

iN MERTON

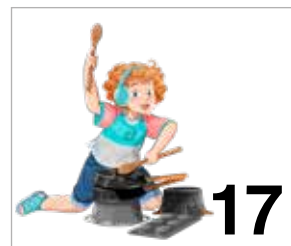
INSIDE

Your guide to a
summer of sport,
events and activities
for all the family



ISSUE 02
News and information from your council

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In Merton

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Get set for the summer

There is so much to look forward to in Merton!



Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader, London
Borough of Merton

Next Sunday, 23 June, it is carnival time in Mitcham and I am delighted to invite you to join us for an extravaganza of colour, costumes, dance and music. This free day of entertainment for all the family celebrates the rich diversity and vibrant communities in our borough and is back by popular demand for the second year running.

With school summer holidays around the corner, there are plenty of ideas in this issue for how to entertain the little ones whilst keeping costs low, including the pullout filled with activities in the centre pages.

Marvellous Makers is the theme of this year's Summer Reading Challenge, which is being run in all seven of the council's award-winning libraries. Every young reader who finishes six books or more has a chance to win some fantastic prizes.

The council has been upgrading playgrounds and getting ready to fill up the paddling pools in July and switch on the splash pads in June. Kids can already dive into free swimming in the pools at Morden, Wimbledon and the Canons in Mitcham, with sessions running daily as part of the council's ambition to become London's Borough of Sport. Summer is also a great time to visit local parks and green spaces, which are some of the best in London, and help make Merton one of the capital's greenest boroughs.

With visitors from across the world coming to our borough for the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, and the Olympic and Paralympic games also taking place this

summer, now is the perfect time to pick up a tennis racket and play for free at one of the newly refurbished courts in the council's parks. Or, if you're inspired by the BMX, beach volleyball, gymnastics, or athletics, most of the sports you'll see on screen can also be found locally on our Activity Finder, linked via this QR code.



We have some great role models here in Merton. Whether it's our local Scout groups, who I joined recently for their annual St George's Day parade, or the AFC Wimbledon Women's football team, who have just been promoted to the Southern Premier Division after winning the National League One South East, it's never too late to start being more involved in sport or volunteering.

The summer holidays are a fresh chance to get involved with one of our great community organisations and give some time to help those in need of a bit of extra support. You can find a wide range of opportunities on our Merton Connected volunteering portal, and on page 29.

This magazine includes just some of the many opportunities to enjoy the best of Merton this summer. For more, sign up to receive the weekly *In Merton* e-newsletter at merton.gov.uk/newsletter



Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader, London Borough of Merton



Summer of sport

With Paris 2024 bringing new sports to the world stage and reminding us of old favourites, here's how you can get a taste of the Olympics right here in your Borough of Sport.

Breaking

Breaking is an urban dance style that originated in the United States in the 1970s. While the dance became more athletic, hip-hop music is still central to the sport. 2024 will be the first year breaking has featured in the Olympics.

Breaking in your Borough of Sport:

- JV Dance Fitness runs specialist breakdancing classes at The Lantern Theatre in Raynes Park, and is available for group workshops. jvdancefitness.co.uk

- Not ready to do the worm or a headstand? For a more general grounding in hip-hop dance, which includes elements of breaking, check out Urban Dance City, based at Canons Leisure Centre. First class free. urbandancecity.com

BMXing

Like breaking, Bicycle Motocross (BMX) Freestyle is another modern-day Olympic sport that originated in 1970s America. It went on to be part of X games – a tournament of more extreme sports – but BMX-ers are now a regular sight alongside skateboarding at half pipes in parks across London. In the Olympics, competitors are scored on speed, height and the creativity of the moves they do in a timed period.

Cycle to success in Merton:

- Mitcham BMX Track, run by Merton Saints BMX Club: This facility has recently had a substantial upgrade, thanks to Merton Council's Civic Pride Funding. The track, already the longest in London, now also boasts an Olympic standard pro-start gate and LED lighting, and a new start hill is under construction and will make the track eligible to host national competitions.

- Head down to drop-in sessions, or join as a member, to train for races and receive a discount. mertonsaintsbmxclub.com



Climbing

Returning for its second Olympics is climbing, an immensely popular sport, with over 2.5m climbers worldwide, many aged under 18. In the Olympics, there are three types of climbing: speed climbing – a tense race against the clock and an opponent; bouldering – which involves lower height climbing without ropes; and the lead event – in which athletes have six minutes to climb a course in as few attempts as possible.

Scale new heights in Merton:

- Visit The Boardroom climbing gym, located in Wimbledon Quarter. Prices from £8 for children, with regular bouldering safety courses. theboardroomclimbing.com
- Colliers Wood Community Centre has a climbing wall, which is hired out to local groups and open to the public at selected times. Drop in to see the timetable or call to enquire. cwra.org.uk/the-colliers-wood-community-centre



Sailing and watersports

There are dozens of sailing and watersports events in the Olympics, from solo and group races to slalom canoeing. Team GB has an amazing track record in sailing – with a running total of 31 golds and 63 medals overall since the sport was introduced in 1900. In fact, no other nation has won more medals in sailing than Great Britain.

Nurture the next generation of sailing pros:

- Wimbledon Park Watersports and Outdoor Centre runs regular classes and holiday clubs for children and teens, as well as providing one-to-one tuition and bespoke workshops for clubs or birthday parties. merton.gov.uk/watersports

Remember: children with an interest in rowing need to be confident swimmers too. Take them along to a Kids Swim Free session at one of the council's three leisure centres. Details on page 16.



Hundreds of activities across the borough are available to browse and book through the Borough of Sport Activity Finder

The AFC Wimbledon family is waiting to welcome you...



Come and experience the spirit of the AFC Wimbledon family at our fantastic Plough Lane stadium. From avid fans to curious newcomers, there's a place for everyone in our inclusive community. Join us for men's and women's matchday experiences where you'll create lasting memories and build lifelong friendships.



