Summertime fun
Get out and about this summer

Changes to recycling and rubbish collections from October

Introducing your new councillors
Merton is a great place all year round, but summer is when I most appreciate just how fortunate my family is to live here. My wife and I are really grateful to have been able to bring our kids up in Merton, because it means they had room to roam, with parks to walk in and play sports, giving them a great start in life. Ravensbury Park remains a family favourite, and we still try and find time every summer to walk the Wandle Trail together.

Despite the budget cuts from central government shrinking our finances, we will always make sure we look after the green spaces of Merton to the highest standard we can. With parks and greenery covering one fifth of the borough, we are truly privileged and here in the council we take the maintenance of our green spaces very seriously. And it’s not just the parks and commons we fight to protect, but the small bits of greenery everywhere, which is why we continue to monitor litter on grass verges, and take action to discourage drivers from using them to park their cars on.

This summer our parks are packed with great activities for everyone offering people young and old opportunities to meet friends in our local communities, get fit, learn a new skill and spend time in the great outdoors. Come September, we’ll be welcoming the first intake of pupils for the new Wimbledon Harris secondary school at their temporary site on Whatley Avenue. I’d like to wish all our students there and elsewhere a very happy summer holiday full of fun and adventure – before the hard work of the autumn begins!

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

Merton is brimming with cultural delights, and I am delighted that Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan recognised this when he awarded the borough a cultural impact award earlier this year, as part of the London Borough of Culture. Now we can look forward to Film Merton taking place in 2019 (see page 19), a programme to draw out talent across our borough. We’re hoping Film Merton will bring visitors from across London, just like other major cultural events here such as Wimbledon BookFest (see page 30). From Raynes Park in the west to Mitcham in the east, this is our chance to place Merton firmly on the culture map.

Receiving the cultural impact award from the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan
Community

News
The latest news from around the borough

Features

Lights, camera, action
Merton celebrates film

Keeping Merton clean
Beware of fly-tippers

Community safety
Keeping Merton safe

Regulars

Working life
Regulatory services team on protecting the borough

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

Don’t forget to visit our website!
merton.gov.uk/mymerton
You can also follow us on:

Contact us
merton.gov.uk/report-it

Registering to vote: 020 8274 4901
Council tax: 020 8274 4904
Waste collection services: 020 8274 4902
Benefits advice: 020 8545 4178
Parking: 020 8545 4661
Libraries: 020 8545 3783
Anti-social behaviour hotline: 020 8274 4907
Switchboard: 020 8274 4901

My Merton is published by the London Borough of Merton and is distributed free to 80,000 households in the borough four times a year.

Editorial
communications@merton.gov.uk
merton.gov.uk/mymerton

What’s on listings: Fill in the online events form at: merton.gov.uk/events/food

Adverts
For all advertising enquiries contact communications@merton.gov.uk

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Your recycling and rubbish collections are changing

Your recycling and rubbish collections are changing

70 years of the NHS

Volunteering in Merton’s libraries

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

Issue 74 • Summer 2018
merton.gov.uk
New Mayor for Merton

Merton Council elected Councillor Mary Curtin as the new Mayor of the borough for 2018/19 at annual council in May. Councillor Curtin has represented residents of Lower Morden since 2014. She is the first Irish born mayor in Merton, who moved to the UK as a nurse from Ireland. She will be supported by her Deputy Mayor, Councillor Geraldine Stanford and consorts during her mayoral year. Cllr Curtin’s charities are The Colour House Theatre, a children’s theatre based in Merton Abbey Mills and Morden based charity, the Friends in St Helier known as FISH. FISH is particularly important to the Mayor as it is a charity she started 30 years ago for the over 50s which organises lunch clubs, befriending sessions and holidays. It was also agreed that former Ravensbury ward councillor, Philip Jones will be awarded the Freedom of the Borough in recognition for his long service to the borough.

Summer cycling for the family

The days are longer and the evenings are warm, so why not get out your bike and get pedalling. Cycling is great exercise and fun to do plus the whole family can join in. There are many cycle routes in our parks and open spaces and roads are improving with safer routes and designated parking.

Merton pays tribute to armed forces

Crowds turned out for Merton’s Armed Forces Day parade on Saturday 30 June to celebrate the work and bravery of the UK’s armed forces and emergency services. Following the dedicated service at the war memorial outside the civic centre, where the Armed Forces Day flag was raised, the parade went through Morden to the bandstand in Morden Park, where the occasion was marked by a few words from the Deputy Lieutenant, Clare Whelan OBE, Rector David Heath-Whyte of St Lawrence Church, Imam, Naseem Ahmad Bajwa of Baitul Futuh Mosque and Khum Kanwar, of South London Nepalese Gurkha Association Morden.

New arrivals

This April the peregrine falcons nesting on the roof of the Merton Civic Centre welcomed four chicks. The white, fluffy chicks drew much attention when they made their first appearance on the civic centre roof webcam. The protected birds are monitored by the council and the London Peregrine Partnership.

Merton Council provides a number of free cycling courses including, Bikeability cycle training for adult beginners, improvers and commuters and specialised training for schoolchildren and pre-school children. Cycling Instructor, the council’s training provider, also offers free training classes to children during the summer and half term holidays.

Many employers provide the Ride to Work Scheme which offers good discounts on bikes and accessories. Full details at www.evanscycles.com/ride-to-work

Merton pays tribute to armed forces

Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough • Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough • Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough •
Merton celebrates its foster carers

On Friday 22 June Merton Council held a reception and awards ceremony at Cannizaro House in Wimbledon to recognise the work of its foster carers. The event celebrates long standing foster carers, as well as welcoming newly approved carers. Fostering is a way of providing a stable family life to a child that can’t live at home.

Merton urgently needs more foster carers to look after teenagers, sibling groups and unaccompanied minors. If you have room in your home and your heart, get in touch today. Full training is provided to every foster carer, as well as ongoing support, including a dedicated social worker and a 24-hour telephone helpline. We have a long-established fostering service; many of our foster carers stay with us for many years and Merton was rated ‘Good’ with outstanding features in 2017 by Ofsted.

Merton Council’s newly renovated Register Office courtyard is now open and taking bookings. The spirit behind the project was to transform the underutilised space into one of the most beautiful outdoor wedding venues in South London. Part funded by generous donations from our residents, the new courtyard design takes inspiration from the surrounding Morden Park and the house’s Georgian heritage and allows couples to enjoy outdoor gazebo and after dark wedding ceremonies between May and September.

Walking groups

Walk 4Life Merton provides led walks, almost every day, in Merton’s parks and open spaces. Walking is good for your heart and health, lowering blood pressure and diabetes symptoms, improving bone density and flexibility plus you get the chance to meet new people and make friends. Walks are free with guided walk leaders. Come along and join in!

Summer reading challenge 2018

There will be a ton of fun and pranks galore at your local library this summer. ‘Mischief Makers’ Summer Reading Challenge started on 7 July and Merton Libraries are encouraging all children to get involved. Mischief Makers’ is inspired by the iconic children’s title Beano, which celebrates its 80th anniversary. Children will explore a map of Beano town to find the mysterious treasure and become ultimate mischief makers! Dennis, Gnasher and friends will help them solve clues and collect stickers, having lots of fun along the way!

