Win tickets to Live at Wimbledon Park p6

Goal! Dons do Merton proud

Summer fun in Merton
Get recycling – it’s easy
Latest on Rediscover Mitcham
We did:

Tackling traffic congestion can be a difficult task that involves working closely with Transport for London to plan strategically as well as making small changes locally. Congestion can be a particular problem in our town centres where traffic can make them difficult places to visit. Just some of the steps we have taken to improve the situation include:

- Spending £6 million to improve Mitcham town centre, especially for pedestrians, buses and bicycles
- Developing plans to improve Morden and Wimbledon town centres
- Introducing Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras at key junctions to stop careless drivers from blocking others
- Improving parking provision in some of our smaller shopping areas
- Cracking down on illegal pavement parking by motorists to make our pavements safer and easier to negotiate for pedestrians, especially parents with pushchairs and wheelchair users
- Working with Sutton Council and Transport for London to lobby for the extension of the Tramlink service from Wimbledon to Sutton
- Introducing 20 minutes free parking in neighbourhood shopping locations and free parking at Christmas
- Introducing RingGo cashless parking service so you can use your mobile phone to pay for parking in Merton

What you can do to help:

- Rather than driving, consider using Merton’s excellent public transport links. You can use the Transport for London journey planner to help: www.tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey/
- Get on your bike. If you haven’t cycled for a while and you want to improve your confidence we offer training for adults: www.cycleconfident.com/sponsors/merton

Cover: Stuart Butcher of Pro Sports Images
Community

News
The latest news from around the borough

Features

Health and wellbeing
Developing effective and efficient patient care

Community safety
Fun in the sun

5 minutes with
Merton Mencap CEO
Andrew Whittington

Regulars

Environment
• Wheelie bin pilot
• Recycling from flats
• Help clean up Merton

What’s on
Your guide to all that’s going on in Merton this summer

Don’t forget to visit our website!
merton.gov.uk/mymerton

You can also follow us on:

www.facebook.com/mertoncouncil
@Merton_Council

www.flickr.com/mertoncouncil

www.youtube.com/mertoncouncil

My Merton costs only 12p a copy to produce

Whenever you see this logo that means there’s a volunteering opportunity to get involved in
Competition gets youngsters reading

Five of Merton’s young readers won prizes in the spring for completing Morden Library’s first Easter Reader challenge. Over 110 children aged four to 12 took up the challenge to read four books over the Easter holidays. The names of the 69 children who read all four books were entered into a prize draw and the five winners were presented with WHSmith vouchers.

Merton mourns loss of Councillor Maxi Martin

This spring the council announced the sad death of Labour Councillor Maxi Martin, who passed away peacefully in her sleep on 6 April 2016. She had been ill since December. A dedicated and passionate advocate of children and young people in the borough, Maxi had served as Merton’s cabinet member for children’s services since 2010. She had been cabinet member for social services and education in previous administrations. She was Mayor of Merton in 2003/04.

Tributes have poured in from young people who knew her as the person who stood up for them and cared about them and from friends and colleagues who worked with her over the years. Councillor Martin was always very popular with children across the borough when she visited them at their schools, taking a huge interest in their learning and working to make Merton a place of opportunity for them.

Think Fairtrade

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight’s Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers campaign, St John Fisher Primary School hosted a Fairtrade Big Breakfast for pupils and their parents. All of the goodies on offer were generously donated by local businesses, M&S, the Co-op, Tesco, Waitrose and Sainsbury’s. Remember, small change locally means lives changed globally. Find out more http://fortnight.fairtrade.org.uk

£1,000 to support Merton communities

Former Mayor of Merton Councillor David Chung presented a cheque for £1,000 to Ethnic Minority Centre chairman Tony Sandiford earlier this spring. The donation came from Sainsbury’s, Ballam Hill and will go towards providing support for Black and Asian Minority Ethnic communities in the borough.

Learn something new

Merton Council has launched its new programme of adult learning courses for 2016/17. In partnership with South Thames College and Groundwork London, the council has designed a diverse range of courses with something for everyone, whether it’s learning new skills for a career change, perfecting a hobby or discovering something completely new. Find out more merton.gov.uk/adulteducation
New mayor for Merton

In May, Merton Council elected Councillor Brenda Fraser as the new mayor for the year 2016/17. Councillor Fraser has represented residents of Longthornton ward since 2010 and is the first Jamaican woman to serve as Mayor of Merton. Councillor Fraser will be supported by her Deputy Mayor Councillor Stan Anderson. Her charities are Age UK Merton and The Avanti Club, a mental health support group.

Councillor Fraser has been an Open University lecturer in health since 2003. She has previously worked in the health sector and for the police. The new Mayor is also a magistrate, school governor and is on the Board of South Thames College.

Merton student UK young scientist of the year

Ricards Lodge A-Level student Roxanne El-Hady, has been crowned UK Young Scientist of the Year at the The Big Bang Fair. She was presented with the prestigious award at the NEC arena in Birmingham. Roxanne entered her climate change investigation into the National Science and Engineering Competition and was invited to demonstrate her work, alongside other finalists at the fair. Over 70,000 people from across the UK were there. She is hoping to study earth sciences and geology at Bristol, UCL or Edinburgh University.

Big friendly read

This year’s Summer Reading Challenge, The Big Friendly Read, runs from 16 July to 10 September at libraries across Merton. This year, the Reading Agency’s challenge is in collaboration with The Roald Dahl Literary Estate as part of Roald Dahl 100 celebrations and will feature some of Roald Dahl’s best-loved characters and artwork of his principal illustrator, Sir Quentin Blake. Children are set to take on the challenge to read six books over the summer. Prizes include a collector’s folder, Quentin Blake illustrated postcards for each book read and a medal, certificate and a free Chipotle meal voucher.

Exciting new art space for Wimbledon Library

Wimbledon Library is the place to be when it comes to the arts, with its latest refurbishment creating a flexible out-of-hours performance and exhibition space, following the council’s successful bid for £62,000 from Arts Council England.

The area at the back of the library is called Merton Art Space. Moveable bookcases, chairs and tables as well as sound and lighting rigs mean artists can create the space and atmosphere they want.

As well as exhibitions and performances, there will also be impromptu “scratch sessions”, which will give the audience the opportunity to see new work being developed in comedy, music and other performing arts.

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Applauding DofE success

Over 100 young people from Merton received their Duke of Edinburgh’s (DofE) Awards certificates from the then Mayor of Merton, Councillor David Chung at a special ceremony in April. Merton Council funds the scheme, which benefits many young people in the borough. The event, held at Wimbledon College, was hosted by Ursuline High School pupils, Anais Mango and Katie Keane (pictured with their teachers). Over 290 Merton young people have received DofE awards this year and together they have 5,000 hours of volunteering under their belt. Fifty-three young people taking their gold DofE award will be heading off to Snowdonia on an expedition – a record-breaking number for Merton.

