



Our summer
of fun

Brightside

October 2025

The magazine of Wandsworth Council

7 rings

Call us on 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

Pride in our streets

We've more than doubled the annual investment in our roads and pavements, making ours the biggest resurfacing programme of any borough in London.

This extra investment is paid for by property developers, so not a penny will be added to your council tax.

It's all part of the Decade of Renewal, our long-term plan to improve neighbourhoods, create pride in our streets, and make travel around the borough safer, easier and more enjoyable for everyone.

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

Report graffiti, a broken street sign, or a dangerous pothole and we will fix it within 7 days. We will also renovate older 'heritage' street signs.

Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/listening



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



Back to school support for families

“As a parent, knowing our children will get a healthy meal at school means they go in calmer, and ready to learn, it makes such a difference to the school day.”

Feroze gets his new uniform thanks to the School Uniform Support Scheme

“Prices keep going up, so this voucher really helps. It’s one less thing to stress about, and my child can start school with everything they need.”

As young people settle back into school, we’ve got a package of support to help parents.

All children in secondary schools who are eligible for Access for All will now receive a free school meal. Around 800 pupils will benefit, and families will save up to £500 per child, per year.

Our School Uniform Support Scheme has also been expanded. The scheme offers school uniform vouchers for children joining Reception or Year 7. As well as families on free school meals, the offer will now also include all Access for All families.

And we’ve teamed up with country music legend Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to give every Wandsworth child aged up to five a free book every month. A range of activities and resources will be developed to support the chosen books in our libraries, nurseries and family hubs and will also support reading at home. The project is supported by funds raised by players of People’s

Postcode Lottery and delivered by Dolly Parton’s charity, The Dollywood Foundation, so will not be a paid for by Wandsworth council tax payers.

Judi Gasser, Cabinet Member for Children, said: “We are committed to supporting Wandsworth families. The School Uniform Support Scheme helps ensure more children can start school feeling confident and ready to learn, while expanding free school meals is an important step in making sure every child has the support they need to thrive.

“We’re also beyond excited to be bringing Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to Wandsworth. This programme gives every child the best possible start in life through stories, books, and imagination.”

- Register for the Imagination Library at wandsworth.gov.uk/imagination-library
- Find out about free school uniforms and meals at wandsworth.gov.uk/fis



50% or more off
a range of council services



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 everying in Wandsworth. Check if you’re eligible and sign up for your free membership card today: wandsworth.gov.uk/access-for-all



AD1285(8.25)



A summer of play

Young people have enjoyed fun activities that are free or affordable this summer as part of our Year of Play.

We have made a commitment that every child will have the chance to explore, connect and thrive through play.

We've run family fun days in Roehampton, Tooting and Battersea, activities in our libraries and leisure centres, including free swimming lessons for some 6-12 year olds, and The Big Play Out in Battersea Park.

Our ambitious programme will see more than 15 new or refurbished playgrounds over the next 12 months.

