I am a keen long distance runner and I will be running the London Marathon in 2015. One thing our residents probably do not know about you?

The Thames. I love walking along the South Bank watching the street performers and enjoying the beautiful views over.

What is your favourite thing to do in London for free?

Getting to Know........ Lauren Panton (Housing Officer)

The following residents returned their surveys and feedback is always important as it helps us improve our services to all our residents.

Why not email us your answer? Just be sure to include you contact details.

RETURNED TENANT REPAIR SATISFACTION

Quarter I Wandsworth - Mrs Le £10

Competition Time!!
The Jumble Up quiz this quarter is: YEMUAORLFEOVN

Clue is: Saving

Entries must be received by 15th October 2014.

Why not email us your answer? Just be sure to include you contact details.

YEMUAORLFEOVN

Clue is: Saving

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Why not email us your answer? Just be sure to include you contact details.

The Nunhead Bite
A weekend long festival celebrating food, culture and the community in Nunhead.

12 October 2014 - Music in Brockwell Park
Located at the Bandstand, Herne Hill SE24

12 October 2014 - Family Film Club
Forest Hill Library - 1.30pm to 4.35pm

14 October 2014 - Remembering Nelson Mandela at Torridon Road Library
Share memories & reflect upon a great man of his times

25 October 2014 - Fathers Reading Everyday Launch Party at Peckham Library
Helping you get into the habit of reading with your child every day - 11am to 12.30pm. Please contact: elaine.walters@southwark.gov.uk for more info.

1 November 2014 - Blackheath Fireworks
Funfair from 4pm, food & drink from 6pm, fireworks at 8pm!
This is one of the biggest events in the capital and it is free of charge!

5 November 2014 - Lambeth Fireworks, Brockwell Park
Bonfire, funfair, food stalls and lots of entertainment between 5pm to 10pm.

Don’t Lose Your Right To Vote......

Did you know the way you register to vote has changed?

You can now register to vote online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Even if you were registered in the past, there is a possibility you may need to register again. Furthermore, if you’ve moved in the last 18 months you are more likely to be missing from the electoral register than before. You need to register in order to be able to vote. If you aren’t registered to vote, you won’t have a say on who represents you. You also may want to register to vote if you are applying for credit. This is because credit reference agencies use the register to confirm where you live in order to counteract fraud. If you don’t have access to the internet or can’t use it, your local electoral registration staff will be able to assist you. To get their contact details or to find out more about the changes to electoral registration you can visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or call 020 7271 0500.

Your vote matters. Make sure you’re in.
WELFARE REFORM
By now you should be familiar with the term welfare reform, they are the changes the current Government have made to the welfare system. It includes Universal credit (UC), Bedroom Tax and Benefit Caps. The last two have already been implemented and Universal Credit is due to be introduced by the end of 2015. UC will replace Job Seekers Allowance, Child & Working Tax credit. Income Support, Housing Benefits and Employment Support Allowance. The benefit will be paid direct to the claimant once a month and it is then the claimant’s responsibility to pay all their out goings including rent and utilities bills. It is important that residents who currently receive Housing Benefit begin to prepare for this change by ensuring they have a working bank account and get use to budgetting their monthly expenditure. If you wish to discuss this please speak to your Housing Officer who will be happy to offer assistance.

DHP
To help people going through the welfare reform the government also introduced Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). If you are having difficulty paying your rent you should make an application for DHP by contacting your local HB office. Please bear in mind these are discretionary payments and should not be relied upon as a long term solution.

If you are worried about your financial situation please contact your Housing Officer.

MONEY SAVING TIPS
This issue we give you tips on how to save when shopping!

SHOP AROUND
It could be cheaper to go to a different store if you find you’re spending a lot on your groceries. You can save money on your food shopping with simple ideas like checking what you have, making a list and meal planning. It’s also smart to avoid smaller supermarket convenience stores as these can be more expensive.

WATCH OUT FOR “SPECIAL OFFERS”
Special offers can be a great way to save money, but they can sometimes catch you out. Make sure you work out whether a deal is really as good as it looks and if a ‘2 for 1’ or ‘3 for £1’ offer will actually save you money.

For example, your favourite cereal is on a ‘3 for 2’ offer, when each box is normally £1.50. Three boxes will cost you £3 so you’ve saved £1.50, right? Not necessarily. If another supermarket is selling the cereal for 80p a box you’d actually get 3 boxes for £2.40 – a saving of 60p by buying it there and ignoring the offer.

