

OUR **Bromley**

LONDON'S BEST BOROUGH

MARCH 2025 | ISSUE 6



Treemendous Result

More trees in streets and parks

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Outstanding

Youth Justice Service gets top rating

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Happy Birthday Bromley

Marking 60 years

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Environment Matters

WEEK 1

with your recycling and waste calendar PAGE 15



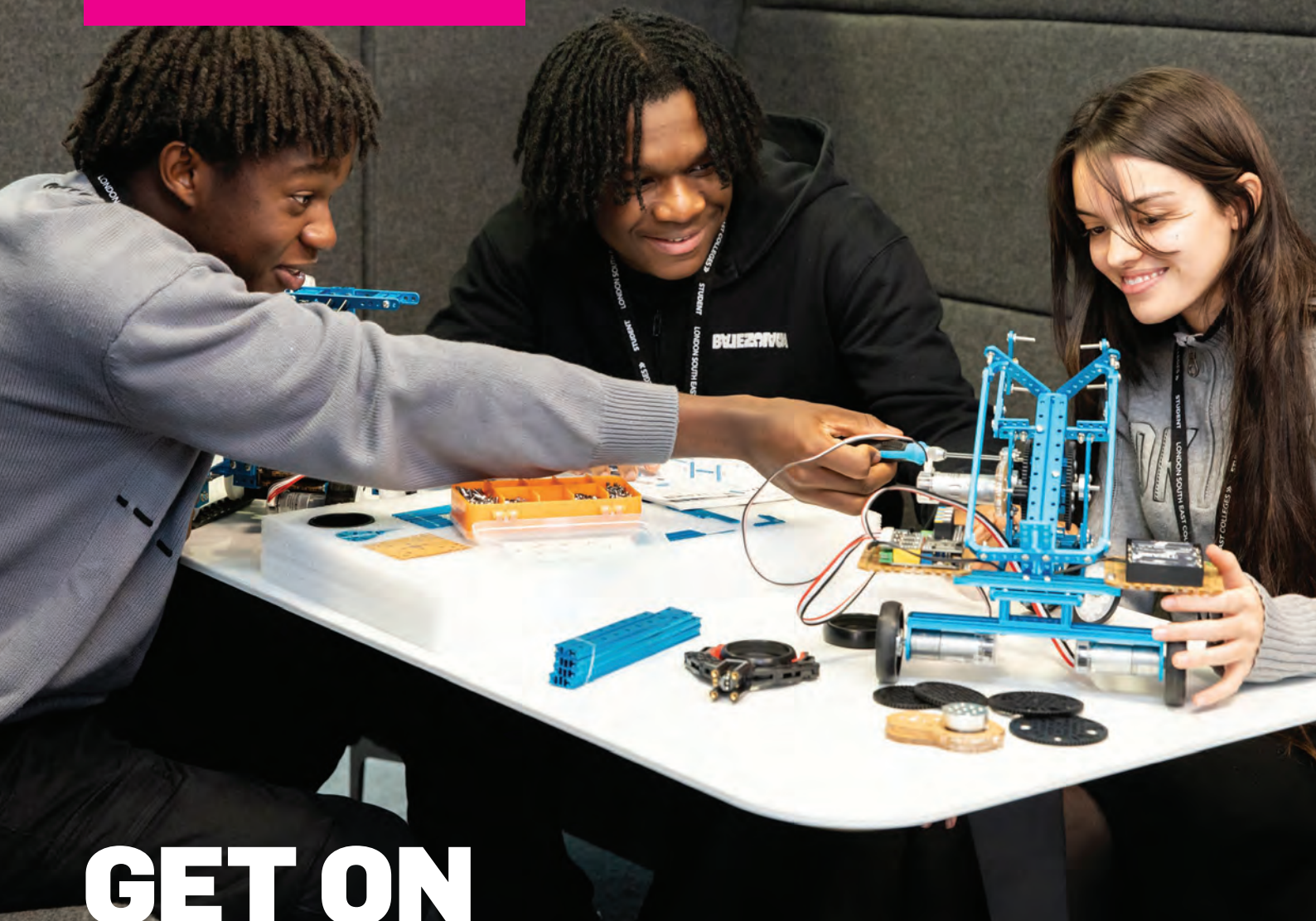
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Dear Resident,

These are truly difficult and testing times for many people, both nationally and internationally, but I am pleased to write to you with some very good news to lift the spirits locally at least.

Despite the widely publicised concern surrounding local Government funding, it's good to be able to report solid progress is firmly underway at both our Walnuts and West Wickham Leisure Centres, that our Beckenham, Burnt Ash Lane and West Wickham Library refurbishments have recently been completed, that a brand new state of the art Health and Wellbeing Centre is now being fitted out for our Health Partners at the Council's new Civic Centre at Bromley South and a 'Heads of Terms' agreement has been reached to secure the long term future of our Borough's much loved Churchill Theatre.

Further evidence, were any needed, of the Council's focussed determination to ensure that Bromley continues to remain amongst the very best places across the Capital to live and be proud to call your home.

Have a happy Easter and enjoy the sunshine.

Cllr Colin P. Smith
Bromley Council Leader

Follow us at:  /lbbromley  @LBofBromley  /LBBromley

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For advertising and feedback visit: www.bromley.gov.uk/OurBromleyMagazine



News Round-up

The latest on our Borough - find out more at www.bromley.gov.uk/news
You can sign up for the Our Bromley e-newsletter - straight to your email inbox

For the record

The first baby registration has taken place at the new Civic Centre which will be one of around 3,400 in a year. Births must be registered within 42 days in the borough where the birth took place. The beautiful new ceremonies room is now available for booking. All bookings can be made at www.bromley.gov.uk/registeroffice



Cleaner Kelsey Lakes

The Kelsey Park Desilting Project to improve the water quality of the lakes, increase biodiversity and wildlife habitats has yielded 10 to 20 wagons of silt a day. Work is expected to be completed in April with the site clear by June. Sign up for updates www.bromley.gov.uk/KelseyParkProjectsUpdateRequest



Picture of Health

A new state-of-the-art Health and Wellbeing Centre is being built within Bromley's new Civic Centre bringing a GP surgery and healthcare services to the heart of the town centre.

"Having recently completed negotiations with our Health partners I am absolutely delighted to be able to report that works are now underway and moving at pace," said Council Leader, Councillor Colin Smith who is also co-chairman of One Bromley.

