

Southwark Life

Summer 2023

Summer in Southwark

Time to get walking, cycling
and active in the borough

Inspiring youth

Meet our award-winning
Young Advisor

Sailing into history

Celebrating the 75th anniversary
of the Windrush arrival

PLUS festivals, activities and events across Southwark this summer

Your magazine from Southwark Council

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welcome...

Hello and welcome to the summer edition of Southwark Life.

Now is a great time to get out and about and explore our wonderful borough, and in this edition we have some features to help you do just that.

We also take a look at the current housing picture in Southwark. Having a home is not an optional extra in life, it's an essential. That's why we've made building genuinely affordable homes our first priority in Southwark, with over three thousand new council homes built or under construction across our borough, more than any other council.

We're investing in these new council homes because we know they'll transform lives for generations to come with their low rents and lifetime tenancies standing in stark contrast to London's broken and unaffordable private rented sector. It's been hard work to get here, but we are now building council homes on a scale not seen in our country since the seventies.

What we need now is a government that shares our ambition. There are over a million people and rising on waiting lists for a council home across our country. We will not solve the housing crisis until we start building council homes at scale again in every bit of the country. Last year a third of all new council homes started in England were in Southwark. Whilst I'm proud of that success, people across our country urgently need the government to back every council to build on this scale, so wherever you live in the country there are homes you can afford.

We have all our usual news, events – including some of the family summer activities in our what's on guide – and our history page looks at the impact the arrival of the Windrush made on our borough.

I hope you all have a wonderful 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

Front page photo is Sydney Simms, our award-winning Young Advisor. See pages 20 and 21 for full interview.




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Keep in touch

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 facebook.com/southwarkcouncil
 @lb_southwark
 Instagram.com/southwarkcouncil

Need to know...

Summer is around the corner and things are hotting up in Southwark. We're bringing you the news hot off the presses from around the borough

For news and events follow us on social media or find out more at 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

Southwark Leisure is up and running!

We are excited to announce that we have now taken over the running of the eight leisure centres across the borough, under the name Southwark Leisure. Our new in-house teams are ready to support your health and fitness journey. If you are already a member of one of our leisure centres, you can be reassured that you can continue to enjoy all the fantastic facilities as usual, at the same price, and do not have to do anything – your membership will transfer over automatically.



The centres will benefit from refurbished studios over the summer to enhance the group exercise experience. Future developments include upgraded gym equipment, class programming and a brand new leisure centre in Canada Water by 2025.

Summer is a great time to get out and get active and there's something for everybody to enjoy at your local leisure centre. Visit our new website at southwarkleisure.co.uk to find out.

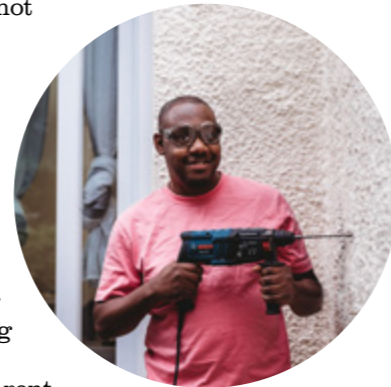
Stop smoking for good with free support

Quitting is one of the best things you can do for your physical and mental health, and your finances. If you're 18-years-old or older and live in the borough or are registered at a Southwark GP, you can get 12 weeks' free support.

You're three times more likely to quit with help than going it alone. To find out more call the healthy lifestyle hub on **0333 005 0159** or email them at southwark.referrals@nhs.net, or go to southwark.gov.uk/quit-smoking

Coming soon – Library of Things at Canada Water

This summer we will be opening Southwark's first Library of Things at Canada Water Library. This will be a place where you can borrow useful household items you do not need to use often – like carpet cleaners, drills, or projectors for a few pounds a day. Instead of splashing out on something that will spend most of the year cluttering up your cupboards, you can rent it for a few hours, saving money, space and helping the environment.



See which items you can rent and sign up for updates at libraryofthings.co.uk/canadawater



Do you have a spare room to foster a child?

We're looking for foster carers who have a spare room and who live in or close to Southwark. We provide extensive training and a competitive allowance along with a set-up grant to help prepare the foster child's bedroom. If you think you could open your door to change a life then please get in touch to find out more about becoming a foster carer at www.southwark.gov.uk/fostering or come along to one of our fostering information sessions.



Mayor Making

Saturday 20 May was the annual Southwark Mayor Making Ceremony and Civic Awards Service at Southwark Cathedral.

At the service Cllr Michael Situ was named as the borough's new Mayor for 2023, taking over from Cllr Sunil Chopra. Cllr Naima Ali was named as the new Deputy Mayor.

To see the new list of Cabinet Members and portfolios visit southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-mps/leader-of-the-council-and-cabinet-members



New provider at four care homes for older people

In May we welcomed Agincare as the new provider at four of our care homes in the borough. Agincare is a family-owned business with a strong track record of supporting people for more than 35 years. They took over from Anchor on 3 May and will provide services from the buildings that are owned by the council. We thank residents and their families who helped us choose Agincare as the best team to meet the changing needs of our older people.

Read more about our new care provider at www.southwark.gov.uk/news/2023/apr/

New-look playground opens



The George Row playground on the Dickens Estate has re-opened after being revamped with new play equipment and landscaping that increases biodiversity.

The improvements have been part of the council's work in partnership with local residents and Tideway who are funding this project

The area is now a bright place where everyone is welcome to play, explore, relax and enjoy a beautiful traffic-free green space.

Free digital support close to home



Did you know that we now offer digital support in the community? Our network of local volunteer digital champions provide individual support to any resident that needs it. From explaining the basics of computer use to offering help and advice with getting online and using the internet.

Our digital inclusion team are here to help you get online, use the internet and access the wide variety of services available through a phone, computer or tablet. You can read more in our printed digital guide free from any library in Southwark.

To find out more about support, or volunteering, call **07783 776 066** or email digital.inclusion@southwark.gov.uk or visit our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/digital-inclusion

Jobs Fair with a difference

On Thursday 29 Jun 2023, from 12noon to 4.30pm, the council is holding a Jobs Fair at Elephant and Castle London College of Communication London SE1 6SB. There will be a wide range of jobs and apprenticeships on offer.

This is a great opportunity to find a new role, develop your career and find support in finding the right job, apprenticeship or skills support for you.

Register if you would like an opportunity to explore our latest employment opportunities and develop your career with some of our borough's biggest employers. <https://tinyurl.com/JobsfairSouthwark>

Bringing residents together to tackle the climate emergency

On 11 March over 200 people came along to Southwark Climate Day at London Southbank University. There were inspiring guest speakers, such as the UK's High Commissioner to Fiji – a nation that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Plus workshops covering issues such as air quality, energy efficiency, fashion and climate, and creating wild spaces.

Lots of people's practical action also took place, as Repair Café Nunhead fixed peoples household items, the Energy Advice Centre provided help and advice on home energy efficiency, and bike mechanics fixed and serviced people's bikes for free all day.

You can find out about future events like this by signing up to our climate newsletter at southwark.gov.uk/climateneewsletter

Try our electric cargo bike hire scheme



If you're a resident or business based in Southwark you can hire one of our electric cargo (delivery) bikes for as little as £3 per hour. The scheme is run by OurBike. They're a great way of locally transporting your children, deliveries or pet dog without using a car!

There are currently two locations in the borough where you can hire an e-cargo bike, outside Karavan Eco and Rye Books, both in Dulwich.

There's also training available for anyone that hasn't used a cargo bike before.

Visit ourbike.co.uk to hire an electric cargo bike.

Last chance to claim energy vouchers

The government is calling on anyone who tops up their energy via a traditional prepayment electricity meter, or PPM, to redeem money-off vouchers before they expire on 30 June.

The Energy Bills Support Scheme, which ran between October 2022 and March 2023, enabled households to save £400 off the cost of their energy bills over the course of the six months. Whilst most households received this discount automatically via their electricity supplier, traditional PPM users were required to redeem

monthly vouchers sent to them by their supplier for use at either Post Office or PayPoint top-up points.

