

SPRING 2023

# Local

Building a better borough



## Literary Festival Returns

page 16



### also inside...

Are you ready to vote?

Pages 4 - 5

The power of five

Pages 6 - 7

A fact or two!

page 15

Assembly Hall listings

Pages 22 - 25



[tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://tunbridgewells.gov.uk)



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



[TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil)



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



Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans



Perfect Choice  
Funeral Plans





henrypaulfunerals.co.uk




# HENRY PAUL FUNERALS

*Contemporary and Traditional Services*

**A traditional family owned funeral directors dedicated to providing distinct levels of service, dignity and care.**

Home Visits • Private Chapel of Rest • Full fleet of Modern & Vintage Vehicles • Floral Tributes •  
Catering • Memorial Masonry • Pre-paid Funeral Plans • Repatriation • 24 hour emergency service

HEAD OFFICE 10 High Steet, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4NY 01892 825505 [pembury@henrypaulfunerals.co.uk](mailto:pembury@henrypaulfunerals.co.uk)  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS 50 - 52 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6DP 01892 835955 [paddockwood@henrypaulfunerals.co.uk](mailto:paddockwood@henrypaulfunerals.co.uk)  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MEMORIAL SHOWROOM 88a Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3EG 01732 605002 [tonbridge@henrypaulfunerals.co.uk](mailto:tonbridge@henrypaulfunerals.co.uk)



## Making the magic happen

REPAIRS – REMODELLING – CUSTOM DESIGN

Whether you want to learn to create something unique in silver or use our custom creation services to help you bring life to your ideas in gold or other precious metals, we are always happy to help. Visitors to our Bayham Rd workshop are welcome by appointment, so get in touch now to start your journey.

07496 003988  
[www.rkjewellerydesigns.co.uk](http://www.rkjewellerydesigns.co.uk)  
[contact@rkjewellerydesigns.co.uk](mailto:contact@rkjewellerydesigns.co.uk)  
@rkjewellerydesigns | rkjewellerydesigns

**GAROLLA ★ PREMIUM**  
Increased Security • Double Insulation  
One-Touch Close



**PRICED EXAMPLE £1,990**  
PREMIUM • 3.4M • ANTHRACITE



**PRICED EXAMPLE £895**  
COMPACT • UP TO 2.4M

**FREE FITTING**  
PAYMENT ON INSTALLATION



**PRICED EXAMPLE £2,740**  
PREMIUM • 5.1M • BLACK

## Improve, Don't Move!

**Maximise the value of your home.**

- SPACE-SAVING – MAXIMISE YOUR GARAGE HEADROOM
- SECURITY-ENABLED AUTO-LOCKING SYSTEM
- CHOICE OF 21 COLOURS TO MATCH YOUR HOME
- REMOVAL AND RECYCLING OF YOUR OLD DOOR
- DEDICATED AFTER-CARE TEAM

**GAROLLA**  
ROLLER SHUTTER DOORS



**01892 640 120**  
LINES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK  
[www.garolla.co.uk](http://www.garolla.co.uk)

**BESPOKE**  
ELECTRIC DOORS  
MANUFACTURED  
IN THE UK



 **Trustpilot**  
4.8 out of 5 / 4,700 reviews

 **Yell**  
4.8 out of 5

 **Checkatrade**  
Where reputation matters  
9.8 out of 10

 **CE**  
APPROVED



# Dear resident

And already we are in March... welcome to our first magazine of 2023!

I want to start off with some essential information about the local elections on 4 May. Are you aware that you must now bring photo identification with you to the polling station? The Electoral Commission has been running a national awareness raising campaign to ensure voters are aware of the changes. We explain more on pages 4-5.



Congratulations to Corinne and Guy, both from Tunbridge Wells, lucky winners of the competitions in the winter edition. Thanks too to the Co-op and The Massage Company for their fantastic prizes.

After last year's amazing Literary Festival, I am delighted that it is returning in May. Just like last year, there will be something for everyone and a stellar line up to look forward to. See more on page 16.

Find out more about the annual Bloom campaign and how you can get involved on page 13. As always, good luck to all the towns and villages in the borough who are also participating in a Bloom campaign.

The TWBC Plan, adopted at Full Council on 1 March, sets out details of projects delivered over the past year, and those planned for the year ahead. As the Cabinet mentions on pages 6-7, work is already underway on a more comprehensive medium-term plan for the Council and a consultation will be held in early 2024 to get your views. Before that, there is an opportunity to share your views about Council services in our residents' survey in the summer. Subscribers to our weekly email will receive notification as soon as the survey launches. Not signed up? You can do so easily at [twbcouncil/alerts](https://www.twbcouncil.gov.uk/alerts).

We have also got updates from towns and villages, an article on rediscovering the borough and our latest news, shows and updates. We do our best to cram as much as we can into each edition, and this one is no exception - Enjoy!

**William Benson**  
Chief Executive

## Contents

- 4-5** Elections
- 6-7** The TWBC Plan
- 9** News in brief
- 10** Love Where We Live
- 10** Mayors tribute to Queen Elizabeth.
- 11** Help for households
- 12** Rediscover your borough
- 13** Bloom
- 15** A few facts
- 16** Literary Festival
- 17** The Amelia
- 18-19** Around the borough
- 20** Fairtrade
- 21** Fusion
- 22-25** Assembly Hall Theatre



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](mailto:Local@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

Phone: **01892 526121**

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

To advertise, contact Space Marketing Ltd on **01892 677721** or email [davidh@spacemarketing.co.uk](mailto:davidh@spacemarketing.co.uk)

Advertising helps to keep our costs down. We do not endorse the products and services advertised in Local.

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**.

# Local Elections

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council elections (and some parish council elections) will take place on **Thursday 4 May 2023.**

## Important dates to note



**Mon  
17 April** Final day to register to vote



**Tue  
18 April  
5pm** Deadline to apply for a postal or postal proxy vote



**Tue  
25 April  
5pm** Deadline to apply for a proxy vote



**Tue  
25 April  
5pm** Deadline to apply for Voter Authority Certificate



**Thu  
4 May** Polling Day\* (don't forget your photo ID!)

\*Please be aware that the timetable may change in the event of days being appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning.

## Don't want to go to a polling station?

Apply for a postal vote or a proxy vote at [electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

Application forms for postal and proxy votes should be signed carefully with your usual signature. Your signature will be needed again when you complete the voting statement which arrives with your ballot paper.

If you would like an application form posted to you please contact the Elections team on **01892 554024** or email us at [elections@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:elections@tunbridgewells.gov.uk).

Completed application forms can be sent to us as a clear photograph, a scan via email to [elections@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:elections@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or by post to:

**Electoral Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Civic Way, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS**

Find out more at [electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter) or [twbc.online/voting-and-elections](http://twbc.online/voting-and-elections)

Because the Borough Council is elected by thirds, local elections do not take place in all wards.