Find out more and give us your feedback at wandsworthplay.commonplace.is



The Big Play Out



The Big Play Out



The Big Play Out



Playground opening Wandsworth Park



Playground opening Siward Road



Year of Play launch

More CCTV to keep Wandsworth safe

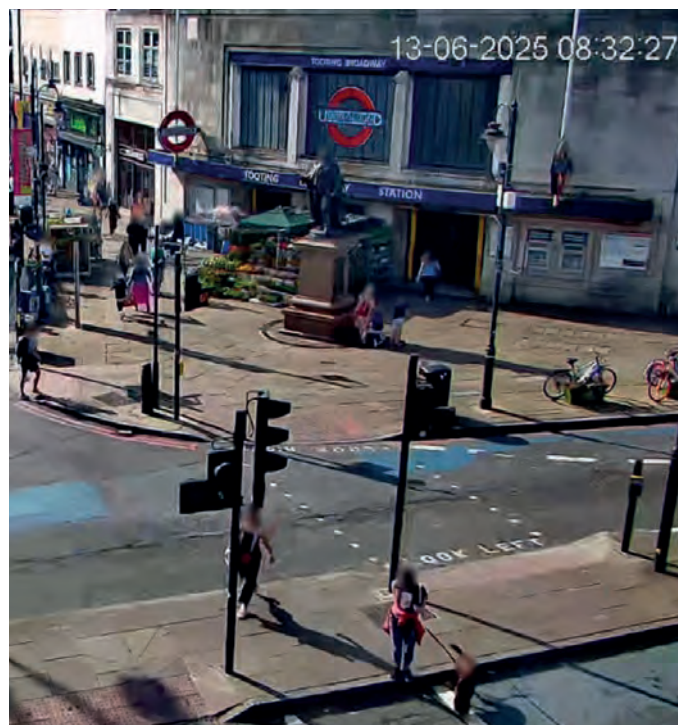
We've secured additional funding to significantly boost CCTV, with extended monitoring hours and brand-new mobile CCTV vans.

There are more than 1200 public safety cameras across Wandsworth. They will be monitored an extra 150 hours each month by staff at the town hall Joint Control Centre (JCC) and there will be three new rapidly-deployable Mobile CCTV cars.

The JCC, which is operational 24 hours a day, every day of the year, also acts as a vital lifeline during out-of-hours emergencies including fires, floods, road traffic accidents and housing estate lift breakdowns. In 2024, the JCC logged 62,217 calls.

The extra funding has been made possible from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. Wandsworth Council is set to invest £9 million in a wide range of neighbourhood improvements – all part of our Decade of Renewal being paid for by property developers.

Graeme Henderson, Cabinet Member for Health, said: "This extra funding marks a significant step forward in our commitment to keeping Wandsworth safe. We can be more proactive, responsive and visible, ensuring Wandsworth remains the safest Inner London borough for Crime and anti-social behaviour."



Graeme Henderson (left) meets Aden Figueira in one of the new CCTV cars



A bigger bite of the Apple

A pioneering link up with Apple means even more Wandsworth schoolchildren will benefit from world-class digital learning.

Since the launch of the Apple Schools programme in 2022, twenty Wandsworth primary schools receive world-class technology, professional development for teachers, and innovative teaching tools such as Apple's Everyone Can Create and Everyone Can Code. Most importantly, the initiative is bringing cutting-edge digital skills and tools to many children who might not otherwise have access to such opportunities.

The expansion of the schools programme was announced at the Apple Primary Schools Expo and Showcase at Battersea Arts Centre. Six new schools will come on board, and there will be a new focus on accessibility for children with special educational needs.







“ We will continue to build on this success to ensure our libraries continue to serve everyone. ”

Putting libraries first

We love our libraries and we want them to be inclusive, innovative and accessible to all.

Judi Gasser, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said: "We're incredibly proud that our much-loved and award-winning libraries were some of the highest performing in the country last year, helped along by the opening of our brand-new Wandsworth Town and Northcote libraries, and the refurbishment of Putney Library."

Libraries First! is a five-year plan to put libraries at the heart of local communities.

Expect a trial of longer opening hours, refurbished children's libraries at Balham and Battersea Park, upgraded IT facilities across all libraries, an expanded eBook offer for young people, and extra initiatives such as maths and English tutoring, basic digital skills training and wireless printing.

Look at what is happening at your local library [wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/libraries)



Alton Estate ballot opens

Residents of the Alton Estate in Roehampton can have their say on the future of their homes and neighbourhood.

We recognise the historical challenges faced by the Alton Estate and are committed to delivering improvements for both current and future generations who make it their home.

Key highlights of the revised proposed masterplan include increased affordable homes, more and better community facilities including new youth spaces, a new library and accessible community hubs, plus a brand-new shopping parade.

A ballot on the masterplan will be open until October 16. Ballot papers were sent out on September 19.

All eligible residents are encouraged to find out more about proposed improvements, and ensure their voices are heard.

Find out the latest information and details about the ballot process at [wandsworth.gov.uk/alton-regeneration-ballot](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/alton-regeneration-ballot) or drop by our Alton information stall in Danebury Avenue every Friday afternoon.





