

Home *life*

Wandsworth Council's housing newsletter wandsworth.gov.uk/housingnews



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Useful contacts

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

Housing contacts

Housing Customer Centre

90 Putney Bridge Road
London
SW18 1HR

Western Area Housing Office

Roehampton Parish Hall
Alton Road
London
SW15 4LG

Housing hotline: 020 8871 6161

Housing Area Teams

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

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

Wandsworth Emergency Control

(housing emergencies, out of hours) 020 8871 7490

Home Ownership

housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

Downsizing options

allocationteam
@wandsworth.gov.uk

Landlords looking for tenants

privatelandlords
@wandsworth.gov.uk

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

Battersea, Clapham and Central Wandsworth (or throughout the borough if your heating is supplied by a central communal boiler.)
P.H. Jones
0800 023 4069/0333 004 233

Putney, Roehampton and Tooting

T.Brown Group Ltd
0800 977 8472

To find out your gas contractor
020 8871 7040

Other council contacts

Adult social services

020 8871 7707

Births, Deaths, Marriages and Voting

020 8871 6120

Child social services

020 8871 6622

Environmental services (including pest control, private housing)

020 8871 6127

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

020 8871 8081

To make a telephone payment
0800 021 7763

Parking and Streets

020 8871 8871

Rubbish, recycling and litter

020 8871 8558

Report It App

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

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

Report it in just three easy steps:

- 1 Choose your location**
- 2 Take a photo**
- 3 Choose the council housing estates category**

Once you've submitted your report, it will go straight to our dedicated estate services team to be dealt with.

Search for Wandsworth Report It on the Apple, Android or Windows app store

Find out more at wandsworth.gov.uk/reportitapp



Welcome to the spring issue of Homelife



Resident engagement has always been an important part of our work and I am proud to present the new resident participation and consultation strategy. This sets out the range of participation opportunities available to ensure that all residents can get involved and have their say. See pages 10-11 for more information.

We've also been working with residents to design the new estate cleaning contracts which will start in April. We listened to resident feedback which said the service needed to be improved and, with the help of a focus group, have developed new contracts which we're confident will lead to higher standards of cleanliness across our estates. To learn more about the new contracts, see page 5.

On page 9 there are details of some exciting opportunities for residents. Wandsworth Workmatch is holding its fifth annual jobs fair in May, giving residents the opportunity to meet with local employers and training providers as well as take part in interactive workshops. If you have a great idea about how to improve your local community, the council would love to hear it. The Wandsworth Grant Fund is now open for applications for 2020/21, offering grants to local voluntary and community groups and social enterprises.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Homelife.

If you have any suggestions please contact me by email on hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.

ClIr Kim Caddy
Cabinet Member for Housing



Action for climate change in Wandsworth

The council has published an ambitious action plan to tackle climate change.

The plan sets out how the council can help play its part, along with the wider community, in the fight to tackle climate change. It sets out key themes, including energy efficiency, air quality, water management, urban greening and open spaces, planning and sustainable development, waste management, and sustainable transport.

Our Pledge to be:

Carbon neutral by 2030 | **Zero Carbon by 2050**

Councillor Rory O'Broin, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources, is leading the climate change work for Wandsworth. He said: "Action on climate change is a priority for this council and this action plan sets out what we plan to do to reduce our carbon emissions and support the reduction of emissions in the borough.

"I am particularly enthusiastic about our proposal to allocate £5million to projects which support the achievement of the council's 2030 target.

"However, we can't do this alone and collaboration with the people who live and work in the borough is absolutely essential for our climate change aspirations to be a success.

"We all have a responsibility when it comes to climate change, and the council is fully committed to working with residents, communities and businesses in partnership to ensure we co-produce and continuously improve our actions to address this emergency.

"We particularly want to work with young people - giving them a real voice in the work that we are doing - as ultimately they will be inheriting the legacy of what we are trying to achieve."

The council will work with its communities to build on its plan, with further actions to be developed and delivered over the next ten years.

The full action plan has been published and can be viewed at www.wandsworth.gov.uk.

Housing for all

Wandsworth Council building
1,000 homes to rent or buy



Building 1,000 more homes and offering greater housing choice

Our 'housing for all' build programme is planned up to 2025 and over half of these 1,000 new homes have progressed significantly in the last two years.

Up to 100 affordable homes are due to complete by March 2020. All of these homes will be for low cost rent and prioritised for Wandsworth residents and workers.

