

news and information from your council

my **merton**

**Brand new pool
for Morden**

Expanding our best schools

**Residents give council
best ever scores**

**Become a mega recycler
and win cash prizes**

**Council
tax
frozen
again!**

THE MJ
2013
Achievement Awards
10th ANNIVERSARY
WINNERS

**Best
Achieving
Council**



We asked

An independent annual residents' survey asked over 1,000 people what they think of Merton Council and the services we provide.

"You said"

We were pleased that you gave us some of our best ever results. 79% of residents agree that we are doing a good job, 70% agree we are efficient and well run and more people than ever before agree that we provide value for money.

We did:

After four years of reducing our back office costs and freezing council tax while protecting the services you value the most, we are pleased that residents are recognising our efforts. We also understand that the appearance of local areas is important to residents and makes a real difference to how you feel about your community. You hate it when people litter. As a response to what you told us, we have launched a new anti-litter code. This sets out what we will do to stop people littering on our streets and what you can do to help. Our commitments include:

- Cleaning each of Merton's town centres every day, with a dedicated crew working through the night
- Responding to littering problems and fly tips within 24 hours
- Enforcing a £75 fine when people are caught dropping litter
- Ensuring our 500 dog mess bins are emptied regularly and that a £75 fine is enforced where dog fouling is witnessed
- Removing racist and other offensive graffiti within 48 hours once we have been made aware of it
- Making reporting litter issues as easy as possible

You can help by taking responsibility for your own litter, disposing of cigarette butts in the gum and butt bins we've put up around the borough, using our free bulky waste service to dispose of larger items and letting us know when you spot a build-up of litter, an overflowing bin or other littering issues in your neighbourhood.

There is also more on the results from this year's annual residents' survey on page 9.

🔗 find out more

Merton's anti-litter code at merton.gov.uk/anti-littercode
You can read more about keeping Merton's streets clean on page 13.

Cover photograph by Paul Tanner of Paul Tanner Photography.



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

Before I became Leader of the council, I was a businessman. I was also the national spokesman for the Federation of Small Businesses.

So it should be no surprise that I want Merton to be run in a business-like way. Like you, I want to protect services like libraries and the weekly rubbish collections. But like all businessmen, I know that success is only possible if you get the finances right.

This edition of *My Merton* focuses on how keeping the council's finances strong allows us to keep the services we all value. It's also helping us to replace the crumbling pool in Morden with a new family-focused leisure centre where the whole family can have fun and keep fit at the same time.

Everyone knows that these have been tough financial times for the whole country, and many households have struggled. So it's good to know that Merton has frozen council tax again – for a fourth year in a row. We hope that keeping council tax at the same level helps you to plan your finances.

As any businessman will tell you, you have to keep your customers happy. So I'm relieved that Merton's customers – you – have told us that our business-like approach to protecting services and keeping bills down is correct. The independent annual survey of Merton residents shows satisfaction with the council is at an all-time high.

So I hope you enjoy this business-like edition of *My Merton*. You'll find further details about the annual residents' survey, as well as the council tax freeze and all the latest from Merton Council later in this issue.

Happy reading!

Stephen Alambritis

PS Let's hope the weather starts to improve and we can all get out and enjoy our wonderful parks. We work hard to keep them clean but if you notice a build up of litter over a sunny weekend, call 020 8543 9750 and we'll clean it up.

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Libraries: 020 8545 3783

Parking: 020 8545 4661

Registering to vote: 020 8545 3407

Waste collection services: 020 8274 4902

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

Don't forget to visit our website!
merton.gov.uk/mymerton



You can also follow us on:



www.facebook.com/mertoncouncil



@Merton_Council



www.flickr.com/photos/mertoncouncil



www.youtube.com/user/mertoncouncil

Exercise your democratic right and vote



Merton is heading towards local and European parliamentary elections on 22 May, and the council is calling on everyone who is eligible to exercise their democratic right to vote. All it takes is putting a cross in a box. Voting is a way in which everyone who is 18 and over, and who is registered to vote, can influence who will be making the decisions in our local area over the next four years and in the European Parliament until 2019. Polling stations will be open across the borough in school halls and community centres from 7.00am to 10.00pm.

✂ **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/howtovote

New Year honours

Merton saw two of its leading lights awarded MBEs in the New Year honours list. The much missed chief executive of Merton Voluntary Service Council Chris Frost, who died unexpectedly last year, and Anne Hoblyn from Mitcham JobCentre Plus. Chris was awarded her MBE for her outstanding and committed contribution to the Voluntary Sector locally, regionally and nationally and Anne received the honour for services to the unemployed and the community.

Awarding our future sports stars



Two local youngsters became the first ever winners of the Sophie Hosking Legacy award, named after Merton's gold medal winning rowing star.

Mayor of Merton, Councillor Krystal Miller presented Lil Walters, 13 and Dexter Razzell, 10, with their awards at a council meeting earlier this year. Their awards were for being the most improved male and female BMX riders after being nominated by their local club in Mitcham.

Last year over 1,700 people used the BMX track. Young people aged 14 and over and adults can take advantage of free lessons every Monday.

✂ **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/bmx-track

Future of Plough Lane

The owners of the Plough Lane greyhound stadium, Wimbledon, are keen to re-develop the site. Although Merton Council does not own the site, as the planning authority it sets the framework for the kind of developments that would be permitted. As part of its proposed planning framework for over 40 sites in Merton, including Plough Lane, the council hosted a meeting, chaired by an independent planning inspector, to review its plans for all of these sites.

The inspector will report back shortly and decide if the site should be used for "sporting intensification", as the council has always wanted. This would allow planning applications for football, greyhound racing or other sports. The next step will be for interested parties to consult local communities on their proposals before submitting their applications.

✂ **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/planning/sites_policies_plan

Now you can picture the past

From 22 March, Merton residents will have online access to thousands of photos from the borough's past and present, thanks to the Merton Memories project.

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Merton Memories project is designed to tell the story of 100 years of the borough's history through the medium of photography.

Twenty-six volunteers aged from 15 to 70+ have spent the past year helping to scan and catalogue 15,000 photographs belonging to the council.



Anyone with an idea for a project about their community's heritage may be able to access funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to turn the idea into a reality.

✂ **find out more**
www.hlf.org.uk

Splashing out on families

The council is to invest in a brand new family leisure centre to replace the ageing pool in Morden Park. The pool was built back in the 1960s and now costs too much to maintain. It

makes more financial sense in the long term to build a new pool for families to enjoy for generations to come. The council is consulting with residents this year on what the pool might look like, which will help to shape proposals to secure the future of a much loved facility. The council will be updating details about the pool consultation on its website.

🔗 **find out more**
www.leisureformorden.com
info@leisureformorden.com
 Community line: 0800 019 2054



Fun at Morden Park Pool

Longer library opening hours

The council has introduced longer library opening hours and more support at two of its libraries. Donald Hope Library in Colliers Wood is now open on Fridays from 9.30am–7.00pm. West Barnes Library can offer more staff support to its customers on Mondays, a move supported by the local Friends group.

🔗 **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/libraries

Wimbledon Library shows off new look

Wimbledon Library showcased its new improved look and facilities at an open day for Merton residents after undergoing an extensive makeover.

Following a two-month refurbishment funded by Merton Council, Wimbledon Library's makeover has improved the look and feel of the much-loved building, making it more comfortable for library customers. The building has been redecorated throughout and



Deputy Mayor Cllr John Sergeant, at the unveiling of a 1906 photo of the library

the refurbishments mean customers benefit from additional study space, more space for laptop users to take advantage of the free WiFi, extra computers for customers to use and a relaxing seating area at the front of the library. The children's section was treated to a makeover too.

🔗 **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/libraries

New play equipment for All Saints Rec



Fantastic new play equipment



Prudential RideLondon peloton to pass through Merton



Merton residents will line the streets of Wimbledon and Raynes Park again this summer to watch thousands of cyclists, many raising funds for charity, taking part in the Prudential RideLondon cycle ride as it passes through the borough on Sunday 10 August.

RideLondon has already spoken to many residents and businesses about their plans for this year's event including travelling in and out of the borough on the day and what they are doing to make the day run smoothly.

🔗 **find out more**
www.PrudentialRideLondon.co.uk

Through careful financial planning, the council is determined to provide families with great parks and quality play areas. It has recently invested £25,000 in refurbishing All Saints Recreation Ground in South Wimbledon. Brand new play equipment includes a football goal, see saw, climbing frame and lots more. Visitors can also admire the wonderful new mural which has transformed a large, derelict wall surrounding the playground into a colourful work of art by local artist Kayleigh Doughty.

Free two-year-old funding

Merton Council is providing up to 15 hours a week free childcare for two-year-olds to low-income working families in addition to those who receive certain unemployment benefits. Parents who take advantage of the service will see their child go to an approved nursery, preschool or child minder in Merton, giving them the chance to learn new skills, develop their independence and meet and play with other children.

🔗 **find out more**

merton.gov.uk/two



Looking after someone's child? Get in touch

A private foster carer is somebody who has made an arrangement with a parent to look after their child for 28 days or more. Anyone who takes up this responsibility is legally obliged to let the council know. The council can provide support and ensure the child is well looked after. This does not apply to the grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle or step parents.

