

SUMMER 2023 Local

Building a better borough



Bin collection rounds are changing

pages 4-5

also inside...

Your local
councillor
page 6-7

Coronation
moments
Pages 10-11

Have your say
page 13

Summer
activities
Pages 16-17



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Dear resident

When the sun is out; it's definitely a sign that summer has arrived, it feels positively warmer now - perfect for enjoying the great outdoors!

I'm delighted that our Residents' Survey has just launched, it's our first in several years so I really want to encourage as many residents as possible to take part. It's an opportunity for you to tell us what is important to you. I'm particularly pleased that colleagues will be out in the Borough to help those who cannot take part online. There should be a drop-in near you, but if that date is not convenient you can attend any session. Details are on page 13.

To improve the efficiency of the recycling and refuse collection rounds, Urbaser, our contractor, is making changes to some rounds in the Borough. You should receive a letter or email to advise you of the changes, whether or not there has been a change to where you live. Look out for this communication if you haven't received anything yet. More information is on pages 4-5.

Although the weather was mixed for the King's Coronation weekend, it didn't dampen spirits; every kind of celebration was attended from garden parties, street gatherings to larger communities coming together for this historic occasion. And from the photos we've been receiving, it looks like a fun time was had by all! Take a look on pages 10-11.

Within the Council, we had a third of our seats up for election in May which saw nine new councillors elected who will be spending the next few months getting up to speed with what we do. A full list of borough councillors is on pages 6-7.

We have crammed in other news, listings, and articles to keep you informed this summer. Enjoy!

William Benson
Chief Executive



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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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The information in this publication was correct at the time of going to print. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions or subsequent changes.

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

Recycle it right

Please help us get the bin service right by getting your paper and cardboard recycling right

The changes we're making to the bin rounds are designed to make the service more efficient and with your help we can make it better

Lots of cardboard?

Too much for the green box?

Please flatten the cardboard and put it out for collection next to your recycling

Use your green box for paper and cardboard recycling



Find out more about what can go in your bin and box here **[twbc.online/mybin](https://www.twbc.online/mybin)**

Recycling and household waste collection days are changing



Look out for your letter or email with information about your bin day

Or check here **twbc.online/newcollectionday**



Changes begin from Monday 3 July

Why are the rounds changing?

Making these changes means we can make the service more efficient and more reliable.

Updating the collection rounds is expected to reduce vehicle mileage and CO₂ emissions.

Get a weekly bin day reminder

Sign up to our weekly newsletter here **twbc.online/alerts** and receive an email which is personalised to your address and includes information about your bin collections.

Tell someone!

A letter or email will be sent to households about the same time as you receive this edition of Local. It will say whether your bin day is changing and have information on the new collection day. Please help spread the word just in case a neighbour hasn't seen their letter or email.

Borough Councillors 2023



Cllr Harry Allen
Conservatives
Speldhurst &
Bidborough
07523 005178



Cllr Paul Curry
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Speldhurst &
Bidborough
07515 938 765



Cllr David Hayward
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Pembury
01892 808000



Cllr Rodney Atkins
Independent
Paddock
Wood (East)
01892 833115



Cllr Tom Dawlings
Conservatives
Benenden &
Cranbrook
01580 241750



Cllr Dianne Hill
Labour
Southborough &
High Brooms
01892 541476



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



Cllr Mark Ellis
Liberal
Democrats
St John's
07446 484925



Cllr Seán Holden
Conservatives
Benenden &
Cranbrook
01580 714880



Cllr Paul Barrington-King
Conservatives
Pembury
07899 731696



Cllr Andy Fairweather
Conservatives
Frittenden &
Sissinghurst
07976 290185



Cllr Jamie Johnson
Liberal Democrats
Broadwater
07931 158586



Cllr Godfrey Bland
Conservatives
Hawkhurst &
Sandhurst



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



Cllr David Knight
Tunbridge Wells
Alliance
Goudhurst &
Lamberhurst
01580 895510



Cllr Martin Brice
Liberal
Democrats
Culverden
07923 897228



Cllr John Francis
Labour
Southborough &
High Brooms
07770 299 715



Cllr Alain Lewis
Labour
Southborough &
High Brooms
07736 529170



Cllr Alex Britcher-Allan
Labour
Rusthall
01892 549184



Cllr Lance Goodship
Conservatives
Sherwood
07311 810132



Cllr Peter Lidstone
Liberal Democrats
St John's
07843 694052



Cllr Ben Chapelard
Liberal Democrats
St James'
01892 335509



Cllr Christopher Hall
Liberal Democrats
Broadwater
07847 440433



Cllr Jane March
Conservatives
Brenchley &
Horsmonden
01892 723481

* Denotes new councillor for 2023



Cllr Steve Mcmillan
Tunbridge Wells Alliance
Brenchley & Horsmonden
01892 722071



Cllr Brendon Le Page
Liberal Democrats
Southborough North
07957 509575



Cllr Matthew Sankey
Tunbridge Wells Alliance
Speldhurst & Bidborough
07881 674310



