

Summer 2021

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LTON

Issue 29

# BESSBOROUGH ROAD

ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY SHED REOPENS

# CHELSEA KICKS

### ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY WEEK NEARLY HERE





This newsletter is produced by Wandsworth Council to help keep you informed about th<mark>e regeneration of your</mark> estate

# FIRST BLOCK AT BESSBOROUGH ROAD ALMOST COMPLETE

Work is nearing completion on the site at Bessborough Road



The development provides the first contemporary, new homes for 10 families in the first phase of the Alton regeneration scheme.

Residents will enjoy their own private garden or balcony and will have access to on-site parking, bicycle storage and a secure communal garden. Prospective residents also had the opportunity to choose the flooring and colour palettes for their new homes. All the properties are fully adaptable to meet the mobility needs of residents, whilst one of the maisonettes has been designed specifically to meet the requirements of wheelchair users.

The development, which is expected to be completed later this Summer, will also provide new homes for birds and bats, as nesting and roosting boxes have been incorporated into the structure of the building.





Local residents, shoppers and visitors to the area have also enjoyed improvements to the paving and landscaping on the retail parade at Petersfield Rise, which have been completed as part of the Bessborough Road development works. Finance Director

of Heanens Wholesale Meats on Petersfield Rise, Hayden Harbud, says: "In over 25 years of staring out of our window and looking at a rundown area of the estate, we finally have something very eye catching, welcoming, clean and modern to look at. It has brought life into an area, that the shops and community will thrive on."

## PLAYSCHOOL 'LENDS A HAND' AT FONTLEY WAY

Community playschool gets it's hands dirty!

Children from the neighbouring Alton Community Playschool had 'a hand' in creating the colourful design for a vibrant new hoarding installed around the regeneration development site at Fontley Way.

The children, aged between two and four, spent a fun, messy morning painting handprints which were incorporated in the final design of the hoarding which spans 40 metres (as seen on the front cover of this publication). The children's artwork will enhance the area prior to and during construction and is part of the project team's work to involve the community with the project.

The site, which was previously the home of the One O'Clock Club, has been boarded up whilst work on the plans for the development of 14 new affordable homes progresses. Planning permission was obtained in September 2020. A series of site investigations have recently been undertaken and are another step towards finalising the building and landscaping designs before the appointment of a contractor, which will lead to the start of construction.





Just for fun answers: (left to right: lampost light, yellow lines, aeroplane, satellite dish, road sign, lampost sign, balcony colour, bollard, tree branch, building.



# ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY SHED REOPENS IN NEW HOME AT PORTSWOOD PLACE!

#### Roehampton Shed re-commencing woodwork projects in the community

Work is now complete on converting a vacant retail unit at 5 Portswood Place into a temporary workshop to enable Roehampton Shed to re-commence woodwork projects in the local community.

The Regeneration Team first identified the opportunity to assist this valued community group to recommence their activity more quickly and safely in these larger premises following a discussion at the Roehampton Response Network, where the Shed Team described the obstacles they faced in returning to work in accordance with social distancing guidelines in their previous venue.



Following a lengthy planning application process for the change of use of the premises from a takeaway to local community use, and some DIY work by the Shed team, Age UK and the council to strip out and redecorate the unit; the new woodwork studio is now commencing activity. In accordance with current social distancing guidelines, the workstations have been positioned 2 meters apart and can accommodate 6 members plus 2 supervisors; however, the team hope to be able to welcome in a few extra people as regulations ease. The Shed is initially open one day a week, but this could increase based on demand.

The space will enable Roehampton Shed to continue to collaborate with groups on community projects across Roehampton, including on projects to enhance outdoor spaces on the estates and connect residents with nature. The team are currently restoring planters for the Lennox Community Centre and are making hedgehog homes for SW15 Hedgehogs. Upscaling, recycling and repairing items is at the heart of the Roehampton Shed's activities and the team regularly restore furniture for the Oasis charity shop. They have also been approached by the physiotherapy department at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, to refurbish and repair physiotherapy exercise equipment. The Christmas tree which adorned Danebury Avenue last Christmas and was donated to the Shed by the council has now been transformed into an insect hotel. The team have



also taken pride in building and maintaining planters outside their unit in Portswood Place; providing a more pleasant environment for local shoppers.

