

Southwark

# Life

Autumn 2023

## Library of Things

Discount offer on rentals ready for Christmas

## Winter parks

Keeping healthy with our wonderful outdoor spaces

## Here to Help

We're re-launching our cost of living support to help keep people well and warm this winter

**PLUS** We meet Suzann McLean, CEO at Theatre Peckham

Your magazine from Southwark Council

*Southwark*  
Council  
southwark.gov.uk

#ChargeSafe



# IS YOUR E-BIKE OR E-SCOOTER A FIRE RISK?

- Never leave your device charging unattended or when you're asleep.
- Do not attempt to modify or tamper with your battery. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Converting pedal bikes into e-bikes using DIY kits bought online can be very dangerous and poses a higher risk of fire.
- Never block your escape routes with your e-bike or e-scooter.
- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm.



Scan this QR code for more information or visit:  
[london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe](https://london-fire.gov.uk/chargesafe)



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### Contact us

Do you have something to say about Southwark Life?  
email [southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:southwark.life@southwark.gov.uk)

Front page photo is Suzann McLean, CEO at Theatre Peckham. See pages 24 and 25.

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welcome...



Hello and welcome to our autumn edition of Southwark Life.

Christmas is just around the corner and I know for many people this is an exciting time full of joy, visiting with family and friends and giving and receiving gifts.

However we also know for some people this winter will be another difficult one as the cost of living crisis continues. This is why we are once again working with our outstanding community organisations and businesses across the borough to provide a wide range of advice and support to households who might be struggling to heat their homes or buy food again this winter. Please see pages 18 and 19 for our energy support and debt advice guide.

There are lots of other ways to keep healthy this Christmas too, including our free swim and gym offer for local residents. You can read more about this and everything else our leisure centres, which we brought back under council management this summer, have to offer on pages 16 and 17. We also take a look at what our beautiful parks have to offer for physical and mental health, even in winter, on pages 12 and 13.

In this edition you can also find out more about our innovative Land Commission work, celebrate our tenth anniversary of offering free, healthy school meals to our local primary schools, and catch up on what is happening with new developments on the Old Kent Road and our Back the Bakerloo campaign.

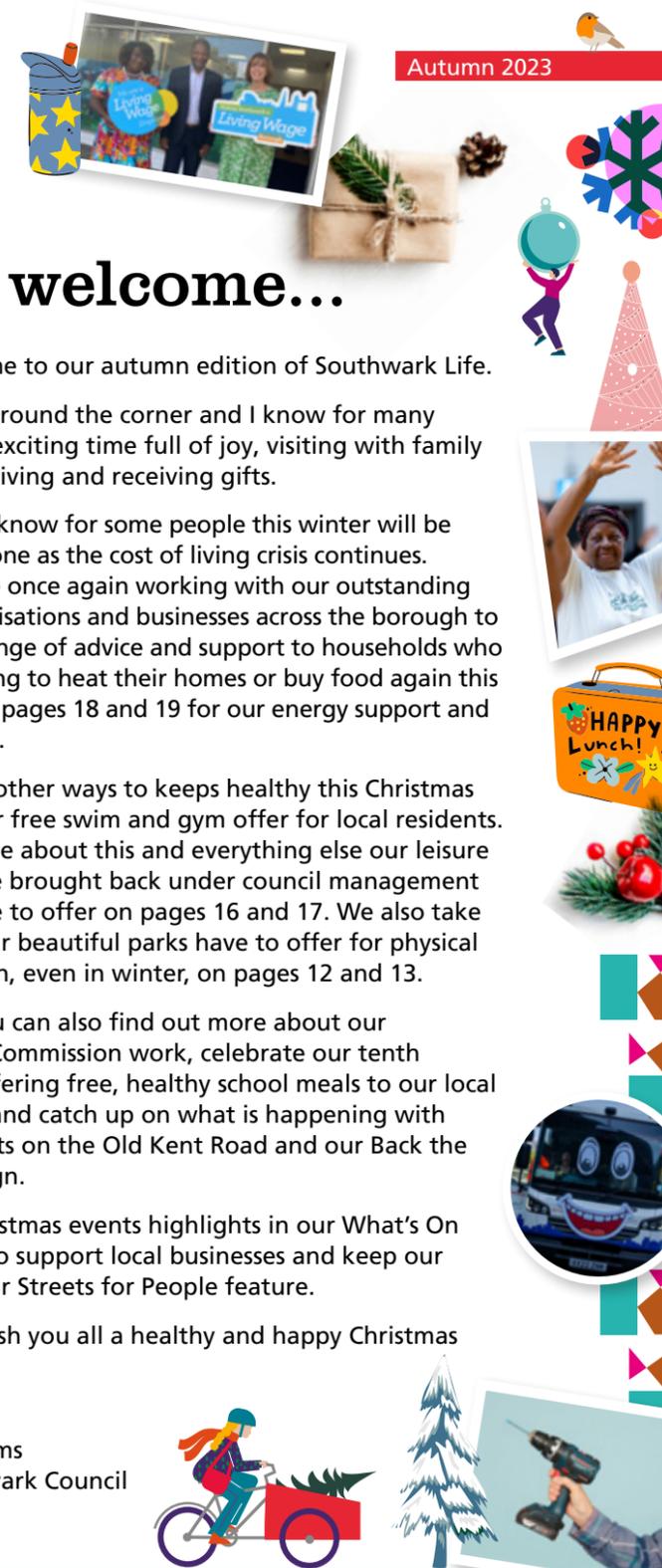
Plus we have Christmas events highlights in our What's On pages and ways to support local businesses and keep our streets safer in our Streets for People feature.

I would like to wish you all a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

Cllr Kieron Williams  
Leader of Southwark Council



Autumn 2023



# Need to know...

It's been a busy few months at Southwark Council and we've got some great new services and initiatives to help residents get healthier, be more climate friendly and to get young people more involved.

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

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

 Follow us on X (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 [southwark.gov.uk/followus](https://southwark.gov.uk/followus)



## Stop smoking the easy way

Allen Carr's Easyway® has helped 50 million people to stop smoking worldwide. We're offering free places for these highly effective seminars. They're suitable for you if you smoke and vape. Places normally cost £349, but are free if you live or work in Southwark or are registered to a Southwark GP. The seminars:

- don't use scare tactics, but instead help to change the way you think about smoking
- can help you quit in just six hours
- are drug free
- are available online or in-person

Find out more or book a place at [www.allencarr.com/location/southwark-council](https://www.allencarr.com/location/southwark-council) or call **020 8944 7761**.

## Women and Girls' Safety Survey

In 2021, Southwark Council conducted its first ever Women's Safety Survey, which provided invaluable information about how to improve the safety of all women in our borough.

Two years on, we are inviting women to take part in the 2023 Women and Girls' Safety Survey. This survey will help us achieve an up-to-date understanding of women's safety in Southwark, and ensure women's voices are at the heart of council strategy on violence against women and girls.

The survey launches Saturday 25 November 2023, in line with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

You can fill out the survey at [southwark.gov.uk/womens-safety-2023](https://southwark.gov.uk/womens-safety-2023)



## BMX track gets climate-friendly upgrade

We have upgraded the floodlights at the BMX track in Burgess Park. The new and improved LED lighting reduces carbon emissions and saves us money to use on looking after our parks, making it a win-win for us in our efforts to tackle the climate emergency in Southwark.

If you are interested in trying out the track, then there is a varied programme, including coaching, to suit riders of all abilities. Visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/bmx-booking](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/bmx-booking) to book a session



## Stay well: get a COVID-19 and flu vaccination

Seasonal COVID-19 and flu vaccines are available if you're eligible. You're encouraged to take up the COVID-19 autumn booster to get maximum protection from a new COVID-19 variant. You should take the flu vaccine every year as the strains of flu in circulation change each year. Both vaccines are safe and effective, with usually mild side effects. COVID-19 and flu spread more easily in winter when we're indoors. Make sure you've had both vaccines before mid-December so you don't miss out on seasonal catch-ups with family and friends.

You may be eligible for both vaccines if you:

- are 65 and over
- have certain health conditions or a learning disability
- are pregnant
- live with someone who has a weakened immune system
- are health and social care staff or a carer

Find out how to book at [nhs.uk/seasonalvaccinations](https://nhs.uk/seasonalvaccinations) or call **119**.



## SENsational Stay & Play

SENsational Stay & Play sessions are fun FREE sessions for children with additional needs or disabilities and their parents and carers.

There are now 11 regular sessions delivered from 8 different locations in the borough. The venues have a range of facilities including indoor and outdoor play, messy play, arts & crafts - and some even have sensory rooms and soft play!!

There are sessions for a range of ages from 0-11. Sessions are delivered term-time, at weekends and during school holidays.

Sessions also include input from specialist services such as the council's Autism Support Team and Positive Behaviour Support Service.