🔗 **find out more**

merton.gov.uk/privatefosteringregulations; 020 8545 4226

Adult education news

Merton Adult Education's (MAE) summer term starts 22 April. Prospectuses are available at MAE venues across the borough and at local libraries.

🔗 **find out more**

and enrol: www.maec.ac.uk;
020 8274 5222.

MAE is celebrating national Adult Learners' Week, 14–20 June 2014, with a range of tasters throughout Merton. Try something new for free!

🔗 **find out more**

www.maec.ac.uk/adult-learners-week

MAE has forged an exciting partnership with Mitcham Job Centre. New claimants will be directed to and supported by MAE in their search for jobs.

MERTON COUNCIL

DRIVE 4 LIFE

If you find today's busy roads a challenge, our **FREE** courses can return you to confident driving. Designed for drivers over 55 years of age.

Find out more, call **020 8545 3206** or visit the website below.

www.merton.gov.uk/drive4life



More recognition for Merton

Hot on the heels of winning the country's Best Achieving Council award, Merton has been shortlisted in two categories at the national local government awards.

The South London Legal Partnership, which is led by Merton and includes the legal teams from Merton, Kingston, Sutton and Richmond, has been selected

as a finalist in the team of the year category for the 2014 Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards, to be held in central London in mid-March. Merton Council's Merton

Managed Accounts Team has also been shortlisted for the innovation category. Their work has benefitted residents who need help with financial management.

Join in the holiday fun this Easter



Water sports in Wimbledon Park

Maintaining its continuing commitment to making Merton a great place for children to grow up, the council is putting on a series of courses for 8–16 year olds this Easter to inspire and entertain children in their school holidays. There is something for everyone: arts, sports and leisure and watersports courses, running at venues all over the borough. With a range of prices to suit every budget, children can have an Easter holiday to remember.

🔗 **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/activeplus

South London's first tech campus

Wimbledon Library is home to south London's first ever 'tech campus'.



Wimbletechers at their new home

Business organisation, The Lifeprenuer, set up the project last year for start-up technology businesses who were looking for a place to work from with other professionals in their field.

The start-ups are hiring rooms at the library.

🔗 **find out more**
www.wimbletech.com

Colourful carnival coming to town

This year's Mitcham Carnival will be taking place on Saturday 14 June at Three Kings Piece. The theme is the *Colours of the Commonwealth*.



Attractions will include a funfair, stalls, music, Little League football tournament and arena events. If you would like to book a stall at this year's event please contact 020 8545 4888.

Dig Merton



Dig Merton is a new community food and plant growing scheme in Merton set up by organisations in the borough including Sustainable Merton, Merton Council, Circle Housing, Merton Chamber of Commerce, YMCA and the May Project.

There are already a few movers and shakers in Merton turning their green fingers to good work for the community, planting fruit, vegetables and wild flowers on public land across the borough. For anyone wanting to get involved in community planting, the Dig Merton team has lined up some pilot projects.

🔗 **find out more**

merton.gov.uk/digmerton; Leave a message with Sustainable Merton: 020 3417 0476.

Merton's libraries offer a range of rooms and halls for people to hire for their events.

🔗 **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/hallhire;
 020 8545 3664

London Youth Games



The council is calling on young people to represent Merton at the 37th Balfour Beatty London Youth Games. For anyone who thinks they could be the next

Andy Murray or Sophie Hosking, or who has recently taken up a new sport, competing in the capital's Youth Games is the ideal opportunity.

This year, Merton will be hosting the London Youth Games BMX event in June at the borough's national standard BMX track in Mitcham. Check out the *What's On* section for more.

There are also plenty of opportunities to volunteer to be a Team Manager.

To register your interest, go to merton.gov.uk/youthgames and the council's leisure team will be in contact with the trial details.

Boost for Merton's greenspaces

The council has invested in its greenspaces in time for summer with new play equipment and outdoor gyms being introduced around the borough.

King George's Playing Fields has had a double boost with a new outdoor gym being installed as well as new play equipment being added to the existing play area. Mostyn Gardens is also set to get a new outdoor gym during the summer.

The council has improved other green spaces with

Edenvale Open Space getting new surfacing for its goal mouth.

Pollards Hill's play area will also be given a refurbishment this spring as well as a new play space for older children.

find out more
merton.gov.uk/parks



New green gym at King George's Playing Fields

© Seif.958 | Dreamstime.com



Frozen Again

Merton has frozen council tax for the fourth year running

merton.gov.uk/counciltax



Residents give Merton the thumbs up



Wimbledon Park in the summer sun

According to Merton's latest residents' survey 79% of you think the council is doing a good job - well above the London-wide score.

Value for money

In a survey packed with 'best evers', more residents than ever before agree that Merton Council offers value for money. Also, 79% of people agree that the council is doing a good job. More than three quarters agree the council keeps people well informed and that staff are friendly.

The survey of more than 1,000 adults and 200 young people, aged 11 to 17, is conducted each year. Council leader Stephen Alambritis explained: "It's one way for us to hear directly from residents what they think of us and the services we run. Their responses help guide us in our decision-making and the work we do to make Merton the best it can be for the people who live and work here."

"We were voted best achieving council for 2013/2014 in the national MJ Awards, and these results show the progress we have made."

Great libraries

By developing an innovative model for running libraries, Merton has created an award-winning service in the face of financial pressures. The number of library users who rate libraries as good or excellent is at a soaring 81%, higher than the rest of London. More people also rated street lighting, social services and primary education as good to excellent.

Good place to grow up

Young people continue to view the council positively with 74% saying they get the services they need and 85% agreeing that Merton is a good place to live. Compared with the London-wide average, significantly more young people in Merton feel the council listens to their concerns.

Making Merton affordable

With a freeze in council tax for the fourth year running, more people than ever before say the council offers value for money. Seventy-nine per cent say we are doing a good job. While crime remains one of your top issues, levels of concern have fallen steadily since 2008 and satisfaction with policing has increased.

While the majority of residents are satisfied with the way the council keeps the streets clean, concern about people littering on the streets has risen since 2012. This is something the council is already tackling with a litter-busting plan which includes 200 cigarette butt and chewing gum bins, fines for people who drop litter and the Love Clean Streets smartphone app for reporting problems.

🔗 **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/residentsurvey

Pollards Hill Library



Merton has a free bulky waste collection service



Merton loves clean streets

Background © Ashraf/Dreamstime.com

feature

Giving every child a school place near home

Expanding our best schools

Work to build new classrooms in seven of Merton's most popular schools is well underway as part of a council commitment to give all the borough's young people a good education close to home. This is in addition to the twelve permanent school expansion projects already completed over the last three years.



Artist's impression of the new building at Cranmer School and, inset, the work in progress

Over the past decade the birth rate in Merton has increased by 39%. Add to this the number of people with young children moving into the borough, and pressure on the primary school system has increased. In response the council will have created more than 4,400 new primary school places in 21 new forms of entry by 2018 at a cost of more than £150m. This is a lot of money but by careful financial planning we can ensure enough places at good schools for all.

The schools were chosen for expansion because they are all good or outstanding, oversubscribed and in areas of high population growth.

In the autumn issue of *My Merton* we announced plans to permanently increase places at Cranmer, St Mary's, Pelham, Singlegate, Hillcross, Poplar and Merton Abbey schools. The schools were chosen for expansion because they are all good or outstanding, oversubscribed and in areas

of high population growth. They also have strong leadership in place and are small enough to make expansion feasible, with enough space to accommodate the extra classes.

Construction got underway in September at Cranmer, where a new school building is going up alongside the existing one. The project will be complete in time for the start of the autumn term. Work on Hillcross, Merton Abbey, Poplar and St. Mary's all started in January and work at Pelham and Singlegate is

beginning this spring. The projects differ from school to school with all bringing new classrooms but some including other facilities according to need such as halls, libraries, kitchens and computer suites. All the new buildings are to a high standard of design and energy efficiency.

The council has also reviewed provision for children with special needs to ensure there will be enough places to meet rising demand. Perseid school will be expanded and additional specialist provision for children with autism will be made in mainstream schools.

Merton Council also has a clear plan in place to meet the future need for secondary school places. At present there are surplus places in our secondary schools but more places will gradually be needed over the next decade, when the growing population begins to reach secondary age from 2015. The council has already set aside £30 million to expand secondary schools, with more to follow if needed. Firstly we will ensure all surplus places are filled. The next step will be to expand good and excellent schools in the same way that we have successfully expanded our best primary schools. The council will then look at potential new secondary school provision in areas of need if required. 🏗️

Morden to benefit from new family leisure centre

Merton Council is investing in a brand new, £11m family leisure centre to replace the ageing Morden Park pool. And the design of the new centre is over to you.

Morden Park Pool was built in the 1960s. But, with the building looking old and tired, it's clocking up a growing repair bill. With construction techniques and materials changing, the council has found an affordable way to deliver the project, making a new facility better value for money than continuing to maintain the old one.

Leader of the council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, said "I have a business background so it's important to me that these plans are value for money and realistic. By being careful with money the council has been able to put funds aside to replace the pool with a new and affordable leisure centre for local families to enjoy for generations to come." Consultation has begun on what residents would like to see in their new centre. Don't miss the chance to have your say – to find out how, visit merton.gov.uk/future-mpp. Christine Parsloe, the council's leisure development manager explained: "We want to build a family-friendly facility, which includes a pool, but other than that we're really open to residents' ideas."

