

iN MERTON

AT CHRISTMAS



INSIDE

**Your guide
to the festive
season**

ISSUE 08 • November 2025
News and information from your council

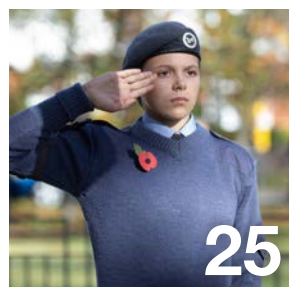
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

As the days get colder and Christmas gets closer, it's usually a time to look back on the past year and what we've done. But this year, I want to look ahead and celebrate all the fantastic events and initiatives happening across Merton this Christmas, thanks to the hard work of our amazing charities, community groups, local businesses, council staff and volunteers.

In Mitcham, there's an indoor Christmas Fair being hosted on Saturday 6 December in Vestry Hall, where you can shop for festive gifts and enjoy hot food and mulled wine. And the weekend after, on Saturday 13 December, our monthly Mitcham Market will have a festive twist with decorations and music to enjoy whilst you do your Christmas shopping.

In Morden, we've got our big Christmas lights switch-on in Abbotsbury Road on Friday 28 November, with fun for the whole family from 2pm to 7pm. Along with the main event – the lights! – there will be a Christmas market, carol singing, photos with Father Christmas, live music, face-painting, arts and crafts, free mince pies, and plenty more festive fun.

Over in Wimbledon, Love Wimbledon is hosting its popular Christmas Market from Thursday 27 November to Sunday 14 December, open Thursday to Sunday each week. It's the perfect spot to soak up the festive spirit and pick up gifts, enjoy tasty food and mulled wine, and browse local crafts and treats.

There's loads happening this Christmas, including at Merton Abbey Mills, Deen City Farm, and the Polka Theatre. For the full list of

what's happening across Merton this Christmas, check out pages 28–30.

The festive season always reminds me what a special place Merton is to live, work, and learn. I feel especially proud to be part of, and from this community at this time of year, when our spirit and pride shines throughout our streets and our neighbourhoods. Every year, the season of goodwill brings out the best in Merton, showcasing the warmth and kindness that make our borough unique.

Every year, incredible local groups and volunteers step up to make sure no-one is left behind – such as The Alexandra pub in Wimbledon and Vestry Hall in Mitcham, who work with Churches Together, to provide support and company on Christmas day. You can find more information about these and other local initiatives on pages 28–30.

If you know of any other community projects helping those in need this Christmas, please get in touch at leaders.office@merton.gov.uk with the details – we would love to share them through our weekly iN Merton e-newsletters. Sign up to receive these at merton.gov.uk/newsletter

To you and your family, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,

Councillor Ross Garrod
Leader of Merton Council

Our pledges to you

We've made four pledges to you to create a cleaner, greener, safer Merton, by tackling fly-tipping; cracking down on anti-social behaviour; making cycling more accessible; and planting more trees.



Pop-up tips

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

More than 9,500 residents have now made use of the 36 pop-up tips. They now take place in every neighbourhood at least four times a year. These free, convenient events make it easier for residents to dispose of bulky waste responsibly and help reduce fly-tipping.

Heather from Wimbledon, who visited a pop up tip in Cottenham Park Road, said: "The concept is great, the staff were amazing and they took my items straight from the boot of my car with a cheery smile. Altogether, a really good experience."

Residents can find their nearest pop-up tip using the postcode search here: merton.gov.uk/fourpledges

Permanent Safer Streets Team

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

The team are patrolling every neighbourhood, every week, including evenings and weekends.



Neighbourhood warden Gabriel said: "I would invite people to come and say hello and share their concerns with us, so we can offer the best service possible. Every day we have different objectives, but we are mainly looking at tackling anti-social behaviour, such as street drinking, littering and fly-tipping."

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, people don't always feel safe, especially after dark, so a key role for the patrols is to provide reassurance for residents.

Doubling the number of bike hangars

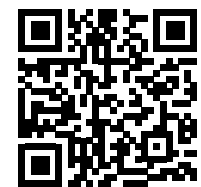
We will make owning a bike easier.

Residents told the council that it can be difficult to own and store a bike, especially for people living in a flat or a houseshare. The council is installing dozens of new bike hangars, creating hundreds of extra

safe and secure places for residents to park their bikes. Last month, the council installed over 30 across the borough, with the remaining hangars due to be ready by the end of January.



For the latest updates on all the pledges, visit merton.gov.uk/fourpledges



Planting 1,000 more street trees

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

The council has started planting 1,000 new street trees across Merton, focusing on areas with fewer trees to help green the grey, boost biodiversity, cool our streets, and clean the air we breathe.

