COVID-19 crisis
Find out what support is available to you

Lockdown
How the council, partners and communities have responded

Fighting fit
Stay healthy to fight illness

PLUS What’s On(line), our one stop shop for all the online entertainment from the borough and beyond
Are you worried about domestic or sexual abuse?

Solace provides a help and advice service for people aged 16 or over who live in Southwark.

For help contact
020 7593 1290
southwark@solacewomensaid.org
welcome...

When I wrote the welcome for the spring edition of Southwark Life I thought it would be my last chance to speak to you as I was stepping down as Leader of the Council after ten years. What a difference a few months has made. Since then I have stayed on as Leader for a few months to help the borough face some of the toughest challenges we have ever experienced as we, like the rest of the country, came to terms with the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdown.

I am so proud of the way the council, our partners and most importantly our local residents and businesses have supported each other through this crisis. Thank you. The whole borough has come together in a show of solidarity, community and support during a period that will change the way we live and work forever.

We know the impact of COVID-19 has been felt across the borough, through lives tragically lost, and the disruption to our normal way of life. Find out how the council and community have supported those most affected by the lockdown, and how you can get help if you need it. Please respond to our survey to find out how the borough is coping (see page 15).

The recent death of George Floyd has rightly led to a renewed focus on racism, injustice and inequality as part of Black Lives Matter, and the council has reaffirmed its commitment to working with communities to address some of the entrenched issues. We are firmly committed to equality for our borough, and will be supporting our local LGBTQ+ community by flying our Pride flag from our Tooley Street office in the last week of June.

Thank you all again and please continue to take care of each other and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Peter John
Leader of Southwark Council
Much of the council’s focus over the last few months has been supporting our local residents and businesses during the COVID-19 crisis, but not everything has been on hold. Here is a round up of some of the other news from around the borough.

For news and events follow us on social media or find out more at southwark.gov.uk/news

Follow us on Facebook facebook.com/southwarkcouncil
Follow us on Twitter @lb_southwark
Follow us on Instagram Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

Climate Change – Your Views

The council has launched a new online portal to help find out what everyone who lives, works or has fun in Southwark can do to help us tackle climate change. This survey marks the start of a new conversation between local people, the council and others that will extend into the summer.

It looks to build on positive changes many have adopted during the lockdown, like less car travel and more working from home. We must work together to bring about the change that is necessary to tackle the climate emergency. Visit southwark.gov.uk/yourclimatethoughts to take part.

Virtual ‘Nest’ launched to support young people’s mental health

Southwark Council announced in January this year that it intended to open a drop-in young people’s mental health ‘hub’ at a location in Peckham, for young people aged 13 and upwards.

Since then, of course, huge changes have happened and social distancing has meant that what will now be called The Nest, has had to evolve into an online and phone line support service for the time being.

This is a landmark service and one of the key components of the council’s commitment to support 100 percent of children and young people with a diagnosable mental health need.

The new service will be run in partnership with Groundwork London, which was awarded the contract following a competitive process in January.

For more information or to access support visit thenestsouthwark.org.uk

Fundraising advice

In light of the extraordinary fundraising efforts and generosity displayed by the British public in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Fundraising Regulator has published new guidance. This pack is designed to enable you to share key messages across your social media channels to encourage people to make sure their fundraising appeals are legal, ethical and have the best chance of success and give safely to genuine charities and not become a victim of fraudsters.

The Fundraising Regulator is the independent regulator of charitable fundraising in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Find out more at www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk
Council gives evidence to House of Lords inquiry into Universal Credit

In April, Southwark Council’s Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Victoria Mills, gave evidence to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee’s inquiry into Universal Credit.

Cllr Mills said that Universal Credit has caused many problems for Southwark’s residents, especially for social housing tenants or people who rent from private landlords. Southwark Council’s research, Safe as Houses, shows that Universal Credit has caused many people’s rent debts to increase. Cllr Mills called for changes to Universal Credit, particularly now that many more people are claiming it because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The council has various support schemes for residents with financial difficulties.

Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/coronavirus or you can call the Financial Inclusion Team on 020 7525 4010 (charged at your standard network rate).

Donate your old smartphone to help local people stay connected

The council is supporting Community Calling, a partnership between O2 and environment charity Hubbub, to get people to donate their old and unused smartphones so they can be passed on to help other people stay digitally connected.

The ‘Community Calling’ trial will initially involve 800 handsets being distributed to residents of Southwark who have been identified as someone who would benefit most from a smartphone – from the elderly to people escaping domestic abuse.

Several phones have already been delivered to the team at Southwark Works who have been distributing them to clients like Vera (pictured).

Vera said: “My youngest son is so excited. Finally he’s able to use some educational apps and we can interact with our family abroad on Facetime”

If you’d like to support the trial and donate your old smartphones to the Community Calling project, visit www.hubbub.org.uk/communitycalling for more details.

PRIDE in Southwark

Sadly, due to the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, most Pride events across the borough – and London – have been cancelled or postponed this year. However the council will still be flying the LGBTQ+ flag from our Tooley Street offices for the last week of June to show we stand in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community, and we are happy to support the national Pride Inside campaign, which features local resident and nurse, Pawee. If any events have been postponed until later in the year or moved online they can be included in our Stay at Home Library (see page 12).
We take a look at how the council responded in the first weeks of lockdown.

Without a doubt the local impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating to many Southwark residents and businesses. We mourn the lives that have been lost and have been working closely with local community and charity groups to support our residents and businesses as best we can during this challenging time.

When the government announced a national lockdown on Monday 23 March, Southwark Council was already swinging into action. Some members of staff were able to continue to work from home but with new priorities such as ensuring our parks and open spaces had clear social distancing messages, supporting local businesses that had to close during lockdown or helping over 200 rough sleepers find safe accommodation.

Others were re-deployed to support frontline services such as the call centre and our new community hub, or delivering food parcels to hundreds of vulnerable people on our shielded lists. Some staff volunteered to help our colleagues in the NHS, providing vital support services for people coming out of hospital.

One of the main new initiatives during lockdown was the Southwark Community Hub. The council, the local NHS and GP surgeries, charities and community and volunteer groups came together to reach more people and make sure that everyone in the community has one-stop access to the right support during this difficult time, see page 8 for more information.

Through the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme we have given out a further £1.5m to support those suffering hardship. We’ve also been supporting our local businesses, including creating a new £2m business hardship fund to support those businesses who are struggling to access financial support.

The council also announced a £390,000 community fund, in recognition of the vital role that the voluntary sector plays in looking after Southwark’s residents.

The funding was allocated to groups supporting the most vulnerable and at risk or to those who have been directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Simon Phillips, Library Officer, was redeployed to a Hospital Discharge Team at King’s College working as a Discharge Support Worker.

Simon said: “I usually deliver books and provide other library services to the older and vulnerable residents of Southwark.

“My new role involves helping patients to have a smooth discharge from hospital care to their homes. I love supporting our residents in my usual role, and it is great to have been able to continue doing this, using the same skills. I am proud to support our vulnerable residents and the NHS through my redeployment.”

REDEPLOYMENT

Customer Service Officer, Sandra Moores, normally takes calls for repairs, environment, and leisure. But more recently she has been making welfare check calls from her home.

Sandra said: “I feel very happy that I have been able to make residents feel valued and cared for, especially our most vulnerable in the community.

