

Your guide to council services

Camden



Inside:
your pull-out
guide to activities
in Camden this
summer

Includes:
four page newsletter
for council tenants
and leaseholders

100 YEARS of council housing

- ▶ Handy council contact details
- ▶ Sports and fitness

- ▶ Local people
- ▶ Local places

- ▶ Volunteering
- ▶ Recycling

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Making a difference



We make Camden



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Celebrating 100 years of council housing

This issue we're celebrating the centenary of the Housing and Town Planning Act, passed in 1919, which gave councils the power, and money, to build homes for their residents.

Pictured on the cover are residents from Camden's Grade II listed Ossulston Estate, in Somers Town. Estate resident, Rienzi Trento, said, "It was one of the best places to grow up. Everyone knew each other and the mums were strong – you felt protected as a kid when you played out there. One of my first memories is of opening the door and seeing 50 kids all playing cricket downstairs, and going to join in."

You can read more about Somers Town on p12, and about Camden's proud history of council housing throughout this magazine.



We make Camden proud

We're delighted to be taking part in this year's London Pride. Camden has a proud history of fighting for equality and progress and we'll be standing with our LGBT+ community at the march on Saturday 6 July. We'll also host other special events and tributes. Keep an eye out for more details on our social media:

@CamdenCouncil
facebook.com/lbcamden

Summer University is back

Teenagers can choose from free courses in arts, sport and life skills at top local venues, when Camden Summer University returns from 25 July to 23 August. You can view courses online now and bookings go live on 19 June. It's free to enrol if you're 13 to 19 and either live in Camden, go to a local state school, or attend a council-run youth centre. Visit camden.gov.uk/summeruniversity or call **020 7974 6543**.

Now in Camden

Have your say



St Aloysius Primary School

The Diocese of Westminster and governing body of St Aloysius Catholic Primary School are consulting on closing the school – the school has been getting fewer applications for places and has a falling number of pupils. If you have any comments please email staloyusius@camden.gov.uk

Council Tax Reduction Scheme consultation

Our Council Tax Reduction Scheme helps residents on low incomes to pay council tax.

We spend over £25 million a year providing this support and we are committed to maintaining this investment to help our poorest households.

However, the current scheme is complex, out of date and our administration costs are increasing. If we do not change the scheme those on Universal Credit will receive on average 9% less support.

That's why we are launching a consultation on a recommended new scheme for working-age households from 17 June until 15 September.

We consider the proposed scheme to be simpler and fairer, and it would help us to provide long-term support.

Under the proposals, 10,000 out of work and low income households would still not need to pay council tax, at a time when most boroughs require a minimum contribution for all.

In our proposed scheme, we estimate that 12,300 working-age households currently receiving support would get the same or more (81% of claimants). Around 2,900 in work households would be asked to pay on average £9 more council tax per week, based on earnings. Residents would be able to access support including for employment and childcare. By law we cannot change the scheme for pensioners.

We are committed to taking on board your views in the design of the final scheme and your comments on our proposals generally. Find out more and take part at camden.gov.uk/ctrs

Camden's climate crisis fight

Climate change emissions have fallen by 34% in Camden since 2005. We're building on this progress by holding a Citizens' Assembly in July, so that the Camden community can help define our future approach to the challenge.

At the Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis, attendees will hear from leading climate scientists, community energy groups, schools and environmental experts about how climate change is already affecting Camden, and the approaches we could take to support global action to address the challenge.

The assembly will put your environmental ideas and priorities at the top of the agenda.

The community efforts will set the direction for a new Environment Plan for Camden, as well as leading to neighbourhood projects.



We want the assembly to hear the views of the wider Camden community too, and during June everyone will be able to share their ideas on the climate challenge at camdenclimateassembly.commonplace.is

Now in Camden

Get involved with Camden Alive

Camden residents are teaming up with local artists to create Camden Alive. The stories of different Camden neighbourhoods will unfold through music, dance, food, fashion, design, performance and visual art and will then be showcased by the virtual Camden People's Museum. The museum will be presented through an augmented reality app, and will illuminate and animate the stories, to show the vibrant individual and collective culture of Camden.

Camden were awarded a Cultural Impact Award to create Camden Alive, as part of the Mayor's London Borough of Culture.



To share your story and be part of the project, email camdenalive@camden.gov.uk. For the latest updates go to lovecamden.org/camdenalive or follow [@camdenalive](https://twitter.com/camdenalive) on Twitter.



Enter Camden in Bloom

Camden in Bloom 2019 is now open for entries. Every bit of greenery makes Camden a better place to live, and we can't wait to see what you're growing in your gardens, balconies, hanging baskets and communal spaces.

You can enter until 26 July. Winners will be invited to a reception, where they will receive a certificate and a gift voucher. camden.gov.uk/camden-in-bloom

Money for communities

The Camden Fund supports community organisations affected by HS2. The fund launched in May 2018, and so far over £1.6 million has been shared between 23 organisations.

The organisations use the money to alleviate stress and other challenges caused by HS2. The Brandon Centre were awarded £100,000 to provide mental health training for organisations working with local young people, to help the young people cope with noise and disruption in their local area.

Women & Health have been given money to develop a new community garden where local people can get growing. They aim to reduce the impact of lost green space, while helping people learn about the connection between gardening and good health.

The £3.5 million fund was secured by the Council during the parliamentary stage of the HS2 Act. Grants are awarded by a panel of residents and a representative from HS2 Ltd. with support from Camden Giving, a local charity dedicated to ending poverty and inequality. New recipients of funding are announced every three months. To find out more go to camdengiving.org.uk/thecamdenfund

Georgia's



Top three things

this summer

Best thing I've done recently

The #wemakecamden event at the Greenwood Centre in April was inspirational – it was an incredible showcase of the talent and creativity of Camden – artists, poets, dancers, all making their voices heard. It just completely, and brilliantly, encapsulated our Camden spirit, and how much we can learn from each other and our diverse experiences.

I'm looking forward to

Camden is marching at Pride this year, on 6 July. Celebrating our LGBT+ community, but also making our voice heard as part of the continuing fight for social and economic equality. It's been 50 years since the Stonewall riots in New York, and Camden has a proud history of fighting prejudice and discrimination. There are lots of events, talks and opportunities to learn and celebrate going on around Camden and London – you can find out more at prideinlondon.org.

On my mind right now

In Camden we have declared a climate emergency. It is our responsibility to take real and radical action now, with our communities, to do all we can to avoid the worst impacts of global heating on our environment and society. We are holding a series of citizens assemblies, starting in July, to develop a new action plan for how we can collectively address the climate crisis.

Georgia Gould is Leader of Camden Council

How to... BBQ in a Camden Park

Choose a park for your BBQ

You can use any Camden-run park, but not Hampstead Heath, Regents Park or Primrose Hill.

Invite up to 20 people – for more than 20 you need permission via events@camden.gov.uk

Bring your reusable charcoal BBQ, and water to put it out when you've finished cooking. Disposable and gas BBQs are not allowed.

Put your BBQ on level ground, away from trees, houses, park furniture and other people.

Keep children, pets and games well away from the cooking area and don't play amplified music.

Tidy up all your rubbish before you go, and recycle things if you can.

When you've finished cooking, empty the cooled charcoal and ash into the BBQ bins where provided. Make sure the BBQ is cool before you try and move it.

Don't leave the BBQ unattended while it's hot.



