

YOUR WEST MINS TIER

FREE

Issue 002 | Autumn 2022

The Westminster City Council Magazine



City of Westminster

COST OF LIVING

Helping our residents get through the colder months

FAIRER WESTMINSTER

The building blocks creating a brighter future

WINTER IS COMING

Events and activities to enjoy throughout the city

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Championing diversity in Soho with the "delightfully dyslexic" Kai Lutterodt



DUE SOUTH

Discover the hidden gems in the heart of Pimlico





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TAKING ACTION ON WASTE

Illegally dumped rubbish is a blight on the streets of Westminster, but our newly launched Waste Action Squad is tackling the issue at its source. It's a trial initiative formed of different council teams, including our City Inspectors and Veolia partners, talking to residents about problem hotspots, as well as offering support and advice on good recycling practices.

"That's the magic of the Waste Action Squad," says Claudia Hemsley, Head of Service, Public Protection & Licensing. "It's about bringing everybody together on the street to listen to residents about what we can do better to make our streets cleaner."

Delwar Saim, a Commercial Waste Officer with the council, agrees that residents are at the heart of the project. "They play a key part in our engagement and provide feedback on waste related issues, dumping hot spots and so on," he explains "If you spot any bulky waste being dumped, go to

westminster.gov.uk/report-it and we'll get it removed."

The Squad can also help residents who have questions about recycling. "One of the key things that residents can do is make sure that they know what goes in their recycling and when they should be putting their waste out for collection," advises Rachel Butler, an area manager at Veolia. "Getting that wrong contaminates lots of other people's good recycling practices."

Find out more: westminster.gov.uk/waste-action-squad



TRULY AFFORDABLE HOMES

We have committed to delivering at least 1,362 council homes for social rent to help local people to live in truly affordable homes. This will see at least 160 new council homes for social rent in addition to the 1,202 council homes already in the pipeline. This includes converting 84 planned private properties at 300 Harrow Road and Westbourne Park to council homes.

Read more about our Fairer Housing: westminster.gov.uk/truly-affordable-homes

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

TIME FOR SERIOUS ACTION

This year's Black History Month was a pivotal one for many in Westminster, with the theme of 'Time for Serious Action' living large in the many activities, events, discussions and exhibitions that took place throughout the city. The call was for everyone to join the ongoing challenging of racism and discrimination, something that can often be left to Black people to address by themselves.

Events ranged from a Black Leadership in Government panel at the Lord Mayor's Parlour in City Hall that covered what Black leadership has looked like historically as well as today, to celebrations of the contributions Black people have played throughout our country's history. One of the big takeaways, however, was the council's stated aims to make it reflective of the communities it serves, most notably committing to becoming

an anti-racist organisation. "Over the last five years, we have made serious strides to make our organisation more diverse and inclusive," says Serena Simon, Director of Communities at the council. "However, more action is needed and now. Our recent commitments ensure an ongoing focus to embed diversity and inclusion in all that we do and we will be working closely with our communities to ensure that we deliver on these commitments."

Got something to share about your neighbourhood, Westminster as a whole or any of the features in this magazine? We'd love to hear from you! Send us an email to

✉ yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk

or by post to **YourWestminster,**
17th Floor, Westminster City Hall,
64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP

"I received the first copy of the new YourWestminster magazine and I just want to say what a valuable publication I think it is. Its section on councillors, Hidden Gems, libraries, What's On and so on are outstandingly useful and attractively presented. I have always kept the lists of contacts that have previously been sent out but the bold print and colour and the extra material make it enjoyable as well as indispensable. It's a community investment." – **Penny Gold**

"I read your Hidden Gems in Maida Vale and Little Venice in the summer edition of YourWestminster with much interest, but I feel you have left out our great pubs in the neighbourhood. Indeed, they are collectively a very good reason to live there in the first place. Starting with the Warwick Castle at Warwick Place, the Prince Alfred along Formosa Street, the Warrington Hotel off the roundabout on Warrington Crescent and finally the Hero of Maida (previously known as Truscott Arms) on Shirland Road – all very good reasons not to leave the locality for a drink in the evenings in Little Venice." – **Murad Qureshi**

"A location that always brightens my day in Westminster is the restaurant Shtaura (16 Church Street). The staff are really welcoming and friendly, and the food is delicious and reasonably priced. I'd recommend ordering the Zaatar Manaeesh." – **Kate Oboussier**

FROM THE LEADER

Welcome to this edition of YourWestminster - arriving on your doorstep as we all prepare for a winter of rising prices and possible power cuts. Helping residents through turbulent times is at the heart of Fairer Westminster, our road map for the next four years.