Join the AFC Wimbledon family - match tickets start at £7 for kids and £23 for adults
www.afcwimbledon.co.uk

Big Sports Day is back!

After an incredible first year welcoming more than 5,000 residents, the council's flagship Borough of Sport event is back this September.

Big Sports Day is the chance for everyone in Merton to try a new sport or activity for free

and connect with local clubs and coaches. With activities across the day set in the glorious surroundings of Wimbledon Park, Big Sports Day is not to be missed.

Follow the council on social media for more updates and announcements, and sign up to the *In Merton* e-newsletter at merton.gov.uk/newsletter



Save the date:
Sunday 8
September
Wimbledon Park





JOIN IN THE EXCITEMENT OF WIMBLEDON 2024 AT CANONS HOUSE & MORDEN PARK



The All England Club is really pleased to have two big screens showing tennis over the Fortnight and for everyone in Merton to join in the excitement of Wimbledon.

The screens are located in Morden Park and at Canons House from Saturday 6 July to Sunday 14 July with tennis being shown from 11am each day.

It is completely free to attend so please come and join, bring a picnic and watch world class tennis!



New, free family fun and games sessions

The latest way for the whole family to get active in Merton.

Free two-hour intergenerational games sessions have launched in Merton parks.

The sessions, known as ParkPlay, take place on Saturday mornings at Canons House and Grounds; and at Eastfields estate in Mitcham.

They are run by volunteer play leaders and are designed to allow adults and kids to play together in a non-competitive atmosphere with a focus on having fun and building friendships.

The initiative, run in partnership with the council, will expand into Pollards Hill soon.

Merton's mission to become London's Borough of Sport means supporting all residents, no matter their background, to access and enjoy activities, sports and exercise.



Register the first time you attend via the ParkPlay website: park-play.com/parks/greater-london

Tennis star opens courts



© Dave Inglis

Raynes Park High School celebrated a Grand Slam moment when tennis legend Tim Henman unveiled the school's state-of-the-art tennis courts. This project, part-funded by a £70,000 donation from the Tim Henman Foundation, was completed just in time for the excitement of the Championships, Wimbledon fortnight.

The newly refurbished courts, equipped with floodlighting, could help create the next generation of tennis stars. Tim Henman, who was a Wimbledon semi-finalist and former number one British player, said: "It's wonderful to see these new courts ready for action. Our collaboration with Raynes Park High School has been immensely rewarding, and we're proud to support the school."



Urban Dance City is set to perform

One of the borough's most anticipated summer events is taking place next week! Mitcham Carnival will showcase a day full of performances, vibrant costumes, global cuisines, and free activities for all ages to take part in.

Watch performances in the main stage area, from music and dance to wrestling matches. With a diverse lineup including salsa, fusion and street dance groups, a live steel band, and singers, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Immerse yourself in the carnival atmosphere by taking part in the mini parade led by members of the community, including Live Dance Academy and Merton Multicultural Group. Explore a range of stalls run by local businesses, community groups and council services, offering

crafts to essential services, including Deen City Farm & Riding School, Mitcham Park Football Club, Josie's Face Painting, Angie's Angels, Wimbledon Guild, Bombay Delight, Dons Local Action Group, Friends of Mitcham Common and many more!

There are plenty of fun games and activities to do in the Kids' and Sports Zones, as well as Drake's Funfair, which promises excitement for everyone.

There will be a range of global cuisine available from food vendors, which can be enjoyed in the shaded picnic area.



Sunday 23 June, 10.30am–5pm
Three Kings Piece, Mitcham



Wiktorija Tracz is returning as a headline act

Come prepared

Remember to bring sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses to stay protected during the outdoor festivities. Bring both cash and card, as vendors may only accept one or other form of payment.

How to get there

Accessible via public transport, including:

- Three Kings Pond bus stop (bus services: 118, 264, 270 and 355)
- Mitcham Junction tram stop
- Mitcham Junction train station
- Limited parking available, with details to be confirmed closer to the date.



Find out more at

merton.gov.uk/mitchamcarnival

Get the latest updates by following Merton Council on social media and subscribing to our e-newsletters:

merton.gov.uk/newsletter

Make a splash in a paddling pool

Beat the heat and keep cool this summer.

With six paddling pools and two splash pads located across the borough, take the kids for a free and fun day out in the sun. All the council's paddling pools and splash pads will be open in time for the school holidays.

The two splash pads, found in Wimbledon Park and Tamworth Recreation Ground, provide hours of fun for the family. Rowan Road Rec has been upgraded, including a new beach-themed paddling pool for the summer. The revamped paddling pool at Joseph Hood Recreation Ground will include water play features like water pumps and pulley buckets,

so there'll be plenty of ways to make a splash. So, pack your sunscreen, grab your towels, and get ready to immerse in a day of water play!

Opening dates and times 2024

Splash pads in Wimbledon Park and Tamworth Recreation Ground will be open from 17 June until 8 September.

Paddling pools in Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields, King George's Playing Fields, Rowan Road Recreation Ground, Colliers Wood Recreation Ground and Morden Park will all be open from 20 July until 1 September.

To find out more, visit: merton.gov.uk/paddlingpools



Tamworth Recreation Ground's splash pad in Mitcham



Cottenham Park Playground has plenty of play options

Revamped playgrounds

Four playgrounds that were most in need of an upgrade have been renovated by the council. They were designed with input provided by residents at community events and this approach is set to be replicated at other locations. Find out more: merton.gov.uk/parksupgrades

Rowan Road Recreation Ground

Located in Mitcham, the playground at Rowan Road Rec now features a vibrant beach and sea-themed paddling pool, a towering climbing pyramid, a multi-play unit, and a dedicated toddler area. It's a dynamic space where kids can climb, splash, and explore, offering fun for all ages.