Nick Maxwell

is Case and Outreach Manager at forum+

(Formerly Camden LGBT Forum)

7am

I'm not a morning person – I need two alarms to get me out of bed. Shower, coffee and porridge, then I feed my pet chameleon lizards and mourning geckos. I'm trying to be healthier these days, so I often walk to work.

10am

No two days are alike for me, LGBT+ work does not run on a 9 to 5 schedule. One day I might be supporting a client to report LGBT hate crime, which could be anything from verbal abuse and physical attacks to criminal damage and threats. The next day I might be providing training to police and council staff.

1pm

The timing of lunch is variable, but most days I bring in a salad from home and I always try to eat away from my desk.

2pm

Our wonderful team of volunteers are crucial to our day to day work. Part of my job is recruiting, training and supervising them, before they engage in outreach or client work themselves.



To find out more about the work of forum+, or to report a hate crime, go to forumplus.org.uk, contact caseworker@forumplus.org.uk or telephone 020 7388 5720.

6pm

I'm either on my way to an evening meeting with other LGBT groups, or occasionally I'll head to a pub to talk to people about their experience of hate crime. Up to 80 per cent of hate crime goes unreported – our goal is to change that. At times my work can be demanding, but it's always rewarding to support individuals through a crisis and get them safely to the other side.

Have a clean and gre

Top five tips for a green summer:

Get a reusable bottle and cup, and take them everywhere

Download the Refill London app, which will help you find public water fountains and businesses where you can refill your water bottle. Lots of coffee shops offer discounts for using your own, reusable cup, saving you money as well as helping the environment.



Take your recycling home

After you've eaten outside in one of Camden's many green spaces, please take your recycling and rubbish with you and dispose of it responsibly at home or your workplace.

Plan ahead for picnics

Don't buy plastic tubs of pre-made food from the supermarket, make your own instead, and pack them into reusable tubs and jars. Your food will be fresher, healthier and greener.



Don't waste food while you're away

If you're going away this summer, freeze food rather than waste it. Or you can donate food you can't use to others via Camden's first community fridge in the Sherriff Centre, West Hampstead NW6.

Don't use plastic bags

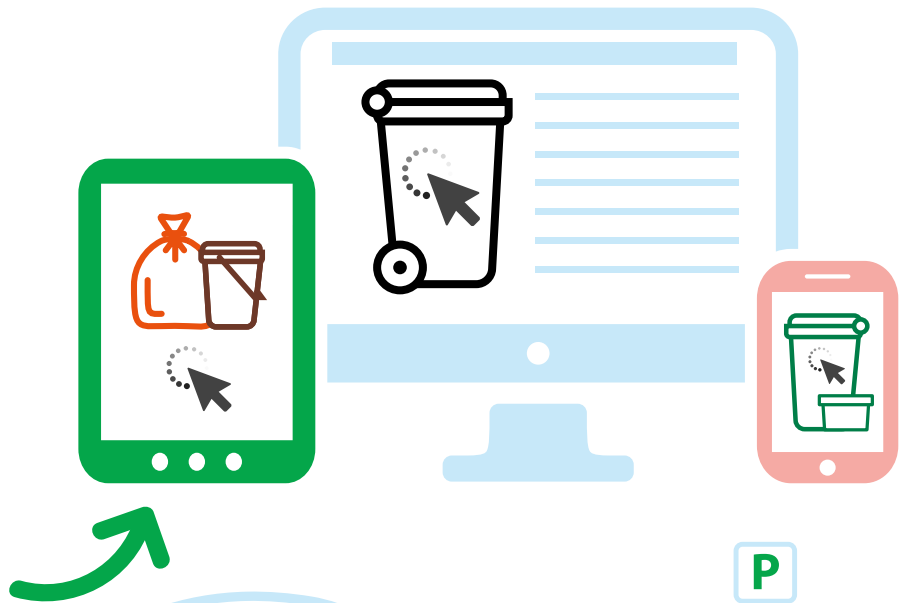
Keep a fabric tote bag handy in your pocket or bag, ready to whip out at the checkout – and save yourself the 5p charge too.



en summer

Check your collections and order recycling supplies online

We've updated our website and it's now much easier for you to check your bin collections, report a problem or order new recycling and rubbish supplies. You can even download a reminder to your phone calendar so you never forget to put your bins out. Check it out at environmentsservices.camden.gov.uk



Get your free recycling bin sticker

To make it easier for you, your family and any house guests to recycle items from all around the house, we're providing free indoor recycling bin stickers. You can use them to label any bins you use for recycling. Order your sticker online today through our new website or pick them up from our information stands at community events across the borough throughout the summer.

Veolia's Recycling Fund



Funding for local green projects

Do you have a Camden-based project that makes your local environment greener, or inspires people to do the right thing with their waste?

Through Veolia's Recycling Fund for Communities, you could get a cash boost, in-kind resources, or staff volunteers to help bring your idea to life. Last year Veolia's fund supported community initiatives across the borough including the installation of a communal bike store, promotion of plastic-free events, and turning derelict land into a community garden.

If you've got a great idea email us at: uk.ecocamden@veolia.com

Focus on

Somers Town



Located between Euston and Kings Cross, Somers Town is home to a strong and vibrant community.

History

Somers Town has a rich history – former residents include Charles Dickens and Mary Shelley. Immerse yourself in the local literary tradition with a visit to the British Library. Alternatively, see the Grade II listed modernist design of the Ossulston Estate, just a stone's throw from the Francis Crick Institute. You can also pay a visit to the nearby St Pancras Old Church, thought to be one of the oldest sites of worship in Britain, with a peaceful churchyard that is perfect for a rest in the shade.

Summer festival

Come and celebrate this lively part of the borough at the annual Somers Town Festival, a community-led day of food, fun, dance and live music. Performances will take place from Chalton Street to the British Library Piazza, where the Blockheads, of Ian Dury fame, will headline. There will be hip-hop 'grab the mic' performances and music from a whole host of local talents. 12.30pm to 6.30pm on Saturday 13 July.

Library

Pancras Square library has lots to offer – borrow books and DVDs, or join in with activities like chess club, 'maths on toast', or coding club. To find out more email libraries@camden.gov.uk.

Community groups

Laamiga Women's Mentoring and Training help women from migrant and refugee communities to find a job, integrate with their community and pursue their dreams. To find out more or volunteer with Laamiga contact info@laamiga.org or call **020 8257 7317**.

Scene & Heard is a volunteer-led organisation that provides one-to-one mentoring to help local children write their own plays. Their visions then come to life when professional actors perform the work on stage. Visit sceneandheard.org to find out more, donate or volunteer.



Celebrating 100 YEARS OF

COUNCIL HOUSING in Camden

At the end of the 19th century, most of the working people who lived in what is now Camden lived a whole family to a room. Homes were cheaply built and shoddy, in amongst factories giving off noxious fumes, with no proper ventilation or sewage. Without housing standards, they quickly became slums with appalling conditions.

There were moves in the late 19th and early 20th century to provide housing to the working classes, but because the Government didn't fund these developments, rents were too

high for the poorest people and only the 'respectable' working class in secure jobs could afford to live in them.

The Housing and Town Planning Act 1919 was the first act to give funding to councils to build the homes that ordinary people could afford, to provide the 'homes fit for heroes' promised to the soldiers returning from the First World War.

