

Issue 208 June 2025

The magazine of Wandsworth Council

Brightside

Dive into
summer at
Tooting Bec Lido



Delivered to 159,000 homes – Balham Battersea Earlsfield Furzedown
Putney Roehampton Southfields Tooting Wandsworth

Listening to you

Getting the basics right to give you more time to live your life

Wandsworth Council's guarantee

7 rings

Call us **020 8871 6000**
and a member of staff
will pick up in **7 rings***

7 days

Report graffiti, a broken
street sign or a
dangerous pothole and
we will fix it within
7 days

Every household now gets two free bulky waste collections a year – each separate collection can be up to four items such as a mattress, washing machine or furniture.

Book yours today at
[wandsworth.gov.uk/bulkywaste](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/bulkywaste)

020 8871 6000
hello@wandsworth.gov.uk
[wandsworth.gov.uk/listening](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/listening)



*Phone line open 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays

Our guarantee to you

Our 7 rings, 7 days guarantee makes it easier to get in touch and ensures faster repairs across the borough.

Report graffiti, a broken street sign, or a dangerous pothole, and we will fix it within 7 days.

Report online [wandsworth.gov.uk/listening](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/listening)

Call us **020 8871 6000**

Email us hello@wandsworth.gov.uk

Here is a before and after picture of Bickley Street, let us know if you'd like your street sign replaced too.











Deputy Leader, Kemi Akinola helping to clean graffiti in Balham

£9m fund to improve your area

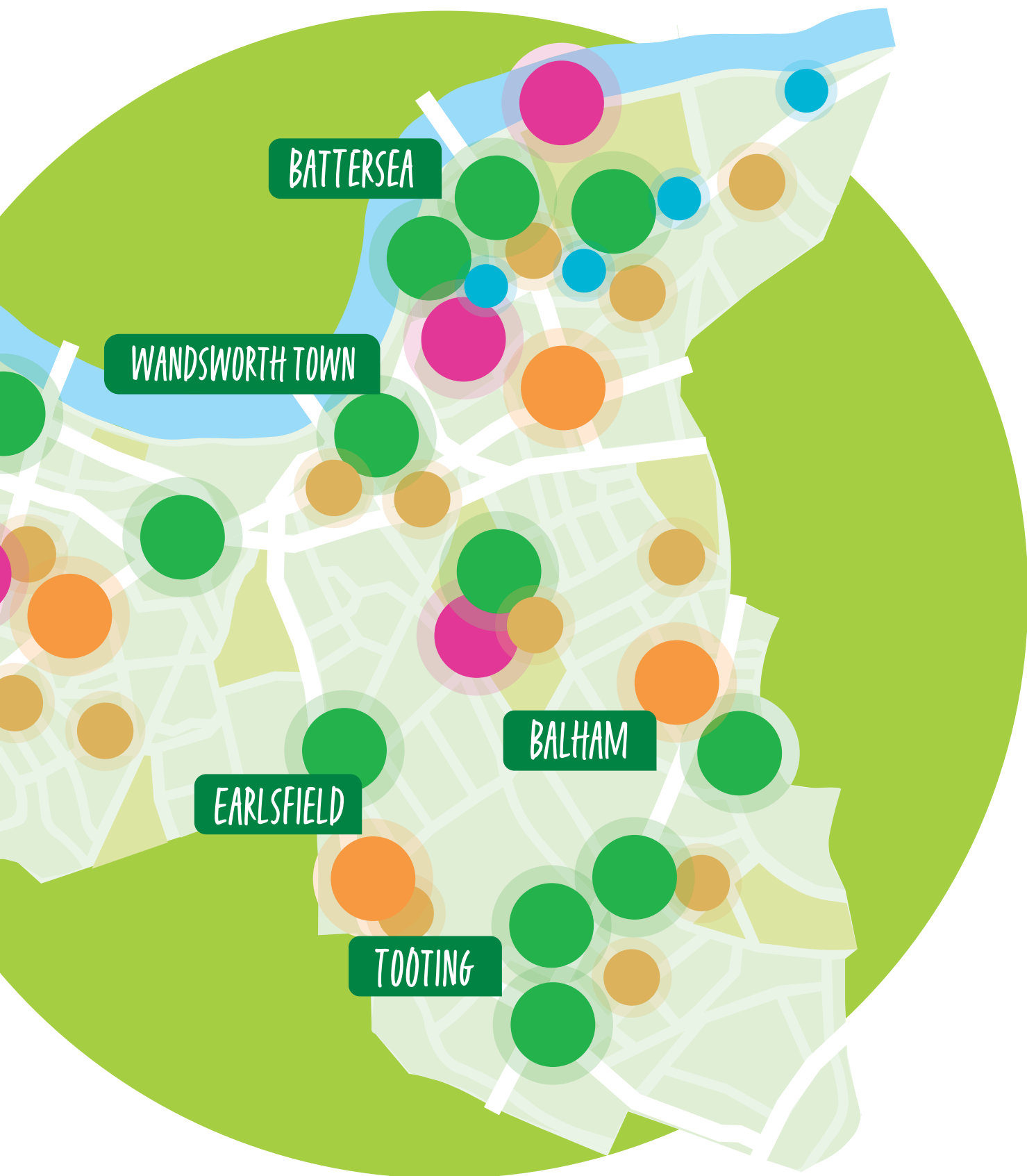
Wandsworth Council is to invest £9 million in neighbourhood improvements, thanks to funds that the council collects from property developers. This will benefit growth and renewal across the borough – without adding a penny to your Council Tax.

