

CLAPHAM

M A G A Z I N E



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AUTUMN EDITION

We have had some wonderful warm autumn days, but summer is definitely over! With restrictions finally lifted, we hope you enjoyed spending time with loved ones during the summer break. Term has started at our local schools, and we hope our younger residents are feeling settled in their new classes after working so brilliantly through the disruptions of the last 18 month. We wish you every success during the academic year.

This edition is filled with community garden projects, supporting our residents getting back into employment to fun filled summer programmes, this is not one to be missed!

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The MTVH office at 91-93 New Park Road has now re-opened to customers. Whilst we are looking forward to welcoming customers into the lovely refurbished space, we are also working hard to ensure that in-person services can be provided as safely as possible. Currently, we are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with opening hours from 9am to 5pm. Customers are asked to wear face masks when visiting the reception to help keep staff and other residents safe. We still recommend using MTVH online as your first point of contact if you need to contact us.



Welcome to your Autumn edition of @ClaphamPark

All throughout August there were a variety of activities and programmes which were aimed at school children having something fun, engaging and educational to participate in during the summer holiday. This was carried out by Elevating Success UK who are a training and personal development charity that exists to empower individuals to achieve their full potential.

There was the Clapham Park School's Out Programme which ran for 2 weeks Monday to Friday at the beginning of August, where children visited Mountfitchet Castle, Battersea Zoo and Brighton on day trips as well as partook in social team building and skills based activities such as cooking, arts and crafts, sports, boxing and DJ workshops.

Clapham Park Cube also hosted a series of workshops and creative events celebrating some of the local talent and stories here in the neighbourhood as part of Clapham Park August Art Month. Workshops consisted of Textiles and Embroidery Club and Photography, as well as some of the finest local performances and an exhibition to showcase creativity and talent.

This was all made possible from the funding MTVH received from Lambeth Council to provide the activities and food for the children. By providing these activities, workshops and programmes, MTVH are addressing the need for the community to congregate as one, to celebrate the creativity and potential of our youths and encourage togetherness.

It was a great success and hopefully there will be many more opportunities in the future for programmes and workshops to take place at Clapham Park Cube to promote community engagement.

Contact Avril Branche

 Avril.Branche@mtvh.co.uk
 07701 388 385





TAKING CLAPHAM PARK INTO THE FUTURE!

We are delighted to announce that MTVH has selected Countryside as the partner with whom we will build all remaining parts of Clapham Park. This includes at least 2,482 homes (53% of which will be affordable rent and shared ownership), plus the parks, community and retail space approved at planning in 2019.

Countryside has a great track record of delivering large-scale regeneration projects and they share our vision for making Clapham Park a brilliant place to live, not just by building high quality homes but also by investing in the wonderful local community and neighbourhood facilities.

We are working hard to prepare for

starting construction of over 400 homes in early 2022. Over 250 of these will be for affordable rent, and will enable all secure tenants waiting to move from the old blocks to do so by the end of 2025.

The partnership will also make an initial £1million investment in placemaking around Clapham Park. This will include progressing with the meanwhile scheme

mentioned in previous editions of the magazine and we look forward to working with residents and the MTVH Empowering Futures team to shape where else these funds can be most effectively used.

We look forward to sharing more with you in the next edition!



KEEPING UP WITH COUNTERPOINTS ARTS – AN OVERVIEW OF SUMMER @ CLAPHAM PARK



Caption if needed

The intergenerational Embroidery Club has been meeting since April creating embroidered stories of their lives during lockdown. The Embroidery Club first came together following a series of photo-embroidery Zoom sessions held during the pandemic, which started in September.

The club originally started with 5 people – from 9 years old to 70+ – and has now grown into a group of 12 committed members that hail from all over the world, including those from England, Spain, Ghana, Peru, Italy, Albania, Ireland, Canada and India.

