

Produced by Wandsworth Council to help keep you informed about the renewal of your estate

Alton News

PLACE
PEOPLE
HOMES

Issue 38, Autumn 2024

Alton Renewal
Plan launched

Meet the Design Team

Gerard House
welcomes residents

Celebrating CCK's
1st birthday



ALTON
ROEHAMPTON SW15

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Dear resident

In this autumn newsletter, I wanted to give you an update on the changes we've started to make as part of our Alton Renewal Plan to improve the estate and provide better opportunities for you and your family.

Since I launched the plan in July with the local community at Roehampton Leisure Centre, the council got moving straightaway to deliver on our promises to you.

As a result, we launched two new bus services for the Alton and Roehampton area in September, which are providing free travel for you to get around and reach other parts of the borough.

I was delighted to get a ride on the new Roehampton Transport Club minibus which will take you to local supermarkets, garden centres and other destinations for free – just book your seat and they'll pick you up and drop you off, which is really helpful if you have difficulty using public transport.

We also listened to your requests to be able to use the University of Roehampton double-decker bus. So we've funded free transport for anyone to get onboard at any stop along the route between Putney Vale Asda and Putney Bridge station, as part of a new partnership with the university. Check the timetables and more information on page 8.

But this is just the start, as we know the area is lacking decent transport links which makes it difficult for you to get to work, school and the shops. Together with your local MP, Fleur Anderson, local ward councillors and the council's Cabinet Member for Transport, we are continuing to lobby Transport for London on your behalf to improve local travel services.

You told us you needed better facilities for families and young people, so earlier this month we opened a brand new Roehampton Family Hub, at the former 166 Roehampton Lane building, which pulls together 29 different services to help you and your family. From a family nurse, health clinics and speech therapy, to parental mental health support, digital skills lessons and domestic abuse support, we're providing a one-stop-shop for everything you need when bringing up children and young people. The opening hours for the Family Hub are on page 10.

Over the next few months, I'll be dropping in again as we launch more new services and ask you to help shape the future of your neighbourhood, including consultations on new homes and how we can improve the old Focus Hall.

I'm looking forward to meeting you soon,

Leader of Wandsworth Council



Keep an eye on our website and social for the latest updates, call in at our information stall outside the Base on Danebury Avenue every Friday afternoon, or get in touch by emailing altonrenewal@wandsworth.gov.uk



Council leader and MP listen to Alton residents at community drop-in



Residents on the Alton estate met with the council leader and local MP in July, to talk about improvements needed in their local area.

Councillor Simon Hogg was joined by Fleur Anderson, MP for Putney and Roehampton, and local ward councillors at the event at Roehampton Leisure Centre.

As well as officially launching the Alton Renewal Plan, Councillor Hogg was on hand to listen to local issues and concerns raised by residents and businesses in the area.

People posted comments on a map of the area to highlight where they would like Neighbourhood Renewal funding to be spent on improvements, and local police and service providers offered support and advice to local residents on a range of issues.

Tea, coffee, sandwiches, fruit and cake were provided by Chantelle's Community Kitchen, a local organisation which celebrated its first anniversary over the summer at nearby Portswood Place.

The Alton Renewal Plan sets out how the council would like to invest in the estate, working together with residents, community organisations, businesses and local stakeholders to improve this part of Wandsworth.

The community drop-in event was part of a series of meetings held around the borough.

Find out more and see videos and photos from the event at wandsworth.gov.uk/here-to-listen



Tell us what you think about the Alton Renewal Plan - scan the QR code

Alton Estate Regeneration Update



Alton Activity Centre play space and Downshire Field play and landscape improvements

Since we last updated you on the plans for the two areas, we are delighted to advise that in June 2024, the council was granted planning consent to improve and upgrade the play spaces at the Alton Activity Centre and Downshire Field.

Once again, we would like to offer our thanks to everyone who has commented on and contributed to the designs and the plans for the two areas.

Now that we have a consented proposal, the council is busy appointing relevant consultants so that we can bring forward the improvements. We intend to start works on both areas next year, with a formal opening to happen in early 2026.

Once we have appointed a development contractor, we will work through the construction programme so some of the space will be available throughout the construction period, whilst also timing works with school holidays in



Downshire Field playspace – indicative design

mind. We will hold a 'Meet the Contractor event' in the new year with the appointed contractor, who will be able to talk through how the improvement works will be phased and to address any comments or concerns.

Information boards have been installed at both locations which show more detail on what's planned. Alternatively, please visit our website to find out more:

altonrenewal.co.uk/news/2024/07/26/planning-permission-granted-for-downshire-field-and-alton-activity-centre



Alton Activity Centre playspace – indicative design - view from Harbridge Avenue

Meet the Design Team

We're excited to share that on 17th July 2024, Housing Committee approved a recommendation for the Housing Delivery team to develop a new people-focussed plan for the Alton estate. A copy of the committee report and decision is available to download from the Housing Committee webpages on the website democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk

We are also delighted to announce that since committee approval, we have appointed HTA Design to support the council in bringing forward a new plan for the estate, further demonstrating the council's commitment to delivering positive change for the community. HTA's team of architects, planners, and designers have substantial experience working with residents and communities to find ways of improving the neighbourhoods they live in. Their experience around community-led projects will be a huge positive in determining a future plan for the Alton.

