

Home life



**Government announcement
on cladding welcomed**

page 3

**Ex-serviceman gets
council housing**

page 9

**Report repairs faster
with new app**

page 13



**Community
gardening
takes root**

See page 12

Do it online

There are a range of housing services and information available on our website wandsworth.gov.uk/housing

Apply for housing and transfers

wandsworth.gov.uk/hcs/housingoptions

Report a repair to a council property

wandsworth.gov.uk/repairs

Report a waste problem

wandsworth.gov.uk/waste

Report graffiti

wandsworth.gov.uk/graffiti

Pay your council tax

wandsworth.gov.uk/paycounciltax

Pay your rent

wandsworth.gov.uk/rents

Other payments

wandsworth.gov.uk/payments

Talk to us online

weekly e-newsletter

wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news



facebook.com/wandsworth.council



twitter.com/wandbc

Report It app



Wandsworth Report It

makes it easier for anyone to report problems like flytipping, graffiti and other environmental issues. Search for the Wandsworth Report It app on the Apple, Android or Windows app store.

My Account

Create an account and you will only have to sign in once to access the main council services.

wandsworth.gov.uk/myaccount

Housing contacts

Housing Customer Centre

90 Putney Bridge Road,
London
SW18 1HR

Western Area Housing Office

38 Holybourne Avenue,
Roehampton
London
SW15 4JE

Housing hotline: 020 8871 6161

Housing Area Teams

Central: 020 8871 5333
Eastern: 020 8871 7439
Southern: 020 8871 7288
Western: 020 8871 5530

If you do not know your area team email:
hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Wandsworth Emergency Control (housing emergencies, out of hours)

020 8871 7490

Home Ownership

housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

Downsizing options

allocationteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Landlords looking for tenants

privatelandlords@wandsworth.gov.uk

For breakdowns, leaks and servicing of heating/hot water systems speak to your gas contractor:

Battersea, Clapham and Central Wandsworth (or throughout the borough if your heating is supplied by a central communal boiler.)

Smith and Byford Ltd 0800 028 0824

Putney, Roehampton and Tooting

T.Brown Group Ltd 0800 977 8472

To find out your gas contractor 020 8871 7040

Other council contacts

Adult social services

020 8871 7707

Births, Deaths, Marriages and Voting

020 8871 6120

Child social services

020 8871 6622

Environmental services (including pest control, private housing)

020 8871 6127

Finance (including council tax, benefits, rent, service charges)

020 8871 8081

To make a telephone payment
0800 021 7763

Parking and Streets

020 8871 8871

Rubbish, recycling and litter

020 8871 8558



Welcome to the summer issue of Homelife, my first as cabinet member for housing and regeneration.

I am excited to take on the role of cabinet member from Cllr Salier, who I thank for all the excellent work she has done over the past year.

I was delighted to receive the news that the Government have pledged to provide councils with additional funding to assist with vital re-cladding works. This will allow us to redirect funds earmarked for this to other major works and improvements in the borough (see page 3).

We continue to work closely with the London Fire Brigade to provide you with the most up-to-date fire safety advice. Information on their latest campaign can be found on page 19.

There are lots of things to be excited about this summer. Seasoned gardeners and novices alike have been out in force sprucing up their community gardens with beautiful flowers, fruit and veg. Community gardens are a great way for you to meet your neighbours, learn about sustainability and improve the look of your estate. Find out what your community has been doing on pages 12 – 13.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Homelife. If you have any suggestions please contact me by email on hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Cllr Kim Caddy
Cabinet Member for Housing



Council welcomes PM's pledge on funding for cladding replacement

Wandsworth Council has welcomed the news that the Government has pledged around £400m to remove defective cladding from high-rise blocks.

Following the Grenfell fire, the council moved quickly to identify and set aside resources to pay for vital safety measures such as replacing cladding and installing sprinklers. Replacement of the cladding on Sudbury House and Castlemaine will cost more than £16 million, and it is hoped that money reserved for this can now be redirected to other major works and improvements.

Council leader Ravi Govindia, together with council officers, has been in regular contact with ministers and civil servants, strongly making the case that councils should get additional funding to assist with these urgent works.

During Prime Minister's Questions on the 16th May, Theresa May told MPs: "I can today confirm that the Government will fully fund the removal and replacement of dangerous cladding by councils and housing associations, estimated at £400m."

Wandsworth's cabinet member for housing Cllr Kim Caddy said: "This is excellent news and I am delighted that

the Government has agreed to meet these costs. This is particularly important for Wandsworth, as we have two tower blocks - Sudbury House and Castlemaine - where essential cladding removal works are already well under way.

"Since the terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower this council has acted quickly to reassure our residents and ensure they are safe in their homes and we have made it clear that we would do everything we can to make sure that nothing like Grenfell ever happens in our borough.

"Wandsworth has campaigned strongly for financial assistance for these works and it is really pleasing to see that the Government has listened and released the necessary funding."

Vice Chairman of the Borough Residents' Forum, Marlene Price said: "Tenants' rents and service charges were having to be used to pay for the work to re-clad our blocks and I warmly welcome the Government's change of position with respect to funding these essential works."

Works on the Sudbury and Castlemaine blocks are making good progress and will continue throughout the year.

Council remains committed to improving fire safety on Grenfell anniversary

Following the tragic fire in Grenfell Tower in June last year, the Leader of the Council gave a commitment to find substantial additional resources to improve fire safety for Wandsworth residents by amongst other things retro-fitting sprinklers to its high-rise residential blocks, measures which were unanimously supported by both Labour and Conservative members.

