

SUMMER 2022

Local



Shaping the borough and making a difference

Explore your local park this summer

also inside...

Your borough
councillors
page 6

Helping Ukraine
page 10

Green Champion
page 14

Competition
page 21



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Dear resident

Hot off the heels of the jubilee celebrations, this edition is bursting with things to do over the summer. It's great to see fetes and family favourites back in full swing, and some of these activities are mentioned on page 28.

With the Amelia Scott now open you'll be able to take advantage of the packed cultural programme that is being delivered. If you haven't been able to visit yet, we've shared a few photos on page 13 which I'm sure will encourage you to come and see the wonderful space for yourself soon.

News of the conflict in Ukraine will not have escaped anyone over recent months, it's devastating, but I am absolutely blown away by the community we have here in the borough of Tunbridge Wells. In such a short time, the will and desire of residents wanting to help has been extraordinary, and because of this, we have strong networks working together with a common aim to support Ukrainian families staying in the borough. You can read more about some of this work on page 10.

We held local elections in May and there is a handy guide on pages 6-7 of elected councillors for 2022.

Lastly, see details of the latest shows at the Assembly Hall Theatre on pages 24-27 and news and features throughout the magazine to keep you up to date.

William Benson
Chief Executive



Contents

- 4 News in brief
- 5 New Mayor
- 6 Borough Councillors 2022
- 8 Public Spaces Protection Orders
- 9 In Bloom
- 10 Helping Ukraine
- 11 The Amelia Scott
- 14 Local Green Champion
- 16 Parks and nature
- 19 The Big Step Out
- 20 Visit Tunbridge Wells
- 21 Competition
- 23 Low income support
- 24 Assembly Hall Theatre
- 28 Summer events
- 30 Living with Covid-19



We produce Local to keep you up-to-date about Council services and news. If you have any comments about the magazine, we'd love to hear from you.
Contact us by:

Email: Local@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
Phone: **01892 526121**

Post: **Lizzie Goodwin, Communications Manager,**
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS

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If you require Local magazine in large print or on audio please phone **01892 526121**.

News in brief

Find out what people are talking about in Tunbridge Wells this summer

For news and events follow us on Facebook and Twitter or find out more at [twbc.online/news](https://www.twbc.online/news)



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Facebook

TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil



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Startrack

Once again this summer Paddock Wood Athletic Club is holding a Startrack week, full of fun and activity - a great introduction to athletics for all young people. Ideally the week is for young people aged 11 to 16 but younger children can join too. Coaching is done by the club's England Athletics-trained coaches, all staff are background checked. This year's Startrack week takes place 25-29 July. Full information can be found on the club website paddockwoodac.co.uk

The Queen's Green Canopy

We're delighted to be able to tell you that we exceeded our pledge to plant 70 specimen trees in prominent locations on

council-owned land or other accessible sites such as schools and public open spaces. We also distributed 700 saplings including hazel, field maple, hawthorn, wild cherry and hornbeam to residents, businesses, schools and charities across the borough.

From October upload a pic of your Jubilee tree to the QGC map.

Find out more at queensgreencanopy.org



Coworking partner announced

The Council has announced its new coworking partner: Town Square Spaces Ltd (TownSq).

The TownSq founders have more than 10-years experience in coworking and small business support, and can take people from an idea right through to founding, investment and growth.

TownSq will work with the Council to develop a coworking scheme within the town hall.



Local Plan moves forward

In April at the end of Stage 1 of the examination of the Council's proposed new Local Plan, the independent planning Inspector gave the go ahead to move on to Stage 2 of the process

The Stage 1 hearings cover legal compliance issues including the 'duty to cooperate', if this requirement was not met the Local Plan would not have been permitted to move to Stage 2. Examination hearings for Stage 2 continue during June and July.



New councillors

Following the local elections in May the composition of the Council is now

Liberal Democrats - 16

Conservatives - 13

Tunbridge Wells Alliance - 9

Labour - 7

Independents - 3

You can see a full list of councillors, including those newly elected, on pages 6 and 7.

New planters in Royal Tunbridge Wells

New planters have been placed in Calverley precinct in the town centre and floral displays will soon be filling up these smart new additions to the pedestrianised space. The planters were funded through the Government's Welcome Back Fund, aimed at supporting town centres and local businesses to recover from the Covid pandemic.



New Mayor of Tunbridge Wells

Councillor Godfrey Bland was elected as Mayor of Tunbridge Wells at the annual meeting of the Council in May.

Godfrey has been a ward councillor for Hawkhurst and Sandhurst since 2015 and has lived in the ward for more than 40 years.

During his term of office Godfrey will be supporting Hospice in the Weald. This well known local charity provides care for patients with a terminal illness, and those important to them. Care is completely tailored to each person as an individual, to help patients make decisions that are right for them and their loved ones.

Explaining the very personal reason behind his choice Godfrey said: 'I chose to support the Hospice in the Weald because they looked after my wife, Olga. We were very moved by the kindness and compassion they showed.'

Godfrey takes over as Mayor from Councillor Chris Woodward who was Mayor for the 2021-2022 year of office.



Kent Business Portal

Do you work for a local business, do you run a local business?



If you'd like the opportunity to tender for Council contracts we'd encourage you to register on our eTendering platform so that your business can take part in upcoming and future tenders. It's free to register at kentbusinessportal.org.uk/



There's no obligation and you can select opportunities that suit your business. If you'd like more information please email procurement@tunbridgewells.gov.uk.