This expanded planting programme will see trees planted in newly created pits, increasing the borough's biodiversity and shade; as well as in existing, empty pits, replacing those lost to damage or disease.

Residents can use our postcode tool to see where trees are being planted this season and learn more about the careful planning behind the programme, from species selection to long-term care.



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



Keeping the streets clean

David Russell is one of the street cleaners providing the council's new, improved street cleaning service.

How long have you been working in this role?

I've been working as a street cleaner in and around Merton for just over four years now.

What do you enjoy about your job?

The thing I enjoy the most about my job has to be the people. I come to work every day and the interactions I have with ordinary folk are overwhelmingly positive. People offer me cold drinks in the summer, cups of tea in the winter and I get a genuine sense of community.

Are there any particular streets or areas you're fond of?

One area has to be Ravensbury Park. It's a lovely little nature reserve. I've sat in it many times at lunchtime. You've got 360 degrees of just trees, the river, the swans, the squirrels. It's just lovely. All my roads are based around there, so I'm there often.

What's one thing you wish people knew about the work you do?

Every single day we have specific roads that we clean. I've got a map and a beat that I stick to, and I can't really deviate much from it. I've had people in the past ask if I can just pop over to another road, but, sadly, I have to stick to the ones I'm given.

Do you have any inspiring stories about your work?

I do have a heart-warming story which happened a few weeks ago. There's a lovely elderly couple that I've become good friends with. I was covering someone else's area while they were on holiday, and a couple of days later the couple gave me a little certificate they'd made themselves that said: 'Thank you very much to Dave for being the best street cleaner.' It really touched me, and things like that make it worth coming in every single day. I've now got it framed and it sits on my wall at home.

"The sense of community I get genuinely makes it worth coming in every single day."

[merton.gov.uk/
street-cleaning](https://merton.gov.uk/street-cleaning)

Record number of best business nominations

The winners of the Merton Best Business Awards have been announced.

A record number of entries were received for this year's Merton Best Business Awards.

The winners were announced at an award ceremony held at the New Wimbledon Theatre in September.

Merton Council was a headline sponsor of the awards and also sponsored the Best Sport, Health & Wellbeing Business category, which was won by the Merton School Sport Partnership, which creates opportunities for young people to get involved in physical activity and trains school sports leaders.

Fraser Addo from the partnership, said: "We're opening doors for a range of children

to develop a love of sport and physical activity programmes, by showing them there are many different ways for them to get involved. We work with local schools on a weekly basis on teacher training and competitions."

Organised by the Merton Chamber of Commerce, the accolades are now in their 12th year and attracted 295 entries in 2025, up over 50 per cent on last year.

Find out more: mertonbestbusiness.co.uk





The winners

Merton's Best Business and Best Small or Medium sized Enterprise Business

Winner: Sean McInnes
Sports Coaching

Best Sport, Health & Wellbeing Business

Winner: Merton School
Sport Partnership

Best Community Impact: Inclusion & Diversity

Winner: Go Inspire
International

Best Environmentally & Socially Responsible Business

Winner: Sustainable Merton

Best Food, Drink & Hospitality and Best Start-Up/ Micro Business

Winner: Two Teaspoons

Best Enterprising Young Professional

Winner: Rachel Pereira –
Community Drugs and Alcohol Recovery Services (CDARS)

Best Creative Business

Winner: Lost Boys Set
Building

Best Use of Marketing

Winner: Really Helpful Club

Merton's Champion Business and People's Choice Award

Winner: Bombay Delight

Best Use of Technology

Winner: Mindible

Best Use of Innovation

Winner: Nippy Networks UK

Best New Business

Winner: Abbey Mills Market





Ice Skating at the Quarter

22nd November 2025 to 4th January 2026

Wimbledon's very
own ice rink is back!
Skate, shop and enjoy
the festive fun at
Wimbledon Quarter.

Book your
tickets now:



Wimbledon
Quarter

SW19

Ice Skating - Santa's Grotto - Christmas Markets - Festive Events

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Follow the art trail

Young people inspire artist to create designs in town centre.



Six telecoms boxes have been transformed into pieces of street art in Morden town centre.

The ideas for the designs were put forward by young people from the council's Youth Parliament, who said they were inspired by the nature in Morden Hall Park and by public transport, including buses.

Artist Gavin McPhail, pictured left, said: "Young people in the area came up with lots of great ideas, and we've translated them into

these striking designs to paint on the telecoms boxes. It's great for people to have something colourful and visual to inspire them in their neighbourhoods. It lifts the vibe of the area and people's spirits. The boxes are spray-painted, and we use a vinyl stencil on top. We've also given them an anti-graffiti topcoat."

This project is part of the council's 'meanwhile' action plan, ahead of planned longer term development in Morden town centre.