Cllr Raymond Moon
Labour
Paddock Wood (West)
01892 835201



Cllr Ms Beverley Palmer
Conservatives
Hawkhurst & Sandhurst
01580 754309



Cllr Jayne Sharratt
Labour
Rusthall
07532 339 434



Cllr Marguerita Morton
Liberal Democrats
St John's
07715 695169



Cllr Hugh Patterson
Liberal Democrats
Capel
01892 837201



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



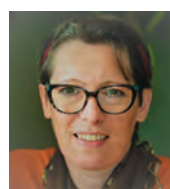
Cllr Mark Munday
Liberal Democrats
Paddock Wood (West)
01892 832 033



Cllr Nicholas Pope
Tunbridge Wells Alliance
Park
07956 340255



Cllr Nancy Warne
Tunbridge Wells Alliance
Benenden & Cranbrook
01580 720765



Cllr Ellen Neville
Tunbridge Wells Alliance
Hawkhurst & Sandhurst
07712 408513



Cllr Hugo Pound
Labour
Sherwood
07977 497335



Cllr Alison Webster
Tunbridge Wells Alliance
Goudhurst & Lamberhurst
07836 200 712



Cllr Siobhan O'Connell
Tunbridge Wells Alliance
Park
07484 890 550



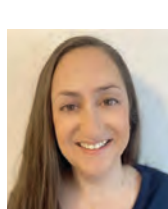
Cllr Paul Roberts
Conservatives
Pembury
01892 822602



Cllr Victoria White
Conservatives
Park
07855 826716



Cllr Joe Opara
Liberal Democrats
Southborough North
Joe.Opara@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk



Cllr Shadi Rogers
Labour
Sherwood
07832 110202



Cllr Pamela Wilkinson
Liberal Democrats
Pantiles & St Mark's
07923 897 228



Cllr David Osborne
Liberal Democrats
Culverden



Cllr Justine Rutland
Liberal Democrats
Culverden
07718 587241



Cllr Rob Wormington
Liberal Democrats
St James'
07565 217794

New Mayor of Tunbridge Wells

At the Annual Council Meeting, members elected Councillor Hugh Patterson as Mayor of Tunbridge Wells. Hugh represents Capel ward and for the past year he has been Deputy Mayor.

Hugh will support two charities during his term of office: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Charitable Fund and Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre (PWCAC).

We asked Hugh to tell us about his choices: 'Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Charity exists to enhance the standard of care, services and facilities provided to patients, relatives, visitors and staff within the MTW NHS Trust. I thought this was particularly appropriate this year, the 75th anniversary of the NHS, and would help raise awareness of the work that has been done by our hospital staff over that time. It is also a way of expressing my gratitude for the quality of care and speedy and

successful treatment I received following my prostate cancer diagnosis last year.'

'Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre is a volunteer-run charity offering free advice, information and support to people living in Paddock Wood, the neighbouring villages and more widely in the west Kent area. They provide advice and help on welfare, debt, housing, family, mental health support and other issues to residents, who cannot afford the funding themselves. PWCAC provides a vital service to the rural community I represent. I have been familiar with their work for many years as a Parish and Borough Councillor and know how important their role is to those in need of help and advice within our community.'

Past Mayor Godfrey Bland raised over £5,000 for his chosen charity, Hospice in the Weald.



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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)



TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil



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TWellsbc

Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre Plan

A 'Call for Sites' is open now to identify available and suitable sites for development to be considered for inclusion in the Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre Plan. Look out for details at [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

Local Authority Housing Fund

At least 15 new homes are to be added to local social housing stock following a decision to participate in the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund Programme (LAHF).

Forty percent of the funding for the properties will come from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities which introduced LAHF to support selected local authorities to provide sustainable housing for those meeting resettlement criteria. The Council's Cabinet agreed to release £3.2m of s106 developer contributions which makes up the remaining 60 percent of the funding.

It's an honour

In April Tunbridge Wells resident Dr Philip Whitbourn was awarded the Freedom of the Borough at a ceremony held in the Town Hall.

At a special meeting of the Council in May councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with two further awards. Ceremonies to present these honours will be held at a later date.

Names of the recipients cannot be released at the time of writing but we will provide an update in the next edition of Local.

Reduced use of pesticides

In line with its commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030 the Council has adopted a policy to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides within the areas maintained and managed by the Parks team.

The aim of the policy is to start the process of reducing the use of horticultural chemicals wherever possible, with the ultimate goal of phasing out chemical usage completely, other than for the control of invasive weeds and pest infestations. Agreeing to adopt the policy means work can begin on exploring options for reducing reliance on chemicals.

Section 106 funds allocated

Developer contributions, s106 monies, have been allocated to Cranbrook and Sissinghurst Parish Council towards the refurbishment of Jubilee Field play area. The money will be used for the replacement and maintenance of existing play equipment and the improvement of safety surfaces.

Money from developer contributions has also been allocated to fund the replacement of the storage and refreshments facility adjacent to the pavilion at Bayham Road football pitches.

Ward boundaries are changing

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published its final recommendations for changes to the borough's ward boundaries and the number of councillors.

Residents will be represented by 39 councillors across 14 wards - twelve three-councillor wards, one two-councillor ward and one one-councillor ward. The changes become law once Parliament has approved them and the new arrangements will be in place for the borough elections in 2024. It means the borough elections in 2024 will be a little different as every seat will be contested; in subsequent years the electoral cycle will return to elections by thirds. See the full report at [lgbce.org.uk](https://www.lgbce.org.uk)

A Royal Weekend

The weather wasn't as kind as it could have been but that didn't stop celebrations taking place across the borough to mark the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and The Queen. Here are some of the events that took place



Speldhurst



Bell ringers young and old at Speldhurst after 'ringing for the king'



Langton Green and Rusthall



Coronation treasure hunt around the villages

Paddock Wood



The Parish Council gave a mug to every school child at Paddock Wood Primary Academy

Horsmonden



Beer festival and dog show on the green

Capel



Big Lunch and games on the recreation ground. Hugh Patterson led a toast



Royal Memorabilia Exhibition organised by Friends of Capel Church held at St Thomas à Becket, Capel

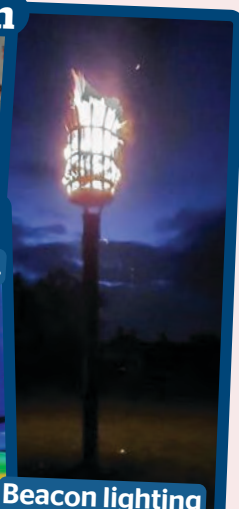
Frittenden



The Coronation Picnic Tea...



...complete with bouncy castle



Beacon lighting

Cranbrook & Sissinghurst

Windmill in lights

Cranbrook Street Party

Sissinghurst Street party

Big Help Out with Cranbrook Juniors Football Club and Brownies

Goudhurst

Coronation dinner on the village green

Benenden

Benenden Coronation Big Lunch

Royal Tunbridge Wells

Celebrations in The Amelia Scott

Lamberhurst

A church service followed by the Big Lunch

The History Society put on a display of Lamberhurst over 70 years

The big clean up with the local Guides

Brenchley & Matfield

Fun and games at the Brenchley & Matfield big picnic

With thanks to all the local photographers who have shared their pictures with us.

Help for Households

Get cheaper broadband

Are you missing out on cheaper broadband?

You could save around £200 a year by switching to a broadband social tariff if you receive one of a range of government benefits.

Since January 2022 take-up of social tariffs has quadrupled, yet despite this Ofcom says that more than half of eligible households continue to be unaware of their existence.

If you know someone you think could be eligible for a social tariff tell them to get in touch with their provider as soon as possible – switching could halve their bills overnight.

Search 'social tariffs' online or go to [ofcom.org.uk](https://www.ofcom.org.uk)



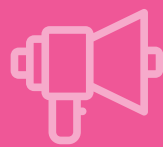
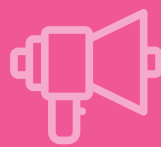
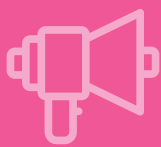
Get Around for £2

Where will you go?

The Government has extended the £2 bus fare until 31 October to help passengers with cost of living and then £2.50 until November 2024.

With the school summer holidays coming up this could be a great opportunity to explore the local area, and maybe even further afield!