The four volunteer supervisors (who form the Roehampton Shed Management Committee along with a representative from Age UK) possess a wide range of practical skills, as well as training in first aid, mental health first aid, safeguarding vulnerable adults, and fire safety. Members receive safety training and training in the use of the equipment.

Philip Benton from the Management Committee said: "The new premises have transformed the offer of the Shed. The larger space and better configuration massively expand the opportunities of what we can do. Our vision for the longterm is to create a whole repair shop movement – showing people how to make and mend things themselves."

Another Management Committee member, lori Harries, reported feeling optimistic about being able to support the community after the pandemic from the Shed's new location, and described the interest that it has already received from passers-by.

Roehampton Shed follows the aspirations of the international Men's Shed movement and predominantly provides a relaxed and creative space where members can socialise and have fun, whilst engaging in practical projects that support the local community. The Roehampton Shed is supported by the charity Age UK, and includes younger members as well as women amongst its 15 plus membership. For information about becoming a member or partnering with the Shed team on a community project, contact Anthony Simmons from Age UK at Anthony.Simmons@AgeUKwandsworth.org.uk



Together with neighbouring 6 Portswood Place, these two units have been allocated for arts and cultural uses. These meanwhile uses will provide community benefits and also increase activity at Portswood Place before the parade of shops that they sit within is demolished as part of the Alton Regeneration scheme.

# ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY WEEK IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Running between Monday 5th and Sunday 11th July 2021, Roehampton Community Week is a series of exciting, collaborative activities, aimed at residents of Roehampton and West Putney, delivered by the community, for the community.

The idea of Roehampton Community Week was conceived after discussions within the Roehampton Response Network, a group of over 70 community stakeholders, including 8 different council teams, originally assembled in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whilst there have been festivals held in Roehampton before, there's been nothing quite like Roehampton Community Week. This is envisioned to be an opportunity for local residents and organisations to get out and come together, after the constraints and isolation of lockdown.

We spoke to two of the key founders of the initiative, Michael Hill of Rackets Cubed and Jonathan Palma of Citizens Advice Wandsworth, to find out a bit more.

Jonathan believes the event will "showcase Roehampton". They both hope that activities during Roehampton Community Week will empower, educate and encourage individuals as well as build new and strengthen existing relationships between communities and organisations. Michael and Jonathan anticipate it could become an annual occurrence.

Funding for the activities on offer has come from a number of generous donors. Michael told us that local groups have made not only substantial monetary contributions but have offered their time, labour and space. Support includes use of theatre facilities for performances and volunteers to help with litter-picking.

Michael explained that the event will be "energising" and a brilliant example of what can be accomplished when politics are put aside and the local council is actively involved. He summarised that "working together, achieves more". Jonathan anticipates Roehampton Community Week being a "win, win for everyone". On summing up the objectives of the event, he believes "communities create change".

It sounds like teamwork really can make the dreamwork! There's only one way to find out, get involved... contact Michael, Jonathan and the team on 07498 455 076 or check out the website **roehamptoncommunityweek.com** for more details.



#### **ALTON POP UP - A PANEL OF ART** *Turning drab into fab!*

Lynne Capocciama, the founder of Estate Art SW15, was gifted over 20 large wooden boards, from one of the Council's major works contractors. These boards, usually used as backing to glass windows in disused buildings, would otherwise have ended up in landfill.

Lynne will recycle the boards, priming them to use as canvases. They'll be distributed to local professional and amateur artists and schools to decorate. Estate Art SW15 encourage cultural diversity, engaging in local arts initiatives and giving artists the confidence to display their talent.

Jo Baxter, our Community Engagement and Cultural Coordinator, has organised hoardings around the former Co-op site, at the entrance of Danebury Avenue. These will be painted white to mimic the appearance of a gallery wall. The adorned boards, created for Estate Art SW15, will then be professionally and securely hung on the hoarding to create a massive outdoor gallery, open to all, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, come rain or shine.

The gallery will be unveiled on Monday 5th July 2021, to coincide with the start of Roehampton Community Week. A concert is planned to mark the opening.

'Alton Pop Up - A Panel of Art' will give all residents and visitors access to art, that may traditionally be housed in museums and galleries. The gallery will provide an injection of colour and vibrancy, and we hope it may spark the creativity and imagination of other aspiring artists.



