



Southwark

Life

Summer 2024

Cleaner Greener Safer

A look at how council funding is used by local groups

Fighting fires

We meet the borough's chief fire officer

Celebrating carers

How we are reaching out to our local carers

PLUS Summer in Southwark: six weeks of family fun

Your magazine from Southwark Council

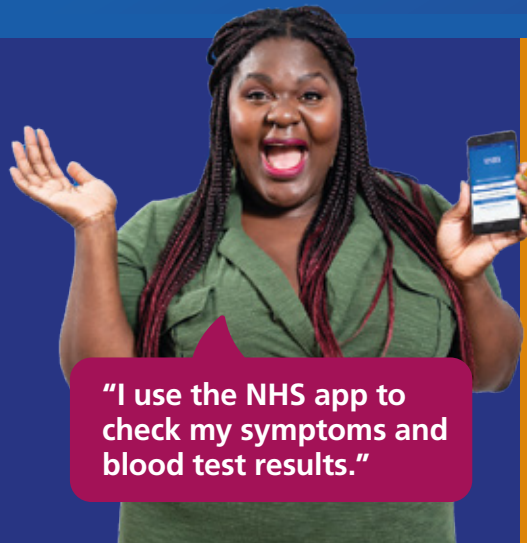
Southwark
Council

With the NHS App, people in Southwark can..



- ▶ Order repeat prescriptions any time of day
- ▶ Collect your prescriptions
- ▶ View your GP records and test results
- ▶ Quickly check symptoms
- ▶ View, cancel or book GP appointments*
- ▶ Contact your GP practice online*

*Availability may vary by GP practice.



"I use the NHS app to check my symptoms and blood test results."



"I use the NHS App as it's so quick to order repeat prescriptions."



"I use the NHS App to check my GP records and test results."

The app has been developed by the NHS and has been designed to help people get more information about their health and care - and more control of how they use NHS services. Why not download it and try it out? Or if you have it already, discover its new functions. More services will be added in the coming months.

Search "NHS App help" for support with the NHS App.



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welcome...

Hello and welcome to our summer edition of Southwark Life, 2024.

This edition is a little later than normal due to the snap election announcement.

First of all I hope everyone had a great Pride month in June. This year the council launched its first ever Pride Fund to help support events and activities in the borough that celebrate and support our LGBT+ communities.

We've got more information on that in this edition, plus our history feature looks at some of the key LGBT+ figures from Southwark's past.

We are also heading into the summer holidays, and as always, we've round up some of the best activities and events for all the family; from toddlers to teens and beyond. Our bumper 'Summer in Southwark' feature looks at some of the highlights from our libraries, leisure centres and outdoor festivals.

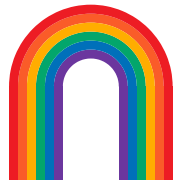
This year is also the Year of the Carer in Southwark; our own celebration of the amazing work being done by hundreds of people across our borough to look after our more vulnerable residents. You can find out more in our feature on page 22 and 23.

As is summer, we also take a look at the ways we are making our borough cleaner, greener and safer with our CGS funded projects, our investment in the borough's play parks and we take a look at one of the projects supporting young people to make our streets safer.

We've got our health, climate work and Streets for People updates, we speak to the borough's chief fire officer about her role keeping our residents safe, and finally we celebrate 20 years of Southwark Works.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Cllr Kieron Williams
Leader of Southwark Council



Keep in touch

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

Contact us

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

Front page photo is of Yaw Dankwah, Personal Trainer at Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre.

The Southwark Life team

Editor Kim Hooper
Contributors Sophie Adams, Catherine Simonds, Laura Fitzsimmons, Baljit Sangha, Ella Rogers, Liz Crook, Sarb Atwal, Florence Igbokwe, Menna Davies, Mai Moon, Dr Patricia Dark, Ope Aromona, James Senior.

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Need to know...

We've got all the news from the council this summer – hot off the press.

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 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 www.southwark.gov.uk/followus

Have your say

We are renewing how we support local residents and strengthening our partnerships with all services to improve outcomes for those who are facing homelessness or rough sleeping. Southwark's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out our plan to prevent and relieve homelessness.

We have spoken to partners and experts in Southwark and beyond but we need your views on our plans. We'll be launching our consultation in the summer and you can find out more at our consultation hub <https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/>



Are you looking after someone else's child?

Some parents arrange for their children to live with another family - this may be just for a few days, or a longer period of time. If your child is living with someone other than a parent or close relative, for a period of 28 days or more, the law says you must let the council know.

Our role is not to interfere, however, we have a responsibility to ensure that children are being properly cared for. We can also make sure that you get the help you need. For more information visit www.southwark.gov.uk/privatefostering



A guide for parents and carers of children under two (Start for Life)

Get information to help you and your family, from before your baby is born to their second birthday. This includes pregnancy care, infant feeding and help to buy healthy food, parental mental health support, health visiting, registering a birth, support for children with special educational need and disabilities, childcare, local children and family centres and more. Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/startforlife

Changing accessibility for our residents

A brand new Changing Places toilet has been officially opened in Southwark's Dulwich Park to support disabled people who visit the park.

Last year, Southwark Council was awarded £120,000 from the government's Changing Places Fund to increase provision for disabled people in the borough. After conversations with local stakeholders, including disabled people and carers, Dulwich Park was identified as a priority location for a new Changing Places toilet.

Dulwich Park is also home to Whippersnappers, an inclusive activity provider that recently secured funding from Southwark Council to deliver weekend and school holiday schemes for disabled children and young people over the next three years.



Bakerloo Line extension

Southwark and Lewisham Councils are working with the Mayor and TfL to build a strong case for the Bakerloo line extension to Old Kent Road and beyond. If central government approves plans for the extension and the funding is secured, construction could begin as early as 2030.

The extension will also deliver thousands of new homes and jobs. It will boost the economy and bring huge benefits to residents and businesses across the UK.

Find out more and show your support to Back the Bakerloo line extension visit www.backthebakerloo.org.uk

Black Unity Bike Ride

Join a special event in Southwark to mark the end of the Black Unity Bike Ride, which travels 17 miles across London from Waltham Forest to Southwark. The ride is for up to 3,000 registered participants. The event at Dulwich Park on Saturday 3 August from 12pm to 6pm, will be the final celebration of the ride as a recovery and rest stop. There will be a variety of foods, vendors and entertainment reflecting black British heritage and culture.

Bicycle parking in the form of bike racking will be provided. Access to the location will be from Old College Gate. See full ride route at <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/43701850>

New walking route starts in Peckham

A new 15-mile walk links almost 40 green spaces and a number of waterways via mostly quiet streets in London. The signposted walk starts in Peckham, ends in Epping Forest, and passes many historical points. The walk takes you through Burgess Park and alongside the River Thames and St Paul's Cathedral and many other points of interest.

You can also download an app with a step-by-step guide. If you complete the walk you can also download a certificate to celebrate!

Go Jauntly has maps and a step-by-step guide on its website and app. Completed this walk? Why not download the certificate to celebrate.

Visit tfl.gov.uk/green-link-walk to find out more.

Southwark maternity care

We want to hear from you (or your family) if you've had a pregnancy in the last five years, to understand how services can better meet your needs. Complete our survey (the short version only takes five minutes) and enter the £50 Love2shop voucher prize draw. If you deliver maternity services we'd also like to hear from you through our professionals' survey. Both surveys are available in 10 different languages and close on 31 July 2024. Get involved at southwark.gov.uk/maternity-care-views



We are building more affordable homes in Southwark than anyone else in the country, and we are building all over the borough.

Over the past ten years, through either our planning and development work or by direct delivery, we've built, or supported the building of, over 11,000 affordable homes across the borough.

Affordable homes are split into two types: social rent (like council housing or housing association homes), and intermediate housing (a range of options like shared ownership, Community Land Trusts or key worker housing).