You can find out more about the bus fare cap scheme and what operators are taking part at gov.uk



Residents' Survey

12 June - 23 July

Your views matter

Our Residents' Survey is now live.

This is your chance to give feedback on the services we provide, our priorities and what you think they should be in the future. We really want to hear from you, so please get involved.

**Complete the
survey online at
twbc.online/rsr**



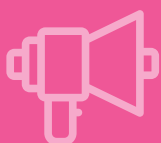
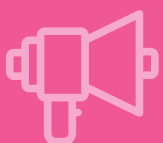
**The survey takes
around 15 minutes to
complete and will help
us as we develop our
long-term strategy for
the borough**

Attend a drop-in session

We're aware not everybody can take part in online surveys, but we want to hear from all our residents - so we're running drop-in sessions across the borough to guide residents through the survey.

Date and time	Location	Postcode
Mon 19 Jun 12.30-2.30pm	The Old School Hall (Sandhurst)	TN18 5JS
Tue 20 Jun 2-4pm	Copt Hall (Hawkhurst)	TN18 4LR
Wed 21 Jun 2-4pm	Wesley Centre (Paddock Wood)	TN12 6DS
Thu 22 Jun 1.45-3.45pm	Lamberhurst Village Hall	TN3 8DA
Mon 26 Jun 1-3pm	Goudhurst Village Hall	TN17 1AT
Tue 27 Jun 11.30am-1.30pm	St Philip's Church (Sherwood)	TN2 3TE
Wed 28 Jun 12-2pm	Benenden Village Hall	TN17 4DE
Thu 29 Jun 10am-12pm	The Amelia Scott	TN1 1LS
Mon 03 Jul 12-2pm	Speldhurst Village Hall	TN3 OPR
Tue 04 Jul 2-4pm	Brenchley Memorial Hall	TN12 7NX
Wed 05 Jul 9-11am	Number 1 Community Centre (Showfields)	TN2 5PX
Thu 06 Jul 2-4pm	Pembury Village Hall	TN2 4PH
Mon 10 Jul 2-4pm	Southborough Hub	TN4 ONA
Tue 11 Jul 2-4pm	Bidborough Village Hall	TN3 OXD
Wed 12 Jul 2-4pm	Vestry Hall (Cranbrook)	TN17 3HA
Thu 13 Jul 10am-12pm	St Paul's Church Centre (Rusthall)	TN4 8RE

If you have any questions about the survey, or how to take part, please contact: consultations@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or call **01892 526121**.



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What We Do

We want to share more with residents about what goes on behind the scenes of TWBC.

Over the last year, the consultation responses we've received have told us that residents want to know more about what we do and how we do it.

There's a range of What We Do content coming up, starting with our explainer videos.

How are councillors elected?

Where do we work?

How can residents share their views?

Who can have a say?

Why do you work in local government?

Why should I work in local government?

Who works at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council?

What is a borough council?

What does a councillor do?

What is council tax?

What are statutory and discretionary services?

What is the difference between elected officials and officers?

The short videos can be found on our social media (Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter) as well as on our YouTube channel.



Who can have a say? Everybody!

Whether you live in the borough, work in the borough, or regularly visit.

Our Residents' Survey has just launched, so here's your chance to have a say. See page 13.



There's lots more content to look out for, including Instagram takeovers, blog posts and a podcast showcasing different teams across the Council. Keep an eye on our social media to find out more (and of course future editions of Local).

Summer at The Amelia Scott

**Looking for something fun, FREE, and
creative for the whole family this summer?**

Join us at The Amelia Scott for a season of Discovery Days,
Park Safaris, and the Summer Reading Challenge.

Pick up a trail and explore our galleries, join us at our activity stations
or book a space to explore one of our fantastic parks.

Check out theamelia.co.uk and follow us on social
media for the latest dates and availabilities!





MICROWORLD: AMELIA

30 May – 3 September 2023

Get ready to enter a world like no other!

Be a part of this unique interactive and immersive experience.

Created by Genetic Moo, Microworlds are digital ecosystems where you are invited to become part of the artwork. Get ready to enter a world filled with digital creatures! Explore and discover these creatures and see how they respond to you and your movements and to each other. Sensors in the space search for changes in movement and help create an ever-changing collaborative artwork.

Enter the space, play with the creatures, or design your own and release them into Microworld!

Explore previous installations of the exhibition at microworld.art

Free entry, opening hours same as The Amelia Scott



Let's get curious!

The Curiosity Project is a monthly group for people living with dementia and their carers.