#### HERE IS HOME

A creative community project for Alton Estate residents

Director and theatre-maker, Gemma Kerr, runs free workshops, exploring the stories of local residents through art and performance, sharing what makes Roehampton home for those that live here.

Gemma is planning to hold afternoon workshops during Roehampton Community Week, on Monday 5th and Saturday 10th July 2021. They will be drop-in sessions, so anyone can come along for a little bit or for the whole time. Run in conjunction with Estate Art SW15, there will be a range of activities on offer, around the theme of community, identity and wellbeing. These will range from adding personal memories and experiences to a map of the estate, envisaging hopes for the future of the estate and creating personal guided tours of the area, amongst others. Complimentary materials and refreshments will be provided to participants.

### PLANT & GROW

Creating a greener future for Roehampton



Vicky Piggott is a local volunteer who earlier this year, set up the 'Plant & Grow' community gardening project. Vicky distributed over 1000 seed kits to local schools to encourage children to grow fruit, vegetables and herbs for themselves and to develop wildflower plots in local schools. The schools have been provided with a small green house and tools, to help cultivate their plants; funded by Roehampton Community Week sponsors.

Vicky hopes to encourage residents to plant up and maintain areas of the estate. Alongside Jo Baxter, the pair ran small residents' consultation events at the end of May 2021, to gauge the level of interest in forming a gardening club. Feedback is still being collated, but if popular, planters and window boxes would be provided, made by the Roehampton Community Shed.

Jo has arranged for the tree pits that line Harbridge Avenue to be weeded, to improve their appearance and encourage growth. The pair hosted a 'seed bomb' making workshop in early June 2021, where locals of all ages made bee friendly decomposable seed cases. These will be planted in the tree pits, where they will slowly sow the seeds. Participants also decorated and planted sticks with their names on, to encourage ownership and pride in the area.



#### **KIDS RECYCLED ART EXHIBITION** *Presented by the Ubuntu Museum*



Ubuntu Museum is an African-led social enterprise that offers exhibitions, art workshops and creative packs to schools, libraries and families in our local community. The Kids Recycled Art project, inspired by African recycled art traditions, marked the Ubuntu Museum's second residency at 6 Portswood Place.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Mwanza, the founder of Ubuntu Museum, and her team produced art packs for participants. These included recycled materials, stationery and instruction booklets. During the project, the team gave out 170 recycled art packs.

The workshops, that ran weekly between March and May 2021, culminated in an exhibition on 8th May. Over 40 people attended to view the display of finished creations and many complimentary comments were left:

"Cool elephants! I like the shiny colours" from S. Aged 9

"So nice to see a creative hub for youngsters especially one using recycled materials. Look forward to seeing what's next" Anon.

"This is great! So creative & educational. Hope you can keep the project going. Great for the local community" Anon.

With the workshops and exhibition being so well received, Jackie is keen to secure funding for further arts and crafts offerings at Portswood Place.

Wandsworth Council's Arts Team has helped to finance the Ubuntu Museum's return during Roehampton Community Week. Look out for them at 6 Portswood Place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th July 2021 (midday-4pm).



#### PORTSWOOD PLACE - SPACE ON OFFER!

6 Portswood Place, just opposite Downshire Field (Bull Green), is a great place to hold arts and cultural events and workshops. During Roehampton Community Week there will be lots happening, making excellent use of this community facility.

On Monday 5th July (6pm) and Sunday 11th July (6.30pm) there will be 90-minute fashion designing, pattern making and fabric printing workshops for women and girls.

On Tuesday 6th July and Wednesday 7th July, the CoDa Dance Company will be hosting half an hour Digital Dance classes at 1.15pm, 3.45pm (an after-school session, for ages 8+) and 7pm.

If you think the Portswood Place space could work for you or your group, please contact Jo (Community Engagement and Cultural Coordinator) directly by email at jo.baxter@ richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk or call 020 8871 6207.

# **ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY WEEK** WHAT'S ON 'PULL OUT AND KEEP' GUIDE'

Due to the 4-week pause at Step 3 of the government's roadmap out of lockdown, some events will be subject to social distancing and limited capacity inside. You may be required to wear a face covering (unless exempt).