Find out more:
merton.gov.uk/RemakingMorden



Staying Warm & Well

Warm & Well in Merton is a partnership between Wimbledon Guild, Merton Council, Age UK Merton and Thinking Works.



© Paul Tanner Photography

How can Warm & Well help?

Age UK Merton is excellent at making sure that pensioners claim all the benefits they are entitled to. The extra income has helped older people to pay the bills and keep their homes warm. Thinking Works offers free home energy assessments. They can come to your home and show you how to save energy and cut costs.

What should people do if they are in debt to their energy supplier?

Don't ignore it. Energy firms are obliged to support customers, so talk to them. If you're not sure what to do, Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth is a good place to start, or you can contact the Warm & Well team. Call **020 8946 0735**, email: warmandwell@wimbledonguild.co.uk or visit: wimbledonguild.co.uk/warm-well

What if I need extra help?

There is something called the 'Priority Service Register', thepsr.co.uk, which is a free service for individuals who may need extra help, due to health conditions, disabilities or other vulnerabilities. Sign up with your energy supplier and find out what financial and practical support is available.

What else should people consider in the lead up to winter?

If your property has a gas supply, make sure you have a working carbon monoxide tester. Carbon monoxide is the silent killer – it can't be seen, smelt, heard or tasted. Don't risk it, get an alarm today.

Thinking Works – free home energy assessments and fuel vouchers.
0800 118 23 27
or enquiries@thinkingworks.co.uk

Age UK Merton – helps pensioners to claim entitlements.
020 8648 5792 or
info@ageukmerton.org.uk

Community Hub – for energy and keeping warm and well questions.
020 8066 4086
or help@mertoncommunityhub.org.uk

Jon Green is a member of the Warm & Well team, based at Wimbledon Guild.

Why is keeping your home warm important?

People who live in cold homes have a much higher risk of developing poor physical and mental health, and those who have existing health conditions are especially vulnerable. Keeping warm with high energy prices is difficult, so it's important to review energy bills regularly. We've helped people in Merton save hundreds of pounds a year. We can help you to do the same.

"We've helped many pensioners in Merton increase their income, so they can keep the heating on. We might be able to help you too."

Amanda Gibson, Age UK Merton.



A 'living wage' makes a difference

The council is enabling more employers to pay the London Living Wage.

The council is a Living Wage UK accredited employer and has been paying staff at least the London Living Wage since 2013. The council is ensuring its suppliers and contractors pay the Living Wage, too – setting aside £7m over five years to achieve this.

The council is making it easier for employers in Merton to become Living Wage accredited,

through a scheme to cover the cost of their accreditation fees. The Employers' London Living Wage Grant is being paid through the council's £3m Cost of Living Fund.

The Living Wage Foundation chose "the difference it makes" as the theme of this year's Living Wage Week, earlier in November.

Employers' London Living Wage Grant recipients.



Junkwize is a rubbish removal and collection business near Morden. Owner Alex Maccioni said: "We chose to become a Living Wage employer because sustainability is at the core of everything we do. We wanted to help our employees and their families; we wanted to make sure they are well paid and rewarded for the hard work they do."

"Paying the Living Wage is worthwhile, it builds trust within the team, encourages a good work environment and team loyalty."

Becky Beasley, the owner of **Two Teaspoons**, a catering and food education business in Wimbledon, said: "If people feel valued and you can make that commitment to pay them fairly, they're more likely to stick around."

"Team wellness is a massive part of the business, and we take it seriously. Everybody being paid well for what they do is important, and makes people feel good because they can afford to live. It's only a positive thing for me."



We speak up

The council is working with its partners to end violence against women and girls.

The council has been reaccredited by White Ribbon UK for a second three-year term, recognising our continued commitment to ending violence against women and girls.

Anyone can show their support by becoming a White Ribbon Ambassador (men) or Champion (women) and making the promise never to commit, condone or remain silent about such violence.

This year's White Ribbon Day theme – 'We Speak Up' – launches the UN's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

The council is marking the campaign with a series of events to raise awareness about the different types of abuse and to highlight the help and support available to those affected.

There will be a walk on White Ribbon Day, 25 November, starting at 11.30am at the Morden Hall Road entrance of Morden Hall Park. All are welcome.

Dorian Pursey from Morden is a White Ribbon Ambassador. He said:

"I volunteer with the Air Cadets and it's important that boys have strong role models to look up to, who encourage them to make better choices about the way they behave. Taking the White Ribbon promise is about showing your support to end violence against women and girls."



