

# Southwark Life

Autumn 2021

## Celebrating sports

We speak to local Olympic medallist Kye Whyte

## Giving young people a voice

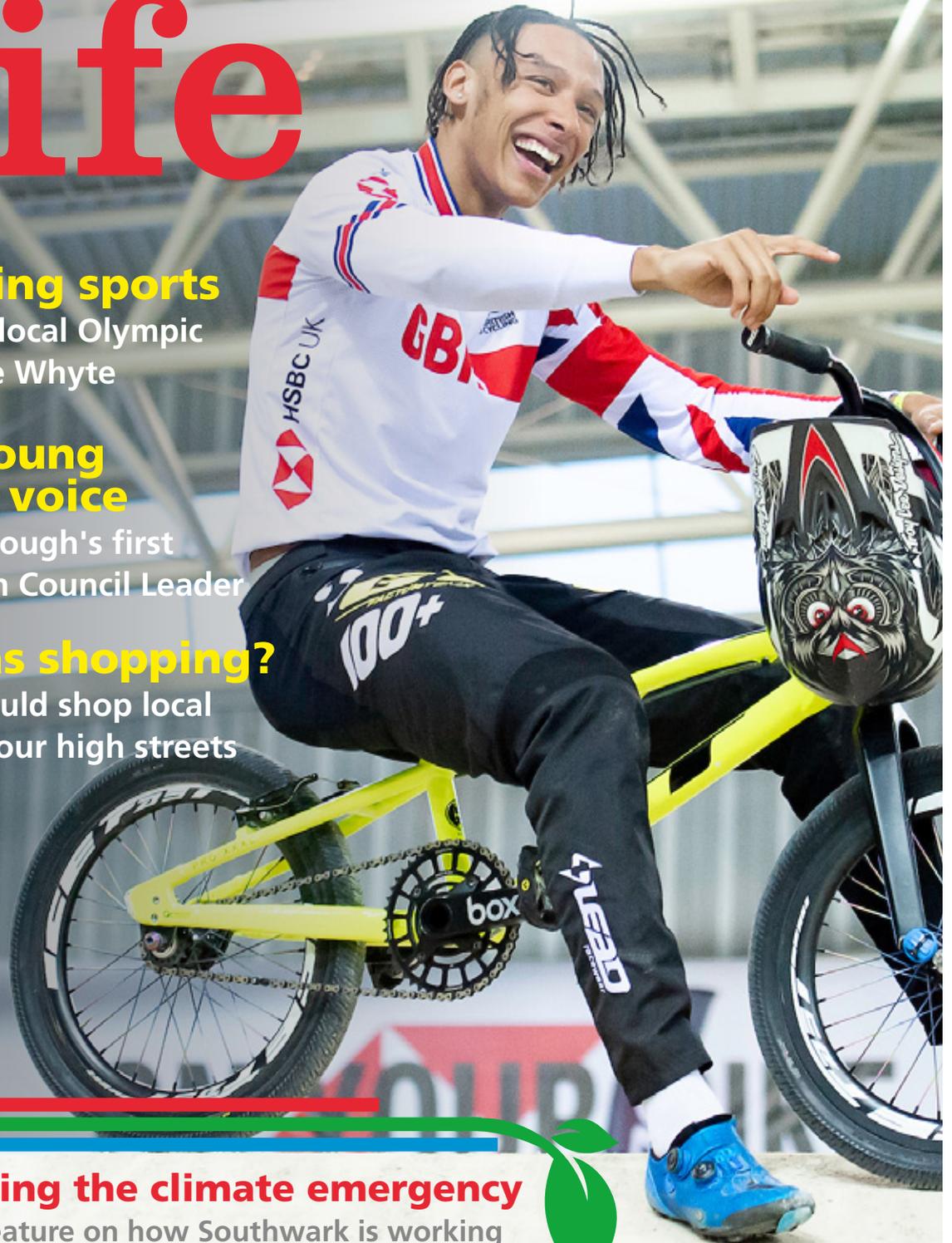
Meet the borough's first elected Youth Council Leader

## Christmas shopping?

Why you should shop local and support our high streets

## PLUS Tackling the climate emergency

Our bumper feature on how Southwark is working towards net zero



Your magazine from Southwark Council

*Southwark*  
Council  
southwark.gov.uk

Let's talk  
about the vaccine



“ I had the vaccine to protect my community, my family and friends. ”

Sylvia, Southwark resident and care worker

@lb\_southwark facebook.com/southwarkcouncil @southwarkcouncil



www.nhsvaccinefacts.com



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## welcome...

Hello and welcome to our autumn edition of Southwark Life. As world leaders gathered in Glasgow for the United Nations climate conference this month, this special edition will update you on work we are doing here in Southwark to achieve a green and fair recovery, and some of the ways you may be able to help.

The evidence is now overwhelmingly clear that we face a climate emergency. In Southwark, we aim to be net zero of carbon emissions by 2030, whilst also creating over 5,000 green jobs.

However to get there we also need the government to step up. So this month I have written to the Prime Minister to urge him to take the urgent actions needed to make the UK the greenest, most sustainable and fairest it can be.

We are approaching the end of another difficult year and I would like to take this opportunity again to thank each and every one of you for doing your bit to keep our COVID-19 rates down by following the guidelines and getting your vaccines and boosters. COVID-19 hasn't gone away and we continue to ask people to wear masks, keep their distance and either meet outdoors or keep rooms well ventilated.

We now face the task of helping our borough recover from the pandemic, particularly our local businesses, which is why in this issue we are also encouraging people to Shop Local this Christmas.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Cllr Kieron Williams  
Leader of Southwark Council

### Keep in touch

Southwark Life comes out three times a year and the next issue is due out in spring 2022. You can contact the magazine at [southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk) but for more regular updates on council news and events, follow us on social media at

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

### Contact us

Do you have something to say about Southwark Life? email [southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk)

Our front cover is Olympic silver medallist Kye Whyte. See page 22 for feature

### The Southwark Life team

**Editor** Kim Hooper

**Contributors** Sophie Adams, Liz Crook, Ella Rogers, Sarb Atwal, Laura Fitzsimmons, Justin Ashworth, Jane Evans, Dr Patricia Dark, Matthew Rolfe

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# Need to know..

With Halloween and Bonfire Night now behind us, there is a definite sense of Christmas on the horizon. But before we turn our minds to fun and festivities, here's some helpful information and a round-up of some of the things going on around the borough.

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](https://facebook.com/southwarkcouncil)

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

 Follow us on Instagram [Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil](https://Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil)



## Are you concerned about your teenager?

The Nest, in partnership with HYP (healthy young people) Southwark is offering free online workshops for parents/carers living in Southwark on drug awareness, healthy relationships, mental health and many more topics.

For full details of the workshops and support groups please visit [hypsouthwark.eventbrite.co.uk/](https://hypsouthwark.eventbrite.co.uk/) or contact The Nest for free and confidential mental wellbeing advice and support for young people aged 11 to 25 in Southwark at [www.thenestsouthwark.org.uk/](https://www.thenestsouthwark.org.uk/)

## Council bringing leisure services home

Southwark Council has announced plans to bring the management of its eight leisure centres in-house when the current contract with leisure provider, Everyone Active, expires in June 2023.

This exciting move is in line with Southwark's preference for in-house services, which help the council to put residents at the heart of everything it does. Read the full story at [www.southwark.gov.uk/news/2021/sep/](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/news/2021/sep/)



## Congratulations to Southwark's students

During the summer, students in Southwark celebrated outstanding GCSE and A-level results despite huge disruption to learning caused by the pandemic.

Early results showed that 84% of Southwark GCSE students achieved a standard pass (up 8.8 percentage points from 2020) and 64.9% achieved a strong pass (up 11.5 percentage points from 2020) in both English and mathematics.

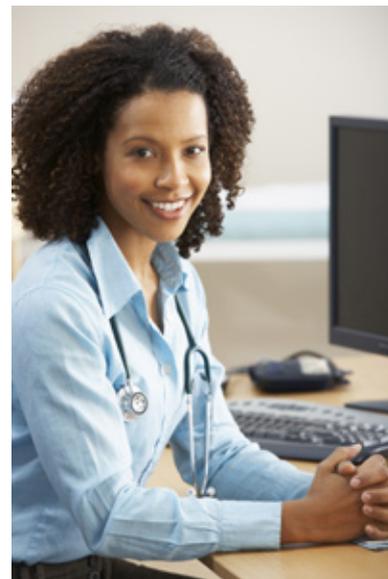
For A-level students, early data showed improvements across all grade boundaries with a significant uplift in students achieving the highest grades of A\* and A.