Visit [www.pprncfc.com/sensational-stay-and-play](https://www.pprncfc.com/sensational-stay-and-play)

## A helping hand around the home

If you are over the age of 60, or any age with a disability, and live in Southwark, you are eligible for our handyman service.

There is an hourly rate charge, depending on your financial circumstances. There are no call-out charges or hidden extras.

Some of the tasks we can help with include installing grab/hand rails, moving furniture, fixing curtain rails, changing locks, draft proofing, building flat pack furniture, changing light bulbs, small plumbing jobs and other small repairs.

Contact us to find out if we can help with any other tasks you might have around the home. We can supply materials or can use materials that you have already bought.

For more information visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/handyperson](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/handyperson) or call **0207 525 1863**.



## Get over £1,000 for healthy food for your family

Healthy Start is a prepaid card you can use to buy fruit, vegetables and pulses, plain cow's milk, and infant formula. You could be eligible for the scheme if you're:

- 18 or over and pregnant or have children under four-years-old and you get certain benefits
- under 18-years-old, pregnant and don't get benefits

Getting Healthy Start also won't affect your benefits and, if you claimed from 10 week's pregnant up to your child's fourth birthday, you could get £1,000 in total. Over 2,000 families in the borough benefit from the scheme. To find out if you could too, go to [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk) or call the NHS Healthy Start team on **0300 330 7010**.

## New vlogging platform launched

Southwark Space is a new vlogging platform, backed by the council and built to give young people a voice and safe space to speak about their experiences growing up in Southwark. Full Circle is a series of vlogs that have been published on the platform. Through its brilliant hosts, Kelvin, Luca and Rueben, it spotlights the everyday stories of three young men in Southwark, predominantly through the lens of the Black community.

The vlogs aim to encourage and inspire others to find their own safe spaces with their friends, where they can have their own supportive and open conversations.

You can watch the Full Circle vlogs on the council's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/southwarkcouncil](https://www.youtube.com/southwarkcouncil)

## New funding available to make your community building climate-friendly

We have launched a new funding pot to support community energy projects in Southwark. Southwark Community Energy Fund is open for projects for schools, faith groups and community groups to produce renewable energy, improve the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce carbon emissions. This could be with building improvements or green technology like solar panels or heat pumps. Part of the fund is also available to help create or expand local community energy groups.



The fund is intended for community buildings and is not available for private residential properties. The application window is open until 22 January 2024. Read more, ask questions and apply at [www.southwark.gov.uk/community-energy](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/community-energy)

## Bridge club

If you would like to meet new people and enjoy a friendly card game then you should consider joining the Time and Talents Bridge Club.

The club meets every Friday from 1pm to 4pm at the Time and Talents centre, The Old Mortuary, 39-47 St. Marychurch St, SE16 4JE. They have ACOL duplicate bridge sessions, some experience is expected. The club is for any age but is mainly senior players.

People can just show up on the day, although it is helpful if you can let the team know you are going.

For more information people may contact Alla Pashov **07884391101** or Time and Talents **020 7231 7845**.

## Get free advice for green home upgrades this winter

The Energy Advice Centre at London Southbank University (LSBU) is a partnership between Southwark Council and LSBU. The free service provides green homes advice and information on things such as home improvements, retrofitting, and grants and funding for green upgrades. It can also give you advice on energy efficiency around the home – such as tips to get more out of your central heating, or guidance on whether you should change to LED lightbulbs.



Get free advice online at [www.southwark.gov.uk/green-homes-advice](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/green-homes-advice) or visit in person by going to the Energy Advice Centre, between 10am to 1pm on Thursdays, at Clarence Centre for Enterprise and Innovation, 126 London Road, Southwark, SE1 0AE.

## Property licensing extends to new wards for rented properties

From 1 November 2023, selective property licensing will be extended to include 19 of the borough's 23 wards.

Landlords will need to apply for a selective licence if you let your property privately, it's not an HMO and it is in one of the following new wards: North Walworth, Nunhead & Queens Road, Old Kent Road, Peckham, Camberwell Green, Chaucer, Dulwich Hill, Dulwich Wood, London Bridge and West Bermondsey, Peckham Rye, Rotherhithe, Rye Lane, South Bermondsey and Surrey Docks.

If you're not sure whether your property is in one of these areas you can view the selective licensing designations map at [www.southwark.gov.uk/selectivelicensing](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/selectivelicensing) to find out.

Licensing applications for the new wards can be submitted from 1 October 2023 to qualify for an early-bird discount. Landlords and agents can sign-up to receive regular updates by emailing [propertylicensing@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:propertylicensing@southwark.gov.uk)



# FOCUS ON THE AYLESBURY ESTATE

We are building hundreds of genuinely affordable new homes on the Aylesbury Estate - more than half of which are council rents or social rent.

**M**aking sure we have a range of genuinely affordable homes on the redeveloped Aylesbury Estate is a key priority for the council. Over the last few years we have been increasing the number of replacement council and social rent homes on the estate, and we will continue to work hard to provide the homes local people need in future phases.

We are also providing shared ownership housing, to help people who want to get on the property ladder and own their own home, and homes that support older residents or people with disabilities.

There will also be a small number of private sale homes to help us raise the money to build the genuinely affordable housing and fill the gaps in funding.

The re-development will also boast a brand-new library – the Una Marson library - that is due to open this December and new, state-of-the-art medical centre, which is due to open in early 2024, plus a new public square where people can meet.

## HOMES COMING IN FUTURE

We are committed to working with residents to deliver many more truly affordable homes on the estate over the coming years and we will keep residents updated on progress and any ways they can be involved. You can find more information about the Aylesbury redevelopment on [aylesburynow.london](https://aylesburynow.london) or in the monthly newsletter if you are an Aylesbury resident.



Oluwakemi (quoted below)

## HOMES WHICH ARE ALREADY BUILT

	Council homes	Affordable rent homes	Shared ownership homes	Homes for private sale	Total
L&Q homes	0	150	60	198	408
Southwark Council homes	229	0	0	0	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>637</b>

## HOMES THAT ARE COMING SOON

	Council homes	Homes for social rent	Shared ownership homes	Homes for private sale	Total
Notting Hill Genesis homes	0	152	85	206	443
Southwark Council homes	352	0	0	0	352
<b>Total</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>795</b>

## NEW COUNCIL HOMES COMPLETED ON THE AYLESBURY ESTATE

We recently finished building 229 new council homes, a new community centre, a landscaped central park and a playground on the area known as the Aylesbury First Development Site (FDS) A. This is the plot of land which sits between Westmoreland Road and Bradenham Close.

Oluwakemi Odutayo moved into one of the new council houses on Aylesbury FDS A in March 2023.

After six years living in temporary accommodation, she now lives in a three-storey, five-bedroom house with her four children.

Oluwakemi said, "I'm really pleased with my new home. It's spacious, it has a garden, my kids are enjoying it, and our lives have much improved since moving out of temporary accommodation".

Our overall plan for Aylesbury Estate aims to create a new, thriving neighbourhood which is integrated into the wider network of streets and spaces in Walworth. The high-quality new homes will strengthen communities and transform people's lives here for many generations.

**CANADA WATER  
LIBRARY OF THINGS**

# TRY BORROWING INSTEAD OF BUYING THIS WINTER

## HOW THE LIBRARY OF THINGS CAN HELP

Join your neighbours and start using our new Library of Things

**D**id you know that you can now rent useful household items, like drills, carpet cleaners, and projectors, at Canada Water Library of Things? You can reserve online from as little as £1 per day, pick up at Canada Water Library, and then return once you've finished with it.

Instead of buying items that you might only use once a year, you can save money, storage space and help the environment. If you need it, you can also get a discounted membership to help make it even more affordable.

There are more than 30 top-quality items available, all tested by expert technicians. To borrow an item you need to reserve it online, and then collect it from self-service lockers at the library.

If you use the code **HELLOSOUTHWARK** you can also get a 25% discount on your rental – valid until the 31 December 2023.

See what items you can borrow and reserve your first item at [www.libraryofthings.co.uk/canadawater](http://www.libraryofthings.co.uk/canadawater)

Since opening in June over 300 people have used the service, saving an estimated £10,000 and preventing 2.3 tonnes of waste from renting instead of buying new things.

### Tick off those odd-jobs before your visitors arrive

What better way to impress your visiting family, than by ticking off those house-jobs you have been putting off all year? There are a wide-range of top quality DIY tools available to borrow from as little as £1 per day.

### Get crafty and make your own gifts and decorations

What if you made your own unique Christmas decorations instead of buying new ones? Or maybe you could even make some home-made presents? By borrowing a sewing machine for as little as £5, you can make 2023 the year when you rediscover your craft-skills.

### Give your party a special edge

This year, a spot of karaoke could take your New Year's celebrations to the next level. Borrow a microphone, amplifier and speaker for £10 in a combined Speaker and PA system from the Library of Things and get practicing your karaoke numbers.

