



Southwark Life

Summer 2025

Summer in Southwark

We have a bumper pull out section full of summer holiday activities

Go wild

A guide to the wildlife you can see in Southwark

Sneak peek

An early look at our newest leisure centre

PLUS People share how they are using the 5 ways to Wellbeing

Your magazine from Southwark Council

Southwark
Council

Your Summer Recycling and Waste Tips

Turn food waste into something good

Your food scraps – cooked or uncooked – don't belong in the rubbish bin. Recycled food waste is turned into renewable energy and fertiliser for farmland. Use your kitchen caddy to recycle everything from leftovers to peelings.

Need a caddy? Find out how to get one and what you can recycle at:

southwark.gov.uk/foodwaste

TOP TIP

Leave your caddy in your kitchen out of direct sunlight. Empty. Rinse. Repeat!



Never bin batteries, vapes or gas canisters

Fires in our vehicles and depot often start when flammable items are placed in household bins. That includes:

Batteries Vapes & e-cigarettes

Electrical items Gas canisters

Take these to the Southwark Reuse and Recycling Centre, or return vapes to the shop where you bought them.

Take to the Reuse and Recycling Centre



Do your bit this summer – recycle smart and stay safe. More info at: southwark.gov.uk/recycling



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welcome...

Hello and welcome to our summer edition of Southwark Life, and the first from me as Council Leader.

It was a huge honour to be elected as Leader of our amazing borough just a few days ago. Southwark is the best borough in London with an incredible community.

But too many people here still face deep inequality and challenges to living good lives. As Leader I'm determined to make sure the council is here for you – listening to you, responding to your needs, and getting you the services you need to help you.

This Southwark Life shows some of the great things that are happening on your doorstep for you. Our special pull-out section for our Summer in Southwark campaign shows the huge range of activities and events taking place locally to keep young people happy, busy and entertained during the long summer break.

We've also got an early look at our brand-new leisure centre at Canada Water, which will open later this year and offer a huge range of fun sports and activities for all.

I'm also particularly pleased to detail some of the projects that have been happening across the borough to make Southwark a more disabled-friendly place.

We've also got a look at the incredible and sometimes surprising range of wildlife available to see across Southwark while out and about.

I hope everyone has a bright and safe summer and I look forward to meeting many of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Sarah King

Cllr Sarah King
Leader of Southwark Council

Contact us

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

Our front page pic is of one of our young skaters and Leon from Landshark Skate who organises skating lessons in Burgess park every Wednesday evening and weekend lessons in Canada Water. See our summer pull out section for more information about activities in the borough. Visit app.landsharkskate.com for more information about Landshark Skate.

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Keep in touch

You can contact the magazine at
southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk

Need to know...

We've got the latest news and information from across the borough this summer. From getting healthy to gardening news – here are some of the top stories from Southwark Council.

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

 Follow us on Facebook
facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

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

 Follow us on Instagram
Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

 Follow us on TikTok
southwark.council

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

New plant nursery launched

Southwark Council's Community Gardening team is excited to launch the Burgess Park Community Plant Nursery, a new initiative to provide free vegetable plug plants to community food growers across the borough.

The nursery, in Chumleigh Gardens polytunnels, is funded by Southwark Council and operated by Glengall Wharf Community Garden, also based in Burgess Park.

If your group is interested in receiving free plug plants from the nursery to kick-start your project or fill up gaps in your beds, contact burgessplantnursery@gmail.com or follow on instagram: [@burgessplantnursery](https://twitter.com/burgessplantnursery) and/or [@southwark_community_gardening](https://twitter.com/southwark_community_gardening)

Join your neighbours: invest from £5 and get a 4.1% annual return

Southwark Green Investment 3 launched on 2 June, and over £90,000 has already been invested. It's a time-limited investment opportunity and last time we hit our target early – so don't miss out! Money invested will be used in work to improve nature and the environment in Southwark. Investments are managed through our new fund, supported by ethical crowdfunding platform Abundance Investment. Head to southwark.gov.uk/green-investment

Investments are long term and illiquid. Approver: Abundance Investment (Authorised and regulated by the FCA 525432)

Become a short break carer for a child with disabilities

Family Link carers look after children with disabilities, so the child's parents can take a break. Family Link carers provide short breaks in their own homes and out in the community for as little as two days per month. Some carers look after children during the day only, and others offer overnight stays. Carers get training, support, a financial allowance, and supervision from a qualified social worker.

Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/familylink



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Free, five-minute digital health check at a local library or leisure centre

We are expanding our health kiosk stations across Southwark with new kiosks at Canada Water Leisure Centre and Grove Vale and Brandon libraries. If you're over 16 you can check and monitor some key health measurements at one of our health kiosks.

Visit southwark.gov.uk/health-kiosks to find your nearest kiosk.



Help shape the future of housing for our older residents

We're working to create an age-friendly borough where our older residents have the choice to live in their own community, as independently as possible for as long as possible. Help us to understand what is needed now and in the future, to achieve this. Have your say by 29 July. www.southwark.gov.uk/older-peoples-housing-strategy

Are you recycling your food waste?

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.



Collected food waste is sent to a processing facility where it is turned into renewable energy and fertiliser for farmland. Separating food waste and recycling from rubbish is a legal requirement and a crucial step in tackling the climate emergency. By using this new service, you will be contributing to a more sustainable future for our community.

If you don't have a bin yet, find out if you're eligible and order your kitchen caddy at: southwark.gov.uk/foodwaste

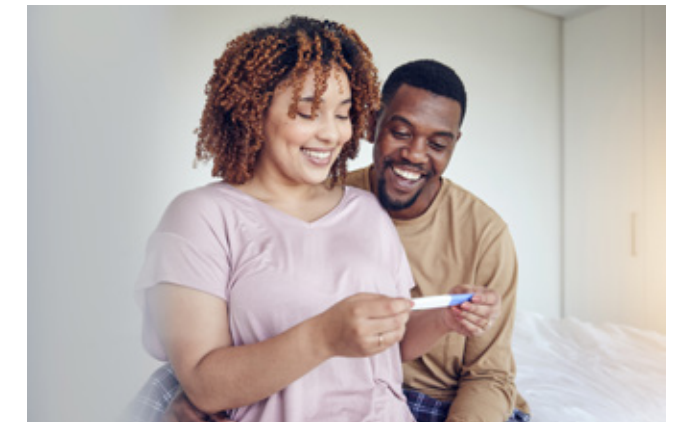
Give your clothes a second chance!

Don't put clothes and textiles in your bin where they will go to waste. Recycle them at your local textile recycling bank. Recycling and reusing clothes is good for the environment, saves water, energy and materials. Find your local textile recycling bank at southwark.gov.uk/reuse

Health advice before you get pregnant

You can do some things ahead of time that will make a difference to your pregnancy, birth and child's future health.

