

SUMMER 2025 Local



news from your borough council

Enjoy the great outdoors

page 13

also inside...

I didn't know that!
pages 10-11

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Have your say
page 31



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Dear resident

As I write, the sun is shining, and it feels like the perfect time to share some of the positive developments happening across the borough.

First up, a big thank you to everyone doing their bit to boost recycling in the borough. On pages 10-11, you'll find an article explaining what happens to your recycling after collection, along with some useful tips on what can and can't be recycled.

We also take a look at the recent engagement around Royal Victoria Place. It was encouraging to see so many people share their views on the future of this key town centre site. The feedback is now being reviewed, and recommendations will be considered by Full Council on 16 July - more details on page 31.

Looking ahead to the summer, there's plenty to enjoy. From 11 July to 8 September, the Art Trail with a Tale will bring over 35 sculptures to Tunbridge Wells as part of a family-friendly event organised by Demelza. You can read more on pages 15-18. The Wimbledon finals will also be screened once again in Calverley Grounds - fingers crossed for sunshine! Plus, Royal Tunbridge Wells Together has a full programme of summer activities to explore see page 13.

And finally, as always, read our latest news, articles and upcoming events and shows.

Best wishes,

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

What We Do

Over the past year we've been using our website, social media and Local magazine to tell you about some of the different Council teams and what they do.

We've also recorded a series of podcasts with members of some of the teams featured.

In April, Peter Every, Parks & Sports Centre Development Team Leader highlighted the Parks team and their incredible efforts to maintain our beautiful green spaces and support the natural environment across the borough. The team is supported by groups like the parks' Friends, and Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year.

It lifts people to be able to go into the town centre and think, isn't this a great place to be.

In May, Housing Options Manager Matt Muddell shared insights about his team. Preventing homelessness in the borough is one of the most challenging but rewarding roles that the Council undertakes. This vibrant, enthusiastic team support residents through some of the toughest days of their lives, doing everything possible to find accommodation for those at risk of homelessness.

Homelessness is vast and it comes from all different avenues.

In June, we'll hear from James Read in Economic Development about the Council's efforts to support local businesses and organisations in the borough through careers fairs, grant schemes and more. The team is all about making the most of our amazing borough, helping businesses thrive, become more sustainable, and work together to attract new customers.

To hear these and more podcasts visit our YouTube channel.

[youtube.com/@twellsbc](https://www.youtube.com/@twellsbc)



Stay tuned on our social media and e-newsletter for more What We Do content. Over the next few months we'll be hearing from The Amelia Scott, Digital Services and the Crematorium...

- [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)
- [TWellsCouncil](#)
- [TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil](#)
- [TWellsbc](#)



The Mayor's year ends

In the last edition of Local, Councillor Nancy Warne was nearing the end of her term of office as Mayor of Tunbridge Wells. Nancy has now joined the esteemed list of past mayors and Councillor David Osborne has been elected Mayor for 2025-2026.

Before her year as Mayor was over, in a break with the traditional civic dinner dance, Nancy held a barn dance to raise money for her chosen charity... and a great time was had by all! The family-friendly event was a roaring success bringing people together for fun, music and giving. Guests enjoyed lively dancing, great food and the chance to support a local cause.

Each year the Mayor has a packed diary with a long list of very diverse engagements. Nancy attended the Paddock Wood Carnival, hosted guests from Tunbridge Wells's twin town Wiesbaden, went to school events, met school students at Commonwealth Day and so much more.

Reflecting on the past year Nancy said: 'During my year as Mayor, it's been a privilege for me to have been invited in to see and hear the diverse and interesting work being undertaken throughout our borough: from community and friends' groups, schools, nurseries and youth groups, civic and cultural societies, faith groups, parish and town councils, local businesses and charities.

'What's heartened me most is to hear the inspirational stories of the many caring people who devote their time to help improve the lives of others in our communities. Our borough is brimming with energetic and enterprising people who are making a positive difference to those around them by choosing to be kind and empathetic, to inspire others and to participate in shared endeavour within our communities and beyond.

'It's been an honour for me to represent Tunbridge Wells borough at events throughout Kent and to share our experiences and stories with others.

'Throughout the year I've been raising awareness of the great work of my charity, Wellbeing in the Weald wellbeingintheweald.co.uk

'I'm delighted to announce that the charity was one of the recipients of the Kent Community Foundation Awards 2025 which was presented by the previous High Sheriff of Kent, Dr Gill Fargher. You can read more about this here kentcf.org.uk

'Thank you to all those who helped with our fundraising which enabled me to present them with a cheque for £3,721.13 to support their future work.'

Congratulations to Nancy on a very successful year and on raising a magnificent sum for Wellbeing in the Weald.

More about the new Mayor in the next edition.



Free membership for a more active you

GO is a FREE membership scheme for residents of Tunbridge Wells borough, offering generous discounts on sports, leisure, and cultural activities. Run by the Council and local partners, GO helps you stay active, connected, and engaged - while saving money.

The scheme is designed to improve wellbeing and promote community involvement through affordable access to local facilities and events.

Who can join?

GO is open to:

- Residents on low incomes or receiving benefits
- Students aged 16+ in full-time education

Whether you're looking to get fit, learn something new, or enjoy local culture, GO makes it easier and more affordable.

To apply for your GO membership visit gotunbridgewells.co.uk



Over 20,000 people get our weekly email

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

Visit  twbc.online/alerts

planning bin events housing jobs theatre



Your county councillors

In May, elections to Kent County Council were held across the county

Cranbrook Division



Claudine Russell
claudine.russell@kent.gov.uk
Conservatives

Tunbridge Wells North Division



Mark Ellis
mark.ellis@kent.gov.uk
Liberal Democrats

Tunbridge Wells South Division



Martin Brice
martin.brice@kent.gov.uk
Liberal Democrats

Tunbridge Wells East Division



Colin Sefton
colin.sefton@kent.gov.uk
Liberal Democrats

Tunbridge Wells Rural Division



Mark Munday
Mark.Munday@kent.gov.uk
Liberal Democrats

Tunbridge Wells West Division



John Moreland
john.moreland@kent.gov.uk
Liberal Democrats

By-election results

There were two borough council by-elections held in May.

Park



Richard Brown
Richard.Brown@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
Liberal Democrats

St John's



Simon Davidson
Simon.Davidson@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
Liberal Democrats

To see a full list of your elected members search county councillors at  kent.gov.uk and search borough councillors at  twbc.gov.uk

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

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

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

High Weald Nature and Community Fund now open for new applications

The fund supports work that benefits nature and people across the High Weald National Landscape, including the villages and towns in and around it. It aims to create wildlife-friendly places, support and enhance habitats, engage communities and improve access for underrepresented groups.

Community groups, CIC, school, charities, churches, parish councils or other non-profit bodies that own or manage land may apply for a grant. The deadline for applications is Monday 14 July.

