Love Your Street and your parks this summer

Find out the latest on St Helier Hospital

Top 10 summer activities in Merton

Classics in the Park tickets on sale now!

Win tickets to a New Wimbledon Theatre show on page 14
The Leader of Merton Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, writes for My Merton.

As I sat on the top deck of the 93 from Morden to Wimbledon last week, I was struck by the new flats being built near South Wimbledon tube station.

With housing so hard to come by in London, I can imagine the excitement of the new residents who will move in, once the flats have been completed.

These are tough financial times for the council, but one way we can invest in the future is by working with other organisations to achieve more for our residents.

The council has a key role over planning in the borough and we use our powers to encourage building developers to build the kind of developments we need in Merton. This can help create new jobs, new homes to address the huge shortage of housing across London, and new facilities.

A great example is the work we are doing with developers to rebuild two of our libraries. Both Colliers Wood Library and West Barnes Library will be replaced by new libraries with improved facilities as well as new homes. But at a time when our funding from central government has been reduced, the good news for the council is that we have been able to do this and save money at the same time.

This is the kind of business-like and innovative approach that Merton excels at. Although local government is facing many challenges, we have been able to work creatively to come up with new ways of delivering the affordable services that our residents need the most.

Once residents move in to their new homes in South Wimbledon I look forward to bumping into them on the top deck. And I’ll be sure to tell them to check out our new library in Colliers Wood when it’s open for business!

PS: I’m crossing my fingers that it’s going to be a sunny summer and we can all enjoy Merton’s great parks. When the weather is good there tends to be more litter from picnics so if you do notice a build up call us on 020 8545 9750 and we’ll clean it up.
Logo unveiled to celebrate Merton’s 50th year

Local school children and dignitaries, past and present, came together at Merton Council’s civic centre in Morden to see the unveiling of a special Golden Jubilee logo designed by Stella Rodriguez (8 years) from Singlegate School.

The winning design was revealed to all just ahead of the first full council meeting of the new council year in April. At the occasion the then Mayor Councillor Agatha Akyiggina celebrated the council’s 50th year with former Mayors, current and former councillors and long-serving council officers. Local school children and their parents were all there and everyone present enjoyed a performance from the young musicians of Merton Music Foundation as well as seeing the Merton’s Golden Moments film depicting life in Merton over the last 50 years.

There are lots of celebratory events taking place as part of Merton’s Golden Jubilee.

Gearing up for RideLondon

Merton residents will see the Prudential RideLondon cycle events up close on Sunday 2 August as thousands of amateur and professional cyclists come whizzing through Wimbledon and Raynes Park, many raising money for charity.

RideLondon is working with the council and residents to make sure that the event is a great day by planning ahead and involving the community and local businesses.

Residents are encouraged to come out and join in the range of events that will be taking place in Raynes Park, Wimbledon and Wimbledon Village and spread out along the route to get the best views and cheer on the riders.

Find out more:
Check the Transport for London and Prudential RideLondon websites for help planning any journeys you make on the day as the festival will be on many London and Surrey roads.

www.tfl.gov.uk/ride-london
www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk

Merton Council employee Tony Richards is the Mayor of Merton’s rider this year – come out and support him on the day.

Children – get reading this summer!

The Summer Reading Challenge kicks off on 11 July and Merton’s libraries are encouraging all 4 to 11 year olds to get involved. With over 10,000 of Merton’s young people signing up last year, this year’s reading challenge is set to be a big hit too. The challenge encourages children to read six of their chosen books over the summer. They can be fact, fiction, picture or audio books, just as long as they are borrowed from the library.

Find out more:
merton.gov.uk/libraries
Residents choose their MP
In May, residents went to the ballot box to vote for the Members of Parliament to represent them in the House of Commons for the next five years. In the Mitcham constituency, Labour candidate Siobhain McDonagh held her seat with 61% of the total vote. Conservative candidate Stephen Hammond also held his seat in the Wimbledon constituency with 52% of the total vote. For the full results of the election visit merton.gov.uk/electionresults

New Mayor for Merton
Councillor David Chung, ward councillor for Longthornton in Mitcham, has been appointed the new Mayor of Merton 2015/16. Councillor Pauline Cowper, who represents Cannon Hill ward, will be supporting Councillor Chung as Deputy Mayor.

Elected to Merton Council in 2002 Councillor Chung, who is a wheelchair user, is actively involved in health and well-being matters in the local community. He is an avid supporter of the voluntary sector and dedicated to addressing the issues of climate change.

During the formal Mayor making ceremony at full council in May, Councillor Chung announced that his chosen charities for his tenure are Merton Centre for Independent Living (CIL) and Friends in St Helier (FISH). He will also hold fundraising events for children’s charity One Life and the Alzheimer’s Society.

Merton recognises local heroes
Heroes from Merton are to be recognised this summer at the Merton Civic Awards, hosted by the Wimbledon Guardian in association with Merton Council. School teachers, mothers and exceptional youngsters of all ages are up for a well-deserved award. Heroes who have gone above and beyond to help people or to deal with a particularly challenging situation include Paul Kohler, who suffered at the hands of violent burglars at his Wimbledon home last year, and Jack Fishwick, who was paralysed in a rugby accident. Younger nominees include weightlifters and a girl who gives up her time to help other children read. Residents have nominated businesses and organisations like Merton Music Foundation, Tots Landing and estate agency, Andrew Scott Robinson. The winners will be announced at a special event in Wimbledon on 15 July. (find out more www.wimbledonguardian.co.uk/mertoncivicawards

Tell us your traffic hotspots
Residents told the council in the last annual residents’ survey that congestion is a major concern for them. One of the ways to ease congestion is by enforcing moving traffic offences which include yellow box junctions, no right turns and keeping bus lanes free during busy periods. The council will be using a new system of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras to monitor these traffic contraventions later this year, replacing CCTV vehicles. Not only will this free up staff time to deal with other issues, it will improve the behaviour of motorists and allow everyone to get around the borough more quickly.
You could win a prize by letting the council know about traffic hotspots where cameras could help. (find out more merton.gov.uk/parking

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Safer refuse trucks for safer roads

Merton Council is fitting sidebars to all of its refuse trucks that weigh over 7.5 tonnes in order to make the roads safer for cyclists. The bars will prevent cyclists becoming trapped under the vehicles. The installation is part of the council’s drive to make cycling safer and make its heavy goods vehicles compliant with the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). Merton is offering free Safer Urban Driver Training for all companies in the borough whose drivers need to complete their Certificate of Professional Competence accreditation. The council also offers free cycle training for residents.

Merton befriending service

The council is calling on residents who can spare one hour a week, to spend it keeping a senior resident company. Merton’s Befriending initiative, a free service run by Age UK and funded by Merton Council, pairs residents aged 65 years and over who are living in isolation with local volunteers. Residents can choose to receive a phone call or visit once a week. Volunteers will receive training and will be reimbursed for their expenses.

Fostering why you should go for it

Lucy is the birth child of a Merton family who regularly foster. We asked her... what is it really like?

How did you feel when the first foster child came to stay?
I was really excited. The first child that came to stay with us was a baby boy. The last time we had a baby in the house was when my little sister was born and I was too young then to help my mum. But this time I could so I was really happy.