Booking at Churchfields

Don't forget you need to book a visit to Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre while Waldo Road is closed until 2026. Book at www.bromley.gov.uk/recycling-sites

Safeguarding Partnership praised

A joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of Bromley's Safeguarding Children Partnership has concluded that "arrangements are well established and effective." The Partnership was judged to have an ethos of putting children first driving strong commitment to continuous improvement. The inspection report also recognised that professionals at all levels work together persistently to ensure children's needs are recognised, with a number of strengths identified as well as areas for improvement.

More on Children's Services page 9.



True Grit

Two new gritters help to make sure that the Borough's key roads are safe when people want to use them. Introducing them, Executive Councillor for Transport, Highways and Road Safety, Councillor Nicholas Bennett said, "These are actually three-year-old, low mileage gritters, representing value for council taxpayers' money from a 40 per cent discount." Now is the time to replenish the stock of salt to the 6000 tonnes kept in reserve to help keep the Borough's 550 miles of roads safe.



Better Play

Play equipment at Hoblingwell Wood Recreation Ground will be replaced and sensory garden planting also established thanks in part to a £74k grant from the Veolia Environmental Trust. Plans, shaped by the Friends Group's consultation, will include an accessible roundabout, climbing boulders and replacement of swings.

More parks news, page 19.



Walnuts cracking on

The multi-million-pound transformation of the Walnuts Leisure Centre has seen the swimming pool drained as part of the strip out works. The much-anticipated upgrade will deliver a competition-length pool, improved gym, new exercise studio with power-assisted equipment, reconfigured changing rooms and new showers and lockers. Mytime Active is running alternative services including group exercise classes, aquafit, indoor cycling, swimming and a fully equipped gym at Crofton Halls and Sports Centre and Darrick Wood and Biggin Hill pools.

www.bromley.gov.uk/
LeisureCentresRefurbishment

Easter Parking

Need a place to park over Easter?
Please bear in mind charges may still apply.



DATE	PARKING, BUS LANE & MOVING TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS	ON-STREET PAID FOR PARKING BAYS	ON-STREET PERMIT BAYS	COUNCIL OPERATED CAR PARKS
Good Friday 18 April	Normal Friday restrictions apply	Free	Normal Friday restrictions apply	Charges apply
Saturday 19 April	Normal Saturday restrictions apply	Charges apply - see nearby signs	Normal Saturday restrictions apply	Charges apply
Easter Sunday 20 April	Normal Sunday restrictions apply	Charges apply - see nearby signs	Normal Sunday restrictions apply	Charges apply
Easter Monday 21 April	Normal Monday restrictions apply	Free	Normal Monday restrictions apply	Charges apply

Payment for on-street pay-to-park bays and most Council operated car parks is by RingGo cashless service (charges apply) www.myringgo.co.uk
Stockwell Close multi-storey car park (formerly Civic Centre) is operated by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), please see signage for payment options.

Nature Friendly

The pilot of Nature Friendly Verges moves to its second phase as more green spaces are allowed to grow longer before cutting to increase biodiversity and establish 'wildlife corridors' to connect habitats. This is good for bees, butterflies and invertebrates and a notable increase in species, such as common blue butterflies and pyramidal orchids, has already been noted.

www.bromley.gov.uk/
NatureFriendlyVerges



Award-winning Subway

The Grade II* listed Crystal Palace Subway won a National Railway Heritage Award, recognising its impressive restoration. The award was presented jointly to Bromley Council and Friends of Crystal Palace Subway, following local residents' enthusiastic support which led to the restoration. It has also been shortlisted for the National Museums + Heritage Awards' Restoration or Conservation Project of the Year.





Bromley library news

Residents are enjoying new library facilities, as repairs and refurbishments are being completed across the Borough's library network. More than £11m is being invested to modernise libraries and replace fixtures and fittings reaching the end of their useful life. This is in addition to the major regeneration of West Wickham Library and plans to relocate and improve Bromley Central Library.

West Wickham Library set for grand unveiling

West Wickham library's incredible transformation is evident to passers-by who can admire the prominent glasswork set in place to cover the extended library space, further enhancing this distinguished building and central feature of the town centre. Opening this spring, residents will soon be exploring the impressive facilities, including new children's learning and reading areas, group hire spaces, changing places toilets and a modern café with sheltered outdoor seating. A special reopening event is being planned to commemorate another major milestone in the Borough's history as part of a wider programme of activities in Bromley's libraries for the Borough's 60th anniversary.

See page 24 for more about the 60th anniversary and visit www.bromley.gov.uk/BromleyAtSixty

Beckenham and Burnt Ash reopen

Beckenham and Burnt Ash libraries reopened earlier this year with Bromley's Mayor cutting the ribbon to reveal more inviting spaces with better lighting, heating and facilities fit for the future, while also reducing future maintenance costs.



Super St Paul's Cray

St Paul's Cray Library has reached the finals of The Bookseller's 'Library of the Year' award for 2025 recognising the important and innovative support provided locally. This accolade comes after the library service was brought together with the Community Support Centre in a refurbished library in 2023, showing how this approach can be successful in delivering high impact services while protecting value for money.



More to come

Bromley's library network issues more than one million items each year and continues to go from strength to strength. There is plenty more exciting news to come, especially as plans progress to relocate Bromley Central Library to the heart of the town centre, securing a new future for Bromley's busiest library.

www.bromley.gov.uk/LibraryRepairProgramme

Bromley has a range of jobs available so why not apply and take your next exciting career step?

Join our Outstanding Children's Services Team

Being a Social Worker is more than a vocation. We encourage and support colleagues to grow their professional expertise and their career with Bromley.

Our Outstanding Team love working for Bromley, but don't take our word for it – see and listen to what they have to say from their own personal experience.



"It has not only looked at my strengths but also is using my strengths and putting a space for my strengths to develop."



"There is a real commitment to the social services workforce to make sure the environment is conducive to and supportive to staff and enables them to thrive."



"It's a place I know that I will be supported."



"It feels like a family that respects me and that's reciprocated."



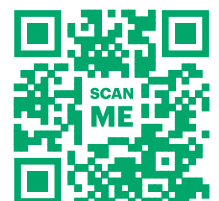
"You get offered tailored personal development in terms of your career."



"We are ambitious for our children and families and we care about them. If you want to grow, develop, learn and be somewhere safe, here is where you come and do it."

If you don't immediately see something that's right for you, please do register your interest online by joining our Talent Pool.

Go online to see the team talking about what they like about Bromley



For more information visit:
www.bromley.gov.uk/JobsforSocialWorkers

Respect - Empower - Ambition - Learn



Bromley - one of the country's leading local authorities for Youth Justice

Hard on the heels of Bromley's Children's Service achieving an Outstanding rating from Ofsted for its Children's Services, one of only a handful in London, the Council has been awarded a further Outstanding overall rating for Bromley Youth Justice. Only four other councils in London have reached this pinnacle.