Lots more information and project inspiration here

 [highweald.org/grants/high-weald-fund](https://www.highweald.org/grants/high-weald-fund)

Roadworks near you

There's a useful website  [one.network/uk/kent](https://www.one.network/uk/kent) where you can find out about roadworks taking place now or planned for the next 12 months.

Kent County Council looks after all public roads in Kent, motorways and trunk roads are the responsibility of National Highways.

Do you have a RTS meter?

If you have electric heating you may also have a Radio Teleswitch Service (RTS) meter. On Monday 30 June, the RTS will switch off because the technology is now outdated and the meter will need to be replaced.

RTS meters receive signals to switch between different electricity rates.

They were mainly for:

- Economy 7 or Economy 10 tariffs for cheaper night-time electricity
- RTS-only tariffs like Comfort Plus and Total Heat Total Control
- Controlling storage heaters or water heaters

There's lots more information about the switch off and what you should do here  [energysavingtrust.org.uk/rts-meter-switch-off](https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/rts-meter-switch-off)

Kirsty's campaign

You may have seen young resident Kirsty in the news recently talking about her fundraising for the charity, Children with Cancer UK. Kirsty has a brain tumour and as well as raising awareness about the charity she has a set herself a target to get her campaign poster on 1,000 noticeboards. If you can display a poster please download it from her website  [crochetforcancer.co.uk](https://www.crochetforcancer.co.uk) where you will also find a link to the charity's website.

Town Hall

You may remember that the Council has been working with Town Square Spaces Ltd (TownSq) to put innovative plans into action to re-shape the use of the town hall in Royal Tunbridge Wells. Guests were invited to an official launch back in March to showcase the space which has been transformed; offices, coworking, meeting rooms and more are now available in the heart of the town. There's also a café, The Bakery TW, which is open Monday to Friday for anyone to visit.

Find out more  [twtownhall.co.uk](https://www.twtownhall.co.uk)

New bus route

Metrobus has a brand-new route 284 in Tunbridge Wells, providing a direct link to Southborough Hub from High Brooms and Sherwood. It also provides a new link to the hospital from Southborough and High Brooms.



A maximum single fare of £3 is in operation until the end of December. Contactless payments are accepted on the bus and concessionary bus passes accepted.

Find the timetable here  [metrobus.co.uk/284](https://www.metrobus.co.uk/284)

Kirsty's Big Poster Push!



I'm 11 years old and I live in Kent. Last year, I found out that I have a brain tumour. His name is Terry. I'm having chemotherapy to make him smaller. But don't worry about me - I'm going to be fine! Lots of other children get diagnosed with cancer, and need help. I'm raising money for Children with Cancer UK by crocheting 70 bunting triangles - one for each week of my chemo.

I'd be so pleased if you could sponsor me. You can do this at www.justgiving.com/page/kirstytw or scan the QR code. Last thing: I'd like to get 1,000 of these posters in workplaces, GP's surgeries, shops and churches. Could you find a place for one? Get yours at www.crochetforcancer.co.uk Thank you! Kirsty xx



My family is raising funds on behalf of Children with Cancer Registered Charity Number 298102

Cabinet update

Cllr Astra Birch

Housing and Communities

March saw the launch of our 'Cabinet on Tour' initiative, beginning with a productive visit to Cranbrook & Sissinghurst Parish Council.



Led by Chair Kim Fletcher, we gained valuable insights into key local concerns, including new housing developments, the proposed Community Centre, and the community impact of the High Weald Academy's closure. Looking ahead, our next stop is Capel, where we'll address the pressing need for a Village Hall replacement and explore traffic and speeding issues. We also look forward to celebrating recent community-led improvements, such as the community orchard.

Cllr Ben Chapelard

Leader of the Council

Over the past few months, I've had the pleasure of getting out and about - meeting residents, local businesses, and community



groups across the borough. From the West Kent Expo to visits in our rural areas, these conversations are invaluable in helping us shape our future work.

Since the last edition of Local, Full Council approved our Strategic Plan 2024-32, setting a clear direction for where we can add the most value. We've already launched key projects, including a public consultation on the future of Royal Victoria Place and started a monthly market in the centre of Royal Tunbridge Wells. We're continuing to work closely with the other 13 Kent councils on the Government's proposed local government reorganisation. Now that we've received feedback on

our initial joint submission, we're turning our attention to preparing the final proposals, which are due in November. We'll continue to keep you informed through regular updates.

Cllr Mark Ellis

Innovation and Transformation

We're committed to delivering greater value for residents by working smarter. By embracing modern technology and investing in our workforce, we're enhancing the services you rely on.



New digital tools are streamlining processes across the Council, reducing admin, and improving accessibility. Staff are receiving targeted training to boost their digital skills to support these changes.

Now live:

- Personal Search Map - Free access to Local Land Charges via our interactive map.
- History Search - Request building control records and certificates for any address.
- Duplicate Certificates - Order authenticated duplicates of Completion Certificates issued by building control online.

Coming soon:

- Tree Preservation Orders - Request and receive TPOs instantly via our website.
- Streetlights - Report faults and check ownership using a new online map.

We're making Council services more accessible, efficient, and responsive to your needs.

Cllr Christopher Hall

Finance and Property

Now that the Budget for 2025-26 is set, my attention has been firmly on the Council's plans for Royal Victoria Place and how we go about funding its revival. My role in Cabinet involves property and investments and how best to fund and maintain RVP as well as our other properties like the Amelia Scott, Assembly Hall Theatre and leisure centres.



Our assets are valued at just over £121m and for those which are let out generate an income of £3m per year, but the current maintenance programme is around £1.9m. I recently authorised £5.5m on upgrading our temporary accommodation housing stock, £1.7m on health and safety repairs to Crescent Road car park and over £8m on restoration of the car park at Royal Victoria Place, which is in serious need of work following years of water damage. Council Tax never raises enough to maintain these assets so sometimes it's necessary to dispose of those that no longer provide value for public money to raise a capital receipt.

We recently sold 9-10 Calverley Terrace, which has been taken on by a company that will restore them as historic town houses, and we are in the process of selling the car park behind the former AXA building on Crescent Road which was mainly used by employees. There are no plans to sell any other car parks in the borough, as they are very much needed for the town centres to thrive. I will continue to do everything I can to provide value for money and look at ways to drive down costs as well as generate the funds to maintain the borough's assets of community value.

Cllr Matt Lowe

Planning

Cabinet recently approved an exciting move to encourage biodiversity across the borough, reinforcing the Council's



commitment to environmental sustainability through its planning responsibilities. Under the law, new housing and other developments must deliver at least a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), sustained for 30 years. If on-site improvements aren't possible, developers can use off-site 'Habitat Banks' - which may be located anywhere in the country. To keep these environmental benefits local, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council will now support the creation and management of BNG Habitat Banks within the borough, so developers can meet their obligations in our area, enhancing local nature and improving the environment for residents.

