

# WINTER 2025 Local



news from your borough council

## 15 Years of Skate

page 24

### also inside...

Christmas  
recycling & waste  
page 10-11

Joy to the Wells!  
page 18

Get involved  
with nature  
page 25





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# Dear resident

Welcome to this winter, festive edition of Local. The front cover is a bit of a giveaway, so you will know that we welcome the ice rink back to Calverley Grounds for its fifteenth year. Where has the time gone? The rink is always popular and very much a Christmas tradition for many of you as you've been regular visitors since it first opened. We're delighted it continues to be a part of the festive fun alongside panto at the Assembly Hall Theatre.



Also 15 this year is the Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom group who make such an impact on the town centre and the Council's parks. You can read more about their achievements in this edition, congratulations and thank you to them and the other bloom groups in the borough for their amazing work.

There is information about the Mayor's Toy Appeal on page 15. If you are in a position to support this very good cause you can be sure your donation will make a huge difference to a young child or teenager on Christmas Day.

The magazine includes a feature on The Amelia Scott, a look at food waste and an update on the work we are doing in partnership with Kent High Weald and Kent Wildlife Trust, plus the latest on Local Government Reorganisation.

As always we've included the information you need to know about recycling and waste collections and opening hours at The Amelia Scott during the Christmas and New Year period. And this wouldn't be the Christmas edition without a competition for you to enter!

Very best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year from all at TWBC.

**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:  
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# 12 Days of Council services



On the first day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Housing support

Our Housing team is here for residents at some of the most difficult times in their lives. They help prevent homelessness with early intervention and support, as well as finding accommodation for those who are experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping.

# 1

On the second day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Fewer carbon emissions

This year we adopted our Borough Climate Change Strategy, which outlines the ways that we can work together with residents to reduce carbon emissions across the borough. We have also increased the number of cars available through CoWheels, our car club, and supported the development of the Repair Academy and Climate and Nature Fair.

# 2



On the third day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Improved health and wellbeing

From creative health initiatives to weight management programmes, the One You Kent team is here to support you. That might mean behaviour change advice, help getting active or referring you to a service that meets your specific needs.

# 3

On the fourth day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Planning advice

Ensuring development meets community needs and protects green spaces: the Planning team works to shape the future of the borough through the Local Plan and Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Centre Plan.

# 4

On the fifth day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Recycling and waste services

We make sure your recycling and waste bins are collected every week. That's over 53,000 households each week - it's a lot of bins.



# 5

On the sixth day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Safer communities

We work closely with partners to keep residents safe. The Community Safety team collaborates with Kent Police, and other agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour, support victims of crime, and promote safety across the borough.

# 6

On the seventh day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Support for vulnerable residents

Benefits, hardship support, and warm spaces initiatives: our teams work year-round to support residents facing financial hardship, health challenges, or housing insecurity.



# 7

On the eighth day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## A thriving local economy

The Economic Development team supports start-ups and independent traders, helps improve transport links and hosts jobs fairs. They're focused on making Tunbridge Wells a great place to live, work, and do business.



# 8

On the ninth day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Time for feedback

This year we have consulted on a huge number of topics, from dogs on leads to climate action. Democracy doesn't end with elections, there are opportunities to have your say on what happens in the borough all year round.

# 9

On the tenth day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Arts and culture

Whether it's making your Christmas magical with Sleeping Beauty or Skate, or bringing a little West End magic to Tunbridge Wells, The Assembly Hall Theatre adds glitz and glamour to our beautiful borough all through the year. And look no further than The Amelia Scott for thought-provoking and fascinating exhibitions.

# 10

On the eleventh day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## Customer services

Our Contact Centre is here for you. If you've a query about a Council service the trained advisers are ready to help by phone or in person at The Amelia Scott. They have a wealth of knowledge that they'll be delighted to share with you.

# 11

On the twelfth day of Christmas my Council gave to me...

## A celebration of community

This year Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets were awarded the Freedom of the Borough. A special way to celebrate one of the many fantastic community groups and organisations working so hard across the borough. We also offer grant schemes, organise summit meetings and run a bi-annual Love Where We Live celebration to highlight the work done by voluntary groups and individuals in our communities.



