The magazine of Wandsworth Council

Issue 170 December 2014

BATTERSEA

Brightside

Wandsworth one-way proposals See page 5

Employment focus See page 12 Christmas event round up

See page 20

Wandsworth

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Cover: London Underground comes to Battersea

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YOUR BRIGHTSIDE

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Battersea gets the Tube



"The Tube is coming to Battersea! After years of lobbying and hard work by the council the Government has now confirmed this incredibly important project has been given the green light.

The tunnelling begins next year and the first underground trains will roll beneath the streets of SW8 in 2020.

The campaign for this privately funded extension of the Northern Line began many years ago right here on the pages of Brightside Magazine. The owners of Battersea Power Station came to us with the ambitious proposal for an underground link which could unlock this derelict site's potential and support regeneration across many other empty or underused sites in the Nine Elms neighbourhood. The council took the lead developing the business case and has been championing the project ever since.

Now the vision will become a reality and the benefits will be felt across this borough for generations to come. Already we have secured more than 2,000 affordable homes in Nine Elms and enough new employment space to provide 25,000 new jobs. We are now welcoming our first new residents to the area and a vast local jobs market has been created as the building work gathers pace.

The Tube link will also mean Battersea residents will be able to reach places like the West End in less than 15 minutes while relieving the pressure on our congested roads, rail and bus services.

This is an incredibly powerful example of what can be achieved when a local council takes the lead on infrastructure planning. And the journey will not stop here. We have set our sights on a second stage extension taking the Northern Line all the way to Clapham Junction where it could interchange with the proposed Crossrail 2 service.

This is an ambitious council and we will continue to make the case for the transport investment our growing borough needs."

Ravi Govindia, leader of Wandsworth Council



Join Wandsworth Matters

The new Wandsworth Matters residents' panel makes it easier than ever to have your say.

Wandsworth Matters is a new way to give your opinion on issues in the area where you live, have your say on council services and get your ideas heard by local decision makers.

Anyone who signs up will be invited to complete surveys, take part in online group discussions, complete quick snap surveys and post to bulletin boards. All views will be taken into account by senior councillors and officers when making desisions.

Leader of the council, Ravi Govindia, said: "We have launched Wandsworth Matters to widen the opportunities for our residents to tell us what they think of the services we provide, and what they would like to see in the future. We want you to help us shape Wandsworth so that together we can make it even better." **To find out more and sign up visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/consult**

How else can I communicate with the council?

Visit **www.wandsworth.gov.uk/ consult** to find current consultations on a range of issues.

Regular Let's Talk meetings are held in borough wards, where you can raise local issues with councillors and senior officers. The next one is 9th December -Thamesfield ward Visit www.wandsworth.

gov.uk/ letstalk.

Councillors hold weekly surgeries in local libraries. Find out who your councillors are at www.wandsworth. gov.uk/councillors.

You can leave comments on our press releases – visit www.wandsworth. gov.uk/news.

We are on twitter – @wandbc and Facebook – wandsworth.council.



Local heroes **honoured**

Community leaders and local heroes have been recognised at the annual Wandsworth Civic Awards ceremony. The awards are handed out by the council to people nominated by the Wandsworth community. The winners were:

Becky Newman, who has raised thousands of pounds for the Headway Charity.

Jon Stanton for tireless work for the Back Up Charity helping people with spinal injuries.

Kate Amis for her outstanding work as a school governor.

Liz Shaw for helping to organise the Battersea Rotary Club Christmas lunch for elderly people.

Lynn Evans for her work for the Missing People charity.

Mary Wright who set up and runs the Tooting Gymnastics Club.

Read more about the winners at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/ civicawards.

Latest Battersea regeneration plans unveiled

This is how part of the Winstanley and York Road estates could look after a major council-led regeneration project is complete.

The updated designs were presented to the local community recently and work continues on fine tuning the details. If the project is given final approval from the council the construction work could start in 2016. Under the proposal every council home knocked down would be replaced with a new one.

Find out more at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/ winstanleyyorkroad.





Wandsworth One-Way could be scrapped

Wandsworth Town Centre could become largely pedestrianised under plans being explored by Transport for London.



Proposed direction of future traffic flow around Wandsworth town centre





A scheme is being drawn up to remove the gyratory system, improve the area for cyclists, bus users and pedestrians and remove through traffic.

The A3 and South Circular would be re-routed along Armoury Way and Swandon Way under the ambitious plans. The scheme is now out to consultation so that local people can have their say.

You can comment until **December 5** at https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/ roads/ wandsworth-town-centre. Responses, and further traffic

modelling, will then feed into further developing the plan.

There will be another chance to comment next year on the next stage of the project when the new road layout is being finalised.

Subject to consultation, construction could begin in 2017.



Business Awards winner

Edward James London Aveda Salons and Spa was crowned overall winner of the Wandsworth Business Awards, run by the Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Wandsworth Council and The Tax Guys.

Other winners include Artisan coffee shop in Putney, My Nametags, Greenzone cleaning, Elizabeth Marsh Floral Design, Conference Roehampton, Wandsworth Oasis, Bruce's Doggy Day Care, Minar Jewellers and new children's products company Bouncy Jam. Read more at

www.wandsworthbusinessawards.com.

Celebrate at Civic Suite

Planning a celebration or special event in the New Year?

The grade two-listed Wandsworth Civic Suite is offering a discount of up to 15 per cent off all events held at the venue during January-March 2015. You must book by December 31. It is suitable for a range of events, including weddings.

Call a member of the team on (020) 8871 6395 or visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/civicsuite.

Search for sporting heroes

Nominations are now open for the 2014 Active Wandsworth Awards. The annual awards recognise the borough's sportsmen and women, coaches and clubs that have excelled or have shown an ongoing dedication to sport over a number of years.

Nominate by January 4. Visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/active or call (020) 8871 8154.

Healthy walks

Wandsworth Healthy Walks has been given national accreditation by the National Walking for Health scheme, meaning walkers can have extra confidence that the walks are well run and will help them get active.

Local Walks include Battersea Park, Clapham Common, Roehampton and Tooting Common. They vary in length, with at least one a month of less than half an hour. Call (020) 8871 6373 or visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/walk4life.

Cracking down on Litter

Nearly 7,000 tonnes of litter are picked up from Wandsworth's street each year, leaving council tax payers with an annual bill of around £4m

Around one complaint a day is received in a borough covering 13 square miles, and the most recent residents' survey showed 78 per cent of local people judged street cleaning as either good or very good, up from 64 per cent in 2011. The council has made it through to the finals of the Chartered Institute of Waste Management's Clean Britain Awards 2014 after recording a 30 per cent reduction in flytips last year and new Government statistics show Wandsworth has the second lowest level of flytipping across all the London boroughs.

However, extensive cleaning and action against litterbugs remains a council priority.

- Every residential road is cleaned at least twice a week - busier ones up to seven times a week. Tooting & Clapham Junction town centres get six cleans every day.
- Regular litter crackdowns are held in busy areas such as outside Tooting Broadway tube station and Clapham Junction Station – and fixed penalty notices are given.
- People who do not pay fixed penalty notices for littering are taken to court – often resulting in having their fine increased.
- In the past 12 months legal action has been taken against nearly 800 individuals and

Before you put it out... can we pick it up?

Your old furniture and household goods can be re-used by local community groups - benefiting the environment and supporting local people. You can book a collection online at **www.londonreuse.com** or by calling **020 3142 8506**.









business owners for breaking litter and flytip laws.