"People might want a sports hall, rooms for classes and group activities or a health and fitness centre. They might like spinning bikes, a sauna and steam room, or crèche facilities. Once we've taken into account design fees and demolition, there will be around £10m for construction. It sounds a lot but facilities like these are expensive so while we want to hear a range of views, they need to be realistic."

Ideally we need a flexible space that can be adapted as trends change, according to Christine: "We want to know what residents would like, but more importantly what they would use, not just now but for years to come."

The initial consultation will last until the beginning of April when all views will be considered, then designs will be worked up and there will be further consultation on the designs prior to planning approval being sought later in 2014. Construction will take about a year with the new facility open for business shortly after.

find out more
www.leisureformorden.com
info@leisureformorden.com
Community telephone line: 0800 019 2054

A new and affordable leisure centre for local families to enjoy

MERTON'S MEGA Recycle

WIN £250
Cash for Recycling



Go MEGA and win

Merton residents could win up to £250 each month - just for putting out their recycling - thanks to a scheme launching this spring. And there are cash prizes for schools too.

You've really taken recycling to heart since the council made the process easy, with mixed weekly collections and a food-waste service, and you are currently recycling 39% of your waste. The council's new Merton Mega Recycle scheme hopes to boost that to more than 42.5% by 2016, helping us become a greener borough and saving money on landfill costs.

To take part simply register online and pledge to recycle as much of your waste as possible. Each month there will be a draw with the chance to win a top prize of £250 or one of ten £100 prizes. Once we've checked that you have put out your recycling that week with the correct materials, the prize could be yours. You will also be able to sign up on paper if you don't have internet access.

Residents joining the scheme can nominate a primary school to receive a prize of up to £5,000. Assemblies in schools will help children learn more and spread the word.

For people living in blocks of flats, community prizes of up to £10,000 to spend on play equipment, gardens or seating will be up for grabs by flats and estates that raise their recycling rates most.

Visit merton.gov.uk/megarecycle to find out more about the Mega Recycle. You can also find the Mega Recycle on Facebook and follow it on Twitter. Plus listen out for our new Mega Recycle song by reggae MC Mark Professor, coming to the website soon.

Boost your recycling

We could be recycling over 80% of our household waste – twice the current rate, according to Jane Alexander from the council's waste services team: "It's fantastic so many people are recycling but to increase your recycling rate make sure you're including all the waste streams – paper, glass, cans, plastic and food waste," she said. "Also check you're recycling from every room in the house – bathroom waste often gets missed and ends up in general rubbish."



Keeping Merton's streets clean



love clean streets

Keeping the borough's streets clean and free of litter is a top priority for the council and for residents too. Merton launched its anti-litter code at the beginning of the year and is committed to being tough on littering.

Love Clean Streets

Anyone who sees litter or fly-tipping on the streets just needs to take a photo on their smartphone and upload the photo to the Love Clean Streets website via the free app. It's easy and the council promises to clear the street and respond to the person who has posted the photo saying when the street has been cleared within 48 hours.

Investing in our streets

The council is also trialling new street cleaning equipment including mechanical sweepers and more "smart bins" that use solar power to compact rubbish. The roll out of over 200 new butt and gum bins across the borough is almost complete.

Talking litter in schools

Trained drama teachers who are part of the Dangerous Theatre Group have been taking the message about keeping streets clear of litter into Merton's schools. Through drama, they teach about looking after the environment and keeping the streets clean as well as the consequences of dropping litter. The drama teachers create a play with the children in which they are given the opportunity to act the part of somebody in the community, such as a teenager, elderly person and police officer, to teach their fellow pupils about the effects litter and other environmental crime can have on a community and the environment. So far 13 schools have taken part in the anti-litter drama workshops with 30 more to follow by the end of the school year.

Merton's anti-litter code

The borough's anti-litter code is now available online and sets out what residents can expect from the council and how residents can help to stop people littering the borough. The 19-point code lists the actions the council takes to clear up litter from the borough's roads, including investing in street cleaning equipment and enforcing the £75 fine for dropping litter. The code also includes a number of ways in which residents and visitors to the borough can help the council tackle litter and keep Merton clean.

Getting tough on enforcement

Every year the council spends £5 million on clearing litter, graffiti and fly tipping from the streets; money it could spend on services to benefit residents more. Everyone has a responsibility to help keep the streets clean by not dropping litter – that includes cigarette butts and gum. The council is planning to use specialised environmental crime enforcement officers, who will be working alongside the council's enforcement team to clamp down on littering. So if you don't want to pay a fine, don't drop litter. 🍀

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

MERTON COUNCIL

1 See litter or fly-tipping on our streets take a photo...

2 Upload your photo and details using our love clean streets app.

cleanteam
merton.gov.uk/littering

Number crunching

- 103: number of Merton street cleaners
- 700: number of litter bins across Merton
- 375 km: length of roads swept
- 4,600 tonnes: amount of litter and fly tipping cleared from the streets every year (90 tonnes a week) – that's enough to fill 460 double decker buses
- £75: the amount people caught dropping litter, including cigarette butts and chewing gum, will be fined.

COMPETITION

Win a family ticket to CATS at New Wimbledon Theatre!



Don't miss CATS, Andrew Lloyd Webber's extraordinary record-breaking, smash-hit musical as it returns to New Wimbledon Theatre for two weeks only! Adapted from T.S Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, this wonderful blend of fantasy, drama and romance is set on the night that the Jellicle cats meet for the Jellicle Ball in a sparkling fusion of music, dance and verse. With one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's most memorable musical scores which includes the timeless *Memory*, spectacular set design, stunning costumes and breathtaking choreography, CATS is a uniquely magical musical like no other. One of the longest-running shows in the West End and Broadway history, CATS has enchanted audiences in over 300 cities around the world - now you have the chance to experience this legendary musical phenomenon.

CATS will be at New Wimbledon Theatre from Tuesday 6-Saturday 17 May. To book tickets visit www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon or call 0844 8717646 (booking fees apply).

For your chance to win a family ticket for four, simply answer the following question:

Who composed the musical CATS

- A) Prince
- B) Andrew Lloyd Webber
- C) Mozart

In your answer you must include the following: name, email address, phone number, postal address. To enter the competition, tweet your answer to @Merton_Council. You can also email your answer with your name and telephone number to communications@merton.gov.uk or write to us at *My Merton*, 8th floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX. The closing date for entries is Friday 25 April.

Terms and conditions: One family ticket equates to four tickets. At least one adult and at least one child. All tickets are subject to availability. Tickets are only redeemable for the named show on one of the dates quoted above and not transferrable to other shows. Suitable for ages 8+. No cash alternative is available. Tickets are available for collection at the box office on the day of the performance. Competition tickets for CATS are redeemable on Wednesday 7 May, 7.30pm only.

MERTON COUNCIL

Safer cycling for kids

London Borough of Merton 'On Road' Cyclist Training Programme Easter 2014

Cycle training is funded in conjunction with Transport for London

Children MUST:

- Be 10 years old or over
- Be able to ride a bike confidently
- Bring a bike which is **roadworthy and the right size**
- Wear a cycle helmet

Course Format:

- Formal instruction followed by practical 'on road' training with ongoing assessment
- Please note there are 9 places available for each course

Course date	Venue	Duration
7/4/14	Aragon School, Aragon Road, Morden SM4 4QU	5 days
14/4/14	Liberty School, Western Road, Mitcham, CR4 3EB	4 days

Cost:

- £10 per child, REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT cheque or postal order only.
- PLEASE NOTE we are unable to accept cash or debit/credit cards.
- Deposit will be returned at the start of session 1.

Course Times - EITHER:

- Session 1: 9.00am - 11.00am
- Session 2: 11.30am - 1.30pm
- Session 3: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Contact Details

For further information please contact the Smarter Travel Team, Future Merton, Merton Council on **020 8545 3205 / 4141**.

Please retain this section for your information.

merton.gov.uk/roadsafety

REF: 3/12

Application Form for 'On Road' Cyclist Training Programme Easter 2014

Child's Name (Block Capitals): _____
 Address: _____
 Postcode: _____
 Contact Telephone Number: _____
(We will use this number to contact you at anytime during the course)
 Child's Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____
 School Attended: _____
 Does the child have any medical condition the trainers need to be aware of?
 Please enter details: _____

	Date	Venue	Session 1 9am-11am	Session 2 11.30am-1.30pm	Session 3 2pm-4pm
1st choice <small>(tick preferred time)</small>					
2nd choice <small>(tick preferred time)</small>					

Your email for replies (please print): _____

If you would like your child to take part please complete this form (retain left hand side for your information) and send with a cheque or postal order for £10 payable to Merton Council to: Easter Cycle Training Scheme, Smarter Travel Team, Future Merton, 12th Floor Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX. Payment and application forms must be received by Tuesday 1st April 2014. All booking accepted on a 'FIRST COME FIRST SERVED' basis. Please note we cannot accept cash, credit or debit cards, or take telephone bookings.

