



Southwark Life

Spring 2024

Investing in libraries

A look at our new, and improved, libraries

Policing Southwark

We interview the man in charge

Leader to Leader

The new Youth Parliament Leader meets with our Council Leader

PLUS we take a look at this year's council budget

Your magazine from Southwark Council

Southwark
Council

INVEST IN A GREENER SOUTHWARK

Southwark Green Investment is your chance to make a low-risk, fixed return and fund green projects.



This spring we'll be raising up to £1 million to fund our climate programme and deliver more cycle hangars, LED street lighting and kick-start our schools and leisure centres retrofit programmes.

From as little as £5 you can get involved and invest in your community, help us deliver our climate goals – and make some money along the way.

Make yearly returns for five years with a locked-in interest rate for your investment.

Be the first to find out when you can invest, and what the interest rate will be. Head to southwark.gov.uk/green-investment

As with all investments your capital is at risk. Investments are long term and may not be readily realisable. This content has been approved as a financial promotion by Abundance Investment, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (525432).



Spring 2024

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welcome...

Hello and welcome to the spring edition of Southwark Life.

The eagle-eyed among you may notice this edition is arriving a little earlier than normal this year. This is because we have elections in London on Thursday 2 May to elect the Mayor of London and members of the General London Assembly.

Voting in elections is important. It is the chance for you to have your say about the people who will be making major decisions that directly, and sometimes significantly, affect your lives.

We want to make sure everyone in the borough who is eligible to vote is able to vote on Election Day, which is why we are encouraging residents to 'Get Election Ready' by making sure they are registered to vote and have the right photo ID that you now need to vote in person at your polling station. Or you can sign up for an even more convenient postal vote.

You can find out more about this on page 30.

Also in this edition we're looking at the many ways the council works with partners around the borough to support our communities - from our amazing voluntary sector and care givers to an interview with the borough's police superintendent in charge of the new way of neighbourhood policing.

We're also looking at the work we are doing on housing; our investment in our council homes, our repairs service improvements and how we are working to help people who are sleeping on our streets into homes of their own.

And finally, our history feature takes a look at the amazing life of Una Marson, the first black radio producer at the BBC, who our new library on the Aylesbury Estate is named after.

Take care

Cllr Kieron Williams
Leader of Southwark Council



Contact us

Do you have something to say about Southwark Life?
email southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk

Front page photo is Dolcie from St James C of E primary school. The school is featured in our Streets for People feature on page 24.

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Keep in touch

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[@lb_southwark](https://twitter.com/lb_southwark)


[Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/southwarkcouncil)

Need to know...

Spring is in the air, days are getting lighter and the weather is (slowly) improving so now is a great time to get out and about, think about your fitness or even get those little DIY jobs sorted. We've got news from across the borough that might help.

For news and events follow us on social media or find out more at [southwark.gov.uk/news](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/news)

 Follow us on Facebook facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

 Follow us on X (previously Twitter) [@lb_southwark](https://twitter.com/lb_southwark)

 Follow us on Instagram Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

To get regular news, including cost of living advice, you can sign up to our newsletter at www.southwark.gov.uk/followus

Fun Fitness in Southwark for the over 45s

Silverfit is a charity aimed at encouraging wellbeing and fitness for people over the age of 45 – promoting happier and healthier ageing. They currently have 4 sessions available in Southwark (three Nordic walking sessions and one Indoor Fitness Class) and would love you to come along and join one, or all.

For more information and to book visit silverfit.org.uk/southwark-sessions

More Southwark sessions are in the pipeline for 2024 so watch this space for even more venues and activities.



New mural

Have you seen the new giant mural on 160 Blackfriars Road? It's the result of a design competition hosted by Maya Capital and Veld Capital. A local community panel chose the winning design by local artist Baiyu Liu. The design was painted and installed by Global Street Art.



Representing night and day, the piece highlights the diversity and rich heritage of Southwark. The project brief was created by a community panel in line with the council's Public Art Policy, which encourages an inclusive, anti-racist approach to public art commissioning.

£1 million of funding to combat flooding and overheating in Southwark

After listening to the experiences of residents during our consultation last year, we have now adopted our strategy to make the borough more resilient to climate change. Changes have included new, targeted actions that will support communities that are the most vulnerable to climate change and in many cases are already experiencing the worst impacts. This has been backed up by £1 million of funding to spend on key projects in these climate vulnerable areas to help address things such as flooding and overheating.

You can find out about more about our climate work by signing up to our climate newsletter at www.southwark.gov.uk/climatenewsletter

Befriending older people across Southwark

Do you have one or two hours a week to spare and would you like to visit a local older person and get to know them? It can be hugely rewarding. Training and support is provided.

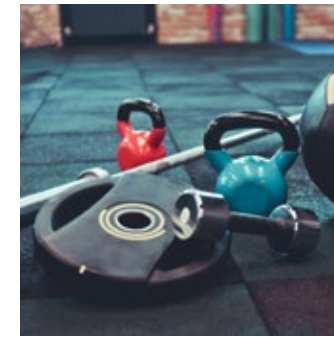
Three organisations provide this service across Southwark. Contact them direct to volunteer:

- North-west Southwark (SE1 and surrounds) - Blackfriars Settlement, befriending@blackfriars-settlement.org.uk or **020 7928 9521**
- North-east Southwark (Bermondsey, Rotherhithe) - Time & Talents, volunteering@timeandtalents.org.uk or **020 7232 5669**
- Central and south Southwark - Link Age Southwark (Camberwell, Peckham, Dulwich) - volunteering@linkagesouthwark.org or **020 8299 2623**.

Major gym refurbishments coming

Southwark leisure centre gyms are getting a major facelift in spring 2024.

We want to make sure they match up with the best in town and keep up with the latest fitness trends so you can enjoy a great workout experience.



Here's what's in the plan:

- swapping out old equipment
- introducing some cool new workout kit
- changing up the layout of our workout zones
- giving the gym space a fresh new look
- adding new flooring and lighting where needed

Centres will also benefit from other improvements including changing room enhancements. Read more at www.southwarkleisure.co.uk/gym-refurb

A helping hand around the home

If you need small repairs carried out in your home, we can help.

You must be over the age of 60, or any age with a disability, and live in Southwark.

There is an hourly rate charge, depending on your financial circumstances. There are no call-out charges or hidden extras.

Some of the tasks we can help with:

- Installing grab/hand rails
- Moving furniture
- Fixing curtain rails
- Changing locks
- Minor carpentry work
- Draft proofing
- Building flat pack furniture
- Changing light bulbs
- Small plumbing jobs
- Repairs
- Fixing or installing garden fencing



Contact us to find out if we can help with any other tasks you might have around the home. We can supply materials or can use materials that you have purchased.

For more information visit www.southwark.gov.uk/handyperson or call **020 7525 1863**.

Could you volunteer to join our team of digital champions?

You'll help and support local people improve their digital skills and access online services. You don't need to be a digital expert, but should have a good understanding of digital devices such as phones and computers and be keen to help others. You will receive free certified online training and support.

We are particularly keen to hear from older residents who use the internet, although applications from all ages above 18 are welcome.

The role is flexible and designed to fit in around your availability. An hour every fortnight is the minimum requirement. Our volunteers are based at a local community digital hub with free internet access.

For more information visit:

www.southwark.gov.uk/digitalehampions

Or email digital.inclusion@southwark.gov.uk or call **07783 776 066**.



Why knowing your blood pressure is important

High blood pressure can put you at high risk of diseases that affect your heart and blood vessels, including heart attacks, strokes and dementia. Many people with high blood pressure don't know, as the symptoms can be invisible until they cause more serious conditions. It's important you're aware of your blood pressure readings. People can manage high blood pressure with prescription drugs and lifestyle changes.

You can get a free blood pressure check:

- at a pharmacy (if you are aged 40 or over): www.nhs.uk/conditions/blood-pressure-test
- at one of six health stations around the borough (if you're aged 16+): www.southwark.gov.uk/health-kiosks

YOUR COUNCIL HOME IS OUR PRIORITY



Having a warm, dry and safe home is a basic right, and we want to make sure we offer that to all our tenants.