The list of projects was compiled from resident suggestions and includes:

-  New rapidly-deployable **mobile CCTV cars** for the borough and 150 extra hours of CCTV monitoring each month. (Read more about safer neighbourhoods on page 20).
-  Three additional **community safety** officers to increase focus on responding to crime and ASB in Falconbrook, Nine Elms, St. Mary's, Battersea Park and Surrey Lane areas.
-  **Safer roads** including a new push-button crossing on Garratt Lane at Henry Prince Estate, replacement lights under Balham rail bridge and speed indicator devices on roads where there are local concerns about speeding vehicles.
-  Fourteen existing **playgrounds** will get new equipment.
-  **Sports and leisure facilities** will be upgraded at nine different sites, including revamped multi-use games areas at Surrey Lane and Dunstan Road and better all-weather pitches at Battersea Park.
-  **Community facilities** are set for a facelift across Balham, York Gardens and Earlsfield libraries. Plus accessible toilets at Furzedown Pavilion and clubroom improvements at Tooting Grove and the Doddington.
-  The council will support **Carney's Community** to refit their bike workshop giving local, young people vital employment skills and experience.
-  The council will support Wandsworth Town Partnership to bring **L'Affair pub** on Wandsworth High Street back to life.

Our Neighbourhood Renewal Fund





“ Our Neighbourhood Renewal Fund makes sure that when Wandsworth grows, everyone benefits. We’ve listened to what matters to you and now we’re making sure that developers pay their fair share for us to invest in your priorities. ”

Simon Hogg, Leader of Wandsworth Council





Colourful makeover for Wandsworth Bridge

Wandsworth Bridge has had a glow-up, with new exterior lighting.

We've kept the bridge the same, to reflect its unique history and character, but the lighting makes it more visually appealing.

It's part of our ongoing Decade of Renewal programme to improve the borough's bridges, roads and pavements as well as public spaces.

Additional investment as part of the Decade of Renewal programme is paid for by property developers, so we can improve our borough without adding a penny to your Council Tax.

Other projects and improvements include:

- A plan for the future growth of **Wandsworth Town**, based on local feedback, including early improvements to roads, public spaces and transport links
- More safety measures and street trees on **Queenstown Road**
- New surfacing, cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings in **Burntwood Lane**
- A colourful makeover for **Falcon Road** rail bridge in Clapham Junction
- Improvements to **Tooting town centre** including better paving, jet-washing, pavement decluttering, new planters and cycle facilities. After listening to residents we're also improving street lighting and shop fronts



Cleaner Borough Plan powers extra recycling

More than 5,000 tonnes of extra recycling have been collected in less than a year thanks to your hard work and Wandsworth Council's Cleaner Borough Plan. That's the same weight as 400 double-decker buses.



