

Brightside

March 2026

The magazine of Wandsworth Council

Council Tax freeze

Wandsworth
Council

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



How have we kept Council Tax low?

We put value for money at the heart of everything we do, and have made efficiencies and savings to keep your council tax low.

We have collected **£230m** from property developers since 2022 to fund council-led improvements – read about some of them on page 14.

We've **saved £30m** on a new leisure centre contract over ten years.

Preventing people from becoming homeless **saves £3.7m** a year.

Since 2022 we've **saved £14m** through efficiencies, service redesign, improved contracts and smarter staff structures.

Diverting more waste from rubbish to recycling has **saved £11m**. Read more about our Cleaner Borough plan on page 9

Better Wandsworth, same low council tax

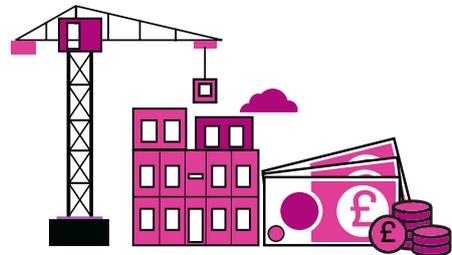
All achieved through partnerships to provide excellent value for residents at no cost to local taxpayers:



Our partnership with Apple gives Wandsworth school children world-class digital learning

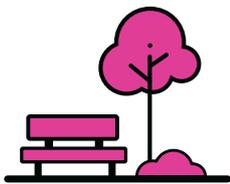
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

gives children a free book every month until their fifth birthday



£230m

collected from property developers since 2022 to fund council led improvements from CCTV and parks to roads and leisure facilities



Springfield Park opened in the heart of Tooting

London's biggest new park since the Olympics, created through partnership with the NHS

Unlocking external funding:

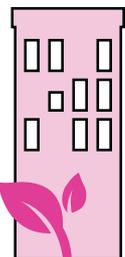
£2.3m

to support our London Borough of Culture year



£4.5m

government funding secured to make our buildings greener



Dear resident,

**Council
Tax
Freeze**

Wandsworth Council is freezing your Council Tax for the fourth year in a row.

You will continue to pay the lowest Council Tax in the country.

Value for money is at the heart of everything we do. Wandsworth has one of the lowest levels of debt and some of the highest financial reserves in London. This allows us to freeze the main element of Council Tax, keep more money in your pocket and invest in what matters to you:

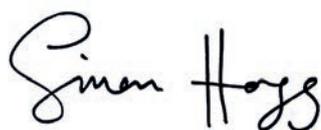
- **25% improvement in our recycling rate** – every household now gets two Free Bulky Waste collections a year, more free Mega Skip Days and guaranteed weekly waste and recycling collections.
- **New rapid response CCTV cars** – we have increased street lighting at night, doubled support for victims of domestic abuse and hired more community safety officers to keep Wandsworth the safest inner-London borough.
- **Best ever air quality** – we cherish our parks and green spaces, with record investment and 1,000 trees planted each year so everyone can enjoy a healthier, greener place to live.

We deliver more for you through smart partnerships: our work with Apple brings skills and tech into local schools, introducing Parkrun keeps us fit and connected and Dolly Parton now gives every child in Wandsworth free books up to their fifth birthday.

Caring for our most vulnerable neighbours is central to what we do. We will continue to provide excellent care for our older residents and support the NHS. An increase of two per cent in the adult social care precept this year will help fund this vital work.

Thanks to our residents, Wandsworth is enjoying an amazing year as London's Borough of Culture, our children start the day ready to learn with free school breakfasts and we're a proud Borough of Sanctuary for refugees.

Together, let's keep Wandsworth special.



Simon Hogg
Leader of Wandsworth Council

P.S If you have any questions or feedback on our council services, please email me directly at simon@wandsworth.gov.uk



Report 7 day guarantees on WhatsApp

You can now WhatsApp us to report graffiti, broken street sign, dangerous pothole, faulty street light, fly-posting or hazardous broken pavement and we'll fix in 7 days.

Send us a photo and the location and we'll fix it in 7 days. No forms and no fuss.



Contact us the way you chat every day



WhatsApp

Working together for a cleaner borough





Wardens keep the streets safe

Meet our new Balham Neighbourhood Wardens, who will be patrolling the streets of Balham in a pilot scheme that, if successful, could be rolled out to other parts of the borough.