## In May 2023 elections take place in:

- Benenden and Cranbrook
- Culverden
- Frittenden and Sissinghurst
- Goudhurst and Lamberhurst
- Hawkhurst and Sandhurst
- Paddock Wood East
- Paddock Wood West
- Pantiles and St Mark's
- Park
- Pembury
- Rusthall
- Sherwood
- Southborough and High Brooms
- Southborough North
- Speldhurst and Bidborough
- St. John's

## Parish council elections take place in:

- Bidborough
- Cranbrook and Sissinghurst
- Frittenden
- Goudhurst
- Paddock Wood Town
- Pembury
- Rusthall
- Southborough Town
- Speldhurst

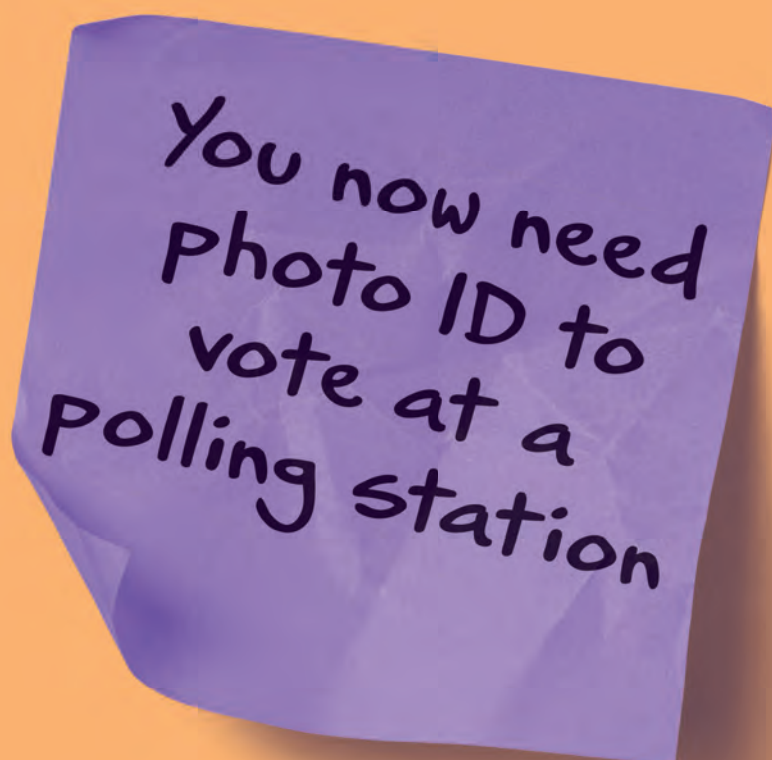
## Poll cards are changing

From May 2023, poll cards will be A4 size and will be delivered to your registered address in an envelope.



[gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://gov.uk/register-to-vote)





Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

# Voter ID

## Are you ready to vote in the local elections in May?

The Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

### Which forms of ID can I use to vote?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional licence)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards (including Kent County Council Bus Pass; Disabled Person's Bus Pass)
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on **0800 328 0280**.

### If you don't have an accepted form photo ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. You can apply for this at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk)

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to the Electoral Services team at the Council (address opposite).

### Need help?

If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact the Electoral Services team.

[twbc.online/voter-id](https://twbc.online/voter-id)

[elections@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:elections@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

01892 554024

Building a Better Borough

# The Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Plan

The new Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Plan has been considered by Full Council so we are pleased to give you more information about how the plan will improve facilities and services for the benefit of residents.

With a Focus on Five priorities the plan looks ahead to projects which will deliver these priorities over the coming year and beyond.



## Vibrant and safer towns and villages

**Cllr Nancy Warne,**

**Cllr Justine Rutland,**

**Cllr Wendy Fitzsimmons**

We wish our towns and villages to be vibrant, safe and community-oriented. To this end we are focusing on building footfall by supporting businesses, developing tourism, and reintroducing the farmers market in Royal Tunbridge Wells. We are also providing grants to local groups, town, and parish councils so that they can improve their communities in the ways they think most effective.



## Safeguarding finances

**Cllr Christopher Hall**

Council finances are under severe strain due to soaring inflation and funding cuts. We responded quickly with an In Year Budget Review to take urgent action on the funding shortfall, increasing revenue by £600k. We are also working hard to find efficiency savings and rationalise some of the Council's non-performing assets.





## Genuinely affordable housing and social rental housing

**Cllr Hugo Pound**

The Council has commenced a project to help the homeless into work and into secure tenancies; it has agreed a new allocations policy for those seeking social housing across the borough; it is working closely with the developers of the cinema site in Tunbridge Wells to ensure a high-quality contribution to the town's housing stock.



## Digital access, transparency, and local democracy

**Cllr David Hayward**

Local authorities are accountable to their communities for the money they spend. They are required under law to ensure they provide value for money, and to achieve this they have a governance framework that supports a culture of transparent decision making.



## Carbon reduction

**Cllr Luke Everitt,  
Cllr Wendy Fitzsimmons**

Achieving significant local greenhouse gas reductions is not going to be easy, but what is clear is that community partnerships are key. This is exactly why we are actively engaging residents through events, our website, and developing a borough-wide reduction strategy. We have a lot to do, but by working together we can make progress.



## This is short-term, which will likely evolve into the new corporate plan for the Council in 2024

'A new corporate plan will be a medium-term vision for our borough and how the Council can support a better borough. To get it right we have set ourselves 15 months. We would love residents to be involved by taking part in our survey, joining us at our engagement sessions or generally sharing your views and concerns.'

**Cllr Ben Chapelard,  
Leader of the Council**

Screen gone blank?  
Laptop battery dead?  
Windows or Mac  
misbehaving?  
Lost data?

### Who are you going to call?

Bring to the office for a fix – remote support also available.

I am a highly qualified and experienced IT professional with Microsoft certification and I'm here to help you with prompt and friendly service at a fair price.

**Simon Burgess IT Services and Consultancy Ltd**  
01580 292600 [simon@sbisc.co.uk](mailto:simon@sbisc.co.uk) [sbisc.co.uk](http://sbisc.co.uk)





## THROWING A PARTY?

YOU HAVE FOUND THE RIGHT PLACE!  
VENUE HIRE IN TUNBRIDGE WELLS

UP TO 80 GUESTS - LATE NIGHT LICENCE  
FROM AS LITTLE AS £30 PER HOUR



THE GREEN DUCK EVENTS SPACE & BAR, IS A UNIQUE SPACE  
53 GROSVENOR ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
[WWW.THEGREENDUCKEMPORIUM.COM](http://WWW.THEGREENDUCKEMPORIUM.COM)  
TEL:- 01892 315202 @THEGREENDUCKRTW

## New openings in Royal Tunbridge Wells!

Royal Tunbridge Wells is bouncing back after the pandemic, and it is especially thanks to our wonderful local businesses that make the town a unique shopping and foodie destination.