“The YJS partnership can be proud of the way it has effectively worked together to build a service that is meeting the needs of children, many of whom have led lives carrying considerable trauma.”

Full Report, www.hmiprobation.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk

Children's Services Director, Richard Baldwin said, “We are totally committed to supporting children to learn and grow, while addressing their challenges. We've already demonstrated this through our Ofsted Outstanding judgement for Children's Services. Now we have achieved excellence in our Youth Justice Service too. This means we are serving Bromley's children and families very well, no matter their circumstances.”



Betty McDonald head of the Youth Justice Service added, “This is a real testament to the very experienced staff working in the Youth Justice Service as well as our work with partners and the children and families we work with.”



Watch for vacancies in Bromley's award-winning team – or register your interest at **[www.bromley.gov.uk/jobsfor Social Workers](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/jobsfor-social-workers)**



“Our Ofsted Outstanding judgement for Children's Services – one of a small handful in London - and now being just one of four councils in London to get Outstanding for our Youth Justice Service are both amazing achievements and a fantastic team and partnership effort across the board. Congratulations to all our staff and partners across Bromley for getting this brilliant result.”

Councillor Kate Lymer, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Children and Families

Back on track

Young people in trouble often have complex health and social issues and need help to get back on the right track

A significant proportion of young people within the Youth Justice system have health and social issues. This could be from trauma and mental health problems, learning disabilities, lack of support and challenging family backgrounds. Early intervention is key to prevent further escalation of issues for young people at risk of entering the Youth Justice system. Meet some of the professionals within the Council and the NHS who work with young people to prevent them making the same mistakes again.



Daryl

the Tutor

"I've been teaching for 18 years, but I still get choked up when I hear a young person with the right support has turned their life around. One young person said they had 'not worked so hard since their last school.' I want them to be able to take and pass exams so they are less likely to reoffend."



Julie

the Nurse

"As part of the School Nurse Team, I carry out health needs assessments with young people to identify areas of support that may be needed. Both physical and emotional health is considered and safeguarding. I find the young people very engaged at the YJS with many, and their parents, saying they are pleased to receive help they have not previously had."

Bromley Council's Youth Justice Team



OUTSTANDING for Youth Justice



Andrew

Education, Employment, Training

"I help to draw up realistic plans for the future aspirations and careers of young people at year 11 upwards, many of whom do not have a criminal conviction but have come to notice as needing preventative interventions."

"During my 20 years in Bromley, I inevitably bump into someone I have supported. When I get feedback on what they are doing years down the line, I feel very positive about what I do. Last year was particularly good for positive outcomes."



Enya

Liaison and Diversion

"My role is often an NHS position, but Bromley had the foresight to bring it under the local authority. Children in police custody are assessed so complex health needs and social vulnerabilities are quickly identified. Support through tailored interventions can then be offered at the earliest stages of involvement with the criminal justice system. A 'Communication Passport' can be drawn up for those who find it difficult to express themselves so those assessing a case are aware of any mitigating circumstances."



Juliet

the Caseworker

"We support young people facing challenges that may lead to offending, seeing the child first before the behaviour and focussing on understanding their lived experiences. By building positive relationships and recognising their strengths, we help them feel safe to achieve, make wiser choices and avoid others becoming unsafe by their actions. I've worked with young people for years and am always amazed at their resilience. I couldn't think of a greater impact to make than guiding our next generation to their potential!"

Grasping a second chance

Tatum's mum was at her wits end as her daughter was regularly getting into trouble and finally ended up coming to the notice of the YJS. She felt she did not get what she needed from full time school and therefore did not want to go back. Daryl took on tutoring in Maths and English so that Tatum could take her exams. Now, she has been accepted into college to study Health and Social Care which is what she really wanted to do. She was so excited when she passed her exams, she immediately sent a message to Daryl with a picture of her certificate. Tatum is doing well and also gives back to the community by sharing her own experiences as a mentor for others.

Name changed to protect anonymity

Homes for Ukraine

Supporting our neighbours fleeing from war



- The Ukraine war started on 24 February 2022.
- Since the Homes for Ukraine Scheme launched on 14 March 2022, Bromley has welcomed **1044** Ukrainian guests across **461** residents who have opened their homes.



To find out more about Bromley's Homes For Ukraine Scheme and how you can support those fleeing from war:

Scan the QR code or call our team on 020 8313 4698
or email ukrainesupport@bromley.gov.uk

The Volunteers

– offering another chance

A referral order is a court order that helps young people avoid re-offending after their first conviction. It's given to most 10 - 17 year olds who plead guilty to a crime.

A panel of volunteers and sometimes the victim and parents are involved in drawing up a contract of sessions, work and reparations to help a young person avoid getting into trouble again. Once the order is completed the conviction is 'spent'.



Marcia

volunteer for 12 months

"I believe there is good in young people, and I wanted to be involved in giving them the opportunity to take ownership of what they had done, offering support to be part of something positive.

"As a life coach, I see this as adding one grain of salt from me and then further grains from others to add the seasoning of the young person's life.

"We often start with a very apprehensive young person, and it is rewarding to see them work towards a better life."



Debra

volunteer for 6 months

"I work for Early Intervention Family Support and have always been interested in the Youth Justice system.

I wanted to make a difference. We are not there to judge – the court has done that – we follow through on the referral order and reparations. It's interesting to see the difference from the first panel when the young person is heads down and does not want to speak to the end when they have engaged, and many get into work or go back to school."



Frank

volunteer for 18 months

"As a teacher for 40 years, I introduced restorative justice in school by bringing parents together and agreeing a way forward following a misdemeanour by a student. Now retired, I was interested in pursuing this further in the Youth Justice area. I wanted to see if I could help young people, many of whom have never finished anything or been given encouragement. We make sure the young person understands the seriousness of what they have done. A referral order is not an easy option as the young person needs to turn up and work hard.

"Thankfully, none that I have been involved with have gone back into the court system."

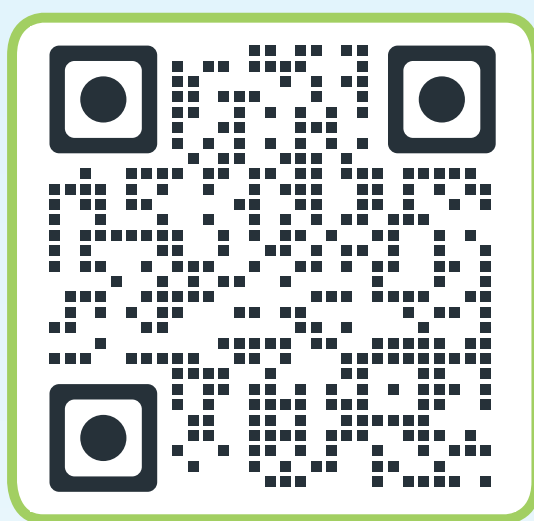
VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Bromley Youth Justice Service Referral Order Community Panel Members



Think you have what it takes, and are 18 plus, living or working in the Borough?