There are five pillars that make up our vision: fairer communities, housing, economy, environment and, of course, a fairer council. For our communities this means, among other things, providing support for foodbanks, free school uniforms and ensuring everyone is aware of – and has access to – excellent health care services.

We're also ensuring Westminster's local high streets share in the city's economic success, and that areas such as Queensway, Harrow Road, Edgware Road and Lupus Street get the focus they deserve. In fact, you can discover some of Pimlico's hidden gems in this issue.

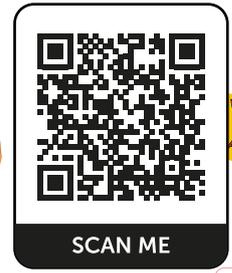
A fairer environment means ensuring there are greener ways to get around our city and that we keep emissions low. We are also launching a Sustainable City Charter with commitments to limit the carbon impact of our own buildings and ensure private developers build with green principles in mind.

Local people should feel their council understands them and gives them a voice. Big changes are under way at City Hall to ensure that the people we employ reflect our population. One big step on this saw Black History Month as the cue for us to take serious action by committing to becoming an anti-racist organisation. The challenges are big, but we are delivering. I'll finish by hoping you enjoy the Christmas attractions across Westminster this winter and that you enjoy the festive holidays.

Cllr Adam Hug



COST OF LIVING



As winter arrives, Westminster has a variety of FREE community and cultural activities for residents to enjoy; all taking place in warm and safe locations around the city.

We are offering something for everyone across the city, from your local library to the National Gallery. We are striving to offer a little bit of everything, from a quiet place to sit, think, work

or read, to somewhere to meet friends, be entertained and enjoy free and family friendly activities. Whether it's reading groups and LEGO clubs at our libraries, free lunchtime concerts, clubs to stretch those creative muscles, even ballroom dancing classes at the Abbey Centre and exhibitions at Somerset House – there are warm and friendly activities for everyone this winter.



Find out more about Winter in the City on our website:
www.westminster.gov.uk/winter-in-the-city

SCHOOL UNIFORM SUPPORT

Funding to help with the cost of school uniforms has been part of a package of measures that have helped struggling families cope with the rising cost of living. The School Uniform Support Scheme started with the September term dates and the funding was allocated to schools based on the numbers of eligible children. It has helped families of children in Reception and year six who are Westminster residents and in receipt of free school meals.

"Uniforms can be expensive so any help is great," said one parent who received the vouchers that were sent to eligible families. "My boy started school looking smart and he was happy!"

Another recipient commented on the rising costs: "The secondary school uniform was going to cost me well over £250



when you included the PE kit. The support meant that I could get everything – I don't know what I would have done without it. Along with the food vouchers, it made summer bearable."

Councillor Tim Roca, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Young People, Learning and Leisure, said: "We are determined to be on the side of residents.

We know that many Westminster families are struggling with the rising cost of living, and we are committed to helping those on the lowest incomes wherever we can."

Find more support at
westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support



QUICK WINS FOR YOUR HOME

As energy bills continue to rise, we're all looking for ways to make our homes more energy efficient and reduce costs. Quick wins can bring big energy savings with limited investment and in most cases don't require council permissions to undertake.

Quick wins can include:

- fitting insulated curtains
- insulating pipes
- using energy-efficient appliances
- switching to a 100% renewable energy tariff
- loft insulation
- draught-proofing
- repair works



Windows in particular are a source of heat loss and can be made more energy efficient through draught-proofing, by adding secondary glazing or incorporating thermally efficient, double or triple glazing, where appropriate. These methods generally don't require planning permission, but you may need to make an application for new windows in some circumstances.

Our website has a series of simple planning guides to provide advice on common retrofit measures:

www.westminster.gov.uk/retrofit-guides

EXPANDING FOOD WASTE RECYCLING



We're rolling out our food waste collection service to residents. As we aim to reach more residents in 2023, members of the Food Waste Recycling Engagement Team, such as Chloe Elliott (pictured below), have an important part to play in ensuring the service is successful and that residents are kept informed of where and when the service will be available to them. We caught up with Chloe to hear how the roll out has been going so far...

How has the food waste roll out been going since it started?

"Since we started, we've managed to deliver to eight wards, and revisit thousands of residents in order to boost engagement. We've had a good participation rate so far and we regularly get residents approaching us on the street to ask when we are delivering to their part of Westminster."

How have the residents responded?

"Lots of residents have friends or family in places where food waste is already collected or have used it before elsewhere and are excited that Westminster is now offering the service as well. With climate change being in the news a lot more lately, people are interested in what happens to their food waste and are mostly willing to give the new service a try even if it takes a bit of getting used to."

What do you like most about your job?

"On the engagement team we work all over Westminster and meet hundreds of people a day, so every day is different. It's also great to play a small part in introducing a new service to thousands of residents which will have a significant impact on recycling in the city."



