

iN MERTON

INSIDE

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

SUMMER SPECIAL • ISSUE 06 • June 2025
News and information from your council

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IN MERTON

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Celebrating our borough



Summer in Merton is off to a fantastic start with the recent May bank holiday weekend seeing AFC Wimbledon win at Wembley, securing their promotion to League One.

I remember voting on the planning committee in favour of the Dons' return to the borough a little over ten years ago, and it's amazing to see how far the club has come since then.

But AFC Wimbledon's historic win is not the only thing we've been celebrating recently, as thousands of residents joined the council's celebrations of Merton's 60th birthday. It was a pleasure to see so many families, businesses, and community groups come together to help the council celebrate our wonderful borough in our town centres.

For me, the highlight was the We Are Merton Festival – the biggest community festival the council has hosted, welcoming 10,000 people for a fun-packed day of music, comedy, food and funfair activities.

Looking ahead, June is packed with exciting events right across the borough – from a day of free entertainment for all the family at Mitcham Carnival on Sunday 22 June, to the eyes of the world turning to our borough for two weeks of championship tennis at Wimbledon.

In this edition of iN Merton, we've rounded up some of the exciting activities and events happening on your doorstep this summer – be sure to check them out and see what you and your family might enjoy.

This summer we are also continuing our Big Conversation. We want to hear from you about how we could make our services better and take action on the issues that matter to you. Find out more about how you can be a part of the conversation on page nine.



Photo © Philip Bennett

Councillor Garrod at the We Are Merton at 60 Morden town centre event

And in the meantime, we will continue working hard to make our borough cleaner, greener, and safer for everyone. In April, we launched our improved waste collection and street cleaning services, bringing back weekly street cleaning for every residential road in the borough.

At the same time, we made four pledges to you to help us improve Merton over the next year: Expanding our pop-up tips so every neighbourhood has one four times a year; creating a new Safer Streets Team patrolling every neighbourhood, every week; planting 1,000 more street trees in the areas with the lowest number of trees; and doubling the number of bike hangars in places where people struggle to store a bike. You can read about our progress in delivering these pledges on page seven.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Garrod".

**Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader, London Borough of Merton**

The Dons are going up

The council congratulated AFC Wimbledon on their promotion to League One, following their historic League Two Play-Off Final win at Wembley Stadium.

The club is a huge part of our community, both on and off the pitch, and a proud part of our Borough of Sport heritage.

Almost ten years ago, the council's planning committee voted in favour of bringing the Dons back to Plough Lane, and five years ago they played their first match back in Merton at the new Cherry Red Records Stadium.

We will continue to support them as they begin the next chapter of football's most inspiring story.

Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Cabinet Member for Sport and Heritage, and Ivor Heller, one of the co-founders of AFC Wimbledon, at Wembley Stadium



First Pride planned

Merton's first ever Pride will take place this summer. Merton Plus, the support group for the LGBTQIA+ community in Merton, is organising the event on Saturday 30 August. Find out more about Merton Pride at: merton.lgbt

Car free Play Streets



Hold a Play Street on World Car Free Day weekend (20–21 September), a global event bringing people together to enjoy their streets without cars and support the environment.

Your road will be temporarily closed to traffic so kids can cycle, scoot, skate, skip, chalk and play games, while you catch up with neighbours. The deadline for applications is 25 July for previous applicants, or 8 August for first time applicants. Find out more: merton.gov.uk/playstreets

Climate action

There will be arts and crafts, eco stalls, live music and food and drink at Canons Sustainable Summer Fair. The free event will be held on Saturday 19 July between 11am–4pm at Canons House and Grounds in Madeira Road, Mitcham. Find out more: www.thecanonsmitcham.co.uk

New Mayor of Merton



The new Mayor of Merton has dedicated his year in office to bringing communities together and helping people in need of support.

Councillor Martin Whelton, who was elected to serve as Mayor at the Annual Council Meeting last month, is

only the second councillor in Merton's history to serve as Mayor twice. The first time was in 2008/9, when he was the youngest person to be Mayor – a record which he still holds.

Councillor Whelton's three chosen charities are the Wimbledon Guild, Merton and Morden Guild and the Commonsides Community Development Trust, in Pollards Hill, the ward he has represented since he was elected as a councillor in 2002. The Deputy Mayor is Councillor Shuile Syeda.

Ramping up access

The council has provided businesses in Mitcham with portable ramps to help residents with mobility aids to access shops independently.