Apply on the Council's website at 'Jobs' or find out more by emailing **BromleyYouth.JusticeService@bromley.gov.uk**

Sign up for our Green Garden Waste Collection Service



bromley.gov.uk/gardencollections

-  Collections every other week from March to November, and monthly from December to February
-  Avoid a trip to the tip with an annual fee of £80, with convenient collections arranged to your doorstep



Environment Matters

even more than ever



We Love Recycling

Bromley continues to be a leading recycling borough - your dedication to recycling makes financial sense as well as supporting the environment. Thank you.

Our recycling crews collect around 1,000 tonnes of recyclable items every single week, with approaching half of waste being recycled or composted

Please continue using your black box for paper and cardboard; green box for plastics, glass, tins, cans; and food waste recycling bin for food waste. If you need more boxes, place your order online, free-of-charge. Please avoid using wheelie bins for your recycling as these may not comply with safety regulations. To order extra boxes, please visit bromley.gov.uk/recycling

Come and talk to our recycling experts!

Find us on Bromley High Street:

Friday 4 April,
11am-2pm
Friday 2 May,
11am-2pm
Thursday 5 June,
11am-2pm

Welcome

I make no apology for being optimistic about the future of our borough having recently joined hundreds of local residents planting a forest of trees, from Mottingham to Bromley and Penge, to name a few! In addition, the Council is finishing a 4-year long project to plant an additional 5,000 street trees - Treemendous news.

We continue to be a leading recycling borough, with thanks for your support as a resident as we are all in this together. Recycling and minimising waste makes a difference - it minimises disposal costs and supports the environment. We are sharing in schools how we can all be **Recycling Heroes** as another investment in our future.

We can always do more and I am pleased to draw your attention to a new part of our website, which follows feedback from residents, which helps share details of where a range of items can be recycled or reused. We will continue to update the list with local options but please visit www.bromley.gov.uk/RecyclingAtoZ and hopefully this helps.

Please remember that the booking system at Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre continues to be in place with our Waldo Rd facility closed until next year. We have increased the weekend sites for garden waste to help and thank you for your support and understanding with this.

Happy Easter

Councillor Will Rowlands
Executive Councillor for Environment



JOIN OVER 45,000 garden waste collection subscribers and save time

Spring is the time for green-fingered residents to bring their gardens back to life. You do the pruning, cutting and planting and we take care of the rest! Become a green garden waste service subscriber today and for £80 subscription, you receive a wheelie bin for your garden waste and regular collections throughout the gardening season. To find out more, visit bromley.gov.uk/gardencollections

Why not try home composting? As a Bromley resident, you'll receive a **50% DISCOUNT** on home composting bins, visit bromley.gov.uk/homecomposting to find out more.

Weekend garden waste sites: Dedicated garden waste recycling sites are open from March to October. Please see inside for more information.





Street Friends Nominees!

Street Friends are volunteers who go above and beyond to ensure their communities remain clean and safe. Last year, we invited you to nominate your local Street Friend to recognise their dedication and hard work.

In a special ceremony, 12 Street Friends each received a certificate and a hamper to thank them for their efforts in supporting the community. The Mayor of Bromley, Cllr Dr David Jefferys, the Mayoress and Cllr Will Rowlands, Executive Councillor for Environment, attended to show their appreciation.

Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in the number of Bromley residents becoming Street Friends and organising litter-picking events. If you want to join the Street Friends community, visit bromley.gov.uk/streetfriends

We can do more
If you spot any litter near the school grounds, you can contribute to our anti-littering work by explaining to children you take to or from school, that we all have a duty to dispose of litter responsibly.

Big Bromley Brush Up

The Big Bromley Brush Up is a year-round campaign which encourages residents to make our borough an even cleaner, greener, and safer place to live, work and visit.



It is easy to get involved.

- 1 Use a neighbourhood checklist to inspect your local area and report anything that needs our attention such as fly-tipping and graffiti
Download your neighbourhood checklist at bromley.gov.uk/bigbromleybrushup
- 2 Organise litter picking events with friends, family and neighbours. Once you register as a Street Friend, you can contact Veolia to order litter-pickers and bags.
- 3 Look after local street trees. You could water newly planted trees, ensuring our borough continues to be the greenest in London.
- 4 Join a local activity or event. To find out more about events that are happening in your area visit bromley.gov.uk/bigbromleybrushup

Let's Put a Stop to Fly-tipping

Although Bromley reports less fly-tips than the London average, dumped waste still has a negative impact on our communities and the environment. To dispose of your waste responsibly:

- ✓ Donate or sell items in good condition
- ✓ Book a bulky items collection service online. Please visit bromley.gov.uk/bulkyitems
- ✓ Visit Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre. Book your slot online before you visit. Find out more at bromley.gov.uk/recycling-sites
- ✓ Report a fly-tip in action, provide evidence and help us prosecute at bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime
- ✓ Check who collects your waste. Do they have a waste carrier licence? Are they going to dispose of it correctly?



**Your Waste
is Your
Responsibility**



Churchfields Reuse and Recycling Centre Opening Times

Waldo Road Reuse and Recycling Centre will remain closed for improvement works until 2026. Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre will remain open, including during the Easter bank holiday weekend.

PLEASE SEE THE OPENING TIMES BELOW:

Friday 18 April (Good Friday) - 8am to 4pm
Saturday 19 April - 7:30am to 4pm
Sunday 20 April (Easter Sunday) - 8am to 1pm
Monday 21 April (Easter Monday) - 8am to 4pm

REMEMBER! You need to book a slot before you visit Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre.

bromley.gov.uk/recycling-sites

Garden Waste Sites

You can access our weekend garden waste recycling sites from March to October at the following times:

SATURDAYS

Open 11am - 4pm

- **Bromley:** Norman Park, Hook Farm Road (off Bromley Common)
- **Green Street Green:** Salt Depot, Shire Lane Spur (off Sevenoaks Road)
- **St Paul's Cray:** Cotmandene Crescent car park (off Chipperfield Road)

SUNDAYS

Open 8am - 12 noon

- **Biggin Hill:** Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane
- **Beckenham:** Unicorn Primary School car park, Creswell Drive (off South Eden Park Road)

Start Recycling your food waste today - it's so easy!