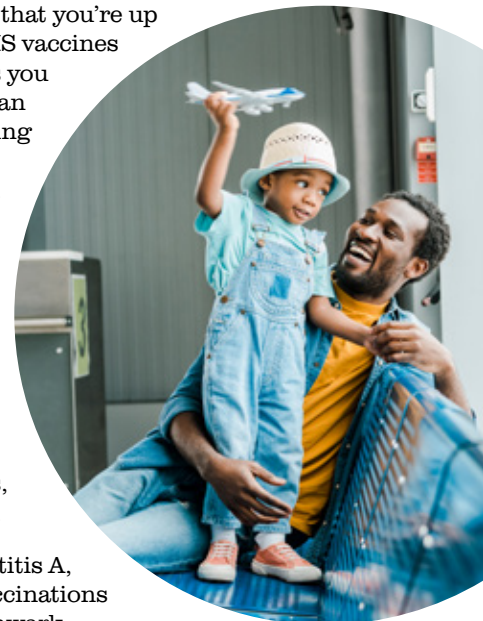
The charity Tommy's pregnancy planning tool can tell you what to focus on to ensure your best health during pregnancy. Use the tool and find out more at: southwark.gov.uk/plan-pregnancy



Travel vaccines and medicines: plan ahead

It's worth checking at least six to eight weeks before you travel that you're up to date with routine NHS vaccines and any additional ones you might need because it can take a few weeks following vaccination for the immunity to take effect. It's key for anyone who's travelling to be up to date with their vaccinations, but particularly young children who are more vulnerable to severe illness such as MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella), polio, hepatitis, meningitis and tetanus.

You can also book Hepatitis A, typhoid and tetanus vaccinations for free through a Southwark GP. Speak to your GP, practice nurse, pharmacist, or travel clinic about vaccines and any necessary medicines such as malaria tablets. Or find out more at travelhealthpro.org.uk



Council gets funding for greener buildings

Southwark has successfully secured over £11 million of new government funding for clean energy projects. This includes £10m of funding to support investment in heat source and insulation projects at Crawford Primary School and five council leisure centres.

This complements the council’s recent £1.2 million of government funding from the Warmer Homes: Social Housing Fund, and £100,000 from the Mayor of London’s Greener School’s pilot for improved energy efficiency at Bird in Bush School.



“Transformed” Burgess Park Sports Centre opens



Southwark Council, together with the UK’s largest sports charity, the Football Foundation, have proudly opened the doors to the eagerly awaited, Burgess Park Sports Centre, to encourage more local people of all ages and backgrounds to take part in sports.

The site now boasts two full-size artificial grass pitches, doubling the previous capacity, and a new pavilion with modern facilities for players, coaches, and the wider sporting community.

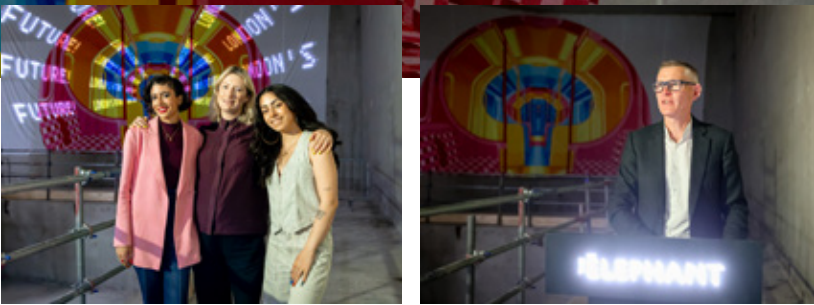
In addition, the council has funded a fully accessible outdoor basketball court, broadening the centre’s sporting offer and opening more opportunities for residents to get active.

The design of the new centre was shaped by the views of local sports clubs and community groups, ensuring it meets the real needs of those who use it. The new pavilion includes improved sightlines from the community room to the pitches, storage space for equipment, touchdown areas for club officials, and flexible community spaces.

Burgess Park is also home to the BMX Track London, one of the largest BMX tracks in the UK.



GOING UNDERGROUND



A special event has marked the completion of the underground structure for a new tube station in Elephant and Castle.

A new ticket hall and tube station, deep under Elephant and Castle, has been officially completed as part of the £4bn transformation of the area.

It will eventually replace the existing entrance to the Northern line, safeguard a future Bakerloo line extension and mean a much better experience for tube users.

The station box will shortly be handed over to Transport for London (TfL) so that it can start the tunnelling works to connect into the Northern line platforms. This will be followed by the fit out of the new station once funding for that work has been confirmed.

The new station entrance and ticket hall will open up into the heart of The Elephant, the £1.5bn transformation of Elephant and Castle Town Centre.

Launching in 2026, The Elephant will have 485 new homes, of which 172 will be affordable, as well as 55 new shops, restaurants and bars, offices, and a new five screen cinema.

Alongside the new station entrance, a new University of the Arts London campus building has been delivered for the London College of Communication (LCC), which will open in 2027 and accommodate over 5,500 students and staff.



This milestone not only marks a pivotal moment for the wider regeneration of Elephant and Castle, but the new station has been built to provide direct connection to a future Bakerloo line extension, a project that would unlock huge economic benefits across the UK.

To mark the milestone, Get Living, Delancey, Multiplex, TfL, Southwark Council and the BusinessForBakerloo campaigners were joined by Deputy Mayor for Business, Howard Dawber, where the new media installation created by the LCC was unveiled.



NEW LEISURE CENTRE OPENS 1 SEPT



A SUSTAINABLE CENTRE BUILT FOR THE FUTURE

Canada Water Leisure Centre is one of the first London buildings to use X-Carb steel, made of 100% recycled steel melted down in an electric arc furnace powered by renewables. High performance equipment and plant is used throughout the centre for lighting, heating and cooling systems along with high levels of insulation, all leading to a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating, above industry standards.

ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

We're committed to making fitness and wellbeing affordable and inclusive:

- **Free Swim and Gym:** Available to all Southwark residents, Friday to Sunday at selected times.
- **Free Silver sessions for over 60s:** Keep moving and stay social with our tailored Silver programme.
- **Concession memberships:** For those that meet eligibility requirements – because everyone deserves to feel good.
- **Step-free access and inclusive design:** Changing places toilet, pool hoists, portable induction loop system available, access platforms providing hassle free pool entry for wheelchair users and/or those with limited mobility.

JOIN NOW AND SAVE

50% off membership

Join on our pre-opening offer on All Access membership and pay just £20.25 per month for your first three months plus no joining fee (saving over £95)*! Join today at southwarkleisure.co.uk

- One membership, lots of benefits:
- unlimited gym, swim and classes
 - multi-site access from December 2025
 - priority booking
 - complimentary session with a fitness trainer
 - body composition analysis
 - free online classes

Canada Water Leisure Centre, Plot A2, 7 Deal Porters Way, London, SE16 2AJ

*Offer applies to Direct Debit membership during the pre-sale period, which ends when the centre opens. Standard membership terms apply.

We take a sneak peek at the new leisure centre at Canada Water.

As we prepare to say goodbye to Seven Islands Leisure Centre, we're excited to welcome you to our new Canada Water Leisure Centre. This bright, modern centre continues the legacy of Seven Islands – bringing the same close knit community, familiar faces, and much-loved activities into a state-of the art setting.

It aims to build on decades of local health and wellbeing provision, offering even more ways for residents of all ages and abilities to stay active, connected and healthy in body and mind.

What's inside the new centre?