As part of the Balham Forum, we asked you what you love about Balham, and what changes you would like to see, and we've put together a plan on how we can make some of your requests happen straight away.

Figures show our borough is the safest in inner London, but you told us that safer streets are still a key priority. That's why we chose Balham to pilot the new uniformed neighbourhood warden service starting this month.

The new patrols will:

- Patrol four days a week at peak times such as the afternoon school run and evenings
- Offer advice to residents and businesses
- Link them up with sources of help, including homelessness support
- Use enforcement powers to tackle anti-social behavior

The wardens are part of a package of work in response to your feedback. Other measures include:

- Increased CCTV coverage, including mobile units
- More space for community activities – we're refurbishing the first floor of Balham Library and in the next phase we'll identify locations in and around the town centre where people can hold events or just sit and relax
- Drawing up a plan to prevent food delivery drivers clogging up pavements with their bikes

We set up the Balham forum as part of our commitment to listening to you. We will take what we learn and could use it to do similar work in other town centres.

How to take part

Visit our dedicated Balham Forum interactive website to find out more. Scan the QR code or visit balhamforum.commonplace.is





We're making Wandsworth even safer



Wandsworth is inner-London's safest borough, but you've told us having clean, safe streets is still one of your top priorities.

We've invested in more **CCTV** cameras and three mobile CCTV vans, as well as increased CCTV monitoring, and share images with the police.

We know this investment has already paid off – we recently helped the police find a missing 12-year-old girl and mobile units have been sent out to streets where there have been reports of burglaries.

Our CCTV cameras also catch **fly-tippers** red-handed. Recently two men were fined £1000 for illegally dumping a door, wood and a headboard in Battersea.

We're transforming dark and dingy **railway bridge underpasses** into light, bright spaces. Read more on page 14.

We've doubled our investment in domestic abuse prevention, and provide support including the monthly Safe Space outside Clapham Junction station,



One Stop Shops, Safe Havens and dedicated staff to engage with domestic abuse survivors and communities.

In Balham our pilot **neighbourhood warden service** starts this month. It will tackle anti-social behaviour and, if it is successful, could start work in other parts of the borough. Find out more on page 5.

Funding for these schemes comes from money we collect from local developers, not council tax payers.

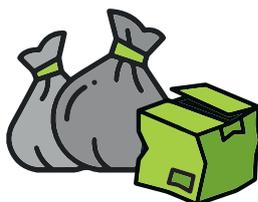


A White Ribbon Day march in Roehampton to raise awareness of violence against women and girls

Our Cleaner Borough



↑ 25%
increase in recycling



↓ 20%
reduction in fly-tipping

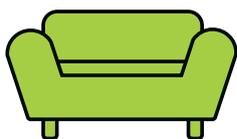


700+
Fixed Penalty Notices
for fly-tipping, increasing
fines to **£1000**

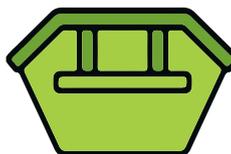
A fair and universal service, making it easier for you to recycle

2 free bookings

a year for every resident, with



26,000
collections booked
to date



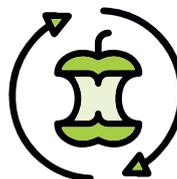
**1,600
tonnes**

of unwanted items
collected through
our Mega Skips



**Double
collections**

for flats above shops



**6,000
tonnes**

of food waste collected
last year alone

10,000 tonnes

of waste diverted to recycling



Thanks for recycling more

Wandsworth's recycling rate has increased by 25 per cent thanks to residents' hard work and the Cleaner Borough Plan – the biggest year-on-year improvement the borough has ever seen.

We have collected more than 10,000 tonnes of additional recycling in the past year – delivering over a million pounds in savings.

This has been reinvested to further improve waste and recycling services.

A major driver of the increase has been the rollout of free food waste recycling, launched in 2024. Starting with homes that have space for a food caddy and now extended to almost all flats across the borough, food recycling alone accounts for over half of the additional recycling collected this year.

Paul White, Cabinet Member for Environment, said:

“The Cleaner Borough Plan aims to create a cleaner, greener borough and give residents pride in their street.”

It includes a guarantee to maintain weekly rubbish and recycling collections and free recycling sacks.

