

Southwark Life

Winter 2024

Southwark 2030

We introduce the
borough's new blueprint
to create good lives

Our six goals

How we will work together
for a better Southwark

PLUS Cost of living support, what's on this
Christmas and how to have a greener Christmas

Your magazine from Southwark Council

Southwark
Council



welcome...



Hello and welcome to a very special edition of Southwark Life as we introduce our new Southwark 2030 strategy to our residents.

Our new strategy, based on conversations and responses from hundreds of people from across the borough, looks at how the council can work with our partners in the police, charity sector, local businesses and many, many more, to make Southwark the place people have told us they want to live in by 2030.

Our strategy is broken down into six main goals, which we will go through in this edition, and three principles – investing in prevention, reducing inequality and empowering people – that will all help us get to our main target of creating good lives for people in Southwark.

The strategy will guide how the council and its partners work together to make Southwark a great place to live, work and visit, but it is important to remember we can not do this alone and I look forward to working with all of our organisations and residents to reach our goals.

You can read the full strategy on our website at southwark.gov.uk

We also have our regular features including news from the council, health information and a round-up of some of the events taking place over the festive period. Plus, we have some vital help and advice for people who are continuing to struggle with the cost of living crisis.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and happy and safe New Year.

Cllr Kieron Williams
Leader of Southwark Council



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move

Southwark

FREE
3 DAY
TRIAL*

NEWLY
REFURBISHED
GYMS!

New kit | smart workout zones | inspiring design
app to track your body measurements

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*Terms and conditions apply. Offer ends 5 January 2025



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

Front page photo is of Shereen from the Goschen Estate community allotment garden

The Southwark Life team

Editor Kim Hooper
Contributors Helen Dorado, Florence Igbokwe, Laura Fitzwilliams, Liz Crook, Sophie Adams, Catherine Simonds, Charlotte Goulding, Ella Rogers, James Senior, Menna Davies, Mai Moon, Sarb Atwal, Ben Spiller, Ope Aromona, Magali Dunkwu.
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You can contact the magazine at southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk but for more regular updates on council news and events, follow us on social media at

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



The Goschen Estate community allotment

Southwark Welcomes

Southwark has officially been recognised as a welcoming place of safety and unity for people who are asylum seekers, refugees and migrants, by becoming a Borough of Sanctuary.

The Borough of Sanctuary accreditation follows the council's Libraries and Heritage Service becoming the first in London to be granted the status of Libraries of Sanctuary.

The Borough of Sanctuary award, from the prestigious charity City of Sanctuary UK, is testimony to the unbreakable partnership of Southwark's refugee and asylum organisations working tirelessly to help hard pressed communities build a new life of freedom and safety in the UK. The award recognises Southwark as a place that welcomes people from all over the world, including those escaping war or persecution from their home countries, with appropriate measures put in place to support these communities.

In October, the council and its partners celebrated the award with a special thank you event at Peckham's Mountview Academy Theatre of Arts. The event performances included a Middle Eastern Drumming group, Nigerian poet and a Ukrainian Bandurist Opera singer, and welcomed refugees and asylum seekers from across the borough.




The achievement is a culmination of the council's work with Southwark's voluntary sector partners and refugees to deliver the impactful services to people seeking sanctuary in Southwark. Partners include, Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, the Southwark Refugee Communities Forum, Community Southwark, the Law Centre, Panjshir Aid, United St Saviours, and Citizens Advice.


City of Sanctuary UK works with individuals, groups and organisations in every area and in every sector to encourage inclusivity, compassion and solidarity with refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

Maggie Filipova-Rivers, City of Sanctuary Local Authority Lead, said: "Southwark Council has been one of our most engaged councils since the Council of Sanctuary scheme was launched in 2020.

"The leadership and the officer team have been incredibly supportive and have done an excellent job embedding inclusive policy and practice across various services. It has been great to see increased partnership working with the local voluntary sector as well."



The Borough of Sanctuary framework looks at the things the council and partners already have in place to support our refugee and asylum seeker communities. It also notes the work done by the council's libraries to become the first London based service to receive Libraries of Sanctuary status. To request a full copy of the framework document please email pamela.abdel-baset@southwark.gov.uk



WELCOME TO Southwark 2030

Southwark is a truly remarkable place

Southwark is at the heart of London's success, known across the world for its physical landmarks but powered by its extraordinary people.

This success builds on the rich history of Southwark as a centre of diversity, creativity and innovation. We have much to be proud of and every reason to be ambitious about the future.

To make the most of our unique strengths, and shape a better future for everyone, we set out to work with people and organisations across our borough to unite around a shared vision and goals for our people and our place.

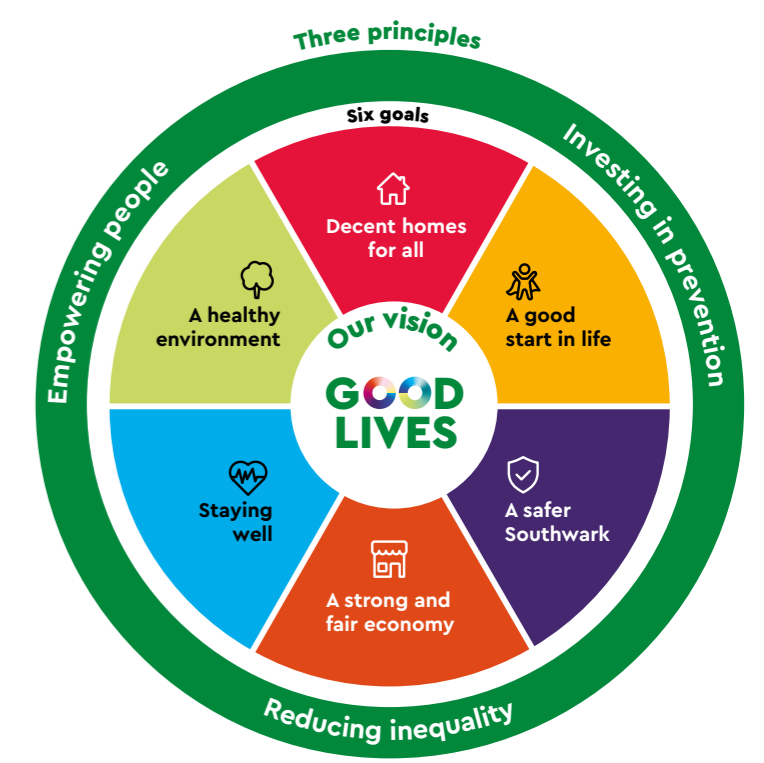
This is why we have created our Southwark 2030 strategy – our ambitious plan for the whole borough.

Everyone who took part in developing this strategy did so because they believe passionately in Southwark and want everyone here to have the chance to live a good life. The people of our borough are at the heart of this strategy, which describes a co-designed vision for 2030 and the six goals that will help us achieve it.

Our shared vision for 2030 is that together we will build a fair, green and safe Southwark where everyone can live a good life as part of a strong community.

If we are to deliver on the promise of this strategy, we will need to unleash the collective talents of residents, communities, organisations and businesses for the good of everyone who calls Southwark home.

Southwark 2030 is jointly owned and agreed, not just by the council as the democratic leader of the borough, but also by our wider community, public services, business, education and cultural sectors.



Decent homes for all

Our goal is to make sure Southwark residents have a safe, warm and decent home.

