design, Oxford Road SW15. Call 8788 9145. Enrol www.webenrol.com/PSAD

Tuesday April 12 – Tuesday May 24

Tennis courses for young people

Improve tennis skills and develop coordination while having fun. 4-6 years – 4-5pm; 7-9 years – 5-6pm; 10-14 years – 6-7pm. **Cost £45.50.** Furzedown Recreation Centre, Ramsdale Road SW17. Call 8767 6542 or 8871 7171.

Thursday April 14 7.30pm

London election hustings

With candidates for the Merton and Wandsworth constituency. **Free.** St Anne's Church, 182 St Ann's Hill, SW18 2RS. Call 8870 4567. www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk

Wednesdays 20, 27 April, 4, 11, 18 May 5.30-8.30pm

Beginner's bicycle maintenance class

Wandsworth residents 16 years+ can learn how to keep their own bicycle in good working order between services at one of these classes. These relaxed and friendly classes are for beginners who have no experience in maintaining a bicycle. Bring your own bike. Email transportation@wandsworth.gov.uk with your name, mobile number and postcode to book. Venue will be given after booking.

Thursday May 12 7.45 for 8pm

Elephant Complex – travels in Sri Lanka

Illustrated talk by local author and traveller John



Monday May 9 7.45 for 8pm

The Art of the Japanese Garden

Lecturer: Professor Marie Conte-Helm. This will introduce some of Japan's most famous gardens and provides a context for understanding the principles of Japanese garden design as it has evolved through the ages. **Tickets at the door £7 (members free).** South West London Decorative Fine Arts Society, Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, Upper Richmond Road, SW15 swldfas.org.uk/

Wheelchair

Gimlette. Wandsworth Society, West Side Church, Melody Road, SW18 2QQ. Call 8870 4567. www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk

Sunday May 22 11am-5pm

Annual summer street party

Come and celebrate with face painting, sugar craft model making, balloon making, entertainers, local singers, local bands, independent stalls selling individually designed, hand-made clothing, furniture and art to delicious baked, barbecued and toasted foods and drinks to try and buy. Ritherdon Road Balham SW17 8QD

May 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19 7.30pm

Black Shuck

Ruminating on the local myth of ghostly dog Black Shuck, two (inept) would-be smugglers await a shipment on the Norfolk Coast. Join us, where comedy meets horror in this hour-long new play by Duncan Hands. Part of Wandsworth Arts Fringe 2016. **Tickets: £12/10.** The Bedford, Balham,



April 19 – July 26 12-2pm (open from 11am for social)

Social dance class

Dancing for beginners and improvers, tea and cake. For people aged 60 and over – no dance partner required. **Cost £1 a class.** Booking recommended. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill SW11. www.bac.org.uk

SW12 . www.blackshawonline.com

4567. www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk

Thursday June 9 7.45 for 8pm

Talk: Making records in Earlsfield - the Columbia Graphophone Company

Illustrated by early 20th century recordings and local film. With Dr Tom Going. Part of Wandsworth Heritage Festival. Wandsworth Society, West Side Church, Melody Road SW18 2QQ. Call 8870

Tuesday May 31 – Friday June 3

Tennis camp

This half-term, enjoy developing skills and learn to play and compete at tennis. 4-6 years – 10-11am and 11am-12pm (**cost £26**); 7-9 years – 12-1.30pm (**cost £39**); 10-14 years 1.30-3pm (**cost £39**). Furzedown Recreation Centre, Ramsdale Road SW17. Call 8767 6542 or 8871 7171.



Sunday April 3 12pm - 6pm

Putney Pier Art Market

Mix of artists and makers showing and selling fine art paintings, prints and illustrations, photography, pottery, jewellery, sculpture, textiles and more. First Sunday of month. Plus new antiques and vintage march on the 3rd Sunday if each month in Church Square, Putney. Putney Embankment SW15 1LB. Follow us on: [facebook.com/artonputneyembankment](https://www.facebook.com/artonputneyembankment) Twitter: @pierartputney

Doing it online

Using our website helps keep your council tax bills low

Pay your council tax

wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax

Pay a parking fine

wandsworth.gov.uk/parking/payment

Apply for a parking permit/parking

wandsworth.gov.uk/parking/permits

Join the e-library

wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries

Search planning applications

wandsworth.gov.uk/planningregister

Check your refuse collection day

wandsworth.gov.uk/collectionday

Request a housing repair

wandsworth.gov.uk/housingonline

Check local roadworks

wandsworth.gov.uk/roadworks

Report a pothole

wandsworth.gov.uk/potholes

Pay your rent

wandsworth.gov.uk/rents

Talk to us online



weekly e-newsletter

wandsworth.gov.uk/24seven



facebook.com/wandsworth.council



twitter.com/wandbc



youtube.com/WandsworthBC

Other contacts at the council

Adult Care Information Service

(020) 8871 7707

accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

wandsworth.gov.uk/acis

Benefits Service

(020) 8871 8080

benefits@wandsworth.gov.uk

Carers information and support Wandsworth

Carers Centre

(020) 8877 1200

info@wandsworthcarers.org.uk

Children's Social Work Service

(020) 8871 6622

cssduty@wandsworth.gov.uk

Consumer Protection

(020) 8871 7720

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Community Care Services

(020) 8871 7707

accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Council Tax

(020) 8871 8081

counciltax@wandsworth.gov.uk

Education

(020) 8871 8013

edadmin@wandsworth.gov.uk

Electoral Services

(020) 8871 6023

electoral@wandsworth.gov.uk

Environmental Services

(020) 8871 6127

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Family Information Service

- including Nurseries

(020) 8871 7899

fis@wandsworth.gov.uk

Food Hygiene

(020) 8871 6139

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Fraud Hotline

0800 783 2263 (freephone)

