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Issue 005 | Winter 2023/24

The Westminster City Council Magazine

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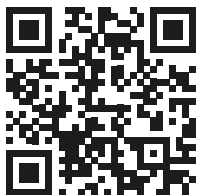
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content in this issue, you can email
yourwestminster@westminster.gov.uk
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or write to YourWestminster
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NEW HOMES AT HARROW ROAD

Residents will soon be moving into the new 300 Harrow Road, a 100 per cent truly affordable housing scheme, the first development completed under our Fairer Housing strategy.

Half of the 112 homes were previously earmarked for market sale, but last year we changed the scheme to a mix of council homes for social rent and intermediate at London Living Rent level. All of the homes with at least two bedrooms are council housing for social rent, helping to meet the need for family-sized homes in the city.

300 Harrow Road is also the first development in the country to provide the highest airflow rates for any heating and cooling system of its type. Residents will benefit from the use of air source heat pumps, solar panels, rainwater collection and living roofs, resulting in lower energy bills and a reduction in carbon emissions.

There are also wider benefits for the community including a new community centre and early years childcare facility. Plus, improvements to public green spaces will reconnect the Warwick estate with the wider neighbourhood and provide accessibility to the Grand Union canal.

- Find out more about the new homes:

🌐 westminster.gov.uk/300-harrow-road

DELIVERING A FAIRER WESTMINSTER

A little over a year ago, we launched our Fairer Westminster strategy, a plan for building a city that supports and celebrates all of its communities. Fairer Westminster is our chance to work with you to create a more inclusive Westminster, where our residents are at the heart of our decision-making.

Since then, we've been delivering on a number of projects and programmes, all designed around the five key pillars of Fairer Communities, Economy, Environment, Housing and Council. Our webpage is now being regularly updated with examples of the ways we are delivering, from an increase in people using our sports and leisure facilities, to building more affordable housing units, to reductions in our carbon emissions.

We are committed to being an open and transparent council and these webpages are just one of the ways you can keep informed about the work we do. While it represents good progress so far, we know there is still work to do as we work to deliver our Fairer Westminster strategy.

- Find out how we're delivering for our residents:

🌐 westminster.gov.uk/fairer-westminster

HAVE YOUR SAY ON MENTAL HEALTH



NHS plans that could leave no beds for acute mental health patients in Westminster have been highlighted by the council.

An NHS consultation, which closes in January 2024, has set out a range of options for the future of acute mental health provision in the city. This includes a proposal to cut the provision from 51 beds to zero. This potentially risks patients with severe mental health issues having to travel miles for residential care.

In fact, the 51 acute mental health beds at the Gordon Hospital have not been available since the facility's temporary closure in March 2020. Demand

for these beds is soaring – with 777 people in Westminster referred in 2022/23, 103 more than year before.

Patients have described themselves as feeling like "parcels" being sent from hospital to hospital for treatment. One commented: "When there are long waiting times with mental health patients it is a bit like cancer; it gets worse. This means A&Es are filled up, the police are under stress, crisis levels increase and there are no beds for patients to use in Westminster."

Make sure to have your say via the NHS' survey. More details at:

🌐 westminster.gov.uk/gordon-hospital-consultation

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

"Very interesting interview with Cyril Khamai in your last issue. All honour to his pan history. But no Trini, even if they haven't played mas' in Port of Spain, could accept your definition of San Fernando as 'Trinidad's largest city'."
– **David Lane**

Editor's Note:

You are quite right, David. The largest city in Trinidad is, of course, Chaguanas. Our apologies to all Trininis!

"For those that love dogs, the Kennel Club in Mayfair is a real hidden gem. There is a dog art gallery (the only gallery in London that allows dogs to visit!), the only dog-centric library in the world and an amazing photographic collection that goes back to the 19th century. The Kennel Club was the first Kennel Club in the world – founded in 1873 – and is still going strong. It's an amazing place to visit!" – **Heidi H**

"I would like to say, after an incredibly busy Notting Hill Carnival this year rounding off the summer holidays, a huge thank you to the Veolia rubbish collectors and street cleaners who moved in as the Carnival came to an end. As I went to bed, our street was in its usual post-Carnival litter situation. But when I got up the following morning, the street was swept clean of rubbish and washed, and all the big bins were back in place. What an effort for the workers and what a success to wake up to. Thank you to them for returning our road to its normal self so quickly and efficiently."
– **Nicky Hessenberg**

FROM THE LEADER

Welcome to this edition of YourWestminster, the last of 2023. It's been a busy year, both exciting and challenging in equal measure.


This winter, Westminster has so many exciting things to see and do, some of which we are able to showcase in here. However, at the same time we know the cost-of-living crisis remains a real challenge for many of our residents. So here at City Hall we are continuing to focus on helping people out with places to go and things to do which are free or inexpensive.

We are supporting holiday activities and providing free school meals for children age 3 to 14, which are some of the measures we hope will help household budgets. You can see this work in action in this issue with features on Christmas in Westminster and our special four-page Winter in the City pullout.

The New Year will see us continuing to deliver on our priorities of building more truly affordable housing, support during the cost of living crisis, a greener environment, action on anti-social behaviour, the redevelopment of Oxford Street and local place-based schemes such as North Paddington, Pimlico and the High Streets Programme from Bayswater to Edgware Road. That's because vibrant local high streets and a buzzing West End mean job and training opportunities for local people.

For now, it only remains for me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous 2024.

Cllr Adam Hug





Christmas in WESTMINSTER

With the festive season well underway, there's lots to celebrate in Westminster.

Whether you are celebrating with your local community or going green we have exciting events for everyone to get involved with...