This means that we expect people to be able to live in safe, well-maintained homes in Southwark. This is, and has been, one of the council's top priorities for many years, but we're focused, alongside our partners, in seeing positive change.

We've asked residents for their thoughts on how they want to be involved with shaping the future of Southwark's homes:

BY 2030 WE WILL:

1. Improve the standards of council, social and private rented homes
2. Increase the number of genuinely affordable homes in our borough
3. Reduce the number of people who are homeless or live in overcrowded housing



- We have already built more council homes than any other area – and **25% of homes in the borough are council owned compared with 10% nationally**. The council has worked with partners such as Lend Lease, Notting Hill Genesis, L&Q and others for many years, to build **675 genuinely affordable new homes** across the borough.
- We face a number of challenges to get there but we are taking the lead in overcoming them through our **Future Council Housing report, which brings over 100 councils together** to ask for a change to the way council housing is funded, with eight recommendations to save council housing. You can read the full report at www.southwark.gov.uk/community-updates/2024/securing-future-englands-council-housing-report

Morrison, Glebe Estate resident over 50 years, "I am helping to create a good life in Southwark by trying my best to be the best human being I can be. By being an embracing, welcoming person in the community. A big challenge for me is how we bring council officials, Southwark residents and people passing through together."



WORK IN PROGRESS

We plan to invest about **£180m** over the next two years to bring our homes up to the

Decent Homes Standard

We will continue our Repair Action Days, which have so far visited more than **30 estates** and carried out more than **800 repairs**

More on next steps for **private licensing: 15,361** of private rent homes covered with more to come

We have taken action against **120** rogue landlords.

We will be introducing a **redesigned homeless persons unit** in early 2025

We have built **3,000 new council homes**

We are refurbishing our Bournemouth Road Housing Options centre to make it more welcoming and provide a better service for residents.

We will continue to work with developers to build more council and social rent homes.

We currently have **1,305 new council homes** on site and a total of **1,442 social rent homes** being built.

Stan enrolled in work experience with the Concierge team at St Giles Hotels with Saira Hospitality Academy after being referred by Beam, and from day one the team knew he would excel during his time working.



"I was homeless, lived in the street until spot team St. Mungos picked me up. My life was destroyed... Was destroyed until I met Alex from Beam, where I was listened to, understood and received great support. Alex was in contact with me all the time, helping me with the voucher which I could use to shop for groceries. He helped me to get an amazing course at Saira Hospitality, thanks to which I got a stable job, life changed for the better. It was thanks to Beam that I started to enjoy life again, I got the job I could only dream of. I started to see life in bright colours."

Obed Doe is a new resident at Commercial Way in Peckham.



Obed said, "Everything has been going well for me since I moved into my new home. I was already familiar with the area so it feels like home to me and the location is excellent, close to shopping and transport."

"I was living in temporary accommodation for two and a half years before this, so living in a spacious new flat is an enormous improvement for me. The flat is nice and I really like the space."

"I live by myself so it's important for me to have my own space and somewhere to call home."



A good start in life

Our goal is for young people to have great childhoods that create a solid foundation for life.

In Southwark, we are a youthful and diverse borough where children and young people make up over 20% of the total population. Many of you told us that you were most worried about young people when thinking ahead to Southwark 2030.

Young people have had more than their fair share of challenges in recent years. They have borne the brunt of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis, with mounting pressures on mental health.

The physical health of our children is improving but challenges remain, with continued high levels of obesity among our year 6 children. Local children also have more special educational needs than ever – the third highest rates in London.

Our Southwark 2030 strategy will ensure all young people benefit from growing up in Southwark in three main ways.



BY 2030 WE WILL:

1. Support families to give their children the best start in their early years.
2. Improve outcomes for children who face disadvantage, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
3. Ensure all young people can participate in positive activities.

WORK IN PROGRESS

We are continuing to invest in our **playgrounds** and adventure playgrounds. We have just launched our consultation for Bramcote Park off the Old Kent Road, which will be redeveloped in 2025.

The completed Elephant Park includes **Elephant Springs with waterfalls** and sandy bays. It brings a natural play experience for both children and adults within the heart of Elephant & Castle.

We are continuing the work to expand the offer in our Children & Family Hubs as **'one stop shops'** for face-to-face support, information, advice, and guidance.



Since going live in July 2024 we have received **78 applications** from young people for the Funding our Future small grants programme.

70 awards have been agreed totalling **£18,068**

Our new **Burgess Park Sports Centre** will be opening in early 2025



We have invested nearly **£3m** to open a **new children's home** in Southwark as we aim to further reduce the number of placements out of the borough.

A SAFE HAVEN FOR NEURODIVERSITY

The Neurodiversity Hub was set up by a grassroots community to educate, empower and support young people with neurodiversity. They offer an after-school club and social careers-focused service from the council's adventure playground on Mint Street. Earlier this year, they were recipients of the council's Positive Futures Fund for Young People. Now, they are working with the council on a schools-based programme for students at risk of becoming school refusers.



One of the hub's co-founders, Sonay Ozkutayli, said: "We are committed to ensuring young people and their families with neurodiversity feel empowered within their communities so they can be the beacon of hope moving forward. We do not believe that neurodiversity or disability should be a barrier to being successful and happy. We are proud to be helping give young people with neurodiversity in Southwark a good start in life."

For more information, visit www.theneurodiversityfamilyhub.org



SUPPORTING BETTER OUTCOMES THROUGH FIXING UP BIKES!



Families on the Brandon Estate told us there were not enough local activities to keep young people busy. So, the council teamed up with Marlon Plein from Camberwell Subterranea - a community gardening and bicycle recycling project based on the estate.

Young people chose bikes in various states of disrepair that had been donated by the police, which Marlon helped them to fix. We had positive chats with the young people about their lives and issues they were facing, particularly around crime, safety and anti-social behaviour. A number of them are now getting support through drop-ins we run.

We are excited to see the young people again at the BMX track in Burgess Park, which run low-cost and free sessions they can enjoy now they have a bike.

Marlon said: "Everything we do is about serving the local community. We offer a safe space where young people can connect and learn skills that can open up other opportunities. There are many ways we can each help our young people have a good start in life. I'm proud that our bicycle workshops are doing just that."

For more information, visit www.beeurban.org.uk/projects/subterranea

BY 2030, WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IF:

- We have **reduced attainment gaps** for children experiencing disadvantage.
- We have **revolutionised outcomes** for pupils with special educational needs.
- All our young people have **access to free or low-cost afterschool activities**.
- We ensure every school leaver has an **education, training or employment opportunity**.
- There is a sustained and comprehensive **'sure-start for teenagers' service** which is delivering better outcomes.





Working together for a safer Southwark

Our goal is a safer Southwark – where crime is low, and people feel safe.

We are committed to working with the police to build trust, tackle crime, and keep people safe in Southwark. Progress has been made to tackle key areas, such as domestic abuse.

BY 2030 WE WILL:

1. Make our borough safer by tackling crime and antisocial behaviour hotspots and their causes.
2. Reduce violence against women, children, and young people.
3. Improve trust and confidence in local policing.



POLICING OVERSIGHT BOARD

The Independent Policing Oversight Board launched in November 2024, to shape how policing is done in Southwark, drive change, and improve confidence in the police by listening to our communities. The Board will challenge, advise, and make recommendations to the Police Borough Commander.

We want all Southwark residents to be treated fairly, feel listened to, and have trust in our local police.

COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDENS

We have invested £2 million in a new antisocial behaviour taskforce with uniformed community safety wardens. They play a vital role in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour, support vulnerable residents, and provide a reassuring presence across Southwark. Working closely with the police, they help keep our streets safe, respond to emergencies, and promote crime prevention.

Our wardens patrol, respond to local concerns, remove knives and weapons from public places, engage with local people and support them to report antisocial behaviour or crimes.

Learn how to keep your community safe, or report antisocial behaviour, visit www.southwark.gov.uk/community-wardens

Neville Lofthouse, community warden: "We do our patrols where there are issues. Whatever area it is, we go there, check the blocks and engage with residents. I am always in pole position taking a zero-tolerance approach to ASB."

"I am well known in the community for my strong commitment to a better quality of life for those who live and work within Southwark. Working together we can make change happen."



WORK IN PROGRESS

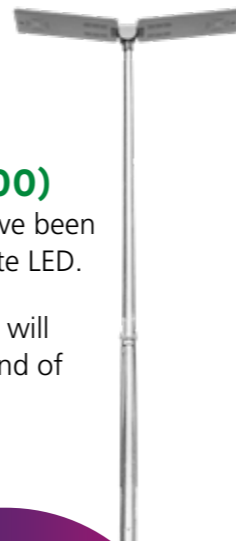
The council has committed to develop a **Women's Safety Centre** ready for launch by mid-2026. It will offer holistic, trauma-informed and accessible services to victim-survivors under one roof.

We've created a network of **22 safe havens for women**



Around **90% (15,500)** of our streetlights have been converted to complete LED.

The remaining **10%** will be delivered by the end of March 2025.



We are investing in particular locations of concern including **lighting and cutting back overgrown hedges**.

We are upgrading our CCTV system. We have just over **550 cameras** in the borough watched 24 hours a day, seven days a week by highly skilled officers.



We are working with our police partners to **strengthen neighbourhood community policing** across the borough.



WATCH THROUGH HER EYES

As part of our commitment to tackling violence against women and girls, we encourage everyone to watch and share our award-winning video Through Her Eyes. The powerful video sheds light on the real, often hidden impact of misogynistic behaviour. It aims to foster understanding, empathy, and inspire change.

Go to www.southwark.gov.uk/through-her-eyes to watch video and find out more.



BE AWARE OF PHONE SNATCHING

Follow these steps to help protect your phone when you're out and about:

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Spread your valuables around your body
- Don't leave your valuables unattended, out of your sight, or on a table
- When you've finished using it, put it away

Strong and fair economy

Our goal is for Southwark to be a borough where every resident can grow and prosper.

With an eye on the future, the Southwark 2030 vision lays out a bold plan for a prosperous local economy. We want to see residents and local businesses grow together.

In the meantime, we're making good progress on creating employment opportunities and supporting local businesses.

• More jobs

There are **1.47 jobs available per person**, but we know there is more to do to decrease the number of workless households in the borough.

• More money

390 accredited Living Wage Employers are now based in Southwark, up from 307 in the last 12 months.

• More apprenticeships

Southwark has created the **highest number of apprenticeships in London**. We plan to widen access to all age groups to support people who want to retrain into emerging industries such as green energy.

BY 2030 WE WILL:

1. Create quality jobs and apprenticeships and help you to get them.
2. Support people out of poverty and low pay.
3. Transform our town centres into thriving spaces for the whole community.



Become an accredited Living Wage Employer and be recognised for paying the London Living Wage. To start the process, complete this survey and a member of the team will be in touch. You will also be in with the chance of winning a £150 voucher from Bermondsey catering company Grazing.



Bosco Katabazi, Cleaner at Borough Market:

"I can afford to pay my bills and pay my bills on time. That's because I work for a company that pays the London Living Wage."



Carla Sofia Cardso Pinto, food services co-ordinator at Spring Community Hub:

"I can now do more with my children and afford to buy a car. It has helped me in my personal life a lot."

WORK IN PROGRESS

We're creating new, thriving town centres

to bring jobs and opportunities to the borough. At Canada Water, we are seizing the unique opportunity to transform a historic London docklands location into a distinctive, new waterside town centre in partnership with British Land.

The new, state-of-the-art London College of Communications building will be adding new benefits to the local economy with the first two floors open to the public.

At Elephant and Castle, we are working to unlock all the benefits of a **better-connected town centre** to the wider neighbourhood. This includes new shops, and a new Northern line entrance and ticket hall.



We're in the process of making major improvements to two key public spaces in Peckham town centre. At Peckham Library Square the design team is working on designs to present to the local community in early 2025.

At Peckham Rye Station we are investing **£27m to create a brand new station square**, which will unlock views of the restored station building and better link it to Rye Lane with improved public space and surrounded by new retail space within restored arches.



Green jobs: 800 residents trained in green skills through the LSBU green skills hub.

1,900 green jobs created in partnership with our business community

SUPPORTING LOCAL CAREERS IN HOSPITALITY

Southwark's 2030 strategy isn't just about big ideas; it's about taking meaningful steps to improve real lives right here in our community. The recent launch of Southwark's Hospitality Skills Hub is a perfect example.

In a borough where hospitality is a vital industry, this initiative is designed to equip local people with the skills needed to land good jobs and advance their careers.

The council has partnered with Rinova Ltd. to deliver this support, ensuring that Southwark's workforce is trained and ready to meet the needs of local businesses.

By registering, you will receive personalised assessments to identify existing skills and areas for growth, along with focused upskilling opportunities to boost earning potential and career satisfaction.

Southwark's support doesn't stop with individual job-seekers; the council is equally committed to helping local businesses thrive.

Southwark's Hospitality Skills Hub offers business owners a free recruitment service that connects them with trained and motivated local candidates.

Register with the Hospitality Skills Hub today at www.southwarkhsh.co.uk



Timothy R Andrews, Head of Talent Jumeirah London / host of the 'Talking Hospitality' podcast

"The real strength of the Hospitality Skills Hub lies in how it encourages employers to come together, share knowledge, and pass on our experience. This collaboration will help shape the future talent pool, giving them the tools to succeed and move the industry forward."



Staying well

Our goal is to make sure people across our communities have good health and wellbeing.

Residents told us that they are hugely concerned about the rise in mental health issues. They prioritise improved mental health support, with accessible services and well-trained staff. Residents told us they want to stay healthy and prevent disease, but are struggling to access healthcare and GP appointments.



AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE:

- Over **50,000 adults in Southwark with a mental disorder**. 664,000 people are registered with a severe mental illness (SMI) in 2023, with 59% of these receiving annual health checks.
- There is a **gap in life expectancy of 11.8 and 9.8 years, for males and females respectively** between the areas of Southwark with the highest and lowest life expectancies
- **Free access to swimming and gym facilities**, and we continue to work on the challenge of obesity through programmes like Alive 'N' Kicking and our Healthy Weight Strategies.

WORK IN PROGRESS

We have invested **£2m** in upgrading our **leisure centre gyms**



Our new **Canada Water Leisure Centre** will open in 2025, built by British Land as part of the development of the area.

Open water swimming

at Greenland Dock was launched in 2024 and will re-open in spring 2025.

We are building new extra care and **flexi care homes**.

Following the success of our work with Appleby Blue we are looking at two new extra care home sites.

