Cook up delicious meals with leftovers

Christmas waste collection days: page 14

Keeping Merton clean and green
Back when I was a young dad, I worked hard to give my kids the best start in life. I know parents in Merton today have the same aspirations. That’s why I’ve made sure Merton is a borough that values families and invests in services to help all our young people reach their potential in life.

We know we are a great place for families but it’s pleasing when we are officially recognised for the work we do. The government has produced statistics for every borough in the country looking at the progress young people make between entering secondary school and doing their GCSEs. And they found that Merton was the top borough in the whole country. This is an amazing achievement and is a credit to our great teachers and school staff and the council officers who support them, as well as our pupils and parents.

This news comes on top of the announcement that government inspectors at Ofsted have rated our children’s services as “Good with Outstanding features”. This puts us in the top five boroughs in the country for children’s services. In particular, the inspectors found that Merton Safeguarding Children Board is “Outstanding” when it comes to safeguarding our children as well as in fostering and adoption.

Despite cuts to our funding from central government, we’ve been very careful with the remaining money and this has allowed us to invest millions more into children’s services. We’ve also been able to build scores of new classrooms to allow 4,000 more children to attend good local primary schools near to where they live. Our next challenge is to expand our secondary schools too, so all local children can take advantage of the brilliant education on offer in Merton, with a new school in South Wimbledon.

We are a great place for families

My children are all grown up now. You never stop caring and I’m so proud of all they’ve achieved. I know they’ve got where they have in life because of the good education and support we gave them. I want every family in Merton to have the same for their kids.

Fair funding for our police

Merton is the third safest borough in London and I want to keep it that way. That’s why I wrote to the Home Secretary in October asking her to halt the government’s cuts to policing in London. The government has produced statistics for every borough in the country looking at the progress young people make between entering secondary school and doing their GCSEs. And they found that Merton was the top borough in the whole country. This is an amazing achievement and is a credit to our great teachers and school staff and the council officers who support them, as well as our pupils and parents.

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Community News
The latest news from around the borough

Features
12 ways to cut your waste this Christmas 10
Having a happy and healthy Christmas 21
Keeping you safe at Christmas 23

Keep warm and enjoying winter

Keeping Merton clean

Christmas in Merton

Keep warm and enjoying winter

When you see this logo that means there's a volunteering opportunity to get involved in...
Holocaust Memorial Day
This year’s theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is *The Power of Words*. Wimbledon Arts Space in Wimbledon Library will be hosting a special free event on 17 January 2018 at 7pm. Holocaust survivor and stepsister of Anne Frank, Eva Schloss, will be speaking at the event. The council will commemorate the day with a civic event in the council chamber on 22 January at 7pm. Contributions will be made by the Mayor of Merton, Cllr Marsie Skeete, political leaders in the borough, the chief executive of Merton Council, Ged Curran along with community representatives.

Leisure centre taking shape
Things are going swimmingly well at the site of the new affordable and family-friendly Morden Leisure Centre. The foundations have been laid for the 25-metre long, six-lane swimming pool with the main part of the pool already formed. Excavation works are well under way for the second 15m by 13m pool which will have a moveable floor. The steel structure to the main building is now up and preparations are being made for the first floor to go in.

The state of the art leisure centre will provide residents with first class facilities, accommodating diving, swimming teaching and water-based exercise, a fitness suite, a studio and a café. The council has already budgeted for the leisure centre, which will be better value to Merton’s council tax payers as it will cost less to maintain in the long-run than the continuing repairs necessary to keep the current building going.

The existing Morden Park Pool will stay open until the new leisure centre is finished, after which it will be demolished and the land will be converted to open space. **find out more** merton.gov.uk/leisureformorden

No room for litter louts in Merton
Merton Council took 15 cases of littering to court in September alone, resulting in all 15 being convicted at Lavender Hill Magistrate’s Court, South West London. All but two of the defendants had to pay out £400. These cases resulted from non-payment of £80 fines issued by enforcement officers working on behalf of the council to deter people from dropping litter on the street. The council continues to crack down on people who litter in Merton and since the beginning of April this year has issued 2,339 £80 Fixed Penalty Notices to people committing the offence.

TV presenter opens Ursuline High School’s first official playing field
TV’s Clare Balding opened Ursuline High School’s first official playing field since the school opened 125 years ago. Merton Council played a key role in ensuring the playing fields were created. The site includes pitches and a pavilion with changing rooms and an outdoor space for wet weather conditions.
Park for free in council car parks this Christmas

For the sixth year running, the council is giving its gift of free parking in the run-up to Christmas.

For the four weekends leading up to and including Christmas Day, shoppers will be able to take advantage of free parking in council-managed car parks to make their Christmas shopping that little bit lighter on the pocket. This offer means that thousands of shoppers are set to save an average of £6 for a four-hour shop on a Saturday.*

The council wants to encourage people to spend their money locally to support the borough’s economy and safeguard jobs in Merton.

*Not available in Coombe Lane car park, Raynes Park

New bus street in Mitcham

A significant milestone in the council’s Rediscover Mitcham project has been reached with the completion of the new London Road bus street opening for traffic.

Transport for London (TfL) and London Buses are now running buses along London Road. Details of the new routes are displayed at all bus stops affected by the new changes and on TfL’s website. Only local buses and cycles will be able to use the new bus street.

Merton celebrates small businesses

Merton’s smaller businesses make to the community.

With the Christmas and sales season upon us, the council is encouraging shoppers to support Merton’s small businesses.

Pollards Hill Youth Club is pick of the bunch

Young people from Merton Council’s Pollards Hill Youth Club organised a voluntary litter pick to clear up the recreation ground near their club building.

With the help of local ward councillor, Cllr Joan Henry (second from left), they filled 10 bags with litter. The council spends more than £5 million a year clearing up after people who drop their rubbish on the borough’s streets and open spaces, some of which could be spent on other services for residents.

Throughout the year, residents and community groups ask the council to help with community litter picks by providing litter pickers, bags and collection of the bags of litter.

Have your say on Heathrow expansion

The government is consulting on Heathrow expansion. Residents who would like to contribute to the consultation should send in their responses by 19 December 2017.

Merton Council Leader Cllr Stephen Alambritis will be visiting a number of the borough’s newer businesses this Small Business Saturday (2 December), celebrating the invaluable contribution
Silver Sunday

Mayor of Merton, Councillor Marsie Skeete hosted a special afternoon tea to celebrate Silver Sunday in October. Around 115 residents from care homes, day centres and lunch clubs across the borough joined her for sandwiches and cakes. Entertainer Barry Stevens and Sarvalogeswari Kumararajah from the South London Tamil Welfare Group performed at the occasion.

Free cycle training for adults

Merton Council is encouraging more people to consider cycling to work and is offering free adult cycle training for anyone living or working in Merton. The free six-week course is available to complete beginners and people who would like to brush up on their road skills. Lessons are held in York Close car park, Morden.

Many employers are signed up to the Bike2Work scheme, which can save more than 40% on the price of the bike.