Recycling food waste is easy and great for the environment.

How to use your food waste caddy:

STEP 1

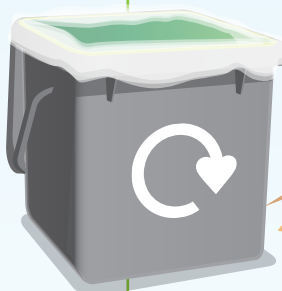
Use your small caddy in your kitchen to collect food waste. Line it with newspaper, kitchen roll or compostable liners.

STEP 2

Transport your food waste to your outdoor food waste recycling bin.

STEP 3

Place your food waste recycling bin out for collection by 7:00am every week on your scheduled collection day. Remember your outdoor food waste recycling bin comes with a lockable handle.

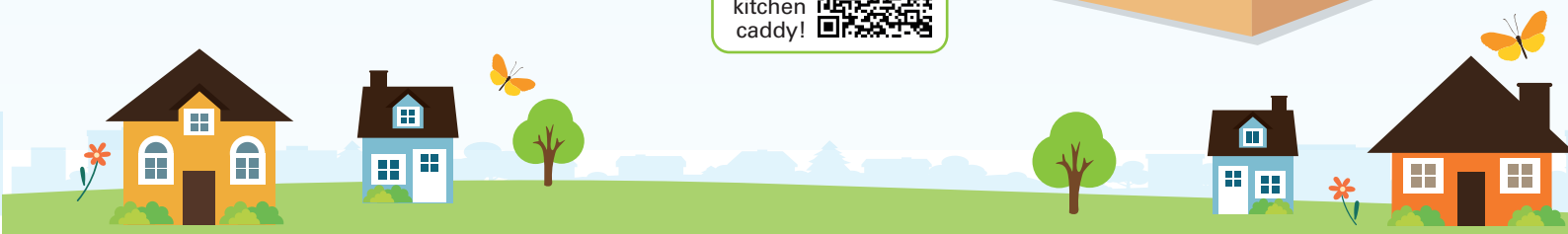


Scan to order a **FREE** kitchen caddy!



Fold your cardboard boxes

Please remember to remove plastic and polystyrene before you fold your large cardboard boxes and place them in your recycling box.



Collection Calendar

This is your recycling and waste collection calendar starting from April 2025.

This is for residents living in houses only as there are different arrangements for residents in flats.

1

All waste and recycling **must** be correctly presented for collection by **7am on collection day**.

2

All waste must be contained securely and placed within arm's reach of the pavement, **but not on it**.

3

Leave your recycling and waste out for collection until **5pm** before you report a missed collection.

April 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18^	19	20
21*	22*	23*	24*	25*	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5*	6*	7*	8*	9*	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26*	27*	28*	29*	30*	31	

June 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*Collections are made one day later than usual. ^Collections are made as usual



Green week:
Tins, cans, glass and plastic containers | Food waste



White week:
Non-recyclable refuse | Black box: paper and cardboard | Food waste

Zero Waste This Spring Clean

If you are planning a spring clean soon, we can help you achieve zero waste with some simple tips.

1

DECLUTTER. Gather the items you no longer need and put them in separate bags: one for recycling, one for donations and one for items you'd like to sell.

2

REPURPOSE. Why not get creative and turn something old into something new and fun? Refurbishing old furniture can be a great activity.

3

BOOK A BULKY ITEMS COLLECTION SERVICE. If you have large items you need to dispose of, you can book a collection at bromley.gov.uk/bulkyitems



Sustainability Fund

Veolia's Sustainability Fund will be available soon! If you are part of a community group interested in working on a project which could protect the environment and promote biodiversity you may be eligible for funding of up to £1,000! To find out more and apply please visit veolia.co.uk/sustainability-fund

Recycling Heroes

is available to all primary schools in the borough. To find out more visit bromley.gov.uk/recyclingheroes

Batteries

Please do not put batteries in your rubbish or recycling bins. They can cause fires. Recycle them at your local supermarket.





Parks Projects

More beneficiaries from the Council's £1million Platinum Jubilee Parks Fund

Mottingham Sports Ground

A group of local parents who formed a temporary group were awarded £20,000 for their playground improvement project. They actively fundraised to boost the budget and replaced older equipment with exciting pieces including a fully accessible trampoline, a new spinner, giraffe toddler climber and accessible picnic bench.

Mottingham Sports Ground

A new pathway running across Mottingham Sports Ground was created by Mottingham Residents' Association who were awarded £20,000 towards the project. The site was particularly wet and difficult to walk across, so the new path has allowed for much easier access.

Wharton Road Playground

A group of local residents came together to apply for £20,000 to improve this well-loved 'pocket' playground. Improvements included a new climbing frame with slide, new springers, a four-way rocker, spinning bowl and new safety surfacing throughout.



Riverside Gardens

Friends of Riverside Gardens and Kent Ponds applied for £20,000 for their wetland restoration project delivered in collaboration with the Southeast Rivers Trust (SERT) and their contractors. The project involved removing the silt build up that had formed over many years and reprofiling the wetland.

Farnborough Tennis Club

Farnborough Tennis Club received a grant to go towards the resurfacing works for their courts. These will have colour coating applied this spring.



Project information is on the Council's website, but applications are now closed. Thank you to everyone who put forward a project and to all those who donated funds and time to bring them into fruition. www.bromley.gov.uk/jubileeparksfund



Treemendous Result

The Borough's largest £multi-million investment in trees, Treemendous has delivered 5000 extra street trees, now further projects mean more planting in parks too

The Council's four-year £1.92 million Treemendous planting project has been completed delivering 5,000 beautiful additional street trees across the Borough with all the benefits they bring to their neighbourhoods.

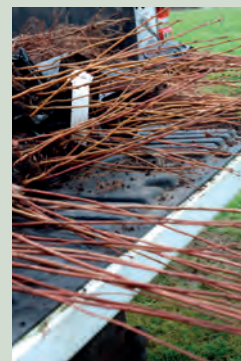
In addition, hundreds of residents have been coming together with the Council across the Borough to have fun planting trees in a number of parks, creating another wonderful legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Tree planting events this spring

followed a successful application for over £175,000 from the Forestry Commission's Local Authority Treescapes Fund.

Micro forests have been established in Whitehall Recreation Ground, Norman Park, Churchfields Recreation Ground, Tillingbourne Green and King's Meadow.

More planting has taken place in wetland areas of parks such as Harvington Wood and High Broom Wood thanks to £45,000 awarded by the Water Environment Improvement Fund. This will restore habitats in these areas, improve water quality and help to stabilise riverbanks.





