

**Southwark  
Life**

Winter 2015

# Housing News

*Southwark*  
Council

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Get nominating your community heroes

# WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

Welcome to the winter edition of Southwark Life Housing News

In this issue we are getting in the festive spirit; we tell you all about the East Dulwich Christmas Cracker and Herne Hill Christmas Fair on page 14. They are two free, festive family events that you will not want to miss this December.

We also celebrate the D'Eynsford estate successfully becoming a Tenant Management Organisation on page 15; huge congratulations to all involved on a great achievement. On page 8 we talk to Sue Grisedale about a day in her life as a technical officer.

On page 16 and 17 we explore making our borough age friendly and discuss some of the ways you can have fun and stay healthy as you get older. We also have opportunities for younger people on page 18, where we talk to Joshua about becoming a Southwark Scholar.

On page 12 our article about ILATCH, a new anti-fraud measure which is cracking down on illegal subletting, is another really important read. We also ask you to have your say about the repairs service and asset management consultations on page 9.

It is that time of the year again where we need you to nominate your Housing Heroes. There are loads of categories to choose from, so whether they're young or old, an individual or group turn to page 19. You can print and send us the nomination form or nominate online.

With many more great articles and important information, we really hope you enjoy this issue, and have a really wonderful festive period.

Best wishes  
Cllr. Richard Livingstone

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING**

## CONTACT US

Do you have something to say about Southwark Life Housing News? Write to: Letters, Southwark Life Housing News, Communications, Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, Second floor, Hub 5, SE1 2QH or email [SLHN@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:SLHN@southwark.gov.uk)

[@lb\\_southwark](https://twitter.com/lb_southwark)  
[www.facebook.com/southwarkcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/southwarkcouncil)



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Southwark employer?  
Need more staff?  
Want to help a young person thrive?

If you think you can cultivate potential in someone who's had a challenging start in life then SEEDS has a business proposition you won't want to turn down.

Give a job to a young local person who has struggled to find their place in the job market and we will pay up to 50% of their salary.

For more information on eligibility and how SEEDS can help your business bloom visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/sowandgrow](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/sowandgrow)

Fairer future  
Strong local economy

SOUTHWARK EMPLOYMENT ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME



# MySouthwark MyTime MyServices



## Council services at your fingertips

Access your council services anywhere, anytime by signing up for your personalised MySouthwark account at [www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark)



Are you a council tenant or homeowner? Access your housing services through MySouthwark and you could win an iPad mini

MySouthwark

[www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark)

## CAMBERWELL LIBRARY

Have you checked out our brilliant new Camberwell Library? It's only been open for one month but already 10,000 books and DVDs have been borrowed.

The new library at Camberwell Green, which has replaced the old library on Camberwell Church Street, is open seven days a week, features state of the art facilities and is home to a programme of regular events and community sessions for adults and young people, including job, creative writing and homework clubs. There is also a conversation café, where non English speakers can practise their English with one another.

**i** For opening times and a full list of upcoming and regular events at the new library, visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries) or follow @SouthwarkLibs on Twitter. You can also keep an eye on our Twitter account for the library's top festive reads in the 12 days of Christmas countdown.



## CREDIT UNION

Residents living near the Walworth Road will soon have access to a range of ethical banking services including savings accounts and lower interest loans, when a new branch of the London Mutual Credit Union opens early next year.

Councillors, residents, the Walworth Society, and St Peter's Church have worked with the London Mutual Credit Union, which already has branches in Bermondsey, Peckham and Camberwell, for several years, to publicise alternatives to high interest payday loans. The credit union also helps people avoid debt by encouraging them to open a savings account and put a small amount away each month.

**i** Go to [www.creditunion.co.uk](http://www.creditunion.co.uk) to find out more.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE AT ITS BEST



Huge congratulations to James Omosevwerha, a customer service officer at Walworth MySouthwark customer service point.

He provided exceptional service to one of our mystery shoppers, who was so impressed he wrote to us saying, "I spent 20 minutes with James, and I came away with a positive image of Southwark Council. For this reason I would strongly like to raise an official compliment to the positive contributions this member of staff is currently undertaking." This is just one of many positive comments made about James. Thank you for the great work; you are a credit to the council.

## DIGITAL CHAMPIONS

35,000 people in Southwark do not yet have computer skills. Being able to use a computer is now becoming essential to modern life. So we are training volunteers to help other residents.

The volunteers, called Digital Champions, get help from local tenants and community groups and are given training, equipment and access to the internet. The training has just started, and we will keep you posted on its progress.

**i** Call Kevin Dykes on 0207 525 5601 or visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/gettingonline](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/gettingonline) to find out more.



## SOUTHWARK FAMILY LINK: MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIFE OF A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY

Can you share some of your free time at weekends to care for a child or young person?

