

Lewisham **Life**

Autumn 2021

www.lewisham.gov.uk

Black History Month

We celebrate with
events, authors
and exhibitions



- Supporting refugees as the first Borough of Sanctuary
- Secondary school admissions: top tips from parents
- Catford to be greenest town centre in London



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Message from the Mayor



**Damien
Egan,
Mayor of
Lewisham**

We have all watched in horror as events have unfolded in Afghanistan, as millions of people attempt to flee violence and persecution. The situation is particularly grave for women and girls, who are exposed to violence, fear and uncertainty.

The Government's resettlement scheme is woefully inadequate and does not meet the scale of the challenge. We are continuing to urge the Government to do more, as Lewisham – along with many other local authorities – stands ready to work with our partners to resettle refugees

as a result of this unimaginable crisis.

In Lewisham we are proud of our status as the UK's first Borough of Sanctuary, and we stand ready to support those who so desperately need a safe place to live, through absolutely no fault of their own.

Find out more about our work to support refugees and our appeal to landlords to help us find local properties to rent for refugees fleeing conflict and persecution – visit lewisham.gov.uk/supporting-refugees

Elsewhere in this issue of Lewisham Life you can read about the brilliant GCSE and A level results pupils collected over the summer. After an incredibly difficult school year, it's been great to see their proud smiles and hear about their exciting ambitions for the future – a huge well done to them and our fantastic teachers and school staff, who have done an amazing job.

You can also read about further investment in our parks and green spaces, through our Greening Fund and improvements to children's play areas in and around Deptford, which will see local young people helping us to create new and improved playgrounds.

You can also read about the progress of the vaccine roll-out across Lewisham. Tens of thousands of local people have already received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, which is crucial in keeping everyone safe and getting back to normal. The focus now is on 16–17 year-olds, and I'd urge anyone who's not yet had the jab to make an appointment or head to a walk-in clinic – there are plenty of them so it's really quick and easy.



Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham

In this issue

In this issue we go back to school and celebrate the exam results of the summer, meet the School Librarian of the Year, and ask three parents to give us their top tips when looking at secondary schools.

You can read about how to develop your skills with our adult learning centres, and find support for the next stage in your employment journey.

We celebrate Black History Month, and give you the latest update on Catford Town Centre and Borough of Culture plans.



Contents

- 5 News
- 12 COVID-19
- 14 Black History Month
- 15 Borough of Culture
- 16 Adult Learning
- 18 Parks and open spaces
- 20 Regeneration
- 22 Secondary schools
- 24 News from our schools
- 26 Business
- 28 Autumn events
- 31 Your Council

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 the home for all your local information

- » Get information about your neighbourhood, what's on and how to get involved
- » Find activities for you and all the family
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If you cannot contact us online, you can call 020 8314 6000

Useful contacts:

Lewisham Homes
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lewishamhomes.org.uk

Local health service
nhs.uk or NHS 111

Police (non-emergency) 101

Thames Water
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 0800 714614 (24-hour leakline)

Gas emergencies 0800 111 999

New social homes for adults with autism

Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham, and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, welcomed new residents at a recently completed independent living housing scheme in Forest Hill. The scheme provides four new social homes for young adults with autism, allowing them to live independently away from their families, often for the first time in their lives.

One of the new residents, Zachary Whyte, who had previously been living with his mum and sister in Brockley, showed the Mayor and Councillor Bell around his new home.

Zachary said: "Moving in here has been a once in a life-time opportunity. I've always liked the idea of living alone and being independent. I get to do the shopping, to cook, to decide how everything looks. The location is great, right by the train station, near all the shops and 20 minutes on the bus from my family."



Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham, and Councillor Paul Bell, with new resident Zachary Whyte

Damien Egan, said: "It was wonderful to meet the new residents and hear how much they are enjoying the experience of living independently. Our Building for Lewisham programme is delivering

new social homes across the borough and it is fantastic to see the transformative difference it makes for people like Zachary."

Working with the Campaign in Lewisham for Autism Spectrum Housing (CLASH) and Birnbeck Housing Association, Lewisham Council helped support the scheme by donating the land and providing £133k of funding.

For more info on the Building for Lewisham programme, visit: lewisham.gov.uk/buildingforlewisham

Making it REAL Lewisham

An exciting three-year programme supporting communication, language and early literacy for under-fives has just

launched in Lewisham.

Making it REAL is in partnership with the National Children's Bureau and offers free training, practical

support, workshops and events for parents, childminders and nurseries.

Find out more ncb.org.uk/MakingitREAL-Lewisham



New cycle loan scheme launched

Our new cycle loan scheme – Try Before You Bike – is up and running, allowing residents to try out a new bike for a small monthly fee. This is a great opportunity for people who are thinking about cycling, but aren't ready to commit to buying a bike. Cycling is fun, can help you stay in shape, and is good for the environment.

There are bikes available for children and adults, as well as a range of folding bikes, electric bikes and e-cargo bikes.

Find out more at lewisham.gov.uk/TryBeforeYouBike

Recognition for Borough of Sanctuary work

Lewisham Council has become the first local authority in the UK to be formally recognised for its work to support refugees, having been awarded 'Council of Sanctuary' status by the national charity, City of Sanctuary.

Since 2018, the Council has been working with partners and organisations across the borough to improve the way Lewisham supports migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. We have helped resettle over 30 refugee families through

the UK's Refugee Resettlement Programme, making us London's leading borough for refugee resettlement, as well as welcoming 90 unaccompanied minors seeking asylum.

The Council has continued to put pressure on the government nationally, challenging the 'hostile environment' towards migrants, and leading calls for a national resettlement scheme for refugees fleeing the violence in Afghanistan.



Recycle Week 20–26 September

To celebrate Recycle Week, we've created a handy 'cut out and keep' page of what you can now recycle from home – you can find it

on the back cover of this issue of Lewisham Life.

Every day we throw out items from our home and sometimes these end up in the wrong bin.

