



**ALTON**

ROEHAMPTON SW15

# ALTON NEWS

Autumn 2021

Issue 30

[www.AltonEstateRegen.co.uk](http://www.AltonEstateRegen.co.uk)

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**THE BULL'S 60TH BIRTHDAY**

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**ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY  
WEEK REVIEW**

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**BESSBOROUGH ROAD  
COMPLETED**

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**FONTLEY WAY – UNDERWAY!**

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**ALTON ESTATE –  
BEFORE AND AFTER**

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**FREE LEGAL ADVICE**



# ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY WEEK

## Review...

*Although July feels like a distant memory now, the legacy of Roehampton Community Week lives on.*



Jonathan and Michael, key founders of the project, share some of the highlights, achievements, and successes...

### Our success in numbers

- 37 Community Events in 7 days
- 1,800 total attendees
- 48 Organisations, school, groups and residents involved
- 3 Refurbished communal spaces
- 1 Outdoor art gallery



Speaking at a recent Roehampton Response Network meeting, Jonathan (also known by his initials, JP) said *“overall feedback from both delivery partners and attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, in particular the organisation, teamwork and the breadth and scale of the events.*

*For many residents this has been the first time they have been able to relax and socialise since the pandemic. Positive engagements with new community groups and local services helped build relationships and a greater understanding of ‘support in the area’. Many reported that Roehampton Community Week had a positive impact on their health and wellbeing by trying something new, meeting new friends and were encouraged to get more involved in their community and ‘have their say’.*

*There was a great turn out, of all backgrounds and ages; the children especially enjoyed and have since gained immense knowledge on the environment and recycling.*

*The event had many well-established organisations and institutions participate including Parish Trust, Ibstock Place, Wandsworth Council and more. There has been a great sense of togetherness and community lift spread across Roehampton and many people are eager to find out ‘what’s next?’.*

Jo Baxter, Alton Regeneration Community Engagement and Cultural Coordinator, also summarised Roehampton Community Week.

### RENOVATION AT ALTON ACTIVITY CENTRE

The first ‘official’ event was the redecorating of the Alton Activity Centre by Good Guys Decorating. This was generously funded by the Roehampton Club.

The Alton Regeneration Team were on hand to help with the manual labour and provide sustenance for the many volunteers. Thanks to everyone that helped out, the space has been well and truly spruced up!



### PANEL OF ART POP-UP GALLERY

Lynne from Estate Art SW15 had acquired several large unwanted wooden panels from the Council’s Major Works team. Lynne asked local residents and schools to decorate them and use them as artists’ canvasses but had nowhere to show them off. The concept of the outdoor gallery was born by Jo, to adorn the hoarding around the former Co-op block.

The gallery is very impressive, striking and eye-catching. It has attracted many positive comments and is a source of local pride.



### 6 PORTSWOOD PLACE’S MAKEOVER

Within the next couple of months, 6 Portswood Place will be undergoing remodelling and will be renamed ‘Alton Arts Hub’ to reflect its role as a multi-discipline arts and cultural space.

During Roehampton Community Week, the empty commercial unit was home to two fabric decorating workshops, two days of digital dance and imagery sessions and a weekend of African-inspired recycled art workshops.

During August 2021, local resident Charles Lambert (a 3D and spatial designer) hosted Roehampton Resounded. Roehampton Resounded is an immersive art, sound, vision and improvised music installation. Charles is hoping to return for another weekend during the autumn.

If you would like to put on an exhibition or workshop at the Alton Arts Hub, please contact: [jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

### ROEHAMPTON WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN AND TORCH PARADE –END MALE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

A torch parade supporting the White Ribbon Campaign, a global movement to end male violence against women, will take place on Thursday 25th November at 6pm. Organised by Roehampton Women’s Network, people are encouraged to meet beside the outdoor gallery on Danebury Avenue, with a torch, lantern or even your mobile phone, to raise awareness and literally shine a light on the issue. Everyone is welcome to write a positive message on a label, attached with a white ribbon, to display around the local area.