## DECLUTTER YOUR LIFE

We all know the benefits of a spring clean, but an end of year clear out is perfect for beating the winter blues, promoting sustainability and breathing new life to your home. We asked local resident and Certified Professional Organiser, Katherine Blackler of SortMySpace Ltd for her top tips on decluttering your home.

### 1. START SMALL

Don't get overwhelmed trying to tackle the entire house at once. Choose a room and focus on just one area at a time (e.g. the floor, countertop, cupboard, drawer). If you ultimately need to deal with the whole house, start with your bedroom - it's the first thing you wake up to and that can influence your energy levels for the rest of the day.

### 2. "LIKE WITH LIKE"

Gather all your similar items in one place, including shoes, CDs, books, food items, jewellery, paperwork and loose batteries. You'll be able to see exactly how many duplicates you have, what's no longer serving a purpose for your household and what could be thrown away or gifted onwards. Once you've decluttered, keep similar items together to make it easier to always find them in defined 'zones'.

### 3. A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

The goal is for everything to have a dedicated place to 'live' so, even if you and your household members aren't naturally tidy, a short burst of sorting and re-homing will return your space to one you can think straight in.

### 4. PRIME PROPERTY

Consider what items you use regularly and their location. Countertops, surfaces and any shelving or cupboard space you can access without overstretching or bending down to access items is your home's 'prime property'. Dedicate this valuable space to storing items your household use on a regular basis. Areas that are harder to reach can benefit from having items rallied up into containers. Then it's just one box to manoeuvre to the countertop and pick a jar or packet from.

### 5. SORT FIRST, SHOP LATER (IF AT ALL!)

Avoid buying ANY storage or organising solutions until you've reviewed and decluttered first to know what volume of each category of items you're likely to need to house – and where. If you buy beautiful containers in advance you're more likely to keep unnecessary items in them to justify their purchase.

**Kate, from Rotherhithe**  
"We love having the Library of Things at Canada Water – it's such a great resource and such good value to use. Having a waffle maker for a week was a brilliant family treat. We've been experimenting with different toppings for savoury and sweet waffles."



Katherine Blackler



## NEED TO GET RID OF YOUR OLD BULKY ITEMS?

### LET US PICK IT UP FOR YOU

Our crews are working hard to keep our streets clean of litter and fly-tipping. Don't ruin that and risk a fine and imprisonment. Do what your neighbours are already doing and book online with us to collect from you – we'll collect up to 10 items for just £35. Book a collection at [www.southwark.gov.uk/bulkywaste](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/bulkywaste)



# FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR OLD KENT ROAD

The future of one of London's oldest roads is taking shape with thousands of new homes, improved services, and the Bakerloo line extension

It's been a busy few years down the Old Kent Road, with some areas almost unrecognisable as new buildings go up providing vital homes and work space for the borough.

Two of the most significant buildings include Barratt's OKRD – Old Kent Road's first 100 metre tower block, which has 253 new homes. Of these, 92 are affordable with social landlords Notting Hill Genesis managing the social rented homes and L7G managing

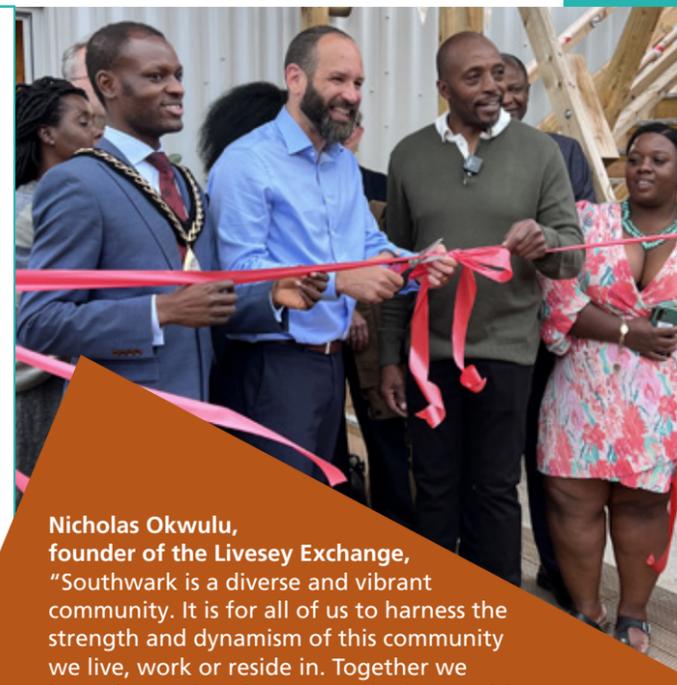
the intermediate rent. Plus 3,000 square metres of commercial space underneath.

Another key development is 62 Hatcham, which is 100% affordable housing, with workspace below.

A number of council homes are also being built as part of the redevelopment of the Tustin Estate, phase one of which is now underway with 67 homes new council homes being built.

## SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

- More than **9,500 homes** have been given detailed planning permission along the Old Kent Road opportunity area – more than any other project in London.
- More than **50% of the 3,333 homes** that have already started or been built, are affordable. Over **30%** are new social rent homes.
- Over **25,000 metres squared commercial floor space** has been started or built, of which **10%** is affordable. This includes a new venue being built by the council for the Livesey Exchange called LEX 2.
- Over **11,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions will be saved** every year once Southwark's heat network has been extended to homes around Old Kent Road and Peckham.
- Over **£10.5m for local projects** has been raised by the council on development schemes around Old Kent Road. This is known as the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).



Nicholas Okwulu, founder of the Livesey Exchange, "Southwark is a diverse and vibrant community. It is for all of us to harness the strength and dynamism of this community we live, work or reside in. Together we have shown that the community is very able to deliver projects that add value to their environments and are inclusive to all."

# Back the Bakerloo

## Help bring the Bakerloo line to south east London!

Southwark and Lewisham councils have been actively campaigning for the Bakerloo Line Upgrade and Extension (BLUE) for a number of years.

The project is widely backed by local businesses and residents. It is also one of the projects supported by all the London boroughs in the new London Infrastructure Framework.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has committed to the Bakerloo Line Upgrade and Extension through Southwark and Lewisham, subject to financing from the government, recognising that the current line is overdue and desperate for an upgrade.

He has said he is lobbying government for funding adding: "The Elizabeth line is a good example of 'if you build it they will come'. It's now the most successful line in the country." Around £7m has already been committed for the upgrade work.

BLUE will dramatically improve transport links, relieving the load on the bus and Overground network. The extension will also deliver thousands of new homes and jobs in Southwark, boost the local economy and benefits the rest of London.

Transport for London (TfL) has a team working full time on the plans

and has set out proposals to extend the tube line from Elephant and Castle to Lewisham via Old Kent Road and New Cross Gate.

They are currently procuring specialist engineering consultants to design the proposed Bakerloo Line Extension stations - Burgess Park, Old Kent Road, New Cross Gate and Lewisham. We are helping to part fund that using Community Infrastructure Levy. In the meantime, developers are already building the station box at Elephant and Castle ready for the extension for when TfL get approval for it. Southwark Council has also invested £7.5m in this.

In 2021, directions were issued by the Transport Secretary to safeguard the route of the Bakerloo line extension from Lambeth North to Lewisham. This means the sites of the new stations are protected and can't be used for any new development that might interfere with the project.

In the meantime, a rapid shuttle bus service is being explored that would be funded from local developments. Over £1.25m has been raised for the 'Bakerloo Bus' already, which will be accompanied by changes to make it easier and safer for cyclists and pedestrians along Old Kent Road.



Alex Williams, TfL's Chief Customer and Strategy Officer, said: "Extending the Bakerloo line and upgrading the existing line would connect a historically underserved part of London to the Tube network, while unlocking thousands of new homes that London needs and supporting new jobs."



Andy Lord, TfL's commissioner has stated: "We have the route safeguarded all the way down to Lewisham, we would like to get the capital and approval for that as well, to build the extension from Elephant and Castle."



"The developers at Elephant and Castle are already building the station box to have Elephant and Castle ready for the extension should we get approval for it."

Cllr Kieron Williams, Leader of Southwark Council, said: "The message from London is clear: the capital's prosperity hinges on the Bakerloo line extension, alongside other key developments. It's not a question of 'if' but 'when'."

"Despite difficult economic times, it's full steam ahead for Old Kent Road. Over 30 per cent are new social rent homes meaning families in desperate need of secure and suitable housing can plant proper roots in the area, benefitting from the investment in public services and community projects that new developments bring."