All new build blocks of a similar height are required to be fitted with sprinklers and the council's commitment to retro-fit sprinklers will bring its existing high-rise blocks up to the same fire safety standards.

The London Fire Brigade, alongside a number of professional bodies such as the Chartered Institute of Housing, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Local Government Association have gone on record supporting the safety benefits that are provided by sprinkler systems. This is a trusted technology that saves lives and protects property and is the single most effective fire protective system that can be fitted.

Residential properties can be protected from fire through fire safety measures such as fire doors and smoke alarms but major fires at Lakanal House and Grenfell Tower have demonstrated the devastating consequences when these measures fail. Several councils have already committed to retro-fit sprinklers, including Birmingham City Council which has 213 tower blocks, the highest in the country.

Before the council proceeds with the retro-fitting of sprinkler systems, we will be seeking a decision from the First Tier Property Tribunal as to whether we have the legal authority to install these in leasehold properties and recover these costs. Leaseholders will have an opportunity to make representations to the Tribunal and will be written to shortly with details of how they can do so.

If the First Tier Property Tribunal confirms the council may proceed to retro-fit sprinkler systems in leasehold properties, we will then undertake a risk based review of the need to carry out installations to each individual block in consultation with residents.

Quite understandably some residents have expressed concerns about the impact a sprinkler system would have on their property and as a consequence two show flats were fitted with sprinklers, one in central Wandsworth and the other in Roehampton.

If you live in a high-rise block and would like to visit the show flat contact us on hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk. If you can't visit you can watch a video of the flat at wandsworth.gov.uk/showflat.

Having lobbied successfully for financial assistance for cladding replacement, the council will continue to lobby for additional funds from the Government for these additional fire safety measures. We fully understand that the cost is a significant issue for leaseholders and if the retro-fitting programme is endorsed by the Tribunal the council has already agreed to spread any payments due from resident leaseholders by extending the interest free repayment period from 12 to 48 months.



Free wifi hubs to replace telephone boxes

Visitors to Northcote Road will soon be able to charge their mobile phones, make free calls and access free wi-fi at two digital communication hubs.

The council has approved planning applications to remove five broken-down phone kiosks in Northcote Road and replace them with two hi-tech digital hubs offering local people free calls and free internet access. An identical application for a site in Garratt Lane was also approved. These are among 20 hubs that will soon be installed across the borough.

The super speedy internet access should allow passers-by to download a two-hour film on to their handset or tablet in around 12 seconds. Built-in safeguards mean that the units would not allow adult content to be downloaded.

People will also be able to make free phone calls – especially important for those on limited pay-as-you-go plans or out of credit. The units will feature two waterproof USB ports which can be used to charge mobile phones and tablets.

There are plans to install around 75 of these new hi-tech units in total across Wandsworth meaning this latest on-street technology is likely to soon be available in virtually every neighbourhood in the borough. In each case they will replace redundant phone kiosks.

New space for Work Match

Work Match offers Wandsworth residents access to jobs across the borough and beyond. A new Work Match centre has opened in Battersea.

The centre is part of Berkeley Homes new development, Vista at Chelsea Bridge Wharf, which will provide 68 affordable homes to Londoners.

Leader of Wandsworth Council, Cllr Ravi Govindia visited the site and said: "Work Match has helped more than 750 Wandsworth residents into employment and training in recent years, and Berkeley's Vista development partnership with Peabody housing association is playing a key role in this. The new centre will support even more local people into work, showing the social benefit of redevelopment in Battersea."

In keeping with Berkeley's commitment to developing local people who wish to become skilled in a specific trade or discipline, the site was worked on by a number of apprentices. 22 year-old Apprentice Site Manager Jonathon said: "I started



Leader Cllr Govindia and Berkeley apprentice Jonathon outside the new Work Match centre

at university, but I soon realised it wasn't for me. I did a three week placement with Berkeley which led to me being offered an apprenticeship. Now I'm learning on the job and loving what I do – no two days are ever the same on site."

For more information on Work Match visit wandsworthworkmatch.org or call 020 8871 5101

Earn Money From Your Property

We are looking for properties to let in Wandsworth borough and surrounding areas.

We offer a:

LET ONLY SCHEME

RENT GUARANTEED SCHEME

FULLY MANAGED SCHEME

For further information on these schemes and other letting opportunities, call us on (020) 8871 7333 or email landlordlettings@wandsworth.gov.uk

Refer a landlord and receive **£200!**

- Various lettings schemes available
- No management fees or commission
- Free professional letting
- Free management service
- Cash incentives available*

* depending on scheme

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/privatehousing



Home Ownership Team

Improving purchase options for council tenants

Helping you buy your home



House Purchase Grant

What is it?

The council's popular cash incentive scheme which helps you buy a home.

The scheme was so successful last year (2017-18) that all of its budget was fully allocated within six weeks of its April 2017 launch.*

43 council tenants successfully used their grants to move out of their council properties and purchase their dream homes, whilst others used their grant to assist in adapting a family member's home to enable them to move in with them. This number of completions is three times the number reported back in 2012-2013.

Eligibility:

If you are a secure tenant with at least two years tenancy, you may be entitled to a grant by vacating your council property and purchasing your own home on the open market. You will need to have a clear rent account for this (no arrears).

How much is the grant?

0-1 beds	2+ beds
Up to £60,000	Up to £80,000

Note: Grant levels are determined upon the outcome of a means tested financial appraisal so are not guaranteed.

*Funding for 2018/19 is now fully allocated but we are keeping a list of names of interested tenants should any additional funding become available.

If you would like more information on any of these schemes contact the Home Ownership Team who will be able to guide you through the process.

Right to Buy

What is it?