Against a backdrop of multiple lockdowns, remote learning and self-isolation, young people have worked exceptionally hard with great resilience and focus, and unwavering support from our fantastic teachers.

# Free swim and gym in Southwark

Did you know Southwark residents can use swimming pools and gyms at our leisure centres, free of charge at certain times?

You can find out more and register for free swim and gym at [www.southwark.gov.uk/freeswimandgym](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/freeswimandgym)



## Register with a GP

Anyone in England can register and receive care from a local doctor. You do not need proof of address or immigration status, ID or an NHS number. Practices will only share your personal information for healthcare reasons with your permission. For example, if you need to be referred to a service that has been commissioned by the NHS. Being registered will help you get the right care when you need it. Contact your local GP practice to register or find out more at [nhs.uk/register](https://nhs.uk/register)

## Aged 16–25? Get job vacancies by email

The council sends a regular newsletter with jobs, training, volunteering and other career opportunities for young people. The newsletter details opportunities at Southwark Council as well as opportunities across Southwark and London.

Sign up to get the newsletter at [www.southwark.gov.uk/nextstepmailinglist](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/nextstepmailinglist)



## £1 million for youth activities

The council is giving out over £1 million in grants to local organisations to run positive activities for young people. Members of Southwark's brand new youth parliament have been helping review all the ideas. Applicants have been presenting their ideas through Dragon's Den style sessions. The project is part of the council's New Youth Deal. Funded activities will start in April 2022. (See page 10 for more about the Youth Parliament)

## Elephant and Castle community groups share £50k in grants

Six local groups have been awarded grants totalling £50k from the Elephant and Castle Community Fund. The fund was set up in 2012 by Lendlease and Southwark Council to support projects that benefit people living in the Elephant and Castle regeneration area. More than £300k has gone towards projects from local community groups and charities since 2012. The groups benefitting from this year's funding are: Art in the Park; Citizens UK; COLAB Charitable Foundation; Pembroke House; Southwark Carers and The Listening Place. Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/d5pmyz25>

# House of Lords housing committee visits Southwark

In September, Southwark Council hosted a visit from the House of Lords' Built Environment Committee, which is looking at how we can build the houses people need.

The committee visited Marklake Court, a new block of council homes built in partnership with the Leathermarket Tenant Management Organisation. They also met with the leader of the council, Cllr Kieron Williams, cabinet member for council homes and homelessness, Cllr Stephanie Cryan and senior

council officers, to hear about Southwark's ambitious programme to have 2,500 brand new council homes for local people built or on site by 2022. They also discussed some of the challenges to affordable housing supplies, including the Right to Buy and the cost of land.

The committee will publish a report for its inquiry, Meeting the UK's Housing Demand, featuring information from their visit to Southwark, in late 2021/early 2022.

## Fly-tipping, we can make a difference

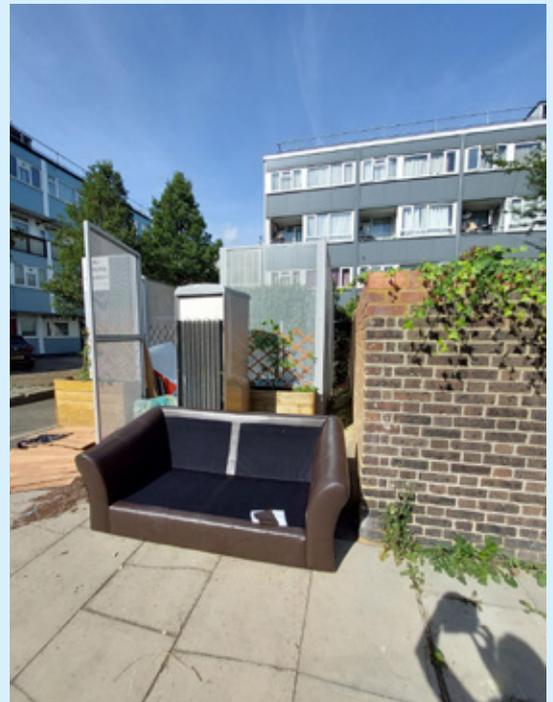
Southwark Council is committed to tackling fly-tipping in our borough. It is an eyesore that can be hazardous to our community and can attract vermin. Our cleansing teams aim to clear up fly-tips within 24 hours of them being reported and regularly patrol areas of concern.

Fly-tipping is an offence. If you are caught fly-tipping (or if your waste is discovered having been illegally deposited) you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £400. Since April this year, officers have issued 165 fixed penalty notices to businesses and residents for fly-tipping offences.

### How can you help?

If you are a Southwark tenant then please speak with your Resident Services Officer to find out how and when you should dispose of your rubbish.

The council provides a bulky waste collection service (see [www.southwark.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/bulkywaste)), or you can bring waste items from your household to our recycling centre free of charge (see [www.southwark.gov.uk/recyclingcentre](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/recyclingcentre)). If you see fly-tipped waste on your street or estate, you should report this to our customer service team at [environment@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:environment@southwark.gov.uk)





# BUILDING HOMES OUR RESIDENTS CAN BE PROUD OF

We're getting closer to our goal of providing 2,500 new council homes across the borough by May 2022.

will also be rebuilding a community facility and multi-use games area. Building works are expected to start at Sceaux Gardens in winter 2021 and complete by summer 2024. Works at Bells Gardens Estate are expected to start in spring 2022 and complete in spring 2026.

**W**e recently celebrated some fantastic new developments that have achieved planning permission. These developments will provide high-quality, desperately needed new council homes for Southwark residents.

## Bells Gardens Estate and Sceaux Gardens

In November, plans were approved to build 162 new council homes across two estates – Bells Gardens Estate in Peckham and Sceaux Gardens in St Giles.

The development at Sceaux Gardens will see 79 new council homes built on the site of the old Florian and Racine blocks and Marie Curie garages. The council will also be refurbishing a roadway into the estate as part of the works.

The development at Bells Gardens Estate will see 83 new council homes built, as well as a new retail unit, a linear park between the blocks and play spaces on the estate. The council

## Lindley Estate

Plans to build 44 new council homes at Lindley Estate were granted planning permission in August. The new development will provide 44 new council homes to be let at council rent levels as well as a new landscaped courtyard.

Also, as part of our commitment to making our housing stock more environmentally-friendly, we will be harnessing green, renewable energy technology at this development, which will have solar panels on the roof to provide green electricity. The building will either be connected to South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP), which provides heat and electricity from a waste incineration plant, or will be powered by air source heat pumps.

Building works are expected to start at Lindley Estate in spring 2022 and the development is expected to be completed in spring 2024.



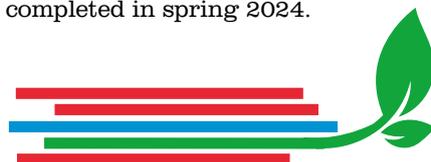
Vestry Road

## Vestry Road

Plans to redevelop the Lettsom Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) hall at Vestry Road in St Giles, Southwark, were approved over the summer. The plans are to build a new TRA hall with 11 high-quality new council homes on the upper floors, and carry out landscaping to the communal area behind the building.

Building works are expected to start in spring 2022 and complete in winter 2023.

In line with our local lettings policy, at least 50% of the new council homes will be offered to local tenants already living in the area, so that they can continue to live near friends, family and the services they currently use. The remaining homes will be allocated to others on our housing waiting list.



# Keeping up our guard against COVID-19



We're learning to live with COVID-19, but there are still some key things we can do to keep ourselves, families and community safe.



Things might feel like they are almost back to normal but COVID-19 is still around and we still need to be on our guard.

## How to reduce the spread of COVID-19

- Get vaccinated if you are eligible. If you are 18 or over it is important to get two doses
- Keep social distancing and avoid crowded areas if possible
- Wear a face covering (unless exempt) in crowded places and on public transport
- Wash your hands regularly or use sanitiser
- If you have symptoms, stay at home and book a PCR test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)
- Get a PCR test if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive
- Meet outside, or ventilate rooms for indoor visitors
- Check in at venues for test and trace

## How to get tested for COVID-19

It's important we continue to get tested regularly, even if we've been vaccinated. If you **don't** have symptoms there are different ways to get tested in Southwark:

- Order tests to be delivered to your home
- Book at a local COVID-19 testing site
- Pick up tests from a local library or pharmacy
- Get a test at certain pharmacies

The advice is to test twice a week, even if you don't have symptoms. If you do have symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) then stay at home and book a PCR test.