Other improvements as part of the Cleaner Borough Plan include:

- Two free bulky waste collections per year for every household
- Double the number of collections every week for flats above shops in busy town centres
- Twice monthly Mega Skip Days in more areas
- Increased total town centre cleaning
- 50 new litter bins in areas residents helped choose
- A new fleet of modern and environmentally friendly waste collection vehicles which run on cooking oil, cutting carbon emissions by 90 per cent
- New recycling enclosures on housing estates to make bin areas tidier and make it easier for residents to recycle
- An improved yearly real Christmas tree recycling service, with extra drop-off locations

Recycle more items from 31 March



New national 'Simpler Recycling' rules come into effect at the end of March.

These changes will make recycling more consistent across the country.

We are expanding our recycling services to help you recycle more and reduce waste.

Thanks to you, we are collecting record levels of recycling



From 31 March, you can put the following items in your recycling sack or communal mixed recycling bin:

- Aluminium foil and food trays (must be clean and free from food)
- Aluminium tubes, such as empty tomato puree tubes
- Plastic tubes, such as empty toothpaste tubes
- Aerosol cans (must be empty)

This is in addition to the items you can already recycle.

Learn more about recycling in Wandsworth at: [wandsworth.gov.uk/recycle](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recycle)



Battersea Park treetop adventure Go Ape has increased its Access for All discount from 20 per cent to 50 per cent.

Access for All goes from strength to strength

Our Access for All scheme makes it affordable for everyone to make the most of living in Wandsworth.

More than 10,000 Wandsworth residents have signed up and enjoy 50 per cent to 100 per cent discounts on key council services and local activities.

One member said: “We are going to Putt in the Park, use the Lime Bikes and use the recumbent bikes in Battersea Park. Access for All has definitely made us more active – thank you!”

Offers include:

- Free or discounted use of the borough’s leisure centres
- Discounted tickets for cultural events like the new Battersea Park Comedy Festival in June featuring headliners Joe Lycett, Sara Pascoe, Simon Amstell and Lucy Beaumont. Find out more at batterseaparkcomedyfestival.com
- Eligible residents with children can access free school uniform vouchers, free school meals for secondary school students and free Baby Boxes for new parents.

It’s quick and easy to sign up to become an Access for All member. All approved applicants will be given a digital membership card that can be used to access the offers, available in their smartphone’s digital wallet or physical cards are available.

Proof of eligibility will be required to apply for a membership card, but then members only need to show their membership card when accessing any of the offers.

Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/access-for-all

A thick white line graphic that starts on the left, goes up, then down, then up again to a peak, and finally down to the right.

50% or more off a range of council services

A thick white line graphic that starts on the left, goes down to a sharp V-shape, and then goes up to the right.

Access for All is **Britain's best concession scheme**, giving eligible residents **50% to 100%** discounts on everything from gym sessions to swimming lessons, wedding ceremonies to event tickets.

We're making key services and local activities affordable for everyone in Wandsworth.

Check if you're eligible and sign up for your free membership card today:
[wandsworth.gov.uk/Access-for-All](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/Access-for-All)



The Alton is getting a new children's playspace

Below: local people recently got a chance to find out how the Winstanley Neighbourhood Regeneration Project is progressing



Investing in homes

We are investing in genuinely affordable homes for local people.

On the Alton Estate in Roehampton, we're planning to build 55 new council homes on the site of the former Co-op at the entrance to the estate, plus a new community building including a new library and GP practice. It's all part of the wider Alton Renewal Plan – find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/alton

The redevelopment of the Winstanley and York Road estates will deliver around 2,500 new homes – half of which will be council homes. Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/winstanley-neighbourhood-regeneration-plan

Homes for Wandsworth is delivering 1,000 new council homes for rent, tackling the housing shortage and



providing local families in overcrowded or temporary accommodation the chance to move into a secure, permanent home.

At the end of last year we announced that 200 new council homes will be built on the Battersea Power Station site, with another 54 supported living homes on their way in Springfield Village, Tooting.

Find out about Homes for Wandsworth, including the location of planned and completed housing, at wandsworth.gov.uk/homes-for-wandsworth



The Katherine Low Settlement has been a place of sanctuary, support and warmth for over a hundred years. It will use its grant to fund workshops for newly-arrived refugee and asylum-seeking young people, including first aid, CV writing and job preparation, financial literacy, public speaking and online safety.

