



**LOVE
SOUTHWARK**

Your guide to summer in Southwark.
Parks, festivals, sport, libraries, youth
programmes and more, happening right
across the borough, all summer long.
Most of it **FREE**, all of it worth it.
Pick something. Get out there!

Summer 2026



**Don't miss a thing this
summer!**

Stay up to date with what's
going on by signing up to our
free weekly e-newsletter:
bit.ly/LoveSouthwark

Southwark
Council



Hello and welcome to our special summer activities pages.

From our libraries and leisure centres to parks, playgrounds and festivals, there is so much to enjoy in Southwark this summer for all ages.

It can be difficult to keep the kids entertained during those long school summer holidays – and it can be costly too.

Whether you are looking for fun things to do with the family, or somewhere to hang out with friends, we've rounded up a wide range of events and activities taking place across the borough this summer.

Most of them are free or with just a small charge, so families and friends can get out and about and enjoy time together, try new things and keep boredom at bay.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Councillor Vanessa Threadgold

Move Games – Summer fun for kids

Get ready for a summer packed with action, adventure, and non-stop fun! Something different every day: swimming and pool discos, badminton, pickleball, an interactive games wall, sports-hall games, rookie lifeguard, Kids BOX, dance, yoga, junior gym and watersports – plus a Family Fun Day on 22 August. Every day is a new chance to play, move, and make amazing summer memories! Book via the **Move Southwark App** or movesouthwark.co.uk from 8 July; spaces are limited and times vary by centre.



This summer's line up includes:

- Swimming and pool disco (all ages)
- Badminton and pickleball (age 6+)
- Interactive games wall (age 6+)
- Sports hall games (age 8+)
- Rookie lifeguard sessions
- Kids BOX12 (age 11 to 15)
- Kids dance (age 8 to 15)
- Kids yoga (10 to 15)
- GYMFluence Junior gym (age 11 to 15)
- Kayaking, paddleboarding and rowing (age 8+)



How to book

Booking is easy! Simply download the Move Southwark App and select "Make a Booking" or visit movesouthwark.co.uk and click "Book".

Bookings open from 8 July - spaces are limited, so be sure to book early! Activities and times vary by centre.

Free kid's activities for summer!

Looking for ways to keep the kids active, entertained, and smiling this summer? Join us for a summer packed with adventure, laughter, and exciting new experiences with our **FREE** Move Games activities at your local Move Southwark leisure centres.

From **27 July to 28 August**, children can dive into a fantastic range of activities designed to help them stay active, build confidence, make new friends, and create unforgettable summer memories. With something different to enjoy every day, there's plenty to keep them moving all summer long!

Southwark Splash Summer Swim School

Dive into a summer of fun! From first splashes to swimming success, our weekly classes help children build confidence in the water while having a fantastic time. Whether they're just starting out or looking to improve their skills, our holiday courses are packed with learning, achievement and fun. Available for pre-school and upwards.

Date: Summer holidays – weekly courses

Cost: £42.40 per child (four 30-minute lessons per week)

Location: Camberwell, Canada Water, Dulwich, Peckham Pulse and The Castle Leisure Centres

To book: Southwarkleisureinfo@southwark.gov.uk
Include the centre, swim stage level, plus the name and age of the child.

Adventure Playgrounds & Youth Centres



Southwark has around 200 play areas across the borough to enjoy this summer, along with award-winning parks across all neighbourhoods and 65 sites of nature conservation too. Free open-access play and youth provision at Southwark Council's adventure playgrounds and youth centres. Most run Monday to Friday through the summer holidays; check **OneHub Southwark** and **ACN London** for each site's full Summer programme.

Summer Holidays at DKHAP

Free open-access adventurous play on tyre swings, zip wire and tree castle. Weekly drop-in extras including arts and crafts, music workshops and table tennis tournaments.

Date: Monday – Friday throughout summer holidays (not bank holidays)

Location: Dog Kennel Hill Adventure Playground

Time: 11am–5pm

More info: @DKHAP on Instagram

To book: www.dkhap.org.uk

Summer fun

Free open-access play, arts & crafts, sports, trips and gaming.

Date: Monday to Friday, 27 July – 21 August

Location: Ellen Brown APG, Mint Street APG, Peckham Rye APG, Damilola Taylor Youth Centre, Bethwin APG (formerly Brandon YC) and New Venture Youth Centre

Time: 11.30am–4.30pm

To book: www.onehubsouthwark.co.uk



ACN Summer Activities for young people

Active Communities Network (ACN) London runs free youth clubs, multi-sports, football, e-sports / gaming, creative art classes and clubs as well as a Sunday run club at adventure playgrounds and community venues.