As part of the Cleaner Borough Plan, we have already:

- Guaranteed weekly rubbish and recycling collections
- Doubled Mega Skip Days
- Given every household two free bulky waste collections a year
- Introduced free food waste recycling to most homes, and we are now rolling this out to all flats
- All with the lowest Council Tax in the country

These improvements have saved £1.2million, which we will invest to make our streets cleaner.

The next phase of the Cleaner Borough Plan focuses on a range of initiatives to make residents feel even more proud of our streets.

This includes:

- Enhanced cleaning around busy town centres
- Increased the number of Mega Skips at the busiest sites so they can stay open for longer
- Fly-tip offenders will be named and shamed and we will encourage residents to help us catch them.

“The Cleaner Borough Plan reflects our promise to listen to residents and deliver the best waste services we can, while keeping Council Tax the lowest in the country.”

Paul White,
Cabinet Member
for Environment





Homes for Wandsworth delivers affordable housing

The Homes for Wandsworth scheme is building 1,000 new homes for council rent in the borough.

We will own and manage the new homes and local people will get priority. Some are being planned or constructed but many are now complete and people have moved in.

Six homes were built in Badric Court, Battersea, in a gap underneath existing blocks, Favour Isaiah has moved in along with three of her children.

"I was on the list to get a new place for seven years, so I was very happy we got this place," said Favour. "We were in a two-bedroom flat before and I didn't have room for myself – I was sleeping in the sitting room. It was very gloomy and depressing and the kids would fight."

Victoria (pictured) is studying music production at Point Blank music school in London. She said studying before was tough.



"I find I have more space to study here. I need my mic stands, mini keyboard and my piano, and now I finally have space for them. Now we all have our own separate room, which is great."

Find out more at [wandsworth.gov.uk/homes-for-wandsworth](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homes-for-wandsworth)



Homes for Wandsworth

VCS HUB

Voluntary and
Community
Sector Hub

The new VCS Hub is a modern workspace at the town hall for the voluntary and community sector – and it's free to use until December. There are 24 flexible workstations, three meeting rooms, a kitchen and a collaborative space.

It's all part of our work to support our local groups so they can grow, thrive and deliver support right at the heart of the communities they serve.

Find out more about the hub, and other support including grants, at wandsworth.gov.uk/vcs-support



Crackdown on rogue landlords

New landlord licensing schemes will drive up standards in private rented homes.

From July 1 we will be introducing new voluntary licencing schemes for Houses in Multiple Occupancy

(HMOs) across the borough, and for the wider private rented sector.

Aydin Dikerdem, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "These new landlord licensing schemes will give the council more robust powers to crack down on rogue landlords, while providing renters with more support and protecting their fundamental rights."

We have been able to successfully address many cases over the last year, including instances of properties operating as HMOs without a licence and homes with serious health and safety failings, such as having a combined kitchen and bathroom."

To learn more, and find out how this affects you, visit: wandsworth.gov.uk/landlord-licences



Welcome to Access for All

Access for All is Britain's best concession scheme, giving eligible residents 50% to 100% discounts on a range of council services.

Access for All members can get free or discounted gym and swim sessions, including at the historic Tooting Bec Lido, wedding ceremonies, event tickets and more.

How to sign up?

Sign up for a free membership card online. You'll need proof of eligibility to apply, but then you'll only need to use your card to access the offers.

See the full list of offers, check the eligibility criteria and apply at wandsworth.gov.uk/access-for-all





ACCESS FOR ALL



Hameed's story

Local resident Hameed got married on Saturday 26 April and was the first to receive the new 50% discount on a wedding or civil partnership at Wandsworth Town Hall.

He said: "The Access for All scheme offers many discounts. I would definitely recommend other individuals to learn more about. It really makes it easy to book venues and other services, such as gym memberships."



Mayor of London Sadiq Khan meets Hub users

New Family Hub at the heart of Tooting

Wandsworth's third Family Hub has opened.

The Tooting Family Hub was officially opened by Mayor of London Sadiq Khan and will bring essential services for families together under one roof.

