

Meet your new Young Mayor!

Shane Grant is excited
to bring his fresh ideas
to young people across
the borough

- Discover everything Lewisham has to offer this summer
- Find out how to become a Shared Lives carer
- See what community projects have received funding



Lewisham

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Welcome

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Message from the Mayor



Brenda
Dacres,
Mayor of
Lewisham

Welcome to your summer 2025 edition of Lewisham Life! With warmer weather ahead, it's the perfect time to get out and discover everything our borough has to offer. Whether you fancy relaxing in our award-winning green spaces, browsing our bustling markets, or enjoying one of our many local festivals – there is plenty happening for all ages. In the middle of the magazine, you'll find a map and guide to help you make the most of those hazy summer days, so pull it out and get exploring!

In this issue, we are excited to introduce our new Young Mayor, Shane Grant, who is brimming with ideas on how we can better support young people in Lewisham. Meanwhile Cllr Jacq Paschoud reflects on her year as Speaker and the inspiring people she's met along the way.

There is an update on the regeneration projects in Lewisham, Deptford and Catford town centres – the new spaces and initiatives that will transform our communities. We also share how we're supporting the borough's renters – everyone deserves a safe, secure and affordable home.

SEEN is returning, showcasing incredible local talent from diverse backgrounds. This year's festival is set to be even bigger than last year. If you're a performer, don't miss the chance to apply for the festival's mentorship scheme and take your craft to the next level.

Elsewhere, we take a look at the Shared Lives programme, which connects carers with people who need extra support to live independently. If you're passionate about making a difference, find out how you can get involved.

As ever, don't forget to stay connected. Sign up for our weekly email newsletter and scan the QR code to join our WhatsApp channel. You can also find out who your local councillors are and how to reach them on page 35.

Have a great summer – please go out there, enjoy the weather and support all the people and places that make Lewisham shine.

Brenda Dacres, Mayor of Lewisham





Dacappo Pizzeria –
Lewisham Food Market

17

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CONTACT
US

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

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you can call 020 8314 6000

Useful contacts:

Housing Services
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housingenquiries@lewisham.gov.uk
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nhs.uk or NHS 111
Police (non-emergency) 101
Thames Water
 0845 920 0800
 (customer services)
 0800 714 614 (24-hour leakline)
Gas emergencies 0800 111 999

Get behind your favourite local businesses

It's that time of year again. Shine a light on your favourite Lewisham businesses by nominating them for our 2025 Business Awards.

The awards are your chance to celebrate local businesses who are working hard, making Lewisham a better place and creating jobs and opportunities for residents.

Winning an award unlocks fantastic opportunities for businesses, like being included in our award-winning Discover Lewisham publicity campaign.

Nominations open Friday 23 May and close at 9am on Friday 4 July with the awards presented during a ceremony in November at Catford's Broadway Theatre.



Brenda Dacres, Mayor of Lewisham, with award winner, Kids Black History Classroom

Nominate by visiting lewisham.gov.uk/business-awards



Get ready for The Big Catford Weekender

There will be a party atmosphere in Catford from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 June. Join us for a weekend of performances, live music, family fun, workshops, crafts and community events. The festival will be hosted across multiple sites in the town centre and entry is free with food and drink available to buy from a range of local businesses. In and amongst the excitement, you will have the chance to meet the new operators of the former Catford Constitutional Club and find out about some of the other improvements coming to the town centre.

For full details, visit lewisham.gov.uk/catford

Lewisham Food Market is back

Great news for food lovers – Lewisham Food Market returns to Cornmill Gardens, opposite Lewisham Station, on the first Sunday of each month from 10am–3pm. Now managed by The Food Market Company, the team behind the successful food markets in Catford and Beckenham Place Park, expect an irresistible feast of global street food, served up by some of your favourite local traders.

Whether you're a foodie, or just looking for a fun Sunday outing, this market has something for everyone. It's also free and dog-friendly.



Foodie fun at Lewisham Food Market

Get financial support

The UK government recently announced new details for the Household Support Fund. The fund is there to help our most in need residents with the cost of living.

We're working with local partners to distribute the money directly to families, which includes £15 per week for every child on free school meals, during the holidays.

It also means we can once again support the borough's pension-age households. Last

year, following changes to the Winter Fuel Payment, we found nearly 2,200 were receiving housing benefits or council tax reduction but not claiming Pension Credit and therefore missing out on the Winter Fuel Payment. Using the Household Support Fund, we provided an equivalent £200–£300 payment and hope to do the same this coming winter.

Find out what financial support you may be entitled to at lewisham.betteroff.org.uk

Refugee Week 2025 is almost here

This year, Refugee Week is from Monday 16 June until Sunday 22 June and the theme is Community as a Superpower. We have offered small grants to 18 local individuals and organisations to develop projects supporting sanctuary seekers.

We are proud to be the UK's first Borough of Sanctuary. Find more information and details of the community events happening at lewisham.gov.uk/sanctuary

Unsung local champions taking centre stage at Community Awards

The Mayor's Community Awards are back. Now in their eighth year, the awards celebrate local champions who are making a difference across the borough.

We have received nominations for outstanding organisations

and individuals who have gone the extra mile to support the community. The awards feature seven categories: Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year, Community Project of the Year, The Good Neighbour

Award, Environmental Champion, The Good Business Award and Local Hero.

Keep an eye out for the awards ceremony on Tuesday 3 June where we will be announcing the winners.