State-of-the-art facilities include:

- 25-metre, 8-lane swimming pool
- Learner pool with moveable floor for accessible entry
- Large modern gym with functional fitness area and dedicated stretch zone
- Holistic studio for group classes
- High energy studio
- Dedicated indoor cycling studio
- Multi-use sports hall for basketball, badminton, football, volleyball, pickleball, cricket and more
- Soft play equipment
- Modern changing areas with accessible facilities
- Swimming lessons
- Cricket nets (new to Move Southwark leisure centres)

MOVE SOUTHWARK DOES PICKLEBALL!

Try one of the fastest growing sports in the UK, available at Canada Water. Easy to learn and great for all ages and abilities.

THANK YOU SEVEN ISLANDS

As we say goodbye to Seven Islands Leisure Centre, we carry forward its spirit and community focus. Many of the classes, clubs and staff you know and love, will continue across the road in Canada Water.



"I've been swimming at Seven Islands for over 40 years," says Richard (Dickie) Bird, 94. "I'll miss the old place – it's been part of my life – but I'm looking forward to what the new centre will bring for the next generation. Swimming keeps me going, and I'm not stopping now. I've met so many good people here over the years – it's like a second home. The staff have always looked out for me, and I'm sure the new centre will be just as welcoming."



CRIME VS ASB

differences and reporting

We are working to create a borough where everyone feels safe and we need your help.

You can play a key part in building our response by reporting any incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour (or ASB) that you see or experience. But who are you going to call? See our guide below.

How to report crime

Crime includes criminal behaviour against people, property or animals.

This covers things like drug dealing, theft (including phone snatching), physical assaults, domestic abuse and hate crime.



REPORT CRIME TO THE POLICE

Call **101**.

Call **999** if it's an emergency, such as someone being physically assaulted, or is being threatened with assault.

You can also report crime anonymously via the **Crimestoppers** website or by calling **0800 555111**.

REPORT ASB TO US

If you are experiencing antisocial behaviour (see box above right), call our antisocial behaviour line 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on **020 7525 5777** or report it on our website. Search for '**report antisocial behaviour**.'

ASB also includes what's known as 'enviro-crime', such as littering, fly tipping and graffiti.

You can report these and other issues affecting your local environment online at report.southwark.gov.uk

HOW TO REPORT ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) covers acts that negatively impact your quality of life and the peaceful enjoyment of your home or neighbourhood.

It includes:

- verbal abuse and harassment
- drugs and alcohol misuse
- noise that becomes a nuisance and affects your ability to enjoy your home or sleep



MAKING SOUTHWARK A SAFE HAVEN FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

You've been telling us what we can do to reduce violence against women and girls (also known as VAWG) in Southwark.

Over 700 of you completed our last Women and Girls Safety Survey, and lots more of you have spoken to us face-to-face at the regular engagement events we hold across Southwark.

Here are some of the things we've been doing as a result of those conversations.

- We're investing more than £500,000 in new night-time community wardens and promoting the Women's Night Safety Charter. Find out more about that on our website.
- Our community wardens and VAWG teams join local police to carry out night-time walks to see what actions we can take in areas where things like lack of lighting or impaired visibility make women feel less safe.
- We recently teamed up with the police in Elephant Park for a night-time operation against sexual harassment after it was highlighted as an area of concern in our last survey. This will be repeated across the borough over the summer.
- We've allocated £250,000 to combat VAWG in the areas in the borough your reports of harassment show it happens most. So please **DO** report it to the police when it happens by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency.
- We regularly talk to local businesses to raise awareness of drink spiking and to promote Southwark Safe Havens. These are businesses and other venues in the borough that offer a temporary safe space to someone who feels threatened, is being harassed on the street, is unwell, or generally needs some help.

Find out more about them on our website at bit.ly/SouthwarkSafeHaven or by scanning the QR code top right.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CHAMPIONS

Southwark Council is
putting local people at the
heart of Southwark's future

We want to put our residents at the heart of our decision making, which is why we have developed our new Neighbourhoods approach. This will help us work with people where they live, champion local priorities and empower residents to shape the future of the places they call home.

To support this work, £3.31 million in Neighbourhood funding will become available from September. This includes £1.88 million for Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS), £630,000 for the Neighbourhoods Fund, and £800,000 for Devolved Highways. More information will be shared on our channels in the coming months

The borough has been split into 10 neighbourhood areas, each with its own character, priorities and opportunities. Every neighbourhood has a dedicated Neighbourhoods Champion; a councillor who knows the area well and is there to bring people together and amplify local voices.

Cllr Emily Hickson, Neighbourhood Champion for Borough & London Bridge said "My role is about helping residents turn their ideas into real change, whether that's tackling fly-tipping, or celebrating our history."

In Camberwell, Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle, Champion for both Camberwell and Walworth, brings her decades of experience – and her infectious enthusiasm – to the role.

"Camberwell is where I live, where I've worked, and where I'd choose to be. If we bring our dreams and ideas together, we can make great things happen."

These two are joined by Neighbourhoods Champions across the borough, covering 10 neighbourhoods in total:

Cllr Michael Situ – Old Kent Road, Peckham, Nunhead & Peckham Rye

Cllr Bethan Roberts – Rotherhithe, Bermondsey

Cllr Andy Simmons – Dulwich, East Dulwich

You can speak to your Neighbourhoods Champion at engagement events throughout the summer.



Cllr Michael Situ

Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle

Cllr Emily Hickson

Which Neighbourhood am I in?

- **Borough & London Bridge** (St George, Borough & Bankside, Chaucer, London Bridge & West Bermondsey wards)
- **Walworth** (Newington, North Walworth, Faraday wards)
- **Peckham** (Peckham, Rye Lane wards)
- **Camberwell** (Camberwell Green, St Giles wards)
- **Dulwich** (Dulwich Village, Dulwich Wood wards)
- **East Dulwich** (Goose Green, Champion Hill and Dulwich Hill wards)
- **Nunhead & Peckham Rye** (Nunhead & Queens Road, Peckham Rye wards)
- **Old Kent Road** (Old Kent Road ward)
- **Bermondsey** (North Bermondsey, South Bermondsey wards)
- **Rotherhithe** (Surrey Docks, Rotherhithe wards)

Interested in finding out more or want to get involved?

Visit southwark.gov.uk/yourneighbourhood to find your neighbourhood, see what's happening locally, and share your views.

LOVE
SOUTHWARK

Summer 2025 in Southwark

Southwark is a great place to spend the summer. With a variety of parks, adventure playgrounds, youth centres, libraries, sport activities and much more, we've got plenty to keep the family entertained over the summer – most of it for free. We've pulled together the ultimate guide to family-friendly fun in this brochure.

**Don't miss a
thing this summer**

Stay up to date with what's
going on by signing up to our
free weekly e-newsletter:
bit.ly/LoveSouthwark



Southwark
Council

Southwark's parks and playgrounds

Southwark has around 200 play areas across the borough to enjoy this summer, along with award-winning parks across all neighbourhoods and 65 sites of nature conservation too.

southwark.gov.uk/culture-and-sport/parks-and-open-spaces



Elephant Springs

Elephant Springs opened in 2021 as part of the wider new Elephant Park. It boasts waterfalls, sandy bays and ambient lighting. Elephant Springs brings a natural play experience for both children and adults within the heart of Elephant and Castle.