[find out more](http://www.cyclinginstructor.com/Merton)

Walk for peace

Leader of Merton Council Cllr Stephen Alambritis and Mayor Cllr Marsie Skeete led a walk for peace this autumn to celebrate Merton’s diversity. Starting and finishing at Canons Leisure Centre, Mitcham, the walk took in many of the borough’s green spaces. Fifty people joined the walk and shared a picnic at the end of the afternoon.

Park for free in Merton Council car parks this Christmas

Free parking* is available in Merton for four weekends leading up to Christmas.

*Free parking applies to council-managed car parks on December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24. Free parking is not available at Coombe Lane Car Park, Raynes Park or in council-managed pay and display on-street parking bays. All other parking conditions apply. Check out the council’s website for car park locations.
Merton schools top UK table for GCSE progress

Figures released from the Department for Education (DfE) in October show Merton schools to be the best performing in the country for progress between entering secondary schools and doing their GCSEs. Merton was top of the table of 172 councils in the country for pupils’ Progress 8 scores which show how much progress pupils make between the end of year 6 and the end of year 11 when they take their GCSEs. The score is based on results in up to eight qualifications including English, maths, three English Baccalaureate qualifications including sciences, computer science, history, geography and languages and three other additional approved qualifications.

Wimbledon Park grandstand rises from the ashes

Merton Council has given a new lease of life to the grandstand next to the athletics track in Wimbledon Park. The renovation work has brought the building back to life following a fire started by vandals last year. The commentator’s office at the top of the grandstand has a new roof and has been fully refurbished. The changing rooms, toilet facilities and the accessible shower have been refitted and there is new wiring throughout. The main room in the middle of the grandstand was stripped back to the brickwork and rebuilt so it now has new walls, ceilings and flooring. Outside, the main seating area has been water proofed and repainted and the stand is benefitting from new lighting. Check out the council’s website for details on how to book the grandstand.

New Year, new opportunities

As 2018 draws closer, we’re all thinking about New Year resolutions. Do you want to change your life and a child’s life? You could become a foster carer. Merton urgently needs foster carers for teenagers and sibling groups. The council offers lots of support including £507 per week for each child fostered. The council’s children’s services team has recently been rated Good with Outstanding features by Ofsted, so the borough’s foster carers work with a fantastic team.

Bidding for Borough of Culture

The council is working with partners and community groups to make a strong bid for Merton to be London’s Borough of Culture 2019. It builds on the borough’s unique attributes and long history. The winning borough will be announced in February 2018.

Business keeping Merton clean

Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough

Keeping Merton informed

Merton schools top UK table for GCSE progress

Wimbledon Park grandstand rises from the ashes

Bidding for Borough of Culture

New Year, new opportunities

Business keeping Merton clean
Get your extra free childcare

More than 800 working families in Merton have applied for an extra 15 hours a week of free education and childcare for their three and four-year-olds. This is on top of the 15 hours a week that all three and four-year-olds are already entitled to. Parents should check their eligibility on the Childcare Choices website. find out more www.childcarechoices.gov.uk; merton.gov.uk/fsd

Understanding dementia through music and dance

A unique performance in Wimbledon Library’s Merton Arts Space will use dance, music and film to tell the stories of families living with dementia, including early onset dementia, in the borough. Movement, and especially dance, has been shown to be therapeutic for people with the condition, and December’s show is the result of workshops held over the summer with Merton and Haringey residents. The workshops took place in the Arts Space as well as Alexandra Palace and were led by choreographer and psychotherapist Beatrice Allegranti. The performance, on 2 December, will be part of a dementia-focused event including talks and displays by local services.

The project is part of Merton’s work to be dementia-friendly. With more than 2,000 people in the borough expected to have dementia by the year 2020, the campaign wants to help them to live well, use local facilities and connect with family, friends and communities. find out more merton.gov.uk/artspace

WIN A FAMILY TICKET FOR THE WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS MUSEUM & TOUR

The Wimbledon Foundation is offering one lucky winner the chance to discover the traditions, triumphs, sights and sounds that make Wimbledon the most sought-after title in tennis.

The Wimbledon Foundation is the charity of the All England Club and The Championships. Since 2013, the Foundation has donated almost £1 million to local charities and community organisations helping to meet social needs and tackle inequalities in the boroughs of Merton and Wandsworth.

For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

How many times has Roger Federer won Wimbledon?

a) Nine  
b) Eight  
c) Seven

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 send it to: My Merton, 7th floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX.

The closing date for entries is 31 December 2017.

Terms and conditions: The competition is to win one family ticket (two adults and two children) to visit the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and Tour, Church Road, Wimbledon SW19 5AE. The Museum is open daily except 24-26 December 2017, 1 January 2018 and 1-18 July 2018. Tours do not run between 17 June and 21 July 2018. For the tour schedule, visit wimbledon.com/museum. The prize cannot be exchanged or used in conjunction with any other offer. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in this prize.
New Wimbledon school update

Over the past decade Merton has seen an unprecedented increase in demand from families wanting their children to have a Merton education. The council’s successful primary school expansion programme created 4,000 new school places. Some of those children are now needing to start their secondary education from September 2018, and the council has received over 250 extra resident admissions applications compared to last year. The council is working with the governments’ Education and Skills Funding Agency to ensure the school is value for money for Merton’s tax payers.

After many years of exhaustive analysis, High Path has been recognised as being the most suitable site available in Merton that could accommodate the number of children the council needs to provide with a secondary school place. In addition to a new school, the council has already expanded Harris Merton in Mitcham to provide 300 extra places, meeting demand in the east of the borough.

Harris Wimbledon Academy will provide 1,050 new places: 900 places for 11–16 year olds and 250 sixth form places. The new school will be completed by summer 2020, but the first children to benefit from an education at the school will start September 2018 at a temporary site in Whatley Avenue (SW20).

Merton’s Planning Committee approved a planning application for Merton Hall earlier this autumn, which should see Elim Church move to its new home in Kingston Road, Wimbledon. Elim’s current location in South Wimbledon will be part of the site where the much-needed new Harris Wimbledon Academy will be built.

Wimbledon Foundation making a splash

More than 200 Merton children have been taught to swim thanks to Merton School Sport Partnership’s (MSSP) Top-Up Swimming Programme funded by the Wimbledon Foundation, the charity of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. A survey by MSSP found only 37% of Merton pupils are able to swim 25m by the time they leave primary school. A grant of £10,000 from the Wimbledon Foundation enabled MSSP to run intensive swimming courses for 10 schools from the Mitcham and Morden areas to help ensure children were confident in the water. Helen Parker, Wimbledon Foundation Manager said: “We are delighted to see the overwhelmingly positive effect MSSP’s programme has had in increasing confidence and equipping children with this vital life-saving skill.”

Learning about democracy

Young people in Merton got a taste for local politics in October, during Local Democracy Week. They toured the civic centre and saw the council chamber where local decisions are made. They also visited the Mayor’s parlour where Mayor, Councillor Marsie Skeete spoke to them about her role. Councillors from across Merton and the MP for Wimbledon, Stephen Hammond, made visits to local schools while the MP for Mitcham and Morden, Siobhain McDonagh, also gave children from her constituency the opportunity to tour the Houses of Parliament.
Christmas really is peak season for waste and recycling; a time of year when it’s easy to go overboard on food, drink, gifts and packaging. Everyone’s heard of the 12 days of Christmas, but here’s our 12 ways to have a greener festive season!