As part of early interactions with the community, HTA Design and the Alton Renewal team held a 'Meet the Design Team' event on 12th October 2024 at Roehampton Library. We would like to thank all of you who came along to see us. The session provided an ideal opportunity to set out how HTA and their team will really involve the community as the plan is developed, and for the community to provide some really interesting and helpful early feedback. Your thoughts and comments are key to shaping the future of your area.



Going forward, there will be an extensive process of resident and stakeholder engagement to set out the options in more detail and to hear your views, with the intention of arriving at a final preferred option. This option will be subject to a resident ballot for a final decision; expected late 2025.

Please keep an eye out on our noticeboards, media channels and our weekly information stall for more information around upcoming engagement events and for opportunities to comment. We will provide a further update on progress in the next edition.



Introducing HTA Design!

"We are HTA Design, and we are delighted to have been selected to work with all of you to develop plans for the future of the Alton Estate. We are looking forward to hearing about your experience of living in such a special place, and then working with you on plans to create an even better place to live, work, learn and play.

HTA is a practice of architects, landscape architects, planners, community engagement specialists, and sustainable designers, with more than 50 years of

experience working alongside communities to find ways to improve their homes and the neighbourhoods they live in. Our aim is to work closely with you and the council, to understand the progress that's been made over the past two years, to hear your concerns and learn of your aspirations for the future. Only when we have a really good understanding of this background will we start the process of working with you to develop more detailed plans for the future of the area, that you can support.

We have lots of experience from similar projects across London and the rest of the UK, including Acton Gardens in South Acton, the Aylesbury Estate in Walworth, the Joyce and Snells estate in Edmonton and within Wandsworth we led the designs for the Winstanley & York Road Estates next to Clapham Junction. Whilst these projects provide us with really useful skills and knowledge for taking the project forward, we understand that every place has a unique set of challenges and opportunities that need to be understood before positive change can take place.

Our team – led by Simon, Lucy, David, Rebecca and Sandy – are really looking forward to meeting you all and working together on plans for the future."



The Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Sana Jafri, with Chantelle Bent of Chantelle's Community Kitchen

BIG DAY OUT on the Alton



On Saturday 10th August, in the presence of the Mayor of Wandsworth and the Youth Mayors, Chantelle's Community Kitchen and the Alton Renewal Team co-hosted the 'Big Day Out' to celebrate the first birthday of the Community Kitchen* and to launch the start of Roehampton Community Weeks.

The sun beamed down as Chantelle and her team cooked a sizzling BBQ for over 300 friends and neighbours, filling the air with the mouthwatering aromas of grilled burgers, salmon and vegetable skewers, and spicy chicken. As well as the great food, our younger residents enjoyed facepainting, hoopla and making hand-decorated suncatchers.

Towards the end of the afternoon, we were entertained with a salsa set by local resident and professional singer, Nolita Golding, who got us up on our feet dancing.

Residents chatted about the new Alton Activity Centre, Downshire Field and Roehampton Community Hub with members of our Alton team and the building and landscape architects. They also discussed the Alton Renewal Plan more broadly and shared their thoughts and ideas for the future of the estate.

The 'Youth Advisory Panel' was also launched, aiming to give young people more of a say in the Alton Renewal Plan going forward. A number of young people signed up on the day, expressing interest in getting involved in shaping their neighbourhood.

* Chantelle's Community Kitchen opened its doors in August 2023 and provides over 300 meals a week for local residents.





Local families enjoyed making hand-decorated suncatchers



Senior Project Officer, Antonia De Lima, chatting to a resident about the Early Improvement Plans



Local residents enjoying the celebrations

Alton YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL



The Youth Mayor, Millie Quinn, and her Deputy, Favour Oniri, looking at the Alton Renewal Plan

YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL LAUNCHED!



Our 'Youth Advisory Panel' launch event at the Alton Arts Hub on 10th August, brought together youth aged 10 to 18 from across the Alton estate interested in helping to shape the future of their community.

The participants attended a Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) introductory meeting, where they provided valuable input on the design and development of playgrounds and local community buildings in the Early Improvement Plan for the Alton estate. The event was attended by Wandsworth's Youth Mayor and her Deputy, who supported and encouraged the young people as they shared their ideas.

The event, which was filled with meaningful discussions and creative contributions, marked a significant step towards creating spaces that reflect the needs and aspirations of the younger generation of the Alton Estate community.

We look forward to the benefits that meetings of the Youth Advisory Panel will bring to the community, as it continues to reflect on the proposals of the Alton Renewal Plan.

ARP IN ACTION

FREE bus services launched in Roehampton

Two new Roehampton bus services were launched on 23rd September as part of council efforts to improve transport links between Roehampton and the rest of the borough. This forms a key part of the Alton Renewal Plan (ARP) which sets out how the council will invest in the estate, working together with residents to help this part of Wandsworth to thrive.

The Alton Renewal Plan, launched in July 2024, prioritises better transport connections, and is designed to improve accessibility for residents, workers, and visitors in Roehampton. The council's pledge to enhance local transport options has led to the introduction of two new and free bus services for the public: one in partnership with the University of Roehampton, and another which extends the existing partnership with Wandsworth Community Transport. The council is not only funding these new services, but is also continuing to lobby Transport for London (TfL) for further improvements to local bus routes.

Cllr Jenny Yates, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "These new services will provide more transport options for anyone travelling to and from Roehampton, and are designed to improve the quality of life for those who live and work there. We've been listening carefully to feedback from residents, community organisations, businesses and local stakeholders; and your priorities have been crucial in shaping the Alton Renewal Plan. We've also listened carefully to all the Roehampton residents who've been in touch with us about the problems with the bus services, including all the residents at Putney Vale who depend on the buses.