# 12

**What We Do**

- [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://tunbridgewells.gov.uk)
- TWellsCouncil
- TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil
- TWellsbc

# A special parade!

In October the Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets (TS Brilliant) were presented with a commemorative scroll acknowledging their recent award of **Freedom of the Borough**.

For the special occasion, which also commemorated the unit's 90th anniversary and the Battle of Trafalgar, TW Brilliant was joined by fellow cadets from across West Kent. As they paraded they were watched and cheered on by family, friends and many local residents who had gathered to watch the historic event.

**Thank you if you came along and showed your support, it was greatly appreciated.**



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## Boost your business by partnering with the Council

**Are you a local business looking to expand and win new contracts? We want to work with you!**

We're committed to supporting local businesses which is why we are building our own supplier database called **TMT Local Supplier Database**.

We will use the database to focus and direct work within the local area when we don't have to take a project to full public tender (for example, supply of goods where the total value is less than £100k). Sign up and register your details with us.

Why not also sign up to the **Kent Business Portal** to be in the know about upcoming opportunities and projects across the whole of the public sector in Kent, and across a variety of different service areas.

Don't miss out on the chance to grow your business while supporting your community.

Register now and start bidding on exciting opportunities with the Council.

### Local Supplier Database



### Kent Business Portal



# News in brief

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

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

-  TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil
-  TWellsCouncil
-  TWellsbc

## 284 bus service

Earlier this year, Metrobus introduced the 284 bus service, providing a new direct link to Southborough Hub from High Brooms and Sherwood. The route also provides a new link to Tunbridge Wells Hospital from Southborough and High Brooms.

Following its initial success, Metrobus has now added an additional earlier return journey to the service, you can find the route and timetable here [metrobus.co.uk/284](https://metrobus.co.uk/284)

## Housing award winners

TWBC was announced as winner of the Development and Regeneration award at this year's Kent Housing Group (KHG) Excellence Awards for the project it undertook to bring empty homes back into use in Crescent Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The project saw four long-term empty properties brought back into use, providing much needed temporary accommodation to meet local housing demands.

## Become a NHS volunteer

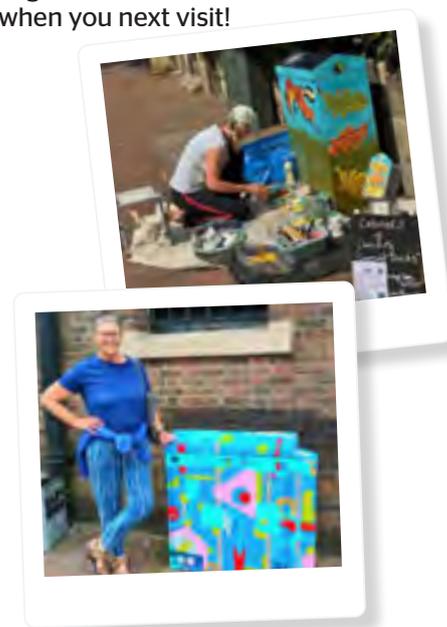
In September, NHS England launched a new central recruitment website for NHS volunteers bringing health volunteering opportunities in one place for the first time. If you'd like to find out more about making a positive contribution to the experience of patients and their families visit [volunteering.england.nhs.uk/volunteer](https://volunteering.england.nhs.uk/volunteer).

## Winter Fuel Payment scams

Pensioners are being warned to look out for Winter Fuel Payment text message scams following a surge in activity from opportunistic criminals. Please remember Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically, and the Government will never ask for bank details by text. Anyone who receives a text message inviting them to apply for a payment should not engage with it. If you receive a Winter Fuel Payment text and are concerned, you can call the Independent Age free helpline on 0800 319 6789.

## Cabinets of Curiosity

The second phase of the Cabinets of Curiosity street art project is now complete, and if you visit Tunbridge Wells you won't be able to miss how it has transformed Virgin Media utility cabinets into works of art on the theme of Country in the City. The project was commissioned by local charity Refresh Tunbridge Wells with support from Royal Tunbridge Wells Together. Look out for the cabinets when you next visit!