Cllr Justine Rutland

Economic Development and Deputy Leader

TWBC's Royal Victoria Place team has been much occupied by the creation of a feasibility report that outlines options



for revitalising the shopping centre. Thank you to everyone who took part in our engagement and/or filled in the survey during May. We are now working towards a decision for Full Council on 16 July.

May also saw the Culture team put on the most wonderful literary festival, which made a warm and sunny Tunbridge Wells buzz with writers, illustrators and book-lovers. In related news, the Assembly Hall Theatre has reopened its box office and you can now buy tickets there in person once more, Monday to

Saturday. Lastly, I'm very grateful to the Cranbrook Museum & Local History Society, who invited me to the museum for a guided tour. This 15th-century timber-framed building houses wonderfully evocative displays, including paintings by the Cranbrook Colony of artists, and I can't recommend a visit highly enough.

Cllr Pamela Wilkinson

Sports, Leisure, and Health

I recently chaired the Health Action team meeting - an important forum for health and charity sector representatives across Kent to connect and share updates on local services.



I also recently joined TWBC's Scientific Officer on her rounds collecting air quality data from monitoring tubes across the borough. You can check the latest pollution levels at kentair.org.uk/ reports. It was, therefore, particularly timely to hear about a new digital learning tool - Clean Air Academy - which helps us all understand why clean air matters and how we can help. For more information visit cleanairacademy.org.uk

Alongside this behind-the-scenes work, there are numerous resources available to support your physical and mental health. With summer here, now's the perfect time to explore two great schemes which may be just the thing to kick start a new healthy lifestyle:

- One You Kent - Support to quit bad habits and boost wellbeing.
- Everyday Active - Find fun, local activities perfect for you.

Cllr Rob Wormington

Environment and Sustainability

It has been a busy period in my portfolio since the last edition of Local was published. In April we sent off a list of our



priorities for active travel improvements to Kent County Council, so that they could bid on our behalf for money from Central Government. This includes funding for a cycleway on the A26, a cycle route linking Rusthall and Langton Green to Royal Tunbridge Wells and improved pedestrian routes in Southborough.

Work has also begun on the RVP car park. There is key maintenance work going on, and at the end of the process the car park should feel fresher and more welcoming. The work is being done in phases and should be finished by July 2026.

Recycling in Tunbridge Wells Borough



A huge thank you for recycling - in 2023/24 you helped us to re-purpose:

- **5,718** tonnes of plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, glass bottles and jars and drinks cans and food tins
- **4,648** tonnes of paper and card

Along with other materials that we collect separately which are recycled:

- **7,054** tonnes of garden waste
- **2,619** tonnes of food
- **1.02** tonnes of batteries
- **2.32** tonnes of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)
- **3.28** tonnes of textiles

How can you help us to do more?

Find out what can and can't be recycled in your bins and boxes. Check here: [twbc.online/bininfo](https://www.twbc.gov.uk/bininfo)

Everything that goes into the brown bin (or your communal recycling bin) should be clean and loose.

The incorrect items we regularly see in the brown bin are:

- Plastic bags (including black bags and carrier bags) and film
- Drinks cartons
- Paper and cardboard

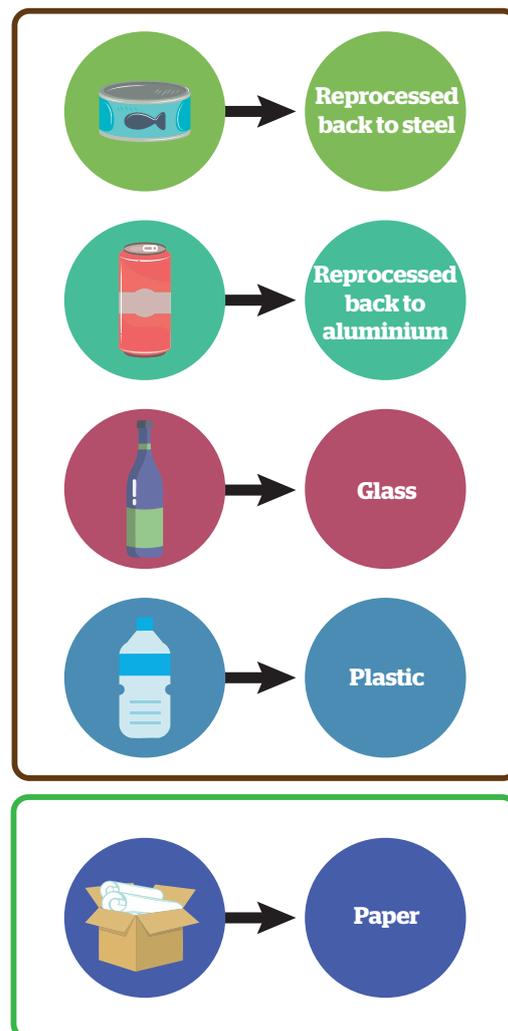
These items can be recycled, but not in the brown bin:

- Plastic bags and film can be taken to be recycled at your local supermarket
- Paper and cardboard should be flattened and go in the green box

Unfortunately we cannot accept food and drink cartons (Tetrapak) for recycling. They should go in the green bin.

If the wrong things are in the recycling bin this is called contamination and it reduces our recycling rates.

What is recyclable waste turned into?



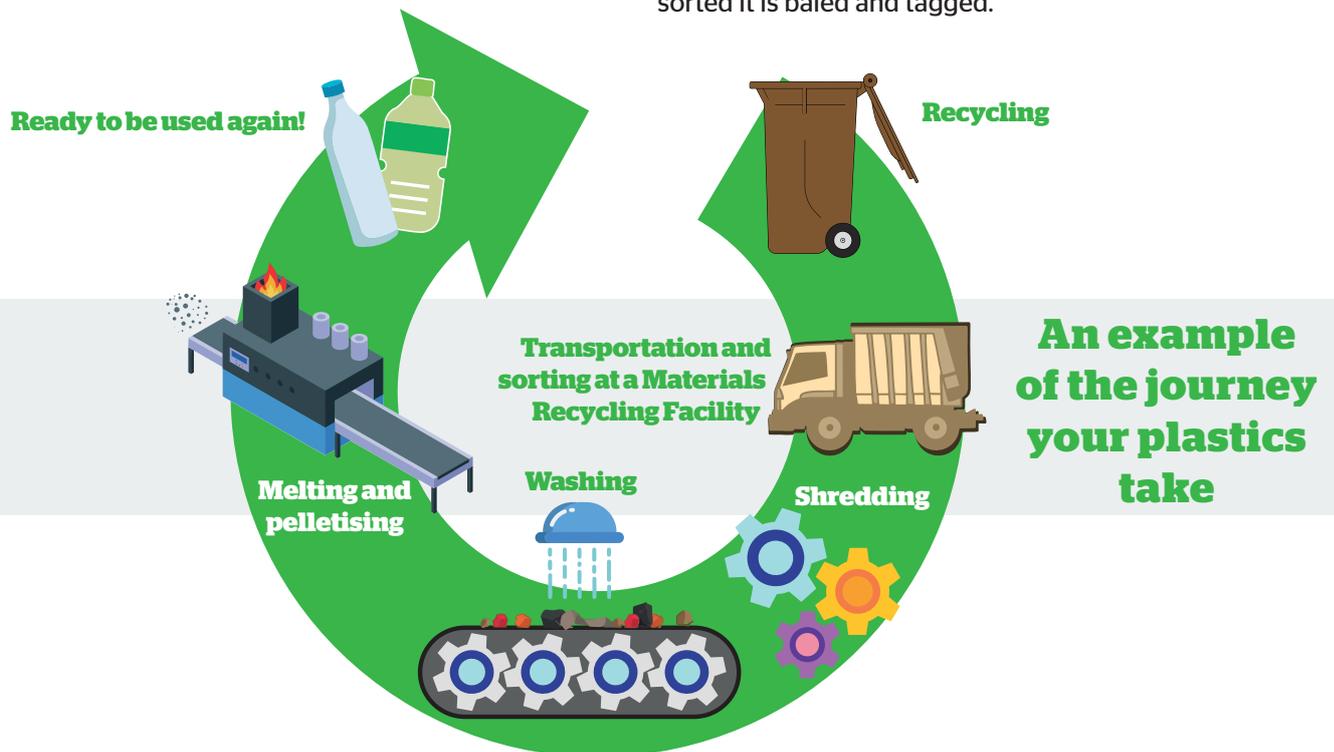
What happens to the recycling that is collected?