We hope these new services will help, particularly the new link the University bus provides with Putney Bridge Station, while we continue to work with TfL to improve the services for Roehampton."

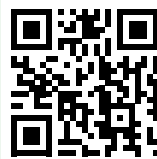
The 849 university shuttle bus operates in both directions between Roehampton Vale Asda, Barnes Station, and Putney Bridge Station during term time only, and will be free for the public to board at designated TFL bus stops, including Roehampton Lane/Danebury Avenue, Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton University/Main Entrance, and Barnes Station.

The service will run every 20 minutes from approximately 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday during term time.

For the 2024/2025 academic year this is:

- 23rd September to 20th December 2024 (excluding weekends and bank holidays)
- 6th January to 4th April 2025 (excluding weekends and bank holidays)

Professor Jean-Noël Ezingear, the University of Roehampton's Vice Chancellor, said: "The University is proud to be partnering with Wandsworth Borough Council to provide such an important service to our community. Our bus links Roehampton with the wider transport network, providing improved connectivity for everyone."



For more information on the new bus offers, scan the QR or visit:

[wandsworth.gov.uk/alton](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/alton)





The Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport with volunteers from the Roehampton Community Box and Social Supermarket on the RTC minibus

The new Roehampton Transport Club (RTC) minibus (operated by Wandsworth Community Transport) connects people in Roehampton who have difficulty using public transport with popular local destinations for free.

The minibus must be booked in advance as space is limited and provides a door-to-door service around the borough to designated locations. In addition to the regular schedule, there will be a half-day special outing to a rotating local attraction on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of the month.

Call Wandsworth Community Transport to request your door-to-door service with RTC, picking you up from anywhere in Roehampton and transporting you to the day's local attraction.

To book a place with one of RTC's services, you must first become a member of RTC for free by filling out a membership form either over the phone with Wandsworth Community Transport on 020 8675 3812 or online at: wctbus.org.uk/individuals/membership



To sign up for the Roehampton Transport Club online, scan the QR or visit: wctbus.org.uk/individuals/membership



RTC service schedule

Mondays

- to ■ St Georges Hospital
- Tooting Market

Tuesdays

- to ■ ASDA Roehampton Vale
- Roehampton Library
- Chantelle's Community Kitchen
- Queen Mary's Hospital

Leaving

9:30-10:00am and
11:00-11:30am

Returning

12:00-12:30 and
1:30-2:00pm



Roehampton Family Hub is here

Wandsworth Council are delighted to provide Roehampton with our fantastic, new community space for local families.

Now open at 166 Roehampton Lane, SW15 4HR, our Roehampton Family Hub is a welcoming free space for everyone in the heart of the community.

The new Family Hub will help children and families get a better start and improve their future. From childcare support, birth registrations, and mental health services to after-school activities and employment advice, people of all ages can talk to experts and advisors and access a wide range of services all in one place.

Roehampton Family Hub is open weekdays from 9am-5pm and located at 166 Roehampton Lane, SW15 4HR.

If you would like more information, or you want to get in touch with us, email csdcommunications@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

What services can you find at the Hub?

Roehampton's Family Hub offers a wide range of services dedicated to helping the community thrive. Our passionate partners are committed to making a difference and providing support to everyone in the community.

Our partners and services include:

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Place2Be
- Educational Psychologist
- Midwifery Services
- Perinatal Mental Health
- Central London Community NHS
- Roehampton Voice
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Power to Connect
- South Thames College
- Violence Against Women and Girls
- One Stop Shop
- Registrars
- Elays
- ENS Health and Social Care Recruitment
- Little Village
- Rackets Cubed



Simon Hogg, Leader of Wandsworth Council, with winners of the council's poetry competition

Investing in Alton

The Family Hub is one of the first major improvements delivered as part of the Alton Renewal Plan which sets out how the Council is investing in the Roehampton community and its future. This new facility reflects our ongoing work in partnership with local and community organisations to provide the expertise, resources, and support necessary for residents to thrive. We have been carefully listening to local views and feedback on youth and family services, so the Family Hub marks a major step in enhancing services and opportunities for everyone who lives here.



A wide range of services

You can find amenities such as early years services, speech and language therapy, health clinics, educational psychologists, parent forums and social groups, mental health support and counselling, antenatal sessions, digital skills sessions, ESOL lessons, domestic abuse one stop shop, birth registrations, social supermarket, community meals and coffee mornings, and much more!



Nikki Rosner, Chief Executive at Rackets Cubed, said: "The Solidarity Supper that we hosted on the evening of the launch was an incredible success. It was truly heartwarming to witness so many members of the community come together in the hall, sharing not only a delicious meal but also their stories. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and a sense of belonging as people from all walks of life connected with one another. Events like this highlight just how valuable the Hub is as a space—providing an inclusive environment where every individual, regardless of background, can come together to build relationships, foster understanding, and strengthen the bonds within our community."



Eastwood Nursery

168 Roehampton Lane

Looking for the perfect place for your child's early years? Eastwood Nursery, located at 168 Roehampton Lane, offers a nurturing, fun, and educational environment for children aged 8 weeks to 5 years.