Between 2010 and 2023 the council approved 14,915 affordable homes. Of these, 10,131 were social rent homes, 98 key worker homes and 4,784 other intermediate homes. And more are on the way. The council has committed to building 500 new key worker homes in the borough in the Council Delivery Plan 2022-2026.

In addition, a pilot project for a housing Community Land Trust (another type of intermediate housing) is in development and expected to go to Cabinet in the autumn. The council is also working with some other groups to deliver other Community Land Trust homes in the Peckham area in the future.

Southwark also still has the most ambitious council home programme in the country. Since 2020, 1,503 council homes have started on site, making sure affordable homes are built across the borough including, Old Kent Road (1094 Council Homes), Peckham (133 Council Homes) and North Bermondsey (70 Council Homes).

Dozens of affordable homes completed in Canada Water

We recently completed 60 new council homes and 19 shared ownership homes in Canada Water.

The new development will provide much-needed affordable family homes for the local community. Most of the homes have two or three bedrooms, and are well-located close to the Russia Dock woodlands and Alfred Salter primary school.

The new development is the first to be completed in the Canada Water Masterplan which will see thousands of new homes built in the area over the next twelve years. There will be hundreds of new social rent homes alongside a new town centre, sports facilities and office and retail spaces.



Southwark wins architecture award

A number of Southwark projects won awards at the annual RIBA architecture awards. The developments include Rotherhithe School (pictured above), delivered by our Capital Projects team (Sustainable Growth), The Africa Centre and The Tree House delivered by Lendlease, at our joint regeneration project in Elephant and Castle.

While these are prominent awards for architecture, they wouldn't have been designed and delivered to such a high standard without the team's hard work, guidance and excellent project management.

Southwark Park Galleries is 40

Southwark Park Galleries is celebrating its 40th year. In 1984 founder Ron Henocq and the Bermondsey Artists Group transformed the park's derelict lido café into a free public gallery and art workshop. In 1999 they also developed the park's derelict church into an exhibition and education space. The two galleries are called Lake Gallery and Dilston Gallery.

Today, they put on a range of free exhibitions and workshops. Over 15,000 artists of all ages and backgrounds have been supported through the galleries.

Throughout 2024 you can share your memories of the galleries via a new installation at Lake Gallery. You can also find details about their current exhibitions and workshops. Visit www.southwarkparkgalleries.org



Funding community projects

How would you change where you live?

For twenty years, Southwark Council has run a scheme called Cleaner Greener Safer, which encourages community groups to apply for funding for projects that will improve their local neighbourhoods.

Over the years, the council has supported over 4,000 projects and grants, including projects like playground renovations, upgrades to sports facilities, new cycle parking, tree planting, fencing, and lighting improvements.

The Cleaner Greener Safer programme funds ideas from local organisations and people who live or work in Southwark, which improve their local area.

Anyone can apply online at www.southwark.gov.uk/cleanergreener safer. The application period for Cleaner Greener Safer happens once a year, usually from the beginning of September to the middle of October.

We receive between 400 and 500 applications per year, of which roughly 200 are approved, a mix of projects the council delivers, supported by officers, and grants so that groups can do their project themselves.

What kind of things can you apply for?

You can apply for support to create permanent, physical changes to the local area, for example:

- Improving the planting on estates, providing community gardens, landscaping, food growing projects and wildlife areas
- Improving community and youth facilities such as sports courts, Tenant and Resident Association halls, recycling initiatives and community art like murals and mosaics
- Bringing unused areas on estates back into use for gardening or recreation
- Installing security measures like gates and railings and tackling 'grot spots' – areas where anti-social behaviour is causing problems
- School improvements, including planting and signage for clean air zones, sports and play equipment, and outdoor classrooms.

Plenty of great projects have been completed recently. Pictured below is the 'Fly Tipping Out, Container Garden In' project on the corner of Sterry Street and Tabard Street. In the past people used this spot as a fly tipping area, but it's been made into a container garden on wheels.



On Rodney Road Estate, a beautiful play area mural has been created. The Rodney Road T&RA Vice Chair David Bass tells us how it happened:

"We applied for £35,000 using the CGS application process, which was really simple. Neighbours on the estate said that antisocial behaviour was happening and that children were unable to use the play area. It has now been completely transformed for children of all ages (see pictures). Children can safely use the colourful space to read, enjoy, or let off steam. Everyone on the estate uses it now and it's been a really positive improvement. The mosaic has contributed to the calm and serene atmosphere. The idea behind the art was to reflect the playful, multicultural community and most importantly, create a fantastic place for children from Dawes House and the local school, English Martyrs Primary, and the church."



Elsewhere, on the Cossall Estate, new planters (pictured) were installed in April this year after TRA Chair Alan Glen asked for support for the old, rotten grow beds to be repaired and replaced.

Using the Cleaner Greener Safer form, you can also apply for part of an £800,000 fund specifically for highways, for improvements to roads and pavements. Funding decisions are made by local ward councillors at a meeting in February or March, alongside the Neighbourhoods Fund programme.

Could your street be improved with new surfacing or paving? Is there a road near you which could be made more accessible with dropped kerbs or safer with traffic calming measures? The highways fund covers both of these as well as small repairs, any other accessibility improvements, path and road resurfacing, new cycle hangars and even to add trees to the street you live on.

Playtime!

Southwark has hundreds of play areas across the borough to enjoy this summer.

There are over 250 playgrounds and play areas for children in Southwark; some in our parks and open spaces, some on estates. Some we manage directly and some we have helped deliver by working with developers like at Elephant and Castle.

Over the last few years, the council has also been working on a number of local playgrounds and adventure playgrounds to improve them with new play equipment, planting flowers and shrubs and adding new seating among other things.

We take a look at some of the recently improved or new playgrounds in the borough:



Leathermarket Gardens,

Weston Street, SE1

Leathermarket Gardens Playground reopened in 2020 following a £300,000 investment with a range of improvements including new (and more) play equipment for children of different ages and abilities, a new rubber safety surface, an improved entrance and more plants and trees.

The design was developed by Sally Prothero Landscape Architecture who used the responses we got from an earlier consultation.



Burgess Park West

Albany Rd, SE5

This project was completed in 2019 with £400,000 invested into the new playground as part of the wider £3.2million project called Burgess Park West; to enhance the south western section of Burgess Park. The changes include an exciting and challenging new woodland play area creating a more natural-looking playground and including reclaimed felled trees as seating in the park. The playground incorporates opportunities for children to engage their senses, encouraging creativity and imagination, whilst aiding the development of motor skills and coordination.



Elephant Springs,

Elephant Road, SE17

Elephant Springs opened in 2021 as park of the wider, new Elephant Park. It boasts waterfalls, sandy bays and ambient lighting designed by renowned landscape architects, Gillespies. Elephant Springs brings a natural play experience for both children and adults within the heart of Elephant & Castle.



Pelier Park,

Pelier Street, SE17

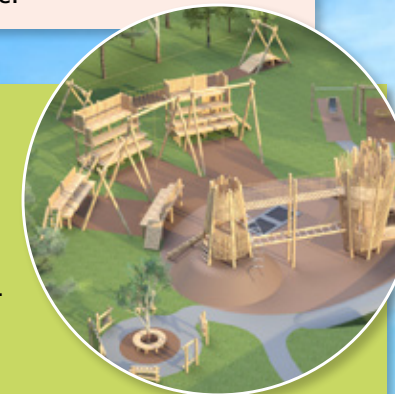
Pelier Park was finished last year following a £450,000 investment. The new-look included a new toddlers playground with double swings and climbing equipment, a slide, roundabout and springers.

The wider park improvements created a new 'social heart' with an area for table tennis and basketball play, improved access and footpaths and added a new nature area with wildlife-friendly plants and 14 new trees.

Peckham Rye Park,

Strakers Road, SE15

Peckham Rye Adventure Playground is being revamped as part of a programme of improvements to our adventure playgrounds. The first phase of the project was to redevelop the adventure play building, and this has been completed.