The material is taken to North Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC). At this point the material becomes the responsibility of Kent County Council and is loaded onto bulk vehicles. It is transported to a Materials Recycling Facility where it is sorted into the different materials.

Paper and cardboard is taken directly to a paper mill.

Where does it go after it has been sorted?

You can check by looking at Defra's Waste Data Flow – [Wastedataflow.org](https://www.wastedataflow.org). Local authorities have to report how much they have collected from the kerbside and where it has gone. Each recycling vehicle that collects the recyclable materials in your bins and boxes is weighed in and out at the HWRC. The material is weighed again when it reaches the next facility on its recycling journey. After it has been sorted it is baled and tagged.

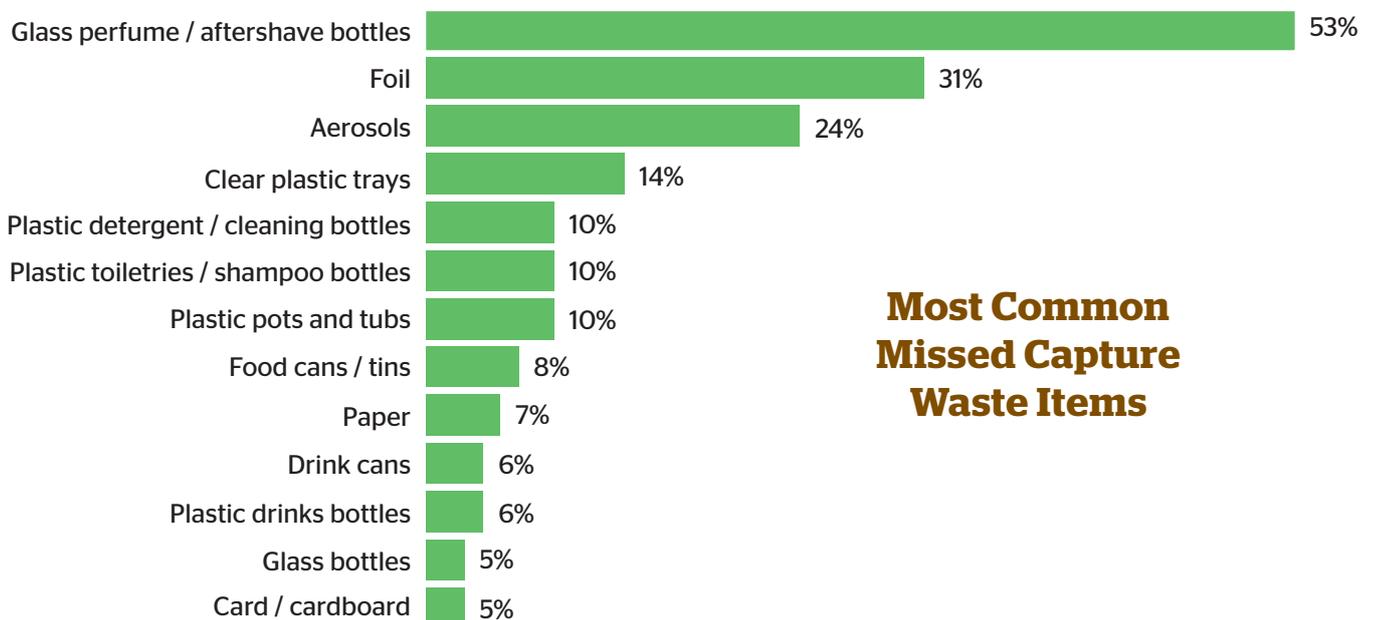


Did you know?

Missed capture is a term used to describe when an item that could have recycled, is put in the waste bin and therefore not recycled.

According to WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) 79% of UK citizens miss one or more items which they could recycle in their kerbside collection.

To learn more visit [wrap.org.uk](https://www.wrap.org.uk)



For more information
01892 864429

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Enjoy the great outdoors this summer



VISIT
TUNBRIDGE
WELLS

From Shakespeare in the park to live music festivals or countryside walks, getting outside and enjoying the summer has never been easier. Across the borough, the summer events calendar is filling up fast. We've rounded up the very best of the outdoor activities in Tunbridge Wells this summer for you to enjoy.

Family-friendly

SummerFest at The Spa Hotel

The Spa Hotel's SummerFest is back, and promises a family-friendly, foodie-focused music festival. Mark your calendars for 12 and 13 July.

Demelza Trail with a Tail

Trail with a Tail will see beautiful art sculptures pop up across Royal Tunbridge Wells. (see pages 15-18).

Outdoor theatre at Scotney Castle

From Alice Through The Looking Glass to A Midsummer Night's Dream and more, Scotney Castle is hosting a series of outdoor theatre events, perfect to watch with a picnic!

Fanzone in Calverley Grounds

Head to Calverley Grounds in Royal Tunbridge Wells on 12 and 13 July for the Wimbledon Finals.

Summer Fun
at
ROYAL VICTORIA
PLACE
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Join us for a Summer-tastic time at Royal Victoria Place over the school holidays! Come and enjoy amazing activities. There's something for all the family!

PIHEL BASH

royalvictoriaplace.co.uk

History and heritage

Uncover the history of Bayham Abbey

Discover the ruins of Bayham Abbey including the 13th to 15th-century church, the chapter house, and a picturesque 14th-century gatehouse.

Take on the Royal Tunbridge Wells Heritage Walking Trail

Download a copy of the Heritage Trail and discover the history of Royal Tunbridge Wells through the famous buildings, and people, who made it what it is today.