This summer is 100 years since this watershed act that gave councils the power and funding to build homes. More than 33,000 council

homes later, including 2,000 street properties and 23 sheltered schemes, we are celebrating Camden's own proud legacy in council housing.

We're celebrating you - our tenants, families, neighbours and communities who call Camden housing home.

We're celebrating our track record in building, our award winning estates, and that 100 years on and despite deep Government funding cuts, Camden is still building council housing our residents need through the Community Investment Programme.

Here are just some of Camden's council homes from the last 100 years (and some are even older than that!)



1822

Woburn Walk

Camden's oldest council street properties



1903

Bourne Estate

1914-1918

WWI
After the war Prime Minister Lloyd George promised 'homes fit for heroes' for returning soldiers

1919

Housing and Town Planning Act 1919



1925

Holly Lodge



1934

Brook House and Cranleigh House

Quiz question 1

Whitebeam, alder and hazel are all types of what, and where in Camden would you find them?

What do you know about...

The Maitland Park Estate

Where: Gospel Oak
Built: 1948 – 1961

Named after: Ebenezer Maitland, the president of an orphanage formerly on the site

Sandra

Sandra moved in with her mother in 1961, who later helped to set up the tenants and residents association. Sandra and her neighbour are two of the block's original tenants. Her work took her all over the world but she always came home to Maitland Park.

"Maitland Park is a very special place. When we moved here it wasn't even 20 years since the

"This estate is really rather lovely. I feel so lucky to be here."

end of World War II and there was great camaraderie between the neighbours who moved in from all across London. It is such a beautiful estate and it has been taken care of by tenants and the council. It's a sign that people can get on together whatever part of the world, country or class they come from and those of us living here are very lucky to have been able to live here and enjoy it."



Sandra in her garden at the Maitland Park Estate

Quiz question 2

Who is the only architect to have all of his UK developments listed?

Quiz question 3

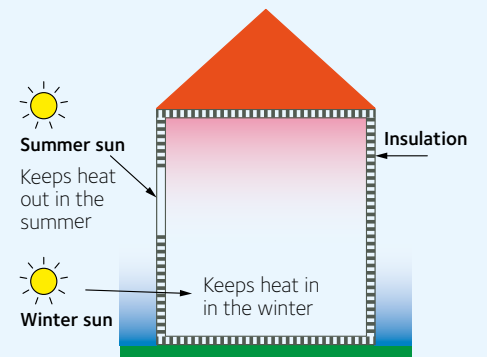
If you stacked all of Camden Council's purpose built blocks on top of each other, how tall would they be?

Building homes for the future

Continuing Camden's legacy as an innovative house builder, the homes we're delivering through our Community Investment Programme are modern and equipped for the future.

On Agar Grove, our largest planned project, all 493 new build homes (216 will be council homes) will be 'Passivhaus' or 'Passive House' certified. Passivhaus buildings are

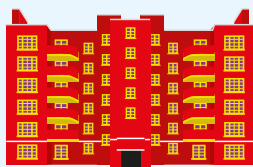
carefully designed and constructed to use significantly less energy for heating and cooling. This is achieved, for example, by using thicker insulation in the walls and higher performance triple glazed windows that allow homes to be warmed by the sun in the winter but shaded in the summer. Improved energy efficiency means lower heating bills for residents, helping to prevent fuel poverty, and is also better for the environment.



How Passivhaus works

1939-1945

Holborn and St Pancras are particularly badly damaged in The Blitz



1948
Peckwater



1954
Torriano

1960

Tenants went on rent strike and marched in their thousands on the town hall in protest at rent increases



1969
Amptill



1978
Alexandra and Ainsworth

Quiz question 4

What Camden estate is the largest listed building in England?

Making an empty property a home again

While Camden builds homes through the Community Investment Programme, we are always trying to find other ways to provide homes for Camden residents. For the last 20 years we have been working with private homeowners to bring empty homes back into use. In the past five years Camden has helped homeowners bring 449 empty properties back into use.

Some of these homes go to homeless households, ensuring that more and more people have a place they can call home.

Alicia Duncan is one of many private rented tenants who has benefited from a renovated empty property.

"I was over the moon when we moved into our new home. We have been here for two years now and we all love it here. We have more space,

the rooms are nice and modern and it's a good environment," said Alicia.

If you own an empty property and would like support or advice on bringing your home back into use, contact **020 7974 4158**



Alicia Duncan and her daughter in their new home



Family fun days

Celebrate a century of council housing at our Camden family fun days – turn to page 6 of the Camden summer guide to find out more.

Have your say about caretaking

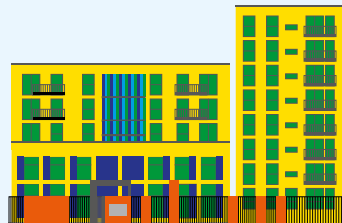
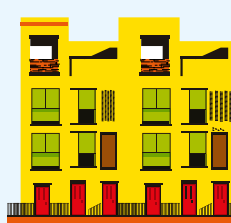
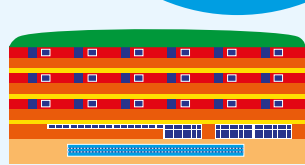
In the winter we asked you what you think about your caretaking service – we listened to you and we are again asking your views, this time on what we think your improved caretaking service could look like. Have your say at camden.gov.uk/caretakingreview until 19 July 2019.

We'll be out and about this summer asking for our tenants' and leaseholders' views on resident safety. To sign up for emails about the resident safety consultation email tp@camden.gov.uk

Quiz question 5

How many new council homes will be built by the Community Investment Programme?

Community Investment Programme developments



1983
Dudley Court

1990
Russell Nurseries

2014 
Chester Balmore

2015
Netley

2015 
Cherry Court

 The number of council homes built at each site to date

Get involved

Photo competition

Put Camden council housing in the picture

Celebrate 100 years of council housing with our photography competition. Get involved – we want old and new pictures, so rummage through old family photos or get snapping this summer and send us the picture that tells your story of council housing in Camden. There is also a special category for under 16s so encourage any budding young photographers you have at home to take part too.

The best photos will be displayed at an exhibition and the winner will have their photo featured in the Camden Magazine and the virtual Camden People's Museum. The museum will celebrate the people of Camden with stories, images, archive material, artwork and performance. To find out more visit lovecamden.org/camdenalive

Send your competition entries to housingnews@camden.gov.uk or post hard copies to Housing News, FREEPOST LBC MAILROOM by Friday 27 September 2019. Include your name, a contact phone number or email and a caption that answers the question 'what makes your council house home?' Unfortunately we won't be able to return hard copies of photos, so if it's your only copy, take a photo with your phone or scan it to email it to us.

To find out more and for terms and conditions visit camden.gov.uk/councilhomes100



Quiz answers

1. Types of tree – you will find them at the Maitland Park Estate where the blocks are named after trees (also Rowan, Hornbeam, Chestnut and Beech).
2. Camden Council architect and resident Neave Brown – and they were all in Camden: the Alexandra and Alinsworth and Dunboyne Road estates and houses at Winscombe Street.
3. 14km – Camden has almost a thousand purpose built blocks ranging from 1 Sturminster on Agar Grove) to 23 storeys (Bray, Burnham, Dorney and Taplow at the Chalcofs). The average height of a Camden block is 5 storeys.
4. Alexandra and Alinsworth Estate, built by Neave Brown.
5. 1,100.

What's next for council housing in Camden?