CELEBRATING WITH YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

In Westminster we are home to some incredible communities. Our faith groups, schools and community networks celebrate the festive season each year and the variety of cultures, heritage and traditions light up the city. From Christmas lights in Church Street to a festive tree at Maida Hill, find out more about celebrations in your local area on our website.

GO GREEN THIS CHRISTMAS

There are so many things you can do to have a more sustainable Christmas, such as donating your unwanted gifts to a local charity. Our partners at Veolia have shared some of their top tips on how to go green this Christmas:

- Reuse your wrapping paper and cards by cutting them up to make gift tags for next year.
- All jars, from cranberry sauce to mincemeat, can be recycled. Just rinse and recycle. No need to remove the labels, they'll come off in the recycling process.
- Not sure if wrapping paper can be recycled? Scrunch the paper into a ball and if it stays scrunched up, pop it in your recycling bin.



VISIT THE CITY

Looking for the perfect gift or wanting to attend festive events. Our website also contains a list of what's happening in the West End during the holiday period. Whether it's carols at the Royal Albert Hall, Christmas films at the Prince Charles Cinema, Christmas markets in Leicester Square, or even ice rinks at Somerset House and Hanover Square, central London has something for everyone to enjoy.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES UPDATE

There are slight changes planned to our waste collection services during the festive period. If your regular rubbish collection day is on Monday 25 December or Monday 1 January, don't worry, we won't be bothering you on those days. We will be coming to collect your rubbish on Wednesday 27 December (for the 25 December collection) and Wednesday 3 January (for the 1 January pick-up). There's no change for any Boxing Day collections, they'll take place as normal.

Find out more about changes to collections over Christmas, and how to recycle real Christmas trees on page 19 and at: westminster.gov.uk/christmas-westminster

For details on holiday opening hours for our libraries and leisure centres, head to our webpages at: westminster.gov.uk/libraries and westminster.gov.uk/leisure-centres



SKATE WEST END

Skate West End is the capital's stunning new festive ice rink, located in Hanover Square, just off Oxford Street and Regent Street and supporting the vital work of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

A percentage of every ticket sold will be donated directly to GOSH Charity, funding Great Ormond Street Hospital's most urgent needs, such as research into paediatric brain tumours. Perfect for after-work fun, a magical setting for date nights or just escaping from the Christmas shopping bustle - so why not make Skate West End your new Christmas highlight? If you're a Westminster City Save card holder (see page 8), you can even enjoy 15% off tickets! Use the code WESKATE15 at checkout.

THE QUEEN OF THE FOREST IS SHINING BRIGHT


It doesn't quite feel like Christmas in the West End until the spruce in Trafalgar Square has its lights on and the tree is shining bright! The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Cllr Patricia MacAllister was joined by the Mayor of Oslo, Anne Lindboe, on 7 December for the Trafalgar Tree Christmas Lights ceremony.


The tree will be in Trafalgar Square until just before Twelfth Night when it will be taken down for recycling. Don't forget you can follow the tree on X/Twitter for updates and exciting facts about the long-running tradition.


 [@TrafalgarTree](https://twitter.com/TrafalgarTree)

CHRISTMAS ENCHANTMENT: A MAGICAL FAMILY NATIVITY CONCERT

Be transported back to the very first Christmas in the heart of Covent Garden as we journey through the Nativity with words and music in a magical candlelit concert. Join together to sing favourite carols and songs including 12 Days of Christmas, Jingle Bells, While Shepherds Watched and more. Dressing-up is encouraged and all ages are welcome! Create special Christmas memories as We Wish You a Merry Christmas! Don't miss out: secure your seats today!

 **11am, 23 December**

 **Actors' Church
Covent Garden**

 **Tickets: <https://bit.ly/xmasenchantment>**



PUTTING A MUSICAL STAMP ON CHRISTMAS

Want to spread some festive cheer? Check out the Royal Mail's 'singing' post boxes this Christmas. Head down to the iconic, interactive red pillar box near John Lewis on Oxford Street to send your yuletide missives and be treated to a wintery tune or cheery greeting as you pop your letters in the slot.

Find out everything about Christmas in Westminster at [westminster.gov.uk/christmas-westminster](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/christmas-westminster)



WHAT'S ON

WESTMINSTER city save

Our residents' membership scheme is free to join and offers amazing discounts and savings not only during the festive period but all year round! Christmas offers include...

CHRISTMAS IN

LEICESTER SQUARE



The international Spiegeltent is taking over Christmas in Leicester Square until 6 January. Set amid a magical Christmas market, Westminster City Save card holders can enjoy 10% off stalls tickets to the award-winning show La Clique featuring the best of circus, comedy and cabaret.

To claim, use the code **LOCAL10** when booking and show your Westminster City Save card or proof of address on arrival. Maximum of four tickets per person, ages 16 and over. Tickets from £24.

During your visit, enjoy a traditional European-style Christmas market for food, drink and stocking fillers. Markets can be found in both Leicester Square and Trafalgar Square.

www.christmasinleicestersquare.com



HOXTON SPIRITS



Made from 100% natural ingredients and flavoured with real fruit. Hoxton Spirits offer a catalogue of spirits that are flavour-lead, truly unique and approachable, reflecting an innovative approach to cocktail making. The strength of their natural fruit focused recipes essentially mean you're only ever one mixer away from a cocktail.

Westminster City Save card holders receive 30% off site wide at hoxtonspirits.com

Enter promo code **Htxn2523** at checkout. Offer ends on 31 December, see website for details.

hoxtonspirits.com

ARAB CHRISTMAS AT GRAND JUNCTION



A rare opportunity to experience the atmosphere of Christmas in the Arab world as the Grand Junction in Paddington is gently lit by candles to hear Arabic, Syriac, Coptic and Byzantine chants on Saturday 6 January at 8pm. Artists performing include oud virtuoso Joseph Tawadros and Najib Coutya. Full line-up to be announced.