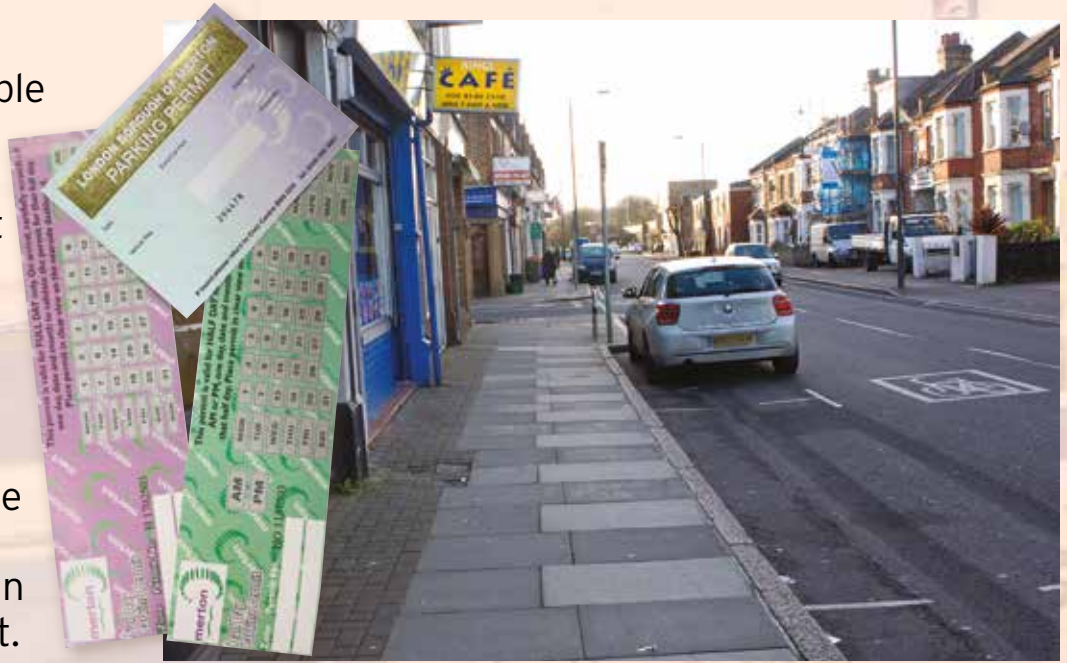
I agree to my child taking part in the 'on road' cycle training programme.
 I understand that although this training takes place on public roads, it does not automatically make my child experienced enough to cycle unsupervised, as proficiency takes more time, practice and training than this course can provide.
 I accept that disruptive behaviour will not be allowed on the course and the telephone number provided will be used to contact me in an emergency.
 I understand and accept that trainers check all bicycles before training starts and that, if trainers find a bicycle is not roadworthy, my child will not be able to take part. My child will wear a helmet.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
 Parent Guardian



Parking boost for local residents

We know being able to park outside your own front door is important for you. That's why we have frozen the cost of Residents' Parking Permits over the last three years. And we're freezing it again in this year's budget.



New parking bays on Kingston Road between Vernon Avenue and Dupont Road

We're also freezing the cost of visitor parking permits for the fourth year in a row, and the cost of the re-introduced popular half day parking permit. This makes it easier for residents who have friends popping round or who need to call out a plumber, for example.

While we know from talking to residents that parking outside your house is what



matters most to you, we also want to help local businesses and residents who need to nip to their local shops. To help neighbourhood stores cope with the effects of the recession, parking restrictions at some shopping parades are being changed, offering free parking for short stays.

Sara Williams from the council's economic development team explained:

"Ease of parking does affect whether people stop and use local shops, because it's often so much easier to drive to big out of town stores. However, we will only make changes where they are backed by local residents and businesses."

Taking a case by case approach, the council conducted local surveys of residents and businesses close to 34 shopping parades. The results differed according to

"Ease of parking does affect whether people stop and use local shops"

each area which demonstrated the importance of speaking to residents and businesses at each parade. However, some common requests were made.

Changes introduced so far include those at Burlington Road shopping parade, on Kingston Road between Vernon Avenue and Dupont Road, where pay and display bays have been introduced

with a maximum stay of two hours and 20 minutes free. And in Motspur Park you can park for one hour for free on sections of West Barnes Lane. Further schemes are being introduced on Kingston Road by Oxford Avenue; London Road, Tooting; Firstway and Botsford Road.

Finding the right change for parking meters can be a headache for drivers, so the council is also making things easier by introducing mobile phone payments. This new cashless parking means you will be able to top up by phone if you stay longer than intended and gives you less chance of overpaying. It will be introduced across the borough later this year. 📱

🔗 [find out more](https://www.merton.gov.uk/parking)
[merton.gov.uk/parking](https://www.merton.gov.uk/parking)



Money matters

As Merton Council sets its budget for 2014/15, our aim is twofold: to protect the services you value most and keep bills down. Efficiency and long-term financial planning are key to achieving this.

Savings have to be made. Since 2010 the Government has reduced the grants given to local councils. Here in Merton, we've had to deal with a budget gap of more than £70m. That means we've had to prioritise.



Keeping your bill down

One piece of good news is your council tax has been frozen again. With many residents still feeling the pinch, we're trying to help. Indeed, this is the fourth year in a row it has been frozen. We've also maintained council tax rebates for low income households.

The independent annual survey of residents shows fewer people worrying about council tax than ever before (see page nine for more about this survey). However, keeping council tax down remains a top council priority.

We are also freezing the cost of parking outside your home for a fourth consecutive year. And we've frozen the cost of a visitor parking permits as well as re-introducing the the half-day visitors' parking permit.



Protecting the services you value

While some other councils have been forced to close libraries, Merton's innovative volunteer scheme, new technology and efficient use of resources have meant we have not only kept our libraries open but Wimbledon Library has been refurbished, Donald Hope Library in Colliers Wood has extended its opening hours and West Barnes Library has increased the support available to the public.



Looking after young and old

Safeguarding the most vulnerable members of society is a key council priority. So while there will be changes at our children's centres, with work being targeted at the people who need most help, they will all remain open. We are also adding £1m a year to the budget to meet the care needs of our oldest residents.



Efficient with resources

Yet again, most of the money to bridge the gap in our funding is being found from efficiency savings and good financial management, especially in so-called back office functions, for example by reducing the number of senior posts and improving our computer systems.



Our legal team is one of the best in the country and will save money by sharing services with three other councils. We are in the process of procuring a better value CCTV contract and a better deal on our leisure contracts, and later this year we launch a big recycling drive to cut household waste going to landfill, saving £250,000 a year (read more about the Mega Recycle on page 12).



Cleaner and greener

Keeping the borough clean and green is another top priority, and once again we're protecting the weekly street sweep and weekly rubbish collections. However, while the independent survey suggests we do a good job keeping streets clean, people littering on our streets is a concern, so we are targeting resources at this issue – by taking tougher action against people who drop litter, including fines. We're also bringing in a new smartphone app to help you report trouble spots.

A great place to grow up

By being careful with money, we're able to plan ahead and continue to give our young people the start in life they deserve. To ensure there are enough school places to get a good education close to home, we've already spent £80m on creating 2,000 new places for primary-aged pupils. An additional 2,000 places will be added over the next four years at a cost of £75m.



Great modern space for Wimbledon Chase pupils

In the last year, we've improved a number of children's playgrounds. Now, to help families have fun together and get fit, we're able to replace Morden Park pool with a new family-friendly leisure centre. Previous plans were too costly, too ambitious or relied on external funding that never came. But by imposing financial discipline we can finally go ahead – read more about our plans on page 11.

Background © Timbra | Dreamstime.com



find out more about what's in the budget at merton.gov.uk/budget



If you are a relative of George Cates or William White, please call 020 8545 4161 as we would like to know more about where they lived in Merton.

War stories

When German emperor Kaiser Wilhelm made a state visit to Wimbledon in 1891, crowds four deep lined the streets to watch the spectacle. A few years later his hostile action against France and Belgium led Britain to defend its European allies, resulting in one of the most brutal conflicts in history where millions died across the globe.

In Merton one early impact of the war was the arrival of refugees from Belgium in August 1914. A sister to the Belgian king had a Wimbledon home and set up a relief committee. More than 500 people received refuge in the borough along with food, clothing and medical aid.

In 1914 Wimbledon Hospital became one of the first medical institutions to treat casualties which was a great source of community pride. Of 500 men treated between 1914 and 1918, only one died.

Wimbledon Common was used as a base for some of the first recruits to respond to Kitchener's call for volunteers. Its varied terrain was used for training and parts of the golf course were dug up to create practice trenches. The camp could not provide living quarters so billeting took place around the area.

Among the recruits were men from the 190th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery – the last 'Pals battalion' made up of friends and workmates who would serve, and in many cases die, together on the battlefields. Around 700 men answered the call to enlist, and within a month the brigade was at full strength.

A number of local men were honoured for their actions, many posthumously,

including George Cates who received the Victoria Cross. Cates died in 1917 after placing his foot on a bomb to take the blast, saving many lives. William White was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1918 for bravery, endangering his life for the sake of others. He died in 1974. ■

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

Centenary events

- There will be an outdoor multi-faith event in August.
- Two commemorative paving stones will be installed to honour Merton's Victoria Cross recipients: George Cates and William White.
- The Merton Memories photography collection launches this spring and includes images from the period.
- Members of the armed forces will recite WWI poems to be viewed on YouTube.



Protecting your town centres

For 20 years, Merton Council's CCTV cameras have been helping the police detect crimes and providing reassurance to residents.