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Borough Councillors 2022



Cllr Harry Allen
Conservatives
Speldhurst &
Bidborough
07523 005178



Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan
Labour
Rusthall
01892 549184



Cllr Lance Goodship
Conservatives
Sherwood
07311 810132



Cllr Rodney Atkins
Independent
Paddock Wood (East)
01892 833115



Cllr Ben Chapelard
Liberal Democrats
St James'
01892 557792



Cllr Christopher Hall
Liberal Democrats
Broadwater
07847 440433



Cllr Christian Atwood
Conservatives
Park
07702 386483



Cllr Tom Dawlings
Conservatives
Benenden &
Cranbrook
01580 241750



Cllr Dr Linda Hall
Conservatives
Goudhurst &
Lamberhurst
01580 213468



Cllr Matthew Bailey
Independent
Paddock Wood
(West)
07968 067075

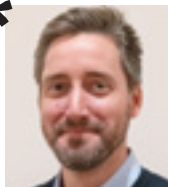


Cllr Mark Ellis
Liberal Democrats
St John's
07446 484925



Cllr David Hayward
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Pembury
01892 808000

*



Cllr Gavin Barrass
Liberal Democrats
Pantiles & St. Mark's
07816 362818



Cllr Luke Everitt
Labour
Southborough &
High Brooms
07775 838489



Cllr Andrew Hickey
Liberal Democrats
Pantiles & St Mark's
07770 862634



Cllr Paul Barrington-King
Conservatives
Pembury
07899 731696



Cllr Andy Fairweather
Conservatives
Frittenden &
Sissinghurst
07976 290185



Cllr Dianne Hill
Labour
Southborough &
High Brooms
01892 541476



Cllr Godfrey Bland
Conservatives
Hawkhurst &
Sandhurst
01580 850226



Cllr Wendy Fitzsimmons
Liberal Democrats
Pantiles & St Mark's
07974 025253



Cllr Seán Holden
Conservatives
Benenden &
Cranbrook
01580 714880

*



Cllr Martin Brice
Liberal Democrats
Culverden
07923 897228



Cllr Dave Funnell
Liberal Democrats
Rusthall
07835 476035



Cllr Jamie Johnson
Liberal Democrats
Broadwater
07931 158586

*

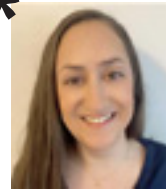
* Denotes new councillor for 2022



Cllr David Knight
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Goudhurst &
Lamberhurst
01580 895510



Cllr Ellen Neville
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Hawkhurst &
Sandhurst
07712 408513



Cllr Shadi Rogers
Labour
Sherwood
07832 110202



Cllr Brendon Le Page
Liberal
Democrats
Southborough North
07957 509575



Cllr Ms Beverley Palmer
Conservatives
Hawkhurst &
Sandhurst
01580 754309



Cllr Justine Rutland
Liberal Democrats
Culverden
07718 587241



Cllr Alain Lewis
Labour
Southborough &
High Brooms
07736 529170



Cllr Hugh Patterson
Liberal
Democrats
Capel
01892 837201



Cllr Matthew Sankey
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Speldhurst &
Bidborough
07881 674310



Cllr Peter Lidstone
Liberal Democrats
St John's
07843 694052



Cllr Trevor Poile
Liberal Democrats
Southborough North
01892 531108



Cllr Suzanne Wakeman
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Paddock Wood (East)
07940 824286



Cllr Jane March
Conservatives
Brenchley &
Horsmonden
01892 723481



Cllr Nicholas Pope
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Park
07956 340255



Cllr Nancy Warne
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Benenden &
Cranbrook
01580 720765



Cllr Steve Mcmillan
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Brenchley &
Horsmonden
01892 722071



Cllr Hugo Pound
Labour
Sherwood
07977 497335



Cllr Victoria White
Conservatives
Park
07855 826716



Cllr Raymond Moon
Labour
Paddock Wood
(West)
01892 835201



Cllr James Rands
Independent
Culverden
07498 377808



Cllr Lucy Willis
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Speldhurst &
Bidborough
07958 364185



Cllr Marguerita Morton
Liberal Democrats
St John's
07715 695169



Cllr Paul Roberts
Conservatives
Pembury
01892 822602



Cllr Rob Wormington
Liberal Democrats
St James'
07565 217794



A role for young people in shaping the future of Royal Tunbridge Wells

There's an exciting opportunity for two young people (aged 16-22) to take part in shaping the future of Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre.

The voluntary role will involve attending and contributing to meetings of the working group that has been set up to deliver a future for the town centre, enabling it to recover, evolve and flourish over the coming years and ensure its long-term vitality and viability. If you have ideas about how the town centre can grow to provide opportunities for younger people (or any other part of the community), we would love to hear from you. Meetings, that are expected to last a few hours, will be held approximately once a month. There may also be scope for further activities at public exhibitions as the plan progresses.

Being involved in the working group will provide valuable experience of the process of local governance and community-led projects which could be used to support further/higher education applications and job applications. The role may be of specific interest if you are considering further study or a career in planning, geography and economics.

If you are interested and wish to discuss the roles and responsibilities further, please contact Deborah West at deborah.west@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or **01892 554487**.



Public Spaces Protection Orders

New Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) approved by the Council's Cabinet in April are expected to be in place by the end of June 2022.

The three new three-year orders are a result of consultations with residents in 2021. The majority of responses to the consultations were clearly in favour of measures being introduced.

St John's Park, Tunbridge Wells

A PSPO will put a year-round curfew in place between the hours of 11pm and 5am. The curfew means no-one should be within the boundaries of the park at that time. This adds to the existing PSPO for alcohol control at the park. It is not an offence to drink alcohol there but it is an offence to fail to comply with an authorised officer's request to cease drinking or surrender alcohol.

Royal Tunbridge Wells multi-storey car parks

A no loitering or unauthorised activities PSPO will cover five town centre car parks: Crescent Road, Great Hall, Meadow Road, Royal Victoria Place and Torrington. The definition of loitering does not apply to rough sleeping and we will not be using a PSPO to ban rough sleepers from public spaces.