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to 4–11 year olds and is designed for all reading abilities. You can sign up at your local library, then read six library books of your choice to complete the Challenge. There are exclusive rewards to collect and it’s FREE to take part! All those completing the challenge will be entered into our prize draw to win an IPAD and more!
Development of NEW leisure centre forges ahead

The new Morden Leisure Centre is on track to open this autumn, as the final stages of building work get underway. The building has been fully constructed; both swimming pools are currently being tiled and the final mechanical and electrical equipment is being installed. Then the building will be ready for the finishing touches of painting, decorating and flooring. Once the works are complete the council will hand the site over to Greenwich Leisure Limited, who will open the new Leisure Centre to the public shortly afterwards. The new state-of-the-art leisure centre will provide residents with first class facilities, including a 25m six-lane pool, a large second pool with moveable floor for aqua aerobics; parent and toddler classes, diving; a fitness suite with approx. 100 stations; a large studio/community room, disabled facilities including a designated ‘changing places’ room and a café. Once the new centre opens, Morden Park Pools will be closed and demolition will commence.

Wimbledon Foundation serves up 100th grant

The Wimbledon Foundation, the charity of The All England Lawn Tennis Club and The Championships, has awarded its 100th Community Fund grant. The Community Fund, set up in 2014, is one of four grant programmes run by the Wimbledon Foundation for Merton and Wandsworth-based charities and distributes £125,000 annually to help meet social needs and reduce inequalities in the two boroughs.

Those recently awarded grants include Wimbledon Guild to run a new ‘Positive Ageing’ support group for people aged 60 and over who are experiencing stress, anxiety or depression and London Youth Support Trust to deliver a ‘Dragons’ Den’ type project on the Pollards Hill estate to help empower young entrepreneurs from challenged backgrounds to fulfil their potential.

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, the charity of The All England Lawn Tennis Club makes a valuable contribution to meeting social needs and reducing inequalities in Merton and Wandsworth by awarding grants totalling over £400,000 a year to charities and community organisations.

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

Aorangi Terrace is the official name for the Hill at Wimbledon. What is its nickname?

a) Henman Hill
b) Heather’s Hill
c) Serena’s Slope

Visit merton.gov.uk/mymerton to enter.

The closing date for entries is 21 August 2018.
30 hours free early education and childcare

This spring, 807 children in Merton received up to 30 hours a week of free childcare and their parents enjoyed significant savings as a result.

If your child turns three on or before 31 August 2018 and you and your partner (if you have one) are working, then you may be entitled to up to 30 hours of free childcare from September. This is the 15 free hours which all three and four-year-olds can get plus an extra 15 free hours – the Extended Entitlement. If you think you might be eligible, don’t miss out – check now.

Supporting LGBT
Merton celebrated International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia at Wimbledon police station in May. The event was organised in partnership with the local LGBT forum, Merton Police and attended by the Mayor of Merton.

Run by volunteers the Merton LGBT forum is a community group that regularly work with the council, voluntary organisations, local businesses and the community to provide a voice for the borough’s LGBT community and promote equality.

As part of their work they organise various events including a monthly brunch in All Bar One Wimbledon, coffee meetings, an over 50’s drop-in service and annual LGBT history month in February.

Approval given for new cycle path

A cycle lane connecting Merton and Kingston has been given the green light by Merton Council. The 1.2km walking-cycling green path, funded by The Mayor of London and Transport for London (TFL), will open a traffic-free route from Raynes Park Recreation Ground to New Malden Railway Station.

Thames Water are due to give their approval to the scheme this summer and construction work will start soon after that. Merton Council hopes that the new path will improve the public space, reduce pressure on the transport network, and make walking and cycling a fun and safe way to get around the borough.

Approval given for new cycle path

The Canons ‘Parks for People’ project has been awarded £4.7m raised by National Lottery players through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund.

Restoration of the historic Dovecote – Merton’s oldest building – and of the Grade II* historic Canons House for business and community space begins next year. There will also be a new café, public toilets, and a new playground as well as an extensive plan of landscaping to the historic grounds.

Community activities and events at The Canons House and grounds in Mitcham are already underway. Look out for more information at Mitcham Heritage Day on 8 September.

To find out how to get involved and to keep up to date with all the exciting activities and news from the site, sign up for The Canons House and grounds newsletter by emailing info@canonspartnership.org.uk

Follow on Facebook (The Canons, Mitcham) and Instagram (@the_canons_mitcham)

Get involved in The Canons House and grounds ‘Parks for People’ project

Get involved in The Canons House and grounds ‘Parks for People’ project

Find a provider: merton.gov.uk/fsd

Eligibility checks: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough • Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough • Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough
Harris Academy Wimbledon opens its doors in September

This year more than 260 extra children left primary school in Merton, making it the largest group in a generation to be joining secondary school in September. With all of Merton’s secondary schools rated as either ‘Outstanding’ or ‘Good’ by Ofsted, the demand for places is huge, making Merton a great place for families.

Record numbers are applying for a place at our state secondary schools, so the council has helped ensure that this extra demand is met through opening the new Harris Academy Wimbledon in September. The new school will open its doors to boys and girls at a temporary site in Whatley Avenue (SW20) in September 2018 before moving to a permanent new school building at High Path, South Wimbledon in September 2020.

The opening of the new school has ensured that every Merton child has been offered a secondary school place for the start of the academic year this September.

As confirmed in the government figures released in 2017, our existing state secondary schools are the best in the country for progress between entering secondary school and doing GCSEs.

Sexual health clinics in Merton

A new sexual health service offering free and confidential advice is now operating across Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth. Services include a full range of contraception choices and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. There are six clinics across the three boroughs offering appointments six days a week including Saturday mornings. There are clinics specifically for young people and gay men and there is a mix of appointment and walk in options. Merton’s clinics are located at Patrick Doody clinic in Wimbledon and Wideway clinic in Mitcham. HIV treatment services remain at St Georges Hospital Courtyard clinic.

A full list of the clinics, their opening times, and booking details are available on shswl.nhs.uk or alternatively call 0333 300 2100 between Monday to Friday, 8am–8pm.

Have you thought about becoming a befriender?

No one wants to be alone, but sadly many people throughout Merton have little or no contact with the outside world. For more than ten years Wimbledon Guild’s befriending volunteers have been visiting clients who are socially isolated. The visits develop self-confidence and trust, increases independence and reduces isolation in a fun and relaxing way. They can often develop into warm friendships and can bring peace of mind to relatives who don’t live locally.

Perhaps you could pick up some shopping for them, play some games or go for a walk round the block.

Age UK Merton (in partnership with Wimbledon Guild) also offer a befriending service focusing on older people, providing the opportunity to take part in hobbies and activities together or simply have a chat.

Could you volunteer to be a befriender? Even if you have limited time there are a small number of opportunities for volunteering after work or on a Saturday.
Summers in Merton are a busy affair with fairs, festivals, open air cinema and the prestigious Wimbledon Tennis Championships. Making sure that we are safe when we eat out, that we don’t fall prey to scams and that the air we breathe is safe falls to the Regulatory Services Partnership.

Morden Park’s Eastern Electrics festival is occupying the time of the partnership this summer. Licensing manager Barry Croft oversees a team responsible for ensuring the festival’s organisers meet the conditions of their premises licence. This means everything from crowd control to stopping prohibited items from being brought on-site.

On a day-to-day basis the team assesses licence applications for new businesses such as bars, restaurants, beauty salons and even pet shops, essential in running a business-like council.

