Who's your new councillor?

Make the most of Merton this summer

Find out the latest on St Helier Hospital
We asked

As part of our annual residents’ survey we asked over 1,000 adults and 250 young people what concerns them and what is important to their health and wellbeing.

“You said”

As well as getting involved in sport activities and how their local area looks, both adults (63%) and young people (74%) told us that feeling safe was most important to their sense of health and wellbeing.

We did:

We know that feeling safe is important to residents, both young and old. We work in partnership with the Police to keep the borough safe and to make it a great place to live, work and play. Some of the changes we’ve made include:

* Installing 43 alley gates to help secure land and deter burglary and other anti-social behaviours
* Launching a new e-safety strategy to help children and young people stay safe online
* Offering the Police free rent at their station on Pincott Road as part of our campaign to re-open it
* Extending our out of hours noise service to cover Friday nights until the end of the summer
* Backing for the law to be changed to restrict gambling shops being able to open on the high street without permission from the council
* Introducing a borough-wide controlled drinking zone (CDZ)
* Bringing in a dispersal zone during the Wimbledon Championships to give Police the power to disperse groups causing anti-social behaviour, for example, ticket touts

[Find out more](#)

Read more about staying safe over the summer on page 23.

The Leader of Merton Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, writes for *My Merton.*

There are not a lot of jobs where literally thousands of people decide whether or not to re-hire you! So I’m delighted that so many of you came out and voted in the local elections in May and agreed to keep me on as Leader of the Council.

I know many people appreciated our business-like approach to running the council and the fact that we’ve frozen your council tax for four years in a row whilst still protecting vital services like libraries and children’s centres.

But I know that many of you came out to vote for one particular reason – because you are worried about the future of St Helier Hospital. I’m humbled that you have put your faith in us to fight your corner.

We’ve publicly backed the Save St Helier Hospital campaign every step of the way and the support you have given me means I have an even stronger voice to fight for local residents.

As well as protecting local hospitals, we’ll also continue to make the council more efficient so that we can freeze your council tax for another four years. And our school building programme, which has already doubled the size of many of our local schools, will see 2,000 additional places added over the next four years.

Some people don’t think voting is worthwhile. But it’s your chance to say what you think matters to your local community. So – whether you voted to hire me or to fire me – I’d like to thank you for having your say.

Whoever you voted for, I’m committed to delivering all I can over the next four years and I look forward to working with you all on keeping Merton a great place to live.

PS: The weather is warming up so see page 10 for how to make the best of it. Our brilliant parks always get busy on sunny weekends so if you notice a build-up of litter please call our team on 020 8453 9750.
Supporting St Helier
Campaign to safeguard your local hospital

Expanding our best schools
Latest update on the future of our schools

Summertime fun in Merton’s parks
Dig Merton, the community food growing project being run by Sustainable Merton in partnership with Merton Council, Circle Housing, Merton Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Viridian and others, has kicked off and the team are looking for more people to get digging. To get involved in future community growing projects, leave a message with Sustainable Merton on 080 3417 0476 or get in touch on Facebook.

Find out more
www.facebook.com/DigMerton

Heroes from Merton were recognised this spring at the Merton Civic Awards, hosted by the Wimbledon Guardian. Among those honoured were Osman Dean, a youth worker who was presented with the Act of Courage award and the Outstanding Achievement award by then Mayor of Merton Councillor Krystal Miller, after he jumped onto train tracks to save a woman’s life. Osman leapt to the aid of a woman who had collapsed head first onto the tracks at Stockwell Tube Station.

Barbara Williamson was presented with the Community award for her work with the elderly. Check out the Wimbledon Guardian website for more on Merton’s heroes:
www.wimbledonguardian.co.uk/mertoncivicawards

Children will receive rewards as they work their way through the challenge and there’s a medal, certificate and chance to win one of many fantastic prizes for everyone completing the challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to children of all reading abilities. Visit your local library to find out how your child can get involved.

Fancy learning a new skill?
Come along to one of Merton Adult Education’s (MAE) open days at Whatley Avenue on Tuesday 8 July, 4–6pm or Thursday 4 September, 12–5pm to find the right course for you. There’s a range of courses to choose from including business startup skills, photography and languages. Visit the MAE website for the new autumn prospectus.

Fancy learning a new skill?

www.merton.gov.uk/libraries

www.maec.ac.uk; 020 8274 5222
Labour majority for Merton

Labour won a majority of the council seats up for grabs at the local election on 22 May, giving them overall control of the council, with Councillor Stephen Alambritis as Leader. The council is now made up of 36 Labour councillors, 20 Conservative councillors, three Merton Park Independent councillors and one Liberal Democrat councillor. This is the first time in eight years that the council has been run by a majority administration. Overall, there was a 41% turn out to vote.

Young people love Merton libraries more than ever

Young people are more satisfied than ever before with Merton Libraries’ range of books, services and opening hours, according to the most recent Young People’s Library Survey. Responses from just under 3,000 library users aged 16 and under show that 97% of young people who took the survey rate Merton library services as very good or excellent, an increase of 9% from the previous survey in 2010. Young library users are also happier with the customer service they receive at Merton Libraries with, again, 97% of respondents rating the standard of customer care as very good or excellent.

95% of seven to 11-year-olds also said that libraries had helped them improve their reading.

Celebrating Age Festival 2014

This year’s Celebrating Age Festival takes place 8–28 September. The festival, which is funded by the council, is now in its 12th year and stages a variety of events for residents over the age of 50 including outings, exhibitions, talks and demonstrations, dances and cream teas.

Leisure centre feedback

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first stage of the public consultation about the new Morden Park family leisure centre. Our independent consultation experts are compiling the results and we will be keeping residents involved in the next stages over the coming months.

Funky Feet at All Saints

Residents at the council-run All Saints Centre, Wimbledon breathed new life into Funky Feet nightclub earlier this spring. The club gives people with a learning disability a chance to have a dance and socialise with their friends. Eight people with learning disabilities took part in a DJ skills project at the centre, helping to relaunch the club and show off their Djing skills. The night was a great success with 100 people attending the first event at Tooting and Mitcham KNK Stadium. Further nights are being planned over the summer.

Volunteer in Merton Libraries

Volunteering opportunities are available in customer support work, IT training as well as running outreach sessions, events and children’s activities.
Council wins top award for innovation

Merton Council won the innovation award at the 2014 Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards for its Merton Managed Accounts project. Merton was one of the first local authorities in the UK to use pre-paid cards to manage the payment of social care invoices on behalf of customers. Local Authorities throughout the country are now adopting this model.

Freedom of Merton for sporting legends

Current Wimbledon champion Andy Murray was made an honorary freeman of the borough along with former ladies singles champions Virginia Wade, Ann Haydon-Jones and Angela Mortimer. The decision was made to honour the sporting heroes at special council meetings held by the Mayor of Merton earlier this year.