On the 100th anniversary of council housing we're asking Government work with us to help us build the different types of homes that our communities need. Camden is building 1,100 council homes through the Community Investment Programme but to make sure that everyone in Camden has a place to call home, we need powers and funding from Government to build, and build quickly – just as we did 100 years ago.

Tell us your story

Perhaps many generations of your family have lived on the same estate, or you're new to the area and it feels like home already. Whether you've lived in Camden six months or six decades, we want to hear what Camden council housing means to you. Email housingnews@camden.gov.uk or post to Housing News, FREEPOST LBC MAILROOM.



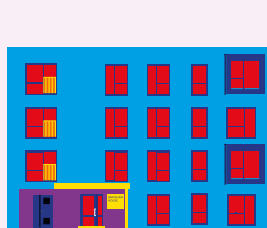
2017 
Maiden Lane



2018 
Bourne Estate



2018 
Agar Grove



2018 
Brayshaw House



2018 
Barrington & Lamble



2019 
Abbey

Communities



we make Camden

Our people make Camden the place it is: unique and welcoming with a rebellious spirit. 'We make Camden' stands together with our communities, celebrates our diversity and gives everyone a voice.

Whether you have lived in Camden all your life or recently moved here, we want you to share your experiences, memories, hopes, journeys and reflections about your time in the borough. The stories you share will form part of the We Make Camden campaign to celebrate Camden's communities.

So whatever your story, whether you have a memory of growing up or moving here, favourite place or reflection on your community, we'd love to hear it. Get in touch with us on Twitter or Facebook using #WeMakeCamden. You can read some the stories people have shared so far on our website camden.gov.uk/wemakecamden.



Community grants

The Communities Together fund is open for small grant applications. Up to £72,000 is available to support activities and events that bring different groups and communities together. Working in partnership with Camden Giving we've set up a quick and simple funding process.

To find out more visit camdengiving.org.uk





Working in Camden: tree officer

Colleen O'Sullivan, one of Camden Council's tree officers, patrols the borough, secateurs at the ready, carrying out inspections of Camden's trees.

What does a tree officer do?

Tree officers are trained to assess the risks trees pose to humans and property, as well as understanding how trees grow and the differences between species. We use this knowledge to make decisions on what tree work is necessary – a lot of thought and consideration goes into making the decision to remove a tree and to plant a new one.

What's your typical day?

I have a quick catch up in the office first thing, then I'm outside. I try to walk whenever possible and change my routes so I can check up on different trees.



To report a tree you're concerned about to Colleen, or one of her colleagues, or to request a new tree go to [camden.gov.uk/trees](https://www.camden.gov.uk/trees) or to contact the tree team email treesection@camden.gov.uk

Do you have any favourite trees?

My favourite mature tree in Camden is one of the curly Elms in St. Pancras Gardens. Of the younger trees, we planted a Scots pine in Lincoln's Inn Fields a couple of years ago and I'm always happy to see it doing really well.

Are you still out and about in winter?

In winter we do spend more time in the office, working on Camden's tree database and other indoor projects. Last winter I also worked on tree planting for a couple of months, which was a great new challenge.

What about when you're off duty?

I can't stop keeping an eye on trees – even when I'm not at work I still instinctively check the trees around me!

Your new Mayor



Councillor Maryam Eslamdoust is Mayor of Camden, 2019 to 2020.

Maryam was born in Tehran and moved to London as a child. Her family made their first UK home in Kilburn, where she's been a Labour councillor since 2010.

Influenced by her own experiences with discrimination, Maryam has devoted her time on the council towards improving the lives of Camden people from marginalised sections of society. She has campaigned on race, gender and disability issues and led on policies to protect Camden residents.

The Mayor's chosen charity for this year is Solace Women's Aid, which offers support to women and children in London – to help them build safe and strong lives, free from abuse and violence.

Maryam said: "Domestic violence should have no place in Camden. I want to raise awareness and encourage people to speak out when they see signs of abuse. My aim is to put this issue firmly in the spotlight."

Mayor of Camden



Goodbye, and thank you

As she bows out of her role as Mayor of Camden, Councillor Jenny Headlam-Wells leaves behind the legacy of having raised a record-breaking £90,000 for her charity, Camden Music Trust.

"It's been a great privilege to be the Mayor. I've seen Camden at its best," said Jenny.

Camden Music Trust supports the Camden Music Service to make sure all children in Camden can take part in music-making, regardless of family income or disability. Recently, Suggs agreed to become an ambassador for the trust, with a celebration at The Dublin Castle, the Camden venue where Madness started out.

Jenny will also continue working with the trust by becoming a patron, now that her year as mayor has come to an end.

How I built a Camden council estate



David's original drawings for the estate from the 1960s

"I was trying to design the best council houses in London within budgetary restraints. It was a very interesting thing for an architect to do."

Born in Hampstead in 1931, Camden resident David Hyde-Harrison worked as an architect in the council's architecture department, where he designed council homes including Kilburn's Chevington Estate, built in 1966.

"I was allocated a plot and tasked with designing homes for 27 families. It was suggested I build a six storey block of flats, but I knew that the flats would have to be smaller to account for the lifts and hallway lighting, which cost a lot of money in electricity."

Space for growing families

"There were plans to have large communal gardens, but I knew from a housing project I had worked on in Essex that when children went out to play they wouldn't be able to get back up to their flats because they couldn't reach the button to call the lift. I knew there would be notices saying no football allowed, so I thought that all this empty ground was rubbish.

"Having designed my own house, and having two young children, I felt it was vital to make the homes as big as possible so that growing families could be comfortable.

