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We're looking for Lewisham's next Young Mayor

1 message

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Dear resident,

There's only a few more days to cast your vote for your favourite businesses in the Mayor of Lewisham Business Awards, with voting closing on Monday 13 October at 9am. We had a staggering number of votes last year – nearly 9,000 – and we're on track to beat it this year, can we get to 10,000? Thank you to everyone who has voted so far. If you haven't yet, there is still time. Find more information on all the finalists and then cast your vote to help decide who wins.

It's World Mental Health Day tomorrow and, while the day is a good opportunity to reflect on your wellbeing, I urge you to be mindful of your mental health all year round. We tend to seek help for our physical health long before our mental health, even though it is just as important. Access support for your health and wellbeing in Lewisham.

Finally, I know some people might be thinking ahead to the winter months and festive season and be worried about bills. I would like to remind you of our cost of living support hub, which has lots of useful advice, from household budgeting to food support.

Did you know that since we launched BetterOff Lewisham last year we have distributed over £10 million in benefits to eligible people? BetterOff Lewisham is an online tool for people to check what benefits they may be entitled to, help them apply, and provide information on how to find and apply for jobs. In the last financial year, over 1,200 local people used it and found they could claim an average of over £7,100 each – a truly life-changing amount. Visit BetterOff Lewisham to see if you are eligible.

Best wishes
Brenda Dacres

Mayor of Lewisham

In case you missed it

- TikTok stars SpudBros bring their magic to Blackheath Fireworks
- Construction begins at Lewisham Library
- Attend a Black History Month event
- Learning from the Ombudsman: how we're improving housing services
- Get your tickets for Blackheath Fireworks



We’re looking for Lewisham’s next Young Mayor!

If you are - or know - a young person passionate about leading change and representing your community, now’s the time to get involved! Applications are open for Lewisham’s next Young Mayor. To find out more or apply, download the candidate pack and send your completed form to katy.brown@lewisham.gov.uk by Friday 28 November 2025.

Family Fun and Marketplace at Broadway Catford this weekend

Broadway Catford will be buzzing this Saturday 11 October, with a Marketplace and Family Day.

Enjoy the SEEN Marketplace from 11am-6pm, featuring local makers, food, crafts, and live music. Families can catch “The Surprise Party of Oz” and an African Drumming Workshop, both free at

Broadway Theatre. Don't miss the spectacular SEEN Lewisham finale, "SEEN This?" on Sunday 12 October, 7.30pm, hosted by Robbie Gee and Eddie Nestor MBE with special guest Shola Ama. All tickets £5. Book now and check out the weekend's full line-up!

If you have already attended a show this week, please share your feedback. Help shape the future of the festival with your feedback.

Step into Imagined Worlds this November!

Lewisham Libraries invite you to a month-long celebration of sci-fi and fantasy. Enjoy a jam-packed programme of events, screenings and talks across local libraries, all designed to spark your imagination and transport you to new realms.

Last year's festival was so successful it helped Lewisham Libraries win the prestigious London Library of the Year award. Discover Imagined Worlds at our libraries and join the adventure.

Flu season is upon us

It's that time of year again where flu starts spreading through the capital. The best way to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community is to get a flu jab. The flu vaccine is offered free on the NHS to anyone over the age of 65, people with certain health conditions, people who live/work in care homes, pregnant people and school-aged children. Find out more about the flu vaccine.

Free acting taster courses

This autumn, we're launching a fresh line-up of acting courses designed for every level – from curious beginners to seasoned performers. Whether you want to build confidence, improve your public speaking or prepare for auditions, our expert-led classes will help you develop your technique.

And the best part? We're offering free taster sessions so you can try a class before committing. Find out more about acting classes.

Apply for a new Climate Grant to help kickstart your projects

Are you a local business or organisation looking to lead the way on climate action? We've just launched new rounds of grant funding. You can apply for one of two new climate grants to help reduce waste, lower energy use and support local sustainability. There are two grants available:

- **Community Energy Fund** now open for community-led projects
- **Repair, Reuse, Recycle business grants** opening Monday 20 October

More details and how to apply to the Climate Grants.

You can also join us for the launch on Thursday 23 October, 6pm, at Blue Garage, Lewisham to find out more.

Free cult Halloween screening at Deptford Library

As the nights draw in, Films in the Foyer returns. Join us on Thursday 30 October at 6.45pm for a rare cult comedy-horror screening in Deptford Library's spooky front foyer. Discover a hidden gem

from a legendary director – film title revealed in-library.

Free popcorn provided and bring your own snacks. The film starts at 7pm. Wheelchair accessible, with subtitles and accessible toilets. For accessibility needs, call 020 8314 7299 or email deptfordlibrary@lewisham.gov.uk.

Working together to tackle phone theft in Lewisham

Last week, our Safer Communities team joined forces with the Met Police for a free phone marking event at Lewisham Shopping Centre, helping residents protect their devices from theft.

Phones were marked with a unique QR code and registered to a secure database – increasing the chances of recovery if they're ever lost or stolen. The event is part of our ongoing work with the Met Police to tackle phone theft and keep Lewisham's streets safer. Find out more about how to protect your phone.

National Hate Crime Awareness Week training

Next week marks National Hate Crime Awareness Week – a time to stand together against hate and promote respect and inclusion across Lewisham. As part of the week, we've partnered with Stop Hate UK to deliver a free online Hate Crime Awareness session. The session will highlight how Stop Hate UK works with local partners to support residents, workers and visitors in Lewisham.

The session takes place on Friday 17 October at 10am on Microsoft Teams, and everyone is welcome to join.

Job of the week: Apprentice Safeguarding and Tenancy Sustainment (£25,276 per annum)

Ready for a new challenge? Want to learn as you earn? You will work with the Safeguarding and Tenancy Sustainment Manager to provide a high quality, customer focussed and responsive Safeguarding and Tenancy Sustainment service to both internal and external customers.

Learn more about the Apprentice Safeguarding and Tenancy Sustainment role

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