Location: Elephant Road, SE17 1UB

Junior Tennis Camps (ages 4 to 11)



Camps cover all the main types of tennis shot - Forehand, backhand, under and overarm serve, volley. Coaches will bring it altogether with shot play through drills and match play. We want you to bring all their energy to tennis; no 'quiet please' needed here.

Date: 26 July to 30 August

Cost: £14.50 per session

Location: Dulwich and Belair Park

Scan the QR code to book.

Barclays Big Tennis Weekends

Try a range of free tennis taster sessions for all ages at one of our Big Tennis Weekends this summer.



Burgess Park sessions on Saturday 13 July, 10am to 1pm.
Scan the QR code to book.



Or there are sessions at the Geraldine Mary Harmsworth event on Saturday 19 July, 2pm to 4pm.
Scan the QR code to book.

On your bike

Why not try our FREE BMX Track sessions on Sunday 10 and 17 August at Burgess Park. The sessions offer BMX coaching for riders 8 years and over that are competent bike riders.

Use of a BMX bike, helmet and gloves is provided. Wear a long sleeved top, long trousers, sturdy trainers and bring water to drink.

Session one: 1pm to 2pm

Session two: 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Booking: Essential as spaces are limited.

Email thebmxtrack.london@southwark.gov.uk

BMX Holiday club



The BMX track will offer BMX coaching for riders 8 years and over that are competent bike riders.

Use of a BMX bike, helmet and gloves is provided. Wear a long sleeved top, long trousers and sturdy trainers, bring a packed lunch and water to drink.

Date: Wednesdays and Thursdays

Time: 10am to 3pm

Cost: £23.80 per participant

Booking: Essential as spaces are limited.

Scan the QR code to book.

Move Games – Free Summer Fun for Kids!

Get ready for a summer packed with action, adventure, and non-stop fun – all for FREE at your local Southwark leisure centres!

Whether you're making a splash in the pool, racing in our mini Olympics, showing off your moves in Dance Fit, trying out badminton, tennis or watersports – there's something awesome for everyone. Every day is a new chance to play, move, and make amazing summer memories!

Take on the Move Games Summer Challenge – Just £2.50!

Think you've got what it takes? Pick up your Move Games Challenge Pack at your local leisure centre and join the ultimate summer mission!

- ✓ Go to 8 activities
- ✓ Get a stamp each time you join in
- ✓ Earn a cool sticker and certificate when you complete the challenge!

Your challenge pack includes:

- A sporty lanyard
- Your official challenge card
- A fun badge to show off
- A colouring sheet for creative chill time



So what are you waiting for? Grab your pack, bring your energy, and jump into Move Games this summer! Minimum age five years.

Activities start from 14 July



Move Games Fun Day

A day of FREE activities and challenges for the whole family at Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre.

- Try the long jump
- Take on the penalty shoutout
- Bounce around on inflatables
- Get your face painted
- Dance it out in fun fitness classes
- Enjoy games, music, and so much more – all on an Olympic-grade athletics track!

Date: 30 August

Location: Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre, Hawkstone Rd, London, SE16 2PE

Register now for your chance to win a 3-month family leisure centre membership and be the first to hear about all the Fun Day event. Terms and conditions apply.



Kids swim school courses

Swim school courses run weekly. Perfect for beginners and improvers looking to make a splash in no time! Dates and times vary by centre. southwarkleisure.co.uk/swimming/crash-courses/

Date: 28 July to 30 August

Youth Centres

Southwark's youth centres and adventure playgrounds are putting on a range of activities for young people this summer.



| Centre name | Address | Opening hours | Activities |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Damilola Taylor Centre | East Surrey Grove, SE15 6DR | Monday and Friday - 1pm to 5pm Tuesday to Thursday - 1pm to 5.30pm | Summer sessions daily from 28 July to 22 August with events daily including multisports, cooking, PS5, board games, trips with Millwall Kickz and Skyway open youth sessions. |
| Bel Air Youth Project | Dulwich, SE21 7AB | Mondays - 6.30pm to 9pm | Four weeks of summer sessions from 28 July to 18 August with trips on week 2 and 4 and activities like arts and crafts, movies and table tennis. |
| Brandon Youth Centre | Cooks Road, SE17 3NH | Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday - 6.30pm to 9pm | Summer sessions from 29 July to 21 August . There will be a trip each Wednesday and activities the other days including basketball, arts and crafts, Playstation games and a movie night. |
| New Venture Youth Centre | Coopers Road, SE1 5ZT | Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - 1.30pm to 5.30pm | Summer sessions from 29 July to 21 August . There will be trips on the second and third Wednesdays and activities like quizzes, basketball, arts and crafts, a well-being session and a music production workshop. |
| Ellen Brown Adventure Playground | Grange Road, SE1 3EU | Monday 28 July to Friday 22 August - 11.30am to 4.30pm | Activities including puzzles and quizzes, Loombands, a pool tournament, table tennis, dodgeball, cookery and four off site trips. |
| Peckham Rye Adventure Playground | Homestall Road, SE22 0SH | Monday 28 July to Friday 22 August - 11.30am to 4.30pm | Activities including garden wildlife activities, tug of war, games and sports, t-shirt design, Loombands and four off site trips. |
| Mint Street Adventure Playground | Lant Street, SE1 1QP | Monday 28 July to Friday 22 August - 11.30am to 4.30pm | Activities including phone case decorating, t-shirt design, sports and quizzes, design your own trinket box, wall climbing, Hamma beads and four off site trips. The council also funds external youth organisations who are running summer activities. |
| Salmon Youth Club | Bermondsey, SE16 4TE | 28 July to 1 August 11 to 15 August - 11am to 4pm | 10 days of holiday schemes at the centre, the rest of the time the team will be offsite doing trips and residentials. Visit salmonyouthcentre.org |
| Westminster House Youth Club | Nunhead Grove, SE15 3LZ | Tuesday 29 July, Thursday 7 August Thursday 13 August - 10am to 4pm | Offering sports, arts and crafts, cooking and much more. Visit whyc.co.uk |



Support for families

Holiday clubs (4 to 16 years)

If your child gets benefit related free school meals they can join one of many Food and Fun holiday clubs in Southwark. The weekday clubs run fun activities and provide healthy, free food.
www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun

Date: 28 July to 29 August, not including weekends and public holidays

Cost: FREE

Venue: Various – see website

Active Together multi-sports festival

The Southwark Inclusive Sport and Physical Activity Network are hosting their annual Active Together multi-sports festival this August. This event is for disabled people and their families who want to come and try a variety of different sports delivered by local community sports clubs.

Date: Saturday 30 August

Time: 12pm to 2pm

Cost: FREE

Location: Bacon's College Sports Centre

More details: Email **Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.org.uk** or call **020 7993 9883**



Libraries

Southwark's libraries are jam packed with activities and events to keep children busy this summer.

Below are just a few of the activities available, but there are heaps more - and something for everyone. Visit your local library this summer to pick up their brochure and find out more.