John Hillarby, who heads up the trading standards service ensures people selling food, drink and merchandise operate fairly – that correct alcohol measures are served and no counterfeit goods are on offer.

For trading standards, keeping ahead of the scammers is a current concern. John Hillarby explained: “Vulnerable residents are frequently targeted by unscrupulous traders offering to do work on their properties.”

An example is the case of a retired resident who agreed to works costing £90,000 following aggressive pressure tactics by a rogue builder. Trading Standards advised the resident and acted on his behalf. He was able to cancel the contract, pay a small amount for work done so far and engage another builder at a fraction of the cost.

Last time you ate out in a restaurant or ordered a takeaway, you might have noticed a green food hygiene rating sticker – part of the national hygiene rating scheme for food outlets. Merton’s scores are the result of painstaking inspections by Andrew Bradley’s environmental health team. It’s not currently compulsory for establishments in England to display the stickers, but the results of all local inspections can be seen either at the Food Standards Agency’s website at ratings.food.gov.uk or by downloading the Scores on the Doors app at www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk.

Merton: a protecting borough

The partnership brings together Merton, Richmond and Wandsworth councils, sharing staff, premises and professional expertise across environmental health, licensing and trading standards functions.

Jason Andrews heads up the partnership’s environmental health pollution team. It’s a varied remit taking in pest control and drainage. “We investigate complaints of noise, dust, and odour too. Summer sees an increase in noise complaints; often the result of open windows and parties,” says Jason.

Jason’s team is responsible for monitoring local air pollution levels and producing the borough’s Air Quality Action Plan. The plan contains 70 actions the council will take over the next five years including improved air quality monitoring and tackling avoidable pollution – caused by engine idling and bonfires, for example.

Regulatory services play a vital role in making sure that residents and businesses are supported and protected. My Merton spoke to the team to find out what they do and how they help residents and businesses.
Summertime fun

We’ve had record-breaking temperatures this year and with any luck the sunshine will continue. But whatever the weather, Merton is a great place for families and our award-winning green spaces are part of the reason. *My Merton* takes a look at what’s happening in a park near you.

**Find your perfect park**

With more than 100 parks and gardens across the borough there’s always somewhere to explore, whether you fancy a family picnic or a serious ramble. Read on for this summer’s top events plus plenty of ideas for making the most of the great outdoors.

**Events for all the family**

Cannizaro Park’s splendid Italian garden is the perfect setting for open air theatre. Enjoy *Mayhem Musical Theatre’s* vibrant production of Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice* from Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 July.

*Drifting Dreamers Outdoor Silent Cinema* brings summer screenings to the borough. *The Greatest Showman* at Wandle Park on 19 August and Dundonald Park on 20 September. You can also catch *The Goonies* at Canons Rec, Mitcham on Sunday 9 September. There’s live music, all played through headphones, before the film, so book now for a night of song, spectacle and … popcorn, under the stars.

*Eastern Electrics*, two days of music and DJ sets from the likes of Jamie Jones and David Rodigan. Saturday 4 August features house and techno, with Sunday 5 August all about bass and garage.

If you’re after a gastronomic treat, head to Wimbledon Park this August bank holiday weekend, when the annual *Fantastic British Food Festival* is back in town. Work your way around 50 stalls laden with food and drink from around the world. There’ll be talks and demos as well as children’s activities. Saturday 25 to Monday 27 August – tickets are on sale now.

Why not sign-up for the *Pretty Muddy 5K* in Morden Park on Sunday 9 September, in aid of Cancer Research? Start training with friends and take on this famous obstacle challenge with climbing frame and mud pit, while raising funds for a great cause. Open to women and girls over 13.

*Eastern Electrics 2017* © SARAH KOURY

*Eastern Electrics 2017* © SARAH KOURY
Play it cool
If temperatures soar kids can cool off in our fabulous paddling pools. The interactive play pools at Wimbledon Park and Tamworth recreation ground, Mitcham are brilliant fun but there are six other neighbourhood pools too – all open until the end of the holidays.

Join the action
There’s no time to be bored this summer with our amazing range of Merton Active Kids sessions for young people. Have a try at anything from golf to football or drama to arts and crafts. Courses cost from £20 a day. Open to ages five+ (depending on activity). Book now before they sell out.

Pitch perfect
If you’re feeling inspired by the World Cup, or fancy making your exercise routine a bit more sociable, why not get a crowd together and book a pitch? Our pitches, courts and multi-use games areas cater for sports including football, soft ball, cricket and beach volleyball.

Wet and wild
Wimbledon Park Watersports and Outdoor Centre is the perfect spot to try sailing, kayaking and many more activities, on water and dry land. There’s a mix of taster sessions and longer courses for adults and children, all led by fully-trained staff in a friendly environment.

Flex your muscles
Whether you’re looking to liven up your run, build stamina and strength or start improving your fitness, visit the outdoor gyms and trim trails at parks around the borough. Each gym is well-equipped for the perfect fresh air workout.

On your bike
Free cycle training is available to people who live, work or study in Merton from cyclinginstructor.com. Individual and group sessions are provided for adults at beginner, improver and commuter levels. Children’s courses run during school holidays. You can also get a free cycle check-up at our Dr Bike sessions:
• at Centre Court, Wimbledon on 15 August
• at Fair Green Mitcham on Thursday 16 August and 20 September
• outside Sainsbury’s superstore, Merton High Street, on Wednesday 19 September.

Give bowls a try
With greens and clubs operating around the borough, bowls is fun to learn and a great way to meet new friends.

Anyone for tennis?
There’s no escaping Merton’s link with one sport and there are plenty of opportunities to play tennis and improve your game. Many parks operate a pay and play system – just turn up and start playing. Merton Active Kids also runs tennis camps throughout the summer.

Look after your litter
We love the fact that you enjoy spending time in our green spaces, but while you’re out and about please be responsible about litter. Use the bins around the parks, but remember they fill up quickly on busy days. If the bin is full, please take your rubbish home and help us keep the parks the beautiful places that we love!

Find out more
Merton Active Kids, watersports, paddling pools and sports pitches visit merton.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-culture
Cycle training visit www.cyclinginstructor.com/Merton
Bowls go to merton.gov.uk/bowls
Tennis visit merton.gov.uk/tenniscourts
Paddling pools visit merton.gov.uk/paddlingpools

For events
Mayhem Musical Theatre, Merchant of Venice www.mayhemtheatre.co.uk
Drifting Dreamers Outdoor Silent Cinema www.silentsummerscreenings.com
Eastern Electrics www.easternelectrics.com
Fantastic British Food Festival www.fantasticbritishfoodfestivals.com
Pretty Muddy 5k raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org
COMPETITION

Win two tickets for the opening night of Summer Holiday at New Wimbledon Theatre

The hit iconic 1960s film starring Cliff Richard is now the feel-good musical of the year, bringing music, laughter and fun to the stage as it becomes the happiest hit musical around. Starring Ray Quinn as Don, this is the story of an amazing Summer Holiday adventure on a London Bus, which is full of fun, laughter, hit songs, and of course romance, as along the way they meet and travel around Europe with a girl band and a young American pop star who is running away from home. This Summer Holiday musical is a feel-good show with bundles of energy and lots of laughs – it is sure to put a huge smile on your face. Visit merton.gov.uk/mymerton to enter and answer the following question. The closing date for entries is 21 August 2018.