1 Recycle, recycle, recycle
Loads of Christmas waste can be recycled, including cards, non-foil wrapping paper and food packaging. More of us are doing the bulk of our Christmas shopping online. That means a mountain of cardboard. After a delivery, squash your boxes to save space in your recycling or take them to a Neighbourhood Recycling Site. 

2 Waste not, want not
Food waste is a particular Christmas issue, forming a hefty chunk of the seven million tonnes of edible food thrown away each year. Cut your personal waste mountain by shopping smarter. Make lists, stick to them and be realistic about portion size – just say no to that 10 kilo turkey for your family of four!

3 Love your leftovers
With Christmas dinner over, make the most of your leftovers. Turkey and other meats can be combined with veg for delicious sandwiches, soups and curries. Check out the Love Food Hate Waste website for inspiration and information about which foods to freeze for the New Year.

4 Food waste sense
If you aren’t using the council’s food waste recycling scheme, now’s the time! Changes to our waste service in September 2018 mean that by next Christmas we’ll still be collecting food waste weekly, but household waste will be collected fortnightly. Joining the food waste recycling service will significantly reduce your landfill waste, so get on board and order your free caddy today!

5 New life for old trees
For many people a real tree makes Christmas special. No one likes to see trees lining the streets like the ghost of Christmas past, so make sure yours is ready for our free collection service from 8 January 2018 or take it to Garth Road Reuse & Recycling centre, SM4 4AX. Better still, buy a tree with roots and replant it to reuse each year.
### You’re worth it
Across the UK, we’re recycling 90% of kitchen packaging, but less than half of our bathroom items. So if your Christmas gift list features beauty products, toiletries and perfumes, make sure you recycle all the packaging and empty jars, not forgetting toothpaste boxes, deodorants and shampoo bottles too.

### Get switched on
More than a million tonnes of electrical gadgets end up in landfill each year, more often than not because few of us know how to fix things when they go wrong. This December we’re holding a free repair session with Recycle for London, at the New Horizon Centre, Pollards Hill. Drop in with your small electrical items (toasters, laptops, Christmas lights) and our clever team will have a look while you wait. Saturday 2 December, 11am–2pm.

### Be a greener giver
Don’t know what gift to give? Why not give an experience – days out or theatre tickets, a homemade cake of an offer of babysitting all make great presents.

### Need to know
There will be no waste collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day. Check out page 14 for revised collection days. Garden waste collections will continue this winter throughout December and January, making it a year-round service. Join for £70 a year at any time – merton.gov.uk/gardenwaste
Garth Road Reuse & Recycling Centre (Morden SM4 4AX) will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day. Open 8am to 4pm every other day.

### Grandma and grandpa know best
Older people who’ve lived through difficult times, such as Second World War rationing, are often more clued-up about reuse and recycling than younger generations. This winter we’re drawing on their wisdom by recruiting a Grand Panel of seniors to share their tips over social media. Look out for their tips and advice on Merton Facebook and Twitter from late November.

The Grand Panel is part of our involvement in the Small Change Big Difference campaign. With funding from the EU, we filmed our Grand Panel’s food tips in the kitchen at the Dementia Hub in Mitcham. Thank you to the Alzheimer’s Society for their help. We’ll be helping people to reduce waste while making healthy, sustainable food choices.

Thank you also to the Wimbledon Guild and the Dementia Hub who gave us some top tips on how to make the best of leftovers and fresh fruit and veg.

### Sew much better
Instead of succumbing to fast fashion, love the clothes you have by upcycling. We’re running an event with Love Your Clothes at 6pm, 29 November, Raynes Park Library. Places are limited, visit billetto.co.uk/users/love-your-clothes-london for booking details.

### New Year, new (recycling) you
As 2017 draws to a close please make recycling one of your 2018 resolutions, whether that’s always taking a bag to the shops (and avoiding the 5p charge), investing in a reusable coffee mug or going paperless with your bills and correspondence. For more ideas visit www.recyclenow.com.
COMPETITION

Win a family ticket to Santa’s Mixed-up Martian at New Wimbledon Theatre

Santa, Ellie and Rudolph are back in Wimbledon and this year they will be joined by a visitor from outer space, a friendly multi-coloured mixed-up Martian who has made an emergency landing on Earth after he was blown off course by a solar wind, just as he was nipping out in his space scooter to buy a Mars bar. For ages 2-6.

On which planet did Santa’s mixed-up martian land?
- a) Saturn
- b) Earth
- c) Jupiter

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 Wednesday 6 December 2017.

Terms and conditions:
The tickets are non-transferable. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in the prize. The competition is for four ice creams and one group ticket (four tickets) to see Santa’s Mixed-up Martian at New Wimbledon Theatre, valid on any performance between 12 and 24 December 2017.

Interested in teaching?

Teach Wimbledon is a collection of primary and secondary schools in The London Borough of Merton who offer training for PGCE qualification.

Train to Teach Events 2018
Open mornings 15th - 22nd January please get in touch to make an appointment
Teach Wimbledon and Roehampton recruitment event at Ursuline High School Wimbledon 7th March 5-8pm
Wimbledon Library 18th January 4-7pm

Feedback on Teach Wimbledon
“Working within the school has been a really valuable experience.”
“I feel like part of school family already.”
“The university sessions have complimented my school based experience.”

Qualification leads to PGCE/60 masters credit and QTS

High Standards | Teamwork and Support | Professional Integrity

Partner university

Teach Wimbledon
info@teachwimbledon.co.uk
www.teachwimbledon.com

Primary Training Collette Farley
collette.farley@ursulinehigh.merton.sch.uk

Secondary Training Annabelle Taylor
annabelle.taylor@ricardslodge.merton.sch.uk
Andrew Browning and his colleague Chris Ashenden are installers with Merton Council’s MASCOT Telecare service, which provides assistance to elderly and vulnerable people at the touch of a button. “Our clients have a pendant they can press to contact our office 24-hours a day, if they’ve had a trip or slip or are feeling anxious,” he explains.

Andrew continues: “People really do appreciate the service; I don’t think there are many jobs where you get thanked every day. Andrew and Chris joined the council on the same day, three years ago, but bring very different skills to the role. Chris, the technology expert, has a background as a web designer and telephone engineer, while Andrew was working as a handyperson for Age UK, having semi-retired from his own events company.

For Chris it was definitely the right move: “Sitting behind a desk looking at a computer isn’t for me. I love being out and about meeting people. No day is ever the same and we really feel we’re helping too.”

As MASCOT handypersons, Andrew and Chris can be called out to change light bulbs, fit tap washers or set up a bedroom downstairs for someone who’s just come out of hospital. “Little things, but they mean a lot to people, who couldn’t manage otherwise,” says Chris.

The downside of the job is seeing the loneliness experienced by many of their clients, following bereavement or because they don’t have family close-by. Andrew says, “Company and friendship are important, but there is help out there and we talk to people about how to get in touch with befriending services, if that’s what they want.”