For children (Five and under)

Little buds storytime and rhymes and more.

For children (4 to 11 years)

- **Story Garden:**
Summer Reading Challenge 2025
- **Animals at the library**
- **Meet author Terrie Chilvers**
- **Crafting**

For young people (12 to 17 years)

Graphic art competition

For children (with additional needs)

Our events are accessible and welcoming for all, but we also have specific events for children with additional needs.

Other Library activities

There are a wide range of other activities taking place over the summer including:

- **Go fly your kite.** Ages 4+
- **Marcus Rashford holiday book club.**
Ages 7 to 11
- **Make a hanging basket**
- **Nature Frame** at craft club
- **Nature snap**
- **Coding and robotics for younger children.**
Ages 4 to 7



Find your local library here:
southwark.gov.uk/libraries

Other events and activities

Walk on the wildlife side

London Wildlife Trust's Centre in Peckham/ East Dulwich has a series of events for Southwark families this summer.

Make a Mini Wildlife Garden

Find out about the different habitats in our wildlife garden and make your own mini one to take home.

Date: Thursday 24 July

Time: 10am to 3pm

Brilliant Butterflies

Find out about the life cycle of different butterflies and moths, explore the garden to find caterpillars, open the moth trap, paint your own butterfly.

Date: Tuesday 29 July

Time: 10am to 3pm

Age: Suitable for primary aged children, but older and younger can accompany them.

Cost: Free but £3 booking fee.



Nature Story Time (0 to 5 years)

A drop in activity with story and nature activity. Free but donations welcomed.

Date: Every Thursday from 31 July to 28 August

Time: 10.30am to 11.30am

Urban Nature Club (6 and over)

Date: Every Thursday

Time: 1pm to 3pm

Cost: £3 booking required

Info: wildlondon.org.uk/events

"On yer bike!"

FREE, fun cycling activities for families and children.

Streets for People

We offer free cycle training and support for all ages and abilities. Take part in group or individual cycle lessons, book a bike ride or learn to cycle and gain confidence, with social bike rides and sessions available for women, girls and families. Bikes and helmets are available to borrow.

southwark.gov.uk/cycling

Fix a Bike

Learn how to repair your bike. Sessions available on Fridays and Saturdays, just drop in with your bike at Community Cycleworks workshop, next to Michael Faraday Primary School, Portland Street, SE17 2PF. Fix a Bike sessions are free for children, and for adults there might be a small charge if parts are needed.

Find out more about the cycling support we offer at southwark.gov.uk/cycling



FREE Festivals

Rotherhithe Festival

The annual festival is back for 2025 with a great line up of bands including, Robin BiBi, Voodoo Room, Bill n Rickey, Greg Kofi Brown, the Sons of Illinois and Jamsonic. Plus there will be food and drink. rotherhithefestival.com

Date: Saturday 2 August

Time: From 11.30am

Venue: King George's Fields, SE16

Bermondsey Street Festival

The Bermondsey Street Festival, saved by local volunteers, returns Saturday 20 September. This beloved community event transforms the street with arts, crafts, food stalls, and performances. Enjoy the family area at Leather Market Gardens and music stages in Tanner Street Park and Bermondsey Square!

bermondseystreetfestival.com

Date: Saturday 20 September

Time: 11am to 7pm

Venue: Bermondsey Street,
Leather Market Gardens, Tanner Street
Park and Bermondsey Square



PAUL COX AND THE SOUL INTENTIONS AT
ROTHERHITHE FESTIVAL

Don't miss a
thing this summer

To check out our full events
programme, visit our website:
[southwark.gov.uk/
southwark-presents](https://southwark.gov.uk/southwark-presents)



Carnaval Del Pueblo

Celebrate 25 years of Latin American culture at Carnaval Del Pueblo on August 10 in Burgess Park! Enjoy vibrant parades, music, food and dance from 19 countries at this free, one-day festival that has empowered London's Latin community since 1998. carnavaldelpueblo.org

Date: Sunday 10 August

Time: 12pm to 10pm

Venue: Burgess Park, SE5, London

Hip Hop Weekender at The Scoop

Fiya House presents Hip Hop Weekender at The Scoop. Celebrate community spirit with interactive workshops for all the family, pop-up performances from world-renowned dance artists and incredible live DJs. Commissioned by Team London Bridge, funded by Southwark Council, and supported by London Bridge City's Summer by the River Festival.

atlondonbridge.com

Date: Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 August

Time: Check website for full programme

Venue: London Bridge City:
The Scoop at More, London SE1 2AA

HUNDREDS OF NEW HOMES GET GO-AHEAD

Green light for next phase of
new high-quality social rent
homes as Aylesbury Estate
transformation continues



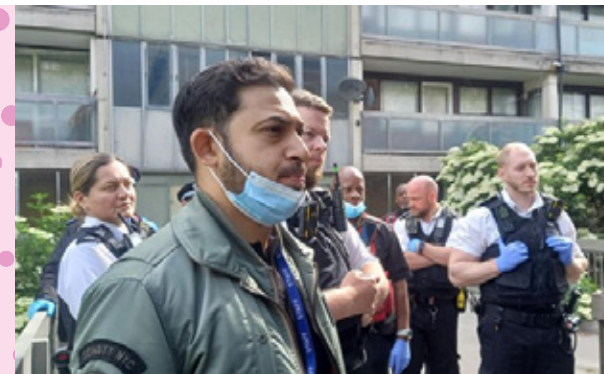
Southwark Council has approved plans for hundreds more high-quality new homes to be built on Aylesbury Estate to replace old homes on the estate that cannot be refurbished.

Our Planning Committee approved Notting Hill Genesis' plans to build 640 new homes, of which 173 will be social rented and 89 will be shared ownership homes. There will also be two new public spaces, Thurlow Square and Bagshot Park.

In the meantime, Southwark Council has welcomed more residents to their new council homes on the estate as hundreds more brand new council homes are finished.

The latest phase of new homes, known as Aylesbury First Development Site B, is made up of 352 brand new council homes, which are prioritised for Aylesbury Estate residents.

Meanwhile, Notting Hill Genesis is building 321 new homes at Aylesbury FDS C, which are due to be handed over in December this year. These homes will be made up of 56 social rent homes, 75 shared ownership homes, 140 homes for private sale and 50 homes at market rent levels. Aylesbury residents will have nomination rights for the affordable homes here.



TACKLING ASB AT AYLESBURY

Following concerns about serious crime and antisocial behaviour on some areas of Aylesbury Estate, we carried out a major operation with the Metropolitan Police and put a Closure Order in place on five blocks. We have searched, cleared and secured four blocks, decommissioned the utilities and closed and secured 11 illegal squats.

The closed buildings will be replaced with brand new homes for social rent in the next phase of the Aylesbury Estate renewal.

We have involved over 25 external partners in this operation and have set up targeted patrols with outreach services to support people who need it. We have assessed, referred and housed four families and made over 15 safeguarding and needs assessments. We are also holding weekly meetings to identify vulnerable individuals and help them plan their next steps.