The final phase of the Council's £1.92million four year Treemendous initiative has resulted in more than 5,000 extra street trees across the Borough.

Trees were selected for their visual appeal as well as for upward growing branches and roots that avoid spreading under the pavement as far as possible.

Tree Friends and residents have carried out invaluable additional watering when needed to promote strong growth and report issues as they arise.



What is a micro forest?

A densely planted woodland area of native trees and shrubs planted in a relatively small space is known as a micro forest - essentially, a miniature version of a natural forest. The planting technique is sometimes known as the Miyawaki method after its Japanese biologist pioneer - Dr Akira Miyawaki.



Good things from Trees

Trees are not only beautiful and calming to look at, but they can also improve air quality, provide biodiversity, capture carbon dioxide and create wonderful, enjoyable spaces.

Opportunities to give back to your community



Shared Lives

Your Lives – Our Lives – Shared Lives

Become a Shared Lives Carer

If you have room in your heart and family home and want to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable adults in Bromley – why not try Shared Lives.

Join us in making a real difference by helping a vulnerable adult lead a more fulfilled life, giving back to your community, all while earning a rewarding income. Comprehensive training and support is provided.

Start your Shared Life journey today! Find out more, scan the QR code or visit our website



SUPPORT PROVIDED BY CARERS:

- ✓ Day support
- ✓ Short breaks
- ✓ Respite at home

Approved Shared Lives Carers receive up to £650 per week plus tax relief allowances.

Email: sharedlives@bromley.gov.uk

www.bromley.gov.uk/sharedlives





Keeping You Safe

Residents talk about how assistive technology keeps them and their family members safe at home

Our lives have been changed by technology, we can communicate in different ways, engage in social media, and many now work remotely at least some of the time. Technology also has a key role in helping us continue to live where we most want to be - in our own homes - even when we may be a little more vulnerable. Meet three residents whose lives are enhanced by digital gadgets, helping improve safety and quality of life for them and their families.

Frank's story

As a registered Corgi gas engineer, Frank was as fit as a fiddle. Thirty years on, following falls causing cracked ribs and broken bones, he confesses to being in a lot of pain and needing a little help keeping himself safe. A falls sensor worn on his wrist provides confidence that should he fall at home, help will be at

hand. The device links up to a centre which calls him when a fall is detected and summons an ambulance, if no reply. Frank said: "It's handy – it goes off when I need it, if I were to have a serious fall, it will use a mobile phone network to raise the alarm."

Paula's story

Paula's 18-year-old son is severely autistic and needs constant monitoring to keep him safe. Challenging at night. "I was trying to sleep with the bedroom door open and half an ear listening in case my son left his room," she said. "An Occupational Therapist suggested fitting a door alarm with a control panel next to my bed which would wake me, should he leave his room. It was easily fitted three months ago, and has certainly made a massive difference, with peace of mind and has improved my quality of sleep."

David's story

David's mum had a stroke in 2014 and a year later started having seizures. He does a sterling job caring for her, but what if she were to have a seizure at night? It makes for restless sleep, so when a 'Emfit Tonic-Clonic Seizure Monitor' was suggested, he gave it a try. "The sensor pad under the mattress detects if mum is shaking. It's connected wirelessly to the Lifeline Smart Hub which makes a mobile phone call to an operator. If I don't respond or I am not there, the operator sends an ambulance," David explained.

Life Changers

Claire, Bromley's Occupational Therapy Team Leader, with one of the life-changing digital devices.



Some names have been changed at the interviewee's request



Residents are benefitting from new assistive technology that can put minds at rest. We have only just started to see what is possible to help residents remain where they feel most comfortable – in their own homes.

Councillor Diane Smith, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health



Marking 60 Years

Bromley's Mayor took on the challenge of walking around the Borough's boundary to celebrate its 60th Anniversary

Sixty years of the London Borough of Bromley was marked by Bromley's Mayor and Mayoress on their walk around its almost 50-mile boundary. Beginning in Crystal Palace, walking 14 miles to Biggin Hill and on through St Mary Cray, they completed the circumference in three walks. Residents keen to be part of this significant anniversary can find out about a variety of events during the year at www.bromley.gov.uk/BromleyAtSixty



Sixty-years in highlights

1965

The London Borough of Bromley was formed on 1 April 1965, as five towns or districts - Bromley, Beckenham, Chislehurst, Orpington and Penge - came together to create one local authority, coinciding with the formation of the other London boroughs.



Image taken by Ray Stevenson

1969

David Bowie performed on 16 August at Croydon Road Recreation Ground Bandstand at the Summer Growth Festival. Originally built in 1905, the historic Grade II listed Bandstand's sensitive refurbishment was completed in March 2024 and it is now once more available for public performances.



1977

Bromley's Churchill Theatre and Central Library was inaugurated on 19 July by then Prince of Wales, now King Charles III. The theatre took seven years to build. The Council announced in 2024 an offer for the freehold had been accepted. The library will move to the town centre.



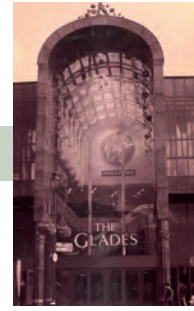
1986

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II officially opened Bromley Civic Centre at Stockwell Close in 1986 following the Council's move there in 1982 and completion of the Council Chamber in 1985.



1987

The Great Storm was the worst in almost 300 years. Hurricane-force winds caused significant damage on the night of 15/16 October. Roofs were torn off, power cut and trees knocked over.



1991

The much-loved Glades Shopping Centre opened on 22 October with the name chosen to reflect Bromley's history as a wooded area following a competition in which residents put forward suggestions.



2012

The Diamond Jubilee saw the return of Queen Elizabeth II to the Borough with the Duke of Edinburgh on 15 May. Residents, fashion designers, seamstresses and couples celebrating 60th anniversaries extended a warm welcome.



2021

Bromley Council embarked on an ambitious £1.92million programme to plant an additional 5000 street trees across the Borough over four years with the benefits of cleaner air, carbon capture and improved wellbeing for residents.



2023

The Old Town Hall reopened as a beautifully restored hotel, restaurant and workspaces. It was headquarters of Bromley Council when the London Borough was formed and hosted David Bowie's wedding in 1970.



2024

Bromley Football Club won the National League play-off in May at Wembley Stadium, gaining a place in the English Football League for the very first time in their 132-year history.



2024

The renovated Crystal Palace Subway opened, part of a major Park regeneration including restoration of the Italian Terraces and dinosaurs, delivered in partnership with the Crystal Palace Park Trust.