Food & drink

Visit Dragonfly Farm Shop & Café

Opened in May 2025, this brand-sparkling new farm shop and café in Speldhurst has a wonderful outdoor seating area for a spot of tea and cake in the sunshine!

Head to Birchden Vineyards for a picnic among the vines

Birchden Vineyards is hosting lunchtime picnics all through the summer. You'll be able to enjoy a hamper full of goodies and a chilled bottle of wine at an outdoor table among the vineyards, lakes and wildflower meadow.

Discover the new market at Calverley Precinct

Head to Royal Tunbridge Wells' brand new market. Running on the last Sunday of every month, there's plenty of local produce on offer! (see page 31)



Live music and theatre

Grab a ticket to Live at The Pantiles

For the ultimate food and live music event, grab a ticket to Live at The Pantiles every Thursday across the summer. Enjoy from the pop-up-bar or with a meal at Essence on The Pantiles, The Tunbridge Wells Hotel or La Casa Vecchia.

Or head to Local & Live

Over August Bank Holiday weekend live music fans can enjoy a calendar of events across Tunbridge Wells town in venues including The Forum, Sussex Mews, Calverley Grounds and more!



Watch Twelfth Night in Calverley Grounds

Shakespeare in the park is returning this year with a rendition of Twelfth Night in Calverley Grounds. Tickets are available from The Assembly Hall Theatre.

For more information about these and all events this summer visit

[visittunbridgewells.com/events](https://www.visittunbridgewells.com/events)



Would a disabled facilities grant help you?

Disabled facilities grants are available for people of all ages, and whether you are renting privately from a social landlord or are an owner-occupier.

The grant is to enable disabled people to continue living safely and independently at home. It can contribute to the cost of adaptations to your home - changes that make your home safer and easier to get around and carry out everyday tasks like cooking and bathing.

An occupational therapist will need to support your application for a disabled facilities grant and the works required and a financial assessment will look at your household income and savings to determine if you need to contribute to the cost of the adaptations.

As well as the mandatory grants there are also discretionary disabled facilities grants you might qualify for.

This is only an overview of disabled facilities grants, there's a lot more information about them on [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or you can contact the Private Sector Housing team:

 privatesectorhousing@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

01892 554242

Fast track disabled facilities grant

The fast track grant of up to £12,000 is available to fund a stairlift or replace a defective one, or to provide new or replace defective equipment such as a door opening device, changing bench, wash-dry toilet or adjustable kitchen adaptation. Owner-occupiers and tenants can apply for a fast track grant. No financial assessment is required and the grant is not repayable. An occupational therapist will need to support your application for a fast track disabled facilities grant and the work required.



Freedom of the Borough awarded to Sea Cadets

Congratulations to Royal Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets (TS Brilliant) who have been awarded the Freedom of the Borough!

Receiving this award in 2025 has special significance for the group as they celebrate their 90th anniversary this year. The sea cadets have been part of local life for many years, present at many civic events, and taking an important role in the Remembrance Sunday service when their band leads the parade.

Councillors voted unanimously to honour TS Brilliant with the Freedom of the Borough and invited them to attend the Council meeting in April to accept the award.

Cmdre Barry Bryant CVO Royal Navy accepted the honour and Lt Cdr (SCC) Jonathan Vanns MCGI, FIOL, Royal Naval Reserve, then thanked the Council saying: 'We are honoured and delighted to accept this award that has been earned by generations of cadets since 1935, many have served their town, and often their country with pride and distinction. We look forward to exercising the right to march through the town with colours flying later in the year.'



The Freedom of the Borough will be formally presented on 12 October when TS Brilliant will host West Kent District Sea Cadets for a Freedom of the Borough and Trafalgar Day Parade. Some 250 sea cadets, junior sea cadets and Royal Marines cadets will take part in the parade in Royal Tunbridge Wells to celebrate both the award and their anniversary. Veteran Standard Bearers and a detachment of former TS Brilliant cadets and staff will join them.

About the Freedom of the Borough

The Honorary Freedom of the Borough is the highest award the Council can give to an individual or corporate body. The award is not often made and is normally only conferred on local people who have made a significant contribution to the locality or have achieved something outstanding. The last time the Council made the award to an organisation was in 2023 to Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and prior to that to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in 2013.

Trail with a Tale

Royal Tunbridge Wells

A Wild in Art event
presented by Demelza



demelza

Art trail coming this summer!

Explore Tunbridge Wells to find over 35 large and small beautiful sculptures designed by artists, local schools and groups.



11 July to
8 September
2025

Creative partner:

Catch A Fire.

Media partner:

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
BUSINESS
MAGAZINE

Print partner:

yeomans

FR Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Registered Charity No. 1039651



Welcome to Trail with a Tale

An incredible family friendly art trail is coming to Tunbridge Wells – a Wild in Art event presented by local children’s charity, Demelza.

This summer 10 beautifully designed large sculptures will be dotted around Tunbridge Wells to form a unique, family-friendly outdoor trail for all ages to enjoy. Each large sculpture will be accompanied by an original tale, written by Tunbridge Wells based children’s author, Alex Brooks. Alongside the trail of large sculptures, you’ll also find over 25 smaller sculptures designed by local schools and groups!

The trail will help raise awareness of Demelza’s services and help reach more extraordinary children with serious or life-limiting conditions. The trail will also raise vital funds for the charity with the auction of four large sculptures in September.

Discover more at trailwithatale.co.uk

More about Demelza

Demelza delivers extraordinary care to extraordinary children who are facing serious or life-limiting conditions.

Our support is as unique as every family we work with, providing specialist clinical care, day care and short breaks, practical and emotional support for families and siblings, creative arts and psychotherapeutic therapies, memory making, end of life care and bereavement support.

Founded over 25 years ago, we have two hospice sites in Kent and South East London and a community hospice in East Sussex. We also provide care to children and support families in their own homes, in the community and online.

Find out more
about Demelza



If you are interested in finding out more about our free care and support for children facing serious or life-limiting conditions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Demelza team.

Telephone: 01795 845200



Meet Daisy, who is making the most of every day...

Seven-year-old Daisy and her family have been supported by Demelza since Daisy was diagnosed with very rare, complex medical conditions at just four months old.

She's ventilated via a tracheostomy 24/7, has a feeding peg, epilepsy and global development delay. Daisy needs a safe environment and constant, specialist one-to-one care.



Daisy's mum, Fiona, said: "Daisy loves coming to Demelza, because there is nothing that's off limits. She can paint, she can go in the garden safely, she can have as many slices of toast as she wants. She can run up and down the corridors and she can watch whatever she wants on TV, on repeat."

Daisy's been admitted to Tunbridge Wells Hospital on numerous occasions with her seizures. Demelza nurses have stepped in and allowed me to leave Daisy in their care, to go home and shut my eyes for five minutes. Having that support means you can shut off and recharge your batteries, because you know you're back in that hospital by their bedside for countless days. It would be impossible for me to cope without their support."