We're proud to combine two high-quality nurseries into one unique setting right at the heart of Roehampton, providing flexible childcare options for every family. With full-time, part-time, term-time, and year-round spaces, we cater to all schedules. We also offer 15 and 30 hours funded places for eligible children! Explore our amazing indoor and outdoor facilities, including a forest school cabin, ball pit, and engaging classrooms. Trust Eastwood Nursery to give your child the best start and please contact us on **0208 876 3976** to arrange a personal tour.



Could you be the next Power to Connect Digital Champion volunteer?

Power to Connect digital drop-in sessions run at **Roehampton Library** every **Monday afternoon between 2-4pm**. These sessions provide a friendly, judgement free zone where people can come to increase their digital skills and grow their confidence as well as to sort out practical problems and worries with laptops, tablets and phones. Our Digital Champion volunteers are at the heart of these sessions, sharing their skills with patience and kindness and helping others to grow in confidence. We urgently need more Digital Champions to volunteer at these sessions. If you are digitally confident, willing to share your skills with others, and are free every Monday, or every other Monday, between 2-4pm, then we would love to hear from you.

For more information about becoming a Digital Champion Volunteer at Power to Connect visit powertoconnect.co.uk

Fontley Way Development update

Residents move into Gerard House

We are delighted to have recently welcomed residents to their new homes at Gerard House; a 14-unit development on the 'Alton East' estate.

These new, high-quality properties are the latest development as part of the Homes for Wandsworth programme and are the first homes completed since the launch of the Alton Renewal Plan. The three and four-bed homes will provide a safe place for families to raise their children and improve their quality of life. New parking, electrical vehicle charging points, and a play space will also service residents in the local area.

Residents who recently moved into their new homes in Gerard House shared their stories with us.



Cllr Aydin Dikerdem meets Mr Mahamud and Mrs Farah

Mr Mahamud and Mrs Farah downsized into Gerard House after their eldest son moved out.

"We felt that someone else could really benefit," said Mr Mahamud, a taxi driver and volunteer football coach. "We feel so happy we could give a home to someone else who really needed it, and our new home is amazing!"

Laundry worker Mrs Farah, added: "We feel so relaxed and comfortable here, we love the house so much because of the garden, the safety and the storage."



Cllr Dikerdem with April and her daughter

Having moved from a one-bedroom property on the sixth floor of a nearby block, April is enjoying space for family life with her three young children.

"With four of us in such a small space, life was very difficult," said April. "I feel a lot calmer now because I've got my own space."

The mum-of-three now has her own bedroom, whereas before she shared the living room with her two daughters, while her autistic son slept in the bedroom to allow him space.

"As a parent I was continually refereeing my children but now I can watch them play and it's lovely," she added.

"They can have friends over and I can finally host a birthday party, so it's great for them socially. I'm so happy to be in a place where my children can thrive now."

Donna moved into Gerard House with her partner and five children after 15 years in a two-bedroom flat on the 11th floor of a nearby block. "It's been life changing," she says. "The space has been amazing, especially for my 10-year-old son, as he has ADHD, diabetes and asthma."

News from the Housing Development Team



Homes for Wandsworth programme update

Farnborough House

Proposals for land adjacent to Farnborough House approved at Planning Committee

The approved scheme will provide 38 much-needed, new council-rent homes, including fully accessible homes, within a high-quality sustainable scheme, which will help to meet the needs of our residents now and for generations to come.

Our proposals also include exciting and significant landscape enhancements and improvements, including new play space, a woodland walk, and communal shared amenities for new and existing residents to enjoy on the estate.

Planning permission was approved back in March's Planning Committee. The planning application was submitted following consultation with the local community during the design phase of the scheme,

and their feedback was incorporated into the planning application.

The application can be found by using reference number **2023/4762** on the planning portal webpage: [wandsworth.gov.uk/search-planning-applications](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/search-planning-applications)

Next steps

We have been working on the tender design for the scheme during the summer, with the aim of going out to tender for a very experienced main contractor during autumn/winter.

In October, we started some enabling works to carry out diversions of some of the existing utilities such as gas, electricity, and fibre cables which run through the middle of the site. A variety of surveys will be conducted as part of due diligence for the existing site.

We will keep you informed as these progress.



Proposals for land at Bessborough Road shortlisted for award

The scheme will provide eight much-needed, specialist homes for adults with learning disabilities within a high-quality sustainable scheme, alongside new landscaping and a special sensory garden, enhancements to the existing play space and

lower car parking, and general access improvements around the site for wheelchair and pushchair access.

The planning application was determined at Planning Committee on 24th October 2023 and received unanimous approval from voting members, which can be found using planning reference number **2023/2779**.

Next steps

We have been working on the detail tender design for the scheme during the summer months, with the aim of going out to tender for a very experienced and specialist main contractor during the autumn/winter period, to undertake the works in 2025.

The Bessborough Road scheme, part of the Homes for Wandsworth programme, was shortlisted for Inside Housing Development Awards 2024. An exemplar scheme, it aims to provide new fully adaptable homes that accommodate all mobility needs and promotes positive mental health, and social and active life. The internal layouts have been carefully considered to ensure the spaces are suited for residents' everyday needs, with high quality equipment and finishes.

Bessborough Road

Visit our consultation website to find out more about our plans and sign-up to our mailing list for project updates: [bessboroughroad-farnboroughhouse.co.uk](https://www.bessboroughroad-farnboroughhouse.co.uk)



Homes for Wandsworth



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Quarterly round up

Over the past few months, the Alton team has been involved with a full and varied programme of events and activities on the Alton estate, including:



Drama On the Clouds

Izzy from On the Clouds Kids recently put on two drama sessions in Roehampton Library, for children living on the Alton Estate.