Over the coming decade, the council is investing £1bn in repairs and maintenance for council properties.

Since 2016, we have invested more than £300m into our council homes. This money has paid for new kitchens or bathrooms in more than 6,000 homes. We have also put in new doors, windows, roofs, electrics, brickwork and carried out fire safety work across the borough.

Looking ahead, we will have an even greater focus on our residents' safety, making sure we meet all the new, national building and fire safety standards. We are also making health and wellbeing a high priority, paying particular attention to carrying out works to get rid of damp and mould.

Fire safety management has changed in recent years, for all the right reasons. One of the most important changes is that residents are better informed – both in how we share inspections and also with door to door checks to make sure everyone has the support and advice they need to stay safe.

All of our buildings have an up-to-date fire risk assessment - last year we carried out 2,208 of them. We share what we find with the public so they can see what is happening at their building and why. We're also using new technology so we can track our inspections and repairs and monitor them against the risk assessments. As residents' lives change, we look at how we can keep them safer as they get older, for example if they may need to use mobility scooters or electric bikes.

Improving our repairs service

We're prioritising improvements to our repairs service to make sure we get jobs right the first time and tenants are kept informed about the work being done to their homes.

The number of our residents satisfied with their last repair has increased over the past 12 months because we have focused on customer service. We send a text survey straight after a repair has been completed, so we can address any issues or concerns quickly, often the same day.

We're working on new ways to make the service easier to access for residents. Our website is constantly updated with new information, we're adding to and updating our 'how to' videos to make it easier to complete small repairs at home (visit www.southwark.gov.uk/housing/repairs/fix-it-at-home-videos) and this year you'll notice our web chat feature on our website. You can already chat to the Leaks from Above Team online, and our damp and mould online chat is coming soon. Council tenants now have access to virtual inspections from the damp and mould team, allowing quicker technical checks. We will be aiming to increase the use of virtual repair inspections by the spring, allowing instant access when a resident calls to make a repair enquiry.

Estate repair days making a big impact

With our Repairs Action Days we have so far visited 19 estates, 16 sheltered housing units, meet with hundreds of residents, handled over 1,000 repairs enquiries and completed over 600 repairs.

We spend a day on an estate carrying out smaller repairs and talking to you about a range of topics including damp and mould, how to look after your home, the best way to decorate and electrical safety advice.

We're really pleased with the feedback we've had so far and we will be continuing the action days throughout 2024.

You can find information on action days in your area and other repairs information at www.southwark.gov.uk/housing/repairs

DID YOU KNOW?

The Repairs Improvement Residents' Board (RIRB) is a panel of residents who can now get involved in making decisions about their home and estates to make improvements to our service.

We appointed an external independent partner to help us set up the board and provide support throughout the programme.

The RIRB will scrutinise the repairs service improvement plan including:

- Implementation and forecasts
- Provide transparency about the service and key performance indicators (KPIs)
- Provide residents with a voice to influence change

We're always keen to hear from you and for residents to get involved with us. If you're interested in joining an estate communal inspection or want to know more about when we'll be in your area for our action days you can always email us at repairs@southwark.gov.uk



MEET OUR NEW HOUSING DIRECTOR

We are pleased to introduce Hakeem Osinake as our new Strategic Director of Housing. Hakeem joins us from Brent Council where he has been Director of Housing since 2017.

Passionate about social housing, gaining insight to people's needs and exploring innovative ways to deliver services, Hakeem has a Master's degree in Housing and an MPA from the University of Birmingham. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Housing.

Hakeem said, "I am absolutely delighted to take on the role of Strategic Director of Housing for London's biggest council landlord. Southwark's incredible energy and ambition to improve the lives of its residents is clear, whether that's through building thousands of council homes, working to tackle the scourge of homelessness, or driving up standards in its existing homes."





Walworth Golden Oldies Community Care Project

This group supports older people to stay physically active, independent, and fully participating in their community.

Golden Oldies encourages healthy living and social gatherings for the 60+ community. This includes a Community Care day club, a warm hub space, day trips and visits to places of interest, health care checks, welfare advice and form filling, keeping active with chair-based exercise, lunch, bingo, digital learning, and a variety of other activities for Southwark seniors.

Find out more at www.southwarkgoldenoldies.co.uk



Blackfriars Settlement

This organisation is about people working together to make life better. The Positive Ageing service is for anyone 60+ who would like support or to meet new people. The Mental Health & Wellbeing service supports anyone with mental health challenges.

The Adult Education runs a wide range of courses, whether to help you find work e.g. Maths, English, ESOL, Introduction to IT, or for fun; singing, music, philosophy.

For more information call 020 7928 9521, email Info@blackfriars-settlement.org.uk or visit www.blackfriars-settlement.org.uk

Citizens Advice Southwark

Citizens Advice Southwark is the oldest, largest and best-known local advice agency in Southwark and last year they helped over 20,000 local people with nearly 44,000 problems. They provide specialist advice and information in key areas of social welfare law, including welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment. Their advice is free, independent, confidential and impartial and is delivered face-to-face from their two main offices in Peckham and Walworth or over the phone, by email, through webchat and at a variety of outreach locations.

Citizens Advice Southwark provides a full range of advice and information services including specialist advice in welfare benefits, debt, housing and immigration.

As part of their support to local people, they host Cost of Living Advice and Support Roadshows regularly at different places around the borough.

Call the Telephone Advice Line on 080 8278 7849 or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk for more information.



A helping hand

When you need support in Southwark, there are organisations and volunteers here to help including over 300 projects funded by the council.

Southwark is an amazing borough for many reasons, but one in particular is the incredible network of community organisations and volunteers.

These organisations have always been there on the frontline to support our many different communities across the borough – never more so than in recent times with the Covid response and then cost of living crisis.

We take a look at some of the great work being done by our partners in our communities.



Spring Community Hub

Community groups across Southwark deliver thousands of activities for local people young and old.

Spring Community Hub is among these. They set up their foodbank to help tackle hunger within the community, but also offer crisis support, a holiday club for children, a clothes bank and back-to-work support.

Last year the council refurbished and handed over the keys to a unit on Vestry Road where Spring Community Hub opened their new social supermarket. Low income families can sign up to get £25 worth of groceries for a fiver. Spring Social Supermarket is open four days a week – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 2pm at 88 Vestry Rd, Camberwell, SE5 8PQ. For more information, visit www.cschub.co.uk



Felicia Boshorin, CEO at Spring Community Hub, said: "Our new social supermarket is about offering more choice and dignity to the people we serve. Funding and support from Southwark Council has meant we can reach even more people during the cost of living crisis. Our wraparound services have helped over 5700 families who are struggling to get by."

If you would like to read more about the hub, or their donation or volunteering opportunities, email hello@springcommunityhub.org.uk or visit www.cschub.co.uk



The London LGBTQ+ Community Centre

Southwark's LGBTQ+ centre is an award-winning project in London's Bankside.

The centre and café is for LGBTQ+ people of all ages, from all backgrounds, faiths and walks of life. Residents can get support, build connections and flourish. Their vision is for a more connected, belonging and thriving LGBTQ+ community in London.

Their varied programme includes wellbeing, sexual and mental health sessions; book and film clubs, talks, creative workshops, skills sharing and a myriad of activities and meet-ups. These are organised in partnership with LGBTQ+ individuals, organisations and grassroots groups.

Visit www.londonlgbtqcentre.org for more information.



Leading safety in Southwark

Keeping our residents safe is a key priority for the council, which is why we work closely with our local policing teams.



London's police force has been going through a period of change recently. The New Met for London aims to deliver more trust, less crime and high standards.

To help explain what this means for Southwark residents in particular we spoke to Jim Brockway, the Neighbourhood Superintendent for Southwark, who will be leading the new community policing teams in our borough.

How long have you been working for the Met and what drew you to policing?

I am now approaching 29 years' service in the police, all of which has been in London with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), I am so proud of the fact that all of my service has been with the MPS.

The variety and challenge that the MPS presents is unique, I think that it was this that first attracted me. I know I am biased but I am not sure anything else would have provided me with the experiences that I have had. I now consider myself privileged to be in a position where I can effect positive change and reflect on what I have seen done really well but also failed to deliver since I have been in the organisation.