Sports Blast

Sports Blast is an exciting new three-year project run by Merton Council to help people find new ways of being active. Funded by Sport England and the National Lottery, the project is run in partnership with Tooting and Mitcham United, England Netball, Circle Housing Merton Priory, Fulham FC and Surrey Tennis. As part of the project, which will include assisted-fitness programmes, there will be URBAN Games events in town centres across the borough over the coming months with a range of street based activities including football, BMX, tennis and netball. More info at merton.gov.uk/sportsblast

New tennis courts for St Mark's

St Mark’s Academy has opened its newly refurbished tennis courts just in time for summer. Funded by Sport England, local developers and the London Marathon Trust, they will be managed by the school and will also form part of the council’s Sports Blast programme over the next three years. More info at merton.gov.uk/tennis

BETTER GYM ONLY £19.95

We’ve invested £200,000 in to Canons Leisure Centre. Come and try our brand new facilities for just £19.95 a month.

Join online at www.better.org.uk/canons
Merton opens new Dementia Hub

Broadcast, journalist and presenter, Angela Rippon opened Merton’s Dementia Hub this summer as ambassador for the Alzheimer’s Society. Set up in Mitcham, the new hub will see Merton Council, the Alzheimer’s Society, Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, St George’s Hospital Trust and others work together to deliver community based support services for residents with dementia, as well as their families and carers.

More solar energy for Merton

Merton Council is generating more of its own energy thanks to the new solar panel systems that have been installed across the borough.

As part of its on-going solar energy programme, the council has added nine solar panels to the 13 systems already in place. They have been placed on public buildings across Merton including Canons Leisure Centre, Pollards Hill Library and nine primary schools.

Altogether, the 22 solar panels will generate the same amount of energy a year that is needed to power 145 Merton homes, helping to save money by reducing the council’s electricity bills as well as reducing carbon.

Gearing up for Prudential RideLondon

Merton residents will see the Prudential RideLondon cycle events up close on Sunday 10 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 as good as last year’s by planning ahead and involving the community and local businesses. Spectators 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.

 Interested in being a volunteer steward on the day?
Contact Volunteer Centre Merton on 080 2840 7355 or email info@volunteercentremerton.org.uk

New Mayor for Merton

Councillor Agatha Akyigyina, ward councillor for Figge’s Marsh in Mitcham, has been appointed the new Mayor of Merton 2014/15. Councillor Laxmi Attawar, who represents Colliers Wood ward, will be supporting Councillor Akyigyina as Deputy Mayor.

During the formal Mayor-making ceremony at full council on 4 June, Councillor Akyigyina announced that her chosen charities for her tenure are Shooting Star Chase and Merton Street Pastors. The Mayor will also support charity events for the Colour House Theatre and HPCT (The Pilgrimage Trust).

Thumbs-up for sports in Plough Lane

Following a four-day public hearing about the council’s sites and policies plan, the independent planning inspector has now agreed with the council that the development of the Plough Lane greyhound stadium site should be for sporting intensification. This would allow planning applications for football, greyhound racing or other sports. Interested parties will now have the opportunity to consult local communities on their proposals before submitting their planning applications.

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Advice available on effects of cannabis

South London Community Drug Service offers free advice and help on how to stop using cannabis and other drugs. A lot of people think that cannabis use is harmless but it can negatively affect family life. For parents, constant use can impede their ability to carry out regular duties and manage family responsibilities. It also impacts children’s studying, learning and development.

Long-term risks can include mental health issues, poor sleep patterns as well as weight and appetite problems.

**find out more**
Merton’s Community Drug team
020 8687 4666
Community Drug Service for South London www.cdssl.org

Don't forget your jabs

Vaccination is an important step in protecting your child against a range of diseases especially if they are due to start nursery or school in September. Visit the NHS website for a schedule of vaccinations and check your child’s red book or talk to your GP to make sure you’re up to date.

**find out more**
www.nhs.uk/vaccinations

Council here to help with life after 16

The council’s specialist My Futures Team is here to support 16 to 19 year olds as they decide what to do after their GCSEs. The team also offers advice to 13 to 16 year olds who could potentially drop out of school. Their Insight drop-in advice and guidance service is based at Monarch Parade, Mitcham, Monday to Friday 1pm–5.30pm and offers support with CV writing, job searches, college, university and apprenticeship applications.

My Futures also supports young people to help them remain in education or training. Education legislation says that pupils currently in year 11 or below must continue in education or training until their 18th birthday. A job is fine, but there needs to be a training aspect to it, so young people should make sure they are getting the most from their employer and My Futures can offer advice and help with making this happen.

**find out more**
merton.gov.uk/insight; 020 8687 5226

Volunteer. Why wouldn’t you?

Why not give some time to your community and become more involved in your local area?

Visit [www.do-it.org.uk](http://www.do-it.org.uk) to find out about a range of exciting opportunities in Merton, or call Sarah Hannigan on: 020 8640 7355.

**find out more**

YOUR CHILDREN ARE AMAZING. WE HELP THEM PROVE IT.

NumberWorks’nWords Maths and English tuition succeeds because children get:

- specialist Maths and English tutors
- direct instruction tailored to their individual needs
- help preparing for 7+, 11+, SATs, GCSE, verbal reasoning
- unique, proven resources designed to match their school curriculum
- caters for all levels 4-16 year olds

**find out more**

Registered with Ofsted
Wimbledon 020 8543 7333
numberworksnwords.co.uk

NumberWorks’nWords
Specialist Maths tuition and English tuition

Don’t forget your jabs

Vaccination is an important step in protecting your child against a range of diseases especially if they are due to start nursery or school in September. Visit the NHS website for a schedule of vaccinations and check your child’s red book or talk to your GP to make sure you’re up to date.

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**find out more**
Having worked together to stop the closure of A&E, maternity and other related services at St Helier Hospital as part of the Better Services Better Value (BSBV) programme, the council and local residents were dismayed when days after the local elections in May new plans to reduce hospital services were put forward by the six local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) in southwest London. The election in May showed that residents want St Helier to remain as it is. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis has wasted no time in giving the message to the health authorities. “I won’t stand idle whilst the hospital is under threat. St Helier must stay.”

Newly elected Councillor Sally Kenny, who set up the Lower Morden Residents’ Save St Helier campaign, said: “The hospital was one of the biggest issues on the doorstep in the local elections. Residents want to keep services at their local hospital. They do not want to see any more money wasted on pointless consultations that lead nowhere.”

Councillor Tobin Byers, who set up the Save St Helier campaign in Cannon Hill ward, said: “The results of the local elections show that residents have had enough. They are fully behind the council’s Save St Helier campaign. We’ve shown we will stand up for residents and for the hospital.”

Although the council has had success so far in safeguarding the hospital, this is an issue that is not going to go away. You can show your support by signing up to the council’s Support St Helier campaign on Twitter by using the hashtag #SSH to say why you think we need to stand up for our local hospital.

