

iN MERTON



INSIDE

**Celebrating
a series of
good results**

ISSUE 06 • September 2025
News and information from your council

contents

Photos © Matt Pereira



15



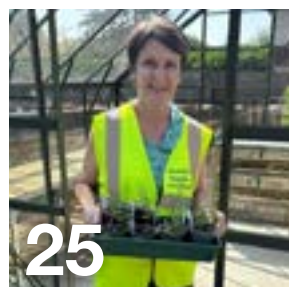
10



23



13



25



IN MERTON

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Report it! Sort it!

Report all neighbourhood issues in one place

5

Putting Morden on the map

Ambitious plans drawn up to regenerate town centre

6

New school welcomes first pupils

Extra support for children with SEND

8

Making the grade

Students celebrate exam results

10

Mini Musicians in concert

Pilot programme ends with performances

13

Big Sports Day

Highlights from London's largest free sporting event

15

Top ten green spaces

A record number of parks achieve Green Flag Awards

25

Key council services

Your directory of essential services

31



Hard work brings results

Your council has been hard at work this summer, delivering on what matters to you.

Our Safer Streets Team have been patrolling every week, cracking down on anti-social behaviour. In the first month alone, the patrols issued fines for littering and unlicensed trading, interrupted drug dealing in a local park, administered first aid and helped people to hospital, and got abandoned vehicles removed. This important work will help keep Merton one of the safest boroughs in London.

Over the summer, we received news that our children's services retained their 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted, one of only a few councils to achieve this, and our adult social care services were rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission. These results show our commitment to making Merton the best place to grow up and grow old.

Merton's much-loved parks got a boost too, with ten being awarded Green Flags, and Haydons Road Recreation Ground and Holland Garden being recognised for the first time. We also hosted our Big Sports Day in Morden Park – it was the biggest and best yet, attracting 8,000 people to try out dozens of sports and activities for free.

It's not just the council that has been getting good results – it's our students too. Once again, students across Merton did fantastically in their exams, outperforming national averages in GCSE, A level, T level, and BTEC. Well done to all our students, and the teachers and parents who support them.

With all this good news, it's no wonder The Times newspaper named Merton one of the best places to live in the UK. But we know there's more work to do to make our borough the best it can be. That's why we're moving forward with plans to regenerate Morden town centre and make it better for the people who live around it. Read more on page six.

As well as big developments, I know the details matter too. Following feedback from residents, we've just launched Report it! Sort it! – a single place to make it easier for residents to report issues and get the council to sort them sooner. Find out more on the insert in this magazine.

Stay up to date by signing up to our e-newsletter at merton.gov.uk/newsletter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ross Garrod". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader of Merton Council

Cleaner, greener and safer

We've made four pledges to you to crack down on anti-social behaviour, tackle fly-tipping, make cycling more accessible and make Merton greener.

Photos © Suzanne Mitchell Photography



Pop-up tips

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

More than 7,400 residents have disposed of bulky waste at one of our pop-up tips. Every neighbourhood will have one of these mobile recycling hubs held close by at least four times a year. So far, we've held 28 pop-up tips since the launch of the initiative in the spring, which followed a pilot.

The tips have proved popular with residents to dispose of their unwanted items and have helped to tackle fly-tipping.

Visit our website to find out when the next pop-up tip will be held in your neighbourhood.



Permanent Safer Streets Team

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

Say hello to our new wardens, who began their deployment during Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week in July. 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. Although Merton is one of London's safest boroughs, we know that people don't always feel safe, especially after dark, so a key role for the patrols is to provide reassurance for residents. They are patrolling every neighbourhood, every week, including evenings and weekends.



Doubling the number of bike hangars

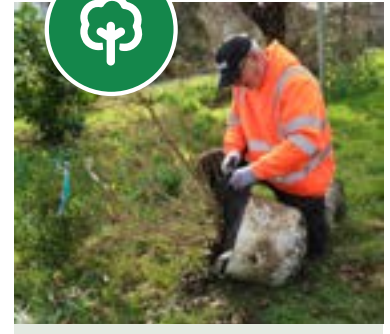
We will make owning a bike easier.

We want to make it easier for residents to get around in quicker, greener and healthier ways.

Lots of you have told us that one of the biggest barriers to owning a bike is not having anywhere to store one.

That's why we are installing dozens more bike hangars – with hundreds more spaces – this autumn and winter, more than doubling the amount we've put in since 2022.

Check where your nearest bike hangars will be installed on our website.



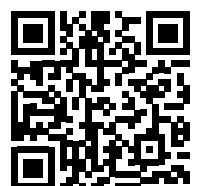
Planting 1,000 more street trees

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

As we move into the autumn, we will be starting to plant new trees in gaps, called tree pits, where damaged or diseased trees have had to be removed. We will prioritise places with the lowest number of trees.