Merton supports national campaign to tackle child abuse

With a number of UK councils, Merton Council is supporting the Department for Education’s national Together We Can Tackle Child Abuse campaign. It sets out to encourage residents to act on their instinct and get in touch with the council’s multi-agency safeguarding hub if they suspect a child is being harmed.

Nominate your community hero

The Wimbledon Guardian is calling on residents and businesses to nominate their community hero. The deadline for nominations is mid-August and a special ceremony will take place in September. Get your nomination in now.

Wimbledon Park will be hosting a Bank Holiday weekend programme of intimate picnic concerts this summer, 26–29 August

The City of London Sinfonia takes to the stage on Friday 26 August bringing prom favourites to Wimbledon with a dazzling fireworks finale. On Saturday 27 August The Definitive Rat Pack perform swing classics from Sinatra and friends. British funk music institution The Brand New Heavies join the line-up on Sunday 28 August and on Bank Holiday Monday 29 August, Horrible Histories will be with us to entertain families with gruesome and ghoulish tales from the past.

Book tickets from £15 at merton.gov.uk/live (booking fees apply). For your chance to win a family ticket for four to any of the dates simply answer the following question:

What type of music do The Brand New Heavies play?

A) folk B) funk C) classical

In your answer, you must include the following: your 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 1 August.

Terms and conditions: The tickets are non-transferable. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in this prize. The competition is for four standard picnic style tickets to any ONE date for Live at Wimbledon Park, 26-29 August 2016.
New faces in Merton’s cabinet

Merton’s cabinet welcomed Councillor Tobin Byers (pictured top left), new cabinet member for adult social care and health, who will continue the council’s support for St Helier hospital. Also welcomed to the table was Councillor Ross Garrod (pictured top right) who takes on responsibility for environmental cleanliness and parking and Councillor Katy Neep (pictured bottom right) who is now cabinet member for children’s services.

New homes for Merton

Circle Housing Merton Priory is preparing initial planning applications for its three regeneration neighbourhoods. If planning permission is granted, building work on the first new homes for High Path and Ravensbury estates would start late 2016. We expect that planning applications for the master plans for High Path, Eastfields and Ravensbury will be submitted later this year.

Microchipping dogs becomes law

Earlier in the spring, the government made it a legal requirement for dog owners to have their dog micro chipped. The council already works with the Dog Trust to provide dog owners the opportunity to have their pets chipped for free. Fitting a dog with a microchip must be done by a trained professional.

Primary school brings blooming bulbs to park

Morden Primary school pupils teamed up with Friends of Morden Park to plant daffodils for the enjoyment of park users this summer. The bulbs were kindly provided by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association and Taylor Bulbs as part of their Bulbs for London campaign.

Crossrail2, but not at any cost

The council is seeking a meeting with new Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to ensure the concerns of Wimbledon’s residents are taken to the top. The council backs Crossrail, but not at any cost. The new railway will open up the borough to huge opportunities with improved links to central London, potentially bringing millions of pounds worth of business and jobs to Merton. However, the council values the borough’s existing businesses and residents and is committed to ensuring minimal disruption to Wimbledon’s vibrant town centre.

Merton pupils dance at Royal Festival Hall

Earlier this year, young people from Merton schools performed with Britain’s national dance company, Rambert, at the Clore Ballroom, Royal Festival Hall. One hundred and seventy-three children from Merton primary, secondary and special needs schools danced pieces based on the company’s professional repertoire. The performances were enjoyed by an audience of about 150 people.
RideLondon returns to Merton

Merton residents will once again get a front-row seat at Ride London, as thousands of amateur and professional cyclists ride through Raynes Park and Wimbledon on 31 July. Many will be raising money for charity. Ride London has been working with the council and keeping residents informed about the cycling festival to ensure the event is a great day for the community and local businesses. There’s always a great turn-out of supporters cheering on the riders, giving the event a real party atmosphere.  

find out more www.tfl.gov.uk

Changing faces

Residents in St Helier, Morden and Figges Marsh, Mitcham, voted in Labour’s Jerome Neil and Mike Brunt to represent them. By-elections in the two areas took place following in the death of popular St Helier Councillor Maxi Martin and the resignation of Peter Walker in Figges Marsh. London also has a new Mayor, Sadiq Khan while the new Merton and Wandsworth London assembly member is Labour’s Leonie Cooper (pictured).
We all know that councils are having to provide more care to a growing and ageing population, with less money as central government continues to make cuts to local authority funding. Merton is looking at new affordable ways of doing this by working with Croydon, Kingston, Richmond and Sutton Councils and with the local NHS to develop a much more people-focused service where the NHS and councils work more closely together, ensuring funding is directed at the best ways of helping people who need care.

We often hear in the news of people who are ready to recuperate in their own homes but are stuck in expensive hospital beds because care can’t be organised for them. This doesn’t help their recovery and it wastes millions in NHS funds – money that could be spent looking after people in the comfort of their own homes. The key is to identify where the need is and to allocate the money to providing the right care in the right place for the patient.

"We’re a business-like council but despite the financial pressures our first priority remains ensuring we look after the people who need our help the most."

The five south London councils, who have come together to form South London Partnership (SLP), want to work together to ensure patients who are fit enough to return to the comfort of their own home can do so, assured that the necessary care is available to them. Patients who aren’t ready to move home should be able to stay in hospital with the appropriate care in place for them. At the moment, this doesn’t always happen, so sometimes, people are in hospital occupying beds, when they would be better off at home, while people who really need hospital care can’t get a bed.

As part of the SLP, chaired by Merton’s Leader, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, we’re working on transforming the current disjointed system into a seamlessly integrated and effective one, that has the individual at its heart, with diminishing funds allocated more appropriately on the basis of need.

Merton’s new cabinet member for adult social care and health, Councillor Tobin Byers, told My Merton: “We’re a business-like council but despite the financial pressures our first priority remains ensuring we look after the people who need our help the most. We are having to make savings across all services, but we stand by our commitment to ensure the most vulnerable residents in Merton take on less of a share of these cuts. Working closely with the NHS, as we are doing, is an effective way of increasing our local hospitals’ efficiency, allowing them to treat more people, more quickly and ensuring people can be supported at home as they recuperate.”

Take a look at page 15 to find out what a day in the life of one of the council’s support workers looks like.
Get that summer feeling

We’ve talked a lot about how Merton is one of London’s greenest boroughs, with more than 100 beautiful parks just waiting to be discovered. But while it’s fun to grab a picnic and explore the great outdoors, there’s a lot more to summer on your doorstep. Our parks are the places to be for an increasingly diverse range of sports, activities and events. My Merton gets the lowdown on what’s happening this summer at a park near you.