The sessions, held on Saturdays 14th and 21st September, were very well attended with at least 30 kids on each day. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves with squeals of delight and laughter, so much so that parents were asking when the next session would be!



Sustainable September

As part of 'Sustainable September', Wandsworth Council's Climate Change team hosted two vintage collage workshops led by 'Goose Glitters', on the Alton estate.

There was a women-only session and one for 16-25 year olds. Over 30 people upcycled vintage magazines from the 60's & 70's into fabulous pieces of art. The workshops enabled attendees to explore their creativity, connect with neighbours, meet new people and relax as they choose and cut images they wanted to use. We hope they will continue to use their new skills at home to create more wonderful art pieces.



The Wonderful World of Women



Women, Let's Get Fit, Together!

AFC Wimbledon Foundation now provide two, free, women-only keep fit classes for residents of Roehampton. Their 'Dons Fit' sessions have had a tremendous impact on local women from the Alton estate.

The sessions offer women, of all abilities, a welcoming environment to take part in group exercises and wellness activities, such as circuits, yoga and sports with the aim to improve health, fitness, confidence, and have fun along the way.

The programme is funded by the Premier League Fans Fund; a scheme which aims to inspire a sense of belonging through meaningful engagement between clubs, fans and their community.

Our Alton Team approached the Foundation about facilitating these sessions and then conducted a survey amongst local women to understand what kind of activity they would find most beneficial and where they would like them to take place.

Cheryl Gill, Community Development Manager for AFC Wimbledon Foundation, said:

"Dons Fit for women is not just about improving physical health but a chance to connect and build a supportive local community. We want to create a space that is inclusive, comfortable, and empowering for women from diverse cultural backgrounds, to take part in exercise and feel

happier and healthier." Sandra, a regular attendee, said "I honestly can't believe that a fitness class can be so much fun!"

In addition to the regular fitness classes, the Dons Fit for Women sessions will feature a variety of workshops and events, including yoga and selfcare workshops, as well as a female-centred self-defence class. This term, AFC Wimbledon Foundation is also offering Dons Fit participants free match day tickets to the AFC Wimbledon Women's team games, with the chance to be hosted in a VIP box at Plough Lane Stadium!

The weekly sessions take place on **Mondays at Roehampton Leisure**

Centre between 11am and 12 noon, and Tuesdays from 11am-12pm in Davies Sports Hall, Roehampton University. There is no need to book, just turn up in appropriate sportswear and footwear (sessions are indoors, in a sports hall) with a water bottle!

For more information please email:

womenandgirls@afcwf.org.uk



**AFC WIMBLEDON
FOUNDATION**



Deputy Lieutenant Colleen Harris (far right) with the winners and attendees of the awards

Inspirational Women

At a packed-out SW15 Women's Network coffee morning, attended by Deputy Lieutenant of Wandsworth, Mrs Colleen Harris, several well-deserving local women were presented awards for 'Outstanding Work in the Community'.

The awards were presented to celebrate and recognise the contributions of women who selflessly volunteer their time and skills to various causes, from parenting support, food initiatives, 60+ activities, environmental work, and social justice.

Awards were presented, in no particular order, to Orleen Mcintosh, Chantelle Bent, Luciana Ferreira,

Farzana Kausar, Vicky Chambers, Nakaysha February, Pam Harris and Val Jones.

As she presented the awards, Colleen Harris commented "at the heart of the Women's Network is a deep belief in the power of connection. They understand that when women come together - across culture, generations, and experiences - something extraordinary happens. Ideas are exchanged, support networks are built and, most importantly, women find the strength to achieve their personal goals".

The SW15 Women's Network Coffee Morning takes place every **Wednesday** during term time, **between 10.30am and 12.30pm** at the **Alton Activity Centre, Ellisfield Drive, SW15 4EZ**.

Roehampton Community Weeks

Summary by Noreen Meehan,
Director - Our Roehampton

Our Roehampton, the community development trust for the area, coordinated the programme for Roehampton Community Weeks 2024, for the fourth year of the initiative.

Once again, there was a wonderful programme of events and activities, delivered by community groups and leaders, which responded to the needs of the community and, most importantly, brought people together to have fun. The launch event on 10th August, led by the Alton Renewal team with Chantelle's Community Kitchen's first birthday celebration at the heart of it, was a fantastic kick off, with over 300 people

attending (see story on page 6). 77 events and activities took place in 2024, which is the most ever!

Thank you to all the providers - Enable, Regenerate, Estate Art, Alton Renewal team, Chantelle's Community Kitchen, the Met Police, Doverhouse Lions, Roehampton Sports and Fitness Centre, The Alton Practice, Putney and Roehampton Society, Rackets Cubed, SW15 Music, Roehampton Community Shed, Live Karma Yoga, SEN Unity, Wandsworth Council's Children's Services and Air Quality teams, R.O.C.K.S International, Hestia, Jack Reinback, Verena Nash, Roehampton Library, Roehampton Methodist Church and the University of Roehampton.

Photographs of events can be seen at ourroehampton.org, and for more information on future Community Weeks, please do get in touch with the team at info@ourroehampton.org

Super Fruit Club

During Roehampton Community Weeks, the Alton team hosted two Super Fruit Club sessions to show families how much fun you can have with fruit! Judging by the excited noise from the kids, we think we succeeded.