Better transport links



1,000s of new jobs and homes



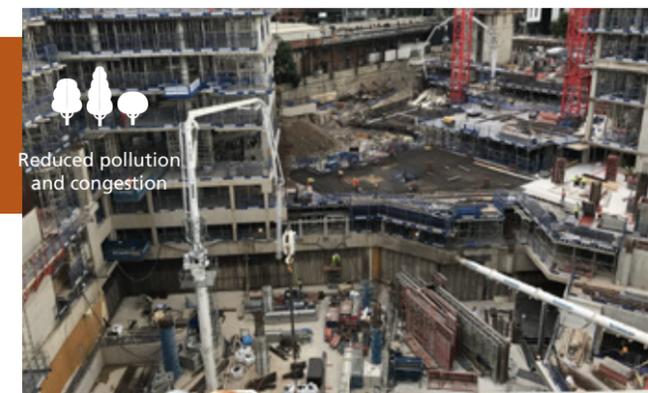
Improved accessibility



Reduced pollution and congestion

## Spread the word!

We need your support to ensure the Bakerloo line extension is delivered as planned. Show your support by backing our campaign at [backthebakerloo.org.uk](https://backthebakerloo.org.uk)



# Park life

Celebrating Southwark's parks, biodiversity and open spaces

As the weather turns colder, why not wrap up warm to enjoy outdoor activities or a peaceful stroll in the natural environment. Visit our award-winning parks to explore nature and discover the wellbeing benefits that Southwark has to offer.

With 65 sites of nature conservation importance and seven local nature reserves, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

## Green Flag Awards

Southwark has an impressive 30 Green Flags for its parks and open spaces, the third highest number of flags across England, and achieved the Good Parks for London award. These awards highlight the high-quality recreational spaces for everyone. Explore them all, from Belair Park, to King's Stairs Gardens, at [southwark.gov.uk/green-flag-awards](https://southwark.gov.uk/green-flag-awards)

## Biodiversity

Wildlife thrives in a range of habitats in our urban environment, from woodlands to meadows and lakes to shrub beds. Even species such as stag beetles, common lizards, hedgehogs and frogs find sanctuary in our parks and open spaces. Tell us what wildlife you find within Southwark using our interactive map. Report your wildlife sightings at [southwark.gov.uk/wildlife-map](https://southwark.gov.uk/wildlife-map)

## Health and wellbeing

Spending time in our parks can positively contribute to your health and wellbeing. These havens provide a respite from urban life, allowing you to relax, rejuvenate, and connect with the natural world.

Follow a park trail to explore Southwark's green spaces, each with its unique features. Download trail maps at [southwark.gov.uk/park-trails](https://southwark.gov.uk/park-trails)

Take extra care in bad weather as only some parks are partially salted and paths may be icy; visit [southwark.gov.uk/street-care/gritting](https://southwark.gov.uk/street-care/gritting)

## Outdoor exercise

### Anyone can join a parkrun

Burgess, Peckham Rye, Dulwich and Southwark Park all host parkruns. On Saturdays at 9am you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate at the 5k events. On Sundays, Burgess and Peckham Rye parks host junior parkrun – fun, friendly 2k events for 4 to 14-year-olds. All are free. Visit [parkrun.org.uk](https://parkrun.org.uk)

### Head to a gym in the park

We've got 13 outdoor gyms across our parks. They're free to use and designed for adults of any fitness level. The gyms in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth, Peckham Rye and Dulwich parks have new apparatus to enable calisthenics - training that uses gravity and bodyweight to improve strength. Find out more at [southwark.gov.uk/outdoor-gyms](https://southwark.gov.uk/outdoor-gyms)

## Keeping our parks safe

Our dedicated park liaison officers provide a reassuring presence in our parks and open spaces, helping our communities, and addressing concerns.

We spoke to one of our park liaison officers, John, who told us about his job.

"I'm the team leader for the park liaison officers; you might otherwise think of that as park warden. I've been with Southwark Council for 20 years, starting out as a community warden.

"I love my job for many reasons. My team and I aim to make the parks and open green spaces, of which there are many, welcoming environments for people to enjoy, and hopefully get some downtime from a busy urban environment where a lot of people, such as myself, live in flats and don't have gardens but have parks as their own back gardens. And in terms of the current times we live in, it goes back to the old Victorian concept of the parks and open spaces being the lungs of the city.

"I enjoy working outside. I love parks and green spaces and always have, and I know personally how important they are for mental wellbeing. I'm someone that has experienced mental ill health throughout my life. So, if I'm having a challenging day, I know that I can visit one of our quieter parks and just feel the wellness from being in nature.

"My team focus on parks where there's problems or need a little bit of TLC. We look out for homeless people; directing them to services for drug and alcohol support. Or we might be helping somebody find the park facilities, or the local cafe. So, I think that's how we make people feel safe and welcomed, by making it a very welcoming environment.

"We aim to educate park users on responsible use of the park so they can enjoy the park; but they have to stick by the rules so that they're not impacting on other people's enjoyment.

### Up your tennis game

Whether you're a tennis pro, or a beginner of any age we've got tennis courts across the borough for you. Some fees apply. Under 18s can get free membership to book once a day for 30 minutes with no charge. Book at [southwark.gov.uk/tennis-coaching](https://southwark.gov.uk/tennis-coaching) or call 020 7525 5000.



Park Liaison Officer John

"We advise anyone experiencing crime or anti-social behaviour (ASB) to report it – either to the police on 101 (non-emergency) or 999 if someone is in danger or a crime is being committed. ASB can be reported to the council at [southwark.gov.uk/report-antisocial-behaviour](https://southwark.gov.uk/report-antisocial-behaviour) or phone 020 7525 5777.

"Whilst it may not be possible for attendance there and then, your report will contribute to evidence that may be used to justify long-term measures if the problem is reoccurring, which could include additional resources, use of CCTV, or introducing legislation. We are a small team covering the 100 plus parks and open spaces in the borough and unfortunately it is not possible to provide a call out service."



# A DAY OF WONDER



## Everyone had a wonderful time at the Southwark Integrated Waste Management Facility in September at their first open day in four years

Over a thousand visitors came to 'Wonder Day' at the facility, which processes recycling and rubbish for over two million Londoners. During the day visitors could learn about how recycling is sorted, and how Southwark's rubbish is processed before being turned into a fuel used for energy recovery.

The day was also an opportunity for residents to explore all the ways their waste can be reused and transformed, from creating kaleidoscopes with Old Kent Road art club, to upcycling old glass jars into colourful vases and tea light holders with Stitches in Time, a London

based arts and education charity. Children big and small got to meet Munch and see what life is like behind the steering wheels of Southwark's collections and treatment trucks as well as watching the vehicle display to witness the real power of the plant's vehicles in action. It was amazing to see how many people chose to travel by bicycle and Community Cycle Works were on hand to check and repair bikes, free of charge.

If you missed out on a tour don't worry! As a Southwark resident you can book onto one of their community tours at [www.southwark.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/recycling/visit-your-waste-facility](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/recycling/visit-your-waste-facility)

### Never Bin Batteries and Electricals

Over the past year the site and Southwark's collections fleet of vehicles have experienced an increasing number of fires due to batteries and electrical items incorrectly being put into household bins. Visitors to the WONDER day saw first-hand a display of all the items incorrectly put into recycling and rubbish bins including pots and pans, laptops, mobile phones, vapes and gas canisters. As vapes corrode, they release toxic chemicals which, when littered, seep into our soil, water supply and food chain and are also a fire risk. Residents that managed to tour the MRF saw just how many vapes contaminate the recycling streams and why it is so important that these are recycled correctly.

### Did you know?

Small waste electricals (anything with a fuse, cable or plug) and vapes can contain hidden batteries. Recycle these items correctly by bringing them to your local Household Waste Reuse and Recycling Centre because placing them in any of your household bins can cause fires.

## Annual Performance Report

Our report card is in and it looks like the council, and its partners, have managed a good performance over the last year.

Every year Southwark Council produces an Annual Report to see how it is performing against the Council Plan. Many of the things that have been achieved would not have been possible without the support and hard work from the council's partners including the health service, local voluntary groups and residents' organisations.

We also recognise that our residents are still facing a number of challenges such as rising costs, while council services face reduced funding. Despite this we are working together with our communities to rise to these challenges. Over the last year we have achieved a number of successes. Here are some of the highlights.

### Highlights:

Around **£30million** spent to support over **100,000 households** with cost-of-living issues, including free school holiday meals for over **14,000 children**.

Helped **941 residents** facing significant barriers to get into work and created **568 apprenticeships** and supported **6,500 residents into training**.

Took direct control of the borough's **eight leisure centres**.

Completed or started on site over **1,700 new council homes**.

Planted more than **8,000 trees**.

Launched our trailblazing Streets for People campaign to **make our streets greener and safer** and improve air quality.

Launched our anti-misogyny campaign "In Her Eyes", which had nearly **400,000 views** on social media and is available to over **1,000 schools** across London.

Our Nest mental health support centre has helped **373 children**, with **85% of schools** taking up the service.

Supported over **5,000 carers** by working with Southwark Carers and other voluntary organisations.

We launched **Southwark 2030**, our conversation with residents and organisations across the borough on how we want Southwark to look and feel by 2030, and set up the independent **Land Commission** to see how we can free up more land for public good.



