

Southwark Life

Spring 2025

Spring sports

Enjoy top class outdoor sports facilities around Southwark

Southwark's spring clean

How the council is tackling litter, fly tipping and graffiti

Shopping in Nunhead

A look at our local businesses

PLUS Happy birthday Southwark!

The borough celebrates 60 years since it was created

Your magazine from Southwark Council

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welcome...

Hello and welcome to the spring edition of Southwark Life.

Earlier this year we officially launched our Southwark 2030 strategy with an event with residents, community groups and organisations from across the borough. To deliver the plan, the council has already started introducing new ways to make our borough fairer, greener and safer. We will look at them in this edition, including how we're improving our noise nuisance service, our new plan to keep our streets cleaner and the launch of our new town centre action plans that aim to help our high streets thrive.

It is also that time of year when we look at how we spend our money over the next year. I am pleased to say we have been able to increase investment in nighttime wardens, action to tackle fly tipping and support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, whilst also maintaining the ninth lowest council tax in England. In this issue you can read more about how the council spends its money to deliver over 800 services for local people.

April was also the 60th anniversary of the formation of the London Borough of Southwark. Our history piece looks at how this came about.

We've also got all the usual housing, health and young people news, plus a look at Southwark's incredible range of sports facilities, support for people who want to be better online and the re-launch of our Back the Bakerloo campaign.

Clr Kieron Williams
Leader of Southwark Council

Contact us

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

Front page photo is Antonio from the council's street cleaning team. Go to page 22 to see him in action.

The Southwark Life team

Editor Kim Hooper

Contributors Sophie Adams, Laura Fitzsimmons, Matthew Mountford-Brock, Eleanor Levy, Sarb Atwal, Charlotte Goulding, Liz Crook, Candy Graham, Dr Patricia Dark, Baljit Sangha, Ope Aromona, James Senior, Helen Dorado

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Keep in touch

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facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

@lb_southwark

Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

Need to know...

Spring is in the air at last, the weather is (slowly) improving and around Southwark there is lots going on. We've got lots of ways for you get involved in how the council works, and we've got all the latest news – including updates on our Pride Fund and the borough's newest LGBT+ arts centre.

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

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facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

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

 Follow us on Instagram
Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

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

Discover the rewarding journey of fostering in Southwark

Find out how you can make a lasting difference in a child's life. Explore the flexible types of fostering, the financial support available, and the process of becoming a foster carer. Take the first step toward a life-changing experience and help provide a safe, loving home for children in need.

Find out more at southwark.gov.uk/foster



Sign up for free cycle training

Spring is the perfect time to brush up on your cycling skills, gain confidence or learn to cycle. Through Streets for People, we offer a range of free cycle training for all ages and abilities, including cycling lessons for children, families, women and girls.

www.southwark.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/travel/active-travel/cycling-southwark

New centre for Black African and Caribbean seniors

We've pledged to establish a modern centre run by and for the community. We're grateful for your feedback so far, which included it should cater for:

- the cultural, wellbeing and social needs of Black seniors in Southwark
- healthcare services including a culturally sensitive healthcare provider
- opportunities for lifelong learning and volunteering to provide people with a sense of purpose and belonging
- members of all ethnic backgrounds, while keeping the needs of Black seniors at its heart

You can now have your say on what services and activities the new centre should deliver. Complete the survey by 5 May 2025.

Visit southwark.gov.uk/black-elders-centre



Local data now open to everyone

We've launched a new online tool, Southwark Data. It gives you free access to local data on Southwark communities, health, housing, environment and economy. We've provided this data to help guide local decision-making. The data comes from nationally recognised sources and will be updated as new information becomes available. You can view and download reports, maps and tables for the topic or local area you're interested in at data.southwark.gov.uk

Making our streets cleaner, greener and safer

Our new Streets for People plan sets out how we will transform our streets and communities.

It is based on the largest consultation ever run by the council. We had over 9,000 responses, and residents told us they want more trees and green space, more accessible pavements, less traffic, better lighting, and pedestrian crossings.

Find out more about our plans to transform our streets, improve walking and cycling routes at www.southwark.gov.uk/streetsforpeople



Consultation event at a Southwark school

Southwark Policing Oversight Board: Have Your Say

Residents are invited to the next Southwark Policing Oversight Board meetings on Tuesday, 29 April, and Monday, 8 July, from 6pm to 8pm at Walworth Methodist Church.

The board was set up to help rebuild trust and communication between the police and the community. It works with Southwark Council and Central South Borough Command to improve policing standards and ensure accountability.

These meetings are a chance for local residents to observe the board and submit questions and topic suggestions prior to the meetings by emailing policingoversight@southwark.gov.uk



Historic footbridge reopens

Local volunteers celebrated the official reopening of Cox's Walk footbridge in Dulwich.

Working with London Wildlife Trust, who manage Sydenham Hill Woods, we funded extensive restoration work to halt its decline. The footbridge, which is 160 years old, provides a vital link that allows residents and visitors to explore Sydenham Hill Wood and Dulwich Woods, and reflects our commitment to making Southwark greener.

Cox's Walk footbridge is also where artist Camille Pissarro painted his depiction of 'Lordship Lane Station' around 1871. You can see the original painting at the Courtauld Gallery, in Somerset House.

Visit our website to find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/news

Council welcomes Chroma, our new LGBTQ+ space

Following an open tender process, Southwark Council has appointed the Trampery, and its subsidiary Chroma, to deliver and operate the new LGBTQ+ cultural space at Bankside Yards.

The space is receiving £1.5 million in grant funding from Southwark's Community Infrastructure Levy fund with a view to completion and opening in spring 2026.

Have your say on council homes allocations

To help make sure council homes go to people who need them most, we're proposing changes to our Housing Allocations Scheme.

These include giving additional preference for council homes to young people leaving the care of Southwark Council, and for applicants escaping domestic abuse.

Visit engage.southwark.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/southwark-housing-allocations

You can have your say until 1 June.

Funding for Pride

We want Southwark's LGBTIQ+ community to have an amazing Pride this summer – and are awarding funding for an event to remember.

Up to £30,000 is being awarded to LGBTIQ+ communities to create events that celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer identity, culture, histories and rights. See our website for more information at www.southwark.gov.uk/news/2025/applications-open-southwarks-second-pride-fund and keep an eye on our channels for news about the events taking place this summer.



Eight local groups get community funding

As part of the Elephant and Castle development, last year eight local groups shared £75,000 of Community Funding for projects in the local community.



Throughout 2024 around 746 people were supported by the projects, which covered a range of works from arts initiatives to STEM skills training.

New walking routes round Elephant and Castle

The transformation of Elephant & Castle town centre will take another step forward with a vital new pedestrian route after a milestone legal decision.

The project aims to make the area easier to get around on foot. Work has already begun on the Elephant & Castle town centre with an upgraded tube station, almost 1,000 new homes – with 35 per cent affordable housing, including 116 homes for social rent - and 5,000 sqm of affordable workspace.



New at The Blue

Southwark Council has announced Bermondsey 223 as the successful bidder to oversee the delivery of a brand new cultural multi-arts centre in The Blue, Bermondsey.

The Blue has for many years been a hub for market traders, shops and volunteer groups to come together and the area has recently seen significant investment of over £2m towards community-led regeneration.

