

news and information from your council

# my merton



Win four  
tickets to see  
**Footloose**  
at New Wimbledon  
Theatre

## Balancing the borough's budget

The latest on *Future Merton*  
regeneration plans

Children walking their  
Daily Mile in Merton



# The Leader of Merton Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, writes for *My Merton*



There's been a lot in the newspapers recently about children from Syria and other war torn countries who are stuck in refugee camps with no family to look after them. I don't think any of us can imagine how scary that must be for a child, and I know that the community in Merton is doing a great deal to extend our support to refugees, and children in particular. You can read more on page five.

Their experience makes me realise how lucky we are to live here in Merton. More and more people are moving here because we're a great place to have a family and for kids to grow up. Our schools are some of the most improved in the country and we have amazing parks, playgrounds and leisure centres. And we'll soon have a brand new secondary school in South Wimbledon!

Of course, all of this costs money. And at this time of year the council has

to make some difficult decisions about where we spend our money. This is made more and more difficult as the government has cut council budgets by more than 40% since 2010. Imagine if your boss cut your pay by 40%!

However, I'm a businessman so I've made sure we stretch every penny we have so that we can continue to provide the services you value the most. This year we've put £9m more into adult social care to look after older and disabled people in the borough and we've also invested more in children's services.

Although we've been forced to agree to charge the government's new adult social care precept, we've continued to freeze the core element of your council tax. We think it's important to keep council tax affordable when people are worried about how Brexit might affect their finances. You can find out more about the council's budget on page 16-17.

I'm so pleased I've been able to bring up my children here, and I want many more families to enjoy the same Merton experience my family has had!

*Stephen Alambritis*

## Merton doing the right thing for children

Merton has recently taken in 22 children under the age of 17 who are from countries affected by violence and war, such as Syria, Iraq and Iran. The government gives us some money to cover the cost of care and housing for these children but we have to cover a lot of the costs ourselves. However, in Merton we think helping children is the right thing to do. It is certainly in the proud tradition of London, where so many people have escaped war and persecution in the past.

A great way you can help children, including refugee children, is by becoming a foster carer. On page 21 you can find out how rewarding it is to offer a child a place in your family. In Merton we know how important families are and we'll continue to look after all of our children, including offering refugee children the chance of happiness despite the war and violence they have experienced.



Serving up the Friends in Lower Morden's first anniversary lunch

## Bobbies back on the beat

They say an Englishman's home is his castle, which I think means we like to feel secure in our own houses! So I'm delighted at the news that the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has brought back neighbourhood policing. Every ward in Merton will soon have two dedicated police constables and a police community support officer.

Merton is already the third safest borough in London. But more "bobbies on the beat" is excellent news and can only make our community safer. We live in a really great borough where we all try to look after each other. But it's a bonus to know that we have local police officers who are keeping an eye on our neighbourhood and looking after our safety.



# contents

## contact us

Switchboard: 020 8274 4901

Anti-social behaviour  
hotline: 020 8274 4907

Council tax: 020 8274 4904

Benefits advice:  
020 8545 4178

Libraries: 020 8545 3783

Parking: 020 8545 4661

Registering to vote:  
020 8274 4901

Waste collection services:  
020 8274 4902

*My Merton* is published by the London Borough of Merton and is distributed free to households in the borough four times a year.

Editorial  
communications@merton.gov.uk  
merton.gov.uk/mymerton

What's on listings:  
Fill in the online events form at:  
merton.gov.uk/eventscalendar

Adverts  
For all advertising enquiries  
contact mymerton@merton.gov.uk

The London Borough of Merton does not accept responsibility for or endorse any products or services offered by advertisers.

**My Merton costs only 12p a copy to produce**



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

*My Merton* is printed on fully recyclable paper, which is accredited by the PEFC Council (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes). This edition of *My Merton* is distributed from 16 March 2017.

*My Merton* is designed by  
Domino4 01932 988677  
Email [andrew@domino4.co.uk](mailto:andrew@domino4.co.uk)  
[www.domino4.co.uk](http://www.domino4.co.uk)

Printed by Cliffe Enterprise  
Print Partnership  
Contact 0845 601 9478  
Email [ben@cliffe-enterprise.com](mailto:ben@cliffe-enterprise.com)  
[www.cliffe-enterprise.com](http://www.cliffe-enterprise.com)

*My Merton* is distributed by London Letterbox.  
Contact 020 8940 0666 or log on to [www.londonletterbox.co.uk](http://www.londonletterbox.co.uk)



**The Daily Mile in Merton**



14

## Future Merton

The latest on regeneration projects across the borough



16

## Budget

Full analysis of how we have balanced the budget

## Community

### News 4

The latest news from around the borough

### Features

#### Cleaner, greener 10

New waste and parks contracts save taxpayers millions

#### Feature 21

Could you be a foster carer?

#### Community safety 19

Everyone is welcome in Merton

#### 5 minutes with 32

Chief Superintendent Steve Wallace

### Regulars

#### Working life 9

Ruth Hearty, Reparation Coordinator, Youth Justice Service

#### What's on 25

Your guide to all that's going on in Merton this spring

**Don't forget to visit our website!**

[merton.gov.uk/mymerton](http://merton.gov.uk/mymerton)

You can also follow us on:



[www.facebook.com/mertoncouncil](http://www.facebook.com/mertoncouncil)



@Merton\_Council



[www.flickr.com/mertoncouncil](http://www.flickr.com/mertoncouncil)



[www.youtube.com/mertoncouncil](http://www.youtube.com/mertoncouncil)



Whenever you see this logo that means there's a volunteering opportunity to get involved in

## Carved in Stone

A heritage project has uncovered the life stories of more than 500 First World War combatants commemorated on local war memorials.

The two-year Carved in Stone project was financed by a £80,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and run by the council's Heritage service. It was supported by a team of 39 volunteers and 29 organisations who shared their knowledge, resources and historic documents.

A total of 512 stories are now available alongside 1,436 wartime documents on the Carved in Stone website, which also features the Wimbledon and Merton Roll of Honour, listing those who fought in the conflict between 1914 and 1918.

🔗 **find out more**  
[merton.gov.uk/carvedinstone](http://merton.gov.uk/carvedinstone)

## Grant awarded

Croydon, Merton and Sutton Credit Union has been awarded a £16,939 grant by Lloyds Banking group to improve its services to residents in the area and increase its outreach work.

🔗 **find out more**  
[www.croydonplus.co.uk](http://www.croydonplus.co.uk)

No appointment needed to talk to a representative at Merton Civic Centre in Morden on Wednesdays between 10am and 3pm

## Road race

Cyclists taking part in the Prudential RideLondon – Surrey will be riding through the streets of Raynes Park and Wimbledon on Sunday 30 July in the final stages of the event which finishes in The Mall in central London. As usual, the council will be working closely with the police to minimise inconvenience to residents as this exciting world-class event passes through our borough.

🔗 **find out more** [www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk](http://www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk)



# Pupils stay safe online

Schools across the borough marked Safer Internet Day by taking part in activities to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology by children and young people.

Pupils from Haslemere Primary School in Mitcham learned about staying safe online with advice from the council as part of the UK Safer Internet Centre initiative.

The children presented their ideas about what they thought staying safe online meant to the Mayor of Merton. Pupils learned how to use technology positively and stay safe when using the internet on mobile phones, at home or at school.



Pupils from Haslemere Primary School with the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Brenda Fraser



## Music is for Life

Young singers and musicians from across Merton will be

performing in a concert at the Royal Albert Hall. Pupils from 19 primary schools will be taking part in Merton Music Foundation's performance of *Music is for Life* on 8 May. Highlights of the evening will include two new compositions: *The People's Guide to the Orchestra*, by composer Neil Brand, which is inspired by film music, and *Speak Up, Speak Out!* by Pete Churchill and Adam Saunders, which celebrates William Shakespeare's life.

🔗 **find out more** Call Merton Music Foundation on 020 8640 5446 or book tickets on the Royal Albert Hall's website: [www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2017/music-is-for-life](http://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2017/music-is-for-life)

## Have your say on transport in Merton

Our Public Transport Liaison Committee will give residents the opportunity to speak directly to transport providers about how their services in Merton could be improved. A representative from Transport for London will outline the Mayor of London's Draft Transport Strategy and there will also be presentations on buses, trams and electric vehicle charging points.

There will be a public question and answer session at the end of the meeting.

The Public Transport Liaison Committee will meet on Wednesday 10 May at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber at Merton Civic Centre in London Road, Morden.

🔗 **find out more**  
 Call 020 8545 3837 or email [future.merton@merton.gov.uk](mailto:future.merton@merton.gov.uk)



# Merton welcomes refugee family

Merton is the first London borough to welcome a refugee family as part of the government's Community Sponsorship Scheme. The council is working closely with partners, including the Salvation Army and Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, to resettle the family in the borough.

The family, who had been living in a refugee camp, were identified as having high priority for resettlement because they are particularly vulnerable.

## New secondary school to meet demand for Merton education



Merton will see a new much-needed comprehensive secondary school open in September 2018.

Named Harris Wimbledon Academy, the school will be located on High Path, not far from South Wimbledon Underground Station. This is the area where the demand for school places is greatest. The new building will open its doors to pupils in 2020, but the first children to benefit from an education at the school will start in September 2018 at a temporary site in Whatley Avenue (SW20).

The council is working closely with the Education Funding Agency to ensure the school is value for money for the borough's taxpayers.

The development of Harris Wimbledon Academy follows Merton's successful primary school expansion programme, which created over 4,000 new school places to meet unprecedented demand from parents who want their children to be educated in Merton.