"When I go to Demelza with my little sister, we go to the park and we always love going on the swings together and exploring."
**Freya,
Daisy's sister.**

Demelza's impact

Over 800 families received Demelza's care and support this year, including...

570
day care sessions
(more than doubled
since 2023/24)

62
bereavement
events and
groups

382
hydro pool
sessions

359
art therapy
sessions

Launch weekend

Saturday 12 – Sunday 13 July.

Come and find the Demelza team in Calverley Grounds, enjoy a range of family activities and watch the Wimbledon finals on the big screen!



Find all the sculptures

Pop to **Ruby's of London** on Monson Road or **Kidsbury** in Royal Victoria Place to pick up your trail map and fun trail merchandise. You can also download a trail map by visiting trailwithatale.co.uk

WIN!

Love art? A beautiful small hare sculpture could be yours – designed by local artist, Kerrie Kent. You'll be able to purchase tickets to win the sculpture from 11 July from demelza.org.uk

Tom Payne is an abstract artist – look out for his special small hare design on display at Castle Fine Art. Available at auction at the end of the trail!



Share your pics

We'd love to see your trail selfies. Follow [@DemelzaCharity](https://www.instagram.com/DemelzaCharity) and [@Trailwithatale](https://www.instagram.com/Trailwithatale) and tag us on Instagram [#trailwithatale](https://www.instagram.com/Trailwithatale)



[@TrailWithATale](https://www.instagram.com/TrailWithATale)
[@DemelzaCharity](https://www.instagram.com/DemelzaCharity)

#TrailWithATale #RTWTrail



demelza.org.uk

Registered Charity No.1039651

Headline sponsors:





Bringing our collection to you The Amelia

If you know someone in a care home or maybe you attend a community group, The Amelia Scott offers a free outreach service.

We will visit with a carefully curated box of fascinating objects for you to look at, talk about and enjoy!

Each object in our collection has a story to tell and our expert staff are ready to share those stories with you, offering your group a unique and enriching experience.

Arranging a visit is simple. For more information and to book your outreach session, please contact Daniel Huckfield:

 daniel.huckfield@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
01892 554146

MAGIC PLACE

The Amelia Scott Summer Exhibition

**27 Jun –
1 Sep**

Interactive art adventures for everyone!

Free entry
theamelia.co.uk



Artist duo Genetic Moo return to The Amelia with their brand-new exhibition, **Magic Place**.

Inspired by the golden age of 8-bit video games, the Temporary Exhibition Space will be transformed into an interactive immersive play space.

Every touch and movement of visitors will change the artwork and trigger a range of harmonised beats, beeps, synths and sound effects.

A digital hall of mirrors, Magic Place is set to spark imaginations and inspire creative play in visitors young and old.



Landline phone changes

Between now and 2027 most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines over to new upgraded landline services using digital technology. Your telephone provider (the people you pay for your landline) should contact you before the switchover to check in and discuss what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected.

Fall monitors and lifelines

Do you or someone you know depend on their landline for use of a telecare device connected to the phone line such as a fall monitor, lifeline or personal alarm? If yes, then please notify your telephone provider and check with your monitor/alarm provider whether your device is digitally enabled so that they can advise on how the switch might affect the service of the devices.



What is the #DigitalSwitchover?



The UK's old telephone lines are being replaced with a digital network. This may affect some items or services you use.

Have a friend who relies on their landline telephone?

Help them check if the #DigitalSwitchover will affect their service.

Assessment & Service Centre

Unit 1, Bridge Farm, Upper
Haydsen Lane, Tonbridge
Kent TN11 8AA

01732 770251



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Tonbridge, Kent
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- rise/recliner armchairs • profiling beds • walking aids
- supportive seating • bathlifts • scooters • overhead hoists • ramps

assessments available from our Occupational Therapist
short term hire options • repairs & servicing

making life less challenging

Reach out to us for a FREE home demonstration

Tunbridge Wells CAN

Tunbridge Wells CAN - Climate and Nature CIC, a not-for-profit Community Interest Company, tells Local about the event they're putting on in September...

People worldwide are increasingly aware of, and increasingly concerned about, the environmental crisis we all face. Opinions vary on how best to tackle it, but there is broad agreement that challenges lie ahead.

Closer to home, a group of concerned residents of Tunbridge Wells and surrounding areas have come together to create an event where local people can not only learn more about these issues, but also hear about solutions, find support in the community, listen to inspiring speakers, enjoy performances of music and spoken word, take part in nature-themed activities for all the family, and much more.

Our town is blessed with an abundance of green spaces. So, where better to celebrate nature than in one of the most central of those beautiful parks, Calverley Grounds.

Inspired by a similar event in Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells CAN - Climate and Nature CIC formed in 2024 with the aim of establishing a Climate and Nature Fair as an annual event for the people of both the town and surrounding rural communities.

With the support of TWBC and Royal Tunbridge Wells Together, the CIC team is creating an ambitious event worthy of the town's status and aligned with the Council's ambition for a 2030 Net Zero Compatible Borough. There are still opportunities available for local

businesses with green credentials to support the event as sponsors. And if you have a day or even a few hours to offer, we'd love to hear from you.

Tunbridge Wells Climate and Nature Fair, 13 September 2025, 10am-5pm, Calverley Grounds.

Sponsors: email [✉ sponsor@twcan.org.uk](mailto:sponsor@twcan.org.uk)

Stallholders: apply twcan.org.uk/Stallholders

Donate: [🌐 chuffed.org/project/tunbridge-wells-climate-nature-fair](https://chuffed.org/project/tunbridge-wells-climate-nature-fair)

Keep updated or volunteer: [🌐 twcan.org.uk/updates](https://twcan.org.uk/updates)



Tunbridge Wells Climate & Nature Fair

Saturday 13 September | 10am-5pm
Calverley Grounds | Free Entry

Live Entertainment
Fun Family Activities
Eco Stalls

Hands-on Workshops
Food and Drink
Practical and Fun Talks

Join us for a vibrant day of community, creativity, fun and hope for the planet we love

Whether you're curious, committed, or just want a fun day out, everyone is welcome.

Find out more or register for a stall: twcan.org.uk

[f TunbridgeWellsCAN](https://www.facebook.com/TunbridgeWellsCAN) [@tunbridgewellscan](https://www.instagram.com/@tunbridgewellscan)





Support our
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a fundraising
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twlotto.co.uk



Supporting Hawkhurst Local History Society

Museum staff from The Amelia Scott have been helping a local history society protect their unique archive and share it with the community



Over many years **Hawkhurst Local History Society** amassed around 60 boxes of archive material which eventually ended up being stored in one

member's dining room! Fortunately, last year the society was offered a room at their local church as a place to store the collection. A team of volunteers from the church and the

society were enlisted to clear out the room before local tradespeople including electricians, carpenters and pest control offered their support and services to refurbish and update the room which has now been transformed into a more useable space.

With funding from the **UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund** the society was able to purchase boxes, storage materials and bespoke shelving to facilitate the move. And, to better protect the collection, volunteers took part in a collections care workshop with museum staff from The Amelia Scott.