- Regular spot checks are carried out on commercial premises in the borough to make sure they are complying with waste and litter laws
- To help deter flytipping the bulk waste removal charge has been cut from £22 to £16. For this amount the service will collect four unwanted items like sofas, wardrobes, mattresses and other large objects and arrange for their disposal.

Visit www.wandsworth. gov.uk/bulkywaste.

 The council has also teamed up with the Re-Use network so residents can donate their unwanted bulky items to a good cause.

Visit www.wandsworth. gov.uk/reuse.

Scheme to cut litter and smoking

People caught dropping litter will get a voucher to offset their fine if they complete a stop smoking course.

The innovative pilot scheme starts in December and aims to tackle the problem of cigarette butts littering the pavement, as well as helping to improve the health of residents.

People issued with a fixed penalty notice for dropping smoking-related rubbish – such as butts or empty cigarette packets - will get the £30 shopping voucher if they prove they have successfully given up smoking.

In 2013/14, 614 fixed penalty notices were issued for littering – half of which were given to people dropping smoking-related litter in the street. Regular crackdowns at hotspots such as Tooting Bec and Clapham Junction have caught 22 people throwing butts and cigarette packets on the ground.

The council's health spokesman Cllr Jim Maddan said the scheme will reduce litter and help the council meet its public health obligations.

"Stopping smoking is the single most beneficial thing anyone can do for their health. We won't force people to sign up for a stop smoking course, but we hope that this £30 voucher will encourage them to take the first step."

► For details of the support available to quit smoking, visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/smoking, call 020 8871 5062 or email stopsmoking.team@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Closing date for applications is 13 February 2015

Have you applied for a nursery place in a school?

If your child was born between September 2011 and August 2012, your child can have up to **15 hours free** nursery education from September 2015.

Contact the Family Information Service for more information on (020) 8871 7899 or email fis@wandsworth.gov.uk





For more information visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/fis





New homes to rent

A new Wandsworth Council building programme will create 37 homes that local people can rent at affordable prices.

Two new build developments will go up on the Savona and Patmore estates in Nine Elms, Battersea. The new low cost rent homes will be owned and managed by Wandsworth Council and work will start next year.

All 37 of the new Battersea homes will be made available to Wandsworth residents to rent at below market rates. Top priority will be given to council tenants living in the local area who need to downsize or those living in overcrowded homes.

Plans to develop several more council sites are in the pipeline.

Cabinet member for housing Cllr Paul Ellis said: "In recent years this council has created 250 'Hidden Homes' from the underused spaces on our housing estates. These two new schemes go a step further by building new low cost homes on surplus land owned by the council.

"This will be the first stage of Wandsworth's new home building programme and we have more sites coming through the pipeline. This is an important way we can ensure more market and low cost housing is built to meet local demand."

Getting tough on fraud

The council's fraud investigators are taking part in this year's National Fraud Initiative.

Checks will be made in areas like pensions payments, benefit applications, council tax discounts, rents, parking permits including blue badges for the disabled - market traders and taxi driver licences. Checks are also made to combat the use of identity fraud. For more information about the initiative please visit www.audit-commission.gov.uk/nfi.

If you have any information about fraud involving public funds contact the town hall's free phone fraud hotline on 0800 783 2263 or email fraudhotline@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Tasty treats

A new fine food and farmers Saturday market will be held every week under the railway arch between Bramford Gardens and Podmore Road in Wandsworth offering a range of locallysourced organic produce. Go along between 10am and 2pm. Visit

www.finefoodmarkets.com for more details.

Apply for school place

The deadline for applying for a primary school place for your child from next September is January 15.

To download a copy of the Choose a Wandsworth Primary School booklet and to apply online visit

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/admissions.

No to 4am kebabs

The owner of the Kebab Feast takeaway in St John's Hill, Clapham Junction has had his application to stay open until 4am rejected by Wandsworth councillors.

They were told that people living nearby would suffer increased levels of noise nuisance if the application was approved.



No soggy bottoms here

Jade Ripley from Earlsfield won the star baker prize with her lemon meringue cupcakes at the inaugural Wandsworth Bake Off competition. There were more than 70 entries in the contest, held in Northcote Records in Northcote Road. Winner in the junior category was eight year old Lottie Perks from Wandsworth who baked raspberry cheesecake cupcakes.

Judges were Great Australian Bake Off Judge Dan Lepard, Eric Lanyard from Cake Boy and Laura Amos from Battersea's Dessert Deli. All the bakes were sold to passing shoppers, raising more than £500 for local HIV charity Wandsworth Oasis and new community radio station Wandsworth Radio.





A service that helps elderly and disabled residents live safely in their own homes has just celebrated its 30th birthday.

The council's WATCH service stands for Wandsworth Alarm Telephone Care Helpline. Users wear a pendant around their neck which is connected to their telephone. If an emergency situation arises anywhere in their homes they can press a button on their pendant which immediately connects them via their telephone line to the council's 24 hour emergency response team.

Trained staff can then speak directly to the person raising the alarm and offer support and reassurance or if necessary send immediate help to their homes - either the council's own response teams or the blue light emergency services.

The WATCH service is particularly aimed at older people or those with a disability who may be at risk of falls or other medical emergencies.

Every year around 125,000 calls are made to the WATCH team. Last year there were 2,341 occasions when staff needed to make an emergency home visit. Just under 99 per cent of alarm calls are answered within one minute.

To find out more call (020) 8871 8198 email supportedhousingservices@wandsworth.gov.uk or visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/watch.

New look for library

Southfields Library has reopened to the public following improvement works.

The council has spent around £16,000 on repairing the library's roof and installing new skylights.

Community services spokesman Cllr Jonathan Cook said: "Wandsworth is investing in its libraries at a time when many other local authorities are closing theirs."

For more information about local library services visit www.better.org.uk/libraries/ wandsworth



Help shape pharmacy plan

There is another chance to comment on a review of the borough's pharmacies being carried out by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Pharmacy Needs Assessment looks at the location of neighbourhood chemists and the services they provide such as flu jabs. Feedback from the consultation has helped shape the report, and there is now a chance to comment on the first draft. The final report will be published in the spring.

Read the report at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/pna, call (020) 8871 5043 or email pharmacy@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Festive lifeline

For the 52nd year the Rotary Club of Battersea Park will organise a Christmas Day lunch and party for older people in Wandsworth. The lunch is free to attend, but Rotary would appreciate public donations towards the cost. If you would like to donate, visit www.justgiving.com/rotarychristmas. To volunteer to help on the day, visit www.rotarychristmasday.org.uk or call (020) 8696 6540.

It's the business

The Age UK Business Directory puts local people in touch with a large selection of trustworthy traders and businesses that have been checked by Age UK London staff.

Call free on 0800 334 5045 or visit www.aubdlondon.co.uk.

Ride Wandsworth

Ride Wandsworth is a series of beginners' bike rides held on the last Sunday every month until next spring.

The rides last between one and half and two hours and are led by qualified ride leaders. Find out more and book your space by calling (020) 8871 6373.

Book Offer

Local author Ron Elam is offering Brightside readers the chance to buy his book Battersea Through Time, featured in the last edition, directly from him at a the reduced price of £13.50, local delivery costs included. Call (020) 8874 8544 or email ron@localyesterdays.demon.co.uk.

Have your say on airport expansion

The UK Airports Commission is now holding a public consultation on the choice between expanding Heathrow or Gatwick airports.

Residents have until 3rd February to make their views heard on this important debate. Wandsworth, along with other councils in the 2M campaign group, is opposing the plans for new capacity at Heathrow which would increase aircraft noise over London. The airport already blights more people with noise pollution than any other airport in Europe. The council is backing the proposal for a second runway at Gatwick which would generate new jobs and growth for south London and trigger increased investment in the region's rail network.