More secondary school places will be created by the new school and also through the expansion of Harris Academy in Mitcham to provide an extra 300 places.

**find out more**  
[merton.gov.uk/harriswimbledon](http://merton.gov.uk/harriswimbledon)

## Merton tackles air pollution head-on

In response to a national health emergency and the Mayor of London's pledge to cut air pollution in the capital, Merton Council is making it easier for people to move to less polluting vehicles by installing a network of electric charging points. There are now 21 charging points with retractable cables across Merton and plans to expand the network. Users can download a free Smartphone app to find the nearest point, reserve it or report a fault. Network operator Source London will charge £2 per hour, with most cars fully charged in four hours.

To encourage drivers to ditch diesel in favour of cleaner fuels, the council is also proposing to phase in a levy on diesel



Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing, Councillor Martin Whelton charges up an electric vehicle

vehicles over the next three years. The levy will apply to resident, business and trade parking permits. The initial levy for 2017/18 will be £90

rising to £115 in 2018/19 and £150 in 2019/20.  
**find out more**  
[merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/electric\\_charge\\_point](http://merton.gov.uk/transport-streets/electric_charge_point)



## Get ready for carnival

Mitcham Carnival 2017 is happening on 10 June, so get the date in the diary. Three Kings Piece will be alive with music and dance. There will be stalls selling delicious food and drinks from all over the world and there will be displays from local charities, businesses and community groups. Anyone interested in having a stall at this year's carnival should contact: [mitcham.carnival@merton.gov.uk](mailto:mitcham.carnival@merton.gov.uk). Stalls cost £25 for charities and £50 for businesses.

**find out more**  
[merton.gov.uk/mitchamcarnival](http://merton.gov.uk/mitchamcarnival)

## Borrow books at the touch of a button



Technology is allowing library users to borrow, return and renew items at the touch of a button.

Self-service technology and the support of volunteers has enabled Merton Council to keep all seven of its award-winning libraries open and extend their opening hours during recent years.

From 1 May, Colliers Wood, Raynes Park, Pollards Hill, and West Barnes libraries will all operate self-service periods during off peak times.

The buildings will continue to be staffed by security guards throughout opening hours.

🔗 **find out more** [merton.gov.uk/libraries](https://merton.gov.uk/libraries)

## Merton adult education

Learn a new skill on a Merton Adult Education course. There are a range of courses beginning in the summer term including first aid, arts, crafts, baking, languages and yoga.

There are also courses available to help equip residents with the skills they need to find a job and enable others to gain qualifications to develop their careers.

These include barbering, haircutting, accounting, graphic design, counselling, and computing as well as workshops on CV writing, interviews and job skills.

🔗 **find out more**

To enrol for a course, visit: [merton.gov.uk/learning/adulteducation](https://merton.gov.uk/learning/adulteducation)

## Wimbledon war hero remembered

Merton Council marked the 100th anniversary of the “act of valour” for which Wimbledon resident George Edward Cates was awarded the Victoria Cross during World War One. On 8 March 1917, 2nd Lieutenant Cates, who was born in Hartfield Road and educated at Rutlish School, sacrificed his own life to save his comrades. Having triggered a delayed action bomb, whilst deepening a trench at Bouchavesnes,

France, George used his own body to shield his fellow soldiers from the blast. He died from his wounds later that night, aged just 24. On the same date 100 years later, Mayor of Merton Councillor Brenda Fraser unveiled a commemorative stone near Wimbledon war memorial, Parkside, to honour the memory of George Cates.

🔗 **find out more**

[merton.gov.uk/carvedinstone](https://merton.gov.uk/carvedinstone)

Your  
**FOOD**   
**WASTE**  
is recycled into  
**ENERGY**  
to power our  
homes



Recycle all your food waste to power our local community

 **recycle for London**

[www.merton.gov.uk/recycling](https://www.merton.gov.uk/recycling)



# Zero tolerance of abuse

Merton Council took a motorist to court and won after one of its civil enforcement officers was



racially abused while carrying out his job. The motorist was fined £600 and had to pay £100 in compensation to the officer following the December hearing at Wimbledon Magistrates Court.

The enforcement officer was issuing a penalty charge notice to the motorist's vehicle in Belvedere Avenue, Wimbledon, in November. He was wearing a body camera which recorded the incident and he immediately reported it to the police.

The defendant pleaded guilty to charges of racially aggravated intentional harassment and the use of threatening abusive words. This is a reminder that the council will never tolerate abuse or aggression towards its employees and will take action where necessary to prosecute those who act inappropriately. The council's parking enforcement officers play an important part in keeping Merton moving and ensuring motorists obey the Highway Code.

## Heathrow expansion consultation

Have your say on the government's proposal to build a new northwest runway at Heathrow Airport. The Heathrow Northwest Runway Consultation is open until 25 May. It gives the public the opportunity to comment on a draft National Policy Statement. This sets out the policy that applies to decisions on whether major infrastructure projects can go ahead.

🔗 **find out more** [www.gov.uk/dft/heathrow-airport-expansion](http://www.gov.uk/dft/heathrow-airport-expansion)



## Together we can tackle child abuse

Residents who suspect that a child they know may be at risk of harm are being urged to report their concerns to the Merton Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The MASH, a partnership of education and social care staff from Merton Council, the police and the NHS working together to protect children, is supporting

the Department for Education's *Together, we can tackle child abuse* campaign. The campaign highlights how important it is for people to report any suspicions or concerns they have about a child who may be suffering abuse. Anyone worried about a child in Merton should contact the MASH on 020 8545 4226 or 020 8545 4227.

## Merton in Bloom



Greenfingered residents, community groups, schools and businesses are being encouraged to sow and grow colourful displays of flowers to enter Merton in Bloom.

Merton in Bloom forms part of the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom and London in Bloom competitions.

As well as floral displays which transform front gardens, balconies and community gardens, judges will be looking at children's drawings of gardens. Other categories include best hanging basket, best school wildlife garden, best floral allotment and best commercial premises. The closing date for entries is Friday 16 June.

🔗 **find out more** [merton.gov.uk/mertoninbloom](http://merton.gov.uk/mertoninbloom)

## New volunteering strategy to help the third sector

Following a consultation, a combined strategy to support the voluntary sector and to encourage more residents to get involved in volunteering is being drawn up by the Merton Partnership, which includes the council. The voluntary sector in Merton has grown during the last two years and the strategy aims to promote collaboration between organisations. It will also support voluntary groups to explore new sources of funding and equip trustees with the skills they need to take an active role on charity boards. The plans will encourage volunteering by recruiting more residents to help with community initiatives and also promoting the benefits to businesses of employee volunteering schemes.

## Watch live footage of nesting peregrine falcons

A live webcam will stream footage of protected peregrine falcon chicks onto our website for the first time as they hatch on the Civic Centre roof for the third year in a row.



Peregrine falcons have been nesting on the roof since 2015 and are monitored by the council and the London Peregrine Partnership. Last year four chicks hatched.

The female normally lays three or four eggs in late March or April, which hatch about a month later. The chicks fledge at 38 to 44-days-old and the adults spend around two months teaching them to hunt before they become independent.

🔗 **find out more** [merton.gov.uk/falcons](http://merton.gov.uk/falcons)



## Free childcare

Did you know your two-year-old child could enjoy up to 15 hours of free early education and childcare a week?

Parents whose total household income is £16,190 or less and are claiming certain out-of-work benefits or Working Tax Credit are eligible to claim help with childcare costs.

They could get up to 570 hours of childcare a year free of charge and, if working, may also qualify for help to reduce the cost of any additional childcare needed.

For eligibility, visit: [merton.gov.uk/two](http://merton.gov.uk/two), or [merton.gov.uk/fsd](http://merton.gov.uk/fsd) for more about childcare providers in Merton including council-run settings.

# Pre-school children get active

The All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) is launching an early years event to help improve the physical activity habits of children in Merton. Following a successful pilot, AELTC Head Coach Dan Bloxham has been training local early years teachers to deliver ten minutes of fun yet healthy physical

activity in the classroom every day. Mr Bloxham said: "Activities focus on co-ordination, agility, balance and strength but ultimately we want to get them moving and get the oxygen flowing, which will help them throughout the school day. Sport brings so many good

values to the children in terms of focus, discipline, energy and teamwork and we're confident schools will quickly see the benefits." Through the AELTC tennis programmes, an AELTC coach is now delivering tennis to a Merton school every day of the school week.



A training session for early years teachers

## Your views on public services

Merton Council's overview and scrutiny panels regularly review issues and services that affect residents. These reviews involve finding out about local people's experiences and looking at how other areas deal with the same challenges. The panels then suggest new ways to work in Merton. Past reviews have covered issues including diabetes prevention, employment opportunities for care leavers, improving air quality and tackling loneliness among older people. What do you think they should look at next?