We are looking for motivated caring people with experience of working with children, to offer daytime care or overnight breaks for children with disabilities. You will receive training, support and an allowance.

**i** If you want to find out more call 020 7525 5316/5321 or visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/familylink](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/familylink)



# Southwark IN BRIEF

## WINTER BOOK CHALLENGE

From Monday 4 January to Sunday 20 March 2016, children and young people will be able to take part in the Winter Book Challenge; this year's theme is winter tales. Children aged four to 11 read ten books and young people aged 12 to 17 read five books, to win stickers and Amazon vouchers. Take part at your nearest Southwark library.

**i** Not a member of your local library? Joining is easy – visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries) for more details.



## DESIGN GUIDE

We've launched our Southwark Design Guide - a client brief for design consultants and contractors based around 15 key design values for our 11,000 new council homes.

Cllr Mark Williams, cabinet member for regeneration and new homes, said: "In Southwark we are tackling the housing crisis head on and have the largest council home building programme in the country. It is vital that these new homes are of the highest possible quality and are genuinely tenure blind so you won't be able to tell them apart from private homes. We will build homes that are energy efficient, have generous amounts of space, and that our residents can be proud of."



## ALL ABOARD

The mobile housing office makes its rounds around the borough every day, visiting different estates and key locations.

So make sure you came aboard for friendly advice from council officers, or to log onto your housing services online on one of the computers. We also offer digital training on a first come, first served basis.

**i** Go to [www.southwark.gov.uk/mobilehousingoffice](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/mobilehousingoffice) or call 020 7525 4868 to find out more.



## DIRECT DEBIT



We're all really busy and there's no busier time than Christmas. Why not take one thing off your to-do list and set up a direct debit for your bills.

You don't have to worry about forgetting to pay each month; just set it up once and you're sorted. Plus, for bills like council tax or your TV licence, direct debit lets you spread the payments out over the year.

**i** To pay your council tax by direct debit and to set up an online account, visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark)

# FOCUS ON REPAIRS

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

With 50,000 homes to look after across the borough, the housing team can't fix everything themselves. They need your help so they can focus their time and expertise on more complex problems.

## LEAKS FROM ABOVE

We get lots of enquiries from residents about leaks from the home above affecting their property and how these can be avoided. We are working hard to resolve leaks more efficiently but we need your help. Often the leak is caused by something that neither we as a landlord nor you as a tenant could have predicted, for example burst pipes. If there is a leak from your home you can help us by providing urgent access so we can prevent the leak from doing too much damage. If you are given a notice requesting access please do not ignore it, the longer it

takes to access your property the worse the damage can be to your and someone else's home. We can force access if we really need to for emergencies but we always prefer to make arrangements directly with you.

In your own home you can also help us by ensuring that any works you have done yourself such as tiling or plumbing in a washing machine is done by a qualified tradesperson. We also know how easy it is to spill water on the floor when you are washing or for water to get through shower doors or curtains.



However over time this water can seep through into the flats below and cause damage, so we would ask you to make every effort to minimise spillages and ensure surfaces are wiped down.



## NEED TO KNOW

**i** If you spot a leak in your home turn off your stopcock or stop valve immediately and email [repairs@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:repairs@southwark.gov.uk) or call **080 0952 4444**.

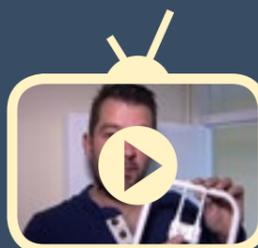
## DAMP

We also speak to lots of residents about damp, mould and condensation in their homes. Normally this is something that can be managed in your home and we always ask that you follow some simple steps before we send anybody out. You need to make sure that you are heating your home effectively, for example leaving the heating on low when it's cold to heat every area of your home. You can also manage the moisture in the air by covering cooking pans, drying clothes outdoors where possible and wiping away any condensation that forms on your windows naturally. Opening your windows, keeping trickle vents open or turning on your extractor fans can also help the air flow through the home.

**i** If you try all of these tips and you are still experiencing problems after three months we can arrange for someone to visit your home and carry out an inspection.



**i** For more information on these and other tips watch our damp and mould Fix it at Home video at [www.youtube.com/southwarkcouncil](http://www.youtube.com/southwarkcouncil)





# A DAY IN THE LIFE...

**SUE GRISEDALE  
TECHNICAL OFFICER**

*Sue works at the council's Sandgate Street depot, where our cleaning, pest control and tree services are based.*

Life is never dull at the depot, with over 300 staff members coming and going on a daily basis. Sue says; "My average day starts early at around 7.30am, looking at the list of questions and concerns that have come in, usually through the call centre. These could be anything from fly tipping that hasn't been cleared to rubbish that hasn't been collected. I also work alongside Cleaner, Greener, Safer managers and housing officers, who may want new litter bins put on an estate or something like that. I order these and get them installed, then make sure the relevant cleaning supervisor is aware they are on site so they can be emptied."