Find out more about the Katherine Low Settlement's work at klsettlement.org.uk

Grants for grassroots projects

17 groups will share a total of more than £141,000 in the latest round of the council's Wandsworth Grant Fund, which invests in community projects that benefit local people.

It's part of a range of different ways the council supports the local voluntary sector, including networking, training and affordable workspace in a dedicated town hall hub.

The aim is to get resources out to grassroots groups that know and can better support people in their neighbourhood.

Deputy Council Leader Kemi Akinola said: "We've given money to some brilliant groups and charities. We're lucky to have such a strong voluntary sector and we're grateful for the opportunity to help them support people in the communities they serve."

Projects include parenting support groups at our Family Hubs, support for young carers and older carers, a reading project in schools, a new community garden, a walking trail of historical Tooting shops and a one-day event to bring the Tooting community together to share their skills.

Find out more about the Wandsworth Grant Fund, including previous recipients and how to apply, at wandsworth.gov.uk/WGF



Our Decade of Renewal

Wandsworth's Decade of Renewal continues, with many improvement projects paid for by funds the council collects from property developers.

We've listened to your priorities, and are making our streets cleaner and safer, improving roads and pavements and regenerating neighbourhoods.

We're improving **rail bridges and underpasses** to make them lighter, brighter and safer. Falcon Road rail bridge in Clapham Junction has been transformed with lighting and artwork, and the bridge in Balham High Road has been deep-cleaned and pigeon-proofed, with new lighting to highlight the distinctive green tiling.

Work has started on upgrading the railway bridges outside East Putney station, including a deep clean, repaint, upgraded pigeon proofing and better signage.

We're also improving Battersea Park Road bridges next to the station, Swandon Way bridge in Wandsworth Town and Bedford Hill pedestrian tunnels in Balham.

We will be talking to local people about what artwork they would like to see on refurbished Tooting Bec Common bridges at Cavendish Road and near the Triangle Playground. Visit wandsworth.gov.uk/bridge for details about all this work.

We plan major improvements to **Wandsworth Town Centre**, including safer road crossings, more green planting and better lighting, as well as the final stages of remodelling Old York Road.

We're making major improvements to **Wandsworth Town Station** to make it fully accessible and easier to use. The £20m upgrade programme, delivered by Network Rail and funded by Wandsworth Council and the Department for Transport's Access for All scheme, includes opening up a brand-new second entrance at Odyssey Way and installing lifts to all platforms.



In February 2024, we launched an ambitious ten-year improvement programme to transform our **roads and pavements**.

Since then, we've more than doubled our annual investment and this financial year alone we have resurfaced more than 136,000 m² of road, refurbished over 60,000 m² of pavement, and repaired 1,140 potholes.

A brand-new **health centre** on Thessaly Road is opening this spring serving residents in Battersea, delivered by the council in partnership with the local NHS using funds collected from property developers.

Left: Old York Road

Above: Falcon Bridge has been transformed

Win a Falcon Road bridge pack!

We've got five special Falcon bridge packs to give away. Each pack has a mug, tote bag and set of six limited edition enamel coasters from the underpass panelling.

To enter, visit [wandsworth.gov.uk/falcon-road-bridge](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/falcon-road-bridge) and answer the question - 'In which of Wandsworth's town centres is Falcon bridge?' Entries close Sunday 29 March, terms and conditions apply.





Clockwise from left: Harry Cusden's Christmas display, Tooting, 1926, Balham Continental Market c.1930s, Patricia Burgess, Garrett Lane, c.1930s, Arding and Hobbs

Explore the past

As we come to the end of our year as London Borough of Culture, we want to make sure projects exploring the history and cultural heritage of the borough continue to resonate.

As part of our London Borough of Culture legacy, we are inviting local groups and residents to apply for a new Wandsworth Community Heritage Grant. The grant seeks projects that will uncover stories and experiences of the diverse communities that have made their home in Wandsworth over the centuries. Other ongoing projects include:

Memory Boxes for Dementia brings Wandsworth's heritage collection into care homes and community spaces until January 2027.

Britain Called and We Answered by Wandsworth-based photographer Steve Reeves celebrates the stories of local people who came to Wandsworth from the Caribbean to help rebuild the country after the war.