The second phase is to improve the outdoor play facilities including the play equipment and landscape, and this will be done between September and December following a £500,000 investment.

Dickens' Fields

Harper Road, SE1

The improvements were finished in 2021 following an investment of £1.5 million. The work changes three nearby spaces to create a lovely new park with the historic name of Dicken's Field.

The playground in the new park was named after Anne Keane, a local resident and community champion, who lived on the Rockingham Estate and was the driving force behind the origins and development of the park. The improvements brought in new seating, play and sports equipment.



Fredericks Playground and Ellen Brown Adventure Playground

Westcott Rd, SE17

One project being built as you read this is Fredericks Playground, which should be finished in August. The £650,000 project is transforming a dilapidated vacant adventure playground into new public play area with new challenges and adventure. Also due to be completed this year is the Ellen Brown Adventure Playground in Bermondsey Spa Gardens. The council is investing £450,000 in the project and building work will be taking place between September and December and bring in new adventure play structures and interactive play features.



Victory Community Park,

Victory Place, SE17

Victory Park is undergoing a major refurbishment. We are creating a new wheelchair accessible ball-court and new children's play area. Landscape improvements including new trees; wildflower borders and a picnic lawn providing recreation space for local families and delivering enhanced biodiversity.

Better access from the park to the garden is now available. Improved paths, new planters, bird boxes and insect hotels are now features in this local haven for wildlife.

The construction work is in the final stages with the park re-opening to the public this summer.



Nursery Row Park, East Street,

Orb Street and Brandon Street, SE17

We are making improvements to Nursery Row Park in Walworth, focusing on improving the entrance from East Street and the two play areas.

Our key aims are to transform the entrance from East St to create a more welcoming and greener space, enhance the play areas to provide exciting play equipment for children up to 16 years old and improve seating around the park.

If you want to find out more about our play areas, including a map of play areas in Southwark, please visit our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces

Fighting fires

We spoke to Verona Rawlings, London Fire Brigade's Borough Commander for Southwark, about her role, the challenges her team face and how Southwark residents can help keep themselves safe.

How long have you been working for the London Fire Brigade and what drew you to the job?

I joined the London Fire Brigade in 2009. I have always had an interest in the Fire Brigade due to my grandfather (on my mother's side) and other family members being in the job.

In a very surreal historical moment my grandfather saved my father and family in a house fire when they were very small. It was a very proud moment for everyone the day I passed out and was given my first station posting.

What do you enjoy about your role?

I enjoy the variety. I get to meet many interesting people from all walks of life and, in what can be the worst time for somebody, offer compassion, understanding and hope for the future.

Is it difficult being a woman in what is still quite a male-dominated service?

I have never struggled to be honest, I've had a really positive career. I've had great leaders, managers and colleagues. We are all like an extended family to one another.

Being a female brings a new dynamic to thinking, operating and that's only a positive thing. It is something I ensure is positive at all my stations, we all bring something to the table, by ourselves we are nothing, as a team we are everything.

What are the challenges you find working in Southwark and how are you working with the council and other partners to overcome them?

Southwark is a very busy borough, we hold a lot of risk in terms of our infrastructure, high rise buildings, iconic buildings as well as a very busy, congested road network. This brings challenges to the borough our suburb boroughs don't have; but again it brings variety, it brings diversity and it brings opportunity to our residents.

I work really closely with the council and partners, our recent Lives not Knives campaign with the Police and local charities is an example of that work. It's really important people feel they can reach out to their local fire station for help, support and advice.

We have lots of work ongoing and upcoming as a partnership and I would ask residents to feed back to us, tell us what you want from our services and how we can best serve and protect you.

What impacts do tragedies like the Grenfell or Lakanal fires have on the LFB and how has the service responded?

Our thoughts remain with the families and loved ones of those who died in the Lakanal House fire - Peckham Fire Station is a stone's throw away - and we continue to strive to do our best, learn and develop from that awful tragedy.

It is so important for us to work closely with the council on new fire safety laws and inspections and we have jointly developed processes to ensure councils respond quickly when we find faults with buildings, as Southwark does.

Grenfell was devastating for all those involved and its legacy continues as we see meaningful change at London Fire Brigade. We've brought in effective new equipment, in fact we have one of the world's leading aerial appliances housed at Old Kent Road Fire Station, an aerial platform that reaches 64m high. We've rolled out a fleet of drones, we've improved our communication systems and have brought in new firefighting techniques. I'm proud that London Fire Brigade was the first organisation to complete all its recommendations from Phase 1 of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. Southwark's residents should be assured that our crews understand your buildings and are trained to respond to any incident.

What support is there for local people who are concerned about fire safety?

If you're reading this I would urge you all to take 10 minutes of your time and complete our online Home Fire Safety Checker, it could save yours or your loved ones' life.

You can complete the checker online at <https://london-fire.gov.uk/checker/>

We still attend residents homes to give home fire safety advice but we do this smarter now. We have lots of ways of communicating with residents but this quick online tool really works

wonders and if you're still unsure, my crews will come over and visit you in person to offer advice.

Can you give us any tips on preventing fires in our own homes?

At the moment the UK has an emerging fire threat and that is the use of Lithium Ion Batteries, commonly found in e-bikes and e-scooters.

Southwark sadly had the first London fire because of one on the Old Kent Road in January 2023.

Whilst these forms of transport are more environmentally friendly, which is fantastic, we are finding people are adapting them, over charging them and not using UK brand manufactured charging systems or batteries and so are lacking British Standards.

It's really important to treat these items as you would a candle, do not go out and leave your bike/scooter charging, keep a focused eye on it, don't charge overnight, when charging try charge outside away from combustibles. Don't charge in communal hallways, and always ensure you have a clear escape route no matter where you live.

What is your favourite thing about working in Southwark?

I love Southwark, I was recently offered another borough to work in and I said "No!"

I have friends, family that all live in the borough and spent many a weekend down East Street Market as I was growing up. My crews will often see me off duty in the borough when I'm visiting family, I love that I can walk down a road filled with high rise buildings, turn a corner and I find myself on old cobbled streets or alongside the river. The people, the food and the diversity of all is what I love, it really is like no other.

Yes it has its challenges but if we all find that community spirit, if we all believe in the future, inspire our young people to thrive, the borough will only go from strength to strength. I grew up on a socially deprived council estate, we had had food parcels dropped off. If I can make it to where I am so can everyone else in this borough.

PRIDE IN SOUTHWARK

Celebrating our
LGBT+ communities

Earlier this year, Southwark Council announced it was opening its first Pride Fund to support local LGBT+ organisations holding events over summer 2024 that celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer identity, culture, histories and rights.

We were thrilled to get 35 applications, 19 of which got funding towards their events.

Whilst a number of events took place during June's Pride month, there is still plenty going on the rest of the summer and details are available on our website at www.southwark.gov.uk/pride24-events

Several Pride events are taking place at the London LGBT+ Community Centre in Southwark.

The centre now has its permanent home in Hopton Street, SE1 9JH. Find out more about the centre at londonlgbtqcentre.org

Queer Diary Zine-making

Create a fanzine for your first crush, or simply sit and doodle with a friendly queer crowd, to a throwback soundtrack.

Thursday 18 July, 6pm to 7.30pm

Free

London LGBT+ Community Centre,
60-62 Hopton Street, SE1 9JH
londonlgbtqcentre.org/whats-on/

Dancehall workshop

A dance workshop to not only learn the ins and outs of the dance, but also make new friends ahead of the UK Black Pride festival.

Saturday 24 August, 6.30pm to 7.30pm

Free

London LGBT+ Community Centre,
60-62 Hopton Street, SE1 9JH
londonlgbtqcentre.org/whats-on/

Ryeting with Pride

Theatre Peckham will be running a 6-week play writing course for emerging playwrights from the Global Majority from the LGBTQ+ community.