MASCOT Telecare has been part of Merton Council for 27 years and also offers other technologies that are designed to help people live independently. These include door sensors to alert family members if a person with dementia leaves the home and flood sensors to prevent people letting sinks or baths overrun.

**MASCOT – always on hand**

For older customers, our MASCOT Telecare service is a great way to stay in touch with people who can help if you have a fall or an accident at home. At the touch of a button, you can be connected to our professional advisers who will offer reassurance and a helping hand if you need it. This issue, *My Merton* catches up with two of our handypersons who are here to help.

**Our monitor-only service costs from £4.38 per week including installation and equipment. There is no contract or sign up fee. We also offer a response service from £7.59 per week where a member of staff will come to your home if you need assistance. This price includes our free handyperson service for small jobs around your home.**
MERTON COUNCIL

Your Christmas recycling and waste collections

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<th>Your usual collection day</th>
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<td>Monday 25 December 2017</td>
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Please put out your waste and recycling by 6am on the day of your collection.

Your collections will return to normal from Monday 8 January 2018

Waste Helpline: 020 8274 4902
merton.gov.uk/recycling
Help us keep your area clean and green

We spend £5m a year clearing rubbish from our streets and parks - this includes everything from cigarette butts on grass verges to industrial-scale flytips. My Merton offers some tips on how we can all do our bit to keep Merton clean.

Every penny we spend removing dog poo bags from trees, picking up cigarette butts and food wrapping or taking away sofas people dump on the street could be used for vital services like social care for our most vulnerable residents, for example.

Many people don’t realise that putting out a rubbish bag or two next to a litter bin is actually flytipping. It might feel like it’s OK because they’re next to a bin, but it’s an environmental offence that could result in a heavy fine or conviction. We know that most people do the right thing and dispose of their rubbish responsibly. We take action against those who don’t.

These fines are in addition to the thousands of £80 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) we issue for dropping litter and cigarette ends as well as dog fouling. More serious offences, or failure to pay the fines, could result in a criminal record.

There’s no need to dump rubbish of any kind. If you can’t manage to take your bulky waste to our recycling centre, we will collect it for free. As long as you’re up-to-date with your council tax, you can book a free collection of up to five items once every three months.

Most of us care about where we live and want to keep it clean and tidy. During the year we get calls from groups who want to work with us and do their bit to keep Merton clean.

Here’s how you can do your bit:

- Make sure your household waste and recycling is bagged up and on the boundary of your property, visible to our contractor by 6am on collection day. Please do not leave rubbish in the street on other days. Never put household waste in litter bins.
- Become a Street Champion – help us reduce littering, graffiti and fly tipping.
- Organise or join a community clean-up. We’ll provide bags, gloves and litter picks. Check out www.merton.gov.uk/streetchampions; email: environmental.development@merton.gov.uk


Find out more about Street Champions by emailing environmental.development@merton.gov.uk
The comings and goings of Merton’s trams

Since the start of the millennium, sleek modern trams have been a familiar sight, connecting Wimbledon with Croydon every few minutes. However, it is more than a century since tram services first began operating locally. London could then boast the biggest network in Europe. *My Merton* finds out more.

Many Merton commuters and shoppers in the first quarter of the twentieth century relied on tram services, paying up to 4d (2p) a journey to travel from Wimbledon to the City or West End via Mitcham, Colliers Wood or Tooting.

During Victorian times public transport was a horse-drawn omnibus – two buses a day ran from Wimbledon to the City in the 1850s.

In 1902 London United Tramways received permission to extend its existing tram line from Tooting to Kingston and Hampton Court, calling at Wimbledon en-route.

The ambitious project took five years to complete; roads were widened, shopfronts cut back and, at Raynes Park, 100 trees felled before the trams began operating on 2 May 1907.

The stop on Wimbledon’s Worple Road was unofficially known as “Ely’s Corner,” testament to the status of the town’s flagship department store.

By the 1930s trams were being replaced by new trolleybuses, powered by overhead cables, but without tracks. More manoeuvrable, the trolleybuses were safer, roomier and quiet. For 30 years a fleet of more than 1,800 “trollies” dominated London’s streets and they are fondly remembered by many residents.

London’s first generation trams finally stopped rolling when “Operation Tramaway” was announced in 1950. The last Wimbledon service left the depot in January 1951 and trolleybuses too were phased out over the next decade.

Moves to reintroduce a tram serving Croydon and surrounding areas began in the 1980s as a means of tackling traffic congestion. The new Tramlink service was launched in 2000.

The modern trams follow disused railway lines as well as roads. Today up to 12 trams an hour run between Wimbledon and Croydon, with 50,000 people using the service every day.

Part of the service runs along the former route of the Surrey Iron Railway, founded in 1803. This used horse-drawn trains to carry freight between Wandsworth and Pitlake, Croydon and remained operational until 1846.
Keeping warm and enjoying winter

During the colder months, it can be more difficult for some of us to get out and about and to keep warm and active. It can also be an expensive time of year when some of us need a little support. My Merton looks at the fantastic community spirit that makes Merton a great place to live for everyone.

**Wimbledon Foodbank caring for those in need**
Wimbledon Foodbank does an excellent job providing a place where people can donate to the more vulnerable residents in Merton. Christmas and New Year can be a particularly expensive time so the foodbank is there to help. Every year Merton Council staff, along with many residents, donate to the foodbank. Donations of Christmas treats including cakes and biscuits along with essentials such as nappies, washing powder and tins of soup are all much appreciated.

Since it opened in October 2011, the foodbank in High Path has had 157 tonnes of items donated by generous residents, businesses and churches. Over the Christmas period they help between 400 and 500 people. The foodbank is supported by about 70 volunteers a week.

[find out more](www.wimbledon.foodbank.org.uk)

**Friends in St Helier**
Come along to Friends in St Helier (FISH). It’s a great way to meet people and get involved in the local community. FISH offers support to active, older residents in Merton. There’s a programme of meetings and activities throughout the year focusing on health and wellbeing, keeping active and making friends.

[find out more](www.friendsinsthelier.co.uk)

**Looking out for our neighbours**
Let’s all make sure our neighbours are OK, especially if they are infirm. Help with shopping or running an errand and taking the time to chat can make a huge difference.

**Befriending service**
Age UK Merton, which is funded by Merton Council, in collaboration with Carer’s Support Merton, Wimbledon Guild and Merton Voluntary Service Council, offer a free face-to-face and a telephone befriending service. There are volunteering opportunities for this and other services at Age UK Merton.

**MASCOT Telecare service**
This emergency response service can be a life saver at the touch of a button. A weekly fee means you’ll receive a basic package of a telecare unit, pendant button, smoke detector and you’ll be assessed for other Telecare sensors you may benefit from. If you’re on a low income, you may be eligible for the service at a reduced cost. Read our Working Life feature on page 13 for a day in the life of our Telecare installers.
Merton pulls out all the stops for Christmas

As always, lots of festive cheer is planned for our town centres this Christmas. Carols, nativities, mince pies, mulled wine and much more will offer joy to everyone. *My Merton* finds out more about what's happening in Merton – and most of it is free.