Find out more:
merton.gov.uk/16days
Make the White Ribbon promise at
whiteribbon.org.uk

The One Stop Shop, the confidential drop-in service for people experiencing domestic violence, will be closed on 29 December and re-open on 5 January 2026 in Morden Baptist Church in Crown Lane, Morden. Find out more about the support available
merton.gov.uk/domesticabuse



Safe Havens

AFC Wimbledon became the first Safe Haven in Merton in September. The council is working with businesses to establish Safe Havens across the borough, as part of its work to end violence against women and girls.

Safe Havens are for anyone who needs help, for example, if their phone has been stolen, they are injured or feeling intimidated or being harassed. Staff can call someone for them, direct them to support, or offer use of the venue's facilities to charge their phone and wait for help to arrive. Premises including shops, cafes, pubs and other businesses can register to become a recognised Safe Haven and display a sticker in their window.

RECYCLING NEWS

Don't forget the batteries

Stay safe this Christmas by keeping flammable items, including decorative lights and batteries, out of bins.

On average, the council's recycling and waste collection partner, Veolia, reports one preventable fire every day in the UK, caused by residents putting dangerous items in their recycling or rubbish bins and in street litter bins. The fires occur in collection vehicles and in waste disposal sites, putting both Veolia staff and residents in danger.

Top tips for staying safe this Christmas

- Batteries can be recycled at many supermarkets and pharmacies.
- Electrical items – which have batteries, plugs, cables, or hidden batteries, such as those found in children's toys and electrical toothbrushes – can be recycled, but they must be handled safely.



- Used vapes should be taken back to retailers and never put in household recycling, rubbish bins or in on-street litter bins.
- Nitrous oxide (NOx) canisters need to be handled safely during disposal. Other types of gas canister should be returned to retailers.
- Watch what happens when dangerous waste sparks fires and learn more about how to dispose of it safely at veolia.co.uk/dangerous-waste.

All of these types of dangerous waste can be recycled at the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre in Garth Road, Morden. Book your visit merton.gov.uk/garthroad
Find local recycling points for different types of waste at recyclenow.com/recycling-locator

Kerbside collection service

FOOD WASTE

Collected every week



Yes please



All cooked and uncooked food



Dairy products: cheese and eggs



Fruit and vegetable peelings

Line your indoor kitchen caddy with compostable liners or old newspaper (no plastic bags).

PAPER & CARD

Collected alternate weeks



Yes please



Newspapers and magazines



Card and cardboard



Toilet and kitchen roll tubes

Flatten down large cardboard boxes before putting them in the bin.

PLASTICS, GLASS, CANS & CARTONS

Collected alternate weeks



Yes please



Plastic bottles



Plastic pots, tubs, trays etc.



Glass jars and bottles

Empty and rinse all containers. Squash plastic bottles. Remove film lids from plastic pots, tubs

RUBBISH

Collected every two weeks



Yes please



Non-recyclable rubbish



Dirty cardboard



Plastic bags and film

Only rubbish placed in this wheelie bin (with the lid closed) will be collected.

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

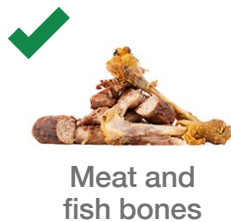
Subscribe to our fortnightly garden waste collection service for grass cuttings, hedge clippings, twigs and leaves. merton.gov.uk/gardenwaste



BULKY WASTE

We offer a chargeable service to collect items, including furniture and electrical appliances, from your home on weekdays. Book a bulky waste collection at merton.gov.uk/bulkywaste

at a glance



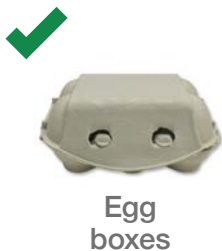
✗ No thanks

- Plastic bags
- Packaging
- Oil or liquids
- Nappies



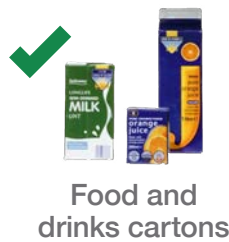
Your personalised 2026 calendar

Visit the council website to view and download your personalised 2026 collection calendar, using the postcode search tool. You can also report a missed collection and find detailed information about your collection service, including a full list of what you can and can't recycle. Visit merton.gov.uk/recycling



✗ No thanks

- Dirty cardboard (e.g. pizza boxes)
- Shredded paper (unless put in a paper bag or envelope)
- Tissues and paper towels
- Food and drink cartons (put in your recycling box)
- Wrapping paper which doesn't pass the scrunch test or is glittery



✗ No thanks

- Plastic bags
- Plastic film
- Crisp packets
- Hard plastics (toys, etc)
- Polystyrene

and trays.