15 July to 19 August, 7pm to 9pm

Free to attend. See details on how to sign up on our website

Theatre Peckham, 221 Havil street,
SE5 7SB

www.theatrepeckham.co.uk



Summer in Southwark

Six weeks of school holidays may not be long enough with all the fabulous, family fun taking place in Southwark this summer

Libraries



We have lots of activities for adults to join in with over the summer such as book groups (www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries/adults/book-groups), IT taster sessions which you can book in advance if you need some help using a computer, free film club at Dulwich Library every Monday at 1.30pm, crochet, poetry or games club. See the website for details www.southwark.gov.uk/libraries/adults/library-activities-for-adults

To mark the start of the UEFA Euro 2024, you will be able to borrow a football from any of our libraries, and you can also pop into the library to cool down on the hotter days as most of our libraries are Cool Hubs (apart from Brandon, Dulwich and Blue Anchor).

During the summer young people aged 14 to 18 years will have the opportunity to be a volunteer at one of our libraries.

If you are interested you can find out more at one of our Young Volunteers Information Open Days on the 5th floor at Peckham Library (SE15 5JR) on Thursday 4 July, 4.30pm to 5.30pm or Thursday 18 July, 4.30pm to 5.30pm.

For more information contact: southwark.libraries@southwark.uk

Summer Reading Challenge



All our libraries will be taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge again this year between Saturday 13 July and Saturday 7 September.

When children join the challenge they will be introduced to brand-

new SRC characters, Marvellous Makers, brought to life by children's illustrator, Natelle Quek. This year's characters are all part of a local creative club, where they enjoy coming up with fun creations, exploring ideas and telling stories together.

Find out more online at www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

We will also have a summer programme of events for children and young people that includes a visit to Forbidden Planet Megastore, museum object handling workshops with Southwark Heritage, under-fives story times and lots more.

BMXing



Get sporty this summer in our parks. For budding BMXers there is a jam packed schedule of activities throughout the summer at the Burgess Park BMX track. For availability or to book visit southwark.gov.uk/bmx

Food and fun

This summer, Southwark Council will once again be offering the Summer of Food and Fun holiday programme. We are partnering with local holiday clubs across the borough to provide an exciting programme of healthy meals and exciting activities for children and young people in our local communities. Free places are available for children aged between 4 and 16, who receive benefit-related free school meals.

Each programme will provide:

- Free, healthy and tasty food
- Fun physical activity sessions
- A wide range of other activities to suit different ages and personalities
- Opportunities to learn more about food and nutrition for children and families

Activities will run throughout the school summer holidays. Details about how to sign up will be available now at www.southwark.gov.uk/foodandfun



Leisure Centres

There's more activities than ever this summer across our leisure centres, parks and pitches. Plus, our gyms are being refurbished with brand new equipment, layouts and designs so get ready to be inspired.

Kids' activities

Pick up a Move Games card from your local leisure centre from 1 July to 31 August and fill it up with stamps and stickers for every activity you do. There's lots of fun sessions and most of them are free! Choose from swimming, badminton, tennis, watersports, BMX, basketball, Born to Move™ activity sessions, football and more.

Register at southwarkleisure.co.uk/summermoves.

Kids' holiday clubs

- JAGs multi-activity club 24 July to 23 August. Join in an action packed summer holiday club. From sports and games to crafts and creative sessions. Available at The Castle, Camberwell and Peckham Leisure Centre. Charges apply.
- Southwark Splash Swim Courses 29 July to 30 August. Our fun swim courses are running in all our pools over the summer. Charges apply. View course details at southwarkleisure.co.uk/swimming/crash-courses



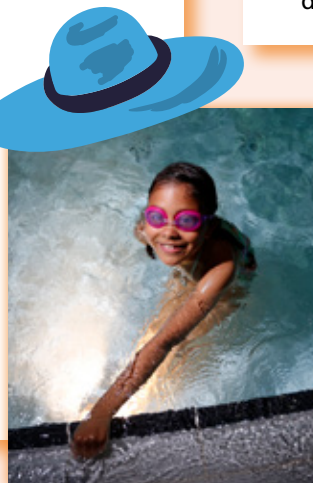
Free Swim and Gym

Residents benefit from free swimming and use of the gym all day Friday and Saturday 2pm to 5.30pm and Sunday 2pm to 9pm subject to programmes and timetables.

- For membership information and to sign up visit www.southwarkleisure.co.uk or download the Southwark Leisure App.

Win

We're giving away a summer membership for a family of five, which includes free use of our pools, gym and fitness classes. To enter our prize draw visit southwarkleisure.co.uk/summermoves. Terms and conditions apply – see website for details.



Activities for all

Try kayaking, paddleboarding, canoeing and sailing at a Recreation Watersports session at Surrey Docks Fitness and Watersports Centre. Available Wednesdays 5pm to 8pm and weekends 10am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4pm. Charges apply.

Challenge family and friends to a game of badminton in our sports hall at The Castle Leisure Centre. It's a great sport for agility, fitness and flexibility. Available on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Lace up your trainers and come for a run on our Olympic grade athletics track at Southwark Park Sports and Athletics Centre. The flat and consistent surface is a fantastic way to improve your speed, endurance, and overall fitness level! Plus, it's a safe environment to train day and night.

Our gyms are being refurbished towards the end of summer so you're in for a fitness treat. Come for a workout and get programme advice from our fitness motivators. If classes are more up your street choose from Body Pump to Pilates, yoga, Zumba and more. There's a class to suit every mood and ability. Available as part of our great value memberships or pay-as-you-go.

Youth groups

This summer join us at one of our Adventure Playgrounds or Youth Centres. Each summer the playgrounds are all open Monday to Friday 11.30am to 4.30pm. We are open to children aged 8 to 15 years (up to 25 with SEND) from Monday 29 July to Friday 24 August (we will be closed on Thursday 23 August for staff training).

Our youth centres will also be open during the summer to all 11 to 19 year olds (up to 25 with SEND). The Brandon Youth Centre and Kingswood Project will remain open in the evenings, but Damilola Taylor Centre and New Venture Youth Centre will open Tuesday to Thursday 1.30pm to 5pm. Youth Centres will be open from Tuesday 30 July to Wednesday 22 August.

Programmes are updated regularly so to find out what is happening at each centre please check out www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk

Inclusive activities

The Southwark Inclusive Sport and Physical Activity Network is hosting their annual Active Together multi-sports festival on Saturday 10 August from 2pm to 4pm at Dulwich College Sports Centre.

This event is for disabled people and their families who want to come and try a variety of different sports delivered by local community sports clubs. To register your place visit www.AccessSport.org.uk/SouthwarkSENDEvent

To find out more, please email Disability.Inclusion@AccessSport.org.uk or call 020 7993 9883.



Festivals



Mint Street Music Festival 2024 – 10 Years!

This mighty festival is back for its 10th anniversary with music, dance, children's entertainment and delicious food. Showcasing Afrobeat, Classical, Latin, Rap and Rock, the musical talent shines.

Saturday 13 July, 10am to 7.30pm

Free

Mint Street Park, off Weller Street/
Marshalsea Road, Borough, Southwark,
SE1 0EY

mintstreetmusicfestival.info



Candoco's Day of Dance

Candoco Dance Company presents the fourth annual Day of Dance inclusive festival in Peckham Library square! A free, all day celebration of dance and movement, including live performances and family-friendly workshops – Day of Dance is always a great day out in Southwark! Presented with support from the Cultural Celebrations Fund.

Saturday 10 August, 12 noon to 4pm

Free

Peckham Library Square
candoco.co.uk/



The Friends of Peckham Rye Annual Fete

Small-scale traditional community fete, with a 10-year history. Activities include a dog show, children's games, fancy dress parade, Tea Tent, Pimms Beer and Cider tent and stalls including local traders and other charities

Saturday 7 September, 12 noon to 5pm

Free

Peckham Rye Common, Strakers Road
SE15 3UA

<http://www.peckhamryepark.org/friends-of-peckham-rye-park>



The Rotherhithe Festival

The Rotherhithe Festival is back again for 2024 with a great line up of bands including Robin Bi Bi, Bill n Rickey, Bad Day, Richie Milton's PRP band and Paul Cox and the Soul Intention Band. Plus there will be all the regular attractions like free children's rides and food and drink for a real community festival feel.