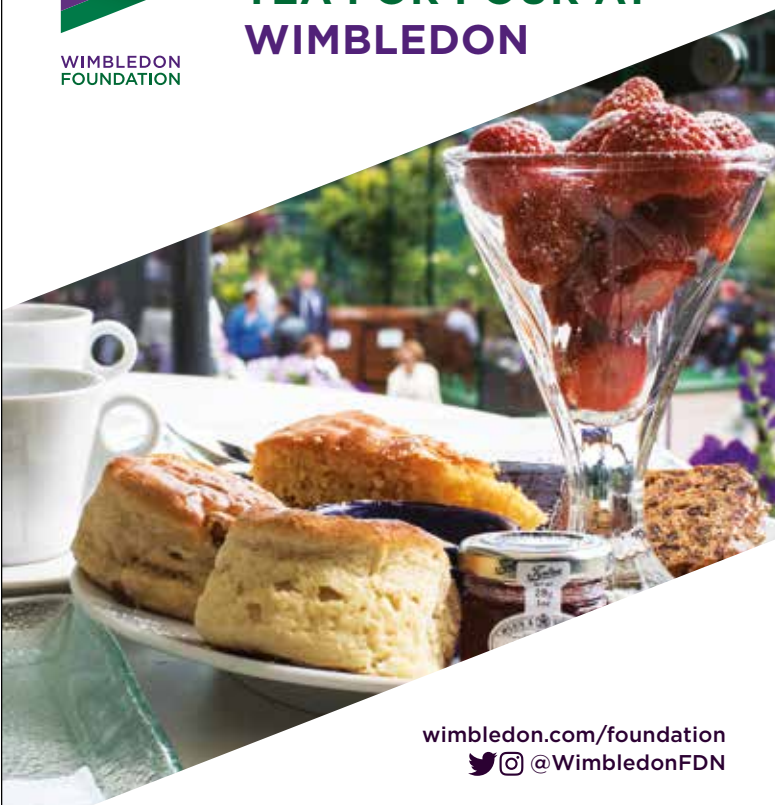
**find out more**

[merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://merton.gov.uk/scrutiny) or email: [scrutiny@merton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@merton.gov.uk)



WIMBLEDON FOUNDATION

## WIN AFTERNOON TEA FOR FOUR AT WIMBLEDON



[wimbledon.com/foundation](http://wimbledon.com/foundation)  
 @WimbledonFDN

The Wimbledon Foundation, the charity of The All England Lawn Tennis Club, is offering one lucky winner the chance to enjoy afternoon tea with up to three guests in the Wingfield Café.

The Wimbledon Foundation makes a valuable contribution to meeting social needs and reducing inequalities in Merton and Wandsworth by awarding grants totalling over £350,000 a year to charities and community organisations. The Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative (WJTI) visits two local primary schools every week and has so far introduced over 190,000 children to tennis.

**For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:**

Wimbledon is played on which surface?

- a) Hard court   b) Grass court   c) Clay court

In your answer, you must include the following: name, email address, phone number and postal address. You can email your answer to [communications@merton.gov.uk](mailto:communications@merton.gov.uk) or send it to: My Merton, 7th floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX.

**The closing date for entries is 30 April 2017.**

The competition is to win afternoon tea for a maximum of four people at the Wingfield Café, The All England Lawn Tennis Club, Church Road, Wimbledon SW19 5AE. The Wingfield Café is open daily except between 19 June 2017 and 24 July 2017. The prize cannot be exchanged or used in conjunction with any other offer. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in this prize.



# Positive justice

*My Merton* speaks to Ruth Hearty to find out why she loves her job working with young people in Merton Council's Youth Justice Service.

Lots of young people have turned their lives around and got jobs or found a new passion for skills including cooking thanks to the dedication of people like Ruth Hearty.

As Reparation Coordinator for Merton Council's Youth Justice Service, Ruth and her team work with young people aged 13 to 18-years-old who have been convicted of an offence and as part of their rehabilitation have to give back to the community.

Every Saturday morning and during the week, the team run a variety of activities and schemes including community tidying, animal care and horse management and first aid.

The Recycle a Cycle project encourages young people to connect with victims of bike theft and see how it has affected them. Lost or stolen bicycles are donated by Merton Police, and then they are repaired and recycled. The young people also cook up a storm in the kitchen where they make cakes for elderly residents at a nursing home in Lower Morden. Many take a Level 2 City and Guilds qualification in food and hygiene which gives them the skills and experience to get jobs in the catering

industry, something many of them would not have thought of before.

These courses allow participants to gain qualifications, skills and experience to help them move forward positively in their lives. Many return to take part in the courses voluntarily because they enjoy it so much.

Ruth believes the key to engaging with the young people is to be positive. She said: "I believe praise and encouragement helps them feel good about themselves and want to do well. Seeing the difference from start to finish is incredibly rewarding. Some of the young people come to us and they are not very confident, many of them have been through a lot, but they quickly realise my colleagues and I want the best for them."

Despite its challenges, Ruth said: "This is the best job of my life, I love it. It is so rewarding. I'm lucky that I get to know all the young people I work with and see them blossom."

**find out more:**  
For more about the Merton Youth Justice Service, visit [merton.gov.uk/yjs](http://merton.gov.uk/yjs)

**The Merton Youth Justice Service is a partnership of the council and other agencies, which aims to prevent and reduce youth offending in the borough. It also seeks to address the safeguarding and vulnerability issues faced by the young people they work with.**







## New waste and parks contracts save taxpayers millions

This spring two new companies will begin providing Merton Council's waste collection and street cleaning services and maintenance of our parks and open spaces, saving Merton Council taxpayers an estimated £2million a year.

We know that cleaner streets, waste and recycling collections and green spaces are all big priorities for you. With continued pressure on budgets, the council needs to find new ways of delivering these to a high standard but at a lower cost.

We have been working with Croydon, Sutton and Kingston councils to agree a waste collection and street cleaning contract across all four boroughs. We have also agreed a joint parks contract with Sutton Council. The contracts mean better value for money, improved efficiency and environmental benefits.

After a careful, two-year bidding process, leading environmental services company Veolia has been selected to provide all our waste collection, recycling, street cleaning, commercial waste, winter maintenance and vehicle maintenance. The contract will begin on 1 April.

A second contract, awarded to specialist landscape company idverde, began operating from 1 February, covering all our parks and grounds maintenance services, cemeteries, sports pitches and play facilities.

The contracting process has been managed by the South London Waste Partnership which brings together the same four boroughs which have already successfully agreed the landfill and energy from waste facility.

The partnership also manages all the household waste and recycling centres in the four boroughs.

Residents will continue to receive the same services under the new contracts until October 2018, when wheelie bins for recycling and general waste are introduced.

The decision to roll out wheelie bins to residents across the borough follows a successful trial of the system in Lavender ward in 2015, which saw high rates of customer satisfaction. During the six-month pilot scheme of 1,000 homes, 89% of participants said they were happy with the service and 81% agreed that the streets looked cleaner. Recycling rates increased too, as the enclosed wheelie bins protect material from wet weather.





## Spreading the word

We are making recycling easier for residents who live in flats with a communal bin area. In partnership with cleaners and caretakers, we are increasing the number of recycling bins and giving the existing ones a spruce up, putting up clear signs and distributing leaflets and free reusable recycling bags. We have also raised awareness among residents about the range of rubbish which can be recycled by distributing leaflets, holding information events and knocking on people's doors. Follow-up visits have provided ongoing support.

On the Baron's Estate in Mitcham, residents now recycle more than they did before the improvements were made and we are continuing to support them to recycle even more. Circle Housing estate cleaner Mark Crosby said: "We have worked closely with the council to increase the number of recycling bins almost three fold, tidied up the area and kept people informed. Residents have really got on board and are recycling much more. The whole area looks smarter too." Pictured above: Mark Crosby at the Baron's Estate in Mitcham.

## Recycling

Did you know that you can recycle batteries, hard plastic, electrical items, furniture and wood at our Household Reuse and Recycling Centre? The centre in Amenity Way, off Garth Road in Morden, also accepts books, oil, printer cartridges and scrap metal.



Please sort your recycling before arriving and remember to take along your recent council tax bill or driving licence as proof that you are a Merton resident.

Paper and card, cans, foil, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, tubs and trays and cartons can all be recycled from your kerbside.

🔗 **find out more**  
[merton.gov.uk/amenity](http://merton.gov.uk/amenity)

## Garden waste

Now spring is just about here, you might be thinking about getting out in the garden, cutting back shrubs and mowing the lawn. You can take your garden waste to Merton Council's Household Reuse and Recycling Centre in Amenity Way off Garth Road in Morden or you can sign up for our garden waste collection service.

We will collect your garden waste every fortnight (with a break after Christmas and in January when there is not much growth) including grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, twigs and leaves, which are all compostable. For £70 a year from 1 April (or £65 a year for new customers signing up in March) you will get fortnightly collections and a garden waste bin (or 24 garden waste collection bags if you have no space for a bin).

For more information visit: [merton.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://merton.gov.uk/gardenwaste).



## COMPETITION

# Win four tickets to see **Footloose** at New Wimbledon Theatre this April!

Kick off your Sunday shoes and cut loose as, due to popular demand, the explosive rock 'n' roll musical sensation *Footloose* returns to New Wimbledon Theatre for two nights only this April. Based on the 1980s hit film that took the world by storm, *Footloose* sizzles with the same spirit of youth, rebellion and romance.

City boy Ren thinks his life is over when he is forced to move to Bomont, an American rural backwater. But things are far worse than he could have ever imagined, as the town bans dancing. It isn't long before Ren can't resist breaking the rules, and he's not alone. Starring Maureen Nolan as Vi Moore, enjoy the best in UK musical talent, cutting-edge choreography and classic hits including *Holding Out for a Hero*, *Almost Paradise*, *Let's Hear It For The Boy* and the unforgettable title track, *Footloose*.

*Footloose* is back on 21 and 22 April and it's better than ever before!

Who starred as Ren McCormack in the 1983 film of *Footloose*?

a) Kevin Costner b) Kevin Bacon c) Kevin Spacey



In your answer, you must include the following: name, email address, phone number and postal address. You can email your answer to [communications@merton.gov.uk](mailto:communications@merton.gov.uk) or write to us at My Merton, 7th floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX. The closing date for entries is 12 April 2017.

**Terms and conditions:** \*The tickets are non-transferable. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in this prize. The competition is for one group ticket (four tickets) to see *Footloose* at New Wimbledon Theatre, valid on either performance on 21 or 22 April 2017.