Sonia Tutiett, commissioned to lead the embroidery club, is a textile artist Counterpoints Arts had previously worked with for an exhibition at the Tate Modern. Sonia also runs another renowned group known as **East London Textile Arts** – of



which includes wonderful women from all over the world who meet every week to do textile projects led by Sonia. Thus, the collaboration was organised as an exchange between the two groups – partly because it was an opportunity to meet new people, partly a reason to ‘travel’ to another part of the city (many hadn’t even left South London in over a year), and partly also to learn and be inspired from the East London group about what might be possible.

The group produced embroidered “postcards” representing their lives during lockdown often touching upon images of their home countries, family, and the objects that became important to them.

The two groups have met three times face to face – in East London and Clapham Park – and these were incredibly exciting and joyous moments with shared food and new friends made. Many of the East London members have come back through August as well.

“The embroidery workshops have been one of the highlights of my week. When people first started coming, they were just so desperate to see people and do something after staying at home for over a year, and it’s been amazing to see how the group has grown and how committed they are. Every session has just been a riot, lots of laughter and sharing stories, and the embroidery pieces are inspiring. And I feel really privileged to have been able to collect everyone’s stories at this particular moment in time – it’s such a diverse and touching range of experiences and coping strategies over the Pandemic.”

Therese Mullan, writer, local MTVH resident and Community Producer of Clapham Park Creative Co-op

“The amazing thing about this project is seeing how all the members of the group have developed not only their skills, but such a shared sense of purpose, and I think that comes from working together to create an artwork that has meaning. Traditional community skills like embroidery, knitting and sewing, are often not viewed as ‘art’ but they are incredibly easy to learn and there are so many ways to be creative with it. The group is already talking about what we might do next together, and how to connect with other local textile groups, so it’s really exciting.”

Marcia Chandra, Creative Producer of Clapham Park Creative Co-op

The final piece for “Postcards Across the River” will be a large textile piece featuring the river, the embroidery stories and keywords we learned during the Pandemic, as well as a series of 20 photos and stories from Clapham and Newham residents. **Therese Mullan** has been recording and writing their stories – with a collection of about 20 embroidery postcards. They will be producing a small book of the stories to be available in September.

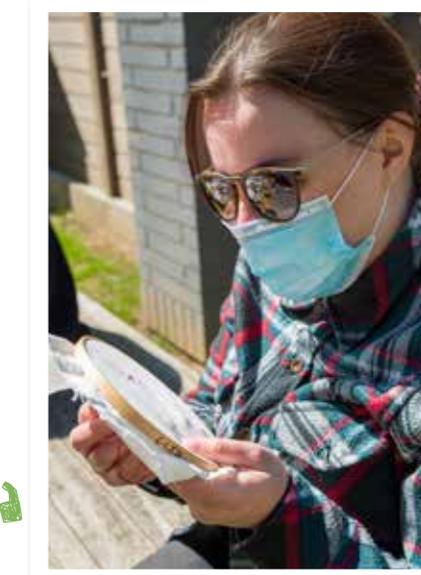
We encourage all residents to go and see the series of creations from **The Embroidery Club** at www.claphamparkcreative.org.

To find out more, please contact:

Marcia Chandra, Creative Producer of Clapham Park Creative Co-op

marcia@counterpointsarts.org.uk

www.counterpointsarts.org.uk



LOVE LONDON WORKING EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

MTVH are partners of the Love London Working programme that supports those living in London and not currently in any paid work, into employment.

We are funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and offer support to customers in a number of ways:

Tailored Support

From an Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) Advisor, who will be committed to providing you with tailored advice and guidance to help you into work.

Training and Upskilling

Courses include Security (SIA), ESOL, CSCS, Teaching Assistants and many more.

Vocational Training

Access to apprenticeships and support with finding appropriate courses.

Direct Access to Job Vacancies

We work directly with employers from a variety of industries including Security, Construction, Care, Retail and Catering.

Computer Skills and Online Learning

You will have access to our full range of e-learning courses which include; computer basics, health and safety in the workplace, manual handling and employability.



