

A photograph of two young children playing in a water fountain. The child on the left is a girl with long brown hair, wearing a colorful patterned swimsuit, with her hands raised and water splashing around her. The child on the right is a boy wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and black patterned leggings, also with water splashing on him. The background shows green foliage and a stone fountain structure.

Southwark

Life

Summer 2021

COVID catch up

The latest on vaccines, testing and the Roadmap out of lockdown

Splash down

The borough's newest park opens at Elephant & Castle

Youth Parliament

Our Youth New Deal includes a raft of support for our young people – so get involved

PLUS Southwark Summer

Fun for all the family this summer as our shows and festivals return

Your magazine from Southwark Council

Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk

Help us make private renting better in Southwark

A third of homes in Southwark are privately rented and this number continues to grow. That's why it's never been more important that our plans for property licensing of privately rented homes work for everyone.

Complete the online survey and share your views at:

www.southwark.gov.uk/propertylicensing2021

To request a paper copy of the survey, email:

propertylicensing@southwark.gov.uk

Or telephone **020 7525 5140**

Our consultation
will close on
28 June 2021
Don't miss your
chance to have
your say.



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welcome...

Hello and welcome to our summer edition of Southwark Life.

We are working hard to make this a fun and safe summer for everyone in Southwark. We have opened our brand new park and water play area at Elephant & Castle to enjoy. Our libraries and leisure centres also have a fantastic programme of events for children and families as part of our Summer of Play and we have our brand new library and heritage centre now open in Walworth. You can read all about these and more in this edition of Southwark Life.

Southwark’s high streets and markets are all open too, and we have launched our new High Streets Recovery Fund to help them flourish, more on that on page 31. I hope you will join us in supporting the brilliant businesses we have in our borough by shopping local when you can.

Whatever you do this summer please stay safe. COVID-19 hasn’t gone away, in fact infection rates are rising rapidly again nationally and in Southwark. So please keep up social distancing measures, mask wearing and handwashing. We are organising vaccine pop ups and drop-ins across the borough over the summer so everyone can get theirs. Make sure you have doses as soon as you are entitled to have them. You can read more about current Covid restrictions, how to get your vaccines and how to get tested on pages 8 to 11.

We’ve also got news about our Youth New Deal – to support our young people into jobs, education and opportunities – and how young people themselves can get their voices heard through our new Youth Parliament on pages 24 and 25.

I wish you all a wonderful and safe summer.

Cllr Kieron Williams
Leader of Southwark Council



Contact us

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

Our front cover is of the new Elephant Springs in Elephant Park. See page 22 for more information. Photo by Aurélien Langlais, courtesy of Lendlease.

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Keep in touch

Southwark Life comes out three times a year and the next issue is due out in winter 2021. You can contact the magazine at southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk but for more regular updates on council news and events, follow us on social media at

- facebook.com/southwarkcouncil
- [@lb_southwark](https://twitter.com/lb_southwark)
- Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

Need to know...

Things couldn't be busier at Southwark Council this summer and we've got lots of news to share. Here are some of the top titbits we've gathered together for you.

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

 Follow us on Instagram Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

Help us improve women's safety

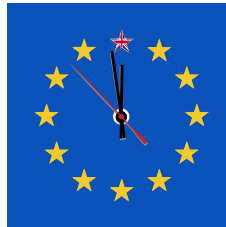
All women have the right to feel safe. We want to hear the experiences of women in Southwark, to understand how safe they feel living, working and travelling through the borough. Understanding your experiences will help us take the right steps to improve the safety of all women in our borough. Please share your views by completing a confidential survey at www.southwark.gov.uk/womenssafetysurvey by Friday 25 June, 2021.



EU Settlement deadline

There are only a few days to go to the deadline of 30 June 2021 for applications to be made to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, should apply without delay at www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme so they can continue to work, study, and access free healthcare and benefits in the UK after 30 June 2021.



Nominate a local hero for an award

Southwark Council's prestigious Civics Awards scheme is open for nominations. This year's awards will recognise individuals, projects, organisations and businesses for their amazing contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are looking for examples of:

- Outstanding personal service
- A community organisation or individual that has improved the lives of many
- A project or event that strengthened links between communities
- An act of outstanding personal courage, bravery or generosity
- Support for vulnerable residents in Southwark

To nominate a person or organisation simply complete the form on our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/civicawards, but hurry – the closing date is Wednesday 30 June.

Get help to get healthy

The healthy lifestyle hub is a free service that supports Southwark residents who want to make positive health changes, but who need a little bit of help to get going. Trained health coaches provide one-to-one support to help you set goals, and ensure you find local services to help you. If you need help with motivation, call the healthy lifestyle hub and they can help you to make the changes you want.

This service is for Southwark residents only, or those registered with a Southwark GP. You need to be aged 18 or over and looking for help with one or more of the following: a low level of physical activity, smoking, obesity, or struggling with low mood, stress or anxiety.

Give our healthy lifestyle team a call today on **0333 005 0159** or visit www.southwark.gov.uk/takecare

Healthy eating support for your family

If you are pregnant or have children under four-years-old, you may be eligible for vouchers for healthy food. Every week you can use the Healthy Start vouchers to buy fruit, vegetables, pulses and milk. To find out if you are eligible and to register for the vouchers visit www.healthystart.nhs.uk



If you live in SE1, SE5, SE15 or SE17, with children under five, you may be able to double up with Rose vouchers too. You will be able to buy fresh fruit and vegetables from your local market. To find out more call 020 7740 8070, e-mail childrenscentre@1stplace.uk.com or visit www.1stplaceuk.com/rosevouchers



Aylesbury visit

Cabinet members Cllr Evelyn Akoto and Cllr Stephanie Cryan paid a visit to see how things were going on Plot 18 on the Aylesbury Estate.

The cabinet members were given a tour of the site where work has been ongoing throughout the lockdown in accordance with current COVID-19 regulations. When finished, the Plot 18 site will be home to a brand new library, state-of-the-art health centre and early years centre. There will also be a new public square. You can read more about the work going on at the Aylesbury Estate at www.southwark.gov.uk/Aylesbury

Get involved in community decisions



The Empowering Communities Programme is starting to look at how they can return to, at least some, face-to-face meetings later in the year.

These ward based meetings are for you to meet your local councillors and other members of the community and take the opportunity to discuss local matters that are important to you.

Our meeting dates will be posted on our web pages, so you can register to take part in online meetings, and/or come along to face-to-face meetings as they start up again. Visit the website at www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations/empowering-communities

Each of the five areas has an Empowering Communities Officer, who organises the meeting in consultation with the councillors for that area. See contact details below:

North West – Pauline Bonner: **020 7525 1019** or pauline.bonner@southwark.gov.uk

North East – Bridget Galloway: **020 752 1780** or bridget.galloway@southwark.gov.uk

West Central – Grace Semakula: **020 7525 4928** or grace.semakula@southwark.gov.uk

East Central – Gill Kelly: **0207 525 3690** or gill.kelly@southwark.gov.uk

South – Fitzroy Lewis: **0207 525 3084** or fitzroy.lewis@southwark.gov.uk

If you are interested in any of the meetings and would like to be notified about them, please contact the relevant officer/s and ask to be put on their contacts list.



Get checked for cancer to catch it early

If you are due for bowel, cervical or breast cancer screening, you'll get an invitation. Screening is important. There are measures in place to keep you safe during COVID-19. If you're worried about changes to your body, don't wait – contact your GP straight away. Find out more at southwark.gov.uk/cancerscreening



Is your vehicle ULEZ ready?

The Ultra-Low Emission Zone is expanding from 25 October 2021. Have you checked your vehicle?

Four out of five cars already meet the ULEZ emissions standards, but we need owners of the remaining older cars, motorcycles, lighter van and minibuses to take action.