The first eight cameras were installed in Mitcham in 1994. Today there are more than 200 around the borough, managed by Merton Council working in partnership with the police. There are cameras in Wimbledon town centre and village as well as in Mitcham and Morden town centres and on Circle Housing Merton Priory (formerly Merton Priory Homes) housing estates.

Cameras are monitored 24 hours a day by eight staff members working in shifts at the Civic Centre in Morden. They view the screens for suspicious activity, which they report by radio to the police or community wardens on housing estates. They are also able to transfer footage to the police via a live feed if a crime is taking place.

Shops, pubs and clubs who are signed up to the Town Link scheme have a direct communication link to the CCTV control room which means they can radio warnings to one another, for example if known shoplifters or bag thieves are in the area or if pub customers are being drunk and disorderly.

According to Claire Cuffie from the Safer Merton team, many crimes are solved because incidents are spotted on CCTV but it's not just about crime and disorder. "There have been a number of instances where we've been able to identify when people are at risk too. We often receive calls about missing persons or vulnerable people and we've been able to use CCTV to help find them and make them safe."

For Claire the benefits of the service are also in the reassurance cameras offer to residents: "Certainly all the evidence we have is that people feel safer if they know there is CCTV around."

"We often receive calls about missing persons or vulnerable people and we've been able to use CCTV to help find them and make them safe."

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

Book your place now at Merton Adult Education

Business and Training ^A

- Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Business & Administration
- Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Health & Social Care
- Edexcel Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health & Social Care
- Edexcel Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment
- C&G Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector
- Edexcel Award in Team Leading
- ILM Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management
- ILM Level 5 Certificate in Leadership and Management
- CIPD Certificate in Human Resources Practice

Children, Young People and Education ^A

- CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Children and Young People's Workforce
- CACHE Level 3 Specialist Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning
- CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Children and Young People's Workforce
- CYPOP5 - Setting Up a Home Based Childcare Service (Childminder Unit)

Creative Arts

- Arts and Craft Summer School workshops

First Aid

- CIEH Emergency First Aid at Work
- CACHE Paediatric First Aid

Fitness

- Pilates
- T'ai Chi
- Yoga

IT and Computing

- City & Guilds Computerised Sage Accounts Levels 1 & 2
- NOCN Digital Design Levels 1 & 2
- Edexcel ICT Levels 1 & 2

Languages

- Beginners and Brush Up for Holidays:
 - French
 - Italian
 - Spanish

and hundreds more courses available....



Adult Learners' Week
14-20 June 2014

Coming soon! Try one of our free taster sessions. Book now!

24+ Advanced Learning Loans

Most learners aged 24 and over, studying at Level 3 or Level 4 will qualify for the new 24+ Advanced Learning Loan from the UK government.
www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advancedlearningloans

Book your place online at www.maec.ac.uk or phone **020 8274 5222**. Some courses require an advice and guidance appointment, ^A please call to book your session.

 @mertonadulted
www.maec.ac.uk

Our business is creating jobs

For many local families it can be hard to find a job, with young people in particular facing higher rates of unemployment. The council's economic development team is dedicated to helping set up and grow businesses in the borough so that local residents have a better chance of a good local job.



Leader of Merton Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, lending a hand at a local business

With the Leader of the council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, having a business background, it's no surprise that helping businesses to grow and to create jobs is a top priority for the council.

Councillor Alambritis says: "As a businessman myself and a former spokesperson for the Federation of Small Businesses, I understand the importance of business to the local economy and the support businesses need in these difficult times."

The council's business growth officer, Eric Orsei, says: "Business is critical for the borough. Merton is probably one of the only councils investing significantly in small business at the moment, most local authorities have scaled back on support because they've had to prioritise. But we know how important helping business is if we want to create jobs for local people.

"We have 7,500 businesses employing 57,000 people. We want to support them as much as possible so have put together a range of programmes to help."

One of these is the Merton Business Support Service. Funded by the council, the service is delivered by the chamber of commerce along with leading business consultants. It helps people transform their ideas into business plans and arrange finance, and then works with them through the start-up process.

Eric says: "A large proportion of new businesses fail in the first 12 months, so we

"We have 7,500 businesses employing 57,000 people. We want to support them as much as possible..."

offer a lot of hand holding to give them the best chance of succeeding. You need the right support, if you've never started a business before. There's so much you need to know, from registering with HMRC to employment law."

The service provides this along with advice for existing businesses, including mentors to help develop new markets, raising funds or dealing with staffing issues.

The team also provides loans, which new businesses can still struggle to access from

the banks. Companies can borrow to help them grow, plus micro loans of between £500 and £10,000 help start-ups weather the recession, paying for anything from equipment to training.

There are also grants to help retailers survive the decline of the high street. Up to £10,000 is available for shop front makeovers, aimed at increasing footfall with the council funding up to 60% of the cost.

For Eric the role brings real job satisfaction: "When you know you've developed a programme that has impacted on people starting up in businesses or helped companies grow and as a result created jobs – that's really rewarding."

find out more

merton.gov.uk/business/businesssupport
020 8545 3232

The Big London **ENERGY** **SWITCH**

Could you be paying less for
your gas and electricity?

Merton Council is supporting the Big London Energy Switch.
We're tapping into consumer power to help get you a
better deal on your gas and electricity.

The more people that sign up to the Big London Energy Switch,
the better deal we are likely to achieve.

Auctions are held on a regular basis. To check the date of the
next auction and to register your interest go to:

www.biglondonenergyswitch.org.uk

Alternatively you can call Merton Council on 020 8274 4901

Please have your most recent gas and electricity annual statement to hand when you register.



The Big London Energy Switch is supported by 23 London boroughs:
Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney,
Haringey, Harrow, Islington, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham,
Redbridge, Richmond, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets & Waltham Forest.





futureMerton

The feedback we get suggests most Merton residents enjoy living here. We do too, which is why we want our town centres to be great places to visit. So take a tour around the borough to see what we're doing to improve your area. A number of projects are planned or under way, often thanks to the council's ability to attract funding to the borough.

Colliers Wood



From watercress beds to William Morris, Colliers Wood's rich heritage is at the heart of a range of improvements in "the Wood". After listening to input from residents and businesses, the council, TfL and the Mayor of London's office are finalising exciting new designs.

A new town square, Christchurch Place, will have an urban design reminiscent of those historic watercress beds. Nearby Baltic Close will be landscaped to echo the greenery of neighbouring Wandle Park, and new boundary markers will reflect the local arts and crafts movement of designers like Morris.

The revamp is due for completion in autumn 2015, and will complement the redevelopment of Colliers Wood tower, which is also under way.

✦ [find out more](http://merton.gov.uk/connectingcollierswood)
merton.gov.uk/connectingcollierswood

Morden

Plans to reinvigorate Morden with new shops, housing and leisure facilities are due to emerge this spring, with publication of a new planning brief for Morden station. The brief, produced by the council with TfL, sets planning guidance for the site – the first stage in its redevelopment.

✦ [find out more](http://merton.gov.uk/moreMorden)
merton.gov.uk/moreMorden



Existing view from council offices and, right, proposed view showing new public space and road system

Mitcham

Rediscover Mitcham, a project to enhance the look and feel of the town and help businesses thrive, continues to get investment from the council and the Mayor's Outer London Fund. The next phase, including a facelift for the Fair Green, begins this summer.

✦ [see more at](http://merton.gov.uk/rediscovermitcham)
merton.gov.uk/rediscovermitcham

Wimbledon



Debate about how Wimbledon town centre might evolve was stimulated last year at a conference called, appropriately enough, futureWimbledon. Now, to generate more ideas, the council's regeneration team, with partners Love Wimbledon, the Design Council and architecture group CABE, are launching a competition inviting architects, designers and interested local people to create a vision for the town – the more creative the better. The results go on display later this year.

✦ [see more at](http://www.futurewimbledon.com)
www.futurewimbledon.com
or www.loveWimbledon.org



“I gave him a present in the form of a front door key on a personalised keyring. I hope it gave him a sense of belonging to a family who really want to have him there.”

Merton foster carer

foster

If you think you have the skills and experience to care for an **11-18yr old**, please get in contact:

0800 073 0874

fostering@merton.gov.uk

merton.gov.uk/fostering



COLLIERS WOOD

MITCHAM

MORDEN

RAYNES PARK

WIMBLEDON/MERTON

Arts and entertainment

● **St Matthew Passion by Johann Sebastian Bach**
Saturday 12 April, 6.30pm
All Saints' Church, Carshalton, SM5 3PD. West Barnes Singers are combining with Carshalton Choral Society and the Choir of St. Peter's, Streatham, to perform Bach's masterpiece with 150 voices, a double

orchestra and professional soloists conducted by their Musical Director, Philip Collin. Tickets £15 (children free) are available from Grazie Mille Cafe (31-33 High Street, Carshalton), carshaltonchoral.org.uk, 020 3652 3894 or from choir members. [find out more](#)
020 8648 3987
carshaltonchoral.org.uk

POLKA THEATRE

Polka Theatre

240, The Broadway,
Wimbledon, SW19 1SB
Box office: 020 8543 4888

● **Polka Theatre and Cwyd Theatr Cymru Theatre for Young People present Minotaur by Kevin Deer**

4 April-24 May, usually one performance daily Tuesday-Saturday

Myth meets modern day in a boy's heroic quest to save his dad. Freddie receives a mysterious text message from his dad, a soldier fighting in a faraway war. He is in trouble and only his son can help. Transported to the twisting, turning labyrinth of ancient Minos, Freddie must travel through time to fulfil his destiny. Can he slay the half-bull, half-man Minotaur and rescue his father? The award winning writer of *The Monster under the Bed* fuses a modern-day war story with Greek mythology to create a gripping high-stakes adventure. £9 saver shows: Friday 4 April at 7pm, Saturday 5 April at 2pm. After-show talk Saturday 19 April 2pm. Integrated sign language performance Saturday 10 May 2pm (signed by Russell Aldersson and Jacqui Beckford). Audio described performance Saturday 17 May 2pm. For ages 8-14 years. Tickets £9-£13.50 (plus £1.50 handling charge per transaction). Running time approximately 1 hour 40 minutes including interval.