Story Catchers paired five young local creatives with community elders to capture their oral histories. Interviews from the project will be kept in Wandsworth's Archive and Heritage Collection, ensuring these voices remain accessible for future generations.

The **Wandsworth Heritage Festival** is back for 2026. Running from 23 May – 14 June, this year's theme is Wandsworth's shops and high streets past and present and is presented by the Wandsworth Heritage Service in partnership with local groups and societies who share their knowledge and time. Highlights include:

- Another project by Steve Reeves, this one called *Behind the Counter*, is an exhibition documenting shops and their owners in Wandsworth and South London.
- Walks and talks on the history of Arding & Hobbs, the life of Caroline Ganley and the cooperative movement and the folklore behind the borough's plants and trees
- Walks delving into the lives of Wandsworth's former LGBTQIA residents
- A chance to see inside a convent, schools, and churches normally closed to the public.



This year as part of the London Borough of Culture programme, 12 additional **green plaques** funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund have been installed – joining other council green plaques celebrating local people, places and events.

This year new plaques have included tributes to activist Hanna Barrington and artist husband Patrick Barrington and housing manager and community leader Yvonne Carr, who gave her name to the community centre on the Patmore Estate. Other plaques erected last year include the Tooting Bec Asylum, founder of the Samaritans Chad Varah and music legend Bob Marley, who played football in Battersea Park.

Upcoming plaques in March will be a tribute to racing driver Doreen Evans and the Fazl Mosque, the first purpose-built mosque in London.

However, we are still looking for one more plaque to fund – this will represent Global Majority history in the borough. If you have any ideas, please get in touch with Heritage@gll.org

Clockwise from top: The unveiling of the tribute to Bob Marley in Battersea Park, Behind the Counter by Steve Reeves, Britain Called and We Answered by Steve Reeves.

No photo ID, no vote

Register for a free Voter Authority Certificate before 5pm Tuesday 28th April so you can still vote in your local election. You can apply online using a smartphone, tablet or computer at gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

If you don't have access to a device, visit your local Wandsworth Library to apply.

Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no. XR43398.



Managed on behalf of
Wandsworth Council by



Get ready to vote

Local elections will be held on May 7, and we want to make it as easy as possible for everyone to decide who they want as their local councillors.

As part of our Libraries First! strategy, we're working with our libraries to make sure everyone gets support to be ready to vote. You can go along to your local library to use their computers if you need to, or get help scanning a QR code on your phone.

Make sure you are registered to vote. If you've recently moved or turned 18 you can easily get yourself registered at gov.uk/register-to-vote

The deadline to register in time for the May election is midnight on April 20.

If you can't get to the polling station on the day, you can vote by post. Anyone can apply for a postal vote online at gov.uk/apply-postal-vote You must apply by 5pm on April 21.

If you vote at a polling station you will need to bring Photo ID with you on the day. Types of valid ID include a passport, driving licence, blue badge, some concessionary travel cards and biometric immigration documents.

Alternatively, you can apply for a free Voter Certificate. Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/voter-ID

For further information about registering to vote, postal voting or voter identification you can email: electoral@wandsworth.gov.uk or telephone: **020 8871 6023**

3,000 people find jobs through Work Match

The council's flagship employment scheme Wandsworth Work Match has celebrated getting its 3,000th resident into a job.

Since opening in 2013, Work Match has helped local people make the most of the borough's job opportunities, matching them with local vacancies and providing employment support. The service is completely free.

Work Match also offers a free recruitment service for local businesses, an extensive programme of training courses and the annual Employ Wandsworth employment fair.

Call **020 8871 5191**

Email wandsworthworkmatch@wandsworth.gov.uk

View vacancies at wandsworthworkmatch.org

Book Now: employwandsworth.org



Oliver Lax - Barista, is the 3,000th resident to get a job.

"Through Wandsworth Work Match I attended a one-week Retail & Hospitality Programme. Work Match put me in touch with Blank Street, who felt I would be ideal for their branch in Putney. "I'm lucky to have had amazing help from Work Match. Through them I met my team, who are fantastic. I couldn't recommend Work Match enough."

Free Entry • Live Skills Demonstrations • Meet Local Employers

EMPLOY 2026 WANDSWORTH

Training • Advice • Local Jobs

Friday 15 May 2026

10am - 3pm

Civic Suite

Wandsworth High Street, SW18 2PU





Coworking · Private Offices & Suites · Meeting Rooms



OPENING MAY 2026 | 65 NINE ELMS LANE

Industrious OSMO

Blending thoughtful design, flexible terms, and genuine hospitality to make every workday feel easier and more supported.