The initiative was inspired by feedback received in the Mitcham Matters consultation, held in 2023, and developed in partnership with Merton Centre for Independent Living's Access Champions – a group of local deaf and disabled advocates. They highlighted barriers that people with disabilities face when they visit the town centre and identified businesses which could help customers by providing step-free access to their premises.



Participating businesses have the ramps ready to use – look out for this window sticker to see where they are available.

See the full list of businesses at merton.gov.uk/mitchamtowncentre



Lifts open

Council Leader, Councillor Ross Garrod, cut the ribbon to officially open two new lifts at Tooting station last month, enabling step-free access to each platform.

The £5.4m investment – paid for by the Department for Transport's Access for All fund – will allow those with limited mobility, people with buggies, and many others to get around more easily. This comes after the council lobbied the Government for these changes as part of our ambition to make public transport open and accessible for everyone.

Friendly faces,
tidier places –
David is part
of our new
in-house team



Councillor Stuart Neaverson has been appointed as the new Cabinet Member for Transport and Cleaner Streets.

He takes over the role from Councillor Stephen Alambritis, who is now Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services.

Cleaning up our streets

Say hello to Merton's new in-house street cleaning team.

You may have already noticed our streets are looking cleaner. That's because street cleaning is now being done in-house, by a dedicated team who are cleaning every residential street once a week.

One of our street cleaners, David Russell, said: "I love being out and about and making a difference to the streets of Merton. People often stop for a chat or give a little wave. It makes my day."

Each day, council staff are out sweeping pavements, clearing litter, and helping keep streets across the borough clean and safe. With new equipment, improved routes, and a local team in place, we're already seeing the benefits.

You might also spot our newly upgraded street sweepers – now with the council's logo on them – these help us cover more ground and respond quicker to issues across the borough.

Bringing the service in-house means we can be more flexible, more responsive, and more in touch with local needs. Whether it's town centres, residential roads or local parks, our

teams are working hard to keep Merton clean and welcoming.

Clean streets don't just look better – they help everyone feel safer and prouder of where they live.

So next time you see one of our street cleaners, give them a wave – they're part of the new team helping to make Merton shine.

merton.gov.uk/FutureStreetCleaningWaste



Our sweepers are out every day, keeping Merton's streets tidy



Our pledges to you

We've made four pledges to you to create a cleaner, greener, safer Merton.

Photos © Suzanne Mitchell Photography



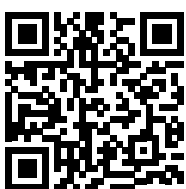
Pop-up tips in every neighbourhood

We will tackle fly-tipping by expanding our pop-up tips.

Our pop-up tips proved very popular with residents during a pilot project last year, so we've made them permanent and increased their frequency.

Every neighbourhood will have a pop-up tip held near to them at least four times a year, to make it easier for residents to dispose of bulky waste and tackle fly-tipping.

So far, we've held 11 pop-up tips in locations across the borough, which have been used by thousands of residents. For future pop-up tips, visit the webpage below.



Permanent Safer Streets Team

We will crack down on anti-social behaviour with a new, permanent Safer Streets Team.

Look out for our Safer Streets Team members as they set off on their first patrols this summer, following a successful pilot over the last year.

The patrols see council officers team up with police to walk local beats and tackle street drinking and drug use, enforce the law and issue fines. They will be patrolling every neighbourhood, every week, including during evenings and weekends, to prevent crime and reassure residents.

Merton is one of London's safest boroughs, but residents don't always feel safe, so we've also expanded our 24-hour CCTV network.



Doubling the number of bike hangars

We will make owning a bike easier.

Owning and storing bikes can be difficult for residents who want to cycle more. So we're installing dozens of new bike hangars in places where people struggle to store a bike.

Since the pledges were launched in March, we have installed 23 new bike hangars, which brings the total number in the borough up to 67.

We want people to take up active travel, including walking, scooting and cycling more.

You can use your postcode to look up where the next bike hangars are due to be installed on the webpage below.



Planting 1,000 more street trees

We will make our neighbourhoods greener by planting 1,000 extra street trees.

These are in addition to hundreds of trees that we are already planting during the next year. They will be planted in areas where trees have had to be removed, due to damage or disease, leaving gaps called tree pits. We'll do this in places with the lowest number of trees.

Merton is one of London's greenest boroughs and we are doing even more to increase biodiversity and clean up the air we breathe.

Planting season begins in October – and you can search, using your postcode, to find out if trees are being planted in a street near you.