Find out more about how to get tested for free at [www.southwark.gov.uk/covidtest](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/covidtest)

## Did you know?

To get a vaccination at a local pop up site you **DON'T** need to:

- Provide proof of your address
- Have an NHS number
- Provide ID (although this is helpful if you look younger than 18)
- Prove your immigration status

Go to [www.selondonccg.nhs.uk/popupclinics](https://www.selondonccg.nhs.uk/popupclinics) to find out where your nearest place is to get a free vaccination. If a clinic offers second vaccinations, you need to wait at least eight weeks after your first dose.



## Get a COVID-19 booster vaccine if you're eligible

Booster vaccines are available for people most at risk from COVID-19, who have had their second dose at least 6 months ago.

You will be contacted about your booster jab if you are:

- Living in residential care homes for older adults
- Aged 50 or over
- A frontline health and social care worker
- Aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put you at higher risk of severe COVID-19
- An adult household contact of an immunosuppressed person/people

Find out more about eligibility at <https://bit.ly/3ohHeqI>

## The flu vaccine and COVID-19

- The flu vaccine is offered every year to help protect people at risk of getting seriously ill from flu.
- It is safe and effective to have your flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time
- Flu vaccination is even more important this year because:
  - More people are likely to get flu this winter as fewer people will have built up natural immunity to it during the COVID-19 pandemic
  - If you get flu and COVID-19 at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill
  - Getting vaccinated against flu and COVID-19 will provide protection for you and those around you for both these serious illnesses
  - If you've had COVID-19, it's safe to have the flu vaccine – it will still be effective at helping to prevent flu

Find out more at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine)

## Get financial help if COVID-19 has affected your income

If the pandemic has affected your finances, you may be able to get help with:

- Universal Credit payments to help with your living costs
- Rent payments
- Council Tax
- Leaseholder payments if you're a homeowner of a council property
- Emergency support to help you meet basic needs in the short term e.g. food vouchers.

Find out more at [www.southwark.gov.uk/coronavirus-financialsupport](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/coronavirus-financialsupport)



If you want to keep up to date with COVID-19 information and other borough news then follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or sign up to our regular e-newsletter at [www.southwark.gov.uk/followus](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/followus)





# GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

Our new Youth Parliament is Southwark's biggest ever directly-elected youth body with 45 members from across the borough.

We spoke to leader Awele Benokwu who has big ideas for being a voice for young people at the heart of the council's decision making.

## What excites you most about your new role?

I'm really excited about the ideas I can bring. I've lived in Southwark since I was a baby and there are many things I wish had been on offer to young people. I'm looking forward to using my role to influence decisions that impact us the most with a focus on bringing young people together.

## What inspired you to put yourself forward as a candidate?

When I was writing my application, I thought of my parents and the smiles on their faces whenever I achieve something. When they say 'well done' to me, I feel so good about myself. Their support is what inspired me.

Your campaign slogan during the election was 'provide, not divide'. What do you hope to achieve during your two-year term?

I want Southwark Youth Parliament to be memorable. I want us to make a proper impact on the community, inspiring others to get involved.



Young people voted Black Lives Matter as the top priority for the Youth Parliament – what kind of change would you like to happen in Southwark?

As someone who is Black myself, I've always had to fight for any opportunity I've found for myself. Nothing has been handed to me on a silver plate. I think we need to connect young Black people with many more positive opportunities to help us to better ourselves. We shouldn't have to fight to do that.

Mental health was also voted as a priority issue young people want addressed – what do you see as the pandemic's impact on this?

For me, I used to be really confident. Then COVID-19 struck and we were in our homes without seeing friends for so long. When I returned to school, I felt completely out my comfort zone. I've seen the same for many people at my school who used to be outgoing. Now they're quiet and don't speak up when they're in a dark place. I think young people need more education on where to go and who to talk to if they're struggling. As Youth Leader, I hope to show young people that there is always someone out there who can help.



### Southwark Youth Parliament

Southwark Young Parliament plays a key role in overseeing the delivery of our Youth New Deal. We launched this package of support and investment in July to put young people at the centre of our post-lockdown economic recovery and in control of their future.

Youth Parliament members, all aged between 14 and 19, will work with council officers to develop a plan for creating change based around priorities chosen by Southwark's young people. These are Black Lives Matter, knife crime, mental health, and creating a more disability-friendly borough for young people.

### Southwark's new Deputy Youth Leader

Dreaon McDonald Simms is Southwark's new Deputy Youth Leader and one of two representatives for Camberwell. As part of his campaign, he hit the streets of Camberwell to ask residents what change they'd like to see.



He said: "I stood for election because I believe I can be a voice for the unheard. I don't want there to be any hierarchy in my relationship with Camberwell and the rest of Southwark. I am Dreaon – a student, a teen and just like many of you, a member of this fantastic community."



Awele and Dreaon met Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, at the Greater London Authority for Young Londoners' Question Time where they discussed the pandemic's impact on education.

You're also one of two Southwark Youth Parliament representatives for Harris Girls' Academy in East Dulwich – what was your classmates' response?

My class was so positive and encouraged me from the beginning. I think people voted for me because they saw my determination and the fact I properly connected with them. I used to be that troublesome kid always on report and other students saw themselves in that. I connected with other students of colour who wanted a leader who would understand them.



Why do you think it's important that young people are involved in decision-making at the council?

We have each other's best interest at heart and when we speak, we speak as a community. I feel like I know what young people deserve and so do the other Youth Parliamentarians. And that's why we're all here.

What are your hopes for the future of Southwark's young people?

That we're able to excel in whatever we want in life. Young people in Southwark have so much potential, from students to sportspeople to artists. I see Southwark Youth Parliament as helping to create opportunities where young people can really shine.



For more information on Southwark Youth Parliament, visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/youthparliament](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/youthparliament)



HM Government

**NHS**

# BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY THIS WINTER

## WITH THE FLU VACCINE + COVID-19 BOOSTER

Flu and COVID-19 can both be life-threatening and spread more easily in winter. If you're over 50 or in an at risk group, you are eligible for a free flu vaccine and a COVID-19 booster.

**Get vaccinated. Get boosted. Get protected.**

[nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](https://nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)



# TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE?

Climate change is now an urgent issue that must be tackled both globally and locally.

**T**he United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow during November brought together the most powerful leaders in the world to agree more action to tackle global climate change. A week before the conference, residents in Southwark also met with the council and other organisations in the borough to discuss how we too can reduce our carbon emissions and protect our natural environment.

To do this, we need the Government to be bolder in tackling the climate emergency and to increase its support for local organisations taking local action. One change that we need to see is a significant rise in funding for schemes that modify our homes to make them more efficient. We have already started taking action in this area - we are on track to install around 1,300 condensing boilers by the end of this financial year, with around 1,500 planned for next year. However, to go further and reduce Southwark's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, it will cost around £2.6bn.

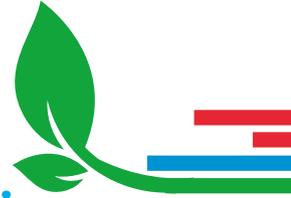
Transport accounts for 15% of the borough's emissions, of which around 99% comes from on-road transport. To address this we are making walking and cycling easier: we have installed 100 new pedestrian crossings, 117 cycle hangars, and nearly 4km of new cycle route since March 2019. However, whilst petrol and diesel vehicles are still available to buy this makes our targets much harder to reach. Support must be provided to people looking to switch to active travel, electric cars or public transport.

We need to reduce, reuse and recycle more. We are taking steps to expand food waste collection with a pilot of food waste collection in 15,000 communal properties. But for us to reduce waste in our borough further, we need the Government to enact tougher regulations on businesses that create waste that damages wildlife and other biodiversity. For example, we want stricter penalties for companies whose waste is found to have been fly-tipped.

These are just some of the areas where we know change needs to happen on a national scale to help us reach our climate goals. Our new climate change strategy, sets out the council's commitment to tackle the climate emergency and we hope that we can work closely with government in the future to secure a greener and safer future for our residents.

# GETTING GREENER OUR WORK SO FAR...

Since the council declared a climate emergency, lots of work has been going on to improve our green credentials. Here are some of the projects already taking place.



## GREENER LIVING



About 100m below the ground, warm water in London's chalk aquifer gives us the opportunity to replace our big communal gas boilers with big communal heat pumps instead. Like a fridge moves heat from inside to the outside to keep your food cold, a heat pump moves heat from the outside air or ground into our homes to warm our radiators and our hot water. Starting with three estates we have drilled bore holes to let us access the aquifer water. This water is pumped up to the surface, heat is extracted from it using the heat pumps and then the water is reinjected to the aquifer a few degrees cooler. The Environment Agency supports projects like this. This process offsets heat from our gas boilers, meaning there will be much less carbon emissions at these estates.