Booking: grandjunction.org.uk

Use the code **LOCAL50** at checkout. Please show your Westminster City Save card on arrival.

8pm, Saturday 6 January
St Mary Magdalene Church
Rowington Close, W2 5TF

CELEBRATE A CITY SAVE CHRISTMAS!

STORM FLOWERS



Storm Flowers Garden is an independent company based in Soho, offering a range of home and garden Christmas gifts made by craftspeople in the UK. City Save members receive 20% off online with discount code **SFGWEST20**.

Order online and collect from St Anne's Church clocktower on Wardour Street.

stormflowersgarden.com



ANGRUSORI AT GRAND JUNCTION



Angrusori is a collaboration between musicians from the Norwegian Kitchen Orchestra and Slovak Roma musicians. Together they seamlessly merge contemporary improvised music from Norway with traditional music of Slovak Roma, which is beautifully re-composed and hybridized by Nils Henrik Asheim and Iva Bittová.

Booking: grandjunction.org.uk

Use the code **LOCAL30** at checkout. Please show your Westminster City Save card on arrival.

8pm, Wednesday 17 January
St Mary Magdalene Church
Rowington Close, W2 5TF



Sign up for a City Save card today and start making the most of your Westminster!

westminster.gov.uk/city-save
020 7641 6000

AMIE WINE STUDIO

amie wine studio is a space at Eccleston Yards for friends to come together for a glass of amie, and to enjoy the beautiful integration of wine and art. It also serves as an art gallery in partnership with Art for Charity Collective, where guests can buy artworks by Art for Charity Collective's community of artists.

City Save members can enjoy 15% off their visit by showing their card on arrival.

 drinkamie.com

 **13 Eccleston Yards,
Belgravia, SW1W 9AZ**




WILD BY TART

Wild by Tart is a neighbourhood restaurant in Eccleston Yards. Housed in a former power station, the site combines a restaurant, bar, retail store, events space and photography studio. It was founded by Jemima Jones and Lucy Carr-Ellison, the successful duo behind bespoke catering company Tart London.

City Save card holders can receive 15% off in the restaurant during weekday lunchtimes (for a maximum of four guests).

Use the code **LOCAL15** when making a reservation and show your card when you visit.

 wildbytart.com

 **020 3848 6240**



WHAT A NIGHT!

A night of celebrating those that help keep us active, healthy and in top condition...

November saw Westminster's community sporting superstars gather at Porchester Hall to celebrate this year's Active Westminster Awards. It was an evening full of excitement, emotion and fun as we recognised those who change lives by contributing to physical activity, leisure and sport.

The evening was hosted by BBC presenter Qasa Alom and special guest, British Commonwealth Games athlete, Bianca Williams. Awards were presented to the young and old and the sense of community spirit was as high as the spirits of those that picked up a gong.



The evening was bookended by local talent, as the winner of this year's Dance Westminster, Marilyn Laban, opened the event with a spectacular routine, and the night came to a barnstorming conclusion thanks to the council's very own musical superstar, Yiannis (pictured below left), who belted out a rendition of his Eurovision-worthy *Not Simple*. The crowd were suitably pumped up as they took to their feet and danced the rest of the night away, celebrating together as a community.

"TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD TODAY MEANS A LOT. IT'S AN HONOUR FOR THE COMMUNITY PRIORITIES PROGRAMME TO RECEIVE THIS HUMBLING RECOGNITION." - PAOLA ANDREA GIANELLI



CELEBRATE THE 2023 WINNERS:

Inclusive Award: Paul Davis from Pro Touch SA

Change4Life Westminster Award: Renegades Netball Club

OneYou Westminster Award: Paola Andrea Gianelli from Fun for the over 50s!

Active Place or Space Award: Moberly Sports Centre and Porchester Centre

PE and School Sports Award: St. Mary's Bryanston Square CofE School

Club or Coach of the Year Award: Chelsea & Westminster Swimming Club

Sports Personality of The Year Award: Felix Thomis (National table tennis player)

Special Staff Awards: Sagar Barua (ActiveWestminster Relationship Manager – Leisure) and Anthony Rodriguez (Everyone Active's General Manager of Seymour Leisure Centre and Church Street Community Leisure Centre)

Rewarding and Celebrating Diversity Award: Caxton Youth Organisation

The Lord Mayor's Unsung Hero Award, in memory of Mariam Sabir: Charlotte Thomas-Rowe (Hurdles2Hoops)



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City of Westminster



WINTER

in the City



This winter, Westminster has free community and cultural activities for residents to enjoy. All will take place in warm and safe spaces around the city...

This special pull-out-and-keep section will help you to find just some of the things to do over the colder months, from your local library to the National Gallery, and some will have free hot meals. There's plenty on offer for you and your family.

Keep an eye on our dedicated webpage as more activities will be added throughout the winter months. They'll be catered for anyone looking for a warm place.

USEFUL CONTACTS

General

Citizens Advice Westminster

🌐 westminstercab.org.uk

☎ 0808 278 7834

Age UK Westminster's support for older residents

🌐 ageuk.org.uk/westminster/our-services

☎ 020 3004 5610

✉ enquiries@ageukwestminster.org.uk

Support with energy costs

There is a range of help and advice available relating to energy

🌐 westminster.gov.uk/home-energy-savings



Food support services

Food banks and pantry locations

🌐 westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support

Help finding a career

Westminster Employment Service for career help and advice

☎ 07971 026 709

✉ employmentteam@westminster.gov.uk

Coping with debt

Worried About Money leaflet is available in English, ڊری، فارسی،

basa Sunda, بڊر، باڙالو، فارسی

🌐 worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/westminster

Mental health and wellbeing advice

Westminster Talking Therapies

🌐 talkingtherapies.cnlw.nhs.uk/westminster



Have a question about Winter in the City?

