

Southwark

Life

Spring 2018

Community connections

Link up locally to fight loneliness

Digital Southwark

Improving broadband coverage

Old Kent Road

Have your say on major regeneration proposals

Meet our amazing foster carers

Could you help a Southwark child?

Your magazine from Southwark Council

“I GOT STRAIGHT TO WORK BUILDING MY CAREER”

FIONA KEENAGHAN, 22
CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN



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welcome...

Southwark is a bustling, exciting place to live, but what makes it truly great is the way diverse communities interact and come together to create a rich sense of culture and identity.

Feeling connected to the place we live, to our neighbours, to opportunities and to the wider world all feeds into our sense of wellbeing, and this edition of Southwark Life is all about those links. Whether it’s the work the council is doing to bring superfast broadband to Rotherhithe, the stories of foster carers who are helping to transform young lives, or our centre spread about combatting loneliness through participation, this edition is brimming with opportunities to connect and get involved locally.

I remain incredibly ambitious for our great borough, and despite ongoing funding cuts (explained in our budget article) the council strives to deliver the very best services for local people. But what makes a place special is much more about what we all do together, and I want to thank you, our residents, for all you do to help us ensure Southwark continues to be a fantastic place to live, with no-one left behind.

Peter John
Leader of Southwark Council



Contact us

Do you have something to say about Southwark Life? Write to: Your letters, Southwark Life, Fourth Floor North, Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street London, SE1 2QH or email southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk

Cover stars are Debbie and Paul who feature in our foster care feature on Ps 8-11. Photo by Hannah Maule-Finch

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Keep in touch

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facebook.com/southwarkcouncil
 @lb_southwark
 Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

Need to know...

It might not feel like it, but Spring is finally here. Here are a few examples of what has been going on to help make our borough a cleaner, greener, safer and happier place to be.

For news and events follow us on Facebook and Twitter or find out more at southwark.gov.uk/enews

 Follow us on Facebook facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

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

 Follow us on Instagram Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

Beauty is only skin-deep

A Peckham shopkeeper has been sentenced for offences relating to the illegal sale of dangerous skin lightening products. Analysis showed these products contained prohibited ingredients, such as hydroquinone and corticosteroids; both of which are banned in cosmetic products, due to concerns over serious and irreversible skin damage, as well as links to liver, nervous system damage and an increased risk of skin cancer. Banaras Hussain was ordered to pay a total of £25,915 in fines and costs under the Proceeds of Crime Act, with a 15 week suspended sentence and 100 days unpaid work. Earlier this year, some 2,500 products were seized by Southwark Council's Trading Standards team at 65 Rye Lane, SE15. Most of the products were uncovered in a concealed storage space at the back of the premises. Under-cover trading standards test purchases in the store revealed the sale of illegal skin lighteners, sold on an under-the-counter basis.



Are things bound to change?

Changes in our population mean that some areas in Southwark have too many councillors and others too few. That's why the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has reviewed the wards in Southwark and made changes which will come into force at the council elections in May. You may see changes to your ward, its name and even the number of councillors you are electing. There may also be a change to the place where you go to vote so watch out for details on your polling card. southwark.gov.uk/boundarychange

Coffee and support

Voices for Autism is a non-profit organisation which offers a support network for parents or carers of young people living with Autism in London. The service offers monthly coffee mornings at Camberwell Library, SE5. For more information visit: voicesforautism.co.uk

Help to stop the sexual exploitation of children

March 18 is National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity. The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding CSE; encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse. Show your support by writing and sharing a pledge. Post your photo on social media with the hashtag **#HelpingHands** and **#CSEDay18** to help us raise awareness of CSE.

New engine idling enforcement

Southwark Council has taken its latest step towards improving London's air quality with the launch of its new engine idling enforcement. Idling vehicle exhausts choke the air with toxic chemicals like cyanide, NOx and PM2.5 which can lead to asthma, heart disease and lung disease. This is why council parking enforcement officers will now be issuing an £80 Penalty Charge Notice to parked-up car, bus, taxi and HGV drivers, who refuse to switch off their engines when asked.



Fire safety and your home

The terrible fire at Grenfell Tower is thought to have begun in a fridge/freezer. The Government is asking anyone who owns a Hotpoint fridge freezer, with the model number FF175BP (white) or FF175BG (grey) to call Whirlpool Corporation's free hotline on **0800 316 3826**, or visit www.hotpointservice.co.uk/fridgefreezer to register their details for further updates. The products in your home may become subject to product recalls – often many months or even years after they have been purchased – check the Government's pages on product recalls: productrecall.campaign.gov.uk. Southwark Council also supports the www.registermyappliance.org.uk scheme that will tell you if your products have been recalled. To keep your fridge safe, install it in a ventilated, indoor room away from radiators and direct sun but not in garages or outside. Clean the back of the fridge occasionally and ensure the drainage hole is clear.



For a free home fire safety visit from the fire brigade, call free on **0800 028 4428** or email smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk

Snack smart!



Half the sugar children are having comes from snacks and sugary drinks. Too much sugar can lead to harmful fat building up inside and serious health problems, including painful tooth decay. Fruit and vegetables are always the best choice, but if you're shopping for packaged snacks for your children, use this helpful tip: look for 100 calorie snacks, two a day max.



Square begins to blossom

Local residents have been improving the area around the Pergola next to Surrey Water, on Dock Hill Avenue, Rotherhithe with Cleaner Greener Safer money from the council.

The site was cleared by the council's gardening team before the main contractor then started work on site during December 2017 which included skimming and removing some 40 tons of gravel, debris, detritus and moss that had built up over 30 years across the eight areas near to the Pergola. Eight low level planting beds were constructed and in February 20 local residents help plant up the new planting beds.



Photo: Anthony Coleman

Charter School hits milestone

Mayor of Southwark Charlie Smith, joined Cllr Victoria Mills (both pictured below) and MP Helen Hayes at a special event to mark the completion of the concrete frame of the new 11-18 co-educational Charter School in East Dulwich. The school has been operating in temporary accommodation on Southampton Way since September 2016. The school and its pupils will relocate to its purpose-built facilities in December of this year.



Photo: Anthony Coleman

The new-look Bellenden Primary School open

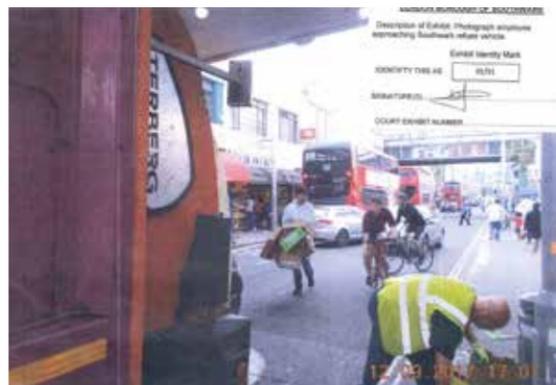
Bellenden Primary School has undergone a complete rebuild and now offers students exciting new buildings in which to learn and grow. The bold colourful architecture delivers light and airy interior classroom spaces to help students reach their potential. Bellenden has doubled its pupil capacity; the school is now two form entry as well as now offering a 26 place nursery. The outdoor areas are just as striking as the exterior of the school and can be used for both teaching and play.

Active Involvement in Research Day 2018

Patients, service users, carers and the public are invited to share their views and find out more about getting involved in research in south London to improve health. You are invited to come to this free event to work with us on ideas for new research and possible involvement opportunities on Saturday 17 March 2018, 10am to 4pm at the Franklin Wilkins Building, King's College London, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9NH. Register via Eventbrite at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/active-involvement-in-research-day-2018-tickets-41381124056?utm_term=eventname_text – places are limited and registration is essential.

Crackdown on fly tippers

Southwark Council is cracking down on fly tipping and recently added ZA Afro Foods Ltd, of 80 Rye Lane, Peckham, to their list of successful prosecutions. The business received fines of £1,000, costs of £1,078 and a victim surcharge of £100, at Camberwell Green Magistrates Court earlier this year. The council has an excellent record in dealing with fly tipping, with 95% of reported instances responded to within 24 hours. The council has also issued 226 fines to businesses and individuals for fly tipping since April last year.