The council also plans to extend its SELCHP (South East London Combined Heat and Power) heat network. Veolia collect household waste from Southwark, as well as many other boroughs, and incinerate it at SELCHP rather than sending it to landfill. The heat generated is used to create steam, which drives a turbine to make low carbon electricity, but there is also some heat left over. In 2013, the council signed a deal with Veolia to build a heat network to supply some of this waste heat to serve 2,600 homes in Bermondsey. We now hope to extend that network to Peckham and decarbonise the heating in a further 3,000 homes – but we will be consulting with residents and homeowners first.

## GREENER WORKING

Green jobs are those that directly or indirectly contribute to the achievement of the UK's net zero emissions target and other environmental goals, such as nature restoration and mitigation against climate risks.

Southwark is seeking funding for a local green skills hub, which will work with employers, universities and colleges to offer training for high-quality, well-paid jobs in green sectors to local school leavers, and upskilling for older workers who want to move into new roles in the low-carbon economy.

Next year we'll be launching our Pioneers Fund, a £1million investment in Southwark's new businesses to support more green start-ups, with support especially aimed at entrepreneurs from communities under-represented in the sector today. We'll also be supporting more businesses to reduce carbon emissions in their operations.

## GREENER COUNCIL

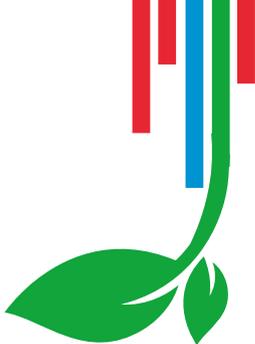
Southwark Council has been busy making changes to reduce its own emissions. We have moved to 100% renewable electricity for all our operations, moving all of the council's operational buildings to green electricity tariffs and we are currently exploring the options for green gas to be used at these sites.

A major capital project to reduce energy consumption, including replacing lights with LED in street lighting, libraries and offices is underway, as is a review into our fleet (vehicles like vans used by the street cleaning team), to work out how to make it greener.

We successfully secured government funding to make a range of smaller changes such as better windows, insulation and replacing gas boilers, and have more than halved the carbon emissions from our operational estate already. Since 2008, the council has reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its operational stock, including office buildings, schools, and street lighting by 62.79%. This has been achieved through a number of ongoing initiatives, such as consolidating the council's building stock, investment in new technologies and carbon saving projects, and purchasing green energy.



# GREENER COMMUNITY PROJECTS



The Cleaner Greener Safer programme has been helping Southwark residents transform their local areas since 2003. Over 3,800 projects have been funded in the past 18 years, including playground renovations, upgrades to sports facilities, new cycle parking, tree planting, fencing and lighting improvements

The application period is normally in September and anyone who live or works in the borough can apply.



All eligible ideas are considered by your local ward councillors and funding decisions are announced at Multi Ward Area meetings the following spring.

The application period for 2022/23 funding is now closed, but will re-open next year, so keep an eye on our CGS pages at [www.southwark.gov.uk/CGS](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/CGS) or sign up to the mailing list at [cgs@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:cgs@southwark.gov.uk)

# CITIZENS' JURY TO SUPPORT CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORK



A Citizens' Jury is a small group of 20 to 25 people that come together to learn about, discuss, and make decisions on green issues. The group is representative of the local community and is given time to understand an issue, hear from expert witnesses, form opinions and make a series of recommendations for the council and partners to action.

Invitation letters were sent out to a few thousand randomly selected addresses in the borough in September. Those residents could then express an interest in joining. The first meeting of the jury is scheduled for November 2021. The jury will meet eight times, until February 2022.

Recommendations from the jury will be published in full on the council's website. The council will promote the outcome of the jury process and encourage others to sign up to the Jury's recommendations.

You can find out more about the Citizens' Jury and its recommendations at [www.southwark.gov.uk/climate](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/climate)

# GREENER SPACES

Over the last few years we've made significant investment in our parks and open spaces including an investment of over £40m in parks and cemeteries over the last five years, a commitment to plant 10,000 new trees and we have already established the first new woodland in Inner London in recent years.

We have created seven hectares (13 football pitches) more flower-rich grassland since 1994 and we have 96 hectares of woodland and 64 sites of importance for nature conservation.

We have 30 Green Flag parks, the most in Inner London and the second in London, and increased wildlife habitats including reed-bed, wet woodland, ponds and meadows. This has resulted in increased diversity and populations of bats, raptors, butterflies, stag beetles and birds. We also have 65 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in Southwark with 86% of them in positive management, which ranks us sixth in England.



# TIME TO DITCH

## STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Part of becoming a greener borough is making sure people are able to make greener choices – including how they get around.

**W**e want to make it as easy as possible for residents to get around the borough – and beyond – in a sustainable way.



## STREETS FOR PEOPLE

The Streetspace schemes have been helping create a cleaner, greener and safer Southwark over the last 18 months, with a noticeable decrease in traffic and increase in people walking and cycling more in the borough. We are now asking residents and traders to share their views with us in a number of consultations over the next few months in order to form proposals.

Please visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/improving-our-streets](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/improving-our-streets) to find out more about the work to improve our streets in Southwark.



Southwark, TfL, Network Rail and the government are building a series of station improvements to help make train and tube travel more attractive, and to help tackle climate change.

Denmark Hill station's new entrance was opened in September with special guest Sandi Toksvig. The new entrance is accessible, helping to accommodate more passengers. It's also the first station

upgrade in Europe to use 'photovoltaic film', which converts sunlight directly into electricity, making it carbon positive. A new bike hub on the embankment accommodates 85 bicycles.

Southwark Council is funding the reinstatement of the square in front of Peckham Rye station to provide a more welcoming entrance for visitors and residents. Network Rail is also bidding to the government to build a new station behind the existing one to make all four platforms accessible for everyone.

At Surrey Quays train station, TfL is creating a second entrance to help more than double passenger capacity, improve staff facilities and create a more accessible station. It will provide a new safer and more accessible entrance that allows passengers to avoid crossing Lower Road (A200).



The Northern line will be closed between Kennington and Moorgate from Saturday 15 January through to mid-May 2022 to carry out major works as part of the Bank Station Capacity Upgrade. At Borough station the lifts will be replaced, the station redecorated and carbon saving LED bulbs installed throughout. At Elephant and Castle preparatory works will be undertaken so that the box for a new ticket hall can be more easily built and escalators to the northern line will be refurbished.



## SAFER BIKE STORAGE

The council is rolling out a cycle storage scheme that has been hugely popular with people all over the borough. There are now 322 new bike hangars installed. The aim is to fit 500 by March 2022. If you live in Southwark, you can share where you'd like to see a cycle hangar using our interactive mapping tool at <https://cyclehangarsinsouthwark.commonplace.is/about>



# THE CAR



## ON YOUR BIKE

In recent years the council has improved and delivered a number of cycle routes in the borough. Southwark has created Cycleway 14 across the Rotherhithe peninsula with this route to be expanded in the future to link to Peckham via Old Kent Road. The council is funding its own cycle route called the Southwark Spine to run north/south through the borough. Recent improvements have linked Burgess Park to Peckham and Elephant and Castle. The Cycle Superhighway 7, from Southwark Bridge to Elephant and Castle was upgraded by installing light segregation. The council plans to make further improvements and fully segregate the route from motor traffic. Southwark is also providing funding to deliver up to 10 new cycle hire sites in the north of the borough over the coming year or so. The council has delivered improvements to Union Street for Quietway 14 and Quietway 1 Webber Street east-west across the borough.

The council supported TfL to deliver Cycle Superhighway 4 along Jamaica Road which created segregated lanes from motor traffic. This has included the delivery of a number of Cycle Hire docking stations to encourage greater use of this route. Southwark is working on the next leg of Cycleway 4 along Lower Road to Lewisham, which will involve the removal and transformation of the gyratory to provide safer cycling with two-way roads and better pedestrian crossings.

A range of experimental measures are being explored. This includes a very short point closure on Bermondsey Street to reduce traffic for pedestrians and cyclists that complements improvements made by TfL on Tooley Street to provide some lightly segregated cycle lanes. Working with TfL and Lambeth Council, the experimental closure of The Cut aims to create a better walking, cycling and retail environment.

## BOOST YOUR BUSINESS'S SUSTAINABILITY WITH A CARGO BIKE

Here in Southwark the number of businesses reaping the benefits of a cargo bike is growing. A recent event hosted by Team London Bridge saw a fleet of 30 cargo bikes of different shapes and sizes pedalling through the borough to the sound of birdsong, showing how quiet and clean traffic of the future could be.