These new trees are in addition to the hundreds of trees that we are already planting this year to increase biodiversity and clean up the air we breathe. Search on our website 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



Report it! Sort it!

One place to report all issues in your neighbourhood.

Have you noticed a pothole, come across graffiti, or spotted a fly-tip? Reporting neighbourhood issues is now quicker and easier than ever with our new Report it! Sort it! webpage.

Our easy-to-use Report it! Sort it! portal is all about making it as simple as possible for residents to let us know what needs fixing in our neighbourhoods.

This is on top of teams from across the council – including our new street cleaning service and Safer Streets Team – working round the clock to keep our streets, parks and public spaces clean and welcoming.

We're asking residents to help us take the action we need to make Merton cleaner, greener and safer.

The Report it! Sort it! portal means residents can let us know about problems in one place, online at merton.gov.uk/reportsort or with a quick call to 020 8274 4901 (choose option 6).



Making Merton cleaner, greener and safer

The council is making sure we're building a better Merton together. Here's some of the action we have been taking:

- Introduced weekly street cleaning and more frequent town centre cleaning
- Set up a dedicated graffiti removal service and created a new rapid response team to deal quickly with issues such as fly-tips
- Undertaken targeted action against and increased fines for: fly-tipping; graffiti; and chewing gum littering
- Created a brand-new Safer Streets Team to help keep communities safer
- Have pop-up tips coming to every neighbourhood at least four times a year
- Planting 1,000 more street trees
- Installing dozens of new bike hangars
- Invested millions in upgrading and improving Merton's playgrounds and paddling pools
- Installed new, top-of-the-range CCTV cameras with better coverage across the borough

ReMaking Morden

Resetting our ambitions for regenerating the town centre.



Morden is the civic heart of our borough with a town centre full of potential. Its strength is in its proud and diverse communities, beautiful green spaces and transport connections, which are some of the best in south London.

The council has a bold vision for the future of Morden town centre, with major regeneration plans to revitalise the area for the benefit of residents and local businesses. In an exciting milestone, our Cabinet recently agreed to reset the council's ambition for ReMaking Morden and move forward with longer-term development plans for the town centre.

We will now seek a private sector development partner who will bring financial investment

and expertise to work with the council on this comprehensive programme that will be guided by community feedback.

With a partner on board, we are planning to create a thriving new neighbourhood, attract more businesses and investment, and importantly, build quality and affordable homes for local people.

The vision is to create a more modern, inclusive and vibrant area – a destination filled with opportunity, growth, jobs and a lively local economy with a quality mix of businesses and sport, leisure and cultural activities. There will be places to spend time with friends and family during the day and in the evenings.

People in the town centre told us what they like about Morden and their aspirations for the future of the area.



Paul

I really like Morden Hall Park and the facilities there. I find it a good venue for relaxing and walking. I think Morden has quite a bit of potential because of the Northern Line connection. A lot of buildings could be redeveloped so they're more modern with better facilities, and an improvement of shops will follow.



Bernice

I like Morden; I think my kids are safe here. I feel confident walking home or taking public transport home. In the future I would like to see more activities for kids after school, so they're not hanging around on the streets. More housing would be great; that's one thing I'm looking forward to.



Paolo

I moved into the area around 2013 because we were able to buy a family home here. One of the best things is Morden has lots of parks, and it's great for young families. We're spoilt, transport connection wise – we can get into the city quickly. The variety of shops is great, and the diverse community here is lovely.

Sadly, it's an area used as a tributary; people come here to get to somewhere else, it doesn't draw people in. A spruce up to make it look clean and cool would be good. Businesses need more assistance, so it's more attractive to open in this area, which will help with activity and safety in the evenings.



To follow the latest developments, visit: merton.gov.uk/ReMakingMorden





New special school

More pupils with additional needs can now learn in our borough.

The new Bedelsford Chaucer Centre opened its doors to the first group of pupils earlier this month. The school welcomed 40 pupils of primary-school age, all of whom have Education, Health & Care Plans.

During the next three years, the school, which is run in partnership between the council and Orchard Hill College Academy Trust (OHCAT), will gradually increase its roll up to 80 places. Without the new provision, many of these children would have to travel to schools outside the borough to support their needs.

Head of School, Sadie Cawood said: “Our team is absolutely delighted to welcome pupils into Bedelsford Chaucer Centre. The children

have done fantastically well to cope with a new environment and are settling in well.”

The Executive Director of Quality and Standards at OHCAT, Julia James, said: “The trust’s mission is ‘Working Together to Transform Lives’ and this has been a truly collaborative project between everyone at the school, the trust and Merton Council to meet the demand for high quality special education needs places in the borough.”

The council is also expanding Perseid School, an ‘Outstanding’ special school in Morden for children with complex and severe learning difficulties. Works are nearing completion to provide 28 extra places this school year.