“I ask about how they are coping and if there are things they need support with such as shopping for food and other essentials. The smallest gestures can make a huge difference to how a person copes during this challenging time.”
Our covid-19 response in numbers

- 8,000 food packages delivered to vulnerable residents
- £25,000 additional funding to support victims of domestic abuse
- 10,000 vulnerable residents called to check support needs
- 281 rough sleepers housed
- 130 parks and open spaces kept open for exercise
- 78 schools open for children of key workers and vulnerable children
- £56 million in grants distributed to local businesses
- 1.5 million bin collections on time

Paddy is the food coordinator for NunUnFed, the food programme from Nunhead Knocks. He said: “The food deliveries from the council were essential in helping us get up and running in the early days of the response to the pandemic. Using the fresh supplies that we receive each week, as well as donations from the community, we have now provided over 750 meals to people who are having to self-isolate in the borough. Thanks to the council for the flexibility and speed with which they have been able to help our efforts!”

One of the local businesses supported by the council was Dulwich Hamlet Football Club. Chairman Ben Clasper said: “The suspension of all sports and leisure activities on March 16 threatened to undo all of the work from the previous 18 months by leaving the club with a substantial and insurmountable cash deficit instead of the hard earned surplus we had built up. „Early indications were that none of the national or local schemes would be applicable to our circumstances and whilst the job retention scheme has since made a significant difference it was Southwark Council who offered the first and most decisive support by working with us on a discretionary basis to provide a repayable grant. The funds meant that the club was able to ensure all employees were paid without interruption and smaller local suppliers could also be paid in full to ensure they in turn could pay their staff. Later funding from the government has allowed us to extend that to now pay all larger suppliers but without the initial help from Southwark we would not have lasted long enough to even apply.”

Felicia is the CEO of the Central Southwark Community Hub. She said:

“The role of the hub has changed massively since the pandemic. We have been working with the council’s COVID hub and other organisations on an effective referral service to ensure that anyone who needs help is catered for and that no one is left to slip through the cracks. The number of weekly clients to the hub has increased 6 fold since the lockdown to an average of 189 clients. We have also been paying a lot of attention to the different client groups using our food banks and those who have been worst affected by the pandemic. We hope to share some of our interesting data with the council in the near future to outline a strategy on how we could go about helping these different groups going forward.

“Our clients, old and new, have been overwhelmingly grateful. However I believe some clients may be feeling quite apprehensive about receiving the right support in the future. Only the other day I spoke with a client over the phone; a young boy with learning difficulties who expressed anxiety about work in the future, since he works in restaurant kitchens and has underlying health conditions. “I feel that the coming together of organisations and councils is something that has been needed for a long time and has been good. This pandemic has shown us the importance of working together and learning from each other and I hope this will continue into the future.”
As Southwark Life went to press, the borough, along with the rest of the country, was starting to see some of the restrictive lockdown measures be relaxed. Some children have returned to schools, people can spend more time outside with friends and family and some shops are re-opening.

Of course all this is subject to change and the message is still very clear – this is a potentially life-threatening illness and we need to continue to do all we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Whilst many people will be getting back to normal – or some version of it – the impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown continues to be felt by many.

We’ve rounded up what you might need to know now, and where you can continue to get support.

**Supporting our local residents**

Southwark Council, the local NHS and GP surgeries, charities and community and volunteer groups have come together to reach more people and make sure that everyone in the community has one-stop access to the right support during this difficult time.

The Southwark Community Hub is available to anyone in Southwark and provides a place to go to where you can email or chat to someone to get advice and support on a range of issues from finances to mental health.

Please contact the Community Hub at covidsupport@southwark.gov.uk or call 020 7525 5000 if you would like to chat to someone about your concern.

If you want to find out information about local services and support for residents and businesses please see the council webpages at www.southwark.gov.uk/coronavirus

**Backing Business**

On Monday 8 June the council announced a further £3.4 million discretionary grants fund for local small businesses and market traders. The funding is for small local businesses that have suffered a significant fall in income due to the COVID-19 pandemic but did not qualify for earlier government support schemes, or were unsuccessful in applying for the Southwark Business Hardship Fund in April.

Grants will be allocated on a rolling basis, according to the need and size of successful applicants, until the fund is exhausted. Payments will be made as soon as possible after successful applications.