2024

Bromley Council made a cost-saving move to the new Civic Centre at Churchill Court, Westmoreland Road, now serving residents from the heart of the town centre.



Watch Out - a Scammer's About

Trading Standards warn vigilance following scams that have caught out residents

Invest time to check

Fraudsters take advantage of investors so be wary, especially when greater returns are offered. If contacted unexpectedly by a financial business, check they are registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Don't provide personal details before checking and be wary of celebrities who appear to be endorsing investments, they may be impersonated. Don't allow access to your devices, fraudsters can take control of your personal information and online banking.

- **Call your bank on 159 if you have given your bank details**
- **Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk**
- **Forward suspicious texts to 7726**

Courier Fraud

Fraudsters posing as police call and ask for assistance with investigations by withdrawing cash, buying foreign currency or purchasing expensive items. They may have your personal details and seem genuine. Or they pretend to be your bank asking you to withdraw cash giving a false reason. A 'courier' is then sent to collect cash, jewellery or bank cards claiming these will be reimbursed, which is not true. Bank cards can quickly be used to buy expensive purchases. If you receive an unexpected phone call asking you to hand over valuables, hang up immediately. Never hand over bank cards or valuables. Call your bank from another phone as fraudsters may still be on the line even though you have cut the call.

Stolen Identity

Keep personal details private. Information such as date of birth, address, phone number, passport and driving licence and financial details can be used to open bank accounts, order goods, obtain credit or genuine documents such as passports. You may not know you are a victim until bills arrive for things you haven't ordered. If it's clear identity theft or fraud has occurred, act fast. Contact your bank straightaway, report lost or stolen documents, get a copy of your credit report and seek support from trusted family and friends.

Get advice or contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or www.actionfraud.police.uk
Sign up for Alerts at www.bromley.gov.uk/tradingstandardsalert
More information www.bromley.gov.uk/scams



"Trading Standards keep abreast of the latest scams and their alerts could save you losing money."

Councillor Angela Page, Executive Councillor for Public Protection and Enforcement

Healthy Young Minds

Young people sometimes need support for good mental health – Bromley Y is there when life's challenges overwhelm

Gill Allen has steered Bromley Y through changing times as its CEO for just over seven years.

"It's amazing to think that what was a small emotional and wellbeing charity now has two significant contracts with the NHS and Bromley Council for early intervention and prevention in the community," says Gill. "We were trailblazers in 2019 when NHS England and the Department for Education decided all schools should have a Mental Health Support Team (MHST). We won the MHST contract and now we support 63 schools across the Borough which complements our charitable work to

help young people cope with life's challenges.

"Referrals generally come from parents and carers, GPs and teachers, but it's vital we listen to what young people need. It is important to understand what is troubling a young person and plan their support, giving them choices. We also teach skills to parents, carers, social workers and educationalists to help young people manage their feelings.

"The pandemic increased demand and now we work closely with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to make certain that young people are able to access help at the right time, in the right place," says Gill.



"We endeavour to inspire hope and a sense of belonging."

A young person may be offered guided self-help webinars, groups or 1:1 sessions of 'therapy', through Bromley Y but in some cases their support will be continued through mentoring and 'social prescribing' for up to a year – getting young people 'off phones, out of bedrooms' and taking part in activities that interest them. "Our workforce has such a wide skillset and

the willingness of our people to adapt to the needs of young people has been vital," says Gill.

Now there's a big change coming for Gill herself. At the pinnacle of her career, she is passing on the reins. "I knew I would end my career at Bromley Y, the ethos and the values are remarkable here, but it's time to do something else," says Gill with more than a tinge of sadness in her voice.

It's clear that whoever takes over at Bromley Y will have 'big shoes to fill.'

60 years of support

Bromley Y is also celebrating its 60th anniversary this year at the same time as the Borough and celebratory events are planned.

A JustGiving campaign is raising funds for Bromley Y's charitable arm - scan to support.



Please share your legacy stories of Bromley Y - scan to inspire others.



www.bromley-y.org

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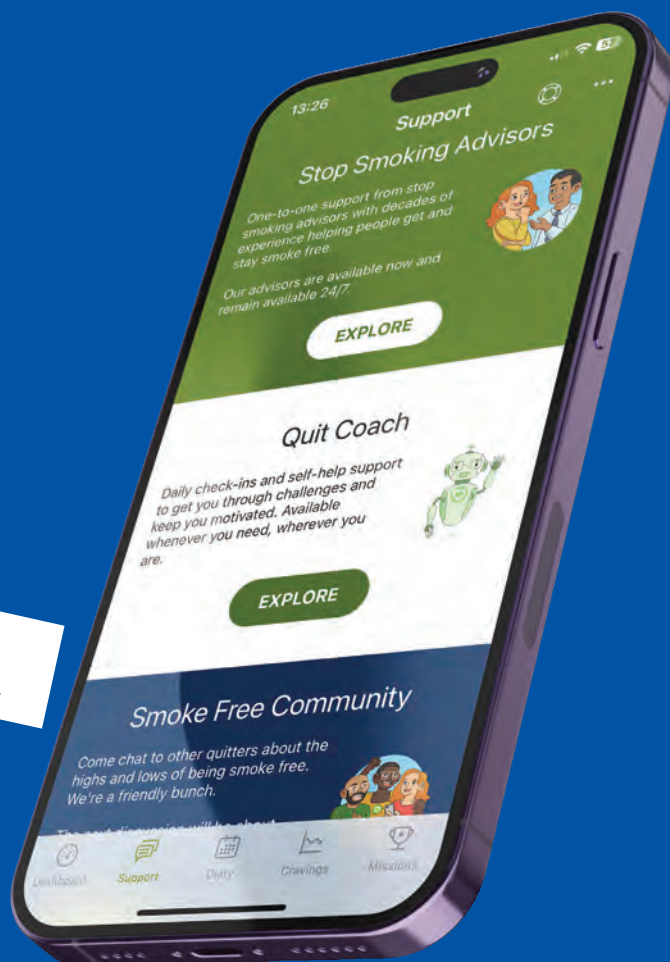
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- Up to 12 weeks supply vape and/or nicotine replacement products

How to access:

Scan the QR code and enter your home postcode or access this via the link:
<https://link.smokefreeapp.com/triallta>



For local support to quit,
go to www.bromley.gov.uk
and search for
“stop smoking”



Need help? Email us at:
support@smokefreeapp.com

For more advice, tools and local support. Visit:
STOPSMOKINGLONDON.COM



Smoke Free
Love not smoking



Spring into action

Simple steps to improve your health and wellbeing

Now is a time to feel rejuvenated and improve your health and wellbeing with some easy steps. Links to more advice are at www.bromley.gov.uk/seasonalhealth

Live in the present by practising mindfulness

As spring brings new beginnings, practice mindfulness in your daily life. Engage in activities such as meditation, deep breathing, or simply appreciating a cup of tea outdoors. Always bring your mind back to the here and now, accept feelings without judgement and be kind to yourself.