## Food waste

We promised to keep you updated on progress with bringing the food waste collection service to those households not yet receiving it. Letters have been sent out explaining how the service will operate and what bins you'll be able to use for your food waste. The service will be introduced in phases with some properties seeing their collection start before Christmas. Look out for your information.

## Fight flu

The NHS urges eligible adults to get their jab as soon as possible to stamp out the early wave of flu hitting the health services.

Those eligible can book a vaccination appointment via the NHS App, the NHS website, through their local GP practice, or by calling 119.

# Cabinet update

## Cllr Astra Birch

### Housing and Communities

It's been a productive few months for the Housing Team! We're actively working to increase the supply of homes for our residents who need them most—both temporary accommodation and social housing. This vital work is being supported by £1.7 million in Local Housing Authority Funding from Central Government, alongside our own developer contributions (S106 funds).



We're also helping residents save money and stay warm through our partnership with E.ON. Under the Warm Homes Local Grant scheme, we're offering free energy-efficient upgrades to eligible homes. You can check your eligibility and apply right now by searching 'warm homes grant' on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk).

I was pleased to see the Housing team was the winner of the Development and Regeneration category at the recent Kent Housing Group Awards ceremony. This was for their work bringing Council owned properties in Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells back into use.

Finally, the team is putting the finishing touches to the draft of our new five-year Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This plan will ensure the Council continues its strong track record of preventing homelessness and supporting our most vulnerable residents. The Strategy once finalised will be made available for public consultation.

## Cllr Ben Chapelard

### Leader of the Council

You may already know that your councils are changing. The Government plans to merge county and district councils into 'unitary councils' which provide all council services. I continue to work with the other 13 council's leaders, staff and partners in Kent to prepare our submission to the Government which was submitted at the end of November. I believe in local government reorganisation – if the Government is as ambitious as we are – it can be transformational in making more of a difference to our area.



Being a councillor is an amazing opportunity to contribute to where we live. Sadly, the make up of local government councillors has been unrepresentative of the communities that elect them. There have been too many barriers preventing a wider section of society standing for election. I am proud that at our last Full Council meeting councillors passed our first Parental Leave Policy for Councillors similar to any other workplace. My hope is that more residents will consider serving on councils. Our communities need you!

## Cllr Mark Ellis

### Innovation and Transformation

I am pleased to announce that we have commenced a comprehensive review of our council administration processes as we embark on our journey to become a digital first council.



This important initiative represents a significant step forward in modernising how we deliver services to our residents. By harnessing digital technology and re-imagining our ways of working,

we aim to streamline back-office functions and reduce administrative burden across the organisation.

The primary objective of this review is to free up valuable staff time, enabling our team members to focus their efforts where they matter most – delivering high-quality front line services to our communities. This transformation will also position us strategically for the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation, ensuring we are operating efficiently and effectively during this period of change.

We recognise that our staff are our greatest asset, and by removing unnecessary bureaucracy and automating routine processes, we can empower them to dedicate more time to meaningful work that directly benefits residents.

This is an exciting opportunity to build a more efficient, responsive, and resident-focused council. I look forward to updating you on our progress in the coming months.

## Cllr Christopher Hall

### Finance and Property

It's very easy in my role to focus purely on the numbers, which is what you'd expect but that's not really why any of us in Cabinet entered public service. Trying to balance the books each year, setting Council Tax, investing in our buildings and assets is vitally important and not easy when local government funding is so uncertain. However, I see finance as the means to an end, and not the end in itself. We are currently preparing our draft budget for 2026-27 and while we're forecasting a £1.2m deficit at this stage Cabinet are working hard to ensure that by February '26 we can bring forward a balanced budget. That is unless the Government has some hidden surprises for us after the Chancellor's Autumn Budget. I'm pleading with Rachel Reeves not to cut funding to towns like ours in the South East as a result of the Fair Funding Review. When I first became a councillor in 2021 I wanted to do something about our town centre, which was falling into what seemed



like an irreversible decline. Balancing our books has enabled the Council to actually do something about that by purchasing Royal Victoria Place shopping centre, attracting new and exciting businesses, and creating a vibrant cultural offering with The Amelia Scott and the Assembly Hall Theatre, and our many festivals throughout the calendar year. These are the fruits of having sustainable finances. When we launch our budget consultation in December, I would really like to hear about what your priorities are from the Council and how we should fund them.