Wandsworth is calling for expansion at Gatwick to come alongside a major redevelopment of Clapham Junction Station which provides a key route to the airport via the Brighton Mainline.

Councillors are also making the case for a direct service between Balham Station and Gatwick to improve rail access to the airport for local residents.

Following the consultation the Airports Commission will recommend either Heathrow or Gatwick for expansion to the Government.



"This choice of which airport to expand will have a profound affect on the quality of life in Wandsworth and on the future of our transport system. We will stand up for our residents' interests and ensure the true noise, pollution and economic impacts of these projects are understood."

Ravi Govindia, leader of Wandsworth Council

To make your views heard visit www.gov.uk/airports-commission Sign up to the council's aviation e-newsletter at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/aviation







Next step for Roehampton revival

An ambitious vision for improving the Alton area in Roehampton has now been approved by the council.

This 'Final Masterplan' has been drawn up in consultation with the local community over the last two years. Its key features include a revitalised centre at Danebury Avenue (pictured), better quality housing, better transport and new and improved open spaces.

All of the estate's secure council tenants will be offered new homes within the development area if their existing properties are knocked down as part of the project.

The project's next step would see the masterplan adopted as formal planning guidance for the area. This process will be subject to further consultation with residents.

Find out more at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roehampton.

Don't lose your vote

If you want to vote in next May's general election, you must ensure you are registered to vote.



Some residents have still not completed their registration forms, despite several visits from council staff. Residents can respond by going to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Unconfirmed postal and proxy voters will be receiving letters in December. If you turn 18 before or on Thursday 7 May 2015 you will be eligible to vote, as long as you appear on the electoral register. Visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

If you have moved in the last few months or don't believe you are registered yet, visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote to add your details to the register. You should do this as soon as you move, to ensure your registration will be up to date for elections.

See www.wandsworth.gov.uk/vote, email electoral@wandsworth.gov.uk or call (020) 8871 6023 for more details.

They are the champions!

The Wandsworth London Youth Games team has retained the Jubilee Trophy as the winning London borough.

The London Youth Games brings together all 33 London boroughs competing in 46 separate sporting events. Wandsworth has won for the second year in a row. To find out how you can get involved in future games, visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/sport or follow @activewands on twitter.

Women's space

Wandsworth Women's Space offers a safe space to women who are currently, or or have been, affected by violence. It runs every Wednesday from 6pm to 8.30pm.

Call 07565 691544 during opening hours or email womenspace@wandsworth.gov.uk.

No need to pay for council tax review

Residents who believe their home is in the wrong council tax banding and would like it reassessed are being reminded that this can be done free of charge by Government inspectors – there is no need to pay a private company to do it. The warning comes after companies have started touting for business in the borough. Find out more at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/counciltax.

Trinity support

Sainsbury's in Nine Elms has chosen Trinity Hospice to receive a year's worth of fundraising and awareness support following a customer vote.

Ben Morrison from Trinity Hospice said: "We hope the partnership will help raise awareness of our cause to the store's customers and will help us develop the important service we provide to the community".





More jobs and extra support - now is the perfect time to start your career

Hundreds of local people are now in work, apprenticeships or training thanks to help and support from the Wandsworth Jobs Package.

This fast growing employment initiative can get you on the road to career success and Includes a wide range of training and support services, many of which are exclusively available to the people of Wandsworth. The initiative is designed to give borough residents a real advantage when it comes to securing career

WORK MATCH

This is the council's local recruitment team and their mission is to match unemployed local people to local jobs, apprenticeships and training opportunities.

More than 150 out-of-work residents have secured a new role thanks to this service.

They have exclusive access to all sorts of career opportunities – construction, catering, engineering, design, fashion, admin, retail and many more.

Email: wandsworthworkmatch@wandsworth.gov.uk Call: 020 8871 5191

Web: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobszone

SOUTH THAMES COLLEGE

South Thames College offers a range of free skills training for unemployed Wandsworth residents. The courses include valuable entry level qualifications for careers in construction, hospitality, door supervision, health and social care, IT and customer service.

Email: employability@south-thames.ac.uk Call: 020 8918 7777 Web: www.south-thames.ac.uk/workskills

opportunities in the rapidly expanding local jobs market. Over the last year Wandsworth's unemployment rate fell by 30 per cent and is now the lowest in inner London. In total 1,743 local people got off Job Seekers Allowance and back into the workplace – it really is a great time to start a career.

Here's a quick guide to just some of the schemes that make up the Wandsworth Jobs Package and how you can take advantage.

Find out about all of these projects and more at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobszone

WANDSWORTH LIFELONG LEARNING

From apprenticeships with multi-national companies, to confidence building classes at your local community centre, the council's Lifelong Learning Team has a vast range of training and education options for you to choose from. With partners and training bases all over the borough they could have an opportunity that fits your needs.

Email: nbaker@wandsworth.gov.uk Call: 020 8871 8618 Web: www.wandsworthlifelonglearning.org.uk

QUEENSTOWN QUEST

This pilot project has just got underway and is an experiment in council-led employment services. It focusses purely on unemployed 18 to 24 year olds who live in the Queenstown ward in north Battersea and offers them intensive, one-to-one support.

Email: quest@wandsworth.gov.uk Call: 07768 987491 Web: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/jobszone

PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM PROGRAMME

Delivered by South Thames College, this free 12-week development course helps unemployed 16-25 year olds develop confidence and skills while completing worthwhile community projects.

It's practical, fun, a great way to learn skills for work and life and will boost your CV in the process.

Email: wandsworth.pt@south-thames.ac.uk Web: www.south-thames.ac.uk/princestrust

SUCCESS STORIES

Don't just take our word for it! Here are what local people have to say.

Kevin Champion

Kevin is now an apprentice plumber with H&V Serviceplan, working on Peabody's Elmwood Court estate in Battersea where he grew up. He applied direct to Peabody and secured the role with help from Work Match.

"I'm over the moon to have landed this apprenticeship, and am very grateful to Peabody for giving me this opportunity.

I had been looking for plumbing apprenticeships for two years without success. This will give me the chance to gain the hands-on experience I need to fully qualify as a plumber."





Centre Manager, Putney Mead Medical Practice:

"I was out of work for three years before finding Work Match. They believed in me and gave me the confidence to go out and get a job. They even gave me mock interviews, they were brilliant. I then got the role of Receptionist and a year on I'm now Centre Manger at a sister site on The University of Roehampton."

After leaving school Amy applied for a level 2 business administration apprenticeship through the council's Lifelong Learning team. She got the role and is now working at Katherine Low Settlement in Battersea.

"What I love about being an apprentice is the ability to work and gain qualifications at the same time. I feel apprenticeships are far more ideal for the young person wanting to get experience without sacrificing their studies."



Wandsworth Council **Adult Care Information Service**

The Adult Care Information Service (ACIS) connects people in Wandsworth to information, advice and services

Where can I find it?



Money and

legal matters











Keeping safe

and secure





Working and learning

GHTER

Wandsworth

The Adult Care Information Service (ACIS) can be found on the council's website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/acis

Caring for

someone

If you don't have internet access, contact Education and Social Services who can provide information over the phone or in another format if required.

- **(020) 8871 7707**
- ⊠ accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

The Care Act is the biggest change to adult social care in 60 years



The Government has reviewed all Adult Social Care Legislation from the past 60 years in order to simplify how people are supported for their care needs.