Seek relief from allergies

It's the start of allergy season with increased pollen levels as new flowers, grass, and seedlings bloom. If you suffer, avoid being out when the pollen count is very high and speak to a pharmacist for treatment advice. A link to useful information from charity Allergy UK is on the Council's website.

Get active outside and relieve stress

Shake off winter blues as days lengthen by incorporating movement into your daily routine. Choose activities you enjoy, a walk in Bromley's wonderful outdoor spaces or a new outdoor sport. Exercise releases endorphins, the body's natural stress relievers, allowing you to de-stress and feel better. Gardening is a great way to connect with others, while being active and enjoying the outdoors. Free activities are signposted on the Simply Connect Bromley website or join a Friends Group. www.bromley.gov.uk/parkfriends



Healthy foods for a balanced diet

Keep on track with your five a day. We all know it is important to eat enough fruit and veg. Frozen, tinned, dried or juiced as well as fresh seasonal produce can all be part of a healthy, balanced diet that can help you stay well. www.bromley.gov.uk/HealthyWeight

Sunlight provides vitamin D

Spending more time outside in the brighter days soaking up Vitamin D from the sunshine can help improve mood, immunity and reduce negative feelings and emotions. Natural light can also give you a boost in energy. However, with more sunlight comes the risk of skin damage from increased UV. It's important to strike a balance, so consider wearing a minimum factor 30 sunscreen when spending time in the sun.

Adopt a regular sleep pattern

To aid good sleep, avoid food, caffeine and alcohol near bedtime and try to establish regular sleep patterns.



Spotlight on

Our Pearly King

It's not every day you get to rub shoulders with royalty, but Chris Conlan - Bromley's first Pearly King – is increasing your chances!

Pearly King Chris delivered a generous donation to the Mayor's chosen charities as part of his lifelong quest to support local good causes.

"It's what we Pearly Kings and Queens do, we're charity workers really," said Chris. "We go along to events, sometimes give talks and bring a smile to people's faces. If they donate a little something to charity, then all well and good."

Pearlies, as they are affectionately known, pass their titles down through the family, but it was different for Chris. "There was a vacancy," he explained, "one I was delighted to be asked to fill. I live in the Borough, went to school here and I work locally too." A consummate performer, passionate about Bromley and with a quick-fire, warm and witty 'patter', he's just perfect for the role.

Chris earned his spurs as consort

to a Pearly Queen and is now a fully-fledged Pearly King for Bromley - the youngest in London. His eye-catching outfit sports some 2000 shiny buttons. "There was a lot of sewing to do," he said. "Wearing the jacket is a test of endurance, especially in the rain. It's quite heavy with all that mother-of-pearl," Chris quipped.

"I am blessed to be able to carry out this very special role for Bromley, but it's not me - the suit is the star!"

So, when you meet Chris, or other Pearly royalty – you won't miss them in their magnificent costumes - spare a few 'notes' for charity as your forefathers did, but don't be surprised if they're soon carrying a bank card reader for donations instead! What would Pearly founder Henry Croft make of that?

The Pearly Tradition

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Pearly Kings and Queens established by Henry Croft who wore clothes adorned with mother-of-pearl buttons and supported charities. By 1911, each London borough had its own pearly family. The tradition lives on today with thousands of pounds raised for charity.

The Mayor's Charities:

Alzheimer's Research UK
Bromley Youth Music Trust and
Welcare in Bromley
Find out more, support the charities or contact the Mayor at
www.bromley.gov.uk/Mayor



Room for one more at home?

Swimming, football, music and lovely food – it's the simple, everyday things that provide loving foundations for a child in foster care.

Meet Maritza. She personifies the kind of mother we all aspire to. She's clearly the type who is totally suited to caring for others. Her calm intonation **envelopes me as we talk - you can feel the love.**

Maritza lives with her husband and two children, though more recently her son attends university. "He is a pianist," she shares. Her husband plays guitar and her daughter sings, though she herself concentrates on teaching Spanish, including to her current foster child. She has been Fostering for Bromley for nine years, welcoming many children into her loving, musical family.

"Remember," she says with absolute conviction, "we are a family of five, not four!"

"Everything we do with our own children, we do with our foster children," she says. "Whether they are

interested in sport, music, drama, whatever, we will look for activities. **When they come to us, many children have never been outside the Borough,** so we take trips to London, visit interesting places including the museums. "A favourite is the V&A," says Maritza. "It's beautiful and there is outside space for the children to play."

Maritza describes the calmness, kindness and love that grows in the children – often quite a change from when they first arrive. She thinks of everything. "I make sure to ask what they like to eat, when and how. Maybe spaghetti or something special. There's no point eating if you're not enjoying it!"

So, what's the secret of the success of her 'extended family'?

"We are all very happy and that's what counts," says Maritza.

You can Foster for Bromley

Making others happy, makes you happy too, and the financial rewards, training and support are welcome too!

If like Maritza, you have the heart to Foster for Bromley and an empty bedroom, why not get in touch for a chat?

Types of Foster Care

There are several different types of foster care with support and training available whichever you choose.

Short Term

overnight to two years

Long Term

where the child is unable to return home

Respite

for a short period regularly

Emergency

immediate need for a short time.

Call 020 8461 7701 or visit **www.bromley.gov.uk/fostering**

UNMISSABLE DRAMA



TUE 3 – SAT 7 JUN



TUE 10 – SAT 14 JUN



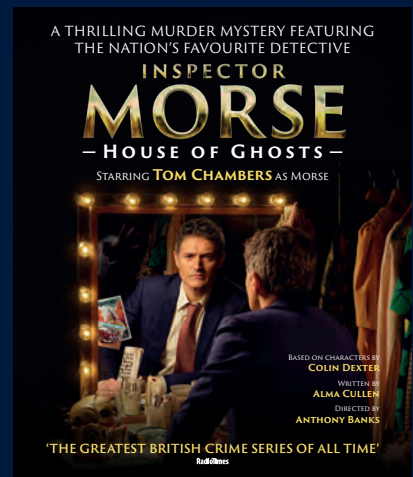
WED 25 – SAT 28 JUN



TUE 19 – SAT 23 AUG



TUE 30 SEP – SAT 4 OCT



TUE 7 – SAT 11 OCT



TUE 28 OCT – SAT 1 NOV

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