Above and beyond Sue's day job is the Skills for Life programme she instigated for staff, after realising the extent of the need for it within the teams. These classes have changed the lives of more than 400 Southwark staff members who have completed the literacy, maths and IT skills training. "Some of the staff quite openly said they couldn't read or write properly, which I thought was quite brave of them," said Sue. "They weren't all youngsters either, some of them were older people who hadn't gone to school or had left early, for whatever reason."

The Skills for Life programme also helps them in their personal lives as well. "The guys tell me they can understand the shopping bill and their payslips, and can even help the kids with their homework now. It really improves their confidence."

Sue clearly loves her job and thinks Southwark is a fantastic place to live and work, especially with all the river frontage, extensive parks and proximity to the city. It's dedicated people like Sue who help us to make Southwark such a great place to live, work or play.

Skills for Life has changed the lives of more than  
**400**  
Southwark staff members



*"We always have a laugh, and you do hear some funny stories here too. The best one was when one of the street cleaners found a gold fish bowl in some fly tipping, complete with water and a live gold fish!"*

# GET INVOLVED

## INVESTING IN YOUR HOMES – ASSET MANAGEMENT

In October we approved a draft asset management strategy for consultation. This investment is planned to follow on from our programme to make every council home Warm, Dry and Safe, which is set to be completed in 2016.

### What is an asset management strategy?

The strategy sets out how we will continue to invest in your homes. The proposed programmes will focus on maintenance and major works required under the Government's Decent Homes standard, and will also include external decorative works, along with our quality kitchens and bathrooms programme, where all kitchens older than 20 years and bathrooms older than 30 years in council tenants' homes will be replaced.

We have set out that the works should take eight to ten years to complete, with all council homes included in the initial programme, eventually moving to a seven year cycle. The plan proposes investment of an estimated £796.6m in order to ensure our properties are modern and well maintained homes that you enjoy living in.

### We want to hear your views

Please make sure your voice is heard and let us know your feedback on the strategy. The consultation is open until 22 January.

**i** To find out more and to fill out the consultation go to [www.southwark.gov.uk/assetmanagementconsultation](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/assetmanagementconsultation). We will also be holding meetings with various resident groups to discuss the plans.

## HOW DO YOU THINK WE COULD IMPROVE OUR REPAIRS SERVICE?

Do you think your satisfaction with the repairs service would be higher if residents were involved in designing the services you receive?

Would you like to be involved in working with council staff to redesign the way we deliver the repairs service?

We want to know what you think about our proposal to establish joint resident and staff panels to redesign our services, starting with repairs. We also want to know if you are interested in getting involved in the project. The consultation ends on 31 December.

Let us know what you think at [www.southwark.gov.uk/resident-led](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/resident-led) or go to [www.southwark.gov.uk/RELEASEproject](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/RELEASEproject) for more information.



# HOUSING WINNERS

Huge congratulations to the first two winners of the MySouthwark iPad prize draw.

Steve Barbe and Charlie Quinlan are the lucky owners of brand new iPad minis, which were presented to them by Cllr Fiona Colley, the cabinet member for finance, modernisation and performance. They were picked at random from over 4,000 council tenants and homeowners who have been accessing their housing services online through MySouthwark. So next time you have a repair to report, want to track an appointment or view your repairs history, save time by doing it online. You can also use it to manage your rent or service charge account. We have another four iPads to give away by the end of March 2016 and by using your My Housing Services account you'll be automatically entered into the next prize draw.

Over 100,000 residents have now signed up to MySouthwark to access not just housing but a huge range of council services online. For those of you who are yet to join (where have you been...?), sign up now and save yourself time and effort this Christmas. From renewing library books and paying council tax to pre-filling forms and reporting antisocial behaviour, MySouthwark cuts out the hassle and leaves you free to focus on the important things. Eating mince pies and watching Christmas films has got to beat calling up to report a repair.

## WINNER



Steve Barbe, iPad winner

"Accessing housing services online gets easier the more I use it, and I would certainly recommend other people try it. My iPad is proving to be very useful to my small business as a community musician. Not owning a modern phone, I couldn't take digital pictures and email them as I can now, and I'm learning new functions day by day."