500 homes are either on site or at various planning and design feasibility stages.

At least 600 of the 1,000 new homes will



be available for low cost rent or shared ownership. The market homes developed will be prioritised for sale to Wandsworth residents or workers with receipts from market sales being put back into the programme to support the affordable housing development.

Important change to council tenants water rate charges

As from 1 April 2020 charges for water and wastewater services provided to council homes will be collected directly by Thames Water.

This is a London-wide change made by Thames Water because they want to have a more direct relationship with customers so that they can advise about their full range of services including those for people who need extra help and support.

This change will not affect the amount you pay as the water rates have always been set by Thames Water.

After 1 April 2020 council tenants should no longer pay the council for water services.

We have been advised that Thames Water are contacting all council residents affected by this change.

Please note this only applies to residential properties. Water charges for non-residential units such as garages and store sheds will still be collected by the council on behalf of Thames Water.

New estate cleaning contracts to begin in April

Residents have helped design new contracts to revamp the cleaning service in 2020.

Estate cleaning is a vital service ensuring the communal areas on blocks and estates are clean, safe and pleasant to use.

Recent resident satisfaction surveys have found low levels of satisfaction with the cleaning service and the council have therefore reviewed how this is delivered. With the existing cleaning contracts coming to an end in 2020, this provided an opportunity for the council to revamp the borough-wide cleaning service with the help of a resident focus group. The resident focus group worked with the council to establish what the new contracts should include to achieve improved cleaning standards. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all residents who have helped with this process.

The old contracts provided a basic level of cleaning and it is recognised by both council officers and residents that a higher standard of service needs to be delivered. This includes routine cleaning of common parts that were previously only given an occasional deep clean, such as walls, even if this comes at slightly higher costs.

Under the old contracts, cleaning tasks were carried out

at set timescales, however feedback from residents indicated that this had led to inconsistent standards of cleaning across the borough. Under the new contract the contractor will be required to meet specific industry-wide standards of cleanliness, cleaning as often as needed to achieve this. Cleaning is rated on a scale A – D and unless contractors achieve standards of A or B on at least 90 per cent of their work they may face financial penalties. The service will be monitored closely by dedicated council officers.

The estate cleaning contracts underwent a competitive tender process at the end of 2019 with contractors bidding for the contracts. Residents from each of the two contract areas helped the council to assess prospective contractors.

The successful estate cleaning contractors are:

- Pinnacle Group (Putney and Roehampton)
- Lewis and Graves Partnership (Battersea and Tooting)

The new contracts are due to begin in April, and will run until 2028.

Fire Safety update

First Tier Property Tribunal decision

Following the fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017, the council proposed that sprinklers should be fitted to all properties in blocks of 10 storeys or more, bringing fire safety up to the same standard that would be found in a similar newly built block.

The council made an application to the First Tier Property Tribunal to seek an in-principle decision that it had the authority to undertake and charge for the works in the leasehold properties within these blocks.

The Tribunal made a decision that the council could not seek a decision covering all of its high-rise properties but instead should consider each block in turn. The council is now awaiting recommendations arising from Phase Two of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and in the meantime the retrofitting of sprinklers to sheltered housing schemes continues. Further information on the decision can be found on the council's website.



Last piece of cladding removed from Castlemaine

Following the Grenfell Tower fire the council identified two blocks with similar ACM cladding – Sudbury House and Castlemaine. The council is pleased to report that the final piece of old cladding on Castlemaine was removed in November last year.

Removing the cladding has been a complex process. The work to replace this with new cladding is due to complete next month. On Sudbury House, cladding has been removed down to the final few lower floors and the full re-cladding works are expected to be completed in May.

We would like to thank all residents of Castlemaine and Sudbury House for their continued support and cooperation throughout these works.

regeneration updates



New homes for Winstanley and York Road approved

Wandsworth Council's planning committee has approved plans for 2,550 homes, 35 per cent of them affordable, plus a range of community facilities on the Winstanley York Road Estates.

The plans include replacement council homes for all existing secure tenants and resident leaseholders plus a leisure and community centre, library, children's centre and nursery.

The Winstanley York Road plans were developed following extensive consultation with local people. More than 7,000 households were invited to a series of events including school sessions, design workshops and resident group meetings.

Key benefits within the application include:

- A mixture of housing including Social Rent, Shared Ownership, Shared Equity, Affordable Rent, Private Rent and Private Sale.