The Act places a number of new duties on the council. These will include:

- Providing information and advice about care and support services to help people make the best choices
- Offering support for self-funders in assessing, planning and managing their care
- Implementing new rights for carers, supporting them in their ability to care

We want to make sure that everyone who uses services, carers' groups, voluntary organisations and care providers knows about the Care Act. If you have any comments about The Care Act, please contact us. Email: Careact@wandsworth.gov.uk or find out more on our website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/careact





New law cracks down on **anti-social behaviour**

A new law has made it quicker and easier to nip anti-social behaviour in the bud.

The main change will be the 'Community Trigger' which means victims and communities that have been subjected to prolonged and sustained anti-social behaviour can request a multi-agency case review, if they feel nothing has been done.

The council, police and other organisations such as housing providers will work together to deal with the problem. Wandsworth will send a response to the victim within 21 days of the community trigger being initiated.

There will also be new rules designed to speed up the eviction of tenants who are responsible for serious anti-social behaviour by making it easier for landlords to repossess homes.

Council leader Ravi Govindia said: "We want to send out a strong signal that residents on our estates and in the private sector could lose their home if their bad behaviour causes misery to law-abiding people."

Find out more about how to activate a community trigger, and download a form, at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/communitytrigger or call the council's Community Safety Unit (020) 8871 8895.

Sisters know their onions

The Chickpea Sisters is a Tooting-based catering company formed by refugee and migrant women.

The women, from countries including Morocco, Libya, Algeria, Somalia, Senegal, Iraq, Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of Congo, cook the food of their home countries for events such as parties, weddings and supper clubs. The aim is to give the women experience in the catering industry and provide inspiration for other social enterprises.

Find out more at www.facebook.com/The-Chickpea-Sisters or follow @ChickpeaSisters on Twitter.



New home for Caius House Youth centre

The Caius House youth club has officially opened the doors on its new home in the heart of Battersea.

After five years in temporary premises Caius (pronounced Keys) has returned to its original site in Holman Road, back in the centre of the community it has served since 1882.

The new centre was built as part of the council's work to create five bigger, brighter youth centres, with modern facilities and state-of-the-art buildings and equipment.

Find your nearest youth club at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/youth.

Smaller measures

The council's licensing team is reminding borough residents that if they order a drink in a pub or restaurant they are entitled to demand a smaller measure.

By law pubs, bars, restaurants and any other licensed premises must provide alcohol in the following measures: beer or cider – half a pint, gin, rum, whisky and vodka – 25ml or 35ml, wine – 125ml.

To find out more visit

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/licensing or contact the licensing team on (020) 8871 6160, email licensing@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Pharmacy is winner

Putney Pharmacy has won the Community Pharmacy of Year Award in the prestigious 2014 Pharmacy Business Awards. The awards recognise pharmacies that excel in improving the health and wellbeing of local people.

The pharmacy is based next to the Putneymead Health Centre and provides some services on behalf of the council, including chlamydia screening and Stop Smoking services.

- Datation Junction,

Angel

Consultation on Crossrail 2 route

Following the last round of consultation a preferred route has been chosen for the Crossrail2 underground line which would run beneath Wandsworth and includes stops at Clapham Junction and Tooting Broadway.

The tunnel would be between 20 and 40 metres below the ground and some above ground structures would be built for ventilation and emergency access.

Transport for London and Department of Transport have begun the process of 'safeguarding' the route which would prevent new developments taking place which would affect the tunnel.

A consultation on the safeguarding process is now underway and local people can view the route in detail at www.crossrail2.co.uk.



Council Tax Support HAVE YOUR SAY

The council is currently considering options to change its Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2015/16. The proposed changes went out to public consultation on the 10 October 2014.

Full details of the consultation are available on the council website at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/ctsconsultation

This includes a summary of the changes and the equalities impact assessment that has been undertaken.

The consultation is due to close on the 10 December 2014 so if you wish to comment, please complete the short online survey available from the link above.





Get in touch... Freephone: 0800 389 7921 Email:

stopsmoking.team@wandsworth.gov.uk www.stopsmokingwandsworth.co.uk

New guidelines to protect pubs

Pubs across the borough could be given much more protection from developers under new planning guidance.

Wandsworth Council has recently finished consulting local people on draft guidance that would give new grounds on which to refuse planning applications to redevelop or change the use of local pubs which have a heritage or community value.

The feedback received will now be reviewed before a finalised version of the planning document is put before councillors.

If they approve it, 'permitted development rights' would be removed from pubs which meet the criteria so owners would need to apply for permission before knocking them down or changing them into shops or homes.

The council's draft planning guidance also proposes introducing a limit on the number of fast food takeaways which could open within 400 metres of local schools and colleges. It also proposes to restrict the number of new betting shops.

Deputy council leader Jonathan Cook said: "There has been huge interest in protecting local pubs and this draft planning guidance has come in direct response to our residents' concerns."



Beat the winter weather

As the cold weather bites, here's what you can do to keep warm, well and safe

- Get your flu vaccine they are available at GPs and some pharmacies (see page 19 for more details).
- Try to have hot meals and drinks. Stock up on tinned, dried and frozen foods so that you can make a hot healthy meal even if you can't get out of the house in bad weather.
- Plan ahead and make sure you have enough of your prescription medication in case of bad weather.
- Wear a few thin layers of clothing rather than one thick layer to keep warm and tuck curtains behind the radiators to keep heat in the room.
- Keep moving if you can as this will help you keep warm. If walking is a problem try moving your arms or legs whilst sitting or wiggling your toes and fingers.
- For tips on how to effectively and efficiently heat your house, how to stay well and what help is available download our free Keep Warm This Winter leaflet at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/snow.
- The council clears roads and pavements in snowy and icy weather, but you can also grit your pavement yourself. Find out how at www.wandsworth.gov.uk/snow.
- The council's Adult Social Services staff will be calling more than 1,500 vulnerable people to check on them during the winter. For information and advice from Wandsworth Adult Social Services call (020) 8871 7707.

If you are concerned about keeping warm or worried about anyone you know contact WHARF (Wandsworth Housing Adaptations and Repairs Forum) for information and advice about what support is available to help you to stay warm throughout winter.

WHARF may also refer and signpost you to other relevant services who may be able to help you.

Call (020) 8871 7458 or email: wharf@wandsworth.gov.uk.

In Wandsworth more people die during December to March than we would normally expect.

The council with Age UK Wandsworth, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Wandsworth Older People's Forum and WHARF are working together to tackle the problem.

Cold weather and being cold increases the risk of heart attacks and stroke, breathing infections, flu, falls and injuries and hypothermia. Make sure you check on family, friends and neighbours during the cold weather.

Get flu safe



Wandsworth Director of Public Health, Houda Al-Sharifi, is seen here getting her flu jab from Dr Nicola Jones, the head of the Clinical Commissioning Group, made up of local GPs.

They are both urging local people to get their flu jab. Flu is much more serious than a cold and can cause serious complications.

If you are over 65, a carer, pregnant, have certain medical conditions or a weakened immunity, you can get a free flu jab from your doctor or some local pharmacies.

Children aged two, three and four are also eligible for the free flu jab.

Find out more: www.nhs.uk/Livewell/ winterhealth

Wanted -NHS Health Checks mystery shoppers

Thinking of getting a free NHS Healthcheck? Become a mystery shopper and help make the service even better.

The council's Public Health team wants to find out what people's experiences are of getting the check. All you would need to do is get a free NHS Health Check at your doctor, pharmacy, or at the mobile NHS Health Check clinic and then complete an online questionnaire.

The NHS Health Check is a national prevention programme designed to help lower your risk heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and kidney disease. If you are aged between 40 and 74 and have not been diagnosed with any of these conditions and have not attended an NHS Health Check in the past five years then you may be eligible.