Standing up for St Helier Hospital

The council has been fighting hard to safeguard the future of St Helier Hospital. *My Merton* finds out what the latest is on the campaign to keep vital services going at our local hospital.
Kick summer off with a splash
If the temperature rises, little ones love to cool off in the borough’s eight paddling pools. Our pools are popular so we’ve kept them open, in spite of pressure on funding. They include the flagship water play area in Wimbledon Park, which is open now. We’ll fill our other pools from the start of the school holidays till Sunday 31 August. All will be open daily from 10am-5pm.

Flex your muscles
Get in shape for free while enjoying a breath of fresh air at our council-funded outdoor gyms. The latest addition in Mostyn Gardens opened in April with a cross trainer, bike and shoulder press bench. It joins existing gyms including those at King George’s Playing Fields, Figge’s Marsh and Morden Park.

Sporting life
Summer is a good time to try out a new sport and Mitcham’s BMX track on Acacia Road is a great family day out. Supervised sessions cost just £2.50 for two hours and part of the track is reserved for balance bikes so younger children can have a go. Taster sessions and courses are also available.

Let the Brazil World Cup inspire you to get a team together to play football. A new multi-use games area opens in July next to Canons Leisure Centre, Mitcham in response to demand for more all-weather pitches. Book your session through the leisure centre.
Summertime fun

We live in one of London’s greenest boroughs, where more than 100 parks and gardens mean open space is never far away. Now summer is here our green spaces are bursting with wildlife and floral splendour, so whether you fancy a stroll in the park, a game of footy or a picnic with friends, it’s time to get out there. My Merton takes a look at what’s on offer in our parks.

There’s no avoiding the borough’s strong connection with one sport in particular – tennis. There are more than 50 public courts plus many courses and sessions taking place over the summer. Visit merton.gov.uk/tennis to find out about the courses on offer.

Gourmet delights
Visit Wimbledon Park during the August Bank Holiday Weekend (23–25 August) to feast on fine food and drink from local producers at the first ever Wimbledon Park Food Festival. Families and foodies are welcome.

All the fun of the fair
Mitcham’s annual Status Fair is part of the borough’s heritage – there’s been an August fair in the area since Elizabethan times. Head for Three Kings Piece from 7–17 August for all the thrills and spills of this traditional funfair – check local advertising for prices and deals.

Keeping parks green and clean
Thanks to the work our parks team and the local community do to keep our green spaces clean, several of our parks have won Green Flag awards, making them some of the best in the country.

As we welcome the hot weather, more people are out enjoying Merton’s parks and our new solar bins will be hard at work, 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 dog mess and recycling bins installed in several of our parks. If you notice a build-up of litter on a sunny weekend, phone 020 8545 9750 to let our team know.

To find out how you can do your bit to keep our parks beautiful, visit the council website to see our Park Code.
Join our cleaner, greener revolution

Each year Merton Council spends more than £5m cleaning the borough’s streets, removing fly-tipping and tackling graffiti. In total we sweep more than 375km of roads each week, emptying 700 litter bins as we go. We clean town centre streets daily and clean residential streets at least once a week - more if needed. We invest in this level of service because we know clean streets are a big priority for you.

You can help keep your borough green and squeaky clean with three simple actions that really will make a difference.

A new and simple way to keep Merton tidy is to download the free Love Clean Streets smartphone app. Use the app to take a photo of litter and fly-tipping hotspots and make an instant report to the council. We pledge to clear up litter and fly-tips within 48 hours and you can track our progress on the app.

The app has proved to be a massive success with 1,200 reports made since it launched in February. Councillor Judy Saunders, the council’s cabinet member for environmental cleanliness, explained how it’s helping the council work more efficiently: “If we get a report of litter in a park we can send someone straight there. The app has been a real benefit as it’s enabling many more people to report issues and helping us to respond quickly.”

To allow the council’s street cleaning crews to focus on areas that need more attention, we’ve installed new smart bins in locations across the borough, following the success of these bins in our most popular parks.

The special bins use solar power to operate internal compactors which squash down the rubbish inside, significantly increasing the capacity of each bin. This same power is also used to send a signal to the street cleaning team to let them know when they are full. We are continuing to roll out our new gum and butt bins across the borough too.

1. Tell us about your area

Street Champions at one of our community clean-ups
2. Be waste wise

**Bulky waste**

Contact us if you’re having a clear out and we’ll collect your unwanted bulky items. Householders in Merton, who are up-to-date with their council tax payments, can have five items of waste removed every three months, for free. We’ve made more than 10,000 collections since the service launched in 2012.

We’ll also take furniture, mattresses, carpets and white goods, although we can’t take rubble and building waste – you’ll need to organise a skip or hippo bag for that.

If you are having building work done, make sure your traders dispose of your waste correctly. Never agree to waste disposal by someone knocking on doors and always ask to see a permit first. If they fly-tip your waste, you could be left with a hefty fine and a criminal record.

**Garden waste**

People with gardens can sign up for our green waste collections. For £65 a year (or £50 for pensioners) we’ll remove all your grass-cuttings, leaves and hedge trimmings. Alternatively you can take your garden waste to the household recycling centre for free or get a composter and create your own garden fertiliser.

3. Sign up for the Mega Recycle

Being greener goes hand-in-hand with being cleaner and in March we launched Merton’s Mega Recycle which offers residents cash prizes each month just for recycling their waste. The aim is to increase the borough’s recycling rate and divert waste from landfill meaning environmental benefits and long-term cash savings for council taxpayers.

Register on the council website and pledge to recycle your waste and you could win one of a number of prizes including £250 to the first household selected and one prize of £100 to the other ten households selected. You can nominate a Merton school for a £5,000 prize too and housing estates can win up to £10,000 for community improvements.

Since the scheme launched over 3,100 people have signed up and £2,500 has been handed out in individual prizes with more prizes for schools and housing estates to come in autumn – make sure you get voting for your local school to win a prize!

You can help us get more people recycling, and raise funds for your school or estate, by sharing the Mega Recycle on Facebook and Twitter.

Find out more

Sign up for the Mega Recycle at merton.gov.uk/megarecycle

Get the Love Clean Streets free from the App Store or Google Play or visit merton.gov.uk/street-apps for other formats

Go to merton.gov.uk/streetchampions and read page 21 to find out more about the Street Champions scheme

Visit merton.gov.uk/bulky for bulky waste collections
You could win a family ticket to **Top Hat** at New Wimbledon Theatre!

Direct from its tremendous success in the West End, Olivier award winning **Top Hat** is back in London for two weeks only at New Wimbledon Theatre from Tuesday 12–Saturday 23 August. This spectacular production brings the glamour of Hollywood’s golden age and the glorious, tap-dancing magic of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers to the stage in one of the greatest musicals of all time. Packed with Irving Berlin's greatest hits including, *Let's Face the Music and Dance* and *Puttin' On The Ritz*, this is an uplifting and hilarious romantic comedy celebrating 1930s song, style and romance. To book tickets visit www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon or call 0844 8717646 (booking fees apply). For your chance to win a family ticket for four, simply answer the following question:

**Whose greatest hits are featured in the musical Top Hat?**

A) Fred Astaire  
B) Irving Berlin  
C) Ginger Roberts

In your answer you must include the following: name, email address, phone number, postal address. To enter the competition, tweet your answer to @Merton_Council. You can also email your answer with your name and telephone number to communications@merton.gov.uk or write to us at My Merton, 8th floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX. The closing date for entries is Friday 28 July.