- The re-provision of all council rent and resident leaseholder homes to be demolished, ensuring that no existing secure tenant or resident leaseholder will be required to permanently relocate from their community.
- The creation of a new public park at the heart of the development.

A new employment and skills centre run by the council's WorkMatch scheme has already been delivered as part of the regeneration, whilst construction work for 46 of the first affordable homes is well advanced.

For more information visit www.winstanleyorkroad.co.uk



Proposed changes to the mix of housing for the Alton estate

A revised proposal for the phasing and delivery of council homes as part of the regeneration of the Alton estate will accelerate delivery of new council homes.

After a statutory planning consultation, both the council and Redrow Homes carefully reflected on comments made by the public and Greater London Authority in respect of the location of council housing.

As a result, a comprehensive proposal has been prepared by the council's housing regeneration team which it believes addresses these concerns and will also accelerate the delivery of council housing.

Additional key amendments include:

- Increased provision of shared ownership housing
- Provision of more council homes for rent
- Greater tenure mix of new homes for council tenants and resident leaseholders rather than a private block

Updates on these proposals have been shared with residents within the intervention area of the Alton estate through a series of engagement sessions carried out by the regeneration team in January.

Every secure council tenant and resident leaseholder in the intervention area has had a brochure hand delivered to their home with a detailed covering letter outlining the new proposals and how they will be affected.

The proposed changes to the tenure mix will be formally submitted by Redrow Homes to the local planning authority in due course and will then form part of a wider public re-consultation.

For more information about the regeneration visit the council website or email roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk

Ensuring a person-centred approach for rehousing disabled residents

Jacqueline Runnalls, a Specialist Housing Occupational Therapist, was employed by the council in April 2019 to identify the



housing needs of disabled and older residents as part of the Alton and Winstanley and York Road regeneration programmes.

The ambition was to ensure that new housing provided by the regeneration would meet the needs of the community, now and in the future.

Jacqueline joins Specialist Housing Occupational Therapist, Rachel Wooden, who has worked for the council for five years.

Jacqueline's work is already making a difference. The council has designed a new-build six-bedroom wheelchair accessible home to meet a specific family's requirements and has enabled a family who require extensive specialist equipment and adaptations to be moved from a ground floor flat to the fifth floor. This addressed their request to feel more secure and have a balcony with views.

Another innovative decision has been made to ensure that all bathrooms in the new build general needs housing are constructed to be easily adaptable into fully accessible wet rooms, featuring recessed shower trays underneath the bath, tiling down to the floor and slip resistant flooring throughout. This will greatly reduce future adaptation costs.

Jacqueline says: "As the project moves forward we will be sharing our experiences and lessons learnt so that this feedback can be included in future schemes of a similar scale. We are also working with existing tenants and resident leaseholders to identify their current and future housing needs so that we can recommend adaptations and access requirements."



Know the law on video doorbells

Video doorbell owners are subject to data protection laws and may face action from the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

There are many types of video doorbell systems on the market; these allow you to view who is calling at your door remotely, for example from an app on your phone. Whilst these devices are widely advertised, they may breach data protection laws and your tenancy conditions. They fall under the same rules as any domestic CCTV camera.

If your camera captures images outside the boundary of your home and garden, you must comply with legislation. This includes cameras that capture neighbours' homes or gardens, communal areas of your block or a public footpath or street. There are specific obligations you must meet to ensure you comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. If you do not meet data protection laws, you could face action by the ICO.

The council does not approve the use of any video doorbells that capture public or communal areas and takes privacy laws seriously. If we receive a complaint that you are breaching legislation with a video doorbell, we will consider all appropriate action including, but not limited to, enforcing the terms of the Tenancy Conditions and/or making a referral to the ICO for investigation. You will need to provide evidence that you are meeting relevant laws or you could be subject to legal action, such as a fine.

For more information visit <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/domestic-cctv-systems-guidance-for-people-using-cctv>

If you have concerns about somebody breaching legislation using a video doorbell, please contact your area team.



£800 penalty for Battersea fly-tipper

Wandsworth Council will take action against people who dump rubbish in the street.

Our enforcement officers now have the power to issue £400 fixed penalty notices on-the-spot for fly-tipping.

In September, following joint working between the council's eastern area team, inspection and enforcement team and the local police, a Wandsworth resident was issued two Fixed Penalty Notices, totalling £800, for fly-tipping outside properties on Sheepcote Lane, Battersea.