# WINTER

# WELLNESS

Southwark Leisure Centres are here to help you stay healthy and happy this winter.

It's that time of year again when the days are darker and colder, the nights are longer and the seasonal coughs, colds and the winter blues start to creep in.

Did you know one of the best ways to ward off coughs and colds during the winter months, and keep your mind healthy too, is to stay active?

At Southwark Council we have eight leisure and sports centres, which we brought back in-house this summer. Each centre has its own classes, gym community or swimming pool and all offer the council's free swim and gym to Southwark residents.

In addition, Southwark Council has invested £150,000 in our group exercise studios across the centres, including:

- New lighting and redecoration across all centres
- Upgraded kit
- New flooring in The Castle and Dulwich Leisure Centre's group cycling and active studios.

So why not pop down to your nearest centre this winter and see what we have to offer.

## Did you know?

- Southwark residents can use swimming and gym facilities, free of charge, in all of the council leisure centres at certain times as part of our free swim and gym scheme. Visit website for details and to enrol [southwarkleisure.co.uk/memberships-offers](https://southwarkleisure.co.uk/memberships-offers)
- Over 60s enrolled on the free swim and gym scheme can book any Silver group exercise class for free. Classes vary by centre and are bookable via the Southwark Leisure app or website.
- On average, over 106,100 people per month visited the centres to take part in an activity since the handover from Everyone Active (average of July, August and September)
- Swimming and gym usage are the top two reasons for visits, and our top four classes are group cycle, body pump, yoga and Zumba.

### Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Sports Facility

SE1 6ER

- Outdoor courts including football, netball/basketball, tennis

### The Castle Leisure Centre

SE1 6FG

- Sports hall, badminton, five-a-side football, volleyball, basketball, table tennis
- Self-service health kiosk
- 2 Pools

### Peckham Pulse Leisure Centre

SE15 5QN

- 2 Pools
- Tiered soft play – keep the kids active
- Creche (keep active whilst your young ones are well cared for)
- Base for GP Referrals
- Self-service health kiosk



### Seven Islands Leisure Centre

SE16 2TU

- The deepest swimming pool at 3.8m
- The longest swimming pool at 33.3m (the others are 25m)
- Electric car charging points available

### Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre

SE16 2PE

- 6 lane, 400 meter athletics track for all disciplines
- Gym
- Group exercise studio

### Dulwich Leisure Centre

SE22 9HB

- Opened in 1892 as community baths and continues to be a favourite swimming venue for residents
- Vibrant gym community with a popular class programme
- Community cafe

### Camberwell Leisure Centre

SE5 8TS

- Opened in 1892 as community baths and has remained open ever since
- Two pools, large gym and exercise classes



### Surrey Docks Fitness and Watersports Centre

SE16 7SX

- Stunning water sports venue including sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding
- Gym and group exercise



## Making a splash

If you're a Southwark resident, a non-swimmer and aged 16 or over, you can book free swimming lessons across all our centres with pools. These are available on a 12-week course and are subject to availability. Enrol on our New Year course here. [southwarkleisure.co.uk/swimming/free-swimming-lessons-for-adults](https://southwarkleisure.co.uk/swimming/free-swimming-lessons-for-adults)

Kids love active splash time so why not head to our indoor heated swimming pools this winter for family-fun swim sessions. There's a wide range of sessions with something to make swimming fun for kids of all ages – and mum, dad and carers too. [southwarkleisure.co.uk/swimming](https://southwarkleisure.co.uk/swimming)



## TOP TIPS

### BUDDY UP FOR EXTRA MOTIVATION

Find a gym buddy for the season. Working out with a friend can give you that extra bit of motivation you need to get to the gym on a cold winters day. We all need a push every now and then!

### KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN CHECK

Visit our self-service health kiosks at The Castle Leisure Centre and Peckham Pulse Leisure Centre to check on your health. In less than 5 minutes, you can measure your blood pressure, heart rate, body fat, height weight, body mass, stress and more. They are free to use and situated in the centre foyers.

### NEW ONLINE GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES FOR MEMBERS

In December we are launching our Les Mills classes online. So, if you're short on time (or snowed in!) you can join us from the comfort of your home to enjoy all your favourite Les Mills classes. Paying members will be able to claim free access throughout December as an early Christmas present from us. Monthly costs thereafter will be £5 per month if you wish to continue using the on-demand service.

**FREE in December**

# Keeping warm and well

Many people are facing another hard winter with the continuing cost of living crisis – but support is available if you are finding things difficult.

**S**outhwark Council is once again working with dozens of organisations and communities across the borough to provide help and support for people facing a difficult winter.

From gathering together information on heating bills support to re-opening our Warm Spaces, we want all our residents to feel safe, warm and well over the coming month.

All our advice, information and links to other organisations are available on our one-stop webpage at [www.southwark.gov.uk/here-to-help](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/here-to-help) but we've also got some top tips on these pages to help people stay warm and out of debt this Christmas.

## Help with energy bills

This winter, all the major energy suppliers (the so-called “big six” who between them provide energy to about 90% of UK homes) are offering support for vulnerable and low-income households with energy debts or struggling to pay energy bills. The total value of these funds runs to hundreds of millions of pounds and will benefit hundreds of thousands of households this winter – hopefully including many in Southwark. Each energy supplier runs a support scheme:

If you are a customer of **British Gas** you can access their grant scheme through the *British Gas Energy Support Fund*. You can check eligibility and apply at [britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/who-can-apply](http://britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/who-can-apply)

If you are a customer of **E.On Next**, you could have your energy bill reduced by up to 50% this winter (up to March 2024) through E.On Next's *Winter Affordability Scheme*. Visit [www.eonnextenergyfund.com](http://www.eonnextenergyfund.com) to find out more.

If you are a customer of **EDF**, you can access EDF's **Customer Support Fund**. To get access to this fund you must first get independent debt advice from organisations such as Step Change or Citizens Advice. You can then apply at [www.edfenergy.com/help-support/faq/get-help-our-customer-support-fund](http://www.edfenergy.com/help-support/faq/get-help-our-customer-support-fund)

If you are a Southwark resident and a customer of Octopus Energy you can apply to the **Octo Assist Fund**. The Octo Assist Fund offers grants of up to £500 and will also consider waiving applicants' standing charges. You can apply by online at [octopus.energy/blog/octo-assist-help-with-energy-bills-support-schemes/](http://octopus.energy/blog/octo-assist-help-with-energy-bills-support-schemes/)

If you are a customer of **Scottish Power** you can apply to Scottish Power's Hardship Fund for a grant to help with energy bills. To see more and find out if you are eligible visit [www.scottishpower.co.uk/support-centre/help-paying-your-bill/hardship-fund](http://www.scottishpower.co.uk/support-centre/help-paying-your-bill/hardship-fund)

If you are a customer of **OVO** you can seek support from OVO's Customer Support Package. That package includes energy bill reductions for all eligible customers and credit top-ups for customers who use prepayment meters. Visit [www.ovenergy.com/customer-support-package](http://www.ovenergy.com/customer-support-package) for details.



## Don't delay on debt

If you are worried about increasing debt it is important to deal with it head on and not wait while things get worse. We can refer you for advice from the Money Advisor Network. This is a free service from MoneyHelper, and provided by the Money and Pensions service.

The Money Adviser Network can provide you with money and pension guidance over the phone or online and can also point you to other trusted services if you need more support.

If we make a referral we may place a hold on recovery action for Council Tax or rent arrears for up to one month whilst you seek debt advice. Alternatively you can self-refer for help and more information can be found at [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)

We are also working with Citizens Advice to help residents get 'back on track' with their finances and the management of their health conditions.

As part of the protocol we will suspend any recovery action for up to 60 days for outstanding debts of council tax or rent. This provides you with the time and space needed to receive support about possible benefit claims or money guidance.

To see if you are eligible visit [www.getmebackontrack.org.uk/en/wizard/](http://www.getmebackontrack.org.uk/en/wizard/)

## Get some breathing space

The National Breathing Space scheme gives people temporary protection from most types of debt collection while they take action to get on top of their debts. There are two types of Breathing Space: a standard space and a mental health crisis space.

The scheme provides protection to people in difficulty due to debt, by pausing enforcement action and freezing charges, interest and fees for qualifying debts.

The standard freeze lasts up to 60 days. A mental health crisis freeze provides further protection, lasting as long as a person's mental health crisis treatment, plus 30 days.

Breathing Space is not a debt relief scheme. The debt remains outstanding, it just cannot be enforced during the Breathing Space period.

You can apply through a debt adviser (such as step change) for 60 days' Breathing Space. You must continue to engage with your debt adviser and not take out any new borrowing over £500 in this time. You'll also have to continue to make certain types of payments, including ongoing housing costs, utility bills, and taxes.

You can only apply for Breathing Space once in a 12-month period.