Get active

Merton’s range of leisure activities for young people keeps growing, so whatever your interests, there really is something to take your fancy. There are plenty of sports-based courses, from football and golf to squash. You could learn horse-riding at Wimbledon’s Ridgway Stables or brush up on your racquet skills with tennis and badminton. But there are gentler options too, giving you the chance to develop a new skill from sewing to song-writing.

Courses cost from £20 a day. Open to ages 5+ (depending on activity).

Make a splash

You don’t need to live by the beach to learn how to sail – Wimbledon Park’s stunning lake is the perfect and safe environment for all ages to have a go at activities on water and dry land. As well as sailing there’s kayaking and windsurfing and multi-watersports. The centre also specialises in archery, climbing, orienteering and much more.

All courses are taught by fully-trained staff in a friendly environment and week-long courses cost as little as £10 per hour.

Go for a dip

Cool off in our interactive water play areas at Tamworth recreation ground, Mitcham and Wimbledon Park, or in our paddling pools around the borough. Open from the start of the summer holidays except Wimbledon Park which is open already!

Have a blast

Sports Blast is a scheme that runs free sports courses for 14 to 25-year-olds who live in the east of the borough. You can take part in football, BMX, netball, tennis and fitness sessions.

Find out more

Watersports: booking.merton.gov.uk/active-plus/watersports/
Merton Active Plus: merton.gov.uk/activeplus
Sports pitches: merton.gov.uk/pitches
Sports Blast: merton.gov.uk/sportsblast
Summer fun in Merton

A huge highlight of summer 2016 promises to be an eclectic mix of outdoor music and entertainment this August Bank Holiday weekend right in the heart of SW19 at Wimbledon Park.

It all kicks off on 26 August when the City of London Sinfonia returns to wow audiences with popular classics, followed by a fireworks finale.

If you fancy a burst of nostalgia check out the Definitive Rat Pack on 27 August. Enjoy the big band sounds of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr, with special guest appearance by the Marilyn Monroe tribute artist Suzie Kennedy. The support band is the Hoochie Toots, performers of toe-tapping tunes from the 40s and 50s.

It’s the turn of London acid jazz institution the Brand New Heavies on 28 August, playing their unique blend of funk and soul. Support comes from the Wooden Men whose infectious mix of musical styles promises to get everyone dancing.

Finally there’s a gruesome treat on 29 August when Horrible Histories’ the Best of Barmy Britain takes to the stage. This unmissable theatre event brings the darker side of British history to life in two fabulously gory family shows.

Plus look out for Wimbledon Park Food Festival from the 27 to 29 August with gastronomic delights, cooking demonstrations and family entertainment.
A cleaner, greener summer

We know that keeping the borough clean and dealing with rubbish are big priorities for you. So we are always looking for ways to help you recycle more and make our services more efficient.

Get recycling this Recycle Week

Recycle Week is 12–18 September. This year’s theme is Unusual Suspects. Many of us don’t think twice about kitchen recycling, but there are items in other rooms that can be recycled too, especially the bathroom. There are always loo roll tubes, shampoo bottles, toothpaste tubes and deodorant cans that often end up in the general waste, but they can all be recycled. During Recycle Week, with the help of funding from the London Waste and Recycling Board, we’ll be out and about in the borough’s town centres, talking to residents about recycling and finding out how we can help you recycle more.

Wheelie bin pilot

Last year, we ran a six-month part government-funded pilot, providing 1,000 households in Lavender Fields ward, Mitcham, with wheelie bins for both general waste and recycling.

The pilot was a success. Recycling went up and street cleanliness improved by over 60% because the bins kept the rubbish contained so it wasn’t subject to wind and foxes. Residents liked the bins too with 95% giving them the thumbs up.

Based on the success of the pilot, the council has been looking for a way to bring in wheelie bins that also makes financial sense. We’ve been working with our three neighbouring councils of Sutton, Kingston and Croydon as part of the South London Waste Partnership.

Later this year we’ll be deciding on whether or not to join forces with our neighbours which would mean wheelie bins replacing black sacks and continued weekly food waste and recycling collections, with paper and card one week and bottles, tins and plastics the next. A final decision on whether this solution is right for Merton will be made in December.
Recycling from flats is easy

Most of our residents living in flats are recycling. In the spring issue of My Merton we talked to the Phipps Bridge estate caretaker, Michal Rusinkiewicz, about how residents have been helped to recycle more. The Waste Service Development Team along with caretakers and cleaners worked with the residents to considerably improve recycling rates at the Phipps Bridge estate.

We’re now running similar projects on 24 estates across Merton and will be looking at recycling facilities and making sure they are well maintained. We’ll also be holding recycling events and putting up signs explaining what you can recycle.

If you live in a flat, you can just put all your mixed recycling in the communal recycling bins. Don’t put plastic bags in the recycling – tip out the contents. We’ll be handing out recycling bags to make life a bit easier.

(find out more merton.gov.uk/recycling)

Help clean up Merton

We know how important clean streets are to you. Every year we spend over £5 million cleaning up after the minority of people who drop their litter in Merton. We’ve had some great support from residents and businesses who have worked with us to organise clean-ups. Come and join us at 10.30am–12.30pm on the following days.

St Helier roundabout (at junction with Morden Road), Morden Saturday 9 July
Rialto Road close to rail bridge, Figges Marsh, Mitcham Saturday 6 August
West Barnes Lane (junction with Bodnant Gardens) Wednesday 10 August
Goat Pub, Cricket Green, Mitcham Wednesday 24 August
Junction at Stanford Way with Rowan Road, Mitcham Saturday 3 September

(find out more merton.gov.uk/streetchampions; environmental.development@merton.gov.uk)

Free food waste liners from libraries

Recycling your food waste is a great way to help us cut down on landfill. Our weekly collections and handy kitchen caddies mean it’s easy to do. Each household can now collect two free rolls of liners from libraries every six months. All you have to do is take along your council tax bill. If you have an e-bill, print it off or have it ready on your mobile.

The council has been awarded funding to work on increasing residents’ participation in the food waste collection service. We’ll be focusing on Colliers Wood as well as parts of South Wimbledon and Mitcham, to look at what makes some people enthusiastic about recycling their food waste and what makes others reluctant to do this so we can develop a service that most people will want to use.
COMPETITION

Win a family ticket* to see
**Little Shop of Horrors**
at New Wimbledon Theatre

August brings the charming, kooky and hilarious 1950s musical sci-fi spoof, *Little Shop of Horrors* to New Wimbledon Theatre starring Rhydian Roberts. Seymour Krelborn, the assistant at Mushnik’s Flower Shop in downtrodden Skid Row, becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers a strange and exotic plant. He names it Audrey II in order to impress glamorous Audrey, the colleague he’s secretly in love with.

