

Southwark

# Life

Winter 2017

## #TalkSouthwark

Join the Conversation  
about our changing borough

## Festive Fun

A look at what's going  
on this Christmas

## Top of the Class

Why Southwark's schools  
are standing out

Your magazine from Southwark Council



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#southwarkpioneers



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## welcome...

As 2017 draws to a close, it's natural to look back over the year that's passed. For Southwark, and London, 2017 was a year where we faced true tragedy on our doorsteps, with terrorist attacks in London Bridge and Borough, Westminster and beyond, as well as the awful fire at Grenfell Tower that claimed so many lives. We learned a huge amount from these heartrending incidents, not least about how resilient we are as a borough and a city, pulling together in the face of horror, offering our help and support to strangers, refusing to give in to hate, but love instead.

Of course, we won't ever forget those who lost their lives, or were hurt or scarred by these events, and we are working with Southwark Cathedral, Borough Market, the police, and anyone else who wants to get involved on plans for a permanent memorial to those harmed on June 3rd. But it's right that we also look to the future, and consider how we take what we have learned and use it to make Southwark an even better place to live, work and play.

One thing that stood out following the Grenfell Tower incident was how disconnected local communities felt from their council. I don't think Southwark is out of touch with our residents, as our article on Universal Credit demonstrates, but as a council we need to be sure, and that's why we have launched the Southwark Conversation, which you can find out more about in this edition of Southwark Life. Please do tell us what you think about the way our borough is changing and how we can make sure no resident is left behind. Change isn't new of course - you can also see how Southwark has changed over time in our brilliant history piece.

Christmas is a wonderful time in Southwark and the events pages are brimming with ideas of fun things to do. I hope you and your families have a very Merry Christmas.

Peter John  
Leader of Southwark Council

### Contact us

Do you have something to say about Southwark Life?  
Write to: Your Letters, Southwark Life, Fourth Floor North, Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street London, SE1 2QH or email [southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk)  
Front page photo kindly supplied by Emergency Exit Arts.  
Page 11 Charter School CGI provided by FCBstudios.  
London Borough of Culture (P22) Image kindly supplied by Printworks.  
**Southwark Presents pages:**  
Jerwood Gallery – Lua Ribeira, from the series Noises in the Blood, 2016. Image courtesy of the artist.  
South London Gallery – Photo by Zoe Tynan-Campbell.

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### Keep in touch

Southwark Life is a quarterly magazine and the next issue is due out in Spring 2018. You can contact the magazine at [southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk) but for more regular updates on council news and events, follow us on social media at  
[facebook.com/southwarkcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/southwarkcouncil)  
[@lb\\_southwark](https://twitter.com/lb_southwark)  
[Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/southwarkcouncil)

# Need to know...

Winter may be upon us but that hasn't slowed things down. Take a look at what's been going on around Southwark, and what is coming up.

For news and events follow us on Facebook and Twitter or find out more at [southwark.gov.uk/enews](http://southwark.gov.uk/enews)

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

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

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

## Fabulous new play area opens in Brunswick Park

We've re-opened a fabulous new play area in Brunswick Park with an event that welcomed local residents with face painting, refreshments and entertainment.



The quarter of a million pound project is the result of local resident Claire Walker's application to our Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) programme. Further to the exciting new play area, a carved wooden sculpture of 'Boris the Squirrel' is to be commissioned and the local community will be invited to decide where his home should be. Find out more at [southwark.gov.uk/NewBrunswickplayArea](http://southwark.gov.uk/NewBrunswickplayArea)

## Aylesbury MUGA sees transformation



The council, a developer, some artists and some local children, have transformed the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Portland Street on the Aylesbury estate. The MUGA was looking pretty sorry for itself, so the team started with improvements to the pitch, walls and fencing. Next came the creative phase, which was scheduled during half-term so local children could get involved. Art group Positive Arts worked with the community and a good number of children from the estate, and together they painted a mural on the internal walls.

## Laptop donation appeal to help 1,000 homeless people

A social enterprise is appealing to the public and businesses to donate their old laptop computers so that they can be refurbished and given to people who have experienced homelessness.

Donation bins are springing up across London including one in the new Camberwell Library. Donated laptops will be distributed by homelessness charity Thames Reach to the people using its services. To donate **email [info@socialbox.biz](mailto:info@socialbox.biz)** or visit **[socialbox.biz/homeless-support](http://socialbox.biz/homeless-support)**



## Camberwell Library celebrates its Library of the Year award

Southwark's Camberwell Library celebrated its Bookseller Magazine, Library of the Year award, at an event on 30 October. Cllr Johnson Situ, was joined by celebrated author Sophie Hannah, proud library staff and a crowd of more than 60 people to mark the honour.



The new building has transformed library use in Camberwell, where visits have nearly doubled, issues have more than doubled and new borrowers have nearly tripled, since it opened in 2015.

## National HIV Testing Week

As HIV often has no symptoms, getting tested is the only way to know your HIV status. National HIV Testing Week runs from 18 to 25 November and promotes HIV awareness and testing.



Early detection and accessing treatment of HIV is key to preventing damage to your health, living longer and healthier with HIV as well as reducing the risk of transmitting the virus to your partner.

Visit **[doitlondon.org](http://doitlondon.org)** and **[southwark.gov.uk/kingscollegehospiv](http://southwark.gov.uk/kingscollegehospiv)** for more information.

## What's hatching on East Street?



We are delighted to present Hatch, one of the UK's leading community enterprise charities, which just launched in

Walworth's historic East Street. 55 East is a new council and GLA funded community and enterprise hub that includes a combined co-working and training space; a community café and a retail and event space for local designers and community groups. 55 East is available for the whole community to use and the public are welcome to drop in anytime. Find out more at **[www.55east.co.uk](http://www.55east.co.uk)**

## Council urges businesses to pay a living wage

Southwark Council has written to local businesses, urging them to pay all staff the London Living Wage as part of Living Wage Week.

Southwark is one of only 16 councils in London that are accredited Living Wage employers, meaning we pay a real living wage to all our staff. But we want to use our contacts with local businesses to spread the positive impacts of paying a real living wage to many more people.

At the moment, only 108 Southwark businesses are accredited Living Wage Employers, while 22% of employees in Southwark earn below the London Living wage - higher than the inner London average of 19%. Why not add your business to the list? You can find more information at **[livingwage.org.uk](http://livingwage.org.uk)**

## Repairs Inspectors

Southwark Council is enhancing its communal repairs inspection scheme. The council has a well established regime of estate inspections - led by resident services officers and communal repairs technical officers. In the first quarter of this financial year, 524 estate inspections took place. An average of 240 residents a month took part in these inspections. The council is now collating contact information for all those who take part in order to establish a 'pool' of resources who can be updated with training opportunities and potentially any specific projects they could get involved with, if they wish. If you would like to get involved, and make a positive contribution to improving services for everyone, contact your resident services officer.

## Free salt giveaway

Don't miss out on your chance to collect your FREE bag of salt, for spreading on your path, drive or walkways, to reduce the chance of dangerous, slippery ice forming.

In early December last year, we handed out over 700 free 5kg bags of salt to local residents. This year, you can collect a free bag of salt on Saturday 2 and Saturday 9 December. Find out the eight locations you can collect your free salt from on our website at [southwark.gov.uk/street-care/gritting](http://southwark.gov.uk/street-care/gritting)

## Have you had your flu jab yet?

Flu is highly infectious and can affect anyone but certain conditions can make it worse. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your family against flu.