Check your vehicle meets the ULEZ emissions standards and the interactive map of the zone. Visit tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021 for more information.



Landlords urged to work with tenants as eviction ban ends

In May, cabinet members Cllr Helen Dennis and Cllr Stephanie Cryan, wrote to over 4,000 Southwark landlords urging them to work with tenants ahead of the lifting of the evictions ban at the end of May. The number of people asking the council for homelessness support has risen by 50% during the pandemic. The end of the Government's ban on evictions, which has been in place for much of the pandemic, is likely to see more people becoming homeless. Cllrs Dennis and Cryan reminded landlords of the help available – to landlords and tenants – to avoid evictions and pay off arrears that have built up due to the pandemic.

Boundary changes

The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is redrawing the map of Parliamentary constituency boundaries. The changes will make the number of electors in each constituency more equal, ensuring individual votes are of broadly equal weight, and in doing so increase the number of constituencies from 533 to 543. Go online at www.bcereviews.org.uk to view and comment on the proposals. Don't miss out – contribute your local knowledge and have your say on what the new constituencies should be by 2 August 2021.



New and greener council homes

New council homes in Southwark provide safe, secure and affordable housing, and also help to tackle the climate emergency.

Green energy systems are now in use across all our new-build developments. They help to reduce carbon emissions and often save energy costs for residents. One of the main sources of carbon emissions from older buildings is from fossil fuel heating systems. We're now investing in modern heating systems that offer lower-carbon, energy-efficient alternatives.

One such development is a planned new council block on the Rennie Estate in Bermondsey. The development will see 49 new council homes, two new playgrounds and an outdoor gym built.

The new building will use air source heat pumps to provide heating and hot water. The pumps absorb heat from the outside air instead of burning fossil fuels. This means lower carbon emissions and lower costs for residents. The building will also use energy efficient construction and design, such as thermal bridging, lowering emissions further.

The heat pumps and energy-efficiency features will reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 61%.

Sign up to our newsletter to find out more about our climate emergency work: www.southwark.gov.uk/environment/climate-emergency-sign-up

Find out more about our new homes building programme at www.southwark.gov.uk/11000homes

The council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and committed to making the borough carbon neutral by 2030. We're taking firm action to cut emissions. We are tackling air pollution, increasing nature reserves and biodiversity and reducing emissions from buildings.

Southwark Council is also tackling the shortage of affordable housing by building 11,000 new council homes 2043. We have high standards for how we design and build these new homes, which we know our residents are proud to live in.



Rates are rising rapidly - stay safe

Things have been feeling a little more normal in recent weeks as shops, pubs and gyms re-open. But COVID-19 is still out there and there is still work to do.



We know it has been a long 15 months of lockdowns, worry and missing our loved ones, but it finally feels like things are starting to get back to the way they were. Lockdown restrictions have been easing but as Southwark Life goes to press the Government has put back the date for a possible Step 4 of the Roadmap due to rising infection rates across the country.

The road out of lockdown isn't a smooth one and there are plenty of bumps to get over first. With variants of concern still causing spikes in infection rates, and with rates rising rapidly across the borough, it remains essential that we continue to be careful and responsible to protect our family, our friends and our local community.

We take a look at the current restrictions and what we all must do to keep infection rates low.

Step 3 continues

The Government has announced that due to the currently increasing infection rates, mainly due to the Delta variant, they are placing a four-week pause at Step 3 to provide more time for people to get their first, and importantly second, COVID-19 vaccination.

This means the current Step 3 regulations will remain in place until Monday 19 July, 2021. People should continue to work from home if they can and continue to wash hands, wear a mask and keep social distancing. The only exception to this is for weddings, wakes and other life events where the 30-person limit has been removed (although social distancing and other COVID secure measures for venues are required).

Pilots are also continuing for large-scale events such as the current Euro 2020 matches.

Data will continue to be assessed and reviewed during this time against the government's four tests and a further announcement will be made no later than 12 July when, if data is better than expected, Step 4 can be considered earlier.

The council will do everything it can to keep residents and businesses updated on the current regulations. You can follow our social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook, or sign up for our regular e-newsletter at www.southwark.gov.uk/terms-and-disclaimer/mysouthwark-account

You can also read updated details of what you can and can't do at www.gov.uk/covid and see how the news affects council services at www.southwark.gov.uk/roadmap

STEP 3



Indoor entertainment and attractions



30 person limit outdoors. Rule of 6 or two households indoors*



Domestic overnight stays



Organised indoor adult sport



Indoor hospitality



Remaining accommodation



Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)



Indoor events:
1,000 people or 50% capacity
Outdoor events:
4,000 people or 50% capacity
Large seated outdoor venues: 10,000 people or 25% capacity.
Pilots continue.



Domestic overnight stays.
International travel*

*(subject to review)



about the vaccine

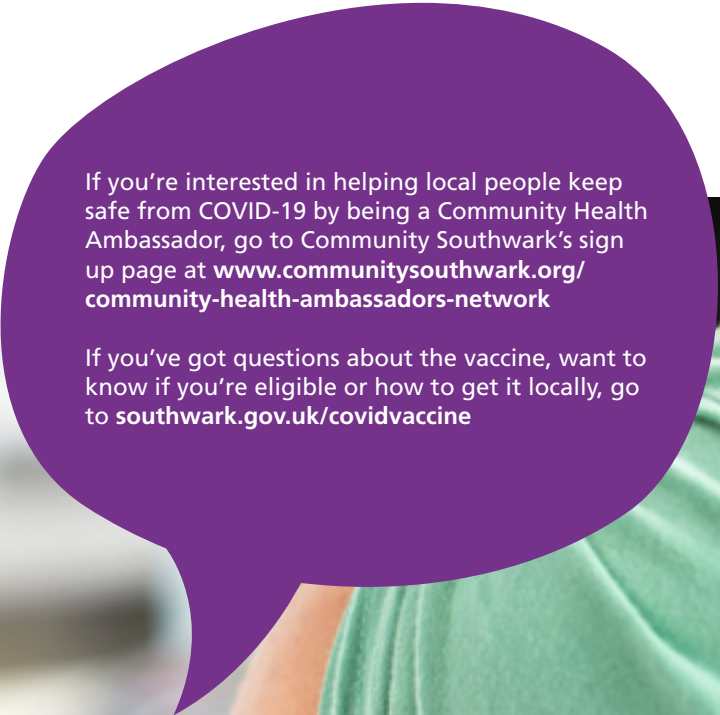
Southwark’s Community Health Ambassadors are spreading the word on how the vaccine protects you and others from COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines have gone through the same thorough testing as all new medicines. They have been approved as safe and effective. As part of the process, the vaccines were tested on people of different ages and different ethnic backgrounds. So far, millions of people around the world have had a COVID-19 vaccine. Reports of serious side effects, such as allergic reactions or clotting problems, have been very rare.

The government has said all adults will be offered their first vaccination by 31 July 2021. The first vaccination should give you good protection from three or four weeks after you’ve had it. But it’s important to have two doses to give you longer lasting protection.

Older and clinically vulnerable people were invited first as they are more at risk from COVID-19, but now most adults can get the vaccine. If you are a carer who visits people in their homes, or you work in a care home also ask about getting your vaccine now.

Community Health Ambassadors support residents to protect themselves and local communities from COVID-19. Community Southwark runs the ambassador scheme. They provide ambassadors with the latest information on things like testing or vaccinations. They also give tailored advice for groups such as parents, students and faith groups. Ambassadors can tell you how to get support if you've got money worries or mental health problems, or how to get food if you've lost your income. They can provide translated information or alternative formats for people with disabilities. They also help with myth busting by working with the public health team at Southwark Council.