WARD CHANGES IN SOUTHWARK

On Thursday 3 May 2018, Southwark's electoral wards will change

There are changes to every ward in the borough, and so this may affect you. It may have a new name, and you may have a different number of councillors. Your usual voting place may also change.

WHAT'S NEW...

- The boundaries of every ward have changed, so you may be in a different ward.
- The number of wards has increased from 21 to 23.
- Some wards now have new names to reflect the community they cover.
- There will be a mix of wards with either two or three councillors.

WWW.SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK/BOUNDARY/CHANGE

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Southwark Council
southwark.gov.uk

REGISTER TO VOTE

The local borough council elections will be held this year on Thursday 3 May 2018

To be able to vote you need to be a British, Commonwealth or EU Citizen aged 18 or older. You also need to be registered to vote.

Please note that your ward name may change as a result of the new ward boundaries, and your elector number will change, but you only need to register to vote if you are not already on the register of electors.

The easiest way to register is by going online at

WWW.GOV.UK/REGISTER-TO-VOTE

020 7525 7373 electoralenquiries@southwark.gov.uk

@lb_southwark facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

We will only use the information you give us for electoral purposes. We will look after personal information securely as laid out in the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation. We may occasionally need to pass on personal information to other public bodies or organisations as a result of legal duties and powers.

Southwark Council
southwark.gov.uk

We care... could you?

Meet some of the amazing people who are transforming the lives of children in Southwark

Foster carers come from all walks of life and provide caring homes for children who have often been through traumatic events. Fostering is not always smooth but the benefits are immense; from settling a child into your home to watching them achieve small steps and flourish. Each carer has a social worker to support them on their journey and we have regular support groups to join.

For various reasons, some local children can't live with their birth family. Our foster carers play a crucial role in supporting and guiding them to ensure they get the best from life.

Here are just some of their stories:



Photo: Hannah Maule-Finch

Dave

"I've been fostering since 1972, but before that my wife and I had been taking children from a local children's home for days out for years. It wasn't until my first daughter was born that our social worker suggested fostering. "We didn't start long-term fostering right away, it started with weekends and then short-term fostering for children who, for example, only had one parent and they had been hospitalised. The child would stay with us until their parent was well again. A few years later we started fostering full-time.

"Since we started fostering we must have looked after a hundred children over the years. The majority were short term placements but there were also a number of longer term ones as well. It was my wife who wanted to get involved in fostering to begin with; she came from a large, very kind family. Her family once took in a homeless mother and her children and looked after them. For my wife it was natural to want to open our house to children in need of a home, even for a short time.

"To begin with, we only had one or two children placed with us. But then in the eighties there were times when we had eight children in the house! I suppose that may seem daunting but it's just like when you have a second child- it all falls into place. From the

nineties onwards, as regulations changed, we looked after fewer children at any one time.

"Having foster children in the house gave our children a great deal of life experience. I know they gained a lot from sharing their lives with foster children. Their teachers would often comment on how empathetic and caring they were. One of my children has also gone on to become a foster carer.

"In 2012 my wife passed away suddenly, and at the time we were caring for two girls long-term, one aged 10 and the other 16. Fostering as a single man is not something I ever envisaged or thought about. To be honest, after my wife died I didn't think I would be able to carry on. Social workers from Southwark Council spoke to the children and I was glad to hear they both adamantly wanted to stay with me. I'm glad I have been able to finish what my wife and I started. We promised to look after them until they were 18, giving them the love and skills that they needed to live purposeful and independent lives. The elder of the pair has now turned 18 and she has moved on and the younger one, who has special needs, is hoping to stay with me post-care.

"Fostering has changed a lot over the years. There are more regulations now than there was when I first started, as there should be. There is also more compulsory training; the most recent that I did was about child development and how to keep better records, which is all really important.

"As many people say, fostering is a vocation not a job and it's with good reason. Fostering is not nine-to-five. The best thing about fostering is seeing a child grow in confidence and leave care full of self esteem and making a go of life. Many of our foster children have gone on to get good jobs, stable partners, bought homes and have children of their own.

"To anyone thinking of fostering, I say go for it. Your life will be enriched and you will be helping a child who really needs it. Yes, it's hard at first but you get oodles of training and lots of support."



There's no such
thing as a typical
foster carer

Almost anyone can foster, one of the most important things is that you have a spare room for a child. Beyond the practicalities of fostering you need to enjoy working with children, be understanding and able to provide a loving environment for a child. There are lots of different ways you can help a vulnerable child, fostering doesn't always mean providing long-term care, it can be short term, emergency or respite care. If you are thinking of adopting, you can also foster first and potentially move on to adoption.

As a Southwark foster carer you'll receive:

- Southwark residents fostering Southwark children get a 100% discount on their Council Tax
- A comprehensive training programme to support all carers with ongoing training and development
- A dedicated supervising social worker to support each foster carer and 24/7 support
- Automatic Fostering Network membership providing free advice and support, training courses, discounts on family days out, specialist information on insurance and financial products for foster carers.



Stella

"I've been fostering for nearly 18 years and it was something I always wanted to do. When we were looking to buy our first property we got one with an extra bedroom because I knew I wanted to care for children. Back home, my mum was a nursery teacher and I grew up with three other children in the house. When I was younger, I thought they were my mums too but when I grew up I found out that they were children from other families my mum had been looking after them.

"I always say, fostering is not just a young person or a child coming into your home and you providing a roof and a safe environment. It's love. Especially with teenagers, they need someone to love them. You showing them this tiny bit of love will help a teenager go a long way. The best thing about fostering is seeing the child thrive in their own way, not comparing them to anyone else. To see them out there being independent and coping with life, I can't describe what that's like.

"You have to take every day as a new day and forget about what has happened the other day. The joy is the progression of the child. I've cared for unaccompanied minors and when they arrive they can't speak English. When they first get here I'll buy a good dictionary and use the internet to interpret what we're saying. After a while I'll hear them calling 'Auntie, Auntie I'm going out!' I cannot explain the feeling to hear that! I also bought things to make them feel at home, especially food. My grandma used to say, 'Food is the heart of the child!' Also, being in the kitchen together brought us closer.

"If you woke me up in the middle of the night and asked me about the children I've cared for, over sixty children, I can tell you each one's date of birth and why they came to me. I can tell you that, but ask me what I had for breakfast and I can't remember! That's how they are to me. I always want to know what they are doing and how they are, even after they leave me."

"This Christmas we had over 20 of our children at our house. This time they came back with their partners and their children. Seeing them now and remembering them how they were – that's the real reward for foster carers."



Photo: Hannah Maule-Finch

Debbie and Paul

Debbie and Paul have been fostering since 2015 and are currently caring for a teenage boy.

Debbie said: "I wanted to become a foster carer and especially a foster carer for Southwark Council because it's where I live and I think it is important Southwark people foster Southwark children. We found ourselves in a situation where our youngest went away to university and we were rattling around a three bedroom flat and it's a joy to have youngsters coming into the home. It's something that we both wish we had done sooner.

"You've got to be prepared to treat that child as one of your own, they'll be able to tell if you were keeping them at arm's length. It's really important that for the time that child is with you, you are their advocate and you speak up for them when they need it."

Paul added: "If you are considering becoming a foster carer, you need to think about your family and how it will affect them. It's very important they feel included as you've got to think about the whole package. You're not just looking after a child, you're taking them under your wing and that child needs to feel part of your family."

Debbie: "We're looking after a teenager at the moment I think there can be a lot of sensationalised stories about caring for older children. What was really good for us was that we were able to meet with him first as he was in respite care and it just clicked. With teenagers you still have to be there and parent but they also like to have

As a Southwark foster carer you'll receive:

- An allowance for the child and a separate reward fee for the foster carer in recognition of their skills and commitment
- An enhanced financial reward for experienced carers and for carers with specialist skills
- An additional allowance for birthday, festivities, holiday and technology purchases
- Support from an excellent specialist mental health service dedicated to working with children in care

"You only ever hear about the 'impossible teenagers' and that's not the case for everyone. You don't hear about the good things!"

their own time. As long as there is compromise and you are in agreement with what they're doing – it's easier than what people might think.

