

ty searching

# Spotlight on Wandsworth

Open space from two commons, Thames-side flats and a river bus to work. What's not to like? By **Anthea Masey**

FAMILIES come to live in Wandsworth in south-west London for the abundance of attractive Victorian and Edwardian homes, the river, the open green spaces of Wandsworth and Clapham Commons and an almost unparalleled choice of schools, both state and private.

Dempster Road off East Hill is a typical Wandsworth street of Victorian terrace houses and was where the Brockman family lived in the BBC TV sitcom *Outnumbered*. The semi-improvised show starring Hugh Dennis and Claire Skinner was a huge hit, running for five series between 2007 and 2014 with a Christmas special in 2016. It depicted hapless parents hilariously outnumbered by their three children — although it left most Londoners wondering how the husband, a comprehensive school history teacher, could afford such a house.

Over the last 20 years Wandsworth's industrial riverside has been almost entirely swept away with thousands of modern riverside flats going up in its place, the largest development being Battersea Reach where developer St George has built 1,350 new homes between the Thames, York Road and Wandsworth Bridge Road.

The last piece in the de-industrialisation jigsaw is The Ram Quarter, the redevelopment by Chinese developer Greenland of the former Young's brewery site in the town centre. With the first phase now built, a section of the Wandale river has been opened up for the first time. The Wandale runs from Croydon and Carshalton in the south to the Thames at Wandsworth and is the reason the town was once a hive of

Today in Wandsworth  
Rightmove has 953 homes to BUY and 554 to RENT  
**rightmove**   
find your happy

industrial activity. In 1805 the river was described as the "hardest worked river for its size in the world". An urban sewer, it was poisoned by bleach and chemicals from the many

dye works and mills along its banks. Now the Wandale Valley Regional Park Trust is restoring the river to its former glory as a chalk stream where fish can once again flourish.

Estate agent Robin Chatwin, of Savills, lives in Wandsworth and has been selling homes there for 31 years. He says people had to be persuaded to move to Wandsworth at one time but now it is a desirable destination in its own right with a strong local market. Savills data shows nearly half of recent sales were made to people already living in the borough.

Wandsworth is five-and-a-half miles south-west of central London with the Thames and Fulham to the north; Battersea and Clapham to the east; Earlsfield, Balham and Tooting to the south and Putney to the west.



**Pavement cafe culture:** Konnig's modern British restaurant in Old York Road





Clockwise from left: in Old York Road you'll find a good variety of shops, restaurants and the entrance to Wandsworth Town station; strolling by the Thames in listed Wandsworth Park; founder Kristin Hjellegjerde champions young talent at her eponymous gallery in Old York Road

Photographs:  
*Daniel Lynch*