I had no clue with how to make my CV stand out and how to be in an interview. This programme gave me a clear idea on what to expect at an interview and how to answer questions with confidence. Altogether, the Love London Working programme was really helpful and I managed to get the job at my first ever interview after working with Ella.

Krishnaveni



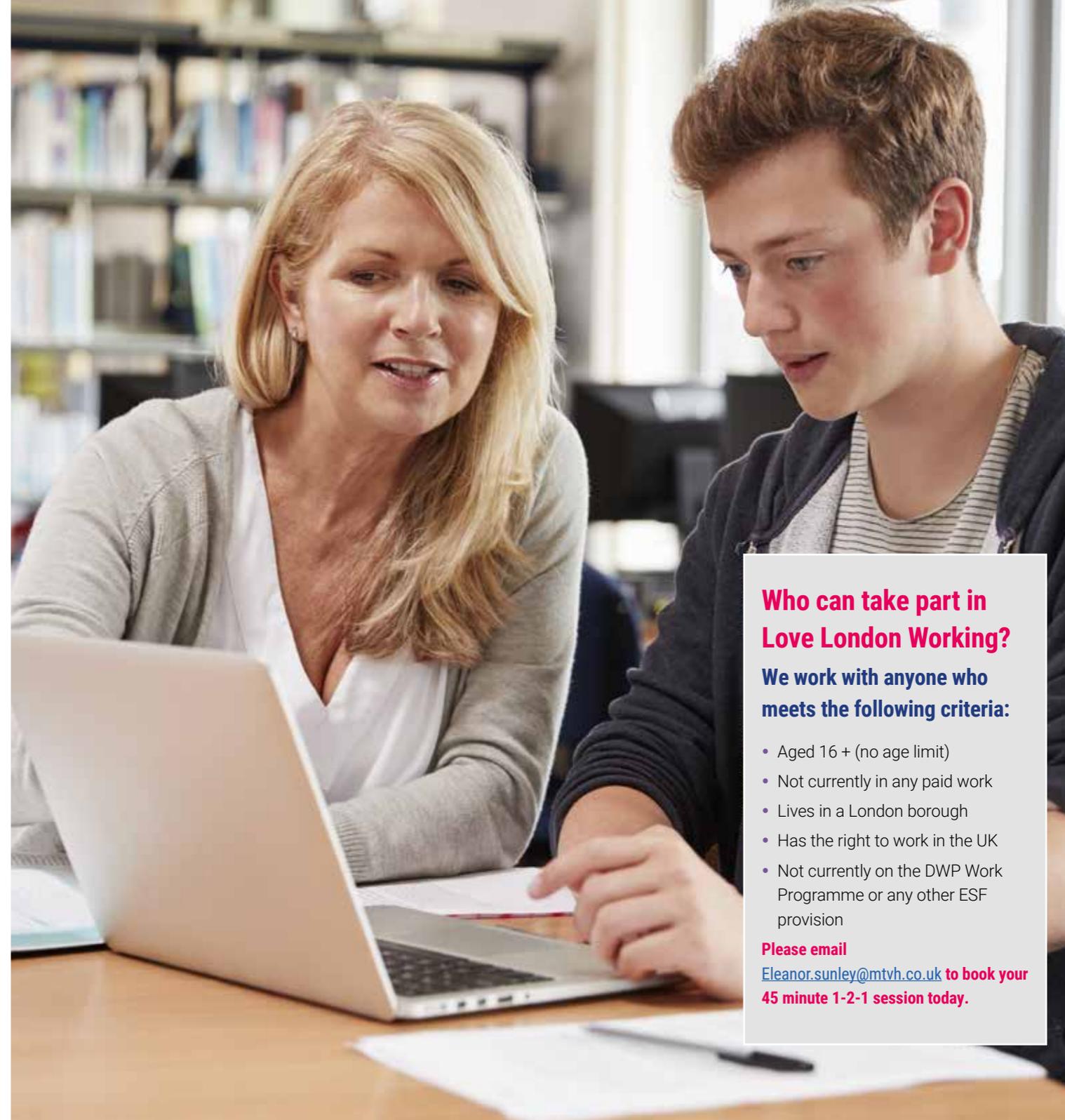
Advice Drop In Sessions

Every other Wednesday from September 1st between 9am-5pm the Cube is running Employment Advice drop in sessions for residents who are looking for support into work.