How does it feel to be part of a foster family?
It is interesting and exciting. We get to meet lots of other foster families and their birth children. We get to go to fun events and parties. But it’s difficult explaining to my friends as they confuse it with adoption so I need to explain that the children only stay with us for short periods of time.

What type of relationship do you have with the foster child?
I see it as being an older sister. I help our foster children the way I would help my little brother.

What would you say to a family with children who are interested in fostering?
I would say go for it! It helps your children learn more about society and the world around them a bit more.

Call us today 0800 073 0874
Celebrating Age festival

Merton’s 13th Celebrating Age Festival launches on 7 September with lots of fun activities planned for the month. The festival, co-ordinated by Age Concern and funded by Merton Council, provides residents over the age of 50 with opportunities to learn new activities, socialise and meet new people. Some of the activities lined up this year include scenic walks, outings to the races and singing workshops.

Junior Neighbourhood Watch

Children from Morden Primary School took part in Merton Junior Neighbourhood Watch. The joint initiative between the council, Merton Neighbourhood Watch and Circle Housing Wardens took place in the council chamber. The children took part in five interactive sessions on crime prevention, environmental crime, anti-social behaviour, finger print taking, litter picking and how to help the police identify suspects.

Love Your Street gets Brownies’ thumbs up

The third Morden Brownies (from St John Fisher) helped to spread the Love Your Street message in Merton this spring. After signing up to the council’s Love Your Street pledge, the Brownies along with the council’s litter enforcement team, picked litter from Cannon Hill Lane, Cannon Hill Common and Joseph Hood Recreation Ground. Find out more about the Love Your Street campaign on page 11.

Managing illegal encampments

Merton has seen a number of illegal traveller encampments over the past few months. Where this happens on private land it is up to the owner of the land to take action and the council does not intervene. However the council is committed to protecting its own land. But its duty of care to check on people’s health and wellbeing means that it can take a while to move people on. Once all checks are done, the council works with the police to ensure the site is vacated and cleaned up so it is ready for the public to enjoy again. Residents who spot an unauthorised encampment on council land can contact the property management team on 020 8545 3071.

Fieldgate Lane clean-up

Fieldgate Lane in Mitcham has been given a makeover thanks to the council’s new Love Your Street campaign. Working in partnership with Sustainable Merton and Barratt Homes, the council’s clean team helped transform the previously run down, littered and disused site into an urban orchard for the whole community. Read more on page 11.

Style Junkie exhibition

Winners of Merton’s recycling competition Style Junkies, that saw students design costumes using recyclable material, are on display at the Sustainable Living Centre in Morden Hall Park. The exhibition runs until 26 July from 11am to 4pm. For details about drop-in workshops this summer turn to page 13.

Fieldgate Lane clean-up

Find out more

merton.gov.uk/LoveYourStreet for future clean ups

Managing illegal encampments

Find out more

merton.gov.uk/stylejunkies

Celebrating Age festival

Find out more

www.ageuk.org/merton
**Keeping Merton informed**

**Merton’s musical stars**

1,500 young musicians from Merton schools performed in front of a packed audience at the world renowned Royal Albert Hall earlier this spring. The show was part of Music is for Life that takes place every two years. The performance was worked on with schools over the last six months, organised by the Merton Music Foundation. The charity, based in Morden and funded by the council offers high quality music education to children in the borough. [find out more](www.mmf.org.uk)

**Local war heroes’ lives to be carved in stone**

Merton’s war history is set to be carved in stone thanks to descendants of the borough’s First World War heroes.

As part of the new Carved in Stone project, the council’s heritage team will be hosting War Story on Saturday 1 August from 11am–5pm at Morden Library. They will be interviewing Merton residents whose relatives fought in the First World War, or supported the local war effort. Anyone who would like to take part can get in touch with the heritage team by calling 020 8545 3339. Information provided through the interviews and the Carved in Stone project will be added to the Merton Memories website for everyone to see. The whole community is welcome to come along to the War Story Day where there will be a range of activities, exhibitions and talks taking place. [find out more](merton.gov.uk/carvedinstone)

**Nominate your community champion**

Residents have until 23 September to put forward their nominations for the Merton Community Champion awards. The awards recognise members of the community who work for or with public organisations that go the extra mile to make Merton a better place. This could include a member of the police, fire brigade, NHS or a volunteer who supports the council in their spare time. [find out more](merton.gov.uk/communitychampion)

**Gym membership only £19.95 a month. A better way to keep fit.**

**Canons Leisure Centre**

At Canons Leisure Centre, you can get fit and stay healthy with our gym only membership from just £19.95 a month.

If you ever want to vary your routine with swimming, group exercise, or visit another Better gym, it costs just £3 per activity.

Why not try it today? Join now at [www.better.org.uk/canons](http://www.better.org.uk/canons)

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Terms and conditions apply, visit [www.better.org.uk](http://www.better.org.uk) for more information. Activation fee of £15 applies. Members can purchase one activity, ‘top-up’ for a group exercise class, swim, or use another Better gym facility for £3.00 per activity. Other activities will be at an additional cost. We reserve the right to withdraw this offer without prior notice. Full terms and conditions are available at the point of purchase, please speak to a member of staff. Registered address: GLL, Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London SE18 6SX. Registered No. 27793R. Inland Revenue Charity No. XR43398.
Investing in better libraries for the future

Unlike some other councils who have closed libraries due to reductions in government funding, Merton has used its business-like approach to keep all its libraries open. Record numbers of you are using them to borrow books, take advantage of free Wi-Fi and take part in one of the many activities including health classes and reading groups. In fact our libraries welcomed more than 1.2million visitors last year. My Merton finds out more.

Two popular Merton libraries are about to be completely rebuilt, to benefit future generations. Donald Hope library in Colliers Wood and West Barnes library, both of which are in need of redevelopment, will be rebuilt thanks to deals negotiated by the council as part of new housing developments. This means the new libraries can be provided at a reduced cost to council taxpayers.

Donald Hope library will vacate its current premises in Cavendish House this summer for a temporary location at the Guardian Centre for the Blind, Clarendon Road, Colliers Wood. It will remain there for up to two years while Cavendish House is redeveloped with new apartments to address housing need locally and with a spacious, modern library across three floors. The new library will include a coffee shop, three meeting rooms and activity zones, including a children’s area.

We’re still finalising the details of the new library in West Barnes – watch this space for more details.

Record breaking challenge

It’s nearly time for children aged four to 11 to rise to the Summer Reading Challenge. This year the theme is record breakers, drawing on the super-human feats to be found in the pages of the Guinness World Record books, and other works of fact and fiction.

The challenge runs from 11 July to 12 September and invites children to read six library books during the period, collecting stickers, bookmarks and other give-aways as they go. Complete the challenge and you’ll receive a certificate, medal and voucher for a free meal at Chipotle in Wimbledon. The challenge is a national scheme. But Merton entrants will be entered in a local draw with some fantastic prizes to be announced.

(find out more)

merton.gov.uk/libraries
Council demands full disclosure of hospital plans

Despite the success so far in protecting St Helier hospital from closure or being downgraded, recent revelations show the future of the health service is far from secure.