If you are unsure how to recycle or dispose of an item safely and sustainably, browse our handy online guide at: lewisham.gov.uk/recycle-AtoZ



Having fun at The Dumps in Bellingham

The Lewisham Summer of Food and Fun

Lewisham families enjoyed a wide range of sport, arts and craft activities over the summer holidays. The Lewisham Summer of Food and Fun was launched in July and provided hundreds of children and young people with free activities

and nutritious food at youth centres and other childcare providers across the borough.

CLr Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance visited a number of schemes run by Youth

First in August and said: "it's great to see these schemes in action, and to know that our children and young people are being supported to stay active, eat healthily and most importantly have fun over the summer holidays!"

Wavelengths update

Wavelengths Leisure Centre opened its 25m pool again on Saturday 24 July, just in time for the summer holidays. After a full refurbishment, the fantastic pool is now open for lane swimming, family splash sessions and holiday fun with inflatables.

Work is underway on the leisure pool, with plans for it to reopen later this year. Also, Better are sharing video updates about the pool refurbishment via Twitter.

Find out more about Wavelengths and all our leisure centres at lewisham.gov.uk/leisure



A library for toys

Children learn through play, but when they grow out of toys so quickly it can be difficult to keep up! That's where the Lewisham Toy Library comes in. Once you've joined for a small fee, you can borrow a number of exciting and diverse toys for four-week periods. By borrowing instead of buying toys, you save money and help the environment.

The library is available to everyone in Lewisham and membership prices vary, starting from £6 a year for those on income support. They are in the north-west part of Lewisham Shopping Centre.

Find out more at lewishamtoylibrary.org.uk or call 020 8297 2735



Fun for all abilities

Lewisham Mencap's mission is to make life fun and fulfilling for everyone of all abilities in Lewisham. They hold lively social activities and work with the community to amplify the voices of people with a learning disability. Lewisham Mencap is a volunteer-

led charity and has been doing this amazing work for 70 years!

The charity has also created a vibrant online community to improve access. They hold weekly online discos where you can request your favourite tunes and dance along with your friends.

Find out more at lewishammencaporguk.wordpress.com

Marathon man

The Virgin Money London Marathon is scheduled to go ahead this year on Sunday October 3, and the Mayor and a number of Council staff have dusted off their trainers and are getting ready to pound the streets once more!

The marathon team are running

this year to raise vital funds for the Mayor's chosen charity, The 999 Club, a Lewisham-based charity which provides vital support for anyone who is homeless.

You can find out more about the 999 Club and donate at: 999club.org/make-a-donation

Play Streets are back!

Play is a vital part of growing up, and essential for children's health and mental wellbeing. The Council is committed to providing children with the space to exercise, socialise and have fun.

Applications are now open for communities to create a Play Street – allowing children to reclaim their street for a few hours for play close to home or school, free from traffic.

As well as Play Streets, residents can also apply to hold street parties to transform their roads into a traffic-free space where residents of all ages can socialise. Aside from the benefits for children of playing outside games together, these events help to foster a sense of community, bringing residents together.

Play Streets and community events were run in the borough before the COVID-19 pandemic – including one-off events and regular after-school sessions. The scheme was put on hold in March 2020 –



but applications are now open again.

Cllr Patrick Codd, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "We've found that when communities have had their first event, they very often will apply for further events. This is a testament to

the benefits of play streets."

Street events are volunteer-led by local communities and schools, with advice and guidance from the Council.

Find out more: lewisham.gov.uk/play-streets

Have your say on local policing

Ever thought about joining your local Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel?

If you didn't know, every ward in Lewisham has a dedicated panel made up of ordinary citizens just like you.

These panels meet regularly with their area's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) to discuss local law enforcement.

This is a real chance for ordinary residents to meet their local police and discuss the crimes and anti-

social behaviour issues that affect their neighbourhood. The panels agree a set of key issues for the Safer Neighbourhood Team to prioritise going forward.

Barry Hern has been involved in his local SNT Panel in Perry Vale ward for more than 20 years.

Barry said: "At the meetings, we get an overview of the police's work and statistics for the ward on burglary, car crime, arrests and crime hot spots."

"We have a discussion around the table on the key objectives for the

SNT set out at the last meeting and how they responded to them. Then we decide what the ward objectives will be going forward."

The meetings are friendly and informal, are usually once every three months, and not an onerous commitment.

You don't have to have any qualifications said Barry: "you just need to care about your community."

To find out more about Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels email: LewishamWardPanels@met.police.uk

Deptford children to help design new playgrounds

We have announced £700,000 funding for a major project to upgrade the play areas in three popular Deptford parks. Evelyn Green, Sayes Court and Folkestone Gardens will all benefit from refurbishments, including revamped playgrounds, an upgraded multi-use games area and outdoor gym to maximise play spaces for children and their families.

In a densely populated area of the borough where many residents do not have gardens, the upgrades will provide a space for local children to explore, socialise and enjoy. We are co-creating the spaces with our youngest residents too, ensuring their voices and ideas are heard throughout the development process.

The Council's investment in the Deptford parks is being funded by contributions from local developments and is a recognition



The Mayor and Mayoresses at one of the parks to be revamped

of the importance of play and physical activity for our children.

Alongside the £700,000 for the three parks, the Council will continue to work with community groups to secure future funding for further green investments in Deptford.

Work begins on the playground

in Sayes Court shortly and is due for completion by autumn 2021. Improvements to Evelyn Green and Folkestone Gardens will start later in the year.

For more information about parks and open spaces in Lewisham, please visit: lewisham.gov.uk/parks

Have your say on Air Quality

The Council has launched a borough-wide consultation on its draft Air Quality Action Plan, designed to improve air quality in the borough over the next five years.

The plan outlines what the Council and its partners will do to reduce both the concentration of air pollution and exposure to it.

Air quality has a major impact

on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the borough.

Air pollution can harm people's health, especially our most vulnerable citizens: children, the elderly and people with existing health conditions.

Tackling air quality will improve the environment and reduce carbon emissions. The Council has

also set an ambitious goal for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The public consultation on the draft Air Quality Action Plan draft closes on Tuesday, 28 September.

Find more information online at: lewisham.gov.uk/airqualityconsultation or pick up a printed version of the consultation at one of our main libraries.