MERTON COUNCIL

## Can you..?



## Can you be there for a teenager who can't live at home?

More young people aged 11-18 are coming into care. If you have a spare bedroom and a desire to help young people please get in touch today.

### Foster for Merton and we can offer you:

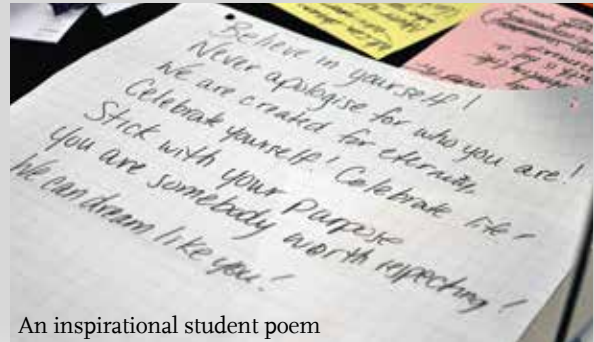
- ✓ Comprehensive, on-going professional training
- ✓ 24/7 support and mentors
- ✓ An allowance of up to £507 per week

# Foster

We host two information events each month, call us for a friendly chat on **0208 545 4070 / 0800 073 0874** or visit [merton.gov.uk/fostering](http://merton.gov.uk/fostering) for more details.







An inspirational student poem

# Celebrating 125 years of educating young women

Ursuline High School in Wimbledon grew from just three students to become one of the country's top schools. *My Merton* looks at its history.

Ursuline High School in Wimbledon celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. The Catholic school for girls, which is rated amongst the top 100 non-selective schools in the country, prides itself on offering an excellent education to young women, whilst celebrating the extraordinary potential of each 11 to 18-year-old girl.

The history of the school began in 16th century Italy where one such extraordinary woman, St Angela of Merici, was born. Very much a female in a man's world, Angela was well known for moving amongst the rich and influential, reconciling their differences, at the same time as helping the poor and needy. She founded the order of Ursulines in 1535, named after the early British Saint Ursula, a patron of learning.

Ursuline orders grew up across the world, including in London. In 1892 a community of nuns from Forest Gate came to Wimbledon and founded a school at a house on Worple Road. From humble beginnings – its first pupil, Netta Powell, was one of only three students – the school grew and moved to The Downs in 1901, where it occupied the much larger Claremont building.

It continued to attract strong women – in 1912 one teacher, Miss Fenell, chaired meetings of the Wimbledon branch of the

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. Showing concern for the needy, the Ursuline school took in refugees from France and Belgium during World War II. Pip, the resident dog, kept boarders safe by howling to warn of air raids.

The school has had various incarnations, from a private boarding school and girls' grammar, to a comprehensive, founded in 1969 together with a new sixth form. Over time new facilities have been added – the latest being playing fields and a pavilion, negotiated by the council with a developer as part of a planning agreement, which are due to open in September.

To mark its 125th year, the school has been holding concerts, debates and faith events as well as a reception in the House

of Lords. There will be a production of *Evita* performed at the Epsom Playhouse later this month, plus a whole school mass at Westminster Cathedral in April.

## Did you attend Ursuline High School?

The school is keen to contact former pupils for a special reception in July. Please contact Marion Lyons at [alumnae@uhsw.com](mailto:alumnae@uhsw.com) to find out more.



## A brief history

- 1535:** Angela Merici founds the Ursuline order.
- 1892:** School established in Worple Road.
- 1895:** The first high school built in Alexander Road called St Angela's.
- 1958:** Mural put up and gym opened. (New hall opened in 1959.)
- 1969:** Ursuline becomes a comprehensive school and opens sixth form centre.
- 1974:** St Angela's Sixth Form block opened. Now St Angela's art block.
- 1984:** The Diamond Jubilee of Sister Francis Lemarchand (a previous Headteacher).
- 1999:** School becomes 11-18 and opens Merici Sports Centre and St Ursula's building.
- 2010:** New sixth form centre opens with a pastoral centre.
- 2013:** St Angela's Arts Centre is refurbished.
- 2017:** Ursuline playing fields and pavilion - provisional opening date September 2017.

# Future Merton

With the countdown to our new library opening and the regeneration of housing estates progressing, Future Merton is taking shape.



Colliers Wood's new library is on track to open this summer after a two year project to rebuild it as part of a striking development which also includes apartments for sale and rent.

Residents' views have been crucial to the project from the start, with consultation helping define what facilities the library will contain – a coffee shop, children's library, meeting rooms and plenty of spaces for books were all priorities.

In a final piece of consultation, library customers were asked to comment on options for the interior through events and surveys, accessible both online and at each of Merton's seven libraries. The results revealed that

library users were keen for a flexible space; most opted for neutral decor with an injection of vibrant colours to aid creativity.

The seven-floor building includes three levels of library space – the basement, ground floor and mezzanine – below the apartments. The library will include a children's area and, on the mezzanine level, three flexible rooms which can be joined together to create an even larger space.

The new library replaces an ageing 1970s building and follows negotiations by the council to secure a good deal by incorporating the library into a development built by Rocco Homes.

## What's new in Wimbledon?

The Future Wimbledon project is about shaping a vision for Wimbledon town as a destination for residents and shoppers and a centre for economic growth.

As part of the project the council is now preparing a masterplan that will guide development and investment decisions for the next 15 years. During January and February residents and businesses were invited to help influence the town's future at interactive workshops which gave them the chance to talk about the buildings and spaces in the area and the community aspirations for future development. Thank you to everyone who got involved.

The Future Merton team are currently considering all their ideas to help inform the plan.

[find out more](https://merton.gov.uk/futurewimbledon)  
merton.gov.uk/futurewimbledon





Ravensbury



# Estates revamp latest

Ambitious plans to regenerate three of the borough’s housing estates will move forward in March with the submission of the Estates Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The plan sets out a framework for the multi-million pound redevelopment of the Eastfields estate in Mitcham, High Path estate in South Wimbledon and Ravensbury estate in Morden, and has been written with the views and ideas of residents very much in mind.

Over the past two years Merton Council and Clarion Housing (formerly Circle Housing), the housing association which owns most of the estates, have been consulting residents about the future of their homes.

Built in the 1950s and 1960s, the properties are ageing and expensive to heat and maintain. Rebuilding them is seen as a better way of bringing them up to a decent standard than renovating them bit by bit.

Clarion Housing want to create new homes which are attractive, modern, energy efficient and well-landscaped. There would be homes for existing residents along with around 1,000 more properties built across the three sites.

While the project represents an important, long-term investment in affordable housing in the borough and a big improvement to quality of life for residents, we want to make sure residents get the best deal possible and their voices are heard – which is why their input in the estates local plan has been so important.

[find out more](#)

To read the Estates Local Plan visit [merton.gov.uk/estatesplan](http://merton.gov.uk/estatesplan)



High Path

South Wimbledon





# Looking after the pennies

Every year Merton Council needs to decide how to spend its money in the year to come and how it will pay for services. *My Merton* looks at this year's budget.

Running a council and services such as rubbish collection, social services and parks, is a bit like running your household budget. You need to look at how much money you have coming in, such as wages or a pension, and decide what you can afford to spend your money on and what you can't.

You might ask yourself questions like: Should you get a loan to buy a new car or continue to pay out to repair the old one? Can you afford to buy the kids the latest fashions or do you need to say no? Will you have enough for your holiday? And what will you do if the company cuts your wages and your income goes down, or your mum gets ill and you need to drop everything to look after her?

Obviously local councils are dealing with much bigger amounts of money than our household budgets. And they have to keep 80,000 residents happy, not just a family of four. But similar decisions have to be made.

This year Merton Council has decided to invest extra money into services used by vulnerable adults and children. We're also investing in families and in good quality public services that can be used by all our residents. By cutting waste across the council, money is available for the services families enjoy.

Just like with household budgets, there have been some difficult choices to make, but we're confident we have planned our spending in a business-like way that will help all our residents while keeping Merton an affordable borough.



## Investing in older and disabled people

This year Merton Council has decided to invest £9m extra in adult social care. Across the country an increasing number of older and disabled people need council help. It's great that more people are living longer but it means that many more people need care services to help them live in their own home for longer and more and more people need help to pay for their care in later life.

In Merton we think it's important to properly fund adult social care. We don't think the government is doing enough to help. But we're making our own decision to prioritise funding for older and disabled residents.







### Investing in families

We've also decided to spend £1m extra on children's services. Merton has become known as a great place to bring up your family which is why more people are moving here and starting a family. That's why we've expanded our primary schools to provide more than 4,000 extra places since 2010. We're now starting on secondary schools, with 300 more places planned at Harris Merton in Mitcham and a new secondary school planned for South Wimbledon.

With a new leisure centre planned to open next year in Morden and a new library in Colliers Wood, Merton really is a great place for families.



### Council tax

We've frozen your council tax for six years in a row, including for those on low pay. We're one of only a few boroughs to have done this because of our good financial management. We're freezing the core element of your council tax again this year.

But the government has cut funding to local councils by over 40% since 2010. Imagine what that would do to your household budget. At the same time, there is a crisis in adult social care in this country. More people are living longer and need help in their old age.

But the government haven't given councils any extra money to help pay for adult social care. Instead they have created a new council tax increase called a "precept", which they expect all local councils to charge. So your council tax will increase overall by the government's 3% precept. However we have kept the core Merton element the same, as we have done for the last six years.

We know many residents are worried about what Brexit will do to their finances so we don't want to make things more difficult than they already are. That's why we are freezing the core element of your council tax.