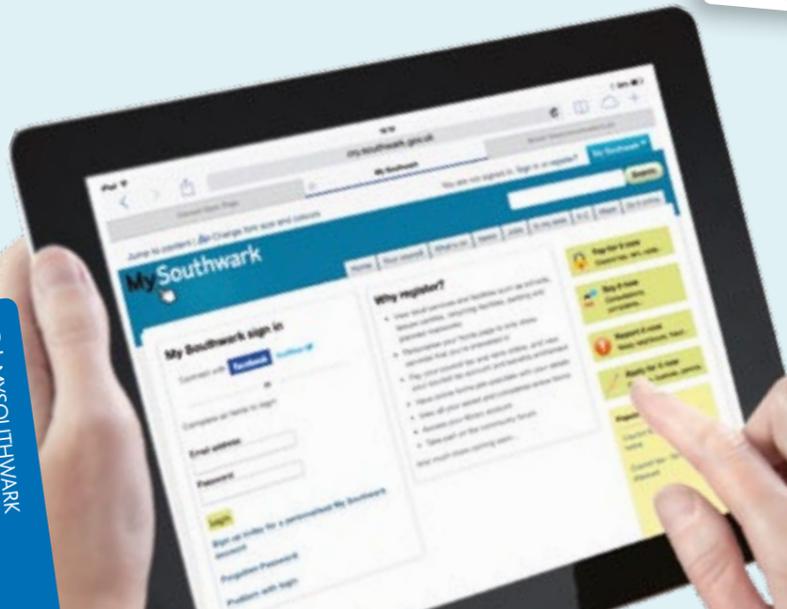
## WINNER



Charlie Quinlan, iPad winner

"I was so happy to win the iPad, I've never won anything before so was really surprised. I find MySouthwark very easy to use; you can search and have your answer in a few minutes. My three kids and I love playing games on the iPad. I also use it to browse the internet and for online banking."

**i** To register or access your account just go to [www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/mysouthwark)



# HOME OWNERSHIP SERVICES

## NEW

### NEW SERVICE FOR COUNCIL HOMEOWNERS

As part of our council plan we pledged to improve services for our homeowners. We will deliver on this promise by creating a brand new homeowners service. Plans include the creation of an independent homeowners' agency which will advocate on behalf of homeowners, scrutinise council actions and hold us to account.

Alongside this we want to create a dedicated MySouthwark homeowners customer service point. Here you will be able to talk to us face to face about service charges, right to buy and any other homeowner query you might have. We are also introducing a dedicated telephone line for homeowners and are simplifying our web services to make it easier for homeowners to access services in one place, at your convenience. We are currently consulting on these proposals, so please let us know your views and help us shape a homeowners service tailored to you.

**i** The consultation is open until 11 December at [www.southwark.gov.uk/homeownerconsultation](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/homeownerconsultation)

## LOOKING TO MOVE INTO HOME OWNERSHIP?

Did you know the council runs a Home Purchase Grant scheme to assist secure council tenants looking to move on from renting and buy a property on the open market?

We have recently been awarded funding from central government under the Right to Buy Social Mobility Fund.

This funding has enabled us to increase the grant levels available to tenants under our Home Purchase Grant scheme. So for example, the grant paid to a tenant vacating a three bedroomed council property has increased from £35,000 to £60,000.

**i** There is a deadline of 31 March 2016 for this funding so if you are interested in finding out more and applying for the scheme please contact us on 020 7525 5407. We will be happy to discuss your options with you.





As part of our clamp down on illegally sublet council properties, we have launched ILATCH, a new web based anti-fraud tool.



# STAY SAFE FROM HARM... DON'T IGNORE THE ALARM!

Have you heard a fire alarm go off in your home and ignored it? Been comfy and warm and not wanted to brave the outdoors because of some burnt toast? Assumed that if it is a real fire, someone will come and get you? If so, you are not alone; but you may be taking your life in your hands by not reacting quickly.



## Did you know it is illegal to sublet your home without permission?

Subletting is when you rent out all or part of your home. With websites offering ways in which you can earn money by subletting your home, it can be very tempting. However, by subletting your home, or part of your home without permission, you can be fined or imprisoned if found guilty. Make sure you speak to your resident officer first.

## ILLEGALLY SUBLETTING

A COUNCIL HOME IS NOW A CRIMINAL OFFENCE



Illegally sublet homes cost the council thousands of pounds every year and reduce the number of homes we can offer to genuine applicants. As well as being a crime, it is unfair on tenants who move into illegally sublet homes unknowingly as they often end up paying much higher rents.

If you suspect you may be living in an illegally sublet property, you can do a quick check using ILATCH. Home hunters can also use ILATCH before moving into a property in Southwark and can have the assurance that they are renting legally.

ILATCH is easy to use, all you have to do is input the postcode and door number of the property you would like to check and within seconds, you can find out if the property is legitimate.

[WWW.SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK/ILATCH](http://WWW.SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK/ILATCH)

Visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/ilatch](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/ilatch) to link to ILATCH and for more information including what to do if you identify a possible problem.