Merton Council has pledged to continue campaigning to secure the long-term future of St Helier hospital, following news reports of secret plans to close it.

The plans were reported on BBC London in April after the hospital trust’s management consultants were overheard discussing options for the site on a train, with closing St Helier hospital their preferred option.

The council has expressed shock that these plans are under discussion despite previous assurances from health bosses that the hospital’s future was safe. The council has called for the plans to be made public and has reasserted its commitment to fighting to retain St Helier hospital.

Cllr Stephen Alambris, Leader of the Council, said: “We are demanding full disclosure of these plans and we will fight to keep our hospital open.”

It’s the council’s view that the best way of doing this is to invest to improve St Helier hospital on its current site. St Helier hospital is situated in a well populated area with high numbers of families and older people who rely on having health services close at hand. Merton is a borough of health inequalities, where life expectancy can vary dramatically depending on which ward you live in. The council believes that accessible public health services are vital to addressing that.

Local people and campaigners have fought plans to downgrade or close the hospital for the past decade. The council is clear that it will not give up on this fight.
Merton’s streets have been treated to a spring spruce-up thanks to the council’s Love Your Street campaign and the work of residents, local organisations, community groups and Merton Council as part of a programme of Love Your Street borough-wide clean-up events.

**Working with communities**
Fifteen clean-up events have taken place as part of the Love Your Street campaign so far, with over 120 bags of rubbish collected by volunteers and the council to date! If you haven’t yet joined your neighbours and the council in a spruce-up event, keep an eye out for more planned over the summer months at merton.gov.uk/LoveYourStreet

**Transforming local areas**
The Love Your Street campaign is all about the council working with residents, community groups, schools and businesses to keep Merton clean and tidy and to make a stand against the small minority of people who litter. Fieldgate Lane is a top example of what can be achieved when the whole community works together.

Working in partnership with Sustainable Merton and Barratt Homes, the council’s clean team helped local residents to transform the disused and run-down site into an urban orchard that can be enjoyed by the whole community for years to come. Fifty people from Merton Council, Sustainable Merton, Circle Housing Merton Priory, Merton Chamber of Commerce, Baitul Futuh Mosque and local residents came along to plant a variety of fruit trees and bushes including Merton variety apple trees, herbs and other plants.

**Prize for pledging to Love Your Street**
Morden resident Mike Roberts is the first winner of the Love Your Street prize draw, taking home a £100 One4All voucher.

After signing up to the Love Your Street pledge, Mike was chosen as the lucky winner of the prize draw for the first gift voucher which is kindly sponsored by eddisonwhite estate agents.

Thanks to everyone who has taken the pledge so far and for showing your support for the campaign. Make sure you put the campaign sticker in your window to show you’ve made the pledge! It is also great to see so many businesses and schools showing their ongoing commitment to keeping Merton clean. Take a look at who has signed up so far on page 22.

To take the pledge visit merton.gov.uk/LoveYourStreet.
Be green and clean this summer

Thanks to the warmer weather, more people are out and about in Merton enjoying picnics, walks in the park and barbecues. Often this means that there is more waste produced over the summer months. The council’s clean team is on-hand to make sure Merton’s town centres, streets and parks stay clean and tidy.

Keeping town centres clean

Merton Council’s clean team has been hitting town centres with their brand new ‘Glutton’ street cleaning machines that are designed to suck up all kinds of waste and litter.Enabling the council’s clean team to cover a larger area in a shorter amount of time than previously, the five new Glutton machines are environmentally friendly and vacuum up any waste that will pass through its 12.5cm tube, including paper, cigarette packets and butts, cans and glass, plastic and metal bottles, dog poo, dead leaves, waste trapped in tree grills and more.

The introduction of the new Glutton machines builds on the council’s other work to keep Merton clean including its partnership with environmental enforcement specialists, raising on-the-spot penalty charges to £80, the installation of special gum and cigarette butt bins across the borough and high-tech smart bins in parks. There are also recycling-on-the-go bins installed at stations across the borough so there’s never an excuse to drop litter in Merton!

Keeping parks green

The solar bins in parks will be hard at work over the summer, using innovative technology to deal with any rubbish in a modern, efficient way. These special bins use solar power to operate internal compactors which squash down the rubbish inside, massively increasing the capacity of each bin and sending a signal to the parks team to let them know when they are full. We also have recycling bins installed in many of our parks.

If you notice a build-up of litter on a sunny weekend, phone 020 8545 9750 to let our team know.

Our enforcement officers will be out and about in parks too, helping to deter people from dropping litter and will charge anyone they catch littering with an £80 fine.
Now you can recycle even more

As well as doing your bit to keep your local area clean, you can really make a difference to the environment by recycling as much as possible. Recycling in Merton is so easy now and we collect so many materials, including empty aerosols, cartons, tetrapaks, tins and cans and all plastic tubs and food trays.

To check out the range of materials that you can recycle or to order extra recycling boxes or food waste caddies visit merton.gov.uk/recycling.

Recycling tips

To mark National Recycle Week, which took place mid-June, and to help you recycle even more, here are some handy recycling tips:

- No need to separate recycling into different boxes
- Rinse and clean recyclable food containers
- Put out as much recycling as you like and we will collect it
- Labels, caps and lids can all be recycled
- Flatten cardboard and squash plastic bottles to make more room in our lorries
- Don’t forget to use our food-waste collection service. It’s a great way to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, saving council taxpayers’ money.

Bigger fines for litter louts

As part of its zero-tolerance approach to the small minority of people who litter, the council has increased on-the-spot fixed penalty notices (FPNs) from £75 to £80 since 1 April this year.

The additional money will go straight back into the council’s environmental enforcement and street cleaning services.

Style Junkies exhibition

Over 50 students from the Wimbledon College of Art and 19 Merton schools took part in the Mega Recycle Style Junkies competition to create innovative costumes from waste material and second-hand clothes.

The winning pieces from the competition will be on display at the Sustainable Living Centre, the Stable Yard, Morden Hall Park, 11am to 4pm, until 26 July 2015.

Alongside the fabulous costumes, you will see how recycled materials are reprocessed and can try out some fantastic chairs and other objects made from recycled materials.

Free drop-in workshops will complement the exhibition. On 5 July you can help Georgie Jefferies make a costume from recycled materials. On 12, 19 and 26 July you can draw and collage your vision of a recycled house, which artist Rosa Nussbaum will insert into a virtual landscape. See how your visions for an eco-future could become a reality!

Do your bit to keep Merton clean

Residents, community groups and the council have been working together to keep Merton squeaky clean as part of the council’s Love Your Street campaign. To find out how you can get involved over the summer, see page 11.
Win a group ticket to see the critically acclaimed Britain’s Got Bhangra at New Wimbledon Theatre

Shake your shoulders, twist that light bulb; this is the story of how Britain’s Got Bhangra!

Farmer’s son Twinkle moves from the fields in Punjab to the streets of Southall to make a better life for himself and his wife. With no money, but a gifted voice, he becomes a star on the growing Bhangra music scene.

Following Twinkle’s fortune through the rise of Bhangra and the evolution of the music scene and multicultural Britain from the 1980s to the current day, this colourful, energetic musical is guaranteed to lift you from the Dhol Drums!