fraudhotline@wandsworth.gov.uk

gov.uk

Graffiti Removal

(020) 8871 7049

graffiti@wandsworth.gov.uk

Home Ownership

(020) 8871 6016

housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

Housing Advice

(020) 8871 6840

housingadvice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Housing Repairs and Tenancy

Call your area team or management organisation

hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

Leisure Centres & sports

facilities

(020) 8871 8154

sportsservices@wandsworth.gov.uk

gov.uk

Libraries

wandsworth.libraries@gll.org

Neighbourhood Watch

(020) 8871 7696

watchlinkmanager@wandsworth.gov.uk

gov.uk

Noise Complaints

- council properties

(020) 8871 7490

hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

Private properties

(020) 8871 7869

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Parking

(020) 8871 8871

parking@wandsworth.gov.uk

Parks

(020) 8871 7530

parks@wandsworth.gov.uk

Rent collection Service

(020) 8871 8987

rents@wandsworth.gov.uk

Rubbish, Recycling and Litter

(020) 8871 8558

wasteservices@wandsworth.gov.uk

gov.uk

Births, Deaths, Weddings

and Civil Partnerships

(020) 8871 6120

registeroffice@wandsworth.gov.uk

gov.uk

Youth Clubs

(020) 8871 7553

youthservice@wandsworth.gov.uk

gov.uk

Tell us what you think

You can post comments on all our news stories wandsworth.gov.uk/news

Make a complaint or comment on a council service wandsworth.gov.uk/commentsandcomplaints

Come to a Let's Talk meeting wandsworth.gov.uk/letstalk

Contact your local councillor wandsworth.gov.uk/councillors

Have your say online consultations wandsworth.gov.uk/consult

Worried about money?

Here's how you can get help

The council's financial advice team helps people at risk of falling into debt with advice on benefits, free guidance on making your money go further and tips on how to reduce energy bills. Contact them on 020 8871 8780.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) run a free debt help service and money management courses, including fortnightly drop-in in Battersea. Call free on 0800 328 0006.

The Wandsworth Plus Credit Union has teamed up with the council to offer local people ethical and affordable savings and loans.

Debt advice is available from Citizens Advice Wandsworth.

www.wandsworthcabx.org.uk

Simon's story

When Simon (not his real name) was diagnosed with sleep apnoea – a condition that severely disrupts sleep – he had to give up a well paying job and switch to disability living allowance. But the transition was difficult and at first he carried on spending as he had always done.



“But when my savings ran out, I turned to a payday lender,” Jeffrey says. “That was the worst mistake I have ever made. The interest rates were ridiculous - in the end, I was handing over almost all my benefits just to service my debt.”

He approached the Wandsworth Plus Credit Union and sat down with an advisor to go through his options. “Now I have a plan with them, where I pay back what I owe at a rate I can afford. What's good, too, is that I pay an extra £20 a month into a savings account. That's really useful when it comes to my children's birthdays and Christmas.

Call the credit union on (020) 7471 2620 to see how they could help you or visit www.wandsworthpluscu.co.uk



Prescriptions: Don't Get Fined for Not Paying

If you have a medical exemption certificate that allows you free prescriptions, it's time to check that it's still valid. Otherwise you run the risk of a fine up to £100.

People with some long-term health conditions like diabetes can have free prescriptions if they have a valid medical exemption certificate. Until recently pharmacists have relied on patients' honesty if they couldn't produce a certificate.

As many as 30 million prescription items, worth about £237 million, are incorrectly claimed every year, so the Department of Health has changed the system and will now be checking more rigorously. As a result some people have been fined and had to pay the prescription charge as well. They didn't

realise the certificate could expire or that they were supposed to show it every time.

Free prescriptions are not for life

Patients may have been told some years ago that they were exempt for life. However, since 2002 a medical exemption certificate is only valid for five years or until the age of 60 (when everyone can have free prescriptions). Patients should receive a reminder letter, but even if it doesn't arrive they are personally responsible for making sure the certificate is valid.

There is now some good news if you've slipped up. After a bit of unfavourable publicity about the changes, the system



has been slightly relaxed. If you do get a penalty charge, apply for a medical exemption certificate within 60 days; if this is awarded the charge will be waived.

If your certificate needs to be renewed, ask your GP for form FP92A. If you need a prescription before the certificate arrives, you may be able to claim a refund. Ask the pharmacist for an FP57 form when you pay for the medicine; you cannot get one later.

www.wandsworthcabx.org.uk

*Citizens Advice Wandsworth has moved to Battersea Library, Lavender Hill and now has longer opening hours. The Roehampton office is also open longer. The service at Tooting Library is unchanged. See the website for more details.

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