This scheme helps tenants buy their council property with the help of a discount.

Eligibility:

You must be a secure council tenant with at least three years tenancy to apply.

The council has a helpful Right to Buy information booklet available at: wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership

Discount increase*

From the 6 April 2018, the maximum discount on Right to Buy increased from £104,900 to £108,000.

Right to Part Buy

What is it?

Wandsworth's unique voluntary sales scheme will help you take your first step on the property ladder.

Launched in January 2017, this scheme allows eligible tenants who cannot afford to buy their council property outright to buy a share of the property, receiving a discount equal in proportion to the share purchased and paying a low rent on the remaining share.

Eligibility:

You must be a secure council tenant with at least three years tenancy to apply. You will also need to pass an affordability test and must not have been on housing benefit for one year prior to application.

How much:

Tenants can buy a minimum initial share of 25% or 50% and then purchase additional shares in the future, helping you on your journey to owning your home outright.

If you want more information about the council's home purchase schemes, an information pack or application form, please contact:

020 8871 6161
housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk
wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership



New shared ownership developments in the borough - apply now!

Shared ownership is a part-buy, part-rent scheme that gives first time buyers who live or work in Wandsworth the opportunity to buy a home in manageable stages.

Download an application form at [wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership)



Embassy Gardens, SW11 - Optivo

A scheme consisting of 14 one-bed and 4 two-bed properties in this highly sought-after area of Wandsworth. Boasting classic modern designs in a location close to the Thames, there has been a high level of interest in these apartments.

To find out more, you can visit the website [embassygardens.com](https://www.embassygardens.com), contact Optivo on 0800 012 1442 or email sales@optivo.co.uk



Vista, SW8 - Peabody

An exciting development overlooking Battersea Park, this consists of 54 homes with 19 one-beds and 35 two-beds. There are an additional 14 homes for intermediate rent.

For further information you can contact the sales team on 020 7021 4842, check the website [peabodysales.co.uk](https://www.peabodysales.co.uk) or email enquiries@peabodysales.co.uk

Note: Wandsworth Council tenants with over two years tenancy can use the House Purchase Grant towards buying a shared ownership property and will receive a high priority. To find out more about new shared ownership homes sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at [wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/e-news)

Chat to our team about low cost home ownership during drop-in sessions

Come along to one of our drop-in sessions in libraries around the borough to find out more about the home ownership opportunities available to you. More details will follow in due course.

Keep a look out on our website: [wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership)

Mobility schemes to help you find your perfect home

For more information on any of these schemes, you can contact the council's Housing Options team on **020 8871 6840** or allocationteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Room to Move

This scheme is designed to help under-occupying tenants move to a smaller home.

We have a range of incentives to help you do this, for example we may:

- Offer a spare bedroom if you vacate a property with two or more spare bedrooms
- Offer practical help to assist you throughout your move
- Offer cash incentives of between £2000 and £5000 depending on the size of your property
- Give you first choice of new homes on specified developments in the borough



Homefinder UK scheme

This scheme helps social housing tenants move from one part of the UK to another.

You can register to apply if you are:

- An existing Wandsworth Council tenant or
- Living in temporary accommodation (where the council has accepted a homeless duty)

To apply, complete an online registration form at homefinderuk.org. Wandsworth Council tenants can use Homefinder UK for free.



Mutual Exchanges

This scheme helps existing council and housing association tenants living in the UK move to another home by swapping their properties with each other.

You can swap homes provided:

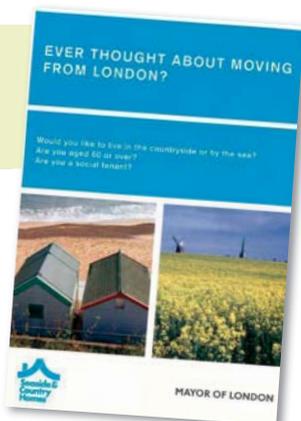
- Both households agree to move
- You have each received written consent from your landlord before you move

To find someone to swap homes with, you can register for free at houseexchange.org.uk. If you find a swap or would like further details, email allocationteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Seaside and Country Homes

This scheme offers tenants of London's councils and housing associations who are 55 years or older the opportunity to move away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

For more information on this scheme, you should visit london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/renting/seaside-country-homes



Housingmoves Pan-London mobility

This scheme is run by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to help council and housing association tenants to move outside their existing borough to a different part of London.

For more information on this scheme, you should visit london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/renting/housing-moves

Local armed forces personnel given priority for housing

The council continues to roll out its pioneering scheme of helping homeless men and women who have served in the armed forces find housing.

Introduced in 2011, the policy gives Her Majesty's soldiers, sailors and air force personnel priority for housing as well as additional help and support in finding and buying an affordable home. In developing the scheme, the council has worked closely with Stoll, one of the oldest veterans charities in the country.

The council's policy was introduced a year before changes in national legislation made it a duty for councils to assist vulnerable homeless veterans and make it easier for them to get onto the housing register. For each financial year, councillors approve a number of offers to be made under the scheme. It has led to 27 ex-service personnel

being given council or housing association homes in the borough since 2011.

We spoke to ex-serviceman Thomas about his experience securing housing after leaving the British army.

Thomas served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery before leaving the armed forces in 2017. Having served his country for four years, when Thomas left the army he was faced with the difficulty of finding a place to live, leaving him homeless. Thomas was put in contact with the council's housing department, who he described as being "really helpful" in assigning him housing. Thomas was impressed with

the speed of the whole process, and says he was housed in a flat within a few weeks of completing the application. Thomas is currently living in Tooting and is "really happy" with his flat. The best thing about the flat is the location, which is a "two second walk from the tube". Thomas would "definitely recommend" the scheme to other ex-servicemen and women and has already told friends about it who are leaving the service.