Sherwood Lake

The introduction of a PSPO here will introduce restrictions on night-time fishing on the west and south side of the lake and alcohol use at any time. The restrictions mean no-one shall fish, loiter, erect bivouacs, tents or similar structures within the restricted area between the hours of 7pm and 7am. Also, no-one should consume alcohol or be in possession of an open container of alcohol within the restricted area. A map of the restricted area can be seen at tunbridgewells.gov.uk/pspo

Failure to comply with a PSPO (excluding alcohol control) may result in a fine, on conviction, of £1,000. A Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 may be used as an alternative to prosecution.

Enforcement of the order will be undertaken by council officers and Kent Police. Fixed penalty notices will only be served by council officers either at the time an offence is taking place, or on a subsequent day if police attend the location and provide evidence to TWBC that an offence has taken place.

Further details on the PSPOs, the consultation and the implementation process can be found at tunbridgewells.gov.uk or contact communitysafety@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



In Bloom

How's your garden - or patio, or container, or basket - growing?

If the sunny days in May gave your planting a head start for summer then you might like to know that there's still time to enter the 2022 Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom competition. Other areas of the borough have their own in Bloom competitions, but if you live within a three-mile radius of the town hall in Royal Tunbridge Wells, including Hawkenbury and Southborough, then you have until 30 June to submit your entry form by post or email:

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

competition@royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk

Competition forms available from
royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk

Judges for the South & South East in Bloom competition will be in and around Royal Tunbridge Wells on 30 June. Since 2010, Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom has entered the regional competition, winning Gold medals and numerous awards - fingers crossed it's the same for 2022!



5 Gardening tips for this time of year

1. Use water wisely but check newly-planted trees and shrubs are not drying out while they are still getting established. It's best to water your garden first thing in the morning or in the evening
2. If you have baskets and container displays they'll appreciate a feed to encourage flowering
3. Give your houseplants a treat and put them out into a warm sheltered spot for the summer
4. When mowing consider leaving a few weeds to flower in your lawn as a source of nectar and pollen for those all important pollinators. For more ideas look at our article on p16 about pledging a small space for nature
5. Not much room to grow? Try growing some herbs in small containers

TUNBRIDGE WELLS



UKRAINE

The community of Tunbridge Wells borough helps the people of Ukraine

Since the conflict started in February, the Council has been working with government agencies and local groups to co-ordinate activity and avoid duplication of effort to support the Homes for Ukraine scheme and Ukrainian's coming to the UK under the family scheme.

In such a short space of time so much has been achieved locally to help Ukrainian's settle into the community as quickly as possible.

Networks are forming and friendships built as Ukrainian guests meet others who are in a similar situation.

Gratitude to local designers, yoyo whose staff gave up evenings and weekends to work with community groups to create a website full of vital information to help guests settle into the borough as quickly as possible, support hosts and further information about how you can help. The website is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian twhelpsukraine.info

The Council has produced a welcome guide which is also available in English, Ukrainian and Russian. Hints and tips for hosts have been circulated, and meetings held for hosts to share updates and ask questions.

'We thank everyone so much.'

-Guest at TN2

There is also a regular newsletter for hosts and guests to sign up to at twbc.online/ukrainiannewsletter to find out the latest information about activities and events in the area.

A lot of great work is happening, but none of this would be possible without the fantastic spirit and kindness of residents, many of whom have wanted to help in some way, from hosting a family, making donations, or giving up their time to volunteer.

Community effort

Ukraine Relief Group (URG) was set up to help Ukrainians suffering from the current conflict, taking aid to Ukraine, and supporting those arriving in the borough of Tunbridge Wells with essential supplies.

URG is now based out of TN2 Community Centre which enables them to focus on both sides, in UK and Ukraine. Guests can now come to TN2 and look through the donations and take away what is needed for them. Hosts are also welcome.

As families look through the donations, children can play in a dedicated space.

Residents have been so generous with donations of clothing, medical supplies, toiletries, baby and toddler equipment, toys and more.

Weekly updates are posted on URG's Facebook page with items that are in need. **Search Ukraine Relief Group**

Tunbridge Wells Ukraine Refugee Support Group

This subgroup of Tunbridge Wells Welcomes Refugees provides the 'wrap around' support for Ukrainian refugees coming to stay in Tunbridge Wells with the help of volunteers.

The group provides advice and support on processes such as registering to host a family or the visa application process.

The Tunbridge Wells Ukraine Refugee Support Group also provides ongoing information for Tunbridge Wells hosts, and where information is shared on lessons learnt, processes, translations etc. They also share hosting tips and information.

They are providing English conversation classes via Tunbridge Wells Welcomes Refugees and other volunteers. This is to support Ukrainians in the community who are not attending ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) language qualifications or want top up practice. More information is available on twhelpsukraine.info

The Amelia

The Amelia Scott is open

It's a hive of activity as locals and visitors explore the spectacular building, which was opened by relatives of Amelia Scott on 28 April. So, after a few years in the making, it is wonderful to see the building come to life again for the community to enjoy.

Inside you'll be able to talk to someone about a Council service, take out one of thousands of books... and there is a full calendar of cultural events and activities, so do keep visiting the Amelia website for the latest information. Theamelia.co.uk

Open seven days a week

Monday 9am-6pm

Tuesday 9am-6pm

Wednesday 9am-6pm

Thursday 9am-8pm

Friday 9am-6pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

Sunday 10am-4pm

Closed on bank holidays



Helen Boyce, accompanied by her daughter Amelia Bodfish open the Amelia Scott



Discovery Days from The Amelia



**Explore,
Discover,
Create!**

'Family Group', 1945, Henry Moore,
Sainsbury Centre, University of East
Anglia (c) The Henry Moore Foundation



Weekend Family Trail

Explore! Discover! Create!

**Weekends between
4 June and 3 July**

Pick up a trail and explore our wonderful new galleries to find and draw objects on themes which inspired Henry Moore - then visit the Threads of Influence exhibition to see his amazing originals. Beautiful colouring-in sheets inspired by local history will be available for younger children to get creative with. Why not share a picture of your visit or drawing on social media, tagging us @theamelia_tw, and you'll be in with the chance of winning a family theatre ticket!