Better bin behaviours

There are lots of ways to reduce your general bin waste in Southwark. Most of the things we throw away can be recycled. For example:

Food - About 40% of the waste in your rubbish bins is food. Almost all properties in Southwark now have a free weekly food waste and recycling collection. If you don't have a bin yet, find out if you're eligible and order your kitchen caddy at southwark.gov.uk/requestcontainer

Electricals - You can recycle anything with a plug, battery or cable at your local Waste Electrical Bank. Don't place them in your household bins as they can cause fires. Donate old laptops, smartphones and tablets at any Southwark library and our Reuse and Recycling Centre. They are repaired and given to those in need. Find out more at southwark.gov.uk/recycle-electricals

Gardens - Sign up today and we'll collect your garden waste weekly, until March 2026. Remember that garden waste and food waste is recycled separately. Read more at Southwark.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Free air quality monitoring for children with asthma

Southwark Council is offering free air quality sensors for classrooms and homes of pupils with asthma. The project helps monitor air pollution and find ways to reduce exposure. This is open to children aged 10 and upwards in Southwark schools.

For more information please email environmental.protection@southwark.gov.uk

SOUTHWARK HOUSING NEWS

Join us to tackle your repairs at a Repairs Action Day near you

We hold Repairs Action Days on our estates, where residents can drop in to report issues, follow up on existing repairs and book future appointments.

We have teams on site who can handle any small repairs on the day and talk to residents about any concerns they may have about the upkeep and maintenance of their homes.

Our next Repairs Action Days are happening on:

- 16 April 2025, Doddington Grove Estate 10am to 5pm
- 30 April 2025, Harold Estate, Swan Mead Estate, Creasy Estate, 12pm to 5pm
- 14 May 2025, Pelican Estate, 11am to 5pm
- 28 May 2025, Nunhead Estate, 12pm to 5pm



Residents enjoying their new council homes at Flaxyard in Peckham

Elaine moved into her new council home at Annie Brewster House in the Flaxyard development in Peckham in December 2024. She was delighted to be able to host all her family in her new home on Christmas Day.

Elaine has health problems and is a wheelchair user. Her old home was not at all suitable for her needs. She lived in a tower block where the lift frequently broke down and Elaine would not be able to get in or out of the building in her wheelchair. Since the move to a wheelchair adapted home, Elaine has been doing much better. Elaine said: "My new home is perfect. The adaptations give me the freedom and independence to live my life with my health problems. Now I can relax and take one day at a time."

Flaxyard provides 96 council and 24 shared ownership homes, as well as commercial space, a roof terrace, play areas, cycle storage and disabled parking.

Elaine's block is named for Annie Brewster, who was one of the first African-Caribbean nurses to work in Britain and became a leader in eye care.



Building affordable homes across Southwark

We've given planning approval for hundreds of affordable homes developments across the borough, improving access to housing.

The development at the former bourbon biscuits factory in Bermondsey started in September 2024. The 10-acre site is currently the largest housing development in London and will provide 800 new homes facing a new 80-metre central park space, surrounded by a series of retail and commercial spaces and a café.

There will be a series of streets, accessible courtyards and open spaces that connect the site with the railway viaduct.

This is one of the biggest affordable housing developments to start in London in the past year. There are 1,624 homes in total and 480 of these will be affordable, 338 will be for social rent and 142 are shared ownership or keyworker homes.

Meanwhile, the 100% affordable homes development at the former Aldi site on the Old Kent Road has just completed, providing 171 brand new affordable homes to be managed by Metropolitan Thames.



Sport in Southwark

Put a spring in your step and check out some of the great outdoor sporting activities available in Southwark's parks, play areas and facilities

We're heading into another summer of sports with Wimbledon, the Women's Rugby World Cup and England facing Australia once again for The Ashes all coming up.

If you are feeling sporty this summer, Southwark has you covered.

We recently opened the £7million Burgess Park Sports Centre pitches - two full sized 11-a-side football pitches, one of which can double as a rugby pitch.

From 2022 to 2025, we've spent around £1.1million revamping a lot of our outdoor sports areas. We refurbished the Burgess Park BMX track and our eight tennis court sites, improved our multi-sport game pitches across the borough, and created a new basketball court in Burgess Park and improved Dulwich Park's too.

We also completed full outdoor gym refurbishments at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Kelly Avenue, Dulwich, Peckham Rye, Burgess Park and seven other improved sites, revamped cricket facilities in parks, opened three new estate multi-sport game pitches and a new-look football pitch at the Damilola Taylor Youth Centre.

Whether you are training professionally or for fun, everyone is catered for and welcome at the array of parks, arenas and facilities in Southwark.

Outdoor gyms

There are a number of excellent outdoor gyms with improved bars to do calisthenics workouts in Southwark's parks. Burgess Park has an innovative layout while there are great rigs for workouts in place in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Dulwich Park and Peckham Rye Park.

www.southwark.gov.uk/outdoor-gyms



Burgess Park Sports Centre SE5 0JB

With two full-sized artificial grass pitches, Burgess Park is one of London's outstanding public football facilities. The centre supports a number of local football and rugby clubs. Holiday camp activities are run by local clubs each term and in the summer. For more information email sports@southwark.gov.uk

Burgess BMX Track SE5 0AN

If you want to swap out balls for wheels, our world class BMX track comes with a varied programme of activities for everyone from pre-school children to adults, including female-only sessions too – all delivered by experienced coaches, with equipment hire included if needed.

thebmtrack.london@southwark.gov.uk or call 07976 340111.



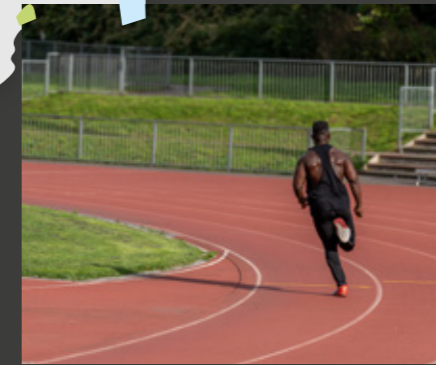
Basketball courts

Dulwich Park's basketball courts have a new layout, court design and backboards – making them some of the best in south London. Burgess Park also has a new basketball court with seating. For those interested in sessions, Access Sport is running free weekly basketball drop ins at Burgess Park. Email: Jay.Kinyera@AccessSport.org.uk



St Paul's sport ground SE16 5EF

The St Paul's Football Ground in Rotherhithe is a council facility run by Millwall FC Community Trust. It is home to local football teams – Fisher FC, BOSCO, Ballers Academy and more. There are Millwall-run sessions for young people through the week and holiday camps in the school holidays. For enquiries call 020 7740 0503.



Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre SE16 2PE

This state-of-the-art athletics centre is home to a 400m Olympic grade running track and newly refurbished gym. You can book pay-as-you-go gym and track session: www.southwarkleisure.co.uk

Surrey Docks (water sport / outdoor swimming) SE16 7SX

There's lots to get you moving at Surrey Docks Fitness and Watersports Centre whatever your age or ability. Fitness enthusiasts can workout in the newly refurbished state-of-the-art gym or enjoy a whole range of group exercise classes including indoor cycling: www.southwarkleisure.co.uk

Or make a splash with Recreational Watersport sessions including paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing, sailing and windsurfing where all the equipment is provided (apart from wetsuits). Sailing courses are also available for beginners through to advanced.