"Despite any initial concerns that I had – I love it. He's part of our family and other foster children that we've had look up to him for advice. He always has a home with us, he threatens I'm going to find him on the couch when he's 22 or 23! He still sees his family all the time and he's also part of ours."

Find out more

Throughout the year fostering information sessions are held on the second Tuesday of every month and are held in Canada Water Library, 21 Surrey Quays Road, SE16 7AR, 5.30pm to 7pm.

Tuesday 10 April 2018, Room 1

Tuesday 8 May 2018, Room 2

Friday 8 June 2018 (Surrey Quays shopping Centre, Redriff Road, SE16 7LL at 9.30am to 4pm)

Tuesday 12 June 2018, Room 2

Tuesday 10 July 2018, Room 2

More dates are available on our website.

For an informal chat about fostering and adoption come to one of our drop in sessions and meet one of the team on the following days:

- every Monday, 5pm to 7pm at Domali, 38 Westow Street, SE19 3AH
- every Thursday, 9am to 11am at Andersons, 139 Bellenden Road, Peckham, SE15 4DH

For more information visit our website www.southwark.gov.uk/fostering, email fostering@southwarkcouncil.gov.uk or call 0800 952 0707

Digital Southwark

Lack of access to superfast broadband is often seen as an issue affecting rural communities, but digital connectivity is still a real problem for cities including London.

Southwark is committed to being a digitally inclusive borough, where all residents, communities and businesses have access to the digital tools they need to work, live and flourish. We know that good internet connectivity is no longer a luxury; it is an everyday necessity, which is increasingly recognised as the 'fourth utility', alongside water, gas and electricity. Access to high speed broadband is an important part of the council's Fairer Future promise to build a strong local economy for everyone.

While much of the borough enjoys fast broadband some areas, particularly in Rotherhithe, are much slower. In some parts of the borough people are unable to access anything but the most basic broadband speeds. This is frustrating for residents, preventing them from being able to access everything the digital world has to offer, and makes it difficult for small businesses to operate in so-called 'not spots' in the borough.

The council has been working hard to improve digital connectivity in

the borough and is undertaking a range of projects and activities to tackle digital exclusion. Our Digital Strategy sets out how we are using infrastructure improvements to deliver the maximum benefits for people living and working in Southwark, including better access to online services, low-cost communication, virtual working and learning, and entertainment. We are working with service providers to encourage them to install superfast broadband across the whole borough, as well as looking at new technology and innovative solutions to improve connectivity for our residents.

Why is better broadband so important?

Businesses

A good broadband connection is essential for most businesses. Southwark Council recently carried out a survey of small and medium businesses (SMEs) in the borough about their experience of broadband, and 79% of respondents reported they were not satisfied with their current broadband service. Many businesses said that an improved broadband connection would help them to reduce cost, increase reliability and customer

service, and be more productive. The council is exploring funding opportunities for business broadband voucher schemes and we hope to be able to make an announcement on this subject later in the year. If you are a business in the borough that could benefit from better broadband, watch this space.

Homes

Nearly 1,000 people took part in the council's Rotherhithe broadband survey, which gathered information about their experience of home broadband. Broadband speeds in the Rotherhithe area are notoriously poor and over three quarters of respondents reported that they were dissatisfied with the speed of their home broadband service. Nearly 60% of respondents had download speeds below the minimum 10Mbps speed suggested by government. Residents told us they struggle with downloading or streaming music, film and TV, and communicating online, due to poor broadband speeds. Over two thirds of respondents reported that poor broadband speeds were a barrier to working from home.

Wi-Fi aerials rollout

The council is working with wireless providers to improve digital connectivity and internet speeds



Cllrs Fiona Colley (left) and Stephanie Cryan inspect one of the new masts.

in the borough. You may have seen new Wi-Fi aerials springing up on council block rooftops, to improve broadband speeds for people living in the blocks and nearby. New aerials have been installed on 21 council blocks, extending the coverage of the superfast broadband service to 70% of the borough. As the aerials go live residents and businesses covered by the Wi-Fi service can sign up for superfast broadband. Overall these works will provide high speed broadband coverage for 70% of residents in the borough. The aerials are particularly focused on 'not spot' areas, where providers are unlikely to rollout full fibre in the immediate future.

You can read more about this work and check whether your home is included in the Wi-Fi rollout on the council website: [southwark.gov.uk/betterbroadband](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/betterbroadband)

Full fibre

To make Southwark a truly digital borough and to ensure all residents have access to good connectivity, a full rollout of fibre optic broadband across the borough is needed. The council is working closely with broadband providers to encourage them to expand full fibre, but we know that this alone will not cover all parts of the borough. We need central government support to deliver the full fibre rollout needed to provide universal coverage to residents, which is why the council has also applied for government funding, alongside Transport for London (TfL) and other London local authorities, to improve broadband in central London, including Southwark. The bid involves creating a new fibre network across Bermondsey and Rotherhithe using the London Underground, which will improve digital connectivity in areas of the borough that suffer from some of the worst broadband speeds.

What is superfast broadband?

Superfast broadband is defined as fixed broadband of 24 Mbps or more. The government is introducing a 'universal service obligation' to give everyone the right to request at least 10Mbps. Ofcom data shows that broadband speeds for many people living in Rotherhithe are much lower than this.

Free public Wi-Fi

You may have spotted that a number of street payphones across Southwark have been transformed into ultra-fast Wi-Fi hotspots, offering free Wi-Fi and free UK landline and mobile phone calls. The new InLinkUK boxes from BT offer a range of free digital services including mobile device charging, access to maps and local services, and real time Tube and weather updates.

Get help to get online

Being unable to use a computer to get online is a massive hurdle for some people in Southwark, which is why the council started Go ON Southwark a project that set up digital hubs across the borough to assist people with digital skills. The hubs are based in the community, supported by tenant and resident associations, sheltered housing projects and other community organisations. Local charities including Thames Reach and Citizens Advice Southwark run hundreds of sessions for local residents, providing training and support to help people get online. In the past 9 months there have been over 900 visits to the hubs and the council's library service has also delivered almost 3,000 IT training sessions. Why not visit a Southwark library to find out more?

SOUTHWARK WORKS

HELPING YOU INTO WORK



- ✓ Do you live in Southwark?
- ✓ Are you looking for a job or an apprenticeship?
- ✓ Need some help and advice?

No matter what your background, experience or qualifications, Southwark Works can help. We are a network of providers offering high quality employment support to Southwark residents.

Our advisers will go through the whole job search process with you and support you in any way they can. We have already helped change the lives of thousands of Southwark residents and work with a range of local businesses.

WE OFFER A RANGE OF SERVICES TO SOUTHWARK RESIDENTS INCLUDING:

- Friendly and professional advice on employment and training
- Support to get you into a job or an apprenticeship
- Help with CVs and application forms
- Job search advice and interview techniques
- Access to a range of training courses, workshops, ESOL and Skills For Life courses
- Support to gain a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card and other relevant industry qualifications
- Support after you've secured a job
- Advice on where to go if you're experiencing financial difficulties or debt problems and advice on money management

Come and visit us for an informal chat or register for FREE at:

Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre, Unit 239, London, SE1 6TE.

Please bring some ID (e.g. Passport, Identity Card, Birth Certificate), proof of address (e.g. utility bill, bank statement, council tax bill) and NI number. We are open Monday to Friday: 10am-12pm and 2pm – 4pm.

Tel: **0800 052 0540*** | www.southwarkworks.com

*Freephone number.

@southwarkworks facebook.com/southwark.works @southwarkcouncil



Tackling loneliness as a community

Most of us have experienced loneliness in our lives. Relationship breakups, bereavements, changes at work, children flying the nest or even being a new parent can all trigger a sense of isolation. We often associate loneliness with older people, but almost 2.5m people aged between 45 and 64 now live alone in the UK, almost a million more than two decades ago. Of course, you can live alone and not be lonely, just as you can be surrounded by people but still feel completely alone. Loneliness is complex, but its effects can be hugely damaging. Thankfully, for many of us, the solution is right on our doorstep.