Date: Throughout summer holidays

Locations: The OBC, Bethwin Adventure Playground, Rockingham Community Centre, 231 Old Kent Road, Penrose TRA Hall, Bells Gardens Community Centre and Burgess Park

Time: Monday to Friday & Sunday, varies by venue

To book: www.Activecommunities.org.uk

Bethwin Summer Play Scheme (ages 5 to 16)

Six-week summer play scheme with daily multi-sports, weekly trips to Southwark libraries, the annual carnival, sports day and picnic at Burgess Park, lots of water play, and a closing BBQ and talent show case.

Date: Monday to Friday, 20 July – 30 August

Cost: Free

Location: Bethwin Adventure Playground

To book: www.bethwin.co.uk

Nature & Wildlife – London Wildlife Trust



London Wildlife Trust offers free guided walks, a citizen-science bioblitz, bat and tree-ID walks, plus family nature discovery and pond dipping across Southwark's woods and parks.

Most sessions are free and suitable for families; the school-holiday programme at Sydenham Hill Wood runs weekly from 27 July. Book on the Wild London website: wildlondon.org.uk/events

Woodland Festival (nature loving families)

Free festival celebrating nature with guided walks, tree/fungi/bird/insect/plant discovery, history storytelling, creative writing, craft activities, live music, art exhibits, face painting and food.

Date: Saturday, 19 September

Location: Sydenham Hill Wood & Dulwich Wood

Time: 11am–3pm



Activity	Details	Location
Big Butterfly Count Kick off the free national Big Butterfly Count in Burgess Park. Butterfly ID walks and arts and crafts in the park's new meadows and woodland glades.	Friday, 17 July 1.30–5.30pm	Burgess Park
Botanical Plant Oils Workshop (adults) Hands-on workshop exploring botanical plant oils for skincare – sweet almond, jojoba and more. Learn oil-based formulation for skin, hair and body products. Free + £3 booking fee (waived on request). Booking essential. email: dwallace@wildlondon.org.uk	Sunday, 19 July 10am–3pm	London Wildlife Trust Centre
Bat Walk A free late-evening, guided walk with bat detectors. Spot bats in flight and hear their echolocation calls.	Thursday, 23 July 8.30–10pm	Russia Dock Woodland
Gardening Workshop (adults) Beginners' introduction to sustainable gardening. Covers fundamentals for home gardens, balconies and outdoor spaces. Q&A welcome. Free + £3 booking fee (waived on request). Booking essential.	Sunday, 26 July 10am–3pm	London Wildlife Trust Centre
Nature Activities Nature exploration, pond dipping and a nature specialist club. Free Thursdays sessions: Family Nature Discovery for toddlers Tuesdays: Urban Nature Club for 6+ years	27 July – 25 Aug Mondays: 10.30–11.30am Thursdays: 1–3pm Pond dipping: 1–3pm	Sydenham Hill Wood & Dulwich Wood
Tree ID Walk – Camberwell A free, monthly tree identification walk: July edition at Camberwell Old Cemetery.	Thursday, 30 July 6.30–8pm	Camberwell Old Cemetery
Southwark Woodland Bioblitz Guided citizen science walk through Southwark's woodland areas. Learn about the Great North Wood and collect biodiversity data.	Wednesday, 12 August 10am–3pm	Nunhead Cemetery to Camberwell Old Cemetery
Tree ID Walk – Nunhead Monthly tree identification walk – August edition at Nunhead Cemetery.	Thursday, 27 August 6.30–8pm	Nunhead Cemetery
Creating a Mini Container Pond for Wildlife Southwark Nature Neighbourhoods is a campaign supporting residents to create wildlife habitats where you live. Come along to their free online webinar and hear from Froglife charity. Free pond starter kits for Southwark residents	Wednesday 19 August 6pm	Online Register to attend: https://snn-pond-webinar.eventbrite.co.uk

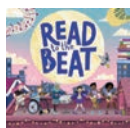


Libraries



Southwark's libraries are jam packed with activities and events to keep children busy this summer.

Read to the Beat! (ages 0 to 11)



This year's Summer Reading Challenge theme is 'Read to the Beat!'. Celebrating the joy of music and reading. Children read books and collect prizes throughout the summer. Illustrated by Harry Woodgate. There is also an under-5s Storytime & Rhyme and music-themed craft sessions.

Date: All summer

Cost: Free

Location: All open Southwark Libraries (Dulwich & Brandon closed for refurbishment)

Time: Library opening hours

To book: Libraries@Southwark.gov.uk

Music Craft Activities (ages 13 to 18)

Volunteering opportunities for teenagers plus a special trip to Waterstones to help select new books for the library.

Date: All summer

Cost: Free

Location: All open Southwark Libraries & Waterstones

To book: Libraries@Southwark.gov.uk

Family Support

Southwark Council is here to support you during the summer holidays.



Food and Fun Holiday Clubs (ages 4 to 16)

Free holiday clubs for children who receive benefit-related free school meals. Fun weekday activities plus healthy free food.

Date: Monday to Friday, 20 July – 28 August

Cost: Free (benefit-related FSM only)

Location: Various venues

Time: Monday to Friday

To book: <https://eequ.org/southwarkfoodandfun>

Summer Adventures (neurodiverse families)

Summer programme of workshops for neurodiverse young people aged 8–18 (and their friends). Forest School, night-time bat walks, kayaking, paddle boarding, art and craft, terrarium making, dance, Adventure Playground and a Seven Sisters coastal walk.

Date: 27 July – 30 August

Location: SE1 and beyond

Time: Varies

To book: <https://theneurodiversityfamilyhub.org/> or info@theneurodiversityfamilyhub.org



Southwark's parks and playgrounds

Free football and holiday multi-sports camps with qualified coaches at Marlborough Sports Garden and venues across the borough.

Free camp places are reserved for children from low-income families, referred via local primary schools.



Tennis coaching and holiday camps

National Tennis Association (NTA): Coaching, social tennis drop-ins, activities and kids' summer holiday camps.

Date: Summer holidays

Cost: See website

Location: Burgess Park, Brunswick Park, Geraldine Mary Harmsworth (GMH), Tanner Street Park, Southwark Park

To book: hello@nationaltennis.org.uk
clubspark.lta.org.uk/SouthwarkParksTennisCoaching

Vamos Tennis

Tennis coaching, social tennis drop-ins, activities and kids' summer holiday camps.

Date: Summer holidays

Cost: See website

Location: Belair Park, Dulwich Park, Honor Oak Recreation Ground

To book: clubspark.lta.org.uk/VamosTennis,
hello@vamos-tennis.com

Barclays Free Park Tennis

Free, social tennis sessions. No equipment needed. Each week sign up to a one-hour session at your local park court. Meet new people, get a free full-body workout and practise your skills.

Date: Every weekend, all summer

Cost: Free

Location: Various

Time: 10am (1-hour sessions)

To book: lta.org.uk/play/free-park-tennis/

BMX Track Sessions (8+ years)

Free BMX track sessions. Booking essential.

Date: Saturday, 9 and Saturday, 16 August

Cost: Free

Location: The BMX Track London

Time: Session 1: 1–2pm, Session 2: 2.30–3.30pm

To book: thebmtrack.london@southwark.gov.uk or 07976 340 111

Ballers Academy (School years 1-9)

Ballers Academy Summer Holiday Camps are back, offering children of all abilities a fun, active and confidence-building football experience during the school holidays.

Date: Camps run from 24 July to 14 August

Location: Peter Hills Sports Pitch, Rotherhithe

Cost: Weekly places from £70

To book: Register at ballersacademy.co.uk.

Premier League Kicks (ages 12 to 16)

Free weekly football sessions, youth work, mentoring, workshops, social action and volunteering. Helping young people develop skills, confidence and the chance to represent Millwall FC.

Dulwich: 8 June – 21 August

East Dulwich: 15 June – 17 August

Free girls-only football session for all abilities, delivered by qualified Millwall coaches. Train to develop, get selected for teams and play in tournaments representing Millwall.

St Paul's Sports Ground: Wednesdays: 10 June – 19 August. 8–16 (girls only)

To book: <https://www.millwallcommunity.org.uk/premier-league-kicks>



Arts & Culture



Free and low-cost arts for families and young people.

Self-guided trails and drop-in family days at South London Gallery, family shows and workshops at Shakespeare's Globe, and exhibitions and youth arts projects across Southwark.