What is the new Met for London and how will people in Southwark see things working differently?

A New Met for London is the product of thousands of interactions with Londoners, our people, and partners from across the city. It represents what they've told us they want us to focus on. We've already made considerable progress in the last nine months, but there's much more to do.

We're building A New Met for London where communities know their local officers; help those officers to focus on what is important to those communities; and work with them to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour; and when victims call us for help, they're satisfied with our response.

You can read the whole plan at www.met.police.uk/ANewMetForLondon

How are you working with the council to make the borough safer?

I am pleased to announce that the number of inspectors and sergeants has and will increase within Southwark.

Previously Southwark has only had one inspector, this has increased to three. The inspectors will lead a "cluster" of wards. My inspectors are experienced and measured and I am pleased they have joined my team

The number of sergeants has increased from seven to 14. I am confident that this will give me the clear visible leadership that I need to make a real difference. My sergeants are real subject matter experts, they know the business and really care about the wards they work in.

We will put more officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) into local neighbourhoods and make sure they are delivering against the priorities of Southwark. PCSO are vital as they will always work within the wards and not be moved to address other areas of risk.

The partnership with Southwark Council is vital. My officers work with them to fully understand issues of risk, making sure we all make well-balanced decisions and deploy suitable resources. I have a Policing Team funded by the local authority that is bespoke to address issues within the Night Time Economy, they are an excellent team lead by a brilliant sergeant.

What can residents locally expect from their local police teams and how can local residents get involved?

A key thing I want to ensure as the Southwark policing lead for local residents to firstly know who the local Police Teams are. We need to ensure we are visible and that engagement is happening and it is of paramount importance.

I want you all to know how to find your teams and how to engage with them. We want to focus on listening and truly hearing the concerns so that we can make decisions around what matters most to people.

Each of my teams has a Ward Panel, the details can be found on the MET website at www.met.police.uk. It would be great to get some new people involved, if you can spare some time please reach out and get involved.

We will be holding a series of "New Met for London" focus style groups in the next months, which will be advertised, and I would encourage residents to attend. The last one held at the Damilola Taylor centre was really well attended and I would love that to be replicated.

How will local schools be supported under the new arrangements?

The Metropolitan Police is committed to Safer Schools Partnerships and ensuring we continue with that well established relationship that has been built over many years. The feedback that I have had since I have been in post is fantastic and I consider myself fortunate to lead this group of officers.

What are the main challenges for the Met and how are you looking to overcome them?

It is no secret that the Met is going through a period of change at the moment.

We want to ensure we are listening to that and effecting that positive change that the communities of Southwark deserve. Here in Southwark, I want to ensure I drive the high standards that I expect of my officers and I want to ensure that engagement with the local community is strong.

I want my officers to be approachable and I think it is important as an organisation we are listening to feedback that is given. It is important we recognise areas where we needed to improve and be the change that we want to see. It is important that we take individual and collective responsibility to ensure that is working. I would urge the community to become involved in where they live, to attend ward panel meetings, to meet the team and tell them about local issues that matter to them.

Visit www.met.police.uk/area/your-area/

CARING IN THE COMMUNITY



It's the people and communities that make Southwark what it is. Meet the people who are making a big difference during difficult times.

At times throughout life, people and families need help. When they do, Southwark is a place where we come together to make sure they get the support they need and in the ways that they need it.

Support comes in many forms and we all have a part to play. For example, the council has provided cost of living help to over 30,000 people. But this would not have been possible without all of the local voluntary groups who have worked so hard with the council to get this extra money and support to those who need it most.

Taking care of others can often go under the radar. We have over 300 young carers aged 8 to 18 in Southwark. They do vital work in the borough caring for loved ones alongside their other responsibilities, like school and work. This can make it really hard for them to learn or develop skills in the things they are passionate about. That's why in March last year the council launched a pilot grant scheme for young carers living in the borough to help them achieve their full potential.

The council works with Imago Community to deliver the grants as part of their wider support for young carers in Southwark. For more information, visit www.imago.community

Young carers: Apply for £50 to £500 before end of March

If you're a young carer in Southwark, you can apply for up to £500 from the council to go towards training, an activity or item. Our grants scheme is about helping you achieve your ambitions, whatever they might be. Apply before closing on 31 March 2024 by emailing youngcarers@imago.community



Kiera* cares for her younger sister aged 13 who is disabled and has sensory impairment. Kiera started getting support from Southwark Young Carers just before going to college to study health and social care. Kiera discovered a love of art in her spare time, which she finds a good way to relax. Recently some of her art has been displayed in galleries in the city. However, art materials and tools can be expensive.

Kiera applied for a young carers grant to help with buying canvases, paints and new tools to use at her art club. She was delighted to find out that the council had approved £300 worth of vouchers, which she used at a local art shop. She said: "Thank you so much. This has made a massive difference and I can't wait to get started on a new art project I have got coming up."

*Name has been changed to protect identity



Warm Spaces



Last year, well over 1,000 people accessed warm spaces across Southwark. People of all ages were seeking not just warmth but also a friendly chat and food, showing a very clear need for support as the cost of living continues. This is why warm spaces is back this winter with dedicated funding from the council to support venues across the borough. Find a warm space and other cost of living support on Southwark Council's website at www.southwark.gov.uk/here-to-help

The council proudly worked once again with our incredible network of community partners to set up warm spaces, including the South London Mission. The grassroots organisation is part of Bermondsey Central Hall Methodist Church and has been doing vital work to support local communities for over 130 years. The South London Mission provide food and other essentials through their pantry hampers, as well as weekly box meal kits to local schools that have everything families need to prepare a healthy meal together. The mission also supports isolated or vulnerable mothers through their Mummies Republic community group.

For more information about the South London Mission, visit www.slmbermondsey.org



Winnie Baffoe, Director Engagement & Influence, said: "At the South London Mission, we recognise people's pain, their need, and importantly, their self-determination. By offering a warm space, we are able to connect and support people through the network of new friends, charity partners, the statutory and private sectors. Southwark Council's warm space grant is recognition of the charity sector as essential infrastructure, which scaffolds the wellbeing of its communities."

Health news

All the latest health news to keep you and your family fit and well

Under 25s can get cancer protection with HPV vaccinations



It's now 15 years since the HPV vaccine was introduced. Getting the HPV vaccine is one of the most effective ways of preventing cancer. It protects against cervical cancer, and other cancers that can affect anyone later in life. The HPV vaccine is very safe, and any significant side effects are extremely rare.

When you're offered the HPV vaccine:

- children in Year 8: summer term (schools will contact parents about dates)
- older school children who've missed it can go to community catch-up clinics
- if you were born after 1 September 2006 or are aged up to 25 and missed it – get it for free from your GP

For more information visit: www.southwark.gov.uk/vaccines

Measles is spreading: check your family is protected with a MMR vaccine

Measles is a serious illness that can spread easily and cause hearing loss, brain damage and in some cases, death. Children are at highest risk, but anyone can catch it. The number of people getting measles is rising because not enough are protected with a vaccine.

There's no effective medicine or treatment for measles. The only way to protect your family is to make sure all your children are vaccinated. The MMR vaccine is extremely safe and has no major side effects.

In south east London children are offered the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine at:

- 12 months
- and 18 months

Getting both on time will give your infant the best protection.

If children and young people aged six to 25 have missed out on vaccination:

- check their health record (green book) or speak to their GP to see if they are up to date
- book a GP appointment if not, to get vaccinated



For more information visit www.southwark.gov.uk/MMR

Share your experience of maternity care in Southwark



National research shows that women from Black or Asian ethnic backgrounds are more likely to die in pregnancy than those from a white background. Around 40% of our borough are born outside the UK. We want to hear views on maternity services from:

- women and people living in Southwark who've had a pregnancy in the past five years and their families
- communities who have worse outcomes in childbirth, including those from a Black, Asian or minority ethnic background; white residents on lower incomes; asylum seekers and refugees; and those living with long term conditions and or disabilities
- frontline professionals working in perinatal services in Southwark

Get involved at www.southwark.gov.uk/maternity-care-views

How to help someone if their heart stops

A cardiac arrest is when your heart suddenly stops beating. A person in cardiac arrest will be unconscious, unresponsive and may not be breathing. This is an emergency and will require CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and use of a defibrillator. Defibrillators deliver shocks to help restore heartbeat.