You should have the free flu vaccine if you are over 65, pregnant, or have a long term health condition such as a heart or lung disease, or have a weakened immune system. All children aged between two and eight years are also eligible for a free vaccine as well as carers and health and social care staff.

The flu vaccine is provided free by the NHS – just call your GP for an appointment or visit your local pharmacy. Adults who are not eligible for a free vaccination can have it privately from a pharmacist. You can find a participating pharmacy here [londonflu.co.uk](http://londonflu.co.uk)

Full details about who should get vaccinated can be found at [nhs.uk/staywell](http://nhs.uk/staywell)

# Christmas recycling

We produce more waste over Christmas than at any other time of the year. Please do your bit for the environment by reducing, reusing and recycling as much as you can this Christmas. Top tips include:

- 1 Give away unwanted presents to a local hospital, play centre, charity shop or school. This will clear clutter from your home and may help raise money for a good cause.
- 2 Use old cardboard boxes as new boxes for gifts. Simply decorate them with old wrapping paper, biodegradable glitter or magazine cut outs, and disguise presents for a true surprise.
- 3 Avoid buying some types of wrapping paper. Those coated in foil, or plastic cannot be recycled.
- 4 If you have a brown food and garden waste collection, don't forget all food waste and plate scrapings can be placed in your brown bin. If you have a brown bin you can also leave your real

Christmas tree by the bin for collection. Simply remove any decorations and its pot or stand and place your tree next to your bin.

- 5 Don't forget all of these items can be included in your recycling: bottles and jars (including wine / beer bottles, jam / mincemeat jars), food tins and drink cans (including sweet and biscuit tins), food and drink cartons (such as Tetra Paks), all plastic bottles, plastic containers and food trays, paper and cardboard.

Any items that cannot be thrown away using your household collection service can be taken to the Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) on Devon Street, off Old Kent Road. See [southwark.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling](http://southwark.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling) for times and details of who can use the centre.

Your waste collection dates may change over the Christmas period. You can check your collection dates on the council's website at [southwark.gov.uk](http://southwark.gov.uk)



## SOUTHWARK SMART SAVERS

EVERY YEAR 6 CHILD  
RECEIVES £20 VOUCHER



We want to raise a generation of financially savvy smart savers, starting with every **YEAR 6** child from Southwark. To give them a head start with saving, they will have received a **FREE £20** voucher in the post to deposit in a new or existing London Mutual Credit Union **YOUNG SAVER ACCOUNT**.

If your child hasn't received their voucher or to find out more about Smart Savers, visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/smartsavers](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/smartsavers)

# Don't be shy... join the Southwark Conversation today

Time waits for no man (or woman), as the saying goes, and Southwark is undergoing many changes at a pace that both excites and concerns local people.

**B**ut Southwark has never stood still, and as our history article about our changing borough (pages 28-31) shows, without the progress and evolution it's experienced, most of us wouldn't want to live in Southwark today. The key to successful change, is making sure it works for everyone, particularly more vulnerable residents, and that's why the council has launched the Southwark Conversation.

With an ambitious target to talk to more Southwark residents, and visitors, than ever before, this conversation will find out how you feel about our changing borough, and what the council, or other organisations, could do differently to address your concerns. We've already heard from hundreds of local people and you can see some of their comments on these pages. We really want to hear from you too, so please fill in the form in the centre of this magazine and return it to us. Be part of the Southwark Conversation and **#TalkSouthwark**

## How to get involved

You can fill in the questionnaire in the middle of the magazine and send it back to us, or come along and talk to officers and councillors at many events around the borough in November and December. Look out for us at:

- East Street Market: 16 November
- Southwark Tenants' Conference: 18 November
- Peckham Christmas Lights Switch: 1 December
- East Dulwich Christmas Cracker: 2 December
- Baby and Toddler sessions at all libraries, community council meetings, area housing forums

“ There are lots of brilliant innovations going on in the area, but also some people who feel left behind by the changes. ”

“ Nice to see the improvements and regeneration in Southwark but I have concerns about the amount of social housing being built – it's not enough. ”

“ There have been major improvements to the housing stock in recent years, plus the upgrading of local cultural and leisure facilities – in particular the leisure centre and the brilliant new library. ”

“ While I appreciate Southwark's efforts on housing, I think you are missing a big trick by not raising the level of council tax on the more expensive properties. ”

“ I am generally favourable to the current regeneration projects, especially since they are showing to be prioritising sustainable transport (pedestrians and cyclists) and public transportation over private vehicles. Clean air has to be Southwark Council's number one priority. ”

“ As a pensioner I love Southwark. I have lived here for 3 years and think this is one of the best boroughs I have lived in ”

“ Have lived in the borough for 36 years. I consider Southwark my home. I have seen many changes in those years and it has been positive. ”

“ I can see a lot of new housing being built but the infrastructure is not in place for the numbers of people moving into Southwark – my doctor's surgery have lost four doctors in the last couple of months and booking an appointment now takes a minimum wait of eight weeks. ”

“ I think there are some wonderful changes, parks, gyms, places to eat and shop in the borough. But I am very concerned about the housing issue in the borough. The rents are so high for people to stay here and I worry about whether my son and his friends will be able to afford to stay here. ”

## Facts about change in Southwark

Southwark has the most council homes of any London borough and is building thousands of new council homes, but in the last five years has lost an average of 234 homes a year to Right to Buy.

Regeneration helps subsidise the council's budget. Over the last 5 years, £390m of additional revenue has come into the council through things like increased council tax and business rates helping to maintain front line services.

The new Castle leisure centre, with its free swimming and gym use for local people, has been paid for through developers' financial contributions, and nine new theatres will open in Southwark by 2018, as well as new music venues and affordable business space.

Despite many changes, Southwark remains an incredibly diverse borough with over 100 different languages spoken and many different religions practiced.

Demand for school places is growing and the council is expanding schools across the borough, with 4000 new places being created (see P 10/11)

As a borough we struggle with some ingrained health inequalities, like high rates of childhood obesity (see feature on P 12/13), and air quality is a major challenge as it is across most of London.

The Old Kent Road is one of central London's Opportunity Areas and the planned regeneration will create three new town centres, parks and new infrastructure, including the Bakerloo line extension.



**Charles Dickens Primary School**



**Charter School East Dulwich**



**Ivydale Primary School**



**Grange Primary School**

# Southwark comes top of the class

As London grows, and more and more people choose to call the capital home, making sure we have enough school places for current and future generations has become a priority for councils like Southwark. To help address this, Southwark Council has invested £200m into schools across the borough to provide 4,000 additional school places and create modern and exciting learning environments for local children.

When the new school year began in September, hundreds of pupils across the borough were welcomed into brand new school buildings, and many more are in the pipeline to meet the growing demand for places.

Charles Dickens Primary, just off Borough High Street, is one school that has been transformed through investment. Space, as everyone knows, is a rare commodity in London and headteacher of Charles

Dickens Primary School, Cassie Buchanan, understands this as well as anybody; "Charles Dickens is built right in the centre of London on a really tight site. Whilst we were growing as a school, we wanted more classrooms, but we also wanted to hold onto their play space." The school was able to retain its much valued outside play areas and build a large new hall. This has given teachers the freedom they needed to expand the curriculum by moving the playground to the roof, raising children above the street level pollution. The additional space for creative activities that the new hall provides has had a dramatic effect on pupil engagement. Teacher Tom Young said: "This year with our new hall we've had so much fun and the children have been so engaged with the topics we've been doing because we have had more space to open up their learning."