As part of a summer of events on the Winstanley celebrating Wandsworth's year as London Borough of Culture, Winstanley residents created a 'Coat of Strengths' as a legacy for future generations. The metal shield reflects the falcons in the Coat of Arms of eighteenth-century landowner Sir Oliver St John.

Plan to transform the Winstanley

We've given the green light to an improved Winstanley Neighbourhood Regeneration Plan.

Investment includes a new leisure centre, a library and community spaces, as well as green spaces, play areas and facilities such as shops, cafes, restaurants and health centres.

This follows the council's decision to take full control of the Winstanley and York Road estates redevelopment, ending the previous joint venture partnership. Crucially, the change allows the council and residents to move at pace with the next stages of the development following first moves in at Braund Mansions.





£1000 FINE

Our CCTV monitoring
is catching flytippers
in the act

Fly-tipping crackdown

We issued 623 Fixed Penalty Notices to flytippers in the first half of this year.

This includes unwanted furniture such as mattresses and chairs left on the side of a residential street, rubble and building waste dumped on a back street, and industrial waste flytipped in a car park.

Our enforcement officers have the power to issue £1,000 on-the-spot Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for

small scale fly-tipping. Large scale fly-tipping can be punished in the Magistrate's Court with a £50,000 fine, and a 12-month prison sentence. Offenders convicted of large-scale fly-tipping in a Crown Court can face an unlimited fine, and/or a five-year prison sentence.

As part of our Cleaner Borough Plan, we have listened to local residents and increased CCTV monitoring in hotspot areas to catch fly-tippers red-handed.

“We are serious about tackling flytipping in Wandsworth. Our diligent enforcement teams, which we have reinforced with more staff, have swiftly identified culprits and issued fines.”

Paul White, Cabinet Member for Environment





More than 6,500 tonnes of extra recycling have been collected in less than a year thanks to residents' hard work and the Cleaner Borough Plan, equivalent to 400 double-decker buses.

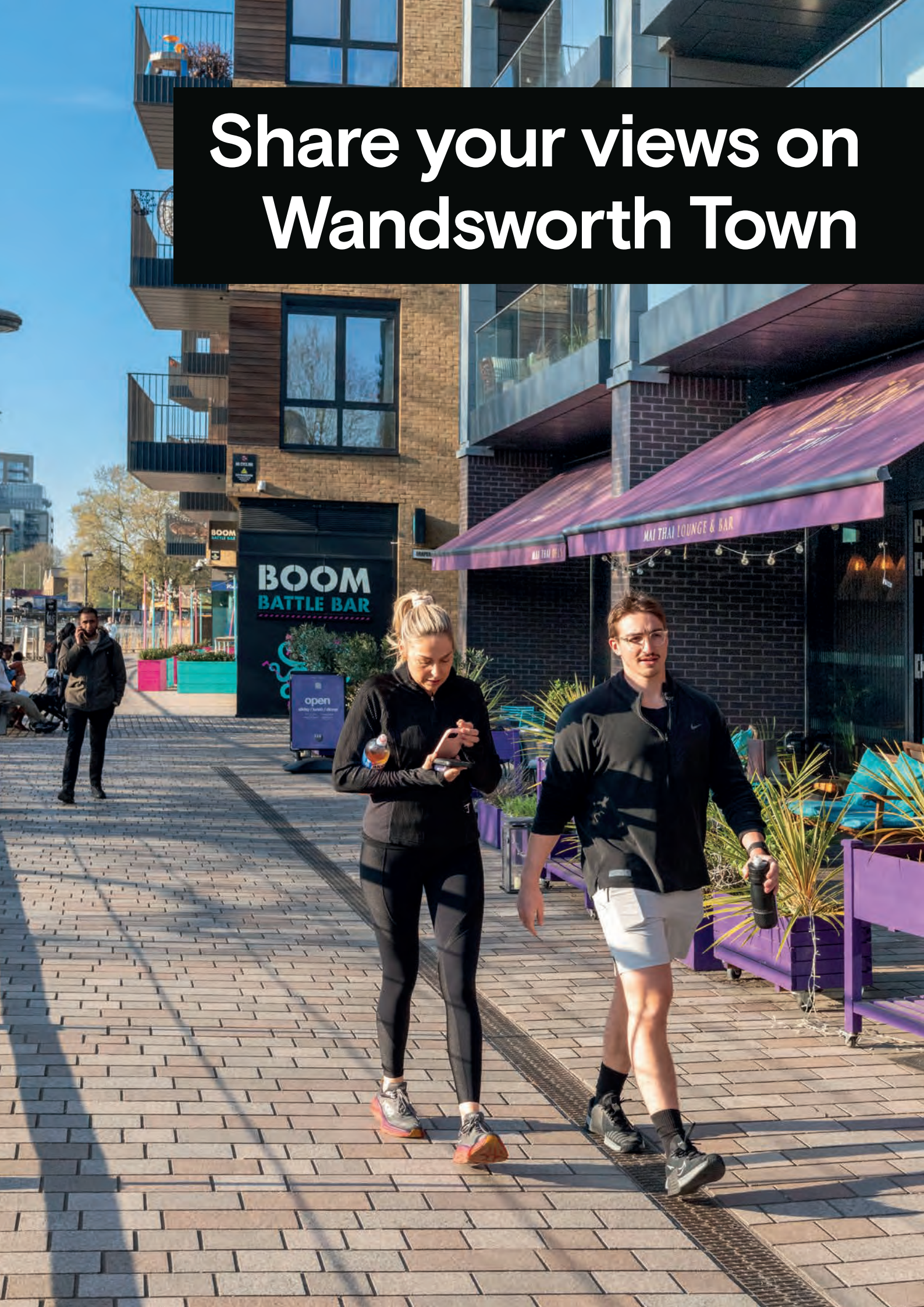
As part of the Cleaner Borough Plan we have:

- Guaranteed weekly rubbish and recycling collections
- Doubled the amount of Mega Skip Days
- Introduced two free bulky waste collection a year per household
- Introduced free food waste recycling to most homes

FREE

**MEGA
SKIP DAYS**

Share your views on Wandsworth Town





Simon Hogg with London's Deputy Mayor of Business and Growth Howard Dawber and Fleur Anderson MP

Wandsworth Town is a great place to live, work and visit. Tell us how we can make it even better

Calling all Wandsworth Town residents. We've opened a survey to find out how we can make it easier to move around Wandsworth Town Centre and listen to what would improve the area for people who live, work, study or spend time there.

The town centre, together with Clapham Junction and Nine Elms, has been identified in the London Growth Plan as a new 'growth corridor' in the borough which is a key strategic area for housing, infrastructure and economic development. In our own Wandsworth Growth Plan, the council has set out plans to unlock inclusive growth with housing, jobs, health and environmental benefits for the whole borough.

As London's South Circular road runs through the centre of Wandsworth Town, the council is working together with TfL to develop options that could improve the town centre's public transport, cycling, walking, accessibility and the public realm around the road, acting on feedback from local residents and businesses.

Drop a pin on our online map, fill out the survey or come along to an event to tell us about your real experiences of walking, cycling or travelling through the area to help guide further changes and make it a better place to live.

improvingwandsworthtowncentre.commonplace.is



Neighbourhood investment is transforming Old York Road



Carney's new bike workshop

Neighbourhood improvements in every corner

We have an ongoing programme of infrastructure improvements with new playgrounds and sports facilities, CCTV monitoring, road improvements and support for local community organisations.

This summer, work got underway on three playgrounds and a new multi-use games area is set to open in October in Randall Close.

Carney's Community benefited from council funding to refit and launch their bike workshop, giving young local people vital employment skills and experience.

These improvements are being funded by partners in the borough, acting on feedback from residents gathered at the council's community drop-in events and online surveys. Not a penny will be added to your council tax.