### Budget key points

- Core council tax frozen for seventh year in a row to protect low paid residents from government cuts
- £9m more for adult social care
- Implementing the government's 3% precept on council tax
- Council Tax support scheme for low income residents protected
- Almost £20m for secondary school expansions across the borough
- A brand new school at the heart of the borough in South Wimbledon
- Almost £10m to expand special schools for disabled children
- Expanding Perseid special school in Morden
- Almost £10m to upgrade the borough's footpaths and highways
- New library in Colliers Wood
- Refurbishing West Barnes library
- £40m invested this year in town centres, schools, parks, libraries and other big projects



# Spring Loaded

ADULT EDUCATION IN MERTON



**NEW TERM – 19 APRIL**

Part-time and short courses  
for adults, including:

- **Art and Craft**
- **Business, Finance and Computing**
- **Childcare**
- **ESOL**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Languages**
- **Training for Work**

*plus lots more to  
choose from...*

**Apply  
NOW**

South Thames College, Merton Campus  
London Road, Morden SM4 5QX

**020 8918 7777**

 /SouthThamesCollege

 @SouthThamesColl

MAE 

[www.south-thames.ac.uk/adulted](http://www.south-thames.ac.uk/adulted)



## Neighbourhood watch



Neighbourhood Watch schemes have been around for more than 30 years, during which time they have been shown to reduce crime and fear while helping to build a sense of community. Merton's schemes currently cover 38% of the borough, but we'd like them operating in as many streets as possible. If you're interested in finding out more or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme of your own, please email Lee Roberts: [lee.roberts@met.police.uk](mailto:lee.roberts@met.police.uk)

# Everyone is welcome in Merton

That is the joint message of reassurance from all three party leaders on Merton Council after recent international events have triggered unrest across the world.

Over the last year Merton Council has worked tirelessly with partners including Merton Police to promote community cohesion across the borough.

In Merton reported incidents of hate crime were higher last year than in other, similar boroughs. We want people to come forward and report hate crime and our data shows that some sections of the community are doing so.

But while racially-motivated crimes are being reported, incidents of bullying and intimidation against people who are disabled or transgender are almost all under the radar. Hate crimes are those motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on personal characteristics, which could be the victim's race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity.

"When I am in my wheelchair, people touch me even if I don't want them to," says Samantha, a young woman who attributes the sexual harassment she has encountered to being disabled. "Other times, people treat me like a nuisance, as if I am getting in the way. I got stalked once and I had to report

that to the police. I believe he targeted me because of my vulnerability."

Samantha approached the police; however, disabled people's organisation Merton Centre for Independent Living (CIL) found that only two in 100 disabled people who have experienced hate crime feel able to do so.

Merton CIL's Chief Executive, Lyla Adwan-Kamara said: "We have been working with disabled survivors of hate crime, including survivors of physical and financial abuse, to build up their confidence to stand up to the perpetrators. It takes many hours of support before people feel able to take action and to approach the police, and our team are able to help them with that process."

If you have been a victim of hate crime, call the police on 101 – or if a crime is in progress, ring 999. To report a crime anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Merton CIL can be contacted on 0203 397 3119 or visit: [www.mertoncil.org.uk](http://www.mertoncil.org.uk)

## More police on the beat

By the end of the year, every ward in the borough will have two dedicated police constables and a police community support officer. This follows a commitment by the Mayor of London to restore neighbourhood policing. The role of these ward officers is to work shifts over seven days a week, patrolling the streets and getting to know the local area and the people who live there.



## Domestic violence one-stop shop

The One Stop Shop is a confidential service for people experiencing domestic violence or abuse in Merton. Drop in on Mondays between 9.30am and midday at Morden Baptist Church in Crown Lane, Morden.

📍 **find out more** Call 020 7801 7777.

Call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247. If it is an emergency, always call the police on 999. [www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence](http://www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence)





helping you stay ahead.

committed to you, your family and your business.



www.morrlaw.com

@morrlaw f in 8\*

020 8971 1020

Connect House, 133-137 Alexandra Road, Wimbledon SW19 7JY

## MERTON COUNCIL

### Drive4life

If you find today's busy roads a challenge, our free session can return you to confident driving. Designed for drivers over 55 years old.

For more information visit:  
[merton.gov.uk/drive4life](http://merton.gov.uk/drive4life)

### Pre-learner driving skills course

For 17-24 year olds with a provisional car driving licence. Free 3 hour theory session followed by 3 free driving lessons.

Application form available at:  
[merton.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://merton.gov.uk/roadsafety)

### Children's cycle training

Merton provides free 'on road' cycle training for children age 10+ at Merton schools during school term, and Easter and summer holidays.

Further details and application form available at:  
[merton.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://merton.gov.uk/roadsafety)

### Free events: Dr Bike (free cycle maintenance) & Exchanging Places (HGV/ Cyclist practical safety tips with lorry)

For Dr Bike locations visit:  
[cycleconfident.com](http://cycleconfident.com)

For Exchanging Places locations visit:  
[merton.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://merton.gov.uk/roadsafety)

### Motorbike and moped courses

Be a brighter biker, for learner riders. Free classroom session and CBT.  
Bike Safe, for experienced riders. A free training day for experienced riders provided by the police.

Further details and application form available at:  
[merton.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://merton.gov.uk/roadsafety)

### Adult cycle training

Free adult cycle training for beginners, refreshers and commuters from March to November on Saturday mornings in Morden. We can even provide a bicycle for you to use if you haven't got your own.

Further details and application form available at:  
[merton.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://merton.gov.uk/roadsafety)

All events and training are funded in conjunction with Transport for London and are available to those who live, work or study in the London Borough of Merton.

Please contact us for more information:

**Contact:** Future Merton, London Borough of Merton, 9th Floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX  
**Telephone:** 020 8545 3205 / 06  
**Email:** [road.safety@merton.gov.uk](mailto:road.safety@merton.gov.uk)  
**Web:** [merton.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://merton.gov.uk/roadsafety)

[merton.gov.uk/roadsafety](http://merton.gov.uk/roadsafety)







# Could you be a foster carer?

Fostering is a way of providing a family life for a child who is unable to live at home and Merton Council is looking for new foster carers. Ahead of Foster Care Fortnight, which runs between from 8-21 May, *My Merton* talked to a foster carer to find out more about what fostering involves.

“I’ve learned more in five years of fostering than working for 15 years!” says Merton foster carer Sarah\*. “Children teach you so much; about life, actually, so for me it’s been really interesting.”

Sarah is a short-term foster carer for children aged between four and ten. In the time she’s been fostering she has looked after 13 children; one for just over a year and others for a couple of nights.

Fostering was something she had thought about a lot and once her own children were teenagers, the time seemed right.

“I started to work with children with disabilities, giving respite to families. I got to a stage where I thought I could give a little bit more and was thinking that maybe I could go down the avenue of fostering.”

Sarah’s fostering journey has been deeply rewarding – for both her and her family. “Within your own family sometimes life is lovely and I don’t think your children understand what life can be like out there. It’s been quite educational for them because every child who comes through the door is different.”

“The children have individual challenges, of course, but we deal with these day-by-day. That’s just family life! You deal with the problem and try and make the child’s life as nice as possible. And at home they’re not challenging because we have really good boundaries and routines.

“You have to be very open-minded and inquisitive. There’s plenty of support and you have to use it. You’re going to meet so much along the way, but if you ask questions, find a buddy, join support groups, it’s all there for you – and it’s certainly very rewarding!”

There is currently a shortage of foster carers for older children, particularly teenagers.

Mani and Steve, a couple from Merton, currently care for teenagers in the borough. Steve explained why they chose to foster older children. He said: “We really wanted to care for teenagers as we thought our skills would be better suited to the 11 plus age group. When they grow to trust you

and understand that you will not judge them, that is the most rewarding part of the job. We tell them we will always be there for them no matter what.”

To become a foster carer you need to have a spare bedroom, some experience of young people, as well as patience, resilience and understanding. You don’t need to be super parents, but you do need to have the desire to help and offer the young person a safe and secure place to live. 🏡

\*not her real name.

## 🔗 find out more:

[merton.gov.uk/fostering](https://merton.gov.uk/fostering)

Call 020 8545 4070 or 0800 073 0874

or email: [fostering@merton.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@merton.gov.uk)



## Foster information meetings

Find out what fostering involves, the assessment process, the impact on family life, support, training, payments and much more at an information meeting at Morden Baptist Church, Crown Lane, Morden.

- 22 March, 6.30pm
- 5 April, 10.30am
- 20 April, 6.30pm
- 3 May, 10.30am
- 24 May, 10.30am
- 24 May, 6.30pm
- 7 June, 10.30am
- 22 June, 6.30pm
- 5 July, 10.30am

# Weighing in on a major issue

More people from Merton than in any other London borough responded to the Great Weight Debate, an online survey which aimed to start a conversation about childhood obesity.

The initiative, by the Healthy London Partnership, asked if Londoners were aware of the extent of childhood obesity in the capital; factors they think contribute to childhood obesity and what can be done to help children and families lead healthier lives.



More than 300 Merton residents responded to the debate, which took place between October and December, with most agreeing that childhood obesity should be a high priority for London.

When asked about what makes it harder for children to lead healthy lives, Merton respondents said that the large numbers of cheap, unhealthy food options and fast food shops are an issue. Some residents also highlighted concerns about letting children play outside unsupervised.

Suggestions to reduce childhood obesity include limits on advertising

unhealthy food; increasing the availability of cheaper healthier food and drinks and raising awareness of what a healthy weight is.