Saturday 3 August, 11.30am to 8.30pm

Free

King George's Fields, SE16, main entrance
on Moodkee Street

rotherhithefestival.com



Bermondsey Street Festival

The Bermondsey Street Festival is back again this September with its local carnival feel including stalls from local businesses, street entertainment and the traditional dog show. Entertainment on the Tanner Stage will include Dustsheet, Jamie Williams and the Roots collective and the Sitar Service.

Saturday 21 September, 11am to 5pm

Free

Bermondsey Street, SE1
bermondseystreetfestival.org.uk



Harvest Festival at Surrey Docks Farm

Enjoy a food-themed event on the Farm where you can play fair games with a veggie twist (butternut squash skittles anyone?), enjoy a BBQ in the field, sample fresh bread baked in our wood oven and stock up on fresh fruit and vegetables grown here on the Farm. Plus much more!

Saturday 14 September, 11am to 4pm

Free entry (but this is a fundraising event so there will be low costs to take part in activities etc)

Surrey Docks Farm, Rotherhithe Street,
London SE16 5ET

www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk/events

Enjoy your summer and stay well



Stay healthy this summer. Check you're protected with the right travel health advice and vaccines, stay safe in the heat and grab that last chance for a COVID-19 vaccine if you're eligible.

Stay safe this summer – beat the heat

Summer is a great time for many but can bring a range of health risks. Hot weather can be life-threatening for older adults, people with long-term health conditions, serious mental health problems, people with drug and alcohol dependence, babies and young children. Look out for signs of heatstroke such as tiredness, dizziness, headaches and dehydration in yourself, friends, family and neighbours during hot weather.

You can keep yourself cool by:

- drinking plenty of fluids (but avoiding alcohol, caffeine and hot drinks)
- staying out of the sun between 11am and 3pm
- keeping your living space cool
- finding a local air-conditioned space, such as a library (go to: apps.london.gov.uk/cool-spaces)



It's also a good idea to check you're storing medicines according to the instructions on the packet.

Get more information on staying safe in the heat: www.southwark.gov.uk/hot-weather

Whooping cough is spreading – vaccines offer the best protection

Whooping cough can affect people of all ages. But can be very serious for young babies who are too young to be vaccinated themselves. Numbers of cases are very high at the moment, so it is particularly important to get the vaccine if you are pregnant, to protect your newborn baby.

- if you're pregnant you're offered a vaccine during pregnancy
- babies, aged eight weeks, can get the 6-in-1 vaccine, including one to prevent whooping cough
- contact your GP if your child missed their 6-in-1 or pre-school booster vaccines



www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

Get free drinking water

You can help reduce single-use plastic and get free drinking water across London. Find cafés, pubs and other participating high street businesses:

- check www.refill.org.uk
- look out for window stickers
- or download the Refill app



Get your travel vaccines and medicines before you go abroad

More people in south London have been diagnosed with travel-related illnesses recently. In particular we've seen people with Hepatitis A (which can cause lifelong liver problems) and malaria.



Contact your Southwark GP to:

- book free Hepatitis A, typhoid and tetanus vaccinations
- ask advice about how to protect yourself from other illnesses on your travels

It's best to see your GP at least six to eight weeks before you're due to travel. That's because you need to have some vaccines well in advance to allow your body to develop immunity.

Find out more at nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations

Get global travel health advice including vaccinations advised per country at: travelhealthpro.org.uk

A PROTECTIVE PARTNERSHIP

Keeping our young people, vulnerable adults and their families safe from exploitation helps keep our whole borough safer.

Luckily, for most people in Southwark the issues of violence, gangs, county lines and serious organised crime are something they mostly see in a TV crime drama or on the news.

But these problems affect almost every area of the country, including London, and sadly in recent years some young people and vulnerable adults in Southwark have experienced increasing levels of exploitation.

That's why reducing community harm and exploitation is a key focus for Southwark Council, police and our partners. Only by reaching out and protecting our more vulnerable residents can we make our neighbourhoods safer for our wider communities.

In 2019 Southwark Council, and its partners across the borough, created the multi-agency Community Harm and Exploitation Hub (CHEH). The hub means all the partners can work together to support anyone aged between 18 and 25 who is affected by exploitation and keep them, and their communities, safe.

The main work is done by the CHEH's Operational Group, which is made up of representatives from organisations that help support young people including the council, police, probation service, GPs, and voluntary organisations like the St Giles Trust, Victim Support, Southwark Works and many more.



Quote from a young person who has been supported by the by the Community Harm and Exploitation - Operational Group (CHE-OG).

"The CHE- OG programs has been a blessing in my life to say the least. I could be here literally all day listing all positive effects working with the team has had on my life and well-being. Like the team making me feel supported and never making me feel like I'm alone in any situation life throws at me. I will forever be grateful for the CHE-OG team because of their work. I know I can work hard and achieve a lot of stuff I thought was out of my reach. So I'm forever grateful".

Bob Mugisha is Children and Young People Manager at the St Giles Trust, one of the hub partners, based in Camberwell. Having grown up in Southwark, he joined the trust in 2015.

"We do get referrals from other organisations," he explained, "but on occasion we just get people rolling up to the office. We get as much information as we can and we work quickly, through our partners, to gather the risks and find solutions, sometimes straight away like finding them a safe place to go that night.

"Each young person is assigned their own case worker whose job it is to gather the information we need and stay in touch with the person and their family.

"We offer day-to-day mentoring to unpack and understand the cause of them being involved in risky behaviour and prepare a plan to keep them safe and give them the building blocks to move forward positively."

Bob and his team have helped between 60 and 70 young people and vulnerable adults over the last year. About 30 of these are more intense cases that they work with for several months. Others are shorter periods where they just help link the person up with support like the Job Centre, benefits and housing.

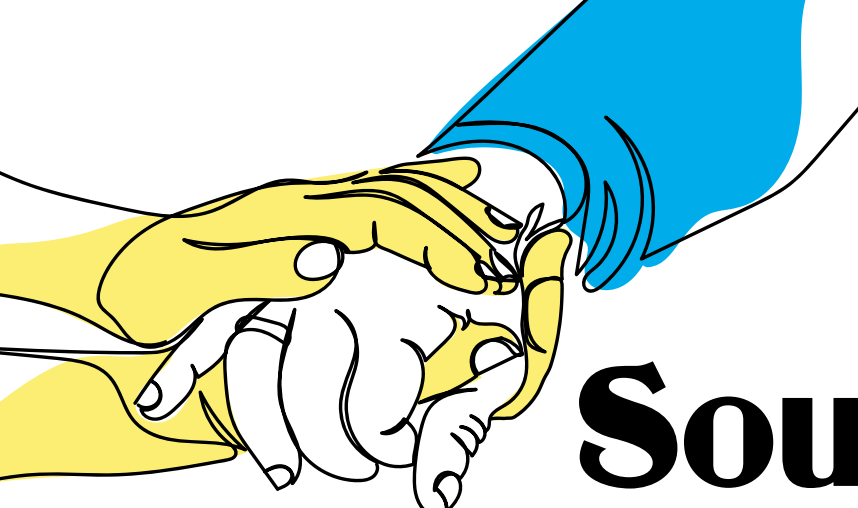
The majority of people that get referred to Bob and his team are young men, but he says this is changing and more young women and girls are coming in for support.

Having had first-hand experience of the work groups like this can do to help turn around a young person's life, he began volunteering at what was known as the SAVU (Southwark Anti-violence Unit) before becoming a case worker and now managing the team.