Who starred in the original Summer Holiday film?

a) Cliff Richard
b) Hank Marvin
c) Bruce Welch

Terms and conditions:
The tickets are non-transferable. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in the prize. The competition is for two tickets to see Summer Holiday at New Wimbledon Theatre, valid on Tuesday 18 September 2018.

MERTON COUNCIL

People from all walks of life can foster

Merton Council urgently needs foster carers for teenagers, siblings and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Do you have room in your heart and your home?

Foster for Merton and we can offer you:

✔ Comprehensive, on-going professional training
✔ 24/7 support and mentors
✔ An allowance of up to £514 per week, per child

Come along to one of our Information Events at Morden Baptist Church on:
8 Aug at 10.30am, 5 Sept 10.30am, 19 Sept at 6.30pm, 4 Oct at 10.30am,
24 Oct at 6.30pm or 7 Nov at 10.30am

Call us today on 0800 073 0874 / 020 8545 4070 or visit merton.gov.uk/fostering
or email fostering@merton.gov.uk for more details
The history of Nelson Hospital

2018 celebrates the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service. *My Merton* explores Nelson Hospital which has been providing healthcare for over a century.

Based in the west of the borough, The Nelson Medical Practice is home to an innovative health centre bringing together GP, pharmacy and outpatient services from a state-of-the-art building, redeveloped in 2015.

The story of the hospital begins 120 years earlier with the need to bring healthcare to Wimbledon’s growing population. The hospital was the brainchild of surgeon Frank Deas and a group of fundraisers. They were concerned by a lack of facilities south of the railway line, where 90% of the town’s residents were living. The group found premises – a villa at 173 Merton Road, where the South Wimbledon, Merton and District Cottage Hospital welcomed its first patients in 1900.

By 1905 the hospital had 12 beds, but demand was growing. It was 100 years since Nelson’s historic victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. The idea of rebuilding the hospital on a larger site gained popular support as a centenary project. Funds were raised and in 1912 the new Nelson Hospital opened in Kingston Road, with wards named after Trafalgar and other battles.

The project was completed just in time; World War I was declared two years later and many of the hospital’s 15 beds were needed by wounded combatants. More than 3000 servicemen were treated during the four year conflict.

In 1922 a new wing was added as a memorial to the war dead. It had X-ray facilities, larger wards and staff accommodation. Over the following decades the hospital grew in size. Adjacent land was bought to create maternity wards, followed by construction of an outpatients and casualty department during World War II.

The post-war period saw radical changes to healthcare in England. On 5 July 1948, Health Secretary, Aneurin Bevan, launched the NHS in an ambitious move to provide universal services according to need, rather than the ability to pay.

Previously, healthcare had often been beyond the means of ordinary people. To receive treatment, patients had to pay the doctor or contribute to costly insurance schemes. Financial hardship led to high infant mortality and thousands of deaths from infectious disease each year.

Hospitals, such as the Nelson, were previously funded by a mixture of voluntary contributions and fees. Now they would be part of one organisation, together with GPs, dentists, pharmacies and midwives. In August 1948, Nelson Hospital joined the NHS as part of the St. Helier Hospital group.

Focussed on patient care, the modern Health Centre occupies a stunning new building. This preserves the distinctive facade of the 1912 building, including a First World War memorial plaque, which is visible from Kingston Road.
Cleaner, greener summer update

Boost for food waste recycling

An incentive to help families recycle their food waste is being launched in Cricket Green, Mitcham, following a successful bid for funding from recycling organisation Resource London. The area was chosen because of its high number of households with families. Residents will receive information and give-aways to help them get the most from the borough’s food waste collection scheme.

If you aren’t currently using the weekly scheme, contact us for a food waste bin and kitchen caddy – call 020 8274 4902 or visit merton.gov.uk/recycling. For tips on cutting your food waste in the first place, by freezing and storing food and getting creative with leftovers, visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com.

Guinness World Record attempt

On Wednesday 27 June at 2pm more than 350 Merton schoolchildren joined thousands of people from across the world to take part in the Plastic Bottle Boat Challenge. The aim – too simultaneously launch a flotilla of plastic boats at multiple locations around the world and try to break a Guinness World Record! The challenge was to highlight the impact plastic waste is having on the oceans and the environment. Following the attempt, all of the boats were recycled, showing the importance of reusing and recycling materials.

The World Record attempt results will be announced later in the summer – keep an eye on Merton Council’s Facebook and Twitter pages for the result!

Reporting illegally parked vehicles

From Wednesday 1 August, residents will be able to report an illegally parked vehicle outside of standard office hours. In response to customer feedback, we are introducing a dedicated telephone line for customers to report illegal parking, such as pavement parking, vehicles parked on yellow lines during restricted times or in a disabled bay without a Blue Badge, and vehicles blocking dropped kerb access.

The line will be available Monday to Saturday from 7am to 10pm, and Sundays 11.45am to 4pm. During the evenings and at weekends calls will go directly to the Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) mobile patrol, which will increase the likelihood of officers getting to the location while the illegally parked vehicle is still there. The number to call to report illegal parking is 020 8545 4661, option 3.

find out more
merton.gov.uk/illegal-parking
In Merton we are committed to modernising the way we collect rubbish and increasing the amount we recycle. To help us achieve this, from October, we will be providing the majority of households with new wheelie bins and changing some collection days. Residents living in larger purpose-built blocks of flats that use communal bins or homes that use the purple and blue bag service will not experience any changes to their service. Check out the leaflet or letter sent to you in early July to confirm the exact service you will be receiving from October.

**Three reasons for the change:**
1. To boost Merton’s recycling rate from 37% to over 45% within 12 months – making us one of the best recycling boroughs in London.
2. To keep our streets clean – new wheelie bins will reduce spillages on collection day and store your recycling and rubbish more securely between collections, reducing litter.
3. To save money – the new service will save up to £1.6 million per year; money that will be used to protect our vital services.

**What will change?**
You will have more space for your recycling: a new wheelie bin for your paper and card will mean that your recycling boxes will be used just for plastics, glass, cans and cartons. You will also be able to recycle textiles and household batteries from home for the first time.

The frequency of rubbish (non-recyclable waste) collections will be changed from weekly to fortnightly and you will be provided with a new wheelie bin for your rubbish. The aim is to discourage us all from throwing things away that could be recycled.

An important part of making the service more efficient is re-routing the collection rounds. This will save money and reduce the amount of time our collection vehicles are out on the roads, which is good for the environment. This means that collection day will change from October for the majority of households.

Weekly collections of food waste for recycling will continue. You should already have a food waste bin. If yours is damaged or missing, order a replacement now: merton.gov.uk/recycling

To find out more about the new service visit one of our roadshow events to speak face-to-face with Merton Council officers and representatives from Veolia, our waste collection contractor. We will be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the new collection service.

**Wimbledon Town Centre**
Wednesday 8 August 2018, 11am–4pm
The Piazza, Wimbledon, SW19 1QB

**Morden**
Thursday 16 August 2018, 12 noon–4pm
Garth Road Household Reuse and Recycling Centre, 63–69 Amenity Way, off Garth Road, Morden, SM4 4AX

**Colliers Wood**
Wednesday 22 August 2018, 2pm–7pm
Colliers Wood Plaza, outside the tube station

**Mitcham**
Saturday 25 August 2018, 11am–4pm
Mitcham Market, Mitcham Town Centre (next to Mitcham Clock Tower)

**Look out for more information**
Your new wheelie bins will be delivered between the beginning of August and the end of September. They will be left outside your home and will come with an information pack providing more details on the changes. With more than 120,000 bins to distribute, this is going to take some time. It means you may receive your bins a number of weeks before you can start using them.