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This timetable was accurate at time of print. Please check the website roehamptoncommunityweek.com or follow @RoehamptonCWeek on Twitter for latest information



# **CHELSEA KICKS AROUND ROEHAMPTON**

Chelsea FC Foundations Premier League Kicks programme was established to reduce anti-social behaviour in the community.

The Kicks programme offers activities at diversionary times to inspire young people to achieve their potential and improve their wellbeing while working together to build safer and more inclusive communities.

All sessions are free and are delivered by FA Level 2 qualified coaches, many of whom have come through the Kicks programme.

For more information or to enquire about the booking process, email Tony Rodriguez from the Chelsea FC Foundation at tony.rodriguez@chelseafc.com

Dedicated youth workers from Roehampton Base also attend the sessions and handle enrolments at the youth club. See below for details of the sessions and contact details for the Base leads.







DATE AND TIME	LOCATION	AGE	LEAD CONTACT AT THE BASE
Fridays 5-7pm	Witley Point Wanborough Drive, SW15 4AX	8 - 18 years old	Romayne Walrond – 07971 005690
Tues, Thurs 5-7pm	Lennox Youth Club 236 Arabella Drive, SW15 5LQ	8 - 18 years old	Kate Nevill – 07971 621416
	Ashburton Youth Centre Westleigh Ave, SW15 6XD	8 - 18 years old	Nathan Lindsey - 07971 363068

# EMERGENCY **TREATMENT HUB**



#### At Queen Mary's Hospital

If you have an injury or illness, such as a burn, wound, earache or broken bone, did you know that you can be seen conveniently and locally at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton?

The service offers appointments with nurses and paramedics, seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm for adults and children over two.

To book, please call 020 8725 0120. You will be assessed to make sure you are suitable for the service and given a convenient appointment.

The previous urgent treatment centre at Queen Mary's was suspended last year because it was not possible to run under strict Covid-19 guidelines. A new pilot service opened in December and has now been extended for a further six months.

Dr Nicola Jones, GP borough lead for Wandsworth said:

"We want to make it easy and convenient for people to receive health care for minor injuries and illnesses. After listening to the views of local people, we're extending this pilot scheme with a new phone number, so people can talk directly to a nurse or paramedic and be seen quickly and locally in Roehampton."

# LITTLE VILLAGE

### Satellite hub now operating

It has been over a year since Little Village last saw families in person, but they are now delighted to be able to invite small numbers to their little satellite hub in Eastwood Nursery on Roehampton Lane. The team is currently seeing up to five families a week; hopefully this will increase as lockdown restrictions ease.

Whilst the satellite hub is within a big hall, they have just two cupboards to store items, meaning they're currently unable to accept donations at the Roehampton site.

Little Village have an amazing, hard working group of volunteers. If you'd like to join them or if you're a business who could help make a difference, please follow the 'Get Involved' link on their website littlevillagehq.org. Similarly, if you're a family who could benefit from the support of Little Village, please ask a professional, such as your GP or social worker, to refer you via the website.





The bug hotel is constructed of wooden pallets, plus natural materials like pine cones, twigs, dried grass, dried leaves and tree bark.

Not everybody realised what this structure was and, as such, the pallets were disturbed. A sign is being designed to help explain what the strange wooden structure is all about.

The sign, illustrated by pupils at Heathmere School, will outlines that the Bug Hotel is an attractive habitat which provides a home for vitally important solitary bees, ladybirds and other beneficial insects.

# ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

With Rah Rah Theatre -Remembering those good old days

Residents on the estate, age 60+, along with their family/friends/carers are invited to attend a free, live rock and roll based musical show. The Rah Rah Theatre Company will be touring community venues throughout July and August. A performance will be held at the Methodist Church Hall on Portswood Place, on Wednesday 11th August 2021 from 4pm. Please email jo.baxter@ richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk or call 07974 586 335 for complimentary tickets.

# WITLEY POINT **BUG HOTEL**

#### As Snug as a Bug in a Rug!



When the Witley Point MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) was recently upgraded, the children of Heathmere School helped the Alton Regeneration Team to build a bug hotel.