**Terms and conditions:** One family ticket equates to four tickets. At least one adult and at least one child. All tickets are subject to availability. Tickets are only redeemable for the named show on one of the dates quoted above and not transferrable to other shows. No cash alternative is available. Tickets are available for collection at the box office on the day of the performance. Competition tickets for **Top Hat** are redeemable on Thursday 14 August, 7.30pm only.

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If you find today’s busy roads a challenge, our **FREE** session* can return you to confident driving. Designed for drivers over 55 years of age.

*A half day course with presentations on road hazards and driving problems including a practical assessment with a driving instructor to advise on your driving skills.

To find out more, and book online visit the website, or call 020 8545 3206

merton.gov.uk/drive4life
Giving every child a school place near home

Building on success

As schools get ready to break up for the summer, building work continues on major projects to permanently expand six Merton primary schools.

London’s growing birth rate has put pressure on the primary school system, but Merton Council has made a commitment to offer every child a quality education locally. Thanks to careful forecasting and financial planning, 4,400 new permanent primary school places will have been created in 21 new forms over a ten year period, at a cost of more than £150 million.

One school to benefit is Merton Abbey in south Wimbledon, rated good by Ofsted, which is increasing in size from one to two forms of entry. Building work is creating six new classrooms, a new computer suite, a studio hall and a new playground including a multi-use games area. For headteacher Michael Bradley the expansion has major benefits: “A bigger school brings greater opportunities for specialist teaching and collaboration. That can really improve the quality of teaching and then alongside that you’ve got the improved facilities including an additional hall and new computers.”

All the school expansions incorporate high standards of design. At Merton Abbey this is reinforcing the school’s connections with the community. As Mr Bradley explained, the beautiful Edwardian frontage currently faces Merton Abbey Mills, meaning residents of High Path only see the back of the building. “The thing that’s brilliant about the design is that we get a really new view for our neighbours.”

Every child at the school has been involved by working with a professional artist to create a 70m mural on hoardings that separate the existing buildings from the construction site.

Permanent expansion is also taking place at Cranmer, St Mary’s, Pelham, Singlegate, Hillcross and Poplar schools. All are popular schools, rated good or outstanding.

To ensure sufficient places are provided for September, the council is also providing temporary school places at Garfield, Joseph Hood and West Wimbledon, with all providing additional reception classes to meet exceptional demand. The council will continue to closely monitor demand to ensure sufficient, good quality school places are provided for all Merton’s school children.

Next, although there is currently no shortage of secondary school places, pressures may grow when today’s five year olds reach 11. To meet this demand the council has already started to plan ahead – something we’ll cover in future issues of My Merton.
Introducing your new local council

In May this year, the residents of Merton went out and elected local councillors to represent everyone in the borough.

Merton has 20 wards with three councillors based in each. That’s 60 councillors altogether. A total of 22 councillors have been elected for the first time, and they join their colleagues on the council chamber’s benches for the next four years.

Find out who your local ward councillors are below.

1. **Abbey ward**
   Abigail Jones Labour
   Andrew Judge Labour
   Katy Neep Labour

2. **Cannon Hill ward**
   Tobin Byers Labour
   Pauline Cowper Labour
   Fidelis Gadhama Labour

3. **Colliers Wood ward**
   Laxmi Attawar Labour
   Caroline Cooper-Marbrough Labour
   Nick Draper Labour

4. **Cricket Green ward**
   Russell Makin Labour
   Ian Munn Labour
   Judy Saunders Labour

5. **Dundonald ward**
   Michael Bull Conservative
   David Dean Conservative
   Suzanne Grocott Conservative

6. **Figge’s Marsh ward**
   Agatha Akyigya Labour
   Geraldine Stanford Labour
   Peter Walker Labour

7. **Graveney ward**
   John Dehaney Labour
   Linda Kirby Labour
   Greg Uden Labour

8. **Hillside ward**
   Daniel Holden Conservative
   David Simpson Conservative
   David Williams Conservative

9. **Lavender Fields ward**
   Mark Allison Labour
   Ross Garrod Labour
   Edith Macauley Labour

10. **Longthornton ward**
    David Chung Labour
    Brenda Fraser Labour
    Marsie Skeete Labour

11. **Lower Morden ward**
    Stan Anderson Labour
    Mary Curtin Labour
    Sally Kenny Labour

12. **Merton Park ward**
    Edward Foley Merton
    Park Independent
    John Sargeant Merton
    Park Independent
    Peter Southgate Merton
    Park Independent

13. **Pollards Hill ward**
    Jeff Hanna Labour
    Joan Henry Labour
    Martin Whelton Labour

14. **Ravensbury ward**
    Stephen Alambritis Labour
    Philip Jones Labour
    Peter McCabe Labour
Whether it is planning, licensing, regeneration or full council meetings you are interested in, there is a long list of public meetings you are welcome to attend to find out the latest on the issues that matter to you. Find out where and when each meeting is online at merton.gov.uk/committee or call 020 8545 3616.

My councillor
Frequently asked questions

What does being a councillor involve?
Councillors represent the people and community groups in their local area. They set the strategic direction of the council, making sure residents’ concerns are at the heart of everything it does. Some councillors can spend 20 to 30 hours per week on council work, which may be in addition to their day job and family commitments.

What can they do for me?
A councillor is there to listen to you and help with any queries or problems you might be having with the council or other public services. All councillors make themselves available to meet residents and many hold ‘surgeries’ where you can come along and discuss your concerns or issues. Councillors might not always be in a position to help and they cannot promise a particular outcome but they can give the facts to council officers or the relevant people for them to pursue on your behalf.

Do councillors get paid?
Councillors do not get a salary but they all receive a basic allowance of £8,694. This reimburses them for time and expenses incurred whilst on council business over and above what a volunteer would give. It also recognises the service they give to the public. Some councillors with special responsibilities, for instance being a member of the council’s cabinet, receive additional payments to cover the extra time this takes up.

Can anyone become a councillor?
You have to be British or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union and at least 18 years of age. You also have to be registered to vote in the borough, or have lived, worked or owned a property there for at least 12 months before an election. You cannot be a councillor if you currently work for that council, have been declared bankrupt or served a prison sentence over a certain length in the five years before the election.

Find out more
Contact details for local councillors
merton.gov.uk/councillors
Health and wellbeing

As we move into summer, there are a number of great opportunities available in Merton to look after yourself and to receive support to lead healthy lifestyles. My Merton caught up with the council’s public health team for some advice on ways to get fit and healthy this summer.

Health Champions

Merton Council took responsibility for improving the health of the borough a year ago, when it was put in charge of public health. With an increase in serious but preventable conditions nationwide, such as diabetes and heart disease, one of our new roles is to help people change their lifestyles to live well and live longer.