As our established businesses continue to contribute to the vibrancy of the town, we've seen a multitude of new openings pop up. We've put together a list of the most recent ones for you to discover...

### Sweet Fifteen The Pantiles

The owners of Eggs Eleven have opened a new desserts and ice cream parlour. Bring on warm sunny days on the Pantiles!

### Even Flow Ely Court – Royal Victoria Place

You may have heard of the record store/café in St.John's? Well, Even Flow now have a new location in the town centre, on Camden Road.

### County Clothes High Street

County Clothes add menswear style to the town with their specialist brand long-established in the south-east.

### Urban Outfitters Royal Victoria Place

The international brand has recently opened much to the delight of teenagers and young adults. The lifestyle brand has an array of men's and women's clothing as well as homeware and fun gifts.

### Fine Wines of Mayfield Royal Victoria Place

While you are out shopping take the chance to visit the new independent wine merchant selling an extensive array of worldwide wines. In-store tastings are held offering samples and information from local producers.



### The Green Duck Emporium Royal Victoria Place

Selling a unique selection of homeware and gifts, you may have heard previously of the Green Duck Emporium. They have now expanded into Royal Victoria Place.

### Coming Soon...

**Charlotte's** in the Pantiles - A café/bar serving hot drinks and smoothies during the day and shifting to a vibrant cocktail and wine bar at night.

**The Hive** - If you live in the Cranbrook area the name will ring a bell! The Hive, flexible coworking space and Greek restaurant, is opening a new location in the Pantiles.

**Black Sheep Coffee** - The national brand is well-known for its trendy interior and aims to serve high quality coffee. Keep an eye out for their puppuccinos that come with a treat!



# News in brief

Find out what people are talking about in Tunbridge Wells

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

 [TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil)

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

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

## Developer contributions for recreation facilities

Almost £86,000 of developer contributions was released to various projects across the borough during the first six weeks of 2023. Developer contributions may be required as part of the process of granting planning permission and are usually only released when certain key milestones in a project are reached.

The recent release of funds saw contributions go towards:

- Brenchley Recreation Ground improvements
- The Ball Field Cranbrook, replacement of play equipment
- Sportsground, Maidstone Rd, Horsmonden, improvements
- Pennington Grounds Southborough, refurbishment of play area
- Lower Green Recreation Ground, Pembury, improvements of youth and adult facilities
- Tunbridge Wells Commons, footpath and habitat enhancements
- Royal Tunbridge Wells, additional car club vehicles

## War Memorial 100th

Did you see that the War Memorial in Royal Tunbridge Wells reached its centenary in February? On the 100th anniversary of the unveiling members of the Royal British Legion in Tunbridge Wells joined the Mayor to mark the occasion. A display in The Amelia Scott, including the original artist's model, told the story of the memorial and included objects from the collection that relate to some of the soldiers commemorated. Find out more at [tunbridgewells.gov.uk/news](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/news)

## Private rented sector landlord forum

The next West Kent Landlord forum takes place on Wednesday 29 March at Kings Hill. Book your place at [nrla.org.uk/events/meetings/5459](https://nrla.org.uk/events/meetings/5459)

## Bus gate camera enforcement

CCTV camera enforcement of the Public Realm 2 bus gate/lane restriction on Mount Pleasant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells has restarted. A Penalty Charge Notice will be issued to vehicles contravening the restriction. More information on [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

## Royal Victoria Place Changing Places

Royal Victoria Place has opened a new fully-accessible changing facility located on the lower mall near the Meadow Road entrance. Funding for the Changing Places facility came from money awarded to the Council from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Changing Places public toilets initiative.

The toilet is fitted with specialist healthcare equipment including an overhead hoist system, adjustable wash basins, changing benches, and grab rails, all helping to ensure that those with additional needs have a space with more enhanced support than is available in standard accessible toilets.

## Forest School fun

The Friends of Tunbridge Wells & Rusthall Commons invite you join their free forest school.

The fantastic team at Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP) will lead a full range of fun-filled activities on 4 and 5 April, during the school Easter holidays. Expect to find happy children, supervised fire lighting, whittling, bug hunting, dens, hammocks, mud kitchens, woodland craft and the all-important marshmallow roasting over an open fire.

No booking required. Children must be accompanied by an adult and be wearing clothing suitable for play in a woodland setting. Information and location details here [twcommons.org/events](https://www.twcommons.org/events)

KHWP offers training days and continuing professional development if you're thinking of starting a Forest School or already offering one.

They also have some fun experience days if, for example, you want to improve your campfire cooking skills and get the best out of your fire and your bakes!

[khwp.org.uk/forest-school/forest-school-and-cpd-training/](https://www.khwp.org.uk/forest-school/forest-school-and-cpd-training/)

## Spring Artisan Craft Market at The Amelia Scott

Saturday 1 April 10am - 4pm

Hand made objects and crafts. Plus family drop-in activities.

# Winners announced






A special evening to celebrate and congratulate members of the community did not disappoint. Whoops, cheers, and applause carried through the night as we shared stories of the finalists and named the winners of each of the nine categories.

We went to print just before the awards ceremony last November, and we want to give a mention to the winners one last time!



Love Where  
We Live

-  Community Group and LWWL winner – **Tunbridge Wells Repair Café**
-  Sportsperson/team – **Cranbrook Juniors Football Club**
-  Volunteer – **Mary Breslin**
-  Young Volunteer – **Cameron Head**

-  Young Sports Achiever – **Harley Curtis-Lawrence**
-  Green Business – **TN Card**
-  Green Household – **Rachel Harris**
-  Good Neighbour – **Emma Walker**
-  Charity of the Year – **Life and Soul Youthwork**



## A lasting tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

**The Mayor, Councillor Godfrey Bland, has planted a tree in Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells in honour of the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.**

Fittingly, the tree chosen, Acer platanoides Emerald Queen, was planted in compost made from the floral tributes to Her Majesty left by members of the public outside the town hall in Royal Tunbridge Wells following her death.

Godfrey, was joined by Mrs Georgie Warner, Deputy Lieutenant of Kent to plant the tree in the grass in front of the lake on the Pembury Road side of the park.

'The tree commemorates Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 70 years of service to the country. It is in keeping with the idea of legacy that the flowers which were left in Her Majesty's memory become part of this lasting tribute.' Godfrey Bland

The tree is part of the living legacy in honour of Her Majesty, joining over a million trees already planted across the UK as part of The Queen's Green Canopy.





# Help for Households

## Community Support Fund making a difference to residents

The Community Support Fund was created by councillors in response to the cost-of-living crisis which is directly impacting upon many of the most vulnerable households in the borough.