Miles Road Recreation Ground

Over at Miles Road Rec in Mitcham, the revamped playground has a lily pad theme, with cradle swings and a tall slide, based on residents' feedback. The all-timber design includes an inclusive roundabout, a multi-play unit, and a unique 3D frog tunnel.

Cottenham Park Playground

In Wimbledon, Cottenham Park Playground got a makeover with exciting new equipment like a space net, a grass roots ladder, and a traverse rope unit. There are plenty of balancing beams and pods to test and grow your child's skills.

Haydons Road Recreation Ground

With the help of the Friends of Haydons Road Recreation Ground, this Wimbledon playground now has a new rope-end swing and a bug-like multi-play unit, offering a fresh take on outdoor play.



Holiday fun and food

Keeping children well-fed and occupied during the school holidays.



Children taking part in an ecology project

Arts and crafts, sports activities, cooking classes, performances and educational workshops to enjoy

Merton's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) projects offer lots of fun things to do during the school holidays for children and young people aged between five and 15-years-old.

From arts and crafts sessions to sports activities, cooking classes, performances and educational workshops, there's something for every child to enjoy.

The projects are run by schools, local organisations and community centres across the borough. Throughout this academic year, the council has been one of just a few in the country to fund HAF clubs to run during half term breaks through our Cost of Living Fund, in addition to the national funding provided for the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays.

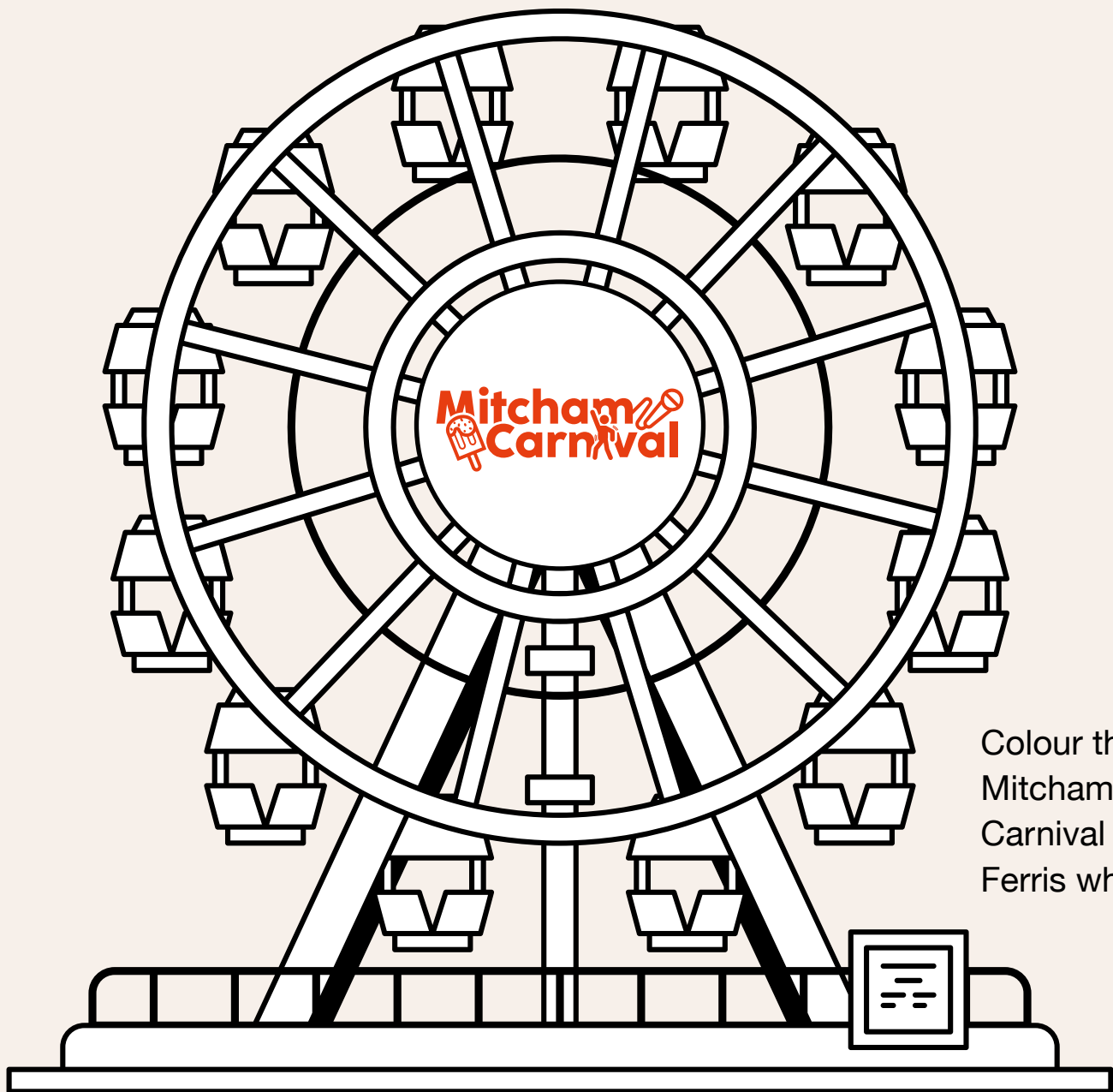
One of the highlights of the HAF clubs is the opportunity for children to discover the joys of cooking and learn about nutrition. Through hands-on experience, kids can pick up valuable culinary skills, experiment with new ingredients and develop a healthy relationship with food. Nutritionally balanced meals and snacks are served up for all children taking part in the HAF clubs. These are free for children and young people who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Other children can attend most projects by paying a daily fee. Specialist support to get involved in HAF projects is available for children with special educational needs and disabilities and bespoke activities are also organised for them to take part in.

Find out more merton.gov.uk/HAF

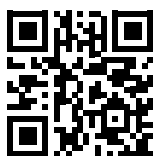
Summer activities

iN
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This booklet belongs to _____



Colour the
Mitcham
Carnival
Ferris wheel



Click the QR code to
download more copies
of this activity booklet

Dive in!