But while people trust advice from doctors and nurses, local councils aren’t such a recognised brand where health is concerned. A new scheme in Merton is looking to address this. Called Health Champions, it is training up people from local organisations to pass on health messages to their communities. Organisations signed up to the scheme in the borough include the Commonside Development Trust, Association of Polish Families and the African Educational Cultural Health Organisation.

Health Champions encourage people to take manageable steps that can make a big difference to a person’s wellbeing. For example, making food swaps, (grilled meat instead of fried, veg-based sauces instead of creamy ones), easy activity boosts (getting off the bus early) and having alcohol free days in the week are all small changes which can really improve your health. The biggest change anyone can make is stopping smoking, which could add years to your life, and Health Champions can offer you the support to do this.

Healthy fun in the sun

Now summer’s here, picnics, barbecues and sunny days in a beer garden can all make it difficult to stick to good intentions. Change4Life, the NHS campaign for healthy living, has some good ideas including picnic recipes – ditch the pies and sausage rolls and try chicken wraps, tuna salad or a Spanish omelette instead. By cutting down on red and processed meat, like sausages and burgers, you can reduce your risk of bowel cancer. It’s recommended that you eat no more than 70g a day – that’s around two thin slices. Barbecues can be a meat-fest so go for lean chicken, fish and roasted vegetables. Make your own burgers from leaner mince, try lower fat sausages (check the label) and trim fat from meat.

Safe in the sunshine

Recent figures from Cancer Research UK show that the number of people diagnosed with the most serious form of skin cancer has increased five times in the past 40 years. This is explained by more people taking holidays in warmer climates – but with temperatures in London hitting 30+ degrees last summer it’s important to take care wherever you are. The advice is to stay in the shade between 11am and 3pm, cover up with a t-shirt, hat and sunglasses and use a sunscreen with at least factor 15, reapplying regularly.

Some people worry that using sunscreen prevents the body from absorbing enough vitamin D – vital for healthy bones. Cancer Research UK says most people can make enough of the vitamin from short exposure to sunlight during daily life – so not enough sun to burn your skin.

Prevention is better than cure

Summer’s a great time to make some simple changes to improve your lifestyle

find out more...

- Change4Life www.nhs.uk/Change4Life or download the smart recipes app for meal ideas
- Tips on eating well for less www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/eat4cheap
- Sun safety www.sunsmart.org.uk
Women at war

At the start of the First World War life for the majority of British women revolved around the home, with many others working as domestic servants. This would change dramatically as a million women took up the occupations of men serving at the Front.

Women in Merton assumed a variety of roles during the First World War, in nursing, factories, on farms and transport.

Professional nurses worked at military hospitals at The Grange, Morden Hall and the Holborn Industrial Schools between Eagle House and Bond Road, Mitcham. Volunteer Aid Detachments trained in local hospitals to work alongside medics on the battlefields, cleaning equipment, and treating the wounded. Many were women from sheltered backgrounds who learned on the job, working long hours sometimes in difficult conditions.

In Mitcham, where the Eastfields estate is now, some worked at Pain’s firework factory making military flares and others worked in the Lyxhayr factory based at the Grove Mill making military blankets and mattresses for hospitals and troop ships.

Other women became auxiliary police. There were also opportunities in the early Land Army and branches of the forces. The Women’s Auxiliary Air Force was formed in 1918 and, although not allowed to fly planes themselves, the women were given unprecedented opportunities to get involved in aero engineering.

Women also played an important part on the home front, knitting woollens for the troops and boosting morale by holding flag days to raise funds for wartime charities. Former Wimbledon suffragettes opened soup kitchens in Merton Road and Victoria Crescent, while other women worked on allotments growing crops to boost the local food supply.

Women were heavily involved in the recruitment drive, giving emotive talks at Wimbledon Theatre, encouraging men to volunteer and on occasion issuing the dreaded white feather to those they thought were evading military service.

One Wimbledon woman, Miss Hope-Clark launched The Silver Thimble Fund which encouraged the donation of trinkets to pay for ambulances and equipment – her campaign was tremendously successful and supported the Allied war effort across the globe.

Do you have any family photos or stories from the First World War that you’d like to share? Get in touch...

Merton Heritage and Local Studies Centre, 2nd floor, Morden Library, Merton Civic Centre, London Road Morden SM4 5DX, 020 8545 3239/4038 local.studies@merton.gov.uk

Look out for an open air event to commemorate the start of WWI on Saturday 2 August at Morden Park. The Mayor of Merton will be there and the event will feature readings and poems. All are welcome, visit merton.gov.uk/mertonremembers

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Could you be paying less for your gas and electricity?

Merton Council is supporting the Big London Energy Switch. We’re tapping into consumer power to help get you a better deal on your gas and electricity.

The more people that sign up to the Big London Energy Switch, the better deal we are likely to achieve.

Auctions are held on a regular basis. To check the date of the next auction and to register your interest go to:

www.biglondonenergyswitch.org.uk

Alternatively you can call Merton Council on 020 8274 4901

Please have your most recent gas and electricity annual statement to hand when you register.
Working life

John Ball is part of the borough’s enforcement and community engagement team. He manages the Street Champions scheme and works with adult offenders on community clean-ups. He also spends a lot of his time encouraging residents to use the food waste recycling service and educating people about litter and dog fouling issues.

John has been in his current role for five years having started work for the council on the frontline in 1998. “I did every manual job going when I started,” he explains. “Then I came over to the office side tackling graffiti – I went from actually cleaning the graffiti to working with schools and the police to eradicate it as much as we could.”

In April the hugely successful Big Spring Clean events saw over 100 people rolling up their sleeves and getting involved in local events. Now John is harnessing this enthusiasm for a cleaner borough with a new drive to recruit more Street Champions.

Street Champions are the ordinary residents who help keep the borough safe and clean by acting as the eyes and ears of the council, reporting problems such as litter, fly-tipping and abandoned cars. They also organise clean-ups and make streets brighter and more attractive with small planting schemes. It’s a voluntary role, but one which shouldn’t take up much time and can make a massive difference to the local environment.

John explained: “The Street Champions scheme is about getting residents involved in their area and reporting issues to us but it’s also about getting people to take pride in what goes on locally. It certainly makes the place look nicer but getting residents together is good for community spirit too.”

So, if you’re interested just sign up to become a Street Champion and John will advise and help you get started. He says: “We will supply hand tools, litter pickers, bags and gloves – anything we can do to help the community with their clean-up.”

"The Street Champions scheme is about getting people to take pride in what goes on locally."
Free Adult cycle training

We offer beginner or refresher ‘off road’ training, plus basic and advanced ‘on road’ training. Sessions are held on most Saturday mornings from 10.15 am – 1.15 pm in Morden. We can supply a bicycle or you can bring your own. All you need is a cycle helmet and enthusiasm! Training is available to all who live work or study in Merton.