Cabaret Mechanical Marvels

22 July-2 October

This is an exhibition for all ages, featuring modern automata with intricate mechanisms and humorous scenes. Cabaret Mechanical Marvels celebrates the fascinating world of automata and showcases exhibits that are masterpieces of creative thought, made by some of the finest contemporary automata artists from across the UK. Containing hands-on interactives, this exhibition is a fun-filled family entertainment show. Cabaret Mechanical Marvels is a touring exhibition produced by Cabaret Mechanical Theatre

theamelia.co.uk

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 [theamelia_tw](https://www.instagram.com/theamelia_tw)

 [theamelia_tw](https://twitter.com/theamelia_tw)

Have you popped in yet? Here are some pictures to tempt you in or back again soon.

Local Summer 2022



Local Green Champion

Our Local Green Champion for this edition is Chris Murphy from the Tunbridge Wells Repair Café!



Chris organises the Tunbridge Wells Repair Café, a not-for-profit monthly group which started in March 2020 and has been a huge local success. The repair café has 27 repair stations repairing all sorts of items from electricals, textiles, bikes and computers, to jewellery, mechanical objects and knife sharpening. It is staffed by a group of more than 60 fantastic volunteers.

Repair cafés challenge the way we think about the lifecycle of our household items, highlighting how we can give broken or damaged items a new lease of life.

We live in a throw-away society where many of the products we buy are designed with planned obsolescence and as a result broken household items are often discarded as we may lack the skills needed to repair them.

In 2019, Chris started to organise the first Tunbridge Wells Repair Café - the concept spoke to his love for the environment, helping impact climate change and people. In only four months he managed to find enough support to host the first event which took place just before lockdown hit in 2020. On average, they repair about 95 items at each repair café and about two thirds of these are successful. People give a voluntary contribution if they wish to; this is how the café is funded. Encouraging people to give the Tunbridge Wells Repair Café a try, Chris said: 'The quieter repair stations are those fixing bikes, textiles and computers, so please come and visit if you need help with these. The most popular station is always household and garden electrical items'.

Tunbridge Wells Repair Café is held at and strongly supported by Trinity Theatre in Royal Tunbridge Wells. Find out more about including details for the upcoming Tunbridge Wells Repair Café on the TWBC Climate Action Website.

twbcclimateaction.co.uk

**Tunbridge Wells Repair Café
Trinity Theatre Church Road,
Tunbridge Wells TN1 1JP**

Saturday, 25 June

Saturday, 16 July

Saturday 10 September

Saturday 1 October

Saturday 5 November

Saturday 26 November

10am-1pm

Last repairs accepted 12.30pm
or when capacity has been reached
trinitytheatre.net/events/repair-cafe



ARE YOU OUR NEXT GREEN CHAMPION?

OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEBODY WHO COULD BE?

We are looking for a Green Champion for our autumn 2022 edition of Local. Get in touch to tell us what you're doing to combat climate change.

To get involved, contact: sustainability@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Sustainability Stand Ups

Are you a local organisation, community group or business currently working towards positive climate action?

Come and tell us how your organisation is working to combat climate change.

Please register your interest by emailing sustainability@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



TWBC Climate Action website launch

Have you heard about our new TWBC Climate Action website? The website launched at the end of February and has received lots of positive feedback. On our website, we are keen to share climate-positive stories and action! If you know of any climate action work being taken by a local community group, school, business or individual please let us know by emailing sustainability@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



twbcclimateaction.co.uk

Sustainable Warmth scheme

Help is available to insulate your home to make it warmer for you, reduce your energy bills and be better for the environment.



Act now and apply before next winter

The Sustainable Warmth scheme is a government-funded initiative delivered by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Warmworks to support energy-saving improvements in people's homes. The scheme aims to help manage household fuel bills, and make homes warmer, more comfortable, and more energy efficient.

Check now to see if you are eligible to receive help under this new scheme.

surveys.est.org.uk/s/SustainableWarmth

Or phone Warmworks free of charge on 0808 196 8255.

If eligible, improvements offered under the Sustainable Warmth scheme are then assessed following a survey of the home, which is carried out by one of Warmworks' qualified surveyors.

The replacement or repair of fossil fuel heating systems, such as gas, oil, or LPG (liquid petroleum gas) boilers is not available under this scheme.

Eligible home improvements

The scheme offers a wide range of insulation measures and renewable heating technologies, such as air source heat pumps, which are designed to reduce the impact of heating homes on the environment.

Potential home improvements could include:

- wall insulation
- loft insulation
- air source, ground source or hybrid heat pumps
- biomass boilers
- double or triple glazing to replace single glazing
- energy efficient doors
- thermostats and heating controls
- hot water tank insulation

Eligible households

The scheme is open to homeowners and private tenants in rented accommodation, with a low annual income, and where the home is less energy efficient, with an EPC rating of D to G.

For people who live in a rented property, the landlord will need to provide permission to install energy-saving improvements and contribute a third of the installation costs.

Households also need to meet eligibility criteria to qualify for funding.

The scheme is being managed on our behalf by Warmworks.

Can you pledge a small space for nature?



If you would like to get involved you can join the Tunbridge Wells Community Nature Reserve Facebook page where you pledge an area of your land, share photos and tips, and get inspired.

We are also looking for a volunteer to lead this project and help administer the Facebook page - please get in touch if you are interested by emailing Rebecca.messenger@kent.gov.uk

The Tunbridge Wells Community Nature Reserve is a new project aimed at creating a network of small, wildlife-friendly spaces in Tunbridge Wells that add up to the size of an average nature reserve.

Inspired by the Felixstowe Community Nature Reserve, Kent High Weald Partnership is asking residents and businesses if you can offer a space (2m² or more) to give over to nature. This could be in your garden, a window box, your office

courtyard or roof, a corner of an allotment or any space available - be creative! You can even just leave a section of lawn to go wild!