Outstanding support for children and families

The council's children's services have once again been rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, maintaining the standard first awarded in February 2022. Merton is one of only a few local authorities in the country to achieve this.

Ofsted inspectors observed social workers with families, met council leaders and spoke to children and families directly. They also reviewed processes, paperwork and case records.

In their report, the inspectors highlighted that the voices of young people are heard and acted upon to improve social care services. They found that there is strong leadership and collaboration with partners to provide the best support possible for children and families.

In a letter to the council, the National Director of Regulation and Social Care at Ofsted, Yvette Stanley, said: "This is a magnificent achievement.

"You should all be proud of the sustained positive difference you have made for the children and families of Merton over time."



Photos © Olivia Harris



Helping us to improve

The council's commitment to continually improving services was highlighted by Ofsted inspectors. One parent told us how their experience was used to improve services for other families.

The parent, who wishes to remain anonymous, said: "I'd been trying to explain my situation and my difficulties for a long time, and people hadn't understood. I was going through a crisis, and it felt like I wasn't able to get the support I needed. I ended up speaking to one of the managers, and she

instantly understood where I was coming from. It was a relief. After that, I really wanted to make sure it was easier for people to get help when they ask. The council invited me to present my story to a training session with social workers to help them respond better next time.

"It was a brave thing for the council to bring in someone who hadn't had the best experience. It was an important moment for me to share my insight and know that it will help other parents in the future."

Celebrating exam success

An anxious wait was over for thousands of students across the borough who received their exam results last month.

Students from Ursuline School celebrated receiving their A level, vocational, technical and T level results. Our Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Education, Councillor Sally Kenny, visited the school in Wimbledon and heard about some of the students' exciting plans for the future, including university places, apprenticeships and starting out in their chosen careers.

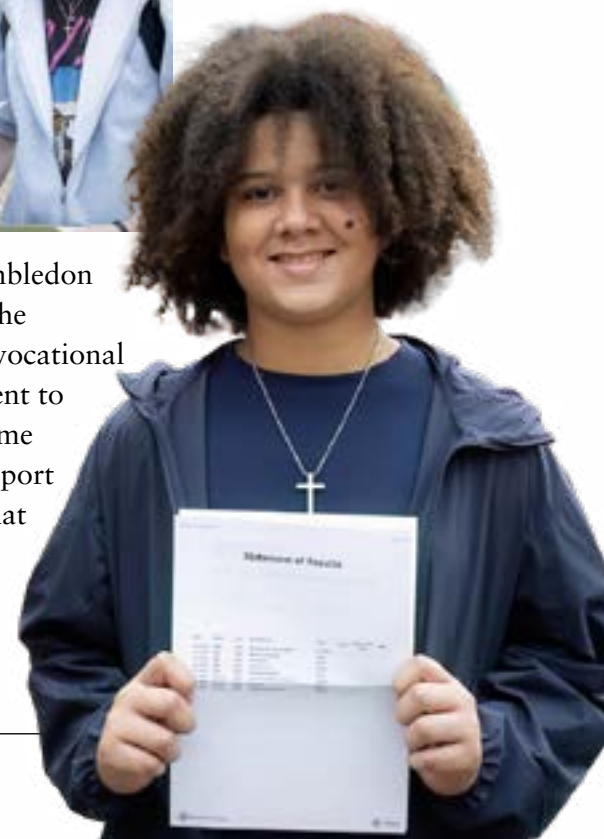




If your child is due to start reception class or move to secondary school in September 2026, you can apply for a school place now. merton.gov.uk/admissions



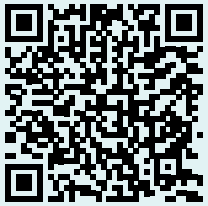
The following week, pupils at Wimbledon College were among those across the borough opening their GCSE and vocational exam results. Councillor Kenny went to congratulate them and also met some of their dedicated teachers and support staff, who have helped to ensure that every school in the borough now holds 'Good' or better judgements from Ofsted.



Back on track

Joshua Sha-Vah Bain's career working in railway and construction was off to a great start, before he was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2023, aged just 28.

Whether it's progressing at work, improving your wellbeing or taking up a new hobby, Merton Adult Learning has a course for you. Browse courses – many are free or low cost.



After 18 months of intensive treatment, Joshua had to relearn lots of the skills he once had. He enrolled with Merton Adult Learning on a personal track safety course, delivered by



Joshua Sha-Vah Bain (centre left) and Tahir Gorji (centre right) with their awards

TEC Training, which is mandatory for anyone working near Network Rail infrastructure.

Despite ongoing physical challenges, Joshua, who lives in Merton, passed the course and is now back at work. He said: "The course helped me reintegrate back into the railway again. I've been working shifts and trying to climb up the ladder."