Over in Bermondsey, Grange Primary School has also benefited from expansion. As of September 2018, the school will have the space to welcome sixty children in every teaching year. Alongside renovation of the existing Victorian school, the site now boasts new satellite classrooms, and a brand new building with a new school hall, state of the art kitchen, a nursery, library and offices. The new nursery and reception classrooms open out into a new dedicated playground that will be specifically designed for younger children, perfect for creative play.

Maddy Webb, Co-Headteacher said: "I know I speak for the whole Grange community when I say that we are all thrilled with the work that has been done on the school and we wish to thank everyone

involved for their commitment to improving opportunities for Southwark children." Diana Valcheva, Co-Headteacher, added: "The new development of the school is fantastic. We are all thrilled that our children will be able to enjoy the exciting and stimulating learning environment they deserve."

In the south of the borough, Ivydale Primary School has also been extended onto a new site. The new Ivydale site is dedicated to Key Stage Two education with classrooms clustered by year group around the central hall and staircase, offering opportunities not only for the whole school community to congregate but also for community events. The new playground and outdoor areas provide plenty of opportunities for children to learn and let off steam.

The school expansion programme is about much more than numbers – building design has a huge impact on the wellbeing of pupils and their capacity to learn. In the words of parent Tanya Moodie: "Environment is crucial. I think sometimes the focus is always on just what's in the child and what is expected of them and to answer those needs, without understanding that environment plays a huge part." Pupil Lola from Ecuador class agrees too, "I like the fact that it's based around woodland things and forests. It's got this special pattern that makes it unique. It's got this really nice touch that just makes you want to learn."

It is not just primary schools that have benefited from investment. The recently opened Charter School East Dulwich will soon move into its brand new site, and provide a new co-educational secondary school. The school recently celebrated the completion of its ground floor, which will have capacity for 1,680 pupils. The school gates are expected to open to the first crop of students in early 2019 and will serve the communities of East Dulwich, South Camberwell and Peckham.

In addition the council continues to invest more than £3m per annum in repairs to all its schools to ensure that the buildings are properly maintained to support teaching and learning.

For information about all the schools included in our current investment programme visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/schoolsinvestment](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/schoolsinvestment)

# Building a healthy borough

When we think about how places change over time, we often think about the physical environment – the skyline for example, or our parks and open spaces. But something that never stands still and is hugely important to us all is our health

Southwark has a rich history of ambition and innovation in health. In the early 1900s, local politicians Alfred and Ada Salter, pioneered ground-breaking ideas for urban development, converting Bermondsey from an area with poor housing and sanitation into a garden city with healthier housing and surroundings. Since that time Southwark's health has continued to change, both in terms of improvements and new challenges that have emerged.

## The successes and the challenges

The good news is that we are living longer. On average Southwark men live until they are 78 and women 83 – an increase of 3 years over a decade. However, both are still lower than the London average, and there is a ten year life expectancy gap between men from our most and least deprived areas.

## What can you do?

The council and NHS encourage local people to lead healthy lives, but only you can make it happen. Southwark is brimming with opportunities for healthy activities. Why not:

Sign up to the council's Free Swim and Gym offer today at [everyoneactive.com/southwarkfreeswimandgym](http://everyoneactive.com/southwarkfreeswimandgym)

Get out into one of our 28 Green Flag award-winning parks for a brisk walk, jog or cycle – beneficial for mental as well as physical health.

Make a Change4Life by finding out how you can eat a healthier diet, get active, and inspire your family to be more healthy. Visit [www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life)

More of us are happier and fewer are anxious than we were four years ago, possibly because considerably more of us are in education, employment or training, and 7 in 10 of our children achieve a good level of development at age 5.

Deaths from major diseases like heart disease and cancers are falling, infant deaths have reduced year on year, and teenage pregnancy rates have fallen by 66% over the last decade.

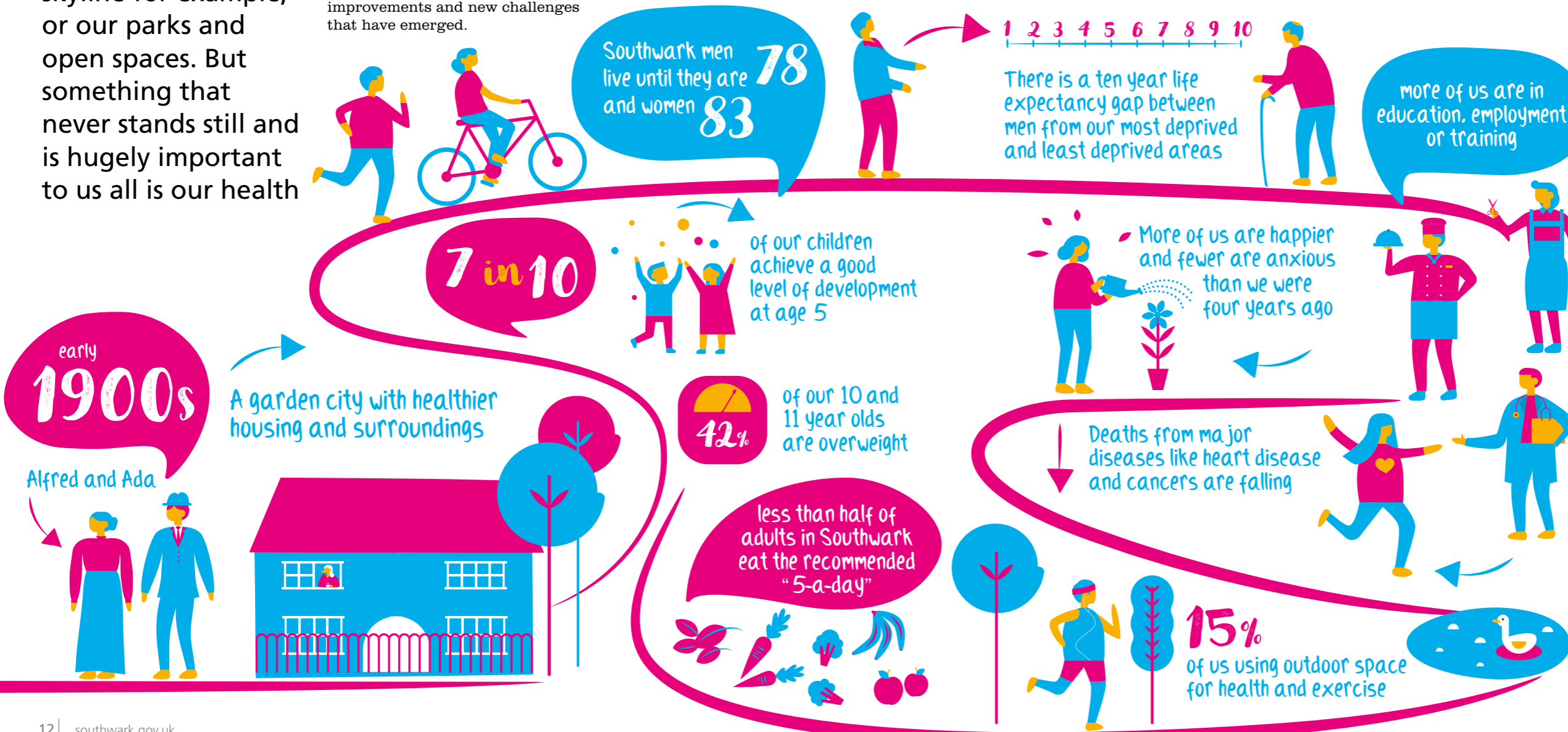
And we are much more energetic as a borough, with 15% of us using outdoor space for health and exercise, compared to 7% in 2011/12. The number of smokers is reducing and fewer people drink alcohol. But less than half of adults in Southwark eat the recommended "5-a-day", and 42% of our 10 and 11 year olds are overweight.