We are looking at ways to improve our range of **support for older and more vulnerable people**



BY 2030 WE WILL:

1. Ensure every child and adult can get the mental health support they need when they need it
2. Help more people stay well, reducing the inequalities in health across our community
3. Improve the wellbeing of people with long term conditions and disabilities and their carers

COMMUNITY HEALTH AMBASSADORS

We set up the Community Health Ambassadors to get important health messages to our harder to reach communities – those that might be wary of doctors but who would trust and listen to leaders from their own communities. Ese Anabui is one of our Community Health Ambassadors. She said:

“You get to meet a lot of people. Just a little conversation goes a long way. As a Community Health Ambassador, we go out with the health and wellbeing van. It’s a safe space where people can open up and tell us what they’re going through. We’re then able to help them find support. Some people haven’t seen their GP for a long time. We signpost them to services, we check

blood pressure and provide advice on health eating, alcohol, smoking. They tell us everything they’re going through. We learn every day.”



THE NEST



The Nest is a free and confidential service supporting thousands of young people in the borough. Since opening in May 2020, The Nest has received over 1,750 referrals, counselled over 1,300 young people and delivered over 900 hours of therapy. The landmark service is funded by Southwark Council and delivered by charity Groundwork London. It is one of the key components of the council’s commitment that 100% of children and young people in Southwark have access to mental health support.

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

The Nest Service Manager, **Barbara**



“Young people are at the heart of everything we do here at The Nest. We envisioned an open-access, culturally competent and person-centred service to serve the community’s needs, and the results have exceeded our expectations. The community’s response to our work has been outstanding, which shows how needed wellbeing early-intervention services are to the lives of young people and their families.”

Gabriel, a primary school student who had three months of music therapy with The Nest, said: “I have to hold my emotions in all week, and my Music Therapy session is when I can finally let them out...Friday is my favourite day of the week because I get to have Music Therapy.”

GET HELP TO STOP SMOKING

In 2023 we introduced the Allen Carr’s Easyway® stop smoking service to residents, offering free places to these very effective seminars to people who live or work in Southwark.

Trish works in Southwark and used the Allen Carr service. She said: “I smoked for 47 years and was on 40 a day. I had tried just about everything to quit with no luck, finally deciding to accept that I would never be able to do it. However, the opportunity came up for the Allen Carr’s Easyway® seminar last year. I thought it would be a good idea, not because I thought it would work but because I needed to cut down as I was coughing constantly. On the day you smoke as much as you want. They talk ALL day non-stop. At 4pm, they said put your cigarette out. I was more surprised than anyone, but I haven’t had one since. It’s been a whole year. I have saved so far £11,808. No idea who Allen Carr is but it’s worked for me!”

Find out more or book a place at www.allencarr.com/location/southwark-council or call 020 8944 7761.



Created our maternity commission with over **750 residents**



A healthy environment

Our goal is to make Southwark clean, green and healthy

Our vision is for Southwark's environment to be clean, green and healthy for all our residents by 2030. That means more green spaces for our communities, plants and wildlife. It means helping our residents and businesses to be able to take safe and healthy journeys away from air pollution. And it also means better energy efficiency and green energy sources to tackle the climate emergency.

From bringing down carbon emissions to improving the air we breathe, we're already busy working on this transformation.

BY 2030 WE WILL:

1. Create more green space and biodiversity for our community to enjoy
2. Help people and businesses switch to healthy, clean and green transport
3. Make our buildings energy efficient with clean, green power

WORK IN PROGRESS

Around **13,000** new trees planted in the last two years.



New **Streets for People** delivery plan launched in December 2024

We have **29** School Streets schemes in place and the council aims to get at least three new schools signed up each year.

Southwark Green Investment second round nearly complete with more rounds to come. We aim to raise **£6 million** by 2030 through Southwark Green Investment.

Our development work at Old Kent Road includes **4 new parks**
We're expanding **Library of Things** to new parts of Southwark.

At Canada Water, not only will there be **12 acres of new parks** and squares for the local community and visitors to enjoy but new green corridors linking Canada Water's existing green spaces will also be created.



FIGHTING ENERGY POVERTY IN CAMBERWELL

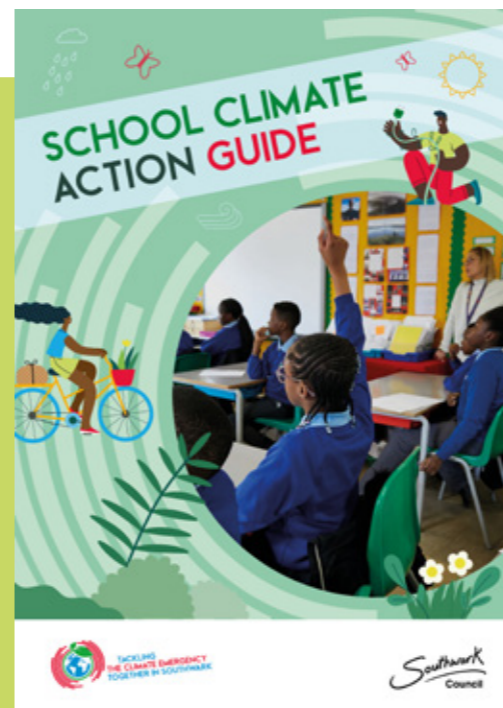
In May we awarded £400,000 to groups across Southwark to run green energy projects in communities or buildings. One of these projects is being run by Flashy Wings Ministry, a charity that supports socially excluded women that is based in Camberwell.

They are running a series of workshops to help people understand and address energy use at home. Their first two sessions welcomed 85 women to learn about tips for reducing energy bills, the pros and cons of smart meters and winter heating controls.

Belinda from Camberwell Green

"I am usually overwhelmed by fear anytime winter is coming, because of high energy bills, I found the meeting very educative and informative."

We will build on this work with our partners to deliver a healthy environment. More than 70% of the local people who took part in our 2030 conversation agreed this was the right priority for Southwark.



HELPING OUR SCHOOLS GO GREEN

Climate action should be as easy as possible for our schools – helping to enhance teaching and building on the energy and enthusiasm of students for positive action.

Our network of climate action schools will be helping do this, by giving support and sharing ideas. To help them get started we have created an easy guide for schools to create a climate action plan including a template with ready-made ideas. New requirements from the UK Government mean every school will need one of these by the end of 2025. By working together with the shared knowledge of all our schools, our educators and pupils will be leading the way to a cleaner, greener and healthier Southwark.

Need to know...

There's lots going on around Southwark this winter. Whether you want to run your own business, save money or volunteer, we have all the news for you...and much more.

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

 Follow us on Facebook
facebook.com/southwarkcouncil

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

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

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

Want to run your own business? Get free support now

Southwark Council funds the Southwark Pioneers Fund: Launchpad, which provides free, practical information, advice and support to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs living and working in Southwark. Apply now to secure your spot on the 2025 programme and the chance to apply for a small business grant. www.trampolineic.org/southwark-pioneers-fund



Freedom Pass Renewals

If you hold a Disabled Person's Freedom Pass, you may receive a letter from the council inviting you to apply to renew your pass and confirm you are still eligible for the scheme.

Once you receive the letter, you must follow the instructions, and provide evidence that you are still eligible to the scheme, so that your pass can be ordered before the current one expires.