✗ No thanks

- Anything recyclable
- Electrical items
- Hazardous waste
- DIY waste
- Gas bottles
- Batteries

A helping hand

The council's website is full of useful information. So, if you're not sure how to book a visit to our Household Reuse and Recycling Centre in Garth Road, Morden; report a missed bin collection; or let us know about dumped rubbish or an overflowing bin, visit merton.gov.uk/recycling



COMMUNAL FLATS

Collected every week



FOOD WASTE



RECYCLING



RUBBISH

Dreaming of a green Christmas

Christmas can end up being costly for the environment, as well as your purse. Here are some tips on how to reduce, reuse and recycle more this festive season.



- Plan your festive menus and gifts in advance to avoid buying too much, saving money and reducing waste.
- Flatten and recycle the cardboard boxes used to deliver your online shopping in your blue-lidded wheelie bin.



- Consider giving an experience rather than a present, like some babysitting, pantomime tickets or plan a day out. Or you could create a homemade gift.
- Buy all the vegetables for Christmas lunch loose, rather than in plastic wrapping, so you only pay for exactly what you need and reduce plastic waste.
- Recycle all of your turkey bones and vegetable peelings, using your weekly food waste collection service.

- Check use by and best before dates, so you can use up the food you buy before it goes off. Use your freezer to store food and take out what you need gradually over the festive season. If you do have too much leftover food, get creative in the kitchen with recipes from lovefoodhatewaste.com

- Do the scrunch test: if scrunched paper keeps its shape, then it can be recycled in your blue-lidded wheelie bin. If it bounces back or has glitter on, it needs to go in the rubbish bin.



- Make your own natural decorations from foliage like holly or mistletoe.
- Donate unwanted gifts to charity in the new year. Please avoid having a clear out over the festive season, which is the busiest time of year for your waste and recycling collection crews.
- Make it your new year's resolution to recycle more and waste less in 2026.

Tree collections

Real Christmas trees will be collected free of charge if they are put out by **6am on Tuesday 6 January**. After you have removed all the decorations, place your tree close to the front boundary of your property, or next to the bin store, if you live in a flat, without blocking the pavement. Alternatively, you can put it in your garden waste bin, if you are a subscriber, or book a visit to the Household Reuse and Recycling Centre in Garth Road, Morden, to take your tree to be composted. merton.gov.uk/garthroad





Blooming brilliant!

Competition shows how gardens grow in one of London's greenest boroughs.

Residents, schools and businesses entered gardens, hanging baskets and wildlife-friendly plots into the Merton in Bloom competition.

Returning to the borough this year, as part of the London in Bloom campaign, the competition was sponsored by *idverde*, Barkland Tree Specialists and Active Landscapes, and judged by volunteers.

Zoe Zidour, from Malmesbury Primary School in Morden, the winner of Best Bloomin' School Garden said: "Winning has raised the profile of gardening in our school and shown the children that their efforts are recognised by the wider community."



This year's winners included:

- Best Bloomin' School Garden:**
Malmesbury Primary School
- Best Bloomin' Front Garden:** Jayne Eldridge
- Best Bloomin' Allotment Plot:** Bridget Nolan
- Best Bloomin' Hanging Basket or Container Display:** Vestry Hall
- Best Bloomin' Business Garden:**
Hallmark Kew House Luxury Care Home
- Best Bloomin' Biodiversity Garden:**
Friends of Holland Gardens
- Best Bloomin' Community Garden:**
Vestry Hall Community Garden
- Volunteers of the Year:** Margo and Alan,
Friends of Holland Gardens

Find out more at
[merton.gov.uk/
mertoninbloom](https://merton.gov.uk/mertoninbloom)

MORE WAYS TO MOVE IN MERTON

Choose to move at your local leisure centres and you'll also support the health and wellbeing of your communities across Merton.

- Wimbledon Leisure Centre & Spa
- Morden Leisure Centre
- Canons Leisure Centre

better.org.uk/merton



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



Going for gold

Jamal Petgrave, from Mitcham, won a gold medal in the men's -90kg judo at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. He keeps active on and off the mat in London's Borough of Sport.

Where is your favourite place to train in Merton and why?

It's always been Canons Leisure Centre, which I've used for years. I like the gym and the pool for lighter, recovery-focused sessions. The atmosphere is great and many of my friends train there too. Other places are Sherwood Recreation Ground and Mitcham Common – I go there for longer runs and outdoor training.

Who inspired you to take up your sport?

My dad was the one who inspired me to take up judo. He practiced Kyokushin karate and earned his black belt, so martial arts were always a big part of his life. When I was younger, he took me along to a judo session, and I've been hooked ever since.

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

Judo feels like a game of chess. Even though it's a physical contest, you have to think strategically, adapt quickly, and find solutions in the moment. I also really appreciate the opportunities the sport has given me to travel and experience different countries and culture.

What other ways of being active do you enjoy?