Our Facebook community will provide handy tips and tricks on pollinator-friendly plants, wildlife ponds, hedgehog homes and access ways, bird feeders, and insect lodges. This will encourage wildlife to your land and help to increase the local biodiversity.



Perfect parks

Across the borough there are some beautiful places to visit and green spaces where we can enjoy nature. Just a visit to your local park can help to reduce stress and anxiety and if you're thinking about getting active again they're a great place to start. Find out about wellbeing walks near you here ramblers.org.uk/wellbeing-walks/royal-tunbridge-wells

Parks, playing fields and play areas in the towns and villages are usually looked after by the local parish or town council and in central Tunbridge Wells by TWBC with the invaluable help of the Friends groups.

New statue in Dunorlan Park

The long-empty plinth in the Grecian temple in Dunorlan Park, Royal Tunbridge Wells is now supporting a new statue donated by a member of the park's Friends group. The temple was previously home to The Dancing Girl, by Victorian sculptor William Theed, until the statue was stolen in 2006.

Buddi bench

Have you noticed the buddi bench in Calverley Grounds opposite the basketball court? Donated by resident Seth Hunter, the idea is that by taking a seat on the bench you're happy to join in an informal conversation with anyone who chooses to join you.

Peckish in the park?

In Tunbridge Wells the larger parks are home to very popular independent cafés. In **Dunorlan Park** the café overlooks the lake and is a great spot for breakfast before a dog walk or a well-deserved reward following the Saturday morning parkrun.

In **Grosvenor and Hilbert Park** Table 8 Café is centrally located by the children's play area, bowling green and The Hub, perfect for a post-school visit or a weekend treat.

Calverley Grounds has a choice of places for you, the café overlooking the central green area or the inside community café just next to the Calverley Adventure Playground where you'll often find seasonal events taking place.

The newest addition to the parks is even flow in the park, a family-run cafe in **St John's Recreation Ground** serving the local residents, school students and visitors to the park (including dogs!).



New Changing Places toilet at Bedgebury National Pinetum

The Council has been awarded £40,000 towards the provision of accessible public toilets from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Changing Places public toilets initiative.

The funding will be used to develop a new Changing Places facility in partnership with Forestry England at Bedgebury National Pinetum, allowing more visitors to enjoy the beauty of this award-winning visitor attraction.



Penny Veck, Visitor Services Manager at Forestry England's Bedgebury National Pinetum, said:

'The installation of a Changing Places toilet at the site will help Bedgebury National Pinetum to be more accessible for our visitors and help connect everyone with the nation's forests. Bedgebury National Pinetum offers a world class tree collection and a place where visitors can enjoy the beauty and diversity of conifers in every season, and this new facility will mean many more people can explore and feel welcome in this special place.'

In addition to the new facility at Bedgebury some of the funding received by the Council will be used to relocate the Changing Place in Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre.

Changing Places toilets are designed for use by severely disabled people who need specialised facilities when they are out and about.

Gym equipment for Dunorlan Park

Look out for new gym equipment coming to Dunorlan Park, Royal Tunbridge Wells. Seven easily accessible exercise stations are to be situated near the children's playground and overlooking the lake. Rotary in Tunbridge Wells has raised over £17,000 for the equipment. The robust array of outdoor exercise machines will be a great facility for the many residents of the town who regularly use the park for their fitness regime, and perhaps encourage more people to do the same.



Tunbridge Wells Rotary Club president, Martin Atkinson, commented: 'Our club celebrated its centenary in 2021-22. We wanted to present something of lasting benefit to the people of Tunbridge Wells. The nation's health has been a big issue recently, so we thought something to improve fitness and wellbeing would be appropriate.'

'Working in partnership with The Rotary Club of the Pantiles, we held several fundraising events over the past year. We are also extremely grateful to Royal Tunbridge Wells Round Table for a generous donation from the proceeds of last year's firework display, held - fittingly - in Dunorlan Park!'

The fundraising efforts over the last year are a great example of what can be achieved by groups working together for the benefit of the community. As well as the various events the clubs and their members contributed generously and the Rotary South East District administration has provided a grant.

Rotary has the support of the Friends group and worked closely throughout with the Council who will oversee the installation as well as maintain and insure the equipment.



St John's Park & Meadows The 'Love Fountain'

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is a key partner in a project that will see the restoration of the iconic water fountain in St John's Park and Meadows (pictured).

The fountain, donated to the borough by Joseph Horatio Love in 1920, was originally crafted in fine, Royal Doulton tiles, the most ornate of which exist in a frieze at its base. The Council is partnering with The Friends of St John's Park and Meadows and with Refresh Tunbridge Wells (Refresh) to restore the fountain and install nearby seating. The fountain will be planted up as a public art project, to create a new, exciting viewpoint.



The cost of the fountain's restoration will be met from developer contributions arising from the nearby 'The Dairy' housing complex. The funds required for the seating will be the subject of a crowdfunding campaign to be run jointly by the Friends group and Refresh.





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Make the change to a climate-friendly commute

If you're a motorist the daily commute is probably not something you enjoy; time spent in traffic and knowing the associated emissions are contributing to the climate crisis can make it a challenging part of the day.

So is it time to make the change? If you choose to walk, cycle, or use public transport you can make a real difference, you can save time, save money, reduce pollution, get fitter and make the borough a nicer place.

Walking or cycling is emission-free and you may be able to plan your journey around existing cycle routes. If you think your fitness levels may not be up to the challenge then an e-bike may be a solution - not always cheap but money-saving in the longer term.



There's lots more information about sustainable travel options on our climate action website twbclimateaction.co.uk, including climate-friendly travel initiatives like:

Co Wheels car club co-wheels.org.uk/tunbridgewells

CoMoUK helping you find journey shares como.org.uk

Kent Connected helping you find the smartest route for your journey kentconnected.org

Kent Journey Share helping you see who's travelling your way liftshare.com/uk/community/km

The Big Step Out 29 June at Bewl Water

Put your best foot forward for unpaid carers in our community.