Britain’s Got Bhangra will be at New Wimbledon Theatre from Monday 28 September to Saturday 3 October.

To book tickets, visit www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon or call 0844 871 7646* booking fee applies. For your chance to win a family ticket for four, simply answer the following question:

What area in London does the main character Twinkle move to from Punjab?
A) Pall Mall
B) Southall
C) Whitehall

In your answer you must include the following: name, email address, phone number and postal address. You can email your answer to communications@merton.gov.uk or write to us at My Merton, 7th floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX. The closing date for entries is Friday 24 July.

Terms and conditions: The tickets are non-transferable. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in this prize. The competition is for one group ticket (four tickets) to see Britain’s Got Bhangra at New Wimbledon Theatre, valid on any performance between Monday 28 September–Thursday 1 October.
Merton means business

Merton is officially London’s number one small-business friendly borough. The council received the accolade from the Federation of Small Businesses last year, in recognition of the high level of support and advice provided to start-ups and existing businesses. My Merton finds out more.

There are over 5,000 businesses operating in the borough from small traders, shops and cafes to the headquarters of international companies. They form the lifeblood of the borough, providing jobs for more than 75,000 people, and the council has committed to support them through the difficult economic climate of the past few years.

Working with partners including the Chamber of Commerce, the council has invested £600k in its Merton Business Support Service (MBSS) to help create and sustain business and jobs. The service’s experienced consultants and advisors help new and expanding businesses with issues including law, tax, marketing and strategy as well as providing opportunities for networking and training.

Merton’s business loans scheme can also provide the finance which small businesses may struggle to access from traditional lenders. Loans of between £10,000 and £22,000 may be available to businesses with the potential to grow and smaller micro grants may be available to help people starting out.

As well as financial support, the council’s Future Merton team play a key role advising local businesses. One company to benefit is Wimbletech, a hub and rental space for technology start-ups, based in Wimbledon Library. Wimbletech was set up by local entrepreneur David Fletcher who received support from the council. He said, “Since we launched a year ago, Wimbletech, with incredible support from Future Merton and the library, has created a sustainable home for start-ups and co-workers in the borough that has provided jobs, training and free community events.”

With an eye to the future the council also works with Merton Chamber of Commerce to boost apprenticeships in the borough. Their Take One scheme encourages businesses of all kinds to pledge to ‘take one’ young person on as an intern or apprentice and provides the support to make the placement a success. So far over 100 young people have successfully completed an apprenticeship in Merton.

Need business support?

Merton Chamber of Commerce (MCC) is on hand to give your business a boost with business planning and growth. For more information about membership with the MCC and to see case studies about businesses who have had great success since joining, visit www.mertonchamber.co.uk

find out more:
MBSS helpdesk on 020 8619 0700, email helpdesk@mertonbusinesssupport.co.uk or visit www.mertonchamber.co.uk/merton-business-support-service
Wherever you live in Merton, you’re never too far from a relaxing green space. You’ll find more than 100 parks and gardens dotted around the borough, from sporty Wimbledon Park to the natural Wandle Trail, to the wilds of Mitcham Common. So whether it’s a family picnic or something more active, get ready to enjoy the great outdoors. Here’s our guide to the top ten ways of getting the best out of summer on your doorstep, and many of them are free.

1 **Flex your muscles**
Get fit for free with Merton’s nine outdoor gyms at locations including Figges Marsh, Pollards Hill and Mostyn Gardens. Equipment includes cross trainers and chest and leg presses. Work a visit to one of the gyms into your training routine or add it to a jog, to build stamina and muscle tone in the fresh air.

2 **Team effort**
If you haven’t played team sports for a while, call up a few mates and book a pitch. Merton’s parks cater for a wide range of sports including soft ball, beach volley ball and lacrosse. New this year is the multi-purpose games area at Dundonald Rec equipped for tennis or netball and the multi-use games area at the Canons Leisure Centre.

3 **Take a dip**
Merton has six paddling pools and two super interactive water play areas, in Wimbledon Park and Tamworth recreation ground, Mitcham. All are open from 10am to 5pm every day of the summer holidays. Wimbledon Park paddling pool is open already.

4 **Take to two wheels**
For anyone not sure about cycling we have a range of free schemes to give you the bike confidence to enjoy this fun and green form of transport, whatever your level of experience. There are also free classes in bike maintenance and guided summer cycle rides.
Summer in Merton

5 Classics in the park
Enjoy an outdoor spectacular when Wimbledon Park’s athletics stadium is transformed into a musical arena on 11 and 12 September. The City of London Sinfonia, conducted by Stuart Stratford will perform popular classics accompanied by a fireworks show.

6 All the fun of the fair
Mitcham’s historic Status Fair has been a summer fixture in the borough since Elizabethan times. It will be taking place as usual at Three Kings Piece in August.

7 Travel to the moon
This summer help Merton travel the distance from the earth to the moon! Take part in Merton on the Move, the council’s borough-wide campaign to get residents active. Measure your walks, jogs and cycle rides by downloading the free Yomp app on your smartphone and track how many miles you travel and calories you burn. You don’t have to be a fitness fanatic to take part, every step counts. Individuals, groups and workplaces can sign up and there will be prizes and challenges along the way.

8 Bowled over
Bowls is a great sport for all ages. It’s easy to learn, gets you out in the fresh air and, by joining a local club, you’ll quickly meet new people. There are a number of bowling greens across the borough. Check online to find out your nearest one.

9 Try something new
Young people aged eight to 16 can have a summer holiday to remember with Merton Active Plus courses at venues across the borough. Try a new sport such as golf, BMX or horse riding or leave dry land behind and give sailing or kayaking a go. For something more creative learn to sew yourself a bag or get expert coaching in writing a song.

10 Wet and wild
If you’ve ever fancied chartering a boat on the high seas or canoeing down the rapids, Wimbledon Watersports Centre is definitely the place to start. Check out the wide range of opportunities to try something new, whatever your age – from over 50s’ sailing each Wednesday in term time to pay and play family sailing sessions for just £15 an hour including instruction.

Find out more
- For all you need to know about our green spaces visit merton.gov.uk/parks
- For cycle training visit www.cycleconfident.com/sponsors/merton
- For sports pitches go to booking.merton.gov.uk/pitches
- For classics in the park go to merton.gov.uk/classicsinthepark
- For the watersports centre visit booking.merton.gov.uk/wimbledon-park-watersports-centre
- For active plus go to booking.merton.gov.uk/active-plus
- For bowls go to merton.gov.uk/bowls or call 020 8545 3667
- Download the Merton on the Move app from the App Store or Google Play or visit merton.yomp.co
Lavender had been grown around Mitcham, Sutton and Croydon for centuries – since 1500 in fact. But it was in the 19th century that the trade had its heyday when Queen Victoria’s love of the scent meant fashionable Londoners couldn’t get enough. Acres of lavender were harvested between July and September by agricultural workers who were paid as little as 40p a week for a 14 hour-a-day stint in the fields.

They would cut the lavender, then bundle it loosely to be dried or have its perfumed oil extracted.

Dried lavender was sold in markets, door-to-door and on the streets by female flower sellers, calling ‘buy my sweet lavender, sweet blooming lavender, sixteen bunches a penny’.