Find out more about the food recycling rollout at www.westminster.gov.uk/food-waste

BUILDING A

FAIRER

WESTMINSTER

A Fairer Westminster is one in which you, our residents, are at the heart of our decision making, helping decide the city's future. By working directly with you, we can build a more inclusive city that celebrates our diverse communities and in which residents, workers and visitors from all backgrounds are welcome and feel safe.

Our Fairer Westminster strategy is formed of five key pillars, under which almost all of our council activity takes place. These are:



Fairer Communities

We will reduce poverty and inequality. We will provide excellent public health and social care. Westminster will be one of the best places in which to live and grow up.



Fairer Housing

We will provide more genuinely affordable housing, and more energy efficient housing. We will reduce homelessness. We will help private renters.



Fairer Economy

We will develop a strong economy that is sustainable. Residents will share in the city's financial success. Residents will be given the skills needed to develop fulfilling careers.



Fairer Environment

We will take bold action to tackle climate change. Westminster will become a net zero carbon city by 2040. Its streets will be clean and air pollution will be reduced. We will encourage sustainable forms of transport.



Fairer Council

Our council services will be easy to access and the way we work will be transparent. We will make sure our partners have ethical supply chains and practices. Residents will feel both safe and listened to.





“I’VE SEEN SIGNS THAT SAY THAT THINGS ARE ACTUALLY PROGRESSING”

Wilfried Rimensberger

The strategy was launched at a series of events in the north and south of the city recently, with residents, community leaders and local business owners having the chance to talk directly with both the Leader of the Council, Cllr Adam Hug, and cabinet members responsible for the different areas of the plan. Views were heard, questions asked and feedback was very welcome. “It’s fantastic to read and hear about this vision,” said Wilfried Rimensberger, who attended the launch at The Abbey Centre. “I’ve seen signs that say that things are actually progressing.”

“It’s good because we were told about the changes that are going to happen in our society,” agreed young resident, Jibrail (pictured right) who was especially concerned about the services available for young people. “I want youth mental health to improve and opportunities for kids to achieve and to have a better idea of work in adult life.”

We’re looking to deliver the strategy by following three sets of key values: openness and transparency, partnership and collaboration, and diversity and inclusion. By making sure we’re open and accessible in everything we do, our communities will know they can trust that the council has their best interests at heart. Collaborative working with public, voluntary and private sector partners will help our services operate as effectively as possible for our residents, while promoting inclusion and celebrating diversity means that we make sure all views are heard and given equal weight.



Work is already underway within the five pillars, with everything from launching the Future of Westminster Commission to bring in fresh ideas and perspectives, to helping families cope with the rising cost of living through increased support, to conducting ‘Community Thursdays’ on our housing estates to understand the key issues facing our housing tenants. These all increase the ways the residents are positioned at the heart of our actions.

WE WILL DELIVER THE STRATEGY BY FOLLOWING THREE KEY VALUES: OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY, PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION, AND DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



The strategy was launched at events across the city

Find out more about our Fairer Westminster strategy, including how you can get involved in shaping your city, via our website: www.westminster.gov.uk/fairer-westminster

Connecting to the community and promoting representation are two of the drivers that keep Soho resident, Kai Lutterodt buzzing and have earned her a reputation as a bridge builder and a champion of the West End.

When you think of magazines, you tend to imagine busy newsrooms, frantic editors yelling at beleaguered writers and the general air of panic and approaching deadlines. But for Kai Lutterodt, known throughout the area as 'The Soho (PR) Girl',

her magazine is created from outdoor tables at local coffee shops, al fresco dining benches at West End eateries, or even just her living room in the heart of central Westminster. Having that direct connection to her community is rooted in her DNA and has been a key component in the ongoing success of My Soho Times (mysohotimes.co.uk), her magazine that distils the essence of everything Soho has to offer and connects residents, local businesses and visitors to the best of the West End.

"Starting my magazine has connected me to my community more than I could ever have imagined," she says as we stroll along Berwick Street to meet the

subject of a feature in an upcoming issue. "Local businesses have supported me, they helped advertise my magazine and in

return, whenever I get asked for recommendations, I always point out the places I have built strong relationships with. I have built a bond with local businesses that goes beyond advertising and that makes it more special to me."

My Soho Times is a showcase for the many characters that make up the area. Skilled locals such as Tony Phillips (pictured below), our Berwick Street appointment and the longest-serving tailor in Soho, crafting suits for locals and celebrities alike for more than 50 years. As Kai puts it, "it was Soho's eccentric community that shaped my outlook over the years and encouraged me to step out of the shadows to become a part of the community."