Feedback has been gathered at community drop-ins

Falcon Bridge upgrade

The Falcon Road rail bridge underpass in Clapham Junction is being redesigned to make it safer, brighter and more welcoming, including new artwork cladding, better lighting, painting, pigeon-proofing and landscaping.

In our year as London Borough of Culture, the artwork will celebrate local landmarks. The work is in partnership with Network Rail and will be completed in December.

Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/falcon-road-bridge.
If you have any questions email falconroadbridge@wandsworth.gov.uk



Artist's image of how the finished underpass will look



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



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.





Springfield Park

Celebrate our parks

The Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, officially opened the 32-acre Springfield Park in the heart of Tooting this summer – the largest new park to be created in the capital since 2012.

Pupils from Fircroft Primary School helped unveil a commemorative plaque and plant the park's 700th tree.

The London Mayor was also joined by Wandsworth Council Leader Simon Hogg who said: "Wandsworth is proud to be one of London's greenest boroughs, and Springfield Park is a fantastic addition to our extensive network of parks, commons and open spaces."

We're continuing to invest in our parks to make them the best in London. Other recent highlights include:

- 12 of our parks won a prestigious Green Flag, awarded for parks that meet the highest environmental, community and maintenance standards
- A statue of pioneering landscape designer Fanny Wilkinson was installed in Coronation Gardens, Southfields – completing the restoration of the long-dormant water fountain

■ Iconic statues in Battersea Park, including the war memorial and Three Standing Figures by Henry Moore, have been restored

■ A new six-year parks maintenance contract was awarded that emphasises sustainability

We're also developing a Biodiversity Action Plan, and would like your input. Find out more at haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/wandsworthecs/wbap-25

“We invest in our parks because we know how vital they are for children, families and everyone's wellbeing.”

Simon Hogg Leader of Wandsworth Council



The new Fanny Wilkinson statue



Sadiq Khan joins Simon Hogg at Springfield Park



The renovated war memorial

Keep warm this winter

Eligible residents will benefit from Warm Home Packs for the third year in a row this winter, as Wandsworth Council continues to deliver the most generous cost-of-living support package in London.

These free packs, distributed in partnership with Crew Energy, are designed to help households reduce energy bills by as much as £240 a year and make homes more comfortable during the colder months. Packs include items such as draught excluding tape and shower timers.

“My Wandsworth Council warm home pack has been a life changer for me,” says Roger Leach, 57, a trained chef from Balham. Roger also had a home visit from a member of the team for advice and further financial assistance to support him.

Find out about support on our Cost of Living Hub at [wandsworth.gov.uk/hub](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/hub)



Roger Leach

Book your free bulky waste collection

Every household in Wandsworth gets two free bulky waste collections a year.

Each free collection can be for up to four items or 12 sacks of waste.



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

Our Cleaner
Borough





My Children Know Your Children brought together around 300 local people for a day of sport, activities and community fun this summer.

Organised by the Jimmy Asher Foundation and part funded by the MOPAC's Violence Reduction Unit, the event focused on building trust, safety, and a sense of unity among local families and their young people

Wandsworth Council's Community Safety and Children's Services teams went along to promote key safety messages and give information about resources including anonymous crime reporting through Fearless, how to report anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse support including the One Stop Shop.



**DON'T
LOSE
YOUR
VOTE**



On 7 May 2026
all 58 Wandsworth Council
seats will be up for election
Make sure you are ready

- Respond to your household voter registration form, which you should have received in the post or by email. If you haven't responded yet, our canvassers will visit your address in October to help make sure you're registered to vote.
- We have contacted voters who need to re-apply for their postal vote. If this is you, reapply as soon as possible.
- When you vote you will need photo ID. If you don't have it, you can apply for a free Voter Certificate.

Find out more at
wandsworth.gov.uk/vote



Help to get out and about

New free guides will make it easier for residents and visitors with disabilities to visit public buildings in Wandsworth, including libraries, leisure centres and entertainment venues.

We've worked with AccessAble to produce Detailed Access Guides for the borough, which enable people to find on-site parking, accessible toilets, automatic doors, step-free access and much more.