Simon Bell, owner of Bell & Sons Butchers in Bermondsey, uses his cargo bike six days a week. He and his son deliver loads in excess of 120kg to local people, cafes, restaurants and pubs. Simon said: "Before we purchased the cargo bike we were delivering in the company's van or a motor scooter. The cargo bike was expensive, but we were helped initially with an energy-saving trust grant\* plus a small amount from Team London Bridge. But with a saving of about £20 a day, I calculated that it paid for itself within 18 months."

\*Learn more about the government grant scheme to purchase a cargo bike: [energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/ecargo-bike-fund/](https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/ecargo-bike-fund/) (deadline 14 December).

Businesses based near the Low Line (the railway viaduct in Bermondsey, Bankside, London Bridge or Walworth), can get advice from [teamlondonbridge.co.uk/bikesforbusiness](https://teamlondonbridge.co.uk/bikesforbusiness)

## 500 CHARGING POINTS

We understand that for a few people a motor vehicle is essential. We are helping this group to make the shift away from polluting vehicles, by installing electric vehicle (EV) charging points.

We have installed 378 charging points to date and have 100 more on order. To help people without access to off-street parking upgrade to an electric vehicle, we are installing electric vehicle charging points into streetlights. This enables people to directly charge and pay from lamp columns, located on the kerbside.

You can apply for a street lamp electric vehicle charger on our website and find an existing charger near you at [zap-map.com/live/](https://zap-map.com/live/)



# REAPING WHAT WE SOW

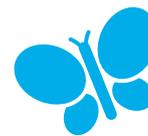


Southwark Council is helping people on estates to build community allotments so they can grow their own fruit and vegetables.

**T**he Brandon Estate already has three community allotments and Robyn Forsythe helps look after one: “The vegetable growing beds have provided a huge feeling of freedom and opportunity for us. Living in a flat means we don't have the opportunity to grow any of our own food, or feel a connection to the land we live on. Having an outdoor space to use has made us feel much more part of the community, and taking care of part of the estate has been really gratifying.”

Tenants are also tending their community allotments at Elmington and Rye Hill estates and a new plot will open at Rye Hill estate soon. The council is also currently working with another nine estates.





## GET GROWING ON YOUR ESTATE

If you're interested in creating a community allotment on your estate, please visit <https://allotmentexpansionguarantee.commonplace.is/>

You will need at least five people from your estate to commit to looking after the allotment. You'll also need some ideas of where the allotment could be located.

The council's Community Gardening Coordinators will provide advice at every step of the way. This includes running a consultation about the proposal, funding and project managing the build and gardening training sessions to help get you started. You can email them at [communitygardeners@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:communitygardeners@southwark.gov.uk)

If you don't live on an estate, there are lots of ways to get growing in Southwark. Visit [www.goodtogrowuk.org/map/southwark](http://www.goodtogrowuk.org/map/southwark) to find local food-growing projects and allotments and opportunities to volunteer.

If you're lucky enough to have your own outdoor space there's lots of advice online. From growing herbs on a windowsill to starting a back-garden vegetable plot – [www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables](http://www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables) is a great place to start.

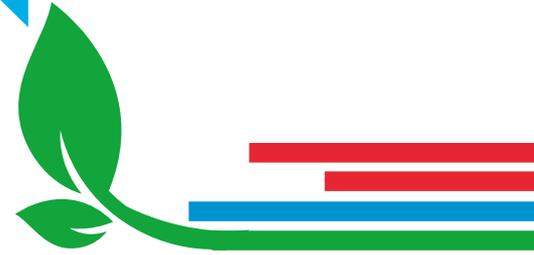


### THREE CLIMATE BENEFITS OF GROWING YOUR OWN



- ✓ **Reducing packaging**  
Growing your own means you're reducing waste from packaging. Shop-bought fresh food often come in plastic and cardboard packaging.
- ✓ **Reducing food miles**  
Food is often transported long distances, which creates carbon emissions. Growing your own food therefore decreases your carbon footprint.
- ✓ **Increasing biodiversity**  
Community growing can improve biodiversity. Allotments that attract insects can create important green corridors for wildlife, linking to other green areas.

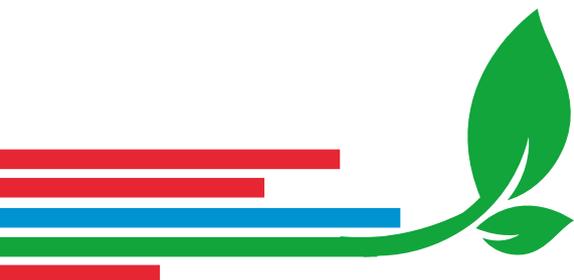
# WHAT CAN YOU DO?



The smallest changes can make a big difference, so how can you help tackle the climate emergency?

**W**hilst we are doing all we can to reduce the borough's impact on the environment there is plenty that you can do to reduce it even further. These changes don't have to be big. Some small tweaks to the way you live, travel or shop can make a difference. Here are some top tips for how to be that little bit greener:

- Swap the car for walking or cycling for shorter journeys, like the walk to school or nipping to the shops (which also adds to your daily exercise or step count!)
- Get your package delivered to a local shop to collect. Yes it's convenient to get your groceries delivered directly to your door, but with so many personal deliveries taking place across the borough, the roads are more and more congested. Consider shopping for goods on your local high street
- Reduce your plastic use. Take recyclable bags to the supermarket for your fruit and veg, sip your drinks with paper straws and buy products with less plastic packaging
- Cut out food waste and cut down on red meat. Livestock creates 14% of all greenhouse gases, with cattle being by far the largest contributor. The simplest and most effective way to limit your impact is to reduce meat and dairy in your diet, particularly red meat such as lamb and beef



## AND THIS CHRISTMAS...

- Avoid glitter and foil on cards and paper, because they can't be recycled
- Be sure to re-gift, sell or donate any unwanted clothes and tech after Christmas, as we can't recycle these if you put them in your household waste
- Check to see what can be recycled and make sure you remove things like plastic film, polystyrene and food waste
- Go meat-free this Christmas or make the most of leftovers by creating a turkey curry on Boxing Day or bubble and squeak to use up veg
- Rent a Christmas tree to be delivered to your home, where you can decorate and care for it over the Christmas period. Then, when the festivities are over and you've seen in 2022, you can have your tree collected, replanted and allow it to carry on living. [londonchristmastreerental.com](http://londonchristmastreerental.com)
- Grow your own tree. The Royal Horticultural Society has some top tips about keeping your own Christmas tree: [www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=374](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=374)



'TIS THE  
**SEASON**  
TO SHOP  
**LOCAL**

**This Christmas, a big thank you from local independent shops for shopping locally and safely in Southwark.**

Ask others to do the same on social media! Share a selfie, promote your favourite local shop and use the hashtag:

**#ShopLocalSouthwark**

 @lb\_southwark

 facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

 southwarkcouncil

*Southwark*  
Council  
southwark.gov.uk



# SOUTHWARK CELEBRATES SPORT!



A huge congratulations to our incredible Olympians and Paralympians who excelled in sport to represent Great Britain at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics

Did you know that some of our sporting heroes grew up or trained right here in Southwark? We spoke to BMX racer and medal winner Kye Whyte.

### Where did you start BMX training and what got you hooked?

It was my Nan actually. She visited a park in Brixton and met CK Flash who was coaching there at the time. I was only three years old but went along with my two older brothers.

A year on CK Flash started his own club at the Peckham BMX Track and became my coach. I gave my life to it and didn't stop. BMX is my life and passion.

### What are your memories of the Peckham BMX Track in Burgess Park?

My family moved close to the Peckham track when I was young. From learning the basics to where I am now - it proved a good track. It's a great warm-up track. It's good for kids to start at the pump track to learn core skills.

### What's the best way to progress in sport?

Whatever you feel like you're struggling with, you need to practice, practice, and practice more. Make sure you're having fun. If there's someone there to help you, be ready to listen to what they have to say. Have fun and practice.

### How did BMX racing help you as a young person?

It gave me time away from everything. If you're stressed or need time out away from school at the weekend, then go for it. It's a good way to express yourself. I made many friends at BMX over the years. My advice to kids is to stay in school, you might not like it, you might not enjoy it, but it's a good back-up plan.

### What does winning silver at the Tokyo Olympics mean to you?

I didn't expect it. I went for the gold but silver will do for now! It's exciting to know that I got it and I'll keep training and aim for gold next time!