For the latest updates on all of these pledges in your neighbourhood, visit merton.gov.uk/fourpledges



Conversations with the Leader

Residents will ask the Leader of Merton Council, Councillor Ross Garrod, questions about issues which matter most to them at the next Conversations with the Leader event.

Councillor Garrod will be joined by Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Eleanor

Stringer, at the event, which will take place at Garfield Primary School in Garfield Road, Wimbledon on Wednesday 11 June at 7pm.

If you'd like to come along or watch online, please register merton.gov.uk/ConvoWithLeader

Parks survey

Merton is the second greenest London borough and, on average, you are never further than 250 metres from your nearest park or playing field.

Whether you visit daily, or occasionally, the council wants to hear about your experience of using parks and open spaces and what, if anything, you would like to see in the future to improve them.

Tell us what matters to you – from wildlife and play areas to bins and community events. Your views will help to inform a long-term plan for parks and green spaces. The survey is open until 30 June. Have your say at merton.commonplace.is



Join our Big Conversation

Have your say on what matters to you and your priorities for Merton's future.



Photo © Philip Bennett

The We Are Merton Big Conversation was started to coincide with the borough's 60th anniversary in April. This is a significant engagement, as we mark six decades since the London Borough of Merton was created.

We want to hear from as many people as possible who live, work, study or volunteer in Merton about what matters most to you and what you want our borough's future to look like.

Hundreds of you shared your views at our We Are Merton Big Conversation stalls, which

were part of the borough's birthday celebrations. You told us what you like about living here, about the changes you've seen in your neighbourhood and your hopes for the future at the events in Wimbledon, Mitcham, Merton Abbey Mills, Morden, Pollards Hill and Raynes Park in April and May.

The We Are Merton Big Conversation will continue throughout the summer. Come and chat to our friendly team at events including the Mitcham Carnival on Sunday 22 June.



You can find out more and take part online by visiting: merton.commonplace.is or look out for our We Are Merton Big Conversation stands in all of our libraries, where you can complete a printed survey.

Your guide to Mitcham Carnival

Sunday 22 June, 11am–6pm, Three Kings Piece in Mitcham.

Mitcham's biggest summer extravaganza is back, and everyone's invited to come along to the free event.

Join us at Mitcham Carnival – a vibrant community celebration packed with entertainment, sounds and flavours all in one place. Expect a mixture of live music, performances, wrestling, funfair rides, shopping and community stalls, plus a tempting selection of food and drink. There are plenty of fun activities in store for the whole family.



What to bring:

- Both cash and card – some traders may accept only one form of payment
- Sun cream and refillable water bottles – there will be water points on site
- Hats and sunglasses – depending on the weather.

This year is extra special as the carnival's iconic street parade is back for the first time in 12 years. Don't miss the colourful performers as they make their way through Mitcham town centre from midday – watch from the viewing areas on Mitcham Fair Green and Mitcham Market Square.

Here are some of the highlights that you can expect to see on the day:

Entertainment highlights:

- Flex FM Dance tent: R&B, garage and house tunes from top DJs.
- Ramz: Mitcham's own rapper performing his popular tracks.
- Future Pro Wrestling: Live wrestling with action-packed matches.
- Jah Wobble's Invaders of the Heart: Legendary post-punk bass player with his acclaimed band.
- Panash Steel Orchestra: Community steel band bringing bright carnival sounds.
- Undiscovered Talent UK: Rising stars compete for the spotlight in a talent competition.
- Azzures: Local band offering a blend of psych, dub and funk music.

Food and drink:

- Bombay Delight, JamDownFT, Greek Street Food, Yorkshire Pudding Wraps and The Munch Box are just some of the amazing traders offering meal options.
- Fencliffes Churros, D Ices, Couple Bakes and Mitcham Market Bakery are providing sweet treats.
- Shake and Twist Rumba and the Wimbledon Brewery will be supplying a range of drinks.

Note: subject to change – check our website for the latest updates:
merton.gov.uk/mitchamcarnival



**Mitcham
Carnival**

Find out more at
merton.gov.uk/mitchamcarnival

Photos © Rebecca Cresta

Happy birthday, Merton

Our borough was officially created in April 1965, so this year marked 60 years of Merton.



60



Six decades ago, the three local councils of Mitcham, Wimbledon and Merton & Morden merged to form the London Borough of Merton.

The council celebrated this special anniversary with five weeks of boroughwide birthday events, beginning with a party at Morden Park House on 1 April.