Did you know that last summer, more than 3,000 kids swam for free in Merton? **There are free sessions running every day** for children aged 16 and under at the council's three leisure centres in Morden, Wimbledon and the Canons, Mitcham.

The free sessions run during the school holidays and in term time too, so dive in and make a splash! Learning to swim is a great skill that you can use for your whole life.

Swimming is a good way to exercise because it makes your muscles stronger and is good for your heart and lungs. It can even improve your balance.



Try something new



Merton's goal is to be London's Borough of Sport and for everyone who lives here to find fun new ways to be active.

Can you try three types of sport that you've never done before during the summer holidays?

1.

2.

3.

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Delivered in partnership with libraries

Marvellous Makers



Marvellous Makers logo
artwork by Lizzie Everard and
© The Reading Agency 2024.
Marvellous Makers illustrations
by Natelle Quek and
© The Reading Agency 2024

Are you up for doing the Summer Reading Challenge? It will give you the chance to win some fantastic prizes, including:

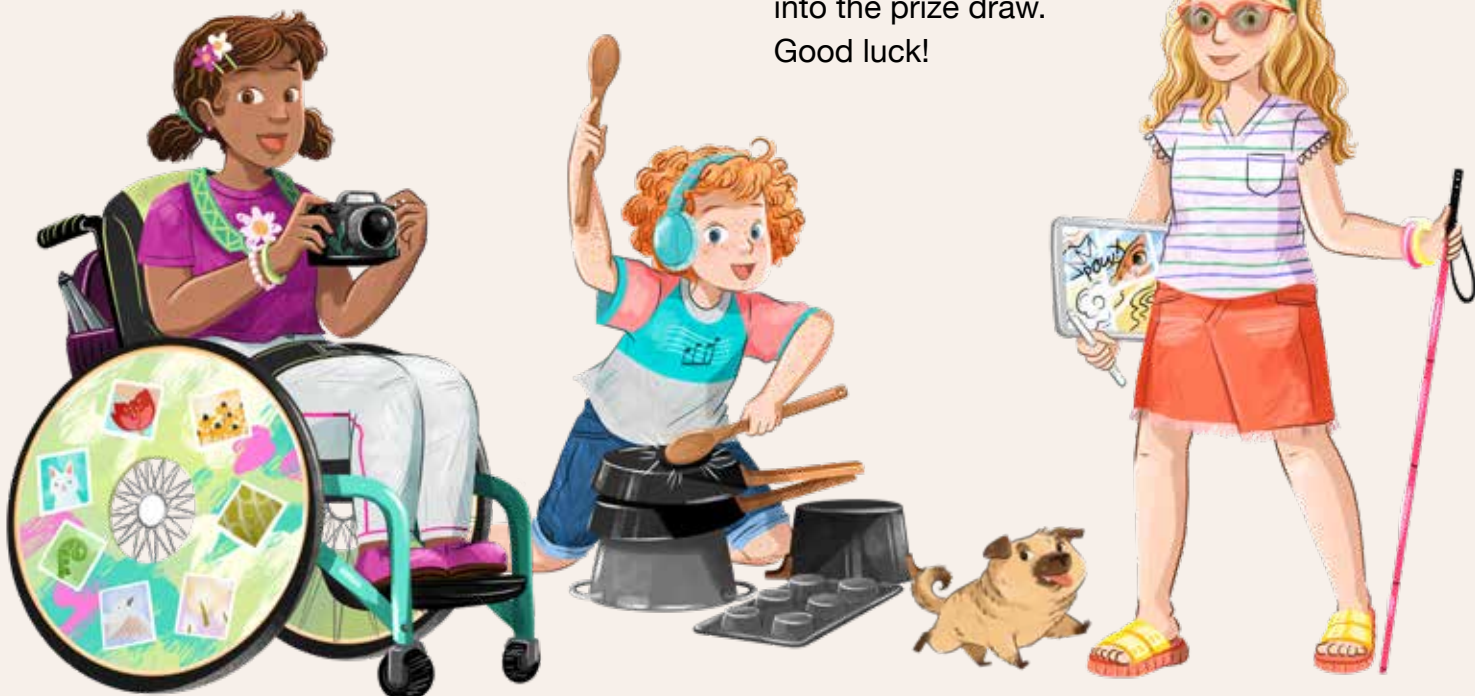
- Samsung Galaxy tablet
- Harry Potter Studio Tour tickets
- One week at football camp run by Sean McInnes
- Free birthday party at Canons Leisure Centre
- One year membership for a child at Canons Leisure Centre or Morden Leisure Centre
- A scooter
- Family ticket to the Nutcracker at Polka Theatre
- £50 gift card
- Karaoke machine
- Family fireworks tickets

If you are aged between four and 11-years-old, all you have to do is go to any library to sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge, which starts on Saturday 6 July. Don't worry if you're not yet a library member – it is quick and free to join.

Your challenge is to read six or more books before Saturday 7 September.

You can choose any books you like to read and pick up rewards as you go, by visiting the library after reading the second, fourth and sixth book. The theme this year is Marvellous Makers.

All children who complete the challenge will receive a medal and certificate and be entered into the prize draw. Good luck!



Calling all enviro kings and queens!

Everyone needs to take action against climate change, which is changing our weather patterns and making the earth too hot. We need to recycle as much of our rubbish as possible to stop it being taken to landfill and buried underground, where it can take hundreds of years to break down and cause damage to nature. **Can you find three different types of things to recycle in your home?**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Did you know?

Merton is one of London's greenest boroughs because there are lots of parks and open spaces here.

Go to a park and **draw a picture** of a flower, tree, insect, bird or animal that you see there.



Nature lovers

Can you spot...?