The White Ribbon pledge is to “never commit, excuse, or remain silent about male violence against women and girls”. With Roehampton ward having one of the highest rates of domestic abuse in Wandsworth Borough, the parade aims to demonstrate that Roehampton residents are willing to step up to this challenge and show their commitment to the pledge.

Further events, involving Chelsea Kicks football foundation and Regenerate youth charity, will run in early December. Details will be circulated nearer the time.

Some services and resources available to help, should you be affected by these issues are:

### WANDSWORTH SAFETY NET

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/community-safety/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-during-coronavirus-outbreak/](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/community-safety/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-during-coronavirus-outbreak/)

### WOMEN’S INSPIRATIONAL EVENT

Held at the refreshed Alton Activity Centre, this event saw several stalls set up to offer information, advice and fun activities. Amongst the exhibitors were representatives from the local NHS, Roehampton University and Little Village. Experts in topics such as nutrition, health and wellbeing were available for a chat. Attendees could make bracelets, decorate and fill ceramic planters and even have a set of false eyelashes applied! Everyone who attended was gifted a goodie bag, full of pampering treats.

This event was put on by the newly founded Roehampton Women’s Network. The Network is a group consisting of local residents, support services and charity representatives, plus ward Councillor Gilbert. They are dedicated to supporting and empowering women, equipping them with knowledge and help where required and signposting to specialist services they hold regular meetings. If you’d like to know more, please email: [vicky.marie.pigott@gmail.com](mailto:vicky.marie.pigott@gmail.com)

### BRIGHT SKY APP

FREE to download, it provides details of many support services and how to get help in 5 different languages.

### FREE FAMILY LAW CLINIC

See our later article for further information.

### INFORMATION STALL AND NEW NOTICEBOARDS

On most Friday afternoons since August, you may have spotted the small team of volunteers running an information stand at the top of Danebury Avenue. They are there to provide news and information about things happening on and around the estate.

Additionally, three brand new community noticeboards have been erected, centrally situated at Danebury Avenue (at the end of the outdoor gallery), on the railings outside the Alton Activity Centre on Harbridge Avenue and opposite the bus stop at Portswood Place.

These will be kept regularly updated with details of local events. If you would like to have yours featured please email your flyer to: [jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)



## THE WEEKLY 60+ CAFÉ IS BACK!

Good news, since the end of July, the 60+ Café has returned to the Minstead Gardens Methodist Church, every Thursday, between 11am-2pm.

As before, a selection of coffees, teas, hot chocolate, cappuccino, cold drinks, hot and cold lunches and sandwiches are available, along with the opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones. A great hub of activity and companionship.

For more details and to find out about forthcoming events, please contact **Pam** on **020 8788 5577** or **Jean** on **020 8397 8622**



## RAH RAH THEATRE, ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

The Rah Rah Theatre Company, who aim to take performing arts into communities, brought their musical production 'Rock Around the Clock' to the Alton Estate.



The free show was open to all residents over 60 years old, along with their family and carers. Attendees were treated to popcorn on arrival and hot dogs after the show, expertly prepared and served by Jo Baxter and Antonia De Lima from the Alton Regeneration Team. Jo and Antonia were also on hand to answer questions about the regeneration scheme. There were some in-depth conversations and many participants said they were impressed by the design and build of the new Bessborough Road development.

A fun time was had by all! One show-goer, named Sandra, told us *"it was a good laugh, thoroughly enjoyed it and wish it had been longer. It was really well organised. Perfect for coming out of lockdown. I can't wait for the next one"*.

Another audience member, Maria, said *"I really enjoyed the show and I haven't seen my daughter laugh for such a long time"*.

Plans are in place for the Rah Rah Theatre to return in December 2021 with their festive panto (oh yes they are!). If you would like to be notified once tickets become available, please email: [jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

## JELLYFISH THEATRE, WAGON OF DREAMS

Jo invited the Jellyfish Theatre to perform their new outdoor show 'Wagon of Dreams' on Downshire Field (Bull Green) in August. The show involved singing, dancing, puppetry and lots of audience participation. Jo was thrilled with how well the show was received, saying *"it was fantastic to see the excitement on the children's faces and the squeals of delight"*.