[find out more](#)

www.polkatheatre.com, 020 8543 4888

Special event

● **Merton Memories Discovery Days**

22 March and 26 April Morden Library.

If you've ever wondered what your street looked like in Victorian times, or how your local town centre has changed over the years, you can find out at the launch of the Merton Memories website taking place over two Discovery Days. On 22 March and 26 April, the Merton Memories team will be launching their new website, giving the public the opportunity to view 15,000 images covering over a century of local history.

At the Discovery Days there will be heritage representatives available to answer local history enquiries and identify photos. We will be staging short talks on different aspects of Merton's past. Residents can learn how to take a decent digital photo and how to preserve their old family photos. There will also be children's craft activities, photo displays and stands from a range of Merton museums and community groups. More information about the times of each session on 22 March and 26 April is available at merton.gov.uk/mertonmemories.

[find out more](#)

020 8545 3239/4038, local.studies@merton.gov.uk



● **Marryat Players 'Young Strings'**

Thursday 10 April, 7.30-8.30pm

Great Hall, King's College School, Southside, Wimbledon Common SW19 4TT. Don't miss the inaugural concert of Marryat Players 'Young Strings' conducted by Leandro Silvera. Programme includes baroque masterpieces and Piazzolla. Free admission. [find out more](#)

www.marryatplayers.com

020 8947 8203



● **Beauty and the Beast**

Every Saturday and Sunday, 26 April-29 June

The Colour House Children's Theatre, Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, SW19 2RD. Shows start at 2pm and 4pm both days.

Tickets: £10 adults, £8 children. Poor Prince David has been turned into a beast by an evil witch. Will Beauty be kind and fall in love with him to break the spell? Of course she will! The highly acclaimed Colour House Children's Theatre pulls out all the stops to bring you this wonderful show with great songs, great performances, colourful scenery and costumes brought together in the great surroundings of The Colour House Children's Theatre. [find out more](#)
Box Office 020 8542 5511
info@colourhousetheatre.co.uk
www.colourhousetheatre.co.uk

staying in?

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

MY MERTON'S BOOK CHOICE

Sisterland

by Curtis Sittenfeld
For identical twins, Kate and Violet are about as unlike as two peas from the same pod can be. Except in one respect - they share a hidden gift. But after Kate inadvertently reveals their secret when they are thirteen years old, their lives are set on diverging paths.



Other new books:

- *Shopaholic and sister: Sophie Kinsella*
- *Do you remember the first time?: Jenny Colgan*
- *Cockroaches: Jo Nesbo*
- *Courted by the Captain: Anne Herries*
- *Man without mercy: Miranda Lee*
- *Takedown twenty: Janet Evanovich*

NEW DVDS: MY MERTON RECOMMENDS



Hangover: Part 3

Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis and Ed Helms return for the third and final part of 'The Hangover' trilogy, directed by Todd Phillips. Following the death of Alan (Galifianakis)'s father, he and his best mates Phil (Cooper) and Stu (Helms), aka the Wolfpack, head out on a road trip on which they get caught up in another misadventure, encountering a number of eccentric characters on the way and ending up back in Las Vegas. Justin Bartha, Ken Jeong, Heather Graham and John Goodman co-star, with Mike Tyson also making an appearance.

Other new DVDs:

- *Croods*
- *Only God forgives*
- *Smurfs 2*
- *Pain and gain*

Polka Theatre holiday workshops

240, The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1SB

● Bouncing Bunnies Bumper Workshop

Wednesday 16 April

Bunny ears at the ready...Get your little ones full of the joys of spring with an Easter themed creative movement and craft workshop. Foundation class (3-4 years) 9.30-10.45am, reception class (4-5 years) 11am-12.15pm. Admission £18.

● Awesome Adventures

Thursday 17 April, 10.30am-3.30pm

Your story, your play, all in one day! Whether hero or villain, devise your own adventure and create a play to perform for family and friends at the end of the day. For ages 7-11 years. Admission £30.

● West End Work Out

Wednesday 28 May, 10.30am-3.30pm

Sing and dance to your favourite show tunes and flex your musical theatre muscles as you prepare to perform for friends and family at the end of the day. For ages 7-11 years. Admission £30.

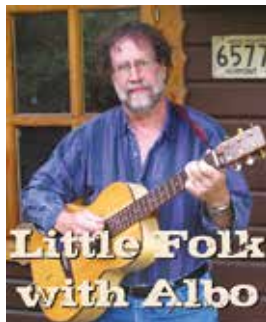
● Acting Up

Friday 30 May, 10am-1pm.

An essential workshop for all budding actors. Get expert advice from a professional actor, learn real acting techniques and devise your own short scenes. For ages 8-13 years. Admission £25.

find out more

www.polkatheatre.com, 020 8543 4888



● Little Folk with Albo

Saturdays 10.30am, 12 April, 17 May, 14 June

The Colour House Children's Theatre, Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, SW19 2RD. Wimbledon folksinger and guitarist Al Clogston (aka Albo) will be performing a series of Saturday morning concerts for kids at the Colour House Theatre. Albo will present a mixture of folk songs, American camp songs, traditional

children's songs, sing-alongs and original songs for kids. Participation will be encouraged and song sheets provided. Recommended for children from babies to 6 years. Tickets £4. find out more
Box office 020 8542 5511
www.littlefolkwithalbo.com
info@alclogston.co.uk

● Merton Music Foundation

Saturday 17 May, 3pm (junior concert) and 7pm (senior concert)

St. Mark's Academy, Acacia Road, Mitcham CR4 1SF. Two concerts featuring junior and senior musicians from the Merton Music Foundation. find out more
020 8640 5446, www.mmf.org.uk

A Sprig of Thyme

29 March, 7.30-9.30pm

St Barnabas Church, Gorrington Park Ave, CR4 2DJ. As part of the Colliers Wood Arts Festival, Colliers Wood Chorus and the Philharmonia Britannica orchestra present John Rutter's Sprig Of Thyme. Folk music from both sides of the Atlantic will be celebrated including Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Greensleeves, Elgar's Chanson de Matin and Aaron Copland's first set of American Songs. Cost £10, concession £8, family ticket £25 (at least 2 children).

find out more

07918 183459, www.collierswoodchorus.org.uk

● Friday

Lunchtime Recitals

St John's, Spencer Hill, Wimbledon. Fridays at 1-1.45pm on 25 April, 16 May, 30 May, 13 June, 27 June, 11 July, 25 July. Coffee and cakes available from 12.30pm. Entry by donation.

🔗 **find out more**

www.stjohnswimbledon.co.uk
music@stjohnswimbledon.co.uk

● Carlton Dramatic Society's Swimming With Sharks written by George Huang

Tuesday 6-Saturday 10 May, 7.15pm (evening performances) and 2.15pm (matinees)

New Wimbledon Studio, Wimbledon. This sartorial, black comedy about the film industry centres around Guy, a naive young man who has ambitions of being a screenwriter one day. He's an assistant for Buddy Ackerman, a senior producer in Los Angeles but if he wants to be that illustrious screenwriter he is going to have to play by



Buddy's rules – and Buddy plays dirty!

🔗 **find out more**

www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-wimbledon-studio
0844 871 7646

● The Hill Singers

Saturday 22 March, 7.30pm

St. Matthew's Church, Durham Road, SW20. A spring concert of audience favourites. Tickets £11, £9 concessions, £5 under 16s on the door, £10 in advance from choir members or the box office.

🔗 **find out more**

020 8644 3794
www.hillsingers.co.uk
hillsingermember@aol.co.uk



● 35th Open Studios Art Show

Thursday 15-Sunday 18 May. Thursday and Friday, 2-10pm, Saturday and Sunday, 11am-6pm
Wimbledon Art Studios, 10 Riverside Yard, Riverside Road, SW17 0BB. 150 artists open the door of their studio in one of the largest Open Studios Art Shows in UK. A great event both for art

collectors or anyone looking to decorate their home with unique pieces of art, where you can interact with emerging and established artists of all disciplines. Free entry.

🔗 **find out more**

www.wimbledonartstudios.co.uk
020 8947 1183
www.facebook.com/wimbledonopenstudios
www.twitter.com/WimbledonArt

Senior citizens

● Going for a song

Every Wednesday 1-2pm
Vestry Hall, Cricket Green, Mitcham. Come along to our 'Going for a Song' singing workshops for the over 55s. No skill required. Admission £3.50 per session.