Kai initially started documenting her life experiences in a blog about being a Soho resident for over a decade. What started off as a low-key journal quickly became much more. "I've lived in Soho for 19 years now but I wasn't always actively involved in

LIVED MEN SOHO TIMES



my community," she tells me. "I moved in quite young and at first it was a lot of fun; I was a creature of habit so I would go out to the same places and that was it. However, three years ago it dawned on me that even though I live in such an amazing area, I couldn't give recommendations to friends whenever they'd ask. I already had My Soho Times as my personal blog, I just had to think how it might have a bigger impact. So the idea came to me to make a tangible, printed magazine that was free." It was especially important to Kai that the magazine was free as she knew how expensive it can be to experience things in Soho. "I wanted to make sure no matter who you are, if you can find it and pick it up, it's yours."

A particular challenge in writing, editing and publishing a magazine for Kai is that she's dyslexic – or "delightfully dyslexic (and courageously creative)" as she crowns herself, a phrase coined by Pip Jamieson, founder of The Dots, a professional network for people in the creative industry. "Pip is my creative dyslexic role model!" says Kai enthusiastically. "Finding a sense

of purpose within my community really helped with my mental health. The relationships I've built with so many residents of all ages and walks of life has kept me going, even when I felt discouraged and anxious."

This sense of encouragement for the underrepresented was something Kai wanted to champion when she founded Diversity Matters (diversity-matters.org.uk). The 'awareness platform' promotes diversity in working and learning environments by challenging the lack of representation among creatives and academics. "Representation matters to me," she states, "and as a Black, female business owner, I'm proud to create a space that allows me to express my creativity. I hope to inspire others to do the same. There is so much diversity and rich culture here in Soho, but I feel like only one side of the West End is visible."

Kai recently took her father to see 'Get Up Stand Up', the Bob Marley Musical at the Lyric Theatre. She recalls the evening fondly as it stirred some deep memories. "It was so great walking



SHARE YOUR STORIES

Is there someone in your community with a fascinating tale to tell? Know of a prominent Westminster resident who should feature in these pages? Let us know about your local figures by emailing

✉ yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk

or writing to

📍 **YourWestminster**
17th Floor City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QP



around Soho with my dad telling me about all the places he had been to review music gigs when he was a music journalist," she recalls. "When I was a child, my dad couldn't leave me at home alone so he would take me to work with him. It brought back such fond memories, and reinforced the fact that I already have a connection with Soho from childhood. It's fascinating to see myself following in his creative footsteps two decades later. I want to showcase that Soho has so much to offer everyone."

Follow Kai on social media at:

📷 @the.soho.girl
📺 @thesohogirl
📷 @mysohotimes

TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIDDEN GEMS!

Got a favourite café, a green space you'd love to share, or a secret spot that fills you with joy? We want to hear about the areas of your neighbourhood that make it your Westminster! Email us at yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk or write to the council address on page 3 and your own hidden gem might feature in a future issue!



In each edition of Your Westminster, we'll bring you a guide to the hidden gems of the city. In this issue we head south of the city to play with cats, bathe in history and enjoy some... cheese?



1 NO. 11 PIMLICO ROAD

11 Pimlico Road, SW1W 8NA

A lively hang out, for everything from Monday morning coffees to Friday evening nightcaps. What's more, Life Drawing classes are held here every first Tuesday of the month, So don't forget to bring your creative hats!
www.no11pimlicoroad.co.uk
 020 7730 6784

2 PIMLICO'S HISTORY SPOTS

Eccleston Square Mews, Warwick Square Mews, Bessborough Gardens, Dolphin Square

Pimlico has a wealth of historic spots, from beautiful mewses and gardens to many interesting blue plaques. Spend a day strolling the paths and back roads while learning about the rich history of the area.

3 BEN VENUTI

34 Upper Tachbrook St, SW1V 1SW

If you're looking for traditional Italian recipes and flavours, then Ben Venuti is the essence of Italy captured in a boutique store. You can find a range of delicacies from freshly made pasta to aromatic, jarred pesto, and sweet patisseries.
www.ben-venuti.com
 07401 125922



4 SEAFRESH FISH AND CHIPS

80-81 Wilton Road, SW1V 1DL

Seafresh is the local seafood restaurant where Pimlicoans go to dine, drink and socialise. You can enjoy an exceptional seafood dining experience or just enjoy hearty, traditional fish and chips in the comfort of your home.

www.sfdining.co.uk
020 7828 0747

5 RETROMANIA FARA LONDON

6 Upper Tachbrook Street, SW1V 1SH

Browse through the retro and vintage clothing at Retromania London to add an iconic designer piece to your outfit. A range of unique womenswear, menswear, accessories and memorabilia can be found, bringing together all the retro pieces donated at FARA charity shops.

www.faracharity.org
020 7630 7406

6 MR CAD PHOTOGRAPHIC

12 Upper Tachbrook Street, SW1V 1SH

An Aladdin's cave of photographic delights, some keenly priced new gear, and a vast range of second-hand equipment for bargain hunters! If you're looking for some photography, come to this magical store and get lost among the walls packed full of lenses.

www.mrcad.co.uk
020 8684 8282

7 CHOI

22 Upper Tachbrook Street, SW1V 1SH

A much-loved local Chinese restaurant with a hidden and very well stocked Asian supermarket downstairs that includes beautiful oriental kitchenware amongst authentic Chinese foodstuffs.