To take the survey visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/healthchecks and follow the links



Your Silver Village now open in Putney, Chiswick, Fulham, Kensington, Richmond & Wimbledon. 0208144 3460 infoesilvervillages.co.uk www.silvervillages.co.uk

Shop local this Christmas



Enjoy special offers, giveaways and events in your local town centre in this year's **Small Business Saturday on December 6.**

This is expected to be one of the busiest shopping days of the year and Small Business Saturday aims to get people along to their local shops and discover the wealth of variety and quality on offer.

The council has created a space on its website where traders can promote their offers and events on the day. **Visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/SmallBusinessSaturday**.

Lighting up Christmas There are lots of events to switch on town centre Christmas lights, so put these dates in your diary.

Putney Christmas Lights and Market Location: St Mary's Church

Friday 28 November - 6pm

The annual Christmas tree and High Street lights switch on event featuring live music, children's rides and local market as well as the Putney lantern procession.

Northcote Road Christmas Lights and Christmas Fair Location: Bennerley Road

Friday 28 November - 6pm

Jane Ellison MP will be joined by businesses and residents of Northcote Road to switch on the 2014 Christmas lights with stalls along the road.

Wandsworth Town Christmas Lights

Location: the Christmas tree at All Saints Church Saturday 29 November - 4.20pm

Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Thom will be switching on Christmas lights from outside All Saints Church.

Balham Christmas Lights and Christmas Celebrations Location: Hildreth Street

Sunday 30 November - 4.30pm

The Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Thom, will be switching on the Balham Christmas lights while the businesses of Hildreth Street welcome residence to celebrate the beginning of Christmas.

Bellevue Christmas lights and market Bellevue Road, SW17

Sunday 30th November - 12pm to 5pm

Watch the Christmas lights switch on and visit Father Christmas in his Grotto.

Battersea Square Christmas Lights

Tuesday 2 December - 7.15pm The Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Thom will be switching on the lights in Battersea Square.

Southfields Christmas Lights

Tuesday 2 December - 5pm The lights will be switched on by the Chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

Tooting Christmas Lights Location: the tree on Church corner Wednesday 3 December - 4.50pm

Ritherdon Road Christmas Shopping Evening

Thursday 4th December - 6pm to 9pm Join Ritherdon Road businesses and enjoy festive wine and nibbles whilst you browse.

St Johns Hill (upper) Christmas Lights Saturday 6 December - 5.30pm

Ritherdon Road Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December 11am to 4 pm The Ritherdon Road Christmas street fair includes stalls selling gifts and festive food treats.

The White Christmas Fair

TESTBED1, Parkgate Road, Battersea 10am to 5pm Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December.

Entry is free

This event will be officially opened by Deputy Mayor Cllr Richard Field to mark the start of Small Business Saturday. Over forty stalls selling top quality gifts plus mulled wine, hot toddies and whiskey tastings.

Battersea Bandstand Winter Fair Battersea Park, SW11 4NJ

Sunday 7 December - 11am to 5pm Celebrate Christmas in Battersea Park with a vintage funfair, live music, food market and plenty of carols.

For the latest updates visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/christmas

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/SmallBusinessSaturday

Christmas in Roehampton

This year's Christmas Lantern Procession and Carols will be on December 11.

Primary school children and other community groups in Roehampton will take part in the event, organised by arts company Emergency Exit Arts in conjunction with local people.

There will be several lantern processions across Roehampton, culminating with carol singing outside Roehampton Library at 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to go along and join in.

The project is supported by the council's Public Health and Arts Teams as part of a growing programme of local arts activity, including Roehampton Radio, pop-up interactive art installations and the development of community creative arts space, Roehampton R.O.C.K.S.

To get involved and support the lantern procession and other local arts events contact bridget.floyer@eea.org.uk.





INSIDE STORY

Most people know Wandsworth has a prison that has often contained some very high-profile prisoners.

What is less well-known is that it has its own museum, which members of the public are welcome to visit by appointment. It is curated on a voluntary basis by prison officer Stuart Mclaughlin. Here are some of the highlights. Photos by Toni Marshall.



Charlie Chaplin was invited to visit the prison by then governor Lt Col. Rich. The film actor and producer knew George Chapman, a Jack the Ripper suspect who was landlord of a pub in South London. Chapman was executed at Wandsworth.

march 30 Will Bellevel



The Escape List Board was introduced in the 60s after some high-profile escapes, including Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs. The board showed the location of all escape list and category A prisoners.

James Earl Ray the assassin of American Civil Rights leader Dr Martin Luther King. Ray was held in Wandsworth in 1968 prior to extradition back to the US.



Gallows Corner Wandsworth had the last operational gallows in the prison system until it was dismantled in 1993





Albert Pierrepoint

This photo is of the business card of Britain's most well known executioner Albert Pierrepoint. He hanged at least 453 people, many at Wandsworth.



1920s prisoner wearing a so-called 'arrow suit'.

Ten-year-old Robert Davey

was sentenced to three months for stealing rabbits in 1874. This seems harsh now, but there was no youth justice system then and instead short sentences were served in prison. He would have had a cell on his own, access to free medical care and three meals a day – often more than was available to children in the outside world.



To contact the museum email wandsworthprisonmuseum@hmps.gsi.gov.uk or write to Wandsworth Prison Museum,C/O POA Office, HMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Road, London SW18 3HS.

William Joyce "Lord Haw Haw" Nazi propaganda radio broadcaster and the last person executed for High Treason on 3rd January 1946.





Get checked out

World Aids Day is on December 1, and is a chance for people to unite in the fight against HIV and Aids.

Wandsworth people are urged to make sure they know the facts and get themselves tested to help prevent the spread of the infection.

According to a new Public Health England latest report, around 22,000 people with HIV in the UK are unaware of their infection, and need to be tested.

If you live in South West London, you can get a free, fast, confidential HIV test. Simply visit swish.nhs.uk now to find out when and where to get tested.

Wandsworth Director of Public Health Houda Al-Sharifi said: "It is better to test and know your status. If a test result shows that you have the HIV virus, you will receive full support and all treatment needed to control it."

If you have any questions about World Aids Day or local sexual health services, email sexualhealth@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Youngsters who care

Many of the borough's army of unpaid carers are young people, looking after relatives with health conditions or substance misuse issues. Being a carer at a young age can have a huge impact on a young person's life, but help is available. Here 26 year old Hafsa Hadaafow tells her story.

"I care for two of my sisters who have mental health conditions.

I provide practical support like writing letters and attending meetings and appointments with them, and I advocate on their behalf. I also stay with them and look after their children when they relapse or are feeling particularly unwell.

"Providing emotional support is very demanding on my time. I am on call 24/7 and have to be aware of their emotional state.

"It is disruptive and emotionally exhausting. I have to put things on hold so I can go to their aid if they are in crisis. Sometimes I think it must be like being a parent. I have a limited amount of friends as I have had to let them down too often.

"The Wandsworth Carers Centre has given me emotional help, practical help, support with advocating and help writing letters and making phone calls.

"Working with, understanding and navigating the Mental Health system is not easy – professionals often take you for granted and forget that you are an individual and caring is a choice. Working with the Carers centre is like having a soldier on your team."



Contact the Carers Centre on (020) 8871 1200 or visit www.carerswandsworth.org.uk. Contact the Young Carers Project on (020) 8874 0730 or email Suleyman.huseyin@familyaction.org.uk

Brighter future

A new HIV prevention and wellbeing service is now available for people who live, work or socialise in Wandsworth.