Joshua has also launched his own business, supporting disabled and ethnic minority people to join the railway and construction sectors. His resilience and determination were recently honoured at the annual South London Learner and Teacher Awards, where he was presented with the Learner of The Year Award at the House of Lords. Joshua said: "The award was a nice acknowledgement of what I've overcome so far, and it has encouraged me to try to do more." Joshua's Tutor, Tahir Gorji, also received an award.



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
- BAKING & CAKE DECORATING
- BUSINESS
- CRAFT
- 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.



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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Working on behalf of





Photos © Rebecca Cresta/Merton Music Foundation

Hitting the high notes

Hundreds of Mini Musicians perform at the Sing Out Your Story Festival.

More than 500 pupils from across the borough played out the Mini Musicians pilot programme at the Sing Out Your Story Festival.

During a series of performances at the two-day event in July, the children sang, tapped, played and performed on their melodic keyboards – a type of keyboard instrument taught to over 300 Year 2 children as part of the project in ten Merton schools.

Mini Musicians is a partnership between Merton Council, Merton Music Foundation, the University of Roehampton and Sing Up, supported by Sounds of Intent Charity and Trinity College London. The pilot programme has given hundreds of Merton children, aged between five and seven, access to an innovative way of teaching music.

Helen Teasdale, music teacher at Perseid Special School, said: “The festival was a wonderful way to celebrate and showcase all that our pupils have achieved as part of Mini Musicians.



Children were able to sing solo, play solos on their melodic keyboards or keyboards, play together and keep in time – we are so proud of them.”

The impact of the two-year programme is being studied by researchers, led by Professor Adam Ockelford from the University of Roehampton, who said: “We are particularly interested in what the findings show us in relation to how children learn music; when asked to sing their Mini Musicians songs without prompting, around 50% of the pupils were able to start within one semitone of the right note, showing an early form of absolute pitch. This is quite remarkable when we consider that only one in 10,000 adults have absolute pitch.”

To find out more about Mini Musicians and Merton Music Foundation, visit: www.mmf.org.uk/mini-musicians

SKILLS TO LAST A LIFETIME



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Swimming Lessons with Better



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Our BIGGEST sports day ever

More than 8,000 people headed to Morden Park for London's largest free community sports event.



Photos © Matt Pereira

Merton's third flagship Borough of Sport event brought together over 50 clubs, coaches and organisations to run taster sessions and demonstrations with the goal of inspiring Merton residents of all ages to take up a new activity that works for them.

As well as meeting local sports clubs and organisations, attendees tried out the thrilling pop-up installations in the adventure zone, with the zip line and climbing wall proving popular with all ages. To mark the day, swimming at Morden Leisure Centre was also made free.



Sarah from Wimbledon attended with her daughters Eva, aged nine and Lily, aged seven. She said: "We arrived not really knowing what to expect and had such a great surprise. There wasn't a dull moment. From archery, to rock climbing, to kickboxing, my girls had a fab time and I now have a daughter interested in starting Judo! Don't miss out next year!"





Attic Theatre was one of the first groups to take to the main stage when the gates opened, with dance teacher Natasha Khamjani leading the crowds through an energetic session. Speaking at the event, she said: “The sun was shining and there was no better way to start a Sunday than dancing. Four of our regular participants joined me on stage, then we got a family dance workshop going. Dance for wellness is a real thing!”





Move your way in Merton

Every day can be a sports day for Merton residents. Our activity finder has hundreds of options for locals to find a way to be active, on their doorstep. Many are free or low cost.



Photos © Matt Pereira



Big Sports Day is a central part of Merton’s ambition to become London’s first-ever Borough of Sport. The Borough of Sport programme is one of three key council priorities and seeks to make sure all residents can be active, sports clubs can thrive and is helping Merton gain recognition for the borough’s sporting heritage and achievements.

Since launching the ambition in 2023, the council has invested in new initiatives across the borough, including a dedicated £300,000 grant pot for community sports organisations. The Borough of Sport programme has also helped secure over £2.4m of external funding for sport and physical activity in Merton.

Big Sports Day was made possible by sponsorship from FM Conway  great people : great work

Remarkable Rosie's career with the Dons

Down at Cherry Red Records Stadium, Rosie Russell is almost part of the furniture. Now the Womens Team's Vice Captain, the defender is Merton born and bred, and started her career at AFC Wimbledon at just nine-years-old. After playing more than 150 games for the club, Rosie reflects on what and where inspires her in London's Borough of Sport.

Where is your favourite place to move your way in Merton and why?

I love to spend time on Wimbledon Common and in Wimbledon Park. I always go on an early morning walk, and either make my way through the park or up to the common.

What, or who, inspired you to take up your sport?

I wouldn't say anyone in particular inspired me to take up football. Although I do love being in a team and my teammates continue to inspire me to play.

What do you like most about your sport? How does being active make you feel?