On the first week, we offered fruit pom pom art kits which enabled kids to create brightly coloured, fuzzy masterpieces. Alongside this, attendees made fruit 'pizza' using sliced watermelon for the pizza slice, vanilla yoghurt (cheese sauce), sliced strawberry (salami), blueberries (olives), and banana (sliced mozzarella). Admittedly, it got messy!!

On the second week, the kids delighted in creating Super Fruit Hero Magnets. Characters including 'Plucky Pear', 'Brilliant Banana', 'Spectacular Strawberry' and their friends, inspired the children's creativity. This was followed with fruity 'kebab' sticks, that the kids filled with their own selection of fruits to ensure they enjoyed their daily serving of fruit.

For both weeks, we had a selection of fruit stencils and fruit card shapes which were perfect for teaching kids about healthy eating, whilst having crafting fun.

Possibly the most exciting activity was making fruit poles. Attendees chose from a selection of finely chopped fruit and sugar free juice and added these to special sealable fruit pole bags, which they took home to freeze and later enjoy.



Residents help build two new bug hotels!

We were delighted that a team from Royal Parks offered to help us run a bug hotel making session during Roehampton Community Weeks.

Building bug hotels is a fantastic way to create a mini ecosystem while engaging in a fun, hands-on DIY project. Initially, the idea was to make a bug hotel that would go in the Roehampton Gate Garden in Richmond Park; however, there was so much enthusiasm, we ended up building two bug hotels! One for the park and one the Alton estate.

Residents of all ages worked really hard sawing wood, nailing planks, and designing the new hotel rooms. Our charming little lodgings were made from a variety of natural materials including wood shavings, bark, pinecones, and even bamboo.

We are sure our bug guests will love the luxury interiors!

The beauty of a bug hotel lies in its variety—a layered design that mimics the diverse habitats that insects enjoy; providing nooks and crannies for ladybirds, bees,

and butterflies to make themselves at home. Not only did our residents get to unleash their creativity by choosing the layout and materials, but they also created a sanctuary for beneficial insects that contribute to pollination and pest control in our local environment.

Our two new hotels have been named 'Alton House', which will be installed in Richmond Park and 'Park House', which will be installed on the Alton estate. We can't wait to welcome our first tiny guests.



Run, Walk, Scoot

We were blessed with perfect weather for our fourth annual Run, Walk, Scoot mini marathon around the Alton estate. We had over 45 participants, including two families that have completed Run, Walk, Scoot every year for the last four years.

We were joined by local MP, Fleur Anderson, who was on hand to give words of encouragement and present medals to all those who completed the course. The first 12 participants to finish were also awarded a drinking bottle which shows them how much water they should drink throughout the day.

The highlight of the event was a group of boys that completed the course three times! Every time they finished, several people suggested that we might want to make the route a bit longer. If you have any suggestions to make next year's fifth annual Run, Walk, Scoot mini marathon better, please get in touch with jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Keep an eye on our community noticeboards, websites and X social media page for information on upcoming events and activities, including:



END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

SW15 Women's Network WHITE RIBBON TORCH PARADE

Thursday 21st November

Walk to support the global movement to end male violence against women and girls.

Meeting at 6pm at the junction of Danebury Avenue and Roehampton Lane.

All upcoming events will offer the opportunity for residents to speak to members of the team to discuss the Alton Renewal Plan and the latest proposals for the Roehampton Community Hub and Village Square.



Roehampton needs you

Get INVOLVED!

Looking forward to our year of culture

Next year is a very special year for Wandsworth, when it becomes the Mayor of London's London Borough of Culture, in April 2025.

Sadiq Khan made the announcement in March and since then, the council has been working on its programme of events for the year.

The Alton estate and Roehampton will play an important role in the celebrations, so watch this space for how you can get involved.

Being Borough of Culture means we will receive funding from the Mayor's office, which will go towards staging a fantastic programme of arts and culture across the borough, from Tooting and Roehampton to Battersea and Putney. It also means we can attract investment into the borough, create new employment opportunities, and ensure we have a thriving arts and culture sector for generations to come.

We are still working on the details of the programme, which will be announced in the New Year, and are looking forward to telling you more about our plans in the coming months.

Sign up for our culture newsletters:

bit.ly/wands_artsnews

Image: Tasha Best



“let's do this together”



Celebrating one year of Chantelle's Community Kitchen

We went behind the kitchen door of Chantelle's Community Kitchen which recently celebrated its first birthday.

The first thing you notice is the warm embrace the volunteers give each other, the second thing you notice is the calendar hanging on the wall with all the volunteers' birthdays listed. We spoke to some of the volunteers to find out what motivates them to give up their free time.

Why Volunteer?

"It has been an honour to help run Chantelle's Community Kitchen! It has given me a new lease of life and perspective. I'm proud that the Kitchen is a safe, friendly and welcoming space where people can get some meals and groceries but also a place where friendships have been made within the community." **Albert**

"As a baker with anxiety, and new to the area, I was very nervous. On my first day volunteering, Chantelle and the other volunteers welcomed me with open arms. Within two weeks I had a whole friendship group, people to open up to and people who would lift me up when I was down. They embraced me as a baker and helped me to explore my talents even more. I couldn't think of a better place or people to volunteer with. Chantelle's Community Kitchen team are stuck with me!" **Simone**