## BULL'S 60TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Bull on Downshire Field is a Grade II listed sculpture by Robert Clatworthy. It was commissioned by the London County Council at the behest of A. W. Cleeve Barr, one of the lead architects for the Alton Estate in Roehampton. The statue was created in 1961, making it 60 years old this year!

To celebrate this milestone occasion, the Regeneration Team threw the Bull a birthday bash and naming ceremony! Everyone was invited to the party, where music, refreshments and bull-themed activities were on offer. Fun was had decorating ceramic cow shaped flowerpots, wooden fridge magnets and masks. The team were helped by Councillor Sue McKinney and 'Miss' Orode from Heathmere School and the Alton Activity Centre.

We played pass the parcel, with many bull-themed prizes, of course! The top prize, a fabulous fluffy, cuddly bull, was won by lucky Isaac, who was thrilled with his win!

The highlight was the Bull's birthday cake, especially created for the party and served to guests, all of whom remarked how tasty it was.

For several weeks before the event, suggestions had been collected for the name of the Bull. With much anticipation, the winning name was revealed when we sang 'Happy Birthday dear .....'

The most popular name was 'Bobby', which reflects a thoughtful nod to the statue's sculptor.



## ROEHAMPTON COMMUNITY SHED OPENING EVENT

We're excited to announce that all necessary formalities are now complete and the revitalised Roehampton Community Shed project is (at time of printing) due to re-open very shortly, at Portswood Place.

Run in conjunction with Wandsworth Council and Age UK, the Roehampton Community Shed is a weekly group where men (and women!) can meet and work on practical projects, such as furniture upcycling and woodworking, plus enjoy a cup of tea and chat, with like-minded individuals.

Keep an eye on our community noticeboards for details of opening events.

For further information contact Emma Chisholm on **020 8877 8955** or email the Alton Regeneration Team [roehampton@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:roehampton@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)



## 'ALTON GREENED'

'Plant and Grow' was the community gardening project led by green-fingered volunteer Vicky Pigott. This took place leading up to and during Roehampton Community Week. The aim was to create a greener future for the Alton Estate and wider Roehampton area. Following on its success, the new 'Alton Greened' community gardening group was formed.

Vicky and Jo Baxter, our Community Engagement Officer, were fortunate to have been donated plants by the Wimbledon Foundation, after the Wimbledon tennis tournament had finished. They established Alton Greened to support residents taking an interest in greening and rejuvenating the estate to be able to do so. Gardening is known to have positive effects on physical and mental wellbeing. This project has also helped to unite people with a shared passion and vested interest. Local volunteers have planted ferns, ivy and hydrangea at Hilsea Point, Petersfield Rise, the Manresa and Minstead Gardens sheltered schemes, Portswood Place and the historic troughs at Medfield Street.

Vicky said *"it was wonderful to see areas on the estate full of weeds transformed, and the smile and pride on residents' faces"*.

During September 2021, the group will plant hundreds of daffodil bulbs around the estate. If you would like to get involved, please email: [jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)



## BESSBOROUGH ROAD COMPLETED!

*The first block in the Alton Estate regeneration scheme is now complete and families are preparing to move in.*



The development on Bessborough Road provides ten new contemporary homes across four floors. This includes nine standard homes which have been allocated to existing council tenants and resident homeowners from the Alton regeneration area and can be fully adapted to meet their future mobility needs.

The final home is fully wheelchair accessible and has been adapted to meet the needs of one local family in particular. The specialist facilities in this property include adjustable height worktops and sinks, an automated front entrance door, wet rooms and a through-floor lift. The family describe their experience as:



*"When going to the beach, you enjoy some good weather, interaction with family and friends, strolling on the sand and feeling the water as the waves come in and out; or if you feel a little bit more adventurous, perhaps going for a swim. For some this can only happen in their imagination."*

*As a wheelchair user, I can enjoy the weather, the beach, but only from a distance; it is virtually impossible to get to the waterfront. With friends, I see lips moving and the animation of body language, but I have no understanding of the spoken language as I am not able to hear; and as a result, I can't speak.*