For more information on the scheme, eligibility criteria and how to apply go to www.southwark.gov.uk/discretionarygrantsfund

**Respect our parks and cemeteries**

Southwark’s parks and open spaces, including our cemeteries, are coming into their own and serving as gardens and meeting places for many people at the moment. Most visitors are following government guidance and taking care of themselves, while respecting each other, our staff and vulnerable members of the community.

However, all the extra visitors do put our green spaces under additional strain. Our wardens and park liaison officers are patrolling parks and open spaces on a daily basis and working closely with police colleagues. We also have a new, specific patrol presence in Burgess Park, seven days a week.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our open spaces clean.

- Follow social distancing rules and respect other park users, police officers and our staff - who are trying to keep our parks safe, clean and pleasant for everybody
- NO barbecues
- Take your litter home and clean up after your dog
- Go home to use the toilet
- Do not play amplified music over speakers
- Cemeteries are for quiet reflection and mourning. Please be respectful to those who have lost loved ones while you visit.
A number of Southwark's primary schools began a carefully phased return for additional pupils from Monday 1 June, with all settings open from 29 June.

Over 75 percent of schools have been open for keyworker families since 23 March, 2020.

Schools have completed detailed risk assessments for their premises and individual staff, with careful preparations undertaken to ensure that as more children return to school, it is safe for them to do so and for staff to teach them. We are grateful for the care and attention that headteachers and their governing bodies across the borough have taken in planning a very gradual and phased approach that mitigates any possible risks. Headteachers are also reporting that staff have been very supportive in ensuring that key worker pupils, vulnerable pupils and the key year groups’ pupils receive as much quality learning as possible on site and that the huge drive to support home learning continues for the majority of pupils not in school.

All council committee meetings have resumed but are taking place virtually for the time being.

The council is currently in the process of changing its video conferencing platform, which will enable it to livestream meetings in real time and hopes to have this in place this summer. For now, members of the public are required to contact the meeting clerk for a link to watch the meeting in real time and recordings are uploaded to the council’s YouTube channel the following day.

When meetings can be livestreamed, members of the public will still need to contact the clerk to speak but everyone will be able to watch without contacting us.

COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown have changed how we all live, travel and work. Even as lockdown measures are eased, more people will still want to walk and cycle rather than use public transport, so we are working to help with this.

We have widened pavements in hotspots on Camberwell and Walworth Road high streets and elsewhere in the borough, to enable better social distancing. We are also asking people to let us know where they’d like to see changes to our roads, to help them with social distancing and encourage more people to walk and cycle. More than 3,000 people have shared suggestions and comments in the first few weeks of our survey and we are working to introduce a number of these. You can add your voice at southwarkstreetspace.commonplace.is

In addition to this, at the time of going to print, plans for 18 more projects are being finalised, prioritising social distancing, road safety and better air quality. These include a number of new School Street road closures – at drop off and pick up times - and road closures to stop rat runs and speeding and encourage cycling and walking.

We know there are many families across the borough who will have lost loved ones to this virus and the council will not let their passing go by without planning a way to remember them and celebrate their lives.

We are working with our friends at Southwark Cathedral to plan an interfaith service to pay our respects to all those with a connection to Southwark who lost their lives due to COVID-19, once the country has come out of lockdown and returned to some sort of normality.

When the time is right we will ask their families, friends and colleagues to join us in a celebration of their lives and recognition of the difference local people and organisations made in supporting our borough through this time.
Help to stay healthy

Staying as strong and healthy as possible is a great way to fight infections and illnesses.

We all know the best way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 is by washing our hands often and staying socially distant, but what about our day-to-day health? Making sure we are physically and mentally healthy helps with our resilience when we do get sick.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, you might be finding things harder than usual at the moment. You are not alone, and help is available.

Take time out

Mindfulness is a great way to help calm your mind, bring it back into the present moment, and be more aware of your surroundings. There are free online apps that can support you with mindfulness such as Headspace. Going for a walk outside and noticing what you can see and hear can also help.