- the bug garden at the Canons House and Grounds in Mitcham
- the beehive in the Wimbledon Quarter shopping centre
- a WildWay – a grass verge which is not mown, so that wildflowers can grow
- an animal at Deen City Farm
- the bug hotel in Garfield Recreation Ground
- a Womble on Wimbledon Common

My nature picture

Ask your parents to share your drawing on social media, tagging in **@Merton_council** and using the hashtag **#summerinmerton**. There will be a prize for our favourite picture.



Discover our heritage

This year, Merton Heritage Service marks its 30th anniversary. The council's small but mighty heritage team has been raising awareness of the borough's colourful past since April 1994. Since then, they have devised multiple guided walks, school services, history talks and exhibitions, covering

everything from Tudor Merton and Suffragettes to the borough's technological pioneers, Black history, South Asian Heritage and even the paranormal. They have also created the Merton Memories website, where you can picture what life used to be like in the borough. photoarchive.merton.gov.uk

Merton Heritage Discovery Day

This year the council's annual Heritage Discovery Day celebrates its tenth anniversary.

First launched in 2014, this fun, family-friendly event gets more popular every year. It has proven a real hit with residents and history enthusiasts, regularly attracting over 2,000 visitors each year.

The 2024 Merton Heritage Discovery Day will take place at Merton Civic Centre on Saturday 17 August, between 10.30am and 4.30pm.

It is a free showcase for the borough's colourful history, with a programme including guided walks, heritage displays, quizzes, film

screenings, children's activities, workshops and bitesize local history talks.

There will also be displays and stalls from Merton's many museums, historical societies, artists, sports, environmental and community groups. This year, the council hopes to include a drawing class, advice for anyone tracing their family tree and guidance on the benefits of reminiscing for people who are living with dementia.

The Discovery Day is free, but advance booking is needed for anyone wishing to attend the local history talks. To book a place at a talk and see the full event programme, visit: merton.gov.uk/discoveryday



**Merton Heritage
Discovery Day**
Merton Civic Centre
Saturday 17 August
10.30am–4.30pm



Merton's award-winning libraries open a world of free resources, events and activities to residents.

Merton Big Read

International best seller, *Brooklyn* by Colm Tóibín is this year's Merton Big Read. This borough-wide reading scheme, which is in its second year, will see 500 copies of the fiction novel given to community groups for members to pass on to others when they have read it and then discuss together.



Physical, audio and digital copies of the book will be available to borrow in Merton's seven libraries too, as part of the initiative, which is funded by Arts Council England.

The year-long programme will include film screenings, discussion groups and an in-person event with the Booker prize-winner and Irish Laureate author Colm Tóibín.

Find out more: merton.gov.uk/NPO

Library in the Park

Merton libraries will be branching out this summer – into the beautiful setting of Canons House and Grounds in Mitcham.

There will be an incredible line-up of free events, including story times, crafts, theatre and music to keep the whole family entertained.

You can also borrow books and children will be able to join the Summer Reading Challenge at the council's pop-up library.

Runs from Saturday 6 July–Saturday 7 September.

Find out more merton.gov.uk/libraries

Need to borrow tech?



Do you or someone you know need to borrow a laptop or tablet, top-up a mobile phone data or improve their tech skills?

Connecting Merton aims to support digitally excluded or less confident residents to improve their digital skills. There are a range of IT devices available for Merton residents to borrow, plus data SIM cards to help people get online. There is also free training from experienced volunteers.

For more information pop into your local library or visit: merton.gov.uk/connectingmerton

Making a cultural impact

Merton Council has won £650,000 to invest in cultural activities in the coming years.

The funding comes from the Cultural Impact Award, which was part of the London Borough of Culture 2027 programme.

Stay up to date by signing up for the weekly *In Merton* e-newsletter at merton.gov.uk/enewsletter

Funding for cultural activities

The council has also been awarded a further £360,000 for investment in cultural activities in our seven libraries. This will include author events, workshops and music performances.

The funding comes from the Arts Council England – and Merton is one of a select few library services in the country to be awarded the grant.



Join the library

Sign up for your free library membership in any branch or on the website.

Borrow books and other items, including from an extensive online library. Find out more at: merton.gov.uk/libraries

Digital Makerspace in Mitcham Library

Makerspaces are collaborative spaces where people come together to get creative with projects and share ideas. You can also get access to specialist kit, including computers loaded with coding software.

Special events are held in our Makerspace on most Saturdays, which include coding club, training on different pieces of hardware and software packages and virtual reality headset adventures. Find out more at merton.gov.uk/libraries



Gas network upgrade project London Road, Mitcham

Thank you for your
patience while we
undertake our work to
replace our old gas pipes



More information is available on
the project page at sgn.co.uk -
under Major Planned Projects

Help the NHS and social care services by returning unused equipment

If you have items such as a bath lift, shower chair, or perching stool that are no longer needed, please arrange a free collection by Croydon Community Equipment Service, which works in partnership with Merton Council. Your unused equipment will be safety checked and deep cleaned, so that it can be used to help someone else live more independently.

To arrange a free collection,
email cesadmin@croydon.gov.uk
or call 020 8664 8860



Soultasia

London 2024

Friday 9th August 2024

Morden Park • London • SM4 5QX

doors open at 3pm

OUTDOOR SOUL STAGE:

The Real Thing
Odyssey

Loose Ends

Pauline Henry

The Voice of The Chimes

Alison Limerick

MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Families
Welcome

USE DISCOUNT CODE
MERTON for 10% OFF
WWW.SOULTASIA.COM

Soul, Disco
& RnB
Outdoor
Festival!

subject to licence

**BIG TOP STAGE: RNB NATION
90's & 00's R&B CLASSICS**

General election is coming

Your guide on how to vote.

On Thursday 4 July, Merton voters will go to the polls to elect a Member of Parliament for the Mitcham and Morden or Wimbledon constituencies. This will be the first general election since a new law called the Elections Act came into force, which means there will be changes to the way you vote.