## Local Support

Southwark Local Support team provides emergency support to vulnerable people (including severely disabled people), who are facing severe financial hardship. You can ask for help by completing a form online at [southwark.gov.uk/localsupportform](http://southwark.gov.uk/localsupportform) or by calling **020 7525 2434**.



We are once again working with local voluntary sector partners to offer Warm Spaces across the borough, where anyone can come to keep warm, make friends and have a hot drink or meal.

Our libraries are signed up and ready to welcome residents, and we will be opening more Warm Spaces over the coming weeks.

Full details including all locations, will be available at [www.southwark.gov.uk/here-to-help](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/here-to-help)

# Shop local to shop greener

## Southwark boasts some of London's most diverse and exciting town centres

**W**ith Christmas approaching, don't forget to make the most of your local high streets – they have so much to offer.

By shopping local, especially if you walk, cycle or use public transport, you're supporting local traders, while at the same time helping improve the air in Southwark by reducing traffic.

Through Streets for People the council is investing in improving our town centres for our residents, creating more accessible space, with wider pavements, better crossings, and safer and more pleasant environments to spend time in.

### Reasons to shop local:

- By spending money in your local shop, restaurant, café or pub, you're supporting the local economy and helping create local jobs.

- Local businesses help shape the identity of the area. High streets filled with unique, vibrant and colourful shops are popular and more pleasant places to visit than places filled with chain stores.
- You're supporting your local community – high streets are so much more than just places to shop, they are also social spaces.
- Local shops often have more choice and are run by people who know the area well. They can offer you a product that is suitable for you, your house and even your area.

Chris Greenwood runs four Louie Louie cafés around Southwark.

"It's so important for people to use local high streets and support local businesses. As a business we use local suppliers whenever we can. It's important for us all to use our local services – it really is a case of use it or lose it."

He's also committed to improving air quality, and uses e-cargo bikes to deliver baked goods between his main kitchen and bakery in Walworth and the other sites.

"It makes sense to me, because everything is within cycling distance of our central kitchen and bakery. When we first looked at it, the cost of a cargo bike was high and we didn't have secure storage, so we were worried about it being stolen. So instead we now hire cargo bikes when we need them."

Louie Louie has just started using the new Streets for People bike, which is

council-funded and run by Peddle My Wheels. "It's fantastic – I use it to drive around and deliver stock. The branding really draws people to us – it's great for marketing our business."

"More people using bicycles instead of cars is a good thing. We also encourage our staff to use a bike as much as possible."

There are four Streets for People cargo bikes available for hire, in Walworth, Dulwich Village, Lordship Lane and East Dulwich.

The bikes can be hired by the hour by businesses, individuals or community groups – find out more at [www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/sustainable-travel/cycling/bike-hire](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/transport-and-roads/sustainable-travel/cycling/bike-hire)



We're asking you about the changes you would like to see in your neighbourhoods, such as more trees, green spaces, cycle hangars, seating, or more space to play and socialise in.

This is part of Streets for People, which sets out how we will improve the air we breathe in Southwark, address the climate emergency, and make our borough even greener and safer.

Please get involved – take a look at our plans and tell us what you would like to see in your neighbourhood, at [www.southwark.gov.uk/streets-survey](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/streets-survey)



### ★ Peckham

Peckham is rich in cultural identity and diversity reflecting the heritage and cultures of local communities. It's famous for its breadth of retail offer, with eclectic street art, cuisines from around the world, and much more. Through Streets for People, the council has invested in improving Rye Lane, reducing traffic to make it a much more pleasant environment for people to walk and cycle. The area has over 520 shops, and 73% of these are independent stores.

### ★ Camberwell

You'll find shops selling everything from house plants to vinyl, home accessories and fashion, including pre-loved. There's a huge choice of independent cafés, delis and restaurants, and a buzzing Saturday market on the Green. It also has a thriving arts scene, with jazz at The Crypt; art exhibitions at UAL, South London Gallery and local galleries and comedy and theatre at Blue Elephant.

### ★ Elephant and Castle and Walworth

Mercato Metropolitano is home to 40 different street food stalls and bars, Explore East Street Market which has been running since 1880, and take a walk down Walworth Road to find eateries, groceries, cafés and much more.

### ★ Bermondsey

Maltby Street Market is a popular spot for foodies on the weekend offering everything from sausage sandwiches to oysters. The Blue Market, the historic town centre and surrounding streets host many small businesses, overlooked by the ancient railway arches brimming with food wholesalers and craft breweries on the final stretch of the 'Bermondsey Beer Mile'.

### ★ Canada Water

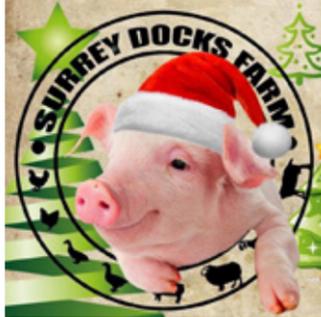
Building of the new town centre is well underway, and the area already hosts a thriving weekend market, and an emerging new dockside retail and leisure space.

### ★ East Dulwich

The revitalised Northcross Road market, just a 10-minute walk from East Dulwich Station, is popular with local residents and visitors. ES Magazine voted it as one of South London's top 50 destinations! You can buy freshly baked bread and cakes, organic meats, fresh fish, gifts and crafts, jewellery, books, furniture and much more.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

## AUTUMN/WINTER 2023

**Farm Christmas Fair**

Get in the festive spirit at Surrey Docks Farm where there'll be carol singing, craft stalls and mulled wine, beside the friendly animals. Plus wreath making kits and beautiful quality Christmas trees will be on sale!

**Saturday 2 December, 11am to 4pm**

Free (with paid-for activities inside the farm)

Surrey Docks Farm, Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 5ET

[www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk](http://www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk)

**Hansel and Gretel**

A beautifully epic new version of The Brothers Grimm's fairy tale by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage transforms the Globe Theatre this winter. Filled with music, magic, songs and a sprinkling of hope, the stage premiere of this new production is the perfect treat for everyone aged 5+. Tours and workshops also available, see website for details.

**8 December to 7 January, various times, see website for details**

Peak performances

Galleries (Seating) £59 – £20

Standing £10, £5

Off-peak performances

Galleries (Seating) £42 – £20

Standing £10, £5

Globe Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe

[www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/hansel-and-gretel-2023/](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/hansel-and-gretel-2023/)

**A Private View – Another Christmas at Bell House**

Following the success of last year's 'Christmas at Bell House', the Dulwich Players return to perform a set of playlets in this historic setting. Each scene tells a story of a picture from the Dulwich Picture Gallery Collection. A complimentary refreshment will be served along with festive cheer!

**Friday 1 December at 7.30pm, Saturday 2 December at 7.30pm, Sunday 3 December at 3pm and 8pm**

£18 (£12 for under 12s)

Bell House, College Road, SE21 7BG

[www.dulwichplayers.org](http://www.dulwichplayers.org)

**Xuefei Yang: By Candlelight**

Experience the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse filled with the warm sounds of guitar music, as Xuefei Yang draws together an evening of winter songs, with a programme drawn from Ancient China, through Europe to Latin American and modern day composers.

**Monday 11 December, 7.30pm**

Galleries (Seating) £65 – £15

Standing £5

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe

[www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/xuefei-yang-by-candlelight/](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/whats-on/xuefei-yang-by-candlelight/)

**Castle Square Christmas Light switch-on**

Join us for a truly festive celebration at Castle Square. The Mayor of Southwark will switch on the Castle Square Christmas lights in an afternoon that will also feature Christmas carols by the Elephant and Castle Community Hub Choir, a performance by the Southwark Brass Band, plenty of festive food and lots of special guests.

**Friday 24 November, 3.30pm to 7.30pm**

Free

**Rapunzel**

Theatre Peckham is back with a fun-filled musical-inspired, pantoesque remix of a classic tale. Rapunzel is a magical hair story, set in a hairdressers in Peckham, which weaves a tale about individuality and empowerment. With a blend of storytelling, dance and song, infused with an unmistakable Peckham twist, this is a festive show for all ages.

**Tuesday 5 to Sunday 24 December, various times, see website for details**

Tickets from £7.50 for Theatre Peckham's hyper local community

Theatre Peckham

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

**Dulwich Pubs 1860-1960 online illustrated talks**

Before 1860 East Dulwich had two pubs. Within 20 years, there were nearly 20 plus beer shops and off-licenses. Pubs were not only for drinking, they were also for entertainment and sport and many licensees and customers were interesting characters. Many buildings are still standing and most are still pubs.