Thomas' story is not unique amongst veterans. The provision of extra support and a higher priority in housing allocation for those who have risked their lives for their country is the borough's way of saying thank you.

At risk of losing your home? Don't delay!

Important changes were made to how the council responds to homelessness in April 2018.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 took effect on April 3 and places a new emphasis on preventing and relieving homelessness earlier.

The council's duties begin if you are at risk of losing your home within 56 days (previously 28 days). In that situation we will work with you to develop a personal housing plan aimed at keeping you in your current home. If

that is not possible, the plan will focus on relieving the risk of homelessness by providing an alternative housing option, including assistance to access appropriate private rented accommodation.

In the run up to the changes in April, the council has invested significantly in its homelessness service and a range of measures for preventing and relieving homelessness more effectively were approved in January 2018.

The cabinet member for housing, Cllr Kim Caddy said: "The changes made by the Government by homelessness

legislation are radical and challenging but should in time mean the council is able to prevent homelessness more effectively and reduce the council's use of expensive temporary accommodation. Anyone at risk of homelessness should contact the council's Housing and Regeneration Department using the online form."

If you are at risk of homelessness within 56 days please use the council's website where an application can be made online and early assistance can be offered.

wandsworth.gov.uk/homelessness
020 8871 6840



The Errant Stage in Doddington and Rollo



Jonna Nummela and Kate Powell, co-founders of The Errant Stage

The Big Red Poetry Tour stops off at Wandsworth Arts Fringe

The sustainable travelling venue came to Wandsworth packed with spoken word artists from the UK and Finland.

The Big Red Poetry Tour stopped off at the Doddington and Rollo and Henry Prince estates where they held free creative workshops and put on a sound installation of pre-recorded spoken word artists in their big red van. The installation was interspersed with live performances from an exciting group of poetry talent, including resident poet Dialectic Dee, who is from Balham. The project is supported by Wandsworth Council, Arts Council England and Arts Centre Finland.

Wandsworth Arts Fringe (WAF) took place across the borough from the 4 – 20 May. This year the festival was bigger than ever, with over 180 events to choose from including The Big Red Poetry Tour, dazzling circus spectacles, side-splitting comedy and amateur performances. Look out for next year's instalment!



Resident poet Dialectic Dee, from Balham

Apply for a grant today!

Whether you are a local voluntary and community organisation, residents' association or a group of neighbours with an idea to undertake an activity which will benefit residents or your neighbourhood, the Wandsworth Grant Fund could provide you with an opportunity to make your idea a reality.

Investing in the Brighter Borough



The Fund is seeking applications during the year, with application deadlines of midnight on 20 August and 17 December. With grants available between £500 – 10,000, the Fund would like to support projects across a range of themes:

- Children and Young People
- Arts and Culture
- Citizenship and Civic Engagement
- Environment and Attractive Neighbourhoods
- Raising Aspirations and Potential
- Health and Well Being

The Kambala Estate Residents Association were awarded a grant of £2,018 in Round 4 for their 'Kambala Cares Project', a series of community engagement events with the aim to tackle isolation in the community, promoting family time and community cohesion. From monthly community dinners to trips to places of interest, the project was built upon a pilot project led by the Chair of the Residents Association, Donna Barham.

Full details of the Fund, including a programme of support events, are available at wandsworth.gov.uk/wgf



Votes for Women: Celebrating the centenary

Pankhurst and Despard at a Women's Social and Political Union meeting

Photo credit:
The Women's Library
collection at LSE

February 6, 2018 marked 100 years since some women secured the right to vote. The borough of Wandsworth played an important little-known role in this.



For over 50 years women campaigned tirelessly to achieve the right to vote. Emmeline Pankhurst was a leading figure in the movement, founding the Women's Freedom League and the Women's Social and Political Union, also known as the 'Suffragettes'. Wandsworth Borough Council minutes show that Pankhurst held regular meetings for these in the former Battersea Town Hall, now the Battersea Arts Centre.



Another prominent figure was Charlotte Despard, who lived in Wandsworth and was known for her work helping the poor. She joined the Women's Social and Political Union in 1906, which had achieved notoriety for its militant activities.

The 1918 Act gave 8.5m women the vote and soon after the ban on women being elected to Parliament was lifted. Charlotte Despard was one of the first women to stand for election and became the Labour Party candidate in Battersea. Despard Road in Islington and Charlotte Despard Avenue in Battersea are named after her.

Leader of Wandsworth Council, Cllr Ravi Govindia said: "On the anniversary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act, I think it's also important to remember the women who were not

the stars of the campaign but who played their part, battling for equality in the home and the workplace. A lot of these women remained in the background but were hugely important in helping achieve landmarks like winning the vote. Their efforts must always be remembered."

On March 8, International Women's Day, Women of Wandsworth held an intergenerational coffee morning at Haven Lodge to mark the centenary.

Founding member of WoW, Senia Dedic said: "Women of Wandsworth have organised regular intergenerational coffee mornings and events in sheltered housing accommodations and lodges in Battersea since 2010, but this year we wanted to make a special one to celebrate 100 years since women won the right to vote in UK. We want to involve our elderly residents in all celebrations and special occasions in our community and this was also a perfect way to have a lesson in citizenship for our children. We talked about the new statue of Millicent Fawcett at Parliament Square, as the first statue of a woman at that special place."



Residents go green

With the return of the sunshine, residents have been out in force sprucing up their gardens.