This is your opportunity to learn a new skill, get fit, and have some fun as well! Download an application or telephone 020 8545 3205 today.

merton.gov.uk/roadsafety

Application Form for ‘On Road’ Cyclist Training Programme Summer 2014

Child’s Name (Block Capitals): ________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
Contact Telephone Number: ____________________________
Postcode: ______________________

Child’s Date of Birth: ____________________________
Age: ____________________________
School Attended: __________________________________________
Does the child have any medical condition the trainers need to be aware of?
Please enter details: __________________________________________

Date Venue Session 1
9am-11am Session 2 11.30am-1.30pm Session 3 2pm-4pm

1st choice (check preferred time) [(tick preferred time)]
2nd choice (check preferred time) [(tick preferred time)]

Signed: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________

Parent □ Guardian □

If you wish to apply, please complete this form (retain left hand side for your information) and send with a cheque or postal order for £10 payable to Merton Council to: Easter Cycle Training Scheme, Safer Cycling for Kids, 12th Floor Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX. Payment and application forms must be received by Wednesday 23 July 2014. Booking accepted on a ‘FIRST COME FIRST SERVED’ basis. Please note we cannot accept cash, credit or debit cards, or take telephone bookings.

I agree to my child taking part in the ‘on road’ cycle training programme.
I understand that although this training takes place on public roads, it does not automatically make my child experienced enough to cycle unsupervised, as proficiency takes more time, practice and training than this course can provide.
I accept that disruptive behaviour will not be allowed on the course and the telephone number provided will be used to contact me in an emergency.
I understand and accept that trainers check all bicycles before training starts and that, if trainers find a bicycle is not roadworthy, my child will not be able to take part. My child will wear a helmet.

merton.gov.uk/roadsafety
Community safety
Keeping crime low in Merton

Warm weather tips for a crime free summer

According to the police there’s one downside to summer – it tends to bring out the burglars, as hot weather means people throw open their windows and doors. My Merton got the lowdown from the Safer Merton team on how to keep your property safe over the summer months.

Lock up
If you open a window, don’t forget to lock it when you go out, but be careful when you’re in the house too. Don’t leave ground floor doors and windows open when you go to bed or if you’re in another part of the house or garden. And be careful not to leave car keys or other valuables close to open windows. If you’re off on holiday, use timer switches on your lights so it looks like someone’s home. Cancel regular deliveries and ask a reliable friend to check on your home while you’re away, moving post out of sight.

Keep your shed safe
Sheds and garages can be burglar hotspots too. People often keep valuable bikes in sheds which are barely secure and once inside burglars sometimes steal spades and use them to break into houses.

Top safety tips
1 Record your valuable items on the website immobilise.com – include serial numbers. This free service gives the police a better chance of finding your property if it is stolen. Use it to record bikes but also phones, tablets and laptops.
2 Have your property marked with your postcode and house number – your safer neighbourhoods team can do this for you for free.
3 Make sure your shed or garage is properly secure with at least two strong padlocks. Lock up bikes inside the shed and put garden tools in a locked box. Shed alarms and security lighting can deter burglars too.
4 If you’re away, consider locking bikes in your home where they’re more secure.
5 If in any doubt contact your safer neighbourhoods team. They will be happy to visit and give you home security advice.

find out more
For crime prevention advice call 101 to be put in touch with your safer neighbourhoods team or visit content.met.police.uk and click on contact us. Record details of your property at www.immobilise.com.
New courses enrolling now at Merton Adult Education
Pick up our prospectus from your local library or MAE venue.
Open Days: 8 July, 4 - 6pm, 4 September, 12 - 8pm
Book your place online, in person or by calling 0208 274 5222.
Whatley Ave, Wimbledon Chase
SW20 9NS
@MertonAdultEd
www.maec.ac.uk
Residents enjoying Wimbledon on the big screen

**Arts and entertainment**

- **Wimbledon Tennis on the big screen**
  23 June–7 July
  If you missed out on tickets to the Wimbledon Tennis Championships but still want to enjoy the atmosphere of the crowd as you watch the games unfold, Love Wimbledon will have an open air screening in the heart of Wimbledon Town Centre. The Piazza will be equipped with astroturf and deckchairs where you can catch every serve, volley and ace and it’s free. [find out more](www.lovewimbledon.org)

- **Stanley Kubrick season at Wimbledon Odeon, 7pm**
  2014 will see a minimum of four screenings from the great auteur, Stanley Kubrick. Tickets are now available for all shows.
  **Barry Lyndon**
  (Rated PG, for ages 12 and up) 28 July
  A gentlemanly rogue travels the battlefields and parlours of 18th century Europe determined to make for himself the life of a nobleman through seducing, gambling and fighting his way up the social ladder.
  **Paths of Glory**
  9 September
  Stanley Kubrick’s *Paths of Glory* is among the most powerful anti-war films ever made. This is a haunting, exquisitely photographed dissection of the military machine in all its absurdity and capacity for dehumanisation. [find out more](merton.gov.uk/culture-blast)
  **Monthly market at Wimbledon Piazza**
  12 and 13 July, 2 and 3 August and 6 and 7 September, 11am–6pm
  Every first weekend of the month at the Wimbledon Piazza there will be buzzing market stalls, deckchairs, tables and exciting live local community performers. Market stalls will be selling a variety of hot and cold foods, delicacies, gifts and accessories. [find out more](www.lovewimbledon.org)
  **West Barnes Singers summer concert – Touches of sweet harmony**
  Saturday 5 July, 7.30pm
  New Malden Methodist Church, 49 High Street, New Malden, KT3 4BY.
  As part of celebrating the 450th birthday of William Shakespeare and the appointment of a new musical director, the West Barnes Singers group will have a summer concert. The light-hearted entertainment will include songs from musicals based on the Bard’s plays and songs and sonnets which will be given a jazz interpretation by George Shearing. Tickets £10, children £3. Available from choir members and on the door. [find out more](www.westbarnessingers.co.uk)

**Polka Theatre**

- **Moominsummer Madness**
  11 June–16 August
  Tove Jansson’s iconic characters the Moomins, who have charmed children for generations, take to the stage for Moominsummer Madness. With breathtaking puppetry, heart-warming humour and original songs performed live by actor-musician puppeteers, this musical adventure makes the perfect summer family treat. Tickets £13.50, concessions £9. [find out more](www.polkatheatre.com)

**New courses enrolling now at Merton Adult Education**

- Change your career
- Develop new skills
- Gain a qualification...
- Change your future with Merton Adult Education

**Prospectus 2014-2015**

**Course Guide**

A range of leisure courses including

Open Days:
- 8 July, 4–6pm
- 4 September, 12–8pm

www.maec.ac.uk

@MertonAdultEd

Pick up our prospectus from your local library or MAE venue.
stayingin? Here’s a selection of what’s new in Merton’s libraries:

The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden
by Jonas Jonasson
From the author of the bestselling The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared comes a new humorous and quirky story about a girl born in a shack in Soweto in 1961. The girl is called Nombeko Mayeki and she soon finds herself right in the middle of political intrigues and conflicts on a global scale.