I love how football is an escape from my everyday life. It's a great way to forget about the pressures of work and other commitments. I feel positive after being active and I'm always grateful to be able to move my body and enjoy exercise.



© Dylan Hepworth

Apart from the sport you are known for, what other ways of being active do you enjoy?

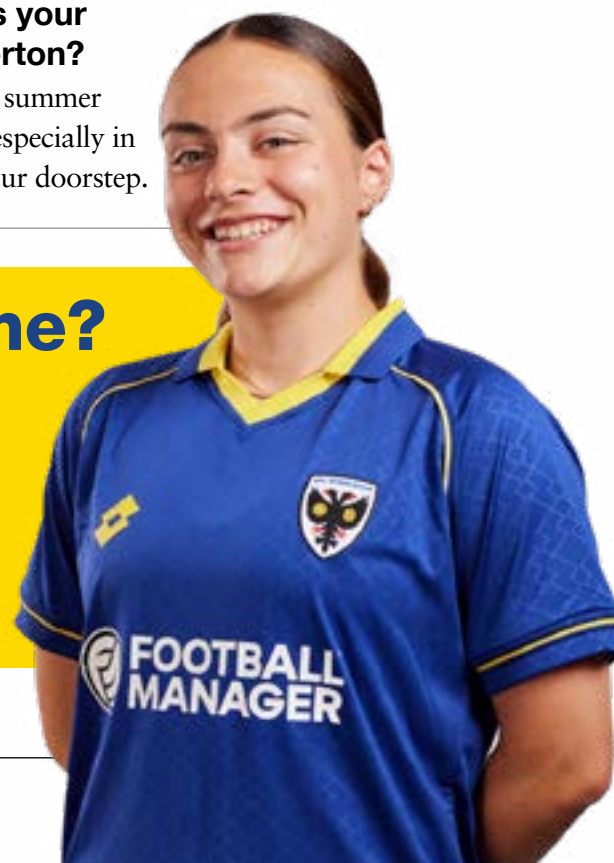
Outside of football, I'm often found doing the Wimbledon Common parkrun on a Saturday morning – I love it!

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

I would say go for it! If you're finding it hard to get motivated, I would recommend a group activity or trying something new with a friend.

Outside of sport – what's your favourite thing about Merton?

It's hard to pick one! I think the summer months are particularly lovely, especially in all the open spaces that are on our doorstep.



Got a budding Lioness at home?



Wildcats, run by AFC Wimbledon Foundation, offers young girls a chance to develop both their football skills and their passion for the game. Wednesdays, 4–5pm, six to eight-year-olds; 5–6pm, nine to 12-year-olds. Visit afcwimbledonfoundation.com/girls-wildcats, click the QR or email womenandgirls@afcwf.org.uk

£700k of civic pride funding opens for bids

The funds are now open to residents and organisations, who can apply for grants which will be awarded in 2026.

It was opened by the Mayor of Merton earlier this month and we hope to continue developing Mostyn Gardens in future.”

There is £500,000 to bid for from the Investing in Neighbourhoods Fund, for projects supporting the community, plus £166,000 from the Community Climate Action Fund, for initiatives that help to reduce carbon emissions or adapt to climate change.

The deadline for applications is 13 October. Find out more merton.gov.uk/climate-action-funds



The Friends of Mostyn Gardens, the Muslim Women of Merton, received £22,000 of climate funding last year. Project coordinator, Neaz Ahmed said: “This funding allowed us to complete the regeneration of the Gardeners’ Yard and transform it into the Tranquil Garden.



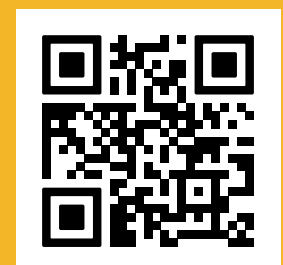
HAVE MORE ENERGY



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© Paul Tanner

In good hands

Merton's adult social services rated 'Good'.

Merton's adult social care services have been rated Good by independent regulator the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The inspectors' report, published last month, following an inspection in April, recognises the compassion of our teams, strong leadership, and our commitment to listening, involving residents in decisions, and working closely with community partners.

The CQC's chief inspector of adult social care and integrated care, James Bullion, said: "At this assessment, we saw passionate staff at Merton Council providing good access to adult social care services for people living in the borough. Behind this success was the authority's effective work with people using services and partners to ensure that this access supported good outcomes."



Holistic care

Community navigators were highlighted in the CQC's report for helping residents to find services and support to meet their needs.

Mitcham resident Michelle said: "I like arts and crafts. I'm clever like that. I like making things and colouring things.

I think Michelle's brilliant. She helps me a lot with all sorts of things, like travel training."

Community Navigator, Michelle Brown said: "I've really enjoyed navigating Michelle because of the interests that she has. It's been lovely exploring places around the borough for arts and crafts."