🔗 **find out more**

020 8640 6800
info@attictheatrecompany.com



Hatfield Primary School Carnival Summer Fair

Hatfield Primary School, Lower Morden Lane, Morden
Saturday 7 June, 12-3.30pm

Come along and join us for a fun filled day and celebrate our Brazilian Carnival/ Football 2014 themed Summer Fair. Shows in the Central Arena will include a fire-juggling stilt walker and Zumbatomics dance troupe, plus all our usual fantastic stalls, including face painting, BBQ and refreshments. There is an exciting 75ft inflatable obstacle course and a "human" table football to test your skills. Rides will include Tea Cups and there are Bouncy Castles for all ages. It's a day not to be missed! Admission £1.50 but entrance for all accompanied children is free.



🔗 **find out more**

07909 545501
Any external stall holders who wish to attend the Fair should contact Inge on **07841 817700** to check for stall availability/suitability
www.rpwresidents.org.uk/145-hatfield-primary-school-summer-fair

Fairs



1 MARCH - 18 MAY 2014

MUSIC, FOLK & CLASSICAL MUSIC,
OPERA, THEATRE, SONG, POETRY, COMEDY,
ARTS & CRAFTS, KIDS ACTIVITIES,
EXHIBITIONS, COMPETITIONS + MUCH MORE

● If you go down to the Woods today...you're in for a nice surprise!

Running until 18 May
Whether you like cutting edge drama, poetry, short stories or photography, sculpture, indie-bands, choirs or opera divas the Colliers Wood Spring Arts Festival has something for

you. Sunday evenings throughout the festival will feature some amazing professional folk, classical and contemporary musicians performing in an intimate, relaxed atmosphere.

🔗 **find out more**

Go to www.collywood.org.uk
or search #collywood to keep in the loop

Morden Hall Park events

Morden Hall Park, National Trust,
Morden Hall Road, Morden, London, SM4 5JD

● **Welly Weekend**
Saturday 5 and
Sunday 6 April,
11am-3pm



Join us for a weekend inspired by our wellies, from exploring the park for wildlife to planting your own seeds! Free.

● **Survival Skills**
Tuesday 8 April,
11am-3pm

Test your survival skills with our Ranger and learn how to build dens, cook on a campfire and track wild animals. Cost £4 per person.

● **Active Amphibians**
Thursday 10 April,
11am-3pm

Discover more about frogs, newts and toads with crafts and activities. Cost £2 per person or £4 per family.

● **Quacky Races**
Thursday 17 April,
11am-3pm
Cheer on your duck in our rubber duck races down the River Wandle! Craft activities included. Cost £1.50 per duck.

✦ **find out more**

020 8545 6850, mordenhallparkevents@nationaltrust.org.uk
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mordenhallpark

● **Industrial Revolutions**
Sunday 11 May, 11am-4pm
Discover more about the wheels that turned in the past and have a go at the water power challenge. Free.

● **Tweet Tweet**
Tuesday 27 May,
11am-3pm
See if you can spot our feathered friends in the park and build your very own bird box to take home. Cost £4 per person.

● **Be Nice to Nettles**
Thursday 29 May,
11am-3pm
Join in with hands on activities and discover more about the benefits of nettles for people and wildlife. Cost £2 per person or £4 per family (up to 4 members).



● **50 things to do before you're 11¾ launch**
Sunday 1 June, 11am-4pm
Celebrate the launch of the 50 things adventures and have a go at den building, bug hunting, wild art and lots more! Cost £4 per child.

Health and Fitness

● **Merton Active Plus**

Entertain your children this Easter holidays with our fantastic range of courses for 8-16 year olds. Look out for new courses coming before the holidays, and more courses continuously being added. Find something for everyone, with arts, sports and leisure and watersports courses, running at venues all over the borough. With a range of prices to suit every budget, your children can have an Easter holiday to remember!

✦ **find out more**

020 8545 4069

Book online at
merton.gov.uk/activeplus

● **Tennis fun day**
Saturday 28 June,
10am-3pm

Wimbledon Park tennis courts. This annual drop-in coaching session takes place on the middle Saturday of Wimbledon at the Wimbledon Park tennis courts. Some of the Wimbledon tennis players will drop in during the day to offer advice and tips to the participants.

✦ **find out more**

020 8545 4069

merton.gov.uk/tennisfunday



● **Interested in learning to bowl?**

Saturday 31 May,
11am-5pm
Wimbledon Park Bowls Club are holding an Open Day for people to see if they would like to take up lawn bowls as a hobby. You can also come to one of our taster sessions held each Saturday 11am-1pm starting Saturday 3 May.

✦ **find out more**

020 8265 5475

barrywillingham@ntlworld.com
www.wimbledonparkbowls.co.uk

● **Merton Park Bowls Club**
Wednesday from 14
May-August, 6-7.30pm
Merton Park Bowls Club will hold coaching and taste sessions for new and

Hercules Wimbledon AC

Track and Field Headquarters, Wimbledon Park SW19 7HX

● **Hercules Wimbledon Young Athletes' open meeting**
Sunday 6 April, 11am-5pm

Hercules Wimbledon Young Athletes' open meeting is the first event to be staged on the newly renovated running track at Wimbledon Park after being staged at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre for the past 30 years. It is one of the largest meetings of its kind with around 600 boys and girls aged between 11 and 19 from Merton and surrounding boroughs taking part in a range of track and field events. Entries must be made on line at www.herculeswimbledonac.org.uk. Spectator admission free, programme £3.

● **Hercules Wimbledon AC coaching evenings**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6.30-7.15pm (ages 11-14), Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.15pm (older age groups)

All sessions £2 per person (track fee). Hercules Wimbledon AC provides training and competition for all ages, and welcomes disability athletes' membership. Teams are regularly in the higher positions of both men's and ladies' track and field leagues and in January this year won Surrey County Cross Country Championships senior men's team title for the first time since 1979.

● **7 Upsanovers**
Every Sunday, 9.30-11am

Hercules Wimbledon AC run the hugely popular '7 Upsanovers' training session for children aged 7-10. This provides entry level coaching to groups of 20+ in various running, jumping and throwing events. Cost £2 per child per session.

✦ **find out more**

020 8540 6016 or 020 8870 1196

www.herculeswimbledonac.org.uk

experienced bowlers of all ages every Wednesday evening. Bowls and shoes available.

🔗 **find out more**
Mens 020 8542 2174
Ladies 020 8540 8490
www.bowlsinmerton.co.uk



● Wimbledon Raquets and Fitness Club

Cranbrook Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4HD
Squash starter course
Thursdays, 8-9.20pm
Six week beginners squash coached course taking place consecutively, contact info@wimbledonclub.co.uk to sign up to the next one. The course will take place in a fun, mixed environment by learning the game and introducing you to the leagues to develop your skills, if you want to! Places limited to 8.

Beginners

Badminton course

Wednesdays, 8-10pm
Ten week beginners course in a group environment. Places limited to 28. Contact info@wimbledonclub.co.uk for details.

Beginners sessions

Every Sunday.
Squash at 4.30-5.30pm.
Badminton at 5-7pm.

🔗 **find out more**
020 8947 5806
info@wimbledonclub.co.uk

● National Volleyball Association

24-26 May
Wimbledon Park plays host to a national beach volleyball tournament.

🔗 **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/beach-volleyball



● Learn to ride and care for your horse

Ridgway stables, 93 Ridgway, Wimbledon Village, London SW19 4SU. Ridgway stables are running four day courses for 8-16 year olds at Easter and half term. The courses run from 10am-12pm and 2-4pm. To find out more and book on to a course, visit www.merton.gov.uk/activeplus.

🔗 **find out more**
020 8946 7400
www.ridgwaystables.co.uk

Walks and talks

● 'Greenwich, its history, buildings and people'

by Diana Rimel
Saturday 12 April, 2.15pm

Wimbledon National Trust Association, Christ Church Hall, Cottenham Park Road, Wimbledon, SW20. Diana's talk on Greenwich, its history, buildings and people covers mostly the centre and riverside of this World Heritage site. Admission £3 per WNTA member and £3.50 per non-member.

🔗 **find out more**
020 8540 6754
wimbledonnta@yahoo.co.uk
www.wnta.btck.co.uk

Merton BMX Track

Acacia Road Mitcham CR4 1SF (Part of St Marks Academy site across the road from the school).

Open in the evenings and weekends for anyone to come along and have a go at BMX. We have a number of bikes you can use and provide helmets and gloves for riders. The activity is low cost at just £2.50 for our Pay and Play (open) sessions and £5 for our coached sessions. Community sessions are held for local residents each school holiday, please see the web pages for more information.

Merton Saints BMX Club meets at the track every Saturday at 10am and welcomes all new members to their first session free of charge.

🔗 **find out more**
merton.gov.uk/bmx-track
www.facebook.com/MertonBmxTrack



St Saviour's Church

Grand Drive, Raynes Park, London SW20 9DG

● May Fair Monday 5 May, 12-3pm

Family fun for everyone including a BBQ, Maypole dancing, side shows, bouncy castle, tombolas, grand draw and refreshments.

● Table top sale Saturday 17 May, 10am-1pm

Admission 30p, £1 before 10am, tables £6.

● Bingo with fish and chip supper

Saturday 7 June, 6.45-9.30pm
Admission adults £7, children £5. Please book by 31 May.