**Grants from the £100,000 fund have now been awarded.**

**The range of organisations who received grants means the money will reach those who need it.**

**Charlie's Angels Kitchen** is using the grant to provide additional hot meals and ingredients for people to make their own meals at home.

**The Tunbridge Wells & District Volunteer Bureau** will provide access to online services to elderly and vulnerable people in their own homes.

**Nourish**, well-known to many for the support they already provide, applied to the fund so that they could continue to distribute fuel vouchers to those in need of emergency support. Without the grant Nourish would not be able to provide fuel support.

**Number One Community Trust** is increasing their offer of subsidised hot meals for children and extending opening hours to provide a warm space for anyone who needs it as well as continuing their pre-school provision and family and holiday support.

**The parish larders** which were given a grant will continue their existing provision during this period of inflation and increased demand for their services. As well as supporting families, larders are very important in helping reduce food waste.

**West Kent Mind** asked for the grant to be able to increase their capacity to provide free, fast-track access to counselling services for vulnerable people experiencing domestic abuse who need mental health support.

For information about the range of support available visit [tunbridgewells.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support](https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)



## Could you be saving money on your broadband bill?

Social tariffs offer cheaper, reliable broadband and phone packages to those on low incomes. For some, accessing this could mean a saving of around £180 a year.

**Find out if you qualify.**

Visit [ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband](https://ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband) or [kent.gov.uk/socialtariffs](https://kent.gov.uk/socialtariffs) for more info.



UK Government

Help for Households

## Struggling to afford your broadband and phone services?

If you receive government benefits, you could be eligible for low-cost broadband and phone packages called **Social Tariffs**.



To find out what **Social Tariff** deals are available from your provider visit

[www.ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband)

### Rediscover your borough this spring

The days get longer, the birds are chirping, and the blossom is out. Yes, it's finally spring! The Telegraph recently declared that our area is a worthy rival to the Cotswolds. What do you think? Here is some inspiration for things to do from Visit Tunbridge Wells.

#### Bluebells and railways

Starting in the Tunbridge Wells Commons, walk part of the Tunbridge Wells Circular going via High Rocks to Groombridge (approx. 1h30 walk). Arriving at High Rocks, we recommend you explore a hidden gem for bluebell spotting. Through the main car park, into the woods, you will find a palette of blue and purple tones. After a spot of lunch, continue onto Groombridge via Groombridge Place and Enchanted Gardens. Keep an eye out for the peacocks and deer that roam the property. If you are feeling adventurous, you can continue the trail back to Royal Tunbridge Wells or simply hop on board the Spa Valley Railway for a leisurely return!

#### Spring watch

As we are in the Garden of England, spring is the time of year when our borough's countryside looks its best! Hidden behind a bright green door, you will find Water Lane near Hawkhurst. A beautifully curated walled garden growing seasonal fruit and vegetables as well as an array of flowers which you can purchase in their boutique. With a farm to table concept, you can also sample some of the delicious produce growing around you.

We are fortunate to have two National Trust properties in our borough with award winning gardens and luscious grounds to explore. Climb the Sissinghurst Castle tower to marvel over the gardens, offering a new perspective on the surrounding countryside.



Make the most of the free entry to the estate and woodlands of Scotney Castle (parking booking required). It offers a perfect afternoon walk in an ever-changing woodland. Be sure to look out for the moated castle in the distance and the only working Oast House in the National Trust.

*Visit*  
tunbridgewells



For tourist information and our events  
calendar view [VisitTunbridgeWells.com](https://www.VisitTunbridgeWells.com)

OfficialVisitTunbridgeWells  
 VisitTunbridgeWells  
 TwellsTourism

## Regain your freedom with.. Clearwell mobility



Riser Recliners  
from £499  
ex vat



Mobility Scooters  
from £649  
ex vat



Wheelchairs  
from £159.99  
ex vat



Profiling  
Beds  
in a choice  
of sizes



Walking  
Aids  
from sticks  
to walkers



Extra Wide  
Slippers &  
Shoes

PPE Essentials instore & online



Visit Your Local  
**Tunbridge Wells Showroom**

26 Grosvenor Road  
Tunbridge Wells  
TN1 2AP  
Call: 01892 544 933



Shop online at:  
[www.clearwellmobility.co.uk](https://www.clearwellmobility.co.uk)

FREE 2021 Brochure

NEW!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: FREEPOST CLEARWELL MOBILITY

TWL



# In Bloom

**Royal Tunbridge Wells is hoping 2023 will be another award-winning year for the town's parks and open spaces**

You could be an award winner too if you enter the local Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom competition.

## Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom competition

Come along to the launch event on Friday 21 April or Saturday 22 April in Calverley Road pedestrian precinct and pick up some free seeds or plants and gardening hints and tips to get you started.

There are in Bloom competition categories for residential premises, allotments, businesses and schools. The closing date for entries is 30 June (1 June for schools and allotments).

Find out more at [royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk](http://royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk)



## Blooming Marvellous Photo competition



**The competition theme is Portrait of a Wildflower.**

Pictures must be taken this season in gardens, open spaces or woodlands located within the Tunbridge Wells borough boundary. Open to adults and children, picture entries should be high resolution and can be landscape or portrait. Email entries (max three pics per person) to [BloomPhoto@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:BloomPhoto@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) by 15 September.



## Open Gardens with Hospice in the Weald

This very popular event is taking place once again this year on Sunday 11 June. You can visit some of the town's beautiful gardens and grounds and buying a ticket supports Hospice in the Weald. Look out for more information nearer the time.



# Monday mood mover

## Make your Mondays more interesting

Do you have a little spare time? Would being outdoors in a beautiful place appeal to you? You could join our wonderful group of volunteers who meet in Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge



Wells every Monday morning.

Year-round the group is actively involved in keeping the park an award-winning green space. Regular tasks include planting, clearing overgrown areas, weeding, pruning, coppicing and even hedge laying. All the equipment you need is provided and so are refreshments at break time!

[parksteam@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:parksteam@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)  
01892 554031.

If Monday is not the day for you there are similar opportunities with Kent High Weald Partnership on Wednesdays and Thursdays. They've been working with us in our parks and green spaces for many years.

You can find their work programme by visiting [khwp.org.uk](http://khwp.org.uk) or email [cmp@khwp.org.uk](mailto:cmp@khwp.org.uk)



**ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM**





Local Spring 2023

# Hella, Tunbridge Wells



**Over 15,000  
people get our  
weekly e-mail**

**Have you signed  
up yet?**

Get our latest news direct to your  
inbox, plus local events, regular items  
such as jobs, planning applications  
near you and bin updates.

It's so easy to sign up...