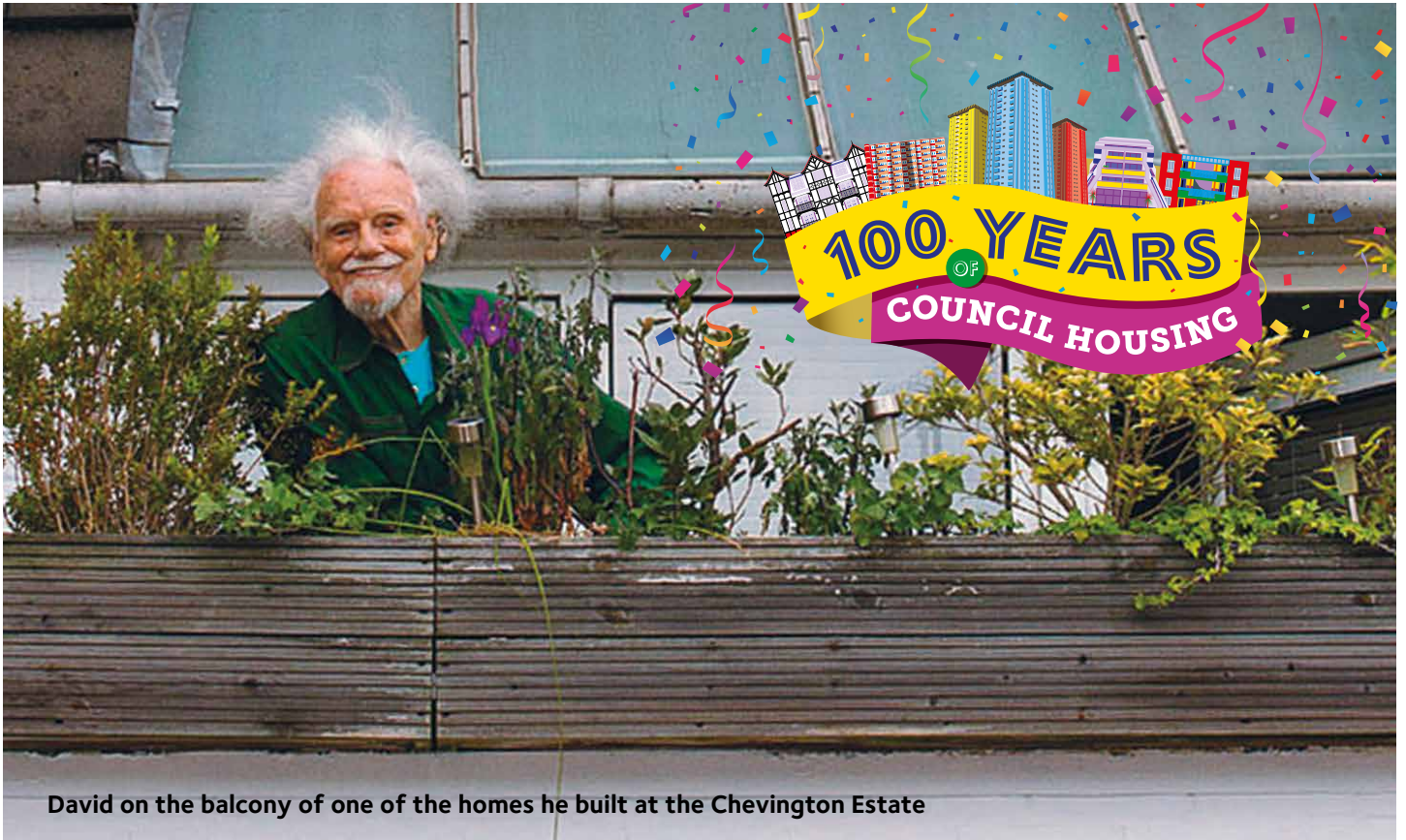
"I worked out that I could house all of the families in houses rather than flats on the same site. I gave all of the houses gardens, which is much better than giving people huge shared areas they can't use.

Light and variety

"I added a slope to the roofs to give an extra 3 feet of room in the bedroom and to make the design a bit different. I like variety. I didn't want things to be uniform, so I broke up the rhythm. I thought the houses should be a bit different from each other.

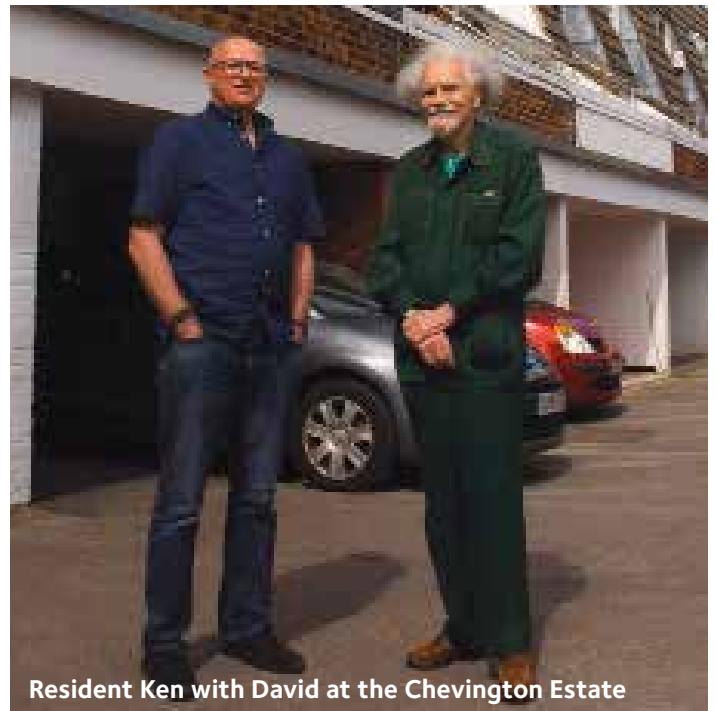
"They also all have sun terraces and front gardens because I wanted to give the tenants a little extra within the cost. I felt that light was important, so I gave the houses skylights and large windows in living rooms that can't easily be seen into from the street. There had recently been a breakthrough in the technology of glass production so it was easier to use these bigger sheets of glass and maximise the light.

"I wanted the tenants living there to have the highest standard of home. I thought up all sorts of ingenious ideas – always trying to do odd things, having the roofs do funny things and so on to make more space and light. I thought I'd done jolly well."



David on the balcony of one of the homes he built at the Chevington Estate

David came back to the homes he built and met Ken who has lived at the Chevington Estate for 13 years. Ken said: "It was really interesting to meet David and to learn some of the history of our home, and how it got its garden, good sized rooms and slightly quirky design."



Resident Ken with David at the Chevington Estate

(All photos copyright of Kim Taylor kimstagedesign@hotmail.com)

After retiring, David has turned his attention to sculpture, and writing – with a focus on urban development and green belt issues.

Working in the West End

Andrew Helyer is a Principal Engineer on the West End Project, working to transform the area around Tottenham Court Road.



What's the most challenging part of your job?

Keeping track of everything! This is the biggest public realm and highway transformational scheme Camden has ever delivered, so I have a lot of different priorities to juggle, many different disciplines to understand, and lots of different people who will be affected to consider.

What are you most proud of?

I'm really proud to see the highway and traffic signal designs I've worked on come to life on the ground. It's also really rewarding to know that the project will benefit the local community.

What's next for the project?

Now that we've successfully introduced buses and cyclists southbound on the newly paved Tottenham Court Road, next year we'll focus on preparing Gower Street, Bloomsbury Street and Princes Circus for two way traffic. This means we'll be busy working with TfL on new traffic signals.

Gower Street and Bloomsbury Street will have new stepped cycle tracks and York Stone paving, to improve their look and feel. Princes Circus will get an improved road layout and a much needed new green space where people will be able to sit and relax.

The facts

- ▶ **11,000 square metres of paving laid so far – enough to cover around 48 tennis courts.**
- ▶ **Over 4,000 metres of granite kerb stones laid so far – the height of 20 BT Towers.**
- ▶ **At our peak we've had around 90 people on site – over the past year that equals more than 10,000 morning cups of tea and coffee.**
- ▶ **12 new trees planted, and more to come. Why not enjoy the shade of our new mature trees at Centre Point?**

We
make
Camden

Making a difference

Trevor Elliott is one of the youngest foster carers in the borough – at just 28, he’s already making an amazing difference to the lives of Camden teenagers.

Fostering involves looking after a child who can’t live with their parents. The child lives with you in your home for anything from a few days to several years.

Trevor is the founder of a not-for-profit youth organisation, so he was already working with teenagers when he applied to become a foster carer. He now fosters three boys, all aged 16 or 17.

“When you work with young people in a youth centre you can clock off, but when you’re providing care in your own home it’s 24/7. When you see the progress they make on a daily basis, though, it’s very rewarding.

Become a foster carer

Could you offer stability, and a warm and loving home? You don’t have to own your own home and there’s no upper age limit. We provide support and training, as well as a weekly allowance for each fostered child and a weekly fee for the foster carer.

Read our fostering pages at camden.gov.uk/fostering to find out more, or contact us at fostering@camden.gov.uk or **0800 028 1436** to talk to us about it.

“It’s the best thing I’ve ever done – it grew me up as a person.”