Open Water Swimming sessions are available from April at selected times. No swimming is allowed in the Dock outside of these centre-organised session: www.southwarkleisure.co.uk/watersports



Herne Hill velodrome SE24 9HE

Not many communities in London can boast a velodrome but we're privileged to enjoy a multi-use cycling centre on our doorstep in south London with a 450m outdoor banked track, multi-use games area, mountain-bike and cyclocross facilities.

There are regular sessions for children and adults across the year. Session bookings can be made online: www.hernehillvelodrome.com/book



Tennis

Tennis courts all across Southwark's parks have had impeccable improvement and enhancement works. Families can register their children for a free play membership – for free daily 30 minute bookings. Meanwhile, Vamos Tennis and the National Tennis Association provide junior / adult coaching and competitions throughout the year. More information can be found at clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisInSouthwark





Southwark Council and the local community have been celebrating the re-opening of the much-loved Walworth Town Hall buildings.

On Tuesday 25 March 2013, a devastating fire raged through the Grade II listed Walworth Town Hall building, bringing down the roof and damaging both the building itself and the adjoining Newington Library building.

In the weeks afterward, the council carried out emergency works on the building to dry it out and prevent any further damage. They also started to look at what would happen to the building itself and the future of the library and former Cuming Museum.

Thankfully, the vast majority of the museum's artefacts were rescued, and many are still on display in the

new Walworth Library and Heritage Centre, which was opened in a new building just a little further down the road at Elephant and Castle.

The town hall itself was a more challenging project. The council was determined to save the building and bring it back into community use, but the costs were increasing at a time when the council's resources were already stretched.

With both buildings sitting derelict, the council had to get creative. In 2019, General Projects won Southwark Council's backing during a public competition of 60 applicants with a proposal to bring new life to the existing building.

Over the last few years, work has taken place to transform the site; repairing damage, upgrading structures and updating the layout, mixing the tradition and heritage with an up-to-date look and feel as the buildings move into a new era.

The restored buildings will now act as a centre for business, culture and community, providing new workspaces for over 550 workers with a blend of flexible offices, coworking spaces and a coffee shop. The workspaces, designed especially for small to medium-sized enterprises and local businesses, are expected to bring over 370 jobs into the building.

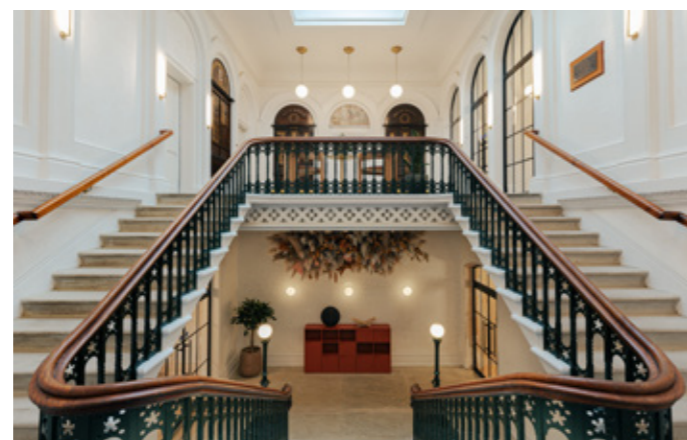
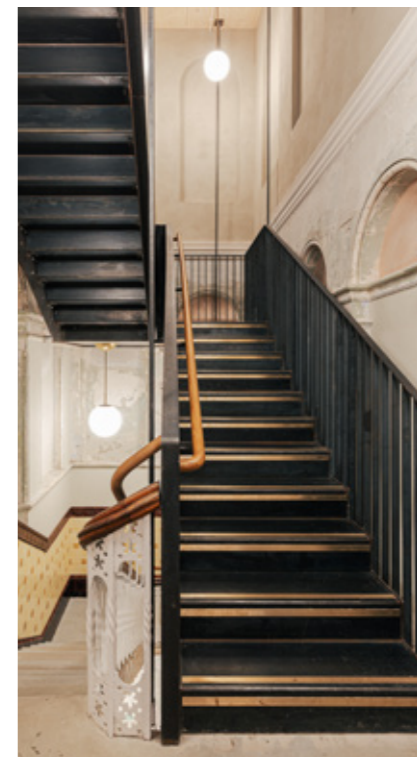
Most importantly, as the building has been a hub for the local community since 1893 as a civic centre, library and local landmark, ensuring the new space continued to provide a service to the local community was essential.

There is a community space that can be booked by local people – at discounted rates. These two rooms can be booked for a wide variety of community events, from business meetings (the council even held a Cabinet meeting there) to yoga and birthday parties.

Also, as part of the agreement with General People, who will be managing the hall, there will be a public access and events program running throughout the year.

The restoration has become part of a wider £4bn development of the Elephant & Castle area, which began in 2010. The wider development includes the brand new Walworth Square that the restored Town Hall now opens onto.

Find out more at wthcommunityspace.com





John (left) and Elliot

Fatherly *advice*

Southwark Council funds or part-funds dozens of local third sector groups who support our residents. We spoke to Elliot and John from one of these groups – Future Men.

Funded by



Future Men was set up in 1988 to support men and boys to overcome a wide range of challenges throughout their life and become “all and everything they need to be.”

Elliot Wright-Clarke and John Okusanya work with local fathers or fathers-to-be. Elliott supports young fathers in the south London boroughs of Greenwich, Lewisham and Southwark. His program is called New Deal for Young People, funded by the Mayor of London, helping the fathers to be active and involved in their children's lives via mentorship. John supports fathers in Southwark with children aged 0 to 2-years, under the Start for Life programme that is part funded by Southwark Council.

Tell us a bit about Future Men and your roles.

Elliot: We engage with men and boys, some with difficult circumstances but not always, and speak up for the simple fact that men and boys are more often than not left out of the equation where it comes to certain activities, for example child rearing or being fathers.

John: Especially when it comes to the antenatal side of stuff and going through that journey of parent parenthood and giving birth with partners, often men and expectant fathers are left out from that process. You have scenarios where a father could be with the child, mother and midwife in the hospital. Dad is unsure of how to hold baby properly and the midwife says ‘why don’t you give baby to mum?’. We are encouraging midwives to support father too.

What sort of men do you work with?

Elliot: We’re very inclusive and not necessarily just targeting hard to reach fathers. We have people that attend our future dad’s course who are executives, people who are first time dads, people who are finding it a bit challenging, but it all ties into our vision, which is to have a better future for every boy, every man and everyone.

There has been a shift to more co-parenting over the last few years. Have you seen a change locally?

Elliot: It’s mixed. I’d say we attack the issue from bottom up and from top down. We work with policymakers, we run meetings where we discuss issues that relate to paternity and fatherhood, and on the ground level we do see shifts and changes in society. We see willing fathers, willing men that want to participate in all areas of their children’s lives and in familiar life.

From your experiences, how important would you it is for the father to be involved from the start?

Elliot: From an anecdotal perspective we all think it’s important, but all of the research backs up our thinking and it underpins how we conduct ourselves and in and how we approach working with men.