#### Roehampton Library is open. You can now:

- Come into the library to browse
- Borrow (for free) and return books
- Reserve books at other libraries within the borough, without a fee
- Borrow DVD's for free, for one week
- Book a computer to use for one hour, to browse, scan and print
- Book a table to your sole use, for quiet study
- Register your interest at the main reception, for English Conversation and ESOL classes, starting in August

This was accurate at time of print. Please check the website better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth for latest information.



# **FRAMED: ROEHAMPTON**

#### An update

Exciting news! The Wandworth Arts Team have secured even more local talent to exhibit their artwork on lamppost banners within Roehampton.

Alanna Eakin, Amy Williams, Charles Lambert and Jackie Mwanza are the new gifted artists whose creations are included. The banners have been in place since the end of May. See them for yourself along Roehampton Lane and Danebury Avenue.

We are in good company, as the 'Framed:' project extends to other high streets throughout the borough; namely Putney, Wandsworth Town, Earlsfield, Balham, Furzedown, Southfields, Clapham Junction & Tooting.



# **ARE YOU AN EU/EEA OR SWISS NATIONAL?**

The rights of EU/EEA and Swiss nationals have changed

If you or anyone in your family are an EU/EEA or Swiss citizen, your rights have changed and from 1 July 2021 you need to show your immigration status (Settled or Pre-Settled Status) to prove your right to work, to rent a property, or to access benefits, healthcare, and education in the UK.

Following Brexit, all EU/EEA and Swiss nationals and their family members - adults and children - needed to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (settled and pre-settled status) to secure their right to live, work, and study in the UK after 30 June 2021. For more information visit gov.uk/eu-settled-status

Those who have been granted Pre-Settled Status which is temporary - need to upgrade to Settled Status after 5 years of continuous residence in the UK. Settled Status is permanent and more secure.

Citizens Advice Wandsworth works in partnership with Wandsworth Borough Council to offer information and advice about Brexit and related issues to EU citizens and their non-EU family members living or working in Wandsworth.

The EU Project Team at Citizens Advice Wandsworth can provide free and confidential help and advice if:

- you need help to manage or upgrade your status,
- you need help proving your status to an employer, landlord, benefits agency, the NHS or a support service.
- you or someone in your family has missed the 30 June 2021 EU Settlement Scheme application deadline.

You can contact them on: euadviceservice@cawandsworth.org or 020 3559 2019 or visit the website at www.cawandsworth.org/eu





# ALT VIBES! FESTIVAL

#### A spring in the step around Roehampton

Spring vibes reverberated across Roehampton on Saturday 20th March with the virtual Alt. Vibes! festival.

Due to the continued national lockdown, the event could not take place physically on the estate as planned. Instead viewers tuned into an online event featuring performances from the London Samba School and the Second Line Band from Wandsworth-based World Heartbeat Music Academy. The broadcast included a short samba lesson so viewers could learn the steps and join in with the performance. A series of online samba lessons were also offered in the weeks leading up to the main event.

Funding for these activities came from a successful joint bid by the Alton Regeneration Team and University of Roehampton to the Research England Strategic Priorities Fund. The event aimed to bring the community together following the impact of COVID-19 and the lack of socialising through 2020.

The festival is still available to view on the University's YouTube channel youtube.com/c/RoehamptonAcUk



## WANDSWORTH **ARTS FRINGE IS HERE**

Theatre, music, dance, comedy, circus, visual art and all things inbetween!

WAF 2021 has arrived! Running between 25th June and 11th July, it's a true celebration of art in all its forms.

Visit the website: wandsworthfringe.com for more details.

# WANDSWORTH ARTS FRINGF

# SIGN UP TO RECEIVE TEXT ALERTS

We are setting up a text message distribution list

Residents will receive news and event information relating to the Alton Regeneration quickly and directly.

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

# Just for fun!

Can you find the ten differences between the two pictures below of Harbridge Avenue? Answers on Page one. Good luck!



#### ALTON NEWSLETTER **HAVE YOUR SAY!**



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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Alton **Regeneration Team** 

#### **REGENERATION TEAM**

You can contact the Regeneration Team on 020 8871 6207 or @AltonMasterplan or at roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk



YOUR WARD

COUNCILLORS

Due to the outbreak of

**Cllr Jeremy Ambache** 

Cllr Sue McKinney

surgeries are cancelled until further notice.

You can contact your local councillors at:

Cllr Jonathan Cook Cllr.J.Cook@wandsworth.gov.uk