Doddington's first day of spring

To celebrate the end of winter and start of spring, locals were invited to plant fruit trees and bushes in their long-established community garden.

New gardeners and dab hands came together to take on the challenge. As well as planting, they tapped in to their inner creativity during a free two-hour workshop which saw residents contemplate, draw and collage ideas and thoughts about the importance and benefits of quiet for any community.

A delicious vegetarian curry containing potatoes and fresh herbs from the garden was prepared by the Waste Not Want Not Project, and enjoyed by all.



Chair of the Doddington and Rollo Community Roof Garden, Hilaire McLiesh said: "The roof garden is cared for by a group of local residents, and is free for everyone to use and enjoy. We grow flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables for all to share - come and join us to learn about gardening or simply to enjoy the beautiful green space."

To get involved, email doddingtongarden@gmail.com or visit [Facebook.com/doddingtongarden](https://www.facebook.com/doddingtongarden)



Orchard planting on the Ashburton

Putney Community Gardeners invited locals to help plant an orchard on the Ashburton estate in Putney. Green-fingered residents joined together with gardening novices to plant fruit bushes, a greengage and a Bramley apple tree. An Ashmead's Kernel will also be planted in honour of the Ashmead care home on the estate. The event was supported by The Orchard Project, the only national charity dedicated solely to the creation, restoration and celebration of community orchards, who taught residents how to prepare and care for the orchard.

If you are interested in getting involved with the community garden, you can email putneyfoodassembly@gmail.com or find them on Facebook [@putneycommunitygarden](https://www.facebook.com/putneycommunitygarden)



Sign up now for July's Brighter Living Fair 2018 to enhance independent living.

This free day-long event has been organised by Wandsworth Adult Social Services and will take place at the Wandsworth Civic Suite on July 3. It is open to adults looking for care and support in the borough and other residents aged 55+.

To attend, please register online via wandsworth.gov.uk/brighterliving or call 020 8487 5166.

Report It App

You can now report issues directly to the housing department through the council's app!

It's a quick and easy way to tell us about any issues with cleaning, gardening and maintenance on your estate.

Report it in just three easy steps:

- Choose your location
- Take a photo
- Choose the council housing estates category

Once submitted, it will go straight to our dedicated estate services team.

Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/reportitapp

Improvements taking place show how residents' associations can utilise a council scheme to benefit their estates.

The council's Small Improvement Budget (SIB) gives grants of up to £20,000 to residents to make improvements to their estate or block which will benefit the community.



Hersham Close grass instalment

Hersham Close Residents' Association has worked closely with its resident participation officer to transform an area previously used for fly tipping into an attractive green space.

Treasurer of the Hersham Close Residents' Association, Steve Fannon, would like to thank past and current estate managers and resident participation officers who have supported the residents association in turning this unloved area into something which adds value to the local community. This has been done through alleviating some car parking pressure via two new car parking bays and making the area more visually appealing.



Seldon House garden refurbishment

The Savona Residents' Association has been successful in securing SIBs funding to refurbish their garden, adding much needed seating space.

Chair of The Savona Residents' Association, Harry Goonewardene said: "New picnic table and chairs; new paving and planters with an array of plants have transformed this space into a place that residents will be able to enjoy for many years to come."



Royal wedding fever at The R.O.S.E.

The party was originally the idea of the Residents' Association, who joined together with council staff, Chelsea Fringe and local developers to bring a celebratory vibe to the centre of Queenstown.

The ROSE was decked out in bunting and a floral tribute created by artists with the help of local volunteers. Macaroons were provided by Source Café, a local independent coffee-shop, gelateria and chocolatier based on Thessaly Road (visit sourcecafe.co.uk or tweet @sourcecafeldn).

Fun and laughter was the order of the day, helping bring locals together and build upon the excellent community spirit. A live screening of the wedding was shown on a large screen and a toast was held to mark the special day.

The Savona Residents' Association would like to thank everyone who made this special day so wonderful for the community to enjoy. A lot of hard work went in to making the arrangements and the feedback received highlighted the excellent community spirit felt by all.

More than 70 street parties were held by residents across Wandsworth for the royal wedding, surpassing the total held for Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011. The numbers had been boosted following the council's decision to again waive all the normal costs and bureaucracy involved in organizing this type of neighborhood get-together.

Try something new at Arndale Youth Club

Every Friday from 4 -7pm, the club invites 8 to 14 year olds from the local community to try their hand at cooking, arts and crafts, computer games, table tennis, and dust off some of their most beloved old board games.

The youth club is run by Sudbury House residents and supported by Wandsworth Youth Services. All staff are DBS checked, First Aid checked and have completed safeguarding training.

For more information, ring 07399 978 671 or visit the youth club at Penfold Centre, Neville Gill Close, Wandsworth SW18 4TJ (behind Southside Shopping Centre).