The Brighter Partnership brings together three organisations; West London Gay Men's Project (WLGMP), KwaAfrica and Living Well. All three have expert skills and experience of HIV prevention and support.

If you live, work or socialise in Wandsworth then the Brighter Partnership can provide you with the following health and wellbeing services for free from its centre in Battersea.

- Weekly rapid HIV, Body Mass Index (BMI) and blood pressure testing
- Popular group workshops
- One to one Life Coaching and peer support
- Information and guidance on HIV

All services are culturally appropriate, LGBT friendly and run by nonjudgemental staff.

Visit www.brighterpartnership.com.



CANET ORGANIC

Cancer pop-up shop returns

The Get to Know Cancer pop up shop is coming back to Southside in January.

Last January the shop helped thousands of people find out about cancer, learn how to prevent it and get themselves a health check with a specialist.

It gives people the chance to do this quickly and simply while they shop, rather than making a trip to their GP.

No appointment is necessary – you can just turn up. Specialist nurses Eddie and Sheila can refer you to health trainers who can help you set and achieve your own health and wellbeing action plan or sign you up to stop smoking and weight management services.

Sheila told Brightside she was looking forward to returning: "Southside were so friendly and supportive and it was a great opportunity for people to pop in while they shop if they had concerns or just wanted to get their blood pressure or weight checked.

CASE NOTES

36-year-old Simon went to the shop because he was concerned about a mole. The nurse in the urged him to visit his GP, who subsequently referred him to a dermatologist. The mole turned out to be precancerous and was removed.

Shauna, 42, had her blood pressure measured, which turned out to be dangerously high. She was advised to visit her GP urgently who put her on medication straight away and referred her to a specialist for further investigations. Shop nurses Eddie and Sheila will be returning to hand out their own special brand of help and advice. They aim to make the shop an informal, friendly place to visit, and are always ready to chat.



Sheila gives Wandsworth's public health director Houda Al-Sharifi a health check.

"Sometimes people would mention right at the end that they had a mole or something else they were worried about but didn't want to bother their GP with. Me telling them to get it checked out sort of gave them permission to get along to their doctor."

In Wandsworth cancer is the main cause of premature death. Last year around 18,000 leaflets were handed out during the three weeks the shop was open. Leaflets on diet and exercise were especially popular, and people were keen to find out more bowel, breast, prostate and testicular cancers.

Among smokers almost half said they would be likely or very likely to quit as a result of their visit and more than half said they would probably change their diet and exercise more.

Keep an eye on the council website, social media and posters in Southside for details of when the shop will open.

Don't be outfoxed

Worried about the number of foxes in your area?

The more food available to them, the more there will be. Their main source of food is from household waste, so make sure you dispose of your rubbish properly.

Don't just leave waste outside in plastic bags. This will attract rats, cats and other animals, as well as foxes. All waste should be stored within a bin, preferably a metal one with a close fitting lid. Make sure you tie rubbish bags securely.

If you have a front garden the waste can be left within the bin near to your gate on the day of collection. If you don't have a front garden please put your rubbish out for collection as late as possible to prevent animals getting into it.

Don't feed foxes because you want them to visit your garden. This takes away their natural wariness of people and can lead them to enter other houses expecting to be fed, or even follow people in the street.

Foxes are wild animals. They are not classified as pests and so the council has no legislation to use to ensure they are controlled. Control of the food available for them is the only real way residents can help in controlling their numbers.

Get more information on our website - www.wandsworth.gov.uk/foxes.

Help us to keep your street clean

Your rubbish and recycling is collected from your front garden, or by your front door if you don't have one.

- If you have a front garden, never put your rubbish or recycling on the pavement - you risk an £80 penalty or a criminal prosecution if you do this. We recommend you use a dustbin for general rubbish.
- If you don't have a front garden, only put your rubbish and recycling sacks out after 6pm on the day before collection.



Waste for collection must be out by 6.30am on collection day www.wandsworth.gov.uk/waste



Tackling rogue traders



This is the first in a regular consumer advice column from the Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Misled about a product or service or pressurised into buying? New consumer regulations may help you get a full refund or hefty discount.

While misleading and aggressive sales practices have long been criminal offences, consumers have not had an easy remedy until now. From October, consumers are entitled to redress if they can show that they entered a contract with the trader or made a payment to them, and that the misleading or aggressive action was a significant factor in their decision to do so.

The new rights apply to most goods and services including utility contracts, door-to-door sales, holidays and holiday lets, but not financial services, the sale of land or social housing. Credit is included when it is linked to the purchase of goods and services, but not for stand-alone agreements such as payday loans. The two new standard remedies are to unwind the service or contract within 90 days and get a full or partial refund, or get a discount of up to 100 per cent.

If you have a consumer rights question, visit www.adviceguide.org.uk, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 03454 04 05 06 (Mon-Fri, 9-5) or contact your local CAB – see www.wandsworthcabx.org.uk.

EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER TO MARCH 2015

what's on?

WELCOME TO WHAT'S ON IN WANDSWORTH YOUR GUIDE TO ART EXHIBITIONS, THEATRE PERFORMANCES, CHILDREN'S EVENTS AND SOCIETY MEETINGS

> Children's events are shaded yellow

Saturday November 29 11am

Crisis Midwinter Swim

Help raise funds for homelessness charity Crisis by taking an icy plunge in an outdoor pool. Wear fancy dress – prizes for the top three fundraisers and the best fancy dress. Hot drinks available afterwards. Registration from 11am - swimmers to arrive no later than 11.30am. Tooting Bec Lido, Tooting Bec Road SW17. To register for your place, visit www.crisis.org.uk/swim.

How to be listed

Send details (including access for people with disabilities) by 23 February to:

whatson@wandsworth.gov.uk

We cannot guarantee that your entry will be inserted. This is a free service. The information in this guide has been provided by the advertisers themselves. Wandsworth Council accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information or for any event not organised by the council.

Free entry

Hearing loop

Wheelchair access

Friday November 28 6-9pm

Christmas shopping fundraiser

Jewellery, cards, art, fashion, skincare, kitchenware, food. Santa's grotto with lucky dip, children's cinema, bouncy castle, face painting. Mulled wine, mince pies, raffle, tombola. Creche for children over two years. Gardens Nursery School, 62 Standen Road, SW18. Call 8871 9478 www.gardenschildcare. co.uk

Saturday November 29 11.30am-2.30pm

Christmas Fair

Grand raffle, Father Christmas, gifts, toys, home-made cakes, vintage stall, jewellery, books, refreshments.

£1 entry, children free.

St Barnabas Church. Lavenham Road SW18 www.stbarnabassouthfields.org.uk wheelchair

Monday December 1 8pm

Musicians on Film

Film maker and author, John Bridcut, (Delius, Vaughan Williams, Sir Colin Davis, 'Britten's Children', 'Requiem Mass') discusses musicians on film with Andrew Neill.

Visitor £5, members and under 18s free.

Putney Music Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, SW15. www.putneymusic.org.uk Wheelchair

December 2 – January 4 morning and afternoon performances

Antarctica A magical Christmas show with songs, puppets and plenty of snowy surprises. For children aged 2-6 years. BAC Lavender Hill SW11. www.bac.org.uk Call 7223 2223.

Friday December 5 6.30 to 8.30pm

Holy Trinity Christmas Fair

Gifts, tombola, raffle, refreshments, Father Christmas. Free admission. Holy Trinity Church Trinity Road SW17. Email davidarathoon@ Hotmail.com Wheelchair

Saturday December 6 **Unique Sewing**

Sewing and pattern cutting classes for adults and children All Saints Church hall, Putney Bridge SW15. Email uniquesewing@ hotmail.com or call 07984 375053.