Every person on the planet wants their children to be well adjusted, to have better chances in education, to be socially rounded, every metric that you would want for your child. All of the research points to the fact that if your father is involved, and obviously not a risk to your child’s safety, they are more likely to achieve these things.

What is the process for a new father?

Elliot: Men can either be referred to us or self-refer. We start with building up rapport with the young father and trying to understand them as a person. We set expectations so we are very clear on what they can receive from us. We make it clear that we are not a men’s version of a woman’s group because often people think that. And then we just take it from there. No journey looks the same, but I explain to the fathers to view me as your big cousin or an uncle that you can talk to. There is enough distance between us so boundaries don’t get crossed, but

I’m human and I understand some of the things that you’ve been through.

And is it father’s working with fathers, or a mix?

Elliot: Some of us are parents, but it’s not a prerequisite. So sometimes they’re not parents and we do have women father’s workers as well. Women are very much involved.

John: Yeah, especially with our antenatal stuff and in terms of how we get fathers on board, some people might be referred by mothers. Mothers are great gatekeepers, for this line of work and they’re always recommending that fathers come along and take part in the sessions that we do at the hospital.

We also additionally support fathers with signposting them to the family hubs in the borough because there is different father focused initiatives that are going on there. Sometimes we go along with them if needed.

Some families might have additional needs like housing. We’re able to support and some people are trying to reinstate regular and consistent contact with their children, and we can guide them with what they need to do. We’re not medical or clinical professionals but we do have those people around, even with the course in itself.

And finally, what do you think the main challenges are for new fathers?

Elliot: For me it’s a combination of getting society, and that includes the young men that we work with, to recognise the importance of being engaged and working with their children. We may go into meetings with some groups, and they might be discussing a case where a family needs support and the first question I ask is ‘where’s father?’ It’s trying to get people to challenge their unconscious biases and beliefs around fatherhood, around men around masculinity. That includes the fathers themselves.

Future Men deliver a FREE course on a monthly for new and expectant fathers in various hospitals including Kings College in Denmark Hill, that prepares fathers for the arrival of their new baby. Fathers can learn practical tips like how to hold, change and bath a newborn, and prepare for the changes that are likely to happen in their life. For more information visit www.futuremen.org



No more noisy nights

Our noise complaints officers are up all night helping residents get a good night's sleep

Living in a big city we can expect some background noise at night – emergency vehicles, traffic, trains passing – but it can have a serious impact when residents are being kept awake by noisy neighbours.

The council's noise team gets around 10,000 complaints a year from people who are being disturbed by unacceptable levels of noise during the night. It is not only inconsiderate but can result in criminal charges.

To see what the council can do about it we spoke to noise enforcement officer Andrew to talk us through a recent shift.

"No two days are the same when working as a noise nuisance officer shift: complaints can be anything from loud parties, alarms, whistling boiler flues and noisy construction site equipment to barking dogs and children playing!

"On a recent Monday night shift, my first visit was a complaint about loud music. I visited the resident who had reported it and sure enough, I could hear very loud music throughout their flat. A check of the history of complaints we've received against the property where the noise was coming from revealed we'd spoken to the

person living there before and had issued them with a warning letter. I made sure they were aware of the impact their loud music was having on their neighbour and that the music was turned down, then issued them with a noise abatement notice. If they don't comply, they could be prosecuted, their equipment seized, and they could end up with a criminal record.

"Later in the shift, we received a number of calls about an intruder alarm. I visited and it was clear the alarm would have prevented a lot of residents sleeping. Luckily, I managed to track down the person responsible and they came to silence the alarm.

"One of the last complaints during the shift was to visit someone who had breached a previous noise abatement notice. A resident contacted us because they were being kept awake by a neighbour's loud music. I spoke to the neighbour, the music was turned off, and they will get a letter inviting them to an interview under caution, and very possibly a day in court."

If you experience nuisance noise, call us on 0207 525 5777 or email noiseandnuisance@southwark.gov.uk.

Stay safe after dark

With spring finally here, most of us will be spending more time out and about in the borough. While most of our residents feel safe walking around their local area during the day, this sadly isn't the case at night, with only half of you telling us you feel safe after dark¹.

As part of our £3 million CCTV upgrade across the borough, we're investing in high-definition cameras to give us clearer images, especially at night, to make identification of people suspected of crime and antisocial behaviour easier.

We also worked with Ark Walworth Academy to install new lighting in Burgess Park in response to requests from students, to help them feel safer on their way home from school. And we're talking to resident and community groups to look at how the design of parks and public spaces can make people feel safer.

We have a team of over 100 council officers dedicated to making our borough safer, and this year we'll be extending the community safety team to include more officers to tackle issues at night.

The council is also supporting the Mayor of London's Women's Night Safety Charter, encouraging businesses that operate at night to make some simple commitments to protect customers while they're enjoying an evening out in Southwark.

Go to www.southwark.gov.uk and search for 'safety charter' to sign up.

1. 2024 Southwark Residents' Insight Survey. 88 per cent of residents said they feel safe outside in their local area during that day; 49 per cent said they feel safe outside in your local area after dark



Your reports help fight phone snatching!

If your phone is snatched, please report it as soon as you can.

Even if you can't get help immediately, it allows local police and our community safety team to build up a picture of where phone snatching is happening so our community safety team can work with local police officers to respond.

If someone is in danger call 999.

If there's no immediate emergency call 101.

You can also report phone snatching online at crimestoppers.uk.org

Sign up for community safety updates

You can now subscribe to Safer Southwark, our new community safety email newsletter.

We'll keep you up to date with news and information on what's being done to make Southwark a safer place to live, work and visit.

Scan the QR code or subscribe online at southwark.gov.uk/communitysafetynews



HOW WE'RE INVESTING IN YOU

SOUTHWARK



Council tax is a crucial source of funding that supports essential services and amenities that directly benefit all residents.

We are committed to transparently using your money, along with other funding streams we receive, to enrich our community and uphold the quality of life we all want to enjoy.

Below is an illustration of how council spend funds vital services, per household per month:

Children's social services



£47.49
per household per month

Adult social services



£43.31
per household per month

Waste & street cleaning



£22.64
per household per month

Culture & Leisure



£18.85
per household per month

Environmental health & trading services

£5.21
per household per month

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PAY COUNCIL TAX

If you are struggling to pay your council tax, Southwark Council is here to help. We understand that financial challenges can arise, and we offer a range of support options to assist residents:

Discounts and Exemptions:

For students, a single occupant, a disabled person, or a foster carer. Certain empty properties or those occupied by specific individuals may also be exempt.

Step-by-Step Debt Reduction Service:

A single manageable payment plan, covering debts such as Council Tax arrears, Housing Benefit overpayments, and rent arrears.

Southwark Emergency Support Scheme:

You may be eligible if you're on benefits and require urgent assistance.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme:

For residents on low incomes or receiving benefits.

Don't forget.

If you are struggling to pay your council tax, or worried about your finances at the moment – there is help available.