Easter party

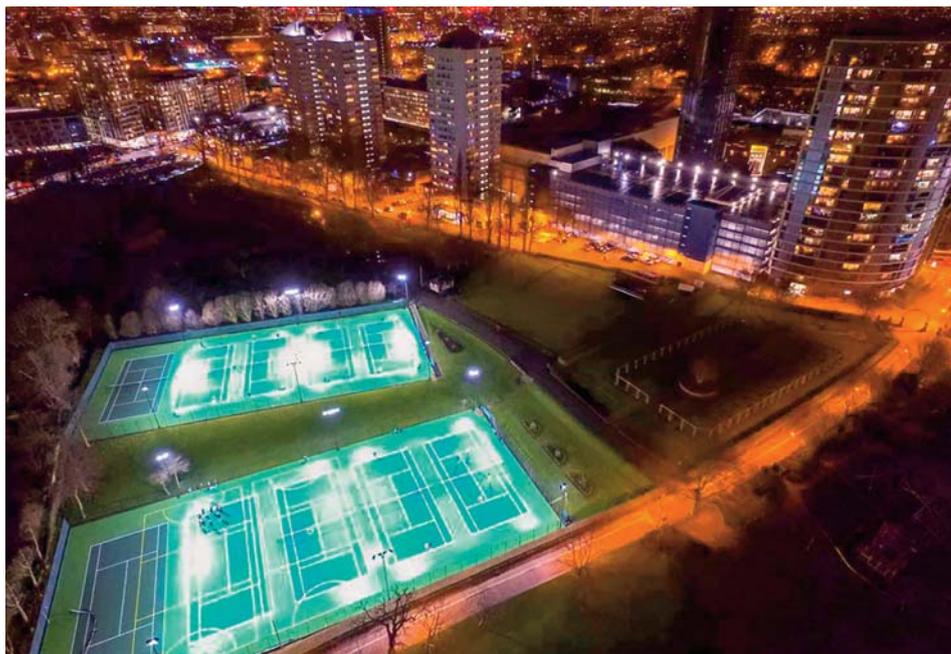
In April, Battersea Fields TMO held their annual Easter party. The venue was decorated with bunting and there were lots of activities for kids to enjoy, from face-painting, cake decorating and bonnet making, to an Easter egg hunt on the green.

Day trip to Blenheim Palace

With help from the council, Kambala Residents' Association took a trip down to Oxford's Blenheim Palace, one of England's largest houses.

Chair for Kambala Estate Residents' Association, Donna Barham said: "It was a fantastic day and there was plenty to see over 2000 acres of land and buildings. We got to visit the Harry Potter Tree deep in the landscape and Wendy Speck and I were given a challenge to complete the Maze in 10 minutes... we finished on the dot! The Butterfly House was amazing with 138 different species, there was just too much to see in a day."





£500k investment complete for tennis courts

Tennis fans in Wandsworth can now enjoy better tennis courts and extended playing time in King George's Park with the final stage of a £500,000 investment in improved facilities complete.

All Star Tennis manage 28 courts across the borough and have invested more than half a million pounds in improving these facilities, including resurfacing and upgrading courts at the four largest venues within their contract. They have also installed floodlights at King George's Park, which now includes a netball court.

The council's sports and leisure spokesman Cllr Jonathan Cook said: "The past 12 months has seen some really serious investment in better tennis facilities for Wandsworth residents and I'm delighted that the final part of this jigsaw has now been completed.

"I'm particularly pleased and excited with the introduction of the floodlit facility at King George's Park. It's a great boost for our residents who love playing the game all year round as they will operate until 9pm"

"Raising the quality of the playing surfaces will help tennis players of all ages to really develop their skills at the sport and hopefully encourage others to start playing the game for the first time."

To find out more about coaching and playing at these six tennis venues visit allstartennis.co.uk.



WoW Karate Kids in championship

Women of Wandsworth Karate Kids took part in a championship, organised by karate master Andrew Beech and funded by the council.

After the grading test the championship started with sparring fights and gold medals for the best self-defense, however, in keeping with the ethos of the school every child who participated went home with an award.

Housing Community Champion and black belt second dan Andrew Beech said: "My first action as community champion was to support local karate school Buna Kazoku Karate. They always need funding and at the end of every term they hold the only tournament where each child who competes gets first, second or third place. The school would like to thank all the volunteers that make it possible to do events; WoW, Thomas's School, the Mayor and Sandra Evangelista for supporting with funding."

Look out for the next karate championship on 30 June.

Your resident participation team

There are a variety of ways to get involved in your community and decisions about your housing.

Speak to your resident participation officer.



Foday Kamara
southern team
(020) 8871 8639
fkamara
@wandsworth.gov.uk



Jo Baxter
central team
(020) 8871 8694
jbaxter
@wandsworth.gov.uk



Sandra Evangelista
eastern team
(020) 8871 8638
sevangelista
@wandsworth.gov.uk



Sarah Stevens
western team
(020) 8871 5505
sstevens
@wandsworth.gov.uk



Former Mayor of Wandsworth, Mr McDonnell meets Community Development co-ordinator Elaine and Michael



Men in Sheds in action

It's all going down at Dimson Lodge

Former Mayor of Wandsworth, Mr Leslie McDonnell, visited Dimson Lodge to see the exciting projects going on there.

The morning kicked off with a tour around the grounds by this year's Housing Community Champion and avid gardener, Janet Montgomery. She showed Mr McDonnell the new vegetable patch, installed at the request of the Dimson Lodge Residents' Association and funded by the council.

Mr McDonnell also saw Men in Sheds in action, a project supported by the council's community development team which encourages locals aged 55+ to meet like-minded people and work on projects such as woodwork and furniture restoration. Their current project, a full-sized boat built by members, will launch at Barn Elms Rowing Club in June. Watch this space!

Mr McDonnell said: "It was wonderful meeting so many members of Dimson Lodge and hearing their stories. It's great to see the community coming together to work on exciting projects, showing it's never too late to learn new skills! I look forward to the launch of their boat in June."

Telecare enabled smoke detectors roll out to all clients

Following on from last year's decision to supply telecare enabled smoke detectors to the most vulnerable clients, the WATCH and Telecare service are now supplying telecare enabled smoke detectors to all clients who might want one at no additional cost.

This was previously only available to Telecare clients referred by Adult Social Services but it is now on offer to all new and existing WATCH clients.