**Light up Morden 2017**

**Friday 1 December from 4pm**
**Christmas tree lights at 5.20pm**

Come and join in the Christmas fun this December! Morden will be hosting its own street party along Crown Lane and promises festive joy for all the family. There will be something for everyone with live music, competitions, games, hot drinks, giveaways and the famous Christmas tree lights switch-on.

From 6.30pm, immediately after the street party, businesses in Morden are holding their annual Christmas meal. This year it will be hosted by Ganley’s Irish Bar where the business community can enjoy delicious food and drink together.
Raynes Park Christmas Festival
Friday 1 December, 3.30–7pm
Merton Christmas light switch-on 5pm
The Salvation Army, Raynes Park Association and Raynes Park Association of Independent Businesses are all set to welcome everyone to the Raynes Park Christmas celebrations. Local choirs and performers will take to the stage in the Waitrose carpark. There will also be a live nativity with animals. Santa’s Grotto will be outside the Raynes Park Tavern and there will be plenty of Christmas stalls where you can buy gifts for the festive season.

Christmas in the Village
Sunday 3 December, 10am-5pm
Christmas tree light switch-on, 4.30pm
Wimbledon Village Business Association (WVBA) has planned a family day to ensure everyone can join in the festive fun.

There will be free family activities including reindeer, a treasure hunt, story-time and gingerbread and decorating as well as fairground rides, carols, mince pies and mulled wine. Families can watch Santa arrive through the high street on horseback and meet Santa in his grotto, courtesy of the Wimbledon Foundation. Father Christmas is free to visit and there will be free gifts during the day.

Funds raised will go to the Wimbledon Guild.

Celebrate in Pollards Hill
Friday 8 December, 5.30pm
Norah Moore, who is older people and support co-ordinator for the Phoenix Residents’ Association will be switching on the Pollards Hill Christmas tree lights this year. Come along and join in the festive cheer. The tree will be on the green next to Pollards Hill Library. There will be mince pies and other Christmas goodies too!

Thanks go to Moat for kindly donating the Christmas tree, and to the young people in the community for the decoration.

Winter Wonderland 2017
Sunday 3 December, midday–6pm
Firework display at 5.30pm
The magic of Christmas returns to Wimbledon town centre this winter. Enjoy festive sounds and carol singalongs, laugh with dancing penguins and roller skating Christmas puddings, feast on roasted chestnuts and mulled wine and watch twinkling fairies light up as dusk falls. There will be food and gift stalls; the carousel and the snow dome photo booth are back and there’ll be a host of new attractions too. The evening will finish off with a spectacular firework display from Centre Court Shopping Centre. The Broadway will be closed to traffic from 5am until 10pm on Sunday 3 December.

For the first time, the council and its contractor FM Conway will be providing Christmas lights in South Wimbledon. Residents have also come together to provide a Christmas tree for the area.

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Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough
Helping families in financially challenging times

Families on low incomes often struggle with paying council tax. *My Merton* finds out what Merton Council has been doing to help.

There has been a lot in the papers and on the news recently about how some working families on low pay are struggling to pay their rent or make ends meet because of welfare reform and the new Universal Credit system. The council can’t do anything about universal credit but there is one bill we can help families with and that’s council tax.

The government cut the funding for council tax benefit in 2011 and many councils took the difficult decision to pass some of this cut on to residents. This meant that some working families who had previously received a discount or paid no council tax now had to pay.

Merton Council decided not to make this cut. The council took this decision in order to help families on low incomes. In addition, it just didn’t make sense to spend money on legal fees to chase hard working families through the courts for money that they often simply couldn’t pay.

The council has to formally decide every year if they will continue to support families in this way and they will look at it again this autumn.

Merton has been praised by the Child Poverty Action Group for this decision, with their Chief Executive Alison Garnham, stating: “We value Merton’s commitment to providing support for vulnerable households.”

A number of boroughs are now learning from Merton’s example

Cllr Stephen Alambris, Leader of the Council, recently spoke at a Child Poverty Action Group meeting on the issue where Merton was used as a case study to show other boroughs how low income families could be supported.

Ealing and Camden boroughs have learned from Merton’s example and are putting in place their own measures to help low income households. The most important thing is that local families are benefiting from our policies which make Merton a great place for families.
Having a happy and healthy Christmas

The festive season is a time when it’s a little more difficult to stay healthy. *My Merton* finds out about the help available to get fit and healthy when the party season is over.

**Merton’s green spaces**

Our 51 parks and green spaces offer plenty of opportunity to get active. With free green gyms across the borough and park runs on Wimbledon Common and in Wimbledon Park, plus our leisure centres in Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon – there’s somewhere for everyone to get fit in 2018.

**Stay well this winter**

If you start to feel unwell, even if it’s ‘just’ a cough or cold, talk to your local pharmacist before it gets too serious. Pharmacists can offer expert advice on over-the-counter medicines to help relieve symptoms of many common winter ailments. You won’t need an appointment and they’re also often open late and at the weekend.

If you do need to see a GP for a more serious illness or condition call your local practice or out of hours call 111. Merton GPs now offer appointments seven days a week. Hospital A & E Departments are for more serious injuries and emergencies only.

**Festive cheer**

Once we’ve indulged in the Christmas festivities, many of us want to start the New Year on the right track. Why not cut down on alcoholic drinks? Having alcohol-free days and not binging is a great way of reducing what you drink.

You can use the new online Drink Checker from One You Merton. Just answer a few questions for an individually-tailored profile with advice about units of alcohol, calories and more.

**A happy, healthy New Year**

Lots of us want to stop smoking, lose weight or drink less, but evidence shows that we’re more likely to be successful with the right support in place. Visit the One You website for local support available to help you understand more about the areas of your life that might benefit from a fresh start.

Visit the One You website for local support available to help you understand more about the areas of your life that might benefit from a fresh start.

**NHS lower risk guidelines**

State no more than 14 units per week for men and women: 14 units = six pints 4% beer or 6 glasses 13% wine (175ml)

**find out more**

*www.oneyoumerton.org*

**find out more**

*www.oneyoumerton.drinkchecker.org.uk*

**Sandip Patel, Manager of Fairgreen Pharmacy in Mitcham**

*feature health*
24 HOUR FITNESS CLUB

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR 1 DAY FREE TRIAL PASS

Anytime Fitness Raynes Park
14-16 Coombe Lane, Raynes Park, London, SW20 8ND
0203 7456665
raynespark@anytimefitness.co.uk
Keeping you safe at Christmas

My Merton shares some top tips on staying safe this Christmas.

Avoid the fakes

Counterfeit goods are often poor quality and don’t come with any guarantees. Plus, they may be made using child labour in factories which don’t follow basic hygiene and safety standards. Avoid the fakes by being wary of bargains that seem too good to be true, and always check quality and packaging. Be particularly careful if buying at markets or car boot sales. If you think somebody is selling fake goods, call Citizens Advice on 03454 04 05 06.

NO MORE!