Find out more: merton.gov.uk/recycling
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 23 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.
**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

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**Council meetings**

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:
merton.gov.uk/committee or call 020 8545 3616.
Volunteer. Why wouldn’t you?

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

Visit merton.gov.uk/libraryvolunteer to find out about a range of exciting opportunities in Merton’s libraries.
Get ready for Film Merton

We’ll be rolling out the red carpets across the borough in 2019 as Merton plays host to a major celebration of film. Film Merton will feature pop-up screenings from celebrity curators, new film commissions and the latest in virtual reality cinematic experience. With a range of experiences for young and old alike, Film Merton is another cultural offering which makes the borough a great place for families to live in and visit.

The project follows a cultural impact award from the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. Merton bid for the award as part of the London Borough of Culture competition, and was one of just six boroughs singled out for exemplary projects – in Merton’s case for film.

Look out for:
- 24 film seasons at locations around the borough, curated by community groups and special guests.
- Two new films to be made in Merton, drawing on local talent, including established and emerging filmmakers.
- A ground-breaking virtual reality film festival putting Merton on the map for new technology.
- A focus on bringing new cultural opportunities to Mitcham and leaving a lasting legacy.

The project is being led by a cultural advisory group of experts from businesses and not-for-profit organisations, all of them passionate about bringing exciting cultural experiences to Merton.

Local filmmakers, creatives or anyone interested in getting involved in shaping the project should email filmmerton19@gmail.com

Meanwhile Merton has a growing reputation as a location, harking back to a tradition of filmmaking in the borough. Merton Park Film Studios on Kingston Road produced wartime propaganda and features until the 1960s, including early Carry On films. Everyone knows that long-running police soap The Bill was filmed in Merton, but did you know...

- South Park Gardens and Coombe Lane are in BBC sitcom Not Going Out, which shoots many outside scenes in Merton.
- Morden Park Pools featured in Little Britain; scenes when Andy and Lou go swimming.
- Tom Cruise caused a stir by turning up at Old Rutts Cricket Ground, Merton Park on the set of the 2016 film Jack Reacher: Never Go Back.
- Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa may be set in north Norfolk, but the siege and other scenes were filmed in Merton.
- Sick Note starring Don Johnson and Lindsay Lohan films extensively in the borough. Series 2, to air in the autumn, includes scenes on Wimbledon Common and Durnsford Recreation Ground.

Find the latest on filming in the borough at www.mertonfilmoffice.co.uk
The film office also links residents, particularly young people, to local filming opportunities – contact info@mertonfilmoffice.co.uk to find out more.
Fly-tippers and those who pay fly-tippers

The residents of Merton and Merton Council are always on the lookout and regularly report offenders. You may have already been seen and reported and could receive an unlimited fine and/or imprisonment.

If you see fly-tipping report the offence online at:
merton.gov.uk/flytipping

Second phase open for registration

After a successful first phase, with thousands of registrants, Solar Together London is back to help you get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price through the power of group buying. To find out more about our hassle-free approach, and to register your interest before 22 August visit our website today.

www.solartogether.co.uk/merton

SOLAR TOGETHER LONDON

GROUP BUYING SCHEME FOR SOLAR PANELS IS BACK!

MAYOR OF LONDON
Life-changing libraries

The council is calling on residents to volunteer in its award-winning libraries. *My Merton* caught-up with Sanjana and Anthony to find out what they do and why they are inspired to volunteer.

“I’m a big reader – for me libraries are definitely among the top five places on the entire planet,” says 16-year-old library volunteer Sanjana Poddar. “When I saw the adverts for last year’s Summer Reading Challenge volunteers it seemed like an opportunity to use my holiday productively and meet new people. It was an amazing experience and a very welcoming environment.”

Merton’s libraries have a wide range of volunteering opportunities for all ages and Sanjana had already been helping out in Wimbledon Library, meeting and greeting customers and shelving books.

The Summer Reading Challenge, which this year started on 7 July, encourages children under 11 to read six books during the summer break. It was a chance for Sanjana to share her love of books with younger children. “It was lovely to see the delight and eagerness to read something new in their eyes,” she said. “It also gives you the soft skills you can use almost anywhere; communicating with the children and their parents and working with computer systems.”

Sanjana was named Young Volunteer of the Year at an event in March celebrating the work of our 600 library volunteers. Our volunteers are the life-blood of Merton’s amazing libraries which are used every day by families across the borough. Also receiving an award of recognition was the Home Visits Library Service, which is managed by Merton Voluntary Services Council on behalf of the council. Volunteers select and deliver books to housebound residents, catering for all tastes and age groups with a wide range of materials available, including large print and audio books.

Anthony Gubbins has been volunteering with the service for a decade and spends three Wednesdays every month calling on customers in Mitcham and Wimbledon. As Anthony explained, “It’s as much about building relationships as delivering a parcel of books. Many of the customers are completely housebound and are quite happy to sit down for a chat. “Sometimes I’m able to do things for them, which are really no effort at all, but can be life-changing – I was once able to change a light bulb for someone who had no-one else to do it. It’s very rewarding; people express huge appreciation when you visit, which is really nice.”

There’s a wide range of volunteering opportunities available in Merton’s libraries. Visit our website today and find out more.

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The Home Visits Library Service receiving their long service award from former Mayor of Merton Marsie Skeete at the Merton Libraries Volunteer Awards Ceremony 2018
Beware of fly-tippers knocking on your door

Get the wrong person to take your waste away and you could be held responsible and face prosecution. *My Merton* finds out how residents can dispose of their waste correctly and not get caught out by rogue waste carriers.

Flytips are often the result of opportunist criminals knocking on front doors offering to take waste away at a bargain price. By taking up such offers, householders could be held responsible and face prosecution. Make sure you are not caught out, follow these five simple steps:

- Ask to see their waste carrier’s licence and make a note of their licence registration number. You can check licences at gov.uk/find-registered-waste-carrier
- Record their full name, vehicle description, registration, and company address. Keep these details safe.
- Look to see if their vehicle is marked with the correct company name.
- Visit the company website and search the internet for reviews.
- Call their landline phone number.

We recommend that you do not use a waste collector who knocks on your door and refuses to give you the information listed above. Take time to research a reputable waste collection company and then make contact with them in your own time. This way you won’t risk being prosecuted or receiving a fine and your waste will be disposed of responsibly.

Disposing of your waste responsibly

- **Large bulky items and garden waste** can be taken to the Recycling Centre (the tip) at Garth Road, Morden.
- **Old furniture**: Either donate to charity, sell it or use our free bulky waste collection service – as long as you’re up-to-date with your council tax, we will remove up to five items, three times a year. Visit merton.gov.uk/waste
- **Garden waste**: Sign up to the Merton Garden Waste Service and receive fortnightly collections. This is an annual subscription. More information can be found on page 31 or call today to join: 020 8274 4902.

The council is keen to reassure residents that we’re serious about tackling flytipping. We spend £5 million each year on street cleaning and have issued over 40 £400 fines for small-scale flytips in the past year. We will also bring prosecutions for larger scale offences resulting in hefty fines and a criminal record. Visit the council’s website for a list of people whom have been successfully prosecuted after they failed to pay an FPN merton.gov.uk/fpn

The law states Section 34 Environmental Protection Act You are committing an offence if you instruct a waste carrier who is unlicensed.
London Fire Cadet training saves a life

Sixteen-year-old Bethany Grench from Mitcham used the first aid skills she’d learnt as a London Fire Cadet to help save her mother’s life.