Ella Sunley who is an Information Advice and Guidance Advisor will be delivering 45 minute 1-2-1 sessions and can discuss how the Love London Working programme can support you on the right career path. The programme is tailored to what works for you and can provide

solutions and opportunities to help you overcome various challenges and be ready for a rewarding career!

So far Ella has supported 24 Love London Working customers into employment and is excited to guide you on your journey!



Who can take part in Love London Working?

We work with anyone who meets the following criteria:

- Aged 16 + (no age limit)
- Not currently in any paid work
- Lives in a London borough
- Has the right to work in the UK
- Not currently on the DWP Work Programme or any other ESF provision

Please email

Eleanor.sunley@mtvh.co.uk to book your 45 minute 1-2-1 session today.

SW4 COMMUNITY GARDENS

Residents in our block in Clapham Park that is bordered by New Park Road and Streatham Place are lucky to have a large green space to look on to.

Many residents have been concerned about issues of biodiversity loss and the impacts of climate change and decided that we wanted to support our local environment through our own greenspace.

Over the past few years, in partnership with the gardening team led by Nelson and with support from Sanjay at Metropolitan, we have helped create a more nature-friendly garden for all our residents. We have done this by allowing grass to grow, planting native trees and bushes and sowing thousands of windflower seeds for pollinating insects.

The impact has been huge, with large amounts of wildlife coming into our small communal garden, including many types of butterflies, bees, moths and the endangered stag beetle. This, in turn, has increased our bird life with Goldfinches, Fieldfares and Wrens frequenting, and even Sparrowhawks and Tawny Owls spotted. All in all, over 20 bird species visited our garden last year - not bad when you think the garden is only metres from 6 lanes of traffic.

It all goes to show what a strong partnership between residents and the housing association can do for wildlife and our children's futures.

By Clapham Park Residents



JOY 4 KIDS

Perry Tole talks to Lucy Dreyer about her business



PT – Hi Lucy, thanks for agreeing to chat with us today!

Could you just tell everybody a little bit about yourself?

LD - Hi Perry, thank you for this lovely opportunity. I'm a British and French actress who has been working with children for five years, doing shows, workshops and parties. Two years ago I moved in Clapham Park and decided to start my own business as a children's entertainer.

PT – Perfect, thanks. So, tell us a bit more about your local business?

LD – I love working with children and always surprise people with the amount of energy I have. I do balloon modelling, glitter tattoos, dancing and games. I also offer many different themes and costumes. I want my business Joy 4 Kids to be both about quantity and quality.

PT – When you grew up did you always know this is what you wanted to do?

LD – I think it all goes back to when I was 12. I loved teaching or playing with younger children. I also dreamt of becoming an actress. I think in France drama is not as present in education as in the UK. It took me many years and

different career paths before I eventually pursued my childhood dream. It took me to Paris and then to the UK where I completed an MA at the Guildford School of Acting. Straight after graduation I started working with children. It was such a natural fit.

PT – And what advice would you give for anybody that wants to start up their own small business? Or have a job similar to yours?

LD – Perseverance is my first advice, and also realizing that it's never too late. I think what helps me is to make each little step a victory, to enjoy the journey. As for more practical advice, coupled with word of mouth social media is a great platform to get noticed, or intermediate websites such as AddToEvent.

PT – So, we've worked together on a couple of events now. How would local residents go about hiring your services? And what should they expect on the day?