Making positive change to your physical health is achievable with quite small changes, and can start with more movement around the house or increasing short walking journeys. More information about making healthy change and access to support is at [www.southwark.gov.uk/takecare](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/takecare)

Free swimming lessons for non-swimming adults has returned this autumn with over 300 people starting their journey to learn to swim with the friendly Everyone Active instructors. For more information visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/freelessons](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/freelessons)

Southwark 'Free swim and gym' gives residents access to weekly gym and pool sessions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at six leisure centres. An extended programme is available to older adults and people with a disability. For more information visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/leisure-and-sport/free-swim-and-gym](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/leisure-and-sport/free-swim-and-gym)



**Who inspires you and do you see yourself as a role model?**

I looked up to the great BMX riders of the past Kyle Bennett and Thomas Allier. They have the same riding style as me so I watched them over the years.

I don't see myself as a role model, but I think kids will see that I've achieved what they're dreaming of, so they might look up to me to see what they can do.

**What do you love about Peckham?**

I love the different cultures in Peckham. It's the variety of food and easy access to everything. My family and friends are here so it's all good.

**What's next for you?**

There's no competitions until next year in March, so I'm having a short break then back to training. BMX is my life. So I'll aim for that gold Olympic medal. Maybe in the future I'll coach younger kids.

The London BMX Track in Burgess Park, Peckham, was created and funded by Southwark Council with additional legacy funding from the 2012 London Olympics with the aim of leaving a lasting impact in London.

The track is of a national competition standard and includes one of the most challenging set of pro jumps in the country. We offer a range of sessions catering to all abilities, from balance bikes and female only sessions through to those wanting to practice their start gate technique.

It's also the proud home of Peckham BMX Club who run an enormously successful weekly programme. A current schedule of activities and bookings can be made at [www.southwark.gov.uk/bmx](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/bmx)

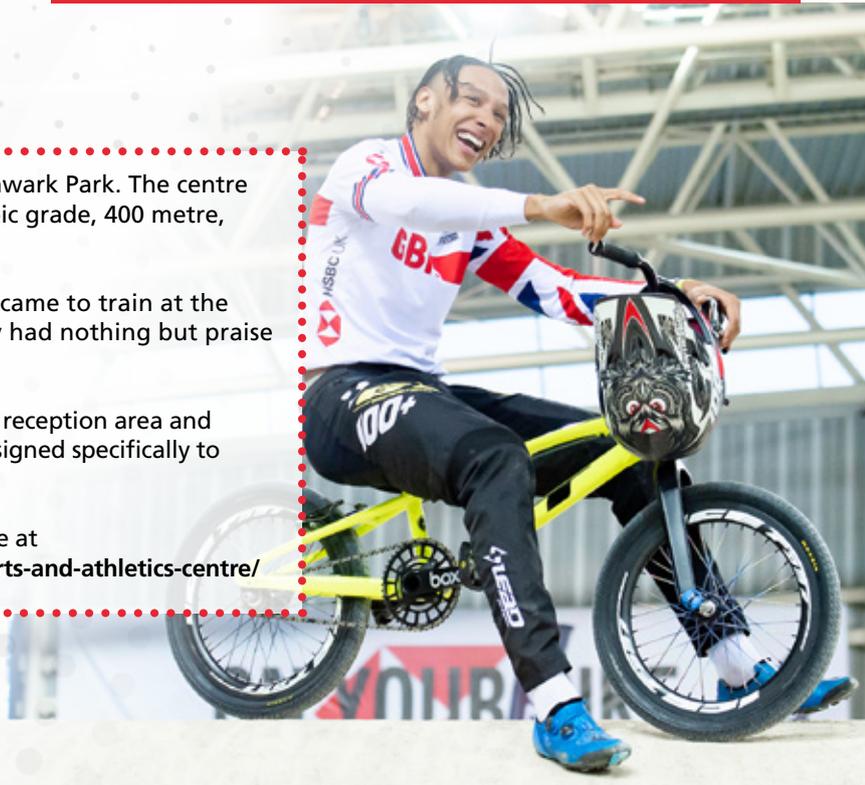
Further information about Peckham BMX Club can be found at [www.peckhambmx.co.uk](http://www.peckhambmx.co.uk)

A new sports and athletics centre has opened in Southwark Park. The centre will sit alongside and complement the council's Olympic grade, 400 metre, six-lane running track, and its track and field facilities.

Team GB's sprint relay teams, both male and female, came to train at the track before heading to the Tokyo Olympics and they had nothing but praise for the facility.

The new building includes a gym, flexible studio space, reception area and changing rooms. The building is fully accessible and designed specifically to welcome wheelchair users.

Come along and see for yourself. You can find out more at [www.everyoneactive.com/centre/southwark-park-sports-and-athletics-centre/](http://www.everyoneactive.com/centre/southwark-park-sports-and-athletics-centre/)





# I hear those till bells ringing

Shop Local and support your community's businesses this Christmas

Shopping locally this Christmas can really help Southwark's communities. Here are five reasons why shopping local can save you money and help your local community:

**1 SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREETS AND SAVE JOBS** - shopping local helps support the local economy, creates jobs and boosts local communities

**2 A SAFE WAY TO SHOP** - businesses have been following government guidance and implementing a range of measures to ensure that customers are safe while they shop, such as customer limits inside the store, plastic partitions at cashier points and hand sanitising stations

**3 GREAT DEALS** - people might be surprised to see just how competitive the prices are in your local shops. Independent retailers often reward regular customers, while others often provide great offers that can't be found in major outlets - meaning people save money as they spend

**4 PROTECTING THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY** - a thriving High Street is key to boosting the potential of a village or town where people can socialise as well as shop

**5 HELP THE ENVIRONMENT** - local shops and markets often source their goods locally, helping to reduce their carbon footprint. When shopping local, people are also more likely to walk or cycle to get there - doing their bit to reduce air pollution, reduce traffic and improve the quality of Southwark's air for residents

## WE'RE INVESTING OVER £200K IN OUR HIGH STREETS AND TOWN CENTRES

It's been a really tough 18 months for our local high streets and town centres and one of the ways in which we're helping them recover is through our High Street Recovery Fund.

Businesses with a vision to help their local high streets flourish were invited to submit proposals for funding. The response was fantastic, with over 50 applications received.

Over £200,000 will be invested in the very best projects, including festivals, pop-ups and business support – each with the aim of attracting more people back to our high streets and town centres.

Find out more about the fund at [www.southwark.gov.uk/business/support-for-high-streets](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/business/support-for-high-streets), and look out for the projects launching in the coming months.



## REMEMBER TO SHOP SAFELY THIS CHRISTMAS



This autumn and winter, help reduce the spread of COVID-19 by:

- getting fully vaccinated
- wearing a face covering, if the place you're in is crowded
- washing your hands regularly
- meeting outdoors if you can, or letting fresh air in if you're meeting indoors
- getting tested regularly and self-isolating if required
- downloading and using the NHS COVID-19 app

Most importantly, after the year we have all had, enjoy this Christmas with family and friends.

And for the rest of the winter...

## CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Nobody likes being stuck inside during bad weather, especially at Christmas. A visitor popping round to say hello, help with the shopping or clearing a pathway can make all the difference. If you have elderly or vulnerable neighbours, why not check in with them if the weather is bad – or even if it's not.

## SEEN SOMEONE SLEEPING ROUGH?

Being on the streets in winter can be really dangerous, especially with COVID-19 still around. If you are worried about a rough sleeper near you call the St Mungo's Street Population Outreach Team (SPOT) on 020 7902 7941 or email [streetconcern@mungos.org](mailto:streetconcern@mungos.org) 24 hours a day. Please let the team know the exact location and the time you saw the person.

## HELP AVAILABLE FOR 'FUEL POVERTY'

SESS, the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme, helps families and individuals in crisis or lacking money to meet their most urgent needs, by helping with the costs of food, fuel, and other essentials. At the start of the COVID pandemic, the council changed SESS so it could support more of those facing a sudden loss of job or income due to COVID-19.

The pandemic is not over but as winter approaches, many residents face a cost of living crisis, and the most vulnerable face a real risk of being unable to heat or light their homes. The end of the Universal Credit uplift of £20 per week, and rising energy prices mean that the greatest pressure on household budgets for low-income and vulnerable households this winter may be energy costs.

The council has secured extra money to provide more support through SESS this winter. We cannot help all those facing increased energy bills but we will support thousands of our lowest income and most vulnerable households – especially households with children. We will contact households eligible for support so please lookout for a letter or email from the council in the next few weeks.

If you are facing a crisis now and urgently need support, you can apply using the link below.

[www.southwark.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/emergency-support](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/emergency-support)

# The air that we

Air quality is one of Londoners' top concerns, but this isn't the first time we have faced the dangers of polluted air.