Naudette



Southwark resident Naudette Harvey first heard about Link Age in a previous edition of Southwark Life, and decided straight away to volunteer for the local charity that has been running a befriending service in the borough for 25 years. Naudette says "I'd spoken to so many people who volunteer and get a lot out of it, and I thought it would be a good way to meet people who I don't normally come across, as well as to help people. I saw the ad for Link Age and thought it looked really positive. People can be isolated for so many reasons and it's easy for me to spend an hour each week having a cup of tea with someone. The charity has been really friendly and helpful from the moment I contacted them, and took their time to find the best possible match. It's early days but I'm really enjoying it so far. My match is interesting and chatty – it's nice to talk to her. And I've met some other great people at the training sessions. If anyone is thinking about volunteering I would say you should absolutely do it. Find the role that's right for you – there are so many opportunities out there."

Volunteering

Many people volunteer because they feel they want to give something back to their community, but in reality volunteering can be as positive an experience for the volunteer as for the person they are supporting. There are many opportunities to volunteer in Southwark. Here are just a few....

Link Age

Link Age links up local volunteers with older people who are looking for friendship and social contact, help with household tasks like gardening or lifts to social events. The whole ethos of the charity is about helping people age well and continue to live independent and socially active lives. For more info go to <http://linkagesouthwark.org>

Age UK

Telephone befriending service. You offer 30 minutes a week to chat to an older person on the phone. They match you with an older person that you share interests with so you shouldn't run out of things to chat about. The calls make a huge difference to the happiness and wellbeing of an older person, and you might learn something too. Call Age UK Lewisham & Southwark on **020 7701 9700** or go to www.ageuk.org.uk/lewishamandsouthwark

Food banks

Foodbanks provide crucial support to local people but they wouldn't be able to do it without the army of volunteers who help out. The Trussell Trust run a food bank on Peckham High Street and they say that "Volunteers are the life blood of foodbanks." Find out how you could help at southwark.foodbank.org.uk

For more details of volunteering opportunities across the borough, visit the Community Southwark website at communitysouthwark.org/get-involved/want-volunteer-southwark

Make new friends



parkrun

parkrun is everywhere, literally. It's all over the media, having developed an almost cult-like status with its positive energy, health promotion and ease of access, but it's also all over the world. There is a parkrun near you, wherever you are, with four in Southwark at Burgess, Dulwich, Peckham Rye and Southwark parks.

So what is it, and why all the fuss? parkrun organises free, weekly, 5km timed runs (although you can walk if you want to) which are open to everyone, and are safe and easy to take part in. They are runs rather than races and the only person you are competing with is yourself. Register on the site, print off a barcode, turn up at 9am every Saturday, and scan your barcode at the finish to generate your time, which is emailed to you later that day. All are welcome – if you want to bring your dog (on a short lead) or your child in a buggy, you can. It's simple, but addictive, and there are inspirational stories aplenty of people who used the positivity of parkrun to help them cope with or get over serious illness, tragedy and mental health problems. They are also organised entirely by volunteers and so if running's not your thing, you can still get involved, make new friends, and feel a part of something very special. Find out more at www.parkrun.org.uk

Chris



Chris Raveney has been a keen parkrunner in Burgess Park since 2012 and a Run Director since 2014. He has seen the event grow from about 30 participants to nearly 500, and thinks Burgess Park is a great location for the one lap course which takes in the lake, canal and Lime Kiln. "It's close to two major roads but it's so quiet it feels like you could be running in the countryside." He says he has seen first hand what a positive thing it is for people: "You see the loneliness in some people but it's a safe space and a really welcoming community. I've made countless friends that I would never have met anywhere else, and you all have something in common - whether you finish in 16 minutes or 45, everyone is hurting! It's a great way to get your exercise and then go for coffee afterwards." The runners head to Fowlds Café in Addington Square after the run and all are welcome – why don't you join them next week?

And if you catch the running bug, there are plenty of running clubs around the borough where you can meet other people including www.dulwichrunners.org.uk and www.londoncityac.org. Good Gym goes one step further and combines running with community projects. Find out more at www.goodgym.org/areas/southwark

Great Get Together

The tragic death of Jo Cox MP in 2016 shocked us all but her work lives on through projects like the Great Get-Together, which aims to bring communities together to celebrate all that we have in common. In 2017, residents of Union Street in SE1 arranged an amazing mix of activities including a dog show, bake off competition, wacky races, garden fete, comedy theatre, live music, a kids' zone with mobile farm, vintage flea market, and feasting tables. This year why not find a local event to get involved with or arrange one with your neighbours on the weekend of Friday 22nd – Sunday 24 June 2018. Whatever you decide, you'll be part of a huge national celebration. For more information go to: www.greatgettogether.org



“Did you know that there are 13 different book clubs running at Southwark’s libraries every month?”

Meet up in the library

Book clubs

Book clubs are a great way to make new friends. Did you know that there are 13 different book clubs running at Southwark’s libraries every month? Whether you like to read the latest Booker Prize winner, discuss your favourite poems, or debate a short story over afternoon tea, there is something for everyone at a library near you. There are even book clubs for children (aged 7 to 11) outside of school hours – see the Chatterbooks section on the website. Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

New parents

Many parents find caring for a new baby a lonely experience. There are lots of opportunities to meet other new parents in Southwark, including the free weekly Baby Rhyme Time and baby and toddler sessions held in the borough’s libraries. Find one near you at www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

Additional support

Whilst getting involved in your local community can help many people combat feelings of loneliness, there is additional support for people who are struggling with poor mental health and a lack of wellbeing. As many as one in four people will experience some form of mental illness at some point in their lives.

If you are experiencing mental health problems it is important to know that you are not alone and there is plenty of help out there to improve your mental well-being. The Southwark Wellbeing Hub provides information and support to anyone living in Southwark who is worried about their wellbeing, or that of someone close to them. Visit www.together-uk.org/southwark-wellbeing-hub/the-directory to search the many different types of support available and find out what might help you or a loved one. For additional support on mental health issues, visit the local NHS site at www.southwarkccg.nhs.uk/your-health/your-mental-health/Pages/default.aspx



Thank you for being part of the Southwark Conversation

Late last year, 3,000 people took part in Southwark Council’s most far-reaching consultation, asking you, our residents, how you feel about change in our borough.

Through the conversations we learned a huge amount about what matters to you, and we will use that to inform our council plans and priorities, following detailed analysis over the coming months. But as promised, we have now published an initial report, setting out the key themes that you told us were important to you. You can read the report here: www.southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark

 @lb_southwark
  facebook.com/southwarkcouncil
  @southwarkcouncil



Spring Rising

Emergency Exit Arts, and Output Arts commissioned by Southwark Council, presents an illuminated journey around the streets of East Dulwich. Residents can get involved before the event with a free, open workshop at the Albrighton Centre on Saturday 17 March to make beautiful illuminated objects to carry through the procession. Then, on Saturday 24 March, there will be an illuminated garden open on Goose Green. The parade will set off from the Albrighton Centre at 6pm. As the parade arrives the lights around the site will dim for the community poem by Sophia Walker recorded and set to specially composed music, followed by a short film of the workshops and the neighbourhood, giving a snapshot of the community at this moment. As the film ends there will be a small pyro display and the garden will come to life. The audience will be led by performers to discover the illuminations.

Saturday 17 and 24 March Workshops run from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. The illuminated parade leaves the Albrighton Community Centre at 6.15pm. Arrival time at Goose Green 7.00pm. Illuminated Garden 6pm to 9pm

FREE

Albrighton Centre and Goose Green, East Dulwich. Please email Kathryn. bilyard@eea.org.uk for more information

www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents



Joan Jonas

Hero to a generation of younger artists, Joan Jonas is a pioneer of performance and video who has pushed the boundaries of art for the last five decades. Experience the largest exhibition of Jonas's work ever held in the UK. You can see her landmark installations including Organic Honey, The Juniper Tree and Reanimation.