## No-one left behind

As Southwark has evolved over time, most residents have seen improvements to living standards, transport links, parks, shopping and leisure facilities. Regeneration has brought with it job opportunities and economic vibrancy. Over the last ten years or so, Southwark went from being the tenth most deprived borough in the country to the 41st. Yet some economic and health inequalities stubbornly refuse to change. It's important that we tackle this because areas that are deprived are more likely to have poorer quality housing, fewer healthy eating options and higher crime rates. The council is determined to make sure that all its residents benefit from the changes going on around them. In addition to improving the physical environment we are also implementing policies such as restricting fast food takeaways near schools, limiting alcohol licences in high-risk areas and promoting smoke-free spaces.

## Regeneration for all

The council is developing plans to make sure that its regeneration plans work for everyone, helping to create healthy, resilient and connected communities. This has already been happening – new council homes are built to the highest quality while existing homes have been brought up to decent standards, community benefits have been funded as part of major regeneration schemes including the new Castle leisure centre at Elephant and Castle, investment in parks and the creation of thousands of jobs, and recent programmes have focussed on the health of local people, including the free swim and gym offer and the provision of free, healthy school meals for all primary pupils. However we know there is more we can do, and this is why we have launched the Southwark Conversation to understand how change is affecting you. Please join the Southwark Conversation today.



#TalkSouthwark

# Have you still not had your flu jab?

If you're 65 or over or you have a long-term health condition, flu can be serious.

That's why you're eligible for a free flu jab.

Don't put it off. Get your flu jab straight away.

**STAYWELL  
THISWINTER**



Cheril Sowell, Nurse



**Southwark is changing. The council wants this change to work for everyone – to help you and your families enjoy life, be healthy and do well in Southwark.**

We have been bold in our plans to encourage home building and, with rapidly reducing budgets, finding ways to make sure private developers help pay for the thousands of new council homes we are building, the new leisure centres and libraries we have opened, and new cultural and open spaces.

We are also helping residents to take advantage of the opportunities around them, and have helped 5,000 people into work, as well as creating nearly 2,000 apprenticeships for local people.

We're also ensuring that as our population grows, we have the new schools, health services and transport improvements that our residents need.

But we don't want to make assumptions – we want to build on previous consultations to make sure we're getting it right for you and for future generations.

We want to hear direct from our residents about how the changes are affecting you, how you feel about the future, and whether there's anything you think we can do differently.

We will report back initial results by February 2018.

Please take a few moments to complete this quick survey. Your opinion and thoughts are very important to us.

**Join the Southwark Conversation**

**#TalkSouthwark**

Fill out the survey online:  
[southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark](http://southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark)  
or call 020 7525 3326



Please take a few moments to complete this quick survey. If you prefer to complete this online, go to: [southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark](https://southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark).

**1. On a scale of one to five, how positive/happy do you feel about change in Southwark?**  
5 is very positive, 1 is not positive at all

- 5 – Very positive
- 4 – Somewhat positive
- 3 – Mixed
- 2 – Not positive
- 1 – Not positive at all
- Undecided

Please tell us why

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**2. What are some of the ways you are personally involved in contributing to life in Southwark?**

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**3. What can the council do to improve your experience of living in Southwark?**

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**4. What would help you and your family to lead a healthier life in Southwark?**

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**5. Thinking of young people and future generations, what support do you think they will need to succeed in life?**

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**6. In general, what do you think makes a place a 'good neighbourhood to live in?'**

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**7. Do you think you have personally benefitted from changes in your area?**

- Yes
- Partly
- No
- Undecided

Please tell us why

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**8. How do you think local people could become more actively involved in the changes that are happening in their communities?**

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**About you**

To help us make sure we are reaching all of our communities, please complete the equalities information below.\* Completing this section is optional.

**Why do we ask for this information?**

It is important to us that we speak to as many people as we can that reflect the diverse communities in Southwark. This will ensure that everyone's needs are addressed through the plans we develop as a result of this survey.

**9. Age**

- Under 16
- 25 – 34
- 55 – 64
- 85 – 94
- 16 – 17
- 35 – 44
- 65 – 74
- 95+
- 18 – 24
- 45 – 54
- 75 – 84

**10. Disability and health**

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

- Yes, limited a little
- Yes, limited a lot
- No, not limited

**Please tick the box or boxes below that best describe the nature of your impairment(s):**

- Hearing / Vision (e.g. deaf, partially deaf or hard of hearing; blind or partial sight)
- Physical / Mobility (e.g. wheelchair user, arthritis, multiple sclerosis etc.)
- Mental health (lasting more than a year. e.g. severe depression, schizophrenia etc.)
- Learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia etc.)
- Memory problems (e.g. alzheimer's etc.)

If you wish to specify your impairment, please do so here:

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**11. Ethnicity**

What do you consider to be your ethnicity?

- White British
- Scottish
- Northern Irish
- Gypsy, Roma or Irish Traveller
- Other White
- Caribbean
- Ghanaian
- Somali
- Other Black
- Indian
- Chinese
- Vietnamese
- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- Other mixed background
- Latin American
- English
- Welsh
- Irish
- Other European
- Black British
- Nigerian
- Sierra Leonean
- Other African
- Asian British
- Bengali
- Pakistani
- Filipino
- Any other Asian
- White and Asian
- Arab
- Any other ethnicity

Please specify further if you wish:

- Christian
- Muslim
- No religion
- Sikh
- Jewish
- Other
- Hindu
- Buddhist

If you selected Other, please specify if you wish:

.....

**13. Sex**

- Female
- Male

**14. Gender reassignment**

Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

- Yes
- No

**15. Sexual orientation**

- Hetrosexual/straight
- Lesbian/Gay woman
- Gay man
- Bisexual

If you prefer to use your own term, please specify if you wish:

.....

**16. Household income**

- under £20,000
- £20,001 to £30,000
- £30,001 to £40,000
- £40,001 to £50,000
- £50,001 to £60,000
- £60,001 to £70,000
- over £70,000

**17. Please let us know which part of Southwark you live in**

- Bermondsey and Rotherhithe
- Borough, Bankside and Walworth
- Camberwell
- Dulwich
- Peckham and Nunhead

**18. What is your relationship to Southwark?**

Please tick as many as apply.