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A HEALTHIER LEWISHAM STARTS HERE

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We want everyone in the London Borough of Lewisham to get active, feel happier and healthier, which is why we offer the Be Active membership to all eligible Lewisham residents.

The Be Active leisure membership provides eligible concessionary residents in Lewisham with free or discounted access to leisure activities across the borough.

Discover more at better.org.uk/be-active



Hop on the vaccination bus

With over 150,000 of our residents fully vaccinated so far, our vaccine bus has been helping further by travelling across the borough offering on the spot COVID-19 jabs and advice.

The bus has been making stops all over the borough, including New Cross, Deptford Market, outside Lewisham Shopping Centre, Catford Broadway, Lewisham Station, Summer Fun at Bellingham, Sainsbury's in Lee and Bell Green, alongside Peckish! in Beckenham Place Park and at Catford Food Market. Over 1,000 people had the COVID-19 jab on-board.

As we roll into autumn, the bus will continue its journey stopping at schools, colleges and sixth forms. Everyone aged 16 or over can get the COVID-19 vaccination. Find out more at nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or by calling 119.

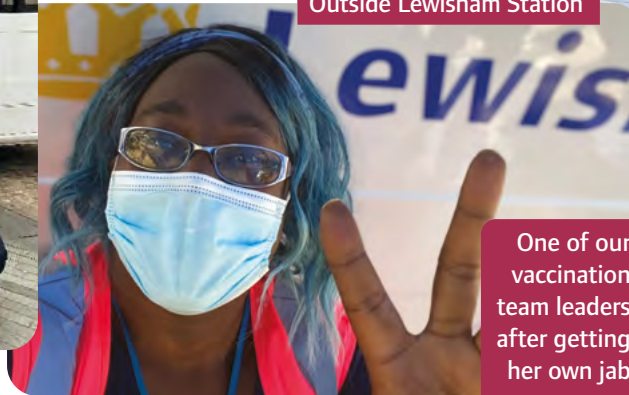
Follow @LewishamCouncil on social media for upcoming bus locations. You don't need to book and don't need proof of address, immigration status, ID, or an NHS number. The Pfizer vaccine will be available and second doses will be offered if it's been at least eight weeks since your first dose.

Director of Public Health for Lewisham, Dr Catherine Mbema said: "Though symptoms of the virus can often be mild in young adults, there are still considerable risks and it's important to get vaccinated to protect those who may be more vulnerable."

"As back to college, sixth form and university open up more



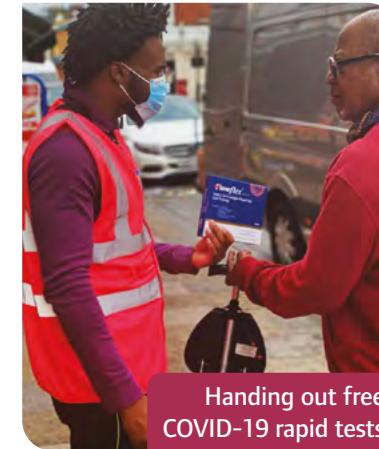
Our vaccination team with Give a Song on Catford Broadway



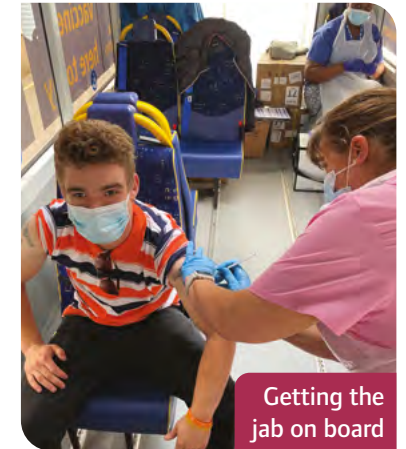
One of our vaccination team leaders after getting her own jab



Outside Lewisham Station



Handing out free COVID-19 rapid tests



Getting the jab on board



On board the bus with our driver, Ralph

opportunities for people to get together and enjoy events, we're urging everyone get the vaccine now – it's never been easier and more convenient."

Walk-in clinics are also open at various dates and times with weekday, evenings and weekend clinics available at Lewisham Hospital, GP surgeries and pharmacies across the borough. Find one near you – nhs.uk/vaccinefacts.com/support

What's next if I'm fully vaccinated?

You are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after your second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Although two doses of the vaccine greatly reduces your own risk of becoming unwell with COVID-19, it is still possible to catch the virus and pass it on. Protect those you love and make getting together safer by meeting outdoors, keeping windows open, wearing a face covering in crowded spaces and washing your hands regularly.

If you're fully vaccinated, you may be able to avoid self-isolation if you're contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact or if you're returning to the UK from an amber list country. You'll still need to take a PCR test – this is important to check whether you might have the virus.

If you have COVID-19 – even if you're fully vaccinated – you must stay at home and self-isolate for ten days. If you're waiting for your test result, you should stay at home if you can and avoid contact with others in case you're at risk of spreading the virus.

For proof of your COVID-19 status, you can use the NHS COVID Pass (available on the NHS app) or get a NHS COVID Pass letter.

You will usually be able to get the NHS COVID Pass within 24 hours of having your vaccination although it can take up to five days for your records to be updated. To get a digital version of the NHS COVID Pass, download

the NHS App (you must be registered with a GP) or use the online NHS COVID Pass service. If you download your COVID Pass as a PDF remember to check the expiry date as the barcode will be valid for 30 days (you can log in again to refresh your pass).

To get a NHS COVID Pass letter (sometimes known as a COVID-19 post vaccination letter) sent to you in the post, you can request a letter online or call 119.

A safe space for everyone to talk about the vaccination

Run in partnership with NHS South East London CCG, Lewisham Council's vaccination outreach programme for vulnerable communities includes those experiencing homelessness, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. Thanks to teams working in the community, people who would not otherwise have come forward are learning about COVID-19 and why it's important to get the vaccination.

Lewisham is proud to be the very first borough of sanctuary – offering a safe space for everyone. With people from more than 75 countries, offering support and advice in multiple languages is important. Lewisham residents can now arrange a free confidential conversation with a healthcare professional – in over 200 different languages – to get the latest information on the vaccination and answer any questions.