*However, I have my family who have willingly taken on the role of looking after me with my severe learning & physical disabilities. With the dedicated help and assistance of Wandsworth Council's Specialist Housing Occupational Therapist and the Regeneration Team, they have together built from scratch a brand-new home with my family's specific needs in mind.*

*How much of a difference will this have on me and my family who care for my every need? I'm not sure if all the words of appreciation will ever be enough to express our joy & gratitude for what this means for us. We do feel honoured & privileged that our needs as a family have been provided for. I now have my own bathroom, a more spacious bedroom on an upper floor and access via a lift, a garden that I will be able to access on my own & the space that I so sorely need in order to accommodate the aids that assist me in my everyday life."*

All residents enjoy their own private garden or balcony and have access to on-site parking, bicycle storage and a secure communal garden with play equipment for children under five years old in the block. Each home has been fully decorated with flooring, blinds and paints, according to the colour palette chosen by the family moving into that property. The Manager overseeing construction on site tell us that this block is the highest quality council housing he has built in the 20 years he has worked for Redrow Homes!

Each family moving from the Alton regeneration area receives bespoke support from the Alton Regeneration Team throughout their viewing, sign up, removal process and beyond. One tenant who is moving with his children from Danebury Avenue to an apartment on the top floor at Bessborough Road tells us *"I have lived in my current flat for more than ten years. It was not the best; it had lots of issues ranging from poor privacy, poor energy efficiency, noise, and leaks. The new block of flats offered to us looks very modern, it is energy efficient, has lots of privacy as we share the stairway with only a few neighbours, and we have our own balcony garden which is spacious and private. It is an exciting development with a kids' playground for residents only."*



Through-floor lift (opposite) and accessible kitchen (above) in the wheelchair unit at Bessborough Road (below).



# FONTLEY WAY SCHEME UNDERWAY

*Site investigations are now complete at the development on Fontley Way.*

Site investigations are now complete at the upcoming development on Fontley Way. In addition to achieving 'design layout freeze' (marking the end of the design phase), this key milestone has enabled the team to move forward with the tendering process to select a contractor. A number of prospective contractors have expressed interest in building the scheme, and construction works are expected to commence in early 2022.

The Fontley Way development will be the second block built as part of the Alton regeneration scheme and will provide 14 affordable homes for existing tenants and resident homeowners from the Alton regeneration area.



Surveyor capturing the CCTV and Utilities survey data using the Trimble Theodolite.



## BEFORE AND AFTER ON THE ALTON ESTATE

*The Regeneration Team has been working to improve facilities across the Alton Estate, in response to feedback from local residents. We have been reflecting on some of the changes already made:*

### HARBIDGE SQUARE

This summer, the concrete area between blocks 2-32 and 34-84 Harbridge Avenue was the focus of a 'mini makeover' following feedback from local residents.

#### BEFORE:



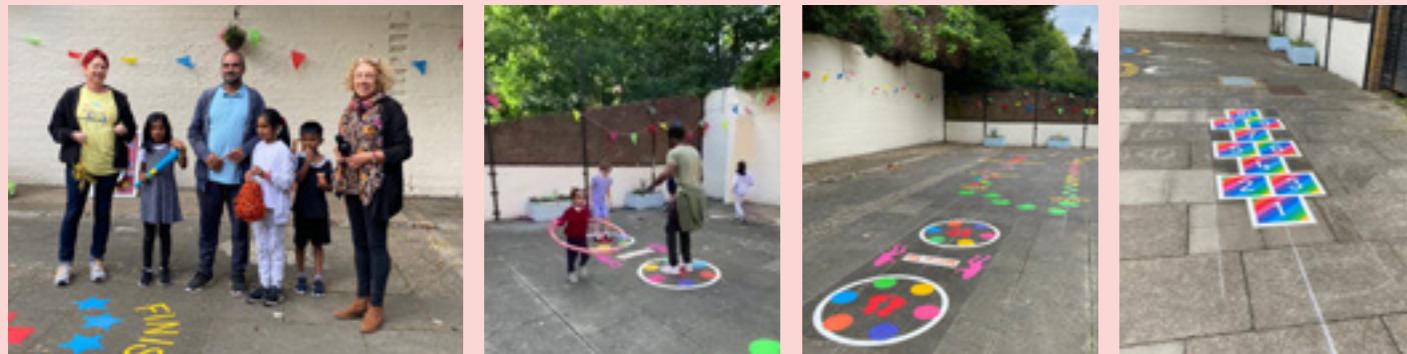
Respondents fed back that they'd like to see a more inviting area for families to enjoy.