If you know where to look, you might be surprised at Southwark's wildlife

Sometimes it's easy to forget how much life there is in our borough's parks and green spaces. As well as our 30 Green Flag parks, we have 93 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) including seven local nature reserves.

We spoke to a couple of local nature champions to hear about their favourite spots and how these are helping plants and wildlife.

South Bermondsey's hidden gem

Galleywall Nature Reserve is nestled between houses, flats and industrial units in South Bermondsey. Its existence for over 20 years is thanks to a group of local residents who managed the space. It's officially recognised as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), and was recently taken over by Grow London, a social enterprise that works with local communities and landowners to make spaces for gardening, working, learning and social life.

Galleywall is bustling with life. It has a pond that's home to newts as well as rare nettle species, bee hives and even an oak tree. We went along to visit and hear from site manager Paul McGann about what makes the site so special:

"The context of the place we're in is what makes this space so important. This part of Bermondsey has one of the lowest percentages of green space in London. There are beautiful existing trees. We've got an oak tree that you don't have many of in this part of London.

Another thing is the feeling of being in this space, because there aren't many spaces in this part of Bermondsey where you can access this kind of natural environment. There are other spaces, but they aren't quite as natural as this – so it's important to make sure that people can actually get in the gate."

Are you interested in volunteering at Galleywall or visiting on one of their open days? Follow them on Instagram @galleywall_naturereserve.



Paul and Alfie in Galleywall Nature Reserve



Oak tree at Galleywall

Birding in Burgess Park

We know how popular Burgess Park is when the sun comes out, but did you know it is also loved by birds? We went on a walk around the park with local birder Dave, to hear about what makes it so attractive:



"Burgess Park is great for birds for a couple of reasons. One is the amazing vista it has for the lake, as it isn't shielded. In the winter you can get up to 400 birds on the lake, and we've had at least seven different species of gull there. We get reed warblers in here, which come in the summer all the way from Senegal to the Old Kent Road."

"The other reason is the management of the park, with plenty of rough scrub for nesting birds. Some of these habitat areas are really rare for Central London. The simple things that the Parks Team here have done that are really good are different mixes of habitats. It's really important to have short grass, long grass and wildflowers going into bushes and mature trees. It means there's different types of invertebrates (insects and bugs) at every level for birds to feed on. Then they can nest in the bushes and tall trees and use the shorter grass to feed."



An example of an area with mixed habitats in Burgess Park



Dave, local birder based in Dulwich

Look out for these

All of these species can be seen in Southwark. Have you ever seen any?

- peregrine falcon
- toads
- bats
- corky-fruited water dropwort
- English bluebell
- black redstart

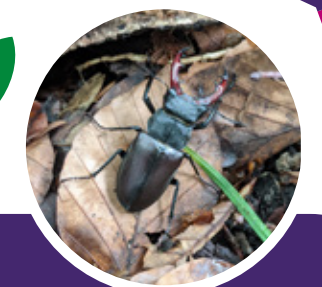
Or maybe you've spotted some of these birds in Burgess Park? Some are much rarer than others

- sparrow
- starling
- blackbird
- robin
- mistle thrush
- reed warbler
- whitethroat
- common redstart



More funding for nature projects

As part of our efforts to boost biodiversity in the borough and tackle the climate emergency, we've recently awarded £500,000 to 12 local projects that will improve the natural environment and create new habitats for local wildlife. This includes a project at Galleywall Nature Reserve to support even more habitats in their space.



Learn more at our free workshops

We're running free biodiversity workshops this summer and autumn. These will help you to understand and record plants and wildlife you see. Head to southwark.gov.uk/learn-about-biodiversity to book your place at one of the workshops.

Did you know?

Southwark is a stronghold for Britain's largest land beetle – the Stag Beetle. You can sometimes see them at dusk in the early summer months looking for mates and food. We leave dead tree stumps in our parks to help insects like these find food sources. If you see one, you can record it by heading to www.gigl.org.uk/staggering-gains-webform

WAYS TO 5 WELLBEING



Connect

Ian (pictured on the right) has lived on the Rockingham estate in SE1 since 2010. "I got lucky; when I moved here, my wonderful neighbours Daniel and Orlando had applied for Southwark Council funding to establish our first allotment on Falmouth Road. This is where Winston (pictured on the left) and I first met. For the past 10 years, we have been passionate about helping the estate reach its green potential. And through this work an ever-growing community has formed. We have established an apiary, a wildlife pond, nine garden zones, planted over 35,000 wildflowers bulbs, and 5,000 trees to create 1km of new hedgerow. We are slowly developing pollinator corridors along Harper Road, Rockingham Street, Falmouth Road and County Street. We've worked with Southwark Council to plant over 60 fruit trees – eventually bringing fresh organic produce to residents in the years ahead. Gardening, food growing and nature brings the community together and promotes wellbeing. People become invested in the environment, the neighbourhood and their neighbours. We have more exciting green projects ahead!"

Keep updated on more green projects by following @theelephantgardener on Instagram.

Get inspired by how fellow residents use the five ways to support their wellbeing.

Everyone can take little steps to improve their mental health and wellbeing every day. There are five ways that can help:



Connect

Connect more by spending time with others



Take notice

Pay more attention to the present moment, the world around us and what we're feeling



Be active

Be physically active by moving more and more often, getting outdoors if we can



Give something back

Helping in our community can feel incredibly rewarding



Keep learning

Getting new skills can be fun and help us all to feel more confident.

Use the five ways to wellbeing to feel better every day.



Take notice

Caroline is an artist and loves to run art workshops. "Lots of life is about choices and we all have marks to make."

Encouragement, love, space for reflection, patience, in the moment, non-judgmental, unformulaic: those are the workshops I try to run – celebrating the joy of creativity in many forms and mediums.

"We use a wealth of recycled materials; paints, fabrics, markers, threads, all sorts! And these are available to make magic, stretch ideas and hopefully empower other thoughts and decisions increasing confidence and self-esteem in different areas."

The world needs creativity more than ever; a positive uplift!"



Keep learning



Shaheda also lives on the Rockingham Estate and recently took part in the first aid training at the community centre. "I really enjoyed the course. Before I wouldn't have known the best thing to do in an emergency. But through this learning I now feel more confident that I could really help, especially in my work in the nursery. The training has also given me an important role volunteering at our community events as a qualified first aider."



* RockiFest is a community festival based around the five ways to wellbeing funded by Southwark Council as part of the Residents Health and Wellbeing Programme. The programme was piloted at Rockingham as it is one of the largest estates with the greatest health need.

Find out about ways to support your wellbeing, and local services (many are free): southwark.gov.uk/wellbeing-5-ways



Give something back

Sarah moved to the Rockingham in 2017. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic the community centre had closed. "A group of us residents were determined to get it reopened. We all volunteered many hours to clear and redecorate it, got funding and all the paperwork in place for the space to really benefit the community again. And it has been really rewarding to see the community centre being used again in ways that improve our wellbeing – as a place to gather and meet neighbours, get exercise, be creative and make things happen! We're using the five ways to wellbeing as the guiding principles for our RockiFest* event to celebrate 90 years of the estate and promote health and wellbeing amongst residents and neighbours."