There's activities for young people, plus parents can get everything from parenting advice and early years support to health checks, skills workshops and job training.

The hub, on Beechcroft Road, also hosts the Rackets Cubed Social Supermarket where families struggling to make ends meet can shop for groceries at a fraction of the price.

There are now three hubs in the heart of our communities in Roehampton, Tooting and Battersea.

Find your nearest and what's on offer at wandsworth.gov.uk/fis



Help make Wandsworth bloom this year

Show off your garden this summer by taking part in our new Wandsworth in Bloom competition.

As part of our year as London Borough of Culture, we want to give everyone a chance to boost their health and wellbeing through art, culture, creativity and community. Gardening is a great way to get fit, express yourself and make your neighbourhood more beautiful.

The competition is open to all residents of Wandsworth, as well as local schools, businesses and community groups.

If you want to take part you will need to register by 30 June. **Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/gardening-competition**



Source: Public Health Annual Report 2016 - Diabetes in Wandsworth

Every week 15 people in Wandsworth are told they have diabetes



15,000 residents are living with the condition...



...and another 25,000 are on the verge of getting it.



TC2469 Issue 17.201



TYPE 2 DIABETES KNOW YOUR RISK

Finding your risk of Type 2 diabetes only takes a few minutes. It could be the most important thing you do today...

Check your risk online at
riskscore.diabetes.org.uk





We're Strictly Borough of Culture

Our year as London Borough of Culture got off to a cracking start, with an all-day dance extravaganza Strictly Wandsworth, hosted by Strictly star Oti Mabuse.

3000 people enjoyed ballet, Bollywood, line-dancing and break dancing, plus a DJ set from Gok Wan.

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan joined the fun, and the highlight was 200 dancers from local organisations joining a mass participation performance created by acclaimed choreographer Jeanefer Jean-Charles MBE.

Deputy Leader of Wandsworth Council Kemi Akinola said: "It was fantastic to see hundreds of people filling Battersea Park for a day packed full of show-stopping performances and activities."

Sadiq Khan said: "London Borough of Culture plays an important role in providing positive opportunities for young people, boosting the local economy and uniting communities."



Wandsworth is geared up for a great summer as London Borough of Culture with a packed programme of events – many of them free or low-cost.

The **Wandsworth Arts Fringe** (WAF) is back and is bigger than ever with 180 events across 65 venues including theatre, dance, cabaret, visual arts, comedy and community events. Access for All card holders can get £3 tickets.

For the first time WAF will overlap with an extended **Wandsworth Heritage Festival**, bringing the borough's heritage to life and creating a fusion of art and history.

Brand-new for this year, **Country on the Common** has music, dancing, food and all things country on Tooting Common.

Battersea Park in Concert returns, and this year is extra-special. There's a Symphonic Disco from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, A Night at the Movies and Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra. Discounted Access for All tickets are available.

Battersea again plays host to **Happy Streets** – a free family arts festival featuring live performances, workshops, food, street parties, arts and crafts and street parties. This year it is over two days, with events in the ROSE Community Clubroom and the newly opened Oasis green space.

This is just a taster – visit welcometowandsworth.com to see the full programme and find out how you can get involved. Follow @welcometowandsworth on Instagram





Welcome for new Mayor

The New Mayor of Wandsworth is West Putney Councillor Jeremy Ambache – who has a long and distinguished career in social care.

Cllr Ambache said: “I am honoured to once again serve Wandsworth as Mayor for the coming year. Along with the Deputy Mayor Rosemary Birchall, we will work closely with colleagues and community groups to bring Wandsworth together – especially in this special year as London Borough of Culture.”

During his mayoral year he will support three charities: Wandsworth Welcomes Refugees, Wandsworth Oasis and Mindworks UK.

The Mayor is here to listen to residents. You can contact the mayor’s team directly at mayors.office@wandsworth.gov.uk

Wandsworth also has a new Youth Mayor. Kwasi Agyekum-Koranchie and deputy Sophia Dyson were chosen following a competitive vote amongst young people attending local youth clubs.