For existing clients, the WATCH team will add a smoke detector to the in-situ alarm unit with minimum disruption to the client. However, some alarm units which may not have the capacity to allow a smoke detector to be programmed to it, will have to be replaced and a new pendant/s will be supplied with the new alarm unit.

For all new clients, a telecare enabled smoke detector will be the standard package.

As proven time and again, an early warning of a potential fire in a vulnerable person's home can save lives and protect property.

It has been agreed with London Fire Brigade that they will attend all calls coming from the WATCH Lifeline monitoring centre when a smoke detector activation occurs unless there are mitigating reasons such as the client responding to the call handler with an answer such as "I've burnt some toast. Everything is fine".

Scammers are always coming up with new ways to steal your money

Make sure to protect yourself this summer with these handy tips to prevent being scammed.

- Never give out any personal information i.e. name, date of birth, address, bank details or passwords.
- Do not respond to calls, emails or letters offering money or prizes.
- Do not respond to emails or telephone calls claiming to be from your bank or click on links in emails. Your bank will never ask you to confirm account details, transfer money or reveal passwords/ PIN numbers in this way.
- Shred anything with personal and financial information on it.
- Hang up the phone or delete an email if you think you are being scammed.

What to do if you think you've been scammed:

Get advice from Citizen's Advice on 03454 040506 or visit adviceguide.org.uk

Report it to Action Fraud immediately on 0300 123 2040 or actionfraud.police.uk. (Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime.)

We've had reports of scammers stealing tiles off unsuspecting resident's roofs, knocking on their doors to inform them they have a faulty roof, and encouraging them to sign a document saying they will pay for this the next day.

Remember, always ask council workers for ID. If they cannot provide ID, do not let them in!



Did you know you can fish in Wandsworth borough?

The fishing season runs from mid-June to mid-March inclusive (check the council website for exact dates each year). All you need is a fishing permit from Wandsworth Council and a fishing rod permit from central government (if you are over 12) and away you go.

Battersea Park lake fishing area

The southern part of the lake is where fishing is allowed, apart from the area by the sub-tropical garden, generally reserved for the wildlife. The lake contains carp and pike.

Wandsworth Common lake - southern basin

This is in the south of the common to the west of the train line. The lake contains carp and pike.

Tooting Common main lake

This is the larger of the two lakes between Dr Johnson Avenue and Bedford Hill to the west of Tooting Bec Lido. It contains bream, roach, gudgeon and carp.

Even if you don't fish it can be a nice day out to visit the lakes and see the wildlife they attract.

Blue to the core

Sheltered housing residents are taking part in a chair-based activity programme run by The Chelsea Foundation.

The free sessions take place at the Lennox Community Clubroom on alternate Wednesdays from 2pm - 3pm and are followed by team games. The activity aims to improve balance, co-ordination and core strength and it is hoped that this will contribute to a reduction in the risk of falls.

Cllr Steffi Sutters said: "The Chelsea Foundation are doing terrific work on our estates not just with our young people but also with our elderly residents. I attended a great exercise class for residents of one of our sheltered housing schemes. Not only was it great fun, especially the indoor quoits, but it promoted movement at whatever varying levels. What a wonderful way to promote fitness."

To find out dates for future sessions, call 020 8876 6794.



Council helps ease financial pressures

When a tenant who was struggling with rent payments was referred to the financial inclusion team, they took immediate action to help.

Having lived and worked in Wandsworth for many years, Ms A found herself in financial difficulties leading to large rent arrears.

When Ms A was referred to the financial inclusion team she was quite distressed. They quickly established that she was eligible for a discretionary housing payment and applied for this on her behalf.

The application was successful, meaning Ms A's overall payments were reduced.

However, this was not the end of Ms A's troubles as she also had a broken fridge. Every day she would travel to buy fresh

food, which was tiring and expensive.

Sanela Cox, manager of the council's financial inclusion team, made an urgent application to a charitable organisation for a fridge/freezer and two weeks later Ms A was supplied with a brand new one, straight from the factory. Her old fridge was taken away free of charge.

Ms A was very grateful for the help and support she received. She said: "Wandsworth has all these services available for tenants like me but I did not know anything about it. I have been struggling for years and did not know the help is out there. Thank you Mrs

Cox, you have definitely saved me – I want to let other people know that they can get help and even a brand new fridge, free of charge!"

The council's financial inclusion team offers tailored support to residents on a range of financial issues and their practical approach helps reduce unnecessary stress.

If you need some support with your finances, or just want to find out the options available to you, contact the financial inclusion team today on 020 8871 8780 or email financialinclusion@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Community Fibre launches a Digital Champion Network

Community Fibre, who since 2014 has had a partnership with Wandsworth Council to bring the borough the fastest internet connections in the UK, is now building a new Digital Champions network within Wandsworth in conjunction with Digital Unite.

This network will allow residents in Wandsworth who are digitally confident to enhance their skills through a curated online course, gain professional accreditations and ultimately share their skills to help others experience the numerous and powerful benefits of being online.

All interested are advised to email hello@communityfibre.co.uk to find out more about joining the Digital Champion network.

Community Fibre has previously funded a number of Digital Inclusion activities within Wandsworth including iPad training for elderly people, providing new computers to sheltered schemes and free gigabit connections to community facilities. The internet provider has also gone on to full-fibre enable over 10,000 properties owned by the council, making Wandsworth the biggest full fibre borough in London.

communityfibre.co.uk

When is a recycling bank a rubbish bin?

When irresponsible people put rubbish in it!

Recycling sorting plants can only cope with small amounts of non-targeted items (or 'contamination'); too much general rubbish in a recycling bank prevents the good materials put there by responsible recyclers from being recycled and that means it all has to be disposed of along with other dustbin general rubbish.