Residents are encouraged to help the council continue to tackle fly-tipping and keep Wandsworth tidy by:

- Using the council's bulky waste and DIY waste removal service. Details are on the council's website.
- Always checking that those offering to carry out removal work are registered waste carriers listed with the Environment Agency.
- Obtaining a Waste Transfer Note for waste being removed.

If you encounter an on-street fly-tip, report it for clearance by emailing flytipwitness@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

To report cases of fly-tipping on housing estates contact estate services HESeniors@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk or via the Report It App.

Backing clever ideas for your community



Through the Wandsworth Grant Fund we celebrate and support voluntary and community organisations doing great work all around the borough.

Since being launched in 2015, over £1.3 million has been distributed to local organisations, providing resources to build skills and experiences through activities which benefit residents of all ages, often supporting those communities most in need of support.

Projects receiving awards in 2019 included: Battersea Befriending Network, Doddington and Rollo Roof Garden, Friends of Coronation Gardens and Wandsworth Sea Cadets.

Applications are now open for 2020/21, seeking more clever ideas for projects and activities that meet the needs of local communities.

Grants of between £500-10,000 can be awarded to voluntary and community groups and social enterprises for projects for up to 12 months long which help the council to achieve its priorities across six areas. Whether it is encouraging more volunteering, making your neighbourhood cleaner or more attractive, helping people into work, supporting older and disabled people who are isolated, encouraging families to be healthier and more active or starting a new community cultural experience, we are waiting to hear from you.

With three application deadlines throughout the year, opportunities await for great ideas. Full details and closing dates visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/wgf

Tooting Common heritage project comes to a close

Since 2016 the Tooting Common heritage project has worked in partnership with local community groups to improve and monitor biodiversity and habitats on the Common, to conserve and restore heritage landscape and architectural features and to teach people about the Common's rich history and biodiversity.

The successes of the project included the restoration of the 1930s drinking fountain and fossil tree enclosure, developing a heritage trail, and improving conditions for various veteran trees and historic tree avenues, including replanting the horse chestnut avenue.

The project reached its conclusion in December 2019 and we would like to thank everyone involved.



Workmatch hosting their fifth annual jobs fair

Friday 15 May, 10am-3pm.
Wandsworth Civic Suite,
SW18 2PU

The event is free and open to Wandsworth residents only.

You will have the opportunity to meet with businesses such as leading national retailers, construction contractors, hospitality companies and many more who are all recruiting within the borough.

We will have a range of interactive workshops covering:

- Employability
- Social Media
- Business start-up and enterprise

There will also be local employment support organisations able to give advice on apprenticeships, specialist training, career development and business start-up.

Visit if you are:

- Living in the borough of Wandsworth
- Looking to find work closer to home
- Currently in education or training
- Seeking employment from entry to professional level

Pre-book to save time queuing on the day. For more information and to reserve your place for free visit: www.employwandsworth.org

GET INVOLVED IN HO

New resident participation and consultation strategy

The council's new strategy provides a range of ways that you can get involved with matters affecting your housing. Whether you want to attend formal meetings, set up a local residents' association or come along to a gardening event, there's something for everyone. The strategy covers four areas.



1. Formal participation

This section of the strategy sets out how the department formally consults with residents. If you want to review the performance of the Housing and Regeneration Department or decisions about housing, you may want to get involved in the formal routes of participation. The first step is by setting up or joining a local residents' association.

2. Informal participation

The council runs informal activities to seek the views of residents and allow residents who don't sit on the formal structures to get involved with the work of the Department. These include focus groups on specific topics, readers' panels to review webpages and publications and the housing community champions scheme.



3. Engaging the wider community

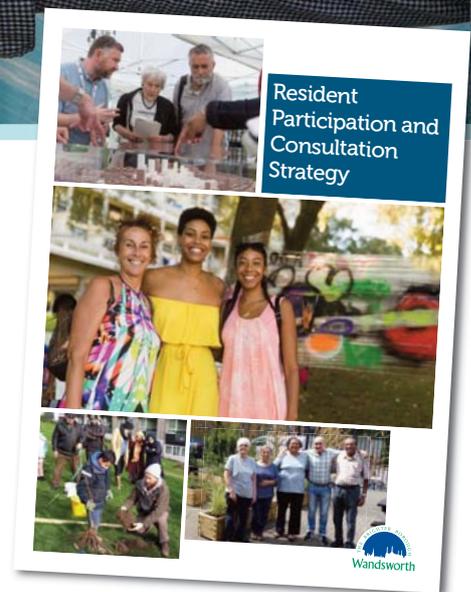
The council wants to hear from all residents, including those who do not want to be involved more formally. We undertake satisfaction surveys throughout the year with a sample of residents and the results help inform how we deliver services to you. We also support a range of activities on estates, including community gardens, activities for older residents and sports sessions for younger residents.