"The last few months have been a huge challenge for all of us. Although the rates of COVID-19 are reducing, it’s a threat we will continue to live with for the foreseeable future. Now, more than ever, is the time to try and improve our health. Small changes can make a big difference, and improve conditions like high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes in a relatively short period of time. Eating more fruits and vegetables, trying to move more everyday, reducing smoking (or switching to vaping), and getting a good night’s sleep are all really important. If you’d like to know more, speak with your GP or call the Southwark Healthy Lifestyle hub* – we’re here to help you. “

Dr Jessica Howitt
Nunhead Resident and Locum GP in Southwark and Lambeth

*This is a FREE service offered to all those that meet the criteria. Any health professional at your registered GP Practice can refer you. For more information call 0333 050159.

Stay in touch

Loneliness has a big impact on mental health. Connecting with others might feel extra hard right now, but is important to stay in contact with friends and family.

- Make plans to phone or video chat with people or groups you’d normally see in person or make use of the government’s new social bubble arrangements to visit the home of a friend or family member.
- Think about things you can do to connect with people. For example, putting extra pictures up of the people you care about might be a nice reminder of the people in your life.
- Listen to a chatty radio station or podcast if your home feels too quiet.

The Samaritans offer a friendly chat. You can call them on 116 123, or chat online on their website at www.samaritans.org

Age UK also offer an advice line and a friendly chat if you are feeling lonely on 0800 678 1602. Lines are open 8am to 7pm, 365 days a year.

Get a good night’s sleep

When we’re anxious it can be hard to sleep. The NHS Good Thinking website provides information and support on sleep. www.good-thinking.uk
Get moving

Being physically active can improve your mental health, and being active outdoors is even better. Parks and open spaces in Southwark are still open - just remember to follow social distancing rules. Or if you want to stay inside, check out Sport England’s #stayinworkout online physical activities.

www.sportengland.org/jointhemovement

Healthy eating

When we are stressed, or feeling low, it is tempting to smoke, drink alcohol or eat unhealthy comfort food to try and make us feel better. However, together these unhealthy habits may weaken our immune system, making us more likely to become unwell, as well as contributing to us feeling low. If you need help improving your healthy habits, support is available:

- If you are a smoker and want to quit, get free support on 0300 123 104 from Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm, and weekends 11am to 4pm.
- If you want to eat a little more healthily or lose a bit of weight have a look at www.nhs.uk/oneyou or call 0333 005 0159.
- If you want to cut back on how much alcohol you drink, have a look at the Drinkaware website at www.drinkaware.co.uk or call 0300 123 1110 from Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm, and weekends 11am to 4pm.

Stay protected

Please make sure your child does not miss or delay any of their routine pre-school immunisations. Immunisations are incredibly important in protecting your child and other vulnerable people from potentially life-threatening infections. Your GP should contact you as usual to arrange for your child’s routine pre-school immunisations. If they haven’t, please get in touch with your practice. Practices have put measures in place to ensure you can safely access the healthcare and support you need during COVID-19. This means you may be asked to go to a different practice than usual.

For expectant mothers; it is very important that you receive your pertussis vaccine to protect your baby from potentially life-threatening infection. If you are at least 16 weeks into your pregnancy and have not yet heard from your GP surgery about your pertussis vaccine, please call your practice.

If you are struggling, it’s important to know that support is still available.

Call your GP. They will be able to provide advice on how to deal with your symptoms and talk about available treatment. Please don’t put off contacting your GP surgery if you need to consult a doctor or nurse about your usual health issues or anything new. Practices have put measures in place to ensure you can be safely seen, including video and tele-consultations.

The NHS in Southwark provides a Talking Therapy service, to support people struggling with low mood, stress and anxiety. If you are registered with a Southwark GP, you can contact this service directly on 020 3228 2194.