In April and May, our town centre events transformed neighbourhoods into living time capsules: Wimbledon's 1990s markets spun Britpop and street food; Mitcham Market brought noughties energy with brass band covers and creative workshops; Morden rewound to the swinging sixties with jive dancers and vintage stalls; Pollards Hill celebrated the seventies; and Raynes Park rounded things off with a 2010s themed pop-up.





Photo © Rebecca Cresta



A decorative border runs along the top and bottom of the page, featuring a repeating geometric pattern in shades of purple, pink, and black.



© Matt Pereira Photography

We Are Merton at 60

Merton's 60th birthday celebrations wrapped up in style with a showstopping festival on 5 May.



More than 10,000 people joined us at the largest community festival that the borough has ever hosted. The We Are Merton Festival was held in Morden Park.

Rain couldn't dampen the atmosphere: Artful Dodger, Norman Jay MBE and local radio station Flex FM kept crowds moving until sunshine burst through for a full park Barrioke singalong and an ABBA Revival headline set.

Community stalls, a funfair and street food turned the park into a feast for every sense, while the Culture Zone and Community Stage showcased homegrown talent, from Polka Theatre pop-ups to young voices from Merton Music Foundation.

The park's newly refurbished bandstand hosted performances across the day, including from platinum UK rap artist Ramz, who grew up in Mitcham. Speaking at the festival, he said: "This is amazing, we need more things like this for the community. I'm a big advocate for Merton, it's a great place to live."

Merton's birthday celebrations marked the beginning of a three-year programme of investment in culture across the borough, thanks to funding secured from the Mayor of London – known as the Cultural Impact Award – and matched by the council. Watch this space for further exciting announcements.



Paris, from Lower Morden, who attended with her three children, said:

“We’re really glad we came and got involved. I’ve seen so many of my neighbours here today, it’s a proper community feel and a great event.”



© Matt Pereira Photography



© Matt Pereira Photography



Photos this row © Matt Pereira Photography



© Matt Pereira Photography

Did you attend any of our We Are Merton at 60 events? See if you're in our photographs at [flickr.com/mertoncouncil](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mertoncouncil/)



© Matt Pereira Photography



© Matt Pereira Photography



© Matt Pereira Photography



© Philip Bennett



Photos this row © Matt Pereira Photography



© Philip Bennett





© Rebecca Cresta

Love, learn and play tennis this summer

The eyes of the world are on Merton during the Wimbledon tournament. Here's how you can get involved in the excitement across our London's Borough of Sport throughout the fortnight, and the whole summer.

Love tennis

Big Screens are back

We're bringing the Wimbledon Championships to Canons House and Grounds in Mitcham and to Morden Park, in partnership with the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC).

Each location will have a 20-square-metre high-definition screen showing all The Championships action, from the first match of the day until the parks close, starting on middle Saturday, 5 July. Entry is **free**, and no booking is required. Activities and kids' film screenings will happen across the week too. Find out more merton.gov.uk/tennis



© Rebecca Cresta



Learn tennis

Tennis In Merton coaching

Most courts are now managed by Tennis In Merton, which provides a consistent and high-quality coaching offer for our community. As well as 1:1 coaching, they also offer courses, plus a number of free sessions in parks every week for children and adults.

Barclays Big Tennis Weekend

Test out our courts and coaching on Wimbledon's middle Saturday (5 July). Barclays Big Tennis Weekend with Tennis in Merton is supported by The Lawn Tennis Association and AELTC. Come for a coaching session, meet the team and have a chance to win some great prizes on the day.
Wimbledon Park: 9am–4pm; Cottenham Park: 1–4pm; Tamworth Recreation Ground: 1–4pm

Free inclusive sessions for young people

Run by Disability Sports Coach, in partnership with the Tim Henman Foundation, this free weekly sports session is for children and young adults with disabilities and special needs. No tennis experience needed – just come as you are and have fun!
Whatley Campus, Melbury College, SW20 9NS, Saturdays, 1.30–3pm



Play tennis

Book a court for free

Inspired by the action on Centre Court? Merton residents can play with friends or family for free on more than 50 tennis courts across our parks, 49 of which recently underwent a refurbishment worth £1m.

Borrow kit

No racquet? No problem. The council has partnered with Equip Sport so you can borrow equipment through the Equip Sport app for a low cost or, in some cases, for free. As well as tennis, Equip Sport offer a range of other sports including table tennis, basketball and more. Download the Equip Sport app to find your nearest Equip box.