Merton was one of the first London boroughs to join UK SAYS NO MORE, a national campaign to get people talking about domestic and sexual violence. We’ll also be taking part in the annual 16 days of Activism against Violence and Abuse starting on 25 November with stalls around the borough and social media activity highlighting the support available and keeping Merton one of the safest London boroughs.

If you or someone you know is suffering domestic abuse, contact Merton’s One Stop Shop, Morden Baptist Church, open Mondays 9.30am to 12 noon. The One Stop Shop is closed bank holidays (25 December and 1 January) but you can call Victim Support on 020 7801 1777 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Always call 999 if you are in danger.

find out more
merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence

At home

Don’t advertise valuable gifts by placing branded boxes outside your home and don’t leave curtains open to show-off presents around the tree. Lock doors securely, when out, and leave a light on. If you’re going away, ask a neighbour to keep an eye on your property and remove any post from sight.

If you or your children receive the latest phones or other tech as gifts – don’t show them off! Keep devices hidden when out and make sure you set up their free tracking features. It’s also worth registering valuable items with a service such as immobilise.com.

Out partying

If you’re in a bar or club and something or someone doesn’t feel right, you can always ask for Angela. Ask Angela is a scheme to make people feel safer when they’re out enjoying Merton’s nightlife. Staff in licenced premises have been specially-trained to help anyone who feels unsafe. Just go to the bar, ask for ‘Angela’ and you’ll get help with finding a taxi and leaving discreetly.
Unbox a magical Christmas at

Morden Hall Park
Garden Centre

Whatever your style or budget this Christmas, you'll find beautifully made decorations, trees galore, fairy lights and lit sculptures, and not forgetting our exclusive giftware ranges.
We've got something for everyone this Christmas.

Morden Hall Park Garden Centre, Morden Hall Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 5JD
0208 6489755
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park

Free local delivery on all real Christmas trees in December*

* Subject to availability, terms & conditions apply. Registered charity 205846

Merton Council

We want to stay together

Siblings who come into foster care are often separated because we do not have enough foster families to care for them together.

Foster for Merton and we can offer:
✓ An allowance of up to £507 per week, per child
✓ Comprehensive, on-going professional training
✓ 24/7 support and mentors

Come along to one of our information events at Morden Baptist Church on
22 Nov 6.30pm, 6 Dec 10.30am, 10 Jan 10.30am, 24 Jan 6.30pm,
14 Feb 10.30am, 28 Feb 6.30pm or 14 March 10.30am.

Call us today 0800 073 0874 / 0208 545 4070 or visit merton.gov.uk/fostering

The Siegeris School of Dance

Wimbledon, Wimbledon Park, South Wimbledon, Raynes Park, Mitcham, Tooting

Dance classes for ages between / Boys, Girls and Adults
Monday - Saturday

* Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Ballet
* ISTD Modern & Tap
* Street Dance & Musical Theatre

siegerrisdance.com
info@siegerrisdance.com
07730536499

Email to register your FREE TRIAL
**Arts and entertainment**

- **Wimbledon International Music Festival**
  Until Sunday 26 November, 8-10pm
  Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon, SW19 4LU. Trinity Church, Mansel Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4AA; St John’s Church, Spencer Hill, Wimbledon, SW19 4NZ; Wimbledon College Hall, Edge Hill, SW19 4NS.
  Standard tickets: £5–£35; students: £5. One of London’s major annual cultural events welcomes a host of the world’s finest musicians to Wimbledon. This year’s theme, Music Capitals, reflects on the international spirit and language of music with composers, musicians and music from across the globe. The festival also features a free lunchtime series of New Generation Artists and a multi-media family event based on the travels of Mozart.
  [find out more](www.wimbledonmusicfestival.co.uk)

- **West Barnes Singers Winter Concert**
  Saturday 3 December, 7.30pm
  St Saviour’s Church, Grand Drive, Raynes Park, SW20 9DG. Tickets on door: Adults £10, children free. Kick off your festive season with a concert of different flavours including Mozart Missa Brevis in D and Finzi Et In Terra Pax. Also, a selection of Christmas carols with St Mary’s Choristers.
  [find out more](www.westbarnessingers.co.uk)

- **Morden Park Choral Society Carol Concert**
  Saturday 9 December, 6pm
  53rd annual carol concert at St John The Divine, High Path, Merton.
  Tickets: £3; free for children and senior citizens. Wine, soft drinks and mince pies included.
  [find out more](www.choralsocietymerton.org.uk)

- **Santa’s Mixed-up Martian**
  Tuesday 12–Sunday 24 December
  New Wimbledon Studio Theatre.
  Tickets: £16.90. An unmissable treat for children aged up to six. One adult goes free with every order (limited to one offer per transaction). Children will meet Santa and receive a gift. A friendly multi-coloured, mixed-up Martian has made an emergency landing on Earth after he was blown off course while nipping out in his space scooter to buy a Mars bar. Plenty of chances for children to join the action and sing along with their favourite songs. They will also have an opportunity to give their letter to Santa in person. Specially designed paper for the letter available on the day, or download from www.imaginetheatre.co.uk/santa-shows.
  Running time approximately 35 minutes followed by a meet and greet with Santa.

- **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 (no booking fees apply)

  - **A Christmas Carol – as told by Jacob Marley (deceased)**
    Friday 24 November, 7.45pm
    New Wimbledon studio. Tickets: £13.20 and £12 for theatre card members. James Hyland reprises one of the greatest one-man shows of all time in his award-winning production. This critically acclaimed adaptation has been hailed as the ‘Definitive telling of A Christmas Carol’ – Redditch Standard, and rated as one of ‘the top Christmas shows around the UK’.

  - **Jack and the beanstalk**
    Saturday 9 December 2017–Sunday 14 January 2018
    Tickets: £15–£48.00. Fe-fi-fo-fum, a giant of a pantomime comes to Wimbledon! The country’s most outspoken publican Al Murray and West End, television and Olivier Award winner Clive Rowe will lead the cast of this year’s GIANT pantomime. Follow Jack, his hapless brother, his mother Dame Trot and climb a beanstalk of gigantic proportions to cloundland in the spectacular family pantomime. Doomed to sell his trusty cow, join Jack as he fights to save the beautiful Princess, outwit the evil giant and win riches beyond his wildest dreams, and the hand of the girl he loves.

  - **Santa’s Mixed-up Martian**
    Tuesday 12–Sunday 24 December
    New Wimbledon Studio Theatre.
    Tickets: £16.90. An unmissable treat for children aged up to six. One adult goes free with every order (limited to one offer per transaction). Children will meet Santa and receive a gift. A friendly multi-coloured, mixed-up Martian has made an emergency landing on Earth after he was blown off course while nipping out in his space scooter to buy a Mars bar. Plenty of chances for children to join the action and sing along with their favourite songs. They will also have an opportunity to give their letter to Santa in person. Specially designed paper for the letter available on the day, or download from www.imaginetheatre.co.uk/santa-shows.
  Running time approximately 35 minutes followed by a meet and greet with Santa.
stayingin? Here's a selection of what's new in Merton's libraries:

MY MERTON'S BOOK CHOICE

The Good Pilot, Peter Woodhouse by Alexander McCall Smith
Val was working as a land girl when the Americans arrived in 1944. Mike, a young American airman, came into her life soon after, and so too did Peter Wodehouse, a dog taken in by her aunt. Little persuasion was needed for Mike to take Peter Wodehouse to the airbase and over time he became the mascot of the squad, flying with them whenever their Mosquitoes took to the skies. When their plane is shot down over Holland both Mike and Peter Wodehouse are feared lost...