✉ winterinthecity@westminster.gov.uk

Read the full listings and check for new places being added:

🌐 westminster.gov.uk/winter-in-the-city-2023

You can also find more help and advice on our Cost of Living support hub:

🌐 westminster.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support





NORTHEAST

1 ST PAUL'S CHURCH

in Marylebone and Food Cycle Marylebone welcomes anyone to attend as a guest and enjoy a free hot meal every Wednesday from 6pm. Booking isn't needed, please just turn up.

📍 5 Rossmore Road, NW1 6NJ

2 THE HELLENIC CENTRE

offers a rich programme of lectures, exhibitions, concerts, social events and Greek language courses to promote awareness of Hellenic culture.

📍 16-18 Paddington St, W1U 5AS

3 THE PORTMAN FAMILY HUB

supports young children and their families living in the Church Street area. It provides education, care and family support services all within the same building.

📍 12-18, Salisbury Street, NW8 8DE



NORTHWEST

4 THE EMMANUEL CHURCH

team is offering games, crafts, and hot soup and cakes every Wednesday from 10am to 1pm at St Luke's Church.

📍 Fernhead Road, W9 3EH

5 GRAND JUNCTION

is based in St Mary Magdalene Church in Paddington, and is a community, arts and cultural venue. It has a programme of music, art and performance for young people, families and adults. There is also a cafe that serves food and drinks, overlooking the canal.

📍 Rowington Close W2 5TF



6 THE NORTH PADDINGTON FOOD BANK:

Everybody Eats weekly community meal is open to anyone aged 50 and up. Anyone is welcome to drop by without signing up in advance. It's a great way to enjoy a meal and connect with others. The meals take place every Tuesday, from 10am to 2pm and the kitchen is open from 12.30pm.

📍 The Avenues
3-7 Third Avenue, W10 4RS

7 THE PADDINGTON CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

is open Monday to Saturday and is located at Westbourne Park Baptist Church.

📍 Westbourne Park Baptist Church, Westbourne Park Villas, W2 5EA

8 THE QUEEN'S PARK FAMILY HUB

provides a range of activities for children under 5 and their parents or carers including drop-in play, baby classes and workshops.

📍 88 Bravington Rd, W9 3AL

9 THE WARM WELCOME CAFE

at Westbourne Park Baptist Church will be offering food, a community pantry as well as activities like games and crafts. Taking place every Thursday, 11am to 4pm until 28 March (excluding 28 December).

📍 Westbourne Park Villas, W2 5EA



CENTRAL

10 THE ICA

is home to experimental visual art, performances and film. Most exhibitions are free for Westminster residents, and there are concessionary prices for residents for most films and events.

📍 The Mall, St. James's, SW1Y 5AH

11 THE NATIONAL GALLERY'S

permanent collection is free to visit. The gallery also hosts free events.

📍 Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN

12 THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

is free to attend and is host to the world's greatest collection of portraits. Spanning six centuries, their artworks reveal the inspiring and sometimes surprising personal stories that have shaped – and continue to shape – a



WINTER

in the City



15 THE ABBEY CENTRE runs a wide range of free and low-cost classes and community activities to promote healthy and cohesive communities in south Westminster. It also offers hot food, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 2pm. To join, a referral is needed from one of the Abbey Centre activities or services. Vouchers are available for the café for a hot meal in a comfortable space and the food caters for diverse groups and dietary requirements. There will also be a range of activities such as board games and access to the community bookshelves to borrow books.

📍 Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BU

16 BESSBOROUGH FAMILY HUB offers support and advice for families with children up to 19 years of age.

📍 1 Bessborough St, SW1V 2JD

17 SOUTH WESTMINSTER COMMUNITY CHOIR meets in a beautiful venue with great acoustics. New members are welcome, come along if you love to sing, or come even if you think you can't.

📍 St James the Less Church
Thorndike Street, SW1V 2PS

18 TATE BRITAIN is free to visit. Its new collection explores 500 years of British art and its many stories and voices.

📍 Millbank, SW1P 4RG

nation, from global icons to local champions, national treasures to unsung heroes.

📍 St. Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE

13 THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE has regular, free lunch time performances across the winter months.

📍 Bow St, WC2E 9DD

14 THE SUPREME COURT of the United Kingdom (UKSC) building is open to the public, Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm. There are tours and exhibitions viewable in the Court.

📍 Parliament Square, SW1P 3BD



WINTER

in the City

All libraries in Westminster are also warm spaces and have regular events for adults and children, along with computers for use, free wi-fi and study areas. Visit your local library to see what's on offer.

General contact for all libraries:

☎ 020 7641 6200

✉ libraries@westminster.gov.uk

Charing Cross Library:
4-6 Charing Cross Road,
WC2H 0HF

Church Street Library:
67 Church Street, NW8 8EU

Express Library (within Archives Centre):
10 St. Ann's Street, SW1P 2DE

Little Venice Sports Centre Library:
10 Crompton Street, W2 1ND

Maida Vale Library:
Sutherland Avenue, W9 2QT

Marylebone Library:
9-11 New Cavendish Street
W1G 9UQ

Mayfair Library:
25 South Audley Street, W1K 2PB

Paddington Library:
Porchester Road, W2 5DU

Paddington Children's Library:
Westbourne Park Baptist Church,
Westbourne Park Villas, W2 5EA