Resident offer

Equip Sport is offering free tennis equipment hire to Merton residents during Wimbledon (Monday 30 June–Sunday 13 July) with code 'wimbledon100'. Please note: you must book a court to access Equip boxes.

Details on all of these programmes: merton.gov.uk/tennis



Courtside at Wimbledon Quarter



30th June
to 13th July
2025

Rain or Shine



Watch The Championships,
Wimbledon live on our
big screen



Have a go at
mini tennis with



Strawberries and
cream giveaways

Find out more



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more

Serving for the match

Tennis player Hannah Klugman grew up in Merton and, following success in junior tournaments, only narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Ladies' Championship at Wimbledon last year. Hannah is tipped to play in grand slam tournaments this summer, including The Championships.

Where is your favourite place to move your way in London's Borough of Sport?

I now train at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton, but I used to go to Westside Lawn Tennis Club, a real family-friendly tennis club in Wimbledon. I also played on the public courts with my sisters in Cottenham Park.

What inspired you to take up your sport?

My three older sisters all used to play tennis, so I was taken to Westside Lawn Tennis Club when they played. I used to play on the mini court with my mum or play against the wall.

What do you like most about your sport?

How competitive tennis is, as I love the feeling of winning. Being active generally makes me feel healthy and happy, and gives me a sense of achievement.

What other ways of being active do you enjoy?

I like swimming and running on Wimbledon Common and in Cannizaro Park. When I was younger, I also played hockey, but I'm just focused on tennis now.



What tip would you give to someone who wants to become more active, or try out a new activity?

Find something you enjoy, or you won't stick with it. Being active with others can help make it more enjoyable. Start slowly and build up over time.

What's your favourite thing about Merton?

The fact that the most famous tennis tournament in the world, Wimbledon, is here. There is an amazing buzz when the tournament is on.

Find out more: merton.gov.uk/tennis

Did you know that more than 40 recently refurbished Merton tennis courts are free for residents to hire?

Need a racquet? Check if your local park has an Equip box – this allows you to rent tennis equipment through an app for just a few pounds.

MORE WAYS TO PLAY IN MERTON

Whether it's with friends or with family, discover a world of fun for all ages this school holiday.

better.org.uk/merton

FREE SWIMMING
FOR UNDER 16S
IN THE HOLIDAYS*



*This offer is valid for Swim for All sessions held during school holidays and public holidays at all Merton leisure centres. Sessions are available from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. For more details, visit the website of your local Merton leisure centre. Swim safety rules apply. 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

Ready to run?

Set your own pace this summer. Whether you prefer to walk, jog or run, there are plenty of free ways to move in London's Borough of Sport.



Merton Women Run

Looking for a supportive, women-only running group? Join Merton Women Run – local running groups – for women, organised by women. Led by qualified local run leaders, they are a great way to get moving and meet other local women. If you're new to running or getting back into it, you can move at your own pace in a supportive environment. Find your local group using Merton's Activity Finder: boroughofsport.activityfinder.net

Parkrun

Make the most of your weekends this summer with parkrun – a free, weekly 5k for all abilities. Walk, jog or run at your own pace while exploring your local park and join a local running community with more than 200 participants. In Merton, you've got two great options to choose from:

Morden parkrun: every Saturday at 9am, meet by the Morden Park bandstand.
Wimbledon Common parkrun: every Saturday at 9am, meet near the Windmill car park. Register once via parkrun.org.uk

Junior parkrun

For young people, Figge's Marsh junior parkrun offers a free, weekly 2k – perfect for children aged four to 14. It's a great opportunity to be more active and make new friends. Parents are also invited to come along – whether you're running or cheering from the sidelines. Every Sunday from 9am at Figge's Marsh in Mitcham. Register once via parkrun.org.uk/figgesmarsh-juniors

Emily Fleuriot, Merton Women Run Leader and junior parkrun volunteer, said: "I love running, as much for the people I meet as for how it makes me feel in my mind and body. We can all be runners. It took me until I was nearly 40 to give it a go, having never been 'sporty', and now I'm a trained run leader supporting others."

Get ready for Big Sports Day

Sunday 7 September in Morden Park

Enjoy more opportunities to get moving at south west London's biggest **free** sporting event. Try your hand at a wide range of sports and activities for all ages, plus meet local clubs and coaches at our third Big Sports Day. Save the date and stay in the loop: merton.gov.uk/bigsportsday

Summer Reading Challenge

'Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors' is the theme of this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

The free initiative, run by all council libraries, in partnership with The Reading Agency charity, encourages children to visit their local library and read during the school holidays.