## Cllr Matt Lowe

### Planning

I'm pleased to share that in October, the Planning Inspector found our borough's new Local Plan 'Sound',



subject to some 'Main Modifications'. This is a major milestone for our community. The Local Plan is a vital framework that will guide development across the borough in a structured, sustainable way - ensuring it reflects our shared ambitions and delivers real benefits for residents.

I want to personally thank everyone who engaged in this process, especially those who contributed through public consultations. Your input helped shape policies that will secure more affordable housing, support our ageing population, uphold high design and environmental standards, and strengthen our local economy.

The next step is for Full Council to decide whether to formally adopt the Plan at its meeting on 10 December 2025. I'll keep you updated as we move forward with this important decision.

## Cllr Justine Rutland

### Economic Development

Royal Victoria Place continues to perform well, with a steady stream of new shops and businesses opening their doors, and a fun programme of Christmas events for everyone to enjoy. Our Economic Development team has been helping jobseekers apply for roles at Primark. This brand-new store will create about 100 new jobs.



Looking ahead, the Assembly Hall Theatre team has been working on a business plan that will guide us through to 2029. Culture and the creative industries are very strong across the borough, so the wider team is discussing how these can continue to flourish in a future West Kent unitary council and beyond.

## Cllr Pamela Wilkinson

### Sports, Leisure, and Health

I consider myself lucky to be living in such a beautiful town as Tunbridge Wells, a town which is often described as 'affluent'.



Nonetheless, our town has pockets of deprivation which can lead to poorer health outcomes. In September I chaired a Health Action Team workshop. The Health Action Team is made up of a range of organisations across Tunbridge Wells, and the workshop was really well attended by services such as Age UK, Shaw Trust and Kent Community Health Foundation Trust, as well as internal Council teams such as Housing and Community Safety. At the workshop a comprehensive Action Plan was refreshed to promote awareness

and address the complex factors that influence health inequality. The five priorities were: mental health, loneliness and isolation, addictions, obesity and physical inactivity, disability and old age. Through the work of this multi-agency collaboration residents will have better access to help when they need it. As ever TWBC's wonderful Health team are always happy to signpost residents to all the resources available.

## Cllr Rob Wormington

### Environment and Sustainability

In October, Tunbridge Wells made a big leap forward in its approach to climate change. We agreed to adopt the British Standards



Institute Net Zero Pathway approach for TWBC's own emissions. In brief, this means we will take a much more rigorous approach to our plans, and the progress we are making against them, and this will be audited by the British Standards Institute. Overall, this will challenge us to do better and give us and the public the confidence that we are doing the right things. We are one of the first councils to commit to doing this, making us real trailblazers in this field.

Secondly, as I write this, we are consulting on safer walking, wheeling and cycling routes between Langton Green, Rusthall and the Town Centre. The proposals are a series of small improvements that should make it easier to get around without having to get in a car. I particularly like that, if the plans go ahead, it should make it easier for children to safely walk, cycle or scoot to school, which I am sure is something we all can get behind.



## St John's by-election

A by-election in the St John's ward was held on 30 October.

**Ukonu Obasi (Liberal Democrats)** was elected.

[ukonu.obasi@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:ukonu.obasi@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

For a breakdown of votes and turnout search elections on [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

For a list of all councillors and contact details search councillors on [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

# Recycling food waste isn't just for Christmas...

## Feed your caddy not the bin

### Recycling your food waste in Tunbridge Wells Borough

Did you know no amount of food waste is too small and you can put items in your caddy that can't be composted in your garden, like meat and bones. Recycling food waste can also help you to save money; you start to become more aware of what you are throwing away and how much it costs.