Southwark’s Wellbeing Hub provides information and support to anyone living in Southwark, who is worried about their wellbeing, or that of someone close to them. Call the Hub on 0203 751 9684, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

For young people, youngminds.org.uk has additional resources specific to you. Also check out kooth.com where you can receive anonymous support from counsellors via online chat. Plus there is our new Nest service – see page 4.

Southwark’s NHS 24-hour mental health telephone support line is available for people who are experiencing mental distress in Southwark on 0800 731 2864.

In an emergency always call 999.
In these difficult times, when we’re all missing family and friends, it’s important to enjoy small pleasures and keep ourselves entertained.

Public events, performances and exhibitions have been cancelled across the borough this summer as a result of the lockdown. But in response, many of our local theatres, galleries and cultural or creative organisations have moved their offer online with a wide range of events and activities to entertain, educate and keep people active.

To help bring all these opportunities together, Southwark Council launched its online Stay at Home Library to help residents find a wide range of activities and resources while at home.

Whether you are looking for educational resources, a theatre production, or a way to keep kids entertained during the summer holidays, we wanted to make sure that we are offering our residents a way to continue to broaden their imaginations and experiences from their own homes.

You can access the Stay at Home Library on the council’s events webpages at www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents but to get you started why not try the following:

**Musicty X Low Line**

The Low Line is a new walking destination for London, spanning Bankside, London Bridge and Bermondsey. It connects diverse neighbourhoods and communities along the length of the mighty Victorian viaduct in south London, creating new hubs of creativity, entertainment, and industry along its course. Fifteen specially commissioned Musicity tracks were inspired by locations along the Low Line and can now be downloaded at home as well as listened to as you explore the area. There are an additional ten locations nearby in Southwark, not far from the Low Line.

*Where to find it:* Tracks can be downloaded from www.musicityglobal.com/cities/musicity-x-low-line

**Summer Reading Challenge**

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual event aimed at 4 to 11 year olds. Children are encouraged to read six (or more) books of their choice during the summer holidays with collectable incentives and rewards. This year, with the disruption caused by COVID-19, the all-new digital Summer Reading Challenge is launching earlier than usual. The theme is “Silly Squad”, a celebration of funny books, happiness and laughter, featuring bespoke artwork from award-winning children’s author and illustrator, Laura Ellen Anderson.

*Where to find it:* summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/signing-in-src

**At Home Activities With Youth Platform**

Youth Platform Coordinator Farrah will lead you in a different creative challenge on Instagram TV @youthplatform every Thursday at 3.30pm. They’re pulling out the ink, paint, pencils and more to experiment with activities from Mark Making to relaxing Fluid Painting. Although Youth Platform is aimed at individuals aged 13-19, during this period they’re delivering activities also designed for children and adults with materials you can find around your house!

*Where to find it:* www.peckhamplatform.com/support-us/youth-platform
Southwark Council has joined forces with Lambeth Council and London’s largest holiday provision provider, Kitchen Social, to host an exciting summer programme of food and activities in their communities.

Abiyeuwu has four children aged between 3 and 11 years old. Her family are regular attendees at the Central Southwark Community Hub run by CEO, Felicia Boshorin.

Here, Abiyeuwu tells us about her experiences of the Hub’s summer programme and what it means to her family:

“Last year, my family took part in both indoor and outdoor activities – there was sports, arts and crafts, dance, storytelling, and we also visited a lot of places. We then came back to a healthy wonderful lunch. Sometimes the children got involved with the cooking activities, and they even got to meet a nutritionist.

I think our favourite part was that we got to go out every day, and had an activity to look forward to, not just for the kids, but we as parents could get involved too, which made it even more exciting. It was really fun, watching your young ones take part in sports and dance. I made friends with other mums, and our families still keep in touch.

Given the circumstances this year, we still look forward to taking part in the summer programme activity at Central Southwark Community Hub. As a mum, it’s nice to see the smile on their faces as they say thank you.