Discover volunteering in Southwark

Community Southwark Volunteer is a new volunteering platform that links local charities and community groups with people who want to volunteer. Make a difference in your community!

www.communitysouthwark.org/volunteering/volunteering-opportunities



Find free adult learning courses

The Southwark Adult Learning Service offers a variety of learning opportunities to gain skills for work and improve your wellbeing. They provide tailored learning courses to help you prepare for work and education by offering day, evening and weekend courses. Limited places are available for the crèche. Please enrol online or you can visit the Thomas Carlton Centre - Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

www.southwark.gov.uk/education-and-training/adult-learning

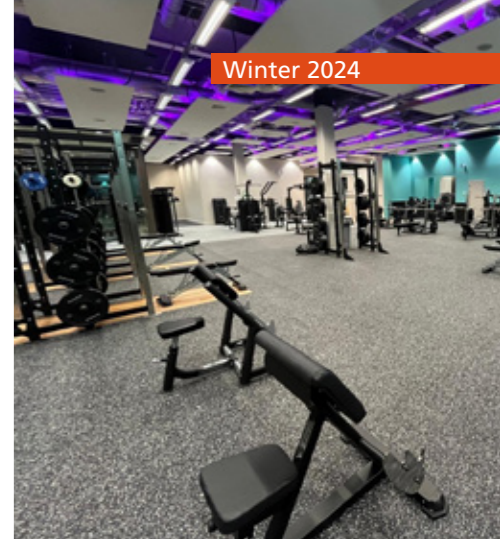


Fantastic gym refurbishments complete

Big changes have happened in our leisure centres with our major gym refurbishments almost complete! The Castle Leisure Centre, Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre and Camberwell Leisure Centre have re-opened with excellent reviews from members. Peckham Pulse and Dulwich leisure centres are due to open in December.

Our new inspiring gyms are designed based on member feedback and industry trends - think fresh workout zones, innovative new kit, more room for functional fitness, and a handy new app to track your progress. Our gyms now match up with some of the best in London, giving you everything you need to reach your goals.

And stay tuned: the brand-new Canada Water Leisure Centre is set to open in spring 2025!



Borrow a thermal imaging camera

Did you know that you can rent a top-of-the-range thermal imaging camera from the Library of Things at Canada Water Library? Buying one new would cost around £400, but you can borrow this for just £15 a day to find draughts in your home, which you can cover or fix.



Head to www.libraryofthings.co.uk/catalogue/borrow-thermal-imaging-camera

Save money and reduce your carbon footprint

The cost of living is rising and we're facing a climate crisis. We have some tips to help you keep a bit more money in your pocket, by cutting energy and food waste. This includes tips to save money when using your heating, tips for saving money with food and shopping and more.

Try these tips and see if they can help you. Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/greensaver



New safety reflector badges for children

Four and five-year-old children in Southwark schools are getting new safety reflector badges to make sure they are safe and visible when walking to and from school.

To celebrate October's International Walk to School month, Cabinet Member for Clean Air, Streets and Waste, Cllr James McAsh, visited Hollydale Primary school in Nunhead to present the reception class with their badges.

To find out more about how to book road safety training at your school, visit www.southwark.gov.uk/streetsforpeople



Study or work in our libraries: free Wi-Fi, computer and tablet loans

If you're registered with a Southwark library you can use the Wi-Fi throughout the day, and book a library computer or tablet (in certain branches) for up to an hour a day, free of charge. You can also use the printers and print from your own device (fees apply).

Go green this Christmas

Reducing the amount of food you throw out is important for the planet and your pocket.



Fight festive food waste

The average UK family could save £83 per month by eating all the food they buy instead of letting it go to waste.

Ways to reduce food waste:

- Make sure your fridge is below 5 °C
- Check your cupboards and only buy what you need
- Plan your meals in advance
- Cook meals using any leftovers
- Use your freezer to store meals



Some food waste is unavoidable, but it's easy to recycle. Plate scrapings, fruit and vegetable peelings, fish and meat bones and tea bags can be collected in your kitchen caddy and placed in your outdoor bin.

It is important to recycle food waste separately as it can be turned into fertiliser for farmland and generate renewable energy. Putting food in your rubbish produces more carbon emissions.

We've extended our free food waste recycling service to all flats this autumn. Get recycling and help do your bit for the planet.

Find out more at southwark.gov.uk/foodwaste



Yule recycle your electricals

Did you know over 4.2 million electrical items are thrown away at Christmas? Let's do our bit for people and the planet and recycle our electricals!

Anything with a plug, battery or cable shouldn't go in your household bin as they can cause fires, but can be recycled safely at dedicated recycling points across the borough.

Keep our community safe and search recycleyourelectricals.org.uk



Nice List Naughty List

As the festive season approaches let's unwrap what should and shouldn't go in the recycling.

Nice List YES PLEASE

- ✓ Empty sweet tins
- ✓ Cardboard gift boxes
- ✓ Christmas cards (without glitter)
- ✓ Paper wrapping paper (non-foil)
- ✓ Glass bottles
- ✓ Empty plastic bottles
- ✓ Clean foil
- ✓ Tins and cans



Naughty List NO THANK YOU

- ✗ Glittery or foil wrapping paper
- ✗ Tinsel and baubles
- ✗ Christmas lights and electrical items
- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Plastic toys
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Food-soiled packaging
- ✗ Artificial Christmas trees



Recycling items from the Nice List will give them a new life. Your empty drinks can become tin foil or even your next mobile phone.

For a greener Christmas, many items on the Naughty List can be reused for next year's celebration. Items that can't be reused or repaired should go in your rubbish bag or bin, except for batteries and electricals.

Bring it, don't bin it!

Over 300,000 tonnes of clothing is thrown away in the UK every year! Much of this can be repaired or recycled. If you're clearing out your old clothes, bedsheets and shoes this winter, don't put them in your household bin, bring them to the Reuse and Recycling Centre or your nearest textile bank so they can be reused or recycled.



Donate your old tech to help those in need

New smartphone or laptop this Christmas? You can help those in need by donating your unwanted laptops, tablets and smartphones to your local library. Items will be repaired and given to those experiencing digital exclusion through our partnership with Community TechAid.



HERE TO HELP THIS WINTER

Getting through the cost of living crisis together

We know the cost of living crisis is still being felt by so many of our residents and we want to assure you that we are here to help. Since the beginning of the crisis, we have distributed more than £52million to over 100,000 Southwark residents, with more support going to those on lowest incomes or those who are more vulnerable.

In September this year, the UK Government announced a six-month extension to the Household Support Fund, providing £2.734m to Southwark. This winter, we will be using this money to support our most vulnerable residents, including:

- **Holiday Free School Meals** for children of low-income families at Christmas and the winter half-term holidays – £1.1m
- **Extra help for our most vulnerable and low-income households** including the elderly, disabled, and those living in energy-inefficient homes that are more expensive to heat – more than £1m
- **Extra help for young people** previously cared for by the council, who we have a special responsibility as a corporate parent – £100k
- **Extra help for those moving to Universal Credit**, providing vital support during the five-week wait for their first payment – £200k
- **Extra help with council tax bills** for low-income households and other vulnerable residents with debts – £300k

For more information visit southwark.gov.uk/here-to-help

CITIZENS ADVICE SOUTHWARK

Free, confidential, independent and impartial advice to help you resolve problems with money, housing, employment, legal issues, and more.

Call: 080 8278 7849

Email: advice@citizensadvicesouthwark.org.uk

Peckham drop-in service

Address: 97 Peckham High Street, SE15 5RS

Opening times: Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm

Walworth drop-in service

Address: 6-8 Westmoreland Road, Walworth, SE17 2AY

Opening times: Monday to Friday, 10am to 2pm

Food and Fun holiday club

If your child gets benefits-related free school meals they can join one of many Food and Fun holiday clubs in Southwark. The weekday clubs run fun activities and provide healthy, free food.