4. Consultation arrangements

The council often needs to undertake specialist consultations with residents, for example in relation to regeneration projects or major works. This section of the strategy sets out these arrangements and how we work to put affected residents at the heart of projects.

- To find out more about any of the activities mentioned visit [wandsworth.gov.uk/getinvolvedhousing](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/getinvolvedhousing) to read the new strategy or contact your resident participation officer (see page 15 for contact details).



Residents' Conference 2020

The council will be launching the new strategy at a residents' conference in spring.

This will be an exciting opportunity for professionally led training, group workshops and networking. The conference is aimed at residents' associations, but if you are thinking

about setting up a residents' association or would like to get more formally involved in the work of the housing department contact your resident participation officer to register your interest.

Please note that spaces are limited and will be offered on a first come basis.

Home Ownership Team

Improving purchase options for council tenants



Helping you to buy a home

House Purchase Grant Scheme

The council's House Purchase Grant Scheme for 2019-20 has continued to thrive, with 60 tenants expected to purchase their dream home this year.

This scheme gives eligible council tenants a grant to use towards buying a home of their own on the open market within the UK or anywhere else in the world or to use towards purchasing a share of a shared ownership property (part rent / part buy) in the UK. It can also be used to adapt a family member's home within the UK to create an extension to enable tenants to move in.

The amount of grant a tenant could qualify for depends on:

- the number of bedrooms within their current home;
- the total length of their tenancy;
- the outcome of a means tested financial appraisal.

To be considered for this scheme, applicants need to have been a secure tenant for a minimum of two years, have a clear rent account and be willing to vacate their council property.

Grant levels (for tenants who have at least three years tenancy):

Bed Size	(2019-20) Grant amount up to:
Studio / one	£50,000
two - three	£70,000
four - six	£100,000

In April 2020, the new scheme will open, so if you are interested in the house purchase grant scheme and wish to be placed on the waiting list for notification of when new funding

is available, please contact the Home Ownership Team. Please note that funds are limited so not everyone on the list will be offered the grant.

Right to Buy

Right to Buy is still a popular option for tenants wishing to purchase the home in which they currently live in. Tenants must have been a tenant for at least three years and can receive a discount of up to a maximum of £110,500 off the market value of the property (£112,300 from April 2020).

Right to Part Buy

Right to Part Buy is a voluntary sales scheme launched by Wandsworth's Home Ownership Team in January 2017.

This unique scheme enables eligible council tenants who qualify for the Right to Buy, but are unable to afford to purchase their council home outright, to buy a share of their property. Tenants can purchase an initial share of 25 per cent or 50 per cent of their home, receiving a discount on the share purchased and paying a low rent on the remaining share. Over time, tenants can buy additional shares.

To be eligible for the scheme you must:

- be a secure tenant;
- have been a tenant for at least three years;
- not have received Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit for at least 12 months prior to the application;
- pass an affordability test.

To find out more about home ownership options visit:
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership.

New shared ownership developments

There are some exciting new shared ownership developments in the borough:



Optivo - Riverside Quarter, SW18

93 new apartments are available comprising 22 one bedroom and 71 two bedroom homes. Ideally located on the banks of the River Thames with great transport links to central London, this development is perfect for young professionals.

Please contact Optivo on www.optivo.org.uk/contactus.aspx or call 0800 121 60 60

L&Q – Ponton Road, SW8

59 modern apartments, a combination of one, two and three beds, are available in a highly-sought after location within walking distance of Battersea Park and with excellent transport links to Clapham Junction and Vauxhall. These will be let as London Living Rent properties at significantly lower rates than standard market rental. Those working and/or living locally already will be prioritised.

Please contact L & Q on www.lqgroup.org.uk/contact/contact-landq-direct/ or call 0300 456 9997



Home Ownership Team information sessions

The Home Ownership Team holds information sessions on a quarterly basis around the borough to meet with residents and answer your questions on options for owning your own home.

Our next session is being held at Roehampton Area Office (Housing Reception, The Parish Hall, Alton Road, SW15 4LG) on Wednesday 25 March, 10am to 12pm.