Trevor felt comfortable taking in the boys because he felt that he had lots of support.

“There are four social workers who visit me – so I’m constantly supported. There’s also the virtual school for looked-after children which monitors their progress. It has shown me not to be afraid as you’re not alone.”

Keeping our young people safe

Five young people in Camden have lost their lives in knife incidents since 2017. What can we do to stop the cycle of violence?

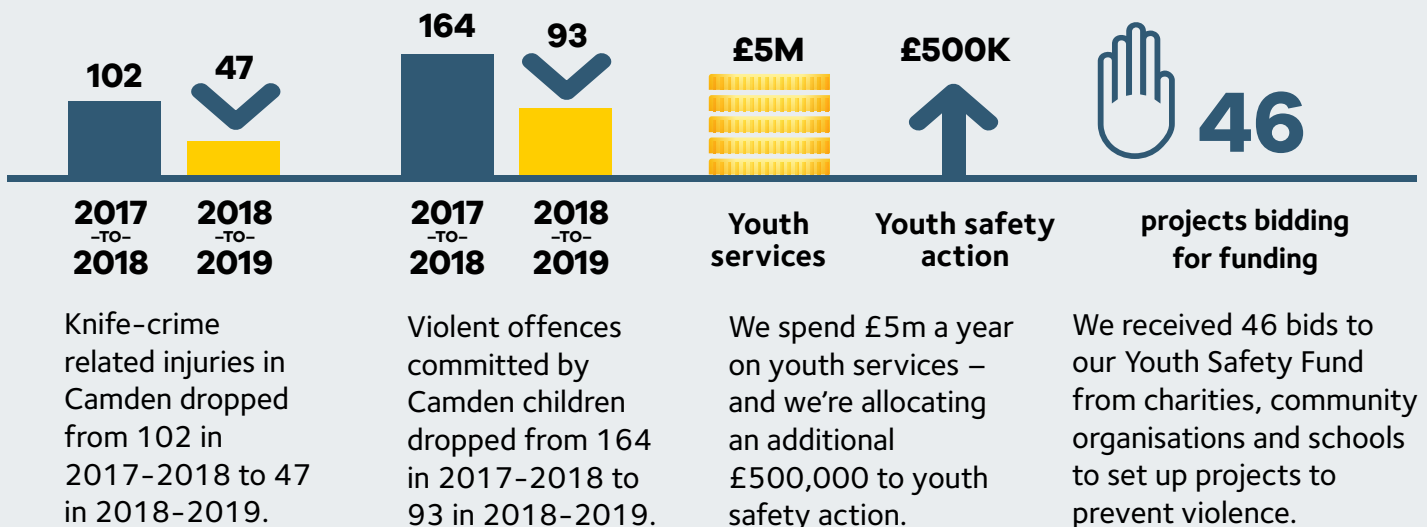
Camden, along with much of the UK, faces a huge challenge – to keep our young people safe.

Last year we published a report about how we plan to do this, which you can read at camden.gov.uk/youth-safety-taskforce

However, we know this needs to turn into urgent action on the ground to make a difference. This means a response from the whole community – all our different public services, charities, community clubs and residents working together. It means a commitment to a ‘public health’ approach – which means not looking at this issue just in terms of crime, but thinking about what we can do to prevent violence, while treating and offering better alternatives to young people caught up in it.

We talk to two people who show what this looks like in reality – and the difference it is making.

In numbers



The view from the police station



Emmanuel Umeh is part of a team of social and youth offending workers who go into police stations to talk to young people who are brought into custody.

The offences range from minor incidents to serious knife-related crimes, but to Emmanuel and his team, the time that the young person spends in the police station represents an opportunity to talk to them, and to help them. They try to understand the motivations of the young person, set positive goals, and encourage them to talk to their family.

“Some of them don’t fear their mortality, they don’t fear prison,” explains Emmanuel. “So it’s about finding a way to make subtle changes in their life and help them mature. Once we’ve engaged them, our work could lead to the child finding a job in a coffee shop, enrolling on a construction course, or getting involved in acting.

“Whatever the end result, it feels like we’re getting in there earlier, addressing issues in children’s lives at an earlier stage and putting them at the centre.”

The view from hospital



John Poyton is Chief Executive of Redthread, a charity which puts trained youth workers into hospital emergency departments to provide support to young people with the complex issues they may face while they are being treated for violent injuries. The programme will start up at Camden’s University College Hospital later this year.

“I was shocked when I discovered that no one had ever thought to put youth workers in an emergency department. It’s not rocket science, it just makes sense,” John said.

“The key ingredients are: working in really close partnership with health colleagues, ensuring that we have local experts in each area – we recruit locally – and identifying the best agency to support the young person in the long term.

“Young people are just like us – they like to be walked alongside and supported, not told what to do in an authoritarian fashion.”

volunteering

Why don't
you...

...become a
walk leader?



Every Monday, Richard Pilkington, a volunteer walk leader and Camden outdoor gym instructor, leads Camden health walks across Hampstead Heath.

What kind of people come on the walks?

The majority of them are regulars, some of them have been coming for about 10 years - they probably know the Heath better than I do. They come from all sorts of backgrounds, young and old - it's a whole variety!

What do you do as the leader?

My main job is to make sure everyone stays safe and we don't get lost - which can happen when everyone's chatting!

There's also a social element, it's all part of a mental health drive, people come both for the exercise and for the socialising.



To find out more about becoming an outdoor fitness volunteer, email walking@camden.gov.uk

For information on walks and outdoor gyms:

[camden.gov.uk/
camden-health-walks](https://camden.gov.uk/camden-health-walks)

[camden.gov.uk/
outdoor-gyms](https://camden.gov.uk/outdoor-gyms)

And what do you do as a gym instructor?

I help people who may be inexperienced with the equipment to use it safely and comfortably.

How did you get involved in volunteering?

I had a bit of a health scare, which served as a real wakeup call - a mixture of too much work and too much stress. As part of some major life changes I decided to become a walk leader after reading about it in the Camden magazine.

**we
make
Camden**

Keeping it simple

**Stamping out jargon
in adult social care**

When Jill Hunt-Smith took the role of Jargon Buster at Synergy, a local group who help make sure the voices of people with learning disabilities are heard, she decided she needed a helper.

At the bottom of a toy basket in Camden Town, Jill and her colleague, Jackie, found the now aptly named Jargon John, who has become a firm staple with Jill at local meetings. Together they educate people on the importance of using simple, easy to understand language when talking to people with learning disabilities.

Jill says: "I think that's what I'm meant to do, speak up for people who can't speak up for themselves. I want to stamp out the use of jargon so everyone can understand what's being said."

The plain-speaking pair now have a following across the country, with fans sending in around 400 teddies to help Jill continue her work. She frequently awards people who speak in plain English with a teddy of their own.



The Greenwood Centre

Synergy are part of Camden's first Centre for Independent Living at the Greenwood Centre. The centre is run by disabled people for disabled people, and offers a range of services and activities that support independence, inclusion, health and wellbeing. For more about the Greenwood Centre, visit camden.gov.uk/the-greenwood-centre

Accessible language

Synergy recognise that everyone has a role to play in making sure language is accessible for all. They educate professionals on how to communicate better, and recently worked with the British Association of Social Workers to develop national guidelines.

To find out more about Synergy's work, contact Brendan Leahy at brendan@camdendisabilityaction.org.uk

Useful numbers

For press ... then ... options, first telephone Contact Camden (our customer services team) on 020 7974 4444.