Keeping you safe is the council's first priority, which is why we're installing state of the art smoke and heat alarms in all our council homes. Many of you will already have a brand new alarm system, with more coming soon. The whole point of this programme is to give our residents crucial early warning of a potential fire, especially in those properties where a number of homes share one escape route.

## If in doubt, get out

It's really important to move fast when you hear your alarm, and get out. The new alarms have already proved crucial in saving lives and we would urge anyone, whether you've had the new alarms installed or not, to take an alarm going off seriously. Please don't wait around to see if it is a false alarm. By the time you have established there is a fire it may be too late to get you and your loved ones out safely.

The new generation alarms, which react to heat and smoke, were developed specifically for Southwark properties, and let you know straight away if there is a problem.

For more information on fire safety go to [www.southwark.gov.uk/firesafety](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/firesafety)

## Alarms save lives

Already, the new alarms are saving lives. In a recent fire in a Southwark home, a parent acted quickly when they heard the alarm, saving their child's life, as well as their own. In another instance a fire started in a terraced house which had been converted into flats. It started on the ground floor flat and the occupants of the flat above were alerted by their linked alarm sounding. On investigation smoke was seen in the hallway and bathroom and the five people in the upper flat managed to safely evacuate the building before the fire brigade arrived.



**SOUTHWARK  
PRESENTS**

# CHRISTMAS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

If you're looking for fabulous, festive activities throughout the Christmas period, then Southwark is definitely the place to be. Forget the hustle and bustle of central London; no matter where you live there's something for everyone in our borough and our streets will be full of the magic and cheer of the season. None more so than in the south of the borough, home to the East Dulwich Christmas Cracker and the Herne Hill Christmas Fair. Both events literally bring the joy of Christmas to Southwark's streets.

## East Dulwich Christmas Cracker

Young or old, head down to Lordship Lane and North Cross Road on Saturday 5 December for a street festival with all the trimmings.

A real Christmas extravaganza, including musical performances from local choirs, bands and theatre groups, quirky roaming entertainers, a festive market with fabulous gifts and delicious foods; perfect for doing all your Christmas shopping. There are also arts and crafts workshops, poetry and storytelling for children and grown ups, exclusive offers from local traders and businesses, a treasure hunt and much more.

*"This is the fourth year of the Christmas Cracker and it's a fantastic festive event. It fosters a sense of community and offers local performers and organisations a platform to showcase their talents. It also promotes East Dulwich as a shopping location and gives residents a chance to support local businesses."*

Dan Rigby, event producer,  
East Dulwich Christmas Cracker

**Saturday 5 December, 11am to 5pm**  
Lordship Lane and North Cross Road, SE22

## Herne Hill Christmas Fair

*"From carol singing to children's games, haystacks and our very own festive sheep, this year's Christmas Fair is sure to be a great day. We're also delighted to be supporting local enterprises and start-ups, as well as celebrating our own local traders and helping everyone to shop local, as part of Small Business Saturday."*

Giles Gibson, event organiser, Herne Hill Christmas Fair

**Also on Saturday 5 December, the streets of Herne Hill and its local businesses play host to an extraordinary display of stalls, live performances, activities and an enchanting Santa's grotto and Christmas parade for all the family.**

Make your own festive tree ornaments, or just browse the stalls for the perfect Christmas gift. As part of Small Business Saturday, all 80 stalls will be run by local start-ups and small enterprises and Herne Hill's local independent shops will be coming out in force to demonstrate their range of quirky, high quality gifts. So why not shop local and pick up everything you need for the perfect Christmas?

**Saturday 5 December, 11am to 5pm**  
Herne Hill, SE24



## SUCCESS

## FOR D'EYNSFORD ESTATE

### AS IT BECOMES A TENANT MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

*Congratulations to the residents on the D'Eynsford estate who have successfully become our fifteenth self-managing estate.*

In September we officially welcomed D'Eynsford, in Camberwell, as our fifteenth Tenant Management Organisation (TMO). From 21 September the TMO took on the management of the estate's 360 homes, creating their own company to make decisions on grounds maintenance, cleaning and repairs.

Cllr Livingstone, cabinet member for housing, said; "I am pleased to welcome the D'Eynsford TMO, which is the product of several years of hard work and dedication from the residents and council staff.

In Southwark we are very proud to be recognised as the leading authority in the country on TMOs with a great record of encouraging and supporting local residents to take on the challenge of managing the day-to-day maintenance of their estates and we remain committed to handing more control to residents with three more TMOs already in development."

The process has taken just over five years and the group began by knocking on every door and listening to the needs of residents.

James Traynor, chair of the D'Eynsford TMO, said; "This is a great achievement for the residents of D'Eynsford estate. It has taken a strong group of committed individuals, many of whom are still board members, to get to this day and I am very proud of what we have achieved."