"I retired in May 2023, and didn't know what to do with myself. My neighbour introduced me to Chantelle and she told me that she would be opening a community kitchen on the 1st of August. I immediately knew I wanted to be part of it. Fast forward a year, and I feel so blessed to work with the most amazing team, whose hearts are for the community, and their love and commitment is to serve the needs of others above all. I am so privileged to be part of such wonderful team of people under the guidance of Chantelle." **Mona**

"Volunteering in the kitchen has brought me a sense of fulfilment during a challenging time marked by financial difficulties and family-related emotional strain. The support with groceries was a lifeline, and I found great satisfaction in being able to contribute. There was a point when I was struggling, and I confided in the team who responded with



Chantelle's Community Kitchen team celebrating its first birthday

empathy and provided much-needed support. Chantelle's Community Kitchen not only aided me, but also others in the community; making it a true sanctuary." **Sheneille**

"Chantelle's Community Kitchen has achieved so much in just a year and touched the lives of so many local people. The kitchen has not only provided much needed meals but has also offered support, brought people together in friendship, and uplifted spirits within our community." **Jo**

Lastly, we spoke to Chantelle herself to find out what the volunteers mean to her.

"I want to take this time to say a huge "thank you" to the team of volunteers at the kitchen. They are all amazing people, and I am so thankful to each and every one of them and their commitment to the Community Kitchen. They selflessly give up their time and energy to serve others, and I couldn't wish for a better team to work alongside.

Thank you also to our lovely community who have supported us over the past year and to the Alton Renewal Team who placed such faith in me, and continue to do so."

Since it opened Chantelle's team have given out 13,650 free meals to the community.

If you have time to spare and want to learn a new skill there are a range of volunteering opportunities overleaf.

Roehampton needs you

Get INVOLVED!
Continued

Some local groups you can help

The Alton Renewal Team

Location Alton Estate

Contact Jo.Baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Volunteering opportunities:

One-off event / community engagement volunteering opportunities, normally during school holidays or after school, and mostly involving arts, crafts and a lot of fun.

Estate Art

Location Manresa Club Room, Fontley Way, SW15 4LY

Contact estateartsw15@gmail.com

Volunteering opportunities:

Become a Health Champion and volunteer for 2 hours a week in Roehampton, including at the below:

- Health Café, Saturdays 10am–4pm: receive training to become a Community Health Champion, including accredited qualifications.
- Spud night, Wednesdays 4–6pm: help prepare and serve food at this event supporting mental health and confidence building.
- Roehampton Walking Group, Mondays 10.45am–1pm: accompany local people on a weekly walk to support body and mind.

Learn to Love to Read

Location Local primary schools or home-based

Contact samreen@l2l2r.org

Volunteering opportunities:

- In-school volunteers: 90 minutes, one-to-one reading support, one afternoon a week, between 1–3 pm (Monday–Thursday).
- Virtual volunteers: 60 minutes, one-to-one reading support, one afternoon a week, between 4–6 pm (Monday–Thursday).

Little Village Baby Bank



Location 166 Roehampton Lane

Contact volunteer@littlevillagehq.org

Volunteering opportunities:

We're looking for volunteers to join our team based at 166 Roehampton Lane weekly or fortnightly during school term-time, 10am - 1pm. We sort, check, and prepare pre-loved items for children, creating high-quality bundles of toys, clothes, and equipment for local families.

Our Roehampton

Location 166 Roehampton Lane

Contact siobhan.o'neill@ourroehampton.org

Volunteering opportunities:

- Delivering leaflets and copies of Roehampton Voice every three months around the ward to community venues e.g. library, GP surgeries, schools, etc. 2–3 hours per month.
- Join Roehampton Voice Editorial Team to help identify stories, link with community groups, proof-read articles, etc. 8 hours every three months.

The Roehampton Community Box Hub and Social Supermarket

Location 166 Roehampton Lane

Contact communitybox@racketscubed.com

Volunteering opportunities:

Looking for volunteers for one regular 3–4 hour slot per week - on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday (9am–5pm). Visits welcome.

Wandsworth Foodbank

Location Minstead Gardens

Contact elle@wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk

Volunteering Opportunities:

Looking for volunteers for the Roehampton Welcome Centre on Friday afternoons.

Days and times you can help

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Ad hoc
Morning	Our Roehampton Estate Art Little Village	Our Roehampton Community Box	Our Roehampton Community Box	Our Roehampton Community Box	Our Roehampton	Our Roehampton Estate Art	Our Roehampton Renewal
Afternoon	Our Roehampton Love to read	Our Roehampton Community Box Love to read	Our Roehampton Community Box Estate Art Love to read	Our Roehampton Community Box Love to read	Our Roehampton Foodbank	Our Roehampton Estate Art	Our Roehampton Community Box Renewal
Evening	Our Roehampton	Our Roehampton	Our Roehampton	Our Roehampton	Our Roehampton	Our Roehampton Estate Art	Our Roehampton Renewal

Health and Fitness Corner



Free Pharmacy NHS Health Checks

NHS Health Checks are now being offered at even more local pharmacies, including Well Pharmacy and Care Chemist, both in Danebury Avenue.

If you are over 40, you may be eligible for this free and quick check, which can help to identify risks before any health problems occur. Even if you feel fine now, being aged over 40 raises your risk of issues such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and dementia. Free NHS Health Checks are available every five years to people aged between 40 and 74 years. This is a simple, 20-minute appointment that includes a series of easy checks (like blood pressure, body mass index and cholesterol levels) and lifestyle questions, to help determine your risk of common but preventable heart-related conditions.