I really enjoy going for runs, as they help me stay fit and clear my mind. I also like playing badminton when I get the opportunity, and I enjoy a game of football with friends too. In general, I've always loved being active and getting involved in anything sporty – it keeps me motivated, disciplined, and balanced.

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

Trying something new can feel intimidating at first, but once you take that first step, you've already overcome the biggest challenge. Start small and focus on being consistent, rather than worrying about results. The key is to keep showing up. Over time, you'll build confidence, improve, and discover how rewarding it can be.

Any other favourite places in Merton?

Morden Park: I love going for a walk there with the family whenever I have free time and getting a bite to eat at the cafe. Also watching the fireworks there!



Choose a new way to move using our Borough of Sport Activity Finder



© Sam Mellish



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
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- 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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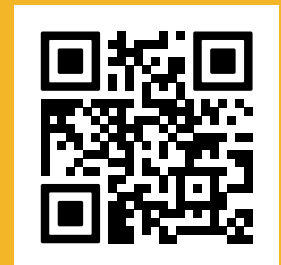
HAVE MORE ENERGY



Quit smoking. Start the new you.

Take the first step toward a smoke-free life with access to helpful resources.

Search: Smoke Free Merton



Join the Big Conversation

The We Are Merton Big Conversation has been extended into the new year.

Since spring, the council has been listening to your views about Merton and its future. If you haven't had your say yet, now's the time. Your ideas will help shape the council's plans and make sure they reflect what matters most to people across our borough.



Visit we-are-merton-big-conversation.commonplace.is. You can also visit your local library to complete a paper survey. Closing date 5 January 2026. We will also be at more community events this winter – stay tuned to our social media to find out where to talk to us.



Council tax support scheme



Each autumn, the council consults about our council tax support scheme for the following financial year. Read about the options for 2026/7 and share your views at merton-cts.commonplace.is

Help improve primary school childcare services



Do you have a child aged between five and 11 who lives in Merton or who is a pupil at a primary school in the borough? Do they attend a breakfast or an afterschool club? We want to hear your experience of using these types of childcare, including any barriers you may have faced to securing a place for your child. Your feedback will help us to develop future services. Share your views before 21 December at: merton-wraparound-childcare.commonplace.is



Have your say on the Merton budget consultation



The council is asking residents, businesses and community organisations to tell us what the priorities should be in the council's budget for the 2026/27 financial year. Visit mertonbudgetconsultation.commonplace.is to take part by 7 December.

Walking and Cycling Strategy consultation



Help the council make Merton's transport and streets safer, greener, and more accessible to all. Review the walking and cycling routes and provide your feedback by 14 December. merton-walking-cycling.commonplace.is

Drop-in sessions will be held on:

- **20 November 3.30–6.30pm** at The Vault, 102–110 London Road, Morden.
- **25 November 5–8pm** at Raynes Park Library, Approach Road.
- **28 November 1–4pm** at Mitcham Market Square, Upper Green East, Mitcham.



To subscribe to our WhatsApp channel, open the app, go to 'Updates' at the bottom, search 'Merton Council', and tap 'Follow'. Now you can receive live updates on all Big Conversation engagement events.

A man and a woman are sitting in a hot tub, looking at each other and smiling. The hot tub is set against a wall of large, dark stone tiles. Above them is a large, circular mirror that reflects the interior of the spa, including a shower area and some plants. The lighting is warm and ambient.

INDOOR POOL | SPA | GYM | CLASSES | CLUBROOM
CRÈCHE | DL KIDS | REFORMER PILATES

David Lloyd

— CLUBS —

COLLIERS WOOD

OPENING 27TH NOVEMBER

SECURE YOUR INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP
[DAVIDLLOYD.CO.UK/COLLIERS-WOOD](https://www.davidlloyd.co.uk/colliers-wood)

We will remember them

People across Merton paid tribute to the service and sacrifice of veterans and those serving in the armed forces and their families.

Services were held in Mitcham and Wimbledon to mark Remembrance Sunday, as well as two in Mitcham and Morden on Armistice Day. The year 2025 is the 80th anniversary year of Victory in Europe Day and Victory in Japan Day.





START OF THE LINE

Saturday
20 June 2026
12-9pm
Morden Park
Morden

Earlybird: £15
Second release: £20
12 and under: FREE

FESTIVAL

Featuring:

Main Stage Headliners TBA, Mitcham Dreamer
Stage produced by RAMZ, Polka Theatre
Playden, Carnival Parade, Dance, Debate, Poetry,
Theatre Performances



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ENGLAND



CHASE CHRISTMAS TREES

"YOU PICK . WE PROVIDE"

🎄 WE SELL A WIDE SELECTION OF:

- TREES
- STANDS
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JOSEPH HOOD PARK,
318 MARTIN WAY, LONDON
SW20 9BX

🎄 07779 779523

🎄 FREE LOCAL DELIVERY



@CHASE_CHRISTMAS_TREES

Making a cultural impact

A new wave of funding is set to bring creative energy and new audiences to some of Merton's most loved heritage sites.