LD – They can contact me via my social media, website, email or phone. If I'm available and they're happy to go ahead, we then finalize all details (date, time, theme, birthday child's age etc) and I email them a booking form. I ask for a deposit to block the date, and a week

before I give them a call to run through everything one last time. On the day I arrive 30 minutes before to set up. And then it's PARTY TIME!!! Tons of fun and games for up to 30 children :)

PT – That's great! So you said you've lived in Clapham Park for a while now. What's your favourite thing about living there?

LD- I like having different parks and high streets within walking distance from where I live. It's also a good location to either drive out or commute into London.

PT - And finally, If you had a magic lamp and had 3 wishes, what would they be?

LD – Could my first one be for an infinite amount of wishes? Haha. Okay so my first one would be for my loved ones to stay healthy. My second for my newly sowed garden to not die (wish I were as good with plants as I am with children lol). And my third is for my business to carry on growing. I'm actually in the middle of producing my first theatre in education bilingual play, which is very exciting!

PT – Thanks Lucy!

If you want to hire Lucy for your next event, you can contact her:

 Facebook.com/Joy4KidsUK

 Joy4Kids.co.uk

 07402530344

YOU SAID WE DID

SINCE WE LAST PROVIDED YOU WITH AN UPDATE IN MAY 2021, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO LISTEN TO YOUR VIEWS AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE THINGS THAT MATTER TO YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY. WE HAVE ENGAGED WITH OVER 150 RESIDENTS THROUGH TEXT, PHONE CALLS AND FACE-TO-FACE INTERACTIONS. THROUGH THESE DISCUSSIONS, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TO PUT MEASURES IN PLACE TO IMPROVE AND CREATE NEW SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES SUITED TO OUR RESIDENTS AT CLAPHAM PARK.

As a result of you having your say, here is what we have been able to do:

Residents would like to have employment support which was more accessible.

When asked what residents' deemed as being a top priority for Clapham Park, 63% of you said that you would not only like to have access to employment support, but you'd like this support to be as accessible as possible.

As a result, we will be introducing an employment support drop-in service. We are happy to announce that these drop-in sessions will be held face-to-face at The Cube and will take place every other Wednesday with our partners from Love London Working (LLW). Ella Sunley who is an Information Advice and Guidance Advisor will be delivering 45 minute 1-2-1 sessions and can discuss how the Love London Working programme can support you on the right career path. The sessions will work on a first-come-first-serve basis and you will need to meet the LLW criteria, however all cases will be reviewed.

We encourage all residents who are interested in seeking employment support to enquire at The Cube starting from 1st September.

Residents would like to see the return of MTVH staff who can also offer support as part of face-to-face activities/sessions returning to The Cube.

When assessing what additional support residents' feel that they are most in need of, the idea of having access to MTVH staff members who could signpost to local services was an option favored by many.

As a result, two members of the Empowering Futures team will be holding 'general support' surgeries every Tuesday, starting from September. The Resident Support Manager (RSM) will be available to assist residents on a case-by-case basis, working through any personal concerns or queries e.g. financial difficulties and mental well-being support - to which the RSM will be able to work with other MTVH colleagues or local support services to help solve issues.

The Resident Voice Coordinator (RVC) will be available to assist residents with any concerns or queries relating to the community. Similarly to the themes raised in this document, the RVC will listen to what matters to you and your community and work with you or the TRA's to ensure your voices are heard.

We encourage all residents needing support of this nature to pop in and have a chat! Alternatively, please get in contact with us if you would like to find out more:

Resident Support Manager, Kim: Kim.Law@mtvh.co.uk
Resident Voice Coordinator, Shireen: Shireen.Raymond@mtvh.co.uk



Residents would like to see the return of pre-COVID community activities

During the engagement sessions held with residents, it became apparent that many of you felt the need to get back out in to the community due to experiencing feelings of social isolation as a result of the pandemic.

Whilst we continue to work on ensuring The Cube opens as safely as possible to the public, we are happy to announce the return of some activities. Activities include the Over 50's Coffee Morning as well as the ever-so-popular Women's Only Exercise Classes!