The group meets on the first Thursday of the month, at The Amelia Scott from 10.30am-12noon.

The sessions are FREE and we supply tea/coffee and biscuits.

We are a friendly, informal group using objects from the Amelia collection to inspire learning and imagination.

If you would like to come along or find out more, please contact Daniel Huckfield 01892 554146 or email daniel.huckfield@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



Help with your TV Licence



The Simple Payment Plan was created for those in financial difficulty.

Qualifying customers can choose from either a fortnightly or monthly payment plan that spreads the cost of a TV Licence over 12 months. This means you make smaller payments more frequently, helping you to better manage your finances.

TV Licensing accepts referrals to the Simple Payment Plan from not-for-profit organisations such as charities. It cannot accept referrals from commercial organisations.

If you would like to speak to someone about your finances, you can contact one of many not-for-profit organisations offering free, confidential and independent advice. Any not-for-profit organisation providing this service can refer you to us to join the Simple Payment Plan. More information on the simple payment plan and how to access it can be found at tvlicensing.co.uk

There are other **TV licence concessions**, which you might be eligible for depending on your circumstances.

- People who are aged 75 or over and receive Pension Credit
- People who are blind (severely sight impaired)
- People who live in qualifying residential care and are disabled or over 60 and retired

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Perfect plants

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom competition.

If your front garden, hanging basket, planter, tub or container is looking lovely then give it the recognition it deserves!

You still have time to enter this year's in Bloom competition. Go online to royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk and fill in the entry form. The closing date for competition entries is 30 June.

In other exciting news, Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom is a finalist in this year's 2023 RHS Britain in Bloom national competition. There are 44 finalists competing in 10 categories and Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom is competing in the small city category. Judges will be visiting during the summer - fingers crossed for another successful year.



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The Borough's Leisure Centres:

At The Heart Of Your Community

fusion



Whether you are thinking about getting active, already enjoy exercise or are simply looking to enjoy family time together, Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre, Putlands Sport & Leisure Centre and The Weald Sports Centre have something for you.

Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre features a large swimming pool, a gym with over 100 stations, group exercise classes with more than 50 classes each week, indoor tennis courts and squash courts, indoor sports courts for hire and a soft play area and café.

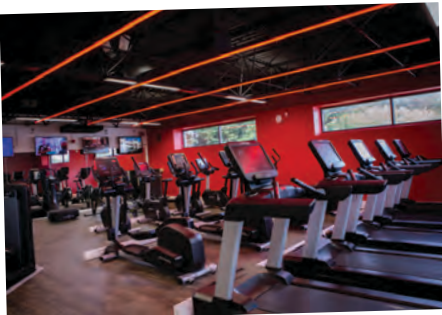
Putlands Sport & Leisure Centre in Paddock Wood offers outdoor bootcamps, an extensive range of

group exercise classes, soft play, a sports hall, a gym with top of the range equipment, racquet sports and more. Putlands Play Days on Mondays are a great way for younger members of the community to get active too!

The Weald Sports Centre in Cranbrook has a fantastic swimming pool, badminton courts, netball court, tennis court, and basketball court as well as a busy schedule of group exercise classes. The high-quality gym has, along with the gyms in the other two centres, benefited from a recent investment of £800,000 meaning the latest equipment is now available.

Giving something back

The sports centres are managed by the charity, Fusion Lifestyle. Fusion is committed to making a difference in the community and has recently run a Reconnect scheme to help young people access leisure facilities, launched community basketball sessions, secured Lottery funding for a cardio fitness wall, and recruited a provider to deliver a brand-new tennis offer.



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fusion-lifestyle.com

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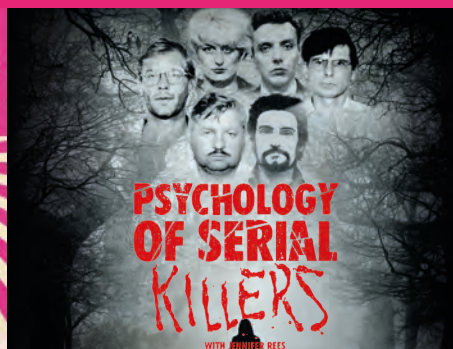
for full details and to book tickets visit our website