07598 134384

8 RIPPON CHEESE

26 Upper Tachbrook Street, SW1V 1SW

With 500 European cheeses, mainly from Great Britain and France, along with a great selection of biscuits, pickles, jams and cheese accessories, cheese lovers will be spoilt for choice here. What's more, Rippon Cheese is offering Westminster City Save members 10% off all products in its Pimlico store.

ripponcheeselondon.com
020 7931 0648

9 THE QUEEN'S ARMS

11 Warwick Way, SW1V 1QT

A locals' favourite, The Queen's Arms is famous for its Sunday roasts and after-work drinks. If you're looking for a traditional pub lunch or a catch up with friends over a pint, this hotspot is the place to be.

queensarms@brunningandprice.co.uk
020 3985 9446

10 TACHBROOK STREET MARKET

42 Tachbrook Street, SW1V 2JS

Tachbrook is a bustling market serving both the local community and nearby office workers. Open most days of the week, you can find everything from fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meats to hot food stalls from all around the world.

www.westminster.gov.uk/our-markets

11 LA MAISON DU CHAT

55 Moreton St, SW1V 2NY

Coffee, Cakes and Cats. This café is home to ten adorable rescue cats – each with their own pawfect purrsonalities! But that's not all, the food menu also has something for everyone, with tempting veggie, vegan and gluten-free options.

lamaisonduchat.co.uk
020 7233 6754

12 PIMLICO TOY LIBRARY

133A Lupus Street, SW1V 3EN

Offering play and development opportunities for those with 0 to 11-year-old children, the Toy Library is a vital hub for local families. You can also loan toys and take part in art days, music sessions and even trips.

www.pimlicotoylibrary.org

020 7834 3356

[Read more](#) >>

FOCUS ON...

PIMLICO TOY LIBRARY



The Pimlico Toy Library provides a vital service for local families to give their young children a chance to develop. We caught up with Maggie Harper, the library's coordinator to find out more...

What motivates your charity to provide the services it does to your community and residents?

The need for stimulating, fun, developmental play opportunities for children 0 to 11 years. We've built relationships and trust with Westminster families for 37 years. Fourth generation parents tell us about the difference we made to their families' lives and that we're making a positive difference to them at a time when adults worry about their child falling behind due to lack of good communication and social skills, and their own lack of confidence in parenting. We provide activities all year and are very welcome in the school holidays when there are limited mixed age provision for families in the area.

How would you like to see Pimlico Toy Library grow?

I would like to see member families and the local community continue to get involved as members, trustees, volunteers and future workers to ensure the service is sustainable, can offer more sessions each year, and can maintain the Toy Loan service. My wish list would include larger inside space and to add an outside space.

What makes working with children special?

Showing children how to learn and giving them a range of learning experiences early on means they settle well into nursery and school. Getting a good education has helped past members break the cycle of poverty that many children are living through at the moment. Seeing children explore, enjoy and build their self-esteem is something that gives the team here great pleasure.

NORTH



The Puppet Theatre Barge:

The Puppet Theatre Barge has entertained families on board a converted Thames Barge in Little Venice for 30 years. Currently showing is Little Red Riding Hood until 29 January 2023. City Save card holders can enjoy 20% off.

www.westminster.gov.uk/westminster-city-save/puppet-theatre-barge-20-discount-westminster-residents

- 2pm, every day
- Puppet Theatre Barge, W9 2PF
020 7249 6876
- info@puppetbarge.com



www.westminster.gov.uk/westminster-city-save/puppet-theatre-barge-20-discount-westminster-residents

We No Longer Prefer Mountains:

The Showroom in Penfold Street presents the first UK solo exhibition and feature length film from artist Inas Halabi. Halabi reflects upon the political and social condition of the Druze community living in Palestine/ Israel. Free entry.

- Midday to 6pm
Wednesday to Saturday
- 63 Penfold Street, NW8 8PQ
020 7724 4300
- info@theshowroom.org



theshowroom.org

Japanese Rhyme Time at St John's Wood Library:

Join us at St John's Wood Library for our weekly rhyme time in Japanese. This event is suitable for the under 5s and their parents or carers. No need to book, just turn up on the day.