Most of Mitcham’s lavender found its way to the Potter and Moore distillery, established beside Figges Marsh in 1749 by Ephraim Potter and William Moore. When William’s grandson, James, took over the perfumery he bought up more land in the area and by 1900 the company had more than 500 acres of lavender and other fragrant plants including peppermint, chamomile and rose.

After the death of James Moore’s son in 1885 the estate was divided up and the company bought by W J Bush, who continued to make perfumes and cosmetics from the site. The business was sold on in the 1960s but the name Potter and Moore still exists today, manufacturing cosmetics from a base near Peterborough.

Over time the lavender fields were built upon for housing, making way for London’s growing suburbs (the site of the original factory is now occupied by houses on Eveline Road). Lavender Fields ward was created in 1965 with the rest of Merton borough, taking a name that draws on this fascinating part of the borough’s heritage.
Merton 50 years on

As events take place to mark 50 years of Merton borough, *My Merton* looks back at the tasks facing the new council in 1965 and ask how things might be different in 50 years' time.

Merton Council was established in April 1965, along with the 31 other London Boroughs and the Greater London Council (GLC). While the GLC was responsible for fire and ambulances services, roads and sewerage, the boroughs’ responsibilities lay with libraries, refuse collection, swimming baths and public health. Merton shared responsibility for housing and traffic with the GLC, and as an outer London borough also ran its own schools.

The Merton archives from 1965 show the priorities of the new council were similar to today. New libraries for Raynes Park, Colliers Wood and Pollards Hill were planned, a housing shortage was driving a need for homes and there was a focus on school expansion and older people’s welfare.

While the concerns might be the same in 2015, our means of delivering services has changed. People’s concerns have not changed over the decades but the ever changing social and financial landscape means changing the way we deliver services. Reductions in funding from central government and the need to protect residents from council tax rises have seen the council focus on working in a more business like way. This involves finding different ways to deliver services by getting the best value for money and, where it makes sense, joining with partners to share services or seeking to attract external funding.

Other factors are changing the way the council works too. In 1965 life expectancy in Britain was 71 but today it’s 81, and rising. This ageing population will mean adult social care will place growing demands on the council budgets and increase the need to work closely with the NHS.

In 1965 climate change was unheard of. Now sustainability is a key factor in how we plan and deliver services with recycling high on our agenda and improvements for cyclists crucial to future transport policy. And who’d have thought in 1965 that so many of our services would be provided remotely? Online access to services is something that can only help the council grow in efficiency as it moves towards its next 50 years.

It is right that we celebrate all that we have achieved as a borough over the last 50 years, including our excellent libraries, schools and parks. There are challenges to come as the shape of local government changes dramatically due to funding reductions and an ageing population. However in Merton we will use our business-like approach to continue to provide affordable services that our residents need the most for the next 50 years, and beyond.
The Nelson Health Centre
Better healthcare closer to home

A modern NHS facility providing health services for the local community

Opened on 1 April, the Nelson Health Centre is a spacious, modern environment allowing more people to be seen, diagnosed and treated closer to home. The centre brings a wide range of health services together in one place, designed to provide the highest standards of care to local residents.

Services include
- x-ray, ultrasound and blood tests
- outpatient clinics and minor procedures
- outpatient physiotherapy, podiatry and diabetic renal screening
- assessment and investigation services
- community mental health services

Opening hours are 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 12pm on Saturdays.

The Nelson Health Centre
Kingston Road
SW20 8DA
020 3668 3300

How to find us

www.mertonccg.nhs.uk/Nelson
Watch your brews in the summer breeze

Whether it’s a barbecue in the back garden, a country picnic or a day at the beach, there’s nothing quite like eating outdoors. My Merton gets the lowdown on safe stays in the sun.

We all like eating outdoors in the sun. For many of us a cold beer, chilled glass of wine or fruity cocktail is the icing on the cake, but too much alcohol and heat don’t mix. Hot weather can lead to dehydration and alcohol increases the effects. The end result could be heat stroke. As the weather warms up, it’s important to keep an eye on alcohol consumption and keep hydrated by alternating alcohol with thirst quenching soft drinks. Here are some tips to keep you safe and healthy this summer:

- Don’t drink and drive – if you’re the designated driver, stick to soft drinks and water or book a cab.
- If you’ve had a lot to drink you may not be safe to drive the following day and it’s a myth that coffee will sober you up.
- Drink can have other dangerous effects too, impairing your judgement and making risk taking more likely. Swimming and alcohol don’t mix and avoid drinking while in charge of the barbecue.
- If partying outdoors remember to apply your sun cream first – it’s easy to forget after a few drinks, and try and stick to the shade.
- Be careful with cocktails – the amount of spirits in drinks mixed by friends or while holidaying abroad can be much larger than British pub measures. If you’re mixing the cocktails yourself, boost the fruit juices and keep the alcohol content low.

Caffeine may help combat drowsiness, but not the effects of alcohol on decision-making and coordination. Drink can have other dangerous effects too, impairing your judgement and making risk taking more likely. Swimming and alcohol don’t mix and avoid drinking while in charge of the barbecue.

Stay safe, get help

Alcohol can also be a factor behind incidents of domestic violence, which some evidence shows increases during the summer months and at holiday times.

Domestic abuse isn’t always a physical attack but can involve intimidation and psychological bullying too. Merton’s One Stop Shop is a confidential service, available on Mondays from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Morden Baptist Church, SM4 5BL (closed bank holidays). At other times call Merton Victim Support on 020 7801 1777 or the National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247. In an emergency call 999.

If you are concerned about your own or someone else’s drinking you can get help by calling the Community Drug and Alcohol Recovery Team at The Wilson Hospital on 020 8687 4666.
Businesses, schools and organisations that have pledged to love their street

**Businesses**
- ABC Grocery and Butchers, Morden
- Café D’Oro, Morden
- Easy Tan, Morden
- eddisonwhite, Colliers Wood
- eddisonwhite, Wimbledon
- Ganley’s Irish Bar, Morden
- Jose’s Café, Morden
- Kebaby, Morden
- KFC, Morden
- Morden Dry Cleaners
- Paddy Power, Morden
- P J Harvey & Co Ltd Locksmiths, Morden
- Robert Dyas, Wimbledon
- The Generator Business Centre, Mitcham
- The Old Frizzle, Wimbledon
- Timmy All In One, Morden
- Village Café, Morden

**Schools**
- Beecholme Primary School
- Dundonald Primary School
- Haslemere Primary School
- Hatfield Primary School
- Hillcross Primary School
- Holy Trinity CE Primary School
- Malmesbury Primary School
- Poplar Primary School
- St Mary’s Catholic Primary School
- The Priory C of E Primary School
- Wimbledon Chase Primary School

**Organisations**
- Merton Chamber of Commerce
- Sustainable Merton

Thanks to all the residents who have signed up so far. Show your support by signing the pledge at: merton.gov.uk/LoveYourStreet

Residents who sign up are in with a chance to win a £100 One4all voucher.
Merton’s longest serving employee

Merton’s longest serving member of staff, Lew Block, talks to My Merton about his 50 years at the council and how things have changed over the last half a century.