House of Lewisham has launched

Step aside Etsy, there's a new online marketplace in town! House of Lewisham is our new website, designed to connect shoppers directly with talented local makers. From fashion and gifts to homewares and more, it is packed with locally made products.

As well as selling their products, the platform also helps creators build online skills, offering e-commerce and small business training to kickstart their digital journey.

Support your local makers and explore the House of Lewisham marketplace today at thehouseoflewisham.com

Julurie earrings, House of Lewisham



A breath of fresh air

Earlier this year, we launched our new air quality website. It provides a new way of checking pollution levels in Lewisham and learning how we can work together to reduce them. Discover everyday actions to improve our air, from greener travel to small home changes at lewisham.gov.uk/airquality

Please note the Lewisham Air app is no longer in use.

What you've all bin waiting for

We're introducing new "dual-stream" litter bins across Lewisham High Street this spring, making it even easier to recycle on the go. Each bin has two sections – one for general waste and one for recycling.

When recycling, make sure all items are clean and dry. Just one dirty item can contaminate an entire truckload of recyclable materials, making them unusable and adding unnecessary costs for the Council and our residents.

Not sure what goes where? Visit our website for a quick reminder of what you can and can't recycle lewisham.gov.uk/how-to-recycle

Millwall for the double

Millwall Football Club is celebrating a very special double this year, as the Club turns 125 and Millwall Community Trust marks 40 years of working in Lewisham.

The work of the Community Trust spreads far and wide across the borough, with award-winning sports programmes, but it also delivers things you might not expect from a football trust.

"We run warm spaces, social clubs and walking football," says CEO Sean Daly. "We also run holiday camps and this year provided 9,500 meals during the school holidays."

"Back when we started 40 years ago, it was just about getting some footballs together



Sean Daly, CEO of Millwall Community Trust



and setting up some coaching on estates – now it's so much more, it's about using our position to support the community.

"We've got officers based at Lewisham Police Station to support young people involved in knife crime. We host jobs fairs, do health checks and work

with schools to promote healthy lifestyles. The players' involvement in all our work is really important."

The Trust is planning a programme of celebration events later this year, so keep an eye out for summer announcements. For more information visit millwallcommunity.org.uk

Repair, Reuse and Recycle

Twenty-three local businesses and organisations have each been awarded one of our new £1,000 Repair, Reuse, Recycle grants. The funding will help spark initiatives that benefit the environment, tackle climate change, reduce waste and save money. The funded projects include reusable coffee cups, repurposing clothing, building community gardens and switching to an energy efficient heating system.

It's exciting to see these projects take shape. We look forward to sharing their progress.

Don't miss out on funded childcare

Need a hand with childcare as you navigate the beautiful chaos of parenthood? Starting September 2025, working parents can get up to 30 hours of funded early education and formal childcare.

That's not all. Parents of two-year-olds who receive certain benefits, like Universal Credit, are also entitled to 15 hours of funded early learning through the borough's Lewisham 2s scheme. Childcare professionals can support you with your child's social, emotional and cognitive growth and nurture their overall development.

For more information on how to claim, visit lewisham.gov.uk/freechildcare or contact fis@lewisham.gov.uk

Lewisham 2s Don't miss out on funded childcare



You may be able to get up to
15 hours a week
of funded early education or childcare
if you receive certain benefits.

Find out more at
lewisham.gov.uk/freechildcare
or email
FIS@lewisham.gov.uk



Lewisham Libraries win at British Book Awards

Lewisham Libraries service has won London Library of the Year at The British Book Awards 2025. This is a prestigious award which celebrates the service's impressive 42% rise in new memberships compared to the previous year. The jump was driven by the Imagined Worlds festival which the library staff created last year to showcase sci-fi and fantasy fiction.

We want to extend our thanks to everyone who made these events possible, including our dedicated staff, enthusiastic volunteers, talented authors, creative poets, supportive partners and all the wonderful attendees. To find out what else is happening at our award-winning libraries, visit libraries.lewisham.gov.uk/events



Your award-winning Lewisham Libraries team



Schools lead the way on energy efficiency

Three local schools – Stillness Infants, Stillness Juniors and Baring Primary – have been selected to take part in a London-wide Greener Schools pilot. We successfully secured the £226,000 of funding needed to install solar panels on the school buildings, bringing clean energy to classrooms. This new funding will unlock significant environmental benefits, while also cutting costs, with savings reinvested back into the classroom. We will also be working with the schools to develop long-term plans to reduce carbon and promote sustainability.

This is an excellent example of climate action in practice!

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lewisham.gov.uk/signup

Crack down on fly-tipping

We've increased fines for environmental offences as part of our ongoing efforts to tackle fly-tipping across the borough. The maximum penalties are now £1,000 for fly-tipping and £200 for littering.

To ensure Lewisham's streets are clean and safe, our Environmental Enforcement Team is actively cracking down on illegal dumping and waste disposal.

If you see fly-tipping in your area, you can report it using the Love Clean Streets app or email us at envirocrime.enforcement@lewisham.gov.uk

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AFTER

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Anyone in a household needs to be in receipt of the following benefits

1. Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
2. Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
3. Universal Credit (UC)
4. Pension Credit - guarantee or Savings Credit

OR If your household gross income is less than £31,000 per year.

OR Anyone in household Identified by doctor or GP with health condition of cardiovascular, respiratory, immunosuppressed or limited mobility related.

Are you using a very old boiler?
Are you using electric heaters?
Do you live in a house with a EPC rating of E, F or G?

?

You can be eligible for a grant to upgrade your boiler and insulation, and also up to 100% funding for heat pump at off gas properties, under the Government ECO4 Grant.

Greenland Energy Services Ltd
102 Brockley Rise, London SE23 1LN
info@greenlandenergy.co.uk | www.greenlandenergy.co.uk

0208 314 1028

OUT OF HOURS

07497 376031

scan me for more info

Sorting the garden for summer?

We'll take care of your trimmings

From cuttings to clippings, our weekly Garden Waste Collection makes tidying up easy – for just £96.02 a year. Sign up today at lewisham.gov.uk/garden-waste

Free mentoring for young people

Our adult learning service is working in partnership with Lewisham Works to deliver Jumpstart to Success, a free programme for young people aged 16–24 who are currently not in education, employment or training. The programme provides one-to-one mentoring, to support people into training or employment, with a focus on personal development, boosting self-confidence and developing the skills needed for work.

Participants have access to job vacancies and work placements and the opportunity to meet representatives from a variety of industries including sport, hospitality, music, dance and gaming.

There are three ways to register your interest:

- email your contact details to adultlearningiag@lewisham.gov.uk
- call 020 8314 3300, Monday–Friday 9am–4.30pm
- complete our online form at lewisham.gov.uk/jumpstart

Brand new affordable homes for residents

We are pleased to announce nearly 150 new affordable homes have been built across the borough so far this year. These are a mix of social rent, London Living Rent and shared ownership and are located in Excalibur Estate, David Jones House, Walsham House and Raggett House.

Residents are already settling in. The homes have been delivered through our Building for Lewisham programme, as part of our ongoing efforts to address housing needs in Lewisham.



Brenda Dacres, Mayor of Lewisham, cuts the ribbon on the Excalibur Estate

New skills hub opens in Downham

Elevate 100 is a first-of-its-kind youth space in Downham, offering free employment, skills and wellbeing support for 16-to 30-year-olds. Partnering with local organisations, it provides tailored advice, training, workshops and a likeminded community for young people.

At the heart of the decision-making for Elevate 100 is the Youth Action Board, which is made up of young local people with connections to Downham, ensuring the space reflects the needs of other young residents. It includes a co-working area, a private meeting room, content creation studio and green screen.

Visit Elevate 100 at Downham Health and Leisure Centre, 7-9 Moorside Rd, Bromley BR1 5EW, open 10am to 5pm.

Celebrate Pride 2025 with us

While Lewisham proudly celebrates its vibrant LGBTQ+ communities all year round, Pride Month is a time to honour progress for equal rights and to celebrate LGBTQ+ culture.

This year, for the third year running, the Council will march in the Pride in London Parade. Starting at 12 noon in Hyde Park on Saturday 5 July, the parade retraces the historic route of the first London Pride march in 1972. Everyone's invited so please come and show your support as we take to the streets of Central London. For further information visit prideinlondon.org

Keep an eye on lewisham.gov.uk/pride-month for Pride Month events in Lewisham.



Presenting the cheque to Citizens Advice

Thousands raised for local charities

Council-run Hither Green Crematorium has raised £12,500 for local charities through the Recycling of Metals Scheme in the past year.

Operated by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), of which the Council is a member, the programme recycles medical items like pins and plates after cremations, with family consent. The proceeds are donated to charities supporting

bereaved families and those living with terminal illness.

This year's proceeds were shared among SANDS (£4,166) for support after pregnancy loss, St Christopher's Children's Hospice (£4,167) for specialist equipment, and Citizens Advice Lewisham (£4,167) for bereavement help.

Since signing up to the ICCM metal recycling scheme 10 years ago, we have raised over £170,000 for local charities.

Is your home phone ready to go digital?

The UK's telephone network is changing this year. Traditional phone lines will be replaced by a digital service which means that calls will be made over a broadband line.

The switchover should be relatively simple for most and will just be a case of plugging your phone into your broadband router – your telephone provider will contact you to guide you through the process.

While most switches will happen this year, BT has extended the deadline to 2027 to ensure vulnerable people can be moved over safely too.

In the meantime, be aware of fraud. Your provider won't charge you for switching so if anyone asks for money, report it to Action Fraud on actionfraud.police.uk/reportscam or by calling 0300 123 2040.

HAF the time of your lives

School holidays can be challenging, so we're delighted to offer meals and activities to thousands of Lewisham children aged 4-16. The Department for Education has extended the Holiday, Activities and Food (HAF) programme nationally for 2025.

Running during schools' Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays, it provides arts, crafts, sports, drama, dance and hot meals.

In 2024, nearly 7,000 children in Lewisham benefited from the programme, supported by 54 activity providers. We're pleased to offer it again to those already

involved and to new children receiving benefit-related free school meals.

If your child qualifies but hasn't received a text code or if you need booking support, contact hafprogramme@lewisham.gov.uk or visit lewisham.gov.uk/holiday-activities



Flower Power returns

Lewisham in Bloom is back to brighten our borough – show us your flowers, imagination and gardening skills. This competition highlights the importance of gardening and floral displays to boost wellbeing and increase biodiversity and sustainable practices – making Lewisham a greener, brighter and healthier place to live.

Residents, community groups, schools and businesses can enter, and the categories are:

- 🌸 Best Wildlife Garden
- 🌸 Best Front Garden
- 🌸 Best Containers
- 🌸 Best Community Garden
- 🌸 Best Business

Category winners will receive National Garden Vouchers, the overall Best in Show will receive a new Lewisham in Bloom Award and the first 10 entries received will get a free RSPB bird nesting box.