Just a reminder - **no packaging in your food waste please!**



## Where does the food waste go?

After your food waste is collected from outside your home it is taken to an anaerobic digestion facility. Here it undergoes a natural process which breaks it down, producing fertiliser for local farms and a renewable energy called biogas. This gas not only fuels the recycling plant itself, it also feeds the National Grid to power over **3,000 homes each year!**

**Search anaerobic digestion process online if you'd like to see it in action!**



## How much?!

From April 2024 to March 2025 **2,920 tonnes** of food waste were collected in our borough.

Food recycling is powerful stuff. Across Kent, each year we recycle enough food to power over 3,000 homes.

Little actions add up to make a big difference!

Recycling one banana skin generates enough energy to fully charge a smart phone twice. Make that 32 banana skins and you've enough energy to power a typical home for an hour.



## Does it matter if I don't recycle food waste?

If you don't recycle and just throw your food waste into the household waste, it doesn't break down like you might think. If your food waste ends up in landfill, it rots and produces harmful greenhouse gasses which are very damaging to the environment. If it is sent for incineration it becomes a lost resource that could have been put to better use.

**Think before you throw out food waste.**



x1

## Even **ONE** banana skin has power!

Recycling just **ONE** banana skin could generate enough energy to fully charge a smartphone twice.



## 5 Tips to reduce food waste this Christmas

1 Plan meals and only shop for what you need

2 Store your food properly

3 Use leftovers creatively

4 Share extra food you won't be eating

5 Use your food caddy compost bin for any waste you can't use



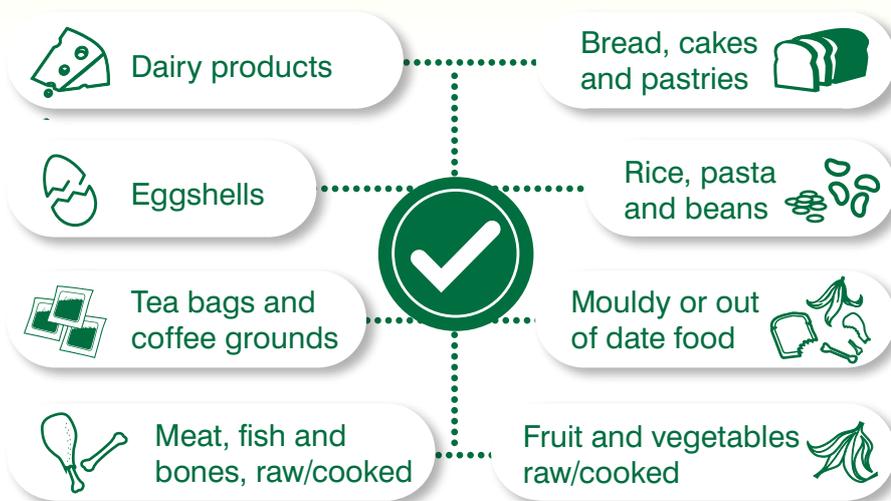
# ...but it's a good time to start!

By composting, we reduce emissions and return essential carbon and nutrients to the soil. The benefits are significant:

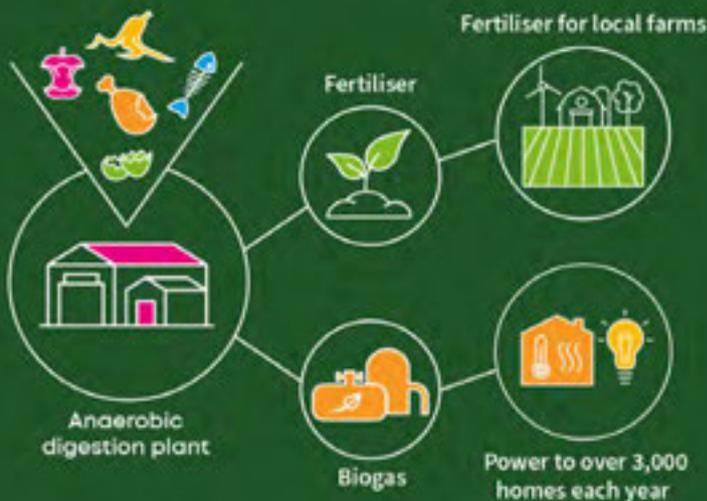
- Less landfill waste
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions
- Better, healthier soil for future generations

## YES PLEASE

Any raw or cooked leftover food or food waste is accepted



## How is your food waste re-used?



## Time to save money and minimise waste

The festive season is a time of year when people have lots of leftovers. Rather than throw them away, find a recipe to use them up. The Love Food Hate Waste website has a section just for Christmas leftovers, Cranberry turkey pasties anyone?

[lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com)

- Buy loose, waste less. That way you can buy just what you need and not too much.
- Batch cook. Cook meals in bulk and freeze them in the portions sizes you will need.
- Keeping food waste out of your refuse bin helps to keep it clean and fresh.

## Assessment & Service Centre

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## National recognition for local Bloom campaign

**In its 15th Anniversary Year, Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom shone at the Britain in Bloom finals!**

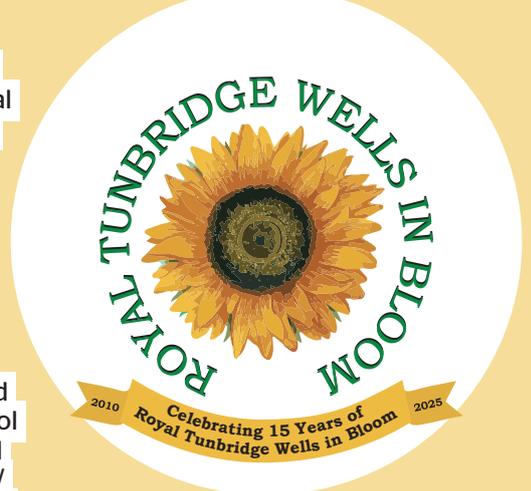
At the awards ceremony in October Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom was one of eight finalists awarded gold in the Small City & City category.

The national award came hot on the heels of another year of fantastic results in the regional South and South East in Bloom competition. With a haul of seven Gold awards and two category winners Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom was deservedly the Champion of Champions.

The past 15 years has seen the local Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom local competition going from strength to strength. It showcases the talents of local residents who this year competed in fourteen categories ranging from Best Basket to Best Wildlife Garden. Local nominees came together in September for the presentation ceremony at the Assembly Hall Theatre.

Schools and businesses get involved in the competition too. Oakley School received the Best School award, and St John's Tennis Club Best Pub/Club/Cafe. Ten young people were chosen as winners in the poster competition, they received a certificate and a craft set to make an autumnal hedgehog! Their posters have been printed in a large format and displayed by the Dunorlan Park café. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

All these achievements are only possible because of the dedicated volunteers and partner organisations who give so much to the scheme - grateful thanks to all of them. Thanks too to main sponsor Coolings.  
[royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk](http://royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk)



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**07555 548470 [info@isegb.co.uk](mailto:info@isegb.co.uk) [isegb.co.uk](http://isegb.co.uk)**

## Make your home a warmer home

The Council has funding to install free energy saving improvements to your home. If you meet the eligibility requirements, the improvements can make your home warmer and more comfortable, and help lower your energy bills.

If you are eligible we will arrange a home survey to identify the improvements your home could benefit from. That might be wall, loft and underfloor insulation, draught proofing, smart controls, solar panels, air source heat pumps, and more.

We're partnering with E.ON to bring you this scheme. Check your eligibility at [eonenergy.com/grant-finder](http://eonenergy.com/grant-finder) or call 0333 202 4820 (Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm).

Or scan the QR code



# TRINITY

THEATRE

COME ON IN  
See it, hear it, feel it



Theatre



Gallery



Café & Bar



Cinema



Community

Box Office: 01892 678 678 | [trinitytheatre.net](http://trinitytheatre.net)

[@trinitytheatretw](https://www.instagram.com/trinitytheatretw) [/trinitytheatre](https://www.facebook.com/trinitytheatre)

No child should wake up to nothing under the tree.

# Please donate to the Mayor's Toy Appeal



Scan here to see our Amazon Wishlist.

The Mayor's Toy Appeal helps children in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells whose families find Christmas an especially difficult time of year.