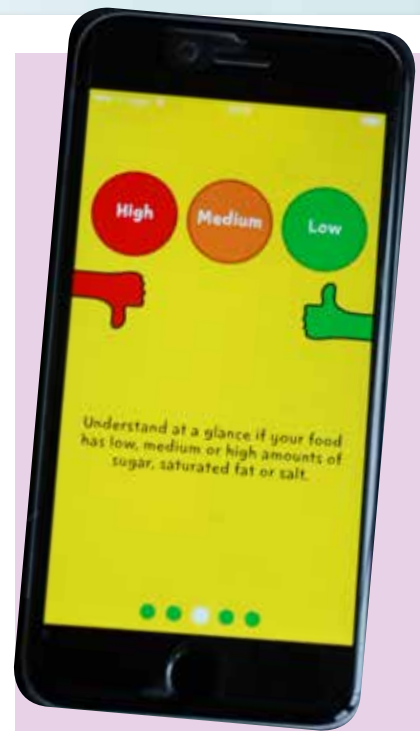
Changes require both national and local action to make the healthiest options the easiest and preferred choice. Locally, we have developed a child healthy weight action plan in partnership with the NHS, schools, community groups and voluntary organisations.

This includes ideas to increase the use of parks and outdoor spaces and increase outdoor activities and the use of leisure facilities. Supporting food businesses to offer more healthy options and increasing children and families' knowledge about what a healthy weight is are also in the plans.

Around 4,500 primary school children in Merton are estimated to be overweight or obese. One in five children starting Reception Year is overweight and this increases to one in three pupils in Year 6, the final year of primary school.

Childhood obesity is the subject of this year's annual report by Merton Council's Director of Public Health, which was published in February. *Tackling Childhood Obesity Together* by Dr Dagmar Zeuner gathers the facts and figures about childhood obesity in Merton. The report sums up the challenge we face as a community and presents a call to action on tackling the issue.

✂ **find out more**  
[www.greatweightdebate.merton.co.uk](http://www.greatweightdebate.merton.co.uk)



## Be Food Smart

According to the health campaign Change4Life, sugary breakfast cereals, fruit juice and sweet spreads mean many children are half way to their daily maximum amount of sugar before even arriving at school. Download the new, improved #BeFoodSmart app from Change4Life and you can scan the bar code of hundreds of foods to find out how much sugar, saturated fat and salt they contain – it's fun to do and a real eye-opener. Find it in the App Store or on Google Play and read more at [www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life)





## There's only One You



Aimed at adults of all ages, the One You campaign is a good place to start your fightback to a healthier you. Launched last year, the campaign has been refreshed for 2017 with more to come later this spring. To get started, take the online quiz which will help you pinpoint the areas of your lifestyle where you could make positive change.

🔗 **find out more** [www.nhs.uk/oneyou](http://www.nhs.uk/oneyou)

## Are your kids' jabs up-to-date?

As a parent, one of the most important things you can do for your child's health is to make sure they are up-to-date with their routine immunisations.

Unfortunately, some children in Merton are missing out on important vaccinations for the under-fives, including the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and the pre-school booster against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio. This is putting children at risk of illnesses which could potentially be life-threatening.



🔗 **find out more**

Contact your GP or health visitor or visit [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations)

## New mental health support scheme

A new peer support scheme to help people with serious mental health conditions is being piloted in Merton. People with experience of living with mental health issues are being recruited to help others in the Merton Council-funded initiative. These peer support workers help their clients improve their wellbeing and feel less isolated in a variety of ways; from accompanying them on a group walk or to the gym or helping them explore new opportunities for training and employment.

🔗 **find out more**

Call 020 8685 6192 or email: [mertonqueries@imaginementalhealth.org.uk](mailto:mertonqueries@imaginementalhealth.org.uk)

## The Daily Mile in Merton

Pupils are improving their health and fitness by taking a short break from lessons to walk or run a mile outside each day. The Daily Mile Merton is gradually being rolled out to primary schools across the borough. The fresh air and exercise aims to improve children's physical and emotional health and develop their social skills. Teachers have reported that pupils are more focused on learning when they return to the classroom.

## Let's become Dementia Friendly

With more than 2,000 people in Merton likely to be living with dementia by the year 2020, we have set our sights on becoming a dementia friendly borough by this date.

Dementia Friendly Merton is supported by Merton Council, Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and the Alzheimer's Society and aims to raise awareness as well as making everyday life easier for people living with dementia.

In Merton, around two thirds of people with dementia live in the community and a third of them live alone. Businesses and voluntary and community organisations are being urged to join the Merton Dementia Action Alliance to help support residents living with dementia.

🔗 **find out more**

Contact Daniel Butler on 020 8545 4899 or [daniel.butler@merton.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.butler@merton.gov.uk)



(L-R) Timothy McLachlan – operational director for Alzheimer's Society London; Angela Rippon, Mayor of Merton, Councillor Brenda Fraser and Council Leader Councillor Stephen Alambritis

# Merton

# ARTS SPACE

SPACE • PERFORM • ARTS • CREATE • EXPLORE

A SPECIAL EVENING WITH.....

## JAH WOBBLE

AND THE INVADERS  
OF THE HEART

**ONE OFF  
SPECIAL  
PERFORMANCE**

### MERTON ARTS SPACE

WIMBLEDON LIBRARY COMPTON RD, WIMBLEDON, LONDON SW19 7QA

**SATURDAY JULY 1**  
**DOORS: 7.30 PM**

**ADMISSION: £17+ BOOKING FEE**  
TICKETS: [WWW.MERTON.GOV.UK/ARTSSPACE](http://WWW.MERTON.GOV.UK/ARTSSPACE)

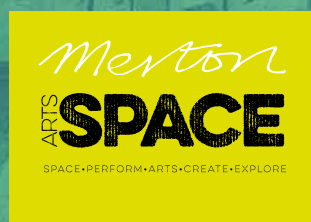


  Supported using public funding by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**  



## Now open in Wimbledon Library

A new multi-function arts and cultural space that can hold up to 300 people. Upcoming events include theatre, comedy nights, live music, dance and talks.



[merton.gov.uk/libraries](http://merton.gov.uk/libraries)



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**





COLLIERS WOOD

MITCHAM

MORDEN

RAYNES PARK

WIMBLEDON/MERTON



**Wimbledon Library, Compton Road, Wimbledon**  
Find out more: [merton.gov.uk/artsspace](http://merton.gov.uk/artsspace)

### ● Sound Space

Merton Arts Space is being transformed into a performance venue for creative new music with monthly performances from Saturday 8 April at 8pm.

### ● Costume display

Tuesday 30 May until Tuesday 6 June  
A free exhibition of costumes designed and made by students from Wimbledon College of Art.

### ● Jah Wobble's Invaders of the Heart

Don't miss a special performance by Jah Wobble's Invaders of the Heart on Saturday 1 July at 7.30pm. Tickets start from £17 + booking fee.

## New Wimbledon Theatre

93 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1QG  
Book online [www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon](http://www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon)  
Telephone booking 0844 871 7646  
Group bookings 0844 871 7696  
Access bookings 0844 871 7677 (no booking fees apply)



### ● Sunny Afternoon

Tuesday 28 March-Saturday 1 April, 7.30pm; Thursday and Saturday matinees, 2.30pm  
Step into swinging 1960s Britain and discover how The Kinks rose to stardom and rocked a nation. Featuring the iconic hits *You Really Got Me*, *Waterloo Sunset*, *Lola* and *Sunny Afternoon*.

and *Strictly Come Dancing's* Louisa Lytton as Rizzo and *Celebrity Big Brother* star Darren Day as Teen Angel. Featuring all the unforgettable songs from the hit movie including *You're The One That I Want*, *Grease Is The Word*, *Summer Nights*, *Hopelessly Devoted To You*, *Sandy* and *Greased Lightnin'*.

### ● Addams Family

Tuesday 16 May, 7pm; Wednesday 17-Saturday 20 May, 7.30pm; Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 2.30pm  
Starring Samantha Womack as Morticia, Les Dennis as Uncle Fester, and Carrie Hope Fletcher as Wednesday. A heart-warming story of love, family and friendship with a twist. Featuring a live orchestra and extraordinary original score.



### ● Grease

Monday 24-Saturday 29 April, 7.30pm; Friday 28 April, 5.30pm and 8.30pm; Saturday 29 April 5pm and 8.30pm  
Starring Tom Parker, from boy band The Wanted; *Over The Rainbow* winner Danielle Hope as Sandy; *EastEnders*



## Arts and entertainment

### ● Wimbledon Choral Society

Saturday 25 March, 7.30pm  
Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace, London SW1X 9DQ. Vespere della Beata Vergine was published in 1610 and is made up of a

series of alternating motets and psalms wrapped up with a set of versicles and responses at the start and settings of the Magnificat and Benedicamus Domino at the end.  
[find out more](http://www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk)  
[www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk](http://www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk)

Wimbledon Choral Society



## staying in?

Here's a selection of what's new in Merton's libraries:

### MY MERTON'S BOOK CHOICE

#### **Dangerous Games - Danielle Steel**

Television correspondent Alix Phillips dodges bullets and breaks rules to bring important news to the world. Alix thrives on the risks and whirlwind pace of her work. But her latest assignment puts her at the centre of an explosive story that will reshape many lives, including her own.



#### Other books:

- *The Cutthroat - Clive Cussler*
- *The life she left behind - Jessica Blair*
- *A traitor in the family - Nicholas Searle*

### eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines

Merton libraries have more than 30,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks available as well as over 300 eMagazine titles that can be downloaded and read on your computer, tablet or smartphone.

#### **Ingredient, Unveiling the Essential Elements of Food** Ali Bouzari (eBook)

There are millions of ingredients, but only eight Ingredients: Waters, Sugars, Carbs, Lipids, Proteins, Minerals, Gases and Heat. Ingredient isn't a book of recipes – it is about learning to see beneath the surface of food, exposing the moving parts that cause every failure and every triumph in the kitchen.