© Matt Pereira Photography

A council-led programme is now offering grants of up to £10,000 for local projects celebrating Merton's culture and history.

The Culture and Heritage Grants scheme invites applications from individuals, organisations and collectives looking to deliver creative projects anywhere in Merton: from performances and visual arts to workshops, events or installations. Activities could take place in parks, pubs, shops, high streets or more traditional heritage venues such as museums.

Designed to help people of all ages connect with local history and feel proud of where they live, the funding will support creative projects that bring stories to life and encourage residents to explore their local heritage.



© Rebecca Cresta Photography

The grants form part of We Are Merton, a three-year programme increasing culture and creativity in the borough. This activity is thanks to funding from a Cultural Impact Award, part of the Mayor's London Borough of Culture programme, which has been matched by the council. The Culture and Heritage Grants are funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to celebrate the history of our borough.

Kickstarted by the borough's 60th birthday celebrations earlier this year, We Are Merton continues to showcase everything that makes the area unique, from events and exhibitions to community arts and local talent.

Heritage professionals across the borough are keen to raise awareness of Merton's unique history and its role in building Merton's present day culture. Mick Taylor, who runs the Wandle Industrial Museum in Mitcham, said: "We have a rich heritage in Merton which, at times, gets overlooked. Many of the industries of the Wandle were founded by people from different cultural backgrounds to those who were already living here. They not only brought the skills and knowledge they had with them, but immersed themselves into the culture of the existing population."



Can you imagine your project at one of Merton's venues?

Applications close on 18 December.

Find out more and take part at merton.gov.uk/culture



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
MAYOR OF LONDON



© Rebecca Cresta Photography

What's on in Merton

A roundup of events across the borough this festive season.

27 November– 14 December Christmas Markets

The Wimbledon Christmas Market on the Piazza will be held over three long weekends, with a variety of stalls selling gift ideas and hot food.

**Thursdays and Fridays,
12 noon–7pm; Saturdays and
Sundays 11am–6pm. The Piazza,
The Broadway, Wimbledon.
lovewimbledon.org/whats-on**

29 November– 27 December Abbey Mills Markets

Located on an historic riverside site, which was once home to an 18th century textile works, supported by the council. **Markets are held on the second and last Saturdays of the month between 9am–3pm; plus a night market on 4 December, 7–10pm.**
abbeymillsmarket.com

29 November– 25 January The Snowflake

Based on the timeless Christmas story by Benji Davies, *The Snowflake* tells the tale of a snowflake and a little girl who are both looking for their own special place in the world.

Tickets from £13.
polkathatre.com/event/the-snowflake

28 November A Very Morden Christmas

Enjoy performances by school choirs, browse stalls at the Christmas market and have a photo with Santa and his reindeer at this free, family event. There will be plenty of festive activities to enjoy, including arts and crafts, face painting and live music. The Christmas lights will be switched on at 5pm. **2–7pm in Abbotsbury Road, Morden.**
Free. merton.gov.uk/events



The Snowflake at Polka Theatre

Photo © Ellie Kurtz

**29 November–
4 January**

Great Reindeer Hunt

Six of Father Christmas's reindeer have gone missing and they're hiding in the park. Follow the festive trail, solve the clues and find jokes, challenges and facts along the way. **£2 per trail sheet from the garden centre, 10am–4pm, Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Road. nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/london/morden-hall-park/events**

**30 November
Young Makers'
Christmas Market**

Shop for unique, hand-crafted gifts and support young entrepreneurs and artists aged between 16 and 25. The Wandle Concert Band will be playing Christmas music from 2pm. **10am–4pm. Morden Hall Park, Morden Hall Road. nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/london/morden-hall-park/events**

**4 December
Festive Block Printing**

Join us for a Christmas block printing session to make community bunting. Led by textile artist Sarah McAlister and Made in Merton. All materials provided. **Drop-in 2–4pm. Age seven plus. Free. Pawelek Cafe at Canons House and Grounds, Mitcham. thecanonsmitcham.co.uk/events-activities**

**5 December
Mayor's Christmas dinner**

The event will begin with a drinks reception; followed by a three course meal; then dancing and a raffle. Proceeds from the event will be donated



to the Mayor's charities – Wimbledon Guild, Merton and Morden Guild and the Commonsides Community Development Trust. **Pawelek Restaurant, 242–244 London Road, Mitcham. £50 per person. Booking essential by 28 November. Call 020 8545 3517 or email: mayor@merton.gov.uk**

**5 December–4 January
Robin Hood pantomime**

The New Wimbledon Theatre will be transformed into Sherwood Forest this pantomime season for a production of *Robin Hood*, starring Ashley Banjo and Diversity, plus magician and comedian Pete Firman. **Tickets from £15. atgtickets.com/new-wimbledon-theatre**

**6 December
Small Business
Saturday**

Get your Christmas shopping wrapped up and give the local economy a boost by supporting your high street traders, independent stores and family-run firms this Small Business Saturday.

**6 December
Christmas Fair**

Shop for festive gifts and crafts, as well as decor and vintage clothes, in a festive extravaganza over two floors. Visit the wellbeing den and enjoy homemade cakes and hot food in the mulled wine cafe. **10.30am–4pm. Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham. Free entry**

Add your events for 2026 to our free online events calendar **merton.gov.uk/events**

7 December
Christmas at
Morden Park House

Enjoy Christmas lights, live music, Santa's grotto, delicious food and warming drinks, all in the grounds of this beautiful Georgian house and its walled gardens, with a host of festive activities and attractions for the whole family.

12 noon–6pm, Morden Park House, Morden Park. Tickets from mordenparkhouse.com/events

13 December
Mitcham Market

Our monthly Mitcham Market will have a festive twist with decorations and music to entertain visitors doing their Christmas shopping. **11am–4pm, Mitcham Market Square**

13–24 December
Santa's grotto

Come down to the farm and meet the animals and Santa, who will be in his farmyard workshop. **Deen City Farm, 39 Windsor Avenue, Merton Abbey. Tickets £8.50. deencityfarm.co.uk/events**

14 December
A Tudor Christmas

Travel back to December 1546 when King Henry VIII was preparing to visit Wimbledon. Learn about the royal visit and create traditional Tudor decorations including beeswax candles and clove-studded oranges at this family craft workshop. **1.30pm, Wimbledon Museum, 22 Ridgway, Wimbledon. Tickets £15 per child. wimbledonociety.org.uk/museum/whats-on**



25 December
Christmas Day lunch

Churches Together in Mitcham are organising a free two course Christmas lunch for anyone who will be on their own on Christmas Day, at Vestry Hall in London Road, Mitcham. There is no charge, but advance booking is essential. Free minibus transport is available on a first-come, first-served basis only. **Doors open 11am–4pm, with Christmas lunch served at 1pm. Book a place by calling 07933 861726 or email: bookings.xmaslunch@gmail.com** Volunteers are needed to help on the day. If you could help set tables, serve food or drive guests to the venue, email: mags.alexander@blueyonder.co.uk

25 December
Christmas dinner

The Alexandra pub will once again open its doors to provide a free Christmas dinner for anyone who is alone on 25 December. The initiative was started in 2014 as a way to combat loneliness and is open to anyone who is spending the day by themselves. **alexandrawimbledon.com/christmas**

Various dates
Christmas series

Count down the days until Christmas with a range of festive activities in our award-winning libraries, including family film screenings, writing letters to Santa, storytimes and creative crafting sessions. **merton.events.mylibrary.digital**

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

merton.bluebadge@necsws.com

020 3324 1877 (weekdays 9am–5pm)

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)

Your Christmas and New Year collections

Recycling and waste collections will change over the festive season:

Your usual collection day	Your revised collection day	Change
Thursday 25 December 2025	Saturday 27 December 2025	2 days later
Friday 26 December 2025	Monday 29 December 2025	3 days later
Monday 29 December 2025	Tuesday 30 December 2025	1 day later
Tuesday 30 December 2025	Wednesday 31 December 2025	1 day later
Wednesday 31 December 2025	Friday 2 January 2026	2 days later
Thursday 1 January 2026	Saturday 3 January 2026	2 days later
Friday 2 January 2026	Monday 5 January 2026	3 days later
Monday 5 January 2026	Tuesday 6 January 2026	1 day later
Tuesday 6 January 2026	Wednesday 7 January 2026	1 day later
Wednesday 7 January 2026	Thursday 8 January 2026	1 day later
Thursday 8 January 2026	Friday 9 January 2026	1 day later
Friday 9 January 2026	Saturday 10 January 2026	1 day later

Please put your bins out by 6am on your collection day

Collections return to normal from Monday 12 January 2026.

Christmas collections for flats above shops will follow a different schedule. Residents who live in a flat above a shop will receive written details of their revised collection schedule.

Household Reuse and Recycling Centre (HRRC) in Garth Road, Morden

The HRRC will be open 8am–4pm, Monday–Sunday over the festive period with the following exceptions: Christmas Eve – 8am–midday.

Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day – closed.

Advance booking via our website is essential: merton.gov.uk/garthroad

Christmas tree collection information can be found in your Recycling News on page 18.