If you’re interested in helping local people keep safe from COVID-19 by being a Community Health Ambassador, go to Community Southwark’s sign up page at www.communitysouthwark.org/community-health-ambassadors-network

If you’ve got questions about the vaccine, want to know if you’re eligible or how to get it locally, go to southwark.gov.uk/covidvaccine



Carole, Community Health Ambassador

"Please take up the offer of a vaccine if you're asked. But if you need to, get your questions answered first like I did. There is lots of reliable information available in Southwark. By having both vaccinations, you're protecting yourself, so that you don't become so sick. But also you're also protecting the NHS."



Southwark Council Leader Kieron Williams

"NHS staff at the centres are happy and willing to answer your questions. If you're eligible please book at the earliest opportunity."

Three reasons to book your vaccination

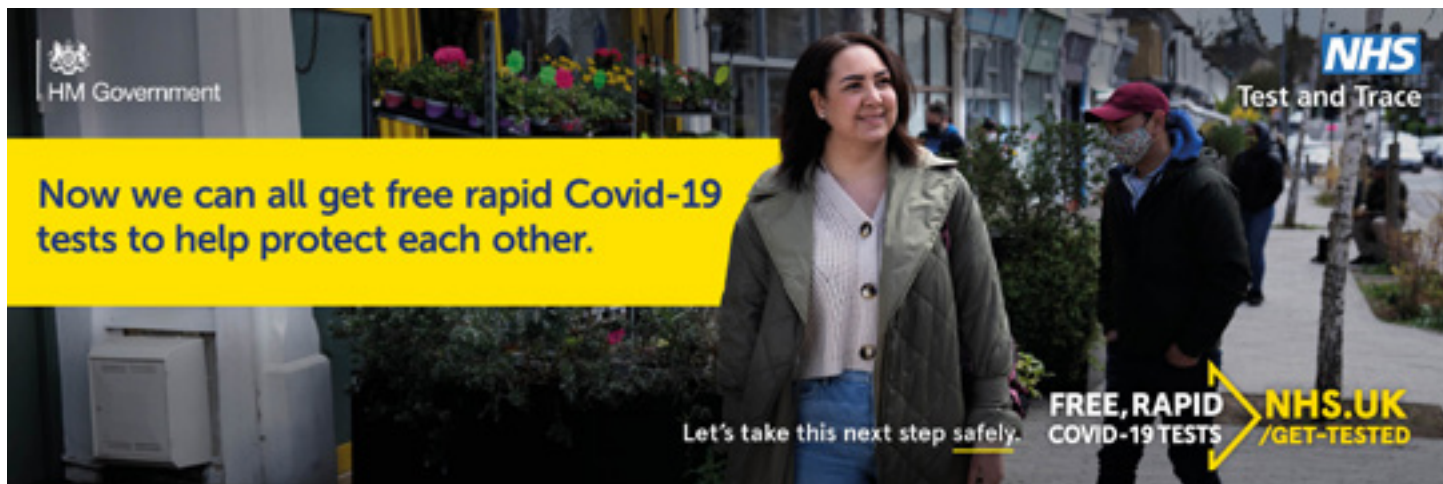
- It's safe and it works
- It's how we will get things back to normal
- It will protect you, your friends and your family.

Call 119 or book your vaccination at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination

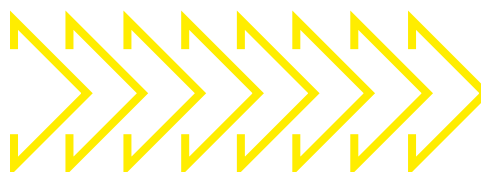
If you have difficulties communicating or hearing, or are a British Sign Language (BSL) user, you can use Textphone 18001 119 or the NHS 119 BSAL interpreter service at <https://interpreternow.co.uk/nhs119>

The Delta variant now makes up 96% of new cases. After only one dose, the vaccines are around 26-40% effective at reducing symptomatic disease from the Delta variant. After two doses, the vaccines are estimated to be between 76 and 84% effective against symptomatic disease.





Testing times



It's important we keep getting tested regularly for COVID-19, even if we've had the vaccine. Test results help us to know how far the virus is spreading and act to control it. Getting tested also helps to keep you and your friends safe.

Getting a rapid test is free and results are usually available in 60 minutes. You should get tested twice a week even if you don't have symptoms. If you do have symptoms you should book a PCR (laboratory) test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

There are different ways to get a rapid test in Southwark. Choose the option that is best for you.

1.

Visit a community testing site

There are two large testing sites in Southwark; one at Bournemouth Road in Peckham and another at London Bridge station. You can book a test online on the link below, but walk-in appointments are usually available. Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/rapidtest

2.

Get tests delivered to your home

You can order free packs of rapid flow tests for you and your household. Each pack contains seven tests, and you can order online. Visit www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

3.

Pick up tests from your local library

You can pick up COVID-19 tests from libraries and other places in Southwark. Find a collection point near you on the link below. Visit maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk

4.

Get tested at a local pharmacy

You can also get an assisted test at a local pharmacy. More pharmacies are signing up to offer tests and to collect home test kits. Check your nearest on the link below. Visit myvaccinations.co.uk/southwark

Please remember to register your result if you do your test at home. Registering your result helps us to track how many cases there are.

BALLOTING FOR BETTER HOMES

The success of Southwark's first estate ballots will mean new and better quality housing for residents – led by residents.

At either end of the historic Old Kent Road are two of the council's most recognisable and much-loved estates. The Tustin Estate sits at the north end with its three tower blocks and a series of low rise blocks, while the Ledbury sits close to the border with New Cross further south.

Both estates have faced a number of challenges over the last few years. Built as part of the great council estate expansion in the 1950s and 1960s, the blocks are getting older and were built without the modern safety measures that we would put in place today.

Ledbury hit the headlines a few years ago when it was discovered that there were structural concerns on its four towers – Peterchurch, Skenfrith, Bromyard and Sarnsfield. The council removed gas supplies from the building, installed fire wardens and began to move people out of the towers.

Since then the council has been working closely with residents across the estate, including the Ledbury Tenants and Residents Association chair, to find the best solution for the towers and the rest of the estate. After many months of consultations and discussion the whole estate was given a vote on the final proposal, which was to demolish all four of the towers in phases, starting with Bromyard, and replacing them with up to 333 new homes.

Half of the extra homes built will be council homes at council rents. First priority for the new homes will go to Ledbury Towers tenants and leaseholders, and former tenants with a right to return.

As well as being bigger, with guaranteed outdoor space, the new homes will be more up-to-date in terms of energy efficiency.

Ledbury residents were asked to take a vote – Yes or No – if they were in favour of the proposal for the re-development of the towers on the Ledbury Estate.

The results were NO – 12%, YES – 88%. Of the households eligible to vote, 50% took part. Of those residents still living in the towers 74% towers tenants took part while 44% of the former tenants with a right to return took part.



Jeanette Mason, Chair of the Ledbury Tenants & Residents Association, said: "The Ledbury Tenants & Residents Association (TRA) has been working to support residents in the four towers since the emergency situation arose in the summer of 2017. The TRA has always wanted the residents of the towers to make the decision on the future of their homes. The extensive consultation that has been undertaken with residents and former tenants with a right to return means the people who are directly affected by this decision got to have a fair and balanced say on the outcome."

On the Tustin Estate a decision had already been made to keep and refurbish the three towers, but it was proposed to redevelop the rest of the estate, except for the homes in Manor Grove, whose residents preferred the refurbishment option. Under this option Bowness House, Heversham House, Hillbeck Close, Kentmere House and Ullswater House will be demolished and replacement homes built in new blocks alongside additional new homes. This option will result in the replacement of all existing homes that are subject to demolition, and an additional 440 homes being built. At least 50% of the additional homes will be council homes to deliver more council housing with the remainder being for private sale to help pay for the delivery of the new council housing.