Society chairman Simon Paish said:

'It is important to learn about where you live, sharing memories and stories across different generations, and remembering people from the past. Not only will the current community benefit from better access to the archive via this new facility, but it will be a resource for future generations to use too.'

The History Society will take part in Hawkhurst Village Fete on Saturday 28 June, where their collection of heritage-themed exhibition boards will be on display, enabling Hawkhurst residents to celebrate their unique local history, giving them a sense of pride living in such a significant rural and historic village within the borough of Tunbridge Wells.

For more information about Hawkhurst Local History Society activities and events email:
secretary@hawkhursthistory.org

Royal Victoria Place

Changing times

On 2 May, we launched a public engagement to gather views on the future of Royal Victoria Place from residents, businesses, and visitors.

Feedback started coming in immediately - thank you to everyone who took part. Over the engagement period, 2,865 surveys were completed, with a good mix of age groups represented.

Eleven public drop-in sessions were held at busy locations across the borough, selected to reach a wide range of people at peak times. Flyers and banners helped promote the engagement and directed people to the online survey.

Workshops were also held with representatives from local groups including the Town Centre Action Group, Royal Tunbridge Wells Together BID, The Access Group, the Town Forum, and pupils from St James' Primary School. Input from local businesses was gathered through conversations with the BID, key tenants, and neighbouring traders.

While future developments are being considered you might notice some smart new hoardings around the former food court. They tell a story of the site before the centre and will keep this a pleasant through route between the upper floors and Market Square.

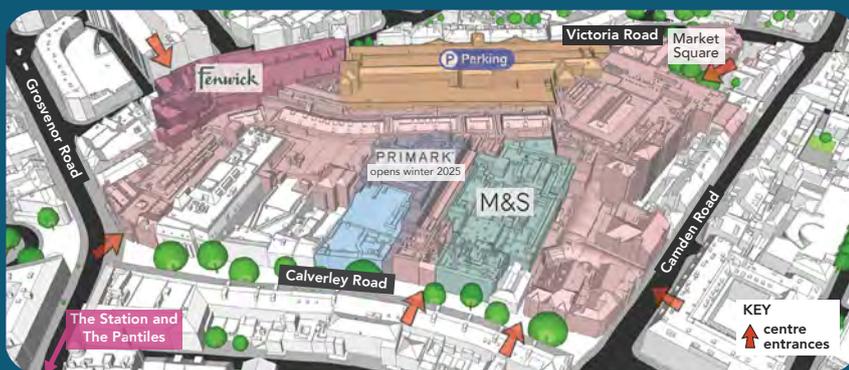


What's next?

The development management team, RivingtonHark, is now reviewing the feedback alongside financial and economic assessments. Their feasibility study will include recommendations for TWBC's cross-party Investment Advisory Panel to consider for endorsement. These recommendations will then be considered by councillors and put to a vote at Full Council on 16 July.

Although this phase of engagement has ended, more information is still available at rvpfuture.com.

ROYAL VICTORIA
PLACE
TUNBRIDGE WELLS



What's happening in Royal Victoria Place car park?

The car park at Royal Victoria Place shopping centre is currently closed while work is carried out to renovate and improve it.

The car park reopens on Monday 14 July, until then drivers are being directed to nearby Meadow Road car park.

Improvements

When the project is finished the car park will be resurfaced and there will be new wider parking bays better suited to the size of modern cars. Wider bays will make it easier for drivers to park and get in and out of their vehicle, a real benefit when you're carrying shopping bags, small children and buggies.

Redecoration and new, brighter LED lighting will offer a more pleasant experience in the car park and new signage will help you navigate

your way to and from the shopping centre. More disabled spaces are being allocated and EV charging points installed too.

The Council is also exploring the possibility of installing solar PV panels on the top level of the car park which will provide sustainable energy for the shopping centre and car park. Together with the new LED lighting this will reduce the centre's carbon emissions.



Why is the work needed?

The car park has been in use since the early 1990s and has reached the age when essential maintenance is required. Improving the car park at the same time as the maintenance work is the best way to minimise disruption for car park users and it is more time and cost-efficient.

Work will continue in the car park until summer 2026 when the project is due to be completed.

WIMBLEDON 2025 FANZONE JULY 12 & 13

rtwtogether.com/rtwfanzone



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CHILDRENS
ACTIVITIES



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events, newsfeeds, travel
updates and scroll the
business directory



Make a Local Impact: Green Volunteering for Tunbridge Wells Businesses

Do you manage or work for a Tunbridge Wells based business? If you or your organisation would like to make a positive impact on nature and the communities in your area then Kent High Weald Partnership would love to work with you.



KHWP offer conservation volunteer days and environmental projects for local businesses, as well as providing opportunities for staff team building and wellbeing experiences. Come out as a team or individually and help enhance your local greenspaces for wildlife and for people to enjoy. You could help build boardwalks, plant trees, restore habitats, battle invasive species and much more. Tea, biscuits and fun are guaranteed!

Find out more about working with KHWP by visiting khwp.org.uk or email cmp@khwp.org.uk

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- Order online and collect safely
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www.groombridgefarmshop.co.uk

Your monkey needs a licence!

If you keep a monkey or any other primate you need to be aware that **from April 2026** new regulations mean you will need a licence.

Get in touch with our Environmental Health Admin team as soon as possible and start the application process for a licence now so that you will be ready for the new regulations.

It is an offence not to have a licence and you could face imprisonment or a fine or both. If you already have a licence for a primate under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976, you will still need a licence under the new regulations.

To read more about the new regulations and the licensing process search primate at tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Contact the Environmental Health Admin team:

ehadmin@midkent.gov.uk
01622 602450

You forgot to get my licence? I thought we were pri-mates!



CALLING ALL LANDLORDS

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council runs a free established private rental scheme offering landlords genuine tenants, tenancy support and **cash incentives**.

We are looking for properties of all sizes and for landlords who are interested in providing accommodation to households in housing need.

If you have a property available and would like to find out more, please contact our Landlord Liaison team

prso@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
or scan here!



WHAT WE CAN OFFER:

- ▲ Cash incentives
- ▲ Support from our dedicated Landlord Liaison team every step of the way
- ▲ Rent in advance
- ▲ Rent guarantee schemes
- ▲ Cash deposits or a Council-backed deposit bond
- ▲ Employment support for out of work tenants
- ▲ Tenants who are ready to move in now!