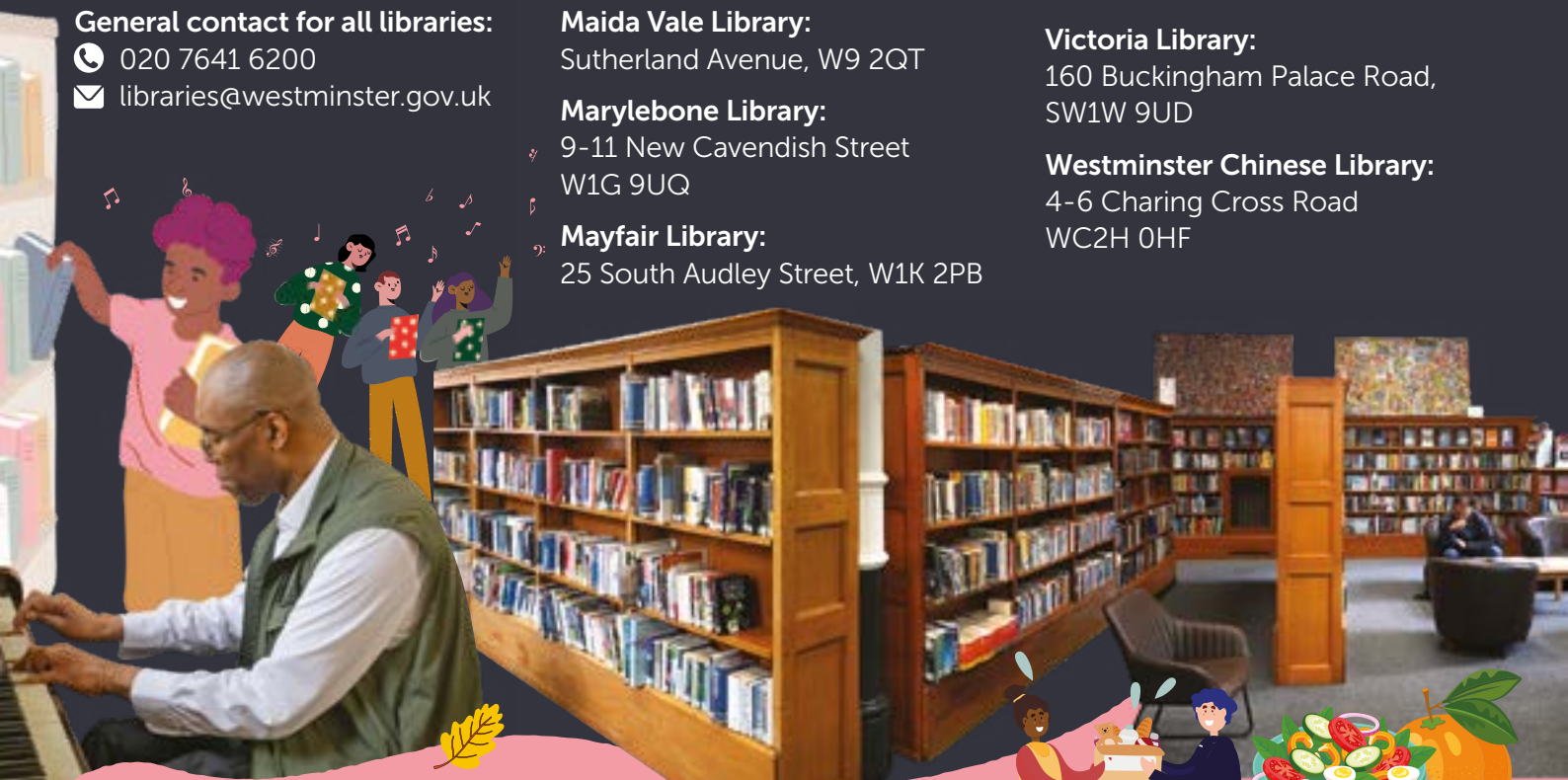
Pimlico Library:
Lupus Street, SW1V 3AT

Queen's Park Library:
666 Harrow Road, W10 4NE

St John's Wood Library:
20 Circus Road, NW8 6PD

Victoria Library:
160 Buckingham Palace Road,
SW1W 9UD

Westminster Chinese Library:
4-6 Charing Cross Road
WC2H 0HF



MORE SUPPORT AVAILABLE THIS WINTER

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

We have been allocated £3.9m from the Department of Work and Pensions Household Support Fund. This is to help the most vulnerable residents. This includes receiving free school meals and supermarket vouchers.

HARDSHIP FUND

The Westminster Council Local Hardship Fund is open for applications from residents who do not receive any means-tested benefits and have a low income of up to £30,000 (or £50,000 if there are children in the household).

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME

We are for young people aged 4 to 16 (or up to 18 for those with special educational needs and disabilities – SEND) throughout the school holidays. Places are free for those on free school meals and at a discounted rate for all others.

ROUGH SLEEPERS

Our outreach teams work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, helping people sleeping rough off the streets and into

accommodation. If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough please alert StreetLink using their app, or via www.streetlink.london.

GRITTING AND ROADS

When it's particularly cold we grit our roads to protect them from frost and ice. We have 1,400 tonnes of salt ready to go, seven gritting vehicles, nearly 200 strategically located salt bins and 1,500 tonnes of salt in reserve.

Getting the right care at the right time

For information about the services that can help you visit: www.nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/winter



Pharmacy



Local pharmacists are qualified healthcare professionals. They can help with minor health concerns including coughs, colds, upset stomachs and skin or eye infections. They can also help with medications.

Visiting a nearby pharmacy is a quick and easy way to get confidential advice on minor health concerns. No appointment needed.

GP/doctor services



Trained health professionals at your local GP practice can help with a wide range of general health problems. They may see you in-person, online or over the phone.