PPM users should bring their voucher, ID and electricity prepayment key or card to the top up point specified by their electricity supplier. Previously issued vouchers expire after 90 days but can be reissued before 30 June. If a person thinks that they have missed their vouchers, they should contact their electricity supplier. All vouchers must be used by 30 June.

For more information go to gov.uk/helpforhouseholds

Visit Tower Bridge for £1

Did you know if you're a Southwark resident you can visit Tower Bridge for just £1? You can see the spectacular views from the iconic glass floors, discover the original Victorian engine Rooms and more with a community ticket. You can book online and you'll just need to bring proof of address when you visit.

Book your £1 ticket at www.towerbridge.org.uk/plan-your-visit/community-ticket

Help for events to become even more sustainable

Southwark now has a new sustainability blueprint to help events become climate-friendly and continue to entertain residents as we move towards being carbon neutral by 2030.

If you're an event organiser, you can read the guidance and find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/sustainable-events

Are you looking after someone else's child?

Some parents arrange for their children to live with another family - this may be just for a few days, or a longer period of time. If your child is living with someone other than a parent or close relative, for a period of 28 days or more, the law requires you to notify us of such an arrangement.

Our role is not to disrupt the arrangement, but we have a responsibility to ensure that children are being properly cared for. We can also make sure that you get the help you need.

For more information visit www.southwark.gov.uk/privatefostering



WE'RE BUILDING ONE THIRD OF ENGLAND'S COUNCIL HOMES

With the cost of living crisis causing levels of poverty and homelessness to rise, there has never been a more important time to build more genuinely affordable housing, especially homes for social rent.

Southwark Council is bucking the national trend by building the largest number of new council homes in the country, according to new data released from the Government in May 2023.

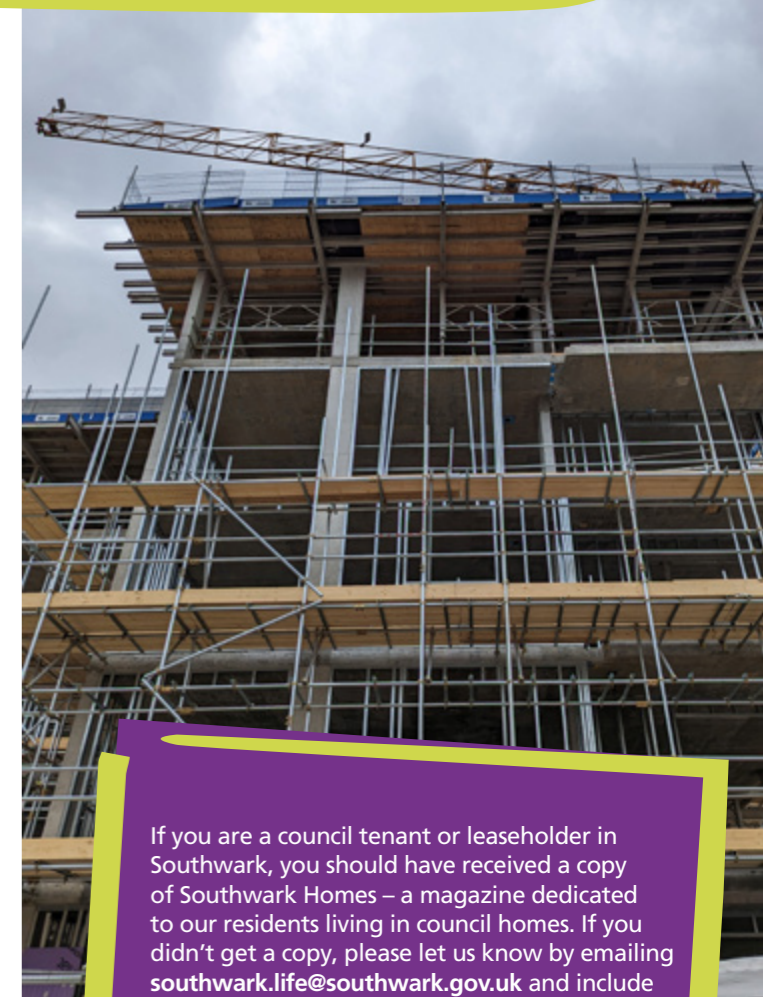
Of 2,234 council homes started nationally in 2021/22, 726 were in Southwark, more than double the next largest council home builder, Haringey. This means that Southwark has the largest council house building programme in the country.

Despite criticism that local authorities face in how they try to tackle the housing crisis, and the considerable challenges of Brexit, the pandemic, high interest rates and cost of building supplies, the hard work is happening to turn ambition for those in need of homes into bricks and mortar, with no better example than Southwark.

Since 2014, 3,250 new council homes have been built, or begun, in Southwark – particularly remarkable as we are a central London authority with limited space. But with 17,200 people on our housing waiting list and in desperate need of housing, we aren't going to be stopping there.

Kieron Williams, Leader of Southwark Council, said: "We're investing in these new council homes because we know they'll transform lives for generations to come with their low rents and lifetime tenancies. It's been hard work to get here, but we are now building council homes on a scale not seen in our country since the seventies."

For more information on our new council homes go to page 8 and 9.



If you are a council tenant or leaseholder in Southwark, you should have received a copy of Southwark Homes – a magazine dedicated to our residents living in council homes. If you didn't get a copy, please let us know by emailing southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk and include the phrase 'Housing Magazine' in the subject heading. You can also send any comments or feedback to this email address too.

OUR

HOUSING



Residents often wonder what the council is doing to tackle the housing crisis so here's what has been happening.

Many people know that Southwark has more council homes than most places in the country, with 36,000 council-rent properties to manage – the fourth highest number nationally, and the most in London. This means that roughly 25% of people in Southwark live in council rented housing.

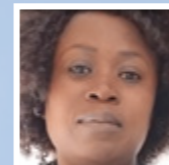
The Cost of Living crisis, and strain on the amount of affordable housing available in London means that we need to build more, better quality housing. Southwark has the most ambitious new council home building programme in the country, with a recent government report showing we are building a third of the new council homes in the whole country (see page 7 for details).



Empty homes

Last year Southwark brought more empty homes back in to use than any other London borough – more than 500 – with the total number of empty homes in Southwark down by a third over the last four years. That is the largest reduction in our city and second biggest in the country. However we know there is more to do, and we want to bring all empty homes back into use. That is why the council has agreed an empty homes action plan. The plan includes a range of support for the owners of empty homes, including help to let homes to local families as well as grants and loans to help bring them back into use. As well as charging double or triple council tax on homes that are left empty long term.

The council is also working hard to make sure its own homes are full. More than 96% of council homes in Southwark are occupied, with others being refurbished between lets, ready for the next family to move in. There are also some council homes that tenants have moved out of ready for them to be replaced with new high quality council homes. For example on the Tustin and Ledbury estates where residents have voted to replace a number of blocks. On these estates, homes that were poorly built in the 1960s and '70s are being replaced with new high quality council homes fit for the future. Another example is the Aylesbury Estate where 581 new council homes are being built next to Burges Park to replace older homes that had reached the end of their life, as well as additional housing association social rent homes.



Natacha Kouadio moved into Southwark's council block William Cuffay House in January 2021. Natacha said, "My new home is just perfect, it's amazing. This new home has changed our lives, my son and I. We now have a place we can call home, that's quiet, clean and satisfies our needs. We are free, we have more space, my son can play and I'm very grateful to Southwark Council".

William Cuffay House was completed at the end of 2020. The seven-storey building in Walworth comprises 17 spacious flats, including two duplexes, which are all available at council rent levels to local people in housing need.

Jessica Smith, another new resident in the building, said, "I'm so happy with my new flat. It's really spacious and an enormous improvement on where I was living before. I love that everything is brand new, it's like having a clean slate. I want to say thank you to Southwark Council for giving me and my family the opportunity to live here."