Jo and Vicky Pigott, volunteer-extraordinaire and keen gardener, worked together for several months to bring this to fruition. After a consultation exercise in the spring to gauge local interest, ideas and visions, the underutilised area was renamed and redefined as 'Harbridge Square' and was formally opened during Roehampton Community Week in July.

The rear wall was redecorated and playground games, such as hopscotch and mirror me, were painted onto the paving slabs, transforming the area into a more usable and attractive space for play, picnics and relaxation.

The space was used to host a seed planting workshop, where locals of all ages made bee friendly decomposable seed cases which they planted in the tree pits to slowly sow wildflower seeds.

#### AFTER:



### BESSBOROUGH ROAD

Construction is complete and residents from the first phase of the Alton Estate regeneration are preparing to move into the brand-new block. The building also

#### BEFORE:



provides new homes for birds and bats, as nesting and roosting boxes have been incorporated into the structure.

#### AFTER:



### PETERSFIELD RISE SHOPPING PARADE

Local residents, shoppers and visitors to the Alton Community Hall now enjoy new paving and landscaping by the retail parade at Petersfield Rise, which have been improved as part of the Bessborough Road development works. As well as the introduction of new trees and planters, significant enhancements have been made to the pavements, seating and utility infrastructure in the area. The planters are being spruced up and maintained by the new gardening group on the

Alton, Alton Greened, with plants kindly donated by the Wimbledon Foundation.

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."*

#### BEFORE:



#### AFTER:



### WITLEY POINT MULTI-USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)

Following discussions with a wide range of local people and groups proposals were developed for a range of improvements to the MUGA and surrounding area at Witley Point.

The new facility was opened in Autumn 2020 and has proved to be a popular and well-used facility.

#### BEFORE:



#### AFTER:



# WITLEY POINT BUG HOTEL

*Hotel gets refurbishment, including a roof garden and newly designed sign!*

Visitors to the Witley Point Multi-Use Games Area can now observe insects making use of the newly refurbished bug hotel, whilst learning about these 'guests' from a sign that has been colourfully illustrated by Heathmere School pupils.

The hotel, which was originally constructed from wooden pallets and natural materials last October, has recently been given a roof garden makeover to entice more insects to visit. The notice outlines the vitally important work that the hotel's residents do for our food system, ecosystems and environment and that the hotel provides 5-star accommodation for the insects to shelter, rest and raise their young.



# WARD PANEL – SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS MEETING

*An update on crime in the area and crime protection advice.*

A Ward Panel is set up by each police area's Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) and is a group consisting of Met police officers, community members and partner agencies – including the Council's Community Safety, Housing, and Children's Services teams – that meets at least every three months to set local SNT ward priorities and hold the SNT to account for issues affecting the community.

The main purpose of the meeting is for the police to inform residents of what crime has been taking place in the ward and offer crime prevention advice. Attendees have the opportunity to request three crime-related promises that the police will work on in the three months before the next

meeting. Where appropriate, other agencies will work in partnership with the police and residents to reduce crime.

During the pandemic, the meetings took place online but have resumed again in person. The most recent meeting in Roehampton took place on 20th September in the Minstead Gardens Clubroom, with a zoom link for virtual attendees. The next few meetings are next scheduled for late December 2021 and late March 2022.

For more information or to attend a meeting, contact the Chair of the Meeting, Councillor Claire Gilbert, on [Cllr.C.Gilbert@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.C.Gilbert@wandsworth.gov.uk)



# FREE FAMILY LAW AND DOMESTIC ABUSE LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE

*Confidential and free legal advice now available.*

There is new clinic in Roehampton offering free legal advice on domestic abuse and family law. Advice could include contact arrangements for children, injunctions, non-molestation and occupation orders, matrimonial law and divorce, plus other issues around domestic abuse and family courts.