*"I also want to thank Southwark Council TMO team and our independent advisors Annelie Sernevall and Newman Francis for supporting us throughout this time. Crucially we have also managed to maintain the support of residents with 87 per cent in favour at the TMO ballot and we will continue to ensure that the TMO serves the needs of residents"*

James Traynor, chair of the D'Eynsford TMO



# A RIPE OLD AGE

Let's talk about ...  
**ageing well**

*There's a bit of a stereotype around older people; that as you approach retirement age, then it's all downhill from there. We've been speaking to the Southwark residents who are showing us how to make the later years a time to remember.*

All across Southwark, people are confounding stereotypes of what it means to get older. Denise, 56, runs the Southwark Music Service, providing musical opportunities, for children and young people. As she has become older, she has enjoyed the increase in confidence that comes with age and which professionally and personally has helped her thrive.

Denise said "You have an idea of what being a leader is like when you're young – all powerful. Everyone has to be nice to you. What I have found is it's more like a parenting role, being caring for people. We've been through some tough times and I had to sit down with people and have really hard conversations about the future, so I learnt to calmly take things as they come. As I've become older, I've become more self confident, I don't worry about things so much. You've confronted most situations. You grow to know your standards, to know what you can accept and what you can't. I know when to react fast and strong and I know when it's going to be ok.

"I'll always be a music teacher, it matters to me to always be able to do the job I love. I can imagine myself at 80 or 90, still teaching the cello or the piano. I can't ever see a future without it."

For others, learning something new, continuing to be challenged and building relationships across generations is key to enjoying one's later years.

Annie is learning how to use the computer, with the help of Maddy, a student at Alleyn's School in Dulwich. She's picked up the skills pretty quickly and has been paying her council tax online; looking at pictures of her friend's daughter's wedding on email and getting repairs done in her house. But one of the things she has enjoyed most of all was the chance to speak to someone of a different generation – and Maddy agrees.

*“ As I've become older, I've become more self confident, I don't worry about things so much. ”*

## NHS HEALTH CHECK

Helping you prevent  
diabetes  
heart disease  
kidney disease  
stroke & dementia

One area we know is hugely important for quality of life in older age is staying in the best possible health for as long as possible. That's where a free NHS Health Check can help.

It's a chance to check your circulatory and vascular health and what your risk of developing a disabling vascular disease is.

As we get older, we have a higher risk of developing some dangerous diseases like high blood pressure, heart disease or Type 2 diabetes. Your NHS Health Check can spot early signs and help prevent these developing, letting you get on with living your life to the full. An NHS Health Check is a chance for a free mid or later life MOT and is available to all adults in Southwark aged 40 to 74 without a pre-existing condition.

**You can get your check by:**

- ♥ Responding to the invitation letter from your GP
- ♥ Visiting a local participating pharmacy
- ♥ Popping in to see the outreach team as they go around the borough.

**i** To find out more, including details of where the outreach team will be and which pharmacies are taking part, visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/healthcheck](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/healthcheck)

Annie herself commented, "I like knowing what the youngsters are doing and it's lovely having a chat."

We want to learn from people like Annie and Denise, along with as many other people in the borough as possible, about how to make Southwark a place where people can age well. So, if you're loving your later years, or if you know from experience how they could be improved, we need to hear from you – whether you're 20, 40 or 80. We want to hear what you look forward to, what you find difficult about ageing, and how we can make our public spaces easier for older people to navigate.

**i** To take part visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/ageingwell](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/ageingwell)

## CHRISTMAS CHEER

If you are wondering what to do this Christmas, there are lots of activities going on around the borough.

Whether you want to volunteer your time to make someone's Christmas better, or fancy enjoying a few mince pies with some new friends, you're sure to find something to suit. One perennial favourite is the free Southwark People Care Association Christmas Day Party. Guests enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner, entertainment and free transport to and from the Rotherhithe venue. If you fancy going or you know someone who would enjoy it, you can book tickets by calling **020 3355 2619**. For fun one off Christmas volunteering opportunities, or long term projects, visit [www.do-it.org](http://www.do-it.org)

**i** To find more Christmas activities, visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/christmasevents](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/christmasevents)



Annie and Maddy at Alleyn's School

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT

# SOUTHWARK SCHOLAR?



We know that some young people have to think twice about going to university because of the hefty costs involved. We don't want our brightest students to miss out so we set up the Southwark scholarship scheme in order to help aspiring university graduates from low income families. With the next round of the scheme launching in January, we are urging all eligible students to apply.

Now in its fifth year, the Southwark scholarship scheme has already supported 49 young people to go to university. To qualify for the scheme, these students must have a record of excellent academic achievement and have made a positive contribution to their local communities. Cllr Victoria Mills, cabinet member for children and schools said, "Our scholarships have enabled some of Southwark's most gifted young people from low income backgrounds to get to university and take another step towards their future career aspirations. The council is committed to supporting all our young people to reach their full potential."