**L**ate last year, the inner South London coroner highlighted the dangers of vehicle-based pollution in London in his ruling that air pollution was the root cause of Lewisham schoolgirl Ella Kissi-Debrah's 2013 death.

But, like many things in London, air pollution and its negative effects is nothing new. It's been a fact of life in the capital for centuries. King Edward I laid down the first restrictions on burning coal in London in 1306, although they were quickly reversed. The first person to suggest that pollution could shorten Londoners' lives was the famous diarist John Evelyn in his 1661 work *Fumifugium*, which he presented to King Charles II.

The Industrial Revolution of the mid-18th to early 19th centuries created an enormous surge in the use of coal; for new steam-powered factories and transport, new industrial buildings like the Farmers chemical works in Kennington (which gave its name to Farmers Road), and for the huge influx of residents to London, whose population increased by 500% in the century between 1801 and 1901. Later, coal-fired electric power plants, like Battersea and Bankside, became another major industrial polluter.



Mint Street 1954



Thameside from Southwark Bridge



Lordship Lane 1950

The results didn't go unnoticed: the first reported London smog event – the “London particular” or “pea-souper” described by Dickens and Conan Doyle that gave the capital the nickname “Old Smoke” – was in December 1813, and a parliamentary select committee found that exposure to smoke harmed health six years later. By the mid-1850s, the Smoke Nuisance Abatement Acts gave police the power to action against industrial and commercial producers of noxious smoke, and the Alkali Acts of 1863 and 1874 more heavily regulated industries that produced the especially-damaging hydrochloric acid in their waste smoke. In 1899, the London County Council and the metropolitan boroughs inherited the police's smoke nuisance abatement powers.

However, these acts did not apply to the vast majority of London's smoke – 95% at the start of the 20th century – came from the open coal fires that heated London's homes: domestic smoke entered the atmosphere much lower than its industrial counterpart, and was totally unregulated.

This hodge-podge of smoke and legislation turned to disaster in a handful of days in early December 1952. A persistent area of high pressure centred on southern England had brought with it clear skies, colder than usual temperatures – causing Londoners to burn more coal – and very little wind. This created a temperature inversion, where air closer to the ground was colder than that above and prevented from rising. The final straw was London's weather in the early hours of Friday, 5 December 1952: clear skies, light winds, and moist air at ground level. As the ground cooled off without a blanket of clouds to keep its heat in, the moisture in the air condensed, causing fog to form. The light winds propelled this fog upward, forming a 100-200m deep fog layer full of London's smoke. The sheer amount of trapped smoke meant that the sun never reached the ground to dispel the fog.

# breathe

This toxic soup lingered over London, thickening at night as the ground cooled, until the winds picked up on Tuesday 9 December. Every day, London's coal fires produced another 1,000 tonnes of soot, 140 tonnes of hydrochloric acid, 14 tonnes of poisonous fluorine compounds, and 370 tonnes of sulphur dioxide, which reacted with water vapour in the air to form sulphuric acid. The Medical Officer for Health in Southwark, W Stott, noted that local pollution levels were so high the borough's equipment couldn't measure it. Other equipment could: smoke levels near Bankside power station during the smog were nearly 9 times normal, and sulphur dioxide was more than 10 times normal – in other words, 12 to 19 times higher than regulations 50 years later would allow.

Visibility in central London was unbelievably low: below 500 meters (500 yards) for nearly 8 days, less than 1 meter (3 feet) by the third day of the smog.

All transportation, except the Tube, ground to a halt, but not before two trains collided near London Bridge and another struck rail workers at Norwood Junction. Ambulance service stopped because drivers couldn't navigate – or even avoid hazards like abandoned cars – so sick people had to walk to the nearest hospital through the gloom.

In order to keep any idea of where they were, walkers had to trail one hand along the walls of buildings, and cyclists had to keep tight to the curb. Birds even crashed into buildings, utterly unable to navigate.

The air itself was filthy – according to Richard Scorer, who was a meteorology lecturer during the Great Smog, it was "...as if I'd... fallen into a puddle of mud" during his cycle ride from Wimbledon to Raynes Park. People quickly took to wearing handkerchiefs over their faces when they went out, and stores even stocked smog masks.

The smog wasn't just a dirty, smelly nuisance. It contained soot and acids from pollutants, and breathing it in caused inflammation in the lungs and airways. Otherwise healthy people got sick: sickness benefit claims went up 108% the week after the smog. People with pre-existing lung problems like smokers, or people with industrial jobs, on the other hand, died – suffocated by inflammation and mucus in their airways. Hospitals filled to capacity and beyond; others died at home in their sleep.



Sultan Street 1939

The first sign of disaster for most people, other than medical workers, was a shortage of coffins and flowers.

Deaths in the borough of Southwark (modern Borough, Bankside, and Walworth) were up to 3 times normal levels during the smog. JA Scott, the Medical Officer of Health for London County Council that there was even a noticeable increase in infant deaths from enteritis in December, suggesting the smog had a wider effect on health. However, a 2001 review of data on the Great Smog suggests that contemporary estimates were too low, and at least 7,700 and as many as 12,000 Londoners died because of the toxic smog.

The Great Smog drove the development of air pollution epidemiology, and of clean air regulations. Both Stott and Howell W Barnes, the Medical Officer of Health for Camberwell, pegged low-quality coal on "...the home-fires" as a major cause of the smog, and restrictions on the burning of smoky fuels as a solution; Camberwell also installed pollution monitoring devices in Queen's Road. The heavily-polluting Bankside A power station was put into restricted use and later demolished, and Bankside B (the current site of the Tate Modern), then under development, had flue-gas washing equipment added to it. However, the biggest outcome was the Clean Air Act 1956, one of the first pieces of legislation to control air pollution. The Act brought domestic smoke under regulation, banned the use of smoky fuels in so-called "smokeless zones", provided grants to convert household grates to smokeless fuels like oil or natural gas, and gave local authorities the power to declare smokeless zones – which most of London's boroughs eagerly used. While London's battle with smog continues, the days of the "London peculiar" are in the past.



Mint Street Workhouse c. 1920



Lant Street 1930



Richardson Street, c1930



## Camberwell Winter Market

Camberwell Arts Winter Market returns for another year of festive fare – enabling you to buy work directly from local artists, makers and crafters. Whether you're looking for traditional decorations or cutting-edge gifts, this one-stop shop for all of your seasonal inspiration will help you find original items at affordable prices.

**27 November, 11am to 4pm**

FREE

Camberwell Green

[www.camberwellarts.org.uk](http://www.camberwellarts.org.uk)



### Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland Festival at Pasley Park with 'Walworth Festive Past and Present'. On 11 Dec join a free animated pantomime promenade and lantern procession, visit Santa in his grotto and watch as the park is lit up in a truly magical way!

**11 December, 4pm to 8pm**

FREE

39 Chapter Rd, London SE17 3ES

<https://pasleypark.org/>



### The Book of Dust La Belle Sauvage

Philip Pullman sets *The Book of Dust – La Belle Sauvage* twelve years before *His Dark Materials*. Two young people and their dæmons find themselves at the centre of a terrifying manhunt. In their care is a tiny child called Lyra Belacqua, and in that child lies the fate of the future.

**2 December 2021 to 19 February 2022, Monday to Saturday: 7.30pm, Wednesdays & Saturdays: 2.30pm**

Tickets from £15

The Bridge Theatre

<https://bit.ly/38Vr2SW>



### A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol, adapted by Jane Jones, will be this year's Christmas offering from the Dulwich Players. Staged in the Parish Hall, the Dickensian feel couldn't be greater and this production promises to bring Christmas cheer and an antidote to Humbug at a time when we really need it.

**Saturday 18, Sunday 19 and Monday 20 December, Saturday and Sunday 4pm and 7.30pm, Monday 7.30pm**

£12 and £8 (under 18s)

St Barnabas Parish Hall,  
Dulwich Village SE21 7BT

[www.dulwichplayers.org](http://www.dulwichplayers.org) and  
Ticketsource



### The Wonderful

A ferocious storm sweeps Efe off Peckham Road into the magical African land of Ozanda where The Scarecrow is a Mannequin, The Tin Man is a Cyborg, Toto is TikTok and The Lion is... the Mane Man! Pull on your favourite Kicks and ease on down Theatre Peckham's golden pathway for a wondrous adventure this Christmas. Based on *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum.