It's crucial to contact Southwark Council promptly if you're facing difficulties with your Council Tax payments. Early communication allows us to explore the best support options tailored to your circumstances.

southwark.gov.uk/council-tax/paying-council-tax/problems-paying



A HIGH STREET WITH HEART



We chat to small businesses who bring Nunhead's community together

Tucked away in a southeast part of Southwark, Nunhead High Street is more than just a place to shop—it's the heart of a vibrant community. Lined with independent cafés, family-run shops, and old-school pubs, it's a street where people stop to chat, shopkeepers know your name, and new ventures sit alongside long-standing favourites.

Small businesses are a huge part of Nunhead and all our Southwark high streets.

We spoke to a few small businesses on Nunhead High Street about their experiences:

Do you run a business in Southwark?

Sign up to our business e-newsletter to stay up to date with training, support and news. See page 31 for information.



Edy and Bridge

40 Nunhead Green, SE15 3QF

Jenni and Michael run an independent, sustainable clothing shop, creating unique garments made from reclaimed fabrics. They design and sew each piece in their workshop, meaning their collections are small, special and made to be cherished.

What is your favourite thing about running your business in the area?

We love running our business in Nunhead because, for the first time, we truly feel like we are part of a community. Not only do we design, make, and sell our clothing in our shop, but we also host classes, workshops, talks, and events, which bring people together. We especially enjoy creating opportunities for people to connect through creative activities. The most rewarding part is seeing someone light up with confidence when they wear our clothing. We also love meeting our customers and getting to know them, it makes the experience even more special.

"Throughout the year, we donate gift vouchers to local schools and various charities to support their fundraising efforts. During the pandemic, we raised significant funds for local food banks by making masks and giving them away for free, with all donations going directly to those in need."



F.C. SOPER *Fishmongers*



This is a business that has been running for 128 years with Jason now running it for the last 42 years, supplying locals and others with fresh fish and produce.

Jason said: "We pride ourselves on providing customers with top quality service and the freshest fish in south east London. We love the area as it has become a community, with many local shops and customers who become familiar faces. Everyone in Nunhead extends a warm welcome to the others around."

"My favourite thing about running a business in Nunhead is meeting our lovely customers that are more like friends than customers. We love having a good chat with them and seeing their family's grow."



AG Flowers.

139 Evelina Road, Nunhead, SE15 3HB



AG Flowers is a family run business, that loves being part of the vibrant small business community here in Southwark.

John, the owner said: "We love being in this part of Nunhead, as it has such great community spirit."

Supporting our town centres and businesses to thrive

We recently launched five new Town Centre Action Plans, which show how we will make our town centres cleaner, safer and more vibrant places for people to visit and shop. The five high streets are:

- Bermondsey
- Camberwell
- Canada Water
- Elephant and Castle and Walworth
- Peckham

Want to read the new plans? Visit our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/business-and-licences/town-centres

Digital skills training for young residents

Click Start Peckham Digital Accelerator Zone (DAZ), is a pioneering collaboration between Southwark Council and Creative Computing Institute at University of the Arts London, UKBlackTech. This course is part of the new nationwide Click Start training programme developed by the Institute of Coding (IoC) and funded by Nominet.

We are delivering digital skills training to 200 young people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds in Southwark and across south London. The Peckham Digital Accelerator Zone helps to guide learners, place them in work, and enable them to meet the digital transformation needs of local communities. It is aimed specifically at those who already have technical knowledge or an enthusiasm for technology and are currently seeking employment.

Aaron, a participant of the programme shared: 'Being a part of Peckham Digital Accelerator Zone has significantly improved my confidence. These experiences have cultivated the belief in myself to kickstart a career within tech.'

"I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to be on the Peckham Digital Acceleration Zone programme, which has provided an invaluable experience. I urge anyone who has any interest in technology and would like to build their knowledge and skills to apply for the programme. You will be surrounded with great tutors, given fantastic support and meet like-minded people. As long as you are engaged and putting your best foot forward, you will gain a ton."

Find out more at peckhamdaz.com

Stay healthy this spring

STAYING WELL

Support your child's early language and communication

Playing, chatting and reading with your baby helps them learn and creates special moments. Daily activities develop communication skills and prepares them for education. Joining one of our early language and home learning sessions can support you in this. They can also help you get the childcare you're entitled to. One example is Early Words Together, which is for parents with 3 to 4-year-olds, with trained early years staff. The fun learning activities are based around story books which are free for you to then take home to read. Discover how your home can be a learning space from your baby and toddlers. Find out more at: southwark.gov.uk/start-for-life-home-learning



Tania, parent in Southwark: "Early Words Together has been great for our family because every session is very educational. I get an idea of what to do during non-school time. The best thing of Early Words Together is us knowing other parents and knowing other kids as well."

Get a health check at a local Hub for Health

Together with the local NHS, we offer health checks at community events. You can now get a check in the following places on a regular basis:

- Surrey Quays Shopping Centre
- Latin Hub at Elephant Arcade
- Castle Square

We're expanding hub locations in coming months. Find out more, and about other health and wellbeing events at: southwark.gov.uk/health-hubs

Our Southwark Community Health Ambassadors support health checks in hubs. If you want to find out more or join them go to www.healthwatchsouthwark.org/community-health-ambassadors-network

"The Vital 5 health checks in hubs cover weight, blood pressure, smoking, drinking and mental health. Plus, we're on hand to offer advice on many different local health and wellbeing services. It has been an extremely pleasant experience engaging with members of the public on health, wellbeing and promoting Vital 5."

Enduement, Community Health Ambassador (pictured on the left in the photo).



Get protected with a COVID-19 vaccine

Booster vaccines are now available until 17 June 2025. People who are eligible are residents in a care home for older people, those 75 years and over, or those aged 6 months and over with a weakened immune system. The NHS will contact you about getting your vaccines. Call 111 or go to selondonics.org/our-residents/covid-19-vaccination



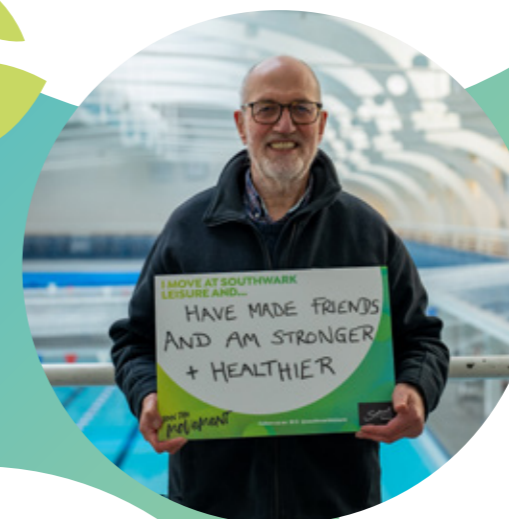
Bowel cancer: know the facts

Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK. With screening it can be detected early, which makes it easier to treat. If you're 50 to 74 and registered with a Southwark GP you'll get a bowel screening kit, which you can do in the comfort of your own home. Bowel cancer screening tests look for blood in a sample of poo, which could be a sign of bowel cancer.

The risk of developing bowel cancer increases as you age. The most common symptoms of bowel cancer include:

- changes in your poo (consistency or frequency of bowel movements)
- blood in poo or bleeding from your bottom
- tummy pain or lumps
- bloating
- losing weight without trying
- feeling very tired for no reason

If you notice any new symptoms or changes in your body, get in touch with your GP. Or find out more at southwark.gov.uk/bowel-cancer



Move more, feel better: Trevor's journey to improved health

When Trevor found out he had high blood sugar levels and warning signs of diabetes, he knew he needed to make a change. That's when he joined Camberwell Leisure Centre, and it didn't take long for him to see results.