“We want to achieve a happier and a safer Wandsworth, where everyone feels like they can be seen and heard,” said 15-year old Kwasi, who attends Ernest Bevin Academy in Tooting.

Campaigning on topics including mental health, careers opportunities, and equality, Kwasi is determined to work alongside the council’s political leaders to make a difference. “I see this as an opportunity to use the potential of young people to enact real change,” he said.





Nominate a local hero

The Wandsworth Civic Awards are back for 2025 – and are bigger and better than ever.

The awards celebrate and recognise Wandsworth residents that go above and beyond to help others and make outstanding contributions to the local community – often without any recognition.

If you know someone who fits the bill and who deserves to be recognised, you can nominate them now. But hurry because the deadline to nominate is June 23.



Scan the QR code to visit the new-look website for eligibility criteria, top tips for entries and answers to frequently asked questions.

civicawards.wandsworth.gov.uk

This year there will be six brand-new categories:

- **Community Champions**
- **Environmental Hero**
- **Bravery Award**
- **Charity Champion**
- **Cultural Champion**
- **Young Person of the Year**

Wandsworth
**Civic
Awards**
2025



Keeping Wandsworth safe

Wandsworth is the safest inner London borough. We meet Graeme Henderson, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, who tells us how he plans to keep it that way.

Graeme believes the “very close working relationship with the police” is important along with giving residents the information they need to protect themselves from

crime. “Crime doesn’t respect borough boundaries so we are not complacent. We continue to respond to residents’ needs and strive to do more.”

He shares some of the recent successes...

- New Roehampton Safer Neighbourhood touchdown space was introduced in response to calls for more visible policing.
- Extra investment in monitoring 1,300 CCTV cameras and closer work between CCTV teams and the police to tackle crime and ASB.
- Continued focus on Violence Against Women and Girls, doubling support and providing direct help and advice to victims.
- Increasing our Community Safety Officers from 6 to 9 to improve response to crime and ASB locally.

“We have in effect 24-hour coverage,” said Graeme, adding that cameras save lives as officers have



The CCTV Control Room at Wandsworth Town Hall

spotted unusual behaviour and prevented people from taking their own lives. It also helps tackle crimes such as phone snatching and shoplifting.

“The council has made a commitment to tackle VAWG as one of the key priorities” Graeme added.

He highlighted the support for victims and the Wandsworth Safe Space in Clapham Junction as well as the VAWG strategy launched last year.

The council has also worked with local businesses to set up Business Ends Crime, a network that allows businesses to alert each other to:

- Known shoplifters
- People who cause a nuisance

For advice on keeping safe, visit wandsworth.gov.uk/community-safety



Police joined our community drop-in event at Roehampton Sport and Fitness Centre in May, the latest in a series of monthly community drop-ins across the borough



Alma Terrace, Wandsworth



Pam



Mary

Remembering heroes

Last month Wandsworth came together to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, with events and street parties across the borough.

The commemoration is especially poignant in Wandsworth because it was heavily targeted by enemy bombers during the war due to its industry and infrastructure.

This year marks a decade since a Wandsworth Council Green Plaque was unveiled at Hazelhurst Road in Tooting, where at least 35 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a V2 rocket strike in 1944.

And at Christchurch Gardens in Battersea, 500 daffodils planted by local schoolchildren in 2018 bloom each spring in memory of those killed in the area during the war.

As we commemorate the end of WWII in Europe, we've met Wandsworth residents who remember that pivotal era.

Pam remembers the day one of the petrifying German weapons – known as a doodlebug for its buzzing noise – struck her neighbourhood in Tooting.

The 86-year-old was a child at the time of the bombing on 1 July 1944.

"My brother Alan and his friend went out looking for shrapnel, and found this kitbag with two tortoises in it. Alan came back home with one of them and mum said 'What do you want me to do with that then?' and he's been with us ever since.

Named Freddie, the unusual pet has survived more than eight decades since he was found.

Mary Rulton, now aged 102 and living in Putney, was among thousands of women who served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service during the Second World War, working as an anti-aircraft gunner providing defence against German bombers.

"I was 16 when my brother Thomas Frederik was killed at Dunkirk. He was 18, just a child, and so brave. When he got killed, I thought 'I'm joining the Army, I can fight them all'.