Book online nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or call 07828 499044 (WhatsApp: 07376 810219).

Let's celebrate!

October is Black History Month and to celebrate we are supporting events right across the borough.

The Council is working with local artists and authors, bringing their unique talents together to celebrate Black History Month this year. From street art and theatre to a multimedia celebration of Lewisham's rich musical legacy, there is lots to see and do.

Mural artist Damian Simon plans to create a mural celebrating two local sporting legends. Lewisham born David Rocastle was one of the most revered Arsenal players and earned 14 international caps for England. David, who also played for Manchester City and Chelsea, tragically died in 2001 at the age of just 33. Ian Wright played as a forward for Crystal Palace and Arsenal and earned 33 caps for England. He is now a football commentator fixture for the BBC.

Damian also plans to run workshops with local young people helping them create unique artwork for their youth clubs.

He said: "We'll work with the



Damian Simon

Darcy Thomas

Dance Can't Nice

youngsters on developing their original designs and then how to turn them into t-shirts and murals in the youth centres."

Producer Darcy Thomas will host a new event to celebrate 'Blue Borough' – a youth movement uniting young people from across the borough. Blue History Month points to the creatives and pioneers from Lewisham and celebrates the contributions and legacy of Black talent. The event, which will include music performances, exhibits, film screenings, fashion pop ups and a live Q&A, will be held between

1–5pm at the Professor Stuart Hall Building, Goldsmith University on Sunday 3 October.

Darcy said: "This is an opportunity to celebrate Black talent and the creative industry in Lewisham. With the emergence of Afro-presentism, now is the time to champion and support Black communities."

Local author Jody Burton co-wrote Black London: History, Art and Culture, a critically applauded guide to the surprising and often unknown Black history of the capital. Jody is planning events open to residents talking about her book and the fascinating history of Black people in the city and borough. Jody said:

"We created the book because we wanted to bring the Black history of London alive."

Dance Can't Nice, an exhibition exploring London's Black music spaces continues at The Horniman Museum until 24 October and is free to enter.



"We created the book because we wanted to bring the Black history of London alive"

Jody Burton

For more on BHM in Lewisham go to: lewisham.gov.uk/black-history-month



For more information about The Walk, visit www.walkwithamal.org and follow @walkwithamal and @iamlewisham on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Walk this way

The Walk and Little Amal will visit Deptford High Street on Friday 22 October 2021 from 10am to 12 noon.

This autumn Deptford is set to host The Walk – an exciting, family-friendly international travelling festival of art and hope in support of refugees.

At the heart of The Walk is Little Amal, a 3.5 metre-tall puppet of a young refugee girl, created by the Handspring Puppet Company, who created War Horse.

Amal's search for her mum takes her on an epic journey from the Turkish-Syria border, right across Europe and we are delighted that her first stop in London will be in Deptford.

The interactive event will see Little Amal explore Deptford High Street with local children, who will be able to join her for a ride on a musical big wheel and

enjoy delicious international food, as they teach Amal about life in Lewisham, and find out about her journey to get here.

The Walk, by acclaimed theatre company, Good Chance, is the first major public event as Lewisham prepares to be London Borough of Culture in 2022. Representing all displaced children, many separated from their families, Little Amal will travel over 8,000km embodying the urgent message "Don't forget about us".

Residents can get involved by greeting Little Amal on the day and joining in the festival atmosphere. People can also display a welcome poster in their window.

Cllr André Bourne, Cabinet Member for Culture said: "As

the country's first Borough of Sanctuary, we're proud to be welcoming Little Amal to Lewisham. We have watched in horror at the events unfolding in Afghanistan and The Walk will give us an opportunity to learn more about people who are forced to flee their homes and find a new place to live. I hope lots of people – particularly our younger residents from local schools – will join us to welcome Little Amal for this special day."

Posters will be available to pick up from Deptford Lounge from the beginning of October or you can create your own welcome artwork for Amal. You can find lots of creative ideas, for different ages, on The Walk website walkwithamal.org/education/activity-pack.



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH LEARNING

This year we celebrate thirty years of Council-run adult learning services in Lewisham. There have been many changes to the service over the years but the sense of community and creative spirit has remained at the heart of everything we do.

Our courses have changed countless lives, enabling people to achieve their goals and transform themselves through learning. Many learners have gained qualifications whilst balancing their studies alongside work and family commitments, others have developed their hobbies into creative businesses.

We asked learners Sarah, Steve and Cyriaque about what they've enjoyed most about their time at Adult Learning Lewisham.

Sarah – Supported Learning, Home Management

'I signed up for the home management course to learn more about nutritious food, explore new recipes and meet new people.

'The course gives structure to my day and gets me out of the house. It also encourages me to exercise as I walk to class and back. I like cooking, learning new

skills; and I've also learnt about safety in the kitchen, which helps me at home.

'My confidence in cooking and mixing with people is growing. I like the friendliness of the class and I get lots of support from my tutors Georgia and Maria, the kitchen assistants.

'Every week my family wait at the door for me to come home with something delicious. I cook a lot of healthy food and the course has taught me how to balance my meals.

'I found attending the course during the pandemic quite tricky, but I communicated over WhatsApp with my tutor, who gave me the confidence to carry on when the course was being delivered online'.

Steve – Etching

'Having studied Fine Art at Art College in the 70's, I felt that I needed a way back into creative

and practical art activities. I wanted a course that would improve my drawing and design skills and etching appealed to me because there is a strong element of experimentation in producing an etching or print of any kind. One of the best things about being on the course is that it gives me the opportunity to discuss my printmaking efforts with a group of like-minded individuals.

'The adult learning centre in Lewisham has a very good workshop and a particularly well-equipped etching room. The class has given me the opportunity and facilities to pursue my passion at an affordable price.

'The course has also enabled me to take part in exhibitions organised by the Quaggy Printmakers group. We regularly exhibit the printmaking work produced in class in local venues and gallery spaces. We recently



Sarah



Steve



Cyriaque

More information

If you want to retrain for a new career, take your next steps in education or develop your hobby browse our autumn term programme at: lewisham.gov.uk/Adultlearning

exhibited our prints as part of the Brockley Max Festival which proved a great success and attracted many visitors.