#### Other eBooks

- *Orange Blossom Days - Patricia Scanlan*
- *The Caller - Chris Carter*
- *The Second Sister - Claire Kendal*

#### **100 Greatest Thriller Movies by Radio Times** (eMagazine)

A special one off eMagazine – Find the top 100 classic thriller films, selected by Radio Times' film experts. From Hitchcock's 1935 masterpiece *The 39 Steps* to Matt Damon's *Bourne* movies, featuring reviews, cast and crew information, plot synopses' and trivia.

**Popular eMagazine Monthly titles:** *BBC History, BBC Music, Golf World, Filmfare, Vogue.* **Weekly titles:** *The Economist, TV Times, Hello!, All About Soap and Amateur Gardening*

## Arts and entertainment continued

### ● **Morden Park Choral Society concert**

Saturday 25 March, 7.30pm

St John the Divine, High Path, South Wimbledon. Faure Requiem and French music of the 19th and 20th century. Tickets: £6; concessions £4 including wine or a soft drink.

🔗 **find out more**

020 8648 6445 or [www.choralsociety.org.uk](http://www.choralsociety.org.uk)



Katriona Taylor workshops

### ● **Singing workshops**

Vocal coach Katriona Taylor will be running a singing workshop on Saturday 29 April between 10am–1pm; a gospel singing workshop on Saturday 20 May between 10am–1pm and a singing performance workshop on Tuesday 20 June between 10am–1pm. Each workshop will be held at the Summer House, in Preston Road, Raynes Park and costs £38. 🔗 **find out more** [www.katrionataylor.com](http://www.katrionataylor.com)

### ● **Local artists' exhibition**

Saturday 6–Saturday 13 May between 11am and 3pm  
Raynes Park Methodist Church, Worple Road, Raynes Park. Free annual art exhibition. Local artists exhibit and sell their paintings and photographs. 🔗 **find out more** [www.lanternarts.org](http://www.lanternarts.org)

### ● **Organ recital**

Saturday 13 May, 7.30pm  
St Saviour's Church Hall, Grand Drive, Raynes Park. Church organist David Adkins will be performing his annual recital. Tickets available in advance or on the door. Adults £10; children £1. 🔗 **find out more** [stsaviour.net](http://stsaviour.net)



Mayor of Merton events

## Annual Charity Ball

Saturday 29 April from 6.30pm until midnight

Courtside Restaurant, All England Lawn Tennis Club, Church Road, Wimbledon. In aid of the mayor's charities, Age UK Merton and the Avanti Club. The ticket price of £90 per person includes a sparkling reception and three course dinner with wine. There will also be live entertainment, dancing and an auction.

To book tickets, please contact the mayor's office by email: [mayor@merton.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@merton.gov.uk) or call 020 8545 3517





## Polka Theatre

240, The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1SB  
Box office: 020 8543 4888  
www.polkatheatre.com

### ● To Dream Again

Friday 10 March–Sunday 2 April.  
Main Theatre. Performance times vary

Dreams meet reality in a new play inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Sophie's world is changing, so she reaches out to her parents, Demetrius and Helena. Through her stories, maybe she can help them recapture the moment when they were young and in love? Can they go back to the beginning and let the enchanted forest cast its spell again? Ages seven to 11. Tickets £13.50; concessions and previews £10 (£1.50 transaction charge per booking).

### ● Sarah and Duck's Big Top Birthday

Thursday 6 April–Sunday 14 May.  
Main Theatre. Performance times vary

The enchanting world of Sarah and Duck is brought to life in a brand new stage show, featuring the wonderful characters from the BAFTA award winning CBeebies show. Join Sarah and Duck and a host of your



favourite friends including The Ribbon Sisters, The Shallots, John and Flamingo and Umbrella, as they plan a birthday party for Scarf Lady in their garden. Told through a fantastic blend of puppetry, storytelling and music, *Sarah & Duck's Big Top Birthday* will take you and your children on a magical adventure. Ages three to six. Tickets £15; concessions and previews £10 (£1.50 transaction charge per booking).



### ● Under the Rainbow

Thursday 4–Friday 26 May.  
Adventure Theatre. Performance times vary

Inspired by the experiences of refugees, this new Polka production uses evocative music, puppetry and a transformative set to gently tell the story of a woman's travels across land and sea. Along the way she befriends a turtle and a beautiful bird of paradise, and discovers an island that gives her hope for the future. Ages three to six. Tickets £12.50; concessions and previews £10 (£1.50 transaction charge per booking).

## Senior citizens

### ● Become a Dementia Friend

Saturday 22 April, 10–11am  
Morden Park Baptist Church, Lower Morden Lane, Morden. Becoming a Dementia Friend will give you an understanding of dementia and the

small things you can do that can make a difference to people living with dementia.

🔗 **find out more**  
**Book your free place at**  
**www.dementiafriends.org.uk**  
**and click on the link to attend an information session**

## Health and fitness



### ● Headway South West London

Monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month 7.30–9pm  
Drake House, 44 St George's Road, Wimbledon. Our Wimbledon support group offers adults with a brain injury and those who care for them information, activities and the opportunity to share experiences with others who are facing similar challenges.  
🔗 **find out more**  
**www.headwayswondon.org**

### ● Running courses for women

Starting in April on Wimbledon Common  
Courses for beginners and improvers.  
🔗 **find out more**  
**www.commonrunners.co.uk**

### ● Colliers Wood Bowls Club

New season starts Saturday 29 April until Saturday 30 September  
Men and women of all ages are welcome.  
Haydon's Road Recreation Ground, Gardigan Road, off Haydon's Road, Colliers Wood, SW19 1AP.  
🔗 **find out more**  
**020 8545 5871**

## Walks and talks

### ● Walk4life

Get out into the fresh air and take part in our Walk4life programme. A series of free, 50-minute led walks are being held during the spring across Merton. The walks are suitable for all ages and you can walk at your own pace.

🔗 **find out more**  
[merton.gov.uk/walk4life](http://merton.gov.uk/walk4life)

### ● Merton Chamber of Commerce

Workshops running this spring at Tuition House, 27 St George's Road, Wimbledon, include: Emergency first aid at work on Tuesday 28 March; What makes a good leader? on Thursday 20 April; Fire warden marshal training on Thursday 11 May; Ways to drive higher employee engagement on Tuesday 16 May; Best practice for improving your website on Tuesday 20 June and Thinking of Starting a Business: Business Basics on Wednesday 29 March and Wednesday 28 June.

🔗 **find out more**  
[www.mertonchamber.co.uk/mcc-events](http://www.mertonchamber.co.uk/mcc-events)

### ● Wimbledon National Trust Association

Saturday 22 April, 2.15pm

Christ Church Hall, Cottenham Park Road, Wimbledon. Blue Badge guide Robert Fromow will be giving an illustrated talk about Westminster

Abbey for the Wimbledon National Trust Association. Robert has been a guide at the abbey for more than 20 years and will be talking about the building's multi-faceted history, astonishing beauty and less known peculiarities and eccentricities.

Tickets £3 for members; £3.15 for non-members.  
 🔗 **find out more**  
[www.wimbledonnta.org.uk](http://www.wimbledonnta.org.uk)

### ● Wimbledon Wombles and Windmills walk

Tuesday 21 March, 10am  
 Meet at YMCA, 200 The Broadway, Wimbledon. Find out how Wimbledon grew from a village and learn more about the debates over the preservation of Wimbledon Common, lawn tennis and the Wombles.

🔗 **find out more**  
 For details about the YMCA's regular walks, visit  
[www.ymcalsw.org/Wimbledon](http://www.ymcalsw.org/Wimbledon)

## Community forums

Anyone with an interest in the local area is invited to attend these free community meetings. Discussions about a range of local topics will be held, with issues being followed up by the relevant organisations.

● **Wimbledon Wednesday 22 March, 7.15pm**  
 The Mansel Road Centre, Mansel Road, Wimbledon.

● **Morden Wednesday 29 March, 7.15pm**  
 Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden.

● **Raynes Park Thursday 15 June, 7.15pm**  
 Raynes Park Library Hall, Approach Road, Raynes Park.

● **Wimbledon Wednesday 21 June, 7.15pm**  
 Merton Arts Space, Wimbledon Library, Compton Road, Wimbledon.

🔗 **find out more** [merton.gov.uk/communityforums](http://merton.gov.uk/communityforums)

## Family



● **Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt**  
 14 April to 17 April, 10am-5pm and  
 Easter basket making 10 April to 13 April,  
 between 10am and noon

Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Road, Morden. Make a green Easter basket in the garden centre and bring it with you to the Cadbury Egg Hunt. Bunny has hidden his giant Easter eggs in different habitats in the park. Can you help us find them? The search will take you across bridges, meadows and our new wetlands boardwalk for clues about different animal homes that will lead you to Bunny's secret stash of chocolate. Tell us the answer to all of the clues and you'll receive your delicious prize, a Cadbury chocolate Easter bunny. Prices: £4 for the Easter Egg Hunt and £2 per Easter basket.

🔗 **find out more**  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park)

### ● Little Red Riding Hood

Saturdays and Sundays  
 at 2pm and 4pm until  
 Sunday 9 April

Colourhouse Theatre, Watermill Way, Colliers Wood. Little Red Riding Hood is walking through the woods on her way to grandma. On her journey she meets lots of friends which is good news because there is a hungry wolf hot on her trail. Will she reach grandma's cottage safely? Or will she be outwitted by the cunning wolf? A fantastic traditional tale with a musical twist and lots of action and excitement. Tickets: Adults £12; children £10.