23 December 2024 to 3 January 2025, not including public holidays

FREE

www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun



Once again Southwark Council is working with partners across the borough to provide warm spaces for people to go to. Pop in for a warm cuppa, a chat and even some advice on health and finances.

WORRIED ABOUT LOSING YOUR WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE?

Starting this winter, only those aged 66 or above and claiming Pension Credit will get a Winter Fuel Allowance worth £200 or £300. If your weekly income is less than £220 a week (single person) or £330 a week (couple) you could get Pension Credit. More than 7,500 people like you in Southwark already get Pension Credit. If you join them and claim Pension Credit now you will keep your Winter Fuel Allowance this winter and could get extra help including £150 Warm Home Discount from your energy supplier, free dental treatment and eye tests and a lower Council Tax bill.

You can apply for Pension Credit online at www.gov.uk/pension-credit, call 0800 99 1234, textphone 0800 169 0133 or print a claim form at www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim. It's easy to apply but if you need help a family member might be able to help you.



You can also get help to apply by calling 020 7525 5000 (select option 3) and someone will refer you to a friendly local organisation.

Don't miss out - apply by 21 December 2024 to get your Winter Fuel Allowance this winter.
www.gov.uk/pension-credit

WARM SPACES

We are once again working with local businesses and organisations open up their buildings as a Warm Space, with entertainment for specific communities like movie screenings or entertainers for older people or young families.

Full details, will be available on the Here to Help webpages at www.southwark.gov.uk/here-to-help

Sites include:

- Dulwich Leisure Centre
- Camberwell Leisure Centre
- The Castle Centre
- Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre
- Camberwell Library
- Dulwich Library
- Kingswood Library
- Grove Library
- Brandon Library
- Walworth Library/Southwark Heritage Centre
- Peckham Library
- Canada Water Library
- Nunhead Library
- John Harvard Library
- Blue Anchor Library
- Una Marson Library
- Pecan
- Nunhead's Voice
- Kingswood Arts
- South London Mission
- The Spring Community Hub
- Pembroke House
- Livesey Exchange by Pempeople
- Albrighton Community Centre

SOUTHWARK'S COMMUNITY FRIDGES ARE OPEN TO ALL

If you're struggling to buy food this winter, Southwark's Community Fridges could provide food (subject to availability), as well as advice and support for managing your finances. Community fridges are open to all. Please check opening times before visiting.

Dawson Heights Community Fridge

Dawson Heights Community Hall, Ladlands, Dawson Heights, Overhill Road, SE22 0PP

Variety of perishable food, subject to change. Often including fruit and vegetables, microwave meals. **Additional support:** Staff signposting to Southern Housing's financial support service.

Wednesday 3.30pm to 5pm | 07590 962246 | amy.washbrook@shgroup.org.uk

Camberwell Community Fridge

Albrighton Community Centre, 37 Albrighton Road, East Dulwich SE22 8AH

Fresh food, fruit and veg, and tinned and packeted, baby food/formula if in stock.

Additional support: Citizens Advice Worker as a walk-in session on Mondays 1pm to 3pm

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 1pm to 3pm | www.albrightoncommunityfridge.org/ or facebook.com/albrightoncommunitycentre/ | 020 7737 6186

The Fridge Project at The Bridge

The Bridge, 73-81 Southwark Bridge Road, Borough, SE1 0NQ

Fresh fruit and veg, bread, pantry items.

Wednesday and Thursday 8am to 5pm | Friday 8am to 2pm | www.thebridge-uk.org/fridge | 020 7089 6250 | projects@thebridge-uk.org

Have your PERFECT DAY

Discover Southwark's unique wedding venues with Perfect Day Southwark



Southwark is becoming one of London's best-kept secrets for memorable wedding venues. With its rich history, vibrant community, and stunning settings, this borough offers something for every couple. Now, with the launch of Perfect Day Southwark, an online wedding venue directory created by Southwark's registrars, couples can explore the borough's beauty and find the perfect setting for their special day.

Perfect Day Southwark brings together a range of venue options, from historic sites to sleek, modern spaces, all within easy reach. Each venue listing includes essential information—room options, capacity, availability, and unique features—allowing couples to compare and find the perfect fit, whether it's a grand affair or an intimate celebration. Featured locations include the elegant Camberwell House on Peckham Road, known for its historic charm, and the iconic Shangri-La Hotel at The Shard, with its breathtaking skyline views.



Choosing a Southwark venue also means supporting local businesses and celebrating the borough's heritage. The directory offers insights into each venue's unique story, from Belair House's Georgian charm to the riverside elegance of Glaziers Hall. The site also includes tips on local wedding services—catering, flowers, photography—making it easier for couples to keep their planning local and seamless.

Perfect Day Southwark celebrates the borough's diversity, history, and beauty, making it the ultimate starting point for couples planning their big day. Visit www.perfectdaysouthwark.co.uk to discover the ideal venue for your celebration. Whether you're a local or planning a London wedding, Southwark's stunning spaces offer something truly special.



ONE YEAR ON...

We spoke to the borough's Youth Parliament Leader as she prepares to hand over the role.

Readers may remember Sarah Campbell from a previous edition of Southwark Life when she became the Southwark Youth Parliament (SYP) Leader.

It's been 12 months since she took on the challenging role to lead the Youth Parliament and support her 42 other SYP members as they decided which areas they wanted to prioritise and make a difference in.

Sarah, now 16 and starting her A Levels, told us a bit about her experiences.

"It's been a really eye-opening experience for me, and the rest of the Youth Parliament."

"I loved going to the London Youth Assembly as the SYP rep and meeting new people and making new friends, sharing our experiences. It was interesting to hear about different parts of London with some different issues but some the same.

"I also loved our trip out to the Wood and Water project where we learned about how climate change affects all sorts of things like food production, and its effects on third world countries.

"A big highlight is seeing the way the parliament has grown and how we've worked together and as individuals. I've seen some people who were shy become more outspoken and confident and I'm so proud of them all."

The parliament has picked five topics to focus on – mental health, climate change, youth violence, careers and employability and poverty. These are big challenges, but Sarah hasn't let that phase them.

"We have speakers come to our meetings to talk to us, like recently we had Liam from Southwark Council to tell us about parks and biodiversity.

FIND OUT WHAT ELSE THERE IS LOCALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Aged 16 to 25? You can find out about youth activities near you, events, job vacancies, apprenticeships, internships, and career support. Join a local drama group or a free course to help you upskill for your next job, find out how to get funding to start a business, mental health support and much more.

www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk

"We work with other organisations like The Nest, we worked with Adolescent Sure Start on the struggles some parents face and how they can reach young people.

"We're currently working on a careers fair for 2025 with info on work in STEM, the arts, humanities etc. I won't be Leader then but I will definitely still be in the parliament and working to help young people in Southwark."