This option will also result in the creation of dedicated over-55s housing, a new park at the centre of the estate, a new primary school and new retail and business spaces on the Old Kent Road and Ilderton Road.

After a feasibility and options appraisal process with residents, an options survey was held leading to a proposal to redevelop the estate, except for houses in Manor Grove. Again the proposals were supported by the majority of voters with 13% voting NO but 87% voting YES in favour.

A total 64% of residents eligible to vote took part. 73% of those who live in the low rise homes took part and 53% of those who live in the towers took part.



Andrew Eke, chair of the Tustin Community Association, said: "It has been great working so closely with council officers and residents from the estate to get to this point. We are pleased to support these proposals for the estate. We believe the Tustin Estate has a bright future. We look forward to continuing our work with Southwark Council and making the Tustin an even better place to live."



To read more about the Ledbury or Tustin Estates visit the council's website at www.southwark.gov.uk/tustin or www.southwark.gov.uk/ledbury



TAKECARE SOUTHWARK

Get help making healthy choices

Get free support on how to move more, achieve a healthy weight, improve your mental wellbeing, reduce your risk of Type 2 diabetes, quit smoking and more.

Visit **southwark.gov.uk/takecare**
or call **0333 005 0159**

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Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk

CURTAIN RISES AGAIN ON SOUTHWARK EVENTS



**SOUTHWARK
SUMMER**

Whether you are heading out to one of our festivals, or back inside to our theatres, libraries and galleries, Southwark has plenty to offer this summer.

As we cautiously come out of lockdown this summer, Southwark's cultural and creative businesses and community organisations are bursting back to life after a difficult period during the pandemic.

As we are putting together this edition of Southwark Life England remains in Step 3 with the borough's brilliant theatres and galleries re-opening to the public, supported by the council to remain COVID-19 safe. Local groups are bringing back outdoor festivals in our parks and streets.

To celebrate their return, Southwark Presents will be hosting Southwark Summer – a one-stop-shop guide to all the best activities, events, shows, festivals and much more across the borough this season.

Some things may be a little different this year – you may need to wear your mask to see a show, or book your place (for free) at a festival – so always check with the event organisers before you arrive.

Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents for all the details. Please note – all events are subject to current Government restrictions.

**SOUTHWARK
PRESENTS**

SUMMER OF PLAY

The council is planning a Summer of Play programme for young people during the school summer holidays. Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents

YOUTH CENTRES

Our youth centres will be open for four weeks of the summer holidays (26 July to 20 August) and sessions will take place between 1.30pm and 5.30pm. The Youth Service is currently planning the summer programme and activities will likely include football, basketball, pool, table tennis, arts and craft, gym, workshops, competitions, cooking and local off site trips. Keep an eye on the council's website and social media for more information.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Our libraries are also taking part in the Summer of Play with a host of fun events including:

GRAPHIC ART COMPETITION (1 June to 31 August)

Children and young people aged 7 to 17 years have the opportunity to use their imagination and share their artistic skills. They will submit a drawing of an existing graphic or comic character, a scene from a book, or they can create their own image. The drawings can be entered in one of the three age categories: 7 to 9 years, 9 to 13 years and 14 to 17 years.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

(10 July to 5 September)

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual national reading scheme that aims to encourage children aged 4 to 17 years to continue reading throughout the summer. This year's theme is 'Wild World Heroes' which aims to inspire children to stand up for the future of the planet. Keep an eye on the libraries webpages at www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries for further details.

SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE



CHATTERBOOKS

(once a month)

Chatterbooks is a book club for children aged 7 to 11 years. The book club encourages children to read more widely and in their spare time, and to build their confidence through talking to others about books. The sessions currently take place once a month via Zoom. In August, the Library Service hopes to resume face-to-face sessions.



LET'S GET PHYSICAL

We want to encourage kids to get back outside and try something new this summer. The council is developing a physical activity programme for teenagers aged 12 to 16 years, which provides local non-traditional activities like paddle-boarding, BMX, horse riding or skating.

The Fun Free Fitness programme will also continue, encouraging young families to get involved in short dance, yoga and active movement skill sessions. This is being run in partnership with Children Centres and other pre-school family support services, and is likely to run in four parks across the borough.

Burgess Sports Centre will host summer sport programmes for local children and young people delivered by Burgess Sport and Pro-Touch, with meals provided to the participants. The Burgess BMX track will have activities running through the summer too.

Everyone Active is likely to return to its normal programme this summer too with some holiday camps, swimming lessons, junior gym and family swim sessions, depending on the continued government relaxation on access restrictions.

Some of the licenced tennis coaches will be running summer activities using the park tennis courts. Sports clubs across the borough are being encouraged to add their summer activities to our Southwark Events website.

SUMMER FOOD AND FUN

Southwark's Summer of Food and Fun is focused on providing free healthy meals and enriching activities to children aged four to 16 years who are eligible for, and receiving, benefits-related free school meals. To see if you are eligible or to book a space please visit the website at www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun



FESTIVAL FUN RETURNS

A number of the borough's annual outdoor events were able to take place last year, but with a much smaller capacity. This year a number of these events are hoping to get back to full strength and the council is working with organisers to make sure as many as possible can happen safely. Some of the events we can expect to return this year are:

BERMONDSEY STREET FESTIVAL

After a reduced event in 2020, the Bermondsey Street Festival is hoping to be back with a bang this year on **18 September**. Keep an eye on the website for more information: bermondseystreetfestival.org.uk



Photos from 2019 event

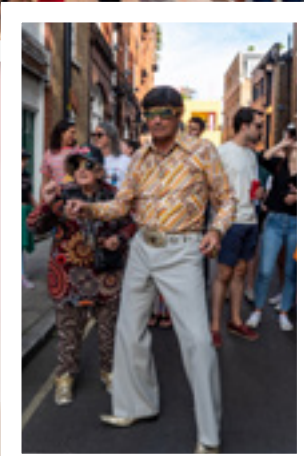
DULWICH PARK FAIR

Dulwich Park Fair will return on Sunday 5 September, 2021 from 12noon to 5pm.

Dulwich Park Fair has been running since 2007 and normally ends the Dulwich Festival. This year it has been put back a few weeks to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. It is a free outdoor, family-friendly event that includes a fun fair, Vauxhall City Farm, Punch and Judy, the Magician, interactive performances and a dog show. The stage by the café will feature local musicians, brass bands, choirs and dance acts of all ages. There will be a huge variety of food, craft, drink and charity stalls.

Dulwich Park Fair has been supported by a grant from Southwark Council's Neighbourhoods Fund and Dulwich Park Friends help Southwark Council organise the event.

There is no parking - please come by public transport to Dulwich Park, or walk or cycle. College Road, London SE21 7BQ. Admission is FREE.



Photos from 2019 event

ROTHERHITHE FESTIVAL

Also hoping to return this year – on **7 August** – after having to cancel 2020's event due to COVID-19, is the Rotherhithe Festival.

The Rotherhithe Festival, which usually takes place in King George's Fields, is a great day of free music with food, drink and rides and attractions for children, starting at 11.30am and finishing at 8.30pm.

For more information, watch their website at rotherhithefestival.com



Macbeth

Play On's Macbeth frames Shakespeare's classic story of tyranny and corruption through the eyes of a child trying to make sense of their world from the hospital bed they wake up in.

22 to 24 June 2021
10.30am and 7pm

£6 to £10

Theatre Peckham, 221 Havil Street,
Camberwell, SE5 7SB

www.theatrepeckham.co.uk/show/play-on-macbeth

Bach & Sons

Nina Raine's beautiful, profound and funny new play about Johann Sebastian Bach and his family is an anthem



to the art that draws us together and sings of our common humanity. Simon Russell Beale leads a cast directed by Nicholas Hytner.