These sessions are strictly by appointment only, so if you would like to make an appointment to discuss home ownership options please contact the team using the details below.

Email: housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

Web: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership

Telephone: 020 8871 6161

community news



Christmas at the Doddington

In December, the council collaborated with the Nine Elms Arts Ministry to coordinate a festive event for the local community and residents of the Doddington and Rollo estates.

The council enjoyed the opportunity to learn about what matters to young people in the area, inviting them to create an art project to decorate festive windows in preparation for the event. Year 9 students from Harris Academy worked on the project as part of their GCSE portfolio.

The event was a great success with local residents, community groups, faith groups, local businesses and organisations coming together to celebrate the festive season. Over 120 people attended the event, enjoying carol singing, mulled wine, toasted marshmallows and much more. The event was a great example of community cohesion and the council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved – we look forward to next year!

If you have any ideas for community events on the Doddington and Rollo please contact Sandra Evangelista, Senior Community Engagement Officer on Sandra.evangelista@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



Christmas carols with the regeneration team

In December, the Regeneration Team hosted a Christmas carols event at York Road Library. Older residents were served a hot meal with around 60 guests attending. Later in the afternoon, doors were open to everyone with festive treats from Midgard, a construction company working on the Winstanley and York Road regeneration scheme. There were also performances from local singers, dancers and musicians, coordinated by the World Heart Beat Academy, a local organisation that brings world music to young people in London.



Panto at Andrew Reed House

Andrew Reed House residents' association hired the Rah Rah Theatre Group to put on a pantomime of Little Red Riding Hood in their meeting room. Residents of all ages were invited and really enjoyed themselves – with some taking part in the performance!

After the panto the cast joined residents for tea and cake. It was a lovely way to get the festive season off to a flying start!



Elm trees light up estates

Saying thank you with arts and crafts

Across the borough, the Regeneration Team has been involved in running a series of craft workshops with local children and older residents based on the theme of thank you.

During November and December, staff from the Regeneration Team worked with Women of Wandsworth Mums (WOW Mums) to lead craft workshops at Falconbrook Primary School and Haven Lodge Sheltered Housing scheme in Battersea. The aim was to get the children and older people to think about someone they wanted to say thank you to. They were encouraged to think of a person outside of their family, someone who had impacted their day-to-day life in some way, such as librarians, teachers, shop keepers, bus drivers and street cleaners. Participants made decorative ornaments using air-drying clay, some of which were made into hanging Christmas tree decorations.

On the Alton Estate in Roehampton, 14 craft workshops took place at Heathmere Primary School with a group of younger children, facilitated by staff from the Regeneration Team. The 'thank you' theme continued at the Roehampton Methodist Church Hall with an event hosted by the council in partnership with Redrow, its regeneration development partner on the Alton regeneration scheme. The event was called S.M.I.L.E, which stands for Special Messages in Little Envelopes and entertainment was provided by the World Heart Beat Academy, who incorporated a special song of gratitude.

Suzie MacAllan from the Regeneration Team said: "The children very much enjoyed the workshops and we certainly enjoyed delivering them! Plenty of creativity and fun had by all."

Housing estates in Nine Elms were lit up in December as part of a programme of cultural events across the area. Beautiful drawings of the elm trees growing along Nine Elms Lane were projected onto a block on the Patmore Estate and the side of the ROSE community clubroom on the Savona Estate.

Light Up Nine Elms marked the long history of the area's trees, with the Nine Elms place name having been traced back to the 17th century. Nine elm trees were known to be standing on Nine Elms Lane back in the 1840s.

Wandsworth Council leader Cllr Ravi Govindia said: "This celebration of our nine elm trees is a wonderful way of drawing together communities through a shared local history."

The Light Up Nine Elms event coincided with the annual ROSE Christmas party, which drew around 200 local residents to visit Santa's Grotto, sing carols and share festive treats. A ROSE Advent window was also unveiled which lit up windows with festive artwork, organised by the Anglican Diocese of Southwark's Nine Elms Arts Ministry.

Your resident participation team

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

Speak to your resident participation officer.



Foday Kamara
Southern Team
(020) 8871 8639
fkamara
@wandsworth.gov.uk



Jo Baxter
Central Team
(020) 8871 8694
jbaxter
@wandsworth.gov.uk



Lee Bushell
Eastern Team
(020) 8871 8638
lbushell
@wandsworth.gov.uk



Sarah Stevens
Western Team
(020) 8871 5505
sstevens
@wandsworth.gov.uk

Brighter borough prepares for spring

The council has carried out a gardening project to plant more flowers and trees, including planting 55,000 bulbs on estates across the borough



A host of golden daffodils

Residents on estates around the borough will soon be enjoying some extra spring colour following the planting of an additional 55,000 daffodil bulbs into communal lawns on six different estates.