To help prevent the efforts of good recyclers going to waste, we have a programme of relocating orange-lidded recycling banks to ensure that people simply looking for the nearest rubbish bin do not find a recycling bank first. This has already been implemented on the Alton and Winstanley Estates and is in the pipeline for the Aboyne Estate.

Keeping Children and Vulnerable Adults Safe

Picking up the phone to report a concern about a child or a vulnerable adult can be a difficult decision to make, but it is important that you report any worries you have that a child or adult is a victim of abuse or neglect.

You might not be sure of what you've seen or heard, or whether it is abuse or neglect, but reporting your concerns means that a professional can check out the situation.

Abuse and neglect can take many forms including emotional, financial, physical and sexual.

Some examples are: a young child being left at home alone; a vulnerable adult not being cared for properly or not being able to look after themselves; a child under the age of 18 being sexually exploited (this could be in exchange for alcohol, drugs or gifts); a vulnerable adult's money being controlled by someone else; a child witnessing domestic violence and abuse.

Concerns can be reported anonymously.

Report concerns about a child/young person to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH):

- 020 8871 6622 (weekday office hours 9am-5pm)
- 020 8871 6000 (after 6pm and weekends)

Email: mash@wandsworth.gov.uk
For further information please visit wscb.org.uk

Report concerns about an adult to the Access Team:

- 020 8871 7707 (weekday office hours 9am-5pm)
- 020 8871 6000 (after 6pm and weekends)

Email: safeguardingadults@wandsworth.gov.uk
For further information please visit wandsworth.gov.uk and search for 'safeguarding adults'



Summer sports at Barn Elms

Enjoy a wide range of activities at the council's flagship 52-acre multi-sports complex at Barn Elms.

Residents can enjoy tennis, football, cricket, netball, hockey and rounders as well as specialist facilities such as beach volleyball, archery, athletics field events, a gym and a boathouse for rowing. These are managed by the council's leisure and culture contractor Enable Leisure and Culture.

The sports complex is undergoing redevelopment and is on course to open a new pavilion, gym and café area in October 2019.

For information about Barn Elms visit wandsworth.gov.uk/barnelms

For other fitness, leisure and sports facilities in the borough log on to wandsworth.gov.uk/sport

Total Recall

London Fire Brigade launch campaign to protect consumers from faulty electrical appliances.

Nearly one fire a day in London involves white goods – that's tumble dryers, dishwashers, washing machines, fridges and freezers. Most are caused by faults beyond our control.

Five firefighter tips for safer white goods:

- If your white goods start making a strange noise, don't ignore it, unplug it.
- Check your appliances haven't been recalled using the Government's product recall

site, the manufacturer's website or Electrical Safety First's recall register.

- Always keep your white goods in a safe place out of the way so all escape routes are clear.
- Fit smoke and heat alarms in every room where a fire could start.
- Register your appliance and you'll be informed if the manufacturers identify any issues with the product.

For more information about this campaign, visit: london-fire.gov.uk

Report crime

If you see anyone suspicious please call the local police, Crimestoppers (anonymously) 0800 555 111

Or WEC 020 8871 7490 (out of hours)



Recycle Right

The Doddington West Residents' Association took a trip down to the Western Riverside Waste Authority to find out what really happens to our recycling.

Secretary of DWRA, Helen Chantry said: "It was an insight into how recycling takes place and the issues with rubbish in the mix and just how much stuff comes in every day. The staff work very hard on the lines removing the wrong items from the conveyor belts."

Education Team Leader at Western Riverside Waste Authority, Liz Horsfield said: "We are always happy to welcome local residents and community groups to the site for a tour, to see exactly what happens to your rubbish and recycling."

"You can join a group tour, or if there are more than five people we can arrange a visit just for your group. Visits take place on weekday mornings or evenings, subject to availability."

To find out more or book a visit please visit wrwa.gov.uk/recycle/visits-to-mrf.aspx or email education@wrwa.gov.uk

Material type	Yes please (include in your recycling sacks or banks) 	No thank you 
 <p>mixed glass</p>	All glass bottles and jar (please rinse).	Lids*, tops or corks, Pyrex/ovenware, mirrors or window glass.
 <p>food & drink cartons</p>	All food and drinks cartons (please rinse and squash). E.g. milk, juice, soup cartons and Tetra Pak cartons.	Plastic tops*, coffee cups and Pringle pots.
 <p>plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays (without lids)</p>	All plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays (please rinse). E.g. shampoo bottles, yoghurt pots and food trays. There is no need to refer to the codes printed on these items.	Lids or tops*, plastic film, wrapping, plastic carrier bags, polystyrene, styrofoam, toys, plant pots and other plastic items. Large supermarket facilities for recycling plastic carrier bags now accept clean plastic packaging films bearing the 'recycle with carrier bags at larger stores' logo.
 <p>mixed paper & card</p>	All clean and dry sheets of paper, card and cardboard. E.g. newspaper, magazines, white and coloured paper, catalogues and directories, leaflets, envelopes, softback books, cereal boxes and corrugated cardboard.	Wet paper, dirty paper, shredded paper or hardback books.
 <p>food & drink cans and aerosols</p>	All food tins and drinks cans (please rinse) and empty aerosols.	Foil or foil containers. Large biscuit/sweet tins: you can recycle them in the scrap metal bay at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre in Smugglers Way, Wandsworth.

* Clean lids can be delivered to the Wandsworth Work and Play Community Scrap Store.
Note: Recycling must not be put in black waste sacks.

Large print version

Copies of this issue of Homelife are available in large print format contact (020) 8871 6800 or email: hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk