

# Lewisham **Life**

Spring 2022

[lewisham.gov.uk](http://lewisham.gov.uk)

## It's here!

**Celebrating our year  
as London Borough  
of Culture 2022**



- How to apply for funding for your community project
- Lewisham Works – launch of new employment support service

**WE ARE  
LEWISHAM**





# Got 5?

**Register online to vote**

**2022 local elections**  
Register by 14 April  
[gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://gov.uk/register-to-vote)

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**  
**DON'T LOSE IT**



The  
Electoral  
Commission



Welcome

## Message from the Mayor



**Damien Egan,**  
Mayor of  
Lewisham  
and **Brenda Dacres,**  
Deputy  
Mayor

Welcome to the spring issue of Lewisham Life. In this edition you can get up to speed on what's happening across the borough over the next few months of our year as London Borough of Culture 2022. We've pulled together some highlights, from dance and music to poetry and theatre, and some brilliant community-hosted events too. We've also shared details of ways you can get involved, and some exciting careers opportunities for local young people.

We're working with the community to put on a programme of events throughout the year for everyone to get involved in – including, of course, the much anticipated return of Lewisham People's Day on Saturday 16 July! No matter what your age or interests, there should be something for you. We're constantly updating our website, so check out [wearelewisham.com](https://wearelewisham.com) for the latest news, events and opportunities.

Elsewhere you can read about how £1m is being invested in community projects across Lewisham. This funding is money we charge developers in the borough, and local organisations were invited to bid for projects that focus on some key local priorities, including tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, providing mentoring to local young people, supporting people with learning disabilities or mental health issues to find employment opportunities, and assisting Lewisham's recovery from COVID-19.

You can also read about our annual budget – including Council Tax – for the year ahead. We know the cost of living crisis is affecting local people, and we've included details of support available for anyone struggling to pay rising bills. If you need help and advice, please contact us so we can see what support might be available.



Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham





## In this issue

Read about how we have started with our year as London Borough of Culture and how to get involved – from volunteering, nominating your Lewisham Legend, and sharing your memories.

We hear the latest from the Young Mayor, answer questions on the Budget, and share news on how new community projects are being funded.

You can also find out more about how we are tackling the climate emergency and read about our new employment support service Lewisham Works.



## Contents

- 5 News
- 13 London Borough of Culture update and events
- 22 Budget
- 24 Lewisham Works
- 26 Young Mayor
- 27 Fostering
- 28 Funding community projects
- 30 Green update
- 31 Your Council

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**lewisham.gov.uk**  
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
- » Live in a controlled parking zone?  
Apply for your permit online
- » Get local news and information direct to your inbox  
– subscribe at [lewisham.gov.uk/signup](https://lewisham.gov.uk/signup)

**If you cannot contact us online,  
you can call 020 8314 6000**

### Useful contacts:

**Lewisham Homes**  
0800 028 2028  
[lewishamhomes.org.uk](https://lewishamhomes.org.uk)

**Local health service**  
[nhs.uk](https://nhs.uk) or NHS 111

**Police (non-emergency)** 101

**Thames Water**  
0845 920 0800 (customer services)  
0800 714614 (24-hour leakline)

**Gas emergencies** 0800 111 999



**YOUR VOTE ✕ YOUR COMMUNITY ✕ YOUR COUNCIL**

# Vote for your Mayor and councillors on 5 May

On Thursday 5 May you can vote to decide on the Mayor of Lewisham and for councillors to represent your ward.

### About the Mayor and councillors

Lewisham Council runs many services which might affect you. These include adult social care, schools, libraries, street sweeping and bin collections.

Lewisham has a directly elected Mayor, who is responsible for council policy and making key decisions about local services. Local councillors live in the borough and represent their fellow residents.

The elected Mayor and councillors will serve a four-year term of office until 2026.

### How to register to vote

You need to register to vote if you:

- have recently moved to Lewisham
- have moved since you last

registered to vote

- haven't registered to vote before.

To vote in local elections you must be:

- aged 18 or over
- registered to vote at your home address
- a British, Commonwealth, Irish or EU citizen.

To vote in the election on Thursday 5 May, register at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) by 14 April.

### Postal and proxy votes

If you want to vote by post you need to apply for a postal vote by 5pm on Tuesday 19 April. If you can't vote in person on Thursday 5 May and want someone to vote on your behalf, you need to apply for a proxy vote by 5pm on Tuesday 26 April.

Polling stations will be open across Lewisham from 7am–10pm on Thursday 5 May.

### Ward boundary changes

Due to the recent boundary changes some residents may now be in different wards. Remember to check your poll card for details of which ward you're in and where to vote.

Lewisham now has 19 wards – one more than before. 16 wards will have three councillors and three wards will have only two councillors – Bellingham, Lewisham Central and New Cross Gate.

For more information, visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk/elections](https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/elections), call 020 8314 6086 or email [electoral.services@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@lewisham.gov.uk).

# Playtower restoration back on track

Plans to restore the much-loved Ladywell Playtower are back on track, following delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The restoration project will deliver a new four-screen cinema – the Ladywell Cinema – with a restaurant and bar. The Grade II listed Playtower originally opened in 1884 as a swimming pool and public hall, before closing to the public in 2004. Over the last few years, the Council has been developing plans to bring the building back into public use and safeguard its future.

The new cinema will have a strong community focus, with special events and screenings, helping contribute to Lewisham's

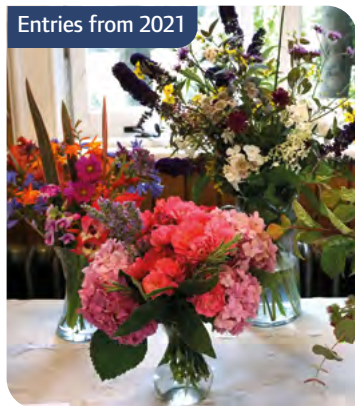


Borough of Culture legacy. All staff will be paid the London Living Wage and the night-time offer will provide a welcome boost

to local businesses. Subject to planning permission, work will begin next year, with the cinema due to open to the public in 2024.

## Get your green fingers ready

Entries from 2021



Are you known for your massive marrows or colossal cauliflowers? Maybe you like creating lookalike vegetable sculptures or beautiful flower arrangements? Enter into the Beckenham Place Park Show 2022, Sunday 31 July. It's a friendly competition open to growers of all standards with prizes to be won! There are 12 categories for adults and six for children. For more details see: [beckenhamplacepark.com/events](https://beckenhamplacepark.com/events)



## The new Wavelengths leisure pool is now open

We've invested £800,000 on refurbishing the Leisure Pool at Wavelengths in Deptford and it is now open!

The much-loved leisure pool has many new features including a brand new parent and child teaching pool, state-of-the-art lighting, showers and toilets and a completely rebuilt changing area. The new dedicated viewing area beside the pool means parents/guardians can watch the fun

without having to get wet.

Wavelengths Leisure Centre has lots on offer including an additional fitness pool, a gym with three fitness studios and a huge range of classes from Group Cycle to Zumba. The first-floor soft play offers a great space for younger children to have fun and burn some energy.

You can book a session at the new Leisure Pool in advance using the Better app or visit [better.org](https://better.org).

## School mental health teams

We've already introduced Mental Health Support Teams to 19 schools, and we're now rolling out to an additional 20 schools across the borough. These teams are a school-based early intervention and prevention service, delivered by South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

We've worked with the NHS to raise funding for Lewisham Child

and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) by 50% in three years, and cut waiting times.

CAMHS provides mental health interventions for children and young people aged up to 18 (or 21 if the child is leaving care) who have more complex or persistent mental health disorders.

If you have concerns about your child's mental health, speak to your child's GP or school.

## Mayor's Winter Appeal

Thank you to Lewisham residents who helped raise £15,000 through the Mayor of Lewisham's Winter Appeal. The Appeal was raising money for Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL) to buy Christmas presents for vulnerable children, and for the 999 Club in Deptford to provide hot meals for homeless people in Lewisham.

You can still donate by visiting [www.lewishamwinterappeal.com](https://www.lewishamwinterappeal.com)



## Get a booster

A booster dose of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is available for everyone aged 16 and over, and some children aged 12 to 15, who have had two doses of the vaccine at least three months ago. If you have not booked yet, you're still eligible and can book anytime.



## "I love it" – first residents move into new social homes

Residents have begun moving into new social homes in New Cross delivered through our Building for Lewisham programme.

Diann described how she fell in love with her new home when she first visited: "I love it – I like the peace, the quiet, the space. It's just right for me, just the right size. I've got a garden and didn't have a garden before. I'm going to get a little greenhouse for the garden because all my plants used to die on the balcony!"

The development at Amersham Vale forms part of the Deptford Southern Housing project,



New resident, Diann Gerson, with the Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan, and local Councillors

which will help deliver 141 new social homes for families on the Council's housing waiting list.

## New affordable housing scheme

We have launched our first shared ownership development at 1 Creekside in Deptford, in partnership with Lewisham Homes. The scheme is aimed at local residents who are trying to get onto the housing ladder. Buyers purchase an initial share of between 25 and 75% of a property and pay rent on the remaining share. The project will also deliver 22 new social homes for families on our housing waiting list, making it a 100% affordable housing development.

Find out more about shared ownership and register your interest in the 1 Creekside development at [lewisham.homes/creekside](http://lewisham.homes/creekside).

1 Creekside development



Ladywell Fields

## Lewisham has best parks in London!

Lewisham's parks and green spaces have been described as "outstanding" in the latest annual Good Parks for London report. Lewisham has been ranked top performing of all the 32 London boroughs!

The report looked at how the London boroughs on how

their parks are performing with regard to sustainability, supporting nature, and involvement of the local community among others.

The last two years have seen public green spaces play a vital role for us all as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely.

## Could you be a Young Champion?

Do you know someone who could be a Young Champion?

Young Champions is a new initiative that gives young residents of Lewisham a chance to get involved in local health issues, from mental health to exploring inequalities and much more.

Young Champions are 13 to 25 year-olds who want to tackle health-related misinformation among their peers, share useful advice with their community and give their opinion on health issues.

Find out more and register at [lewisham.gov.uk/youngchampions](http://lewisham.gov.uk/youngchampions)



## Help us improve conditions for private renters

One in four Lewisham residents rent privately – that's why we're working to improve conditions for private renters.

As part of this work, we're consulting on a new landlord licensing scheme for private rented properties in certain parts of the borough. This will help

tackle poor housing conditions, overcrowding and rogue landlords. We want as many people as possible to take part in the consultation – go to [lewisham.gov.uk/LandlordLicensing](http://lewisham.gov.uk/LandlordLicensing) to have your say.

On top of this, we're introducing an additional licensing

scheme for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs). The new scheme will require all eligible HMOs to meet set standards for room sizes and health and safety, ensuring better conditions and quality of life for tenants. The new scheme will come into effect on Tuesday 5 April 2022.



## Community Day

Join us on Saturday 30 April 10.30am – 4.30pm for the Love Beckenham Place Park Community Day. This will be a fun day with free activities for all ages, a great opportunity to explore the park in new ways and come together to love the park and nature as a local community.

For more information about the community day and other events happening at the park visit [beckenhamplacepark.com/events](https://beckenhamplacepark.com/events)

**Where to find us:** On the grass near the BBQ area. Nearest entrance Beckenham Hill gate.



## On Broadway

Work has started on a major renovation of the iconic Broadway Theatre.

We have invested £7 million to improve the customer experience at the Grade II\* listed venue, which turns 90 this year. Its

auditorium, foyers, bar areas and toilets are all being given a contemporary overhaul to meet 21st century needs.

The theatre is set to play a crucial role in the regeneration of Catford town centre.

## Downham school children plant new fruit orchard

Cllr Patrick Codd, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, was joined by an enthusiastic Year 6 class from Good Shepherd RC School to help with the digging and planting of a new orchard of 27 fruit trees in Durham Hill park in Downham.

The children enjoyed a lesson from a local expert about orchards and fruit trees and all the climate benefits that come with them.

This orchard is part of our Treescapes project and as a result of this funding, 195 more trees are being planted in five Lewisham parks this year:



## SCHOOL STREETS

The School Streets programme continues to roll out, and we're proud to say that we now have 45 school streets in operation across the borough, which is around half of all our schools.

A School Street is a road outside a school with a restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. It's proven to be safer for children, reduces road danger, and creates a

cleaner environment. It also encourages active travel such as walking or cycling to school, which leads to better mental and physical health.

Every application for a School Street is thoroughly assessed for safety and practicality and we hope to welcome even more throughout the year.

To see a list of our School Streets visit [lewisham.gov.uk/schoolstreets](https://lewisham.gov.uk/schoolstreets)

## Turn your creative passion into a business

If you'd like to turn your hobby into a career but don't know where to start, our Adult Learning Service has an exciting range of courses to help you explore your business ideas with support from industry professionals and independent creative makers.

Perhaps you're considering setting up your own cake decorating business, or you'd like to become a self-employed photographer or florist? Or maybe you'd like to discover an interest in acting, drawing and painting, clothesmaking, glasswork,

jewellery making, upholstery or printmaking?

Whilst developing a wide range of practical skills you'll also have the opportunity to prepare samples and a portfolio of work to present to clients, employers or higher education providers, as well as get support with product design and business planning.

If you'd love to develop a hobby and turn something you're passionate about into a career, why not give it a go?

Find out how to take your first steps at: [lewisham.gov.uk/adultlearning](https://lewisham.gov.uk/adultlearning).





## One Housing Care & Support



### Spacious apartments available

Introducing this wonderful collection of one-bedroom self-contained apartments for rent to people over 55. We have carers onsite 24/7 to meet your care needs and promote social activity and independent living.

- Lounge
- Bar and kitchen
- Activity room/cinema
- Multi-purpose room
- Assisted bathroom
- Therapy room
- 4x communal garden spaces

To be eligible to become a resident at Linden Court you must be:

- aged 55 or over
- have a local connection
- able to live safely on your own with some support
- have an assessment with the Care Team at Linden Court at a time that suits you.



## LINDEN COURT

For more information please email [seniorliving@onehousing.co.uk](mailto:seniorliving@onehousing.co.uk) or call 020 8821 4838.

**Steele Road (off Campshill Road),  
Lewisham, London SE13 6BS**

**CARE.ONEHOUSING.CO.UK**



**Covid -19 safe procedures in place**

## Lewisham Legends

# LOCAL HEROES

**Who has made a real difference to your borough?  
Nominate your local legend by Friday 8 April to celebrate  
the work they have done for the community in Lewisham.**

**L**ewisham is proud to stand up for equality, promoting the values that are important to our community. At the heart of this are people – our Lewisham Legends past and present who have had the courage to shake things up for a positive impact.

We want you to put forward your local legends and trailblazers to be celebrated through new public murals in Spring 2022. These could be anyone from musicians and sporting stars, to Lewisham activists and your local community heroes.

The deadline is Friday 8 April. After the closing date, a panel will decide on a selection of winners to be made into murals.



## GET INVOLVED

### Look out for the Lewisham Legends Post Box!

Our bright blue Lewisham Legends post box will be popping up across the borough over the next few months. You can nominate your legends by posting their names into the box.

You may have seen the post box on Day One of Lewisham's year as the Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2022. It's on the move...

Follow our social media accounts to find out when it will be near you, and get nominating!

You can also vote online by visiting [wearelewisham.com/nominate-your-lewisham-legend](https://wearelewisham.com/nominate-your-lewisham-legend)

Images: Sky Power, Roswitha Cheshier



[wearelewisham.com](https://wearelewisham.com)





# A DAY LIKE NO OTHER

The sun shone, and Friday 28 January saw a burst of colour, music and performance spill out across Lewisham, as London Borough of Culture 2022 started with a bang!

The fun started early with Commuter Commotions – live music performances at train stations across the borough. From dance at Deptford, a brass band at Brockley and a choir at Lewisham station, residents on their way to and from work were uplifted by the music on show and went about their day with smiles on their faces.

Art was everywhere all day long – from Deptford to Downham and everywhere in between. We got to watch spoken word performances, join in STOMP style dance workshops, experience theatre performances and take part in art and craft workshops.

Midday saw the LBoC Bop being performed by hundreds of excited Lewisham school children in schools across the borough – a one off dance created especially for us by IRIE! Dance Theatre, to the sounds of the Lewisham Anthem by the Midi Music Company.

Over at the Albany, a sneak peak of Liberty Festival saw performances from D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists ahead of the main festival in July.

Lewisham Shopping Centre was a hive of activity, with the UK premiere of 'Identity Tapestry' by artist Mary Corey March. All day, residents wove their identity on the Tapestry to create a beautiful artwork that tells the



story of the people of Lewisham. You can see it all year long at the Shopping Centre.

The day ended with large scale projections lighting up the borough, as a new short film featuring famous local faces was projected onto buildings. It also lit up central London on the famous Piccadilly Lights, in partnership with Landsec.

Images: Sky Power, Roswitha Cheshire, Caroline Teo



"I'm delighted that Lewisham's year as London Borough of Culture has begun with this inspiring day. The aim is to bring creativity to Londoners' doorsteps and this programme is doing exactly that as it develops skills, supports local business and provides opportunities for young people. I'm proud the programme continues to bring people together to celebrate our communities."

*Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London*



## Volunteer at London Borough of Culture!

Did you enjoy Day One, and would like to get involved in We Are Lewisham? We're looking for residents to volunteer for projects and events throughout the year. You don't need to have volunteered before, training will be provided to help prepare you, and it's a great opportunity to get some experience, meet people and have fun!

Find out more at [lewishamlocal.com](http://lewishamlocal.com)





- D** Dance  
**FF** Family Friendly  
**F** Festival  
**M** Music  
**O** Outdoor  
**SW** Spoken word  
**T** Theatre  
**VA** Visual art  
**WS** Workshop  
**YP** Young People

# WHAT'S ON

Here are some events to look forward to over the next few months from live music and dance to family fun for all ages.

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

## 2-30 March

### **M** Steam Down + special guests

Every Wednesday in March, these sessions will explore the incredibly vibrant emerging music scene in the borough. A new artist every week will explore sounds from jazz to afrobeat, fusing grime, hip hop, soundsystem culture and future soul.

£10-£12.50  
 Book tickets at [wearelewisham.com/whats-on](http://wearelewisham.com/whats-on)

## 10-19 March

### **F** **SW** **T** 05Fest

Award-winning poet, playwright and performer Inua Ellams brings his own brand of poetry and spoken word to Lewisham.

*The Albany, Douglas Way, SE8 4AG*  
 FREE/£5/£8/£10  
 Book tickets at [wearelewisham.com/whats-on](http://wearelewisham.com/whats-on)



Inua Ellams

## 17 March

### **M** Mischief and Mayhem

Ruby Hughes, soprano, and Sergio Bucheli, theorbo and lute, provide a stunning programme at St Peter's Church in Brockley. *St Peter's Church, Brockley SE4 8pm, FREE.*

Book tickets at [wearelewisham.com/whats-on](http://wearelewisham.com/whats-on)

## 21-26 March

### **FF** **M** SON

Duval Timothy and Rosie Lowe present an immersive listening experience installation at Lewisham Arthouse.

*Lewisham Arthouse, 140 Lewisham Way, SE14 6PD*  
 Mon-Sat 10am-6pm  
 FREE drop-in event, pre-booking not needed.

## From May

### **FF** **O** **VA** Breathe: 2022

2022 is the 10 year anniversary of artist Dryden Goodwin's Breathe. Breathe: 2022 will be a striking multi-part new public artwork that updates the 2012 original and will appear across Lewisham on sites close to the South Circular Road. *Across the borough. FREE*

Images: Ellie Kurtz



Duval Timothy and Rosie Lowe present SON

## 9-15 May

### **T** **VA** **WS** We Will Be Happy Here

What would it feel like to live in a world that is truly inclusive, designed by those who currently feel excluded? A sensory interactive installation and workshop experience presented by Spare Tyre in association with local learning disability groups. *Various workshop locations across Lewisham. FREE*

## From June

### **FF** Sonic Pho

An experience for the senses, bringing food and stories from Lewisham's Vietnamese community - the largest in London - together in one unique audio experience. *Hosted at five top Vietnamese restaurants.*



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

## 19-20 March

### **FF** The Smartest Giant in Town

This heart-warming tale by best selling author Julia Donaldson is brought to life in a musical and puppet-filled adventure. *Blackheath Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 9RQ*  
 11am/1.30pm/4pm (Saturday)  
 2pm (Sunday), £15/£13

## Every Wednesday until 4 May

### **D** **WS** HulaFit® with Ro

A class for the total beginner as well as the fitness fanatic. HulaFit® combines tried and tested fitness techniques with hip shakin' Hula for a great full body cardio workout. *Activity studio C.O.16, Prendergast Vale School, SE13 7BN*  
 6.40-7.30pm, £11 drop-in

## 8 April

### **M** Jackie Oates and John Spiers

British folk at its best from this multi award-winning

contemporary folk duo. *Blackheath Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 9RQ. 8pm, £15*

## 30 April

### **M** An Evening with John Illsley

Formed in Deptford, Dire Straits are music royalty. Founder member John Illsley comes to Blackheath Halls to perform the band's classic hits as well as answering questions from the audience. *Blackheath Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 9RQ. 8pm, £30.*  
 Email: [boxoffice@blackheathhalls.com](mailto:boxoffice@blackheathhalls.com) or call 020 8463 0100.

## GET INVOLVED

### Register your event

Planning to put on a creative event in 2022? You can submit the details on the We Are Lewisham website. Once approved, you'll receive a We Are Lewisham tool-kit to brand up your event online. Register your event at [wearelewisham.com/get-involved/submit-an-event](http://wearelewisham.com/get-involved/submit-an-event)

Don't forget to check [wearelewisham.com](http://wearelewisham.com) regularly for more community events as they get announced. There will be loads happening across the borough, all year round, for all ages!



# CHANGE IS GOOD!

Thirty-six local people and organisations have been awarded funding from the Creative Change Fund as part of the London Borough of Culture 2022 programme.

**P**hase one saw funding awarded to successful applicants, with grants of up to £5,000. Delivered in the first half of the year, events will range from visual and performing arts, filmmaking, street art, spoken work to creative writing and green projects that transform neglected spaces.

The Creative Change Fund is a grant scheme supporting local people and organisations in the borough to lead and deliver their own activities as part of Lewisham's year as London Borough of Culture. It is an amazing opportunity to celebrate all that is good about the borough, learn from our history, deliver a legacy for future generations and it will also be good for our health and wellbeing as we start to move on from the pandemic.

The initiative represents a collaboration of Deptford Challenge Trust, Lewisham Homes and Lewisham Council who have all agreed to contribute to the fund.

## A creative writing project with bite!

The Food on Our Table is one of the projects funded through phase one. Local writers will pop up in independent cafes/restaurants around Lewisham to gather stories and sample food from around the world as



The Food on our Table, Brockley Max and Refugee Café



'writers in residence', before producing their own poems/stories. The project is being produced by Carinya Sharples, who said:

"Lewisham has always been home to me, so it means a lot to see the amazing people and talents of this area being recognised and supported as part of London Borough of Culture 2022. I applied to the Creative Change Fund to run a creative-writing series all about food, in partnership with London writers agency Spread the Word - and was so happy when we received the email saying that we had been successful. It's a chance to support local writers, big up independent cafes and restaurants that have survived lockdown, and bring creative-writing into community spaces and talk about something that matters to all of us: food."

Images: Swarand, Ali Wright

## GET INVOLVED

Phase two is now open for applicants to apply for up to £2,000 funding to deliver projects during the second half of the year. Visit [wearelewisham.com/get-involved](https://wearelewisham.com/get-involved)

# CREATIVE FUTURES

**Our ambitious We Are Lewisham careers programme aims to break down barriers for Lewisham's 16-30 year olds to access the creative, cultural and digital industries.**

If you are a young person living in Lewisham, and looking for a career in the creative industries, we can help.

Creative Futures is a year-long careers programme with a focus on a different creative industry each month. You'll have access to online resources and support via the We Are Lewisham website, and by signing up to the newsletter you'll have access to talks and workshops.

## Monthly industry talks

We'll be running monthly talks including the areas of Film, Fashion, Creative Digital Marketing, Photography, Backstage Careers, Performance, Gaming, Digital Design, Music Industry roles, Writing / Poetry, Dance and Craft.

## Support with setting up as a freelancer or start-up

If you are starting out as a freelancer or a creative start-up business, Creative Futures can offer information and support to understand how you need to work, where to start looking for opportunities and practically how to access them.

There will also be signposting and support for young people to understand



Creative Futures is running in partnership with the Albany and Goldsmiths, University of London, and the collaborative project Inspire Lewisham.



how to manage Portfolio Careers as well as opportunities and support to build Digital Portfolios and pathways to Education to achieve their goals.



## Training and Skills Building

If you are aged 16-30 and live in Lewisham, look out for upcoming training and paid work placement opportunities as part of London Borough of Culture 2022.



## Creative Careers Fair at Goldsmiths

By registering you'll also get an invite to attend the Creative Careers Fair at Goldsmiths University on 26 May.

## GET INVOLVED

Visit the Creative Futures section of the We Are Lewisham website for more information. Register to find out more at [wearelewisham.com/get-involved](https://wearelewisham.com/get-involved)



# REMEMBER WHEN

## Share your memories to help create a new history of post-war Lewisham

As part of We Are Lewisham, seven community-led projects will build an exciting new story of Lewisham's past since 1945.

Based on a People's History approach, which focuses on the voices and recollections of people often missing from mainstream history, In Living Memory will create a shared story about post-war Lewisham for all. It will be a story that will benefit current residents of our borough as well as future generations.

Last year, Lewisham residents responded to a call out for important stories that need to be told. From this, seven have been selected, each focused on a different aspect of Lewisham's past. Now, we want you to share your memories to help tell these important stories. Can you help by answering any of these questions?

- Do you or a family member remember the great flood of 1968?
- What are your memories of the area in 1981 and did you take part in the Black People's Day of Action?
- Can you share a memory of Lewisham's lost gay pubs and spaces?
- Do you have any old photos of handmade



The 1968 floods



The In Living Memory projects are being supported by Goldsmiths, University of London



garments made by Caribbean seamstresses you'd be willing to share?

- Do you remember the Buggy Army that marched to Westminster as part of the Save Lewisham Hospital campaign?
- How can we empower the next generation to build on the legacy of Lewisham's pioneering Black-led community self-build schemes?

Find out more by visiting: [explore.gold/ilm](https://explore.gold/ilm)



## CREATIVE CHALLENGE

We are Lewisham and we have a story to tell. For the March Creative Challenge, we are inviting YOU to tell your story of Lewisham.

We're teaming up with London's writer development agency Spread The Word, to bring the Poetry Takeaway Van to locations across the borough. Visit the van at either Lewisham Market, Deptford Lounge or

Beckenham Place Park to tell your story and have it transformed into a poem which will be shared and displayed across Lewisham. We'll also be inviting residents to write their own story to share on social media.

To find out where the Poetry Takeaway Van will be travelling to next, visit [wearelewisham.com/creative-challenges](https://wearelewisham.com/creative-challenges)

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# Council Tax – explained

Your Council Tax bill for this year will soon be landing on your doorstep. Here's what you need to know



Councils are funded through a combination of business rates, central Government grants and your Council Tax. We also generate income through one-off grants, rents and investments. Since 2010, our main grant from Government has been cut by over 60%, which means we now have £450 less per resident each year to spend on services than we did ten years ago.

## How will this affect you?

Reduced funding leaves us in a difficult position; at a time when the cost of living is spiralling we don't want to increase Council Tax, but if we don't we won't have the money to fund the important services we all need and value, like community safety, parks, libraries, leisure centres and youth services.

To keep these services going, we need to increase your Council Tax by 2.99% – which is less than the rate of inflation. About half of this will go directly towards funding adult social care, which supports people with disabilities, mental health issues and dementia, as well as our elderly residents.

A portion of your Council Tax also goes to the Greater London Authority (GLA) which is increasing its share this year. Find out more at [lewisham.gov.uk/counciltax](http://lewisham.gov.uk/counciltax)

## Help paying your Council Tax

We know that times are tough and we are doing everything we can to support those who may find it difficult to pay. We are continuing to invest in our Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and there may be support available to you if you need it.

Households in Bands A–D will also receive £150 through the national energy bills rebate – we will share more information when we have it. If your financial situation has changed recently you may also be eligible for other support. To find out more visit [lewisham.gov.uk/benefits](http://lewisham.gov.uk/benefits)

Read more about the essential services we provide throughout this issue, from foster carers, to apprenticeships and employment support.

## Here's a snap shot of what your Council Tax helps to fund



We empty over

**17m**

bins each year – including recycling, food waste and rubbish



Lewisham has

**65**

parks and nature reserves which have been named the best in London



We spend

**72%**

of our funding on supporting vulnerable residents



We look after

**460**

young people in care + 430 care leavers



We're the UK's

**1st**

official Borough of Sanctuary, supporting those fleeing violence and persecution



We've approved

**1,000**

new social homes for families on our housing waiting list





**LEWISHAM  
WORKS**

If you are a Lewisham resident and looking for better job opportunities, we can help.

# Lewisham Works

**T**his month we are launching Lewisham Works – a free, Council-led service to match unemployed residents with the training and support they need to find jobs and change their lives.

We know job hunting can sometimes feel overwhelming, whether you're new to the jobs market or have been out of work for a while. And that's where Lewisham Works comes in. If you are unemployed, 18+ and live in the borough, we can support you in developing skills, overcoming barriers to work and find secure, well-paid employment.

We are working closely with local training partners and businesses to provide residents with realistic pathways into a range of jobs in Lewisham across a wide variety of sectors. At the moment this includes roles in construction, hospitality, leisure and admin. Our service will focus on helping you find and secure the best job for you.

It doesn't matter your level of experience, background or where you are in your career

journey – whether you're looking for your first break, lost your job due to Covid, or are out of work and don't know where to start – Lewisham Works is here to help you achieve your career goals.

## For residents

We offer a comprehensive wrap-around service which includes:

- Tailored 1:1 advice and guidance from a dedicated Advisor
- Help with CVs, job applications and interview techniques
- Access to local training, job vacancies and apprenticeships
- Access to volunteering and work experience
- Advice on benefits, debt and other money-related matters
- Financial help for travel and childcare in the first weeks of a job
- Mentoring for six months to help you settle into your role.

## Consider an apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are offered as part of Lewisham Works. They are a brilliant way to build your career – whether you're starting out, looking for a step change or want to upskill in an existing role. They're flexible, there's no upper age limit – they're not just for school leavers – and you earn while you learn.

Since we launched the Mayor's Apprenticeship Programme in 2009, we've supported almost 700 residents into a wide range of roles from social care, to digital, to construction trades.

All apprenticeships we support are paid at the 21+ National Living Wage of £8.91 an hour, while all Council apprentices receive the London Living Wage of £11.05 an hour.

The Council currently has nearly 80 apprentices on its payroll, including Alisha O'Connor and Leila Dantes-Michael who combine their office jobs with studying for her apprentice qualifications.

Lewisham Works will also provide help and advice if you're not ready to apply for work.

## For local employers

If you are a local business or organisation and you are looking to strengthen your team, please get in touch. Lewisham Works' specialist advisors have in-depth knowledge of the local jobs market:

- Work with local employers to understand your business and who you're looking for
- Promote your vacancy and screen interested candidates to ensure you only receive the most suitable CVs and broker interviews for you with suitable candidates
- Offer additional support, including training, to settle your new staff member in
- Help to reduce your recruitment costs.

“Get a qualification and get paid at the same time”



**Alisha O'Connor – Premises administrator, Adult Learning Lewisham**

“If, like me, you're not sure university is right for you and you'd like to go straight into work – I'd definitely recommend an apprenticeship, as you can get a qualification and get paid at the same time.”

**Leila Dantes-Michael – Family Information Outreach Project Officer**

“Sometimes parents who have been out of work for a while may be unsure of how to get back into the job market and lack confidence. But the great thing about an apprenticeship at Lewisham Council is that they support you every step of the way.”

## For local employers

If you run a local business and think you can offer an apprenticeship, please get in touch. We can help you with financial support for the role.

## More information

If you are a resident who would like to register for Lewisham Works, or a business looking to recruit please email [JobsAndSkills@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:JobsAndSkills@lewisham.gov.uk) and a friendly advisor will be in touch, within days.

For more information on apprenticeships visit the Council website [lewisham.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://lewisham.gov.uk/apprenticeships)





# Foster change

Children and young people in the borough need extraordinary people to become foster carers. We spoke to Lewisham foster carers, Jon and Despo Stevens, about their inspiring journey.

## Making a difference

What's life like as the Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham? We asked Rosanna Campbell and Olivia Mardling what they had been up to in the past few months since being voted in.

### Rosanna

"Life as the Young Mayor of Lewisham is as exhilarating as it is exciting, with new people to meet - whether they are the general public, or the Mayor of London himself!

With the Young Advisors we recently launched the Bank of Things which was an idea of my predecessors, to support young people in the borough and help them to make a difference to their local community. The Bank of Things is a new drop in donation hub for young people aged 11 to 25 living in Lewisham. This is to help address the issue of poverty and lack of resources for young people in the borough, and we can now supply everyday necessities such as toiletries and school equipment to any young person facing hardship.

It is open every Monday and Wednesday 4-7pm during term time, at Unit 19, Lewisham Shopping Centre.

I'm also working on developing the Halo code in Lewisham schools. The Halo Code is a pledge, signed by schools, that promises members of the Black community that they have the "freedom and security to wear all afro-hairstyles without restriction

or judgment". This includes any child who wishes to wear their hair however they choose to in school.

The expectations for me are high, and I hope that the work that I do while I am in this position will carry on my name, and a legacy for us as young people."

### Olivia

"So far, my experience as Deputy Young Mayor of Lewisham has been incredibly positive. I have gained a wealth of new experiences from attending community violence conversations to meeting Sadiq Khan, during Day One of London Borough of Culture.

I have also been working to spread awareness on violence against women and girls. We are creating an assembly and workshops for Lewisham secondary schools, and are working with schools to develop this. The past three months have been exciting and busy. I can't wait to see what the next nine months in this role hold."

Images: David Parry/PA

### Find out more

For information about the Young Mayor and Young Advisors visit [lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor](http://lewisham.gov.uk/youngmayor)

We met Jon and Despo Stevens at the Horniman Museum, which was the first place they took their foster children on a visit back in 2018. Foster caring came as a surprise to them when they found themselves with three siblings in their care.

### Despo

"I was the headteacher in a school in West London when the mother of three pupils suddenly passed away. I had known the children from an early age, when the oldest two first came to my school at the ages of six and seven.

At the time of their mother's death, I had known the family for around a decade. Their father struggled after becoming a single parent and I became increasingly involved in the children's life. When the father became ill, Jon and I immediately stepped in and brought the children home with us."

### Jon

Jon was a retired headteacher when the children came into their care and Despo has since retired.

"The goal was to retire and travel, but life intervened and our path changed! Both of us had worked with children for our entire careers, so we were unfazed about working with children in our home. We soon discovered that fostering was different and required a lot of time and patience to build relationships with the children in our care"

"You get lots of support and in-depth training. Without that it would be difficult



"The youngest always shouts 'I love you' at the end of the day"

### More information

If you think you could make a difference in a child's life like the Stevens have, contact Lewisham Council for an informal discussion on 0800 015 0129 or email at [fosteringrecruitment@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringrecruitment@lewisham.gov.uk). Find out more at [lewisham.gov.uk/fostering](http://lewisham.gov.uk/fostering)

because the children in your home are traumatised. It's so rewarding. The youngest would always come and hug and shout 'I love you' at the end of the day. Now, the oldest does as well! I would encourage anyone to consider becoming a foster carer."



# Funding community projects

Over £1m is being invested in community projects across Lewisham – find out more about some of the 25 projects benefiting.

In addition to the £900,000 being invested through our borough-wide Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) fund, an additional £260k has been secured in match funding from other organisations.

Funding has been targeted towards projects which help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, provide mentoring to young people in the borough, support people with learning disabilities or mental health issues to find employment opportunities, and assist Lewisham's recovery from COVID-19.

## Ignition Brewery

In partnership with Lewisham Mencap, Ignition Brewery will be using their funding to create more employment opportunities for local residents with learning disabilities. We spoke to Nick from Ignition Brewery to find out more.

### How will Ignition Brewery be using this funding?

"Ignition's purpose is to create meaningful jobs for people with learning disabilities that pay the London Living Wage. Our project will create training opportunities, secure qualifications required for employment, and create enterprises – such as Ignition Ice Cream – which will create jobs and make great products."

### Why is this work so important in Lewisham?

"Nationally, 94% of people with learning disabilities are unemployed. This is a waste of their talent and potential. Through our collaboration with Lewisham Mencap, we have identified a significant need for more employment and enterprise opportunities



“Buy our beer, buy our ice cream. The more popular our products, the more jobs we create”

Nick from Ignition Brewery

across Lewisham for people with learning disabilities.”

### How can the wider community help support your work?

"Please get involved! Buy our beer, buy our ice cream. The more popular our products, the more jobs we create.

If you are an employer looking for reliable staff who are great with customers, talk to us about how we could find you a new

team member with commitment, people skills and the qualifications needed."

## Grove Park Youth Club

In partnership with Grove Park Youth Club, the Rio Ferdinand Foundation will be running regular evening and weekend activities for young people in Lewisham, with a focus on



## What is NCIL funding?

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a sum of money that councils charge for large scale property development. A portion of this money is then allocated to support local community projects and is known as the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL). Some of this funding is spent on borough-wide projects, and the rest is distributed between Lewisham's 18 wards to invest in local community projects.

those from disadvantaged backgrounds. We spoke to Rob from Grove Park Youth Club to find out more about how they will be using their funding.

### How will you be using this funding?

"The Rio Ferdinand Foundation and Grove Park Youth Club are working together to rebuild a vibrant and inclusive community hub for children and young people from across Grove Park, Whitefoot, Downham and Lee Green. This partnership will see a range of

## More information

Find out about the other projects we're funding at [lewisham.gov.uk/BoroughWideNCIL](http://lewisham.gov.uk/BoroughWideNCIL)

sessions delivered from the recently reopened Grove Park Youth Club, including sports, arts, media, wellbeing and educational activities."

### Why is this work so important in Lewisham?

"The closure of Grove Park Youth Club was a huge loss for the local community. It took many years of hard work by the volunteer-led Grove Park Youth Club Building Preservation Trust (GPYC BPT) to get the youth club reopened and working again.

"After 18 months of lockdowns and social distancing, we must rebuild social connections within our communities and that is precisely what this partnership work aims to do. As well as rebuilding these relationships, we will work with young people to support their emotional health and wellbeing, teach them new skills, build up their confidence and improve their future opportunities."

### How can the wider community help support your work?

"We need volunteers who can help staff and maintain the building, as GPYC BPT is a volunteer-led organisation. We want the community to take pride in their building and would welcome any help with decorating and improving the building for our members.

Our young people are keen to learn a range of new skills – from practical life skills like DIY to creative talents such as DJing. We would love to hear from any volunteers who are keen to support with teaching new skills."



# Green scene

We're continuing to work hard and tackle the climate emergency. Read more about what's been happening across the borough.

## Dalmain School goes greener

Celebrations were had all round at Dalmain Primary School as excited Year 6 pupils joined the Mayor, Councillors and Council staff to switch off a gas boiler at the school.

The school building where the boiler was switched off is one of the first Council buildings to be taken off-gas heating! Heating and hot water is now powered using heat from the air, thanks to the installation of a new air source heat pump, as part of our commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2030.

Pupils also enjoyed showing off their art exhibition on the climate crisis, which features paintings, drawings and sculptures that highlight the urgent need to take action against climate change such as use less electricity and protect local green spaces.

## From plate to power

Local food waste will soon be used to power homes thanks to our new contract with anaerobic digestion plant East London Biogas, which transforms food waste into renewable energy.

Garden waste will also be recycled into compost as part of the new contract, which will start this April.

We're also planning to roll out food waste



Dalmain Primary School switch off their gas boiler

collections – currently only available to houses in Lewisham – to housing estates, businesses and Council facilities, as part of our new plan for waste management.

## Help fight waste

It's important to make sure that you're using your bins correctly and only using newspapers or biodegradable bags to line your recycling, food waste and garden waste bins.

- Find out what you can and can't put in your food waste bin: [lewisham.gov.uk/foodwaste](http://lewisham.gov.uk/foodwaste)
- Find out more about signing-up to our subscription garden waste service: [lewisham.gov.uk/gardenwastecollections](http://lewisham.gov.uk/gardenwastecollections)

## Be part of our climate conversation

Find out what changes you can make in your daily life that will help the planet by visiting our website: [lewisham.gov.uk/climateconversation](http://lewisham.gov.uk/climateconversation).

You can let us know what you're doing and help inspire others by posting on our virtual pledge board: [en-gb.padlet.com/lewishamcouncil/climate\\_conversation](http://en-gb.padlet.com/lewishamcouncil/climate_conversation)



[lewisham.gov.uk](http://lewisham.gov.uk)



Lewisham's directly elected Mayor, Damien Egan, represents the whole borough. Contact him at [damien.egan@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:damien.egan@lewisham.gov.uk)

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

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The Building for Lewisham programme is creating new homes across Lewisham. We're working hard to help residents by building genuinely affordable, high quality housing whilst helping to create and support sustainable and diverse communities throughout Lewisham.

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