Participants, aged between four and 11, can choose any books from the library, collect rewards for their reading and have the chance to win some fantastic prizes, including a sleepover at the Science Museum, a tablet or a Nintendo Switch.



The Summer Reading Challenge runs between 5 July–6 September. Sign up in your local library.

Due to essential building work, Morden Library will be closed from Monday 16 June to Monday 4 August.

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.

merton.gov.uk/libraries

Library in the Park



The council's libraries will be hosting a fantastic programme of free events for the whole family this summer.

Join us for a series of events between 5 July and 30 August at the newly refurbished Morden Park bandstand and Canons House and Grounds in Mitcham. There will be a wide range of activities, including storytelling, creative workshops, wellbeing sessions, music, and theatre.

There's something for everyone to enjoy – whether you're looking to get creative, relax, or be entertained.

The Merton Big Read

This year's book is a memoir, which explores themes of family and identity with wit and humanity.

'Without Warning & Only Sometimes', is the story of award-winning author Kit de Waal's upbringing in a home where the Bible was the only book on offer and how she went on to discover a love of reading, which continues to inspire her.



Pick up a copy in any of our libraries and then discuss it with your friends and neighbours as part of the Merton Big Read, a shared reading scheme run by our libraries in partnership with Wimbledon BookFest and funded by Arts Council England.

Kit will be opening this year's Wimbledon BookFest at a special event in Merton Arts Space in Wimbledon Library this autumn.



Canons soft play

Little ones can jump into a range of fun activities at Canons soft play area, with ball pits, tunnels, slides and much more. It's suitable for children under ten, with a dedicated section for under-twos.

Prices vary by age, and there is plenty of seating for grown-ups, with an on-site café for drinks and snacks – it offers the perfect family outing.

Learn more at better.org.uk/canonsleisurecentre

Splash pads and paddling pools

Merton's splash pads and paddling pools are back from mid-June, offering the perfect way to cool off outdoors – and they're completely free.

From Colliers Wood to Morden, there's something for everyone. See the full list of locations, dates and opening times at merton.gov.uk/PaddlingPools.

Zoe Benouali, a parent and member of the Friends of Colliers Wood Parks group, said: "Our local recreation ground, known fondly as the 'crocodile park', comes to life in summer. The pool's colourful refurb and friendly atmosphere make it the heart of the holidays for families. We're proud to have such a fun, safe and welcoming space on our doorstep."



Joseph Hood
Recreation Ground's
paddling pool

Free swimming for under 16s

Kids under 16 can dive into free swimming all year round at the three Better leisure centres in Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon. It's a great way to stay active and have fun – whatever the weather.

Free swimming sessions run at set times throughout the week, with extra swims available during the school holidays. Check your local leisure centre's timetable and book slots in advance. Find out more at merton.gov.uk/kidsswimfree



Want to make home energy improvements?

Helping homeowners to make home energy improvements with a loan supported by Merton Council.



If you are a homeowner, you may be eligible for a loan funded by Merton Council

Works Eligible for a Loan

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- Air source heat pumps
- Energy-efficient windows & doors
- Wall, floor & roof insulation

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- Up to 10 years repayment period
- No early repayment charges



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We recommend that you carry out an independent retrofit assessment to find out which works are suitable for your home and budget.

Representative Example 4% fixed interest rate (Representative 4.2% APR)

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Borrow £5,000 over 60 months, £92.08 monthly repayments. Total amount repayable = £5,544.96, including £20 fee for registering the Title Restriction against your property at the Land Registry. The £20.00 fee is only payable if a loan is agreed by Lendology and you decide to proceed with a loan. We do not charge interest on the fee. A Title Restriction means that you may not be able to sell your home without our permission unless the loan is fully repaid. This is a financial promotion approved by Lendology CIC. Missing payments could affect your credit rating and ability to obtain credit in the future.

Lendology CIC is a community interest company limited by guarantee, registered in England, company number 4512225. Registered address: Heatherton Park Studios, Bradford on Tone, Taunton TA4 1EU. Lendology CIC is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (675263) for credit regulated activities.

Our Mitcham mosaic

Artists have pieced together a colourful picture of our community



Iona Ward, who helped to create the mosaic

Come and see the mosaic at one of our Mitcham Markets, held on the second Saturday of each month.