Joshua is in his second year, studying law at Birkbeck, University of London.

As well as getting great exam results, Joshua was also a youth councillor on the Southwark Youth Council.

Why did you apply for the scholarship scheme?

I applied because I knew that I had a chance of getting it and that it would ease the financial pressures of going to university. It costs a lot of money to become a barrister and knowing that I don't have to pay the debt means I can focus more on my studies.

Why would you encourage others to apply for the scheme?

I would encourage others to apply because the opportunity is there so why not make the most of it? The council is here to help young people make the best of themselves and get the best out of their education. You can do something today that your future self will thank you for.

What would you say to other young people who are considering university, but are unsure about going due to the financial burden?

Apply for university first and think about the financial side later. You wouldn't be thinking of university if you were not capable. There are financial opportunities out there; it's just about looking for them.

Find out more about the scheme and apply at [www.southwark.gov.uk/scholarships](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/scholarships)  
Your application must be in by 31 March 2016



## Housing Heroes Awards 2015

Recognising local heroes and celebrating working together to improve housing services in Southwark



Fairer future  
Quality affordable homes

## FOREWORD

In 2013 we set a target to build 11,000 more homes in the borough over the next 30 years. Work is well and truly underway on the first stage of delivering 1,500 by 2018. This ambitious programme of work is being developed with resident input and we want you to continue to have your say in how it is delivered.

We are committed to working in partnership with tenants, leaseholders and homeowners. Giving us your views on the 11,000 homes is just one of the many ways you have been getting involved and making a difference. It is this vital role that Southwark residents play in the community that is the driving force behind the Housing Heroes Awards. I am very pleased that the awards have returned once again to recognise all those individuals or groups who go the extra mile and give up their time for the benefit of their communities and neighbours.

The awards are truly a celebration of how we work together and if you know of an individual or organisation in Southwark who you think deserves recognition then we want to hear from you. The closing date for nominations is Sunday 13 December.

We look forward to receiving your nomination and wish you the best of luck!

**Cllr Richard Livingstone**  
Cabinet Member for Housing



## INTRODUCTION

Southwark Council has launched the Housing Heroes Awards to recognise individuals or groups that have made an outstanding contribution to their local area and contributed to improvements in Southwark housing.

There are eight categories. Take a look at the criteria for each and send us your entries. We're sure you can think of lots of examples of good work being done around your community.

Your entries will be reviewed by a judging panel made up of tenants, councillors, council officers and stakeholders. If your nomination is shortlisted we'll notify you in December and you and the person you are nominating will be invited to an awards ceremony on Thursday 28 January 2016 where the winners will be announced.

For more information on the awards visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/housingheroes](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/housingheroes)

## ELIGIBILITY

1. Nominations are open to anyone who lives in Southwark.
2. Nominees for the neighbour of the year, best community initiative, young community hero and the lifetime achievement categories must be Southwark Council tenants or leaseholders.
3. Nominees for customer service of the year must be employed by Southwark Council or one of its contractors.

## CATEGORIES

### A) Neighbour of the Year

An outstanding individual or group that has done something to make a positive change in your local neighbourhood or community in the past year.

### B) Best Community Initiative

An innovative project or initiative that has helped your local community come together and make life better in your community in the past year.

### C) Young Community Hero

An outstanding young person (under 18 years of age) who has done something to make a positive change in your local neighbourhood or community in the past year.

### D) Customer Service of the Year

A member of Southwark Council staff or one of its contractors who has delivered excellent customer service to you, your family, neighbourhood or community in the past year.

### E) Outstanding Tenant Management Organisation (TMO)

A TMO that has provided an exceptional service in the past year. TMOs, you can also tell us how good you are.

### F) Up and Coming Tenant and Resident Association (TRA) of the Year

A TRA that started or relaunched in the last 12 months that has shown the most potential in making a difference in its neighbourhood.

### G) Outstanding Tenant and Resident Association (TRA)

An outstanding TRA that has worked to make a positive change to your local neighbourhood or community through your local TRA in the past year.

### H) Lifetime Achievement

An outstanding individual who has worked to make a positive change to your local neighbourhood or community over many years.

### Overall Winner for Outstanding Achievement

A winner drawn from categories A to H who, in the judging panel's opinion, deserves further recognition for outstanding and innovative achievement, which has benefited others.

**NOMINATION  
FORM**

**HOW TO ENTER**

Please complete the attached entry form and post to:

FREEPOST RSCE-TGHU-CUZB  
**Southwark Council**  
Richard Harrington  
Housing Services (5/3)  
160 Tooley Street  
London, SE1 2QH

You can also make an online nomination by visiting

[www.southwark.gov.uk/housingheroes](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/housingheroes)

The entry deadline is  
**Sunday 13 December 2015.**

We cannot consider entries received after this date.