23 June to 11 September 2021
Monday to Saturday: 7.30pm
Wednesdays & Saturdays: 2.30pm

£69.50, £57.50, £39.50, £25, £15

The Bridge Theatre, 3 Potters Fields
Park London, SE1 2SG

bridgetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/bach-and-sons/

Illuminated River

Visit the longest public art commission in the world for free. Blackfriars, Waterloo, Golden Jubilee, Westminster and Lambeth bridges are now lit. Spanning nine bridges across the Thames, from London to Lambeth, Illuminated River brings free and accessible art for everyone to enjoy each night from dusk to 2am. To visit the artwork, download the free walking and audio guides from the website.

From dusk to 2am every evening

Free

London Bridge to Lambeth Bridge

<https://illuminatedriver.london/discover/>



Rap x Gilbert and Sullivan (Ages 17 to 19)

Join rapper and writer John Akinde, also known as OSOM, and Opera Singer Themba Mvula for this exciting new project in collaboration with English Touring Opera. Through five online workshops, and one in-person event you will learn about Rap, and the operatic form of Gilbert & Sullivan.

Every Wednesday from 9 June to 15 July. 7pm to 8pm

Free

Theatre Peckham, 221 Havil Street,
Camberwell, SE5 7SB

www.theatrepeckham.co.uk/show/rap-x-opera/

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Four love-drunk teens, escaped from the confines of an oppressive regime, caught in a dispute of increasingly magical proportions. A posse of wannabe actors, determined to put on a play against the odds. The Fairy Queen and King at war, and one wild spirit hell-bent on causing as much havoc as possible. What could possibly go wrong?

Now until 30 October. 2pm and 7pm each day

Galleries (Seating) £59 – £15, Yard (Seated until 4 July) £5

Shakespeare's Globe

www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/a-midsummer-nights-dream-2021/#book

Much Ado about Nothing by William Shakespeare

War heroes Don Pedro and his soldier-boys turn up at Governor Leonato's house hoping for a well deserved rest ... but when has that ever worked out? The Dulwich Players bring clarity, modernizing a scorching Shakespearean sizzler with a citrus-fresh twist. Please note that the safety of our audience and cast is of paramount importance and Bell House and the Dulwich Players will fully comply with government guidance and regulations in place at the time of the performances.

Saturday 26 June, Sunday 27 June, Saturday 3 July, Sunday 4 July. 2pm and 5pm each day

£12 and £8 (under 18 years of age)

In the gardens of Bell House,
27 College Road, Dulwich, SE21 7BG

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dulwichplayers

Congregation - An Outdoor Sonic Adventure



Let a magical sonic sphere take you on a journey to a secret location in London Bridge and surrounding areas, guiding you by sound alone. Seemingly possessed of its own mind, it leads you through familiar and unfamiliar terrain. Can you keep the sphere 'happy' by going in the right direction? In return the sphere will take you on a listening experience and voyage to the mysterious final destination where you will encounter a meeting of the spheres, a chiming, pulsing web of electronic sound. For all ages – children need to be accompanied by an adult. Presented by Team London Bridge, Ray Lee and Potters Fields Park Management Trust.

Wednesday 11 to Sunday 15 August
Wednesday to Friday: 12.30pm, 5pm, and 8pm
Saturday and Sunday: 12.30pm, 4pm and 7pm. Duration 40 minutes.

£5 for each orb (one to four people per orb)

Multiple locations in the streets and parks of London Bridge

<https://atlondonbridge.com/hello>

UAL Graduate Showcase

Celebrate the work of graduating students from Camberwell College of Arts this summer at the UAL Graduate Showcase. The place to discover the newest names in art, design, fashion, communication, media and performing arts, the online platform allows you to view, interact with and buy original work from around the world, accompanied by an exciting programme of online and onsite events.

Launches 30 June 2021

FREE

Online and Camberwell College of Arts

<https://graduateshowcase.arts.ac.uk>

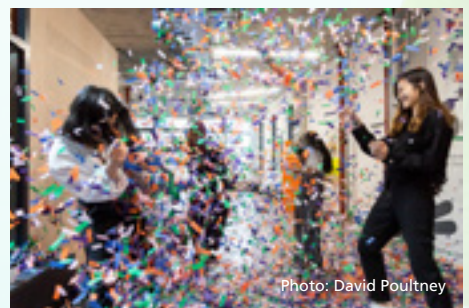


Photo: David Poultney

STAY SAFE AT WORK

**JOIN A
UNION**

As we cautiously move out from the pandemic and more of us return to work, it is more important than ever to stay safe at work.

Workplaces with trade unions have fewer cases of work-related illness, injury and fatalities

Union members have special rights to health and safety representatives & risk assessments

**FIND OUT WHICH UNION
WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU:**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/join-a-union>



A SAFER AND GREENER SOUTHWARK FOR ALL



Southwark Council is making the borough cleaner, safer and greener for everyone. To help, we are making changes to roads and pavements, some of which you may have noticed.

STREETSPACE REVIEWS START

One of the key ways we can make our roads safer for children, and help create a greener borough with less polluted air, is to encourage people to get out of their cars and think about using more sustainable ways to get around.

Streetspace schemes, also known as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) were introduced in response to the Mayor's London Streetspace initiative.

The schemes encourage active travel – such as walking or cycling – throughout the borough, whilst managing the flow of traffic, especially on residential roads.

During the pandemic we also introduced some experimental measures to help people maintain a social distance whilst out and about in the borough.

The best way to get people moving safely around the borough again as lockdown eases is to make it easier and safer for millions of people to walk and cycle. Lockdown has also encouraged people to visit their local town centre to shop and made our streets quieter and safer. We hope Streetspace schemes could be the start of a permanent transition to a greener, healthier and safer borough.

Over the coming months we will be reviewing the adaptations we put in place, to find out the impact they have had on residents, businesses and the environment. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about the Streetspace schemes in your area and working with you on what measures are working and what needs to change.



HELPING PEOPLE TO WALK AND CYCLE MORE

To help encourage more people to cycle in Southwark, and to help clean our air and reduce congestion on our roads, the council is also rolling out a cycle storage scheme.

This has been hugely popular with people all over the borough, and there are now 322 new bike hangars installed. The aim is to fit 500 by March 2022. If you live in Southwark, you can share where you'd like to see a cycle hangar using our interactive mapping tool at cyclehangarsinsouthwark.commonplace.is/about



ROAD SAFETY TRAINING FOR PRIMARY PUPILS

Albion Primary in Rotherhithe was one of the first schools to take up Southwark Council's road safety training sessions. We met ten of their year three students in the playground on a cloudy morning in May.

The excited students practised basic road crossing, covering Stop, Look and Listen, as part of their pedestrian training. They talked about things that might get in the way when trying to cross the road and learned how to deal with parked cars when crossing. The group also learned about the importance of being in charge of their personal safety, when in time they come to crossing the road alone.

In preparation for this, the trainer suggested that the children might offer to take their parent or carer across the road, instead of the other way around, and talk to them about what they'd learned in their pedestrian training.

However, the school is doing much more than road safety training.

Students and staff have been working with Southwark Council on their Sustainable Travel: Action, Responsible, Safe (STARS) award, for a number of years. They are now working towards the highest STARS award, gold.

As part of the scheme, and with support from children, parents and staff, Southwark Council has installed a School Street road closure outside the school. This is a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restrictions apply to school traffic and through-traffic. This makes for a more pleasant and safer journey to school and helps to tackle air pollution.

The school also does much to promote sustainable travel to and from school and has no less than four bike sheds!