"I know what kind of a positive impact this work can have," he said, "and my belief in it has only grown stronger over the years. Having had the experience I had helps me build up a rapport with a young person and then if I say I trust someone, like a police officer, the young person is more likely to respond to them.

"What is great about working in Southwark is we work so positively with the other partners. For example if a young person feels safer coming to our offices, the police and council officers will come to us here so they feel more comfortable. The young person also gets the same case worker who will go and get info and tips from other people and bring them back so the young person isn't overwhelmed meeting different people. Southwark has been ahead of the game for many years and has always had a unique way of thinking."





Southwark's year of the carer

This year is about celebrating Southwark's amazing carers and ensuring they get the support they need.

Much of what carers do goes unseen, particularly unpaid carers who look after loved ones themselves. Our year of the carer shines a light on their work as everyday heroes who help people stay independent, safe and well, so they can live the lives they want to.

This summer, we will be hosting our annual Southwark Care Awards where we will celebrate the incredible contributions of paid and unpaid carers. We received over 200 nominations from which finalists for each category were shortlisted. They will join us at an awards ceremony held at HMS Belfast, with a special sit-down dinner. Huge thanks to United St Saviour's Charity and London South Bank University for being event sponsors.

Where can I find support?

Support for Seniors and Carers is a new service to connect older people and their carers with a range of support in Southwark. It's led by a group of local charities, working with Southwark Council. To find out about local services, visit www.ageingwellsouthwark.org or call 0207 358 4077.

Protecting and uplifting unpaid carers

Our year of the carer means new dedicated support for unpaid carers. The council's £500,000 Southwark Carers' Fund is extra money to help support projects that will make the most difference to unpaid carers and the people they care for. We will also be working with unpaid carers across the borough on a new approach that will transform the wider support they receive.

New and better care homes

Last year a brand new nursing home opened in Camberwell. This year we bought Tower Bridge Care Home so that residents could stay in Southwark close to their family and friends, and to protect local jobs for many people who live in Southwark. We are now finding a new care provider to enable the home to thrive long-term.



Rakie Kamara has been healthcare assistant at Tower Bridge Care Home since 2015. She says: "I love every aspect of my job. One of my favourite things are stories that residents tell us. There's a life lesson in every story. It's a privilege to have those kinds of interactions with the people we care for."

Watch the full video of Rakie talking about her role at www.southwark.gov.uk/Rakie

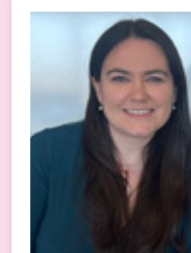
Driving up standards of care

We now have six care homes signed up to our Residential Care Charter. This means better pay, training and working conditions for around 500 care home staff (75% of all those working in Southwark). They care for roughly 86% of all those living in care homes in Southwark whose families have a stronger say in their care thanks to the charter.

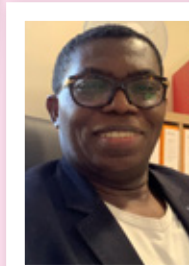
We will continue towards our commitment of having 100% of care homes compliant with the charter by 2026. The charter is the product of close working between the council and trade union UNISON.



UNISON London regional secretary Jo Galloway said: "Southwark Council is setting a great example in committing to improve the working conditions of those in social care. Their charter will encourage dedicated staff to stay in their jobs, benefitting local residents, who will experience a better quality of care. We hope to see other councils across London following suit."



Tower Bridge Care Home has been signed up to the council's residential care charter since March 2023.



San Koromah, home manager at Tower Bridge Care Home, says: "It's great to see our work and team recognised via the council's residential care charter. Their charter really helps to support and promote the positive impact of those working in care."

More choice for disabled and older adults

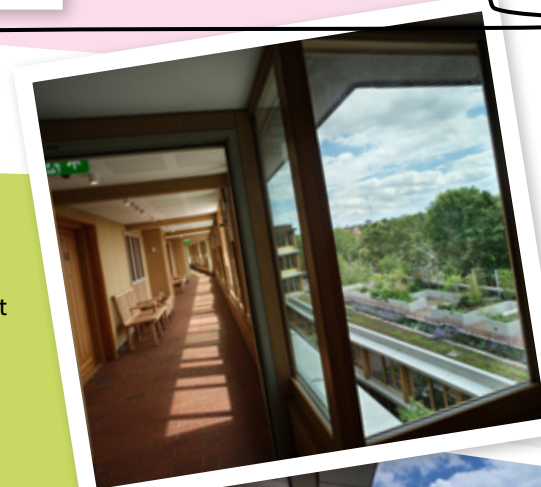
This year we will be opening two new flexi care homes for disabled and older adults. These are individual homes that come with care on site that you can flex up as you need it.

Our local almshouses are also doing great work to offer low cost, community-based housing. Appleby Blue in Bermondsey is the first almshouse to be built in Southwark for decades. It's the product of close partnership between the council, the developer, and United St Saviour's Charity who runs the almshouse.



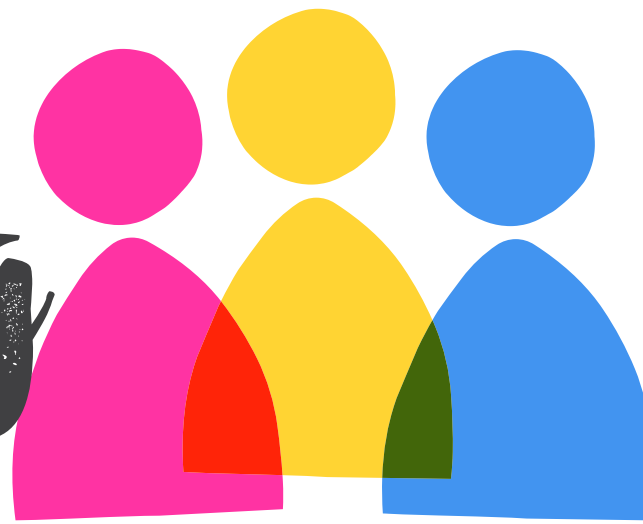
Appleby Blue is setting a new standard for quality homes for older people where local people of all ages can come to spend time and connect with each other. Learn more at www.ustsc.org.uk

John Hayward, a Southwark resident eligible to move to the new almshouse last year, said: "Moving to Appleby Blue was like jumping out of an airplane without a parachute and landing on a bouncy castle."



Photos courtesy of Philip Vile

Celebrating 20 YEARS OF SUCCESS



For two decades, Southwark Works has been an invaluable service to local people seeking employment support.

The service has supported over 8,000 residents into jobs – and changed lives beyond this; supporting residents to improve their confidence, skills and outlook.

Over the years, the service has evolved and now provides tailored support for residents who meet the following criteria:

- Aged 16-24
- Aged over 50
- Mental health challenges
- Learning difficulties or disabilities
- Parents or unpaid carers
- Ex-offenders
- History or substance misuse
- Homeless

Whether you're looking for your first job, a career change, or a step up the ladder, Southwark Works is here to assist every step of the way.

Southwark Works has also supported local businesses and organisations such as St Giles Trust and Thames Reach with employing local talent and improving their workforce planning. Providing support to create job descriptions and recruitment campaigns.

Personalised support for all

At the heart of Southwark Works is a commitment to personalised support. The service prides itself on offering one-to-one guidance tailored to each individual's needs. From crafting the perfect CV to preparing for interviews, residents receive expert advice that boosts confidence and opens doors to new opportunities.

Comprehensive Services

Southwark Works offers a broad range of services, including:

- **Job matching:** Connecting residents with local employers and available positions.
- **Training and courses:** Providing access to skill-building courses and apprenticeships.
- **Career advice:** Offering professional advice on career progression and development.
- **Support for employers:** Assisting local businesses in finding and retaining talent.
- **Construction skills:** Support to gain a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card and other relevant industry qualifications.
- **Debt advice:** Advice on where to go if you're experiencing financial difficulties or debt problems and advice on money management.