Audrey II quickly starts to wilt, putting Seymour’s job and dream future with Audrey at risk. Accidently pricking his finger, Seymour discovers Audrey II needs a little more than plant food to thrive. How far will Seymour go for the woman of his dreams?

With music by the legendary Alan Menken, best known for his numerous Walt Disney film scores, *Little Shop of Horrors* is a cult film and one of the longest running off-Broadway shows of all time.

*Little Shop of Horrors* comes to New Wimbledon Theatre from Monday 22–Saturday 27 August. Visit [www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon](http://www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon) to book tickets (fees apply). For your chance to win a family ticket of four, simply answer the following question:

What’s the name of the exotic plant in the Little Shop of Horrors?

a) Alison II  
b) Amelia II  
c) Audrey II

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 1 August 2016.

**Terms and conditions:** *The competition is for four tickets to see Little Shop of Horrors at New Wimbledon Theatre on Monday 22 August, 7.30pm. Cannot be exchanged or used in conjunction with any other offer, subject to availability. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in this prize.*

Whatever the time, find the right treatment for you

Download our **free** NHS app or visit the website  
[www.healthhelpnow-nhs.net](http://www.healthhelpnow-nhs.net)
Working life: adult social care support worker

As a support worker in Merton Council’s reablement team, Sharon Fry helps people get back on their feet after a spell in hospital. She is part of the council’s reablement team and works with people of all ages but most are elderly people who are recovering from illness or injury. My Merton joins Sharon on one of her visits to find out more about the work of the council’s support workers.

Out on a visit to long-time Merton resident Mrs Newman, who is recovering well from a fall, Sharon said: “We give people the encouragement and confidence they need to look after themselves at home once they are able to leave hospital. It’s the everyday things like preparing food, personal care and help with getting dressed in the morning. Sometimes we help with simple things like getting a hairdresser in or taking them to the pictures or a day centre.”

“Often their families are busy, not local or abroad, so we step in to put them on the road to recovery.”

Sharon visits five or six people a day, alone or with another support worker and works with a team of health professionals including occupational therapists, district nurses, physiotherapists, doctors and pharmacists. She works with people for up to a six week period, following a care plan which sets out the goals they want to achieve to regain their independence.

Sharon continues: “I’ve been a support worker for a while but it never seems like a job to me. I get a lot of personal satisfaction from just visiting people in their own homes, and seeing them get back to doing the things they used to before they were poorly.”

Gaining a client’s trust can be challenging: “When you go into someone’s home you can’t just take over; you have to build a relationship, so they have confidence in you. Then you can work together as a team to reach the level of independence they want to achieve.”

If they have reached their goal after six weeks, the time comes to say goodbye. “It can be difficult to let go at the end of the time I spend with clients, but I know that I’ve left them in a better place. Sometimes they will be getting help from other agencies. They’re happy and satisfied that they can be more independent.

“Quite often you might meet that person on the bus or in the shops and it’s rewarding when you see them out and about. They’re always grateful for the work of the reablement team. Often their families are busy, not local or abroad, so we step in to put them on the road to recovery.”

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find out more
merton.gov.uk/recovery-support-contributions

“I get a lot of personal satisfaction from just visiting people in their own homes, and seeing them get back to doing the things they used to before they were poorly.”
Sneak peek at Merton’s digital future

This summer we’ll be rolling out our new-look website. Keep an eye open for the link on the homepage of our current website inviting you to visit the new ‘beta’ site, which is a test site and will give you a taste of what’s to come.

It’s more than just a new look though. The website will change how we deliver services online, starting with rubbish collection and recycling, and how we keep you informed with the latest issues that matter to you. The site will allow you to access an increasing number of services online, making it more convenient and saving time and money for us all.

Benefits to you
As the months progress, we’ll be adding more services to our new website, making it much easier for you to book, pay, report and share your views with us in just a few clicks.

Designing a website with you in mind
Although the new site will look and feel different, it should be easy to use. This is because we have looked at the tasks most people do on merton.gov.uk, putting these at the forefront of how it has been designed.

Tell us what you think
Both the old and the new websites will be available for a few months to give us time to transfer the content over to the new site. This will also give you time to tell us your views on the new site.

There will be a feedback box on the test, or ‘beta’, site so you can easily send us your views about the new web pages.

More to come
There’s more to come as we make Merton more digitally smart and efficient. My Merton will keep you updated on the latest developments.
Brand new Morden leisure centre and exciting plans for Wimbledon Park

There’s lots to look forward to over the coming months in Merton. The long-anticipated Morden Leisure Centre will get under way. And there will be the opportunity for residents to get involved in the 25-year plan for Wimbledon Park. My Merton finds out the latest on these two projects.

Morden leisure centre

A brand new family-friendly and affordable leisure centre came a step closer in June when the council appointed the main construction company and gave the building the go-ahead.

Following the feedback we had from residents and current Morden Park Pool users, the new centre will include a café, a 25m six-lane main pool and a small pool with a moveable floor, to allow for diving and to increase the capacity for swimming lessons. There’ll also be a gym and a fitness studio which will double up as a community space.

The aim has always been to get maximum value from the project by creating a flexible building that can be used by as many different groups of people as possible, from toddlers to pensioners.

We are now almost at the stage of seeing the start of a fabulous new leisure centre, which will cost less to maintain than the current building and which can be enjoyed by many people in the future.

A bright future for Wimbledon Park

This summer we’ll be asking residents and park users in the borough for their views on three possible options for how Wimbledon Park could look in the future. Read the article on our history page (p18) and you’ll know that today’s park is based on the 18th century layout created by Capability Brown. We are looking to retain the park’s heritage and, at the same time, make sure it provides all the services required by modern-day park users.

Over the past months we’ve been working with landscape and structural architects, and a focus group of some key park users to understand what works about the park and what might need to change. Now we want to hear views from across the borough.

The consultation runs from 3 July until 14 August. Special events will be at the bowls pavilion in Wimbledon Park, Revelstoke Road SW19 7HX at the following times: Sunday 3 July, 11am–3pm, Tuesday 26 July, 4.30–7.30pm, Sunday 14 August, 11am–3pm.

The emphasis is on making sure we cater for different users in a well-planned way. This is an opportunity for everyone to contribute their views. We’re encouraging people to think beyond their own personal interests to what will benefit the wider community. Think about what your children, grandchildren, and people in your street might want from the park, so we can create a balanced space where everyone can enjoy this wonderful jewel in Merton’s crown for generations to come.