Advice and guidance

Welfare rights advice
020 7974 3826/020 7974 1926
camden.gov.uk/advice-money-benefits-debt

Freedom of information
020 7974 7857/020 7974 2269
camden.gov.uk/freedom-information-request

Benefits and financial support

Benefits press 3 then 2
camden.gov.uk/housing-benefit
Credit control 020 7974 6959
Local social fund 020 3324 0383
A government scheme to help people on low incomes meet their expenses

Building and planning

Planning press 4 then 3 then 2
camden.gov.uk/planning-applications
Building control press 4 then 3 then 3
camden.gov.uk/building-control

Business

Licensing press 4 then 3 then 1
camden.gov.uk/licensing
Business rates 020 7974 6460
camden.gov.uk/business-rates

Children and families

Family information and school services
press 2 then 3
camden.gov.uk/family-information-early-years
camden.gov.uk/schools
Camden school and nursery admissions
School admissions 020 7974 1625
camden.gov.uk/admissions

Complaints

Complaints unit 020 7974 5644
camden.gov.uk/complaints

Contacting councillors

Member support 020 7974 2792
camden.gov.uk/contact-member-support

Deaths

Coroners court 020 7974 4545
camden.gov.uk/coroners-service
Information on deaths, autopsies and inquests

Environment

Green Camden helpline 0800 801 738
camden.gov.uk/green-camden
Free advice on reducing your environmental impact

Health

WISH 020 7974 3012
camden.gov.uk/wish-plus
Make a referral to a range of warmth, income, safety and health services

Housing

Repairs press 3 then 1
camden.gov.uk/housing-repairs
General housing repairs for Camden tenants and leaseholders
Housing advice press 3 then 3
camden.gov.uk/housing
Advice on housing including information for the homeless and those at risk
Rents press 3 then 4
camden.gov.uk/your-council-rent
Tenancy queries press 3 then 5
camden.gov.uk/council-tenant-rights-responsibilities
Information for Camden tenants, including how to order or replace keys and fobs

Making a payment

Payments press 1 then 1
camden.gov.uk/pay
Including parking fines, residential and travel payments
Council tax press 4 then 1
camden.gov.uk/howtopaycounciltax

Parking

Estate parking press 3 then 5
camden.gov.uk/parking-on-council-estates
Vehicle clamped or removed
press 5 then 3
camden.gov.uk/vehicle-removals-clamps
Parking permits and suspensions press 5 then 4 then 3
camden.gov.uk/parking-permits
camden.gov.uk/parking-bay-suspensions

Safety

Camden Safety Net 020 7974 2526
camden.gov.uk/contact-camden-safety-net
Support on domestic abuse and sexual violence
Safer streets team 020 7833 7970
camdenrts.co.uk
Report rough sleepers and those involved in street activity to help us support them

Social care

Adult social care press 2 then 1
camden.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults
Children's social care press 2 then 2
camden.gov.uk/safeguarding-children

Travel

Blue badges, Freedom passes, accessible travel solutions and Taxicard
press 2 then 4
camden.gov.uk/blue-badge
camden.gov.uk/subsidised-travel-support
camden.gov.uk/other-concessionary-travel-schemes
camden.gov.uk/taxicard

Volunteering and skills

Adult community learning
020 7974 2148
camden.gov.uk/about-adult-community-learning
Voluntary Action Camden
020 7284 6550
vac.org.uk

All activities are free unless otherwise specified.
Event details may change. Check with the organiser before you attend.

What's on

Sketchmeet

**Wednesday 12 June and
Wednesday 7 August, 7 to 9pm**

Join for a night of quick-fire creative challenges at London's original and best live drawing event. £8. Booking essential.

**House of Illustration,
2 Granary Square N1C 4BH
houseofillustration.org.uk
020 3696 2020**



©PaulGrover

Getting ready for and finding employment for women from minority ethnic backgrounds

Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm

Come along to find out how to enrol for free training in employability skills, including English.

Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre, 50-52 Hampstead Road NW1 2PY
hopscotchawc.org.uk
020 7388 8198

Knitting circle for over 55s

Every Monday, 10am to 12 noon

Drop-in for anyone who wants to learn to knit or sew, and have a chat with a cup of tea and biscuits.

Millman Street Community Centre, 50 Millman Street WC1 3EW
holborncommunity.co.uk
020 7405 2370 (Andrew Rogers)

Boccia for beginners – over 50s

Every Thursday, 3.45 to 4.45pm

Boccia is a precision ball sport, similar to bowls. Come along and try out a new way to get moving and meet new people.

Abbey Community Centre, 222c Belsize Road NW6 4DJ
abbeycc-kilburn.org.uk
020 7624 8378

LGBT creative writing group for over 50s

First and third Tuesday of the month, 3 to 5pm

Warm, constructive and supportive writing together. This group welcomes new writers for writing exercise and a chance to read your own work.

Opening Doors London Project, Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock Square WC1H 9NA
openingdoorslondon.org.uk
020 7239 0400

SEND Skills Fayre

Thursday 20 June, 11am to 2pm

Exhibition of activities for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), organised by students and involving organisations from across North London.

Leighton College, Elfrida Rathbone Camden, 7 Dowdney Close NW5 2BP
elfridacamden.org.uk
020 7424 1601

Batsford: 175 years of a Bloomsbury publisher exhibition

Until Friday 28 June (Monday and Tuesdays 10am to 6pm, Thursdays 10am to 7pm, Friday 10am to 5pm and alternate Saturdays 11am to 5pm)

Exhibition telling the story of Batsford, a publisher specialising in illustrated books, set up in High Holborn in 1843. Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, 2nd Floor, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road WC1X 8PA
camden.gov.uk/libraries
020 7974 4444

NW Live: Music and Soul concert

Friday 28 June, 7.30 to 10pm

Performance of an original work, devised and performed by army veterans, and Stravinsky's 'Soldier's Tale' performed by NW Live Ensemble. £12. Free concession tickets available for Camden residents on a low income. Booking essential.

Free Space Project, Kentish Town Health Centre, 2 Bartholomew Road NW5 2BX
freespaceproject.org
antonia@freespaceproject.org

Bedford Square Festival

Wednesday 3 July to Saturday 6 July

An array of free talks, workshops and tours celebrating the culture of the institutions based on Bedford Square. Booking essential.