Anyone can use a defibrillator without training. **In an emergency, call 999**, start CPR and use a defibrillator if you can access one. You can find your nearest defibrillator at www.nddb.uk. It tells you the location inside or outside of buildings, and what hours you can access a defibrillator.

We've funded defibrillators in all our libraries and leisure centres, and installed them in most schools with government funding.

You can learn CPR and how to use a defibrillator from your phone or tablet at www.bhf.org.uk/revivr



THE STREETS OF SOUTHWARK

Southwark Council is on the frontline in the fight against homelessness

For several years now, Southwark Council has been leading the battle against homelessness and rough sleeping in London, with ground-breaking project work. During the Covid crisis, the council found emergency homes for over 500 people to help get them off the streets during the pandemic – not just those living on Southwark's streets but also 9% of the rough sleepers in wider London.

The council is part of the 'No Second Night Out' campaign with Streetlink, which aims to ensure anyone who finds themselves sleeping rough in central London for the first time doesn't need to spend a second night on the streets.

Most recently, the council has signed the Mayor of London's End Rough Sleeping Charter.

We also fund a rough sleeping outreach team that visits people living on our streets and supports them to find homes. Since April 2023, the team has already helped 118 people off the streets and into long-term homes of their own. They are out in shifts, seven days and nights a week, and work with specialist housing teams and hostels to help people get off the streets and into housing.

The council and GLA carry out an annual snapshot count, and we collect the number of those who



sleep on the street every week and report it as part of the council delivery plan targets regularly.

In general, numbers in Southwark have been between 17 to 20 for much of 2022, at the end of 2023 it had risen to 27 to 30.

These are not always the same people. As many as we help into their own homes or to return to families, new people find themselves on our streets at a worrying pace.

Rough sleeping is on the increase across London and the rest of the country, up 12% on this time last year in the latest Combined Homeless and Information Network (CHAIN) figures. Southwark is at the sharp end of this crisis.

The latest CHAIN data which came out 1 November showed a 12% increase in rough sleeping across London compared with same period last year.

How can you help?

If you've seen someone sleeping rough, we can help. We work with the homelessness charity Streetlink to meet with rough sleepers, carry out assessments and provide support.

If you report a rough sleeper to Streetlink, this will go through to our outreach team who will go out to find and support them.

We look at options to reconnect people to their own area or to support them to find accommodation, usually in the private rented sector.

If you spot a rough sleeper in your local area or have concerns about people sleeping rough or using the streets visit thetreetlink.org.uk or by calling 0300 500 0914.

Keeping our library lights shining

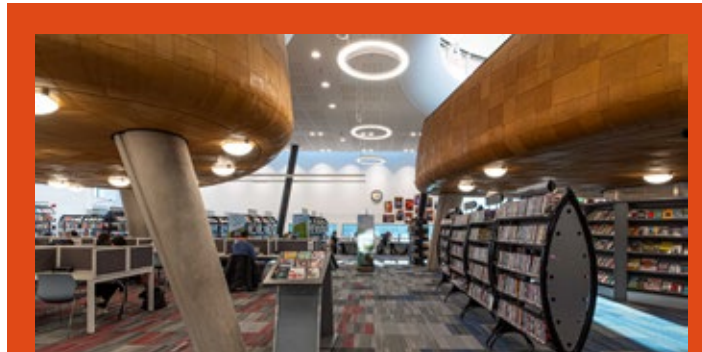
Once upon time, libraries could be found on high streets up and down the country, offering a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Fast forward to today, where many communities face the sad tale of dwindling library services or, worse, permanent closures due to budget pressures.

But fear not, for in Southwark, our libraries are not just surviving – they’re thriving.

We’re not only keeping the lights on at all our libraries, but we’ve also bucked the national trend and opened the doors to six brand new libraries since 2010 including the brand new Una Marson library as part of the ongoing work on the Aylesbury Estate.

With so much going on with our libraries, we’ve rounded up the latest happenings for you. Read on to find out what’s new and reasons to pay your local library a visit beyond just book borrowing.



Peckham Library goes green

Peckham Library has undergone a £1.5 million refurbishment to upgrade the building’s facilities and improve its energy efficiency.

These changes, including low-carbon technologies, not only reduce carbon emissions but also contribute to our ambitious goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Coming soon to Dulwich...

Dulwich Library is next in line for a full refurbishment, promising an eco-friendly space with a host of new books for adults and children.



Southwark welcomes Una Marson Library

This month, we officially celebrated the opening of Una Marson Library in Walworth. Named after the first Black woman programme maker at the BBC, the library’s name was selected by the local community to honour Southwark’s rich cultural heritage. The library marks the latest milestone in the Aylesbury redevelopment project and offers a host of benefits to local people including a multi-use community space.



Kingswood Library reopens

Kingswood Library has reopened in its new permanent home on Seeley Drive on Kingswood Estate. The contemporary library provides books for all ages, a dedicated space for children’s story times, free Wi-Fi, study space and even an outdoor reading area. The locals love it – usage is up by a whopping 1,000%.



Think libraries are just for books? Here’s six other things you can do at your local library.

- 1. Learn a new skill**
Our libraries are vibrant community spaces that host an array of events and workshops. Attend book clubs, knitting and crochet lessons, photography workshops, and creative writing classes.
- 2. Borrow a household item**
Based in Canada Water Library is the borough’s first Library of Things. Borrow useful things for your home and projects at affordable prices. Make savings and reduce waste one borrow at a time. Now there is also a 10% discount for Southwark residents by using the code SOUTHWARK10.
- 3. Book a meeting room**
Many of our libraries provide meeting rooms and communal spaces that can be reserved cheaply for group activities, study sessions, or local community gatherings. To book a room visit www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries/hire-a-library-hall-or-room
- 4. Work up a sweat**
Achieve your 2024 wellness goals with fun exercise classes at the brand new Una Marson Library.
- 5. Knowledge Hub**
Beyond borrowing books, our libraries are dynamic knowledge hubs. Access an array of informational resources such as online newspapers and magazines, an e-museum service and a range of online reference resources. Whether you’re researching a school project, staying updated on current affairs, or diving into niche interests, the library is a treasure trove of valuable information.
- 6. Health check**
Use one of our free health kiosks to test your BMI, blood pressure, mental health/stress levels, alcohol status and smoking status.

Find out more about all our libraries at www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

Council budget

2024-25

Spending your council tax on the things you care about most

Southwark Council is here to deliver the services local people need and want. Whether that means taking care of our wonderful parks, keeping our streets clean, supporting the vulnerable, or investing in community facilities, we are working hard to make every pound we spend on your behalf go further.

Not only have we kept all our libraries and leisure centres open, we are opening new ones, including the inspiring new Una Marson library and the brand new leisure centre and pool that we are building at Canada Water. We also know safety is a top priority for our communities, which is why we continue to invest in community wardens, rolling out new CCTV cameras, and upgrading all streetlights across the borough.

We are working hard to support people across our borough through the cost of living crisis, getting over £40 million of help to those who need it most. We have expanded our free healthy school meals provision, already offered for a decade to all primary school children, and now extended to many more young people in need in Southwark secondary schools too. The work of the council's planning and housing teams has led to more new truly affordable social rent homes being built in Southwark than any other borough in the country. Our Cost of Living Fund, our Energy Savers Service and Council Tax Support Schemes are some of the most supportive in the country.

If you need help or support with the cost of living you can find it at www.southwark.gov.uk/here-to-help

Local councils across the country are facing difficult choices about how they fund vital services. The government has reduced its funding for Southwark Council by two-thirds since 2010. As a result we, like other councils across London, have had to make the difficult decision to increase council tax this year by 4.99%. This will mean an average increase of £1.20 a week for residents in band D properties, which includes 48p extra per week towards social care for vulnerable and older people.

Despite this increase, Southwark will continue to have one of the lowest council tax rates in London.

What will the impact be?