A community-focused approach

Southwark Works believes in serving the entire community. Its services are available to all residents, regardless of age, background, or level of experience. This inclusive approach ensures that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed in the job market.

Looking to the future

As Southwark Works celebrates its 20 year anniversary, it continues to expand its services. The future promises even more opportunities for residents to enhance their skills and secure fulfilling employment. With a dedicated team of advisors and a strong network of partners, Southwark Works remains a vital resource for the community.

SUCCESS STORIES

Over the years, Southwark Works has seen countless success stories. Residents have not only found employment but have also achieved better pay and working conditions, significantly improving their quality of life. The service's impact is evident in the vibrant, thriving community of Southwark.

Mrs A

Ms A joined the service after deciding to return to work later in life. With the support of the Skills and Employment (SET) team from St Giles Trust and the Working Out Southwark team, she was able to access a Level 2 City and Guild's course, which complimented her degree. Completing this course opened up an opportunity to volunteer at local organisation where she currently supports staff with admin tasks.

"St Giles has been really helpful and supportive. This has given me the opportunity to become part of a team that supports vulnerable individuals in Southwark and one which is reflective of the values of the team and the organisation".



CV WRITING TIPS

- Use an easy, straightforward format. Avoid columns or tables. This makes it harder to edit and you need to edit every time you send for another job.
- Keep your CV neat and tidy. Always use the same font throughout – you can use different size font for headings but the main text should all be uniform.
- You don't need to include personal information i.e. your full address, date of birth, NI number or home address. This is entirely optional.
- Don't include pictures of yourself.
- Always ask someone else to read your CV for grammar and spelling before you send it off to employers.
- Keep it simple, short but most importantly, relevant to the job you want.

Whether you're a job seeker or an employer, Southwark Works is here to help. Visit www.southwarkworks.com or visit the hub office at 376 Walworth Road, SE17 2NG.



Cycling in the city



Kenneth: "I work in the disability sports sector with young people, and have a physical disability. My confidence has improved since getting my trike. I've been out and about much more and it's given me the freedom to explore London."

"I've also been encouraging others to try cycling too."



Through Streets for People, we're making it easier and safer to cycle, creating a network of accessible streets and routes for all types of cycles.

If you've never cycled before and want to give it a go, or if you just want to improve your confidence, we offer free cycle training for all ages and abilities. Over the past year we've trained over 6,000 adults and children to be better, and safer, on their bikes.

Find out more about free training by visiting www.southwark.gov.uk/streetsforpeople

Through our cycling influencer scheme, 21 people from different communities, backgrounds and ages have taken on the challenge of learning to cycle as well as encouraging others to give it a go.

Here we find out how some of them are getting on:

Hamieda: "Initially it felt a little daunting cycling on busy roads but with practice, I have built the confidence to take my bike to work, passing through Walworth Road into Denmark Hill. The thought of cycling through these roads previously used to terrify me but now I feel so relaxed about it."

My husband bought a new bike after test riding mine and we've also bought one for my 6-year old daughter. Now we go on family bike rides in Burgess Park. I feel better, lighter, happier and more active."



Gurpreet: "I used to get quite nervous even in parks if there were too many people around. Cycling regularly and going along to the Joy Rider cycling sessions at Burgess Park every weekend has taken that fear and anxiety away."

"I am healthier and much more energetic. Most people my age would not try to start a new activity I want to show others in a similar situation to me that it is possible to start a new hobby and get fit."



Patricia runs the Latin Age UK group in Southwark and has always wanted to learn to cycle, to benefit her health and the local environment.

"I'm enjoying learning to cycle and I hope to be a good example that it's never too late to learn something new."

CLIMATE ACTION IN OUR COMMUNITIES

NEW FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS TO TAKE CLIMATE ACTION



We have awarded £400,000 to community groups, schools and faith groups across Southwark to help them make green improvements to their buildings.

In total 22 projects have been awarded funding which includes a wide variety of projects – from solar panels on schools to a new community energy group.

Clive Lewis from SE1 Solar, a community benefit society based in Borough and Bermondsey which has been awarded funding, said: "This funding will launch our mission to help relieve fuel poverty on local council estates. It will fund the feasibility studies for installing solar panels on the roofs of the estates, selling the electricity to local businesses, and using the surpluses to help families experiencing, or at risk of, fuel poverty."

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND START USING OUR LIBRARY OF THINGS

Since we opened the Library of Things in Canada Water Library, hundreds of residents have been using it to save money and help the environment. More than 1000 things have been borrowed, saving over £140,000 compared to buying new – whilst also reducing waste and carbon emissions. Join your neighbours and see what items you can borrow at www.libraryofthings.co.uk/canadawater

CANADA WATER LIBRARY OF THINGS



RESIDENTS RAISE £1M FOR LOCAL GREEN PROJECTS

In February, with the help of hundreds of local residents, we raised £1m in eight weeks to spend on green projects in the borough.

Southwark Green Investment is a chance for people or businesses to invest in local climate projects and receive a low-risk, fixed return. Anyone could take part, from as little as £5.

In total, 659 investors backed the scheme, which included a record-breaking amount of locals getting involved and helping us hit our target five weeks early.

We will now be using the funds for more cycle hangars, new LED street lighting, and green upgrades at schools and leisure centres.

If you missed out on this round, don't worry! We are planning to do more very soon, as we look to raise £6m by 2030.

Head to www.southwark.gov.uk/sgi-updates to be the first to get updates about any future rounds.



PRIDE PIONEERS

June was Pride month so we're looking back on some of the key LGBT+ figures from Southwark's history.

James Allen moved to London at some point before he married his wife Abigail at St Giles church in Camberwell in 1817. He worked as a groom and a labourer, thriving in a variety of jobs, and died aged 42 in 1829, in an industrial accident sawing timber at a shipbuilders' in Dockhead.

The coroner investigating the accident discovered that James had been born a woman. Abigail was equally shocked by the discovery. She had her life at home in East Lane, Bermondsey, turned further upside down by newshounds eager to report details of James's life, who they called "The Female Husband" (a common way to describe a trans man at the time).

Thomas Walker (born Mary Anne) was working as a barman in the Royal Mortar Tavern in Southwark when he was arrested and imprisoned in 1867. The press christened him the 'Female Barman', and, like James Allen, his life was immortalised in a street ballad, "The He-She Barman of Southwark".

Men who lived as women were also the subject of ballads. These include Fanny and Stella (Frederick Park and Ernest Boulton) who, in modern terms, had a drag act in Peckham. The pair were arrested in 1870 for wearing women's clothing off-stage. They featured in the ballad "The Funny He-She Ladies" and their trial was a media sensation.



In 1935, 18 year old Peckham local Winnie Collins painted a watercolour, 'The Street Entertainers Move On'. The work shows a troupe of Drag entertainers who performed with a barrel organ on the streets of Peckham. The artist remembered how popular they were with the Peckham community: "As the children came running they arranged the little ones along the kerb stones and the bigger ones standing behind on the pavements. They ended up by some acrobatic leaps and splits to the great delight of the audience!"



Letters and photos from the 1930s and 1940s give us insights into the life of a gay couple with Southwark connections: architect Montague Glover (1898-1983) and his lover Ralph Hall (1913-1987). Ralph and Monty met in 1930. Despite their age and class differences (Ralph was working-class and 15 years younger than the upper-class Monty) the two fell in love, and remained a couple for the rest of their lives. They were discreet. Officially, Ralph was Monty's "caretaker", but Ralph's letters to "my darling Monty", and Monty's delight in photographing Ralph posing in the countryside make it clear they were in love.