You can find out more about the Southwark Youth Parliament at www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk/southwark-youth-parliament

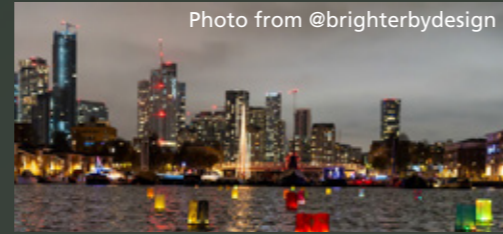


Events calendar

AUTUMN 2024

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

Photo from @brighterbydesign



Greenland Dock Festival

Every year, Greenland Dock Festival transforms South Dock Marina and surroundings into a spectacle of lights, which brings together an array of light displays, sculptures, and installations brightening up the winter evenings. Lanterns, Ceilidh music and dancing, the Whale, lights, sleigh, carols and more. (Supported by Southwark Council's Cultural Celebrations, and Neighbourhood Funds).

6 December to 31 December, from 5pm

Free

Around Greenland Dock SE16 7US
greenlanddockfestival.co.uk

Peckham Christmas tree lights switch on

Come and join the traditional Christmas light switch-on event in Peckham complete with entertainment from local groups and refreshments.

Friday 6 December, 5pm to 7pm

Free

Peckham Square



Farm Christmas Fair

Get in the festive spirit here at the farm where there'll be carol singing, craft stalls and mulled wine. The popular animal handling area will enable you to get up close to lots of the friendly animals. Plus; wreath making kits and beautiful quality Christmas trees will be on sale.

Saturday 7 December, 11am to 4pm

Free entry (with charged activities inside farm)

Surrey Docks Farm, Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 5ET

www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk

Mrs Claus' List

Blue Elephant Theatre invites you on a special adventure to help the reindeer fly at Christmas. When a young child feels they should be on the 'Naughty List', Mrs Claus and her right-hand Elf step in with a lesson in self-worth – and Christmas magic.

6 December to 22 December, times vary, see website

£4.50 (Southwark residents) £6 (others)

Blue Elephant Theatre

www.blueelephanttheatre.co.uk



Vintage and Maker's Christmas Markets

Flea London's Vintage and Makers market at Vinegar Yard will be a treasure trove of Christmas gift ideas and seasonal merriment. Discover a delightful array of items from the artisan makers and vintage traders including exquisite jewellery, handcrafted candles, vintage clothing and accessories, ceramics, toys for the kids, homewares to decorate your home for the festive season, captivating art pieces and much more.



7 and 8, 14 and 15, 21 and 22 December 11am to 5pm

Free

Vinegar Yard, next to London Bridge station, Shard exit.

Instagram: @fleaondon

Hansel and Gretel

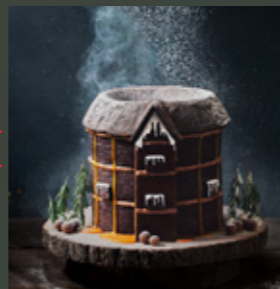
Featured in Evening Standard's 2023 Best Children's Shows to Book at Christmas. Immerse yourself in the enchanting world of Hansel and Gretel, with a new version of The Brothers Grimm's fairy tale by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage. Half-price seated tickets for under-18s are available for all performances.

29 November to 5 January

From £5

Shakespeare's Globe

www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/hansel-and-gretel-2024



Through the Valley: East Dulwich to West Dulwich Changes Over Time

Dulwich is an interesting and attractive area of London with ample evidence of its past through documents, maps and photographs. Yet Dulwich is constantly changing over time because of social, economic and technical change. Local historian Brian Green explains some of these catalysts in this illustrated online local history talk.

Tuesday 3 December, 8pm to 9pm

Free

£5 all proceeds to Bell House letterpress activities for children. Bursary places available

Online

www.bellhouse.co.uk/upcoming-events

A Very Naughty Christmas

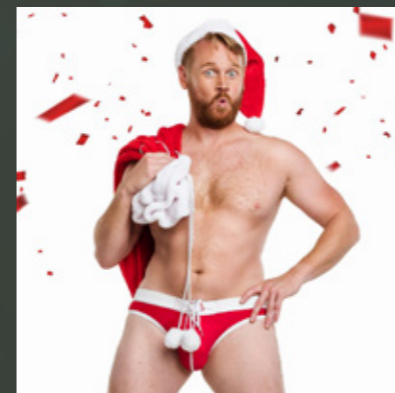
Santa's coming! A Very Naughty Christmas is a comedy concert packed with stand-up, skits, parodied songs, dancing, singing, burlesque and a whole bunch of silliness. Having achieved cult status in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, this hit show is ready to storm the London stage.

28 November to 11 January, times vary, see website

Tickets from £24

Southwark Playhouse Elephant

southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/a-very-naughty-christmas/



Toad of Toad Hall: an original Pantomime

Follow the story of the boastful but loveable rogue Toad, whose reckless obsession with fast cars lands him in court then prison. Helped to escape, disguised as a washerwoman, he has to make his way home to Toad Hall in time for Christmas.

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 December 7.30pm
Saturday 21 December 4pm and 7.30pm
Sunday 22 December 4pm

£14 (adults) £10 (18 years and under)

St Barnabas Parish Hall, 23 Dulwich Village, SE21 7BT

www.ticketsource.co.uk/dulwichplayers



The Massive Tragedy of Madame Bovary

This complex novel is given a shake-up in this irreverent, irrepressible and irresistible play. Four actors battle hilarious mishaps and misbehaving props to tell the (massively) tragic story of Madame Bovary.

5 December to 11 January, Monday to Saturday 7.30pm, Tuesday and Saturday 3pm

Tickets from £10

Southwark Playhouse Borough

southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/the-massive-tragedy-of-madame-bovaryproductions/a-very-naughty-christmas/



Guys & Dolls

Don't miss your final opportunity to see Guys & Dolls and be transported to the streets of Manhattan and the bars of Havana. Featuring Olivier Award-winning choreography by Arlene Phillips with James Cousins. This is a "theatrical extravaganza".

See website - must end 5 January, Monday to Saturday: 7.30pm, Thursday and Saturday: 2.30pm

Tickets from £19.50

Bridge Theatre

bridgetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/guys-and-dolls

Peckham Business Forum Festive Market

Immerse yourself in the heart of our community with a fantastic line-up of local business market stalls, live music and entertainment. There will be a family-friendly festive trail down Rye Lane, and once you've cracked the code you'll have a chance to be entered into a prize draw.

Saturday 7 December, 10am to 7pm

Free

Rye Lane, Peckham

www.peckhambusinessforum.co.uk

Want to celebrate culture in the borough?

Two opportunities for grant funding from Southwark Council will open in November:

Culture Together Fund – grants up to £25,000 to support arts and culture projects that are inclusive, diverse and representative.

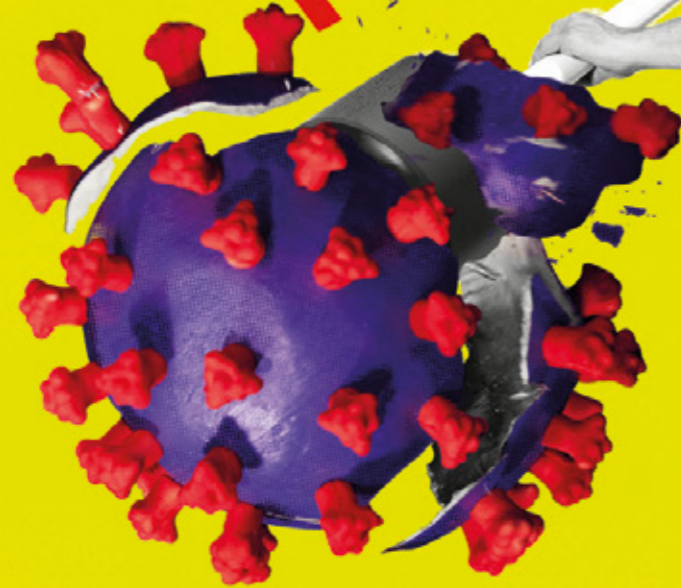
Cultural Celebrations Fund – grants up to £10,000 to support free outdoor festivals that celebrate and unite the borough's many communities.