It’s also smart to check the sell-by-date to ensure you really are getting a good deal. If you do find a genuine deal then it might be worth bulk buying if you’re shopping for the whole family.

VOUCHERS AND COUPONS
There are many websites dedicated to emailing you daily or weekly with a set of discount vouchers you can use against various products and services. Always check similar items or services first to see if the discount is the best deal.

MONEY MATTERS
Recipe taken from http://www.goodtoknow.co.uk/

Sausage and Potato Casserole
With the nights beginning to draw in cook up this warming dish which will appeal to all the family.

Ingredients
1 tbsp oil
500g new potatoes, halved
454g pack sausages (chicken, beef or pork)
1 onion, sliced
1 green pepper, diced
140g jar tomato pasta sauce

Method
1. Heat the oil in a large frying pan & fry the potatoes and sausages for 5 mins.
2. Add the onion and pepper & cook for a further 5 mins, turning the sausages occasionally until browned.
3. Add the pasta sauce, rinse out the jar with a splash of water and add to the pan. Cook, covered for 5 mins. Serve!

Did you know?........ Lambeth provides a Pop-Up Legal Clinic in Streatham Library every 2 weeks. They are able to provide free advice on consumer and employment law to people working and living in Lambeth.

To book an appointment call: 020 7786 5959

MAINTENANCE

WINTER IS COMING....
10 tips to avoid condensation and mould
• Keep saucepan lids on when cooking and use your cooker’s extractor fan if you have one
• Vent tumble dryers to the outside and avoid drying clothes inside the house. If you have to dry them inside, use a room where some ventilation can be provided
• Do not dry clothes on radiators or heaters
• Shut the bathroom door when bathing / showering
• Shut the kitchen door when cooking
• Ensure that the heating is set for a lower more constant heating throughout rather than sudden bursts of hot temperatures
• Ventilate by using extractor fans or opening windows in areas where you produce a lot of moisture such as the kitchen and bathroom
• Ensure trickle vents incorporated into UPVC windows are kept open. Open bedroom windows slightly
• Ensure vents set into the walls in bedrooms are not covered up and are free of dust and debris
• Move items of furniture slightly away from outside walls to allow air to circulate behind them. Try not to ‘overcrowd’ rooms with furniture or stored items which will prevent air circulating properly and causing mould growth on items

Gas checks and safety
Our gas servicing contractor, One Stop, visits each of our properties once a year to check that your boiler is safe to use. Please do make sure that you make yourself available – there is a legal requirement to have a valid certificate at all times so any delays means that your property is not covered and is potentially at risk from carbon monoxide poisoning or gas escapes. One Stop is very flexible with appointments and prompt visits can be arranged for those that need to leave their homes early in the morning.

Cookers and hobs are the responsibility of residents – please ensure that you maintain your cooker and should you purchase a new appliance, you ensure that it is installed by a gas safe engineer.

FIRE KILLS......
And so does keeping your possessions in the communal areas!
Fire regulations are quite rightly becoming more stringent and one of the areas which has been of concern is the storing of possessions and materials in communal areas such as landings and under stairwells. London Fire Brigade specifically forbid this type of storage which is why many of you are probably aware that New World has fitted signs in some of our blocks of flats and has written to tenants requesting such items are removed. This also applies to those who live in maisonettes and houses divided into flats with a shared entrance. Please ensure you comply and ensure these areas are kept clear – the regulations are there for your safety and New World has a duty to comply and if our notices and warnings are ignored, we will be forced to remove and dispose of any items found!

Steve’s Tip of the Quarter
Rotten kitchen worktops are one of the most expensive repairs that are totally avoidable which unfortunately we have come across in frequent numbers in the last year.

Worktops are fitted with a protective laminate finish which with care will outlast all the other fittings in the kitchen. If the white seal between the tiles and the worktop starts to show gaps or deteriorates however, water can seep through and soak into the wood under the laminate causing rot and the worktop to sag and collapse. Simply by wiping excess water from around the sink after washing up for instance or renewing the sealant can literally save hundreds of pounds. Please keep the worktop clean and dry after use and if the seal has gaps or is in a poor condition, please either replace the seal yourself or report it to New World.