The judges will look at how spaces are designed, planted and maintained, as well as their impact on sustainability,



nature and wildlife, and the local community. Applications for the Lewisham in Bloom competition will be open from Monday 16 June to Friday 27 June and you can apply online at lewisham.gov.uk/bloom.

The judging period will be between Monday 30 June to Friday 11 July with a winners' celebration event hosted in the autumn.

Happy planting and good luck with your entries.



Do you have an idea which could make a positive difference to your community?



The 2025 Phase 1 Changemaker cohort.

- ✓ Do you need support, training and finance to help make your idea come to life?
- ✓ Could you benefit from being part of a network of other like-minded local people.
- ✓ If yes, then apply for one of 12 free places on the 2025 Lewisham Changemakers course.

The Changemakers course covers:

- Developing a sustainable business plan
- Income and fundraising advice
- Clarifying your 'Theory of Change'
- Growing effective partnerships
- Marketing and knowing your customers
- Linking to a network of Changemakers

WHEN:
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Jump on board

The Bakerloo Line Upgrade and Extension would be a game-changer for the borough – with the Tube connecting through to Lewisham and all the way to Hayes!

It would create thousands of jobs, deliver new homes and improve south-east London for future generations. It's why our Mayor is joining other London leaders in urging the Government to prioritise this project when it allocates funding for key services and plans major transport and housing improvements.



We urgently need your support

We have been lobbying the Government ahead of its comprehensive spending review this June. You can help by pledging your support and joining 28,000+ people in shaping the future of our borough.

Spread the word by

- Encouraging family, friends and colleagues to pledge their support
- Sharing our video and social media posts with **#BackTheBakerloo** and **#Biz4Bakerloo**
- Talking to people in your community about this exciting project

Are you a local business?

Get involved by visiting **businessforbakerloo.com!**

Email **business@lewisham.gov.uk** to request a sticker for your shopfront or window

79%
of residents
support the
upgrade and
extension

Watch the video



Together, we can do this! Let's build a better future for Lewisham and London by Backing the Bakerloo.
backthebakerloo.org.uk/#signup

Summer fun

The weather is warming up and there's lots to enjoy and explore, right here on your doorstep.

Whether you're looking for a local market, a sunny spot to enjoy a drink, or family-friendly activities and outings, Lewisham has you covered.

We're encouraging people to stay local and spend local, because when our businesses thrive, so does the whole community. It's a winning combination.

We've pulled together some handy tips and ideas to help you make the most of summer in the borough. On the next page, you'll find a pullout map showcasing some of Lewisham's hotspots, along with a guide to upcoming events.

For more details and additional places to explore, visit lewisham.gov.uk/discover



Brockley Max Festival



These businesses and organisations were selected by the community as finalists in our Mayor of Lewisham Business Awards.

Hot spots to discover

Ideas for summer outings

- 1 Horniman Museum and Gardens
- 2 Millwall Community Trust
- 3 Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art
- 4 Creekside Discovery Centre
- 5 Manor House Mansion and Gardens
- 6 Blackheath Halls
- 7 Beckenham Place Park and Mansion

Sunny beer gardens and friendly bars

- 8 Ignition Brewery
- 9 Dog and Bell
- 10 Blythe Hill Tavern
- 11 Sylvan Post
- 12 Catford Bridge Tavern
- 13 Badger Badger
- 14 Lit Lounge
- 15 Fox & Firkin

Local bites from morning to night

- 16 Dolce Dessert and Café
- 17 Gurkha's
- 18 Mont58 Coffee
- 19 Beetroot & Beans
- 20 Marchetti Café
- 21 Auntie Annie's Kitchen
- 22 Smokey Yard
- 23 Le Delice
- 24 Turkish Food Centre
- 25 The Waiting Room
- 26 Homestead Café
- 27 Resta Coffee
- 28 Corner

Explore our outdoor markets

- 29 Catford Food Market, last Sunday of the month
- 30 Horniman Sunday Market
- 31 Deptford Flower Market, The Carriageway, every Saturday
- 32 Lewisham Food Market, first Sunday of the month
- 33 Beckenham Place Park Farmers' Market, every Sunday
- 34 Deptford Market
- 35 Blackheath Farmers' Market, every Sunday
- 36 Brockley Market
- 37 Lewisham Market
- 38 So Last Century Vintage at Beckenham Place Park

Find that special gift

- 39 Bunka
- 40 Blackheath Creatives Pop-Up
- 41 Crimson & Clover/Three Sisters
- 42 Blackbird Boutique
- 43 Magi Gifts
- 44 On The Heath

Good for you and the planet

- 45 DragonFly Yoga and Zer0 Waste Corner
- 46 Kindred Yoga
- 47 Beetroot & Beans (zero waste grocer)
- 48 Yoga House

What's on**Brockley Max 2025**

Enjoy this nine-day multi-arts festival with a mix of art, live music, comedy, workshops literature and family-friendly events. *Friday 30 May–Saturday 7 June. Venues across Brockley, Ladywell, Crofton Park and Honor Oak. Mostly free, but some events may charge – check ahead.*

LDN Queer Mart**(LGBTQIA+) Art Market**

Shop for prints, ceramics, zines, clothing, sculptures, jewellery, textiles and more from up-and-coming queer artists and small businesses. *Sunday 1 June 11am–6pm, Deptford Lounge. £2 donation (optional).*

Bring Your Own Vinyl

Join us for an evening of musical discovery in Catford. Bring your favourite vinyl and take a turn behind the decks to share the sounds that move you. *Thursday 19 June and Thursday 17 July, 6.30–8pm. Catford Library SE6 4JU. Free.*

Helios exhibition

Helios is a giant sculpture by Luke Jerram, representing the sun with solar imagery, sunlight

Big Fish
Little FishRed Tent Ethiopia
– Vegan Food,
Lewisham Food
Market

and surround sound. *Friday 20–Sunday 23 June. Downham Library BR1 5EP. Free.*

Manor House Gardens Festival

Enjoy local live music, handmade crafts, a classic funfair and delicious food. Bring your family and friends and make it a day to remember! *Saturday 21 June, 12 noon–8pm. Manor House Gardens, SE13 5SU. Free.*

The Windrush Concert III

Felicity Ethnic and Daddy Ernie (VIBES FM) host you from their Windrush Front Room. *Sunday 22 June, 7.30pm. Broadway Theatre SE6 4RU. Tickets from £23.50.*

Echoes Off The Pages with Jo Quail

Experience an immersive experimental music performance from Jo Quail, an internationally acclaimed composer and virtuoso cellist. *Saturday 28 June, 1–3pm. Catford Library SE6 4JU. Free.*

Family Rave with Big Fish Little Fish

Dance your way through the Horniman's Gardens with the ultimate family-friendly party. *Saturday 5 July, 2–6pm. Horniman Gardens SE23 3PQ. Tickets £15–20.*

Blythe Hill Fields Festival

A fabulous community event for all ages. Enjoy a day of music, food, fun, learning and celebration. *Sunday 6 July, 12 noon–5pm. Blythe Hill Fields, SE23 1SP. Free.*

Haven't Stopped Dancing Yet Summer Disco Ball

Dance the night away to your favourite soul, funk and disco classics. *Saturday 12 July, 7.30pm. Blackheath Halls SE3 9RQ. Tickets £20.*

Wuntanara Drumming workshops

Meet Me, an arts social club for over 65s will host free drumming workshops with Wuntanara. New members welcome. *Every Tuesday from 12 August–2 September at The Albany SE8 4AG. Email Jasmine. Sparrow@entelechyarts.org*

Music Jerk 'n Tings

Savour island flavours with jerk, vegan and vegetarian dishes by top chefs, plus live music at the Bandstand. *Saturday 16 August. 1–6pm. Horniman Museum SE23 3PQ. Tickets TBC.*

Story time with Jamel C Campbell

Lewisham-raised Jamel C Campbell, Early Years educator and best-selling author, hosts lively children's read-and-sing story time. *Free events on Thursday 3 July at Deptford Lounge and Wednesday 20 August at Catford Library.*

**Boost your pension by an average £3,900 a year**

Pension Credit tops up your income depending on the value of your current state pension, income and savings.
It's also the gateway to several other benefits.



Go to lewisham.betteroff.org.uk to see if you are entitled to claim. Or call 0800 99 1234

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Housing roadshows are GO!

As part of our new Housing Services Resident Engagement Strategy, our housing teams are on the road answering your questions.

On Wednesday 19 March we kicked off our new Housing Services Resident Engagement Strategy at our first-ever housing roadshow. Council tenants and leaseholders joined us at Goldsmiths, University of London for a marketplace event, where they could ask questions and share any thoughts with staff from various Council teams, plus contractors and community groups.

One of the day's highlights was Mayor of Lewisham, Brenda Dacres (right) presenting certificates to honour residents who have generously given their time to support their neighbours and strengthen their communities.

Our second roadshow took place on Tuesday 20 May on the Honor Oak Estate with the next one due to be held on Saturday 19 July in central Lewisham. The venue is yet to be confirmed so please keep an eye out for the details on social media.

The new strategy sets out a bold and ambitious plan to improve the way we connect



Find out more about our new Resident Engagement Strategy and how you can get involved at lewisham.gov.uk/get-involved



Our first housing roadshow was a success



and communicate with our residents and invest in our communities.

Roadshows are important to this strategy, as residents have told us how much they value being able to have face-to-face conversations. If you are a

tenant or leaseholder in a building we manage, we want to hear from you as we want to make sure our service truly reflects your needs.

There are various ways you can get involved. Drop into a roadshow or repairs open day to meet us in person, join a resident forum or committee, bid for funding for your community organisation, or simply fill in an online survey.

How we're standing up for renters in Lewisham

Councillor Rosie Parry, Cabinet Advisor for the Private Rented Sector tells us what the Council are doing to help private renters.

Did you know nearly a quarter of all homes in Lewisham are privately rented? These 33,000 households include students and young people, older people and families of all kinds. Unsurprisingly, given the sky-high house prices across our city, Londoners are renting for longer and in increasing numbers.

I've rented in Lewisham for 12 years now and although I've had some great experiences, the negative ones will be all too familiar: damp and mould, slow repairs, uncontactable landlords and unreasonable rent hikes. All too often, renters are left without real support.

In Lewisham, we want to change that narrative. We've introduced three kinds of landlord licences, which give us the power to combat rogue landlords and even inspect rental properties.

Landlord licences

Initially landlords only needed a licence for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs). But since July 2024, our licensing schemes cover almost all privately rented properties in the borough, whether you live in a shared house, alone or with family.

More information

Are you a renter?

Visit: lewisham.gov.uk/renting-in-lewisham

Are you a landlord?

Visit: lewisham.gov.uk/landlords

Or want to talk?

Feel free to email: rosie.parry@lewisham.gov.uk



Under these licences, landlords are obligated to meet certain minimum standards when it comes to repairs, the condition of the property and fire safety. We've been working closely with landlords to support their applications and offer advice if needed.

These licences give the Council real power to address concerns reported to us by renters. Much like with our own council homes, we'll now be able to enter properties and carry out proper audits and inspections. Landlords trying to operate without a licence or not meeting all terms could be fined up to £30,000. If a landlord commits serious or repeated breaches, we can simply remove their licence and terminate their right to operate in the borough – for good.

A better future for renters

We are also awaiting national policy changes through the Renters' Rights Bill, which will bring an end to no-fault evictions, along with various other measures to provide tenants with greater security and stability. There really is a better era of renting on the horizon.

Giving the community a BOOST

We are investing nearly £2.5m to fund 82 brilliant community projects which were chosen based on your ideas and feedback.

Cllr Sakina Sheikh, Cabinet Member for Culture and Communities said:

"It's really exciting to be announcing funding for so many fantastic local projects that will see long term benefits for our Lewisham communities. This Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) funding will empower our residents to shape their communities and make long-term improvements to their local facilities. We hope the projects funded can enhance the quality of life for residents and enable civic pride in our environment.

"NCIL funding ensures that new developments have a positive impact on the surrounding community by addressing infrastructure needs and community priorities. It was fantastic to see nearly 12,000 indicative votes cast for various projects during the consultation period last year. It demonstrates Lewisham residents have actively engaged in shaping this programme and I'm sure we're all looking forward to seeing the benefits in our communities soon."



From July to September 2024, almost 2,000 residents got involved, casting nearly 12,000 votes to help select the projects that mattered most. The final decisions were based on community needs, how well they fit with Council priorities, support for vulnerable groups, and value for money.

We ask developers in the borough to contribute to the fund. Through NCIL we ensure the money goes directly into community projects to support residents most impacted by the developments.

Projects right across the borough will benefit from the funding.

Greening Evelyn

This project is about creating a climate-resilient play area in Evelyn Ward. It will bring nature to life with vibrant planting, exciting play features and thoughtful landscape improvements that promote biodiversity for everyone to enjoy.

Lewisham Changemakers

A training programme and network that equips local people with the skills to bring their ideas for positive social change to life – supporting social entrepreneurs and strengthening the local economy.

Spontaneous Productions' Refugee and Migrant Writing and Performance Project

A project that invites refugees and migrants to share their stories through writing and performance workshops, fostering community cohesion and celebrating diversity.

The Parent Empowerment Project

Created to help parents and carers, from Black communities, advocate for their children's education and wellbeing, reduce school exclusions and improve educational results.

Lewisham Sight Support Service by BlindAid

Providing practical and emotional support to blind and visually impaired residents, reducing isolation, building confidence and empowering through independence.

How NCIL funding helped in 2024



Simone Riddle, Food Justice Programme Manager at Lewisham Local said:

"NCIL funding was vital in helping us sustain and grow Lewisham Local's project, FoodCycle Lewisham. The funding helped us to open our doors every Saturday at Lewisham Irish Community Centre (LICC) providing 8,195 community meals and saving more than 12,474kg in surplus food destined for landfill over the two-year project."

Winnie Carlson, Programme Manager at Ageing Well in Lewisham said:

"NCIL funding allowed the continuation of our three weekly groups for older people. Our regular attendance numbers doubled, and participant surveys show increased wellbeing across the board."

The screening that could save your life

Breast screenings are free on the NHS – don't put your appointment off.

Around one in seven women in the UK will develop breast cancer in their lifetime, making it the most common type of cancer in women. Thankfully, treatments can be very successful when the cancer is caught early.

Regular breast screenings (mammograms) are the best way to find cancers that are too small to see or feel yourself, saving an estimated 1,300 lives each year.

If you do notice any changes in your breasts, have a lump or swelling in your breast, chest or armpit, or have pain in your breast or armpit that doesn't go away, then it's important to see your GP.

Jennifer Hunte is a personal trainer based in Lewisham. She was diagnosed with breast cancer after finding a lump during a self-check. She contacted her GP who referred her urgently to a specialist clinic.

"They did all the necessary checks, and confirmed that I did have breast cancer. Although it was uncomfortable to have the scan, I received fabulous care and I'm so glad I got it done," Jennifer said.

Jennifer's cancer diagnosis was a turning point. She left her job as a PA to become a personal trainer and now works in the physiotherapy department at Guy and St Thomas' Hospital.

She said: "Going through breast cancer made me really look at my life and understand it isn't necessarily a bed of roses. We really need to look after ourselves. Our health is our wealth."

Jennifer was able to feel the lump in her



Find out more about breast screening on the nhs website.

breast, but they are often too small to feel. For this reason, women aged 50–71 are offered a mammogram (x-ray of the breasts) every three years on the NHS.

On the importance of breast screenings, Jennifer said: "If you get an invitation from your doctor, make sure you follow it up as soon as possible because we are talking about a life and death situation."

"I would strongly encourage all the ladies to go for their breast screening as soon as possible – it's not just for you, but also your family."

If you haven't received an invitation by the time you are 53, contact your GP or local breast cancer screening service.



Give someone in Lewisham their independence by becoming a paid Shared Lives carer.

Sharing is caring

Bruce and Leah have been Shared Lives carers for three years and have enjoyed the experience so much, they now host three service users in their home.

The Shared Lives programme matches people who need a little extra support to live independently with approved carers who share their home, provide care and help with any other care needs.

"We love seeing the interactions they have with each other," Leah said. "It's called Shared Lives and you are literally sharing your lives with a person."

Anyone can become a Shared Lives carer. All you need is a spare room and the desire to make a positive impact on someone's life. The Shared Lives team provides all the training and support you need. As a carer, you'll be self-

"It's amazing really. You might think that you give a lot, but you get a lot back as well"

– Bruce, Shared Lives carer

employed, and receive regular payments and tax benefits.

"You probably couldn't do it for free unless you already have plenty of money," said Bruce. "Of course, the money isn't why you do it – you do it because it's a relationship with somebody – but it's comforting for us to know our costs are more than covered."

Blessing, 22, is thriving after moving from his family home to live with Bruce and Leah. He has settled in well and now enjoys attending college, making great progress.

"He's always smiling," said Bruce. "The way we see it is, we are providing a home and a place for him to live. Building on his strengths and growing his independent living skills. It's great to feel like we're supporting his ability to get on with his life."



To find out more about the Shared Lives scheme in Lewisham and to enquire about becoming a Shared Lives carer, scan the QR code or visit lewisham.gov.uk/shared-lives.

Making a SEEN

Festival fever returns – after a successful debut last year, SEEN Lewisham is bigger and bolder for 2025.



Eddie Nestor
MBE and
Robbie Gee

Apply for the mentorship scheme by 12 noon Friday 6 June at broadwaytheatre.org.uk

Follow us on social media for all the SEEN news.
[@lewishamcouncil](https://twitter.com/lewishamcouncil), [@broadwaytheatre](https://twitter.com/broadwaytheatre) and [@nvrchuk](https://twitter.com/nvrchuk)

We are excited to partner with the award-winning Nouveau Riche once again to fill Broadway with a showstopping lineup of events, performances, workshops and free family activities from culturally diverse artists.

Last year saw 54 events, 40+ artists and 4,010 attendees hosted at Broadway Theatre over seven days. This year's festival, which runs from Saturday 4 October to Sunday 12 October, promises even more choice and opportunities for residents.

Are you a local artist who is over 18? SEEN Lewisham champions local creatives from culturally diverse backgrounds through the SEEN Mentor Programme. We're looking for creatives across a range of disciplines – including dance, theatre, and music – to join this year's programme. Successful applicants receive:

- grants of £2,000–£5,000 to bring your ideas or projects to life
- six months of expert industry mentorship to support and elevate your career
- a chance to show your work at Broadway Theatre during the festival, captivating audiences in Catford and beyond

Ryan Calais Cameron,
Co-Founder and Artistic Director at Nouveau Riche



"This year, we're evolving our mentorship programme to offer even more tailored support for emerging talent."

Amaarah Roze, 2024 programme participant
"[The Programme] definitely helped me to develop my skills. I learned how to put on a show, from the production to everything. It's helped me to get a clearer idea of my next steps. It's reignited my love of acting, I'm pursuing that more now."

Masumi Saito, 2024 programme participant
"Participating in SEEN Lewisham provided everything I needed, from the budget and rehearsal space to the mentorship programme. I'm so glad I had the opportunity to test our ideas, receive feedback and build a lasting relationship with Catford Broadway. Since sharing our work at SEEN, we took the project to the residency programme and were awarded Arts Council funding to develop it further and tour."



Worrying about your finances?

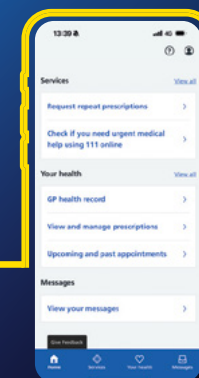
The Money Course is a free online class to help you take back control of your finances from budgeting to saving.

Complete the course in your own time at lewisham.gov.uk/money-course



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Markets Service

*licence fees vary per market, pitch type and duration of market trading

Work in progress

Discover the latest updates on major regeneration projects reshaping our borough.

Celebrating first milestone in Lewisham town centre

We've reached a key milestone in the Lewisham town centre improvements programme. Since August last year, we've been working hard to update the high street – making it cleaner, greener and easier to navigate. We're excited to announce that this phase of changes is now complete.

This is the first of three major upgrades in our £24m transformation, with work on the market and library starting soon. Visitors will notice improved crossings, fresh paving, resurfaced roads, new energy-efficient LED streetlights, bins, trees, planting and seating – creating a more welcoming space for everyone.

One of the highlights is Plough Bridge Pocket Park, a brand-new green space at the north end of the high street, which features a striking sculpture by local artist Anna Reading, commemorating the 1968 flood. The space also includes Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage rainwater, reduce flooding and support local plants and wildlife.



Artist's drawing of the updated Lewisham Market.
Above: Bella the Hawk



Artist's drawing of the new Deptford High Street

You may have noticed a few changes at Lewisham Market as redevelopment begins. The market will stay open throughout the 18-month construction, so you can still shop with your favourite traders, although they will temporarily move to nearby pitches before settling into their permanent spots.

From June, the eagle-eyed among you may spot Bella the Hawk who we are drafting in to deter pigeons and help keep the town centre clean. Hawking is a natural and humane way to manage pigeons. Bella's presence alone will encourage the smaller birds to move elsewhere, with no harm done.

We are excited to bring in these changes to create a beautiful space we can all be proud of but we need your help to keep things looking tip-top. Please use the bins, report graffiti or damage via the Love Clean Streets app and avoid feeding pigeons as you could receive a fine.

lewisham.gov.uk

Thanks for having your say on Deptford High Street

Over the last two years, we have been working with the community on plans to further pedestrianise and improve Deptford High Street, making the area an even better place to visit, trade and do business. Shaped by local voices at every step, we developed designs for the space based on feedback from businesses and community groups.