Making memories in Mitcham

Introducing Mark Warren, Mitcham's town centre manager.

“I live in the area, so Mitcham is my home. Since becoming the town centre manager, I've met so many interesting people and heard amazing stories about the area.

neighbourhoods unique, vibrant and special. Town centres aren't just about shopping – they're a space to gather and connect, and an extension of our homes.

“We have tonnes of community spirit and a great selection of independent businesses.”

One resident's parents fell in love at the original Mitcham bandstand; an all-female group of artists based in Mitcham created mosaics that are in Westminster Cathedral, and I was told the story of Tom Jones' visit to the Pye Records factory on Western Road! I want to be part of creating more stories that celebrate Mitcham today, and memories people will remember fondly in their futures.

There's so much going on in Mitcham! There's a market on every second Saturday of the month, where you can support local traders. There are weekly activities at our new bandstand; you can learn salsa or help build a piece of public art. The council also hosts free weekly exercise classes and pop-up youth hubs.

A bit of background about me – I completed my Masters in Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy, in Copenhagen, before returning home to south London and working as an architect and urban designer in an award-winning London design practice.

Mitcham has so much to offer. We have tonnes of community spirit and a great selection of independent businesses – I urge everyone to discover and support them, if you haven't already. Commonsides Cafe is a great place to get coffee with a friend; Emmanuel's is the place to go if you need some plantain and be sure to visit Naan-tastic if you're craving warm naans. If you need literally anything, visit Izzy. These are just some of the great places in town. ”

I worked on so many different projects, and regardless of the scale, people and places are always at the heart of it – it's what makes

Find out more: merton.gov.uk/mitchamtowncentre





What goes around

Bandstand returns to Mitcham after 100 years.

Families gathered to enjoy the launch of the vibrant and colourful new bandstand at the heart of Mitcham town centre.

Created with the help of the community, the bandstand is called ‘What goes around’ to mark the return of a bandstand to Mitcham after a century. It was officially opened by the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Martin Whelton, at the start of a full day of activities and performances.

The bandstand is a platform for community events, activities and workshops this autumn. In the lineup is 13-year-old local artist EM12, who presented a series of animated short films including ‘Mitcham under-sea’.

EM12, real name Ebony-May, said: “My animations are being presented on a huge outdoor sports screen near Mitcham bandstand. They include ‘Mitcham under-sea’, where I’ve

transformed Mitcham town centre with an under-water theme. There are merpeople instead of people, submarines instead of cars, and sub stops instead of bus stops. I am also speaking to people about my art. I think the bandstand is a really great idea, it brings people together to share great experiences, I love it.”

The bandstand has been designed by Charles Holland Architects – an award-winning British architecture practice – working with Raskl. Art, Architectural.

The council is revitalising Mitcham with improvements which involve and celebrate the local community and reflect the area’s strong heritage and identity.

Find out what’s on at the Mitcham bandstand, and how to book the free space for your activity or event. merton.gov.uk/MitchamBandstand

What’s on Mitcham bandstand

Salsa dancing and live music

A free salsa session with Salsa Got Soul will be held on Saturday 11 October between 1–2pm. This will be followed by a free live band performance with Rodders and Les, between 2–3pm.

Bootcamp for beginners

Our Parks run a free exercise class on Saturdays at 10am. Sign up at www.ourparks.org.uk/borough/fair-green-mitcham-market

Youth Hub

Teenagers aged between 12–18 are invited to a hub held by the council’s youth team on Fridays until 10 October between 3.30–6pm.



PUTTING BATTERIES IN BINS PUTS PEOPLE IN DANGER

Recycle them safely at
Garth Road HRRC



Find out more at [veolia.co.uk/dangerouswaste](https://www.veolia.co.uk/dangerouswaste)

Ten Green Flag Awards

Record number of parks receive international status.

Merton now has ten parks with Green Flag Awards – our highest number yet. Eight parks have successfully retained their status, while Holland Garden and Haydons Road Recreation Ground, both in Wimbledon, have achieved their first Green Flag Awards.

Margo Walker from the Friends of Holland Garden said: “I could talk for hours about the garden. It’s such a joy to be part of a team that makes a real difference for the community. Our volunteers range from Hughie, who is just four

and loves wheelbarrows, to Bridie, who is 84 and full of energy. The Green Flag is a real honour, but for me the biggest reward is the friendships we’ve built and the joy we find working together in the park.”

The Green Flag Award scheme is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces. It is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, under licence from the Ministry for Housing, Communities, and Local Government. Find out more merton.gov.uk/greenflag

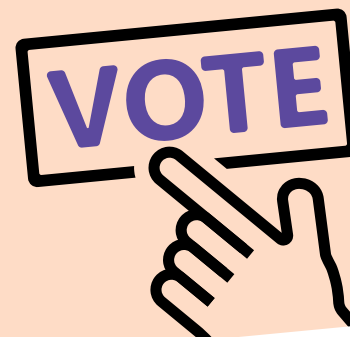


Did you know?