Visit **[twbc.online/alerts](http://twbc.online/alerts)**

For more information  
01892 864429

**MG Care Homes**

Quality nursing care in small family settings

[www.mghomes.co.uk](http://www.mghomes.co.uk)



# What we do

A few facts from last year to share with you



## Housing

Working with partners we prevented around

**171 households** from becoming homeless over the last year and **helped 69** homeless households to secure suitable accommodation



## Bereavement Services

The Kent and Sussex Crematorium supported over **2,000** families with bereavement services in the past year



## Planning and Building Control

Over **2,946** planning applications dealt with in 2022

We received:

**495** Pre-applications,  
**509** applications for works to Protected Trees,

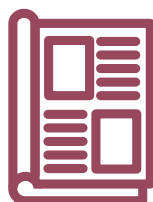
**199** applications for works to a Listed Building

**1 million views** of planning application documents online



## Communication

**4.8million** page views on our website



**220,000** deliveries of Local Magazine



Sent **630,000** weekly emails to subscribers



## Assembly Hall Theatre

We sold **89,716** tickets for shows in 2022



## The Amelia Scott

We have welcomed **215,321** visitors since opening on **28 April 2022** about **1,000 a day**



## Community Safety and Support

The Council maintains and monitors

**43 CCTV cameras** across the borough. The CCTV control room covers our Kent Police area and works very closely with Shopsafe and Pubwatch Business Crime Reduction Partnership

# Tunbridge Wells Literary Festival

returns from Thursday 11 May – Sunday 14 May



The festival made its debut in 2022 and was a resounding success with attendance figures of over 1,600 visitors across its four-day run.

This year, with the backing of Arts Council England, as well as the generous support of Berry & Lamberts Solicitors and Brewin Dolphin, the four-day festival aims to be even bigger and better than before!

You can expect to see a leading cast of authors and illustrators, ranging from internationally acclaimed industry veteran **Sir Michael Parkinson** (*My Sporting Life*) to popular writers including **Dorothy Koomson** (*The Ice Cream Girls*, *My Other Husband*), **Jeremy Dyson** and **Andy Nyman** writers of *Ghost Stories* and *The Warlock Effect* are another exciting addition to this year's programme along with non-fiction crime writer **Her Honour Wendy Joseph** (*Unlawful Killings: Life, Love and Murder: Trials at the Old Bailey*). Look out too for award-winning broadcasters, contemporary non-fiction writers **Carrie and David Grant** (*A Very Modern Family: Stories and guidance to nurture your relationships*).

There'll be free children's fiction events with authors **Manjeet Mann** (*The Crossing*) and **Vashti Hardy** (*Brightstorm* series).

Brand new this year is the first ever TW Comicon featuring **M.R.Carey**, celebrated writer of comic books, novels and films. The comicon will include manga, workshops with comic creators and artists, collectables and comics to purchase, and retro-gaming opportunities.

The festival will also feature the TWLF Local Writers' Fair.

More details at [theamelia.co.uk/whats-on](http://theamelia.co.uk/whats-on)

Information correct at time of going to press



Supported by



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Brewin  
Dolphin**

**BERRY &  
LAMBERTS**  
SOLICITORS





## Leviathan

**Friday 3 February -  
Monday 15 May**

A large scale triple screen immersive video installation by the artist Kelly Richardson. As part of a collaboration with the Arts Council Collection, through the Borrow Big! scheme, the presentation of Leviathan at The Amelia Scott will

be the first time the work has been exhibited since being acquired by the Arts Council Collection in 2015.

Leviathan was commissioned by Artpace, San Antonio. The work draws on Richardson's distinct art practice which focusses on ideas around conservation and a careful observation of the effects of humanity on the planet. She films the bald cypress trees, indigenous to Caddo Lake in Uncertain, Texas, and manipulates the footage,

creating a series of twisting, snake-like tendrils of yellowish light in the water with an eerie soundtrack replacing the sounds of nature.

Richardson explains, 'I'm trying to create contemplative places which are both beautiful and mesmeric, but at the same time, unsettling.'

All details at  
[theamelia.co.uk/whats-on](http://theamelia.co.uk/whats-on)



## Shakespeare's Mistress

**Sunday 23 April**

Coming to The Amelia Scott on Sunday 23 April in support of DAVSS is Shakespeare's Mistress, Doctor Who and Emmerdale star Louise Jameson's memoir of her life and experiences on stage and screen, all based around her personal love of Shakespeare.

Louise made her name as Tom Baker's assistant Leela in the much loved 70s era of Doctor Who while also pursuing a sparkling stage career including the National Theatre. Louise later appeared in Eastenders as Rosa Di Marco, and has now joined the main cast of Emmerdale. From Shakespeare to TV soaps, and the National to stand-up, a life in performance...

The show will feature stories from Louise's life as a performer along with beautiful readings from some of her personal favourite Shakespeare sonnets and in-depth discussions of The Bard's most treasured plays.

This event is supporting DAVSS, a West Kent charity helping victims (aged 16 and above) of domestic abuse. Shakespeare's Mistress is a perfect opportunity to come together as a community, celebrate art and theatre, whilst also supporting a hugely important local charity.

A VIP ticket is available which entitles you to a Meet & Greet with Louise after the show, with all the proceeds from these tickets going direct to support the work of DAVSS. It's set to be a special evening.

Tickets at  
[theamelia.co.uk/whats-on](http://theamelia.co.uk/whats-on)

### DAVSS says:

*'Supporting us means making a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by domestic abuse. Your contribution will go towards providing crucial services and resources that empower victims and their children to break free from their abuser and begin the healing process. Your support will help create a safer and more equitable community for all.'*



# Around the borough

## Frittenden

### Renovated Village Hall Opens

If you are looking for a venue with a difference Frittenden Memorial Hall has been given a £340,000 makeover to provide top class facilities in an enviable village setting.

A revamped new interior provides a light-filled modern hall with a multi-use meeting room attached. A fully-equipped professional level kitchen, new cloakrooms with disabled access and custom-built storage space also feature together with dedicated lighting for stage performances. External upgrades have included reroofing, a new entrance and picture windows to make the most of great views over the Weald countryside. A large free car park provides easy access. It's now an ideal setting for weekly clubs, special events and celebrations.

Funds for the renovation were secured through several national and local grants including the National Lottery and Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE). Additional money came from individual donations and enthusiastic village fundraising.

Hall booking through its website [frittendenmemorialhall.co.uk](http://frittendenmemorialhall.co.uk) or call the Bookings Secretary on **01580 852563**.



## Horsmonden

### Parish Cllr Ralph Stevens, retires

After 40 years' service for the community of Horsmonden, Cllr Ralph Stevens was presented with a framed certificate in honour of his long service during January's parish meeting.