You need to be registered to book an appointment. You do not need proof of address, immigration status, ID or an NHS number to register at a GP. Find a practice near you: nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp

GP help

evenings
and weekends

Call your GP practice as normal. The practice answer phone will provide details of where you can get local out of hours appointments. You can also visit your GP practice website for details.

Mental health services



If you are feeling anxious, worried or depressed, the NHS offers talking therapies to help. You can refer yourself. Visit: nhstalk2us.org

In a crisis, call the free 24/7 NHS helpline:

Ealing, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham - **0800 328 4444**

Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster - **0800 0234 650**

There are also local organisations that can connect you with other people for support and help. Visit: hubofhope.co.uk or wellbeingwestlondon.org.uk

NHS 111



NHS 111 is a website and phonenumber available all day, everyday, to help if you have an urgent medical problem. Doctors, nurses, paramedics and fully trained advisors are available to ensure you receive the right care in the right place. Contact NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk or call 111.

In a life-threatening medical emergency, call 999 or attend A&E.

CUT ME OUT

MARYLEBONE



In each edition of **YourWestminster**, we'll bring you a guide to the hidden gems of the city. In this issue we travel along one of London's oldest Roman roads and discover village communities, ancient history and the birthplace of a medical milestone...



1 MERCHANT SQUARE

Paddington Basin, W2 1AS

Gateway to the massively transformed Paddington Basin, Merchant Square is a pedestrian oasis offering a respite from the mayhem of the surrounding streets. Home to a unique 'floating pocket park', the breathtaking fan bridge, a fountain maze and a host of street food options, it's a canalside paradise.

www.merchantsquare.co.uk
020 7298 2455

2 ALEXANDER FLEMING MUSEUM

St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, W2 1NY

Located within the hospital itself is the Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum, honouring the discoverer of penicillin and his discovery of the substance that changed medical history. Visitors can see his original working area restored to its original 1928 conditions and learn about the breakthrough that earned Fleming a Nobel Prize.

www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/what-we-do/fleming-museum

kevin.brown5@nhs.net
020 3312 6528

Visits are by advance appointment only



3 THERE AND NOW

Westminster Magistrates Court, 181 Marylebone Road, NW1 5BR

What is today the home of law and order, was in the 1680s a public house called the Yorkshire Stingo. While there's no trace of the original roadside tavern today, the former usage is commemorated by artist and blacksmith Bex Simons in a unique piece of metalwork sculpture that stretches across the entire 40-metre-long frontage of the court building.

www.bexsimon.com



4 L'ANGOLO BIANCO

49 Crawford Street, W1H 1JZ

This cosy, family-run Italian café has been a much-loved local institution for more than twenty years. As soon as you walk in for a hearty Mediterranean lunch, the mother and son owners treat you like members of the family. All meals are handmade, the menu is extensive, and the vibe is spot on.

[020 7724 5888](tel:02077245888)

5

THE SYLVIA YOUNG THEATRE SCHOOL

1 Nutford Place, W1H 5YZ

Unlike a normal school, noise and chaos are seen here as being talent and passion! Home to recognisable stars like Amy Winehouse, Gemma Collins, and Renne and Stella – two members of the RnB/hip-hop group FLO, the Sylvia Young Theatre school welcomes and invites all children and young adults to give classes a go and explore their creative talents.

www.syts.co.uk
[020 7258 2330](tel:02072582330)



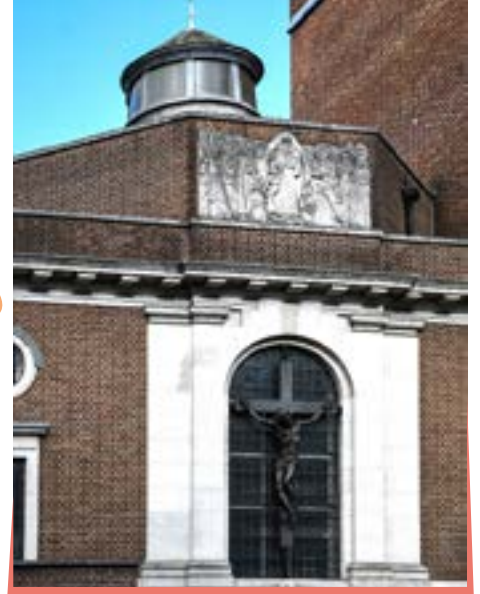
6

CONNAUGHT VILLAGE

Connaught Street, W2 2AA

A trendy, stylish and leafy 'village' in the heart of London, Connaught Village is home to a variety of boutique fashion shops, artisanal food spots, contemporary art galleries and delicious eateries. Mixing sixties style and Georgian influences, the area offers sophistication along with a genuine community feel.

connaught-village.co.uk
[020 7898 1000](tel:02078981000)



7

TYBURN CONVENT

8-9 Hyde Park Place, W2 2LJ

During the 16th century Reformation, 105 Roman Catholics were martyred on the Tyburn gallows for the then 'crime' of believing the Pope was the head of the Church. In 1903, Tyburn Convent was founded and the Tyburn Nuns have kept a vigil at this site for more than a century, commemorating the martyrs. In the Convent's depths you can even find two tiny fragments of wood, thought to be the only known remains of the original gallows.

www.tyburnconvent.org.uk
[020 7723 7262](tel:02077237262)

8

THE TYBURN TREE

North of Marble Arch, W1H 7EL

Before Marble Arch, the area around the iconic monument was known as Tyburn and was notorious as one of London's main places of public execution. From 1196 to 1783, 50,000 criminals, alleged traitors and victims of religious persecution were hanged at the site. In 1661, Oliver Cromwell was exhumed and 'hanged' at Tyburn, having previously died of natural causes in 1658. While the gallows are no longer there, a small, circular plaque embedded into the pavement between three small oak trees on a triangular traffic island commemorates the grisly spot.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/blue-plaques/tyburn-tree/

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!