When her mum, Eileen, collapsed at home, Bethany’s training kicked in. Eileen was later found to be suffering from the life-threatening condition sepsis. After checking Eileen’s breathing Bethany cleared her airways before dialling 999.

Says Bethany: “At hospital, they told me that thanks to the first aid I gave my mum I saved her life. What I want people to take from this story is that you never know when you will need to perform first aid but you should always learn it.”

Funded by Safer Merton, the fire cadet units meet at certain fire stations on Wednesday evenings where they learn hands-on skills as well as team work and problem solving.

Tackling problem drinking

All public spaces in Merton are now covered by a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) aimed at preventing anti-social behaviour connected to street drinking.

PSPOs are legal measures, which give the police and councils wider powers to deal with a problem affecting local quality of life.

While it’s not an offence to drink in public areas, the PSPO means that anyone whose drinking is causing a nuisance could face a fine.

Alongside these powers is a commitment to helping vulnerable street drinkers by putting them in touch with community support services.

The PSPO is enforced by police officers and police community support officers (PCSOs) alongside others delegated to do so by the council. If street drinking is causing a problem in your area please contact the police by calling 101.

You can also report concerns relating to the PSPO and breaches of it to the Safer Merton service on 020 8274 4901.

Make a difference

Neighbourhood Watch is not about being nosy or gossiping; it is about developing local knowledge, building community spirit and developing links with your local policing team. Being part of an active community who are looking out for one another provides reassurance and peace of mind to everyone in the street – this could be for someone living alone and feel isolated or people concerned about leaving their home unoccupied while on holiday.

If you would like to start a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and become a coordinator, please visit mertonnhw.co.uk or call 020 8649 3213.
Host a Strawberries 'n' cream tea during the summer and help older people in Merton to love later life.

Sign up for your free pack today with all the information and advice that you need to plan your event

w: www.ageukmerton.org.uk
e: fundraising@ageukmerton.org.uk
t: 020 8648 5792

There’s something for everyone at Wimbledon BookFest

Festival Site, Wimbledon Common (nr War Memorial)
Tickets onsale at wimbledonbookfest.org

Plus there’s a full programme of events for Merton schools visit wimbledonbookfest.org/education

WIMBLEDON BOOKFEST
4-14 October 2018

Principal sponsor

5 x Free pairs of tickets to be won
Tweet a picture of this ad tagging @AtticTheatreCo
Winners will be announced 1st Sep
**New Wimbledon Theatre**

93 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 (no booking fees apply)

- **Guys and Dolls**
  Friday 17–Saturday 18 August
  The New Wimbledon theatres annual stage experience is back in 2018 with the young local talent in a production of musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls*.

- **Swan Lake – The Gloria Tour**
  Friday 24–Saturday 25 August
  Performance of the world famous Ballet by Tchaikovsky. Telling the immortal love story of a princess turned into a swan by an evil sorcerer.

- **Saturday Night Fever**
  Thursday 30 August–Saturday 1 September
  The fever returns bigger and better. Honouring the 1977 film by John Travolta the musical tells the story of Tony Manero, featuring iconic soundtrack.

- **Des O’Connor and Jimmy Tarbuck**
  Sunday 16 September
  Des O’Connor joins Jimmy Tarbuck the two legends of television, show-business and of the Royal Variety Performance come together, accompanied by music and video to reminisce and entertain. Directed by Kevin Bishop and featuring the Ray Monk Orchestra, the entire proceeds of this show will go to the Royal Variety Charity.

- **Summer Holiday**
  Tuesday 18–Saturday 22 September
  A musical adaption of the iconic 1960s film starring Cliff Richard. Ray Quinn plays Don who heads out on a fun packed boys trip in a London bus visiting Paris, The Alps, Italy and meets an American pop singer who has run away from home.

- **One Night of Queen**
  Sunday 23 September
  Live concert recreating the look, sound, pomp and showmanship of rockband Queen. The show will rock you.

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**Arts and entertainment**

- **Merton Music Foundation Hands On sessions**
  Saturday 15 September 10am–12 noon
  If your child is keen to learn an instrument but can’t decide which one, sign them up for the Hands On session where they can try any of our woodwind, brass, percussion or stringed instruments to see which one is right for them. Ideal for children aged seven and upwards. Sessions £5 per participating child.

- **Big Blast**
  Saturday 22 September 10-11am Beginners.
  Saturday 29 September 11am-12 noon, Grades three to five
  Big Blast sessions are the perfect way to introduce children to the joys of playing their instrument in a group. Woodwind, brass, string, percussion and guitar players are all welcome to join. Sessions £5 per participating child. [find out more](www.mmf.org.uk) 020 8640 5446

- **Saturday Night Fever**
  Thursday 30 August–Saturday 1 September
  The fever returns bigger and better. Honouring the 1977 film by John Travolta the musical tells the story of Tony Manero, featuring iconic soundtrack.
staying in? Here's a selection of what's new in Merton's libraries:

**MY MERTON’S BOOK CHOICE**

*Smoky the Brave*  
by Damien Lewis

In February 1944, as Japanese military advances threatened to engulf Australasia, a tiny, four-pound Yorkshire terrier was discovered hiding in a Japanese shell scrape amidst the thick jungles of Papua New Guinea. The GIs who discovered her presumed she had been some kind of Japanese army mascot, but it soon turned out that she understood neither commands rendered in Japanese nor English. A mystery, she was adopted by Corporal William ‘Bill’ Wynne, an air-crewman with the US 5th Air Force’s 26th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron. *Smoky the Brave* is the extraordinary, touching and true story of a heroic dog and her adoptive masters in the jungles of the Pacific War.

**Other books:**
- *One in a million* – Lindsey Kelk
- *The Sinners* – Ace Atkins
- *Shadows in Heaven* – Nadine Dorries
- *Day of the Dead* – Nicci French
- *An Unfinished Murder* – Ann Granger

**eBooks and eAudiobooks**

Merton Libraries have over 38,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks. Most of these are available through the Libby App but some eAudiobooks can also be listened to through the RBDigital App – all you need is your library card and a suitable device. You can even download them when on holiday!

**eBooks**

*The Summer Maiden* – Dilly Court  
*The Woman in the Mirror* – Rebecca James  
*The Blood Road* – Stuart Macbride

**eAudiobooks**

*Everything, Everything* – Nicola Yoon  
*Wonder* – R J Palacio  
*The Alice Network* – Kate Quinn

**eMagazines**

There are over 700 eMagazine titles available through the RBDigital App including weekly, monthly and one off special titles.