Lew’s career at Merton has seen him start at the tender age of 17 on the front line as a driver and gardener with the parks, allotment and cemeteries department and work his way up to look after how Merton’s ground and highway verges are maintained. “I really enjoyed my first day at Merton, it was sunny and I loved working hard out in the open” remembers Lew. “After my first job, I had the duty of looking after the mobile team who drive around the borough to tidy and maintain the grass verges and green areas along the public highways as well as taking care of all the borough’s school grounds. I liked this job as we got out and about and made sure the borough looked clean and tidy. I started my current role as Grounds Maintenance Officer in 1984 after working my way up through the ranks.”

With a half a century experience under his belt, Lew has seen a lot of change over the last 50 years. “I’ve had to adapt quite a lot over the years which hasn’t always been easy”, he says. “When I started, everything we did was written in notepads and now I use IT. Teams are smaller now and we have to think in a more business-like way about our work. We’ve had a lot less money from the government so we need to focus on the things that really matter to residents.”

Throughout the years, and like any job, Lew’s role has had its ups and downs but the highlight for him is helping people every day. “I love meeting residents and helping them with any problems they see on the green areas along the highways. Over the past 50 years, I’ve also really enjoyed working alongside many dedicated colleagues and after all this time, I still like coming to work and meeting different people through my job.”

Picking a highlight from such a long career is tricky but Lew says that a top memory for him was driving a float as part of the Merton Shows years ago where all of the community got involved. His ultimate highlight though is meeting his wife, “I met my wife during my time at Merton as she also worked as part of the Parks, Cemeteries and Allotments department. So this year has two big anniversaries for me – I’m 45 years married and 50 at Merton!”
**Drive4life**
If you find today’s busy roads a challenge, our free session can return you to confident driving. Designed for drivers 55 years and over.
For more information visit: merton.gov.uk/drive4life

**Pre-learner driving skills course**
For 17-24 year olds with a provisional car driving license. Free 3 hour theory session followed by 3 free driving lessons.
Application form available on: merton.gov.uk/roadsafety

**Children’s cycle training**
Merton provides free “on road” cycle training for children age 10+ at Merton schools during school term, and Easter and summer holidays.
Further details and application form available on: cycleconfident.com

**Basic cycle maintenance training for adults**
A half day session held once a month at local venues.
For more information please contact: cycleconfident.com
Please type cycle maintenance in the subject heading.

**Motor bike and moped courses**
Be a brighter biker, for learner riders
Free classroom session and CBT
Bike Safe, for experienced riders. A free training day for experienced riders provided by the police.
Further details and application form available on: merton.gov.uk/roadsafety

**Adult cycle training**
Free adult cycle training for beginners, refreshers and commuters on Saturday mornings in Morden.
We can even provide a bicycle for you to use if you haven’t got your own.
Further details and application form available on: cycleconfident.com

All events and training are funded in conjunction with Transport for London and are available to those who live, work or study in the London Borough of Merton.
Alternatively, please contact us for more information:

**Contact:** Future Merton, London Borough of Merton, 12th Floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX
**Telephone:** 020 8545 3205 / 06
**Email:** road.safety@merton.gov.uk
**Web:** merton.gov.uk/roadsafety

merton.gov.uk/roadsafety

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**Free children and adult courses**

Get on your bike this summer

Summer holiday courses for children
Adult beginner, improver and commuter level courses
Dr Bike sessions offering advice, minor repairs and MOT’s
Public bike maintenance courses (chargeable)

For more information and booking visit:
cycleconfident.com
Arts and entertainment

**RideLondon Street Party**
Monday 10 August
Wimbledon Hill Road.
As RideLondon cyclists speed through Wimbledon Town Centre, Love Wimbledon will be cheering them along and celebrating with a street party. With help from surrounding businesses, there will be lots of fun activities planned from live music, face painting to street food – come along and help us cheer on those brave cyclists. Free. [find out more](http://www.lovewimbledon.org)

**Big Screen Tennis**
29 June–12 July
Love Wimbledon’s Big Screen returns to The Piazza (outside Morrisons) this summer screening The Wimbledon Tennis Championships live. The special ‘court’ on The Piazza will be equipped with astroturf summer lawn and deckchairs. Relax and soak up the sun whilst watching the world’s tennis heroes battle it out live for free. [find out more](http://www.lovewimbledon.org)

**Autumn Arts Festival**
Love Wimbledon will be celebrating the great arts and culture in Merton during three weekends in September. Meet the Merton Arts Trail team and get creative on The Piazza during the weekend of 12 and 13 September. Purchase art from local artists and designers at the Arts Market on The Piazza on the weekend of 19 and 20 September. And get booky with Wimbledon Bookfest on The Piazza; weekend of 26 and 27 September. And get booky with Wimbledon Bookfest on The Piazza; weekend of 26 and 27 September. [find out more](http://www.lovewimbledon.org)

**New Wimbledon Theatre**
93 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1QG

**Ben and Holly’s Little Kingdom**
11 and 12 August, 10am, 1pm, 4pm
Tickets £16.40–£18.40. [find out more](http://www.lovewimbledon.org)

**Alice in Wonderland**
Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, SW19 2RD
Every Saturday and Sunday in June, 2pm and 4pm
Alice disappears down that rabbit hole again for some mad adventures in the strange and magical world of Wonderland. The Colour House children’s theatre pulls the rabbit from the hat in this wonderful musical adaptation of this famous tale. [find out more](http://www.lovewimbledon.org)

**Blood Brothers**
8–12 September, 2.30pm, 7pm
Tickets £13.15–£41.65. Written by Willy Russell, the legendary Blood Brothers tells the moving tale of twins who, separated at birth, grow up on opposite sides of the tracks, only to meet again with fateful consequences.

**The Colour House Children’s Theatre**
Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, SW19 2RD
Every Saturday and Sunday in June, 2pm and 4pm
Alice disappears down that rabbit hole again for some mad adventures in the strange and magical world of Wonderland. The Colour House children’s theatre pulls the rabbit from the hat in this wonderful musical adaptation of this famous tale. Alice in Wonderland is a classic for the whole family to enjoy! Tickets: £10 adults, £8 child. [find out more](http://www.lovewimbledon.org)
staying in? Here’s a selection of what’s new in Merton’s libraries:

MY MERTON’S BOOK CHOICE

A good catch by Fern Britton
A witty novel from the best-selling author and TV presenter, Fern Britton. Set in a Cornish fishing village, four young people are the main players in this portrayal of families and their secrets. The young don’t always make the right choices and with domineering fathers and big profits at stake they bend to the inevitable. With every action having its consequences, this follows their lives through misunderstandings, huge secrets and the sad effect of mistaken parentage.

Other books:
• The turning point – Freya North
• Piranha – Clive Cussler
• Legacy of Greyadies – Anna Jacobs
• Daughter of the house – Rosie Thomas

NEW DVDS: MY MERTON RECOMMENDS

The theory of everything
This is the extraordinary story of the most brilliant and celebrated physicist of our time, Stephen Hawking and Jane Wilde, the arts student he fell in love with whilst studying at Cambridge in the 1960s. At the tender age of 21 he was diagnosed with the fatal illness Lou Gehrig’s disease. Over the course of their marriage as Stephen’s body collapsed and his academic renown soared, fault lines were exposed that tested the lineaments of their relationship and dramatically altered the course of both of their lives. A tear jerking must see film.