- I live in the borough
- I work in the borough
- I visit the borough

**19. How long have you been in Southwark?**

- Less than a year
- 1 – 5 years
- 5 – 10 years
- 10 – 20 years
- 20 years or more

**20. What is your housing situation?**

- I own my home outright
- I am buying my home with the help of a mortgage
- Shared ownership
- I rent from the council
- I rent from a private landlord
- I live with family/friends/rent free

**21. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

- Secondary school
- College/further education
- Graduate level
- Postgraduate level

Please tick this box if you would like to receive updates on the Southwark Conversation

Email address: .....

**Thank you for your time!**  
 When you've completed the form\*, you can send it by freepost to the address below or hand it in to your local library.

Freepost RSCE-TGHU-CUZB  
 Southwark Council  
 Community Engagement (2/4)  
 160 Tooley Street  
 London, SE1 2QH

\*By sending us your form you give us permission to include your response in our results. All personal information is treated sensitively and in accordance with data protection principles.

**WE'VE TRANSFORMED**

**5000**

**SOUTHWARK LIVES**

**HELPING OUR RESIDENTS INTO WORK**

Visit [www.southwarkworks.com](http://www.southwarkworks.com) to find out how we can help you.

@lb\_southwark facebook.com/southwarkcouncil southwarkcouncil

**SOUTHWARK WORKS**

*Southwark* Council  
southwark.gov.uk



# Is Universal Credit working for Southwark residents?

Southwark Council commissioned the Smith Institute to carry out a study to find out what Universal Credit will mean for local people, and the council.

Everyone has heard of Universal Credit – the government scheme to roll all benefits into one payment – but with its rollout about to start across the country, not everyone is clear what it means for them.

Unlike the previous housing benefit system, Universal Credit is administered by national government through local job centres, so the council has no control over when or how much of the benefit is paid to residents. An early pilot in Southwark, testing out the direct payment element of Universal Credit, found that claimants fell into rent arrears, and so the council wanted to establish what impact the full rollout would have.



.....  
**Clr Fiona Colley, cabinet member for finance, modernisation and performance**

“As cabinet member with responsibility for welfare, I have been pushing government to make urgent changes to Universal Credit. I believe it is unacceptable that people are waiting for so long to receive their first Universal Credit payment without any benefits, so I have called on government to reduce the six week wait, as well as allowing rent payments to be made directly to the landlord if the tenant wants.



“It is so important that the council stands up for Southwark residents on this issue, which is why I was pleased to give evidence in Parliament to the Work and Pensions Select Committee, highlighting the impact that Universal Credit is having on Southwark tenants. The Select Committee has supported our recommendations to government and the Department for Work and Pensions, which administers Universal Credit, has confirmed they will be looking closely at the findings of our report. Only central government has the power to make the necessary changes to Universal Credit, so I will continue to stand up for residents and push for change nationally.”

.....  
 Together with Croydon Council and Peabody housing association, Southwark commissioned independent research on the rollout of Universal Credit, which is set out in a new report, *Safe as Houses*.

The findings of this report confirm the council’s concerns that more tenants are falling into rent arrears, or getting further into debt, under Universal Credit than under the previous housing benefit system. Universal Credit claimants currently have to wait six weeks after their claim before they receive a payment, with many waiting even longer. This leads to difficulties for some tenants who struggle to pay their rent during that time, which has caused understandable distress for people who find themselves in debt. The increase in rent arrears also has a significant impact on the council’s housing budget, with over £5m debt already owed to the council since the beginning of the rollout, which may never be paid back. Most worryingly, Pecan Foodbank, which operates in Southwark, has reported a significant increase in the number of people being referred to them for help, mainly as a result of welfare reform and Universal Credit.

The council offers support to residents who are struggling financially through the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme.

## Shirley, Peckham

Shirley, from Peckham, claimed Universal Credit for the first time in July this year when she moved home. “I had to wait 8 weeks before I got my first Universal Credit payment. I was claiming ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) but it was stopped the day I put in my claim.”

Although Shirley found the online application process manageable, she said that a lack of face to face contact made things more difficult. “There is no one to ask questions, you just have to sit and wait so if something goes wrong with your claim you don’t know until you don’t get paid.”

By October, three months after claiming Universal Credit, Shirley was in £1,500 debt. “The debts pile up, not just rent but Council Tax, TV, etc. It wasn’t one thing, it was everything.” Shirley said she was scared of losing her flat; “I had been homeless before so I knew what that was like.”

“I got so depressed I stayed at home and didn’t eat for days. I knew I had to ask for help.” Shirley sought help from Citizens Advice, who gave her a voucher for Pecan Food Bank in Peckham. Although Shirley was glad to get help, she said “I have never been in that situation in my life where I had to go to a food bank; it was soul destroying.” Citizens Advice also put Shirley in touch with the council, which was able to provide her with a cooker, fridge and emergency gas and electricity. “The council have been really helpful”, Shirley said. “It was a load off my shoulders as the council knows I am trying to pay my rent.

“Speaking out has really helped. I feel more confident just by knowing that I have the council’s support.”

The council will not take eviction proceedings in any cases where a tenant has claimed Universal Credit and finds themselves in rent arrears through no fault of their own. But ultimately only central government can make changes to Universal Credit, so the council is also

## What is Universal Credit?

- Universal Credit is a new benefit system which combines six benefits (including housing benefit, Jobseekers’ Allowance and child tax credits) into one single monthly payment
- If you get help with your rent, this will be included in your monthly payment – you will then pay your landlord directly
- Universal Credit is paid monthly in arrears, so it can take up to six weeks after you make your claim to get your first payment
- You will need to make your claim for Universal Credit online at [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit)

strongly making the case for change nationally to prevent Southwark residents from being adversely affected by the new benefit system.

Read the full report on the council website at [southwark.gov.uk/SafeAsHouses](http://southwark.gov.uk/SafeAsHouses)

# There's £1m at stake for culture in Southwark

Please... back Southwark's bid for London Borough of Culture

**Q**uirky, hidden, mainstream, vibrant, diverse, exciting, edgy...the list of words to describe Southwark's heady mix of cultural riches is almost endless. But with £1million on offer from the Mayor of London for the London Borough of Culture in 2019 and 2020, we want to go even further in establishing Southwark as THE place to go for culture and the arts for everyone.

Theatre, carnival, film, music, dance, art...whatever culture means to you, Southwark has an amazing story to tell, and a strong base through our cultural heritage, contemporary arts scene and wealth of diverse and creative talent.

This is the home of established, international centres like the Tate Modern, White Cube, Shakespeare's Globe and the new Bridge theatre, developed by Nick Starr and Nicholas Hytner as the home of the London Theatre Company. But fresh new talent from up-and-coming artists can also be found at the Hannah Barry Gallery, Southwark Playhouse, Theatre Peckham, Omeara, CGP London and other vibrant, burgeoning hubs of art and creativity across Southwark.

Southwark is also home to some of the most sought after film locations nationally. We've seen the cast of Bridget Jones, The Night Manager,

Guardians of the Galaxy, Luther and the last two Bond movies, all filming on our streets.