For further info please visit our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/community-engagement-grants-and-funding/culture-together-grants-fund

SOUTHWARK PRESENTS

SMASH

FLU & COVID-19



GET VACCINATED GET WINTER STRONG

If you have a long term health condition, like John, who has diabetes, check your eligibility and book now at [nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](https://www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)



Ask your pharmacist



Get expert health help from your local pharmacist this winter

As the days get shorter and temperatures start to drop, it's important we look after our health, especially if we have existing health conditions that might make us more vulnerable to seasonal bugs. Your local pharmacy is here to make this easier than ever before. Pharmacists are highly trained and expert in medicines. Here are some top tips from the team at Bonamy pharmacy for making the most of your local pharmacy this winter.

Appointment-free support

Community pharmacies offer a convenient way to get clinical advice on minor health concerns. You don't need an appointment, and we can see you in a separate consultation room for privacy. We can also signpost you to other local services if needed.

Quick and effective treatment

Your pharmacist can prescribe medication for some of the most common health conditions. This includes earaches in children, sore throat, shingles, impetigo, sinusitis, and urinary tract infections in women aged 16-64. No need to wait for a GP appointment!

Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations

Many local pharmacies will be offering free flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to those most at risk of serious illness this autumn. As protection against these viruses can fade over time, it's important to top it up before winter comes to help you stay well. The NHS will contact you if your NHS record suggests you're eligible for a seasonal vaccination. We recommend you book without delay for maximum protection against these viral infections.

Blood pressure checks

If you're aged 40 or above, free blood pressure checks are available. It's a proactive way to monitor your health and find potential issues early on, helping you to stay in control of your health.



Partnership Southwark



Working together to improve health and wellbeing for the people of Southwark

Don't wait for minor health concerns to get worse – think pharmacy first, and get seen by your local community pharmacy team. We're here to help!

Find your local pharmacy at www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies

The unsung heroes of Southwark

Kinship carers step in when a child needs them the most.

In Southwark, as in many parts of the UK, a small yet essential group of individuals play a crucial role in maintaining the community. They are grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, and family friends and they step in when a child's parents are unable to care for them.

This year, during kinship carers week, we held an afternoon tea for Southwark's kinship carers and spoke to some of the attendees (you can watch a short video about the day on our Facebook page).

We spoke to one attendee about what it's like being a kinship carer. We have removed her identity to protect her children.



If you would like to find out more about all the different types of fostering, visit www.southwark.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families

What is it like being a kinship carer?

It can be challenging. I am a grandmother at the school gates with all the young mums, so I sometimes feel like an outsider. But I know I'm doing the right thing and I love seeing the progress in my child and the love and care I receive back from her.

How did you get into kinship caring in the first place?

Well, things weren't 100% right with her mother, my daughter, from the beginning, so I was earmarked early to be the carer in case things didn't improve. About 18 months later I was contacted to see if I would become her kinship carer. My foster daughter was at mine anyway and is still there, 8 years later. I've done all that I could, I kept working because I didn't know what was around the corner, and whether her mother would want her back.

What is the benefit of being a kinship carer vs not being registered?

It grounds us as carers. We know our responsibilities over school, where she goes and where she doesn't go, which holidays she goes on. It's a more official, more positive thing to be a kinship carer.

What would you say to people who are looking after a relative's child but haven't yet become an official kinship carer?

If you think that things are not going to get better with the biological parents, then contact the council and get the advice and support to make a plan for the future of the child. It really helps.

What is it like working with Southwark Council?

It's been good. I'm often at work so don't often come to the coffee mornings or the events but now I'm slowly retiring I'll have more time to come to them. It's nice, I like the people here and it's good to know that someone is in your corner.

Is becoming a kinship carer worth it?

Oh yes. Definitely. These children are close to us from the beginning. They are often relatives, so we know who they are with and where they are. We are keeping the children in the family and giving them a better chance in life. She is so thoughtful and grateful to me.

BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK

ARE YOU A HOSPITALITY BUSINESS?

Register with the Hospitality Skills Hub to access a free recruitment service to match you with skilled and work-ready hospitality professionals. The Hospitality Skills Hub can also conduct a needs assessment of your business to help you understand what kind of skills your business would benefit from. See page 13 for more information.



The council and its partners are working hard to make sure there are plenty of opportunities for local people of all ages to get the training and support they need to get good careers. Read on to discover more.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CAREERS

The South East London Health and Care Jobs Hub helps residents access the training, advice and support they need to help them find the right job in health and social care. Whether you're new to the sector and want to know more, looking for work experience, training, or career development opportunities, or you need some help with your CV writing and job applications – the hub has an offer for you. Visit www.selondonics.org/good-work/



We are developing similar offers for the creative and cultural and life sciences sectors. Look out for information about these in future council publications.

GREEN CAREERS

The Green Skills Hub at London Southbank University supports residents to train and find employment in sectors like green construction, waste management, and sustainable energy. Whether you're starting out or looking to transition into the green economy, the hub can help you secure a rewarding job and contribute to a greener future. Visit www.lsbugreenskills.com



CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

The Southwark Construction Skills Centre supports residents to access free training, apprenticeships, and job opportunities in the construction sector. It is designed to help residents of Southwark to gain practical skills and certifications, such as NVQs and CSCS cards, which are essential for working in construction. Visit www.theskillscentre.co.uk/locations/southwark

DIGITAL CAREERS

The Click Start Peckham Digital Accelerator Zone offers free digital skills training for residents aged 18 to 30 from black and ethnic minority backgrounds in South London. Through courses in web development, data science, and artificial intelligence, you will gain in-demand tech skills. You will also have access to career preparation workshops and networking events to you build your industry awareness. Visit www.peckhamdaz.com



PAID INTERNSHIPS SUPPORT

We have partnered with Gradcore, a social enterprise, to provide free, personalised support for eligible Southwark university students to improve their employability and help secure a paid internship. To find out more and apply for this personalised support visit www.southwark.gov.uk/apply

JOIN OVER 350 OF SOUTHWARK'S LONDON LIVING WAGE EMPLOYERS



If you are thinking of becoming a London living wage provider, you can receive grant funding to cover your accreditation costs. This is available as part of Southwark's new Living Wage Unit established to increase the number of employees benefitting from a pay rise particularly in the midst of a cost of living crisis.

To find out if your eligible visit www.southwark.gov.uk/livingwagegrant

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

For regular updates on business support, opportunities and guidance sign up to our business e-newsletter at www.southwark.gov.uk/business-and-licences/business-support/advice-and-funding

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

STAY IN TOUCH



Join us on our social media channels to get all the latest news, views and information on what's going on around Southwark.

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

- X lb_southwark
- f southwarkcouncil
- instagram southwarkcouncil
- tiktok @southwark.council
- whatsapp bit.ly/Southwarkwhatsapp
- reddit southwark-council-2
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X SouthwarkEvents

SOUTHWARK LIBRARIES

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And don't forget you can sign up to our weekly e-newsletter at www.southwark.gov.uk/followus