🔗 **find out more**
020 8540 2483 or 020 8395 6095, www.stsaviour.net

● Merton in Bloom 2014

Keep an eye out for Merton in Bloom entry forms that will be available in mid-May from Merton Libraries, the Civic Centre in Morden and online at merton.gov.uk/mertoninbloom.



Community Forums

● Morden

20 March, 7.15pm
Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Morden.

● Mitcham

25 March, 7.15pm
Vestry Hall, Cricket
Green, 336-338
London Rd, Mitcham.

● Wimbledon

10 June, 7.15pm
Venue to be confirmed.

● Raynes Park

18 June, 7.15pm
Venue to be confirmed.

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

Free Kids First Events

Organised by Merton's
Forum for Parents of
Children and Young
People with Disabilities
or Special Needs

● Surrey Law Centre

with Katy Peters,
Solicitor (Community
and Healthcare Law)
Thursday 27 March,
10am-12pm
Chaucer Centre, Room D,
Canterbury Road, Morden,
SM4 6PX. Katy talks
about the services Surrey
Law Centre offers people
with a learning disability
and their parents/carers.
Information and advice on
claiming legal aid, the law

regarding care packages
from social services/NHS,
social housing and more...

● Sensory integration and occupational therapy techniques

with Sheena Rufus,
Sutton and Merton
Children's Occupational
Therapy, Monday
28 April, 10am-2pm
Chaucer Centre, Room B,
Canterbury Road, Morden,
SM4 6PX. A practical
session on sensory
integration and occupational
therapy techniques you
can use at home with your
child. Find out what the

occupational therapy
service provides, plus
information on referrals,
waiting lists, assessments
and occupational therapy
in schools.

✂ **find out more**

020 8687 4644

kids.first@swlondonmencap.nhs.uk

www.mertonmencap.org.uk/

kidsfirst.htm

● Beekeeping for beginners

7 and 8 June
Snuff Mill, Morden Hall
Park. Find out if you would
like to become a beekeeper
at our introductory course.
Cost £50.

✂ **find out more**

020 3286 2896, [courses@](mailto:courses@wimbledonbeekeepers.co.uk)

wimbledonbeekeepers.co.uk

www.wimbledonbeekeepers.co.uk

Wine and Sign

Thursday 10 April, 4.30-6.30pm

Fielders Art Supplies, 54 Wimbledon Hill Road,
SW19 7PA. Come and meet the Merton Arts Trail
organisers and sign up for this year's Open House
event. Opportunity to buy artists' materials at a
discount for this evening only. Admission free.

✂ **find out more**

info@mertonartstrail.org.uk, www.mertonartstrail.org.uk

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



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
LIVING WATER PARISH, LONDON

INVITES YOU TO Fellowship WITH US

Living Water Parish is a Church driven by love for everyone. We cater for the wellbeing of our members and community; spiritually, physically, mentally and otherwise. We seek to empower everyone that comes in touch with us with the relevant tools needed to reach their goals and accomplish their purpose. We are a place for family, for love, for fun and continuous celebration...

SOUTH WIMBLEDON
169 -171 Haydons Road
South Wimbledon SW19 8TB
02085421166

SERVICES

Anointing Service - Last Sunday of every month @ 9am & 12pm
Celebration & Worship - Every Sunday @ 9 am & 12 pm
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Every Wednesday @ 7pm

TOOTING BROADWAY BRANCH
1st Floor, 54 Tooting High Street
Tooting Broadway
London SW17 0RN
02085421166

SERVICES

Celebration & Worship - Every Sunday @ 9 am
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting - Every Tuesday @ 7pm

Web: www.rccglwp.org

Email: info@rccglwp.org

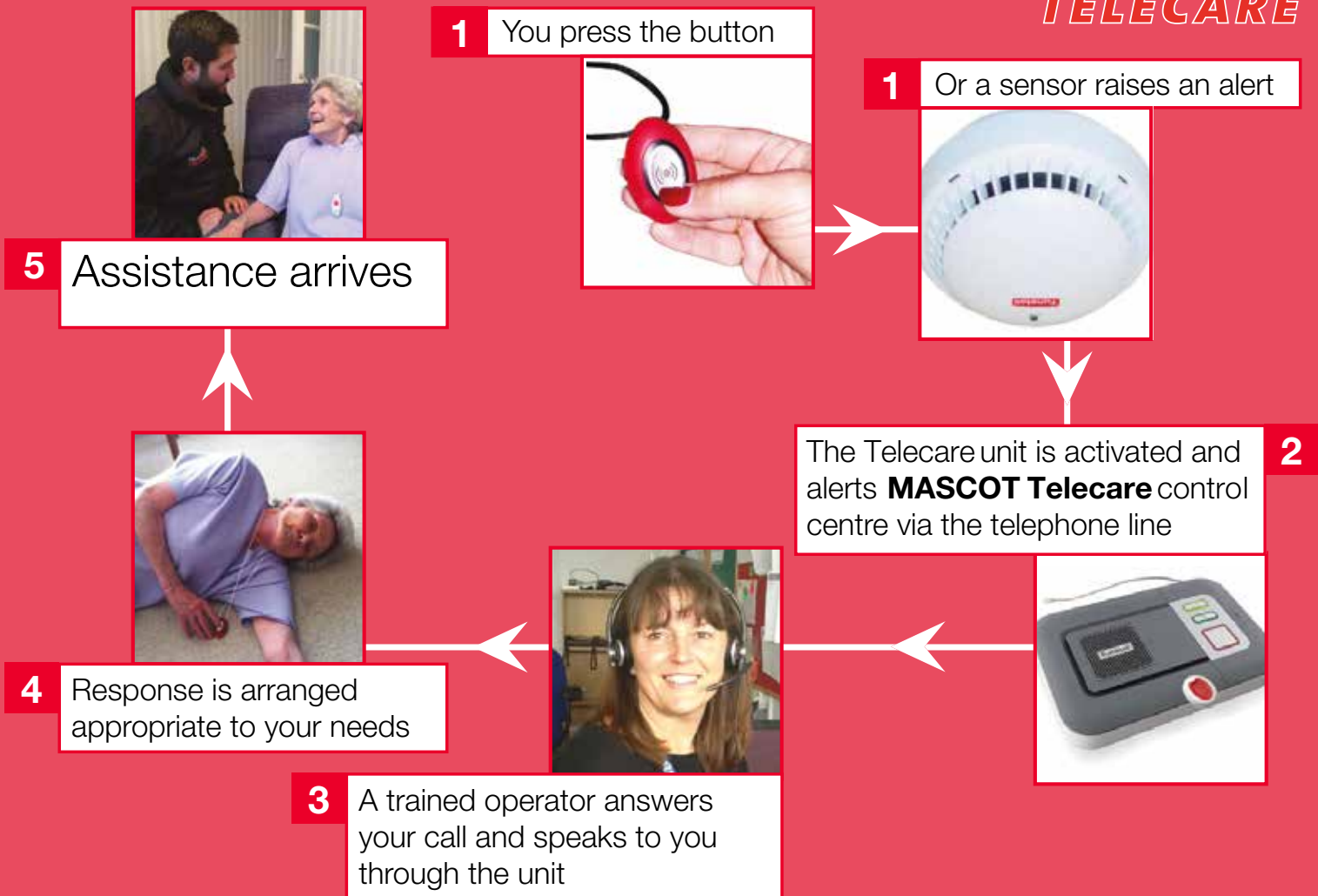


**Pastor
Mo Afolabi**



**Pastor
Wale Afolabi**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



24 hour assistance is just a button push away

Mascot Telecare is provided by the London Borough of Merton and helps to provide safety, security and well-being, enabling people to live independently in their own homes. The service – available 24 hours a day, every day of the year – uses simple technology linked to our response centre based in Morden’s Civic Centre.

Our friendly team are trained to respond quickly and appropriately to calls for help when a pendant button is pressed. The alarm works as a two-way radio and they are able to hear you from anywhere in your house. In an emergency they will contact

the emergency services and remain in contact with you until they are satisfied you are safe and well. We also offer a response service for those within 5 miles of the Civic Centre.

The service is available from as little as £4.38 per week which includes installation, monitoring and equipment.

For more information or to arrange for a leaflet and price list to be sent to you, please call 020 8274 5940

www.mascot-telecare.org.uk
mascot@merton.gov.uk





5 minutes with...

Mani and Steve Cooksley

Mani and Steve Cooksley live in Merton. In 2012 they decided to become foster carers. *My Merton* caught up with them to hear their story.

How long have you been foster carers?

Since August 2012. We have been approved by Merton Council to look after young people from five to 18 years old.

How old are the young people you are looking after now?

We're foster carers to a boy and a girl who are both 17. Our own children have grown up and left home.

What made you decide to foster?

Mani: I work in a bank and I was opening accounts for foster children so I got talking to the foster carers about what it is like and their experiences. Coming from Rwanda I could really relate to the feelings of loss these children must face.

What's most challenging about fostering?

In the beginning, the young people aren't used to the stability. Sometimes they just don't talk to you. But it's our role to give them vision and encourage them to stay on the right path.

What has been the most rewarding?

When the young people in your care grow to trust you. You need to reassure them that you'll always be there for them no matter what.

What qualities do you need to be a foster carer for teenagers?

Patience and tolerance, good at listening and negotiating and lots of energy. It's important you involve yourself in their interests.

news and information from your council

mymerton

 **find out more**

merton.gov.uk/fostering