**14 March – 5 August 2018
Sunday to Thursday 10.00-18.00
Friday to Saturday 10.00-22.00**

£13 (Advance booking £11)

Concession £12 (Advance booking £10)

FREE for Members

Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG

www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/joan-jonas



Paper Garden Generator Programme

Arts and Environment training, supporting secondary school students to make a difference. Weekly sessions and residential camp, volunteering and work experience.

Weekly on Fridays after Easter - recruiting now 4pm-6pm

Free

The Printworks, Surrey Quays Road
www.globalgeneration.org.uk

The EY Exhibition: Picasso 1932 – Love, Fame, Tragedy

1932 was Pablo Picasso's 'year of wonders' – an extraordinarily intense creative period in the life of the 20th century's most influential artist. This landmark exhibition takes you on a month-by-month journey through this pivotal time.

**8 March – 9 September 2018
Sunday to Thursday 10.00-18.00
Friday to Saturday 10.00-22.00**

Adult: £22 (£25 with gift aid donation)

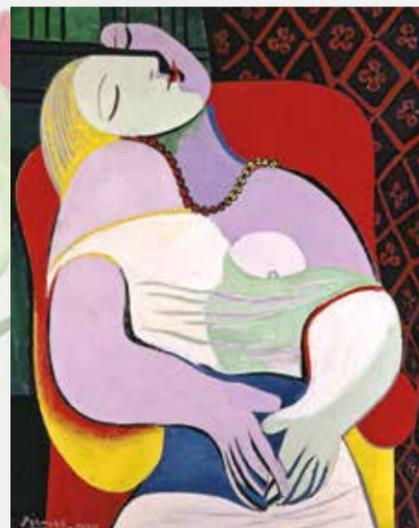
Concession £20 (£22 with gift aid donation)

Under 12s FREE (up to four per family adult)

FREE for Members

Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG

www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-modern/exhibition/ey-exhibition-picasso-1932-love-fame-tragedy



Jerwood/FVU Awards 2018: Unintended Consequences

Premiering two newly commissioned moving-image installations by Maeve Brennan and Imran Perretta. At a moment when world events are so volatile and turbulent that it's hard to predict what might happen next, the two artists' works reflect the complex, entangled nature of contemporary experience.

**6 April – 3 June 2018
Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm;
Saturday and Sunday, 10am-3pm**

Free

Jerwood Visual Arts, Jerwood Space,
171 Union Street SE1 0LN

www.jerwoodvisualarts.org



Primary

Primary brings together stories from pupils and teachers, heads and caretakers: stories of best days, brutal days, long days and last days, to ask: What do we remember? What works? What goes wrong? And what can we learn from all this? A cast of all ages weave words, images and songs drawn from the experiences of people working in primary schools today. Created in collaboration with London Bubble's Community Company and Lancaster Millennium Choir.

Suitable for all ages. All performances will be captioned.

15, 16, 17, 18 March, 7.30pm; 22, 23, 24 March 7.30pm

25 March 4pm

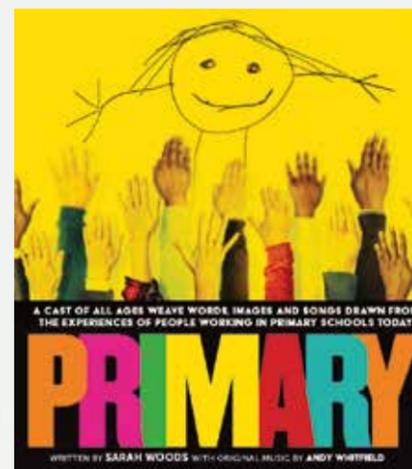
£9 / £11 / £13

Under 16s, Over 60s, people receiving universal credit and Groups of 6+: £6 / £7.50 / £9

To book for the performance call the BOX OFFICE on 020 7237 4434 or visit www.londonbubble.org.uk (no booking fee)

The Old Lewisham and Southwark College Campus, 16 Drummond Road, Bermondsey, SE16 4EE

londonbubble.org.uk/page/primary-performances1



Old Fools

Old Fools is the story of Tom and Viv, their love and the life they've shared together – from first spark to dying light. But not necessarily in that order. A surprising and touching tale about a couple, their experience of Alzheimer's, and their enduring efforts to hold their relationship together.

**14 March – 7 April
8pm Mon-Sat, 3:30pm Tues & Sat
Admission: £20, £16 concessions, £12 previews**

Venue: Southwark Playhouse
www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/show/old-fools



The Country Wife

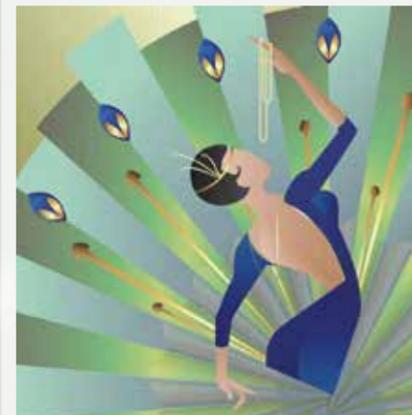
Morphic Graffiti thrust William Wycherley's The Country Wife into the excesses and seductions of late 1920's London. With the decadence of the London social scene and the creative and sexual revolution of the 'Bright Young Things' movement, it won't just be the hemlines that are rising at Southwark this spring.

**28 March – 21 April
Time: 7:30pm Mon-Sat, 3:00pm Tues & Sat**

£20, £16 concessions, £12 previews

Southwark Playhouse

www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/show/the-country-wife



Julius Caesar

This electrifying new production by Nicholas Hytner thrusts the audience into the heart of the action. Be part of the mob that greets Caesar, mourns his death and is caught up in civil war with one of our immersive tickets. Or buy a seated ticket in one of our galleries.

**Until 15 April
Tuesday – Saturday 7.45pm,
Wednesday & Saturday 2.30pm,
Sunday 3pm**

Admission: Tickets from £15

Bridge Theatre

www.bridgetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/julius-caesar



Deli Comedy Club

Join us for an incredible nights of comedy, featuring a stellar line-up of both upcoming and established, award-winning comedians from the UK and overseas! The Deli Comedy Club takes place every month, on the first Thursday of the month.

**Upcoming dates: 8 March (International Women's Day Special), 5th April, 3rd May)
Time: 8pm – 10pm (including interval)**

£6 full ticket, £4 unwaged

The Old Library – Theatre Deli, 39

Wells Way, London, SE5 0PX

www.theatredeli.co.uk

The curious case of the missing eggs...

Bring your little detective to help the Easter bunny find the missing eggs. Drama music and games lead by Blue Elephant Theatre bring the riddles to life as the children solve the mystery and save the day!