Olamide Oni moved into a brand new two-bedroom council flat that Southwark Council converted from an old drying room in the summer of 2020. Before this, Olamide and her four-year-old daughter had been living temporary accommodation in Lewisham for three years while waiting for a permanent home.

Olamide said, "I was so excited to move into this flat. Living here, I'm closer to friends, family, I have child care - life is just easier. I actually have time to have a social life again and get my support network back.

"The flat itself is beautiful, I feel so lucky to know that it's all brand new and I'm the first person to use everything. There's more space for

my daughter and she's now living closer to her dad as well so there's definitely been a positive impact on her life."

Bermondsey council homes 'topped out'

Building works have reached the roof level and continue at pace at two sites providing 40 new council homes, play spaces and communal gardens at St Saviours Estate in West Bermondsey.

We are building 24 of these new council homes in a five-storey building at the Maltby Street site, including four wheelchair adapted duplex flats. There will also be disabled car parking spaces, bike storage, communal gardens and a playground as part of this development.

At the Fendall Street site, there will also be a wheelchair adapted flat, bike storage, a new ball court, a play area and a communal garden.

Both sites replace old garages and pram sheds that were part of the St Saviours Estate.

The Maltby Street development is expected to complete in December 2023 and the Fendall Street development is expected to complete in early 2024.

Builders have also reached the roof in a development in Penry Street in South Bermondsey. This development will provide 24 new homes, three retail spaces, garden areas and a roof garden in a five storey building on the corner of Penry Street and Old Kent Road.

Thirteen of the new homes at Penry Street will be council homes for local people, and 11 of the homes will be for private sale, helping to fund the development. The site was previously occupied by a petrol station.

The building works should be finished by autumn 2023.

Recently completed new homes

This spring, 21 more new council homes were completed at a site called Ivy Church Lane near Old Kent Road. In line with Southwark Council's local lettings policy, at least 50% of the new council homes are offered to local council tenants in housing need and already living in the immediate area.

Akinkunmi Raji, who recently moved in to a new scheme, Prout House, said: "I'm really pleased with my new home, we had been on the waiting list for a long time and it's fantastic to be in such a nice place with my family. Our new flat is spacious, meets our needs, and I feel safe and comfortable in the area. This new home has brought stability, security and happiness for my family."



Safer cycling in Southwark

Summer is a wheelie good time to get on your bike and see what the borough has to offer.

Cycling is a great way to travel – it is good exercise for the body, and is much more environmentally-friendly than travelling by car. The council has been busy making our borough a safer place to get around by bicycle with a series of cycleways and cycle routes up, down and across Southwark – and beyond.

Here is what we've been up to over the last few months.

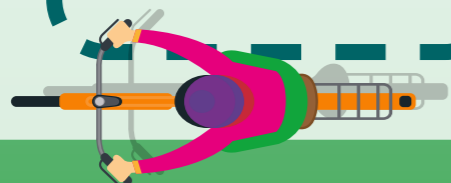


Lower Road (Cycleway 4)

We are now building the last section of Cycleway 4 along Lower Road. A while ago TfL built a section of this route along Jamaica Road and more recently Lewisham completed a section in their borough. We are now going to join these two routes up so that there is a smooth, easy way to cycle from Tower Bridge to Greenwich. Work is due to be completed in November.

Cycle Future Route 12

This route is planned to join up with the cycleway being built at Lower Road (see left) and link all the way down to Peckham High Street via Ilderton Road, Brimington Park and meeting House Lane. Our consultation just finished and we are reading through comments.



Peckham Rye Cycleway

During the pandemic we installed a new cycleway at the Rye Lane end of Peckham Rye Common and we now want to link this section of cycleway up to the wider area to improve links into Peckham town centre for more people. From the end of August we will be consulting on the proposals for the section between Nunhead Lane and Stuart Road. Keep an eye out for updates on our website or email highways@southwark.gov.uk to ask to get email updates.

Cycle Hangars

In the last year, we have installed 213 cycle hangars in the borough – these provide space for an extra 1,278 bikes to be securely stored outside peoples' houses. We now have nearly 4,000 secure parking spaces for bikes on street.

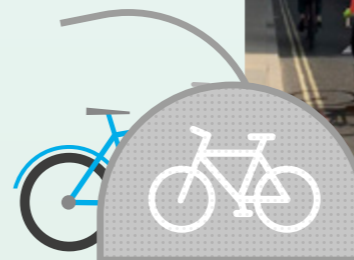
These spaces are so popular we are struggling to keep up with demand.

We are planning to create space for 750 more in the next year. You can help us plan where to put them by dropping a pin or liking your favourite location in our big cycle hangar consultation at cyclehangarsinsouthwark.commonplace.is/about



Druid Street

As part of a proposed cycle route between Tanner Street and Willow Walk segregated cycle lanes have been installed on Druid Street and a modal filter installed on Gedling Place under experimental traffic order. We are now looking to make some changes to resolve some of the issues you told us about during the consultation and once that is done we are looking to extend the route down to Willow Walk so that it joins cycleway 10 with cycleway 4.



Harper Road

Harper Road forms part of the route for Southwark Spine, the key north to south cycling route. As well as improving facilities for cycling along Harper Road, we also want to improve the pavement and crossings, and create a more pleasant environment for everyone using the street.

Keep your cycle safe

Councils, cycling groups and police in Southwark and Lambeth are teaming up to tackle bicycle crime across the two boroughs. There are some steps cyclists can take to keep their bicycles safe and deter thieves – or at least make it easier to recover your bike if it is stolen. You can get lots of advice from cycling groups in London including the London Cycling Campaign.

- 1. Lock it up:** Buy the best lock you can afford – it's much cheaper than replacing your bike. A rule of thumb is to spend 10-20% of the value of your bike on a lock/locks. A £2000 bike is a magnet for thieves: a £50 second-hand roadster less so. Using two locks helps deter thieves. A company called Sold Secure rates locks from Gold to Bronze. We recommend at least one lock with 'Sold Secure' Gold rating. For maximum security, use two different types of lock – thieves generally need different tools to cut D-locks versus chains.
- 2. Location location location:** The longer you are planning to leave your bike somewhere, the more secure a location you need. Try to keep your bicycle indoors if you can, or if it is in a shed or garage make sure it is locked up securely. If you are leaving it outside try to secure it as close to you as possible and use any of the available bike storage such as open cycle lockers (usually at train stations) or cycle hangars (see box p10).
- 3. Mark it:** Know how to mark and ID your bike. When you get a bike, take a photo of it and write down its make, model and frame number. For a unique bike ID, you can add a 'bike marking' – an etching or UV code that is individual to your bike. Then use the frame number and/or your unique bike marking to add your bike to www.bikeregister.com a free database used by police forces across the UK to identify lost or stolen bikes. Put a register sticker on your bike to deter potential thieves, it shows your bike will be harder to resell.
- 4. Invest in insurance:** You might already have theft insurance under another insurance policy, like household contents insurance. Check insurance conditions carefully: they might specify where/when you can lock your bike or require a specific type of lock.
- 5. Report theft:** Report your stolen bike to the police immediately in person, by phone or online – if you are looking to claim insurance, you will need the crime reference number.

Jessie Kolvin

"My preferred way to get around is walking, but I get frustrated when I can't walk either because it is too far or too dark, and end up having to pay to get on public transport when I'd rather be exercising. I know that cycling is the answer but have been too nervous to go out onto the road – until I learned that I am entitled to four hours of free cycling lessons via Southwark's scheme. I am now really excited to start cycling journeys which I previously had to rely on public transport to make. I also appreciate the quiet routes that are appearing in lots of places, and hope that these can continue to be extended to give new cyclists the confidence to cycle safely."

For more information on our cycling schemes visit www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/sustainable-travel/training/cycle-with-confidence



For more information, visit the London Cycling Campaign website at LCC.org.uk

SOUTHWARK

MARKETS



Whether you're after tasty food, fashion or antiques, you're sure to find something unique when you visit some of London's oldest and renowned market places.