The bulbs were planted over two days using specialist machinery and should flower for decades to come, each year signalling the end of winter and the beginning of a new season.

Two varieties were selected, 'Golden Anniversary' and 'Fortune'. As you would expect, 'Golden Anniversary' has bright, golden yellow flowers, whilst 'Fortune' has petals that are a paler yellow with orange trumpets. Both are strong growing varieties and they are sure to stand out at a time of year when there are typically fewer flowers blooming in the gardens.

The plan is to plant more bulbs in years to come, so if there is a large lawn on your estate that has not already been planted please feel free to contact the Horticultural Services Team on 020 8871 7900 or email to ian.harrison@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk to nominate an area.



Trees on the Henry Prince estate

Tree pits around the Henry Prince estate, that were previously empty, have been renovated and replanted this autumn.

The new trees should prove a welcome addition to the communal areas. The old soil was removed and replaced, and the ground was de-compacted to provide a suitable environment for the trees to put down new roots.

The selection of trees was agreed with the local Tree Officer, and includes native species such as Alder, Hawthorn and Maple, along with spring flowering Cherries. The trees will help cool down the estate during hot summer days, filter pollution from the air, and provide a habitat and food source for a variety of local wildlife.



Helping residents improve their health and wellbeing

Social prescribing is a new initiative introduced by the NHS England as part of their Long-Term Plan. Social prescribing supports people to take control of their own health by connecting them to support within the community.

Social prescribing starts with a GP referring people to their Link Workers who meet people for a one to one consultation. Link Workers are based within GP practices but support people in non-medical ways. During consultations Link Workers give people time to focus on what matters to them and take a holistic approach to their health and wellbeing. They are trained to identify local activities or services that can provide people with practical support and make a real impact to their health and wellbeing. This could include supporting people with things like managing stress, loneliness, finding social groups, learning new skills, physical activity or getting information on employment, benefits, housing and legal advice

Emerging evidence shows that social

prescribing can lead to a range of positive health and wellbeing outcomes, such as improved quality of life and emotional wellbeing. In addition, research shows that social prescribing can reduce the number of GP appointments and hospital admissions.

The Wandsworth & Merton Clinical Lead for Social Prescribing Dr Mohan Sekeram said: "We are delighted we can now offer thousands more patients this new service which can help with all their needs. While empowering patients this will build resilience in our community to allow patients to take control of their health."

If you would like more information about social prescribing please contact your local GP practice and ask about a referral to a Link Worker.

Improvements for the 170 bus

The popular bus route now runs more frequently, following lobbying from local residents and councillors

Passengers on the 170 bus service, which operates between Victoria Station and Roehampton's Danebury Avenue, can now benefit from an improved timetable. The bus now runs every seven to eight minutes Monday to Saturday daytimes, and every 12 minutes on Sundays and all evenings.

The changes have been welcomed by residents and councillors in Wandsworth who have been lobbying for extra capacity on this popular route between Roehampton and central London.



Karate Kids!

Local pupils took part in the first of three karate championships organised by the WoW Mums group. The championship was held in John Bosco school and all those who took part had a great time, enjoying the opportunity to spar with other local karate schools. The karate school aims to support children to be confident, bond as a team and work towards goals.

The next WoW karate championship is on 28 March in John Bosco school at 10am.

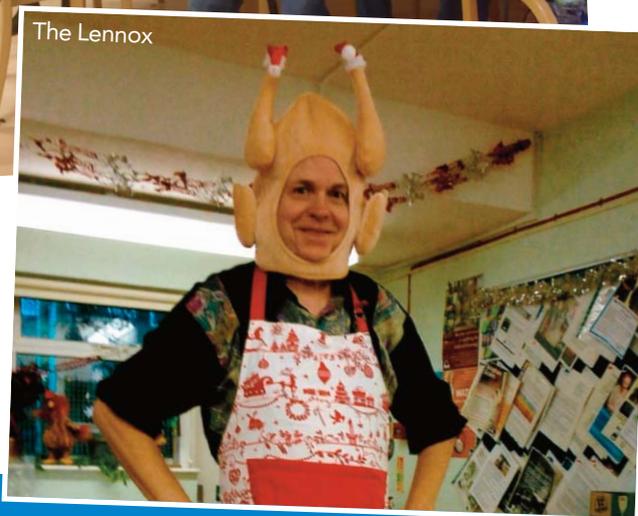
sheltered housing news



Ashburton South



Manresa



The Lennox



Yew Tree Lodge

Party season

Sheltered housing residents around the borough threw parties to celebrate the festive period. Residents and sheltered housing officers alike enjoyed decorations, food and entertainment. Highlights included:

Manresa sheltered scheme enjoyed listening to the hits from their resident Elvis, Tony.