Tunbridge
Wells Borough
Council

ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE SUMMER SEASON

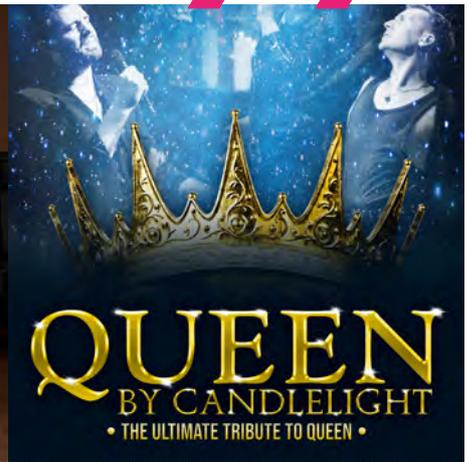
for full details and to book tickets visit our website
assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk
01892 530613



FAMILY | WED 18 JUN



MUSIC | THU 19 JUN



MUSIC | FRI 20 JUN



MUSIC | SAT 21 JUN



COMEDY | FRI 27 JUN



MUSIC | SAT 5 JUL



VARIETY | FRI 11 JUL



MUSIC | SUN 13 JUL



SPOKEN WORD | MON 14 JUL

RUMOURS OF FLEETWOOD MAC
LIVE IN CONCERT 2025

THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC
UK TOUR

MUSIC | TUE 15 JUL

The Reverend
Richard Coles
BORDERLINE
National Trinket

STAR OF I'M A CELEBRITY... AUS 2024

SPOKEN WORD | THU 17 JUL

RHOD GILBERT
& the
GIANT GRAPEFRUIT

LIVE TOUR 2024-2025

COMEDY | SAT 19 JUL

A classic tale of boy meets girl, sort of.

Twelfth Night.
By William Shakespeare
Changing Theatre Summer Tour 2025
Performed in the open air

DRAMA | SUN 27 JUL

THE MUSIC OF
U2
BY CANDLELIGHT

'LIVE MUSIC AT ITS FINEST!'
★★★★★
CONCERTS BY CANDLELIGHT

MUSIC | WED 30 JUL

CIRQUE
THE GREATEST SHOW REIMAGINED

VARIETY | THU 31 JUL

Young Company
War Of The Worlds

DRAMA WORKSHOP | MON 4 - 9 AUG

UNFORGETTABLE
GONE TOO SOON
3 - 4TH SEPTEMBER 2025

MUSICAL | WED 3-THU 4 SEP

WHITNEY HOUSTON
BY CANDLELIGHT

CONCERTS BY CANDLELIGHT

MUSIC | THU 11 SEP

JOHN SIMPSON
The Leaders & Lunatics Tour

SPOKEN WORD | SAT 13 SEP

TEASE

FEATURING MISS TEMPTATION
FEATURING TURKISH DELIGHT

VARIETY | SUN 14 SEP

MIRIAM MARGOLYES
FROM A TO Z

SPOKEN WORD | SAT 20 SEP



SPOKEN WORD | SAT 20 SEP



SPOKEN WORD | SUN 21 SEP



COMEDY | TUE 23 SEP



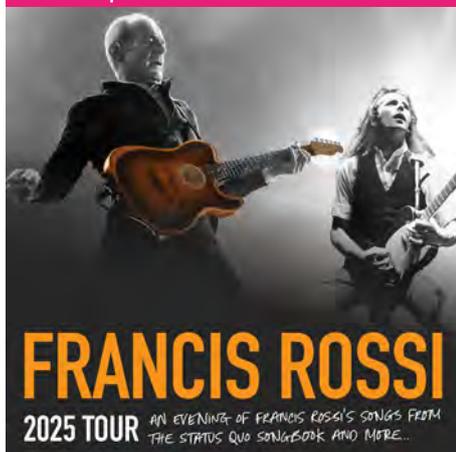
MUSIC | FRI 26 SEP



COMEDY | SUN 28 SEP



MUSIC | TUE 30 SEP



MUSIC | FRI 3 OCT



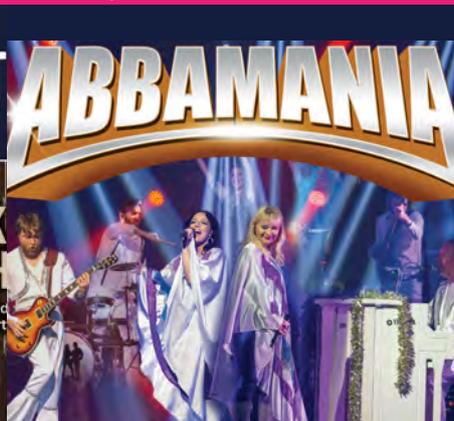
MUSIC | SAT 4 OCT



DRAMA | MON 6 OCT



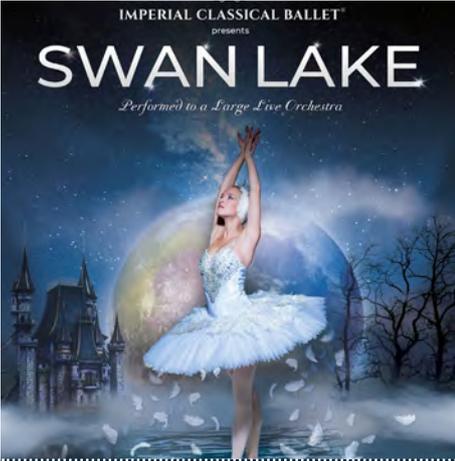
SPOKEN WORD | TUE 7 OCT



MUSIC | SUN 12 OCT



COMEDY | MON 13 OCT



DANCE | TUE 14 OCT



MUSIC | THU 16 OCT



SPOKEN WORD | SUN 19 OCT



MUSIC | TUE 21 OCT



COMEDY | THU 23 OCT



MUSIC | FRI 24 OCT



MUSIC | SAT 25 OCT



COMEDY | THU 6 NOV



MUSIC | SAT 8 NOV

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS



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Book a swim or check out the timetable by visiting the Fusion Lifestyle app.

Scan the QR code to enrol today.



Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre: 01892 540744
The Weald Sports Centre: 01580 710720
Putlands Sport & Leisure Centre: 01892 838290
www.fusion-lifestyle.com/our-locations/kent



New market in Royal Tunbridge Wells

**Last Sunday of each month
Calverley Pedestrian Precinct
10am-4pm**

Expect a mix of local produce, delicious food and drink, handmade crafts, and unique finds from talented local traders. Each market offers a fresh experience with seasonal themes, guest vendors, and a variety of products from your favourite regular stalls.

Make a day of it - enjoy the lively atmosphere, treat yourself, and then relax at one of the many nearby cafés or restaurants, all within walking distance in the heart of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

 **Next market Sunday 29 June**

 pantilesevents.com



Have your say: Should there be a new parish or town council for your area?

A consultation is now open to explore whether the six unparished areas in the borough should have their own parish or town councils. It runs until **3 August 2025**.

If you live in one of these areas, keep an eye out for a leaflet arriving at the end of June. It will explain what a parish or town council could mean for your community, including potential benefits and changes.

Share your views by completing the survey at tunbridgewells.gov.uk/cgr or by scanning the QR code.

Paper copies of the survey are also available at **The Amelia Scott**, Mount Pleasant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1AW.



The six unparished areas of Tunbridge Wells are the borough wards of: Culverden, Pantiles, Park, Sherwood, St James' and St John's.

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