Saturday December 6 10am-4pm

Green and Ethical Christmas Fayre A great selection of ethically sourced and environmentally friendly Christmas gifts and

essentials. Visit Santa's grotto and take a break in the Green Cafe. Entry: adults £2, children free includes access to the City Farm Nativity with animal petting and festive dressing up. Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common, SW4 www.greenethical christmas.com

Saturday December 6 12-3pm

All Saints' School Christmas Bazaar

Festive fun for all: mulled wine, mince pies, delicious cakes, amazing hot food, tombola, children's arts and crafts stall, face painting, wreaths, gifts made in Putney, even chutney and Santa too! Entry £2, children free.

All Saints' CE Primary School, Putney Common, SW15. Contact the Friends of All Saints School via the school office 8788 5196.

what's on? NOVEMBER -MARCH

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December

Santa with his reindeer and huskies

Get into the festive mood at WWT's wonderful winter weekend! Children can hop aboard for a husky sleigh ride, visit Santa in his magical grotto and meet the family of reindeer, including baby Rudolph and discover more about these animals from the North.

The weekend helps towards vital conservation work in the UK and around the world. Normal admission prices apply; visit to Santa is £5 per child (cash only) including goody bag.

WWT London Wetland Centre, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, Barnes SW13. Call 8409 4405 or wwt.org.uk

Monday December 8 7.45 for 8pm

The Christmas Story through paintings at the National Gallery

Illustrated lecture by Caroline MacDonald-Haig. Tickets at the door £8 (members free).

SW London Decorative and Fine Arts Society at Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, Upper Richmond Road SW15 Wheelchair

Monday December 8 6.30-7.45pm

Graveney community network meeting

For Graveney residents, volunteers, students and businesses to discuss issues and plans for the area. Just turn up. Tooting United reformed church, Rookstone Road, SW17. Call 8682 3909. Search "Graveney Village Network" on Facebook.

Tuesday December 9 9.30 and 6pm

Body alignment and posture re-education Free open class

Venues: Balham (mornings) and Putney (evenings). Advance booking: 0800 756 3547

Tuesday December 9 7.30pm

Wandsworth WI

Enjoy a chat as well as having a regular speaker based on our motto 'Charity, culture, craft and cake'. We are a modern WI open to all women aged 18+. New and prospective members welcome. The New Bar, a private bar inside The Bedford pub, Fernlea Road SW12 Email wandsworthwi@ hotmail.com, find us on Facebook or Twitter @Wandsworth_WI

Friday December 12 6 for 7pm

Caius House Christmas Show

A performance by young people. Raffle and donation. Mince pies and mulled wine. All welcome. For venue and more details please call Caius House reception 07539 873608.



Present

A Candlelit Evening of Christmas Music including traditional carois and

iun, well-known modern favourites

At St Andrew's Church, Garratt Lane, Earlsfield, SW18 48R

Friday 12th December, 6.30pm

Musical Director Polly May All Proceeds go to the Starksteld Food Bank

sheeps + by the out of " Bols 21 - 94 (15) Phone - 948

Tickets on the door Or reserve via email polyimosy0yal co.co.u

www.swsongbirda.co.uk

Friday December 12 6.30pm Candlelit evening of Christmas music

Traditional carols and well-known modern favourites. Tickets £5 adults, £2.50 children, under 3s free. All proceeds go to the Earlsfield FoodBank. The Southwest Songbirds at St Andrew's Church, Garratt Lane SW18. Tickets on the door or reserved in advance by email pollyimmay@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday December 13 7pm

A Very English Christmas

Singing Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols and Holst's St Paul's Suite. Tickets £16,

concessions £13.

Putney Choral Society at St Paul's Church, Augustus Road SW18. Call Carrie 07909 981278. www.putneychoralsoc. org.uk Wheelchair

Saturday December 13 6pm - 8pm

A celebration of Christmas by candlelight

A seasonal feast of music, poetry and carols together with light refreshments including mince pies and mulled wine. Admission free with a retiring collection. Unity Centre of South London 2-4 Ravenstone Street SW12. Call 8673 0793.

Saturday December 13 4-7pm

Furzedown Christmas Market

Music, mulled wine, Santa's grotto, gifts and crafts for all. This is a family event organised for the community by Furzedown Community Network. Moyser Road, Furzedown SW16. www.furzedown.net

Sunday, December 14 10.30am until 4.30pm

Festive ice skating Furzedown Primary School, Tooting. Email furzedownpta@gmail.com for details and price.



Saturday December 13 4-6.30pm

Christmas Tree Festival

Live music with Pop Choir (as seen on TV) and Beatrix Potter school choir, mulled wine, stalls selling gifts, raffle, and Father Christmas, all surrounded with 25 adorned trees. Raising money for Wandsworth Community Chaplaincy Trust. Entry £1, children free. St Mary Magdalene Church, Trinity Road SW17. www.smmwandsworth.org.uk.

Sunday December 21 6pm

Traditional Carol Service Lessons and carols by candlelight. Holy Trinity Church, corner Beaumont Road and West Hill SW18. www.wandsworth parish.co.uk

Monday December 22 1 - 5pm

Christmas Movie and Dance Party

A packed afternoon of fantastic entertainment for kids - eat a packed lunch while watching film Arthur Christmas. Plus funky Christmas disco where kids will learn a cool dance to a Christmas song with a performance for the parents. All snacks, drinks and packed lunch are provided, as well as entertainment. Each child receives a present. £25 per child. Half Moon, 93 Lower **Richmond Road SW15.** Fmail emily@dancegrooves.dance

or call 07956 235 248.

Wednesday December 24 11pm

Midnight Service

Traditional service of Holy Communion. Holy Trinity Church, corner Beaumont Road and West Hill SW18. www.wandsworth parish.co.uk

Wednesdays from 7 January 5.30pm (Tooting) and Saturdays from 10th January (Battersea) 10am

Make Believe Wandsworth

Children can learn new skills and build up confidence through performing arts. Free trial offer; call for details. Fransiscan Primary School, Fransiscan Road SW17. Email wandsworth@ makebelievegroup.co.uk or call 3561 9588 or 07956 120 866.

Thursday January 8, 7.45 for 8pm

Just What Is Planned for Nine Elms?

A presentation by Helen Fisher, Nine Elms Programme Director overseeing 450 acres of redevelopment from Lambeth Bridge to Chelsea Bridge. Free. Wandsworth Society at West Side Church, Melody Road, SW18 2QQ www.wandsworth society.org.uk Wheelchair.

Monday January 12 -February 16 and February 23 - March 30 10am-12pm

Mosaic classes All levels of expertise, including total beginners, welcome. Cost: £42 for

each course.

Peabody Community Space, St John's Hill (opposite Clapham Junction Station) Contact tutor Linda Griffiths 07738 707007 or linda@artist.gb.net

Tuesday January 13 6-7.30pm

Wandsworth LGBT Forum

Aiming to improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people living, working and studying in Wandsworth. Venue undecided at time of print; visit www.wandsworthlgbtforu m.co.uk, email wandsworthlgbt@hotmail. co.uk or call the Secretary 07772 106540 to confirm.