Our Mitcham' is a community mosaic created by resident artists Karen Parry, Louise Frewin and David Frewin.

Proudly displayed on the back of the new noticeboard in Mitcham town centre, it was made with 100 hands, capturing stories, memories and landmarks shared by the community.

With help from residents, schools, community groups and businesses, the mosaic celebrates Mitcham's identity – featuring the Jubilee Clock Tower, Mitcham Market, Canons House and the duck pond, plus there are many more hidden details to discover.

Mosaic artist, Louise Frewin said: "This project was brilliant because it involved the community at every stage. We consulted local residents on the mosaic's design and held workshops where they could help create the final piece,

placing tiles themselves. The mosaic celebrates everything that is well-known about Mitcham, with a few hidden details too – the kind of piece where the more you look, the more you'll notice. Every element connects back to Mitcham and its community in some way."

Iona Ward, aged 10, a resident who helped to create the mosaic, added: "My favourite part of making this was that everyone was doing it together, and it was really nice to see people creating something that people in Mitcham would be proud of. We drew pictures of what we liked most about Mitcham, and then, a few weeks later, we cut and glued the pieces that went into the final mosaic. I love that all the people in it look different – and they all still get along."

**14 June, 12 July,
9 August,
13 September.**

For more events see
merton.gov.uk/mitchamtowncentre



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Canons:House@merton.gov.uk
www.TheCanonsMitcham.co.uk



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THURSDAY 25.9.25
18:00 - 20:00



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Heritage Discovery Day

Delve into the history of our borough at one of our most popular summer events. Merton's Heritage Discovery Day, which attracts over 2,000 visitors each year.

A packed programme of activities will include guided walks, displays, quizzes, children's activities, workshops and bitesize local history talks. There will also be stalls from Merton's many museums, historical societies, artists, sports, environmental and community groups.

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

© Sport and General Press Agency Ltd



Members of the local Home Guard perform at the Mitcham Carnival in the Mitcham Stadium

Merton Heritage Discovery Day

Saturday

16 August,
10.30am–4.30pm,
Merton Civic
Centre, London
Road, Morden.



We raised the Victory in Europe Day flag on 8 May, the 80th anniversary of World War II coming to an end in Europe

VJ Day 80

A two-minute silence will be observed outside Merton Civic Centre in Morden on Friday 15 August, to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day, which ended the Second World War. Everyone is welcome to join us for a short service of commemoration.

Armed Forces Day

A parade will march through the centre of Mitcham to commemorate the service of people in the British Armed Forces. The event is being held to show our support for troops who are currently serving, cadets, veterans and service families.

The parade, on Saturday 28 June at 11am, will begin at 6–7 Majestic Way and finish at The Canons in Mitcham, where a ceremony will be held.

Due to essential building work, Morden Library, including the Heritage and Local Studies Centre, will be closed from Monday 16 June to Monday 4 August. During this time, our heritage officer will still be running events in other libraries and responding to email enquiries.

Courses for Work, Life and Wellbeing

Learn something new with one of our exciting Adult Education Courses starting in 2025. Whether you want to get back into education, enhance your skills for work, start your own business or improve your wellbeing, we have a range of subject areas on offer, including:

- Art & Craft
- Baking & Cake Decorating
- Business
- Calligraphy
- Childcare and Teaching Assistant
- Computing & IT
- Cook Well for Less
- English, ESOL & Maths
- Essential Digital Skills
- Fashion
- Floristry
- Gardening
- Graphic Design
- Green Skills
- Guitar
- Health & Social Care
- Languages
- Leisure & Wellbeing
- Money Management
- Musical Instrument Making & Repair
- Photography
- Pilates
- Singing
- 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.

DISTANCE LEARNING

We offer a variety of FREE short courses that you can complete at your own pace. These distance learning programmes, accredited by NCFE, typically take 4-8 weeks to finish. They are fully funded, so there is no cost to you. Upon completion, you will achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification.



See website for a 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 THE LATEST COURSE INFORMATION AND TO ENROL: [STCG.AC.UK/ADULT-EDUCATION](https://stcg.ac.uk/adult-education)

Merton College, London Road, Morden, SM4 5QX • mae@stcg.ac.uk • 020 8918 7777

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Do you have any community equipment, for example a wheelchair or hoist, which is no longer needed?

Please arrange a **free** collection so that it can be used by someone who needs some extra support to live more independently.