Other books:
- Day of the Caesars by Simon Scarrow
- Winter by Ali Smith
- The little angel by Rosie Goodwin
- Shattered memories by V.C. Andrews
- Young Hitler: the making of the Fuhrer by Paul Ham

eBooks and eAudiobooks
A new App has been developed to give even easier access to Merton Library eBooks and eAudiobooks. Download today so you can enjoy some of the new titles:
- In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende
- My Husband and I: The Inside Story of 70 Years of the Royal Marriage by Ingrid Seward
- Secrets of Cavendon by Barbara Taylor Bradford
- Christmas on Coronation Street by Maggie Sullivan
- Fools and Mortals by Bernard Cornwell

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

The Snow Queen
Friday 17 November 2017–Sunday 4 February 2018
A magical, memorable adventure of friendship and self-discovery. For ages five to 11. Tickets £18.50, concessions £12, previews £14 (£1.50 transaction charge per booking).

My Brother, My Sister and Me
Until Sunday 11 February 2018
Magic and mayhem in this playful new show about sibling relationships for ages two to five. Tickets: £12.50, concessions £9, previews £9 (£1.50 transaction charge per booking).

Hill Singers
Saturday 2 December, 7.30–9.30pm
St Matthews Church
Durham Road Raynes Park, SW20. £11 (£9 concessions). We celebrate the work of George Malcolm, born 100 years ago, with a performance of his Missa ad Praesepe. Victoria’s Missa O Magnum Mysterium develops our concert theme. Southmead Primary School choir will be part of the performance. There will be carols for the audience and choir and free mince pies during the interval to start the Christmas season.

Lantern Community Choir Christmas Concert
Friday 15 December, 8pm
Lantern Arts Centre, Tolverne Road, Raynes Park SW20 8RA. Come and enjoy the Lantern Community Choir’s programme of uplifting seasonal music and some enchanting songs from other genres for an evening you’ll be glad you didn’t miss. £5 in advance or on the door.
Arts and entertainment continued

- **Nine Lessons and Carols**
  Sunday 17 December, 5–7pm
  Saint Saviour’s Church, Grand Drive. Free.
  Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, followed by refreshments.
  [find out more](www.stsaviour.net)

- **Young Wimbledon Artists Winter Show**
  Saturday 9–Sunday 31 December
  Norman Plastow Gallery, 26 Lingfield Road, Wimbledon, SW19 4QD.
  Free. A curated exhibition of art produced by young artists (9–11) who live or are educated in Merton.
  [find out more](www.wimbledonvht.org.uk)

- **Love Wimbledon Christmas markets**
  Every weekend in December until Christmas, 11am–6pm
  The Piazza. Come along and enjoy a host of unique stalls featuring many local artisans offering a variety of hot and cold street food as well as original art, accessories, clothing, homewares, crafts and gifts.

- **Love Wimbledon live advent calendar**
  Friday 1–Sunday 24 December
  Wimbledon’s first live advent calendar will comprise of 24 events taking place each day between 1 and 24 December behind 24 different doors in Wimbledon.
  [find out more](www.lovewimbledon.org)

Health and fitness

- **Free tennis lessons**
  Saturdays, 10am–midday
  Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Morden. Tennis for Free charity offers tennis for children and adults.

- **Adults First Tai Chi**
  Tuesday 5 December, 10.30am–12.30pm
  Chaucer Centre, Room J, Canterbury Road, Morden, SM4 6PX. Free.
  Join Lee from Lee Tai Chi Centre for an hour of gentle Tai Chi movement to aid relaxation, followed by a festive lunch of sandwiches and mince pies.
  [find out more](www.mertonmencap.org.uk/adultsfirst.htm)

- **Kids First Sensory Integration and OT Techniques**
  Monday 4 December 10am–2pm
  Chaucer Centre, Room B, Canterbury Road, Morden, SM4 6PX. Free.
  With Sheena Rufus, Merton Children and Young People’s Occupational Therapy, Central London Community Healthcare. A practical session on sensory integration and occupational therapy techniques you can use at home with your child. Find out what the OT service provides, plus information on referrals, waiting lists, assessments and OT in schools. 30 places only. Lunch included.
  [find out more](www.mertonmencap.org.uk/kidsfirst)

Mayor of Merton events

- **Christmas dinner**
  Thursday 23 November, 7pm for 7.30pm
  South Thames College, London Road, Morden.
  Tickets: £30 for a three-course dinner. Includes pre-dinner drink.

- **Winter Warmer**
  Saturday 27 January 2018, 6.30–9pm
  St Mark’s Academy, Acacia Road, Mitcham CR4 1SF.
  Produced by the wonderful Merton Music Foundation, this celebration of Merton music-making will delight the audience with a variety of music styles to reflect the rich cultural diversity across Merton. Tickets: £6.

- **Mediterranean Night**
  Friday 23 February 2018, 7pm for 7.30pm
  Ambience, 12–14 Leopold Road, Wimbledon, SW19 7BD.
  Come and enjoy a traditional Turkish Meze and belly dancing. Tickets: £30.

- **Charity ball 2018**
  Saturday 28 April 2018
  Chak89, 105 Bond Road, Mitcham, CR4 3HG.
  Civic dinner and fundraising evening in aid of the Mayor’s charities. Tickets: £90.

To book a table or to apply for a sponsorship package please contact the Mayor’s Office:

020 8545 3517
Walks and talks

- **Leisure activities for people with learning difficulties**
  Tuesday 21 November
  High Path Community Centre, 63 High Path, South Wimbledon SW19 2JY. Izzy Ivezic will speak about the drama, dance and music based day opportunities plus life skills, holidays and drama therapy offered by the Baked Bean Company. Michaela Webb and Melissa Hulbert will talk about the range of learning and leisure opportunities offered by HFT at their Activity and Social Centre in New Malden, including cookery, art, music and woodwork.

- **The human face of war**
  Tuesday 21 November
  West Barnes Library, Station Road, Motspur Park, KT3 6JF. Free. As part of our Remembrance programme, Merton Council Heritage Officer, Sarah Gould, will reveal more about the life stories of Merton’s First World War combatants. This illustrated talk will feature stories of ordinary men, performing acts of extraordinary courage under difficult circumstances.

- **The remarkable story of Wimbledon Station**
  Saturdays 2.30pm–5pm, Sundays 11am-5pm
  Free. Norman Plastow Gallery, Museum of Wimbledon, 22 Ridgway, SW19 4QN. The Museum of Wimbledon is running an exhibition telling the story of Wimbledon Station. Come and hear Matthew Hillier, a local resident and long-time passionate researcher into the history of the station, speak about how it has evolved from country halt in 1838 to the busy suburban hub we know today.

Community forums

Anyone with an interest in the local area is invited to attend these free community meetings. Discussions about a range of local topics will be held, with issues being followed up by the relevant organisations.