Voter ID

If you vote in person at the polling station, you'll now need to show photo identification before you're given a ballot paper.

Here are some of the acceptable forms of ID that you can use. It can even be expired, so long as you're still recognisable from the photo.

- Passport
- Driving licence (includes provisional licences)
- ID card bearing a PASS hologram
- National Identity Card issued by the EU, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein
- Biometric Residence Permit
- Ministry of Defence Form 90
- A Blue Badge
- An Older Person's Bus Pass
- A Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- An Oyster 60+ Card
- A Freedom Pass

If you do not have an accepted form of ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate from us. You will need to apply by 5pm on Tuesday 26 June in order to receive your certificate before the general election. Find out more, visit merton.gov.uk/VoterID or ask the staff at your local library.

Postal votes

If you are registered to vote, but won't be able to vote in person, for example, if you are going on holiday, you can apply for a postal vote. If you already have a postal vote or intend to apply for one, there are two key changes that you need to be aware of:



Each voter's ID will be checked before they are given a ballot paper

- You now need to provide your National Insurance number, as well as a date of birth and signature, when applying for a postal vote. If you have already got a postal vote in place, you do not need to provide a new application until 2025.
- If you choose to hand in your postal vote at Merton Civic Centre, or a polling station, you will be required to fill in a form providing some personal details, without which the postal vote will be rejected. The number of postal votes that you can hand in has also been limited to five, plus your own.

Boundary changes

This will also be the first general election to be contested on new boundaries brought in by the 2023 Periodic Review of Westminster constituencies. The relatively minor changes mean that most Merton households will remain in the same constituencies, however Cannon Hill ward will move into the Mitcham and Morden constituency, whilst the Wimbledon constituency will gain around 13,000 voters from parts of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. A small number of households may have also switched constituencies if they changed wards in Merton's local authority boundary review in May 2022. To check which constituency you are in, and where your local polling station is, visit: members.parliament.uk/constituencies

Are you registered to vote?

Make sure you don't lose your vote by checking that you are registered to vote at your current address.

To vote on 4 July, you need to register before midnight on Tuesday 18 June.

merton.gov.uk/vote

STRONGER, SAFER SWIMMERS START EARLY.

Better Swim School produces over 100,000 stronger capable and safer swimmers across the UK each year. It is designed to be convenient, flexible and affordable for all ages and abilities taught by qualified and experienced teachers. Our safe and friendly environment will ensure your child enjoys life long fun in and around the water.

- Canons Leisure Centre
- Morden Leisure Centre
- Wimbledon Leisure Centre and Spa

Discover how to kick start your child's development at better.org.uk/lessons



Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no: XR43398

Raising Green Flags in popular parks

Merton is home to seven of London's finest parks and green spaces, each proudly holding the prestigious international Green Flag status.



Discover the beauty of Cannizaro Park's sunken garden, located in Westside Common

Cannizaro Park

Although in the grounds of Cannizaro House, Cannizaro Park is a free public space which boasts a range of attractions, including a sunken garden, water garden, Mediterranean garden, and rose garden.

Colliers Wood Recreation Ground

Situated off Merton High Street, this is the ultimate destination for family fun and outdoor adventures. Let the kids splash in the paddling pool or play in the playground to their hearts' content, meanwhile sports enthusiasts can test their skills on the football pitch, tennis courts or try their hand at table tennis.

Abbey Recreation Ground

Once part of Lord Nelson's Merton Place estate back in the early 19th century, today this vibrant green space offers a range of sporting amenities, including cricket and football pitches.

Dundonald Recreation Ground

Challenge your friends to a game of cricket or football on the well-maintained pitches or test your skills on the tennis courts. The park's playground provides endless entertainment for little ones, and when you need to relax, go to the rose garden.

John Innes Park

With its beautiful ornamental gardens and rock garden, this is the perfect place to enjoy a more secluded, evergreen stroll, while the croquet and bowling greens provide a leisurely pastime for those seeking a more relaxed pace.

Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields

This 13-hectare ground, including woodland areas, is situated in Motspur Park. Tee off at the 18-hole adventure golf, enjoy a friendly match on the tennis courts, use the free outdoor gym, or kick around on the football pitch. The park's play area and paddling pool provide children's entertainment.

South Park Gardens

A Victorian gem nestled in the heart of Wimbledon. Admire the ornamental gardens and fountain or enjoy a leisurely stroll along the pathways.



Keep Merton clean

If you see that the bins are already full, please take your rubbish home

Disposable barbecues aren't allowed in parks

Don't forget to pick up after your furry friends

WHAT'S YOUR PLASTIC SOLUTION?



To find out how plastic waste impacts on your personal carbon footprint visit:
slwp.org.uk/plastic-solution

SHARE YOUR

#PlasticSolution



Celebrate your special day in Merton's hidden gem



Merton Register Office has been situated in the Grade II listed building, Morden Park House, since November 2000. The Georgian manor house has been a permanent feature of Morden Park since it was built in 1770 by local brandy merchant John Ewart. The building's period features, modern décor and stunning outside spaces have welcomed many couples and provided a beautiful start to countless memorable days.

But Morden Park House is not just a register office: it is a truly unique wedding venue, able to host your civil ceremony and wedding



reception all in one place. The staff will help you to create your special event and ensure that the big day goes smoothly. The walled gardens and purpose-built marquee enable couples to create a day that is perfect for them, from street food-style catering and live musicians to popping corks and dancing the night away.

iN Special offer

The first ten couples who quote **INMERTON10** when making a ceremony booking* will receive a free wedding gift bundle which includes, a Morden Park House commemorative print, two confetti shooters and two mini bottles of Prosecco, worth over £40!

*Valid for new bookings only

register.office@merton.gov.uk
mpreceptions@merton.gov.uk
020 8274 5777
mordenparkhouse.com
@morden_park_house
Merton Register Office

Open evening:

Thursday
11 July, 6–8pm

Did you know?

Last year, at Merton Register Office:

35 babies were registered.