Contact Provide Equipment Hub, which works with the council, by email PEAdmin@provideequipmenthub.co.uk or call **020 8644 8860**

Directory

Adult learning

merton.gov.uk/adultlearning

Adult social care

merton.gov.uk/adult-social-care

020 8545 4388 (9.30am–1.30pm)

Benefits advice and local welfare

merton.gov.uk/benefitsadvice

welfarebenefitsteam@merton.gov.uk

lwss@merton.gov.uk

020 8274 4908 (11am–3pm)

Blue Badge parking permits and Freedom Passes for disabled people

merton.gov.uk/bluebadge

merton.gov.uk/freedompasses

concessionarytravel@merton.gov.uk

020 8274 4990 (11am–3pm)

Children's social care

merton.gov.uk/social-care

CandFhub@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 4226/7

Out of hours 020 8770 5000

Comments, compliments and complaints

merton.gov.uk/complaints

complaints@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 3060 (Weekdays 10am–3pm, except Tuesdays 8am–5pm)

Council tax

merton.gov.uk/counciltax

local.taxation@merton.gov.uk

020 8274 4904 (9am–1pm)

Council tax support and housing benefit

merton.gov.uk/cts

housing.benefits@merton.gov.uk

020 8274 4903 (9am–1pm)

Councillors

merton.gov.uk/councillors

Conservative 020 8545 3396

Labour 020 8545 3424

Liberal Democrats 020 8545 4770
(Tuesday–Thursday 8.30am–2.30pm)

Merton Park Ward Independent Residents 020 8545 4026

Electoral services

merton.gov.uk/voting

020 8545 3407

Fostering

merton.gov.uk/fostering

fostering@merton.gov.uk

0800 073 0874

Fly-tipping

Report fly-tipping on public roads.

merton.gov.uk/flytipping

020 8274 4902

Freedom Passes for older people

londoncouncils.gov.uk/freedom-pass

0300 330 1433 (Daily 8am–8pm)

Garden waste collection service

merton.gov.uk/gardenwaste

020 8274 4902

Housing benefit

merton.gov.uk/housingbenefit

housing.benefits@merton.gov.uk

020 8274 4903 (9am–1pm)

Housing register

merton.gov.uk/allocations

registration@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 3305

Leisure

Sports, parks, libraries, events.

merton.gov.uk/leisure

leisure@merton.gov.uk

Licensing

licensing@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 3969

Noise and anti-social behaviour

merton.gov.uk/noise-nuisance

MASCOT Telecare

Helps people to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Available 24/7, using technology linked to our response centre.

merton.gov.uk/mascot

020 8274 5940

Parking

Penalty charge notices, parking permits and car parks.

merton.gov.uk/parking

parking@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 4661 (11am–4pm)

Planning

merton.gov.uk/planning

planning@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 3777 (1–3pm)

Register office

For weddings, civil ceremonies or partnerships; to register a birth or death; name a baby or citizenship ceremonies.

merton.gov.uk/register

register.office@merton.gov.uk

020 8274 5777

Morden Park House, Morden Park,
London Road, Morden SM4 5QU

Opening hours 9am–4.30pm

Roads and highways

merton.gov.uk/

roads-highways-pavements

trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 3700 (10am–4pm)

Rubbish and recycling

merton.gov.uk/recycling

020 8274 4902

Schools admissions

merton.gov.uk/schools

020 8274 4906

Snow and ice

merton.gov.uk/wintermaintenance

trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 3700 (10am–4pm)

Street cleaning and graffiti

merton.gov.uk/street-care-cleaning

020 8274 4902

Street lighting

merton.gov.uk/streetlighting

trafficandhighways@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 3700 (10am–4pm)

Trading standards

merton.gov.uk/tradingstandards

trading.standards@merton.gov.uk

020 8545 3025 (9am–5pm)

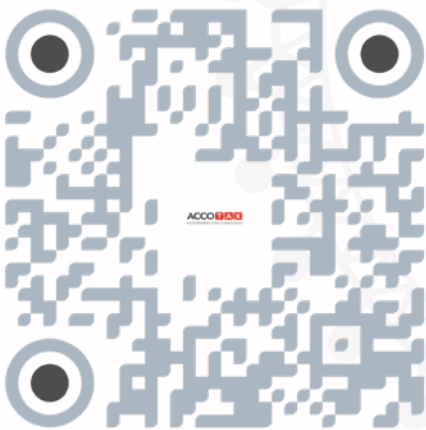


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