**Tuesday 2 January 2024, 8pm to 9pm**

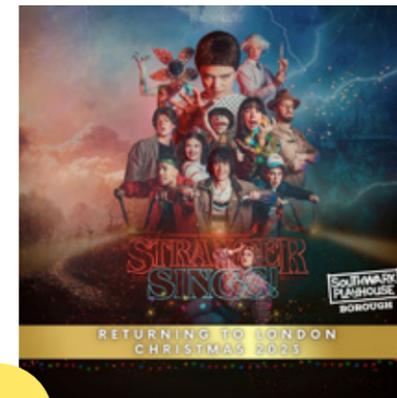
£5, all proceeds to St Christopher's

Online via Zoom

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dulwich-pubs-1860-1960-tickets-712586995887>

## SOUTHWARK PRESENTS

For details of these and more events around the borough visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents)

**Stranger Sings**

The smash-hit family show of the season returns to Southwark Playhouse just in time for Christmas! It's nineteen eighty... something, the little town of Hawkins is returning to London, and Joyce has the Christmas lights up already! With a four-person family ticket for £70, it's the number one Christmas gift this year.

**13 December to 6 January, 7.30pm**

from £7.50

Southwark Playhouse Borough

[southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/stranger-sings/](http://southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/stranger-sings/)

**Guys & Dolls**

Guys & Dolls is the "theatrical extravaganza" (The Daily Telegraph) you don't want to miss. In this "game-changing immersive production" (Time Out) you'll be transported from the streets of Manhattan to the bars of Havana. Experience Broadway classics like *Luck Be a Lady*, *Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat* and more...

**Until 31 August 2024, Monday to Friday: 7.30pm, Thursday & Friday: 2.30pm**

from £19.50

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

**Unfortunate: The Untold Story of Ursula the Sea Witch a Musical Parody**

Disney villain. Octo-woman. Plus-size icon. But who is the woman behind the tentacles? Take the plunge as Ursula reveals what really happened under the sea in a tell-all tale of sex, sorcery and suckers. The critically acclaimed smash hit parody musical splashes into Southwark Playhouse Elephant – it's time to get wet.

**8 December 2023 to 17 February 2024 (excluding 24, 25 & 26 December), Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 7.45pm. Thursday & Saturday: 2.30pm & 7.45pm. Friday: 5pm & 8.30pm**

£35 / £28 concessions / £16 Previews

Southwark Playhouse Elephant

[www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/unfortunate/](http://www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/productions/unfortunate/)



Amanda Gordon, Mae Munuo, Sam Swann, David Ahmad in *The Bolds* at Unicorn Theatre. Photo Ellie Kurtz

**The Bolds**

Julian Clary's adaptation of his best-selling book *The Bolds* returns to the Unicorn this Christmas. The Bolds are just like you and me. They live in an ordinary house on an ordinary street, and they love to laugh. But there's one slight difference... they are hyenas! How long can they keep their beastly secret under their hats? Join Mr and Mrs Bold and their twins Betty and Bobby as they navigate work, school and friends whilst trying to keep up their disguise. Combining live music and songs by Julian Clary and Simon Wallace, *The Bolds* will have you laughing like a bunch of, well, hyenas, in a show which revels in the joy of being anything but ordinary.

**Saturday 11 November to Sunday 31 December, various times, see website for details**

See website for details

Unicorn Theatre

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

**The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse**

One day Mouse is gobbled up by a wolf. 'Oh Woe says Mouse, who fears this must be the end. But then we discover Duck who was, until Mouse arrived, taking a nap. As it turns out, it's pretty nice living inside the belly of the beast with a new friend. There's delicious food, dancing and – better still – no more fear of being eaten! Meanwhile, outside in the forest, things aren't quite as rosy for Wolf who is being stalked by a hunter. Realising their fates are intertwined, Duck and Mouse hatch a winning plan... This deliciously dark and hilariously funny fable delights in the surreal notion that sometimes friendship can be found in the darkest and most unusual of places and being eaten up by a wolf isn't actually that bad. This show is aimed at ages 3 to 7 and the running time is approximately 50 minutes.

**Friday 17 November to Sunday 31 December, various times, see website for details**

See website for details

Unicorn Theatre

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

# All of Peckham's a stage

Suzann McLean, CEO and Artistic Director of Theatre Peckham, was awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List for her services to the arts and marginalised young people.

**W**ith over 25 years of experience in the industry, Suzann has dedicated her career to creating opportunities for young people from ethnically diverse backgrounds to develop their skills and pursue careers in the arts.

In 2004, Suzann founded Young and Talented, a successful programme that nurtures and develops young people for stage, screen and life. In 2018 she was appointed CEO and Artistic Director of Theatre Peckham, which also runs a flagship Academy for performing arts and technical theatre.

We spoke to her about her work and her award.

## Q. Tell me a bit about yourself, how did you yourself get into theatre?

I went to drama school, went to Italia Conti and studied acting and worked as an actor for many years, in fact I'm still working as an actor when I can. And then alongside acting I started my own company called the Young and Talented School of Stage and Screen in 2004, so I was always doing something to support young people and to encourage inclusivity within, predominantly, the theatre and screen world and I did theatre directing as well. And then I applied for this job at Theatre Peckham and got appointed in 2018.

## Q. What made you interested in theatre yourself?

I went to see a pantomime with my mum, which had children performing in it and I just said "I want to do that". Then, when I was about 13 years old, I saw a production by the Black Mime Theatre, and it really touched me. It was almost like my life was up there on stage, and that was something that I hadn't really experienced before. I started to

understand the power of theatre, of being able to tell a story that is just like your own personal story.

## Q. What made you want to work on making theatre inclusive for young people?

When I was at school, I was probably about 14, they were going to do a production of Trojan Women, a Greek play, and I auditioned for a part, which I didn't get. And then I asked the teacher, "is there another part that I could play?" and she told me that there wasn't any part that I could play. I couldn't understand why there was nothing at all.

So, as a Black female there was no part that I could play in the Greek play due to the colour of my skin. Then, four years later when I was at drama school, our first production was going to be Antigone, which is again a Greek play, and I was thinking "what part would it make sense for me to play, maybe the soldier because he can come from anywhere." But I was cast as Antigone, and I got on the phone to my mum and I was like, "this is ridiculous. How am I supposed to do that in this Greek play and I'm the only Black person in my year at drama school and Antigone's got family so they'll be white?"

I realised I'd put a cap on my own abilities as an actor based on my earlier school experience. I still asked the director if she was sure I could play this lead role and she just said it's got nothing to do with the colour of your skin or any of these other factors, it is about the human connection to something. And that was the moment that changed my life, like a light bulb moment.

Your life is not limited by your gender or your colour. It is about telling human stories and ultimately that is the biggest connection that we all have.

## Q. So do you think things have improved in that sense with shows like Bridgerton having colour-blind casting?

I think things have definitely improved but the term colour-blind casting I find really problematic because it is not about pretending that you can't see someone. You should see and it should just be accepted.

There is also the question about whose stories are being told, and who's telling those stories and through whose lens those stories are being told?

## Q. How did you find out about the MBE and how did you feel when you found out?

It was a complete surprise. I received a very official letter here at Theatre Peckham, that said that I've been selected. I was just so touched to be recognised for the work that I've been doing over the years. It felt like an absolute honour and it was really uplifting because the work is really hard to do, especially being a grassroots organisation.

## Q. So what is next for you and Theatre Peckham?

So our next big thing is Rapunzel, which is our Christmas show this year. It's another brilliant and fun script by Geoff Aymer with catchy tunes composed by Jordan Xavier, set in an afro-hair salon. It's about a young, Black girl who understands the brilliance in her talents. And of course, like every year with our Christmas shows, we have our Academy young company members who will be acting alongside professionals. There's a real strong heart and soul within the Christmas productions at Theatre Peckham.

See our what's on pages on page 22 and 23 for more information on Rapunzel.

# London's first Land Commission completes new report

We've been looking at how we use our land better and for the benefit of our residents.

Since it began in spring 2022, Southwark's Land Commission has been looking at the many ways spaces in Southwark could be used better for people in the borough. Now a new report on that land use in Southwark has been completed.

Bringing together a wide range of experts, community groups and landowners, London's first Land Commission, commissioned by Southwark Council, has been looking at land in Southwark and how it can be used for the people who live, work and study in the borough. This could include housing people can afford, supporting local businesses, green space to enjoy, food growing, walking and cycling.

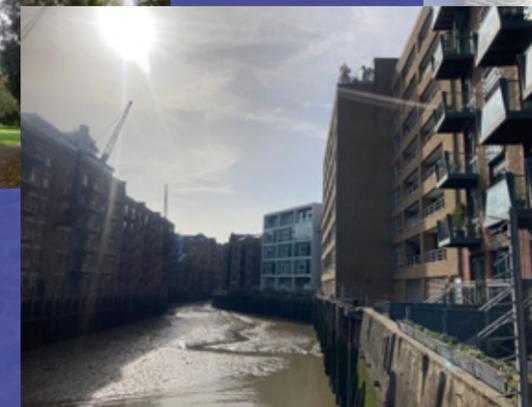
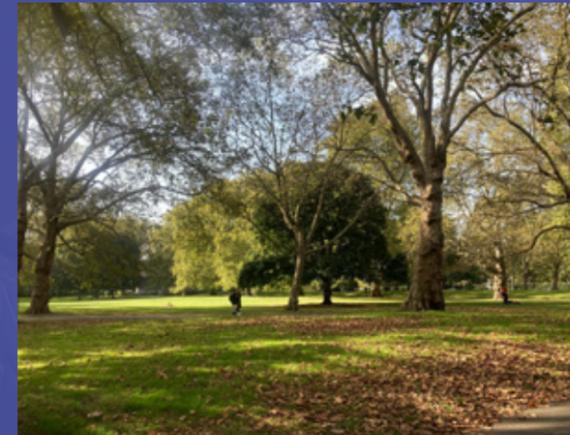
Over the past year, the commission has got together for panel discussions, workshops, community events and conversations with local people and landowners to find areas of land that could be better used for the communities that live there; not profit.