'There is a vibrant artistic community in London and I have found exhibiting in the local galleries of South London as rewarding as attempting to break through to the more prestigious galleries of central London.

'I am working towards a joint show with my wife Sue Owen at the Sprout Community Art Gallery in Furzedown, South London, which will include paintings, collages and textiles as well as etchings, screen prints and monoprints.

'I think adult learning courses provide enormous support and

encouragement to anyone wishing to pursue creative pathways. The sense of achievement when your work reaches a successful outcome never fails to thrill. I shall continue to paint and print – there's always something new and surprising to discover and create'.

Cyriaque – Childcare

'As a native French speaker I wasn't fluent in English so I enrolled on an English course because I did not want the language to be a barrier to learning or my life in the UK. I then progressed onto a teaching assistant's course because I have an interest in childcare, and helping others is something that

has always come naturally to me. My initial goal was to help people in the childcare sector while continuing my career in IT.

'The teachers were friendly and helpful and I really liked the variety of topics. I enjoyed trying out different study methods and soon found one that suited me. I liked the freedom to study at my own pace according to my family and work commitments. Studying has taught me how to eliminate negativity in my life. I now have the ability to explore and use new ways to express ideas. Since completing my studies at adult learning I have achieved a BSc degree in Computer Technologies and my next step is to do a Masters'.

Getting greener

Are you part of a community group looking to protect and enhance your local green space? It's not too late to apply for a share of our £1m Greening Fund – but hurry as the deadline is 24 September!

Our Greening Fund offers improvements ranging from drinking fountains, path repairs and litter-picking stations, to bird nesting boxes, trees and disabled user-friendly bed planters.

Set up two years ago to enable community groups to make the changes they want to see in their local parks, nature reserves and allotments, the fund aims to deliver improvements totalling up to £1m by 2025.

The scheme is now in its second phase. The first phase brought improvements to 33 sites across the borough, including wheelchair-friendly picnic benches, outdoor gym equipment and compost toilets.

To simplify the application process, groups can pick the infrastructure they need from a 'shopping list' provided by Lewisham's Greenscene team. The list has been extended this year to include cycle stands, path repair works and litter-picking stations.

The new range of equipment available reflects the success of Phase 1 and the Council's commitment to building a greener future for the borough – a key strand of our strategy for COVID-19 recovery.

The pandemic has highlighted the borough's vibrant community

Phase 1 funded a number of improvements including:

- 144 litter and dog waste bins
- 44 park benches or seats
- 23 disabled user-friendly picnic tables
- 16 biodiversity or sustainability project enhancements
- 13 outdoor gym enhancements
- 2 water-saving storage tanks
- 64 bird or bat nest boxes
- 14 disabled user-friendly raised bed planters
- 3 entrance enhancements
- 10 interpretative signs (these are set in display cabinets and include information about historical features of the park)
- 13 children's play area enhancements
- 2 compost toilets
- 3 drinking water fountains.

spirit and the importance of parks and open spaces to residents' health and wellbeing. The Greening Fund aims to strengthen both by empowering local groups to make improvements to green spaces that all residents can enjoy.

Phase 2 launch

Phase 2 of the fund was launched at Besson Street Community

Garden, where funding from Phase 1 has helped deliver a number of improvements, including replenishing bee and butterfly flower beds, developing new raised beds for growing vegetables and installing new signage.

Cllr Patrick Codd, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, said: "This is such a beautiful and peaceful place. It



Mark and Gavin at the Besson St Community Garden



makes such a difference when these spaces are well looked after. We know that even small changes can make our parks and open spaces more inviting and accessible."

More than £360,000 was

dedicated in Phase 1, bringing improvements to parks, local nature reserves and allotments. Every eligible user group that applied was given some funding for their space.

Cllr Codd said: "We recognise that community groups know what they need and this project is about supporting groups to make the changes they want to see. I am really excited to see what changes will be made through Phase 2 of the fund and I hope more groups apply so that we can continue to strengthen the collaborative relationships we have with user groups."

How to apply

Community groups are invited to apply for Phase 2 funding from the Greening Fund via the Council website at www.lewisham.gov.uk/greeningfund.

You can also request an application form by emailing greeningfund@lewisham.gov.uk. Applications close at 23:59 on 24 September 2021.

Ann Slater, Chair of the Lewisham Parks and Open Spaces Forum, said: "I think the Greening Fund has been an amazing innovation and am really glad that the Council is able to roll out a second round. It has made our Friends' group feel hugely supported and enabled, bringing in new resources that would have been hard to achieve on our own."

"In Phase 1 we felt that the process really belonged to park users. Friends' groups didn't need to individually research costs and suppliers, and the funding application was straightforward. Funding was able to be shared around the borough to benefit a wide range of green spaces, and smaller groups that were not used to – or didn't have the capacity for – writing funding bids were able to get resources they wanted. We then had opportunities to discuss details after the funding had been agreed."

The Greening Fund is primarily resourced by Section 106 contributions from developers, money which is used to provide new community and social infrastructure in the borough.

Catford's revival

We have recently announced plans for the exciting changes we want to make in Catford. Our vision is for Catford to become the greenest town centre in London.

The heart of the town centre will become largely car-free with the rerouting of the South Circular road creating generous areas of new public space. Our plans will also see the area become more accessible, with new jobs created for local people and opportunities for small businesses.

Six projects will be started in the next year, helping to kick-start this vision.

1 The Old Town Hall has become a public services hub with Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust and SLaM having taken up workspace this summer. This means over 300 more people coming into the area every day to spend and support local businesses.

2 Catford Mews has plans for a new music venue which will be supported with public space improvements for Holbeach Road (to the rear of the cinema), delivering the first of several 'green stepping stones' with new trees and planting.

3 A £7m refurbishment of the Broadway Theatre will be completed next year, helping the Grade II Listed building to play a starring role in Borough of Culture 2022.



New pedestrianised approach to Catford Bridge Station

4 Construction is set to start on the restoration of the former Catford Constitutional Club which will see this much-loved building reopened as a pub in spring 2023, thanks to Good Growth Funding from the Mayor of London.