Karl Bardouille, Head Teacher at Albion Primary, said: "Albion children enjoy walking to school and arriving on their bikes and scooters. This is evident as our four bike sheds are full to the brim! We promote healthy lifestyles here at Albion, through our commitment to keeping active and eating a balanced, healthy hot meal at lunchtime. We promote sustainable travel to and from school in order for children to take this attitude into their next stage in education and beyond."

Albion Primary is one of 36 of our schools to take up and manage a School Street timed road closure, or other traffic management initiative, outside their school. We are working towards signing up a further 54 schools to this project. Parents and staff who are interested in the scheme are most welcome to let us know by emailing us at highways@southwark.gov.uk.



Get in touch

If you would like to find out more about the council's climate work and how we can involve you or your community, please email climateemergency@southwark.gov.uk



Making a splash



A spectacular new rocky and watery landscape has been unveiled in the heart of Southwark.

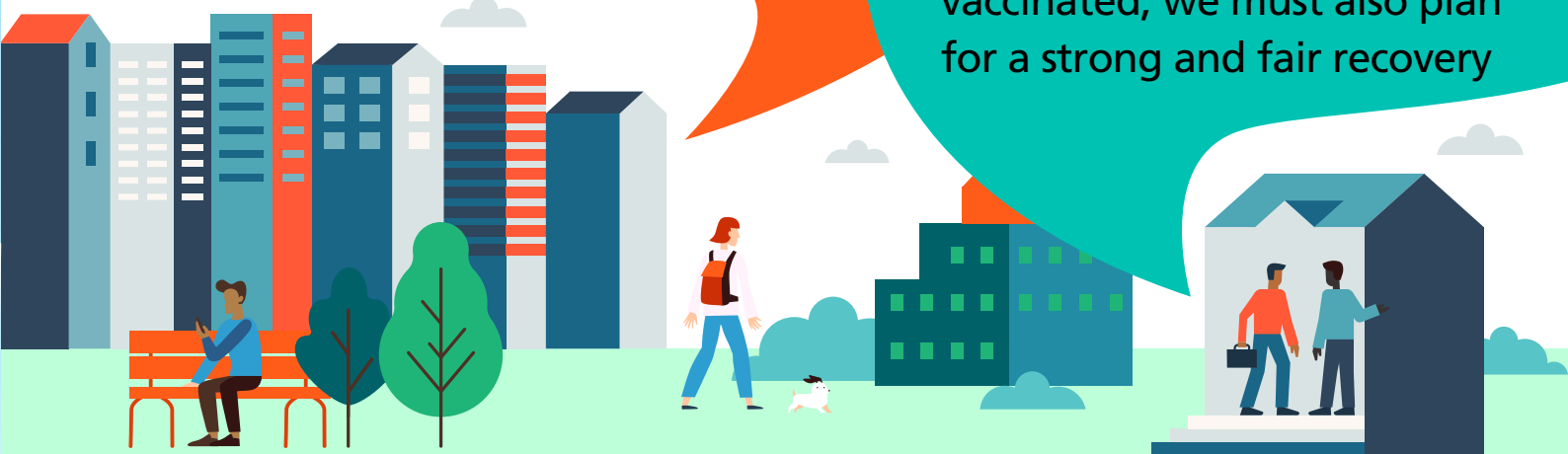
The new Elephant Springs boasts waterfalls, sandy bays and ambient lighting within a towering stone structure set in Elephant Park, one of Southwark's newest green spaces.

Renowned landscape architects, Gillespies, designed Elephant Springs, in collaboration with artist Mel Chantrey of The Fountain Workshop, who previously designed the waterscape for the Diana, Princess of Wales, memorial playground. Inspired by the mental and physical health benefits of spending time outdoors with nature, Elephant Springs brings a natural play experience for both children and adults within the heart of Elephant & Castle.

Elephant Springs is now open to the public and can be found at Elephant Park, Elephant Road, London, SE17 1UB. Visitors to Elephant Springs can also take advantage of the vibrant restaurant and retail offering in Elephant Park, including new destinations Four Hundred Rabbits, Bayroot, Mercato Deli and more.

Let's talk about life after COVID

As we continue to work hard to keep people safe from COVID-19 and get Southwark vaccinated, we must also plan for a strong and fair recovery

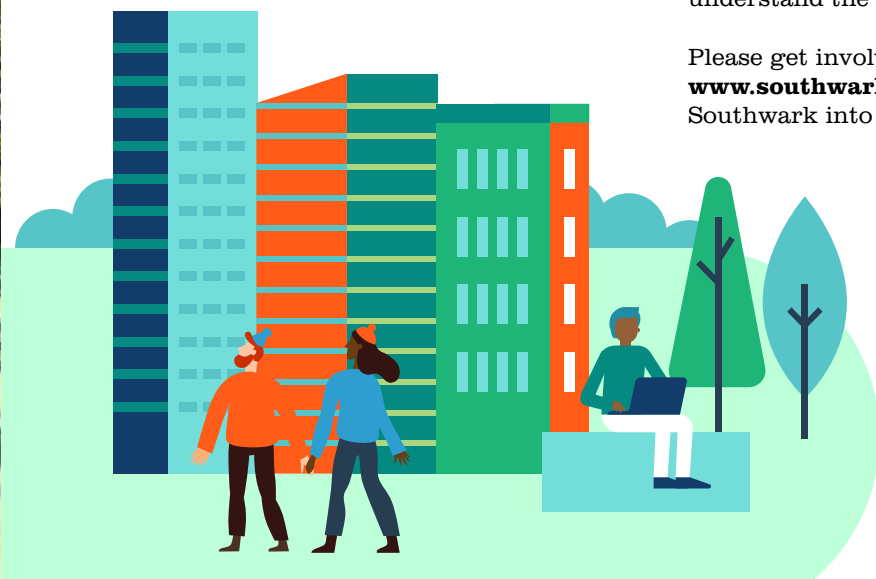


We know the last year has been tough for most people. Whether you've lost loved ones, suffered from ill health, struggled financially or missed friends and family, it has been a really challenging time for everyone. There were some positives for many of us though: communities coming together to support each other, getting to know your neighbours, more time spent outdoors, and a new appreciation of our parks and open spaces.

Whatever your experience, you will know what you'd like to be different from life under lockdown, and any aspects you might like to keep. So we want to hear from you as we plan what Southwark should look and feel like as we work to recover from the last 15 months.

We are running a short consultation to help us tease out the main themes you want us to focus on. From those findings we will then have focused conversations in the community, and work with existing resident groups and through local ward forums to really understand the main issues and opportunities for our borough.

Please get involved by filling out the consultation at www.southwark.gov.uk/lifeaftercovid and help us shape Southwark into an even better place to live, work and enjoy life.



NO YOUNG PERSON LEFT BEHIND

Southwark Council's Youth New Deal puts young people at the heart of decision-making and in control of their future.

Southwark is a youthful borough where children and young people make up over 20% of the population.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for many people, but even more so for young people. A disrupted education, increasing unemployment and mounting pressure on mental health have

created many challenges. We know that supporting young people to fulfil their potential must be at the centre of our post-lockdown economic recovery.

Here are some of our new initiatives geared towards helping young people lead positive lives now and in the future.

Cllr Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

"We want to give Southwark's children and young people the best possible start in life, and so we've launched a Youth New Deal to strengthen the council's investment in young people. This is a major priority for me and across the council, and I'm excited that young people will be playing a key role in overseeing its delivery through the new Youth Parliament."

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The Youth Parliament will be the voice of young people in Southwark. It will empower them to make positive changes and influence decisions that affect them.

We are looking for young people aged 14 to 19 to stand for election in the coming months. Applications close on 25 June, voting is from 19 to 25 July and winning candidates will be announced 28 July. Some exciting roles are up for grabs, including Southwark's first ever Youth Leader and Deputy Youth Leader. The new Parliament, which builds upon the old Youth Council, will also elect a Cabinet and two representatives from every secondary school and community area.