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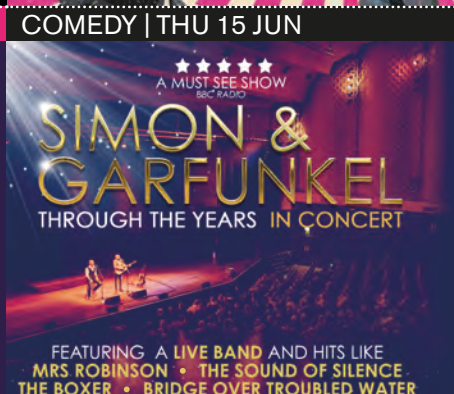
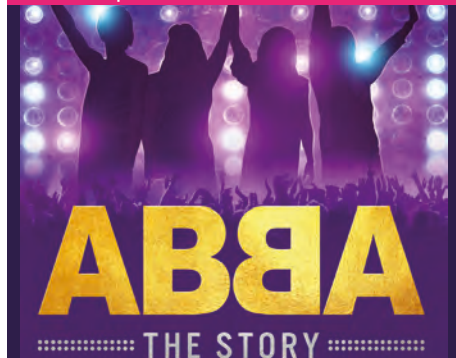
01892 530613



MUSIC | SUN 11 JUN



MUSIC | SAT 10 JUN



MUSIC | FRI 30 JUN

MUSIC | SAT 1 JUL

VARIETY | FRI 7 JUL



COMEDY | FRI 14 JUL



MUSIC | SAT 15 JUL



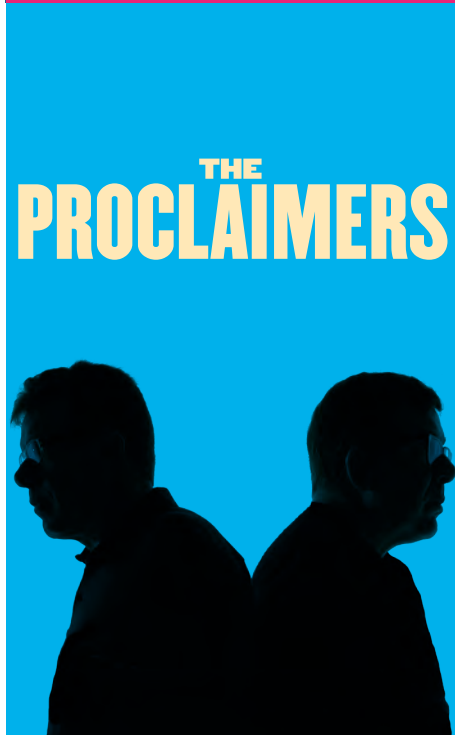
VARIETY | SAT 22 JUL



MUSIC | THU 27 JUL



COMEDY | FRI 28 JUL



MUSIC | SAT 2 SEP



MUSIC | SAT 9 SEP



VARIETY | SAT 23 SEP



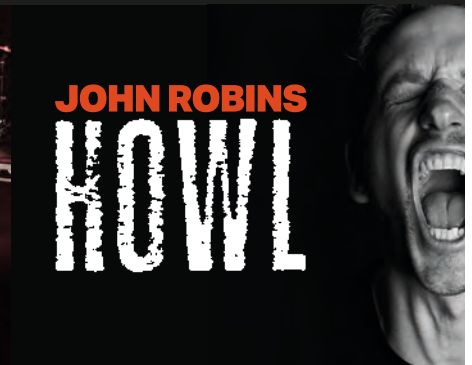
COMEDY | TUE 19 SEP



SPOKEN WORD | TUE 26 SEP



MUSIC | THU 28 SEP



COMEDY | THU 5 OCT



MUSIC | SAT 7 OCT



MUSIC | SUN 8 OCT



DANCE | TUE 10 OCT



VARIETY | WED 11 OCT



COMEDY | THU 12 OCT



MUSIC | FRI 13 OCT



COMEDY | SAT 14 - SUN 15 OCT



SPOKEN WORD | WED 18 OCT



MUSIC | THU 19 OCT



VARIETY | SUN 22 OCT



SPOKEN WORD | FRI 27 OCT

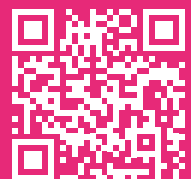


MUSIC | THU 2 NOV

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- Develop your digital skills
- Progress into work

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Who's looking after your favourite furry friend?



Find information about licensed animal boarding establishments in the borough here
tunbridgewells.gov.uk/licensing/animal-licensing

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council



Hospice in the Weald Run

Sunday 17 September

Lower Common Cricket Ground,
Royal Tunbridge Wells

New this year half marathon and a family fun run as well as the familiar 5k and 10k routes

Sign up at
hospiceintheweald.org.uk/events/hospice-run-2023/



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