Please summarise in 250 words why the team or individual deserves to be nominated and how they meet the category selection criteria. The judges will use this summary to make their decision.

**YOUR DETAILS**

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Nomination for category (please circle):

**A B C D E F G H**

**I WANT TO NOMINATE**

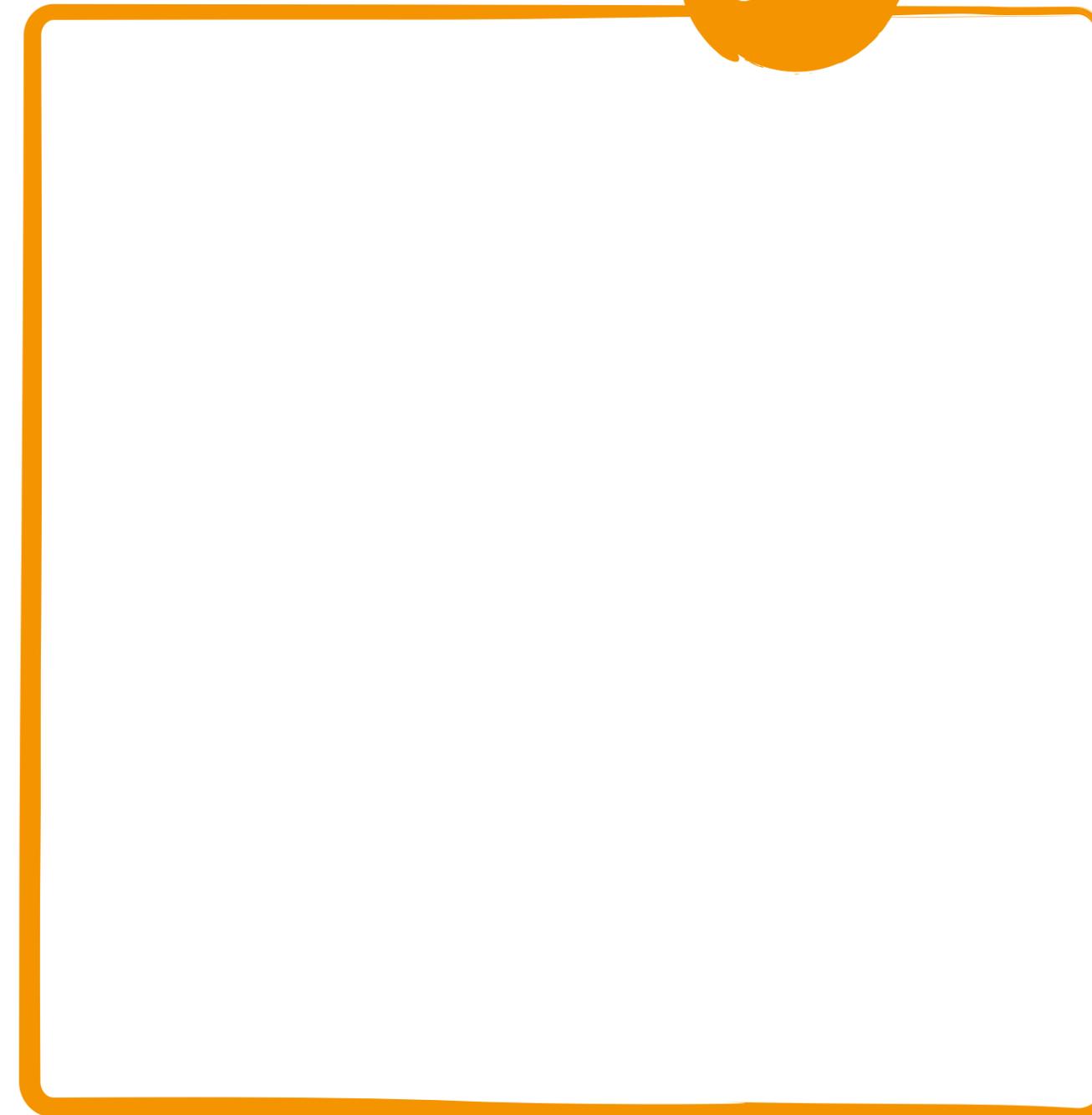
Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

**250 WORDS  
OR LESS**



Your entry must be 250 words or less but may also include supporting information, e.g. photographs or multimedia. You may continue on to one additional sheet.

**Good luck and thank you for completing this form.**

**250 WORDS  
OR LESS**

**FREEPOST RSCE-TGHU-CUZB**

**Southwark Council**  
Richard Harrington  
Housing Services (5/3)  
160 Tooley Street  
London, SE1 2QH