BERMONDSEY ANTIQUES MARKET

The Bermondsey Antiques market is a historic market which runs on Fridays in Bermondsey Square. Officially called the 'New Caledonian market', it was first established in 1947 when the Caledonian market in Islington moved and merged with two local markets in Bermondsey Street and Tower Bridge Road. By 1960 this Friday market had started specialising in antiques and became known as the Bermondsey Antiques market.

Today, traders sell everything including cutlery, china, jewellery, furniture and more. Many of the traders have been coming to the market for years.

Joan Bygrave has been trading at the market for 64 years. She first came down to the market with her mother-in-law who was a trader, and Joan has been a regular here ever since. Today she trades with her daughter, Caroline Thompson, selling jewellery, cutlery and other goods.

Caroline said, "We all stick together in this market – we mostly just refer to the other traders as family, so that's pretty encouraging."

We've seen a lot of change over the years and we've been through some difficult times. But we look ahead to the future and we hope to inspire a new generation to have a love of old and precious things."

David Adelston has been trading in the market for 41 years. He sells solid silver and started off selling at this market and in London auctions in the 1980s.

David said, "The great thing about selling in markets is talking to people directly. You can't hide behind a computer, people like to feel antiques. You make your name by talking to people, and being honest with people."

"It's amazing value for money to have a stall at this market, and it's in central London! And everyone is in a good mood on a Friday."



David Adelston



Caroline and Joan



EAST STREET MARKET

East Street Market is one of London's oldest and busiest markets. The Walworth area has seen street trading since the 16th century, when farmers rested their livestock on Walworth Common before continuing onto the city. During the Industrial Revolution, stalls lined the entire length of Walworth Road.

East Street market has been officially running since 1880. It's just as popular now as it has been for decades. The market offers a wide variety of goods, from fresh fruit and vegetables to clothing and materials.

Omar Zirhoui's family have been trading in East Street market since the 1970s. The family business started in soft furnishings, selling lace and bundles of net, and has now expanded into selling curtains, bedding and other materials.



Omar

Omar said, "My favourite thing about trading in the market is the summertime. It's brilliant – it's the best job in the world in the summer."

"East Street market is the heart of London, we're surrounded by people here, we've

got social housing all around us. It's part of the community, people know they can come here for things they sell in shops at a much higher price.

"We need to maintain places like this because they're very important for the surrounding area and for the community".

Shakil Ahmed has been trading in East Street market for nine years. He has a business selling clothing from Bangladesh which he runs with his wife.

Shakil said, "I used to work in Selfridges but my family pushed me to start my own business. Now I've started it I don't want to go back. We are happier here – we see such a diverse mix of people and we feel very lucky to experience this."

"I think it is important to have a market in every local area. It is the heart of the community. There are lots of shops but people come to the market because they feel a sense of connection - because of the variety, the price, the mix of people. I feel that what we are doing is worth it for the community".

If you're interested in selling at one of our markets or a privately owned market in Southwark, you'll need a license. You can find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/business/markets-and-street-trading/southwark-markets

OTHER MARKETS IN SOUTHWARK

Deal Porter Square in Canada Water is a great place to grab a coffee, pastry or snack on your way to work or a leisurely lunch from the delicious street food on offer.

The revitalised North Cross Road market in Dulwich offers a unique collection of goods, including organic sausages, popcorn, freshly ground coffee, baked cakes, handmade jewellery and vintage clothing. ES Magazine voted it as one of South London's top 50 destinations!

There are a collection of markets and satellite pitches off Rye Lane in Peckham, including Choumert Road, Atwell Road, Parkstone Road Moncrieff Place and Elm Grove (Blenheim Grove). These markets sell a variety of goods including fruit, vegetables, jewellery, bedding and clothing.

The Blue Market, in the heart of Bermondsey has been providing a range of quality products at good prices for over 100 years, including fresh fish and seafood, fruit and veg, flowers, plants and clothing.

Southwark 2030?

Here's the latest on the council's ongoing conversation with residents on the future of the borough.

Over the summer, the council will be taking the next step in its development of Southwark 2030, our vision for the borough in seven years' time.

Since the start of the year, we have spoken to over 2,000 local people and organisations to find out what their hopes and ambitions are for the borough in the future.

After a series of conversations and listening events, as well as our survey, we have collected everything we heard and put them into some main themes as follows:

- **Homes:** People want good quality, affordable housing and council homes for mixed communities and new systems to get residents' feedback.
- **Climate change:** Residents told us they were keen to tackle the climate emergency with more sustainable transport options, less waste and better waste management.
- **Nature:** It was important to people that existing green spaces were protected and that by 2030 there would be more biodiversity, trees and greener urban areas.
- **Community:** We heard that people wanted to feel part of a supportive community with plenty of opportunities to get involved

in activities in the borough. There was a keenness to have more community spaces and for there to be better promotion of events taking place in the borough.

- **Safety:** Residents shared that they wanted the more vulnerable members of our society, especially young people, to be better protected from crimes like phone theft, anti-social behaviour and gang-related violence. Some people felt that better lighting and surveillance would help to reduce crime.
- **Prosperity:** We heard that people wanted access to better jobs, to have thriving high streets and for there to be more opportunities for education and training for local people, especially for those who spoke English as a second language.
- **Health:** People told us that they wanted improved access to healthcare, have more free activities to stay fit and well and better access to good, healthy food.
- **Culture:** Residents told us they enjoyed the current diverse range of culture in the borough but would like to see more public art opportunities for local residents and continued investment in libraries.

What next?

In July we will be running four workshops – three in person and one online – where residents will have the opportunity to tell us what they think about the themes we have identified. Do they match what is important to you? Is there anything we have missed?

These workshops will also share some early ideas for how we think we might achieve some of these ambitions. We are calling these ideas "missions" and we'd like to hear your views on whether they feel right and will get us to where we want to be by 2030.

If you cannot make one of these workshops we will also be putting interactive boards and suggestion boxes in public spaces like our libraries and leisure centres so that you can share your ideas and feedback to us that way.

We are also continuing to work with partners like the police, our local health services and others, including council staff, to ensure they know how we all need to work together to deliver on the ambitions of Southwark 2030.

More information on the workshops and other ways to get involved will be available on our website at consultations.southwark.gov.uk/southwark2030

Summer in Southwark

Rotherhithe Festival



The annual Rotherhithe Festival is back with a bang this year. This year's line-up features live music, including headliners Bill n Rickey, Robin BiBi and Chris Corcoran, plus free children's rides, and food and drink.

Saturday 22 July, 11.30am to 8pm

Free

King George's Fields, main entrance on Moodkee Street
www.rotherhithefestival.com

Mint Street Music Festival



The highly-rated Mint Street Music Festival is back at Mint Street Park on Saturday 15 July, 10am to 7.30pm. Around 95% of festival goers agree that the music and dance are of good quality and most get to experience a style of music or dance they haven't seen live before. Bring your family to enjoy the vibrant culture, children's entertainment and delicious food. Supported by Southwark Council Neighbourhood Fund.

Saturday 15 July, 11am to 7.30pm

Free

Mint Street Park, off Marshalsea Road
mintstreetmusicfestival.info

Bermondsey Street Festival



Once again, the Bermondsey Street Festival will bubble and fizz in our streets and parks. Bermondsey Street will be closed to traffic and lined with stalls selling local craft and artisan products. There will be food, drinks, music (Tanner Street Park) and of course, everyone's favourite, the dog show (Leathermarket Gardens). Come along and enjoy the village fair in the city.

Saturday 16 September, 11am to 7pm

Free

Bermondsey Street and surrounding area
www.bermondseystreetfestival.org

Family Events

There is so much to keep the kids entertained this summer in Southwark

Free Swim and Gym

Get down to any of our leisure centres and enjoy a free swim in our pools or work out in our gyms. Free swim and gym sessions are every weekend:



Friday 6am to 10pm (subject to programmes and timetables)

Saturday 2pm to 5.30pm (subject to programmes and timetables)

Sunday 2pm to 9.30pm (subject to programmes and timetables)

Just sign up online and complete your online induction to use the gym. If you are registering for the first time, you will need to take proof of ID and address to your local centre to collect your membership card. You can do this from the following day after registration. If you are under 15-years-old parents must register on your behalf. If you are 11-15 years old you can take part in Junior Gym sessions.