There are more than 115 parks and green spaces in Merton, with every resident living within a five-minute walk of one.

We've contacted every home in Merton to compile the new electoral register

Simply follow the instructions on the letter or email, so you're ready to vote



merton.gov.uk/voting

A poster for 'Fireworks in the Park' with a dark blue background and colorful fireworks. It includes the 'WE ARE MERTON' logo, a gold ribbon with the text 'Earlybird tickets now on sale', and the event details for Morden Park and Wimbledon Park. It also lists 'FUNFAIR | STREET FOOD | BAR | ENTERTAINMENT' and a QR code for earlybird tickets.

WE ARE MERTON

Earlybird tickets now on sale

FIREWORKS IN THE PARK

Morden Park Wednesday 5 November
Wimbledon Park Saturday 8 November

FUNFAIR | STREET FOOD | BAR | ENTERTAINMENT

Scan code to get earlybird tickets now

LONDON BOROUGH OF
MERTON

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 PEHadmin@provideequipmenthub.co.uk or call **020 8644 8860**

Listening to your views



© Xavier Lorenzo

Have your say on any live consultation on the Merton Engagement Hub: merton.commonplace.is

Prevent violence against women and girls

An ambitious plan has been drawn up to stop violence against women and girls, which includes early intervention, increased reporting of incidents and raising awareness across the community.

We want your views on the five priorities in our draft strategy, which has been informed by survivors and the services which support them. Share your views before 5 October at: vawg2025.commonplace.is

Join the Big Conversation

We've been talking to residents at events all spring and summer and now we're extending the Big Conversation into the autumn.

We want to hear from as many people as possible who live, work, volunteer or study in Merton. Tell us about your neighbourhood, what's changed since you've lived here, and what your priorities are to help shape future council plans for our borough.

Visit your local library to complete a paper survey or have your say online: we-are-merton-big-conversation.commonplace.is



Experimental road closures

As part of the council's policy to improve road safety and tackle air pollution, we have introduced road closures at the junctions of Pincott Road/High Path and Abbey Road/Station Road in South Wimbledon.

The proposed measures were brought in under an Experimental Traffic Management Order (ETMO). The scheme will only be kept in place if it is deemed to be successful and we will take into account all feedback received, as well as traffic and pollution data. We welcome all views until a final decision is made. The statutory consultation has been extended until Friday 3 October. Anyone can make representations during this period. The road closures will remain until a decision is made. The scheme started on 14 March 2025 and can be in place for a maximum of 18 months.

Please visit for full information: merton.gov.uk/Abbey-consultation
If you do not have access to a computer, you can write to Sustainable Transport, Highways & Climate, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX. Please include the reference ES/RoadClosure/Abbey2025 and your full postal address.

What's on iN Merton

A roundup of events across the borough to look forward to this autumn.

27 September

Canons Sustainable September Fair

This has been rescheduled from July, when it was postponed due to bad weather. There will be arts and crafts, eco stalls, live music and food and drink at this free event.

11am–4pm. Canons House and Grounds in Madeira Road, Mitcham.
www.thecanonsmitcham.co.uk

4 October

Wimbledon Guild's Waggy Walk

This pawsome day out is returning for the eighth year. Choose from a four or seven kilometre walk and raise money to help support the community.

10.30am–2.30pm. The Hand in Hand Pub on Wimbledon Common
www.wimbledonguild.co.uk/events/568/waggy-walk

5 October

Silver Sunday

The Mayor of Merton, Councillor Martin Whelton, is celebrating the contribution that older people make to our community. He is inviting residents aged 65 and over, who may live on their own, for afternoon tea on Silver Sunday, the national day for recognising older people.

3–4.30pm. Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club, Bishopsford Road, Morden.
Free but booking essential by 29 September for catering purposes.
Email mayor@merton.gov.uk or telephone 020 8545 3517.



Hattie Matthews

4 and 5 October and 1 and 2 November
Love Wimbledon Market

A different mix of businesses trade at each month's weekend market, offering a range of homewares, food, clothing and accessories. **11am–6pm. The Piazza, Broadway, Wimbledon.**
lovewimbledon.org/monthly-market

6 October

Carers' information event

Do you look after someone who is disabled, unwell or frail? Get the information, connection and support you need and sign up for the free Merton National Carers' Card. **10am–1.45pm. Raynes Park Library. Free. Drop-in.**
merton.gov.uk/carers

11 October and 8 November

Mitcham craft and food market

Come and support local small businesses selling unique crafts and delicious food in Mitcham Market Square. **11am–4pm.**



18 October

Community tales

Join the Polish Family Association to discover the Polish folktale 'The Wawel Dragon', followed by a dragon-themed craft session.