Term begins January 5

Spring term art classes

Sign up for a taster session or a term, including oil painting, video editing, pottery, designing your own garden – a temptingly wide range of courses. Putney School of Art and Design Oxford Road SW15. Call 8788 9145. www.wandsworth.gov.uk/psad

Friday December 19 6-8pm

Christmas party and Santa visit

Comedy magic show, dancing, balloon modelling and visit Santa. For children 2-10 years with family. Advance tickets £13 child, £1 adult. Eddie Catz, First Floor 68-70 Putney High Street SW15. Call 3475 5268. www.eddiecatz.com

Wednesday January 21 7 for 7.30pm

Pets in war-time Britain What happened to people's pets in Britain during the war? Pets were banned from shelters, they had no food rations and officials plotted to put down 'non-economic' animals. Journalist Clare Campbell and her husband Christy, an expert and writer on defence matters, speak about what they learnt when researching for her book Bonzo's War. Entry £6.

Wandsworth Museum, 38 West Hill SW18.

Saturday January 24

SLSC UK Cold Water Swimming Championships

Dice with the ice. Try headup breaststroke (in a crazy hat to win a prize), a freestyle race or get some friends together to do a relay race. Warm up afterwards in the hot tubs and the sauna then enjoy a hog roast, delicious curry or yummy pancakes. Tooting Bec Lido, Tooting Bec Road SW17. www.slsc.org.uk

Monday February 2 8pm

On and off the beaten track

Sandy Burnett talks to Piers Burton-Page about his itinerant life as lecturer, BBC Radio 3 broadcaster, conductor and writer, and whether it all pays the mortgage. Visitor £5,

members and under 18s free. Putney Music Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, SW15. www.putneymusic.org.uk

Monday February 9 7.45 for 8pm

Wheelchair

Original Grand Designs – Industrialism and Revival

Illustrated lecturer: John Sherlock. A brief survey of known architectural styles at the beginning of the C19, introducing Thomas Rickman. How Victorian Britain 'opted' for gothic revival while the rest of Europe pursued their love of neoclassicism. Victorian innovation and engineering are celebrated. Tickets at the door £8 (members free). SW London Decorative and Fine Arts Society at Dryburgh Hall, Putney Leisure Centre, Upper **Richmond Road SW15**

wheelchair

Thursday February 12 7.45 for 8pm

Re-designing our streets John Dales, Trustee of Living Streets and Director of Urban Movement (specialising in transport planning and the design of urban streets and spaces) will discuss: how to make our streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians; how to rid our streets of excess signage; and "is 20 Plenty?" Wandsworth Society at West Side Church, Melody Road, SW18 2QQ. www.wandsworthsociety.

org.uk Free. Wheelchair.

Friday February 27, 8pm

Wandsworth's War: surviving signs of WWII in the borough

With speaker Francis Grew, archaeology curator at the Museum of London. Wandsworth Historical Society, Friends Meeting House, 59 Wandsworth High Street, SW18. Call 8874 6341. Email ngrobson@ tiscali.co.uk www.wandsworth history.org.uk

Thursday February 19 7 for 7.30pm

Wandsworth Museum: The contributions of two unusual women in WWII

Two books, two stories: Elisa Segrave discovered her mother's wartime diaries which tells of her adventures in Bletchley Park, Bomber Command and Germany just before VE day. When the Germans invaded France, Francelle Bradford White's Belgian teenage mother stole blank ID cards from her job at Police HQ in Paris for distribution to anyone attempting to escape France. She travelled across France gathering intelligence. Venue tbc – email Sheila@harrisonallen.co.uk for details.

Remembering heroes

A new stone tablet has been added to Wandsworth Memorial Garden outside the town hall, joining the three others that commemorate the service and sacrifices made by local men and women who have served in the borough's volunteer armed forces since 1914.

A tablet was first laid here in 1965 to honour the memory of men of the 13th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment - the Wandsworth Pals battalion - who answered the Mayor of Wandsworth's call to arms in 1915. Two others were added in 2009 to honour those who have served in 16 locally-based territorial army units since the onset of the First World War.

The fourth was added in October to commemorate those with

a link to Wandsworth who have been awarded either a Victoria Cross or a George Cross – Britain's two highest awards for valour. There are 20 names on the tablet – 18 of whom were servicemen awarded a Victoria Cross plus two civilians awarded the George Cross.

The tablet was unveiled by Lord Ashcroft, who has amassed the world's largest collection of Victoria Cross medals which are currently on display at the Imperial War Museum. He was joined by the Mayor of Wandsworth Cllr Stuart Thom, council leader Ravi Govindia and also by the family of Colonel 'H' Jones, who was



Services of remembrance were held across the borough earlier this month to honour the men and women of Wandsworth who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Services were held at Wandsworth Town Hall's memorial garden and at Battersea Park. The Battersea Park event was attended by the Mayor of Wandsworth Cllr Stuart Thom.

There was also a service at St Mary's Church and a parade through the streets of Putney attended by deputy mayor Cllr Richard Field (pictured).



posthumously awarded a VC during the Falklands War and by the grandson of Corporal Ted Foster, a council dustman from Tooting who was awarded a VC for his actions during the battle of Cambrai in France in 1917.

A Soldier's Tale

If Facebook was around during WW1, what sort of things would people post? In A Soldier's Tale, fictional soldier Walter Carter tells his life story for the duration of the First World War, in real-time, through Facebook.



The posts been created from historical sources and are uploaded to Facebook around three times a week. Walter was born and raised in Sabine Road, Battersea and is 19 years old when war breaks out. Before mobilisation in August 1914, he works as a porter at Clapham Junction Station, but hopes to be promoted to signalman.

Follow Walter's story at www.facebook.com/WW1SoldiersTale. You can also view an exhibition that will be touring the borough's libraries over the next few months.

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Other contacts at the council

Adult Care Information Service (020) 8871 7707 accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk www.wandsworth.gov.uk/acis

Benefits Service (020) 8871 8080 benefits@wandsworth.gov.uk

Carers information and support Wandsworth Carers Centre (020) 8877 1200 info@wandsworthcarers.org.uk

Children's Social Work Service (020) 8871 6622 cssduty@wandsworth.gov.uk

Consumer Protection (020) 8871 7720

esd@wandsworth.gov.uk
Community Care Services

(020) 8871 7707 accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk Council Tax (020) 8871 8081 counciltax@wandsworth.gov.uk

Education (020) 8871 8013 edadmin@wandsworth.gov.uk

Electoral Services (020) 8871 6023 electoral@wandsworth.gov.uk

Environmental Services (020) 8871 6127 esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Family Information Service - including Nurseries (020) 8871 7899 fis@wandsworth.gov.uk

Food Hygiene (020) 8871 6139 esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Fraud Hotline 0800 783 2263 (freephone) fraudhotline@wandsworth.gov.uk

Graffiti Removal (020) 8871 7049 graffiti@wandsworth.gov.uk **Check your refuse collection day** www.wandsworth.gov.uk/collectionday

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Home Ownership (020) 8871 6016 housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

Housing Advice (020) 8871 6840 housingadvice@wandsworth.gov.uk

Housing Repairs and Tenancy Call your area team or management organisation hms@wandsworth.gov.uk

Leisure Centres & sports facilities (020) 8871 8154 sportsservices@wandsworth.gov.uk Libraries

wandsworth.libraries@gll.org

(020) 8871 7696 watchlinkmanager@ wandsworth.gov.uk

Noise Complaints - council properties (020) 8871 7490 hms@wandsworth.gov.uk Private properties (020) 8871 7869 esd@wandsworth.gov.uk

Parking (020) 8871 8871 parking@wandsworth.gov.uk

Parks (020) 8871 7530 parks@wandsworth.gov.uk

Rent collection Service (020) 8871 8987 rents@wandsworth.gov.uk

Rubbish, Recycling and Litter (020) 8871 8558 wasteservices@wandsworth.gov.uk

Births, Deaths, Weddings and Civil Partnerships (020) 8871 6121 registeroffice@wandsworth.gov.uk

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