Visit southwarkleisure.co.uk for more information.

Get adventurous

Visit one of our three adventure playgrounds which are supervised by experienced and trained staff with facilities for children and young people of school age.

- **Ellen Brown:** Open Monday to Friday 3.30pm to 6.30pm term time. Holidays 11.30am to 4.30pm
- **Mint street:** Open Monday to Friday 3.30pm to 6.30pm term time. Holidays 11.30am to 4.15pm
- **Peckham Rye:** Monday to Friday 3.30pm to 6.30pm term time. Holidays 11.30am to 4.30pm

For more information on our and other adventure playgrounds visit www.southwark.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces/adventure-playgrounds

Hang out with your friends

Visit our four youth centres where you will be able to take part in a wide range of activities like basketball, football, table tennis, pool, table football, crafts, PSP gaming, gym, off site trips and more.

For up to date information on what is on offer and opening times, as well as a variety of other youth centres and youth activities, visit www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk/youth-centres



Parks and sports

Get sporty this summer in our parks and sports centres.



For budding BMXers there is a jam packed schedule of activities throughout the summer at the Burgess Park BMX track. Balance bikes for young beginners, women only coaching, novice and junior coached sessions. Holiday club sessions will take place through August for the young enthusiasts. For availability or to book visit southwark.gov.uk/bmx

Tennis activities at Southwark Park, Burgess Park, Tanner Street and Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park will be delivered by National Tennis Academy – for more information visit www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/SouthwarkParksTennisCoaching, while Tennis activities at Dulwich Park and Belair Park activities are delivered by Vamos Tennis will be delivered by Vamos Tennis www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/VamosTennis

Activities for young people

The council supports a number of organisations to deliver a wide range of exciting free activities for young people across the borough.

Try craft club and football with InSpire, days out with the Westminster House Youth Club, holiday club fun including trampoline parks, water sport, cinema, excursions and cooking lessons with City Hope, everything from perfume making to Snakes Alive at The Blue Youth and Community Centre and fun down on the farm with the Surrey Docks Farm Holiday Club.

All the details will be available on our website at www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk/activities



Community Fun Day

Our annual Fun Day provides an opportunity for local families to enjoy leisure-time together, without having to travel or spend money. A truly inclusive occasion, everyone is welcome! Enjoy free lunch, music, dancing, capoeira and story-telling; henna, face-painting among other free activities... although tickets for the ever-popular raffle will cost you!

Saturday 1 July, 12noon to 4pm

Free

Kelly Avenue Park, Peckham SE15 5GL
www.friendsofkellyavenuepark.co.uk



Festival of words

An award-winning storyteller with 25 years of experience, Sarah Mooney has travelled land and ocean with stories ancient and new; sometimes with outdoor theatre and circus crew the Whispering Wood Folk, sometimes weaving her own tales.

Wednesday 28 June, 6.15pm to 7pm

Free

Dulwich Library, SE22 8NB
www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries

Summer Reading Challenge

This year's theme is Ready, Set, Read! Developed in collaboration with The Reading Agency and Youth Sport Trust. The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge will celebrate play and participation, encouraging children to get involved in games and sports in any way that best suits them. Sign up at your local library, then read six library books of your choice, collecting stickers and other rewards along the way – all FREE.

Saturday 8 July to Sunday 3 September

Free

Southwark Libraries
www.southwark.gov.uk/events-culture-and-heritage



Camberwell Fair presents Camberfarewell

We are back for one last glorious celebration of Camberwell's music, people and culture. Expect amazing music from around the world, great food and drinks, local stalls, games and good vibes all day.

Saturday 2 September, 12noon to 9pm

Free

Camberwell green
www.camberwellfair.co.uk



Our World; Southwark Storytelling Celebration

A wonderful day of storytelling in a yurt! Features family storytelling performances by four renowned professional storytellers from diverse cultural backgrounds including West African, Irish and Eastern European. Storytellers will represent and celebrate local cultures found in North Bermondsey.

Saturday 8 July, 11am to 3.30pm

Free

Southwark Park near the playground

Free summer activity and food clubs for young people

Our free Food and Fun holiday scheme returns once again this summer for five weeks. You can sign your child up if they are aged between four and 16-years-old, and get benefits-related free school meals. Sessions are run across the borough and include:

- Free, healthy and tasty food
- Fun physical activities
- A chance to learn about food and nutrition

Monday 24 July to Friday 25 August, times vary, see website

Free

Various venues, see website for individual centres' information
southwark.gov.uk/food-fun-summer2023



Day of Dance 2023

Candoco Dance Company presents the 3rd Annual Day of Dance inclusive festival in partnership with Mountview and new partners; British Youth Music Theatre. The week long build up to include workshops (from 24 July) and 1 day live event.

Saturday 29 July, 12noon to 5pm

Free

Peckham Square London SE15 5JT
www.candoco.co.uk

Shake Ya Brass – The Remix!

Get ready for live music, laughs and a free workout to get that body moving! Fun, accessible to all fitness levels and age groups. Catch the event at Burgess Park or Camberwell Green in July.

Saturdays 1, 8 and 15 July

Free

Burgess Park (1 July and 15 July 2023)
Camberwell Green (8 July 2023)
www.shakeyabrass.com



Cultural Celebrations Fund

Over the last three years, local communities have been encouraged, supported and funded to run local, free community events across Southwark as part of the council's Cultural Celebrations Fund. So far the fund has given out over £230,000 to local groups for a wide variety of events that bring people and communities together.

This year £95,000 will support and enhance 17 outdoor events across the borough between 1 June 2023 and 31 March 2024.

The money that goes into the CCF comes from Southwark hosting a number of large-scale, major and commercial outdoor events, where we charge companies to use our parks and open spaces. This income pays for Southwark's events service and contributes to the Cultural Celebrations Fund.

Events calendar Summer 2023

The Wind in the Willows

Written by Kenneth Graham and adapted for the stage by Mike Kenny. This tale of Mole, Toad, Ratty and Badger will warm the heart. A classic tale for all the family that surpasses time. We learn from these animals to laugh and sing together and to embrace each other's differences. What more can you ask for on a sunny July afternoon?

8 and 9 July and 15 and 16 July, 2pm and 5pm

£14 (£10 concessions)

Gardens of Bell House, 27 College Road, Dulwich, SE21 7BG

www.dulwichplayers.org/current-season



Adeyemi Michael, Entitled (still), 2018

Lagos, Peckham, Repeat: Pilgrimage to the Lakes

A major group exhibition exploring the connections between Lagos in Nigeria and Peckham in south east London. Sometimes known as 'Little Lagos', Peckham is home to one of the largest Nigerian diaspora communities in the UK. The exhibition highlights the relationships, culture, communities and art that link the two places.

5 July to 29 October, Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm

FREE

South London Gallery, Main Gallery and Fire Station Galleries

www.southlondongallery.org

Young, Gifted & Black

A season of performance unapologetically celebrating people from the African diaspora through a variety of art forms.

October 2023, times vary, see websites

See website for admission details

Theatre Peckham

www.theatrepeckham.co.uk

In a Field by a Bridge

Enjoy a weekend beside the river with independent designers and makers, music and entertainment, street food and drink, workshops, talks and walks. All with a focus on sustainability and green living, just moments from London Bridge Station.

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July

FREE

Potters Fields Park and St John's Churchyard

www.inafieldbyabridge.commedicature



AI: Who's Looking After Me?

This free exhibition and public events programme takes a questioning, surprising, playful look at the ways Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already shaping so many areas of our lives, and asks if we can really rely on these technologies for our wellbeing and happiness. Presented in collaboration with FutureEverything, Science Gallery London explores who holds the power, distributes the benefits, and bears the burden of existing AI systems.

21 June 2023 to 20 January 2024, Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 6pm

FREE

Science Gallery London, Great Maze Pond, London SE1 9GU

london.sciencegallery.com

FOSTER AWARDS

We want to thank three Southwark couples who have over 100 years of foster caring between them.

Southwark is fortunate to have some very dedicated foster carers taking care of children in our borough. The council recently gave three of our longest serving foster couples awards as a thank you for their years of amazing service. Between them our three couple have over 100 years of experience and have cared for hundreds of children.



33 years

Peter and Beverley Coffey have fostered for Southwark for over 33 years. They have fostered around 200 children during that time. Their longest placement lasted for eight years.

They have cared for children from a wide range of backgrounds from within the UK and also asylum seeking children including those from Vietnamese, Albanian and Iraqi backgrounds.

Peter and Beverly praised their own children for encouraging them to keep fostering and feel that them being raised

in a fostering household has taught their children positive values such as how to get along with people and how to be accepting of differences.

Jacqueline and Victor Edwards

have fostered numerous children during their fostering career and currently have a young person 'staying put' who have been with the family for over 16 years.

Jac has always worked with children and at one point was Greenwich's longest serving childminder.

Jac and Vic said that it's important to offer each other mutual support and not to disagree in front of the children but talk through things when they have a quiet moment.



28 years

Marion and John Marcroft were given their long service award for 47 years following their retirement this year.

Marion and John's lounge is filled with photographs of the many foster children they had cared for. The longest a child has been with the family was 19 years. They spoke with pride and fondness about the young people that had left their care. One is now a social worker and others are doing different things but they all became part of their family as soon as they came through the door.

47 years



Do you think you have what it takes to be a foster carer for Southwark? Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/fostering



Our best and brightest

Meet the country's Young Advisor of the Year

Sydney Simms, 19, is a Southwark Young Advisor who has lived in Peckham since she was born. She was recently named 'Young Advisor of the Year' at the national awards for Young Advisors. Of the awards, Sydney's is one of the most hotly contested as she was up against

other outstanding young people from across the country. She is highly respected by everyone who meets her, which has helped her break down barriers for young people that no other Young Advisor has managed before. She brings empathy and commitment to all that she does to help empower young people across Southwark and beyond.

Firstly, congratulations on being 'Young Advisor of the Year'! How did it feel when you found out?

I was surprised as I had no idea I had been put forward. Nominations have to come from both your manager and the other Young Advisors in your team. It was really nice that they had all recognised my efforts.

Why were you first drawn to applying for a Young Advisor role?

I did my work experience with Southwark Young Advisors in Year 10. It was inspiring to see young people make a real difference and their work being properly valued. Often we're just seen as cheap labour. When I heard Southwark Young Advisors were hiring, I applied for the chance to be involved in creating positive change for young people.

You headed up a project to build trust between the community and the police under Southwark Stands Together (the council's anti-racism work). It's now seen as best practice nationally. What do you think was key to your success?

Consistency and transparency. From the very first conversation, it's important we are all honest with our feelings. Without this, you set a false expectation. There's no point saying 'we trust the police' when we don't. Understanding on both sides is key to bridging the gap. We all have to take steps to see things from the other side's perspective.

Another area you have worked on is tackling male violence against women and girls. Which project stands out?

I think the video we made about sexual harassment. The point was to help professionals understand the problem from a young person's perspective. Too often it's up to women and girls to challenge sexist behaviour. So similar to the women's safety campaign from the council, young men were the focus. We interviewed them and asked them to message other men about the issue. They also sent supportive messages to women to validate their experience.

You have worked hard to make sure young people are represented at community meetings, including with the police. How do you go about creating a safe space for young people to be heard?

It all depends on the group of young people and the reservations they hold. Sometimes we will have a chat with just young people first without police officers being in the room. We can ask them questions and relay their answers to the officers. Then discussion can open up in separate spaces. Other times we ask for one police officer in plain clothes to listen in the room but not take an active role in the conversation. Only once the young people are at ease would we introduce more police officers.

Some young people never feel comfortable. So we as Young Advisors help hold officers to account on their behalf. We constantly judge the comfort levels of the young people by taking it step by step.

What would you say to a young person considering joining Southwark Young Advisors?

Be yourself. Our team's biggest asset is what we each bring as individuals. Our lived experiences. Our passions. Our strengths. There are always opportunities to take what makes you unique or what you love to do and channel it into your work as a Southwark Young Advisor. The team will only ever enhance and support what you want to bring to the role.

What's your favourite place in Southwark?

It's hard to pick one because Southwark is so full of personality. If I had to choose, I'd say the closest green space to my local community – Dr Harold Moody Park.

What's the best thing about living in Southwark?

The strong sense of community. People always go out of their way to look out for each other, which is different from other places in London.

Southwark Young Advisors

Southwark Young Advisors is a diverse group of up to 40 young people age 16 to 25 years old who are trained to work as young consultants. They advise on how to better engage young people in community life. For example, they work with:

- Young people
- The council
- Community leaders
- The police
- Local politicians
- Local groups and charities

For more information, visit www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk/southwark-young-advisors

SUMMER HEALTH



Summer is a great time to get out and about, which is good for your body and your mind.

Our community health and wellbeing park events take place this summer. Come and take part in a taster session, including exercise classes, family sport, BMX (Burgess Park), training on outdoor gyms, hear about local leisure centre opportunities, and find out about healthy lifestyle services in Southwark. The free events will be on:

- **Saturday 29 July**, Southwark Park, SE16
- **Saturday 5 August**, Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, SE1
- **Saturday 12 August**, Dulwich Park, SE21
- **Saturday 19 August**, Peckham Rye Park, SE15
- **Saturday 26 August**, Burgess Park, SE5

Just come along on the day, or find out more at southwark.gov.uk/health-in-parks

HEALTH ROADSHOWS HIT SOUTHWARK THIS SUMMER

Southwark Council, the Southwark NHS team and other local partners and voluntary groups are running a series of health roadshows across the borough.

There will be a range of advice across all the events, where you'll be able to:

- speak to health professionals about your own wellbeing
- find out about preventing, and managing long-term conditions such as diabetes
- get advice on local screening for breast, bowel, cervical and lung cancer
- find out about local services that can help you improve your health, including info on leisure centres
- get your blood pressure and weight checked

For the latest roadshow dates go to southwark.gov.uk/health-roadshow

USE THE RIGHT NHS SERVICE

Make sure you get the right medical care, in the right place, from the right service. Accident and emergency (A&E) departments are extremely busy. Only go to A&E if you are seriously ill or if you've been asked to by NHS 111 or a health professional like a GP, nurse or pharmacist. A&Es can help with major injuries and life-threatening conditions like heart attacks, strokes, severe bleeding, and child health emergencies. It's best to get advice from your GP or pharmacy for minor health problems, treatment for ongoing health problems, or non-urgent health matters.

Find out how your local pharmacy can give advice, treatments and medicines for common illnesses at tinyurl.com/SouthwarkPharmacyFirst



LAST CHANCE: GET A COVID-19 VACCINE BY 30 JUNE

COVID-19 is still with us but it is still possible to get your first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccination. This offer will end after 30 June 2023.

Some people can get a booster to top up their immunity. You can get a booster if you are over 75 or have a weakened immune system.

You don't need ID, or to be registered with a GP to get the free vaccine. Find out more at nhs.uk/covidvaccination or call 119 for free.



EASY ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION AND SEXUAL HEALTH SUPPORT

You can now get the contraceptive or emergency pill quickly and easily by ordering online. It's free and discreet. You can either get a home delivery, or can pick pills up from a local pharmacy. To order you can register or login at www.shl.uk

Southwark has several sexual health clinics. They can help you with:

- sexual health symptoms
- sexually transmitted infections (STI) treatment
- support after sexual assault
- HIV testing pre-and-post-exposure
- pre and post exposure treatments for HIV
- contraception (including condoms, implants and the coil)

Find out about local services at: findsexualhealth.co.uk



GET HELP WITH YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

If you're struggling with your mental health the following organisations can help you:

- Southwark Wellbeing Hub helps people experiencing problems with their mental wellbeing to find the right support for them – call them on **020 3751 9684** or visit www.together-uk.org/southwark-wellbeing-hub/get-support
- If you don't have anyone to talk to and need a friendly chat, call the Samaritans for free at any time, day or night on **116 123**
- The Listening Place provides face-to-face support for those who feel life is no longer worth living, call them on **020 3906 7676** or visit listeningplace.org.uk

For a wide range of advice on how to improve your wellbeing and details of organisations who can help go to southwark.gov.uk/mental-wellbeing

VACCINES GIVE ESSENTIAL PROTECTION TO YOUR CHILD

Children in London are at risk of getting seriously ill with diseases like polio, measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). This is because London has lower rates of childhood vaccination than other regions in England and this was made worse by the pandemic when many children missed their vaccinations. If you're not sure if your child is up to date then check their health record (red book) or contact your GP. If your child has missed a polio or MMR vaccine, the local NHS will contact you about how to get an appointment, or you can contact your GP.

You can find a full list of which vaccines your child needs at each age at selondonics.org/childrenshealth

FREE VITAMIN D

If you're pregnant, have given birth less than a year ago, or have a child under four and live in the borough you can get free vitamin supplements. Taking them whilst pregnant helps both you and your baby. If your child doesn't have enough vitamin D as they grow it can put them at risk of rickets (bowed legs), seizures and heart failure in rare cases.

You can pick up free vitamin D for you and your child at some local pharmacies in Southwark and Lambeth. These include Lings Chemist Old Kent Road SE1, Boots Rye Lane SE15, Pyramid Pharmacy SE16, Lenny Chemist East Street SE17, Day Lewis Pharmacy SE22 and others. Find out more at southwark.gov.uk/free-vitamin-d

FREE MONEY FOR HEALTHY FOOD FOR FAMILIES

If you're pregnant or have a child under the age of four, you could be eligible for NHS Healthy Start help to buy healthy food.

If you qualify you'll get a prepaid card and at least £4.25 added to it per week. You can use it to buy fruit, veg and pulses, plain cow's milk and infant formula. You can use the card with retailers including market stalls that take MasterCard®. Even if you aren't a British citizen you may be able to apply.

To find out more go to www.healthystart.nhs.uk or call the NHS Healthy Start team on **0300 330 7010**.



IF YOU NEED URGENT HELP

If you, or someone you know are in a mental health crisis contact the NHS South London and Maudsley Hospital's mental health crisis line on **0800 731 2864** (option 1) or call **111** to speak to the free NHS helpline. You can also find out more at slam.nhs.uk/crisis

In an emergency, always call 999



The air we breathe

We're working to improve the air we breathe in Southwark

We know polluting vehicles contribute to nearly half of the air pollution in London, so with our Streets for People programme we are moving away from favouring cars and freeing up space for walking, cycling and public transport.

Following consultation with our local communities, where over 70% of respondents told us they want to see less traffic in Southwark, we will be taking an updated Streets for People strategy to our Cabinet meeting in July.

This ambitious strategy sets out how we will create more school streets; improve walking and cycling routes to schools; invest in our community spaces creating more opportunities to walk and cycle in a safer, more pleasant environment.

As we roll-out our Streets for People plans, we will come out and talk to residents about how they would like to see their community spaces improved.

Did you know?



Southwark Council planted over **10,000 new trees** in the last five years and **looks after over 90,000 trees** on council land.



We installed over **140 new pedestrian crossing** in the last five year to make walking safer



We're creating a network of **safe cycling routes** to and from schools.



We train over **3,000 children and adults** in safe cycling every year and have plans to increase this number.

Mums for Lungs

Six years ago, while expecting her first child, mum-of-two **Jemima** began reading about the high levels of air pollution in London, and the devastating health impacts it can have on people, especially children.

"We knew it contributed to asthma," she explained, "but now we know it contributes to other illnesses like cancer, dementia, lung issues, COPD and more. It didn't feel fair. Children are growing up breathing in harmful air despite it being, in most cases, completely preventable. Children are among the most vulnerable with a higher rate of oxygen intake compared to their body size, and need to be protected."

The main causes of air pollution in London are cars, diesel and wood burning and the Mums for Lungs campaign, which **Jemima** founded, focuses on reducing these.



"We know, for example, that about a third of all the car trips taken in London could be walked. Initiatives like the school audits and School Streets schemes, which Southwark is doing well, I am excited by because it really encourages people to consider more active ways of travel to and from school.

However there is plenty more Southwark could be doing. With School Streets we need more, bigger and sooner. We need to clamp down on wood burning and a rapid reduction of road transport.

"I would call on people to take responsibility and really stop and think if they need to take that journey by car."



School streets

School Streets are timed closures on roads outside and surrounding schools. The closures reduce congestion, and therefore air pollution, outside schools, whilst encouraging parents and pupils to walk, cycle, scooter or use other greener ways to get to school. There are exemption permits available for residents who meet certain criteria, but any other vehicles will be issued with a fine if they enter the school closure zone during School Street hours.

Southwark's School Street Programme launched in 2018 when a timed closure was introduced outside Bessemer Grange Primary School.

There are currently 26 school street closures in place across Southwark. Most of them are timed closures that are only in operation during the morning and afternoon school drop-off and pick-up times during term time. There are three permanent closures that have been put in place to prevent motor vehicles from accessing the area outside of a school at any time. We are talking to lots of other schools and aim to get at least three new schools signed up each year.

You can read more about School Streets at <http://schoolstreets.org.uk/>

How you can help

- 1. Reduce your car use.** Walk or cycle if you can.
- 2. Don't idle your engine,** especially around schools or care homes.
- 3. Use click and collect,** when shopping online.
- 4. Sign up for **airTEXT** alerts** to know when air pollution levels are high and adjust your behaviour to contribute less to air pollution on these days. www.airtext.info/signup
- 5. Use your voice.** Speak to stakeholders in your community – like schools and employers – about air quality improvements. Respond to government consultations.

Southwark Council's latest Annual Public Health Report has more tips on how we all can improve air quality. You can find the report at www.southwark.gov.uk/aphr

THE WONDERS OF WALKING

Uncover hidden gems with our Southwark walking tours

Southwark is a treasure trove of history, culture, and natural beauty and is best explored on foot. Walking is not only a great way to experience the sights and sounds of Southwark but also offers a wide range of benefits for both body and mind.

Walking is one of the simplest and most accessible forms of exercise, suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels. It offers a range of health benefits, including better heart health, increased stamina and stronger muscles and bones. Going for a regular walk can also help reduce the risk of chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

Walking also has amazing mental health benefits (it's also free!). It boosts your mood and reduces stress, anxiety and depression. Taking a leisurely stroll in Southwark's picturesque streets, parks, and along the river can provide a soothing escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. Walking allows you to get into nature, breathe in fresh air and clear your mind, creating a sense of calm and well-being.

If you want to start exploring Southwark on foot then we've created a series of themed walks to get you started. Whether you're a walking enthusiast or complete novice, there's a walking tour for you.



"I love going for walks to help clear my mind. Life is hectic, but a 30-minute walk helps keep me grounded." **Mary, 22 years old**



"I started walking during lockdown and haven't stopped since. I find that it helps clear my head and is an easy way to stay fit. I love exploring Dulwich Park and plan to try new spaces this summer". **Andrew, 32 years old**

ART, LITERATURE AND GREEN SPACES WALK (starting at Peckham Library)

For those interested in modern art, the "art, literature and green spaces" walks offers a captivating exploration of the borough's art scene. Take in the William Blake mural painted by Stan Peskett in Goose Green before walking across to the famous water garden at Peckham Rye Park.



FLORA AND FAUNA WALK (starting at Kingswood House, Dulwich)

If nature is more to your liking, the flora and fauna walk is a great option. Discover the peaceful settings tucked away in the borough, such as the beautiful Dulwich and Sydenham Woods, the remaining railway pathway that used to serve from Peckham to Crystal Palace and Crystal Palace Park. Breathe in the scents of blooming flowers, listen to birdsong and enjoy the peace of these green havens.

By embracing the simple joy of walking, you can unlock a world of wonders right on your doorstep. So this summer, grab your walking shoes, put on a comfy outfit, and step outside at your own pace. Uncover hidden treasures, witness remarkable architecture, and let the stories of the past weave their magic around you. Walking tours in Southwark offer an unforgettable experience that will leave you with a deeper appreciation for this remarkable corner of London.

FIND OUT MORE

Head to the council's website for simple-to-follow themed walking maps: www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/sustainable-travel/walking/maps-and-trails/walking-maps-of-southwark

CHANGING SOUTHWARK WALK (starting at East Street Library)

Would you like to see the changing landscape of Southwark? This walk is a unique experience for anyone interested in the various development projects beyond the headlines. With pit stops at the Aylesbury Estate (one of Southwark's most talked about redevelopment projects), Chumleigh Gardens and East Street Market – famed as the birthplace of Charlie Chaplin and seen in the opening titles of Only Fools and Horses.



"I've done a few walking tours locally and can't recommend them enough. If you can cope, try one with the kids too!" **Elizabeth, 45 years old**



Sailing into the history books

In 1947, the Monte Rosa, a British forces-captured German ship, was refitted to a troop transport and received a new name. That name, HMT Empire Windrush, made history.

During her first year in service, Windrush ferried British service personnel and their families between the UK, the Far East, and points in between. In April 1948, Windrush arrived at the port of Tilbury from Bombay (now Mumbai). Then, rather than returning to the Far East, Windrush made her first – and only – trip to the Caribbean.

Many of her passengers – machinists, electricians, carpenters, welders, engineers, and mechanics – had skills the UK needed to fill the labour shortages in the transport and construction industries.

Just over 200 Windrush passengers had neither a job nor housing on arrival. They lived temporarily in the deep air-raid shelter some 15 stories underground at Clapham South tube. Many began the day with a trip to the labour exchange (what we now call a JobCentre) in Coldharbour Lane, Brixton.

One of Empire Windrush's Jamaican veterans is especially dear to Southwark. Samuel Beaver King, MBE, was born in 1926 and worked with his father on the family's banana plantation in Priestman's River, Jamaica. He intended to take it over, but the Second World War and a 1944 hurricane that devastated the island's banana trees

changed those plans. There was little other work, so the King family sold three cows to raise the funds for a troop deck berth on Windrush. He re-enlisted, and served in the RAF until 1953. However, like many other Black service personnel, he grappled with racism in the civilian world. In 1950, when he and brother Wilton tried to buy a house in Camberwell, bank officials responded to their mortgage request with a letter suggesting they return to Jamaica. The owner was so disgusted that he provided a mortgage himself, making the King brothers the second Black family in Southwark to own a home.

Windrush 75th Anniversary grants

In April 2023, the council launched a grants programme to fund community events to commemorate 75 years since the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush.

The influence of Southwark's rich mix of migrants from across the world has played an integral role in shaping the borough's cultural identity from the array of local culinary options to dynamic theatre performances. Recognising the ongoing challenges faced by minorities, the council committed to Southwark Stands Together, a long-term borough-wide initiative to take action against prevalent racism and injustice.

The grants were available for events organised by all migrant Commonwealth communities. For more information visit www.southwark.gov.uk/windrush

Faith and community were at the centre of Mr King's life. In the 1980s he championed gospel music, supporting a number of broadcast licence applications for community radio stations and helping organise the 1985 Songs of Praise broadcast from Southwark Cathedral that pioneered gospel music on a BBC national flagship show.

Mr King was also active politically and as a community organiser, setting up the informal savings clubs that many Black Londoners relied on to buy their homes. In March 1958 he helped Claudia Jones launch the West Indian Gazette, Britain's first major Black newspaper, and the next year, he helped her organise

the first Caribbean-style carnival in St Pancras Town Hall, the precursor to the modern Notting Hill Carnival.

Mr King's connection to the Camberwell and Peckham communities and the police also helped avoid violence in the aftermath of the 1958 Notting Hill riots and during National Front tension in the 1970s and 1980s. In the 1982 local elections, Mr King was elected councillor for Bellenden ward. Six months later, he became Southwark's first Black mayor.

After retiring from local politics Mr King focussed on preserving the experiences of his generation. He founded the Windrush Foundation

with Arthur Torrington in 1996 and campaigned to make the anniversary of the Empire Windrush's 1948 arrival a holiday – which earned him the nickname "Mr Windrush". In 1998, he received the MBE as part of the Windrush 50th anniversary celebrations. In 2009, a public vote awarded him a Southwark blue plaque – installed during a ceremony at his long-time home at Warmington Road, Herne Hill, on 31 January 2010. In May 2016, he received the Freedom of the Borough of Southwark.

Sam King MBE died on 17 June 2016, less than a week before the 68th anniversary of his arrival on the Empire Windrush.

DO YOU HAVE A SPARE ROOM

TO FOSTER A CHILD?

Open your door to change a life

@lb_southwark facebook.com/southwarkcouncil @southwarkcouncil

Children in Southwark urgently need foster carers.

0800 952 0707 | southwark.gov.uk/fostering
Support 24/7, training and allowance provided.



BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK

Summer 2023



With local businesses continuing to face uncertainty, we have information on the initiatives and support available to you from the council and its partners.

PAID INTERNSHIPS SUPPORT

We have partnered with upReach, a social mobility charity, to provide free, personalised support for eligible Southwark students to improve their employability and help secure a competitive internship.

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



NEW APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING FOR SOUTHWARK EMPLOYERS

Southwark Council can now transfer up to 25% of its apprenticeship levy funds to employers in Southwark who want to recruit apprentices or train their staff using apprenticeship qualifications.

Find out more about receiving transferred funds for new apprenticeships at www.southwark.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/apprenticeships/employ-an-apprentice



NEW SUPPORT TO START AND GROW YOUR BUSINESS: SOUTHWARK PIONEERS FUND



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

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



PECKHAM BUSINESS FORUM EVENTS

- **Diversifying your business**
Join the Peckham Business Forum (PBF) for a focus group with UAL students who have newly moved to the area. You will be able to speak to potential customers and inform them about your business, which could help your business grow and generate new income streams.
- **Aylesham Centre local business engagement event**
Are you interested in finding out what the regeneration of the Aylesham Centre will mean for your business? Join the Berkeley Group for a discussion where you will be able to voice your priorities as a local business.
- **PBF Business Fair**
Meet local services providers that can support your business. You will be able to gain advice from industry professionals such as accountancy, insurance, marketing, web design, printing, shop fitting and more.

Find out more about accessing local business events at www.treeshepherd.org.uk/peckham-business-forum



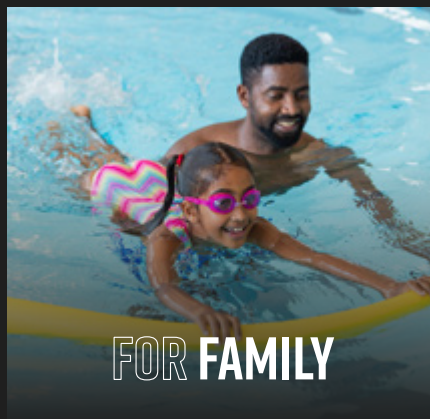
WE'RE HERE TO HELP

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



SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

**NO
JOINING
FEE***
LIMITED-TIME
OFFER



From water sports to racket sports, swimming, fitness and more, there's something for everybody at your local leisure centre, now run by Southwark Council.

Join online or pop into your local centre
southwarkleisure.co.uk

*Terms and conditions apply

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