Activity	Details	Location
Curtain Up Exhibition Exhibition exploring how theatrical portraits reveal performance, costume and identity. Pairs historic works with contemporary artists, uncovering stories of queerness, gender and self-presentation. To book: dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk	19 May – 25 October 2026 10am–5pm	Dulwich Picture Gallery
Theatre Peckham Academy (ages 3 to 16) 2026/27: Applications are now open. 40 years of inspiring children to imagine, create and shine. Performing-arts training across musical theatre, ballet, acro, song writing and music production, acting, acting for screen, hip-hop theatre, tap, street dance, Junior Acting Company and Young & Talented Theatre Creators. Paid activities. To book: theatrepeckham.co.uk/tp-academy/	20 July onwards	Theatre Peckham
The Scene Collective (young people) Final showcase of 24 students who have spent four months working with Artists-in-Residence to explore visual identity, creative collaboration and culture. Performances, documentary screening and open Q&A for local arts organisations. Free, to book: helloscenecollective@gmail.com	Thursday, 16 July 5–8pm	Bold Tendencies, 95a Rye Lane, SE15 4ST
Children's Garden Trails (ages 5 to 12) Free self-guided garden worksheet for children and families. Explore green spaces and get creative in the Orozco Garden. To book: southlondongallery.org/events/childrens-garden-trail/	Every Saturday & Sunday, all summer 12–6pm	South London Gallery, Orozco Garden
Family Space (ages 5 to 12) A free, relaxed, inclusive drop-in space for families to explore and make together. Artist-led sessions at your own pace. First-come first-served. Children must be accompanied with a parents or carers. To book: southlondongallery.org/whats-on/	Saturday 25 July 11am–3pm	South London Gallery
A World Elsewhere – Family Show Epic family show following Cass, whose imagination takes him on adventures inspired by his Grandma's love of Shakespeare. Music, friendship and storytelling. Assisted performances include captioned, BSL, relaxed and audio described. From £5 (200+ tickets at £5 per performance; 180,000+ at £10 or less). To book: shakespearesglobe.com	25 July – 30 August	Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe
Family Workshops (ages 5 to 11) Hands-on family workshops exploring A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest, Twelfth Night and A World Elsewhere using storytelling, games and drama. BSL workshops also available. Many include a Globe Theatre Guided Tour. Children must be accompanied with a parents or carers. To book: shakespearesglobe.com	Summer holidays	Shakespeare's Globe
Young Actors Short Course Immersive week-long acting courses for aspiring young actors. Practical exploration of Shakespeare's texts, creative exercises and performance opportunities culminating in a stage sharing. To book: shakespearesglobe.com	3 August – 30 October (rolling weekly courses)	Shakespeare's Globe
Art & Design Club (ages 13 to 16) Free 20-week textiles-focused Art & Design Saturday Club. Sustainable textiles, print, upcycling and embroidery. Part of the National Saturday Club network. To book: saturday-club.org/club/hotel-elephant/	Saturdays, October 2026 – March 2027 10am–1pm	Hotel Elephant Studios (former St John's School)

Festivals & Community Events



Free community festivals, fêtes and cultural celebrations across Southwark's parks and neighbourhoods throughout the summer. Live music, food, family entertainment and local culture. Most are free to attend; just turn up.

Bermondsey Carnival

One of Southwark's oldest community events, marking its 125th anniversary. Live music, DJs, food and drink, funfair, kids' entertainment, sports, arts and crafts and community stalls. Supported by Southwark Council.

Date: Bank Holiday, Monday, 31 August

Location: Southwark Park

Time: 1–9pm

To book: bermondseycarnival@gmail.com



Activity	Details	Location
Making Our Neighbourhood Outdoor community gathering inspired by the food, market and music cultures of Walworth, East Street, Camberwell and Peckham. Live music on the People's Stage, talks, local food traders, craft stalls, creative workshops and community organisations. To book: soundsbetweenlondon@gmail.com	Sunday, 19 July 12–6pm	Burgess Park
Latin American Community Market Weekly community market.	Every Saturday 10-4pm	Liverpool Grove
Jumbi Jamboree Free community gathering on Peckham Rye Common rooted in the spirit of a local park hang. Curated DJs, selectors and live performers connected to South London, alongside talks, discussions on community and culture, and independent food traders.	Saturday, 15 August 12pm–8pm	Peckham Rye Common
DalooUKdiaspora Cultural Open Day Official launch of DalooUKdiaspora and Daloo-Bete Cultural Open Day celebrating Ivorian diaspora culture.	Saturday, 29 August From 4.30pm	Rennie & Manor Hall
Southwark Singalong Social Intergenerational live singalong event with pianist Tom Carradine. Classic songs, audience interaction, free tea and biscuits. Bringing together families, older residents and the wider community. To book: babybroadway.co.uk/baby-knee-up	Friday, 4 September Concerts at 11am & 2pm	Mint Street Park
Pasley Park Fête Celebrating the diversity of Newington. DJ, music and dance performances, local stalls, dog show and drama animating the story of WWI VC winner Sergeant Frank Edward Stubbs.	Saturday, 6 September 12–5pm	Pasley Park