Other new books:
- Fiction:
  - Wars of the roses - Stormbird: Conn Iggulden
  - The Luminaries: Eleanor Catton
  - The Dying Hours: Mark Billingham
  - Never Go Back: Lee Child
  - The Ocean at the End of the Lane: Neil Gaiman
- Non-fiction:
  - Mary Berry cooks: Mary Berry
  - ICloud: Jason Rich
  - Did she kill him? A Victorian tale of deception: Kate Colquhoun
  - LinkedIn for Dummies: Joel Elad

NEW DVDS: MY MERTON RECOMMENDS

The Railway Man
The movie is based on true events and stars Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth. The Railway Man tells the story about a former British Army officer, who was tormented as a prisoner of war at a Japanese labour camp during World War II. He discovers that the man responsible for much of his torture is still alive and sets out to confront him.

Other new DVDs:
- Frozen
- Philomena
- 12 years a slave
- The Butler

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

New Wimbledon Theatre
The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1QG
Book online www.atgtickets.com/wimbledon
Telephone booking 0844 871 7646
Group bookings 0844 871 7696 Access bookings 0844 871 7677

- Immortal Chi
  Wednesday 16–Thursday 17 July, 7.30pm. Tickets £22.90–£26.40
  Direct from China, Immortal Chi has been conceived and directed by acclaimed Cirque director Erick Villeneuve, along with the Cirque du Soleil creative team. It is a brand new spectacular fusion of jaw dropping Chinese Martial Arts, amazing multi-media images, fabulous and beautiful costumes and original musical score, incorporating the Chinese Girl drummers.

- Rhythm of the Dance
  Tuesday 29–Wednesday 30 July, 7.30pm. Tickets £19.90–£22.90
  Rhythm of the Dance is rated as one of the most popular and successful Irish step dance shows on tour! This incredible live show celebrates both the rich history of Ireland as well as the art of Irish dance. Rhythm of the Dance has heralded a new era in Irish entertainment and features 30 dancers and a traditional live full Irish band.

- Morden Park Choral Society presents Shakespeare in Song
  Saturday 5 July, 7.30pm

- Merton Priory – 900 years
  Saturday 12 July–Saturday 31 August, weekends from 2.30–5pm, Wednesdays 11.20am–2.30pm
  Exhibition showing the life of Merton Priory from its founding in 1114 to the present day. Merton Priory is where the only English Pope, Adrian IV and Saint Thomas Becket were educated. King John stayed there and the most frequent visitor was Henry III. The son of Edward I died there and Henry VI (who was crowned more than once) was crowned there. Don’t miss this celebration of a national treasure. Norman Plastow Gallery, 22 Ridgway, SW19 4QN. Free.

© Varonov | Dreamstime.com
before you’re 11¾’. We want to encourage kids to get mucky, discover their wild side and get closer to nature. At Morden Hall Park you can pick up your 50 things scrapbook and go online at nationaltrust.org.uk/50things to log your adventures, unlock secret challenges and collect rewards. Top five activities to try at Morden Hall Park: Build a Den; Go on a really long bike ride; Play pooh sticks; Plant it Grow it Eat it; Find your way with a map and compass.

Summer festival of theatre, music and comedy

This year’s Abbeyfest takes place on 4 July to 26 August. The annual event at Merton Abbey Mills will feature performances from the Colour House Theatre, comedy nights, a blues festival and children’s events.

Mystery Movie event
Saturday 20 September, 7pm
Wimbledon Film Club is teaming up with Merton Arts Trail to create an exciting evening of cinema in a secret and unusual location to be found somewhere in Merton. Tickets will be available after 1 August and you get your first clue to the secret location.

Merton Arts Trail
12–6pm weekends of 20, 21 and 27, 28 September
During the last two weekends in September, Merton artists will be exhibiting their latest work in homes, studios, galleries and shops throughout the borough. A great day out, completely free of charge, when visitors can chat informally to artists in this community-based festival of arts. Free at all venues.

Multi-cultural weekend
Saturday 9–Sunday 10 August
RCCG Living Water Parish, 169–171 Haydons Road. A weekend to celebrate the diversity and beauty of different cultures within the Merton area through music, drama, dance, debate, food and lots of fun. Admission free.

The Cagebirds and Can You Hear the Music?
5–9 August, 7.30pm
(matinee on Saturday 9 August at 3pm)

Merton Arts Trail
22 July, 12 August and 19 August. Really Wild Sleepover on 9 and 10 August
Depart 12pm the next day. Tea, dinner and breakfast provided. For all ages and a night walk with our ranger. Followed by cooking on a campfire and a wonderful tea party, before joining us to the secret location.

The Cagebirds are quite a sight when they first sweep into the scene! Do they fly away or will it all end in tears? Everyone has dreams and this is no exception for the six mice living in the loft. Come along and see if you can hear the music too! Two one act plays in one evening; this is a trip to the theatre with a fringe style feel! The Colourhouse Theatre with a fringe style for an open air performance of Alice in Wonderland.

Alice in Wonderland
Friday 1–Monday 4 August, 3pm and 6pm
Sixteenfeet Productions presents a magical performance of Alice in Wonderland in our rose garden. Adult £12, child £8.

Outdoor Family Theatre: A history of Britain
Sunday 9 August, 3pm
Bring along the family for a hilarious open air production of a History of Britain, performed by The Pantaloons in our rose garden. Adult £12, child £8, family £15.

Really Wild Sleepover
Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 August
1pm set up, activities start 3pm, depart 12pm the next day. Tea, dinner and breakfast provided.
Camp out in the wild this summer! Enjoy an afternoon of nature activities, followed by cooking on a campfire and a night walk with our ranger. Adult £20, child £15.

Open air theatre: Romeo and Juliet
Thursday 14 August, 7.30pm
Bring a picnic, settle back and be swept up in the drama and passion of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, performed by The Lord Chamberlain’s Men.
Adult £17, child £15.

The Cagebirds
9 August at 3pm (matinee on Saturday 9 August at 3pm)
The Cagebirds are quite a sight when they first sweep into the scene! Do they fly away or will it all end in tears? Everyone has dreams and this is no exception for the six mice living in the loft. Come along and see if you can hear the music too! Two one act plays in one evening; this is a trip to the theatre with a fringe style feel! The Colourhouse Theatre with a fringe style for an open air performance of Alice in Wonderland.

Alice in Wonderland
Friday 1–Monday 4 August, 3pm and 6pm
Sixteenfeet Productions presents a magical performance of Alice in Wonderland in our rose garden. Adult £12, child £8.
Health and fitness

- Chinese Qigong meditation practice
  Mondays 10.30am-12pm
  Mitcham Library, 157 London Road, CR4 2YR. Come along to a traditional meditation practice to improve the mind and body with simple easy to learn exercises for all ages and abilities. Free.

- Scottish Country Dancing
  Every Tuesday 8–10pm
  starting 12 September
  Holy Trinity Church Hall, 234 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1SB. A friendly and sociable class open to new members ranging from teenagers to seniors. Kilts are not mandatory but soft shoes are recommended. Have fun and give it a try. Cost £4.50 for non-members. Refreshments included during the interval.