With support from the team at the centre, Trevor got started in the gym, and almost immediately, his blood sugar levels began to improve. A fitness instructor also designed a personalised workout plan to strengthen the muscles around his knees, which had been causing him discomfort. Now, he can walk longer distances, run for the bus, and spend more time helping his son at their allotment – all without the pain he used to experience.

For Trevor, the benefits of going to the gym and swimming are endless. He's not only feeling healthier and stronger, but he's also made great friends at the centre, especially through swimming. He loves the sense of community and support, proving that exercise is just as good for the soul as it is for the body.

Be inspired by Trevor's story – get moving and feel the benefits today! Watch Trevor talking about his experience at the centre at: <https://bit.ly/Trevors-leisure-centre-story>

Find your nearest centre at southwarkleisure.co.uk



HPV vaccinations in schools: protect your child

Boys and girls in school Year 8 are being offered the HPV vaccination in the summer term. HPV vaccinations are safe, and very effective at preventing cancers linked to HPV (human papilloma virus). A recent study shows how effective the HPV vaccine is at preventing cervical cancer. Schools will contact you about dates and to get your consent for the vaccination. Find out more about the benefits of the vaccine at www.nhs.uk/hpv

KEEPING SOUTHWARK CLEAN



We're taking a new approach to tackling litter, fly tipping and other waste problems in the borough.

One of the many issues the council gets contacted about regularly is the problem of people not getting rid of their rubbish properly – littering our streets, fly tipping on our estates – or spraying graffiti around the borough.

From this spring, the council will be taking a new, fresh approach to tackling waste issues affecting Southwark's streets and estates – creating cleaner, safer, and more attractive places for everyone.

The Southwark Place Management Programme is about more than just responding to complaints. It is about changing community behavior, working with residents and businesses to ensure sure our streets and estates stay clean and safe.

It combines education, engagement and enforcement so residents and businesses know how to dispose of their waste properly and take pride in where they live, while making those who continue to commit criminal acts, such as littering, fly-tipping and graffiti tagging, face the consequences.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of pounds are spent removing graffiti tags and fly-tipped waste in Southwark – money that could be better used for community services, such as adult and children's care.

New enforcement measures will crack down on littering and fly-tipping with increased fines and stricter penalties.

GRAFFITI BLITZ: CLEANING UP WITH A SPLASH OF FUN

Southwark's graffiti problem isn't just a nuisance – it's an expensive one. The council spent over £600,000 last year cleaning up graffiti tags on both public and private property, including shop shutters and street furniture. To tackle this, Southwark is rolling out graffiti blitzes, targeting graffiti hotspots across the borough, working with local businesses and other private property owners to tackle graffiti, including through 'design out' measures, such as community murals and artwork, to discourage re-tagging and create more attractive streetscapes.

Graffiti operatives Glen and Antonio (pictured) take on the borough's worst offenders daily armed with jet washers, paint and gallons of graffiti remover.

Glen said: "When we arrive on site, we prepare the graffiti removal solution, apply it, and wait 10 to 15 minutes before jet-washing it all away. Some stubborn tags need a few rounds, and in certain spots, painting over is the only option. We would like people to think twice about where they add this graffiti. It can affect business and public spaces."



Residents have a role to play, and many are already stepping up. Local resident Barry Duckett said: "I have lived in Southwark for 73 years, before it was even Southwark and so has my wife. I love where I live and do my bit to keep it clean. Fly-tipping is a big issue. I'm glad to hear the council is tackling it with enforcement and fines as long as it's done properly. People need to understand that waste disposal is everyone's responsibility."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Southwark Council clears thousands of fly-tipping incidents each year. By using the council's waste collection services, you help reduce illegal dumping and keep our streets clean:

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Need to dispose of large items? Book a collection online at southwark.gov.uk/bulkywastebooking

REUSE CENTRE

Dispose of unwanted furniture and household items instead of throwing them away.

Address: **Southwark Reuse and Recycling Centre, Devon Street, SE15 1AL**

Open: **8:30am to 4:30pm daily** (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day)

You can visit by car, bike, or on foot - no appointment needed. Wear sturdy footwear for safety and bring a photo ID and proof that you live in Southwark.

REPORT FLY-TIPPING

See dumped waste? Report it online at report.southwark.gov.uk to help keep our streets clean.

Together, we can make Southwark cleaner, safer, and a whole lot brighter.

Happy birthday Southwark



Samuel Bevington
Mayor of
Bermondsey 1900

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the creation of the London Borough of Southwark

April 1, is an important milestone: the day in 1965 that the London Government Act 1963 came into effect. The Act created Southwark and the other 31 London boroughs, making this year Southwark Council's 60th birthday.

Local government changed to keep up with London's growth as an urban space. The earliest units of local government were local parishes – there were 10 of these in the modern borough, and their records go back to the mid 16th century. However, as London got more populated, parishes couldn't keep up with the costs of increasingly complex services.

The late 1800s saw a drive to simplify London's local government by reducing the numbers of bodies responsible for managing the city. The first of these drives was the creation of the London County Council (LCC) in 1889; covering what we'd know today as Inner London. The LCC, like the GLA today, had cross-London responsibilities including education, social services, emergency services, public health, trams and housing.

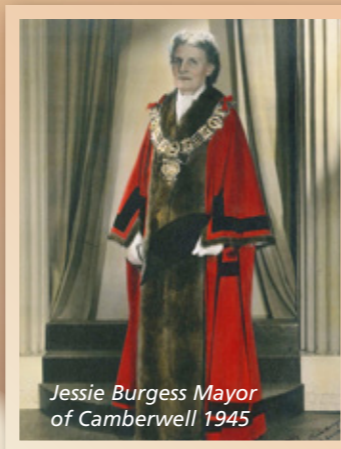
In 1900, London's lower-level government also got an overhaul: the London Government Act 1899 created 28 new metropolitan boroughs. In our area, that slashed the number of local government units from 10 to 3, the metropolitan boroughs of Bermondsey, Camberwell, and Southwark. They were responsible for food and housing safety, local roads and traffic infrastructure, libraries, parks and waste removal.

This allowed metropolitan boroughs to develop their own programmes to tackle local problems. In the metropolitan borough of Southwark – one of the most densely packed parts of the country in the early 20th century – this meant building new housing estates. Bermondsey Metropolitan Borough Council went one step further, creating a programme of housing redevelopment, park creation and public health initiatives that became known as the "Bermondsey Revolution". Infectious disease was a major problem – 1 in 6 local residents died of tuberculosis alone – so part of the Bermondsey Revolution included free diagnosis and treatment via the public health department, a decade before the NHS.



Ada Brown
Salter mayoral
portrait

By the early 1940s, London's continuing development and rising population were causing problems that we'd find familiar today: traffic congestion, lack of open space, and inadequate housing. The Blitz destroyed around 50,000 homes in London, and damaged 2 million more. In 1943 and 1944, the County of London and Greater London Plans (often referred to as the Abercrombie Plan after their developer, Sir Patrick Abercrombie), offered a radical new vision of London.