Good Friday 30th March – 12pm 2pm & 3.30pm

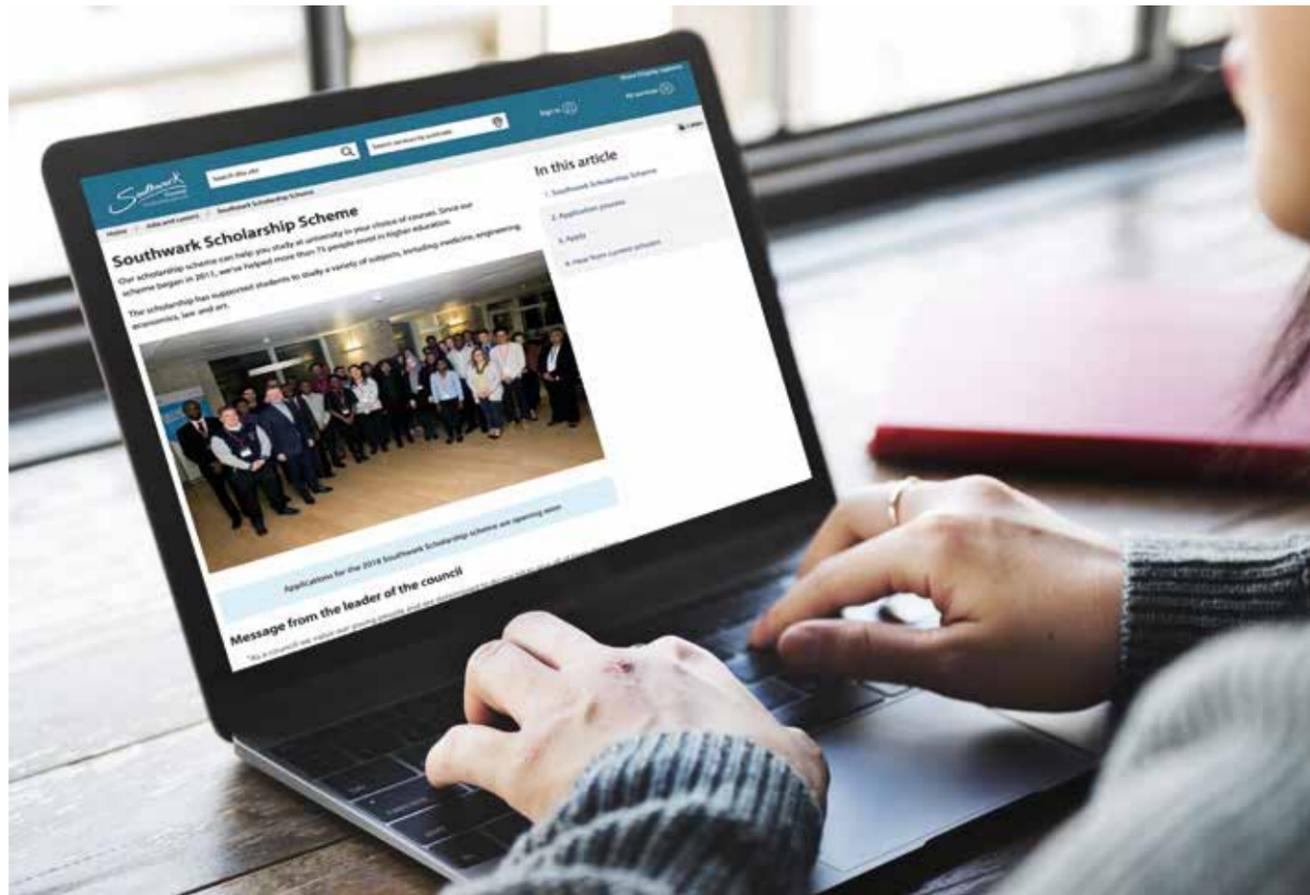
Free. All welcome, family friendly but limited space. Will need to book.

Elephant Park (meet in The Truck at Artworks), Elephant Road.

www.elephantpark.place/events

Reach for the STARS

Don't let financial pressures put you off university.



University can be an amazing experience that offers young people not just an education but friends and memories that last long after graduation. In some cases though, financial burden and debt can put young people off pursuing higher education.

To help young people achieve their potential, Southwark Council set up the Southwark Scholarship Scheme in 2011. Since then the scheme has sent 75 young people from across the borough to university. The council's scholarship scheme supports young people with an excellent academic record

of achievement who have also made a positive contribution to their local communities and have a combined household income of less than £25,000.

As well as providing funding for their university course, Southwark Scholars provides a network for scholars past and present to come together and support each other. Each year in December there is an event to celebrate the achievements of the scholars so far.

Many of the young people who are part of the Southwark Scholarship Scheme have said that the scheme has given them an opportunity that otherwise

December's networking event



they would not have had. George joined the scheme in 2015 and is in his third year at University College London studying Mechanical Engineering. While at university he co-founded Motivez, an event discovery app that helps young people find personal development and networking opportunities according to their interests. George has also been recognised by the Royal Academy of Engineering as one of the 35 most outstanding engineering undergraduates in the UK.

George said: "The scholarship transformed my life and prospects. With my tuition fees covered, I had the confidence to build a promising technology company, Motivez, and actively improve thousands of lives across the UK. It is without a doubt the best investment the council could have ever made in me and it has enabled scholars to thrive, serve and reach our potential."

BECOME A SOUTHWARK SCHOLAR

Applications are now open for 2018/2019 scholarship awards. All applications must be received before Monday 30 April, 2018.

The Southwark Scholarship scheme is offered to students who meet the following criteria:

- This must be your first degree
- You must have a good academic record of achievement
- You must have made a positive contribution to the community of Southwark
- You must have been a resident in Southwark for the last three years
- You must have a household income of less than £25,000
- You must be aged between 18 and 25-years-old

Detailed information on what you need to do along with deadlines is available on the council's website at www.southwark.gov.uk/scholarships



Leanne, third year medical student at St George's University of London

"My sister told me about Southwark Scholars after she saw it in a newsletter and I knew I wanted to apply because it's such an amazing opportunity. When I found out I had been successful I was ecstatic! I remember receiving the email whilst in an H&M changing room and I shouted the good news to my sister! It felt a bit like winning the lottery!"

"To anyone who is considering applying I would say 'do it!' You have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

"When you're younger you don't think about debts but a student loan is real money that needs to be paid back. Being a Southwark Scholar has taken away a huge financial burden it has allowed me to set up 'Leanne's Amazing Medics' programme for school children designed to provide students from ethnic minorities and disadvantaged backgrounds with a detailed understanding of what the field of medicine entails."

"Being a Southwark Scholar is incredibly humbling and it motivates me to invest back in the community as I have been invested in myself."

Connecting our communities world-wide

Southwark has been making connections across the world for decades.



Above: Christmas gift from Camberwell Aus 1948

Southwark's international connections started early with the shipwreck of the East India Company ship Antelope, captained by Rotherhithe local Henry Wilson, in July 1783. Antelope wrecked on Ulong Island in the modern nation of Palau; locals assisted the crew in building a new ship, a process that took three months. When Wilson set sail for home, the High Chief, Ibedul, asked Wilson to take his eldest son, Lee Boo, back to London to acquaint him with European life. The "Black Prince", living in Rotherhithe with the Wilson family, quickly became well-known for his intelligence, charm, and poise. However, he died of smallpox in late December 1784, just six months after arriving in London, and was buried in the Wilson family tomb in St Mary's churchyard. The nation of Palau has never forgotten



The Black Prince

their prince – athletes competing in the 2012 Olympics made a point of stopping at his gravesite.

Just before the Second World War, a suburb of Melbourne, Australia formally cemented links with its namesake: the metropolitan borough of Camberwell. A former resident of south London gave the Australian Camberwell its name in 1857 after noticing that his new pub was at the junction of 6 roads. During and after the Second World War, the Australians sent their cockney cousins 40,000 food parcels, which helped mitigate the effects of ever-tightening rationing (the town of Geelong West did the same for Bermondsey). In the same period, Bermondsey – whose Labour council was radically progressive – made symbolic links with other embattled communities. In October 1941, local Boy Scouts and Girl Guides sent a message of solidarity to the youth of the Soviet Union.

Below: Mayor of Southwark Peter Cather and the Burgermeister of Langenhagen Walter Bettges holding the signed Bekundung der Stadtfreundschaft – copy of the Twinning Agreement. 1980.



Courbevoie sports visit brochure



Sceaux exchange bookmark



Deventer 10 year anniversary brochure



After the Second World War, twinning became a way to facilitate cultural exchange and international travel. Camberwell twinned with Sceaux (pronounced "So", as contemporary newspapers were keen to point out), a wealthy suburb about 6 miles south of the centre of Paris, in 1954. By the late 1950s, Camberwell Council sponsored an annual "French Week" of cultural events (like film screenings, concerts, exhibitions), civic receptions for French visitors, and special offers in stores. For modern residents, perhaps the most lasting mark of this twinning is the name of the Sceaux Gardens estate in Camberwell, whose name dates to 1957.

In 1957, the metropolitan borough of Southwark forged an official

link with another Parisian suburb, Courbevoie, about 5 miles northwest of the centre of Paris. Like Southwark, Courbevoie started life as a waypoint on a major road into the capital – in its case, the road from Paris to Normandy, whose curve gave the area its name. Unlike Southwark at the time, Courbevoie was a centre for business – La Defense, the Parisian equivalent of Canary Wharf, is in the south of the area. The Southwark-Courbevoie link involved cultural exchanges of young people, musicians, and sportspeople. After 1965, the London Borough of Southwark kept up the link.