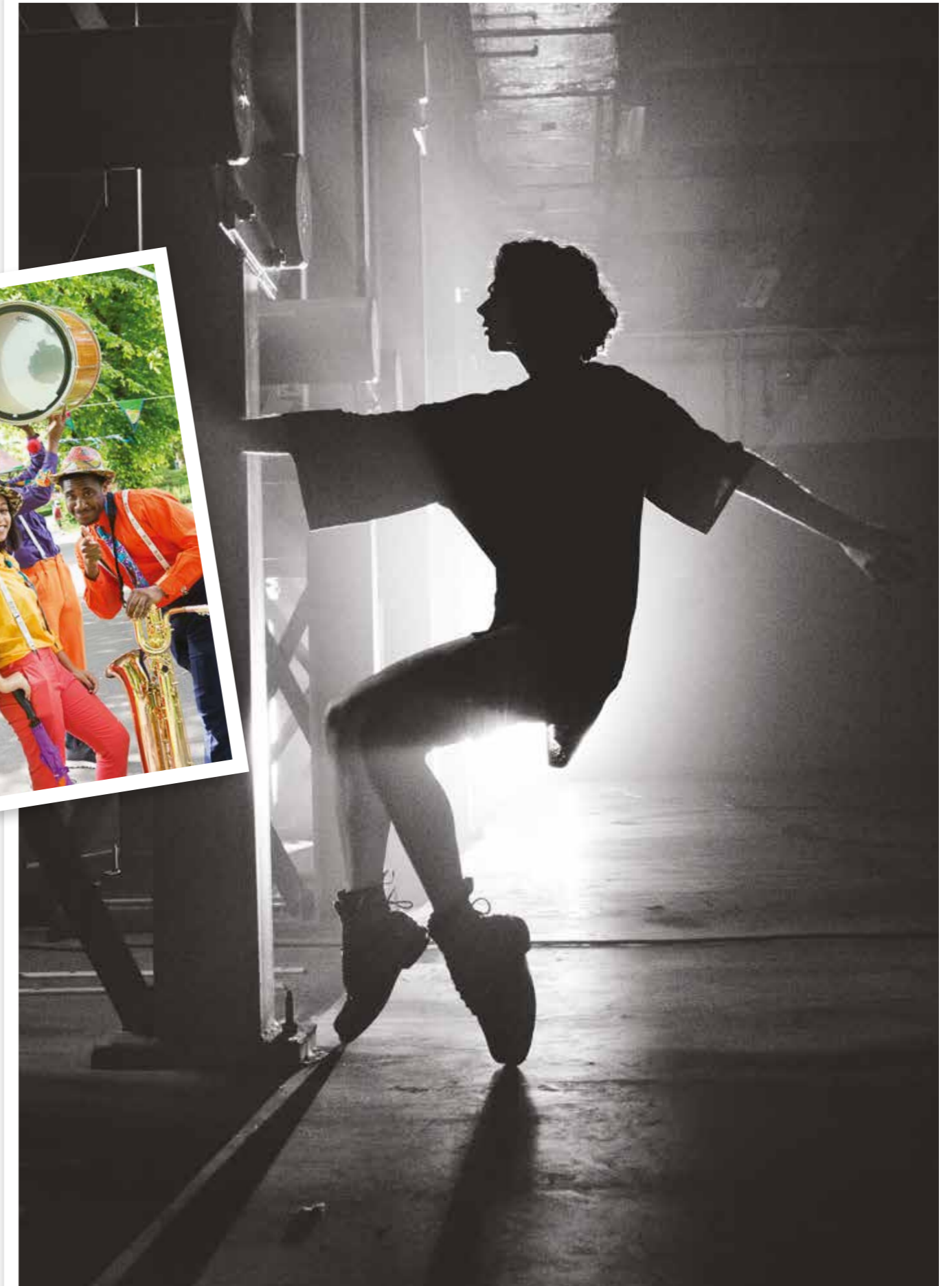
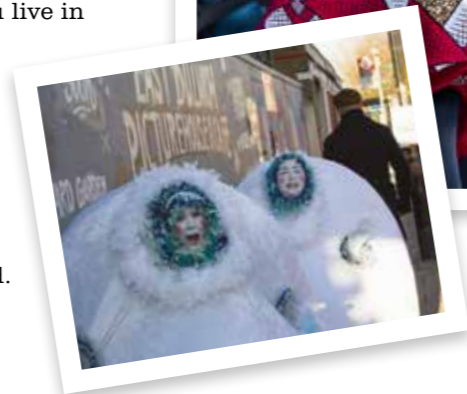
The council's bid for Borough of Culture is a celebration of all of this, alongside the diverse communities, incredible heritage and talented creatives, evident here in Southwark. It builds on our cultural strategy, Creative Southwark, which puts creativity at the heart of everything we do.

So please, wherever you live in Southwark – Peckham, Nunhead, Camberwell, Walworth, Dulwich, Rotherhithe, Borough, Bankside and Bermondsey – get involved, create, celebrate and come together to back the bid.

## So what happens next?

Southwark Council will submit a bid by 1 December on behalf of the borough. In February we will find out which two London boroughs have been awarded the title of London Borough of Culture; one for 2019 and the other for 2020. Each winning borough will receive more than £1million from the Mayor of London and will run a huge and exciting programme of cultural events that will feature the talents of both global superstars and local people, within its year. A handful of boroughs will also receive a smaller amount to support one outstanding project from their bid.

It only takes a moment to pledge your support for Southwark's bid. Just go to [southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpioneers](http://southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpioneers) and click on the button.



# SOUTHWARK PRESENTS

## EAST DULWICH CHRISTMAS CRACKER

East Dulwich will be the place to be on Saturday 2 December when the fabulous Christmas Cracker returns supported by Southwark Council and presented by the Dulwich Festival. Now in its sixth year, the 2017 East Dulwich Christmas Cracker will offer even more to get everyone in the festive spirit. This year's street festival programme will include an exciting array of entertainment from local choirs and performance groups, exclusive offers from the fantastic local traders, a wonderfully seasonal North Cross Road market with tempting gifts and delicious festival food and the return of the delightful Children's Christmas Treasure Hunt developed with participation from Link Age Southwark. This year will see the advent of an art trail with local artists exhibiting throughout spaces in Lordship Lane and beyond. The East Dulwich Christmas Cracker will take place throughout the area from 11am to 5pm. Make a date in your diary to come along and join in the festive fun! The East Dulwich Christmas Cracker is funded by Southwark Council with contributions from local traders and produced by Dulwich Festival.

**Saturday 2 December, 11am to 5pm**

FREE

North Cross Road and Lordship Lane, East Dulwich.

[www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents)



## CINDERELLA SHOESHINE

Follow Cindy and her little brother from sunny Jamaica to 1940s London and on to the Art Deco glamour of Hollywood's golden era, where even a shoeshine gal can see her name in lights! Set inside our beautiful new theatre, you're guaranteed a fairy-tale ending with Theatre Peckham's magical Cinderella Shoeshine.

**5 - 23 December (not 9, 11, 20) times vary from day to day; check website for details**

£10 / £8 Under 16 / Family of four £30

Theatre Peckham, 221 Havil Street, London SE5 7SD.

**Wheelchair access throughout venue. Assisted listening system available.**

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



## A CONCERT FOR WINTER

A Concert For Winter is our free annual showcase and celebration of the past, present and future of Southwark. Complete with song, dance, poetry and performance, the event celebrates the borough's rich talents.

**Thursday 7 December, 1pm**

Free

Globe Theatre

[www.shakespearesglobe.com/education/events/productions/concertforwinter](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/education/events/productions/concertforwinter)



## THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

The Velveteen Rabbit is a heart-warming story about a very shy toy rabbit who longs for nothing more than to become real. First published in 1922, this classic American tale loses nothing of its power, magic and charm in this bold and adventure-filled adaptation for the Unicorn stage. Ages 5 - adult.

**17 Nov - 31 Dec 2017, various times, please see website**

£10 - £24

Unicorn Theatre

[unicorntheatre.com/The-Velveteen-Rabbit-2017](http://unicorntheatre.com/The-Velveteen-Rabbit-2017)

## CARAVANTOMIME

This festive season, catch a pantomime with a difference. Bankside, London SE1 will be playing host to a travelling anti-pantomime hosted in The Caravan Theatre... niftily named Caravantomime. An intimate re-imagining of classic pantomime stories, the performance will see a clash of panto's favourite characters; expect to see Snow White, Cinderella and Widow Twanky presented in The Caravan Theatre. Produced by Robin Linde Productions, the 20-minute performance will be showing from Friday 1 December and throughout the rest of the month at lunchtimes and evenings (full timetable below), with tickets costing just £7.50.

**1 - 2 December, Prices Street (by Hilton London Bankside), SE1 0UG**

**6 - 9 December, 90 Southwark Street, SE1 0HX**

**13 - 16 December and 20 - 22 December, 1 Flat Iron Square, Union Street, SE1 0AB**

**12.30pm, 1.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm**

£7.50

St Giles Church, SE5 8RB

**Book online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3125237](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3125237)**

**Subject to availability, tickets may be available on the door.**



## FROZEN IN TIME

In 2016 Emergency Exit Arts brought the flames of the Phoenix to the Blackfriars Mile. This year the waters of the Thames will feature in our celebration of the people and places of this historical part of Southwark. With help from schools and the local communities EEA will bring the history of the Blackfriars Mile to life as it flows from the streets and open spaces to the waters of the Thames. Led by a gigantic mechanical animation, Old Father Thames, you are invited to join the procession and follow him on a voyage of discovery through different neighbourhoods around Blackfriars Road. Throughout the centuries Old Father Thames has stood guard over the riverbank. No one knows quite how long ago the figure of Father Thames was first invoked. It's likely that people have always paid tribute to the river in one form or another. Treasures found in its waters might have been offerings to the river. Would Old Father Thames come looking for them? Could they have been frozen in time in the Thames' icy waters?

**1 December, 4pm**

Free

Starts Mint Street Park

[southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents](http://southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents)



## THE SUNDAY SPOT

Join us on Sunday afternoons for hands-on activities led by artists. Bring your children aged 3-12 years for workshops which are fun, playful and different every week.

**Every Sunday (excluding 24 & 31 December), times are 2 to 4pm**

Free, no booking required

South London Gallery

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



## BOING!

This piece of dance-theatre captures the delirious excitement of two boys waiting for Father Christmas to arrive on the most magical night of the year. There are beds to be jumped on and pillows to be fought with, let your imagination soar right up to the stars. Ages 2 to 6

**22 Nov – 31 Dec, various times, please see website**

£12 – £20

Unicorn Theatre

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

Boing-2017

## LONDON BUBBLE WEEKLY DRAMA CLASSES

Open access drama classes for ages 6 upwards. Sessions are playful and build confidence and communication. They also provide opportunities to create and act out participant's own imaginative stories.

**Spring term w/c 15 January 2018, times are evenings and weekends**

Fee paying

London Bubble, 5 Elephant Lane, London SE16 4JD

[londonbubble.org.uk/projectpage/participatory-groups](http://londonbubble.org.uk/projectpage/participatory-groups)



## ORGANOKE

Instead of Silent Night, why not don that Christmas jumper, grab a beer or two and party in the pews or dance down the aisle belting out that most traditional of Christmas tunes: from Slade's "Merry Christmas Everyone" to "Fairytale of New York". The inimitable Ida Barr returns in all her faded Edwardian grandeur to get you on your feet using that beer bottle as a microphone like you're Freddie Mercury on tour.

**16 December, Bar opens 7pm**

£15

St Giles Church, SE5 8RB

[brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com)



Photo: Tom Leighton

## KEEP THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS ALIVE

Come and see the switching on of the Christmas tree lights in Peckham Square by the Mayor of Southwark and local schools and shops. Choirs singing Christmas carols and Free light refreshments donated by Morrison's supermarket. Theatre Peckham will be singing for the event this year.

**Friday 1 December, 4pm to 7pm**

FREE

26 Pioneer Street, Peckham

## APRÈS LONDON

Please join us in welcoming the inaugural year of Après London, London's first ever teleportation device. Transporting you from the South Bank to the Southern Alps. A fabulous, wooden ski chalet adjacent to Borough Market located in the fabulous cultural hotspot, Flat Iron Square.

**December 8 to 31 March, Open from 5pm weekdays and noon weekends**

FREE

Flat Iron Square

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

## JERWOOD/PHOTOWORKS AWARDS 2018

New photographic works by three early career artists, Alejandra Carles-Tolra, Sam Laughlin and Lua Ribeira, enabled by the second, biennial, Jerwood/Photoworks Awards. Jerwood/Photoworks Awards were established in response to a need for opportunities that support early career artists in making and presenting new work with sustained support from established professionals.

**17 January – 11 March 2017 Monday – Friday, 10am-5pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10am-3pm**

Free

Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, Bankside, London, SE1 0LN

[www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/exhibitions/jerwoodphotoworks-awards-2018](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org/exhibitions/jerwoodphotoworks-awards-2018)



Photo: courtesy of the artist

# Southwark: The Early Years

From the Roman period onwards, an important settlement has existed in the northern part of what is now the modern London Borough of Southwark.

## ROMAN SOUTHWARK

The history of the north of the borough has always been closely linked with that of the City of London across the River Thames.

Londinium was an area of London that today we call the square mile or The City of London, and Southwark might best be described as its first southern suburb.

The first extensive settlement of Southwark began not long after AD 43, when the maintenance of communications and supplies would have been vital for the army and it was probably early in the period that Southwark and the future Londinium were established.

This was because they lay at the first place upriver on the Thames that could be reached by roads from the major entry points on the coasts and where it was possible to provide a harbour and build a bridge.

Archaeological discovery would suggest that the first Roman constructions in Southwark were the two major roads that they built which approached the River Thames.

Timbers that date from the Roman period have been discovered at various points along the line of what are now Great Dover Street and Borough High Street.



**Hunter God statue**

Major roads were built to other Roman cities in the south of England, including Watling Street to Canterbury (present day Old Kent Road) and Stane Street to Chichester (Newington Causeway and Kennington Park Road). Remains of large and prestigious stone buildings with mosaic floors, hypocaust heating systems and in one case, elaborately painted wall frescos have been found. Wooden jetties, warehouses and other remains of waterfront activities show that the Southwark riverside was a centre of trade, with close links to the rest of the Roman Empire.

Six objects were uncovered in an old well site underneath Southwark

cathedral in 1977. These objects had been broken and apparently thrown down the well and possibly suffered burning at some stage. It could have been part of a ritual but more likely a sign of the changing occupation of Southwark. With the Roman influence fading and the Christian influence increasing, these items were no longer required.

## SAXON SOUTHWARK

In the Saxon period, Southwark was apparently deserted until soon after AD 900 when a small fortification was made which became the southern defense for the rebuilt London Bridge.