**1 to 22 December**

£15 (Standard), £12 (Concessions and Southwark residents), £10 (Under 16s)

Theatre Peckham 221 Havil Street,  
London SE5 7SB

[www.theatrepeckham.co.uk](http://www.theatrepeckham.co.uk)

For school bookings please call  
020 7708 5401



# Events calendar autumn/winter 2021

## The Bolds

The Bolds are just like you and me. They live in an ordinary house in an ordinary street, and they love to laugh. But there's one slight difference... They're hyenas! With live music, songs and adventures, this brand new family Christmas show revels in the joy of being anything but ordinary.

**14 November to 31 December**

From £12 for children / From £18 for adults

Unicorn Theatre

[www.unicorntheatre.com/thebolds](http://www.unicorntheatre.com/thebolds)



## Blackfriars SE1 in the 1970s

A chance discovery of thousands of photographs in the archives of a London council has brought back to life a local community's fight for survival and a new exhibition opening 29 October is telling the story. The exhibition features an extraordinary period of community action in the 1970s and 1980s in Blackfriars, Waterloo and North Southwark along London's South Bank. For many it was a fight for survival as businesses moved out and land was earmarked for office development leaving isolated communities struggling to maintain their way of life.

**From 29 October**

Please go to <https://se1stories.uk> for the latest locations and times.



Meeting of the Peabody Blackfriars tenants' association, 3 April 1974. A Blackfriars Photography Project image.

# SOUTHWARK PRESENTS

Autumn 2021



## Camberwell Winter Open Studios

Looking for the perfect present for a perfectionist? Our Winter Open Studios has got you covered. Not a clue what to buy the in-laws? We can help with that, too. With over 80 artists opening up their studios throughout Camberwell, over two weekends, you're sure to find the ultimate gift for everyone.

**27 November to 5 December 2021 - Midday to 5pm**

FREE

Throughout Camberwell

[www.camberwellarts.org.uk](http://www.camberwellarts.org.uk)

## Good to Go Festival

Join Theatre Deli for a selection of performances across different disciplines that were cancelled due to COVID-19. Good to Go Festival follows the success of Theatre Deli's Pandemic in the City Festival, and aims to support artists during the pandemic as well as offering an exciting theatrical experience for audiences.

**20 to 21 November, Time TBC  
(check website for up to date details)**

Theatre Deli

[www.theatredeli.co.uk](http://www.theatredeli.co.uk)



## Illuminated River Official Boat Tours

Let Uber Boat by Thames Clippers take you on a guided cruise of the Illuminated River project. The project has transformed the capital at night, bathing nine of the river's bridges in light. Tours run weekly until the end of December, with more dates announced soon.

**20 and 25 November, 4, 9, 18, 30  
December, 9.30pm to 10.10pm**

£12.50 (£8.50 concessions)

River Thames, boarding at Tower Pier  
[thamesclippers.com/illuminated-river](http://thamesclippers.com/illuminated-river)



# Making Southwark Safer

November 25 is the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls and Southwark will be marking the occasion

**T**he issue of violence against women is, sadly, rarely out of the news and recent high profile crimes have brought it to the forefront of people's minds again this year.

In Southwark, work is ongoing to make the borough safer for all residents, but this autumn we will be marking the 2021 International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls with a conference event held on Zoom. The event will take place on the 6 December, as part of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

Also during the 16 days programme, a range of themed events targeted at different audiences at a variety of locations across the borough will be organised by the council and partners.

The conference aims to:

- Create awareness amongst practitioners and the community
- Discuss and share the findings of the Women's Safety Consultation
- Highlight the work we are doing in Southwark to tackle VAWG
- Discuss and share collaborative ideas, to inspire change
- Discuss, explore ideas and take part in initiatives to tackle violence against women

Also during the 16 days programme, a range of themed events will be organised by the council and partners. For more information, or to attend events, visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/ecpannualconference](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/ecpannualconference)



A Safe Space is where people who are experiencing domestic abuse can make a phone call to get help. Domestic abuse is any kind of threatening or controlling behaviour, violence or

abuse – from a partner, ex-partner or family member. This can take many forms.

There are currently 32 Safe Space rooms around the borough and there will be more soon. You don't need to provide any information to go to a Safe Space, ask at reception for access. In the room you will find a phone and information about who to call to get help. Help is free of charge and available to everyone. Your background, financial situation, nationality or immigration status doesn't matter. If you're able to get online, please visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/safespaces](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/safespaces) to see a list of venues. If not, please look out for the Safe Space logo in your area. If your local school has a Safe Space, there should be a poster in reception.

## Get help now if you're experiencing domestic abuse

### SOLACE WOMEN'S AID

[solacewomensaid.org](http://solacewomensaid.org)

020 7593 1290 (Local support services in Southwark)

0808 802 5565 (Advice and support in London)

### DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

[nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

0808 2000 247 The 24-hour national helpline offering support and advice to women and children.

### LGBT+ DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

Galop supports lesbian, gay and other LGBT+ victims of abuse

[galop.org.uk](http://galop.org.uk)

0800 999 5428

### MEN'S ADVICE LINE

[mensadvice.org.uk](http://mensadvice.org.uk)

0808 801 0327

The Respect helpline supports male victims of domestic abuse

# BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK

In October we launched our new business e-newsletter, the Southwark Business Update, replacing our successful COVID-19 Update.

We now cover a broader range of news for Southwark businesses, including business support programmes and events, funding opportunities, employment and training support, workspace opportunities, and much more.

Get in touch with us at the email address below to receive a copy. And with the UK playing host to United Nations Climate Change Conference, we ask all business in the borough to consider what they can do to help combat climate change.



With the lifting of all COVID-19 restrictions in July and widespread vaccination, businesses can begin to plan for and be optimistic about the future. But, for many, trading conditions remain difficult, and all businesses must remain cautious as the virus is still with us.

## PLAY YOUR PART AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The city of Glasgow hosted the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November. The biggest decisions will be made at COP26, but you don't have to be a world leader to take action. Each one of us has a part to play.



If you haven't already visited the Mayor of London's Climate Hub ([www.businesshub.london/resource/climate-hub](http://www.businesshub.london/resource/climate-hub)), head across today for advice and guidance on the actions your business can take.

## WHY NOT REDUCE YOUR EMISSIONS BY SWITCHING TO CARGO BIKES FOR DELIVERIES?

If you're a business based in London Bridge, Bankside, Bermondsey, Elephant and Castle or Walworth, the Bikes for Business team is here to help, with subsidies as well as expert advice and guidance to make the switch. Find out more at: [www.teamlondonbridge.co.uk/bikesforbusiness](http://www.teamlondonbridge.co.uk/bikesforbusiness) Not to worry if you're situated elsewhere in the borough, because all businesses are eligible for a government grant of 40 per cent off the cost of a new e-cargo bike. Find out more about this scheme at: [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/ecargo-bike-fund](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/grants-and-loans/ecargo-bike-fund)

Making the switch to cargo bikes will not only make your business greener, cleaner and more sustainable, but will help make our roads safer too.



## OPERATING SAFELY THIS AUTUMN AND WINTER

The coming months will be extremely challenging for our health services, with cases continuing to rise and other seasonal respiratory illnesses like flu soon to enter circulation.

It's important that all businesses play their part and continue to follow the Working Safely guidance, available at [www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19). If you haven't reviewed the guidance for some time, please take a look today and make sure you know what's expected of you and your employees this autumn and winter.



## NEW RESILIENCE SUPPORT FOR SOUTHWARK BUSINESSES

In September we launched our new Business Resilience Support Service, designed to help businesses in the borough survive and thrive.

Businesses that sign up can access a range of support, including one-to-one support from experienced business advisers, a programme of masterclasses, grant funding, networking opportunities, as well as access to further resources and support.

With so much on offer, this is an opportunity not to be missed. Find out more and apply to day at: [www.southwark.gov.uk/business/business-rates/covid-19-business-support-and-information](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/business/business-rates/covid-19-business-support-and-information)



## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

If you would like to find out more about the support and offers available to Southwark businesses, or to sign up to our regular business e-newsletter, email us at [SouthwarkBusinessDesk@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:SouthwarkBusinessDesk@southwark.gov.uk)

# REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

To keep ourselves, families, and the community safe:



Get vaccinated if you are eligible



Keep social distancing and avoid crowded areas if possible



Wear a face covering (unless exempt) in crowded places and on public transport



Wash your hands regularly or use sanitiser



If you have symptoms, stay at home and book a test at: [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)



Meet outside, or ventilate rooms for indoor visitors



Check in at venues for test and trace

Check the latest COVID-19 information: [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Visit [southwark.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/coronavirus) or sign up to our digital newsletter at [southwark.gov.uk/followus](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/followus)

 @lb\_southwark  facebook.com/southwarkcouncil  @southwarkcouncil