1,235 new British citizens were welcomed at our citizenship ceremonies.

756 weddings **+28** civil partnership ceremonies were held in Morden Park House and across the borough.



Armed Forces Day

Saturday 29 June 2024

Celebrate our armed forces by joining the service, street parade, and festivities being held in Morden.

merton.gov.uk/armedforcesday



WANT TO JOIN A CHARITY TEAM THAT HELPS OVER 26,000 PEOPLE LOCALLY EACH YEAR?

We are launching a new team of volunteer **Local Champions** and would welcome interest from anyone who is keen to support their local community.

Express your interest:



or email volunteering@caml.org.uk

See our website for all of our current and upcoming paid and volunteer roles.



www.caml.org.uk



POLLARDS HILL COMMUNITY Funday '24

For Your Health & Wellbeing

FREE ENTRY

SATURDAY
24TH AUGUST 2024

12:00PM - 5:00PM
RECREATION WAY
MITCHAM - CR4 1XB

- ✓ Adult & Kids' Games
- ✓ Health & Wellbeing Area
- ✓ Free Food & Drink
- ✓ Special Guest Appearances
- ✓ DJ & Live Performances
- ✓ Money Advice and much more...

Enjoy a great day out for all the family!



www.pollardshillcommunityfunday.com



Volunteer your time

Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, meet new people, and gain invaluable experiences, all while doing something that makes a meaningful difference to people in the community.

There are lots of organisations that offer a variety of volunteering roles. Get involved in sports, arts, food support, climate action or helping young people. You can contribute your time in-person or you might find roles that you can do online and remotely.

Apart from being personally rewarding, volunteering can help boost your confidence and give you the opportunity to learn new skills and gain experience which could help you seek a new job or develop your career.



Volunteer with Dons Local Action Group and help distribute food to community members in need. donslocalaction.org/volunteer

Get involved in a range of projects for Sustainable Merton, such as community gardening or being a waste champion. sustainablemerton.org/volunteer

Volunteer at Commonsense Trust and become a lunch club or social activity volunteer and support older people. Flexible opportunities are available on weekdays. commonsense.net/volunteer

The council's award-winning libraries have many volunteering opportunities, ranging from IT support to helping with events. If you're interested in applying, visit: libraries.merton.gov.uk/digital-content/services/volunteering

There might be some considerations before you get started, for example, you will need a DBS check if you're working with young people or require training for some voluntary roles. To find out about volunteering opportunities across the borough, visit: merton.gov.uk/volunteering



The Scouts at the St George's Day Parade

Wimbledon and Wandle Scouts are just one of the Merton organisations that you can volunteer for and help young people enjoy new adventures and gain useful skills. Find out more wimbledonandwandlescouts.org

Courses for Work, Life and Wellbeing

MERTON ADULT EDUCATION

Learn something new with one of our exciting Adult Education courses, that fit around your lifestyle and working day:

- Art & Craft
- Baking & Cake Decorating
- British Sign Language
- Business
- Childcare and Teaching Assistant
- Computing & IT
- English, ESOL & Maths
- Essential Digital Skills
- Fashion
- Floristry
- Gardening
- Graphic Design
- Health & Social Care
- Languages
- Leisure & Wellbeing
- Music
- Musical Instrument Making & Repair
- Photography
- Pilates
- Singing
- Teaching & Training
- Training for Work

The quickest way to enrol is online. You will need to show proof of your identity to complete your enrolment. Suitable ID includes a passport, birth certificate, driving licence or Freedom Pass.

For the latest course information and to enrol online please visit stcg.ac.uk/adult-education

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES

FREE short courses leading to nationally recognised qualifications which you can study in your own time. We have a range of short distance learning courses from the awarding body NCFE, which can be completed in 4 – 8 weeks. These are fully funded, meaning there is no cost to the learner. On completion you will gain a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification.

- Understand Specific Learning Difficulties
 - Understanding Autism
 - Understanding Behaviour that Challenges
 - Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health
 - Understanding Common Childhood Illnesses
 - Understanding Nutrition and Health
 - Understanding Safeguarding and Prevent
 - Equality and Diversity
 - Creating a Business Start-up
 - Climate Change and Environmental Awareness
 - Data Protection and Cyber Security
- See website for the full list of courses*

Eligibility

You need to have lived in the EU for three years and be aged 19+. You will need to be confident with written English in order to meet the required standards.