The Big Step Out is taking place at Bewl Water on 29 June to celebrate and raise funds to support the unpaid carers in our community.

Walkers can choose a sponsored 1, 3, 6 or 12 mile walk within the picturesque setting of Bewl Water with lunch to follow.

Stepping Out is the charitable organisation behind The Big Step Out - they organise free walks for carers across the UK. This gives carers a break from their responsibilities, the opportunity to meet others in the same situation and a chance to enjoy a stress-free day out to enhance their wellbeing.

Please help by either:

- Booking on to one of the sponsored walks (dog-friendly)
- Volunteering to help on the day
- Donating to help buy lunch for carers who walk
- Consider becoming a main sponsor of the event

For more information, please visitcarerssteppingout.co.uk or email jodieeles@hotmail.co.uk

Many carers struggle to look after their own wellbeing and are often isolated. 76% say they are not able to do as much physical exercise as they'd like to.

There are more than 13 million unpaid carers in the UK and 151,000 in Kent alone. This is 1 in 9 people.



Visit Tunbridge Wells

Visitor information for the borough is now hosted in the newly opened Amelia Scott.

Welcoming advisors will be able to answer your questions and help you navigate the Visit Tunbridge Wells interactive screen. While you're there perhaps visit the Story of Tunbridge Wells permanent exhibition and explore the other galleries.

On the Visit Tunbridge Wells website you will find events, information on walks, attractions, eateries, shopping, inspirational itineraries and more. We also have a very popular blog section written by local residents. If you would like to write about Tunbridge Wells please get in touch: info@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

New to the website are two promotional films featuring the borough which we're very excited about; we recently commissioned a local production company to make them and we're sure you'll like them too.



Royal Tunbridge Wells Audio Trail

Discover the highlights and hidden gems of Royal Tunbridge Wells on our self-guided audio trail 'Tales of Tunbridge Wells'.

These audio postcards and picture galleries will give you a glimpse of our infamous and unique town. Follow the journey from the discovery of the Chalybeate Spring in 1606 to the flourishing, culturally rich town that exists today.

Anecdotes and facts from fascinating contributors provide a colourful and characterful insight into one of England's first tourist destinations.

Read more about the trail and download the free app here:

Visit Tunbridge Wells | visittunbridgewells.co.uk

Follow us on social media to keep up to date on local events and inspirational content:

 [visittunbridgewells](https://www.facebook.com/visittunbridgewells)  [officialvisittunbridgewells](https://www.instagram.com/officialvisittunbridgewells)  [TWellsTourism](https://twitter.com/TWellsTourism)



Garden waste collections

New subscribers can sign up for the garden waste collection service here

twbc.online/gw-subscribe

A convenient fortnightly kerbside collection for your garden waste

This sign up service is for new customers, and existing subscribers who wish to order an additional bin. The Council will contact existing customers when their subscription is due for renewal



Spa Valley Railway 25th Anniversary!

The Spa Valley Railway in Tunbridge Wells will reach an amazing milestone this year as 25 years ago, in August 1997, the railway opened the line from Tunbridge Wells West to Groombridge before extending the line to Eridge in March 2011.

The railway is now home to a wonderful fleet of Steam & Heritage Diesel Locomotives, including Battle of Britain Locomotive No. 34053 'Sir Keith Park' and an 1876 built steam engine known as Terrier 'Sutton'.

The railway would not exist today without the dedicated volunteers that make up this wonderful railway so join them for an anniversary steam train ride between 26 and 29 August 2022 or book one of the special events spavalleyrailway.co.uk

They are looking for new volunteers to join their friendly team to take them to the next 25 years!

Competition time!

Local has teamed up with The Spa Valley Railway to celebrate its 25th birthday. To win a family ticket to travel on the Spa Valley Railway, enter the word search competition below. Email the missing word to communications@tunbridgewells.gov.uk by 8 July 2022. Alternatively, send your entry to Communications team, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Civic Way, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS.

Terms & Conditions

All correct answers will be put into the prize draw and a winner will be drawn at random. Prize draw only open to residents of Tunbridge Wells borough. TWBC staff are not eligible to enter.

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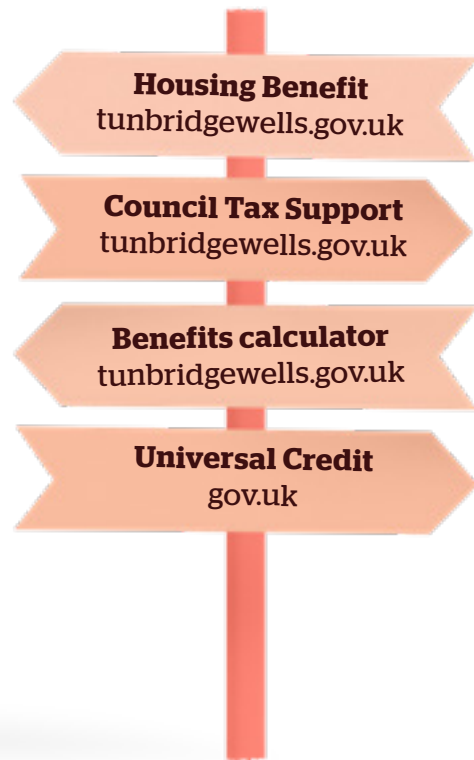


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Help and support is available if you are on a low income

The Council and government offer a range of benefits services online



The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) administer job seekers benefits, help for people on low income, death benefits, state pension benefits, carers and disability benefits.

[gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

Citizens Advice has lots of useful information on its website to find out what help you can get if you are on a low income. This could be help with living costs, rent, free prescriptions or school meals.

citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/help-if-on-a-low-income

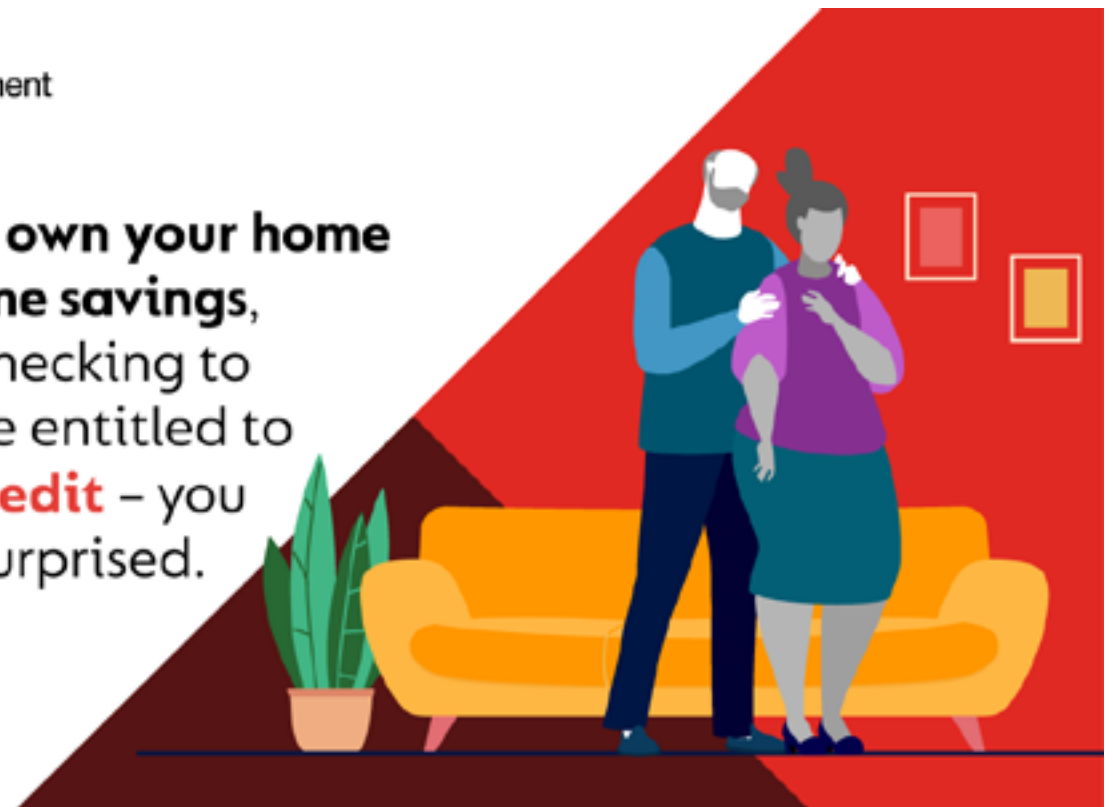
Nourish community foodbank works on a referral-only basis. To be referred contact your care provider or Tunbridge Wells and District Citizens Advice.

citizensadvice.org.uk



HM Government

Even if you **own your home** or **have some savings**, it's worth checking to see if you're entitled to **Pension Credit** – you might be surprised.



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MUSIC | MON 20 — TUE 21 JUNE



DANCE | WED 22 JUN



MUSIC | SAT 25 JUN

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FAMILY | TUE 28 — WED 29 JUNE



MUSIC | FRI 1 JUL

Lamberhurst School Of Theatre Dance

The Wizard Of Oz



DANCE | SUN 3 JUL



MUSIC | THU 7 JUL



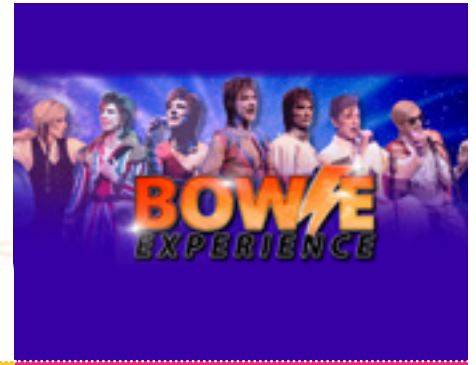
DANCE | SAT 9 — SUN 10 JULY



DANCE | MON 11 JUL



MUSICAL | WED 13 JUL



MUSIC | SAT 16 JUL



COMEDY | WED 20 — THU 21 JULY



MUSIC | SAT 23 JUL

assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk
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tickets visit our website



VARIETY | FRI 29 JUL



MUSIC | SAT 30 JUL



MUSIC | SUN 31 JUL



MUSIC | FRI 5 AUG



FAMILY FRI 19 — SUN 21 AUGUST



MUSIC | FRI 26 AUG



MUSIC | SAT 27 AUG



MUSIC | FRI 2 SEP



MUSIC | SAT 3 SEP



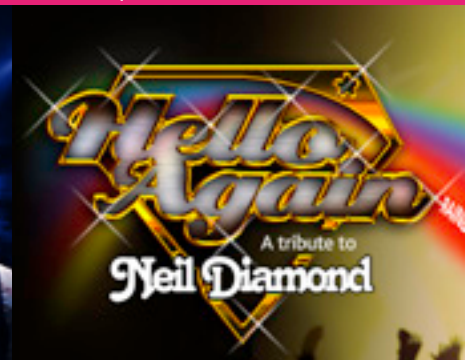
MUSIC | SUN 4 SEP



SPOKEN WORD | MON 5 SEP



MUSIC | WED 7 SEP



MUSIC | THU 8 SEP

HARRY HILL

Pedigree Fun!

Harry Hill joins us for two nights of fun at the Assembly Hall Theatre with his new show 'Pedigree Fun!' on Saturday 22 October and Friday 29 November! Harry is back with brand-new amazing jokes in an all-singing, all-dancing one-man spectacular. "I hadn't realised how much I missed performing live until lockdown stopped me from doing it," says Harry, "It's great to be going back on stage and the good news is I am planning a very silly show." Audiences will meet Harry's new baby elephant, Sarah, and Ian, The Information Worm and Harry will also be joined by Stouffer the Cat (his famous sidekick) who commented "what can I tell you? When Harry calls you say yes!"