Our young parliamentarians will serve for a two-year term and represent their school, college or community in identifying the key priorities for Southwark young people. Council officers will work with them to develop a plan for creating change, and empower them to influence the council's decisions and make decisions of their own around particular projects and services

For more information about joining the Youth Parliament, see the website at www.southwark.gov.uk/youthparliament

HANNAH

Hannah Olomola, 20, represented Peckham and Nunhead on Southwark Youth Council and Southwark on the London Youth Assembly from 2017 to 2019.

She said: "I loved being a voice for young people and making a change in my community. It was a truly life-changing opportunity that equipped me with the necessary skills for the future and built my confidence.

"I would 110% encourage every young person to try and be part of the new Southwark Youth Parliament, as your voice matters!"

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS

Southwark Council was the first council to commit to 100% of children and young people having access to emotional wellbeing and mental health support. Last year we launched a drop-in mental health hub on Rye Lane called The Nest. The free and confidential service is open to any young person aged 11 and upwards in Southwark who feels they need extra support.

The Nest is now expanding into schools across Southwark. Under the Youth New Deal, £200,000 has been approved to take the mental health service directly to school children. This will help ensure their mental health and wellbeing needs are met, especially amid the extra challenges because of the pandemic.

For more information about mental health support in Southwark for children and young people, call for free on 020 8138 1805 or visit www.thenestsouthwark.org.uk

IMAN

Children and young people from local youth clubs and schools played a key role in designing The Nest, including Coin Street's Young Leaders.

Young Leader Iman, 15, said: "It's really important that young people have strong mental health because it impacts everything you do and every decision you make. I like how open The Nest is. It's somewhere that young people can come and feel comfortable.

"Once you're an adult, it's much more difficult to get help with your mental health. So The Nest providing services to schools is a great idea. Kids need all the help they can get in the times we live in."



JOBS AND TRAINING

Southwark Council is linking young people in the borough with a wealth of local opportunities to help support them into employment and training, from internships to apprenticeships; jobs to voluntary roles; NVQs to university degrees.

If you're aged 16 to 25 and thinking about your next steps, join our mailing list to receive news on job vacancies and career information in and around Southwark at www.southwark.gov.uk/nextstepmailinglist

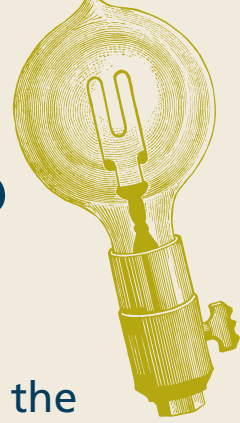


ESTHER

Esther Kayode, 22, successfully applied for one of Southwark Council's paid internships after finishing her Law degree. She currently supports the Law and Governance team.

She said: "Before my internship, I struggled to find jobs amid the pandemic. Being a recent graduate, my experience was too limited for many of the roles I was applying for.

"With the help of the council's internship programme, I'm gathering the experience I need and enjoying every minute of it. As a resident and worker of Southwark, I'm glad that I have this opportunity and hope to use this experience in the future for good."



Telling our story

There's loads to see and do at the brand new Southwark Heritage Centre and Walworth Library.

If you're hungry for art, culture and creativity following a year of lockdowns, then this is the place for you.

Delivered by the council in partnership with Lendlease, as part of the wider regeneration of Elephant and Castle, this stunning new venue combines a heritage centre for the borough with a local library for Walworth.

Packed with exhibits, artefacts and artworks, the centre tells the story of Southwark and its many communities. It provides a fantastic new setting to exhibit hundreds of items from the borough's vast heritage collection.

This includes pieces that were previously at the Cuming Museum, alongside new additions and many gems from the archive that have rarely been seen before.

The centre, which is free to visit, has a permanent exhibition, The Story of Southwark, and will also run an annual programme of temporary shows.

And of course, there are all the things you'd expect from your local library, including thousands of books, public computers, free wifi and study space. There will be poetry readings, history talks and storytelling sessions and the centre even has room for small community meetings and local events.

Southwark Heritage Centre and Walworth Library
 147 Walworth Road
 London SE17 1RW

Opening Times
 10am to 8pm Monday to Friday
 10am to 5pm Saturday
 12 noon to 4pm Sunday

www.southwark.gov.uk/shc&wl for more information.



The Fab Five

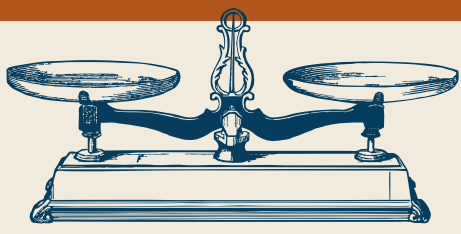
You must come and see for yourself but here's a little peek at just five of the highlights.



1

A tale to be told

The permanent Story of Southwark exhibition is the centre-piece of the heritage centre. Revolving around the themes of Place, People, Work and Play, it unfurls Southwark's long history from Roman times through to the present. But the story isn't finished yet. The centre is working with local residents and community groups to continue to develop the exhibition to ensure it remains a living, breathing and inclusive story; one which keeps pace as Southwark evolves.



2

From Walworth to the world

Check-out the wonderful 'World Wall'. It features artefacts from Europe, Asia, Africa, the Pacific and the Americas and from a multitude of cultures. Stand-out exhibits include a pair of 18th century dolls in full traditional costume, made by Cree women from North America, and a highly decorated shield from the Solomon Islands.



3

Spark your creativity

The Faraday Room is inspired by local-boy-done-good, Michael Faraday. Renowned as one of the world's greatest scientists, Faraday was a pioneer in the fields of electricity and magnetism. This meeting room, encased completely in copper, mimics one of his most famous inventions, the Faraday Cage. It blocks out all electrical signals from the outside world and, yes, that does include your mobile phone!



4

Big reads for little people

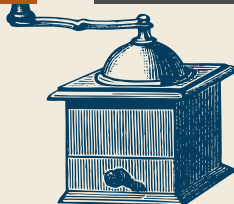
The centre includes a fully-stocked children's library. There are thousands of titles from Peppa Pig to Harry Potter, from picture books to adventure stories. There's plenty of room for children and parents to sit and read together too. And remember to watch out for the children's story-telling sessions, coming soon.



5

The bear is back

Older residents will remember South London's most famous bear. Sure, he's no Paddington but he's ours. And he's been living (ok, residing) in Walworth for more than 200 years. Having had a bit of a spruce-up, he's just one part of the wonderfully eccentric and extensive Cuming Collection, which has made a very welcome return to Walworth Road.



Booking a place in history

Both libraries and museums have old – even surprisingly old – roots. Yet for institutions so valued and embedded in our communities, they are surprisingly young, too.



The opening of the Southwark Heritage Centre and Walworth Library marks the third new library to open in Southwark over the past five years – alongside Camberwell in 2015 and Grove Vale in 2019 – and the restoration of the borough’s museum artefacts to public display since the Walworth Old Town Hall fire in 2013.

Early libraries in the Middle Ages focussed on handwriting new copies of texts. In Europe, booksellers in university towns like Paris, Oxford, or St Andrews loaned textbooks. Students would borrow a section of a book for a fee, copy it for themselves, and then return it.

Book and object collecting – the latter often in a so-called “cabinet of curiosities” – was a popular pastime for relatively wealthy people interested in science in the 17th and 18th centuries. Some of these people, like John Tradescant or Hans Sloane, opened their collections to the public as the earliest ancestors of modern museums.

Closer to home, 18th century Walworth, then a fashionable residential area full of Georgian terraces much like Bloomsbury today, was the home of a pair of significant collectors: Richard Cuming (1777-1870) and his son Henry Syer Cuming (1817-1902).