**Arts and entertainment continued**

- **Mayhem Musical Theatre**  
  *The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare*  
  Wednesday 25–Saturday 28 July  
  Cannizaro Park, Wimbledon. Tickets £10–13. Performed with amplified sound in the outdoor of the Italian Gardens, Mayhem presents a dramatic new production that beautifully intertwines the competing claims of tolerance and intolerance, justice and mercy.  
  ![Mayhem Musical Theatre](image)

- **Drifting Dreamers Outdoor Silent Cinema**  
  *The Greatest Showman*  
  Wednesday 20 September  
  Dundonald Recreation Ground, Dundonald Road, Wimbledon SW19 3PN. Original musical inspired by the imagination of P.T Barnum, staring Hugh Jackman the film is a celebration of show business and tells the story of showman who created a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. Tickets £12.60–£15 adults, £4–6 for children. All sound from this event will be transmitted through wireless headphones which requires a £10 refundable deposit.  
  ![Drifting Dreamers Outdoor Silent Cinema](image)

- **Eastern Electrics 2018**  
  Saturday 4–Sunday 5 August  
  Morden Park. A house and techno festival featuring a selection of DJs such as Seth Troxler, Eats Everything and Groove Amanda. Tickets from £24.95. For over 18s only.  
  ![Eastern Electrics 2018](image)

- **The Rebellious Women of Wimbledon**  
  Monday 8–Sunday 14 October  
  Merton Arts Space, Wimbledon Library, Compton Road, Wimbledon  
  A play celebrating the suffragette movement and Wimbledon’s Suffragettes written by Beth Flintoff.  
  ![The Rebellious Women of Wimbledon](image)

- **Guru Purnima – Festival of devotion**  
  Saturday 28 July 6.30pm  
  A festival that reveals the beauty of the relationship between Guru (teacher) and disciples in traditional Indian culture. The session features the unique teaching of Kirana Gharana. Free entry.  
  ![Guru Purnima – Festival of devotion](image)
Polka Theatre
240, The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1SB
Box office: 020 8543 4888
www.polkatheatre.com

Double Act
Friday 15 June–Sunday 5 August
By Jacqueline Wilson. Adapted and directed by Vicky Ireland. Meet Ruby and Garnet. They’re twins, identical and inseparable – and do absolutely everything together. But their lives are about to change. Recently, Dad’s gone a bit weird. He’s been acting strange ever since he started dating that frizzy dizzy Rose. And now he’s only gone and bought a bookshop in the country...
Ages three plus.

Jack and the Beanstalk
Wednesday 8–Sunday 19 August
The classic fairy tale gets the Lyngo Theatre treatment so expect lots of surprises and beautiful images as Patrick Lynch (from CBeebies) tells the gripping story of Jack who sells his cow for five magic beans and finds himself in the land above the clouds.
Ages three plus.

Three Sat Under the Banyan Tree
Friday 28 September–Sunday 21 October
Near the foothills of the Himalayas, three orphans open a magical book under a Banyan tree. They discover stories of headstrong crows, old lions and devious jackals come vibrantly to life, with masks, movement and music.
Polka is delighted to be co-producing with Tara Arts the first-ever stage adaptation of The Panchatantra in the UK.
Ages seven plus.

Over 50s singing group
Weekly singing group, led by Musical Director Christopher Killerby. This is an excellent way to exercise the vocal chords and body, while learning new songs, remembering the classics and make new friends.

Mitcham group:
Every Wednesday, 1–2pm, Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham CR4 3UD.

Wimbledon group:
Every Wednesday, 3–4pm, St Mark’s Church Hall, St Mark’s Place, Wimbledon SW19 7ND.

Walks and talks

Mitcham evening walk
Saturday 14 July, 7–8.30pm
Call Melanie on 07944 833605

MVSC ladies golf introductory coffee morning
Mental Capacity, Lasting Power of Attorney (LPAs) and Deputyships explained
Saturday 8 September, 11.30am
Mitcham Golf Club, Carshalton Road CR4 4HN. Come and join us for coffee and a chat with the lady members. You can play a round of golf, or just a few holes, try out our putting green, talk to our Professional about lessons? We are keen to encourage more ladies into, or back to golf. We welcome all ages and abilities. Our ladies section plays at the weekend and during the week, and are a friendly group who are looking to expand our ladies membership.
Call Melanie on 07944 833605

Wandle Fortnight
Saturday 8–Sunday 23 September
The annual celebration of the Wandle begins during Heritage Open Day and runs until World Rivers Day.

Merton – proud to be a Fairtrade borough
Merton.gov.uk/events
Health and fitness

münt.gov.uk/events

what’s on in your area

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • YOUTH • SENIOR CITIZENS • FAMILY • HEALTH & FITNESS • WALKS & TALKS • FAIRS & EXHIBITIONS

Free tennis coaching for children and adults
Every Saturday morning 10am-1pm
Joseph Hood Recreation Ground, Martin Way, Morden SM4 4AR.
Every Saturday afternoon 1pm and 3pm
Tamworth Farm Recreation Ground, London Road, Mitcham CR4 3LA.
(find out more www.tennisforfree.co.uk; support@tennisforfree.com)

Free health checks with Spectra
Saturday 11 August, 2-4pm, Saturday 8 September, 2-4pm, Saturday 13 October, 2-4pm
Pollards Hill Library, South Lodge Avenue, CR4 1LT.
Free health and wellbeing services for everyone.
Spectra provides: Rapid HIV testing, health checks, one-to-one support, counselling and mentoring. No appointment necessary. Free condoms and health support also available at all sessions.
(find out more info@spectra-london.org.uk; 020 3322 6920)

Morden Park Pretty Muddy Kids - Race for Life
Sunday 9 September, 10.30am
Morden Park, London Road, Morden, SM4 5QU.
The Morden Park route takes place in and around beautiful Morden Park – zig-zagging around the field means that you can always see the other participants along the course. The route is entirely on grass with some gentle inclines – as well as our Pretty Muddy obstacles of course.
(find out more www.raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org)

Free health checks with Spectra
Saturday 11 August, 2-4pm
Pollards Hill Library, South Lodge Avenue, CR4 1LT.
Free health and wellbeing services for everyone.
Spectra provides: Rapid HIV testing, health checks, one-to-one support, counselling and mentoring. No appointment necessary. Free condoms and health support also available at all sessions.
(find out more info@spectra-london.org.uk; 020 3322 6920)

Age UK: Get fit, get active
Mondays 1.45pm
Zumba Gold
Wednesdays 1.45pm
Rhythm and movement

Coach trip to Wisley Gardens
Wednesday 5 September
Departs 9.30am from the Age UK centre, Mitcham. A coach trip to the amazing RHS gardens at Wisley with Age UK Merton. Beautiful plants and ideas for garden design. £20 per person including entry.
(find out more The Elwood Centre 020 8648 5792; info@ageukmerton.org.uk)

Merton Bowling Club
Tuesday afternoons 2-4.30pm
We're looking for new members, come and join us at Joseph Hood Recreation Ground.
Partnering with Merton Sports and Social Club for the blind we are encouraging members of the community with sensory impairments to come and experience a new adventure with us.
(find out more www.mertonbowlsclub.com; 020 8641 8070; 07525 001496; contact@mertonbowlsclub.com)

Wimbledon Park Bowls Club
Saturdays until 23 September, 11am-12.30pm
Wimbledon Park Bowls Club will be holding taster/coaching sessions. For all of the above sessions all equipment will be provided. Please wear flat shoes and comfortable clothing.
(find out more www.wimbledonparkbowlsclub.co.uk or call 020 8265 5475)

Social run with Wimbledon Windmilers
Sundays 10am
Windmill car park, Windmill Rd, Wimbledon SW19 5NQ. Annual membership £34 – try up to four sessions for free.
Come for a social run with Wimbledon Windmilers running club – choose from three, five or seven miles, with stops. If you have already started running on your own or with a beginners’ group, this is a great way to build up your distance and meet other runners.
(find out more Call Claire on 07903 973222; www.windmilers.org.uk)
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.