By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, Southwark was prospering and growing as a settlement. The Cluniac priory and later abbey of St Saviour Bermondsey, known as Bermondsey Abbey, was founded in the 1080s. During the years following Domesday, many important lords and senior members of the church built town houses in Southwark, most notably Winchester Palace, built in the 12th century for the Bishops of Winchester. The remains of the hall, and the Rose Window Wall, can be seen on Clink Street

After the Norman Conquest, Southwark grew into a small but thriving community, a suburb of the City, but with an independent life of its own.



**The 'Borough', near London Bridge Station**

## MEDIEVAL SOUTHWARK

The name Southwark is first recorded in the 10th century during the period of Saxon settlement. The word Southwark comes from "Suthringa geweorche" which means the defensive work of the men of Surrey.

Evidence of these defensive works has been found at Hibernia Wharf in Montague Close.

In the 900s the area became known as the South work or the South burh referring to fortifications built to repel Viking invaders.

Archaeologists have excavated a large ditch that drained into St Mary's Overie Dock and several pits in which a Saxon paddle and a coin of Alfred (AD 871-899) were found.

Although William the Conqueror burned Southwark during his invasion in 1066, in 1089 the Domesday Book records that there were 40 households, a church on the site of the current Cathedral, St Mary Overie docks and many mooring places along the shore.

By the 1500s Southwark had expanded along the riverfront eastward to Horsley-down, now known as Tooley Street, and westward along Bankside and south as far down as St George's church.



**Monastery Gate Bermondsey**



**Old London Bridge circa 1750**

## Tudor and Elizabethan Southwark

During this period Southwark was famous for its many "stews" or brothels, its inns, taverns and alehouses. These activities were frowned upon in the City of London but flourished in the less controlled area of Bankside.

Archaeologists have uncovered the foundations and the brick cellars of many of the inns and taverns, including the Bull, the Peacock and the Ostrich Feather, under Borough High Street during the building of the Jubilee Line.

The other great attractions of Southwark were its bear baiting arenas and playhouses.

There were at least five animal baiting arenas located around the Park Street area of Bankside. Archaeologists have uncovered the timber piles and foundations of a bear baiting arena at Benbow House in Bear Gardens as well as mastiffs bones, a breed of dog that would have been used to attack a chained bear or horse in the pits. Two European brown bear

skeletons were also found in a pit nearby in Skinmarket Place.

There were also four open-air playhouses on Bankside during the 16th century. The most famous were the Rose and the Globe – where many of Shakespeare's plays were first performed. Both playhouses have recently been found by archaeologists. The Hope has also now been located on the eastside of Bear Gardens. The Swan is known only from documents and old maps and there is little chance that any of it survives.

As well as an entertainment centre Southwark was the home to many industries such as the tanning of leather, shipbuilding and ship-breaking, clay pipe making and the production of Delftware and tin glazed earthenware.

Underneath the yard of the old Sarson's Vinegar factory on Tanner Street archaeologists found wooden casks set into pits and filled with slaked lime dating to the 17th century. These wooden-lined pits were used to tan sheep skins.



**The old Elephant and Castle, Newington**



**Peckham Rye, 1871**



**Newington workhouse**



**Carter Street police station**



**Ada Salter**



**Alfred Salter**

## GEORGIAN AND VICTORIAN SOUTHWARK

The Georgian era saw many of Southwark's neighbourhoods take on yet another identity: upscale suburb. With the opening of Westminster Bridge in 1750 and Blackfriars Bridge in 1769, people wealthy enough to have access to a private coach could live away from the City of London and commute into work. The borough's surviving Georgian terraces, including the Register Office on Peckham Road are testament to the pull of greener, less crowded spaces.

Changing times and fashions affected leisure as well as homes. People now flocked to pleasure gardens, often some distance from the City, which combined elements of cafés, botanical gardens, and concert venues; visitors strolled in the gardens, enjoyed music, dancing, and refreshments. The St Helena Gardens in Rotherhithe (in what's now Eugenia Road), which opened in 1770, featured evening fireworks and a rural oasis with spectacular views over the river.

The Royal Surrey Gardens, which opened in 1831, began its life as a zoo to rival Regent's Park and became the largest music venue in London about 20 years later. Its

other specialty was large-scale public spectacles of scale re-enactments – like of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, the Great Fire of London, or famous naval battles – using sets, fireworks, and the gardens' lake.

The advance of public transportation – Thomas Tilling's horse bus in 1850, trams in 1870, and the Underground in 1890 – meant that even more people could afford to live further away from the centre of London. These newcomers pushed the upscale suburbs further out into what had previously been farmland – Dulwich, for instance – and the mansions of the well-to-do were subdivided or replaced with more modest Victorian terraces. However, as the Victorian era wore on, new commercial and industrial development ate into the housing stock in areas like Bermondsey, Walworth, and Camberwell. The remainder often fell into disrepair, causing overcrowding, poor hygiene, and health problems.

Reformers seized the opportunities to improve conditions, causing another wave of change. New housing models were created:

housing charities emerged that built and rented flats at rates working people could better afford, funded by investments from better-off Londoners. Many of these new estates were tenement-style multi-storey blocks, like the Douglas Buildings development in Marshalsea Road, but Octavia Hill's Redcross Cottages showed it was possible to afford single-family homes as well. In fact, some of the most well-known of London's housing associations, like Peabody, Octavia Housing, and the Guinness Partnership, trace their roots back to this pioneering work.

Other changes followed on from Octavia Hill's work in particular. Octavia's system of rent collectors/housing managers also helped promote local children's groups, which was a model for the settlement movement that housed and nurtured activities for local children for decades afterwards. She also founded the Southwark Army Cadets, and her concern for open spaces for working Londoners to enjoy was instrumental in the protection of Hampstead Heath and Parliament Hill Fields as well as the creation of the National Trust.



**Peckham Rye, 1863**



**Peckham Rye 1983**

## 20th Century and 21st Century Southwark

Perhaps no period in Southwark's long history has seen as much change as the past century. The settlement movement bred another generation of reformers, who this time embedded themselves in local government, determined to harness its power to improve life for local citizens. Perhaps the fullest example of this was in Bermondsey: Ada and Alfred Salter were both alumni of the Bermondsey Settlement – by the late 1920s, Ada was a councillor, Alfred was MP, and their colleague and friend Eveline Lowe was the LCC councillor, enabling them to bring forward a pioneering, progressive platform that stressed public health, leisure opportunities, and decent housing for everyone in Bermondsey. This "Bermondsey Revolution" was a model for local government all over the world.

The Blitz forced further changes. Hundreds of local people were killed, and tens of thousands of houses were destroyed or damaged. The Elephant and Castle, one of South London's biggest transport hubs, was a major target – the bulk of the area's redevelopment took more than a decade and radically altered the local landscape, but the last bombsite was only redeveloped in 1991!



# Southwark Conversation

Let's talk...

Southwark is changing. The council wants this change to work for everyone – to help you and your families enjoy life, be healthy and do well in Southwark.

We want to hear from you about how the changes are affecting you, how you feel about the future, and whether there's anything you think we can do differently.

Join the Southwark Conversation

Fill out the survey online:  
[southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark](https://southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark)  
or call 020 7525 3326

#TalkSouthwark

[southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark](https://southwark.gov.uk/talksouthwark)

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Delivering our promises

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Council  
southwark.gov.uk