Southwark has the **8th** lowest Council Tax in London. Like most other councils in the UK, Southwark is increasing Council Tax by 4.99%

Residents in Band D will see a rise of **£1.20** per week

6,000 eligible pensioners won't pay any council tax at all. A further 2,000 will have their bills reduced

More than **16,000** low-income residents will receive a reduction of up to 85%

We will continue to exempt foster carers and young care leavers

What does the council deliver for you?

Over **3,000** new council homes built or under construction

Some of the best managed parks in London with **30** green flags

98% of schools rated Good or Outstanding

138 rough sleepers helped into long-term homes

Over **1.2 million** visits to our **12** libraries

£5m invested in more community wardens and upgrades to our CCTV

712 cycle hangars to park your bike

1.47 million free healthy school meals

More than **£40m** in cost of living support

2.5m visitors across our **8** Southwark leisure centres

2,100 people supported into jobs and apprenticeships since 2022

2,500 streetlights upgraded to LED

Leader to leader



Our newly elected youth parliament leader and Leader of Southwark Council recently met to exchange notes on leadership and their vision for a Future Southwark.

The Southwark Youth Parliament is about empowering young voices and driving positive change within our community. We invited the newly elected Youth Parliament leader, Sarah Campbell, down to our main offices to meet and be interviewed by, and interview, Leader of Southwark Council, Cllr Kieron Williams.



Kieron interviewing Sarah

What made you want to stand as a youth parliament leader?

I didn't know what my voice can actually do. I feel for a lot of young people in Southwark. They think their voices aren't heard and are just overlooked.

And they feel, especially for the entire world, because we live in capitalism, where money is put before our own interests, our own thoughts and our wellbeing.

So when I hear about the Southwark Youth Parliament I did some research, and I ended up meeting some people who had previously been in the parliament. And so I thought this is really cool. I want to be a part of this. I want to make a change.

I know the Parliament has identified some priorities for this coming term. What's top of your list?

I want to focus on mental health but I do see all of the priorities as important.

For mental health I think the real problem is there's not enough awareness about which sort of services are available for young people.

Then there's poverty, which is insanely such a big problem, but I feel like I'm ready to tackle this because poverty in itself affects EVERYTHING.

I feel like youth violence isn't talked about because it's kind of normalized. Especially for people in my generation, and I think with climate change, especially people my age, we kind of feel like there's nothing that we can do about it.

It's this feeling of helplessness that I want to push against.

Tell me a bit more about the people who join the youth parliament with you.

I would say definitely diverse. When I look at the youth parliament, there's loud, there's quiet people, there's people who are better at social interaction, and people who are better just at organizing.

I'm so excited, genuinely, because I see all these people who are passionate and who have these ideas, and I don't want to put any limits on their ideas.



Sarah interviewing Kieron

If you had to make one key change in Southwark, what would it be and how do you plan to make this a reality one?

If I could wave a magic wand, I would make sure that there are enough homes for everyone, that they can afford to live in. And I picked that one because I know that having a decent home, that's your home, is at the root of so much of being able to have a good life.

We're now building more council homes and more social rent homes in Southwark than anywhere else in the country. But we need even more. So if I had a magic wand, it would be to go even faster.

What is an impact that you would like to make on the future of young people?

The important thing is to have that sense that you can do something with your life that you're going to be happy with and proud of. So I'm determined to open the doors to vast range of opportunities in our borough, so every young person can find one that's right for them.

So if you want to get involved in the arts or be a scientist or run a business, or even be a politician, you can have a go, regardless of your background. We're already leading London on creating apprenticeships and paid internships but I'm determined we do even more. Working with our fantastic local businesses, universities, charities, sports clubs and public services.

So for those who have lost or are beginning to lose trust in Southwark Council, how do you intend to restore that trust and hope?

Trust in public institutions is about many things but above all it's about people feeling the institution is doing things for the right reasons, and it's about them feeling they're listened to. That doesn't mean everyone always gets the answer they want. Sometimes there's an explanation as to why that's not possible, but you've got to be an institution that listens and one that delivers.

And so for me, my focus as a leader is on making sure we're getting things done for people - that we're building council homes, that we're providing more mental health services, we're providing more free healthy school meals, that we're making our parks better places - getting on with the things that are priorities for people of all ages in our borough, including young people.

But it's also about making sure that the council is one that listens and responds to our residents, including young people. That's why the Youth Parliament is so important to me, as one key bit of that listening.

Do you plan to make a lot of small changes in Southwark or do you aim to tackle a larger scale problem?

We've got to do both. As Leader I spend most of my time making sure we are tackling the big things - the cost of living crisis, housing crisis and climate emergency. Things that we need everyone in our borough to work together on, and that we need the government to work with us on too.

But we've also got to do the small things too. I'm always inspired when I visit the local community projects that the council funds. They change people's lives every day. Often on a shoestring. So we've got to support both.

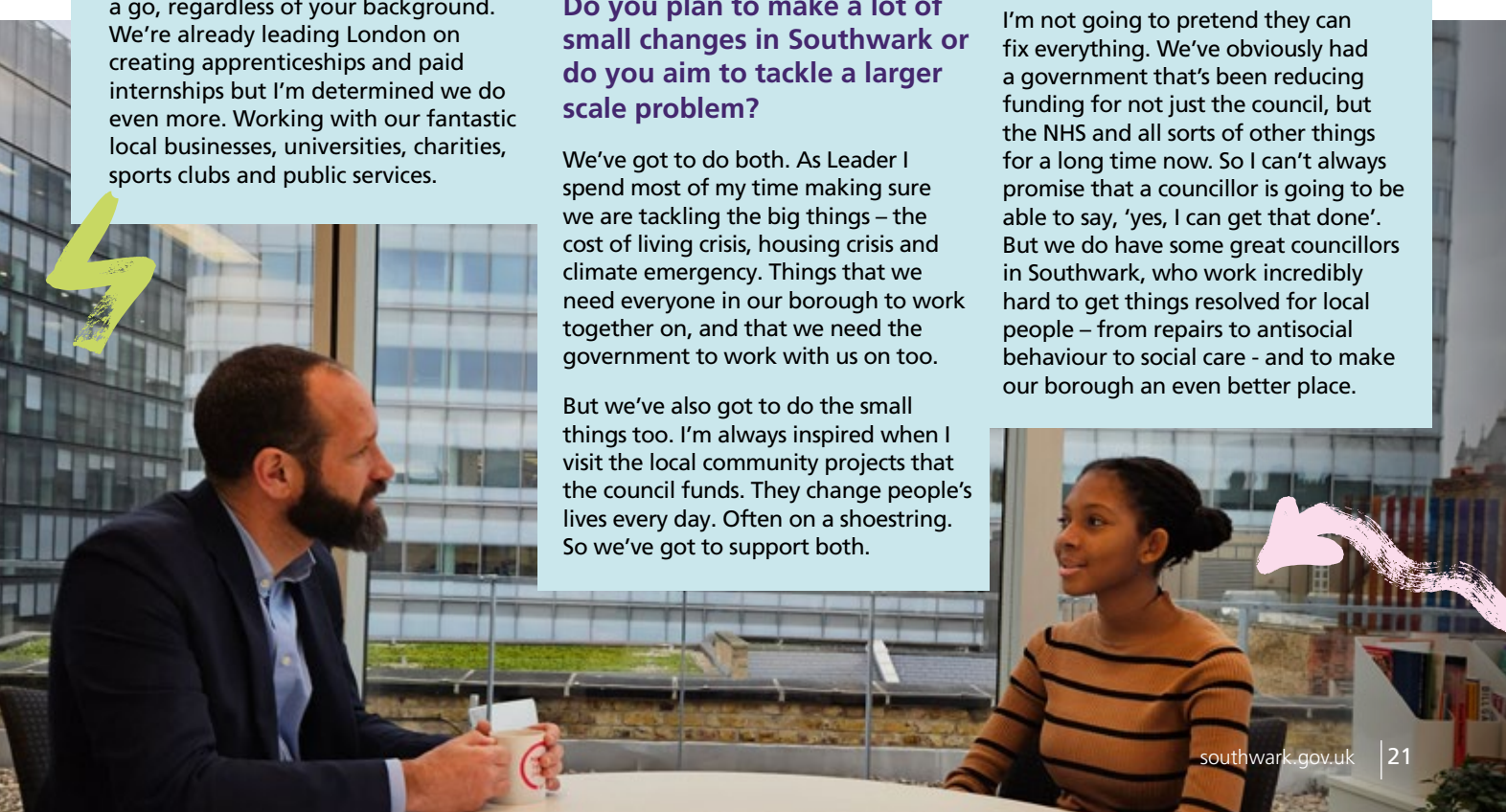
Are there services that make sure that Southwark is listening to its residents and young people?