Be active

Amy is member of the Dulwich Leisure Centre and explains how she benefits from being active.

"Doing something every day is good physically, to keep in shape, but also mentally for your wellbeing – a bit of head space and time to yourself every day. On both fronts I really benefit from coming to the centre every day. If you find a class that you love, or get back into swimming, it means you stick at it and are more likely to keep coming back. Above and beyond the studios, the swimming pool and the gym, there's a real sense of community. Everyone knows each other. There's a really lovely kind of vibe."



Find out about joining one of our nine local leisure centres at southwarkleisure.co.uk

Accessible Southwark

Supporting our disabled residents and their families

We want Southwark to be an inclusive borough where there are opportunities for everyone, and no one gets left behind. One of the ways we do this is to work with our services and partners to make sure our disabled communities are both supported and included, with a range of activities, services and facilities provided. We take a look at some of the projects you might have missed.



Disability Hub

The council has opened a Disability Hub alongside national charity, KeyRing.

The new Southwark Disability Hub, launched in June 2025, was developed with local residents and partners to provide advice and opportunities for people with disabilities.

The hub will offer support through various channels, including a website, local meet-ups, phone and online appointments, and small group sessions. It will also coordinate short breaks for young people (aged 5-19+) including after school, holiday and weekend activities.

The hub aims to ensure that disabled people's voices are heard and will provide accessible information on community activities and services.

Find out more at www.keyring.org/southwark-disability-hub, Facebook page at Southwark Disability Hub, email disabilityhub@keyring.org or call on 020 3457 7580.



Our Changing Places Toilets

To make it easier for disabled people to visit Southwark's Dulwich Park, the council installed a Changing Places toilet in 2024.

Changing Places toilets are large accessible toilets that include equipment such as hoists and adult-size changing benches to ensure that disabled people with specific care needs can receive safe and dignified personal care when away from home.

The facility adds to the park's existing accessible features; accessible parking within the park, wide flat pathways, level access cafe and an accessible swing. It sits behind the café, next to the existing toilet block.

We also have Changing Places toilets in Peckham Pulse leisure centre, Castle Leisure Centre and one at the new Canada Water Leisure Centre. To see all of the locations in Southwark with a Changing Places toilet visit www.changing-places.org/find

Communication stations

As part of an initial pilot scheme, communication boards have been created for Peckham Pulse Leisure Centre, Peckham Library, Mint Street Adventure Playground and Peckham Rye Park Children's Playground.

The Symbols-based communication boards were developed with speech and language therapists from Evelina London and software company, Widgit, to support children and adults who have additional communication needs - including those with a learning disability and/or Autism.

The aim is help with communication about our leisure sites and improve inclusion and accessibility for children and adults with additional needs.



Inclusion toolkit

VoiceAbility and partners, including Cherry Garden school, have been supporting play, leisure and childcare providers to become more inclusive by delivering training, shared learning events and resource grants over the last 2 years.



They have worked with 75 providers in Southwark to increase skills, confidence and resources available to support children with SEND. Young people with disabilities and parents of children with SEND have been heavily involved in this work. They have also developed an inclusion toolkit that can be downloaded from the local offer website.

Thrive to 25

The Thrive-to-25 programme was a two-year initiative to transform short breaks and broader support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their families.

Short breaks are opportunities for children and adults with disabilities to spend time away from their families or primary carers to relax, have fun and develop their independence whilst giving parents and carers a break from their caring role. In Southwark this includes a wide range of afterschool weekend and school holiday activities.

The programme, which ended in March and was funded by the Department for Education's Short Breaks Innovation Fund, has completely transformed the short breaks offer in Southwark, increasing the range of activities to meet the needs and interests of different ages, abilities and aspirations.

To browse and book activities visit www.eequ.org/southwarkshortbreaks (criteria apply).



A group of young people from Autism Voice, part of the 'Thriving Futures' strand of the programme for 16-25 year olds.

Get out and about with the borough's range of activities for those with physical or learning disabilities.

Aqua discos – Peckham Pulse Leisure Centre

These multi-sensory swimming sessions support children and adults with profound physical and learning disabilities to gain confidence in water, improve their physical fitness and have fun with family and peers. Sessions include music, sensory lighting, and fun props.



Wheels for wellbeing

Herne Hill velodrome is also home to Wheels for Wellbeing, enhancing disabled people's lives through access to the physical, emotional, practical and social benefits of cycling. Find out more at wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk/cycling-sessions/

SENsational Stay & Play session

SENsational sessions are fun, FREE activity sessions for children with additional needs or disabilities delivered across the borough by Southwark's Family Hubs and Children & Family Centres. Stay and play sessions for under 5s are available midweek with short break sessions available for 5-11s at weekends and during school holidays. The sessions include a range of activities such as indoor and outdoor games, messy play, arts and crafts - and some even have sensory rooms and soft play. Read more at www.pprncfc.com/sensational-stay-and-play

Find summer activities for children and young people with SEND with Southwark's Local Offer

There are lots of inclusive activities taking place this summer, catering to a range of needs and interests. From art workshops and sports clubs to family camping trips.*

For more info on the council's range of activities and services, visit Southwark's Local Offer website at www.localoffer.southwark.gov.uk

*Eligibility criteria applies to some activities

PLAY TIMES

Councils have been helping find spaces for children to play for decades.



DANCE OF THE SWALLOWS. (See page 12.)



No. 8.—The Grecian Ball Dance.
(For description of dance, words, and music, see page 18.)



No. 9.—The Grecian Ball Dance.

(For description of dance, words, and music, see page 29.)



Summer is here, bringing days full of play for Southwark's young residents. Parks, playgrounds and holiday play schemes make sure that children get a good start in life – but they're often much older than you might think! The collections in Southwark Archives show that local people have been working to make sure that all children in the borough can play for almost 150 years.

Victorian children faced the same problems as modern kids. Lack of appropriate space to play and responsibilities that ate into playtime were two of the biggest. There simply wasn't space for many kids to play at home – as late as 1939, nearly 40% of the country lived in less than one room.

Lack of space included outdoor space as well. Making green space was a priority as far back as 1869, when the Metropolitan Board of Works created Southwark Park. The metropolitan boroughs also turned disused burial grounds into parks. But many of these parks were out of reach to younger children, leaving them nowhere to play but the street. By the 1930s, growing numbers of cars made this both dangerous and illegal. Between 1924 and 1933, some 12,000 British children were killed and another 100,000 injured in the street. Children were arrested for street play as early as 1926 and in 1935, more than 2,000 were convicted for doing so.

Caring responsibilities were another obstacle. Many local families had two working parents. Before early years education became common, older children often had to care for their

younger siblings while their parents worked. These responsibilities often fell hardest on girls, who also didn't share their brothers' freedom to roam.

That may be why the one of the earliest local attempts to support play, the Guild of Play, was aimed at them. Staff at the Bermondsey Settlement, a Methodist social centre that had a special focus on education, founded the group. The Guild aimed to provide girls with the kind of healthy, movement-based play their brothers had freer access to. It did so by teaching the girls folk songs and dances. Girls made simple costumes and sang and danced together. Unlike other similar clubs and movements, there was no teaching or moralising, no prizes or competitions, and no punishments. Instead, girls exercised their right to play.