These activities will be held on a weekly basis with days and times still to be confirmed. We encourage residents to turn up to sessions, where they are able to register on the day. These will be held from September onwards and more information can be retrieved directly at The Cube if you wish to enquire.

Please note: whilst we are just as excited as you are to be working on having you all back, we are not yet able to confirm a full schedule of activities and will provide a further update when this progresses.

Residents would like to continue to see more activities and support for our young people of Clapham Park

As we continue to listen to what matters to our young people, we have managed to increase our engagement significantly and have therefore spoken with over 50 young people, as opposed to the original 19 back in May.

Over the summer, we have been working with our young people on the Elevating Success programme - visiting them weekly and getting involved, where possible, to see what more we can do to ensure they have access to the support they need.

Thus, we will be working with these young people on a number of consultations to amend future activities and improve services. One of the most recent outcomes as a result of listening to what matters to our young people has been identifying the need to provide more support for career aspirations.

Consequently, we are in the process of planning our first career aspirations day at Clapham Park for the young people attending our summer programme, with colleagues of MTVH coming in to talk to the young people about their career journey's in housing, development and construction.

We will use feedback from this, for future career aspiration events and will be involving as many inspirational guest speakers in desired fields, to ensure our young people are able to access the information they need to have a fulfilling future career.

<p>The women's exercise class is: Mondays - 10.45am to 11.45am,</p> <p>The martial art is: Thursday s 7.30pm to 9.30pm</p>	<p>African drumming is going to restart from: Saturday 23rd October 5pm to 7pm.</p> <p>Over 50's Coffee Morning Tuesdays: 11am to 12.30pm</p>	<p>Councillor's Surgeries: First Thursday of every month – 7pm to 8pm and Second Tuesdays of every month – 7pm to 8pm</p>
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PREPARING FOR THE WINTER HEATING PERIOD

THROUGHOUT THE LAST 18 MONTHS WE HAVE SEEN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT USER PATTERNS ON THE NETWORK FOLLOWING THE IMPACT OF THE RECENT PANDEMIC. AS YOU MAY EXPECT THERE WERE INCREASED EMPTY APARTMENTS AND INCREASED CONSUMPTION FOR THE APARTMENTS THAT WERE OCCUPIED.

This was reflected in all heat networks that we are involved with. As a result, as we get closer to the Winter months again we wanted to share some useful tips that can be considered to help to save money and heat your home efficiently.



GET TO KNOW YOUR HEATING CONTROLS

We have provided some helpful posts on our website (www.withenergy.co.uk/heating-your-home) to help you on 'Setting your programmer' and 'Setting your thermostat' to ensure your system is set up to suit your needs. This is where we find the most issues with customers using more heat than they would like.

GET EVERYONE ON BOARD

Make sure that everyone who lives in your home are aware of how your heating system is programmed and the potential savings that small differences can make.

COVER YOUR FEET

Having cold toes can make you feel a chill all over so make sure you reach for a pair of socks or slippers before you reach for the thermostat

BLOCK ANY DRAUGHTS

If you can feel a chill coming in from the outside, your heating system will need to work harder to overcome it.

CLOSE DOORS

Once rooms have warmed up, consider closing doors to contain the heat.

CHECK YOUR APPLIANCES

Make sure that your showerhead is a water efficient model.



IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AROUND YOUR HEATING OR YOUR BILLS PLEASE CONTACT WITH ENERGY AT HELLO@WITH.ENERGY OR 0333 8000 111



We want to hear from you!

Do you have a story you'd like to share with your neighbours? Would you like to make a contribution? We're interested in hearing about activities for children and adults. We'd love to shine a spotlight on events in the community!

Tell us if there's something you'd like to see more of in the pages of @ClaphamPark by contacting Avril Branche at Avril.Branche@mtvh.co.uk or on **07701 388 385**.



OUR OFFICE HAS MOVED. BACK TO:
91-93 New Park Road
SW2 4AX

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

 <https://www.instagram.com/mettvh/>

 https://www.instagram.com/clapham_park/

 <https://yourclaphampark.co.uk>