Tickets available at assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

SAT 22 OCT AND FRI 29 NOV



JENNY ECLAIR



SIXTY! (FFS!)

With her tour extended due to popular demand, having hit 60 (but still a year younger than Madonna), Jenny Eclair AKA 'The Face of Vagisan' arrives at the Assembly Hall Theatre on Friday 14 October!

Now that it takes 20 minutes of scrolling down to find her DOB when she's filling in forms online, should she celebrate or crawl into a hole? What will her 60's hold for this 1960's babe and is it a legal requirement to buy Nordic walking poles? Come and find out.

Tickets available at
assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

.....
FRI 14 OCT

BY THE KERB PRODUCTIONS presents



Russell Kane's bringing his gut-punch funny, searing, award-winning take on the two years we've just gone through to the Assembly Hall Theatre on Wednesday 12 October! Hailed as the The Guardian's Number one comedy performance to come out of 2020 - this high-octane show brings nuclear-energy belly laughs and pant-wetting observations which prove laughter really is the best medicine* (*actually, it's probably hospital medicine).

Russell Kane has two chart-topping, award-bagging podcasts: Man Baggage and BBC Radio 4's Evil Genius. He is a regular on Channel 4, BBC, and ITV: all the usual shows you see funny people on. He's also a writer, actor, and presenter. He drinks lots of coffee and is 'like that in real life'.

He was the first ever comedian to bag the two most prestigious comedy awards on earth in the same year, for the same show: The Dave's Edinburgh Comedy Awards (formerly The Perrier), and The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Award, (formerly known as the Barry Award). He's also a raving bighead that likes listing his achievements.

Tickets at assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

.....
WED 12 OCT



Summer events around the borough

18
Jun

Benenden Village Fete

The Green | 12-4pm

The village fete will have traditional stalls, games, food and drink, raffle, entertainment, dog show, live music to make it a fun day out!

15
Jul

Son Yambu - Afro-Cuban band

Frittenden Memorial Hall TN17 2DD | 8pm

Authentic Cuban son - the essential Afro-Cuban sound that originated in the streets of eastern Cuba at the turn of the last century and later gave rise to modern salsa. Promoted in association with Applause Rural Touring.

19
Jun

'Privates, Great Ideas by Geniuses' Comedy Family Show

Frittenden Memorial Hall TN17 2DD | 3pm

Bright Buoy Productions present 'Privates: Great Ideas by Geniuses' - comedy family show - a Father's Day treat! Three brilliant, big-headed idiots try to make history and win a Nobel Prize with some totally stupid homemade inventions. Promoted in association with Applause Rural Touring.

31
Jul

Cranbrook on the Green

The Ball Field | 11am-6pm

Classic car show, dog show, bands, food, drink, market stalls and much more.

26
Jun

Hawkhurst 10 & 5K Race

The Moor | 9am

Professionally organised by Nice Work. This cross country over an attractive route offers chip timings, medals for all and prizes. It is preceded by the very popular children's race around the Moor - with medals and treats for all entrants. The event will be opened by our very own Mayor.

03
Aug

Playday: For children

The Moor, Hawkhurst | 2pm

A free, fun filled event. Storytelling and lots of activities including sandpit, mud kitchen, things to make and games to play.

09
Sep

10
Sep

Cranfest 2022

Various locations | Saturday 6pm-9pm
Sunday 12pm-9pm

An amazing array of different artists playing throughout plus local school bands and, even better, the whole thing is completely free!

01
Jul

Capel Fete-ival

Five Oak Green Recreation Ground

Evening with live music. Food and drink available. Entry free.

02
Jul

Capel Fete

Five Oak Green Recreation Ground

A free day out for all the family with procession, animals, live bands, attractions, arena events. Food and drinks available.

10
Sep

Makers @ The Moor

The Moor, Hawkhurst | 10am

Lots of crafts - candles, turned wood, pottery, glassware and locally made foods - including jams, chutneys, and cheeses.

02
Jul

Langton Green Village Fete

The Green by The Hare | 12pm-5pm

Lots of independent stalls as well as food and drink outlets. A large band is performing as well as a classical singer. They have a royal theme running throughout as a nod to the Platinum Jubilee and competitions such as a tug of war, dog show and cake competition.

Check parish and town council websites for more events in the borough:

Frittenden: frittendenevents.co.uk

Capel Fete: capelfete.com

Hawkhurst: hct2018.org

Langton Green: langtongreen.org.uk

Cranfest: cranfest.co.uk



Hella,

Tunbridge Wells



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communications@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

OR sign up to hear the latest planning applications near you, bin collection reminders, current consultations and more **[twbc.online/alerts](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/twbc/online/alerts)**

Happy 5th birthday to TW Lotto!

Help support 85 charities in the borough who are part of our council-run lotto.

Each ticket costs just £1 and 50% of all sales go to your selected charity. PLUS, you have the chance to win up to £25,000!

Find out more and help local charities today.

twlotto.co.uk/good-causes

[f](#) TWLottoUK [t](#) @TWLottery



Living with COVID-19:

5 things you can do to help yourself, your family and your community.

1



Get vaccinated to reduce your risk of becoming seriously ill.

2



If you feel unwell and have flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms and a high temperature **avoid close contact** with others and **stay at home** if you can.

3



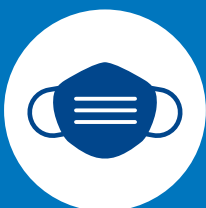
Let in **fresh air** when you meet others indoors, especially if they're at high risk from COVID-19.

4



Wash your hands regularly and cover your mouth and nose if you cough or sneeze.

5



Wear a **face covering** in crowded and enclosed places and when coming into contact with people at higher risk from COVID-19.

Let's all keep helping each other.
For more information, go to
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



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