Camberwell took on another twin in the 1960s – Deventer, a Dutch town of about 100,000 people in Overijssel province, near Arnhem – in fact, Deventer's town centre stood in for Arnhem's during filming of the classic war movie A Bridge Too Far. Southwark took on this twinning in 1965. As well as exchanging library books, the Deventer link included exchanges of young people from 1960 onward, housewives from 1968 on, and artists, choirs, and sports teams.

Beginning in the 1970s, the London Borough of Southwark considered forging its own twinning link; it decided on Langenhagen, a town of about 50,000 about 7 miles north of Hannover in the German state of Niedersachsen. Langenhagen is the site of Hannover's airport, and also saw the arrest of Ulrike Meinhof (in 1972) and the first mass production of CDs (in 1982). It's also a major centre for horse racing and shooting sports – Brenneke, a major manufacturer of ammunition, is based there.

Perhaps the most unusual twinning came in 1984, during the miners' strike. At the time, Southwark council was controlled by Labour, who decided to twin the borough with three mining villages in Kent: Snowdown, Betteshanger, and Aylesham. This allowed the council to help provide material support to miners' families by facilitating fundraising and collection of food donations; it also gave residents of the inner city a means to understand rural life better.



c1957 – Official visit to France, Courbevoie.



1978/1979 – Schutzenfest or annual fair and shooting contest in Langenhagen



Presentation of school bell to Camberwell VIC AUS



1980 – Southwark's 2nd visit to Langenhagen, September

*All photos supplied by the Southwark Archives

Not any old road

Local people are being encouraged to have their say on one of London's largest regeneration schemes – along one of the city's most famous and historic roads.



London is a city in permanent flux, especially over the last ten years as councils try to meet the huge demand for housing.

Southwark is no exception, but one area that has remained relatively unchanged is the Old Kent Road.

All this is about to change. Southwark Council is working closely with the Greater London Authority, Lewisham Council and Transport for London to take forward plans for a major redevelopment of the area – supported by the extension of the Bakerloo Line from Elephant and Castle to Lewisham.

The Old Kent Road Area Action Plan (AAP) will set out how the best of the Old Kent Road, including its thriving businesses and arts and cultural communities, can be nurtured and developed over the next 20 years.

It is an innovative plan, with policies that will guide new development to provide urgently needed housing and jobs, while providing new opportunities and

improving the lives of people who live and work there now.

To achieve this, the plan proposes mixing residential and commercial uses, so that new and existing businesses like warehouses, shops, creative workspaces and offices are designed to co-exist with new homes.

In December the council launched the second formal public consultation about plans for the Old Kent Road.

In response to the first consultation in 2016, hundreds of local residents and businesses told us that they wanted to see a mix of new homes, existing businesses and new affordable workspace, as well as an increased focus on improving traffic congestion and pollution.

We have made significant changes to the original version of the plan and are now consulting for a second time on a revised plan before moving to a submission version next year.

OLD KENT ROAD

What are the main changes?



A new health centre



A new Secondary school



New major town centre

Two new primary schools



Three new tube stations on the Bakerloo Line extension



9 Expansion to nine existing primary schools in the area



A new further education college or university

A new indoor sports hall



Preserving our history

As one of the earliest and probably most famous roads in the country, thanks to its place as the first square on the original Monopoly board, the Old Kent Road has been evolving and changing over hundreds of years.

Buildings like the Thomas A'Becket pub, the Royal London buildings and even the industrial beauty of the listed gas works structure are part of the area's history and we want it to be part of its future. The mosaic mural (pictured) has already been listed and will be preserved as part of developments in the area.

Although the current proposals for the Old Kent Road would bring significant change to the area, we are very aware of the historic significance of some of the buildings, structures and even public art that makes the road so recognisable. The AAP has a strategy that aims to build on the local character and heritage of the Old Kent Road, bringing back to life lost features such as the Surrey Canal through a new park.



Old Kent Road 1905



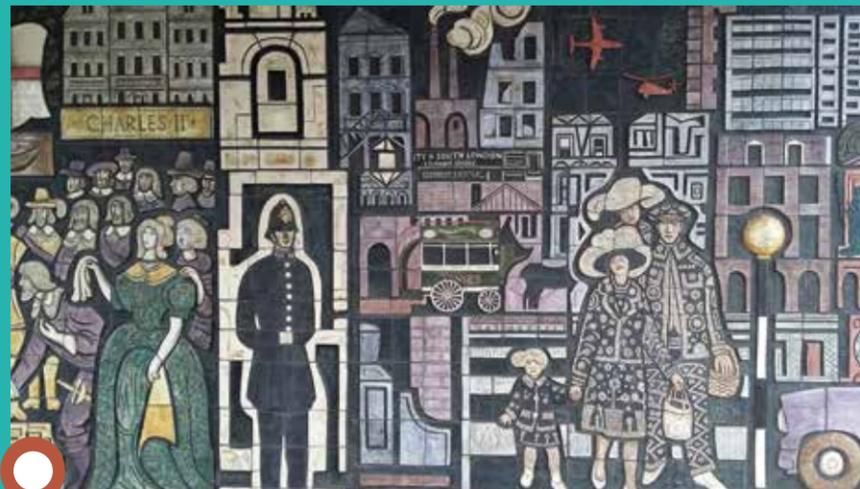
Old Kent Road today



Old gas works



Gas works today



Old Kent Road Mural



Thomas A'Becket pub

Support for the Bakerloo Line Extension

The Old Kent Road regeneration is a massive challenge and if we want to provide the huge numbers of homes and jobs we think this project can deliver then the extension of the Bakerloo Line through Elephant and Castle is essential. Extending the Bakerloo line will unlock an additional 12,000 much needed new homes on the Old Kent Road and help us deliver them much quicker. The extension will deliver over 25,000 new homes across Southwark and Lewisham, playing a

significant role in tackling the housing crisis, and will also help to create over 10,000 new jobs as well as reducing journey times, decreasing congestion and air pollution on our roads and improving accessibility for local people.

The council is calling for TfL to build three tube stations on the Old Kent Road as part of the extension, including one at Bricklayers Arms.

Creative Old Kent Road

We are looking at putting in place a 'Creative Old Kent Road' network that will help create affordable business space for creative or cultural businesses and organisations as well as new spaces for creative charities that offer art and culture as therapies, along the Old Kent Road. Some of this is already in place in the emerging AAP, but we are dedicated to making sure we work with developers to find workspace and make sure that our creative communities can benefit from that.

The network is in its very early days and we are just starting to look at the ways this could be delivered, but the council remains committed to providing affordable work spaces and creative spaces across the borough.



Southwark Studios

Southwark Council has been working closely with William Austin from Southwark Studios Ltd for the last six years to make sure there is affordable studio space for creative businesses and individuals on the Rich Estate, just off the Old Kent Road. Together we have created a Section 106 agreement that will mean the developers on the estate will guarantee affordable employment space on the site once the new development is completed.

William said: "Southwark Studios has worked for years across many departments at Southwark Council, recently culminating in securing our new long-term home near the Old Kent Road. We will continue to work closely with the council and hope to use our joint success as a blueprint that can be used by other local industries unsure of what redevelopment or the council's strategy means for them and ultimately secure their own affordable home as part of the redevelopment of our neighbourhood."

How do I get involved?

A questionnaire has been prepared to help you comment on the changes proposed in the Old Kent Road draft Area Action Plan. All documents can be found on the council's website: www.southwark.gov.uk/oldkentrodaap

Consultation is open until 21 March 2018. Please contact us if you would like to know more about the documents or to find out more about the AAP.