You'll get a risk score and have this explained to you by your local pharmacist or GP, which can be critical to helping catch early signs of problems before they have the chance to develop. If you're at a higher risk, your pharmacist or GP can help point you in the direction of local services and lifestyle tips to lower that risk.

Find out more and book today!

wandsworth.gov.uk/healthchecks



Magic breakfasts

Magic Breakfast is a charity that supports provision of breakfast clubs. Roehampton have so far engaged Magic Breakfast to support two schools, namely Roehampton Church and Heathmere Primary Schools; however, more schools will be added in due course.

Support from Magic Breakfast will be tailored to each school's specific need and will include sharing ideas and learning based on what works well in other schools and helping school staff to set up and optimise their breakfast provision.

Save the date for the Wandsworth Can You C Me Conference 2024

We are thrilled to announce the date for the Wandsworth Can You C Me conference, bringing together the community and professionals.

Mark your calendar for 28th November 2024, at Wandsworth Civic Suite, SW18 2PU.

Registration starts at: 10.15am

Conference starts at: 11am

Conference finishes at: 5pm



This year's conference will be offering insightful keynotes, interactive workshops, and unparalleled networking opportunities for all those who attend.

Find out more details, including registration information, speaker announcements and agenda highlights, by visiting the website canyoucme.org

Rosslyn Park accessible sports sessions

Rosslyn Park FC is a wonderful, warm and welcoming club with an active social membership, embracing a culture of inclusion, diversity and friendliness that is synonymous with grass roots rugby clubs. The club is tucked away just opposite Barnes Station, so is a short bus ride away from the Alton estate on the 493 or 265 buses.

Alongside the 1XV Men's team, the Youth and Minis sections are the backbone of the club, with the Youth Girls' section recently joining the fold. The club is fortunate to have a great team of volunteers, coaches and parents who work incredibly hard to deliver a fun and inclusive programme for the club. Why not give it a go?

Amongst the variety of teams and activities, the club also offers Adult Walking Rugby sessions in partnership with Estate Art Roehampton, which takes place on the first Monday of every month.

ROSSLYN PARK COMMUNITY WALKING RUGBY

COME TRY OUR ADULT WALKING RUGBY SESSIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ESTATE ART ROEHAMPTON

FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

ADULTS ONLY

11:30 - 13:00

OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

SW15 5JH

CONTACT: GREG.SENDELL@ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK FOR MORE DETAILS

Tel: 0208 876 1879 Web: www.rosslynpark.co.uk
Rosslyn Park FC, Priory Lane, Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 5JH

ROSSLYN PARK COMMUNITY ROSSLYN PARK YOUTH & MINIS

COME JOIN OUR THRIVING YOUTH & MINIS SECTIONS AT ROSSLYN PARK RUGBY CLUB

MIXED MINIS (U5 - U11)

YOUTH BOYS

YOUTH GIRLS

OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES

FREE TRIAL PERIOD

SW15 5JH

GREG SENDELL @ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK
RORY MACDONALD @ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK
EMME NEWTON @ROSSLYNPARK.CO.UK

Tel: 0208 876 1879 Web: www.rosslynpark.co.uk
Rosslyn Park FC, Priory Lane, Upper Richmond Road, London SW15 5JH

Introducing our new Estate Manager, Benjamin Slade



“ Hi, I’m Ben and I’m one of the newest members of the Western Area Estate Manager Team.

I come from a heavily focused customer facing background, including retail and other councils in London. I have come from my previous role as a Visual Merchandiser for Nike, where I worked for 9 years, to join the Western Team at the end of May. It has been a great change of pace, in an exciting role which is different every day; and the team isn’t too bad either!

Outside of work, I am always playing some kind of sport from American football to badminton, and when I am taking it easy, I spend a lot of time in the cinema catching the latest movies.



Sign up to receive text alerts

Our text message distribution list will enable residents to receive news and event information relating to the Alton Renewal quickly and directly.

If you are interested in signing up to receive our text alerts, please call or text **020 8871 6207** or email us at altonrenewal@wandsworth.gov.uk with your name, address, mobile phone number and the phrase/subject line ‘Alton text alerts’, and we will add you to our SMS distribution list.

Alton Newsletter have your say!

The Alton Team try to put together news and articles that we think you’d like to read.

Do you enjoy it? Is it relevant and of interest? What else would you like included?

We’d appreciate your feedback to help shape future editions.

Please send any complimentary comments or constructive criticism to our mailbox altonrenewal@wandsworth.gov.uk putting ‘NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK’ in the subject line.

Or call us on **020 8871 6207**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Alton Team Contact Details

You can contact the Alton Renewal Team on **020 8871 6207** or [@AltonRenewal](https://twitter.com/AltonRenewal) or at wandsworth.gov.uk/alton

If you would like to discuss anything in person with a member of the team, please contact us and an appointment can be arranged.

You can also find us at the Information Stall outside the Base on Danebury Avenue each Friday, from 2pm-4pm.

Roehampton Ward Councillors

Councillor Jenny Yates

cllr.j.yates@wandsworth.gov.uk

Councillor Matthew Tiller

cllr.m.tiller@wandsworth.gov.uk

Councillor Graeme Henderson

cllr.g.henderson@wandsworth.gov.uk

You can also contact the Cabinet Member for Housing:

Councillor Aydin Dikerdem

cllr.a.dikerdem@wandsworth.gov.uk

Councillor advice sessions are held on the first Saturday of every month at Roehampton Library, 2 Danebury Avenue, from 11am - 12 noon.