“I would recommend this to other families looking for something to do over the long summer. Your children can socialise, you as a parent can also get to meet other mums, and there is plenty to do for everyone. And at the end of the activity, during break time, they can have a proper healthy meal, with healthy snacks. You look forward to coming back the next day knowing that, yes, lunch is going to be provided and when your children are happy, it keeps you mentally stable as a mum.

To Felicia and all the community volunteers involved, including Kitchen Social, we say thank you.”

Positive Futures
As well as Kitchen Social, Southwark Council is also arranging some exciting summer activities for young people such as online workshops in photography, cooking or fitness, a youth-led record label and education and work support, as part of our Positive Futures fund.

The events are part of a 16-week programme for all young people in Southwark, starting in June and running to early September. More details will be available from the Stay at Home Library (see page 12).
We know our amazing communities in Southwark never back down from a challenge and COVID-19 is no exception.

Across Southwark, people have been doing their bit to support our key workers and other residents during lockdown. Simply staying at home as much as possible and following social distancing has been enough to save lives and protect our NHS but some groups have also been making masks, growing vegetables or keeping community spirits up. Here are just a few of the many examples.

**Surrey Docks Farm**

The gates are currently closed to the public to keep the small team safe inside while they care for the animals and tend the plots, but there is still plenty going on.

The livestock team has been busy with lambs, goat kids and a litter of piglets in May. The warm weather has helped the Farm produce delicious crops of beans, peas, lettuce, cavolo nero, gooseberries and more. This is all on sale via their website and available for collection from the Farm gates. They’re also offering a selection of plants, seeds, compost and manure from their online gardening shop to put your green fingers to the test. Visit www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk

**Community Bingo**

The Dickens Estate TRA has found an unusual way to keep residents entertained with their Balcony Bingo. The team is touring the blocks a few at a time to run the sessions that people can enjoy from their balconies.

Ilona Marsh from the TRA said: “So far it has been a success. We have fun and we give prizes of essential good to the winners and at the end of the session every one chooses an essential item just for taking part. Now that people know us, the participants are increasing.”

**Mask Making**

Marine Canvas Hut (MCH) based in the marina boatyard, along with volunteers from the marina and community have been manufacturing helmet visors and lightweight frontline worker visors for distribution to the NHS and care homes. They have a fundraising page set up and are aiming to produce about 7,500 frontline visors.

**Chocolate Donation**

Thanks to local company founders like Doisy and Dom who donated a 20kg bag of chocolate buttons, which our volunteers split into 250 smaller bags as part of food pack deliveries for a special treat.
PEMBROKE HOUSE

Pembroke House has been working with the council on a co-ordinated COVID-19 response as well as setting up their Emergency Food Distribution Hub, providing food to over 1,000 residents most in need each week.

They also launched a number of free online activities to support people’s wellbeing and mental health through the crisis. These are open to anyone in Southwark and include an online choir, music sessions for babies, toddlers and parents, and dance classes. More activities are starting each week and are all hosted on their new website at www.walworthlivingroom.org

Alongside their continuing activities they have launched a COVID-19 appeal to support Pembroke House to carry on running through the crisis. The appeal is focused around their response as a whole, and promotes their work supporting people through food, activities and providing neighbourhood resources like this new SE17 Information website at www.walworthse17.info

HOW ARE YOU?

Southwark wants to hear from you how you, your family, friends and neighbours are coping with the COVID-19 emergency, social-distancing and the lockdown.

We know that this situation has put a great deal of strain on our communities. Council staff are working tirelessly to help those in greatest need - you can find information about resources and how to get help at www.southwark.gov.uk/Covidsupport

As lockdown eases, we want to hear how people are managing - what is working well, and where there are problems. This will help us plan the council’s activities in the next few months.

To complete the questionnaire either go online to www.southwark.gov.uk/covid19survey or call 020 7525 4346.
TO OUR:

KEY WORKERS • BUSINESSES • RESIDENTS • COMMUNITY GROUPS • CHARITIES • COUNCIL STAFF

For supporting each other, following the lockdown restrictions and saving lives.