For further information please contact elaine.morgan@stcg.ac.uk

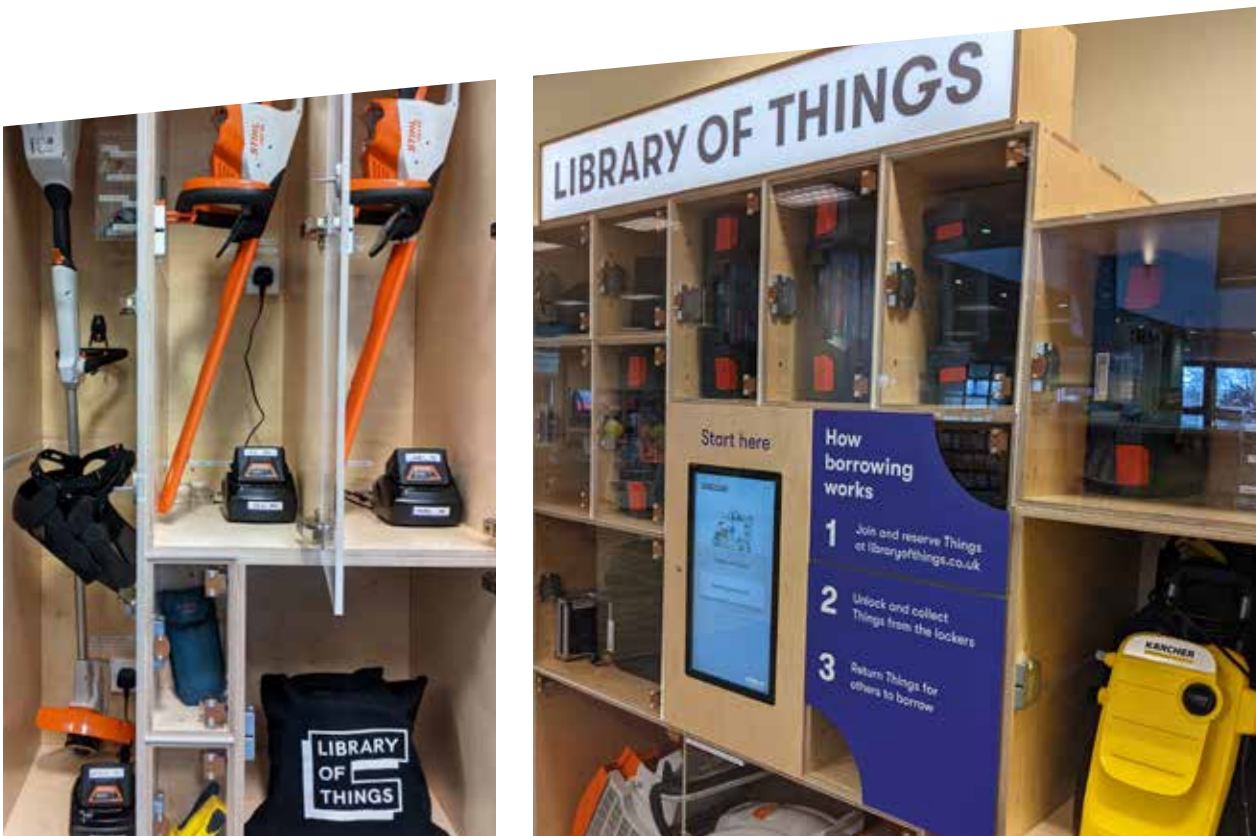


Could you offer care, support and accommodation to someone with a learning disability, mental health diagnosis or physical disability?

Become a **Shared Lives Carer** and make a positive difference to someones life on a long term or respite basis!

You can receive:

- a fee and self-employed benefits
- your own 28 days respite from caring
- training and support from an allocated officer



Borrow instead of buy

If you've made a list of all the things that need doing around your home and are wondering where to start, we know just the place – The Library of Things.

The Library of Things is an affordable rental service, based at Morden Library, offering a wide range of useful items to help you decorate, deep clean, pursue your hobbies, host your summer event or take care of jobs around the home that you've been putting off over the winter.

Avoid the queues at the DIY store by borrowing a toolkit or individual tools like a saw, an extendable ladder, or a handheld pressure washer for the driveway. If you're planning to get out into the garden, borrow a lawn mower, hedge trimmer, secateurs or even some power shears.

After all that hard work, why not borrow a projector to screen your favourite movie with a sweet or salty snack made in a borrowed popcorn maker.

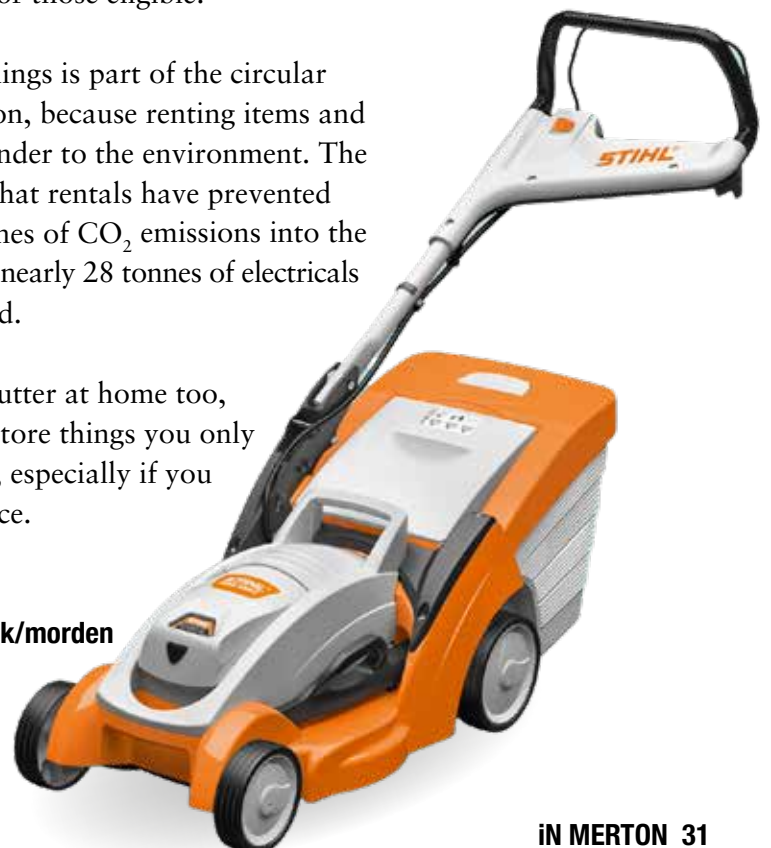
So far, almost 2,000 people in Merton have saved more than £440,000 by renting items

from the Library of Things – all Merton library members can sign up and most items are available for £10 or less. The service offers a 25% concession for those eligible.

The Library of Things is part of the circular economy in Merton, because renting items and reusing them is kinder to the environment. The service estimates that rentals have prevented more than 64 tonnes of CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere, with nearly 28 tonnes of electricals having been reused.

You can reduce clutter at home too, by not having to store things you only need occasionally, especially if you live in a small space.

Find out more
libraryofthings.co.uk/morden



**GET
MERTON
VOTING**



NO PHOTO ID, NO VOTE!

**IF YOU DON'T BRING PHOTO ID,
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO VOTE.**

**If you don't have any
photo ID, scan here
to apply for a free one
by 26 June**