- 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.

- Merton Park Bowls Club
  Wednesdays from 14 May–August, 6–7.30pm
  Merton Park Bowls Club will hold coaching and taster sessions for new and experienced bowlers of all ages every Wednesday evening. Bowls and shoes are provided.

- Wimbledon Park Bowls Club
  Every Saturday from July to September, 11am–1pm
  Wimbledon Park Bowls Club is holding taster/coaching sessions for people interested in learning about bowls.

- Hercules Wimbledon AC
  coaching evenings
  Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6.30–7.30pm (ages 11–14), from 7.15pm (older age groups)
  Hercules AC provides training and competition for all ages and for triathletes. Enquiries from disability athletes are welcomed. Teams compete in men’s and ladies’ track and field leagues in summer. The club or individual members enter a wide range of cross-country and indoor athletics in winter, with road racing all year. Members £2 per session, non-members £5 for a limited period.

- Hercules Wimbledon AC 7 upsandovers
  Every Sunday 9.15–11am (ages 7–11)
  Entry level coaching for children in running, jumping and throwing. Hugely popular sessions with qualified coaches, cost £2 per session.

Interested in learning to bowl?

Want to find out more about bowls in Merton?
Visit merton.gov.uk/bowling_greens
Follow us on Twitter @MertonBowlers
● **Just Dance: Summer School**  
  **Monday 11–Friday 15 August**  
  New Wimbledon Studio, The Broadway. Just Dance returns for young dancers of all abilities to develop new skills, explore new dance styles and make new friends in this week long summer school. Master new routines and work towards a final showcase to perform at the end of the week. £110 for the week.  
  **find out more**  
  0844 871 7646

● **Morden Funday**  
  **Sunday 20 July, 10am–5pm**  
  Morden Park Sports Field, Epsom Road, Morden, SM4 5PR. Morden Funday is replacing the traditional Bank Holiday August Morden Park Fair and will have a range of family-friendly events including a football tournament, kid’s petting zoo and a companion dog show. Admission adult £2, under 16s free.  
  **find out more**  
  020 8640 6800 or email info@attictheatrecompany.com

● **Senior citizens**

  ● **Celebrating Age Mitcham history talk**  
    **30 September, 10.30am-12pm**  
    Mitcham Library, 157 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 2YR. An exciting local history talk by Tony Scott about Mitcham Fair, the Fair Green and the Clock Tower. Admission free.  
    **find out more**  
    020 8274 5745

  ● **Health and Wellbeing day**  
    **25 September, 10am-3pm**  
    Mitcham Library.

  ● **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.  
    **find out more**  
    020 8640 6800 or email info@attictheatrecompany.com

● **Walks and talks**

  ● **Merton's forum for parents of children and young people with disabilities or special needs**  
    Kelly Phillips, Manager of the Aurora Centre, South Thames College, Merton Campus, Thursday 3 July, 10am-12pm  
    Chaucer Centre, Room M, Canterbury Road, Morden SM4 6PX. Find out more about the Aurora Centre which offers educational opportunities to young adults with complex needs from ages 16–25.

  ● **Children and Families Bill 2014 – open parent feedback meeting**  
    Thursday 10 July, 10am-12pm  
    Chaucer Centre, Room J, Canterbury Road, Morden, SM4 6PX. For all parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs. Information session about the Children and Families Bill and an update on the progress in Merton. For catering reasons, please book ahead.  
    **find out more**  
    Email kids.first@swlondonmencap.nhs.uk or 020 8687 4644

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World War One memorial events

- **Commemorative Event**
  Saturday 2 August, 11am
  Morden Park bandstand. A narrated piece highlighting the mood of Britain and Merton in 1914.

- **Lights out**
  Monday 4 August, 10-11pm
  Lights out is an invitation to everyone in the UK to turn off their lights from 10pm until 11pm, leaving a single light or candle for this shared moment of reflection marking the hour that Britain entered World War One hundred years ago.

- **Forget me not: A tribute to the unsung heroes of World War One**
  Saturday 13 September, 11am-1pm
  Raynes Park Library. A re-telling of the stories of the nurses, soldiers and farm workers of Morden Hall Park during the First World War. An Attic Theatre production with performances by pupils from Cricket Green School and the Going for a Song singers. Tickets from £8-£12. **find out more** 020 8640 6800

- **Fields unsown**
  17-21 September at 2pm and 6pm
  The Stable Yard, Morden Hall Park.
  A re-telling of the stories of the nurses, soldiers and farm workers of Morden Hall Park during the First World War.

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**Bookfest**

This year’s Wimbledon Bookfest is taking place 3-12 October. Keep an eye on www.wimbledonbookfest.org for details about events taking place as part of the festival.

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MASCOT Telecare is provided by the London Borough of Merton and helps to provide safety, security and well-being, enabling people to live independently in their own homes. The service – available 24 hours a day, every day of the year – uses simple technology linked to our response centre based in Morden’s Civic Centre.

Our friendly team are trained to respond quickly and appropriately to calls for help when a pendant button is pressed. The alarm works as a two-way radio and they are able to hear you from anywhere in your house. In an emergency they will contact the emergency services and remain in contact with you until they are satisfied you are safe and well. We also offer a response service for those within 5 miles of the Civic Centre.

The service is available from as little as £4.38 per week which includes installation, monitoring and equipment.

For more information or to arrange for a leaflet and price list to be sent to you, please call 020 8274 5940

www.mascot-telecare.org.uk
mascot@merton.gov.uk

24 hour assistance is just a button push away

1. You press the button
2. The Telecare unit is activated and alerts MASCOT Telecare control centre via the telephone line
3. A trained operator answers your call and speaks to you through the unit
4. Response is arranged appropriate to your needs
5. Assistance arrives
Christella Burke is one of the council’s leisure development officers based at Wimbledon Park where her role includes coordinating Merton Active Plus courses for young people during school holidays.

**What’s your story?**
I was a student at Ricards Lodge and one summer my parents thought it would be fun to do one of the watersports courses at Wimbledon Park. I enjoyed it so much I asked if I could do work experience the following year. I came back every summer after that. Now I’m a leisure development officer coordinating year-round activities to get people involved in outdoor activities.

**What do you get out of the role?**
A sense of achievement – being outdoors and giving children confidence.

**What does Merton mean to you?**
I love Merton, it’s the borough I’ve grown up in, gone to school in and I’ve helped young people to develop here. It’s great to give back to such a diverse, multi-cultured borough that I feel part of.

**What would you suggest to anyone new to Merton Active Plus?**
Try our fun taster sessions; sailing, kayaking, canoeing, and team challenges on land. Try a bunch of different stuff, you may find something that you enjoy and excel in.

**And if you’re interested in a career?**
There’s our volunteer scheme. We take anyone over the age of 15 – all they have to do is volunteer for four weeks and in return we’ll give them a free four day assistant course which would usually cost £200. From that they could get potential work at the park.

**find out more**
Visit merton.gov.uk/activeplus for the full range of holiday courses.