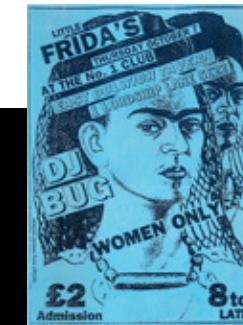
By the 1960s, a number of South London pubs were well known as gay venues. They included the Union Tavern on Camberwell New Road and the Father Red Cap on Camberwell Green, both of which put on regular drag nights. Camberwell gave one of the founders of the gay disco movement - Richard Scanes, known as DJ Tricky Dicky to his punters - his first big break. On 1 July 1971, he took to the decks at the Father Red Cap and began to play the new disco sound to the local crowd. His aim was to bring disco to a local audience and create a more intimate, friendly space. Charles Holmes, the landlord, proudly put up a Take Courage sign declaring "The Father Red Cap, the Gayest Pub in Town". In 1973, both men were brought up on charges of keeping a disorderly house - this term often meant a brothel, and the charge used to persecute gay clubs and their patrons.



The 1970s were a time of hard fought liberation for the LGBTQ+ community with groups like the Gay Liberation Front and Campaign For Homosexual Equality (including a Southwark & Lambeth branch) leading the way. In the 1980s more local groups with different agendas began to appear and Peckham became the epicentre of many of Southwark's gay and lesbian support networks.

Peckham Black Women's Centre at 69 Bellenden road from 1985, had a Lesbian Group that published articles on black lesbian rights in the centre's 'In Print' community newsletter. They fought outside the town hall in 1987 to win the right to be co-opted to the council's women's committee in order to represent black women, lesbians, disabled and younger women.

The Black Lesbian and Gay Centre project began in 1985 in temporary locations including Tottenham before finally finding a permanent home in 1993 in a railway arch on Bellenden Road, where they established the first centre in Europe for black lesbians and gay men. Despite funding struggles the project remained active through the 1990s, eventually moving to an office on Westminster Bridge Road before closing in 2001.



Southwark Sappho Sisters were a lesbian group based at the Southwark Women's Centre at 2-6 Peckham High Street from 1984 where they ran a Lesbian Mothers' Group (Mama Dykes), social events and drop-in sessions. The centre closed sometime after 2000.

Gay Men In Southwark was a group started in 1986 by John Keidan and Andrew Prodgers primarily as a campaign group and to discuss gay mens' issues. They held monthly sessions at the Willowbrook Urban Studies Centre showing videos and inviting guest speakers including Peter Tatchell and Stephen Bourne as well as organising theatre trips and outings to gay pubs, before closing in 1990.



EVENTS CALENDAR

SUMMER 2024

For details of these and more events around the borough visit www.southwark.gov.uk/southwarkpresents

The Story of Kingswood House in Dulwich

Historic Kingswood House in Dulwich is now the home of Kingswood Arts, a not-for-profit community centre. There has been a house there since 1814 and Ian McInnes will tell its story up to WW2, covering the owners, including 'Mr Bovril', and its years as a WW1 Canadian Army hospital.

Tuesday 1 October 2024, 8pm

£5 all proceeds to Kingswood Arts. Bursary tickets available

Online via Zoom

www.bellhouse.co.uk/upcoming-events



TWELFTH NIGHT or What you Will by William Shakespeare

In a place where music is the food of love, and nothing is quite as it appears, anything becomes possible. So join the Dulwich Players in the beautiful gardens of Bell House, for this tale of mistaken identities, romantic entanglements, and unforgettable characters in one of Shakespeare's most loved comedies.

Saturday 13 July and Sunday 14 July at 7.30pm and 5.30pm, 10 July and Sunday 11 July at 7.30pm and 5.30pm

£10 (18years and under)

27 College Road, SE21 7BG

dulwichplayers/ticketsource

Summer by the River Family Week

London Bridge is great for families. Mark the start of the summer holidays with FREE family fun along the riverside, including a Matilda the Musical Singalong at The Scoop, a Wind in the Willows themed craft workshop with children's theatre company 'A Wonderful Adventure' and Hikapee Theatre's Everywhere's a Beach.

23 to 25 July, times vary

FREE

London Bridge City: Hay's Galleria and The Scoop

atlondonbridge.com



Hip Hop Weekender at The Scoop

Fiya House presents Hip Hop Weekender at The Scoop. Celebrate community spirit with interactive workshops for all the family, pop-up performances from world-renowned dance artists and incredible live DJs. Commissioned by Team London Bridge, funded by Southwark Council, and supported by London Bridge City's Summer by the River Festival.

3 and 4 August, times vary

FREE

London Bridge City: The Scoop
atlondonbridge.com

DORIAN: The Musical

Reinventing Wilde's classic with a glam, modern twist and a searing score from Bowie to Brecht, this queer fairy-tale challenges gender norms and social media's pitfalls. Alfie Friedman stars as Dorian Gray, a lonely sensation longing for love. Can he escape his cursed immortality? Find out in this new adaptation.

10 July to 10 August, Saturday 8.30pm, Tuesday 8.30pm

Recommended for ages 16+

Southwark Playhouse Borough

southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/production



Summer Holiday Pirate Takeover

Join a swashbuckling adventure of discovery as pirates take over The Golden Hinde ship this summer. During pirate training, you'll learn how to sing a sea shanty, fire a canon and fight with a cutlass. Onboard entertainment also includes Parrot Pirate Shows, featuring Pirate Squawk.

26 July to 1 September, 10am to 6pm

See website for times and tickets

The Golden Hinde, St Mary Overie Dock, Cathedral Street SE1 9DE

www.goldenhinde.co.uk

Guys & Dolls

In Nicholas Hytner's multi-award winning and "thrillingly immersive new Guys & Dolls" you'll be transported to the streets of Manhattan and the bars of Havana. Experience Broadway classics like Luck Be a Lady, Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat, A Bushel and a Peck and more.

Until 4 January 2025, Monday to Saturday at 7.30pm, Thursday and Saturday at 2.30pm

Tickets from £19.50

Bridge Theatre, 3 Pottery Lane, London, SE1 2SG



BUSINESS FRIENDLY SOUTHWARK

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. The money is awarded to projects that met two of five criteria: offered support during the Cost of Living Crisis, helped make Southwark greener, created healthy and safe high streets, deliver cultural/community events and/or complemented the council's Southwark Stands Together priorities.

Twenty-one projects have been awarded a total of £485,000 to support local high streets.

To find out more about the successful projects and how they benefit your local high street visit www.southwark.gov.uk/th-s-projects

SouthWRK: A BRIDGE FOR THE TALENT OF TOMORROW



SouthWRK is here to assist undergraduates or recent graduates from an under-represented background, in successfully applying for and securing valuable paid work opportunities with local employers. If you're a learner looking for support, or a Southwark business looking to host local talent, we will work with you to understand the type of candidate you are looking for and help you create an opportunity that is valuable to both your organisation and the intern you hire.

For more information visit www.southwrk.co.uk/info

Summer 2024

JOIN OVER 350 OF SOUTHWARK'S LONDON LIVING WAGE EMPLOYERS

If you are thinking of becoming a London Living Wage employer, 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 you're eligible visit:

www.southwark.gov.uk/living-wage-grant

SOUTHWARK PIONEERS FUND

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



Find out more at www.southwark.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/southwark-pioneers-fund

INCREASE SALES AND DRIVE FOOTFALL TO YOUR BUSINESS



The BetterPoints Southwark app rewards residents for moving more with points they can spend in a local business. Join the free scheme to reach new customers and align your brand with local sustainability and health initiatives.

southwark.betterpoints.uk/stories/get-started-as-a-trader

SHARE YOUR BUSINESS INSIGHTS WITH ENTREPRENEURS ON THEIR START-UP JOURNEY



If you're passionate about fostering entrepreneurship and making a positive impact in our communities then volunteer to become a mentor. You must have good experience in business and be willing to contribute five or more hours per year to support businesses. Find out more at trampolineic.org/mentoring-programme



Get ready for a summer of activities



**kids holiday
clubs**



**family fun
swims**



**great range of
exercise
classes**



**watersports,
racketsports,
athletics
and more**



**fitness for
everyone**



Join in our summer of fun!

Great value membership and pay-as-you-go options
southwarkleisure.co.uk/summermoves

Southwark
Council