Other DVDs:
• Testament of youth
• Into the woods
• Birdman

For more information on books, borrowing eBooks and DVDs, visit merton.gov.uk/libraries

Cranleigh Live
1 Cranleigh Road, Merton Park, SW19 3LX

• ‘A Time of Anniversaries’ at Wandle Industrial Museum
From 17 June, Wednesday 1-4pm and Sunday 2-5pm
Vestry Hall Annexe, London Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3UD.
The Wandle Industrial Museum is opening a new exhibition for 2015. Come and take a look at the many anniversaries that are being celebrated this year, including Merton’s 50th and many more events that have taken place over the last 200 years. Tickets: 50p adults; 20p concessions and children.

• Morden Park Choral Society presents Yankee Doodle Dandee
Saturday 4 July, 7.30pm
St John the Devine, High Path, Merton. A programme of American music for American Independence day. £10, £6 concessions, including wine.

• International Day at South Mitcham Community Centre
Saturday 25 July, 12-4pm
Cobham Court, Haslemere Avenue, Mitcham CR4 3PR. Come along for a fun day at rock terrace, lots of activities, music and demonstrations. Junior Sumo Suits, soft play area, Deen City Farm animals, African drumming and many more. International food is available for a small charge.

• Shindig Saturdays
Saturday 25 July and Saturday 26 September, 2–11pm
From Centre Court to Centre Stage – live music, fun and games and on-court tennis for all the family! Pimms, strawberries and cream will be served from 2pm followed by a BBQ from 4pm. At 7pm we open the Shindig stage as 4 Stroke hosts an open mic session. Donations on the door.

• “Cheeze and Whine” by Colliers Wood Chorus and Immediate Voices
Saturday 19 July, 7pm
Christ Church, Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood. After the great success of last year’s WWI commemoration concert, a light-hearted programme in anticipation of the summer holidays. Cheezy schmaltz, Disney classics, and re-imaginings of pop songs. Unusual choral music with a chance to quaff Cabernet and crunch Camembert with the choirs afterwards. Cost: £5.

• Shindig Saturdays
Saturday 25 July and Saturday 26 September, 2–11pm
From Centre Court to Centre Stage – live music, fun and games and on-court tennis for all the family! Pimms, strawberries and cream will be served from 2pm followed by a BBQ from 4pm. At 7pm we open the Shindig stage as 4 Stroke hosts an open mic session. Donations on the door.

Merton Arts Trail
September 19, 20, 26, 27, 11am–6pm
Local artists open their homes and studios to public to showcase their latest art works in this community festival of the arts in Merton. Merton Arts Trail invites Merton to Get Creative. Free.

For more information on books, borrowing eBooks and DVDs, visit merton.gov.uk/libraries

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For more information on books, borrowing eBooks and DVDs, visit merton.gov.uk/libraries

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Polka Theatre
240, The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1SB
Box office: 020 8543 4888
www.polkatheatre.com

**The Bockety World of Henry and Bucket**
10 June–14 June
The writer of Grandad, Me and Teddy Too explores friendship in this humorous play. Henry and Bucket are best pals, although sometimes you wouldn’t think so! Like all good friends they have their ups and downs. And bockety world into a place of wonder, their adventures can take them anywhere! Tickets £13.50, concessions £10.

**The Bockety World of Henry and Bucket**
17–28 June
Meet the moggy who transforms his master from a pauper to a prince! Would you trust a talking cat? You never know, he might turn you from a pauper to a prince just like the hero of Puss in Boots, brought to vivid life by Patrick Lynch. With smoke and mirrors clowning and a vibrant soundtrack of music and play. Tickets £11.50, concessions £9.

**Gorilla**
17 July–16 August
It’s the night before Hannah’s birthday and something amazing is about to happen. When her toy gorilla comes to life, dressed in her father’s coat and hat, they embark on a moonlit adventure. The world’s friendliest gorilla takes to the main theatre this summer, as Polka’s sell-out show returns. Tickets £13.50, concessions £9.

**Back to Netball**
Back to Netball is a re-introduction to the sport for ladies of all ages. Sessions are coach-led and cover the basics from chest passes to footwork. Whether it is about rediscovering sporting abilities you forgot you had or just meeting a group of like-minded ladies, these sessions cater for all abilities.

**Dot, Squiggle and Rest**
26 June–16 August
Join us on an adventure, as a garden becomes a miniature universe of dots, squiggles and sounds of all different shapes. What will you discover at the bottom of the garden? Meet a singing box and a dancing prism, follow footprints along a twisting path and find creatures that wiggle and squiggle. In collaboration with the Royal Opera House this show, live music and puppetry will draw young audiences into a world inspired by the wisdom of children. Tickets £13.50, concessions £10.

**Puss in Boots**
17–28 June
Meet the moggy who transforms his master from a pauper to a prince! Would you trust a talking cat? You never know, he might turn you from a pauper to a prince just like the hero of Puss in Boots, brought to vivid life by Patrick Lynch. With smoke and mirrors clowning and a vibrant soundtrack of music and play. Tickets £11.50, concessions £9.

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**Summer Tennis Camps**
from 20 July,
10am–11am (3-4 years), 10am–1pm (5+),
10am–4pm (5+)
Our holiday camps are a lot of fun and a great place for children to start playing tennis and to improve their game with an intensive week of tennis training.

**STATIk**
1–5 July
It’s Mikey’s first day at work in the regimented radio factory. Wearing his new uniform he joins the signal-fixers, preparing radio transmitters. But when a mysterious voice unexpectedly comes through the airwaves, chaos ensues and it brings about the hilarious destruction of the factory regime. Energetic clowning and a vibrant soundtrack in a show about breaking the mould, inspired by the wisdom of children. Tickets £13.50, concessions £10.

**Take on an allotment plot**
Want to grow your own fruit and vegetables and keep fit too, then try an allotment! Martin Way Allotments currently have plots available and would welcome new members. We are located on both sides of Martin Way, Raynes Park, sandwiched between Whatley Avenue and Bushey Road. Our site covers some 11 acres and has over 280 plots of different sizes cultivated by a wide range of local people. We have a small shop which sells seeds and other items useful to plot-holders, and we hold several social events each year, ranging from plant sales to pumpkin festivals. Enquiries to maga@allotment.me.uk
**Merton Bowling Club**
Every Wednesday 6-8pm ending 15 July
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Merton SW20 9BX. We are looking to inspire people to take up the sport or become social members. The age group is 15 to 90 plus and we would encourage all abilities to come along. Please wear flat shoes. Free.

**Ridgeway stables**
Starting 14 July until end of August
There are plenty of opportunities to ride over the summer with our four day Merton Active Plus Courses. Children from 8 to 16 can learn to ride and look after the horses. Open to all standards.

**South Mitcham Community Centre**
Cobham Court, Haslemere Avenue, Mitcham CR4 3PR.

**South Mitcham Community Centre**
Zumba Class
Every Tuesday, 7-8pm
Lose weight and tone up with this energetic fitness group. Cost: £4.