My Merton will keep you posted on developments as both projects progress.

find out more
merton.gov.uk/leisureformorden

find out more
merton.gov.uk/wimbledon-park/masterplan
With its rural feel but close proximity to London, the historic Wimbledon Park was home to a succession of wealthy landowners from the 16th century onwards. Grand houses were built near St Mary’s Wimbledon and no expense was spared when creating the landscaped parklands surrounding them.

In the early days, Northumberland-born Lancelot Capability Brown was apprenticed to a gardener at Kirkharle Hall, in his home county until he was 23. By 1760, his professional reputation was established. Highly sought after, he would change the face of English landscapes at venues such as Warwick Castle, Blenheim Palace and Chatsworth House, designing on an epic scale to move hills, create vast lakes, rivers and woodland.

The park
In 1764, Brown was appointed as Master Gardener to King George III at Hampton Court. The same year, he was commissioned by John, 1st Earl Spencer, to transform his Wimbledon estate, which he had recently enlarged to some 925 acres. It reached from Tibbet’s Corner down to the base of Wimbledon Hill, westwards to Parkside and eastwards as far as Durnsford Road. The original park had woodland, pasture and arable land. It was grazed by deer and traversed by grand avenues. Brown and his team were charged with opening up the landscape, creating sweeping drives and stunning views.

The lake
Between 1765 and 1766 Brown flooded 25 acres, to form a striking lake, complete with fish, swans, a boathouse and framed by Classical statues. He developed fine vistas between existing woodland such as Horse Close Wood, Highwood and Ashen Grove, planting additional clumps of trees and coverts for game. The whole park was surrounded by a perimeter woodland.

A large kitchen garden was created near the bottom of Wimbledon Hill.

The Spencer family sold the park to a property developer in 1846 and the original 925 acres shrunk to 15% of its previous size with the increase in housing, including the new suburbs of Southfields and Wimbledon Park, and the fine houses along Parkside. In 1914 part of what was left, including the lake, was bought by the Wimbledon Corporation, the predecessor to Merton Council. They turned it into a park for public use. Further portions of Brown’s landscape also survive within the Wimbledon Park Golf Club and the Wimbledon Club.

Special events with Friends of Wimbledon Park
13 August: Heritage walk and the unveiling of special plaques at key points around Brown’s original park; an exhibition at the museum of Wimbledon, photography and essay writing competitions, work with local schools and the release of a commemorative booklet.

www.friendsofwimbledonpark.org.uk
A £6m project to restore Mitcham town centre to its former glory enters its final stages this summer. Improvements to the public space will be completed and buses will return to London Road, taking visitors right to the commercial heart of the town.

The completion of the project follows confirmation in April that Mitcham would receive funding from TfL to complete the final phases of the traffic scheme.

Mitcham is a key part of the borough’s heritage. Once a thriving village – it lays claim to the world’s oldest cricket green and one of England’s oldest fairs – it also boasts a fascinating industrial past, from lavender distilleries to calico print works.

More recently Mitcham has seen fewer shoppers in the town centre, similar to other towns throughout the country, as people increasingly buy online. We’ve been working hard in Mitcham to turn around its fortunes and boost visitor numbers by making the town a more pleasant place to visit and spend time, and somewhere residents can feel proud of.

We’re proud of our town centres and it’s great to see the first phases of work in Mitcham complete. My Merton takes a closer look at how Mitcham is shaping up.

So far we have created a new market square with better lighting, high quality landscaping and tree planting, as well as the renovation of the historic clock tower. Majestic Way has been repaved to create a dedicated cycle route, which was completed ahead of schedule. Work to clean up Three Kings Pond and its surroundings will also be finished this summer, improving water quality and making it a more attractive home to diverse wildlife.

The final phases include alterations to road junctions to improve traffic flow and add better pedestrian crossings and segregated cycle lanes. And there’s the re-opening of part of London Road as a ‘bus street’. By allowing access to buses and bikes, the town will benefit from improved public transport and we’re hoping the shops will be given a boost from increased passing trade and visibility. The entire project will be complete by the end of 2017.

find out more
merton.gov.uk/rediscovermitcham
**BETTER VALUE GYM MEMBERSHIP, ONLY £19.95 A MONTH**

**CANONS LEISURE CENTRE**

Our gym only membership costs just £19.95 a month. So you can get fitter, feel healthier and be better off too when you take out a Better Gym membership.

Join today and make the most of:
- Access to fitness classes and swimming pools at any Better leisure centre* (top-up fee applies)
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In partnership with

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**MERTON COUNCIL**

**Time for a change?**

Children need safe and loving families if they can’t stay with their own.

If you have a spare bedroom and can offer space in your life to care for vulnerable young people please get in touch today:

Call us for a friendly chat on 020 8545 4070 / 0800 073 0874 or visit: merton.gov.uk/fostering

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*Terms and conditions apply, please visit www.better.org.uk/terms. 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.
Community safety
Staying safe this summer

Fun in the sun
Summer’s here with prospects of long, warm days and time spent outdoors. My Merton takes a look at staying safe and having fun when the sun’s out.

Stay drink aware
There’s nothing like enjoying the outdoors, lighting the first BBQ of the season and sipping a cool beer with friends. This summer is also going to be wall-to-wall sport with the Euro 2016 football championships and the Olympics being beamed in from Rio.

While you’re out having a good time in the sun, don’t forget that sun and alcohol don’t always mix that well, so make sure you stay cool and drink lots of water too.

- Stick to the NHS One You campaign advice of no more than 14 units of alcohol a week; that’s six pints of average strength beer
- Don’t drink and drive
- Apply sun cream if you’re planning on a day in the sun

Safe as houses
Summer can be prime time for burglars so take extra care with security when enjoying the warm weather or when you’re out and about. Lock your windows and doors when you leave the house or are spending time in the back garden and don’t leave ground floor windows open when you go to bed.

Timer switches come in handy when you’re away on holiday. You should also think about cancelling regular deliveries and ask a friend to keep an eye on things, including moving any post out of sight. Make sure your shed is properly secure with strong padlocks and lock up bikes or move them inside the home.

Top tips
- Leave lights on at night when you’re out
- Stop the opportunist burglar and lock your doors and windows
- Don’t leave electronic equipment so it’s visible through the window
- Look out for your neighbours, especially if they are vulnerable
- If you live in a block of flats, keep the communal doors locked
- Keep your keys away from your door

merton.gov.uk/safermerton
You’re as young as you feel

We’re all living longer, which is great news, but it’s becoming more important to age well so we can enjoy rewarding and active longer lives. *My Merton* takes a closer look at how to stay fit and healthy.