Yes but I think we need to keep building them up. The Youth Parliament is one. Our brilliant Speaker Box group that provides a voice for young people in care is another. We've just set up an Inclusive Southwark Forum to hear more from people with disabilities. But I know we can do more, so we're looking at how the council can change how we listen to people in communities and in our individual neighbourhoods around the borough and how we give people a stronger voice through our empowering communities program.

If I was to send an email to my councillor to say "this is a problem, I need to fix it" what is the process that happens after that?

It depends on what the problem is. But councillors are there to be people's representatives. And wherever you live you have two or three councillors representing you. They're there to run the council on your behalf and set its direction and policies. But they are also there to be advocates on particular issues for their residents.

I'm not going to pretend they can fix everything. We've obviously had a government that's been reducing funding for not just the council, but the NHS and all sorts of other things for a long time now. So I can't always promise that a councillor is going to be able to say, 'yes, I can get that done'. But we do have some great councillors in Southwark, who work incredibly hard to get things resolved for local people - from repairs to antisocial behaviour to social care - and to make our borough an even better place.



COMING OUT OF CARE



Photo is illustrative.

LIZ

"I moved around a lot, at times my fault and at times not. This affected me and not in the way you're thinking, but mainly through education as I was always the new kid playing catch up with everyone. This can make a person feel dumb! It didn't help that there were those in the educational system that treated me as such. Due to this I did not do as well in school as I could have. It was not until I went to college and started to learn something I was actually interested in that things changed, and I left college with a high diploma in health and social care.

"After this I applied to university and got into three out of the five that I applied for (Kings College, Greenwich and UEL). I went onto study psychology. I had to make a few sacrifices in life such as a social life and I had to drop some people, who were not improving my life but only trying to drag me down, and although at the time it sucked, now I couldn't have been happier I did. I am now a psychology graduate and no one can ever take that away from me."

FACTS AND FIGURES

At the end of March 2023 our services were actively supporting

634 care leavers

86% of care leavers aged 17-18 were in education, employment or training

94% of our care leavers aged 19 to 21 were supported to live in suitable accommodation

182 of our care leavers we were supporting at the end of March 2023 were formerly **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

86% of our care leavers were in education, employment or training in 2022-23

94% of our care leavers were living in suitable accommodation in 2022-23

We work hard to make sure our young people in care have the same opportunities as other young people in the borough.

Southwark Council is a 'corporate parent' because we take on the role of parent to hundreds of children and young people who, for whatever reason, have to spend some time in care.

And, like any parent, we want to see the young people in our care thrive so they are confident and able to succeed when they leave. Our recent Corporate Parenting Report outlined some of the ways we have been working to make sure our young people feel listened to and have the skills and opportunities they need.

Our first priority is helping more young people actually stay at home with their families.

We have also helped more young people in care remain with their former foster carer. The 'staying put' rate increased from 8% in 2022 to 16% in 2023, whereas the national rate is 9%.

We have made sure our Children's Social Care and Housing services worked closely to support our care leavers. This has meant that most young people who have left care are in suitable housing and good quality accommodation. Around 94% of young people are in suitable accommodation compared to 88% nationally.

And over the last year, our Children in Care Council 'Speakerbox' has focused on an identity campaign. Over 60 people including many members of the committee attended the launch event at the South London Gallery where photography done by young people was displayed and care leavers performed a prepared drama and delivered a spoken word performance. A film young people had worked on outlining why identity was so important for care experienced children and young people was also premiered.



SPEAKERBOX

SpeakerBox is Southwark's Children in Care Council (for young people in care and leaving care). It is the voice of care experienced young people and creates a space for young people to hang out, have a say and be heard.

If you want to get involved, need an advocate or want to make a complaint, contact Speaker.Box@southwark.gov.uk

Pupil power



Young people tell us very clearly that they want to be listened to and involved in questions that impact their future.

Around 77% of young people who responded to our transport survey last year said they are worried about the impact of climate change, and called for leaders to take ambitious and urgent action so that they have a chance for a bright future.

As part of Streets for People, we want to see real changes on every street, neighbourhood and estate in Southwark, supporting:

- Cleaner air
- Safer and quieter streets with less traffic and fewer accidents
- Healthy travel options like walking, cycling or wheeling
- Greener, and more pleasant spaces for our communities to connect and socialise
- A better place for all who live, work, study and visit here

When we launched Streets for People in July 2023, we committed to go out and talk to residents about what's important to them. Listening to the views of children and young people is an important part of that work.

One of the things we are doing is running workshops for primary school children in years 5 and 6 (aged nine to 11). These give children the opportunity to express their thoughts and share experiences about the places they live.

Together, the class creates bunting to illustrate what they would like to see changed in their own streets and neighbourhoods.

On a recent visit to St James' Church of England School in Bermondsey, children were very keen to talk to us. They told us that they are worried about climate change; that clean streets and places to play near their homes are important to them.



Junhee

I love the smell of different food and bakeries where I live and on my walk to school"

Lorenzo

I wish there was less pollution and cleaner air

There is literally just a road and a street to play on where I live. It would be nice to have somewhere to play football with my friends"

Garvey

As well as at St James' School, we have held workshops at Dog Kennel Hill Primary School, Crampton Primary School, Lyndhurst Primary School, Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park School, and Albion Primary School, with plans to visit many more.

Participating schools earn points towards their Transport for London Travel for Life scheme, which inspires young Londoners to travel to school sustainably, actively, responsibly and safely by championing walking, scooting and cycling.

Have your say

We are also encouraging young people to respond to our online survey, asking about the changes they would like to see in their streets:

Under 18s who would like to respond to our survey online should visit southwark.typeform.com/yourvoice

The over 18s survey is at consultations.southwark.gov.uk/streetsforpeople/

Survey closes 31 March 2024.

The feedback from all of our engagement work will help us decide on the things we need to do over the next few years, leading to real, visible improvements in your neighbourhood.

School streets – making it safer to walk, cycle or scoot

There are 28 School Streets schemes in place across our borough – these timed closures reduce congestion outside schools, making it safer for parents and pupils to walk, cycle, scoot or use other greener ways to get to school.

Improvements on Toulmin Street, outside Charles Dickens School, include widening footways and improving the surface to make it easier for pushchairs, cycling and wheelchairs. The street is also closed to cars at pick-up and drop-off times to make it safer for walking and cycling.

Assistant Head Teacher for Early Years and Sustainability, Daniela Jamois, said: "As an eco-school, we actively encourage walking, cycling and scooting to school and many of our students report they would like a reduction of car use in the area to improve the quality of the air they are breathing. We're very happy with the Toulmin Street timed closures, which make dropping off and collecting children safe and relaxed."

Deputy Headteacher, David Windle, added: "With very many tiny children accessing our site these improvements and temporary closures make a real difference to how safe our families feel. It also enables school staff to manage these busy periods of the day much more effectively."

There are plans to put in three more School Street schemes every year.



Breaking boundaries

We take a look at the life of writer, broadcaster and activist Una Marson.

Some pioneers of the past, like Alfred and Ada Salter or Harold Moody, are household names. Others are less well-known – but our archives can help bring them back into the spotlight and give them the recognition they're due. Southwark's newest library is named for one of these pioneers who's returned to the limelight: the poet, playwright, broadcaster and activist Una Marson.

Una Marson was born on 6 February 1905, in Santa Cruz, Jamaica. She was the youngest of six children born to Rev Solomon Isaac Marson, a Baptist minister, and Ada Wilhelmina Mullins. In 1915, aged 10, Una won a scholarship to the Hampton School for Girls, in Malvern, one of Jamaica's oldest boarding schools. After completing secondary school, Una needed to help support her family; she moved to Kingston, in 1922, where she worked as a secretary and social worker for the Salvation Army and YMCA.