THERE FOR YOU

While out at night, anyone can find themselves in a vulnerable situation, needing a helping hand. Our Night Stars are there to help you...

“IF YOU’RE THINKING OF BECOMING A NIGHT STAR, I WOULD SAY GIVE IT A GO. YOU’LL PROBABLY ENJOY IT. IT’S GREAT TO MEET PEOPLE AND EVERYBODY LOVES THE THING THAT YOU’RE DOING. EVERYBODY IS APPRECIATIVE OF IT – SO IT’S REALLY REWARDING.”

JANET WOOD, A NIGHT STAR VOLUNTEER

This winter season if you’re in need of help, the Night Stars are there for you. Whether you need directions, water, slippers, or just someone to talk to – our volunteers are there to help you.

Our volunteers are out on Friday nights and patrol the following areas:

- ★ Soho
- ★ Chinatown
- ★ Leicester Square
- ★ Piccadilly
- ★ Charing Cross
- ★ Embankment
- ★ Villiers
- ★ The Strand
- ★ Trafalgar Square

If you’re out in any of these areas, look out for the people in pink high visibility vests. They can offer you support in your time of need.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Our current volunteers share what a typical shift looks like...

“On a typical night I do tend to do the earlier shift a bit more because I work Monday to Friday. So if I do work late, I end up sleeping half a Saturday. The earlier shift is more about prevention, it’s more about bringing awareness, letting people know we are around, you go and connect with all the bouncers, all the bars, all the clubs. If you like to chat with people, it’s a really good time to start. Later on, the evening gets a bit busier. People have had a bit of a drink so you’re more hands-on there. So it’s two different shifts, but I enjoy both of them.”
– Tanya Cumming



NEED HELP ON A FRIDAY?

☎ 020 7641 3344

📍 Soho Night Hub
St Anne’s Church Hall
55 Dean Street, W1D 6AF

🕒 7pm to 4am



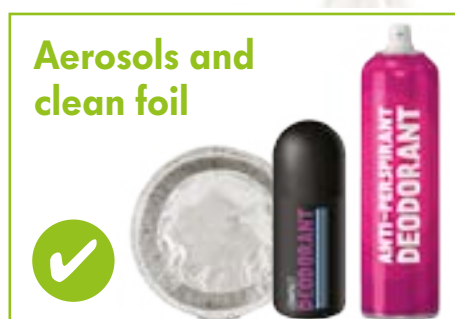
Find out more and volunteer:

🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/night-stars

☎ 020 7641 3344

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 food waste, mixed recycling or rubbish collections change over Christmas and New Year?

This information is for residents who receive kerbside collections only.

Yes, this year if your collection day is normally on a Monday you will have a change to your regular collection day. These changes are as follows:

If your regular collection day is:	It will be changed to:
Monday 25 December 2023 – Christmas Day	You will receive a special collection on Wednesday 27 December 2023
Tuesday 26 December 2023 – Boxing Day	No change
Wednesday 27 December 2023	No change
Thursday 28 December 2023	No change
Friday 29 December 2023	No change
Saturday 30 December 2023	No change
Monday 1 January 2024 – New Year's Day	You will receive a special collection on Wednesday 3 January 2024

If your regular kerbside collection day is a Monday, our crews will not collect your waste that day over the festive season. Please do not leave your food waste, mixed recycling or rubbish out for collection.

Special Wednesday collections

If your regular collection day is a Monday, our crews will collect your food waste, mixed recycling and rubbish as part of a special catch-up collection on Wednesday 27 December 2023 and Wednesday 3 January 2024.

Please note if your property normally receives two or more rubbish collections a week, you will not receive a special Wednesday collection. Please use your other regular collections later in the week.

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 Wednesday 27 December 2023 to the end of the day Wednesday 10 January 2024**. 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

MAKING A CHANGE TOGETHER



Earlier this year, we held our first ever Citizens' Climate Assembly, bringing together residents from across the city to help us tackle climate change in Westminster...

Adapting to our changing climate and becoming a net zero city by 2040 requires collaboration with everybody across Westminster. That's why we initiated a citizens' assembly several months ago, putting residents at the heart of decision-making around how we can collectively respond to the climate emergency.

Fifty randomly selected residents attended our four sessions, addressing the following issues:

- **How can we overcome the main barriers to Westminster becoming a net zero city by 2040 together?**
- **How do we ensure this is delivered in the fairest way?**

Assembly members used learnings from the first session to agree their vision, principles and recommendations. Subsequent meetings saw the assembly digging into the fine details of these aims and by the end of the final gathering, had agreed upon recommendations for the council to follow. You can get involved with local decision-making yourself at: westminster.gov.uk/our-westminster

More information:
westminster.gov.uk/climate-assembly



Stay up to date and sign up to our newsletter:
westminster.gov.uk/newsletters

THE EIGHT MAJORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The council should fund and support greening initiatives and projects.
- The council is to build and introduce renewable energy technology on new and existing infrastructure, while also supporting current initiatives.
- There should be an energy efficiency rating for any organisation that owns, manages or occupies non-residential buildings in Westminster.
- It should be mandatory for all types of businesses to ensure developers reuse and recycle materials and minimise energy use.
- We should make climate action the council's top priority when updating planning policies and documents, or giving approvals.
- We should develop a climate educational programme for the community (including schools) which builds green skills.
- Recycling needs to be scaled up by all stakeholders to include a wider variety of waste streams.
- We expect the council to reconvene the Citizens' Assembly annually, regardless of current political affiliation, to account for its progress and to re-state goals in light of any shortfall.