Ralph carried out many duties for the Council including looking after the Christmas lights, reporting potholes and drainage issues and he enjoyed his role on the Council's planning committee where his profession as a contractor often gave insight into understanding more complicated planning issues. Ralph's detailed and historical knowledge of the parish was particularly valuable, and his presence will be sorely missed at future meetings.

Thank you and wishing you a happy retirement, Ralph.





## Paddock Wood

### Coming Soon to Paddock Wood

**The Paddock Wood Community Centre will open in spring 2023.**

The building is eco-friendly, with a mechanical ventilation heating and air-cooling system, solar panels and six EVCs. Its car park will serve the community centre as well as the adjacent memorial field.

There will be a hall that can accommodate 300 people but also be split into three smaller halls, a kitchen with a café area, a reception/office, a meeting room and a nursery.

Initially bookings will be made via the town council, they are devoting a section of their website to the community centre, its facilities and booking arrangements. For more information visit the town council's website [paddockwood-tc.gov.uk](http://paddockwood-tc.gov.uk)



## Speldhurst

Over the past few years, Speldhurst Parish Council has listened to residents, and these are just some of the projects they have been involved with in their community. If you're a Speldhurst resident and these projects have inspired you and you would like to get involved, please contact the Clerk [clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@speldhurstparishcouncil.gov.uk) (01892 862927 or 07760 769513).



£15k start up contribution to Speldhurst Community Shop and Post Office.



Active Community Speedwatch teams in Langton Green, Speldhurst, Groombridge and soon in Ashurst too.



New sports pavilion on Langton Green recreation ground – the project was managed by Langton Green Community Sports Association in liaison with the FA and fully supported by SPC.



£30k grant towards the new playground and multi-use games area (MUGA) in Speldhurst £10k to each of the local primary schools for playground equipment and a mental health project.



Active Aircraft committee working tirelessly on your behalf to reduce the amount of noise and pollution in the skies and stop the expansion of the runways at Gatwick.

# Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

Across the world farmers are facing unprecedented challenges not only of unfair trade but also of climate change, which can push them to the brink of survival. Many of our favourite foods such as coffee, bananas and cocoa may soon not be available on our supermarket shelves as extreme, unpredictable weather patterns impacts their production, destroying crops.

Choosing Fairtrade ensures that farmers are paid fairly and can earn enough to meet their everyday needs and have the resources to take on the challenges of climate change. Fairtrade farmers follow eco-friendly Fairtrade standards, which include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, planting trees, using sustainable farming techniques whilst protecting forests and biodiversity.

As Easter approaches, don't forget to buy your Fairtrade Easter Eggs and show your support for cocoa producers as they seek to keep growing one of the nation's favourite treats.

**This year we can all make a difference to our planet as we show solidarity with our farmers**

**This spring, to coincide with the Coronation of King Charles III, the Fairtrade Town Group are launching a community art project on biodiversity and the climate crisis.**

- Schools are invited to get involved creating fabulous insects for a beautiful display in the centre of town
- Come along to the nature-themed activities over the Easter holidays in the Amelia Scott. Check the website for more information [theamelia.co.uk](http://theamelia.co.uk)
- Join us in our organised seed sowing in the local parks

For more information and to get involved look at the Fairtrade Town website [twfairtrade.org.uk](http://twfairtrade.org.uk)

Or contact the Fairtrade Town Group [contact@twfairtrade.org.uk](mailto:contact@twfairtrade.org.uk)



## By 2050

- The area of land suitable for growing coffee globally could be down by 50 percent
- Parts of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire will be too hot to grow cocoa
- Banana yields will fall drastically in 10 countries including India, Brazil and Colombia' \*

\*These facts taken from Fairtrade and Climate Justice booklet

# Take Some Time

**Do you feel isolated?  
Would you like to meet new friends?**

Join our next FREE 10-week programme which starts  
**Monday 17 April, 1-2.30pm** in the Amelia Scott.

A small group of 12, meets regularly with plenty of time to get to know each other in a relaxed and informal setting. So why not join us, you'll spend time with objects from the museum collection, looking, thinking and responding with others.

For more details, email [Daniel.huckfield@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:Daniel.huckfield@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)



The  
Amelia

## Some thoughts from recent participants...

**Creative, inclusive, supporting and connecting people. Also, diverse, and thought-provoking, I'd highly recommend it -Chloe**

**I recently moved to Tunbridge Wells so it's a lovely way to meet new people -Moir**

**I'm not good on the internet, so it was important to hear about this course in Local. It's good for the community to come together, good for the brain and to relax -Angie**





## Tunbridge Wells

# Want to learn basketball?

**BBallin club** started in January 2019 with two of the founder's children as its only members but Coach Stephen and Coach Herbie, both club level coaches, had a mission to grow basketball from grassroots level.

After partnering with Fusion Lifestyle, Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre was chosen as the home venue that provides the club with a base for consistent access all year round and the extensive facilities needed to meet club demands.

Working together the key goal is to make basketball accessible to children of all abilities and develop a programme that will help grow the sport at both inclusive grassroots and competitive levels.

Through Kent's Reconnect funding scheme, that supports young people getting back into physical activity post Covid, Fusion Lifestyle has been able to support this aim with two brand new portable hoops and reduced court hire fees.

Currently BBallin club has around 110 youth players from u8-16 and 30 adults all from the local community. They are looking to grow their members, so if you would like to get involved and try some basketball, Please contact Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre on **01892 540744** or Herbie on **bballinltd@gmail.com**



## Putlands Sports Centre

There are a lot of fun things going on, why not give something new a try!

# Roller Disco

### Fridays

(21 Apr | 19 May | 16 Jun | 21 Jul | 15 Sep | 20 Oct | 17 Nov | 15 Dec)

**6-7.30pm family session**

**8-9.30pm late skate**

### Sundays

(9 & 23 Apr | 7 & 21 May | 4 & 18 June 2, 16 & 30 Jul | 10 & 24 Sep | 8 & 22 Oct | 5 & 19 Nov | 3 & 17 Dec)

**12-1.30pm all abilities welcome**

no aggressive inline skates allowed

**fusion-lifestyle.com/putlands**

**01892 838290**



# Social Football

Do you want to lose weight?

Want to get back into or start playing football?

Are you currently inactive?

Join us for our weekly football programme

**Tuesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm**

Learn skills, get fit and have a kick about!



# ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE SPRING SEASON

for full details and to book tickets visit our website

[assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk)

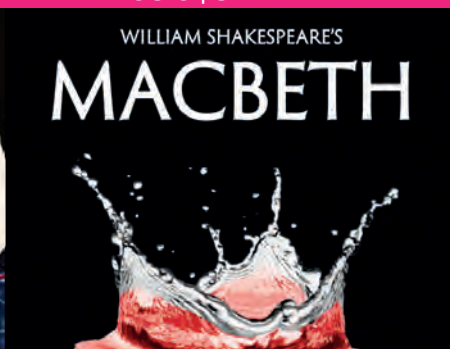
01892 530613



MUSIC | SAT 27 MAY



DANCE | TUE 28 MAR



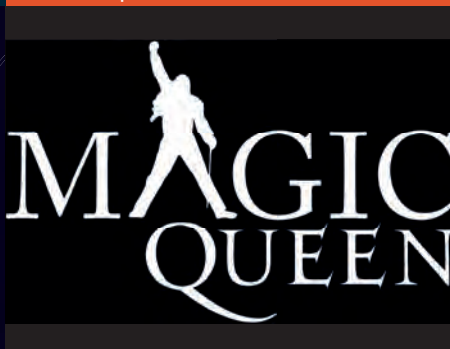
DRAMA | WED 29 MAR



MUSIC | THU 30 MAR



MUSIC | FRI 31 MAR



MUSIC | SAT 1 APR



SPOKEN WORD | THU 6 APR





MUSIC | THU 13 APR



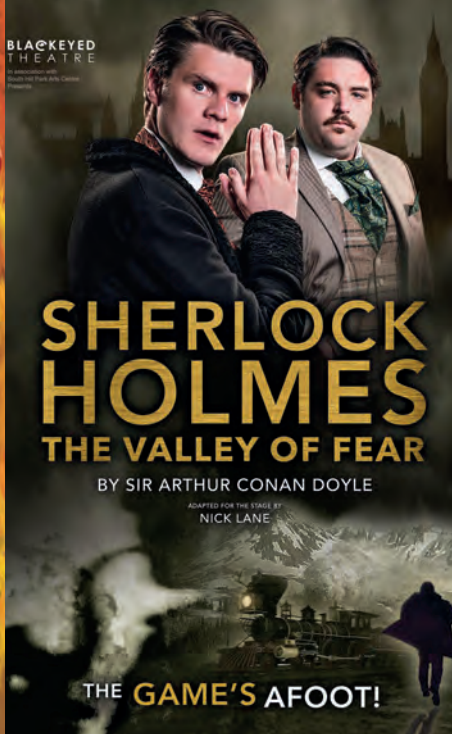
MUSIC | FRI 14 APR



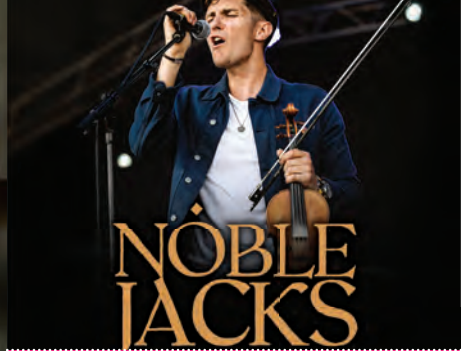
MUSIC | SAT 15 APR



COMEDY | MON 17 APR



DRAMA | 19 APR - 20 APR



MUSIC | SAT 22 APR




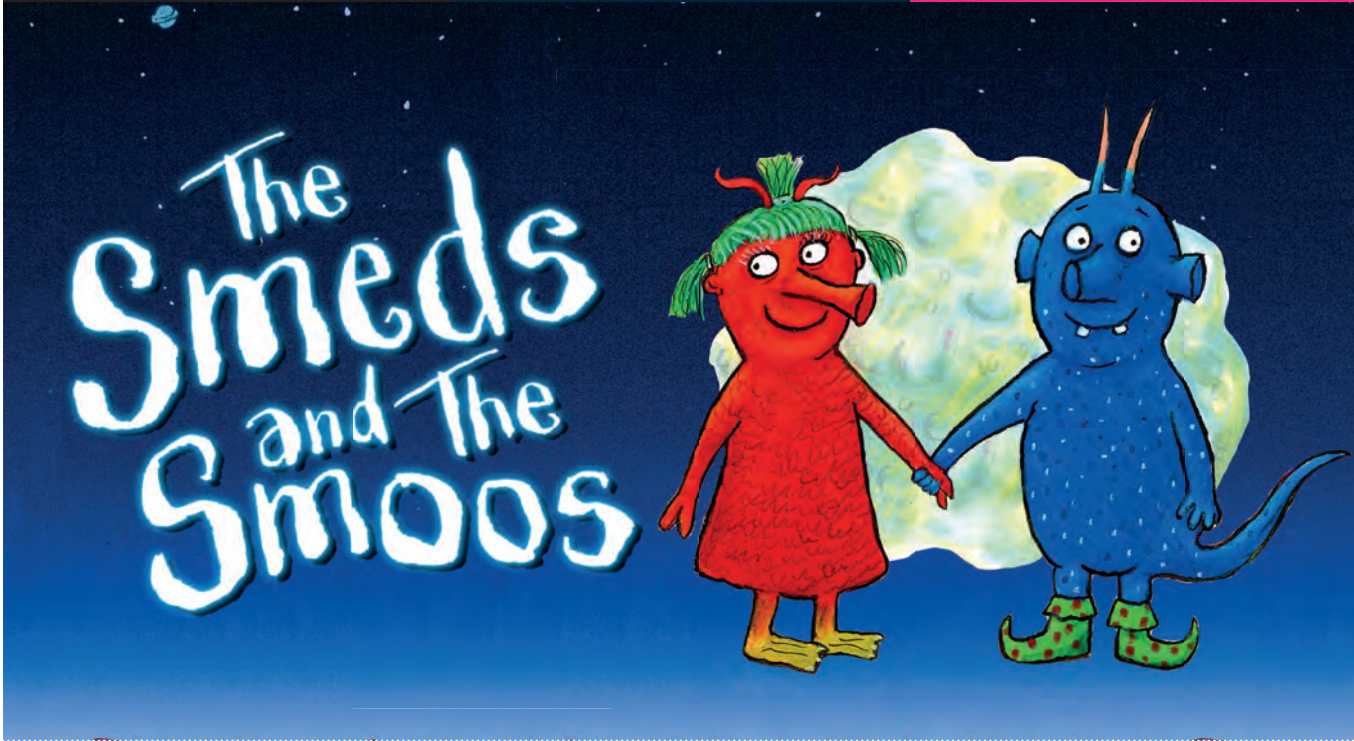








SPOKEN WORD | TUE 2 MAY



MUSICAL | TUE 25 — SAT 29 APR

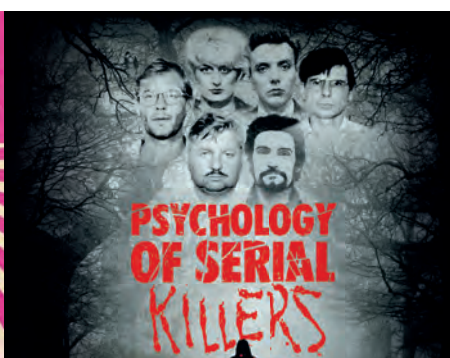


 <p><b>BANFF</b> CENTRE MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR</p>	 <p>GIOVANNI PERNICE MADE IN ITALY</p>	 <p>THE COUNTERFEIT <b>STONES</b></p>
<p>FILM   SAT 6 MAY</p>	<p>DANCE   SUN 7 MAY</p>	<p>MUSIC   FRI 19 MAY</p>
 <p>The <b>Smeds</b> and The <b>Smoos</b></p>		
<p>FAMILY   9 MAY - 10 MAY</p>		
 <p>ILLEGAL <b>EAGLES</b></p>	 <p>SWEET CAROLINE NEIL DIAMOND THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE</p>	 <p>Two's IAN FLEMING'S <b>CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG</b></p>
<p>MUSIC   SAT 20 MAY</p>	<p>MUSIC   SUN 21 MAY</p>	<p>MUSICAL   31 MAY - 3 JUN</p>
 <p>RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC — LIVE IN CONCERT 2021 —</p>	 <p>elo AGAIN</p>	 <p>THE <b>SEARCHERS</b> LIVE IN CONCERT</p> <p>JOHN McNALLY FRANK ALLEN</p>
<p>MUSIC   THU 8 JUN</p>	<p>MUSIC   FRI 9 JUN</p>	<p>MUSIC   SAT 10 JUN</p>





COMEDY | THU 15 JUN



SPOKEN WORD | WED 28 JUN



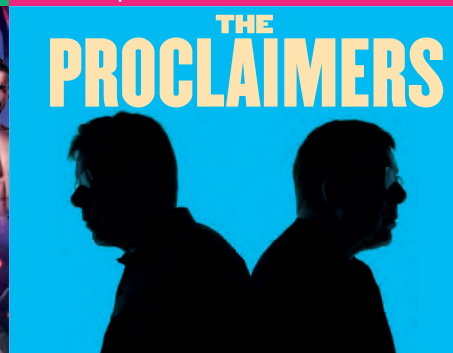
MUSIC | FRI 30 JUN



MUSIC | SAT 1 JUL



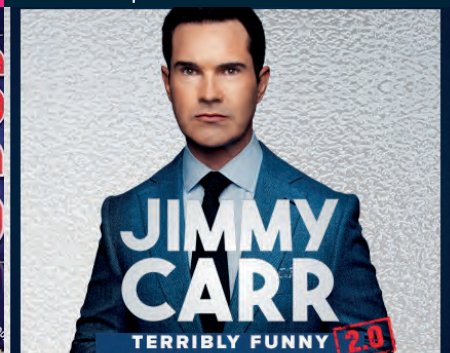
VARIETY | FRI 7 JUL



MUSIC | SAT 2 SEP



MUSIC | SAT 9 SEP



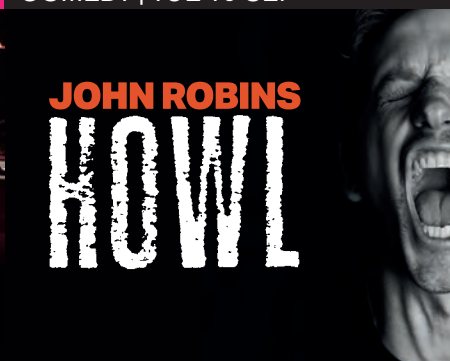
COMEDY | TUE 19 SEP



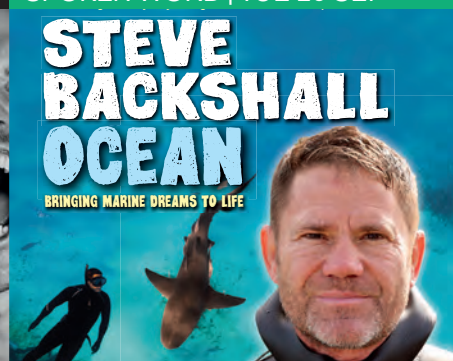
SPOKEN WORD | TUE 26 SEP



MUSIC | THU 28 SEP

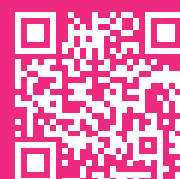


COMEDY | THU 5 OCT



SPOKEN WORD | WED 18 OCT

[assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk)  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS



for full details and to book tickets visit our website