- **Raynes Park** Tuesday 18 September, 7.15pm
  Raynes Park Library Hall, Approach Road, Raynes Park.
- **Wimbledon** Thursday 27 September, 7.15pm
  Merton Arts Space, Wimbledon Library, 35 Wimbledon Hill Road, SW19 7NB

**find out more merton.gov.uk/communityforums**

Family

- **Harvest Supper and Scarecrow Drive** Saturday 22 September, 6.30pm
  St Saviours Church Hall, Church Walk, Grand Drive, Raynes Park, SW20 9DG. Scarecrow fancy dress competition. Cottage pie supper and dessert, there will be veggie options too. Bring your own drinks and glasses. Tickets £6 and must be purchased no later than Sunday 16 September.

  **find out more Sue or Wendy 020 8397 0805**

- **Summer Special Open Garden Sessions**
  Monday 23 July–Friday 24 August
  Morning sessions: 9.30–11.30am
  Afternoon sessions: 2–4pm
  Acacia, 230 Grove Road, Mitcham Eastfields CR4 1SD; Ivy Gardens, Mitcham CR4 1BR and Steers Mead, Veals Mead, Mitcham CR4 3HL.
  Join us in children’s centre gardens in Mitcham for outside playtime! Free sessions for families with children aged under five. Places are limited. Remember to bring sun cream, a hat and drink for your child on hot days. Children remain the responsibility of their parents/carers at all times.

  **find out more email fsd@merton.gov.uk**

- **Wimbledon Bridge Club**
  Summer holidays: Mondays 10am–12 noon, Wednesdays 3–5pm
  Free junior bridge and minibridge. Come and try the greatest mind sport ever invented. Minibridge is a simplified version of bridge and is an excellent introduction to the game. Bridge develops logic, strategy, deduction, analysis, concentration and social skills. Complete beginners welcome. Children as young as seven may enjoy these sessions but if under 10 should be accompanied by an adult. Please sign up via website.

  **find out more www.wimbledonbridgeclub.co.uk or email youthbridge@wimbledonbridgeclub.co.uk**

**find out more merton.gov.uk/communityforums**

Fairs and exhibitions

- **Abundance Wimbledon Fruit Day** Saturday 15 September, 11am–2pm
  St Mark Church Garden Event for selling jams, chutneys, cakes, freshly-squeezed apple juice and lots more made from unwanted fruit from local gardens. Free entry.

  **find out more**
  - www.abundancewimbledon.org;
  - abundancewimbledon@gmail.com

- **Fantastic British Food Festival** Saturday 25–Monday 27 August
  Wimbledon Park.
  With 50 stalls offering a wide range of food and drink including artisan bread and pastries, crêpes, fudge, smoked barbecue pulled pork and cheeses. Tickets are available online £10.35.

  **find out more**
  - www.fantasticbritishfoodfestivals.com;
  - info@fantasticbritishfoodfestivals.com

**find out more merton.gov.uk/communityforums**

**Mayor of Merton events**

- **Murder Mystery Night**
  Saturday 29 September
  Merton Prior Chapter House, Chapter Way, London, SW19 2FX

- **Silver Sunday**
  Sunday 7 October
  The Hub, Tooting & Mitcham Football Club, Bishopsford Road, Morden, SM4 6BF.

**find out more**
- call 020 8545 3517
- or www.merton.gov.uk/mayorofmerton

**Fairs and exhibitions**

- **Abundance Wimbledon Fruit Day**
  Saturday 15 September, 11am–2pm
  St Mark Church Garden Event for selling jams, chutneys, cakes, freshly-squeezed apple juice and lots more made from unwanted fruit from local gardens. Free entry.

  **find out more**
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  - abundancewimbledon@gmail.com

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**find out more merton.gov.uk/communityforums**
**What’s on in your area**
merton.gov.uk/events

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**Family continued**

**BookFest**

More information and tickets at wimbledonbookfest.org

- Lionel Shriver
  Thursday 4 October
  7.30–8.30pm
  Merton Arts Space

- Sebastian Faulks
  Friday 5 October, 7pm

- Graham Norton
  Friday 5 October, 8.30pm

- Alan Davies: Comedy
  Saturday 6 October, 8pm

- Billy Bragg
  Sunday 7 October, 8pm

- Greg James & Chris Smith
  Saturday 13 October, 11.45am

- Soupotato
  Saturday 13 October, 1.30pm

- Yotam Ottolenghi
  Sunday 14 October, 4pm

- Mary Robinson
  Sunday 14 October, 5.45pm

- Pat Barker
  Sunday 14 October, 7.30pm

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**COMPETITION**

**Win two tickets to the opening night of BookFest** with talks from guest speaker and best-selling author, Graham Norton

Wimbledon BookFest returns 4-14 October this year, bringing with it a diverse programme, bursting full of talks, debates and workshops; boasting all sorts of literary names, as well as enthralling discussions and debates centred around politics, current affairs, sport, film, music, children’s events and so much more. There will also be a range of other familiar famous faces to look out for, including the author of the globally acclaimed *Horrid Henry* series, Francesca Simon. So, if all of this sounds like something you’d like to attend and to be in with a chance of winning an opportunity to see Graham Norton on the 5 October, visit merton.gov.uk/mymerton to enter and answer the following question. The closing date for entries is 21 August.

**Which hit comedy series did Graham Norton star in?**

a) Mrs Brown’s Boys  
b) Citizen Khan  
c) Father Ted

**Terms and conditions:**

Tickets are non-transferable. There are no cash alternatives, accommodation or travel included in the prize. The competition is for two tickets to attend Wimbledon BookFest’s opening night on Wimbledon Common, in their specially commissioned ‘Baillie Gifford Big Tent’. Tickets become valid on 5 October 2018.
Spend more time in your garden and less time at the local tip.

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

Have your garden waste collected from your home every two weeks for £70 per year. That’s just £2.69 per collection!

Visit merton.gov.uk/gardenwaste or call 020 8274 4902 for details and to sign up.

subscribe today!
Debra Valentine

Debra is an Early Years tutor for Merton College, one of a range of providers who deliver courses on behalf of the London Borough of Merton. The courses provided for adults cover a range of different subjects and interests and are the perfect way to improve your skills, learn something new and gain a recognised qualification.

Why did you decide to become a tutor?
I worked as a school teacher for many years and was looking for something a bit different. Teaching adults was a way of using the skills that I had developed but in a new environment.

Tell us about the courses you teach.
I teach on the Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Qualifications – these are courses for people who want to become Teaching Assistants or are working as Teaching Assistants and want to complete a Level 3 Qualification.

What’s the best thing about Merton College?
The range of courses we offer, there is something for everyone, from people looking for a change in career (as is often the case with my learners) to people looking for something creative to do one evening a week.

What advice would you give an adult considering a course?
Do it! All of my learners tell me that they are so glad that they returned to education. Some of them are incredibly nervous when they first come into college but we have such a welcoming team and we are here to help you! We have so much support in place, from offering help with childcare costs to having careers advisors on site.

What are you most proud of?
I’m proud of the learners who have progressed through the college – some of them returning to education after a very long break, initially completing a basic Level 1 Qualification and then going on to complete Levels 2 and 3, some even going on to university to do degrees such as teacher training or social work. To know that I have played a part in this process makes me very proud!

find out more
merton.gov.uk/adultlearning