WHAT IS A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY?

Citizens' Assemblies have been used by cities across the world when serious topics need to be addressed. They're a type of democratic decision-making process in which randomly selected groups of people are brought together to:

- Learn all about a topic.
- Discuss it with each other in a series of lively workshops, panels and meetings.
- Make recommendations for the organising bodies to follow about what should happen and how things should change.

"TOGETHER, WE MUST TAKE ACTION. BEING A BYSTANDER IS NO LONGER AN OPTION. WE MUST ENVISION A FUTURE WHERE GENERATIONS APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF OUR NATURAL WORLD AND ARE PROUD OF THE LEGACY WE LEAVE BEHIND."



MYRA

Member of Westminster Youth Parliament

WESTMINSTER HOME ENERGY ADVICE SERVICE



High energy costs are affecting us all. Being more energy-efficient at home can reduce your energy bills while cutting your carbon footprint. Delivered in partnership with Groundworks and the Green Doctors, the Home Energy Advice Service can provide free home visits from an independent energy advisor who will:

- Review your energy bills, property and circumstances
- Fit energy-saving devices such as energy-efficient lightbulbs and radiator panels
- Give energy-saving tips and advice to control heating and cooling settings

- Provide support with energy-related debts including applying for grants
- Give guidance on home retrofit schemes you may be eligible for

WHY USE THE SERVICE?

- 86% of recent service users have reduced the amount of energy they use
- £250 average annual energy saving
- 76% of recent service users now feel less stressed about their energy bills
- 92% would recommend the service to a friend, family or neighbour

“I HAD A HOME VISIT AND WANTED TO SAY WHAT AN AMAZING SERVICE IT WAS. ‘DAVID’ COULD NOT HAVE BEEN NICER OR MORE HELPFUL. HE CAREFULLY ADVISED ME ON ANY BENEFITS I COULD GET, ADVISED ME ON HOW TO SAVE ENERGY, AND INSULATED THE RADIATORS, WINDOW AND DOOR PERFECTLY. I EVEN GOT LIGHTBULBS, A NEW SHOWER HEAD AND A BEAUTIFUL HOT WATER BOTTLE COVERED IN LOVE HEARTS!”

Mrs D, a Westminster resident

For more information:

☎ 0300 365 3005

✉ GreenDoctorsLDN@groundwork.org.uk

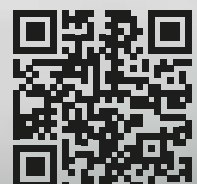
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- 📍 Selbourne House, 36A Elgin Avenue, London, W9 3AZ
- 🌐 www.robinsonwilsonsolicitors.co.uk



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City of Westminster

DIGITAL WESTMINSTER

MEMORY LAB

Converting old photos to digital files is an excellent way to preserve your family history for generations to come.



Saving life's precious moments, forever

Simply bring in your old photographs or newspaper cuttings to one of the drop-in sessions.

This free service is available from the Westminster Libraries and Archives and your photographs could become part of Westminster's history.

FREE

Drop-in sessions available until
16 Jan 2024

Every Tuesday
10am – 1pm

Every Thursday
2pm – 5pm

Church Street Library
67 Church Street, NW8 8EU
Call: 020 7641 5490

Find out more:



www.westminster.gov.uk/memory-lab

YOUR COUNCIL SERVICES

GENERAL CONTACT DETAILS

- ☎ 020 7641 7000
- ✉ responsewcc@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk

ADULT EDUCATION

- ☎ 020 7297 7297
- ✉ info@waes.ac.uk
- 🌐 www.waes.ac.uk

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

- ☎ 020 7641 1444
 - ☎ 020 7641 1175
 - ✉ adultsocialcare@westminster.gov.uk
 - 🌐 www.peoplefirstinfo.org.uk
- 

ANIMAL WELFARE

- ✉ awarden@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/animal-welfare

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- ☎ 0800 358 3783 **Freephone**
- ✉ housing.enquiries@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/housing

ARCHIVES

- ☎ 020 7641 6200
- ✉ archives@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/archives

BENEFITS

- ☎ 0800 072 0042 **Freephone**
 - ✉ westminster.benefits@secure.capita.co.uk
 - 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/benefits
- 

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES (Register Office)

- ☎ 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

- ☎ 020 7641 7000
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/health-and-social-care

HOUSING SERVICES

- ☎ 0800 358 3783 **Freephone**
- ✉ housing.enquiries@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/housing

LEISURE CENTRES

- ✉ active@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.active.westminster.gov

LIBRARIES

- ☎ 020 7361 3993
 - ☎ 020 7641 6200
 - ✉ libraries@westminster.gov.uk
 - 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries
- 

PARKING

- ☎ 020 7823 4567
- ✉ parkingservices@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

PEST CONTROL

- ☎ 0800 358 0514 **Freephone**
- ✉ pestcontrol@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/pest-control

RECYCLING/RUBBISH

- ☎ 020 7641 2000
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/recycling



REPORT IT

- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/report-it

SEN

- ☎ 020 7361 3311
- ✉ SEN@rbkc.gov.uk
- 🌐 localoffer.westminster.gov.uk

STREET MARKETS

- ☎ 020 7641 8549
- ☎ 020 7641 7010
- ✉ streettradinglicensing@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 www.westminster.gov.uk/markets

WESTMINSTER CONNECTS

- ☎ 020 7641 1222
- 🌐 westminster.gov.uk/westminster-connects

WESTMINSTER EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

- ☎ 07971 026709
- ✉ employmentteam@westminster.gov.uk
- 🌐 westminster.gov.uk/wes



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