Comments must be received by 21 March 2018. You can comment the following ways:

- Online consultation hub: www.southwark.gov.uk/oldkentroad-consultation
- Email: planningpolicy@southwark.gov.uk
- Telephone: 020 7525 5741
- Post your response: Planning Policy, Chief Executive's Department, FREEPOST SE1919/14, London SE1P 5LX



Your council tax bills 2018/2019

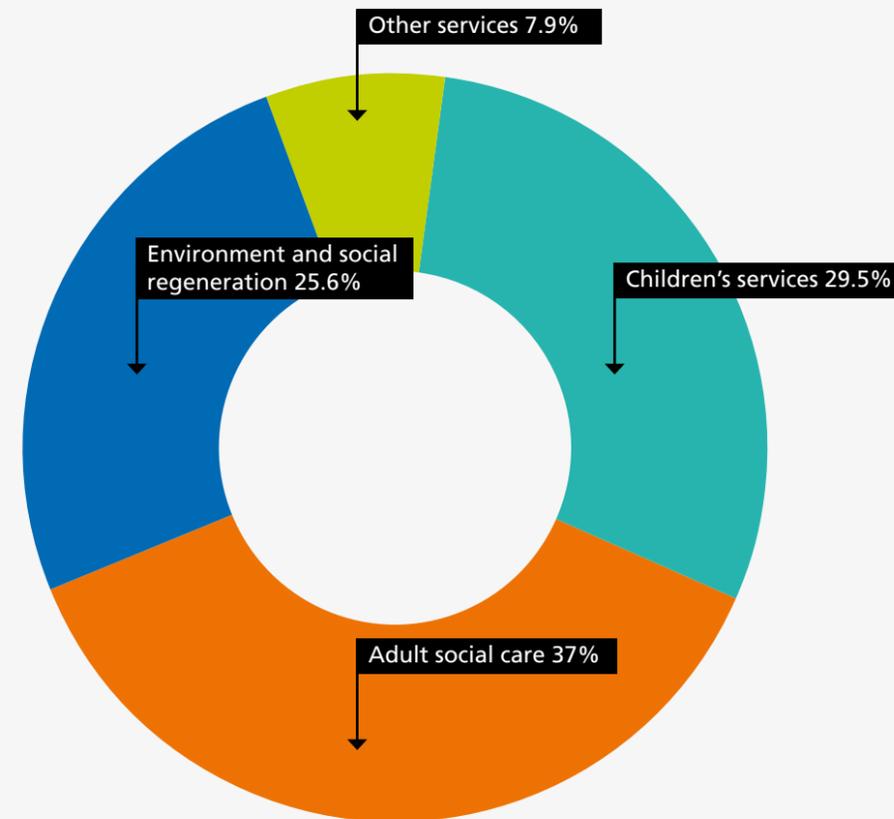
Local councils are facing an extraordinary financial challenge with unprecedented cuts from central government and growing pressures on the services you use. Here we explain what this means for Southwark and how it will impact on your bills.

We are responsible for a huge range of services to make our borough a better place to live. Everything from parks to libraries to street cleaning is paid for from the council's budget. We pay for this with money raised from council tax, business rates and grants. Since 2010, Southwark has faced unprecedented cuts from central government so we have had to make tough choices about what we have to cut.

In Southwark we have worked hard to protect front line services and to keep council tax low for as long as possible. We were able to freeze council tax for seven years and save money by becoming more efficient and finding new ways to deliver more with less. So, despite the difficult financial position we have been able to deliver our ambitious priorities like helping 5000 people into work, improving health with free swim and gym for all residents and improving care for older people with our ethical care charter.

The two biggest areas of expenditure for the council are children's services and adult social care. There is a nationwide crisis in adult social care, huge pressures in children's social services, and cuts to spending on schools and education. Councils like Southwark now need to raise additional money or risk cutting

How does Southwark Council spend its budget?



services which protect the most vulnerable. Because of this crisis, the Government has given councils the power to charge a social care precept and to raise the cap on council tax.

Southwark is facing a budget shortfall of £18.2million. We have

again found ways to save money but still have a gap, and so have taken the difficult decision to raise council tax and charge the precept. This will raise around £5.9million and so while it won't fill the gap it will help lessen the impact on services for some of our most vulnerable residents.

“The additional money will help protect essential services for adults with disabilities, those leaving hospital and older people with additional care.”

What will the impact be?

Council tax will increase by **2.99%** and households will also be charged an adult social care precept of **3%**.

Residents in band A-C, that's over **60%** of people, will see a rise of less than **£1 a week**.

The council tax reduction scheme will continue to ensure that **6,900** eligible pensioners will continue to receive **100%** relief

12,000 of the residents continuing to receive support through the local council tax reduction scheme (CTRS) will pay no more than **20p** extra per week.

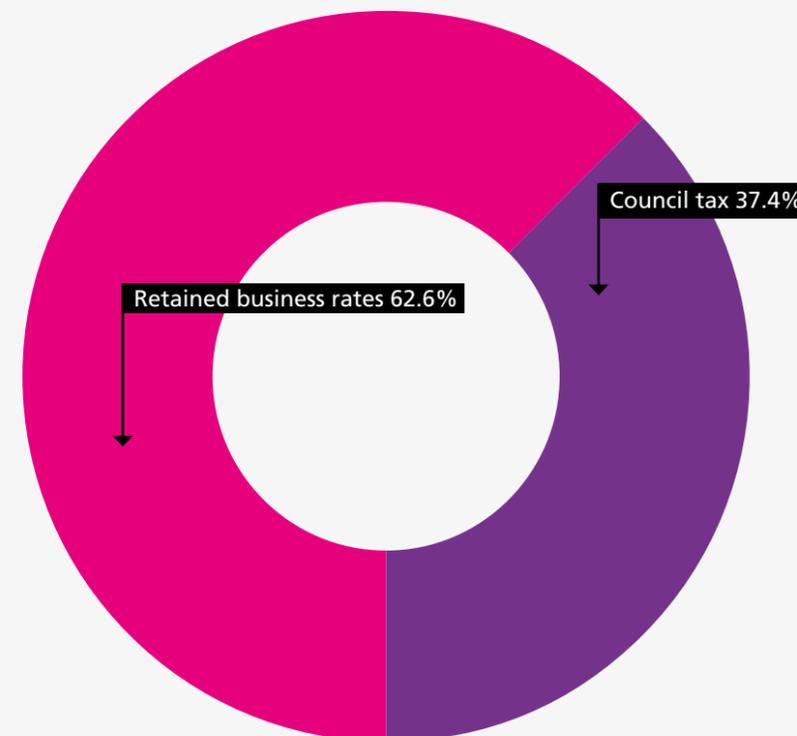
We will continue to exempt foster carers from council tax and for the first time we will extend this to our young care leavers.

The additional money will help protect essential services for adults with disabilities, those leaving hospital and older people with additional care. It will also mean that we can continue to ensure that our children's services can do their vital work keeping children safe, preventing abuse and neglect, keeping our Children's Centres open and providing support to local schools and children with Special Educational Needs.

We think that the impact of these rises will be small for most residents, but it will make a big difference to these essential services. This is not a decision that we take lightly but given the challenges we face, we believe it is the right and responsible thing to do.

For more information about your council tax, go to: southwark.gov.uk/counciltax

Where do Southwark Council's resources come from?



What has been happening to council tax in Southwark?

- Southwark now has around half the grant we did in 2010.
- The council tried to protect residents from these cuts and so froze council tax every year from 2009, raising it last year for the first time, and charging the precept for the last two years.
- Since 2016, with the crisis particularly in adult social care, we have made small rises in council tax.
- Southwark still has the 8th lowest council tax in London, and residents are paying less in real terms in council tax than in 2010

SOUTHWARK PRESENTS



Join Southwark Libraries today and receive your free Southwark Presents passport to culture.

We are very excited to be launching Southwark's first libraries and culture access card.

Southwark is renowned for its vibrant, world-class performing and visual arts, history and heritage. Southwark Council have partnered with a wide range of cultural organisations, and are offering something really quite special to library card holders.

Not only do card holders get great offers and discounts from our cultural partners, they will also be able to enjoy free access to all libraries across the borough - including free eBooks and eAudio, PC and WiFi use, study space and a wide range of books, DVDs and magazines.

To find out more visit Southwark Presents
southwark.gov.uk/accesstoculture

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