"We had the scary times but I enjoyed my life in the Army," says Mary, who later went on to sell the symbolic Remembrance Day poppies outside Putney Rail Station for 39 years on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

"I always had the thought, 'I can fight back with the guns, civilians can't fight back with anything'. I'm glad I went in it."



Wakehurst Road, Battersea



Wakehurst Road, Battersea



Freddie the tortoise



Daphne Street, Wandsworth



Alma Terrace, Wandsworth



St Mary and St John the Divine Church,
Balham High Road



Wakehurst Road, Battersea

We want to see our borough through your eyes. Send us pictures you've taken of your favourite part of Wandsworth and we'll publish a selection in Brightside and send a Wandsworth mug to those whose pictures are featured.

Email brightside@wandsworth.gov.uk



Daphne Street, Wandsworth

#lovetofoster

Our Wandsworth children need you



Are you ready to start your fostering journey?

There are many different ways for you to foster with us. We are looking for people in our community to support our children and families. Talk to us today and find out more about the different fostering options in Wandsworth.



fill out the contact form at
wandsworth.gov.uk/fostering



call **0808 175 3327**



email fosteringrecruitment@wandsworth.gov.uk



message us **Fostering for Wandsworth**

Now
recruiting
all types of
carers, could
this be you?



Wandsworth

Get help to find work

Thanks to everyone who came to Employ Wandsworth last month – more than 700 jobseekers turned up to meet potential employers and find out about local opportunities.

They were able to chat to more than 50 companies looking for local talent. There was also the opportunity to get advice on training and career development and take part in workshops. Companies represented included Gravity, Hyatt Hotels and Marks and Spencer.

This year, Employ Wandsworth moved away from the town hall and was held at Whitelands College in the heart of Roehampton.

This was in response to calls from Alton Estate residents for more skills and employment opportunities. In the year since the launch of the Alton Renewal Plan, this is just one of the ways we've responded to requests from local people. Other improvements include a new family hub, Safer Neighbourhood touchdown space, new litter bins, better pavements and improved transport links.



Employ Wandsworth 2025

If you couldn't make it, don't worry – you can still get support. Contact the team at our Work Match service, who can help match you up with potential jobs and provide support, guidance and training on searching for work. The service is completely free.

Work Match also offers a free recruitment service to local businesses.

Visit wandsworthworkmatch.org

Book an NHS HEALTH CHECK at a local pharmacy

GET
CHECKED
FEEL GREAT



Downsize to a home that fits



A home that fits scheme is an opportunity for Council and housing association tenants to move to a home that fits their needs

‘It is a lovely flat, I am really pleased with it. The removal process was straight forward, and I used the incentive payment to go towards new furniture.’

Susan, a Wandsworth Council tenant

We help with the practical arrangements of your move and offer generous financial incentives.

Terms and conditions apply, subject to criteria



Find out more, contact the team:
scan the QR code or visit
[wandsworth.gov.uk/downsizing](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downsizing)
Call: 020 8871 6161 (press 4,2,3,1)





Get ready for a Summer of Sport

At Wandsworth Council we believe everybody should have the opportunity to move more, feel better and connect with their community through physical activity that feels right for them.

Wandsworth Moves Together is our ambitious plan to make being active easy, inclusive and fun for everyone.

This summer will see a feast of sport and leisure opportunities. Here are some of the highlights:

Join free, weekly 5k and 2k community **parkruns** in Battersea Park and Tooting Common. Everyone is welcome, regardless of ability, and there are special runs for children. Register in advance at parkrun.org.uk

Tooting Bec Lido is newly-renovated and is open every day until September 30. Eligible people can swim for free. Find out more at placesleisure.org/centres/tooting-bec-lido

The **Wandsworth Wellness Weekender** on June 14-15 will see free activities in council leisure centres, like family swims and soft play. You don't need to be a member of a leisure centre to go along. Ask at your local centre for details.

We'll also be harnessing the excitement of big **national sports moments**, including Wimbledon, the Women's Rugby World Cup and the Women's Euro 2025. Keep an eye on our social media for details.