In 1926 Marson became assistant editor of the political journal *Jamaica Critic*, where she developed the writing, editing and proofreading skills she used for the rest of her life. Two years later, she founded a magazine, *The Cosmopolitan*, and became Jamaica's first female publisher. *The Cosmopolitan* highlighted feminist, workers' rights, and other social issues and featured contributions from Marson's colleagues in the Jamaica Poetry League. Her first volume of poetry, *Tropic Reveries*, which she self-published in 1930, won the Institute of Jamaica's Musgrave Medal.



The 1929 Wall Street crash badly affected *The Cosmopolitan's* ad revenue, and the magazine folded in 1931. Marson published another volume of poetry, *Heights and Depths*, and wrote her first play, *At What A Price*, the same year. *At What A Price* debuted in Kingston, Jamaica, in June 1932. A month later, in July 1932, Una Marson left for the UK.

She lodged with Dr Harold Moody and his family for three years after arriving in London. After a year's job hunting, Marson took on an unpaid role as Assistant Secretary for the League of Coloured Peoples. The post helped her develop as a pioneering international activist: in April 1935, she was the first Jamaican to address the International Alliance of Women, at their 13th conference in Istanbul. Later that year she was the first black woman invited to attend the League of Nations in Geneva.

Her LCP ties also helped her expand her literary and cultural career. In November 1933, she directed members of the LCP in a production of *At What a Price* at the YMCA hostel in Great Russell Street; in January 1934, this production had a three-night run at the Scala Theatre in the West End – one of, if the first, black person from the colonies to direct a West End production. Between 1933 and 1935, she also edited the LCP's journal, *The Keys*.

In spring 1935, she moved to Brunswick Square in Camberwell. Along with moving out of the Moody home, her activism moved away from the LCP and into the Pan-African and feminist movements, including the British Commonwealth League. Through the League of Nations, she made contact with the government of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), threatened with invasion by fascist Italy. Within 24 hours of her taking a post at the Abyssinian Legation in London in early October 1935, the



Italians invaded – and the war took over her life. After Emperor Haile Selassie's surrender and arrival in London in June 1936, Marson became his personal secretary, travelling with him to Geneva at the end of June for a final – unsuccessful – plea to the League of Nations to intervene on behalf of Abyssinia. The workload, and the despair and hopelessness she felt over the rise of fascism, sparked a brief nervous breakdown. Marson returned to Jamaica in September 1936.

In 1937, she published two works. *The Moth and the Star* was a volume of poetry, many of which reflected the rhythms and melody of Black blues and jazz music, and *London Calling*, a play that reflected on her experience as a Black immigrant. In 1938, her most popular play, *Pocomania*, debuted at the Ward Theatre in Kingston – it reflected the contemporary social unrest caused by high unemployment.

In February 1937, she helped found the progressive newspaper *Public Opinion*: her weekly columns there covered a wide variety of topics and gave her a forum to advocate for applying what she learned in England to Jamaica. In terms of activism, she was a founder member, and the first secretary, of the Jamaica Save the Children Association (better known as Jamsave), which launched in June 1938.

In the summer of 1939, she began working as a freelancer for the BBC, arranging interviews with Caribbean visitors for the magazine programme "Picture Page". By 1940 she was tasked with creating one-off programmes to boost the morale of West Indians at home and in Britain.

In 1941 she began full-time work there, hosting and co-ordinating the programme "Calling the West Indies", which aimed to keep Caribbean service personnel in touch with their home countries by reading letters on air. In October 1942, George Orwell tapped her to contribute to a 6-part poetry magazine, "Voice", to be broadcast by the Indian Service. Quick to grasp



the value of media for promoting literature, she reworked "Calling the West Indies" into a similar format. "Caribbean Voices", which debuted in March 1943, featured a wide range of contemporary West Indian writers and ran until 1958, introducing V. S. Naipaul and Edward Kamau Braithwaite to a wider audience.

Marson published her final volume of poetry, *Towards the Stars*, in 1945. The BBC sent Marson on a trip to the West Indies in the summer of 1945, to do audience evaluation and scout new programme ideas. The pace of the trip left her spent: Marson's friend Clare McFarlane accompanied her back to Jamaica in April 1946. However, material from the BBC archives makes it clear that wartime stress – and the racism Marson faced as one of the few Black women in the BBC – also played a significant role.

From 1949 onward, Marson's creative energy moved into editing: she suggested, and became the first organising secretary of *The Gleaner's* book publishing arm, the Pioneer Press. In this role, she helped launch the careers of a new generation of Caribbean writers, including Andrew Salkey. From 1952 to 1960, she lived in the US and had a short-lived marriage to a Black American dentist. By the early 1960s, she re-joined Jamsave and continued to write freelance articles.

She died of a heart attack in Kingston on 6 May 1965. Her flat in Brunswick Square is marked by a Southwark Heritage blue plaque, installed in 2009.

Events calendar



Spring Fair at Surrey Docks Farm

Head to the Farm to watch the sheep get sheared and find out how their wool is used with interactive demonstrations from the London Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers. Plus enjoy fair activities, crafts stalls, food and entertainment!

Saturday 11 May, 11am to 4pm

Free entry (but this is a fundraising event so there will be low costs to take part in activities)

Surrey Docks Farm, Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 5ET

www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk



Norwegian National Day celebration

The annual gathering to mark the Norwegian National Day where friends and family gather in Southwark Park to celebrate the Norwegian culture, food and heritage in connection with our constitution day. Enjoy musical performances, traditional Scandinavian food and drink and a short parade around Southwark Park with family entertainment, bouncy castles and traditional children games

Friday 17 May, 11am to 5pm

Voluntary donation

Southwark Park by the band stand

<https://17mai.london>

Peckham Fringe

A festival of dynamic stories brought to you by Theatre Peckham!

1 May to 8 June, various times, see website for details

From £7.50

Theatre Peckham

www.theatrepeckham.co.uk



Southwark Eid Festival at the Burgess Park

Join us celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha Festival in the park this year. After having the successful Eid celebrations last July at Burgess Park we are looking forward to seeing you all again on either Wednesday 10 April, 2024 or Thursday 11 April, 2024 for the Eid festival prayer at 10am and activities from 11am to 7pm including the Partnership Southwark Road Van with a free health check, blood pressure checks, information on an active lifestyle etc. The theme for this year's event is community cohesion. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday 10 or 11 Thursday April, 10am to 7pm

Free

Burgess Park, Albany Road SE5 0AL

Southwark_eid - Twitter/ Instagram/ Facebook Page

Trouble in the Nighttime Jazz Session

Our monthly jazz session with Peckham Levels house band Trouble in the Night Time continues into 2024. As always expect some of the top jazz musicians in London paying homage to the music that inspired hip hop through a live set of groove and improvisation

Thursday 28 March, 7.30pm to midnight

£5

Peckham Levels

<https://peckhamlevels.org/events/trouble-in-the-nighttime-spring>

SPRING 2024



Dulwich Park Fair

Family friendly event that includes a dog show, funfair, City Farm, Donna Maria's Maypole, Punch & Judy and a magician. The stage will feature local musicians, concert bands, choirs, and dance groups. There will be a large variety of food, drink, craft stalls and charity stalls too.

Sunday 12 May, 12pm to 5pm

Free

Dulwich Park, College Road, London SE21 7BZ

<https://dulwichparkfair.wordpress.com>



Coding Black Females Career Fair

Unlock your potential and discover exciting job opportunities and connect with top companies. Coding Black Females invites you to their tech Careers Fair, bringing us an empowering evening filled with opportunities to network, explore exciting tech career prospects, and boost your employability.

Thursday 7 March, 6pm to 9.30pm

Free

Peckham Levels

<https://peckhamlevels.org/events/coding-black-females>

SOUTHWARK PRESENTS



Burgess Park Half-Term Family Funfair

George Irvin is proud to present the annual half-term family funfair in Burgess Park. This fair has been held here since it was a WWII bomb site, making it one of the oldest events in Southwark! The funfair will have rides suitable for all ages. Make family memories this half-term!