5-STAR HOSPITALITY

Daily breakfast,
snacks, craft
coffee & tea

Secure Wi-Fi,
unlimited printing,
office supplies

Onsite team,
programming,
community events

EXCLUSIVE PERKS

Are you a Wandsworth business? Get access to special perks like price protection, preferential rates, flexible commitments, global access, and more. Available exclusively on the Industrious OSMO floors.

LEARN MORE

Scan the QR code to book a tour with our team

Memberships start at £350 per month





Work space offer for local businesses

New 166,000 sq ft workspace building OSMO has opened in Nine Elms, with dedicated affordable workspace options secured by the council for Wandsworth start-ups and small businesses.

Access to affordable workspaces is a key part of the council's Growth Plan which aims to attract inward investment and boost the local economy. Battersea and Nine Elms are a key part of the Wandsworth Growth Corridor - a strategically important and connected area stretching from Nine Elms to Clapham Junction and Wandsworth Town.

The Wandsworth Growth Plan will also ensure local people get their pick of new jobs through the council's Work Match scheme (see page 19), help local companies



bid for public sector contracts through the Supply Wandsworth scheme, and unlock the potential for 10,000 new homes - including 1,000 for council rent.

OSMO is a new net zero eco office space with a large communal roof garden and event space, offering private offices, co-working and meeting rooms.

The offer for local businesses includes reduced rates, shorter minimum terms, lower deposits, three free meeting room hours per month and free access to events, learning sessions and networking opportunities.

Find out more at osmo.london

Find out more about support for businesses, including training and events, Supply Wandsworth, sources of funding and other workspace options, at wandsworthenterprisehub.com



Help make Wandsworth greener

Interested in the environment and learning more about climate action in Wandsworth?

The Wandsworth Sustainability Network brings together local people, businesses, community groups and the council to work together on making Wandsworth net-zero. Everyone is welcome to go along and join the conversation.

Local people and groups can also apply for a Climate Action Microgrant. Projects funded so far include eco fairs, repair cafes, recycling events, gardening workshops and even a mud kitchen.

In 2025 for the third year in a row Wandsworth was awarded a top A-grade by international environmental body Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) for its climate action leadership.

Progress includes:

- More than 1,400 EV charging points and car free school streets at half of all primary schools.
- London's largest bikehangar installation programme
- More than 1,000 trees have been planted and 12 parks achieved Green Flag status
- A 90 per cent reduction in carbon emissions from the council's new waste collection fleet and the conversion of food waste to bio-gas
- Wild Wandsworth, our new Biodiversity Action Plan, will restore habitats, support wildlife and make sure everyone can access and enjoy nature in all areas of the borough.

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



!Stock - pocketlight

Stay healthy for longer

Want to stay independent for longer? Use our new tool to understand how you are aging and the simple steps you can take to stay healthy.

The independent@wandsworth website and app are completely free to use and will help you make simple changes to slow down the rate at which you feel the effects of getting older.

All you have to do is answer a few questions about what you can and can't do – such as cutting your own toenails and getting in and out of a chair – then you can get tips on how to improve your mobility, fitness, health and wellbeing, and track your progress.

You can also find out about local groups and services

that can support you, and where you can buy simple and low-cost equipment such as raised toilet seats and grab rails.

Depending on how much help you need, the tool will advise you on whether you should visit your GP or contact the council's Adult Social Care team for further assessment.

Access the web version at **independentwandsworth.lifecurve.uk**

We are partnered with the popular Life Curve app, so you won't find Independent at Wandsworth in your app store. Download Life Curve via the link on the webpage and chose Wandsworth as your borough.



Ready, Set, Run

Wandsworth Moves together

We are breaking down barriers by supporting local sport and providing more opportunities for everyone to get active.

And our Year of Play is a commitment to ensure all our young people have an equal chance to play.

The £24m **Leisure Centre** upgrade programme will continue. Work already completed includes a new soft play area at Putney Leisure Centre and an upgraded gym at Latchmere Leisure Centre.

We are investing £15 million over three years to improve **playgrounds** and play spaces, including refurbished playgrounds on housing estates all over the borough, paid for from a levy on local developers.