# Play TW Lotto and support our community with a fundraising lottery

At least 60% from each ticket sold goes to support Tunbridge Wells, and there's a chance to win the £25,000 jackpot every week!



Find out more and start supporting today

[twlotto.co.uk/good-causes](https://twlotto.co.uk/good-causes)

[TWLottoUK](https://www.facebook.com/TWLottoUK) [@TWLottery](https://twitter.com/TWLottery)



## Tax & Accountancy Services for individuals and business

**Business need not be taxing.**

- ▶ **Tax**
- ▶ **Accounts**
- ▶ **Book-keeping**
- ▶ **VAT**
- ▶ **Payroll services**

OMB accountancy is a small & friendly accountancy company based in central Tunbridge Wells.

Our services can be tailored to meet your exact needs either as a business or as an individual.

We have over 30 years experience in helping people just like YOU!



**OMB Tax Limited**

**Call now on 01892 677723**





CONFEDERATION OF  
ROOFING CONTRACTORS  
APPROVED MEMBER



TRUSTATRADE  
APPROVED

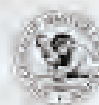
Emergency  
roof repairs 24  
hour support line  
**07555  
798736**

- ✓ Roofing
- ✓ Roof repairs
- ✓ Roofline
- ✓ Chimneys
- ✓ Building work
- ✓ Flat roofs
- ✓ Traditional felt
- ✓ GRP fiber Glass
- ✓ EDM Rubber Roofing
- ✓ Chimney repairs
- ✓ upvc guttering
- ✓ Fascias and soffits



**Arkiton offer the best Quality and Service -**

*PRICE Promise Guarantee - Arkiton Roofing & Building will beat any like -for-like roofing quote in Tunbridge Wells and Throughout Kent*



**GUILD**  
OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN



Call Now **01892 884540**

Free Phone **0800 933 0247**  
Sevenoaks **01732 422064**  
On Site **07555 798736**  
email **info@arkiton.co.uk**



## Wells Aldo Bespoke Range



We at Wells love JOHN SANKLY and are delighted to be their Premier stockist with the largest display of this gorgeous furniture. We have worked in collaboration to create unique models and fabric recipes from our vast fabric library to show off the beauty and quality of these stunning sofas and chairs in coordinated room sets which will fire the imagination!

Our fabric library includes many of the leading brands including:

Linwood, Sandersons, Romo, Designers Guild, Ralph Lauren, Morris & Co and many more.

The choice is amazing and we can tailor a unique item for you with the help of our in-house interior designer.

**We look forward to welcoming you to our new showrooms.**