5 Safer walking and cycling routes with a double-width pavement along a stretch of Catford Road, a wider underpass under the South Circular Road and two river decks across the River Ravensbourne will create a pleasant riverside space to meet people around the stations. There will also be a new pedestrianised approach to Catford Bridge Station.

6 Thomas' Lane Yard will provide up to 100 new homes, including 40 social homes for those on the Council's housing register, helping to tackle the housing crisis. The Yards, covering the Thomas' Lane depot, the Thomas Lane car park and part of the Catford Shopping Centre stretching all the way east to Rushey Green, will become a new 'quarter' with flexible space for workspace, creative uses and small, independent shops. Public consultation on Thomas' Lane Yard is underway.

**Find out more at
beyondbroadway
catford.co.uk**



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Meet the parents

Secondary school applications are now open. With more Lewisham families choosing local secondary schools as first preference, we spoke to three parents to get their top tips.

Sarah Withe is mum to Year 8 twins at Forest Hill School

Look local

"The most important thing to us when looking at secondary schools for our twin boys was proximity to home. Being able to walk to school and not have to get up at the crack of dawn to commute on several modes of public transport was a high priority. With Forest Hill School being so local, there are a number of boys from their primary school who also go there,

so they are all able to meet and walk in together, which in their first term was so reassuring for me. And the new friends they have made are local, so they're able to meet up easily outside of school hours."

Talk to other parents

"It's important to listen to parents of children who actually attend the school, rather than hearsay from people who don't have anything to



do with the place! We have friends with children there who have always been honest and informative about everything we've asked."

More information

If you are applying for a secondary school place this autumn, you can sign up to get free date reminders, information and advice about the process at: lewisham.gov.uk/secondary-school-signup

Pay attention to the Headteacher talk

"At the Forest Hill School open morning we were bowled over by the Headteacher. He spoke so openly about his school. He was honest and genuine, totally down to earth with no frills or fancy sales pitch, which was massively appealing. He obviously cares about his students, instilling values and decent work/life ethics, you can tell he wants each and every one of them to be the best they possibly can be."

Trudi Wilkes is mum to a Year 8 pupil at Sedgehill Academy

Don't be swayed by opinion of others – make your own decision

"I struggled to find anyone who had a good thing to say about Sedgehill, so when I visited I was really just doing it as a tick box exercise, I had already decided that I didn't want my child to go there, but quite quickly into the Open Evening I changed my mind and it became one of our favourites. A good tip someone gave me (if you can) is to spend time outside the school to see how the pupils walk to and from school, how are they

behaving, could you see your child there? Would they fit in?"

Ask about student support and pastoral care

"We were keen to find a school that nurtured and supported all children, not just those who are going to do well academically. Academic success is of course important but we wanted a school that worked hard to develop happy and well-rounded young adults who will be assets to their community, whatever they end up doing post-school."



Charles Olojugba has a son in Year 9 at Sedgehill Academy

Does the school match your expectations?

"We knew that we wanted our son to be educated in a safe and supportive environment, one with an understanding of the specific needs of a black boy growing up in London and in an environment where he would be pushed to excel.

"We were pleased that Sedgehill instils a spirit of high expectation in its pupils, through regular testing, reward systems and competency checking."

"We were pleased that Sedgehill instils a spirit of high expectation"

Consider the demographic

"It was important for us that the school he attended was representative of the community in which he lived. We wanted him to go to a school that had significant

diversity both in terms of the pupils and staff. We recognised that teachers are role models and the importance in positive examples of black and white men in the school environment."

Think about the journey

"We considered practical safety challenges including how our son would travel to and from school, what the culture of the school was like and what the reputation of the school was in regards to safety."



A message from Cllr Barnham

"Secondary schools in Lewisham are exciting places to learn. They are modern, vibrant and stimulating, with dedicated and skilled staff who are determined to help all of our students to thrive and reach their full potential.

"I'm proud that we provide a comprehensive education system here in Lewisham that doesn't select some children over others, but aims for

everyone to succeed. Wherever your child goes, we wish all those starting secondary school next year the very best for the future."

Cllr Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance



Shining STARS

Following 18 months of extremely challenging circumstances, there were plenty of proud smiles and stories of excellent achievements across Lewisham as pupils collected their GCSE, A-level and vocational qualification results.

Things were different again this year, as results were calculated by teacher assessments based on a combination of coursework and exams, following disruptions to the usual school year and processes due to the pandemic.

Despite the upheaval, the optimism and positivity of the students shone through, as they shared plans for the next stage in their learning journey, whether that is continued studying, apprenticeships, training or a vocational pathway.

It's impossible to feature everyone but here's a very small selection of our Lewisham stars of 2021!

“We are extremely proud of all our young people for working hard and getting through this time, and of course a huge thank you to teachers, parents and support staff for their dedication and support.”

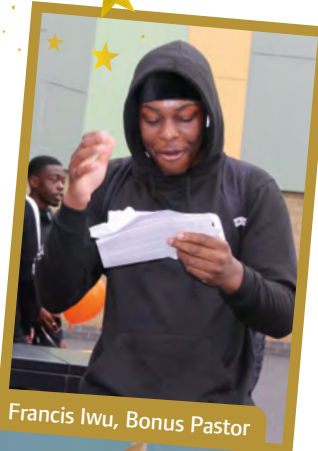
CLlr Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance



Laila, SFH6, celebrating with her family



Abby and Ethan from SFH6



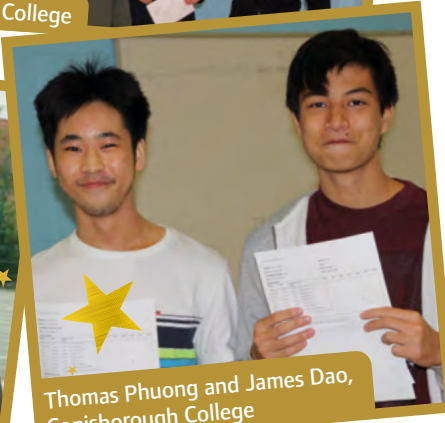
Francis Iwu, Bonus Pastor



Students celebrating at Conisborough College



Taydia Charles, Bonus Pastor



Thomas Phuong and James Dao, Conisborough College

School Librarian of the Year!