The clinic, set up by Councillor Claire Gilbert in collaboration with a law firm and Citizens Advice Wandsworth (CAW), started on 25th August. The timing coincides with the Council's recent accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance.

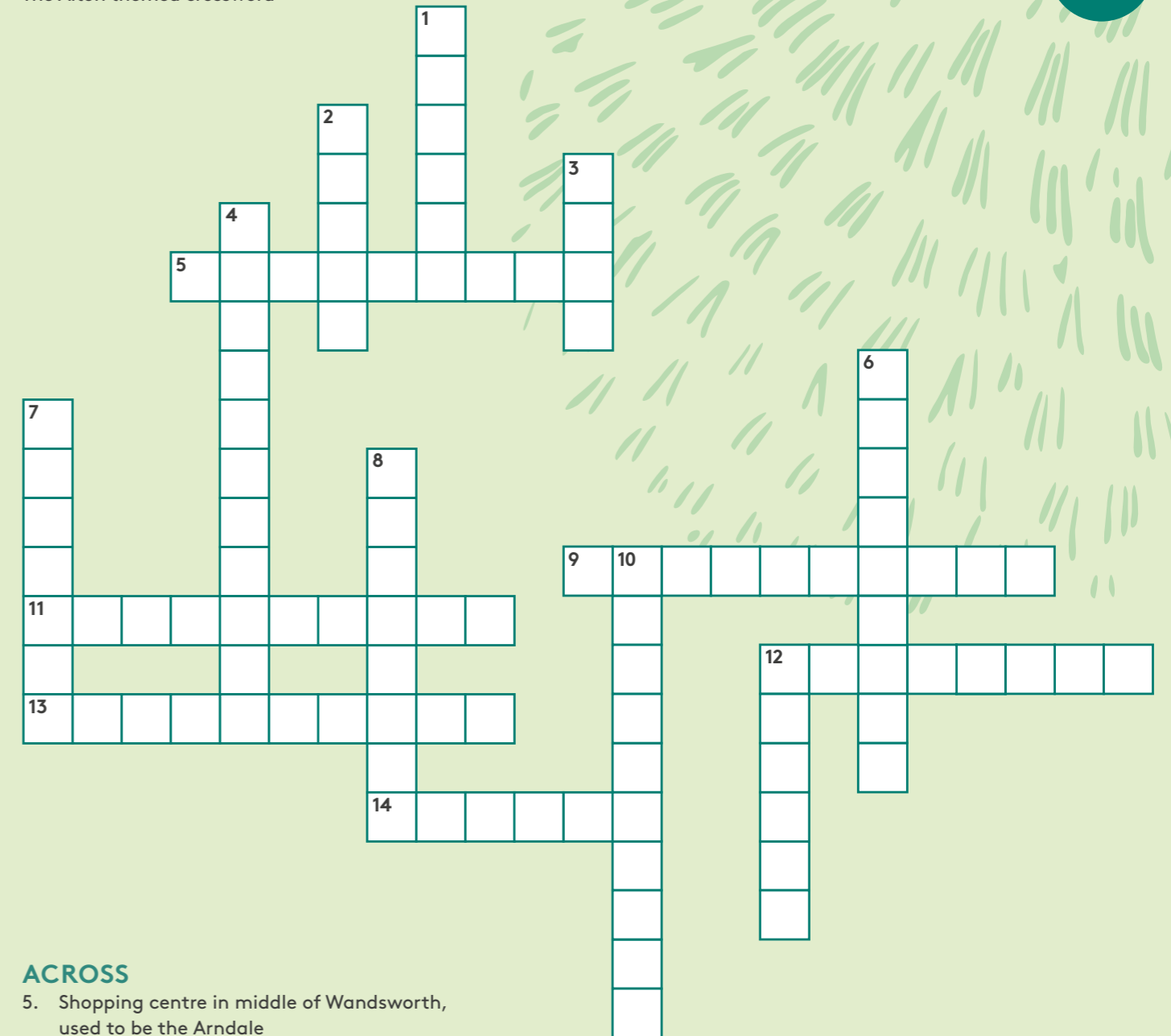
All contact and advice with the clinic is entirely confidential, and will take place virtually online or over the phone for the time being. To make a referral to the new service, contact:

Councillor Claire Gilbert:  
[Cllr.C.Gilbert@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.C.Gilbert@wandsworth.gov.uk)  
or Jonathan Palma from CAW:  
[jonathan.palma@cawandsworth.org](mailto:jonathan.palma@cawandsworth.org)



# Just for fun!

The Alton themed crossword



## ACROSS

5. Shopping centre in middle of Wandsworth, used to be the Arndale
9. Institute of higher education, like the one on Roehampton Lane
11. A self-contained flat with its own front door directly off the street, most commonly over two floors
12. There's a little version at the petrol station along Roehampton Lane
13. Our borough
14. Think Danebury or Harbridge or the famous Fifth thoroughfare in Manhattan, New York City

## DOWN

1. They do an awesome steak bake and vegan sausage roll
2. Birthday or Christmas or cocktail, perhaps
3. Hoofed mammals, found roaming freely in Richmond Park
4. Elected to represent local people in the council's decision-making process
6. The field, also known as Bull Green
7. A collection of photos, stickers or stamps go in here
8. The final stop on the eastbound 170 and Albert's other half
10. A printed or electronic report containing news and information, much like what you're reading now!
12. The season after autumn and before spring

*Answers on the back page.  
No peeking and good luck!*

# 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.

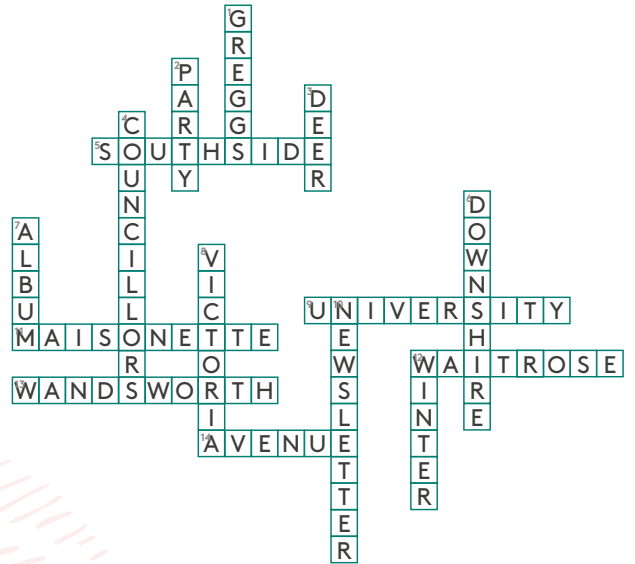
If you are interested in signing up to receive our text alerts, please call or text **020 8871 6207** or email us at [roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk) with your name, address, mobile phone number and the phrase/subject line 'Alton text alerts', and we will add you to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



## SPEAK TO THE REGENERATION TEAM, IN PERSON!

Have you any questions or queries about Alton regeneration? Do you have any forms or documentation you need to submit? If so, a member of the team will be available at the Roehampton Parish Hall on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, between 10am and 4pm. Just pop along to the office, shared with our colleagues from the Western Area Housing Team, and ask to speak to one of the regen' gang. We'll be happy to help.

## *Just for fun* Answers



### 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](mailto: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](https://twitter.com/AltonMasterplan) or at [roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk)

### YOUR WARD COUNCILLORS



Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Wandsworth councillor surgeries are cancelled until further notice. You can contact your local councillors at:

**Cllr Jeremy Ambache**  
[Cllr.J.Ambache@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.J.Ambache@wandsworth.gov.uk)

**Cllr Claire Gilbert**  
[Cllr.C.Gilbert@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.C.Gilbert@wandsworth.gov.uk)

**Cllr Sue McKinney**  
[Cllr.S.McKinney@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.S.McKinney@wandsworth.gov.uk)

You can also contact the  
Cabinet Member for Housing:

**Cllr Jonathan Cook**  
[Cllr.J.Cook@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.J.Cook@wandsworth.gov.uk)