They are available on the web and are searchable by area, type of venue, type of accessibility criterion and other filters, and include measurements and photographs, including large, 360-degree images.

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

Deputy Council Leader Kemi Akinola checks out the new guide in Tooting Library

Book an **NHS** HEALTH CHECK at a **local pharmacy**

**GET
CHECKED
FEEL GREAT**



**NHS
HEALTH
CHECK**

Helping you prevent
diabetes
heart disease
kidney disease
stroke & dementia





**WELCOME TO
WANDSWORTH**
London Borough of Culture



A year for everyone

As we reach the middle of our year as London Borough of Culture, we're celebrating the borough we all call home





**WELCOME TO
WANDSWORTH**
London Borough of Culture



A year for everyone

Highlights so far have included major events like our dance spectacular **Strictly Wandsworth** hosted by Oti Mabusi, country music festival **Country on the Common**, **Battersea Park in Concert**, **Urban Flow**, **Secret Cinema** and the **Wandsworth Arts Fringe**.

Plus, there have been dozens of community events, outreach sessions, projects focusing on health and wellbeing, activities for schools and our ongoing radio soap drama **The Wandsworth Way**, in partnership with **Riverside Radio**.



To make sure events are accessible, £3 tickets are available to any ticketed event for Access for All cardholders.

Looking ahead to the autumn, **Liberty Festival**, the Mayor of London's flagship disability arts festival, will be one of the highlights of the London Borough of Culture year. From September 24-29, expect a programme of free events in venues across the borough.

Black History Month is in October, but in Wandsworth we celebrate Black history all year round. Black History 365 explores different aspects of Black history, heritage and culture, while throughout October **African Caribbean Food Month** will bring food-focused events designed to bring people together through shared experience. Local resident and TV chef Ainsley Harriott will launch the month with an event exploring the changing face of African Caribbean cuisine.

Also in October, Wandsworth's incredible community of artists and makers open their homes and studios to the public for the annual **Wandsworth Artists' Open House**.

In November the Clapham Grand celebrates its 125th anniversary. For one night only on November 26 **Palace of Varieties** will pay tribute to a century of cultural change, with songs from every decade and tributes to everything from bingo to Britpop and music hall to drag queens.

Live in Wandsworth and have a bright idea? Our new Culture Microgrants offer local people the chance to apply to up to £1000 each month to support you to make a creative project happen in your borough.

And if you want to join the team, as a volunteer Culture Hero you'll gain hands-on experience, meet brilliant people, and help create memorable moments. You'll get full training, flexible shifts, and refreshments.

Find out about this, and everything happening during our year, at welcometowandsworth.com

Follow us on X @wtowandsworth and Instagram @welcometowandsworth and sign up to our newsletters to get the latest information straight into your inbox.





WHAT'S ON?

Wandsworth Council's Battersea Fireworks

November 1-2

It's back and better than ever as Wandsworth celebrates its year as London Borough of Culture. Join us on Saturday for a spectacular display with live music, fairground rides, and entertainment before and after. On Sunday our Family Fireworks Night is a welcoming, child-friendly atmosphere.

batterseaparkfireworks.com

Restarters Southfields: Mend, Fix and Repair Cafe

September 27, 12-3pm

Make the most of Sustainable September by bringing new life to a broken or damaged household item, from clothing and small electrical items to bikes.

Local volunteers will offer help, advice and skills sharing at the repair cafe, with homemade cakes and refreshments served.

St Barnabas, 146 Lavenham Rd, Southfields
restartersouthfields@gmail.com

Wandsworth Care Alliance AGM

September 29, 4pm-6pm

Anyone interested in local healthcare and wellbeing is welcome to attend

Tooting Works, Bickersteth Road, Tooting
Search Wandsworth Care Alliance on Eventbrite

Women Only Swim Programme

Tuesdays and Thursdays during term time

This programme offers a welcoming and inclusive space where women of all faith groups can build confidence in the water and learn essential swim skills.