Kristabelle Williams of Addey & Stanhope School in Deptford, has been awarded the honour of School Librarian of the Year by the School Library Association. We caught up with Kristabelle to find out more.



It must have been hard encouraging reading among pupils this last year – how have you managed this?

We've continued to deliver library services in new and different ways – we've set up a school Ebook and Audiobook library, sent out reading newsletters promoting new titles and free books and events online, run free book gifting programmes to all year groups and have provided a library book 'click and collect' style service among other things!

What do your students think of you winning?

I've had lots of congratulations

from them! I'm lucky to work with wonderful young people who I learn so much from and the award is dedicated to them.

What is your favourite book/author?

Too many to list but great books I've read recently and recommend for young people have been Boy, Everywhere by AM Dassau and Ace of Spaces by Faridah Abiké-Iyímíde.

What advice would you give to parents to encourage a love of reading?

Talking about books and reading is so important. Talk to children and young people about what they're

reading, what you're reading, what you both might like to read. Also try and read to them as much as possible and get them to read to you, whatever their age! Make sure they are using their school library and signing up to use Lewisham Libraries. Visiting a bookshop like Moon Lane Books can spark a big interest – they have the latest brilliant book releases.

Have you got any exciting plans for the Autumn term?

Yes! We are planning a huge Book Week celebration and lots of exciting activities for our Book, Creative Writing, Film, Games and Manga clubs.

Supporting your career journey

If you're looking to increase skills, boost your employability, and build a successful career for yourself, we have a range of programmes to help.

As we emerge from the pandemic, the work continues to provide an economically sound future for everyone in the borough. One of our priorities to help boost our local economy is supporting residents to get the skills they need to fill local jobs for our residents while also ensuring they have the skills needed to fill them.

Investing in our young people Lewisham Young Futures

Our young residents have been hit hard by the pandemic, and the number of 18–24 year olds locally claiming unemployment benefits has nearly trebled since March 2020. As a Council, we are determined to do all we can to tackle this issue and stop the emergence of “Generation COVID”.

Lewisham Young Futures is a programme of support to empower our 16–24 year olds, ensuring they reach their full potential. The programme offers access to high quality training, employment and skills-boosting opportunities through a range of initiatives, including Kickstart, Youth Hub and Stride.



Kickstart

Could you provide a Kickstart placement for a young person?

We are working with local businesses to create work opportunities for young people through the Government's Kickstart initiative. This is a national scheme designed to help 16–24 year olds gain valuable work experience and progress into long-term employment.

If you are an employer and would like to provide a six-month work placement for a young

Lewisham resident, funding is available. Find out more at lewisham.gov.uk/kickstart

Current opportunities

Are you a young person who is looking for work?

The Council and our partners, including Phoenix Homes and Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, are currently recruiting for work placements across a range of different departments. These roles are for six months and will all be paid the London Living Wage.

Opportunities for all ages

Apprenticeships

They're not just for school leavers

Apprenticeships are great opportunities for people aged 16+ to gain valuable skills and on-the-job training wherever you are in your career. Whether you're just starting out, on the career ladder but looking to upskill, or want a complete change of direction, there could be the perfect apprenticeship out there for you.

Since starting the Mayor's Apprenticeship Programme in 2009, we have placed 630 apprentices across a range of disciplines.

Alternatively if you are a local employer, we can support you to provide an apprenticeship for a local person within your company. For further details, please head to lewisham.gov.uk/apprenticeships

Start-ups in London Libraries (SiLL)

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Got a business idea you'd like to get off the ground? Already involved in an early stage start-up?

The pandemic has prompted many to rethink their careers and we've seen an increase in new ventures springing up across the borough. SiLL offers a free fully-funded programme to help aspiring entrepreneurs gain the skills, information and knowledge to build a viable business.

Access a range of workshops, networking events,

If you're aged between 16 to 24 and receiving Universal Credit, this could be just what you need to launch your career in public services. Please speak to your Job Centre Work Coach.

Youth Hub

Need a helping hand deciding your next step?

We know that figuring out which path to take can feel overwhelming. If you are an unemployed young person living in Lewisham who is considering your options – whether you're thinking about boosting your skills, finding a job or taking a course – our

Youth Hub service is here to help.

Our hub provides a safe space for 18–24 year olds to access specialist advice, alongside practical training and job opportunities. You will be allocated your own Youth Adviser, who will create a tailored plan which supports your career journey and ensures you make the right choices for you.

For more information visit lewisham.gov.uk/youthhub

Stride

Are you interested in a career in the creative, digital and tech sector?

Phoenix Community Housing, Grounds Maintenance Apprentice, Ben



one-to-one support and business resources to help turn your idea into a reality. Register by 31 October to secure your place at lewisham.gov.uk/sill

Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ)

Are you a freelancer or creative business owner looking for support?

The Creative Enterprise Zone in New Cross and Deptford is a partnership between the Council and local artistic, creative and educational institutions. Also known as ShapesLewisham, it champions and supports our vibrant, local creative and digital business community.

The Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly presented the biggest challenge to creative incomes in recent history. By joining ShapesLewisham you enrol on a virtual programme with regular workshops and events that equip you with the tools you need to build in resilience. For more information please visit shapleslewisham.co.uk

Creative, digital and tech is an important, exciting and rapidly growing part of Lewisham's economy. To support creative and tech businesses to thrive in South London we have partnered with neighbouring boroughs Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth to create the Stride programme.

Stride has lots of great workshops and events for tech entrepreneurs and start-ups. It also helps young South Londoners from underrepresented groups gain skills in creative careers. For more information and to sign up for workshops visit stride.london

Out and about

Make some time for yourself this autumn... As life begins to return to normal, reignite your spark and check out fun events, activities, and workshops around the borough. We've got something for everyone!

Please check the websites provided to confirm event details before you go.