Jessie Burgess Mayor
of Camberwell 1945



Camberwell Town Hall 1st LBS council meeting 1964

While some of the proposals never came to be, like a motorway through the city, some of the more achievable aims, like reducing overcrowding by redeveloping Victorian slums, did. We can see examples of such redevelopment in Southwark, including the Brandon Estate in Kennington (1958) and the Kingswood Estate in West Dulwich (c 1958).

In 1957, the Royal Commission on Local Government in Greater London, commonly called the Herbert Commission, started reviewing the administration of the capital, including the rapidly urbanising areas outside the county of London. It discovered that the existing local authorities (6 counties and 102 districts) varied wildly – in size, in population, and their functions as independent bodies, which had been messily assigned.

Three years later, the Herbert Commission issued its report. Its recommendations had two guiding principles: efficiency in resource use, and giving local residents strong, democratic input on their local services. In service of the

first principle, the commission recommended two-tier system of government – while replacing the London County Council, which it found too large and impersonal, as the top tier. The second tier served the local democracy principle, made up of a number of borough councils, whose populations, the commission felt, should be between 100,000 and 250,000.

Originally, the commission recommended 52 Greater London Boroughs and suggested that Greater London should extend as far as Weybridge, Cheshunt, Chigwell, and Sunbury. By 1962, when the London Government Act was introduced, the definition of Greater London and the London borough had taken on more or less the form we know today: 32 London Boroughs, with an elected body (then the Greater London Council, today the Greater London Assembly) overseeing strategic services.

The Act took effect in 1965, creating the London Borough of Southwark out of the three metropolitan boroughs. But councillors from all three old boroughs had been

preparing for more than a year: consolidating staff, sites and services, balancing policies and procedures, and even electing the new councillors in advance.

One small part of that harmonisation was the Mayoral Chain of Office. All three metropolitan boroughs had one: they were a symbol of civic pride and authority. When the new borough was created, so was a new chain of office. But Southwark is a place that honours the past as it works toward the future, so the three old chains of office still exist, stored securely when they're not being used. And while you might think the old ones are just decoration now, if you look closely at the Mayor, you may find they're wearing the chain one of the metropolitan boroughs that created the Southwark we know today.



Aubyn Graham
LBS Mayor 1995



Catherine Clunn Mayor
of Southwark 1963



Sam King 1984



Mrs Florence Withnall LBS Mayor 1965

Events calendar

For these and many more events and activities please visit our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents



Bankside Open Spaces Festival

Bankside Open Spaces Festival is back for 2025! A free family-friendly festival filling three parks with music, workshops, performances, stalls and more. Now in its eighth year, Bankside Open Spaces Trust's celebration of nature and community is the area's biggest free event and everyone's invited.

Saturday 7 June 2025
12noon to 8pm

FREE

Marlborough Sports Garden,
Red Cross Way and Redcross
Garden, SE1 1HA

www.bost.org.uk/bosfest25

On The Rye Festival

On the Rye is Peckham's first free open air community and family festival. Our purpose is to create inclusive and accessible spaces for adults, families, children and young people alike in a celebration of Peckham's local culture. You'll find two stages of live music and DJs presenting sounds of soul, reggae, R&B and more, plus children's activities and a diverse range of local food.

26 May 2025
midday to 10pm

Free

Peckham Rye Park

www.ontheryefestival.com

17. Mai London

An annual celebration of Norway's national day, 17 May. The event welcomes anyone with a connection to Norway or the Norwegian community in the UK to a day filled with games and entertainment, traditional parades, and delicious food for the whole family to enjoy.

Saturday 17 May 2025
11am

£7 voluntary contribution

Southwark Park

<https://17mai.london>



Spring Craft Market

Our Spring Craft Market will be selling products made by local people. Personalised goodies, handmade sweets and cakes, arts and crafts. Musical entertainment and refreshments from our Community Café.

Saturday 12 April 2025
1pm to 4pm

The Green Community Centre,
5 Nunhead Green, SE15 3QQ

FREE

thegreennunhead.org

The Giant Teddy Bears' Picnic

Bring your teddies, picnic rugs, families and friends to join us for a free event with fun fair, theatre show, a stage featuring local choirs, bands, dance acts and a parade with prizes. A variety of food and drink stalls will tempt you too.

Sunday 11 May 2025
12noon to 5pm

FREE

Outdoor event beside Playground at Dulwich Park, London SE21 7BQ

dulwichparkfriends.org.uk/events

Camberwell Arts Festival 2025

Experience "Arts Free-for-All" at Camberwell Arts Festival. Enjoy dog shows, art classes, student exhibitions, and afternoon tea - all free and open to everyone.

14 to 22 June 2025
Various times

FREE

Various locations in Camberwell (see website for details)

Camberwellarts.org.uk



The Big Lunch

This year we are holding our 10th Big Lunch. Share food and drinks with us and have fun in a friendly environment. Local musicians, singers and Community Choirs will entertain us and there will be activities for the children.

Sunday 8 June
1pm to 4pm

Nunhead Green (or in The Green Community Centre in the event of bad weather)

FREE

thegreennunhead.org

Eat Around the World in Camberwell food festival

Join us for a day of delicious discoveries and cultural celebrations. A global culinary adventure with food stalls, live music, and fun activities for all ages. Mark your calendars and prepare your taste buds for an unforgettable journey through the flavours of the world.

Saturday 17 May
12pm to 7pm

FREE

Camberwell Green



The MoonWalk London

Take part in London's most iconic night walk, famous for its decorated bras and colourful bra t-shirts. In Southwark, take in the stunning city skyline along the river Thames, as you walk the 15.1 or 26.2 mile route across the city, raising money and awareness for breast and other cancers.

Saturday 17 May 2025
5K ZOOM 10.15am.
MoonWalk 9pm

MoonWalk - £49.95. 5K ZOOM Walk - Under 16's, £12. Age 16+, £19.99.

London wide, starts and ends at Clapham Common

www.walkthewalk.org

Spring Fair at Surrey Docks Farm

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

Saturday 10 May
11am to 4pm

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

Surrey Docks Farm, Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 5ET

www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk/events



The Crucible

Arthur Miller's timely thriller unfolds for a limited nine-week run, directed by Ola Ince

8 May to 12 July
Various

From £5

Shakespeare's Globe

www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/the-crucible

CRY Heart of London Bridges Walk

Every year Cardiac Risk in the Young welcomes supporters from across the UK to Southwark Park for our flagship event, for a chance to connect with others who have experienced the sudden death of a young person, and remember young people who have died. The route is 6.5 miles long and will take you through London, crossing iconic bridges and seeing landmarks along the way, followed by a family picnic in Southwark Park.

Sunday 22 June 2025

The walk sets off at 11am and the day finishes around 5pm.