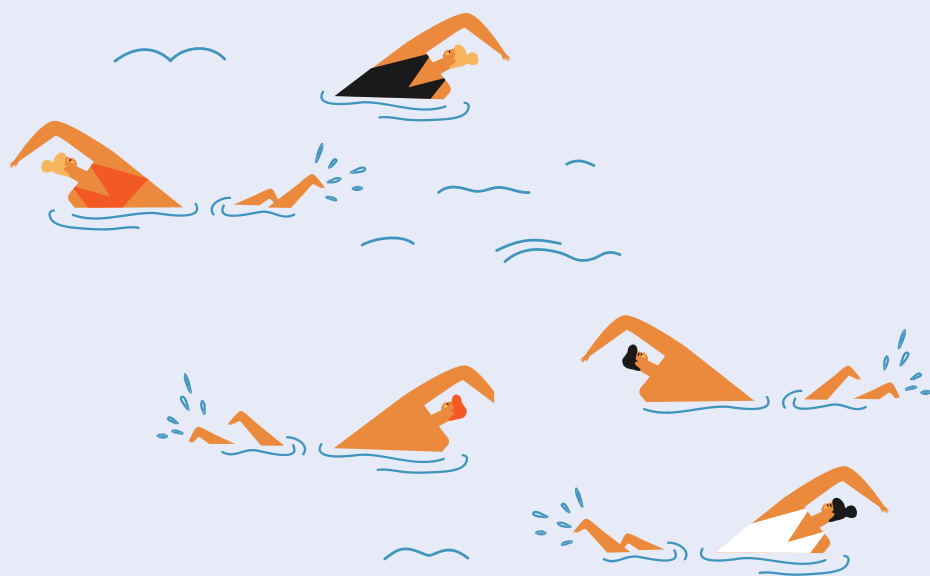
Bedford Square WC1B
bedfordsquarefestival.co.uk

Night of the 10,000m PB

Saturday 6 July, 1 to 9.30pm

Volunteer-powered annual celebration of 25-lap racing. The first race starts at 1pm, VIP Q&A talk at 6pm and championship races from 7.15pm. Parliament Hill Athletics Track NW5 1QR
nightofthe10kpbs.com/spectator_info

Want to have your event listed in the autumn Camden magazine? Email **camdenmagazine@camden.gov.uk**



Summer is the perfect time to go swimming at one of the many pools in Camden. Beginners can sign up for lessons at their closest pool, and more serious swimmers can join a club.

There's a variety of water workout sessions for young and old – or you can just go along to your nearest pool and swim a few lengths. Swimming is a great way to keep fit, whatever your age or ability.

Swim for free

- ▶ Young people can sign up for free swimming during the summer holiday, as part of the Energise and Get Wise programme: camden.gov.uk/children-young-people
- ▶ Camden residents aged 60+ can swim free on weekdays from 7am to 12pm at our Better leisure centres with a valid pay & play membership. P&P concessionary card is £5.40: better.org.uk/getswimming

Swimming with a disability

There are dedicated swimming sessions for people with disabilities at Swiss Cottage and Kentish Town, as part of the Active For All Programme:

- ▶ Starfish swimming club, 7 to 8pm, Swiss Cottage
- ▶ Swimming, 5 to 6pm, Kentish Town
- ▶ Fleetwell Swimming Club, 6 to 7pm, Kentish Town
better.org.uk/camdenactiveforall

Find a pool in Camden

Oasis, Bloomsbury

- ▶ Outdoor heated pool, 27.5m, with sunbathing deck and outdoor sauna
- ▶ Indoor pool, 25m
- ▶ Chair hoists to allow easier access into the pool

Pancras Square Leisure, King's Cross

- ▶ Main swimming pool, 25m
- ▶ Smaller heated learner pool
- ▶ Chair hoists to allow easier access into the pool

Kentish Town Sports Centre

- ▶ The Willes pool, 30.5m, one of London's most historic baths
- ▶ The Grafton pool, 25m
- ▶ Shallow pool for water sensory and intro to water
- ▶ State of the art pool pods to allow easier access into the pool

Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre

- ▶ Indoor pool, 25m
- ▶ Teaching pool
- ▶ Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club
- ▶ State of the art pool pods to allow easier access into the pool

Hampstead Heath

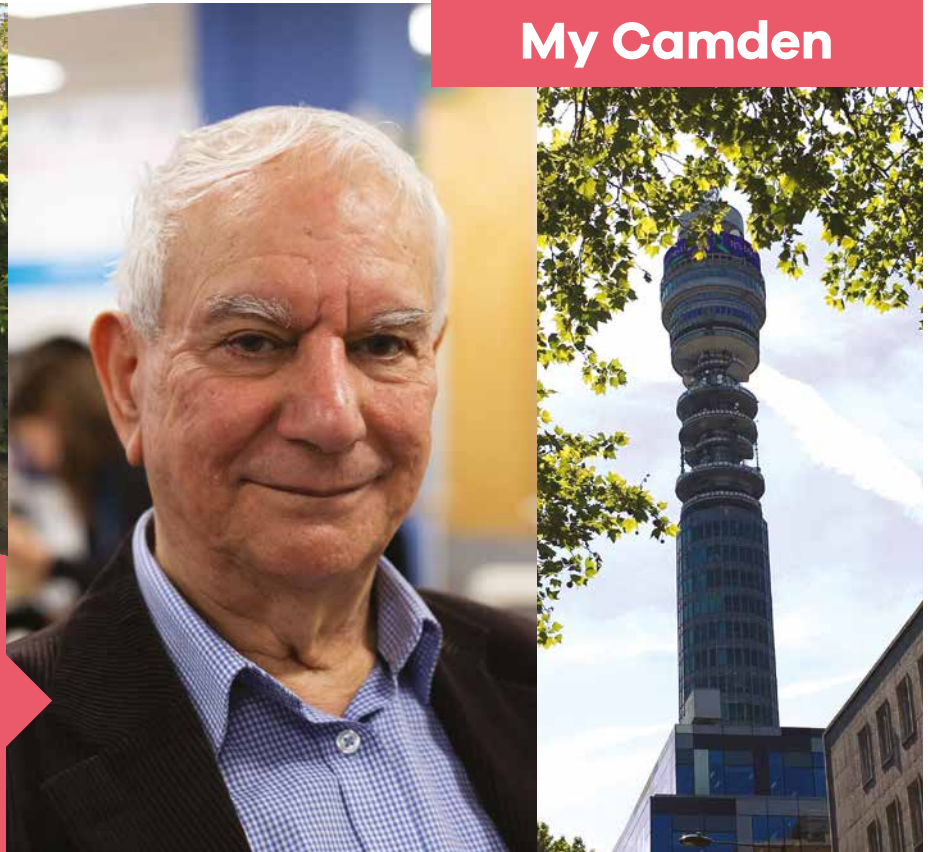
- ▶ Parliament Hill Lido
- ▶ Open air bathing ponds (mixed, ladies' and men's)

Central YMCA, Fitzrovia

- ▶ Indoor pool, 25m



Costas Louis is a dementia befriender for Age UK Camden



What's your Camden connection?

I have been a Camden resident for over four decades. My parents were Greek, and I was born in Alexandria, Egypt. I came to the UK for my final exams, and to work as a wireless operator in the navy. But the week I landed they announced tele-printing – all of those years studying morse code, and suddenly a machine could do it.

Tell us about your volunteering work

I volunteer for Age UK. As part of that, each month I take a lady to see a concert. It makes me happy to be useful. I also help to support other carers, as part of the steering group for Camden Carers and I mentor international graduate students, and sit on the town hall panel for educational admissions.

What's your favourite Camden place?

In the summer I love having a quiet drink in Queen Square. It's so beautiful – you're in the middle of London and all you see is trees. You don't see that in any other capital in Europe.

What's the best thing about Camden?

I like how rich the history is, so many important people have lived here, and I love how central it is, everything is easy to get to.

Do you have a favourite Camden memory?

I used to live on Cleveland Street near the post office tower. It was a lovely experience visiting the revolving restaurant at the top, where you could see the whole of London laid out before you.

If you'd like to become a dementia befriender email volunteer@ageukcamden.org.uk

camden 2019

SUMMER



Free and low-cost
activities for everyone
– pull-out guide inside

#WeMakeCamden @CamdenCouncil
f LBCamden [camden.gov.uk/summer](https://www.camden.gov.uk/summer)