With the design proposals ready to go, we shared them in April, inviting feedback from the wider community – giving everyone who uses the area a chance to have their say. Over six weeks, nearly 2,000 people participated via our online survey or in-person during visits, drop-ins and market pop-ups.

A big thank you for your feedback – we're reviewing the responses and will share the outcome.

The former Catford Constitutional Club is due to reopen later this year

The restoration of the former Catford Constitutional Club is nearly complete. The space features a community kitchen, pub, and areas for performance, music and arts. Designed as an inclusive and welcoming hub for residents, the revitalised space will offer employment opportunities, business support, community training programmes and a lively calendar of events bringing people together. We are looking forward to sharing details soon about the fantastic new operator and what else is planned for this much loved and historic venue.

Thomas' Lane Yard moves one step closer!

We have been working hard to progress plans for the Thomas' Lane Yard development at the north of Catford Broadway. The plans include 113 affordable homes, a central communal space (next to the soon-to-reopen Catford Constitutional Club), over four tennis courts' worth of business and office space, and new green and public spaces for everyone to enjoy. We're pleased to say the proposal has just been approved by our planning committee, meaning the project is now one step closer to serving our community. We expect works to begin late next year.



Artist's drawing of Thomas' Lane Yard development



For full details of all these projects visit lewisham.gov.uk/regeneration

lewisham.gov.uk

Lewisham's new Young Mayor



Shane Grant has been elected Lewisham's Young Mayor and is now setting out his priorities for young people.

History was made in February, with the highest voter turnout for a Young Mayor election in two decades.

14-year-old Shane Grant was elected Young Mayor after receiving nearly a quarter of the votes. He is excited to bring fresh ideas to young people across the borough.

We caught up with Shane to hear more about his vision.

"First and foremost, I want to thank my family, my supporters and everyone who voted for me. Without their belief and the grace of God, I wouldn't be the reliable and driven individual I am today.

"My goals are simple – to stand out, create meaningful change in the lives of young people and to be a role model in my community. The real world is full of challenges that young people are often unprepared for. That's why my manifesto focuses on three key areas:

- supporting young entrepreneurs
- encouraging open discussions about religion and faith
- improving our local parks

"I plan to equip young people with impactful skills like content creation, sales, and marketing – helping them to thrive in the business world. I also want them to have the



Shane Grant,
Young Mayor
of Lewisham

Stay updated with Shane's work by following the Young Mayor on

📷 @lewisham_young_mayor

🎵 @lewishamyoungmayor1

freedom to express their beliefs and ideas, which is why I want to create safe spaces for discussions around faith and personal development. Lastly, I want to improve our parks, ensuring they are welcoming and enjoyable spaces for all young people.

"Being elected as Young Mayor isn't just a title – it's a responsibility. It's a mission to positively impact the lives of those in my community. I know this role won't be easy, but with the support of young people in Lewisham and the wider community, I know we can make great things happen.

"You remembered the name. You voted for Shane. Now, prepare for the change!"

Are you interested in politics or community action? If you're 11+, you can volunteer as a Young Mayor's Advisor. To learn more email katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk

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My year as Speaker of Lewisham

As Cllr Jacq Paschoud marks one year as Speaker of Lewisham, she reflects on the highlights and lessons from an eventful 12 months.

Serving as Speaker of Lewisham this past year has been an immense privilege – one that has allowed me to witness the very best of our borough. Charing Council meetings and attending civic events means my role has transcended party politics and brought me closer to the incredible people who make Lewisham special.

One of the greatest joys has been meeting so many residents and hearing their stories. From community festivals and musical performances to Citizenship Ceremonies and award nights, each event has inspired me and deepened my appreciation for the borough I've called home for nearly 40 years. Seeing new British citizens take their oath, each with their own remarkable journey, has been particularly moving.

As the Chair at Full Council meetings, I've been granted a front-row seat to the passion and commitment of Lewisham's residents. While discussions can sometimes be intense, they always reinforce our shared determination to create a thriving community.

As an ambassador for Lewisham, I've had the privilege of visiting other London boroughs and Kent communities, supporting their charity fundraising efforts. One of the most memorable moments was the historic annual walk of mayors and speakers in North London – from Highgate Hill to the Mansion House – a tradition that celebrates unity and leadership.

This year, the Mayor of Lewisham's chosen charity is Urban Synergy, an inspiring local



Cllrs Jacq Paschoud and Laura Cunningham were re-elected Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lewisham, respectively, at the Council AGM on Wednesday 7 May.

organisation that empowers young people and expands their opportunities. I was proud to host

a fundraising dinner in their honour and to celebrate their winning float at the London New Year's Day Parade.

Remembrance has also played a significant role in my year. Some of the events I've attended, have been to honour war veterans and victims of historical injustices – these occasions are a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by so many, for the freedoms we enjoy today.

At its heart, being the Speaker is about the people and this year has confirmed what I've always known – Lewisham's greatest strength lies in its residents.

Your council and your ward councillors' contact details



Lewisham's directly elected Mayor, Brenda Dacres, represents the whole borough. Contact her at brenda.dacres@lewisham.gov.uk

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

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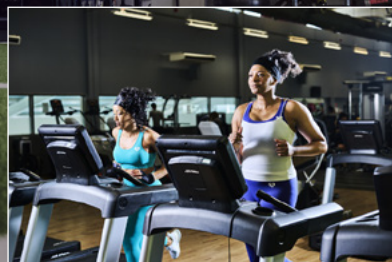
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