Many diseases occurring in later life can be prevented by lifestyle changes in middle age. The government has launched its One You campaign which is aimed at people aged 40 to 74 and Merton Council is supporting and funding One You with a range of initiatives throughout the year.

**NHS health checks**

There will be NHS health checks available to everyone in this age group, every five years. The check looks at your general health, and a health professional will be on hand to advise you of things you can do to minimise the risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and dementia.

**Maintaining a healthy weight**

Maintaining a healthy weight is important when it comes to staying fit as we get older. But Public Health England’s figures show that around 96,000 adults in Merton are overweight, that’s over half the borough’s population. We’re addressing this with our new weight management service, available free to eligible adults. The first step to using this service is your NHS health check.

**A healthy start**

Childhood obesity is a big issue nationally and one we’re working on in Merton, where a significant number of children are overweight by the time they are 10. Our LiveWell service is visiting schools to talk to parents, teachers and children about issues such as sugar, portion sizes and getting active. And we’ll be out and about at events this summer asking for your views about how we can all work together to make it easier to be healthy.

Hot on the heels of the government’s sugar tax announcement, the spring issue of *My Merton* featured sugar and how to find out the sugar content of foods and drinks using the free Sugar Smart app from Change4Life. Check out the Change4Life website for ideas and advice on simple sugar swaps and become a healthier you. 

If you have children, you might have noticed a few changes to the community healthcare services you receive. Since April, when Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust took over the management of community health services in Merton, changes you may have seen include health visitors have been using mobile devices to access patient records on home visits and at clinics. They are running a pilot, providing an online version of the personal child health record for the under-fives, called eRedbook. You can register for the eRedbook at [www.clich.nhs.uk/eredbook](http://www.clich.nhs.uk/eredbook)
Making room for everyone on our roads

We’re a busy borough and demand for parking is high. As your council, we have a responsibility to keep the roads safe and keep the traffic moving. We also know from what residents have told us that congestion is a top concern. *My Merton* finds out more about what’s being done to keep Merton moving.

As a result of residents’ concerns about congestion and inconsiderate parking in Merton, we are now implementing measures designed to keep the traffic moving and free up pavements for pedestrians.

In the spring, new cameras were installed across the borough enabling us to use automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) to enforce the rules of the road. The new cameras will be used to monitor bus lanes, box junctions, and other offences like banned turns.

The installation follows a successful trial of the technology in 2014. Look out for the yellow camera signs we’ve put up around the borough. ANPR works by recording offences automatically and processing penalty charges more efficiently than with the previous, manual system. This frees up our officers, who would have spent time monitoring CCTV footage, to focus on your complaints about badly parked vehicles and other traffic issues.

You can find the location of enforcement cameras on the council website. But as no one likes getting a penalty notice (£130, reduced to £65 if paid within 14 days), the key message from us to drivers is to avoid entering box junctions without a clear exit and keep out of bus lanes during their hours of operation.

Meanwhile the council is cracking down on inconsiderate pavement parking in response to concerns raised by wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs that cars are taking up too much room on some footpaths.

Pavement parking, with a few exceptions, has been banned in London for the past 40 years and we’re cracking down on vehicles parked where they shouldn’t be. The roads affected are listed on our website and signs have been put up on nearby lamp posts. People parking on these pavements could receive a £110 fine, reduced to £55 if paid within 14 days. We will be issuing fines to drivers parking on grass verges too, although, in the case of narrow roads, parking with two wheels on the kerbstone, but not the grass, is permitted.

Also in response to your concerns, we have been consulting about introducing double yellow lines at a number of busy junctions across the borough to restrict waiting. The consultation period closed in March and details of the outcome will be available on the website later this year.

[find out more](http://merton.gov.uk/parking)
Fancy learning something new?

Now enrolling on Merton adult education courses

With a broader range of courses to choose from, there’s something on offer for everyone.

Sign up today. Find out more at merton.gov.uk/adulteducation
**Arts and entertainment**

- **West Barnes Singers favourite opera choruses**
  Saturday 2 July, 7.30pm
  St Saviour’s Church, Grand Drive, Raynes Park, SW20 9DG. Tickets, £10, children free.
  [find out more](www.westbarnessingers.co.uk)

- **Going for a Song**
  Wednesdays, 1-2pm
  **Mitcham:** Vestry Hall, London Road CR4 3UD. Cost: £3.
  Wednesdays 3-4pm
  **Wimbledon:** St Marks Church Hall, St Marks Place SW19 7ND. Cost: £3.
  These singing workshops for the over 55s are an excellent way to exercise the vocal chords and body, while learning new songs and remembering old favourites, having fun and making friends.
  [find out more](katherine@attictheatrecompany.com) or call 020 8640 6800

- **Leap!**
  Monday 25–Friday 29 July
  Bond Primary School, Bond Road, Mitcham CR4 3HG. Free, but participants must register in advance with katherine@attictheatrecompany.com or call 020 8640 6800.
  In partnership with SHINE Merton. Full week of creative activities for Mitcham based children aged 10–11, with games and exercises to prepare them for secondary school.

- **Morden Park Choral Society presents songs of the British Isles**
  Saturday 9 July, 7.30pm
  St John’s the Divine, High Path, Merton. Tickets: £6, £4 concessions, includes glass of wine.
  [find out more](www.choralsocietymerton.org.uk)

- **New Wimbledon Theatre**
  93 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1QG
  Book online [www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon](http://www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon)
  Telephone booking 0844 871 7646
  Group bookings 0844 871 7696
  Access bookings 0844 871 7677

  - **LazyTown Live**
    Friday 15–Saturday 16 July
    A 60 minute nonstop highly interactive and energetic show, jam-packed with singing, dancing, spectacular acrobatics and music, featuring original tracks from the hit TV show. LazyTown Live on stage features Sportacus, Stephanie, Ziggy, Robbie Rotten and You, the audience. Cost £16.65 plus transaction fee.

  - **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**
    Wednesday 20–Saturday 30 July
    One of the world’s favourite musicals, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, will have audiences of all ages flying high with its mixture of madness, intrigue and exuberance. Cost from £20.40 plus transaction fee.

  - **Little Shop of Horrors**
    Monday 22–Saturday 27 August
    Seymour Krelborn, the assistant at Mushnik’s Flower Shop in downtrodden Skid Row, becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers a strange and exotic plant. He names it Audrey Two in order to impress, glamorous Audrey, the colleague he’s secretly in love with. Cost from £17.90 plus transaction fee.
stayingin? Here’s a selection of what’s new in Merton’s libraries:

MY MERTON’S BOOK CHOICE

Love You Dead by Peter James

Love You Dead is the gripping twelfth book in the Detective Superintendent Roy Grace series. An ugly duckling as a child, Jodie Bentley had two dreams in life – to be beautiful and rich. She’s achieved the first, with a little help from a plastic surgeon, and now she’s working hard on the second. Her philosophy on money is simple: you can either earn it or marry it. Marrying is easy, it’s getting rid of the husband afterwards that’s harder, that takes real skill. But hey, practice makes perfect...