Richard grew up in a house in Dean’s Row. He started his collection at the age of five, when an aunt gave him three fossils and a coin from Mughal India. You can see the cabinet he built, aged 14, for his mineral collection in the Heritage Centre. As an adult, he continued collecting after moving to 63 Kennington Road, where Henry was born. He inherited his father’s passion for collecting, and also compiled the first catalogue for the collection.

Richard was interested in science, especially geology and animals, and this focus showed not only in his membership of the Chemical Society of London but also in the items he purchased when the Leverian Museum, one of South London’s earliest, closed in 1806. However, he eventually concentrated on what he called “artificial curiosities” (or ethnographic collections) items that reflect



the everyday life and culture of different communities around the world. Henry was also interested in ethnography, but also turned his study to his own culture – South London - especially local archaeology, folklore, and everyday life, collecting tickets, letters, flyers, adverts – and even the paper bags the baker packed his rolls in.

In Richard Cuming’s time, libraries were relatively exclusive. Some were subscription schemes set up by scholarly societies like the Chemical Society, or mechanics’ institutes that brought learning to working people. These libraries had a heavy focus on non-fiction. Others were for-profit businesses, a development of booksellers loaning out extra copies; these libraries had lots of fiction, drawing condemnation from reformers who thought novels were bad for moral education.



By the 1830s, industrialisation, the expansion of education, and the reforming zeal of the Chartist movement meant that working people had more free time than in previous decades. Middle-class campaigners wanted them to have morally uplifting alternatives to the pub to spend that free time. Campaigner Francis Place suggested that parishes should provide free libraries, reading rooms, and lectures on entertaining and educational topics. Eventually this led to the Museums Act of 1845 and the Libraries Act of 1850, which allowed local authorities with populations over 10,000 to fund local libraries and museums through specific taxes.

London was slow to adopt the Act; by 1860 London had only two public libraries, both in Westminster. In many parishes, the question was repeatedly raised, to raucous debate, and defeated. Camberwell, for instance, debated and rejected a tax for libraries in 1858, 1866 and 1879, when it lost by more than 2 to 1, and was defeated in every ward.

Bermondsey parish was the first to pass the Library and Museum Acts in 1887, followed closely by Rotherhithe. Camberwell finally adopted the Acts in 1889, after George Livesey, the chair of the South Metropolitan Gas Company, offered to build the parish a library if they did. Dulwich and Newington both adopted the Acts in 1890,



followed by St Saviours in 1891 and later St George the Martyr in 1896. However, the tax money local government could raise via the Acts was nowhere near enough to build, furnish and stock new libraries so public donations of both money and books were essential.

John Passmore Edwards, a journalist and newspaper owner, spent the last 20 years of his life building hospitals, orphanages, convalescent homes, schools, museums, art galleries, public libraries and even drinking fountains throughout London. Twenty-five of these buildings were libraries.

Passmore Edwards lived in Camberwell Grove until the 1870s, when his home was compulsorily purchased for railway expansion. Perhaps because of this, three of Camberwell's libraries were Passmore Edwards builds: Nunhead (1896), Dulwich (1897), and Wells Way (1901, now in Burgess Park and home to Lynn AC and Groundworks). St George the Martyr parish Passmore Edwards library, on Borough Road opened in 1898 – it is now London South



Bank University's Passmore Centre. Nunhead Library's foundation stone has the motto, "Good deeds live on when doers are no more."

This is definitely true for the borough's historic libraries: their donors may be gone, their use may be different, but they still serve the communities of Southwark.





REPAIRS ALL SEWN UP

Lawratu Patton has worked in housing repairs at Southwark Council for eleven years, but her nifty needlework recently gained her a place on popular BBC TV programme *The Great British Sewing Bee*. Here she talks Southwark and sewing.

What inspired you to start sewing?

My inspiration to start sewing came from shop-bought clothes not fitting me the way I liked. I love my body the way it is, so for me it is much better to make the clothes fit me, rather than to try and make my body fit the clothes.

What's it like taking part in reality TV?

It was a fun process! It was interesting to see how much work goes into producing an episode, I will never watch the show in quite the same way ever again!

Which piece of sewing are you most proud of?

I'm proud of all my makes. I like to challenge myself when sewing, and I am always looking for different things to make and different techniques to try.

What's more challenging – solving repairs or making clothes?

Definitely repairs! I want our residents to live in homes that are top standard and sometimes it takes quite a bit

of work to get there. With making clothes, I can always put it to one side if I find it challenging. I cannot, and would not, with repairs so I need to power on through even when things are difficult.

What happens in your working day usually?

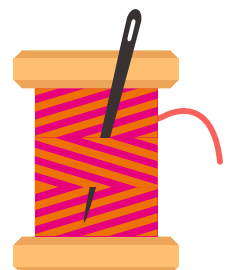
It's quite varied, dealing with complaints, compliments and other queries. The best bit is when I get things resolved and I can make residents happy.

If you could solve one housing issue, what would it be?

Ooh that's a tough one. I think one of the biggest problems is not enough housing stock.

What do you love most about Southwark?

Southwark is so diverse and home to so many cultures, I love how you can be exposed to so much of the world in one borough. Although there are many places I love, the best has to be my mum's.



BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK



WELCOMING BACK THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR

Southwark's town centres and high streets are the heart of our communities. During the lockdowns, council teams have been working hard to help small businesses survive and now we are helping businesses and high streets get back to doing what they do best. Find out more below, and also how to safely rediscover all your local high street has to offer.

To help pubs, restaurants and cafés we have licensed some businesses to have chairs and tables outside as well as gazebos and heaters. This approach has helped over 250 businesses make the most of their space whilst staying COVID-secure.

We understand that as high streets become busier the impact of these temporary measures may impact some local residents. We are monitoring licensed areas and working with businesses to alter spaces that are no longer practical.

A LIFELINE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Since March 2020, Southwark Council has distributed nearly £130m in government business grants. These grants provided a lifeline to small businesses that were badly affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

We know that without this support, fewer businesses would have re-opened their doors as restrictions eased.



THE RETURN OF PECKHAM LEVELS

Explore and rediscover Peckham Levels, with the full reopening, from 19th July and celebrate together with a programme of events and activities. Stay tuned @peckhamlevels. In the meantime, you can enjoy the venue now via bookings at <https://peckhamlevels.org/plan-your-visit/>



MOVING FORWARD SAFELY

Despite the success of the vaccination programme, the virus is not yet fully under control. We must continue to protect ourselves and others when we're out and about.



This business is accredited by Southwark Council



We are continuing to support our businesses to ensure that they can work in a COVID-secure way. We're offering free assessments of the safety measures in place under our COVID-19 compliant accreditation scheme – look out for our stickers (pictured) in the window. Shoppers visiting our high streets should also check and follow the latest guidance. You can keep up to date with the latest rules and advice at gov.uk/coronavirus.

INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET?

The council's new High Streets Recovery Fund gives grants to anyone with a vision to help their local high streets flourish.

We will be looking for inspirational ideas, brought to life through projects located in one of the borough's high streets or town centres. The fund will be open to a range of organisations and we will welcome partnerships that bring together diverse skills and expertise.

The fund was launched on Tuesday 15 June, 2021 and more information is now available at southwark.gov.uk/highstreetrecoveryfund.

If you have any questions about the fund, you can get in touch with us at southwarkbusinessdesk@southwark.gov.uk.





about the vaccine



“ I’m happy to be vaccinated and that it’s safe. I’d encourage anyone eligible to get theirs, protect themselves and others. ”

Bamidele, Southwark care manager

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South East London
Clinical Commissioning Group

southwark.gov.uk/covidvaccine


Council
southwark.gov.uk