Roehampton Family Hub has new youth and play space, named 'Next Gen' by the young people themselves, with play and creative activities for younger children, study spaces for older children and opportunities for aspiring musicians to learn and perform. Creating a legacy of supporting young musicians is part of our year as London Borough of Culture.

Since January more than 300 children in ten borough primary schools have been taking part in weekly Active Kids **Ready, Set, Run** sessions, developing strength, stamina and teamwork as they work towards completing a 2K or 5K run. The programme will culminate on 25 April, when all participating students will be invited to a celebratory run at Battersea Park parkrun.

Children under eight can **swim for free** in our leisure centres, and over 65s can get 25 per cent off. There are also free swimming lessons for children in school years 2-7 who are unable to swim for 25 metres, and free off-peak swimming for eligible children and adults as part of our Access for All scheme. Visit wandsworth.gov.uk/swimming-offers.

Sign up for our **Wellness Weekender** on 21-22 March 2026 to take part in a wide range of free sport and fitness sessions in participating sports and leisure centres around the borough. Visit wandsworth.gov.uk/wellness-weekender



Playgrounds are being improved around the borough, like this one in Maskell Road.

The new soft play area at Putney Leisure Centre.



Ready, Set, Run





**WELCOME TO
WANDSWORTH**
London Borough of Culture



Lisa Maffia



Brainfools Circus Skills

The Beat Goes On

We've loved being London Borough of Culture, and we hope you got a chance to join in the fun.

We're ending the year in style with our finale extravaganza at Battersea Power Station – The Beat Goes On – from 11am to 6pm on 21 March. It's free and you don't need a ticket – just turn up.

UK grime and garage stars Lisa Maffia and Romeo will be hosting the main stage, Sarah Jayne's Dolly Parton Tribute Show will bring the hits, and watch out for a secret big name DJ set closing the party.

You can also wander around this iconic site and enjoy family-friendly circus and street theatre, join in the Strictly Wandsworth dance, see the spectacular Urban

Flow flag parade, listen to live music, tuck into street food and much, much more.

Following pop-up performances in the borough's shopping centres in the week running up to The Beat Goes On, enjoy a celebration of singing for health and wellbeing, Sing to Thrive.

It's been quite the year, with thousands of people taking part as an audience member, performer or volunteer. As well as top line events, we've run educational schools' programmes and schemes to improve people's wellbeing, celebrated local culture, communities and voices and even put on our own radio soap opera.

Find out more about The Beat Goes On, our year as London Borough of Culture and what's still to come at welcometowandsworth.com



Imagineer



Brainfools



The Dragon Wagon



Sarah Jayne as Dolly Parton

WHAT'S ON?



Women's Enterprise Evening: Turning Ambition into Action

18 March, 5.45pm-10pm

Join the Wandsworth Council business support team for a special evening that blends inspiration with practical insight to help you turn bold ideas into clear, confident action.

You'll connect with like-minded women, gain tools to raise your profile, strengthen your voice and lead with intention.

The evening also includes 90 minutes of unlimited drinks, light bowl food, a live performance and the Women's Enterprise Awards presentation.

The Arding Rooms, Clapham Junction
Wandsworthenterprisehub.com

Totterdown Street Spring Social

21 March, 10am-5pm

Celebrate the newly pedestrianised Totterdown Street between Blakenham Road and St Cyprrian's Street. The event is completely free and it's a chance to have fun with your family and support local traders.

Expect acoustic sessions and dance performances, interactive activities, free face painting, henna tattoos, and wax hand creations, a bubble performer and much more. Just turn up.





Carmen

From April 29

Wandsworth presents the European premiere of Carmen, an extraordinary film honouring the life and career of trailblazing Guyanese British actress Dame Carmen Munroe. The 15-minute film will be free to view for three weeks at Battersea Arts Centre.

Carmen was commissioned by Wandsworth Council, as part of Welcome to Wandsworth, the Mayor of London's London Borough of Culture, and funded as part of the programme heritage strand by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Battersea Arts Centre

Welcometowandsworth.com

Singing for Fun

Thursday, 10.30am-12.30pm

This friendly singing group for older people is welcoming new members. No audition is required.