Other books:
- Dear Amy – Helen Callaghan
- Little Sister – David Hewson
- The Hawkhead Hostage – Rebecca Tope
- War Orphans – Lizzie Lane
- Forces of Nature – Professor Brian Cox

NEW DVDS: MY MERTON RECOMMENDS

The Revenant
Inspired by true events, The Revenant is an epic story of survival and transformation on the American frontier. While on an expedition into the uncharted wilderness, legendary explorer Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) is brutally mauled by a bear, then abandoned by members of his own hunting team. Driven by sheer will and his love for his Native American wife and son, he undertakes a 200-mile odyssey through the vast and untamed West on the trail of the man who betrayed him: John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy).

Other DVDs:
- Dirty Grandpa
- Pride and Prejudice and Vampires
- Hail Caesar!

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

what's on in your area
merton.gov.uk/events

T-Rextasy Unplugged Live
Saturday 6 August
The Colour House Theatre. This award-winning T-Rex tribute act returns for a third consecutive year for a special acoustic gig! £12.

Wimbledon Park Food Festival
Saturday 27–Monday 29 August
Wimbledon Park. Enjoy a wide range of gastronomic delights, cooking demonstrations and family entertainment. Tickets: adult £8; child £2.

Scottish country dancing
New season starts Tuesday 13 September, then Tuesdays 8–10.30pm until June 2017
Scottish country dancing with the St Andrew Society at Holy Trinity Church Hall, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB (next to Polka Theatre). Cost £4.50 including interval refreshments. Beginners welcome. Some instruction is available.

Summer Senses
Wednesday 27 July, 10–11am
Celebrate summer as we explore the many sounds and colours of the season in this gentle multi-sensory drama workshop. Please remember to wear appropriate clothing and to fill in an emergency contact form (available on our website). Children will not be accepted onto a class without the form being completed in advance. Ages 3–5. Tickets £18.

Chester Tuffnut
Monday 27 June–Sunday 14 August
This is a story about discovering new places, making friends and inspiring everyone to have at least one adventure every day. Join Chester and a brave bunch of creatures for an action-packed story of highs, lows, thrills, spills, near misses and great escapes. Ages 2–6. Tickets £12 for adults and children, concessions £9 plus transaction charge.

James and the Giant Peach
Monday 27 June–Sunday 14 August
To celebrate Roald Dahl’s centenary year in 2016, we bring you Polka’s acclaimed production of one of his most popular stories. Join James and his new-found insect friends as they embark on an extraordinary adventure which takes them halfway around the world with excitement, songs and laughter. Ages 5–11. Tickets: £15 for adults and children, concessions £10 plus transaction charge.

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

For Andy Newbold Photography
Health and fitness

Wimbledon Park bowls club
Wimbledon Park Bowls Club is holding taster/coaching sessions from 11am–1pm each Saturday, July to September.

Call Barry on 020 8265 5475; barrywillingham@ntlworld.com

Love Wimbledon
The Piazza, Wimbledon

Big Screen Tennis
Monday 27 June–Sunday 10 July
Free. The ever popular Big Screen is back again showing the Wimbledon Championships live throughout tennis fortnight. Relax in a deckchair and enjoy all the tennis action as it unfolds.

Get your tickets now at merton.gov.uk/live
This August bank holiday weekend come to SW19 and hear swing classics from the Definitive Rat Pack. City of London Sinfonia with firework finale, Brand New Heavies and many more great acts will be performing at Live at Wimbledon Park. Horrible Histories will be there on the Monday.

**Friday 26 August**

**Saturday 27 August**
The Definitive Rat Pack with special guest, Suzie Kennedy as Marilyn Monroe; support: Hoochie Toots. Tickets from £25, children £15.

**Sunday 28 August**
Brand New Heavies plus support. Tickets from £25, children £20.

**Monday 29 August**
Fun-filled family day featuring Horrible Histories. Tickets from £15 (A booking fee will be added on to the price of the tickets at the time of purchase).

Save the date • 10% off for groups of ten or more
Tennis Blast
Saturday 2 July, 10am–3pm
Wimbledon Park tennis courts. Drop-in coaching sessions, middle Saturday of Wimbledon tennis fortnight. Some of the Wimbledon tennis players will drop in during the day to offer advice and tips. Try your hand at beach tennis too. Turn up on the day or reserve a space online. During tennis fortnight, parking only available in car park 10 where a fee applies. find out more merton.gov.uk/tennisblast

Multi-sports camps
25 July–26 August, 9am–3pm
Raynes Park sports ground, Taunton Avenue SW20 0BH. Arget sports coaching Ltd are running multisport holiday courses. Professional coaching sessions for girls and boys of all abilities from 5–12 years. Certificates and medals are awarded to the most improved and best performers on the final day of the course. Sports prizes presented throughout the week. £80 for the week. find out more 020 8545 3663 merton.gov.uk/activeplus

Business basics
Thursday 7 July, 9.15am–1pm
The Generator Business Centre, 95 Miles Road, Mitcham, Surrey. This workshop will provide you with expert and practical advice on starting a business. Led by Kevin Dunne, an experienced trainer, who has a wealth of experience you can draw upon. Cost: £25 +VAT. find out more 020 8619 0700

Wandle Fortnight
17 September, 11am
Meet at Colliers Wood Station. Five mile walk through four boroughs: walk the Wandle Trail to include the Watermeads and Bennett’s Hole. Finish at Mitcham Junction. find out more 07944 833605 minnunzel@gmail.com

Facebook for businesses
Thursday 7 July, 9.30am–12.30pm
Tuition House, Wimbledon. Training session designed to help small to medium-sized businesses understand the commercial opportunities of Facebook for business and the first steps needed to get to grips with it. Cost: £75 +VAT. find out more 020 8944 5501

Olympic Fun Day
Thursday 11 August, 11am–3pm
South Park Gardens. Join the Olympic celebrations. Activities for all the family including Olympic inspired arts and crafts, a treasure hunt and live music. Free. find out more leisure@merton.gov.uk

KidsFest 2016
Monday 29 August
Merton Abbey Mills. Free. For the tenth year Merton Abbey Mills hosts a day of free entertainment for children and families! find out more www.mertonabbeymills.org.uk 020 8543 9608

The Twits
Thursday 28 July, 10–11am
West Barnes Library. For ages 6–7 years.

BFG
Thursday 28 July, 11.30am–12.30pm
Pollards Hill Library. For ages 7–9 years.

