



tweets of the week

A selection of your comments on Twitter

@deptforddame

My boss just forwarded a non-urgent customer query to me signing off 'from a very hot Barbados'.

@SaarfLondonBird

The house is devoid of children. I should be putting laundry away. I want to slob and watch some TV. *Stamps feet*

@philmonkey

Given some trains will run through London bridge faster, I wonder what excuse they'll use for the slower ones #Jan2015 #southeastern

@musico_south

Super-talented new Icelandic guitarist has joined us. Ready for students in Bermondsey, Vauxhall, Elephant, Kennington, Stockwell, Peckham

@tomgetgood

Looking forward to playing first gig with new band @LittleCadeau at @CavendishArms Stockwell on Fri 11th July. Free entry!

@LordRoyKennedy

Great to be at the Brockley Society Barbeque on Hilly Fields this evening with @aliciakennedy07 @jonnillink #Brockley #lewisham

@bitoclass

Best news for Lewisham in the draft #Southeastern timetables is our Victoria route becoming a proper service, all day to midnight, every day

@visitlondon

Find a corner of France in London this weekend @BastilleFest in Borough Market: #freeLondon

@johnjmoloney

Tickets for #Balham Comedy festival are seriously shifting - so book now to avoid disappointment <http://www.balhamcomedyfestival.com> 11-19 July

@phoeandstory

The singing elevator at @southbankcentre is awesome. Hilarious too. The entire car cracked up at every floor.

@RedRector

Day off from work begins w/ flooded kitchen which appears to be related to the dead fridge/freezer & sauna conditions due to left on oven.

Tweets are printed in the same form as they appear on Twitter. Follow us @SthLondonPress

Weather eye

Cloudy, rain, 20C max, 16C min. Weekend: very warm, sunny spells and close, showers later. For AA Roadwatch and weather services, call 84322 from a mobile or 0906 88 84322 from a landline. Calls cost up to 65p per minute.

WEB VOTE

On www.southlondon-today.co.uk We asked: **Are you concerned about the amount of sugar you consume?**

YES
70%

NO
30%

South London **VIEWS**

Write to: Letters Editor, *South London Press*, 23 Streatham High Road, SW16 1DS or you can email us: letters@slp.co.uk

Letters may be edited for legality, space and clarity (deadline: noon, Tuesday)

Half an hour is not enough

I WAS astonished to discover that at least two of the councillors' surgeries in Clapham Town ward have, since the recent local elections, been reduced in duration from one hour to 30 minutes - the shortest in the whole of the borough.

When I challenged my local councillors about this, I was told by Cllr Christopher Wellbelove that "a vast majority of surgeries have few or nobody attending".

This is hardly surprising as the surgeries



themselves have zero advertising - the only way you can find out about them is to seek them out on the council's website.

If more people were aware of these sessions, where they can hold their councillor accountable for issues that need

more than a few minutes to air (such as the councillors breaking their promises not to evict housing co-ops), then I suspect the take-up of them would dramatically increase.

Given that Lambeth council is desperate to at least appear accountable - as can be seen by, I believe, the ludicrous suggestion by Cllr Davie (Letters, July 4) that they can police themselves - perhaps the immediate and widespread advertising of these important sessions would be advisable?

Julian Hall
Clapham Green Party

Asbestos-related cancer research needs increased long-term funding

Extracts from open letter to Dame Joan Ruddock, MP for Lewisham Deptford...

I AM writing as your constituent, to ask you to please write to the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt, to ask him how he intends to ensure that there is long-term

sustainable funding for research into the deadly asbestos-related cancer, mesothelioma.

I would also like you to support Early Day Motion 93, tabled by Tracely Crouch MP, which calls for such funding to be secured from the insurance industry.

The UK has the highest rate of the disease in the world. This year it is estimated that 2,400 people will die of the disease, most of whom having been innocently exposed to asbestos in the workplace.

Over the next 30 years, around 60,000 people will die of mesothelioma in the UK unless new treatments are found.

There is currently no cure and mesothelioma patients often have a short life expectancy - fewer than 10 per cent of those diagnosed survive just three years after diagnosis.

Despite this, funding for mesothelioma research still remains extremely low. Data from the National Cancer Research Institute suggest mesothelioma research receives a fraction of the funds invested in cancers that kill a similar number of people, such as myeloma and melanoma.



HELP REQUESTED: Dame Joan Ruddock MP

43992QV03

I feel this is simply unfair.

I would like to see the insurance industry pay a small levy into a fund for mesothelioma research.

The industry already pays out millions each year in compensation to people living with

mesothelioma or their bereaved loved ones. Just a small fraction of those amounts could revolutionise mesothelioma research in this country, finding the treatments patients desperately need.

What is more, by helping people live longer, more economically productive lives, research would also result in insurance companies paying less out in compensation - a win-win situation.

Earlier in the year, politicians agreed in Parliament that it was fair that the insurance industry contribute to mesothelioma research, but

that such a deal should be agreed by the industry itself. However, months have now passed, and I have yet to hear of any such sustainable deal being agreed.

For the sake of the thousands dying of this dreadful disease in the UK, we need to know how the Government intends to address this problem as soon as possible. I look forward to your response and to supporting any work you intend to do in this area. I would also like to add that I have asbestosis.

Dave Edgerton, by email

Disgrace to abolish cash fares on buses

I THINK it's an absolute disgrace that Transport for London (TfL) has ended cash fares on London buses. This decision has the potential to affect the vulnerable, people visiting London, tourists from abroad...

I believe everyone has the same right to pay a cash fare to travel on a bus without the pressure of using only an Oyster card or other payment cards.

Admittedly, I do have an Oyster card but, like many people, I don't trust it because in the past I been overcharged.

It also records my journeys and I consider it an unnecessary spy. Let's not forget, TfL is still adamant it wants to close ticket offices in Tube stations. I believe this is just the beginning and the whole travel system in London in the

future will only be accessed via automated machines and plastic cards.

The much-needed human element will be consigned to people's memories and historical film footage.

I am all for positive progress but many concerns have to be addressed before we head for a total cashless society.

Gareth Gordon-Wilkin
Brading Road
Brixton Hill

MINIMUM WAGE: PAY NO TAX?

RE. MP'S column ("Living wage is good for us all", *South London Press*, June 27), Labour MP Chuka Umunna suggests tax breaks for employers who move workers from the minimum wage to a living wage, further extending the UK's tax code which is already the longest in the world.

The same outcome could be achieved by making all income for minimum wage workers tax-free.

This would also avoid administration costs.

Michael Poole-Wilson
By email



TAX BREAK PROPOSAL: Streatham MP Chuka Umunna

● If you have a complaint, call Series Editor Hannah Walker on 020 8835 9721 or write to: South London Press, 23 Streatham High Road, SW16 1DS. All complaints will be fully investigated.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact the Press Complaints Commission, Halton House, 20/23 Holborn, EC1N 2JD Tel: 020 7831 0022.