

# Your Local Guardian

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Seven days, seven events

**Thursday**  
Escape Valentine's Day with a night of comedy at the Roar with Laughter Comedy Club, Colliers Wood.

**Friday**  
Learn to sing three musical numbers from scratch with conductor and singer Ben Pary at the Landmark Arts Centre, Tooting, before performing them in public.

**Saturday**  
Award-winning US pianist Andrew Brownell will play Handel, Schubert and Chopin at St Luke's Church, Battersea.

**Sunday**  
Head to New Wimbledon Theatre for a celebration of all

things Russian with a programme of masterpieces.

**Monday**  
Ever wondered what the Yu-Gi-Oh! Card craze was all about? Head to Woolworts in Sutton where there will be demos and mini-leagues where you can pit your wits against others.

**Tuesday**  
Get the kids testing their animation skills with a week of half-term drama workshops at Watermans Arts Centre in Brentford.

**Wednesday**  
View the work of four local artists - collectively known as Calm Riot - at Boltime Hall, Ewell.

# Man jailed after covering for girlfriend's murderer

by COURT REPORTER

An Upper Norwood man was jailed for three years last Friday for perverting the course of justice following the murder of his former girlfriend.

The judge at Croydon Crown Court sentenced Patrick Dawkins, 31, of Sylvan Road, for hiding information from police during the investigation into the death of Tracy Ann Meade.

His family and friends walked out of court when a

Judge began reading a statement from the mum of the 39-year-old, who was murdered in May 2006.

Dawkins, who was said to have broken into the welfare assistant's home on the day she was killed and removed items, was found guilty of the offence in December. He denied the allegations.

Dawkins' girlfriend Kelly Ross, 16 at the time of the offence, was found guilty of stabbing Ms Meade to death in Warminster Road, South Norwood, last year and jailed for life.

Dawkins had been in a relationship with both women. Within about 20 minutes of committing the murder, Ross met with Dawkins and the pair were captured on CCTV travelling on a bus together and in a Croydon cinema.

During the sentencing hearing, Judge Warwick McKinnon read a message from Tracy's mum, Irene Ford, which said: "I very much want to move on and make the best of what has been a living hell, losing my daughter."



Guilty: Patrick Dawkins and Kelly Ross

A number of Dawkins' family and friends got up and walked out of court during the statement.

Judge McKinnon continued with the letter, saying: "I would especially like to acknowledge the diligence of the detectives who so tirelessly worked on

both investigations. "I sat through the entire trial of Patrick Dawkins. I was overwhelmed by the energy and precision of the investigating team."

Judge McKinnon said the police officers named would be commended.

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Reporter Chloe Lambret takes part in the cold water swim at Tooting Bec Lido

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### Most read stories

- Crystal Palace rebuild exhibition under way
- Gang attacks couple on bus over handbag
- Salters Hill junction victory

Murdered: Tracy Ann Meade

## You can have a youth major, but it will cost you

Lambeth Council's youth mayor project has cost taxpayers nearly £70,000 - almost £20,000 more than it was originally estimated.

A review document recently published showed just £25,000 of this was spent on services for young people, with all the rest used for administration.

Only 3,492 people voted to elect the youth mayor, meaning it cost about £12 to administer each vote.

The vote, which took place last November, was won by 14-year-old Satya Prakash, from Streatham.

Conservative group leader, Councillor John Whelan, said: "This is money that could have been spent on

youth services. Instead, Labour has wasted [it] on admin and red tape.

"Some of the voters were not even from Lambeth. At the last council meeting we asked if we could be provided with the electoral roll, but Labour voted this down. Their faces are as red as the red ink they have produced."

"I wish the new youth mayor well, but Labour-Lambeth should hang its head in shame at the costly fiasco."

But Coun Florence Nosegbe, deputy cabinet member for young people, said the Conservatives were worried by youth and diversity. "This is a first for the young people of Lambeth," she added.



Too much red tape? Youth mayor Satya Prakash with Mayor of Lambeth Andrew Gibson

## CONTACT US - We're here to help

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## Counsellor stabbed addict to death

A drug counsellor who killed an addict who woke him up while he was at his girlfriend's house in Tulse Hill has been jailed for life.

Anthony Lafayette, 44, used a large kitchen knife to kill Michael Edwards - stabbing him in the neck.

The 29-year-old victim had arrived at Lafayette's pregnant girlfriend's home in Poulter House in the St Martin's estate, Tulse Hill, hoping to buy crack and heroin at

6.30am on January 20 last year.

But an argument broke out between Mr Edwards and Lafayette with Lafayette knifing Mr Edwards.

Fafully injured, Mr Edwards staggered towards his mother's home in nearby Hart House but died minutes later from the 12cm deep wound.

The court heard Lafayette, from Gilmore House, Clapham Common, was a convicted drug dealer who served nine

years for shooting another man in the groin in 1993.

He claimed he was no longer selling drugs and had acted in self-defence fearing for his girlfriend's life.

But on January 31, an Old Bailey jury rejected his claims, finding him guilty of murder by unanimous verdict.

Judge Brian Barker ordered Lafayette to spend at least 14 years behind bars before being considered for parole.

## Inquest date

The inquest into the death of Brazilian Jean Charles de Menezes, who was shot dead by police at Stockwell Tube station, will be held in September.

The 27-year-old electrician from South Road, Tulse Hill, was shot dead by officers after being mistaken for a terrorist, in July 2005.

Southwark coroner John Sampson said the inquest, at Southwark Coroner's Court, will begin on September 22 and last about three months.

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## Cost of youth mayor project rockets to £70,000

4:32pm Tuesday 12th February 2008

By Cara Lee

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The vote, which took place last November, was won by 14-year-old Satya Prakash, from Leigham Court Road, Streatham.

Conservative group leader Councillor John Whelan said, "This is money that could have been spent on youth services. Instead, Labour has wasted the money on admin and red tape.

"Some of the voters were not even from Lambeth. At the last council meeting we asked if we could be provided with the relevant electoral roll, but Labour voted this down. Their faces are as red as the red ink they have produced.

"I wish the new youth mayor well, but Labour Lambeth should hang its head in shame at the costly fiasco it has produced."

But Councillor Florence Nosegbe, deputy cabinet member for young people, said the "old-fashioned" Conservatives were worried by youth and diversity.

"This is a first for the young people of Lambeth," she added.

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