Other children still played in the streets. Just before the start of the Second World War, a scheme in London tried to make street play safer by creating car-free periods on residential streets. This was so successful that Parliament passed the Street Playgrounds Act the next year. It gave councils the power to close "suitable streets at certain suitable times" so children could safely play. By 1960, when the Road Traffic Act repealed the Street Playgrounds Act, 17 local authorities had used those powers. They included the metropolitan boroughs of Camberwell and Bermondsey – the latter of which had the highest road traffic fatality rate in the country. The concept of play streets was revived again in the early 2000s; since 2014, Southwark residents have been able to apply to close their street once a month for up to 3 hours, to bring neighbours together in the spirit of play.

Find out more about our Play Streets at www.southwark.gov.uk/playstreets



The Second World War sparked new play experiments in the local area. One was the adventure playground – the concept began in Denmark in 1943. Kids preferred playing on bombed-out sites rather than playgrounds, because they could dig, build, and explore in an unstructured fashion. The landscape architect Marjorie Allen visited in 1946, and wrote up her experience for the Picture Post. She viewed these playgrounds as a way to give children freedom, and the ability to take risks, in a carefully-managed setting that minimised the actual danger involved.

The UK's first experimental "junk playground" (their original name, a direct translation from Danish) was active in Camberwell between 1948 and 1951.

Adventure playgrounds in Southwark really took off in the 1960s and 1970s. By 1966, the GLC was running three in the area, including Peckham Rye. The early 1970s saw new ones open in Bermondsey and Burgess Park (first at the back of the youth centre, and later on the current site of the BMX track). Dog Kennel Hill adventure playground opened in 1979, and Mint Street in 1981.

The Second World War also shaped one of the most ambitious – and least remembered – local experiments around play, the Bermondsey Children's Flats. During the Blitz, parents and guardians worked long hours for the war effort, while

most teachers were with evacuated children in the countryside – those in London were literally left to their own devices all day. Even afterward, play time and play space were at a premium. Many local families had one living space to serve everyone. Noisy, boisterous play was often more than adults could handle, especially given many adults' experiences during the war.

In 1943, the Bermondsey Children's Flat opened, supported by the Carnegie Trust. It was, quite literally, a two-room flat in a tenement block in Barnham Street, Bermondsey. In 1947, Anne Lethbridge took over as the full-time, employed warden of the flats. She was assisted by a large number of part-time volunteers, including local secondary school students. Eventually, two flats in two blocks – five rooms in total – were set aside as the Children's Flats. These were, literally, shared playrooms for the young residents of the Barnham Street tenements. They contained a workbench for crafts and carpentry, a piano for making music and a gas stove for simple cooking. Children came and went as they wanted to, or their domestic responsibilities allowed. Adults didn't set the agenda, although they might help teach games or skills, or be a willing audience. While the flats were often noisy and chaotic for visiting adults, they were much loved by the children and valued by the block's families. Sadly, funding problems and post-war redevelopment of housing meant that they closed around 1953.



One Hub *new and better*



The new and improved One Hub Southwark website is officially live, offering a vibrant, user-friendly platform designed to connect young people, parents, and professionals with local services and opportunities.

The One Hub was officially relaunched in May, with an event at Peckham Levels, bringing together young people, families, and professionals. Attendees had the chance to explore available services and take part in engaging workshops—including a special podcast creation session hosted by Orange Bow CIC.

Visit the new One Hub website to explore what's available. Also, follow us on Instagram and TikTok for the latest updates and opportunities for young people in Southwark. www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk

Summer activities

All youth centres and adventure playgrounds will be delivering a summer programme packed with enriching activities for young people. For details scan the QR code.



Southwark's Youth and Play Service

Southwark's Youth and Play Service operates four youth clubs across the borough, welcoming young people aged 11-18 (up to 24 for those with special needs). Each club offers a diverse range of activities, including sports, arts and crafts, games, and personal development programs.

For younger children, the service provides three adventure playgrounds, designed to foster creativity and exploration in a supervised setting. These playgrounds offer a dynamic environment where children can develop confidence, social skills, and resilience through play.

Southwark Council also funds 20 voluntary sector organisations that run youth clubs, sports programs, arts activities, and adventure play across the borough – from Rotherhithe to Camberwell and Kingswood. These services are run by dedicated professionals who focus on building trust, providing mentorship, and empowering young people.

Drop-in support sessions at Damilola Taylor Centre

Since October 2024, Southwark's Damilola Taylor Centre has been hosting Thursday afternoon drop-in sessions, providing a welcoming space where young people can connect with support services in a relaxed and familiar environment.

The initiative is a joint effort between Southwark Council and key partners, including Turning Point, Active Community Network, The King's Trust, The Nest and Adolescent Sure Start. Young people attending the drop-in can seek advice, guidance, and opportunities.

The sessions run from 1pm to 5.30pm on Thursdays at the Damilola Taylor Centre, in Peckham. Young people can just turn up on the day. The centre also offers a wide range of creative, exciting activities, workshops, football and basketball.

For more details, visit **One Hub** or explore the youth and play services available.

BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK

TOWN CENTRE AND HIGH STREETS

The council has recently adopted town centre action plans for five of our town centres. Each plan sets out key areas that local people and businesses have told us they want to see improved.

Our town centres are unique and essential pillars of our borough. The plans outline how we want to make our town centres cleaner, safer, greener, and more vibrant places for people to visit and shop, and where businesses can rely on consistent and sufficient footfall.

See the plans and share your views at www.southwark.gov.uk/town-centre-action-plans

HEALTH ON THE HIGH STREET

The Health on the High Street Programme aims to bring health promotion and health improvement services out to the community on the high streets and other community locations.

You can get a health check and advice at one of the Southwark Hubs for Health located in the different town centres. You can also join us at one of the upcoming health roadshows across the borough.

Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/health-roadshow

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 programmes of support for enterprises at different stages and future programmes are in the pipeline so watch this space.

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

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL WINS LIVING WAGE CHAMPION AWARD

Southwark Council has won the "Local Champion" at this year's Living Wage Foundation awards. The award recognises the work the council has done to promote the London Living Wage in the borough.

James Reed, Senior Programme Officer at the council's Living Wage Unit won the "Advocate of the Year" award.

Cllr John Batteson, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs & Business said:

"I'm extremely proud to see Southwark recognised as an advocate for the Living Wage and leading by example at a time when we know household bills are increasing and the cost of living continues to impact many individuals and families."

If you're interested in becoming an accredited Living Wage Employer please visit our website or get in touch with the team southwarkbusinessdesk@southwark.gov.uk

SOUTHWARK WORKS

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

- Pre-employment workshops – supporting you to get ready for work
- Work Progression – support to progress within your role.
- Job brokerage – opportunity to access employment resources, support and career advice
- Multi-skills/basic skills/vocational training
- Volunteering and work-placement opportunities

For more information and to access the Southwark Works service visit www.southwarkworks.com

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/general-business-support. As always, we're on hand to answer any business-related questions you might have at SouthwarkBusinessDesk@southwark.gov.uk





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