11–12 September

Front garden sale

Why not end the summer with a clear out? Dozens of households in Brockley, Ladywell and St Johns take part so it's also a great opportunity to grab a bargain. It's completely free to take part.

Find out more: brockleysociety.org.uk

12 September and 10 October

Low tide walk

Explore the river and urban wildlife from a new perspective by joining a guided walk at Creekside. The walks let you get on the river bed safely with the help of an expert guide. You'll find out all about the local and natural history of the Creek. 12 September, 10.30am–1 pm and 10 October, 10.15am–12.30pm, Creekside, Deptford. Adults: £15 Children: £8.



Low tide walk, Creekside

Find out more and book tickets: creeksidecentre.org.uk

16 and 17 September

Peckish! Street Food Market

Fancy some street food, washed down with sundowners, craft beer or good wine? Peckish is here for you with alfresco drinks, DJs and the best bands in town. 4–10pm, Beckenham Place Mansion. Find out more: beckenhamplace.org

18 September

Heart N' Soul workshop

'Do Your Own Thing Youngstars' is for young artists, musicians, rappers, DJs and more! If you're aged 10–16 and have a learning disability you can join the fun. 1–4pm, the Albany, Deptford. Find out more and book at: heartsoul.co.uk

18 September

Jive Party

Jive Party is kicking back to life by welcoming local

band Peachy Beat onto the stage. Come along to the iconic Ballroom, soak up the atmosphere, enjoy the music and dance the night away. 8pm–1am, Rivoli Ballroom, Crofton Park. Tickets: £17. Book tickets at: jiveparty.com

19 September

Deptford Dub Club: Tessa Special

Enjoy an evening filled with good vibes! With roots and culture reggae in soundsystem style



See Peachy Beat at Jive Party



The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor

played by Tessa Pollitt. Accompanied children are welcome until 7pm. 12 noon–12pm, The Fox and Firkin, Ladywell. Free entry before 6pm and £3 after. Find out more at: foxfirkin.com

Saturday 25 Sept to Sunday 24 Oct

The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor

Join Sinbad on his incredible voyages, as he tells his amazing

story – from his humble beginnings in Baghdad, to sailing the seven seas in search of adventure. Look out for exciting encounters with giant birds, an amorous mermaid, a hungry giant, two dancing camels and a murderous sultan! Can he get home in one piece? 2pm and 4pm, the Sydenham Centre. Adults: £10 Children: £5 Find out more and book at: spontaneousproductions.co.uk

26 September

Lazy Sundays

Why not connect with nature and surround yourself by the ancient woodland at Beckenham Place Park as Wayward Studio takes the controls with their favourite local record selectors. Expect a smooth mix of jazz, soul, funk and disco at this free event. 12 noon–7pm, Beckenham Place Park. Find out more at: beckenhamplace.org

3 October

Babylon

Join a spectacular show of dance, music, love, romance and more! Babylon explores themes of creation and destruction found in nature and human lives, choreographed by Quang Kien Van. Immerse yourself in a theatre show filled with all kinds of emotions. 4–5pm, Deptford Lounge. Book free tickets at: thealbany.org.uk

Libraries

All our libraries run regular events for children and families, and many of them are free. For details, ask in your local library or visit our website lewisham.gov.uk/libraries

9 October

Club Origami

Dance, fashion, and live music meet the magic of origami to sweep us up on an inspiring adventure in a land made purely of paper and play. Suitable for ages 5 and under. Various times, the Albany, Deptford. Tickets: £7 Find out more and book at: thealbany.org.uk

9–10 and 16–17 October

Catford Arts Trail

The much-loved Catford Arts Trail is back! The trail celebrates the fantastic work of artists, makers and designers from all over the Catford area. Over 100 artists are set to showcase their talents in over 40 venues. 11am–6pm (times at some venues may vary), SE6. Find out more: catfordarts.org

27 October Ship Wrecked

Ever wondered what skills are needed to survive being washed at the shore in Deptford Creek? Learn how you'd tackle building a shelter, lighting a fire and foraging for wild food. Ship Wrecked is a family event suitable for children 7 years and over. 10am–12.30pm, Deptford. Adults: £5 Children: £8. Find out more and book at: creeksidecentre.org.uk

29 October Movie night – Hocus Pocus

Spend this Halloween watching a classic horror

film in one of the oldest ballrooms in London, the Rivoli Ballroom. Tickets are limited and there will be special COVID-19 safe seating arrangements. 5–7pm, Crofton Park. Adults: £10 Children: £8. Book tickets to the screening: rivoliballroom.com

Open daily Animal Walk

Get up close to the Horniman's furry and feathered residents, including goats, guinea pigs, alpacas and more! The free walk also looks at the connection between domesticated animals and their wild



Animal Walk at Horniman Museum and Gardens

relations, and why people live alongside domesticated animals. 12.30–4pm, Horniman

Museum and Gardens, Forest Hill. Find out more at: horniman.ac.uk



Lewisham's directly elected Mayor, Damien Egan, represents the whole borough. Contact him at damien.egan@lewisham.gov.uk

Please check beforehand whether your councillor is holding in person surgeries. Visit lewisham.gov.uk/councillors or call 020 8314 6000 and ask for 'operator'.

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REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

A guide to what can go in the recycling bin



✓ YES PLEASE, RECYCLE

✓ Glass bottles and jars



Wash all items to remove any traces of food and place all clean and dry items loose in the bin.

✓ Plastics pots, tubs, trays and bottles



✓ Paper and cardboard



✓ Cans, cartons, Tetra Pak™ aerosols and foil



✗ NO THANKS, DON'T RECYCLE

- ✗ Black bin liners
- ✗ Textiles
- ✗ Tissues (paper towel/wipes)
- ✗ Light bulbs
- ✗ Polystyrene
- ✗ Pet food pouches
- ✗ Bubble wrap
- ✗ Food waste
- ✗ Garden waste
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Crisp packets and sweet and biscuit wrappers
- ✗ Batteries and electrical waste

Placing non-recyclable items in your recycling bin can result in good quality material becoming contaminated and unrecyclable.

For a complete list of what can and can't be recycled, visit www.lewisham.gov.uk/recyclable