- **Wimbledon**
  Tuesday 5 December, 7.15pm
  Wimbledon Methodist Church, 200 The Broadway, London, SW19 1RY.

- **Raynes Park**
  Thursday 7 December, 7.15pm
  Raynes Park Library Hall, Approach Road, Raynes Park.

- **Mitcham**
  Tuesday 23 January 2018, 7.15pm
  Mitcham Library, London Road, Mitcham.

- **Morden**
  Wednesday 24 January 2018, 7.15pm
  Council Chamber, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden.

Find out more: merton.gov.uk/artsspace

**Mitcham**

New Arts Space at Mitcham Library, 157 London Road, Mitcham CR4 2YR

After consulting with over 350 young people in Merton, an exciting programme of arts events is happening at the new Mitcham Library Arts Space for 14–18 year-olds. Professional artists will lead workshops on various arts including music, drama, painting, printmaking and much more.

**Wimbledon**

Wimbledon Library, 35 Wimbledon Hill Road, SW19 7NB

- **Hearts and Minds Support Group**
  Taking place at Merton Arts Space at Wimbledon Library, Hearts & Minds is a weekly drop-in group for anyone aged 14–25 with mental health issues. Run by volunteers with lived experience of mental illness themselves, the group provides a relaxed space and offers a range of different creative and social activities. Anyone can come along whether they wish to join in with the activities or just have a friendly chat. It is non-judgemental, non-clinical and completely free.

Heartsandmindsinfo@gmail.com; Facebook @HeartsandMindsPS; Twitter @heartsand_minds.

**Wimbledon Library reading club for 11–14s**

For 11–14 year olds, a monthly reading club has started at Wimbledon Library the first Monday of each month 4–5pm, as part of a reading competition.
Family

Merton Youth Services
Merton Council offers young people in the borough the opportunity to make friends and get involved in a range of activities in their own time. Come and visit one of our youth centres for games, gym, sports, cooking and much more, or take on the Duke of Edinburgh challenge.

- **Acacia Adventure Playground**
  Acacia Road, Mitcham, CR4 1SD
  Term time: Tuesday to Friday 3.30–6.30pm (five year-olds 3.30–5pm); Saturdays 12 noon–5pm (five year-olds 12 noon–1.30pm).
  School holidays: Monday to Friday 12.30pm–6.30pm (five year-olds 12.30–2pm).
  Suitable for five to 16 year-olds. Free.
  [find out more](#)

- **Phipps Bridge Youth Centre**
  Cobham Court, Haslemere Avenu, CR4 3PR
  Term time: Tuesdays 4.30–6.30pm (nine–12 year-olds); 7–9pm (13–19 year-olds); Thursdays 4.30–6.30pm (9–12 year-olds), 7–9pm (13–19 year-olds). Free.
  [find out more](#)

- **Pollards Hill Youth Centre**
  South Lodge Avenue, Mitcham, CR4 1LT
  Mondays–Wednesdays 3.45–5.45pm (10–12 year-olds); Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.15–8.15pm (13–19 year-olds); Saturdays 10.15am–12.15pm (football for 10–19 year-olds).
  [find out more](#)

Both youth centres run holiday schemes. Details on noticed boards outside clubs or follow on Facebook.

Walks and talks continued

- **National Trust**
  “Flowers of Cities – All London from Prison to Palace”
  Saturday 20 January 2018, 3–4pm
  £3.50 and £3 for Wimbledon National Trust Association members. Christ Church Hall, Cottenham Park Road, SW20 oNA. Colin Pinney will be talking on the subject of “Flowers of Cities – All London from Prison to Palace”. He will narrate an off-beat tour of the capital from Prison to Palace, via a few bridges, several disastrous fires, four thousand tons of gold, nine windmills, seven ravens and two cats. The programme springs a few surprises – even for locals. For ex-Londoners it should evoke many memories and for would-be visitors is an entrancing travelogue.

  The History of Desert Island Discs
  Saturday 17 February 2018, 2.15–4pm
  £3.50 and £3.00 to Wimbledon National Trust Association members. Christ Church Hall, Cottenham Park Road, SW20 oNA. Ralph Jarman will be talking about “The History of Desert Island Discs”. Chronicling the history from its beginning to the present day, Desert Island Discs is both enduring and relevant and indeed comforting in casting away the biggest names of the day in Science, Business, Politics, Showbiz, Sport and the Arts and provides a wonderful snapshot of the decades.

  [find out more](#)

- **Melanie’s winter walks**
  Saturday 11 November; Saturday 16 December; Saturday 6 January 2018; Saturday 17 February 2018
  [find out more](#)

[mlnnunzet@gmail.com](mailto:mlnnunzet@gmail.com), [07944 833605](tel:07944 833605)
Need treatment or health advice in Merton?
There are more options than you might think…

| **Self-care** | Minor symptoms (headaches, sore throats, stomach upsets etc.) can be treated with over the counter medicines - available from your local pharmacy, local shop or supermarket. |
| **Pharmacy** | Expert advice and treatment for minor symptoms and conditions. Some are open late and at weekends - no appointment necessary. |
| **GP Practice GP hubs** | For more significant illnesses and long-term medical problems, call your GP Practice. When your practice is closed, call 111 to access urgent GP services at your local GP hubs. Evening and weekend appointments available. |
| **NHS 111 - the free phone service** | Not sure which service you need? NHS 111 is a fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. Call 111 when you need medical help fast but it’s not a 999 emergency. The service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones. |
| **A&E or 999** | For serious injuries and emergencies only. |

Further information is available on the free Health Help Now website and app [www.merton.healthhelplnow.nhs.uk](http://www.merton.healthhelplnow.nhs.uk) or on the NHS Choices website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).
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www.mascot-telecare.org.uk
mascot@merton.gov.uk
Delroy Thomas

Delroy Thomas is Senior Detached Coordinator at Catch-22, a national organisation with a base in the borough.

Working with the council’s youth service, Delroy’s team engages with more than five hundred 14 to 24-year-olds a year, helping them build resilience and deal with issues including drugs and alcohol, sexual health and emotional problems. He can often be found in the Urbie bus taking the service around the borough.

Tell us about the bus
It’s kitted-out with some nice lighting, a mixing deck, PlayStation and video games. We take it out in the evening to various locations, often where we’ve had reports of anti-social behaviour. We get young people playing some games and then we’ll get them talking about apprenticeships, what they’re doing at college, their family circumstances. They can get C-cards, which give them access to a free condom service and we talk to them about alcohol.

Is it difficult to gain their trust?
Once they come on board, it’s pretty easy to get them onside and start a conversation about alcohol, decision-making or whatever issues they’re facing. We’re arming young people with information so they can make informed choices.

What keeps you motivated?
Every so often you get young people who want to volunteer with Catch-22 – that’s rewarding because it shows we made a difference to them. Just recently we worked with a number of young people on a cookery project, which went really well. One of them entered a competition and won £250 – she requested we use the money to run further cooking projects. I felt this was testament to the good work we’d done and our investment with this group.

find out more
www.catch-22.org.uk/services/merton