10am or 11.30am. Ages three to seven. Tickets £6. Booking essential.
nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/london/morden-hall-park

**18 October–
2 November**

Well Done, Mummy Penguin

Amidst the snowy Antarctic landscape, Mummy Penguin is off to find a fishy dinner for her family. Daddy and Little Penguin watch in suspense as Mummy swims through the icy waters, climbs the perilous cliffs and tiptoes past some grumpy, just-awakened seals. Stage adaptation of the picture book by writer and illustrator Chris Haughton.

Polka Theatre, Wimbledon Broadway. Ages three to seven. Tickets from £10.

Polkatheatre.com/well-done-mummy-penguin

**9 and 11 November
Remembrance and
Armistice Day**

Services will be held to mark Remembrance Sunday at the war memorials in Mitcham and Wimbledon and outside the Nelson Health Centre in South Wimbledon. Armistice Day services will be held outside Merton Civic Centre in Morden and at Mitcham War Memorial.
merton.gov.uk/remembrance



**12–16 November
Grandad Anansi**

Abi and her Grandad tell each other Anansi folktales as they work together in the garden. This intergenerational adventure by children's author Elayne Ogbeta is inspired by West African and Caribbean culture. **Polka Theatre, Wimbledon Broadway. Ages four to nine. Tickets from £14.**
polkatheatre.com/grandad-anansi

**Various dates
Group trike rides**

Merton Trike Club is organising a series of group rides in parks across Mitcham and Morden.
Free, but booking essential.
Call 07904 422 760 or email nancy.mertonempowerment@outlook.com

**Various dates
Library events**

Come in and discover some of the many events happening every week in our seven award-winning libraries. Our health and wellbeing programme includes over 60s fitness, yoga and Pilates classes. Adults can also build their confidence with IT support sessions and expand their hobbies through language classes held across all sites. For children and families, we host lively rhyme times, story sessions, arts and crafts and board game clubs. History lovers can also enjoy regular talks from the heritage centre, which bring Merton's past to life.

If you're not already a library member, you can sign up for a free library card and then choose items to borrow from an extensive catalogue of books, ebooks and audiobooks. Drop in to your local branch or visit merton.gov.uk/libraryevents



Add your events for the festive season to our free online events calendar
merton.gov.uk/eventscalendar



WIMBLEDON BOOKFEST



16-26 October 2025

JUNG CHANG RUPERT EVERETT
LYSE DOUCET DAVID NICHOLLS
LADY HALE MICHAEL HESELTINE
ELIF SHAFAK ADAM BUXTON
JOHN COOPER CLARKE

MISAN HARRIMAN ANNE APPLEBAUM
TIM MARSHALL NICK CLEGG LEMN SISSAY
SHIRLEY BALLAS MARY PORTAS IRVINE WELSH
ANTHONY HOROWITZ & LUCY FOLEY MARTIN O'NEILL
LYNDA LA PLANTE JOANNA PAGE ALAN HOLLINGHURST
HARRIET WALTER RAYMOND ANTROBUS KIT DE WAAL
REETA CHAKRABARTI PHILIPPE SANDS JUSTIN CURRIE

NEW TABLE TALK INCLUDING **JAY RAYNER OLLY SMITH**
THOMASINA MIERS & PIZZA PILGRIMS

ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH SUSIE DENT SUZANNE O'SULLIVAN MAX HASTINGS ED DAVEY
JEREMY HUNT & TOM MCTAGUE ALICE LOXTON NUSSAIBAH YOUNIS & SANAM MAHLOUJJI
GARRETT CARR ROGER TAYLOR & MARCUS BUCKLAND IAN LESLIE MIKE BERNERS-LEE
PANKAJ MISHRA SUPERTATO LILY KING & FLORENCE KNAPP ADAM NICOLSON
LESLIE PRIMO & JAMES PAYNE JOHNNY BALL MICHELLE PAVER GYLES BRANDRETH
JASSA AHLUWALIA & AFUA HIRSCH JONATHAN COE & NATASHA BROWN AND MANY MORE

CENTRAL WIMBLEDON VENUES

New Wimbledon Theatre, Wimbledon Library,
Wimbledon High School



Full line-up and tickets at
wimbledonbookfest.org

Supported by



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)

Report it! Sort it!

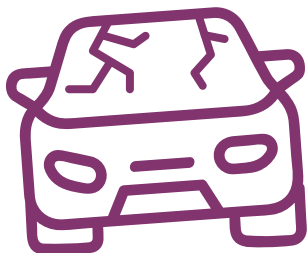
Have you got an issue in your neighbourhood?



Had a missed bin collection?



Seen graffiti or a broken bench?



Got an abandoned vehicle on your street?



Spotted a fly-tip?

Visit merton.gov.uk/reportsort or call 020 8274 4901 (choose option 6) to report it - and we'll sort it.



Making Merton cleaner, greener and safer