- 11.30am to 12pm, every Friday
- 20 Circus Road, NW8 6PD
020 7641 6200
- libraries@westminster.gov.uk



www.westminster.gov.uk/event/japanese-rhyme-time-st-johns-wood-library-person

SOUTH



Everest Through the Lens:

The latest free exhibition from the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) marks the centenary of the Everest expeditions in the 1920s, including the visually stunning films Captain John Noel produced of the 1922 and 1924 expeditions.

- 10am to 5pm
Monday to Saturday
- 1 Kensington Gore, SW7 2AR
020 7591 3000
- enquiries@rgs.org



www.rgs.org/events/autumn-2022/everest-through-the-lens

Discounted Admission to Westminster Abbey:

Westminster City Save card holders can enjoy entry to the Abbey for just £7, including access to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries courtesy of Open Westminster. Includes free entry for one child.

- 9.30am to 3.30pm
Monday to Saturday
- 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PA
020 7222 5152
- info@westminster-abbey.org



www.westminster.gov.uk/westminster-city-save/discounted-admission-westminster-abbey-save-ps17

Ballroom Dancing at the Abbey Centre:

Ballroom dancing combines gentle physical activity with great music. Classes cover moves from beginner to advanced levels. A mix of people attend and the class is suitable for all ages 50 and above.

- 1pm to 3pm, every Monday
The Abbey Centre
- 34 Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BU
020 7227 0642
- george.wallis@theabbeycentre.org.uk



www.theabbeycentre.org.uk/ballroom-dancing



Hosting a community event in Westminster? Send the details to the address on page 3 or to yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk and we'll look to include you on our website and in a future edition of YourWestminster!



Drama Buzz Club at Mayfair Library:

Drama Buzz is a free weekly club for children where you can play fun drama games to help build confidence, boost concentration, improve co-ordination and develop communication skills. Suitable for children aged 5 and over.

🕒 1.30am to 12pm, every Friday (term times only)

📍 South Audley Street, W1K 2PB
020 7641 6200

✉ libraries@westminster.gov.uk



www.westminster.gov.uk/event/drama-buzz-club-children-mayfair-library-person



Westminster Bridge Club:

Calling all Bridge-playing experts in Westminster, come and join this Bridge Club run by Age UK Westminster. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow residents who share the same interests as you and let your competitiveness come into play.

🕒 2pm to 4pm, every Wednesday

📍 South Audley Street, W1K 2PB
07969 302517

✉ stephen.spavin@ageukwestminster.org.uk



www.westminster.gov.uk/event/bridge-club-mayfair-library-person



The Horror Show: Enjoy free entry to this major exhibition celebrating our greatest cultural visionaries until February 2023. City Save card or proof of Westminster residency required for free entry. May not be suitable for children under 12.

WESTMINSTER city save

🕒 10am to 4pm
Tuesdays and Wednesday

📍 Somerset House, Strand, WC2R 1LA
0333 320 2836

✉ visitor@somersetshouse.org.uk



www.somersetshouse.org.uk/whats-on/the-horror-show

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DIGITAL SKILLS COURSES IN LONDON

- There are a number of courses beginning in 2022 that will enable you to develop the knowledge and skills to kick off your career in the digital sector.
- There are qualification courses in Cyber Security, Software Development and Web Applications.
- And we are running **intensive bootcamps** to get you job-ready in a short time and these programmes include introductions to employers.
- There is also another chance to join the popular AWS re/Start programme which is run in collaboration with Amazon Cloud Computing.
- Or have a look at our Graphic Design programmes, if you are more interested in design and media production.
- Many of our courses are **free*** for unemployed learners and lower-income earners. Contact us for more details.
- Our experts are on hand to offer advice and answer any questions about careers, opportunities and next steps.

ENROL NOW

- Visit our website to have a look at our full offer and complete our online application.
- Or you can phone or email us and we will help with any questions you have.
- We are here to help and support you.

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WINTER EVENTS

As the city gears up for the festive season, a plethora of fun, exciting events for all ages to enjoy are taking place. You can find full details of what's happening in Westminster at: www.westminster.gov.uk/winter-in-westminster. In the meantime, here are some of the highlights for this year...

LIGHTS ON, LOOK UP!

The famous West End Christmas lights are once again out in force, this year with a more environmentally friendly theme. These traditional displays of light, colour and spectacle mark the festive season for central London and this year can be seen until early January at:

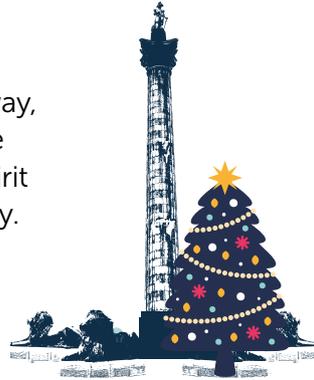
- Oxford Street
- Regent Street
- St Martin's Lane
- Carnaby Street
- Covent Garden



TREE CHEERS FOR CHRISTMAS!

The Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree has become as integral a part of London's celebrations of the festive season as mince pies, tinsel and leftover turkey sandwiches. An annual gift from the people of Norway, the tree has been erected alongside Nelson's Column every year since 1947 and decorated in a traditional Norwegian manner. Better yet, the tree has its very own official Twitter account bringing you stories of its journey from a forest in Norway, the people that come to enjoy it and the spirit of Christmas generally.

Follow its adventure
 [@trafalgartree](https://twitter.com/trafalgartree)



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The city's traditional Christmas markets are a great way to get into the spirit of the season, as well as to find some last-minute stocking fillers and lip-smacking stomach fillers. This year, you'll be able to find market stalls everywhere from Trafalgar and Leicester Squares to Marylebone, Mount Street and Connaught Village, to the massive Winter Wonderland at Hyde Park (see below for details). Find the full list, including dates and opening times, on our website.

HIP TO BE SQUARE

Leicester Square is once again erecting the 'Spiegeltent'. La Clique are the headliners with a dazzling mixture of acrobatics and cabaret, but you can also find 'baby discos', kids comedy clubs and celebrations of the 1920s amongst other things. Keep checking out christmasinleicestersquare.com for the latest details.

City Save members can get 10% off tickets. For details, visit westminster.gov.uk/city-save

WESTMINSTER city save

A WINTER WONDERLAND

Returning for six weeks of festive cheer until Monday 3 January is the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, offering a host of Christmas-themed fun and activities. From a magical ice kingdom with ice and snow sculptures, to London's largest outdoor ice rink, to ice slides, fairground rides and all the mulled wine you can handle, it's an event not to be missed. Find out more at hydeparkwinterwonderland.com

Simply having a Westminster Christmas Time



MAKING CONNECTIONS



Our Digital Ambassadors are helping to keep our communities connected. Why not join them?

Maida Vale resident, Richard, used to find dealing with the world of digital devices a challenge. Living with dyslexia, as well as the general apprehension often felt by the older community around modern technology, was proving a barrier to staying in touch with friends and family.

"I was reading the council's Westminster Plus magazine [our sister title for the city's older community] and saw an article about the Digital Ambassador programme," he says. "I thought it was a great opportunity both to learn essential digital skills and meet new people."

Digital Ambassadors is a partnership between Westminster City Council and Community Fibre, the broadband provider that works closely with London's councils, landlords and housing associations to deliver connectivity to those who need it most. The scheme involves

recruiting and training local volunteers to deliver one-on-one training to residents that are digitally excluded through sessions held at local libraries.

Westminster resident Gayle is one such volunteer, utilising the skills she's developed working in digital services at a large bank in the city to help her local community. "With more and more companies embracing digital, the gap between people who have and don't have digital skills is growing," she says. "I've helped learners with varied needs – from setting up the NHS app to setting alarms to remind them to take medication. I've even helped a learner navigate dating apps! It's great to see the digital progress residents have made."

Recent studies by the Good Things Foundation have shown that people aged 65 and over are ten times more likely to feel digitally excluded than others. Not

only that, but nearly ten million Britons lack even the most basic digital skills. As part of creating a Fairer Westminster (see page 8), we're now expanding the Digital Ambassadors programme in Westminster to:

- feature in more accessible locations across the city, such as leisure centres
- work with GP practices to provide training and support so residents can get skills to navigate the NHS app
- widen the training and support offered to residents that are more likely to be digitally excluded (such as those with disabilities, or those struggling with the cost of living crisis), not just the older community



Councillor Geoff Barraclough, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development said: "We are committed to creating a Fairer Westminster. This includes bridging the digital divide by ensuring that those residents that currently aren't able to get online are helped to do so. Our programme is delivering tangible positive outcomes and we look forward to expanding its reach to residents of all ages."

"There is a much greater need for digital skills now than when I was in the workplace," agrees Richard, who signed up to the programme and has learnt to use the predictive text function on his phone, meaning he can now write texts and emails with much more confidence, staying in touch with loved ones. "After a few months of attending the sessions, my digital skills significantly improved. My confidence with my laptop has grown and I've become less frightened of pressing the wrong button and losing all of my information now. The sessions have also got me out of the house and given my days a sense of purpose."

BECOME A DIGITAL AMBASSADOR!

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Digital Ambassador and helping your community feel more connected, email digitalambassadors@communityfibre.co.uk for details on volunteering.