🔗 **find out more**  
[www.colourhousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.colourhousetheatre.co.uk)

### ● Quacky races

Thursday 6 April  
 between 11am and 3pm  
 Morden Hall Park,  
 Morden Hall Road,  
 Morden. Borrow a rubber duck and send it bobbing



down the river to see if you will win in this Morden Hall Park classic.

🔗 **find out more**  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park)

### ● Armed Forces Day

Saturday 24 June, Morden

The parade will assemble at 9.15am and will march past Merton Civic Centre at 10am where the Mayor of Merton and a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London will take the salute. The parade will proceed up London Road and into Morden Park via the South Thames College entrance where there will be stalls. The parade will assemble at the bandstand.



## GO-TRI Aquathlon event



Canons Leisure Centre, Maderia Road, Mitcham CR4 4HD

### ● GO TRI Aquathlon

Sunday 2 April. Registration begins at 12.30pm and the first race begins at 1.30pm

GO TRI Aquathlon TriStars 2 for 11–12-year-olds. Swim 200m and run 1km.

GO TRI Aquathlon TriStars 3 for 13–14-year-olds. Swim 300m and run 2km.

GO TRI Aquathlon Youth for 15–16-year-olds. Swim 400m and run 3km.

GO TRI Aquathlon Adult for anyone aged 17 or over. Swim 200m and run 2km.

Tickets: £7 for participants aged 17+ and £5 for children aged 16 and under.

🔗 **find out more** [merton.gov.uk/aquathlonevent](http://merton.gov.uk/aquathlonevent)

## Fairs and exhibitions



### ● Mitcham Horticultural Society spring show

Saturday 25 March, 2pm

St Mark's Church, St Mark's Road, Mitcham.

Free admission.

🔗 **find out more**

[www.mitchamhorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.mitchamhorticulturalsociety.co.uk)

### ● May Fair

Monday 1 May, noon–3pm

St Saviour's Church

Hall, Grand Drive,

Raynes Park. The

entertainment for all the

family includes maypole

dancing, a May Queen,

sideshow, refreshments

and grand draw.

🔗 **find out more**

[stsaviour.net](http://stsaviour.net)

### ● Mum2mum markets

Saturday 22 April,

Saturday May 20 and

Saturday 24 June, 2–4pm



Ricards Lodge High School, Lake Road,

Wimbledon. Buy top-

quality, second hand baby

and children's clothes,

books and equipment at

our award-winning pop-up

market. Entrance £2, kids

go free. Stalls must be

booked in advance.

🔗 **find out more**

[www.mum2mummarket.co.uk](http://www.mum2mummarket.co.uk)

### ● Merton Dogwatch

Saturday 20 May,

10am–4pm

Morden Park Bandstand,

London Road, Morden.

Merton's biggest and

best canine event of

the year includes a dog

show, agility course

and microchipping.

🔗 **find out more**

[www.mordenfunday.org/](http://www.mordenfunday.org/)

[merton-dog-watch-2017](http://merton-dog-watch-2017)



## Merton Active Kids

Wimbledon Park Watersports Centre,  
Home Park Road, SW19 7HX

### ● School holidays

Keep the kids active throughout the Easter

holidays between Monday 3 April and

Friday 21 April and during half term

between Monday 29 May and Friday 2 June

• Horse riding

• Tennis

• Badminton

• Squash

• Golf

• Multi-sports

• Multi-water sports

• Football

• Sailing

• Song writing workshop

• Schools out stay active holiday camps

🔗 **find out more** [merton.gov.uk/activekids](http://merton.gov.uk/activekids)



© Sergiy | Dreamstime.com

© Baibaz | Dreamstime.com

merton **Leisure active kids** **Loads of holiday fun**  
right on your doorstep. Prices from £10

## ● Friends of Mitcham Common Big Lunch

Sunday 18 June, noon-4pm

Ecology Centre, Windmill Road, Mitcham. Games, food and fun for all ages.

🔗 **find out more**

[www.friendsofmitchamcommon.com](http://www.friendsofmitchamcommon.com)



Wimbledon Guild Village Fair



## ● Wimbledon Guild Village Fair

Saturday 17 June, 10.30am-5pm

Wimbledon Common Southside, Wimbledon Village. The charity's

biggest annual event includes jousting, live music and fun for all the family.

🔗 **find out more**

[www.wimbledonguildvillagefair.org](http://www.wimbledonguildvillagefair.org)

## Library workshops

### ● Sudha's craft

Fortnightly on Saturdays at 11am at Raynes Park Library  
Join Sudha for some free and fun arts and crafts in the children's library. Suitable for children aged three and above. No booking required.

is suitable for people wanting to expand their vocabulary and gain confidence in speaking. No booking required.

### ● Welcome mornings for under-fives

Every Wednesday, 10.30-11.30am, Morden Library  
Arts and crafts followed by stories and rhymes for babies and children aged under five, plus their parents and carers. No booking required.

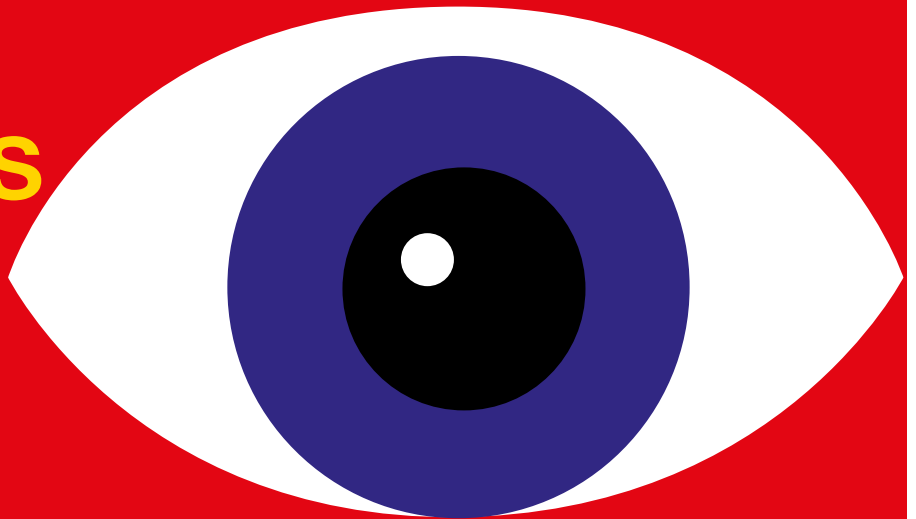
### ● English Conversation

Every Friday, 5-6pm, Mitcham Library  
This group focuses on English conversation and basic reading and

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • YOUTH • SENIOR CITIZENS • FAMILY • HEALTH & FITNESS • WALKS & TALKS • FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

MERTON COUNCIL

# Fly-tippers we are watching you



## Fly-tippers and those who pay fly-tippers

The residents of Merton and Merton Council are always on the look out and regularly report offenders. You may have already been seen and reported and could receive an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment.

If you see **fly-tipping** report the offence online at:

[merton.gov.uk/flytipping](http://merton.gov.uk/flytipping)







**DON'T BE  
ON YOUR OWN**

**STAY SAFE  
WITH A MASCOT  
TELECARE RED BUTTON**

**24 hour assistance is  
just a button push away**

If you live on your own, give yourself peace of mind. With MASCOT Telecare, emergency help will quickly be with you if you have a fall or get into difficulty

MASCOT Telecare will provide you with either an alarm unit, which can be placed on a table, or a small discreet pendant which may be worn around your neck. In both cases, when the button is pressed the alarm call is sent via your telephone line to the MASCOT control centre in Merton.

Some of our sensors do not even require you to press them as they are designed to go off automatically if you get into difficulty.

A handyman service is included for help with those small DIY jobs such as changing light bulbs, putting up shelves, fixing door bells and ensuring your house/flat is safe.

MASCOT Telecare services will give peace of mind to you and your loved ones. For more information please call:

**020 8274 5940**



[www.mascot-telecare.org.uk](http://www.mascot-telecare.org.uk)  
[mascot@merton.gov.uk](mailto:mascot@merton.gov.uk)



**5** minutes  
with...

## Chief Superintendent Steve Wallace

The new Borough Commander of Merton who took over on 6 March has been in the police for 25 Years. His career has included time in Leicestershire, Hampshire and the Metropolitan Police and a national role in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Inspecting Forces.

**What made you decide to become a police officer?** I joined the police with the intention of doing the right thing for the victims of crime as well as investigating, prosecuting and getting criminals locked up.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?** It is the best job in the world and I feel privileged to be able to serve the public. I enjoy knowing I make a difference to people's lives every single day by providing leadership and support to my staff - who are totally committed to making Merton a safer place.

**What are your plans for Merton?** Firstly, policing is not just about crunching numbers, it is about the quality of what we deliver and remembering that behind every crime is a victim. Secondly, I ask that my staff work together as one team, for example neighbourhood teams and CID. Thirdly, it is about making every day count.

### **Why is partnership working between the police and Merton Council so important?**

The police alone cannot solve society's problems and Merton Council plays an integral part in people's lives with its links to diverse communities. Protecting vulnerable people is at the forefront of what we do and we achieve that by working in partnership with the council.

### **How can residents get involved in keeping Merton safe?**

People are so interested in the job the police do - I often see people reading crime books on the Tube and television shows about detectives are very popular. Merton is the third safest borough in London but I want us to become the safest borough by working in partnership with the council and by getting more Merton residents involved in volunteering with the police, or coordinating a neighbourhood watch to share information and keep our borough safe.

**find out more**

<http://content.met.police.uk/Borough/Merton>

news and information from your council

**mymerton**