Furzedown Recreation Centre

If you are interested just turn up. For more details call 07894 466877 or email Jane_Farrer@hotmail.com



Wandsworth Disabled People's Forum

17 March, 1pm-3pm

The Wandsworth Disabled People's Forum is run by and for local Disabled people. Discuss accessible transport, access to services and other issues affecting people with disabilities. Please book your place.

Earlsfield Library

ruils.co.uk/campaigning/wandsworth-disabled-peoples-forum

You Stupid Darkness!

17-21 March

In a cramped, crumbling office, four volunteers spend a few hours every Tuesday night on the phone telling strangers that everything is going to be okay.

Access for All members can get £3 tickets.

Putney Arts Theatre

putneyartstheatre.org

Oh, Sister Mary!

17-21 March

Join Sister Mary, the original Soho nun, for singing, comedy, silliness, games and a small dose of audience participation.

Arches Lane Theatre, Nine Elms

Archeslanetheatre.com

Springfield Revealed

21 March, 2pm

Go on a guided walk by Summerstown182 of the new Springfield Park development, built where the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum first welcomed patients in 1841.

summerstown182.wordpress.com

Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra – Harold in Italy by Berlioz

21 March, 7.30pm

Access for All members can get £3 tickets

All Saints Church, Tooting
wandsworthsymphony.org



Neighbourhood Get Together

11am–1pm

An opportunity for people to meet one another, engage in positive conversation, discuss local issues, and ask questions on a wide range of topics in an open and respectful setting.

It is particularly suited to residents who wish to feel more connected to their local area or to better understand the diverse community they live in. A complimentary lunch will be served.

Fazl Mosque, Gressenhall Road, Southfields
ahmadiyyauk.org

The Gasping Poets of Wandsworth

21 March

An epic five-hour poetry recital marathon from noon. Book your one-hour time slot

Putney Library
Welcometowandsworth.com

Wandsworth Healthwatch Assembly

24 March, 4pm–6pm

Come along for a discussion over nibbles and drinks about the future of health services in your community.

Wimbledon Common Care Home, 6 Victoria Drive, Southfields
Call 07434 633745, email inf@healthwatchwandsworth.co.uk or search Healthwatch Wandsworth Assembly on Eventbrite.

Silver Swans Easter Course

29–30 March

Silver Swans is for older dance lovers to elevate their technique. Access for All members can get £3 tickets.

Royal Academy of Dance, Battersea
royalacademyofdance.org/event/silver-swans-easter-course-2026

Putney Music

30 March

An interview with independent classical recording producer Andrew Keener.

Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre
Putneymusic.org.uk

Author event with Annay Nyburg

16 April

Join Wandsworth based author and historian Dr Anna Nyburg for a celebration of 75 years of publishing at Thames & Hudson with The Art of the Book.

Northcote Library, Battersea
Free but please register your interest in Northcote Library or email northcote.library@gll.org

March For Men

13 June

Stroll 2.5km and 5km around the park or try the new 10km and 20km routes along the River Thames. It's all to raise money to raise awareness and funds to support those affected by the most common cancer in the UK – Prostate Cancer.

Battersea Park
prostatecanceruk.org/brightside-m4m

Maslenitsa – free family-friendly festival

20–22 March

Eastern European dance, music, family workshops, food and more.

The Ram Quarter, Wandsworth
welcometowandsworth.com



International Piano in the Elms Festival

The March festival from World Heart Beat includes six concerts by acclaimed classical and jazz pianists, plus a piano trail through Nine Elms, masterclasses, free piano lessons and a concert showcasing young pianists.

worldheatbeat.org



Winstanley Growth and Trade Programme

Residents across the eligible estates within the Winstanley Neighbourhood can get free training in finance, marketing, food safety and event management. Sessions are online or in person at Kambala Community Hall.

They can then get real trading opportunities at a market every Saturday at Bramlands Square from May 30 to June 27, with no pitch fees, stalls and equipment provided and hands-on support from the support.

wandsworthenterprisehub.com/programme/winstanley-growth-and-trade-programme-2026/

OUR BRIGHTSIDE

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.

Book an NHS HEALTH CHECK at a local pharmacy

GET CHECKED
FEEL GREAT





Dolly Parton is giving
all Wandsworth
children aged
under 5
a free book
every month



Inspire a love of reading
and sign up today



Scan the QR code to register
your child or learn more at
wandsworth.gov.uk/imagination-library