BRIDGE THE DIGITAL GAP



If you are a resident in Westminster and want help learning digital skills, get in touch by:

-  **07811 674554**
-  Dropping into one of our libraries where you can ask a member of staff for more information
-  digitalplace@westminster.gov.uk
-  Check our website for details of upcoming sessions: www.westminster.gov.uk/event



You can **book a 30-minute appointment** with a Digital Ambassador to provide bespoke assistance to meet your needs. Whether a complete beginner or just looking to brush up existing knowledge, the Digital Ambassadors can help.

LEARN A NEW DIGITAL SKILL

GET MORE OUT OF YOUR SMART PHONE

LEARN HOW TO USE ONLINE BANKING

JOIN AN ONLINE BOOK GROUP

Recycle at Christmas... it's easy!

Please only put the following in your mixed recycling bags and bins:



X no foil wrapping X no glitter cards X no non-paper gift wrap and gift bags X no polystyrene

Will my recycling and rubbish collection day change over Christmas and New Year?

This information is for residents who receive kerbside collections. There are no changes planned to your recycling and rubbish collections over the festive season. However, please check our website for the latest information.

 www.westminster.gov.uk/xmas-recycling

How do I recycle my food waste in Westminster over Christmas?

If you already receive our food waste recycling service this will run as normal over the festive season. If your property does not have access to the service yet, please check our webpage for further information about the city-wide expansion: www.westminster.gov.uk/food-waste-recycling-expansion

How do I recycle my real Christmas tree in Westminster?

Westminster has over 25 recycling points for real Christmas trees. You can take your tree to a drop-off point **from the start of 28 December 2022 to end of day 8 January 2023**. Opening hours are 8am to 8pm unless they are in parks, which close at 4.30pm.

Please remove all decorations, stands and netting from the tree before bringing it to a recycling point. Only trees taken to recycling points will be turned into woodchip and soil improver. For a list of tree recycling points, please go to www.westminster.gov.uk/xmas-recycling



ADVERTISEMENT

STAYING PROTECTED THIS WINTER



CCOVID-19 hasn't gone away and flu season is back upon us. Which means that people can still become very ill. Just like the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Hamza Taouzzale, pictured above, making sure you get your booster and flu vaccinations will ensure you have the best protection against the viruses through the winter months. "This year it's particularly

important that you have your flu jab and your COVID-19 booster as this is the first year that we don't have safety measures such as mask wearing or social distancing," says Connie Junghans, a GP based in the Pimlico area. She stresses that it's important to get your winter vaccinations as soon as possible. "It really is the safest and most effective way to protect yourself,

your family, your friends and everyone around you," she explains. "I've had mine, please have yours if you haven't already. Let's keep each other safe."

You can find out more about winter vaccines by visiting our website: www.westminster.gov.uk/vaccinations.



POLIO VACCINATIONS FOR CHILDREN

Children aged 1 to 9 years old in London are being offered a dose of polio vaccine. For some, this may be an extra dose on top of their routine vaccinations. For other children it may bring them up to date with their routine vaccinations.

There are signs the virus may be spreading in London and the number of children vaccinated in London is lower than it should be. Boosting immunity in children should help protect them and reduce the risk of the virus continuing to spread. If your child is eligible for an extra dose, the NHS will contact you to ask you to book an appointment for the vaccine. You can also visit any vaccination centre in Northwest London.

Find out more here: www.nwlondonics.nhs.uk/polio

YOUR COUNCIL SERVICES

GENERAL CONTACT DETAILS

020 7641 7000

responsewcc@westminster.gov.uk

www.westminster.gov.uk



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☎ 020 7641 1175

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www.peoplefirstinfo.org.uk

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www.westminster.gov.uk/housing

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www.westminster.gov.uk/archives



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www.westminster.gov.uk/benefits

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☎ 020 7641 7500

✉ registeroffice@westminster.gov.uk

www.westminster.gov.uk/birth-and-death-certificates-marriages-and-citizenship

BUSINESS UNIT

☎ 020 7641 2070

✉ businessunit@westminster.gov.uk

www.businesswestminster.com



CEMETERIES

☎ 020 8567 0913

✉ parks@westminster.gov.uk

CHILDREN/FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

☎ 07971 625 922

✉ FIS@westminster.gov.uk

www.westminster.gov.uk/children-and-education

COUNCIL TAX

☎ 0343 178 2743

✉ westminstercounciltax1@secure.capita.co.uk

www.westminster.gov.uk/council-tax



HEALTH & WELLBEING

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www.westminster.gov.uk/housing



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www.active.westminster.gov.uk

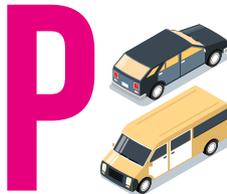
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www.westminster.gov.uk/pest-control



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www.westminster.gov.uk/markets



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