£12 registration fee. 16 and under can join for free, but must be accompanied by an adult who has paid the registration fee

Southwark Park

www.c-r-y.org.uk/heart-of-london-bridges-walk/



Peckham & Burgess Park BMX Regional Race 2025

In conjunction with British cycling, Peckham BMX will host a regional race with up to 500 participants. Please come and show your local support to the organisation and club and get to see special racing and meet some Olympians. Plus there will be food and drink stalls available

Sunday 22 June 2025
11.30am to 3.30pm

FREE

Burgess park BMX track Albany Road
London SE5 0AL

www.Peckhambmx.co.uk

South Asian Heritage Month Celebrations

Celebrating South Asian Heritage afternoon with talks, exhibitions, cultural experiences, music and dancing. The aim is to celebrate, educate and commemorate the history, heritage and culture of British Asians so that we better understand the diversity of present-day Britain and improve social cohesion. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday 20 July
2pm to 4.30pm

The Green Community Centre,
5 Nunhead Green, SE15 3QQ

FREE

thegreennunhead.org

Windrush Day

An event to tell the truth about Windrush. An opportunity to share thoughts and memories from those days, black and white. An opportunity to celebrate the contributions made by the Windrush generation with music, singing, dancing and Caribbean food.

Sunday 22 June
1pm to 4pm

The Green Community Centre,
5 Nunhead Green, SE15 3QQ

Free

thegreennunhead.org

Forge Festival

The Forge Festival is four dynamic and innovative world premieres of works in development created by

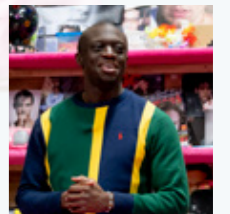
some of Britain's most exciting emerging theatre companies: Shepard Tone, Speakbeat Collective, November Theatre and Visual Sauce. The festival performances are the culmination of a year's residency at Southwark Playhouse as part of the FORGE artist development scheme.

13 May to 17 May
Various

All tickets £10

Southwark Playhouse Theatre

southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/forge-festival-main-page



SOUTHWARK PRESENTS

Youth News

We're providing opportunities for fun, careers training and making changes for young people across Southwark

Bringing new life to our youth clubs and playgrounds

The Ellen Brown Adventure Playground in Spa Gardens, Bermondsey, has recently received new playground equipment including a state-of-the-art interactive play area, a fun ball skills area and even a DJ booth.



We're also planning a refurbishment of the Brandon Youth Club. This transformation will turn the building into a modern facility and will improve accessibility. Peckham Rye Adventure Playground is also set for a revamp, with work scheduled to begin in June and complete by the end of July.

We are working with Thames Valley Controls Limited to invest in local resources for children and young people. TVCL is helping fund the creation of three growing gardens at our adventure playgrounds (Ellen Brown, Mint Street, and Peckham Rye) to provide children with the opportunity to learn how to grow and care for plants and flowers.

They are also supporting the reinvestment in the indoor gym at the Damilola Taylor Centre in Peckham, alongside council funding. This project will create an inclusive gym space for young people aged 12 to 19 years and is scheduled to open at the end of April. For more information, visit onehubsouthwark.co.uk/youth-centres

Coming soon new-look One Hub

After speaking to young people we have decided to revamp and relaunch the One Hub website to better meet their needs. The updated design and features of the new One Hub will be revealed soon so watch out for updates.

Get snapping... and win prizes!

Young photographers aged 11 to 19 can send in a compelling photo of Southwark from your perspective for a chance to win a £50 prize for you or £200 towards your youth project, and have your work displayed in Southwark. The closing date is Sunday 4 May, 2025.

To apply visit www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk/frame-future-photography-competition

Careers event: a success led by young people

In February, 93 young people took part in the first Triple A careers event - organised, and led entirely by the Southwark Youth Parliament. The Southwark Youth Parliament (SYP) is made up of elected young people from schools and youth clubs across the borough. The SYP is already working on other new exciting projects. They are collaborating with a local organisation to design and develop a podcast focused on supporting young people with their wellbeing and mental health. To stay updated on their work, follow them on Instagram @southwarkyouthparliament or visit onehubsouthwark.co.uk/southwark-youth-parliament

Funding Our Future grants

The Funding Our Future Fund is designed to support young people. They can apply for up to £500 to help with their personal and social development. So far, we have awarded 47 grants of up to £500 to young people. These grants have been used for a range of purposes, including purchasing sports equipment, covering the costs of a lifeguard qualification, and providing equipment to help launch businesses.

Find out more at www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk/funding-our-futures



Back the Bakerloo

We need to see an upgrade and extension to the Bakerloo line.

To set the signals to green, we need your help.

Pledge your support today

backthebakerloo.org.uk



Back the Bakerloo

Internet help made easy



Did you know that across Southwark, volunteers are ready to help you with digital technology, including laptops, phones, and tablets?

Southwark's network of digital champions are passionate about supporting digital literacy. They are here to help with everything from sending emails and downloading apps, to searching the internet for jobs or services, ensuring that no one is left behind in today's digital world.

Our digital champions run regular drop-in sessions at various community hubs around the borough. These hubs provide free internet access, use of equipment, and personalised skills support to help residents get online with confidence. Volunteers come from all walks of life, with many having technology-related backgrounds and others simply eager to help their community.

Case Study: Jackie

"I'm so impressed with the digital sessions to help me use my phone. I didn't know much about the internet and was scared to do the wrong thing. I'd get confused, worry that I'd press the wrong button, and close it down. But Gianna, my volunteer digital champion, reassured me, she is so helpful, calm, and patient. She gave me the mindset to not be scared. I really appreciate it. We need more people in society to make a greater Southwark."

"I've now made hospital appointments, sent for my passport and keep in touch with family and friends. Everyone should come along and be involved. There is so much to learn. I'm improving and will keep going to more sessions. Southwark Council is helping people like us to learn more to give us a good comfortable life. I'm now thinking of buying a tablet to learn more. It's made a big difference to my life. I'm very happy I did it and appreciate it so much."

Find out more

For a full list of our community hubs that can offer digital training and support, go to our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/internet-digital-skills

You can also get digital support at our 12 libraries, just drop in and speak to our staff.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the support and advice of Southwark's Digital Champions, call 07783 776 066 or email digital.inclusion@southwark.gov.uk

You can register to become a digital champion at www.southwark.gov.uk/digital-champion

BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK

SOUTHWARK PIONEERS FUND

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

Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/advice-start-ups



LONDON LIVING WAGE - 400 ACCREDITED EMPLOYERS AND 7000 PAY-RISES

The campaign for the London Living Wage in Southwark continues to gain momentum. There are now over 400 accredited Living Wage Employers in the borough and 7,000 Southwark workers have benefitted from a pay rise onto the London Living Wage because their employer has become accredited.

The London Living Wage is set at £13.85 an hour and reflects the cost of living in London. It amounts to an extra £4,700 a year compared to the national minimum wage, which pays £11.44 an hour.

Suzann McLean, CEO and artistic director of Theatre Peckham, said: "We're living in a society right now where the cost of living in London is rising. I think it's so important for us to be a payer of the London Living Wage so we can match people's ambitions to live and work in London and remain here."

PAID INTERNSHIPS SUPPORT

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

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



INCREASE SALES AND DRIVE FOOTFALL TO YOUR BUSINESS

The BetterPoints Southwark app rewards residents for moving more with points they can spend in a local business. Join the free scheme to reach new customers and align your brand with local sustainability and health initiatives. Visit southwark.betterpoints.uk/stories/get-started-as-a-trader



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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

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*Use promo code MOVEJF before 30 April 2025.

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