**Yoga fitness group**
Every Wednesday, 5-6pm

**Pilates fitness group**
Every Saturday, 9.45-10.45am
Improve flexibility and strengthen core muscles.

**Scottish Country Dancing**
Tuesdays evenings 8-10.30pm
Holy Trinity Church Hall, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1SB.

**Hercules Wimbledon AC**
Track and Field Headquarters, Wimbledon Park SW19 7HX

**Merton Park Bowls Club**
Come and Try evenings, every Wednesday until August, 6pm-dusk
John Innes Park, Mostyn Rd, SW19 3LL. Please wear flat shoes, bowls are available. Coaching will be provided. First night free then £3 per session.

**Open days at Mitcham Bowling Club**
Sunday 5 July, Sunday 12 July, 1-6pm
The Canons, Madeira Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 4EG. Mitcham Bowling Club seeks new members and welcomes new bowlers to our green in July to try out this exiting sport. Why not take time to have some fun? We provide bowls. Just turn up and wear flat shoes!

**Tuesdays and Thursdays with UK Athletics coaches**
6.30–7.30pm 11-14 years, 7pm–8.45pm older age groups
HWAC provides training and competition for all ages and abilities 10 years upwards-novice to international. Our teams compete in a variety of leagues throughout the year. Cost: members £2 per session, non-members £5 per session.

**Tempo run of between 5-10k**
Lauriston Cottage, 6a Southside (Wimbledon Common) SW19 4TG. Wednesdays 7pm All abilities welcome. Free showers and toilets, separate for women.

**Merton Active Plus**
Keep your kids busy this summer holiday by booking them on a Merton Active Plus course. There are plenty of fun activities from squash to badminton, hand craft workshops and kayaking for young people aged 8 to 16.

**Wimbledon Park Bowls Club**
Every Saturday 11am-12.30pm
Wimbledon Park, SW19 7HX. Wimbledon Park Bowls Club, voted third best club in England in 2014, are holding taster sessions each Saturday until the end of September for free.

**Visitors welcome**
Mitcham Bowling Club
Open days at Mitcham Bowling Club Sunday 5 July, Sunday 12 July, 1–6pm
The Canons, Madeira Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 4EG. Mitcham Bowling Club seeks new members and welcomes new bowlers to our green in July to try out this exiting sport. Why not take time to have some fun? We provide bowls. Just turn up and wear flat shoes!

**Merton Active Plus**
Keep your kids busy this summer holiday by booking them on a Merton Active Plus course. There are plenty of fun activities from squash to badminton, hand craft workshops and kayaking for young people aged 8 to 16.

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

**find out more**
020 8641 8070; www.wimbledonparkbowls.co.uk

**find out more**
020 8265 5475; www.wimbledonparkbowls.co.uk

**find out more**
020 8640 8370; www.herculeswimbledonac.org

**find out more**
020 8946 7400; www.merton.gov.uk/activeplus

**find out more**
020 8640 3740; www.standrewsoclondon.netne.net
Celebrating Age
Wandle Trail walk
Saturday 19 September, 2.30pm
Mitcham Tram Stop. Walk from Mitcham to Carshalton Ponds. Includes a visit to the newly opened Watermeads and Beddington Park (stop at Pavilion Café for refreshments). 3–4 miles, easy, linear.

Going for a song
Wednesdays 1–2pm
Vestry Hall, Cricket Green, Mitcham, CR4 3UD. Do you enjoy singing? Want to improve your voice? Want to meet new people? No audition, just come along and join in. Only £3.50 per session.

Summer School – The Enormous Turnip
3–7 August, 9am–12.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall, Church Path, Merton Park, SW19 3HJ. A fun week-long programme for 3–6 year olds. Students play games while working on a mini musical ready for performance to friends and family.

Walks and Talks
Guided tours at Southside House
Opens on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and bank holiday Mondays, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm
3–4 Woodhayes Road, Wimbledon Common, London SW19 4RJ. Southside House provides an eccentric backdrop to the lives and loves of generations of the Pennington Mellor Munthe families. Maintained in traditional style without intrusive refurbishment and crowded with family possessions of centuries, Southside offers a wealth of fascinating family stories. Tickets: £9.

Merton Vision Open Day
Celebrating 50 years
Saturday 26 September, 12–5pm
Would you know how to make a cup of tea safely if you couldn’t see?
Free Kids First events
Chaucer Centre, Canterbury Road, Morden, SM4 6PX

- Free talk on autism: Lead Officer for Adult Autism Services in Merton with Jonathan Brown, Manager of the Learning Disability Team Thursday 17 September, 10am-12pm
  Hear an update about Merton’s Autism Strategy, their plans for services and provisions for adults with autism in the borough.

- Adults First Annual Conference Daytime Provision and Individual Activity Programmes Tuesday 23 June, 10am-2.30pm (lunch and refreshments provided)
  A conference for carers of adults with a learning disability.

- Julie Phillips, Merton’s Safeguarding Adults and DOLS Manager Tuesday 7 July
  Come and hear Julie explain why DOLS (Deprivation of Liberties) Assessments have to be carried out and how Merton plans to involve family carers in the process. She will also be answering any questions you may have on this subject.

- Free talk on autism: Eating issues for children with autism with Judy Gilham, Deputy Head of Eagle House School Wednesday 8 July, 10am-12pm
  Session exploring the difficulties that families face when a child with autism doesn’t want to eat or wants to eat all the time. Discuss the reasons behind these difficulties and learn strategies you can use to bring an end to stressful mealtimes.

- Adults First Annual Conference Daytime Provision and Individual Activity Programmes Tuesday 23 June, 10am-2.30pm (lunch and refreshments provided)
  A conference for carers of adults with a learning disability.

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find out more
020 8687 4644; kids.first@swlondonmencap.nhs.uk; www.mertonmencap.org.uk
Classics in the Park

performed by City of London Sinfonia
with fireworks

11–12 September Wimbledon Park SW19

City of London Sinfonia Presents:
An evening of classical performance
Conducted by Stuart Stratford
Doors open 6pm
Performances Start 7.30pm
Tickets from £30
VIP packages available

merton.gov.uk/classicsinthepark
Tom Walshe
from Sustainable Merton

What is Sustainable Merton?
It’s Merton’s environmental charity. I set it up with four other residents eight years ago because it was clear the whole environmental movement wasn’t having an effect on people’s lives at grass roots level.

You’re involved in Dig Merton, what’s that?
For a long time we’ve been encouraging people to use more locally-produced food and to grow their own. Through Dig Merton, an initiative run in partnership with the council, residents contact us about bits of open space and we offer support to make them prettier and a bit more useful. The new urban orchard in Fieldgate Lane Mitcham is a good example. It was a challenge but by getting together with the council and other partners we managed to pull it off. An area that used to be open for flytippers will now be occupied with plants and trees.

Tell us about your food charter
It’s a very exciting statement that more people should be able to grow their own food and learn how to prepare it. It’s about getting people together to share food, in community lunch clubs for example, because food is a very important part of our social wellbeing.

What’s next for you?
Community Champions is our big project moving forward. When we set up eight years ago the idea was to support residents to a more sustainable lifestyle and the key is human engagement. It’s about developing a core of champions who care about their area and are happy to pass on useful information to other residents to help reduce their impact on the environment.

find out more
www.sustainablemerton.org
020 3417 0476