Fantastic Mr Fox
Thursday 25 August 10–11am
West Barnes Library. For ages 6–7 years.

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**Merton Mencap**

Chaucer Centre, Room B, 
Canterbury Road, Morden SM4 6PX

Kids First summer term events for parents of children and young people with disabilities or special needs

- **Sensory integration and OT techniques**
  Tuesday 5 July, 10am-2pm
  Practical session on sensory integration and occupational therapy techniques you can use at home with your child. Lunch included. Free.

Adult First event for carers of adults with learning disabilities

- **Challenging behaviour/complex needs**
  Thursday 14 July 10.30am-12.30pm
  Run by Dr Vicky Laute, chartered clinical psychologist. Vicky leads Merton’s Behaviour Support Service to help people with challenging behaviour. Eligible for people who have a learning disability, are 18+, is resident in Merton and is presenting with behaviour that is high risk. Free.

**find out more**
020 8687 4644; www.mertonmencap.org.uk

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**Summer fun in Merton**

Fun activities for young people in Merton aged 9–12 (juniors) and 13–19 (seniors). Includes trips out, sports, arts and crafts and more at the following council youth centres this summer holiday:

- **find out more**

  Phipps Bridge: Tuesdays to Thursdays. 07940 714136
  Pollards Hill: Mondays to Thursdays from 25 July to 25 August (first two weeks juniors, second two weeks seniors). 07904 237292
  Acacia Adventure Playground: Monday to Friday, 12.30–6.30pm. 07960 618470
  Merton Council’s youth office: 020 8274 5801/5812

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**Love Wimbledon’s RideLondon street party**

Sunday 31 July
Free. Love Wimbledon will be hosting a street party to welcome RideLondon through the town with music, food and entertainment for the whole family.

**find out more**
www.lovewimbledon.org

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**Love Wimbledon’s Monthly Market**

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 July
The Piazza, Wimbledon.

Love Wimbledon’s July market presents a range of exciting stalls offering delicious food, original art, gifts, accessories, books, toys, home ware and lots more. Free.

**find out more**
www.lovewimbledon.org

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**Love Wimbledon events**

**Autumn Arts Market**
Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September
A selection of local artists will be displaying and selling their work, featuring lifestyle products and home accessories including pictures, vases and a variety of crafts. Lot of activities also on offer. Free.

**find out more**
lovewimbledon.org

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**Summer fun in Merton**

Morden Park Sports Field SM4 5LF

Sunday 17 July
Fun activities for all the family: Pony rides, funfair, dog show. £2 entry.

**find out more**
andybutcher64@yahoo.co.uk

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**Love Wimbledon’s Autumn Arts Market**
**Merton Heritage**

- **Mitcham Horticultural Society**
  Saturday 2 July, 2pm
  St Mark’s Church Hall, St Mark’s Road, Mitcham.
  Free; tea and cakes available.
  [find out more](info@mitchamhorticulturalsociety.co.uk; 020 8640 3659)

- **Abundance Wimbledon**
  17 September, 11am-2pm
  St Mark’s church garden (behind Wimbledon Library).
  Do you have a fruit tree and can’t use all the fruit? Join us on Abundance Fruit Day.
  [find out more](abundancewimbledon@gmail.com; www.abundancewimbledon.com)

- **The Somme**
  Friday 1 July, 7-9pm
  Raynes Park Library, Approach Road, London SW20 8BA.
  Special screening of ‘The Battle of the Somme’. An early example of film propaganda, an historical record of the battle and a popular source of WW1 footage.
  [find out more](local.studies@merton.gov.uk; merton.gov.uk/carvedinstone)

- **Mitcham at War 1914-18**
  Until Saturday 2 July
  Mitcham Library, 157 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 2YR.
  Free. Part of the Carved in Stone project, this exhibition will look at the impact of World War One on everything from local industry and the role of women, to the daily lives of Mitcham people.
  [find out more](local.studies@merton.gov.uk; merton.gov.uk)

- **Merton and Morden during the First World War**
  Monday 18 July – Sunday 6 August
  Second floor, Morden Library, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX.
  A walk through Merton and Morden looking at local people, places and industries from 1914 to 1918.
  [find out more](local.studies@merton.gov.uk)

**Free Summer Cycling Sessions**

Practical on-road cycle training. Choice of dates, times and venues. You must be aged 10+ years.

book now to get your space [cycleconfident.com](http://cycleconfident.com)

committed to you, your family and your business.

[Morrlaw Solicitors](http://www.morrlaw.com)

[find out more](020 8971 1020; Connect House, 133-137 Alexandra Road, Wimbledon SW19 7JY)
CARE WORKERS REQUIRED

At Enterprise Care Support we believe in providing high quality care, where people are looked after in their home with the utmost dignity and respect. Our strength lies in the quality of our staff and we employ those who will share our mission ‘keeping kindness at the heart of our care’

With this in mind we are looking to recruit a number of Care Workers in the Merton and Wandsworth area.

GOOD RATE OF PAY
FLEXIBLE HOURS TO SUIT YOU

Please call for further enquiries on 0208 640 8081

We offer the following services in these areas too:
- Home Care (Domiciliary Care)
- Day Centre
- Domestic care
- Respite care in their own home
- Sitting in services

www.enterprise caresupport.org.uk
info@enterprise caresupport.org.uk

Mitcham Parish Centre, Church Path, Mitcham, CR4 3BN

Residents, are you fly-tipping and you don’t even know it?

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Andrew Whittington
Merton Mencap CEO

Merton Mencap is an independent charity supporting people with a learning disability and their family carers. My Merton spoke to Merton Mencap CEO, Andrew Whittington, to find out more.

Andrew has a 20-year career in health and social care and became CEO of Merton Mencap in 2009.

What is Merton Mencap’s vision?
We want a society where people with a learning disability are treated equally and have opportunities to achieve their ambitions, and where their family carers feel fully supported.

What help does the charity offer to people in Merton?
Our services and activities help people with a learning disability to develop their life-skils so they are safer, healthier, and live as independently as possible. We support carers to feel less isolated and to have a say about local services affecting them.

How hands-on are you?
It is important to be a visible CEO; I visit the charity’s activities and regularly speak to local people to understand what else the charity could be doing to help families. Society’s general perceptions are changing – many realise that people with a learning disability can achieve a great deal if they receive the right support.

What challenges does your sector face?
A reduction in social care funding means that the work of charities has never been so important. We raise all our own funds so local donors, people who fundraise for us, and our volunteers are absolutely crucial.

What do you find most rewarding?
Nothing beats hearing we have made a positive difference to people’s lives.

find out more
www.mertonmencap.org.uk or call 020 8646 0965