To find out more e mail
activecommunities@enablelc.org

Wild Weekends

October 4, 3.30pm-4pm

Free, fun activities for the whole family inspired by animal awareness. Just turn up.

Wandsworth Town Library
better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/events-and-activities

Brighter Living Fair

October 1-21

Events all over the borough run by local groups and organisations to celebrate older residents and make them aware of opportunities in their community to stay physically active, socially connected and fully supported to live healthy, happy lives.

Enjoy free taster sessions and events celebrating culture, food, community and this year's theme, physical activity.

See a full timetable of events at
wandsworth.gov.uk/brighter-living-fair.



Bags of Taste

A fun and free programme delivered in your own home funded by Wandsworth Council.

A bag of ingredients is delivered to your door, and you will get support to cook three low-cost, nutritious and delicious recipes.

Visit bagsoftaste.org,



Putney Music

Putney Music is celebrating its 75th season and is welcoming new members. Meet new people with an interest in the study and appreciation of music and hear some of the world's most celebrated musicians talk about their lives and work.

Find out more at putneymusic.org.uk



The Battersea Society Photography Award exhibition

October 9-11

See the shortlisted entries in the Battersea Society, Community & Connections Photography Award, run in partnership with the Royal College of Art.

The competition for amateur photographers celebrates the many communities within Battersea.

Royal College of Art, Battersea



Women and Girls Rugby

Free rugby sessions for women and girls aged 16+. Suitable for beginners, or women ready to get back into the game, the sessions are fun, friendly and inclusive.

Email activecommunities@enablelc.org



Forget-Me-Not Group

Formerly known as the dementia-friendly cafe, the group, which celebrates its second anniversary this year, meets weekly to provide a welcoming space for people with memory problems and their friends, families and carers. Members can chat over a hot drink and a snack, take part in fun activities such as crafts, and find out about local sources of support. There are also visits from guests who give information and advice on topics such as online safety.

Balham Library

If you are interested in going, ask at the library or email balham.library.gll.org call/whatsapp 07807 398181 or email wandsworth@bagsoftaste.org.

Childminder Briefing Session

October 7, 10am-12 noon

Find out if a career as a childminder is for you at this free session. Just turn up.

7 Ram Street, Wandsworth

Call (020) 8871 6223/5337 for details.

Free family Cycle Training

One-to-one bespoke training with each family. Children must be five or over. You must provide your own, roadworthy bike.

Find out more and book online at wandsworth.gov.uk/family-cycle-training



African Caribbean Food Month Throughout October

As part of our year as London Borough of Culture, we're celebrating the power of food to connect generations, cultures and communities.

Enjoy workshops, cooking demonstrations, panel discussions, library talks and readings and much more. The month kicks off with a special event hosted by local resident and TV chef Ainsley Harriott.

Find out what's on at wandsworth.gov.uk/african_caribbean_food_month



Furzedown Safer Neighbourhood Meeting October 7, 6.30pm-8.30pm

Chat about local issues and concerns with the police and the council's community safety team. Just turn up.

St Albans Church (corner of Thrale Road and Pretoria Road, SW16 6RR

met.police.uk/area/your-area/met/wandsworth/furzedown

MAYOR OF WANDSWORTH'S *Comedy Gala*



FRIDAY
28 NOVEMBER 2025

DOORS AT 7:00 PM | SHOW AT 7:30 PM

Full line-up to be announced

WANDSWORTH CIVIC SUITE
WANDSWORTH HIGH STREET

TICKETS: £25 + BOOKING FEE

ALL PROCEEDS TO MAYOR
OF WANDSWORTH'S CHARITIES

BAR | RAFFLE

OVER 18s
ONLY



tickettailor.com/events/mayorofwandsworthscharity/1839812

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.

MAYOR OF LONDON



Liberty Festival

An electrifying
programme of free
events bringing a
celebration of
disabled artistry to
Wandsworth

24-29
Sep



Find out more



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

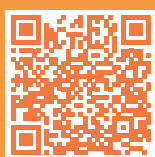




Dolly Parton is giving
all Wandsworth
children aged
under 5
a free book
every month



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