Every day from Friday 24 May to Sunday 2 June, 1pm to 9pm

See website for full details

Burgess Park (the west side of the park next to the tennis centre) SE5 7LA

<https://www.irvinleisure.co.uk/upcoming-funfairs/>

Acts of Resistance: Photography, Feminisms and the Art of Protest

This group exhibition at the SLG, organised in collaboration with the V&A, explores feminism and activism from an international and contemporary perspective. Looking at different approaches to feminism from the past 10 years, the show brings together over 16 international artists and collectives.

8 March to 2 June

Free

South London Gallery, 65-67 Peckham Road, SE5 8UH

www.southlondongallery.org/exhibitions/acts-of-resistance/

Nunhead Cemetery International Women's Day tour

A celebration of the lives of notable women buried at Nunhead cemetery led by FONC Trustee Jane Hart. Highlights include music hall star Jenny 'the Vital Spark' Hill; Crimean war nurse Harriet Ann Tebbutt; and Suffragist Louisa Simms.

Sunday 10 March, 2pm

Free

Nunhead Cemetery, Linden Grove, SE15 3LP

www.fonc.org.uk

For details of these and more events around the borough visit www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents

Spring 2024

Lost Mansions of Dulwich Village

Just over 100 years ago, the last of the old mansions on the northern section of Dulwich Village were demolished. This illustrated talk will cover five: The Hall, Menival, Lake House, the White House and Warrigul, along with their wealthy occupants, many of them influential Victorian entrepreneurs.

Tuesday 2 April, 8pm to 9pm

£5, proceeds to local charity.

Bursary tickets available

Online Zoom talk

<https://www.bellhouse.co.uk/>



A History of Taste through the Dulwich Picture Gallery collection

Join Jenny Scott, Director of the Dulwich Picture Gallery and specialist in royal portraiture and in British, Flemish, Spanish and Dutch painting, for an online exploration of the history of taste in Britain, using the beautiful, unique collection of the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Tuesday 5 March, 8pm to 9pm

£5, proceeds to local charity.

Bursary tickets available

Online Zoom talk

<https://www.bellhouse.co.uk/>



The South London Soul Train

The South London Soul Train is back at Peckham Levels for another night of live and direct music, plus funk, soul, rare groove & disco specialists on the decks.

Saturday 27 April, 10pm to 4am

£5 to £15

Peckham Levels

<https://peckhamlevels.org/events/the-south-london-soul-train-brasstermind>



Little Baobab Live

Come along to Little Baobab's new regular African music night at Peckham Levels. You can expect two live music performances and the best Senegalese food in London available from Little Baobab throughout the night. Come and join the place for London's African music and food lovers.

Saturday 20 April, 7pm to midnight

£10

Peckham Levels

<https://peckhamlevels.org/events/little-baobab-live-2024>



Get election ready

Elections are happening across London on Thursday 2 May 2024 and a general election will be happening this year too

Voting in elections is how people make a difference to the way their town, borough or even the country is run. In the UK it is how we make our voice heard and is a hard fought for privilege that many people in other countries still don't have.

It is your choice how you vote – or even if you vote – on election days. However, we believe that everyone in Southwark who is eligible to vote on Election Day, should make sure they are in the position to do so.

This means on a basic level making sure you are registered to vote, using your current address. There are also lots of new rules that have come in around the way people can vote since most of the borough last went to the polls.

The biggest one is you now need to bring your voter ID to vote at your local polling station. For most people this will mean a valid form of photo ID like your driver's licence or passport.

If you don't have the right ID you can apply for a FREE Voter Authority Certificate. Applications can be submitted through the UK government's online portal at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk

Applicants must be registered to vote and will need to provide their date of birth, National Insurance number and a photograph with their application.



Make sure you are in a position to vote on Election Day NOW with a few simple steps:

1. If you're not registered to vote, apply now: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote (deadline 16 April, 2024)
2. Check you have the right ID: electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id
3. If you don't have ID apply for your Voter Authority Certificate: voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk (deadline 24 April, 2024)
4. For many people the most convenient way to vote is by post. Anyone can sign up for a postal vote and it is convenient and easy. www.gov.uk/vote-uk-election

Top tips for being election ready

- There may be changes to your usual polling station so please check your poll card carefully when it arrives.
- There are changes to the way the Mayoral elections will run this year as you will not get a second choice option.
- If you are applying for a postal vote, apply early to help ensure you have plenty of time for your forms to arrive in the post AND for them to come back into us. This is especially important if you are voting from overseas.
- If you miss the post, you can hand in your postal vote and/or the postal vote of up to five others at any polling station in the constituency before 10pm on polling day.
- If you are applying for a proxy vote, please make sure you have read up on the new rules and that your proxy is registered to vote and has the right ID.
- You can find all the links and information on our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/vote

BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK

Welcome to the business page of Southwark Life magazine, where you can find support for our high streets, small businesses and residents from the council and its partners.

SOUTHWARK WORKS

Southwark Works is a free employment and career service for Southwark residents. The service is open to residents of all ages and is tailored to the needs of each individual. Support ranges from:

- Pre-employment workshops – supporting you to get ready for work
- Work progression – support to progress within your role
- Job brokerage – opportunity to access a wider range of employment opportunities
- Multi-skills/ essential skills/ vocational training
- Volunteering and work-placement opportunities

For more information and to access the Southwark Works service visit: www.southwarkworks.com, or contact the friendly team on 0800 052 0540 or at info@southwarkworks.org.uk

PAID INTERNSHIPS SUPPORT

We have partnered with Gradcore, a social enterprise, to provide free, personalised support for eligible Southwark university students to improve their employability and help secure a paid internship.

To find out more and apply for this personalised support, please visit www.southwark.co.uk/apply

THRIVING HIGH STREETS FUND

The council's Thriving High Streets Fund supports projects to keep our high streets thriving, with grants from £1,000 to £25,000 for businesses and voluntary sector groups. Projects are eligible for funding if they meet two of five criteria: offering support during the cost of living crisis, helping make Southwark greener, creating healthy and safe high streets, developing community and cultural events and complementing the council's Southwark Stands Together priorities.

Express your interest for round two of the Thriving High Streets Fund by 29 February. Download an application at www.southwark.gov.uk/thrivinghighstreetsfund and send your application to SouthwarkBusinessDesk@southwark.gov.uk

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS DELIVERING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICE IN SOUTHWARK

Trampoline are offering one-to-one business support and mentoring to 10 entrepreneurs who are looking to develop socially motivated enterprises within the health sector in Southwark. The programme will help entrepreneurs to:

- Develop key business skills, knowledge and acumen for running a social enterprise
- Establish short- to mid-term goals for developing a social enterprise

Participants will benefit from tailored 1-2-1 support and access to network opportunities.

Apply here by 10 March 2024

www.trampolineic.org/ukspf-incubation-and-mentoring/

SOUTHWARK PIONEERS FUND

If you are a local business founder or aspiring entrepreneur who wants to start or grow a business, the Southwark Pioneers Fund can help you reach your full potential. The Fund offers two programmes for entrepreneurs at different stages. Launchpad supports entrepreneurs to launch their business idea, and Grow Your Enterprise supports micro-business owners to scale up and take their business to the next level.

Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/southwark-pioneers-fund

JOIN OVER 300 OF SOUTHWARK'S LONDON LIVING WAGE EMPLOYERS

If you are thinking of becoming a London living wage provider, you can receive grant funding to cover your accreditation costs. This is available as part of Southwark's new Living Wage Unit established to increase the number of employees benefiting from a real living wage particularly in the midst of a cost of living crisis.

To find out if you are eligible visit:

www.southwark.gov.uk/living-wage-grant

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

For regular updates on business support, opportunities and guidance sign up to our business e-newsletter at www.southwark.gov.uk/business-e-newsletter. As always, we're on hand to answer any business-related questions you might have at southwarkbusinessdesk@southwark.gov.uk



move

Southwark

**Flexible
memberships
or pay as
you go**

make your move

**gym | swim | classes | soft play | ball sports
athletics | water sports and more**

Join today!

southwarkleisure.co.uk

**Southwark
Council**