National School Sports Week from June 16-22 will see activities in our schools, including taking part in the UK's biggest ever sports day and encouraging children to enjoy 60 minutes of PE, sport and play every day.

And during the school holiday there will be free daily activities and a free lunch for children in receipt of benefits-related free school meals. For eligibility and details visit fis.wandsworth.gov.uk and search for **Wandsworth Connected**.

Battersea Ironsides U14 team viewing the Women's Rugby World Cup trophy unveiled at Battersea Power Station



WHAT'S ON?

A photograph of a jazz band performing in a church. In the foreground, a young man with a beard is playing a double bass. To his left, a pianist is seated at a black piano. In the background, a group of young people are singing from sheet music. The church has wooden paneling and a large organ.

Battersea Jazz Festival

July 3-12

Performers including the Daniele Gorgone Trio, Gabriele Stravelli Quartet, North London Jazz Collective, Jim Mullen and Sula at venues including St Mary's Church, Battersea, the World Heart Beat Music Academy in Nine Elms and the Clapham Grand.

Batterseajazzfestival.co.uk

Language: no problem

June 13-14

Harah Haj Hussein explores how language shapes our understanding of displacement.

Battersea Arts Centre
bac.org.uk

Age Without Limits Day

June 12, 4.30pm and 6.30pm

Janis Humberstone will give presentations celebrating the value and contributions of older people in society and share our diverse experiences.

Putney Library

RNLI Fundraising Concert

June 12, 7.30pm

Singing groups The Treblemakers & Southfields Sings join forces to raise funds for the RNLI's new Wandsworth riverside base.

Ranelagh Sailing Club, Putney
treblemakersinfo@gmail.com

Plant Swap

June 14, 2pm-4pm

Bring a plant, take part in a fun craft and then take another plant home. Balham Library has teamed up with Beautify Balham and Balham Climate Action as part of the Great Big Green Week. Just turn up.

Balham Library,
16 Ramsden Road, Balham
better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/events-and-activities

London Festival of Architecture

June 14-22

As the spotlight falls on Clapham Junction, join walks, workshops and step inside Arding & Hobbs and Clapham Grand during 'open house' days.

Free, booking needed.
lfa.london/cj

Roehampton Garden Society Summer Show

June 21, 2pm-5pm

Visit the allotments as part of the National Garden Scheme, and enjoy the annual summer show. Prize-winning fruit, flowers and veg will be exhibited and then auctioned at 4.15pm, plus there will be fresh produce and plants for sale and a cake competition.

Entry is £4, or free for children.

18A The Pleasance, Putney.

Childminder Briefing Session

July 1, 10am-12 noon

Find out more about becoming a childminder and start the registration process. No need to book a place – just turn up.

For further information email
childminderservice@wandsworth.gov.uk
7 Ram Street, Wandsworth

Putney Antique Vintage and Art Street Market

July 6

A new monthly street market comes to Church Square

acvvents.co.uk

Jazz in the Gardens

Every Friday until July 11

Enjoy open air performances from some of the world's greatest jazz artists.

World Heart Beat Music Academy,
Nine Elms
worldheartbeat.org

Battersea Society Summer Party

July 17

St Mary's Church, Battersea

Find out more about the summer party and about the Battersea Society by visiting batterseasociety.org.uk

Putney School of Art and Design Summer School

July 22 to Aug 15

Awaken your creativity with courses for beginners and seasoned artists alike.

psad.org.uk/summer-school

OUR BRIGHTSIDE

Brightside is delivered to every home in the borough and pushed fully through the letterbox.

If you have any suggestions for articles or have a story you would like to tell us about please email: brightside@wandsworth.gov.uk or call: Editorial (020) 8871 8902 Advertising (020) 8871 7266

We would love to hear from you.

Brightside is printed on environmentally friendly paper, please recycle.



Get ready for a sizzling summer of fun for London Borough of Culture



**WELCOME TO
WANDSWORTH**
London Borough of Culture

Whether you love dance, music, art or food,
there is something for everyone this summer
and we have an exciting programme of events
for the rest of the year.

Visit welcometowandsworth.gov.uk