Ashburton South threw a party with support from their neighbours, Putney Community Gardeners.

Yew Tree Lodge invited their neighbours from Rambler Close to their Christmas party for good food and music.

Geoffrey Cox, the Lennox's sheltered housing officer got into the Christmas spirit!

BBC Radio London comes to Dimson Lodge

In December, pupils from Westbridge Primary School visited Dimson Lodge sheltered housing scheme to perform carols for the residents. BBC Radio London came along to cover the event for their Christmas choir special on the Vanessa Feltz Breakfast Show. They recorded the carols and spoke to residents and pupils about the day.

One resident told the BBC: "Westbridge Primary School have been coming to sing carols for the last seven or eight years. What we love is that they bring their carol sheets, so they give them out to everybody for us to join in as well. The children come and they look so starry eyed and lovely, it really warms your heart."

Another said: "I think it's terrific, there aren't many places you can go that you can communicate with the other generation."

One pupil explained why he enjoyed the event: "I love singing Christmas songs to people and its fun making people happy."

The event was a great success that was enjoyed by all and we look forward to next year!

Upcoming events

There's always a lot going on in our sheltered housing schemes including regular coffee mornings, exercise classes and games afternoons. A few events coming up at some of our schemes over the next few months:

- Trip to Kempton Market and pub lunch on 12 March, organised by Grosse Way and & Hepplestone Close
- Easter lunch and raffle at James Searles Lodge on 8 April
- VE Day celebration at Ashburton South on 5 May
- A trip on the Bluebell steam railway on 13 May, organised by the Lennox

For more information about what's happening where you live, speak to your sheltered housing officer.



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AD.917 (5.15)

How will Brexit affect you?

EU citizens can secure their rights to live in the UK after Brexit by applying for settled status.

The EU Settlement Scheme is free and is now open to EU citizens and their non-EU family members. To make a successful application you just need to:

- prove your identity
- prove that you live in the UK
- declare any criminal convictions.

You must apply before 31 December 2020. For more information visit [gov.uk/eu-settled-status](https://www.gov.uk/eu-settled-status).

In partnership with Wandsworth Council, Citizens Advice Wandsworth can help vulnerable residents to apply. For more information contact the CA Wandsworth EU Project team:

- Email: euadvice@cawandsworth.org
- Online: www.cawandsworth.org/eu



Gigafast broadband

Super-fast broadband provider Community Fibre has now enabled around 30,000 homes in Wandsworth to link up to its full fibre network

The council has been working in partnership with Community Fibre to ensure council tenants and leaseholders can be among the first in London to benefit from super-fast broadband.

The Gigafast service has clocked download speeds of over 1,000 megabits per second - nearly 50 times faster than the UK average, according to figures released by Ofcom. It uses optical fibre cables installed directly into people's homes, rather than the older and slower copper technology.

It costs £40 a month to subscribe to the company's unlimited 'gigabit per second' speeds and cheaper packages are also available. Downloads are unlimited and customers don't have to pay a line rental charge.

The council's cabinet member for housing Cllr Kim Caddy said: "Fast reliable broadband is hugely important to our tenants and leaseholders, which is why we want Wandsworth to be London's most connected borough."

Happy Streets in awards spotlight

A local project which launched the Happy Streets festival and led the redesign of Thessaly Road underpass in Nine Elms has been shortlisted for a national community arts award.

The council worked with housing estate residents in the Thessaly Road area and nearby St George's primary school to develop the colourful rail bridge design and community festival.

The Hearts for the Arts Awards 2020 panel also shortlisted Wandsworth Council's cabinet member for



Community Services and Open Spaces, Cllr Steffi Sutters, in the category of 'Best Arts Champion - Councillor' for her work promoting local arts.

Latest Nine Elms news at www.nineelmslondon.com

Large print version

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