The report's suggestions could be applied across London or other towns and cities, to get others talking about land use, now and in years to come. Dr Miatta Fahnbulleh, Chair of the Southwark Land Commission, said: "The land around us shapes so much of what happens in our lives, yet we rarely talk about who owns our land, and who benefits most from the way that it is used. The Southwark Land Commission has been tasked with investigating how we can free up more of the value that is locked up in our land for our residents, empowering our communities, bringing landowners together, so we that can use more of our land for social purpose. The Commission has produced a report to help drive us in this direction. We hope that others will join the conversation that it will spark and help us turn these recommendations into reality." Cllr Kieron Williams, Leader of Southwark Council, said: "The Southwark Land Commission is a first for London. It takes a deep dive into at all the ways we can use our borough's land for social good, for the residents who live here. I look forward to the next, exciting steps forward for the Commission."

The report was presented to members of the commission and people from across the sector to discuss its recommendations.

## Here are the main recommendations:

- 1: Put social purpose at the heart of land use
- 2: Map what's there and what isn't
- 3: Take control of our land and assets
- 4: Defend and extend affordable accommodation for all
- 5: Cherish our natural capital and decarbonise our land
- 6: Give the community real power and voice
- 7: Disrupt the status quo to unlock bigger changes



## Who is involved?

Chair of the Southwark Land Commission, Dr. Miatta Fahnbulleh; CEX of the New Economics Foundation, Dolly Oladini, C40's Senior Manager for Air Quality, Cllr James McAsh, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Clean Air & Streets, and Cllr Kieron Williams, Leader of Southwark Council.

# A decade of free school meals in Southwark

This September marked ten years since Southwark Council began providing free school meals for all primary school children.



At the same time, the Mayor of London is rolling out universal free school meals (FSM) to all primary schools in London, meaning Southwark Council can use the funding to build on the success of the primary school scheme, and expand FSM for some secondary school children.

In Southwark, we know how life-changing this move will be for the capital's children. Research in Southwark, Newham, Islington and Tower Hamlets has shown that free school meals:

Improve health, with obesity down **9.3%** in reception age children.

Mean families have more money: families with two adults and two children save **£37** a month on food or **£3,330** over ten years.

Support education. Southwark's schools have gone from joint bottom in London for Ofsted ratings to **97%** Ofsted Good or Outstanding.



Ayah, 10 years old  
"I didn't realise the meals were free but I love how tasty they are and the salad bar too! I like that the food is healthy but still tastes good."



Mason, 10 years old  
"I love the fact that the food is free and tastes so good. I love lunchtimes."



Kanika, 10 years old  
"I love how tasty the meals are and there're always different options. Nice puddings too."



## Why are free, healthy school meals important?

Sadly, 38% of Southwark's children live in poverty. Currently you can only get government-funded free school meals if your household income is below £7,400. This means many people struggling with money still not get free meals.

This school year Southwark Council is funding all secondary school children whose parents receive Universal Credit but miss out on free school meals because they earn above £7,400 as a family.

Cllr Jasmine Ali, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees, said: "Over ten years of Southwark Council providing universal free school meals has been nothing short of transformative for our children. In that time, our schools have made massive strides going from joint bottom to 97% Ofsted rated good or outstanding."

"Free healthy school meals have been a part of our primary schools' success story, which is why we are happy to extend the offer to children in need in our secondary schools."

On a visit to Albion Primary School, Jasmine met children and teachers and enjoyed lunch together to celebrate a decade of good food for children.

Jessica Calnan, Assistant Headteacher at Albion Primary School, said: "At Albion, we feel fortunate to have received Southwark healthy free school meals for the last 10 years. We have had a 100% uptake on these freshly prepared hot meals, with the exception of children who have particular needs, for the past ten years. This means we can encourage children to make healthy choices, try new foods and be exposed to dishes from different cultures through the rotating menu and salad bar options. This is important to us as a school as it celebrates our rich, diverse culture."

"We have seen over time that well-nourished children remain focused during their afternoon lessons and the benefits to families are clear in the current cost of living crisis. We work hard to ensure our school meals are inclusive of all dietary requirements and reduce the risk of exposure to potentially fatal allergens."



"We love that everyone eating school meals together provides our children with a shared social eating experience from our nursery cohort of three year olds right up to our oldest children in year six."



Find out more about free school meals for some secondary school children here: [www.southwark.gov.uk/free-secondary-meals](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/free-secondary-meals)



# Measles can be serious

Is your child up to date on their routine vaccinations?

Measles spreads easily and can cause serious illnesses including pneumonia and meningitis.

**Get your child vaccinated**

Visit [southwark.gov.uk/measles](https://southwark.gov.uk/measles)



## BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK

Welcome to the business page of Southwark Life magazine, where you can find support for our high streets and small businesses from the council and its partners.

### THRIVING HIGH STREETS FUND

The council's Thriving High Streets Fund supports projects to keep our high streets thriving, with grants from £1,000 to £25,000 for businesses and voluntary sector groups. Projects are eligible for funding if they meet two of four criteria: offering support during the cost of living crisis, helping make Southwark greener, creating healthy and safe high streets and complementing the council's Southwark Stands Together priorities.



Eleven projects have already been awarded a share of more than £244,000 to support local high streets. This includes £25,000 awarded to support the Urban Elephant Festival, which took place from 15 to 17 September: <https://urbanelephant.co.uk/>

To find out more about the successful projects and how they benefit your local high street visit [www.southwark.gov.uk/thrivinghighstreets](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/thrivinghighstreets)

If you are interested in funding to support your local high street, keep a look out for Round Two of the Thriving High Streets Fund, which will be launching early in the New Year. Sign up to our business e-newsletter (link at end of page) to receive a notification.

### SOUTHWARK NOW HAS OVER 300 LONDON LIVING WAGE PROVIDERS

Thanks to Southwark's London Living Wage accredited employers, over 4,800 people working for Southwark-based employers have benefited from a pay rise. This is the only wage rate independently calculated based on what people need to live on, which is particularly important amid the cost of living crisis.



To find out how to become a living wage employer visit [www.livingwage.org.uk/accredit](https://www.livingwage.org.uk/accredit)

For support from Southwark Council with accreditation, email [southwarkbusinessdesk@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:southwarkbusinessdesk@southwark.gov.uk)



### VISIT YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET

Saturday 2 December marks the annual small business Saturday event which aims to encourage customers to shop locally both online and in person. You can see pages 20 and 21 to see how we are encouraging residents to shop local.

For example, one way to shop local is to visit Peckham's Pexmas Festive Market, which returns to Copeland Park with 100 different small business stalls a day for all your Christmas needs. The market will run on 2 and 3 December from 11am to 6pm.

For more information visit: [www.pexmas.com](https://www.pexmas.com)

### SOUTHWARK CLIMATE COLLECTIVE

Southwark Climate Collective, is a new 12-month programme designed to support SMEs across the borough in taking action on climate, supported by the Mayor of London.



The initiative will provide free, expert decarbonisation support for 160 businesses across Southwark to reduce carbon emissions, increase efficiency and cut costs.

Participating businesses can choose to take part in one of four programme streams – waste, energy, freight and supply chains – through which you will receive tailored technical support, trainings, network events, carbon literacy training and a celebration event.

The programme will engage a diverse range of sectors, sexualities and abilities with a target of 25% of participant businesses to be Black, Asian or minority ethnic-led or owned.

To find out more and register for climate support please visit: [www.southwarkclimatecollective.co.uk](https://www.southwarkclimatecollective.co.uk)

### 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-e-newsletter](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/business-e-newsletter). As always, we're on hand to answer any business-related questions you might have at [southwarkbusinessdesk@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:southwarkbusinessdesk@southwark.gov.uk)

**FREE  
DAY  
PASS\***

# FOR WINTER WELLNESS



**FOR GYMMERS**



**FOR FAMILY**



**FOR RELAXATION**

Look after your wellbeing with warming workouts or choose from a huge range of activities across Southwark's eight leisure centres. Come and enjoy our special free day pass offer with a friend.

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[southwarkleisure.co.uk/free-pass](https://southwarkleisure.co.uk/free-pass)

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