

Six of the best... back to school classes

Best for... sewing



In a cafe in Clapham sewing machines and scissors sit next to cupcakes and pots of tea. Sew Over It is a sewing cafe and studio space that runs over 25 different classes. Whether you are a nimble-fingered needle-worker or complete amateur, this is the place to come. New for September is a class that uses Liberty print fabrics to create a traditional quilt. Other classes will teach you how to make a 1940s tea frock or a Mad Men-inspired dress. Prices range from £25 for a 2-hour 'mini-class', to £165 for a course consisting of four three hour sessions.

*Sew Over It,
78 Landor Road, SW9 9PH,
www.sewoverit.co.uk
02073260376*

Best for... flower arranging



For budding florists the Pesh Flower School in Camberwell offers a range of flower-arranging workshops. Each class can be bought as a half day or full day, the full day including lunch amongst the flowers. With a maximum class size of 10 these classes offer a hands-on experience that will introduce you to the basics of flower arranging or expand on existing skills. As well as seasonal classes and basic workshops a wedding course is available on request and will teach you how to make button holes and table centres. £75 for half day classes and £160 for full day, flowers and equipment included.

*Pesh Flowers,
31 Denmark Hill, SE5 8RS
02077039124*

Best for... italian cooking



When in Rome... cook like a Roman. So, Brixton Village may not technically be in Rome, but you will certainly feel like you are in Italy whilst being taught to make homemade pasta by Chef Dario of Bellantoni's. This Italian restaurant offers classes in bread-making, pasta-making and authentic Italian meals. If you live locally Dario also offers courses in your home. Prices are per hour: £15 for children under 15, £35 for adults and £25 for adults over 50. Dario is currently away on holiday, so courses start again after September 24th.

*Bellantoni's, 81 Granville Arcade,
Brixton Village, SW9 8PS,
07872945675
or email bellantonis@yahoo.co.uk after 24th September*

Best for... swing dancing



Swing, Charleston and Lindy Hop your way to fitness with beginner swing classes. Swing Patrol is a community of dancers that teach weekly classes in several locations across London (and Lambeth). Classes are £8 but a class card is available that offers a discount.

*Swing Patrol, Blues at the Ritzy, Upstairs at the Ritzy,
Coldharbour Lane, SW2 1JG,
Weekly classes across the borough:
www.swingpatrol.co.uk, info@swingpatrol.co.uk,
02031511750*

Best for... DIY



Next time you need to unblock a sink save the plumbing bill and fix it yourself. The Good Life Centre offers a range of practical DIY courses that include plumbing, electrics and tiling, as well as upholstery and carpentry. From £50 for a two and a half hour basic class to £295 for an eight week intense course.

*The Goodlife Centre,
122 Webber Street,
SE1 0QL,
02077607613*

Best for... singing



Have you ever felt embarrassed by your voice when caught singing in the shower? (Who hasn't?) The 12 week evening course promises to give you the confidence to sing in a group through vocal tuition. A new course commences on September 12th, Wednesdays 5:30 - 7. £90 for the course or £63 for concessions, £70 for seniors.

*Morley College,
61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7HT,
enquiries@morleycollege.ac.uk. 02074501889*

A green afternoon

BRING THE whole family to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Friends of Kennington Park and its recent 'Green Flag' award.

*Friends of Kennington Park Anniversary,
Kennington Park Road, SE11, Saturday 8th
September, 12-4pm. Admission: Free
Contact: friends@kenningtonpark.org.*



Custard punch

FAMILIES LOOKING for fun should head down to the Southbank Centre for the Hide and Seek Weekender.

Work up a sweat custard-punching (testing your prowess against cornflour), push your flexibility to the limit 'scotch hopping' alongside professional dancers, or get retro with group arcade games. For something

completely different, experience total serenity through 'The Hush' project.

*Hide and Seek Weekender, Royal Festival
Hall, Southbank Centre, Friday September
14 from 6.30pm and Saturday and Sunday
September 15 and 16 from 1pm.
Admission: Free*