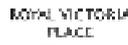
We are looking for new toys and gifts for children aged between 3 months and 18 years.\*

You can send gifts directly to us via our Amazon Wishlist (just scan the QR left) or purchase locally and drop off at one of our collection points listed below!

\*New toys only please. No guns or candles.

Please drop gifts at one of the following: Maddisons Residential; St George's Childcare; The Amelia; Barsleys; Trinity Theatre; Royal Victoria Place; Big Yellow and Notcutts.

Thank you for your support. For more information please visit [twmta.co.uk](http://twmta.co.uk) or contact [trevor.crawford@mayorstoyappeal.co.uk](mailto:trevor.crawford@mayorstoyappeal.co.uk)



## A Christmas Competition!

One word on the list is missing from the wordsearch, tell us what it is and win one of these great prizes -

A festive hamper filled with goodies you'll love or one two £50 gift vouchers.

### How to enter

E-mail your answer along with your name, address and telephone number to: [communications@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:communications@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)  
Alternatively, write to: Communications team, TWBC, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS.

Entries should be received by 5pm, Friday 19 December.

L T F V W X R C S V I V T C D F D H  
I N N K E E P E R E X N E A S R C K  
W B F C V M C K Q A E H N Z N A B E  
M Z C M T N O M D V C T H K D N Y P  
D E Y I I X U T D E Z K W M G K I E  
V P H R J Z Q A T L L D E N N I X T  
M E C E I C S T L E E Y H R I N D W  
W A U N L A C E O R D S Z J V C E D  
S A R Q Q H F N E G L M N S I E V V  
C Z H S I Q T T L C G K R I G N J H  
Y V I M H C H E S T N U T S T S L I  
B X N G P M T C B T I A F D O E W S  
E E W J N U A P A N T O M I M E W L  
Y G S E T F D L E J R A T S K R A T  
L W K N B Y B D L L L W I Q A N G S  
N N A U E B H U I O M O B A G S Q A  
V X T F A R Z X A N W N N E S Y P O  
X J E Y Q P M L Z Y G S L Y U V U R

### Terms & conditions

Wordsearch correct entries will be put into the prize draw and winners drawn at random. Prize draw only open to residents of Tunbridge Wells borough. TWBC staff are not eligible to enter. Winners will be required to collect their prize.

Words go all directions and backwards!

Fairy  
Snow  
Advent

Innkeeper  
Pudding  
Skate

Chimney  
Ivy  
Tinsel

Giving  
Noel  
Chestnuts

Marshmallow  
Frankincense  
Angel

Star  
Bethlehem  
Turkey

Roast  
Pantomime  
Cracker

# Christmas Opening Hours



## Town Hall

### Closed

From 2pm Wednesday 24 December until 9am Friday 2 January

## The Amelia Scott

### Open

Wednesday 24 December 9am-2pm  
Saturday 27 December 10am-4pm  
Sunday 28 December 10am-4pm  
Monday 29 December 10am-4pm  
Tuesday 30 December 10am-4pm  
Friday 2 January 9am-6pm

### Closed

Thursday 25 December  
Friday 26 December  
Wednesday 31 December  
Thursday 1 January

## Kent and Sussex Crematorium and Tunbridge Wells Cemetery

The crematorium grounds and cemetery are open every day over Christmas and New Year. There are no changes to the Book of Remembrance opening hours, please see our website for details [kentandsussexcrematorium.com](http://kentandsussexcrematorium.com)

### Crematorium office

#### Open

Wednesday 24 December 9am-1pm

Tuesday 30 December appointments only between 10am-midday, phone lines open between 9am and 4pm

Wednesday 31 December appointments only between 10am-midday, phone lines open between 9am and 4pm

Friday 2 January 9am-3.30pm

Monday 5 January 9am-4.30pm

#### Closed

Thursday 25 December  
Friday 26 December  
Monday 29 December

### Crematorium services

Wednesday 24 December last service 12.15pm

Thursday 25 December-Monday 29 December, Thursday 1 January no services

Tuesday 30 December services between 9am and 3.15pm

Wednesday 31 December services between 9am-12.15pm

Friday 2 January services between 9am-4pm

Monday 5 January services between 9am-4pm



## Hospice in the Weald's Christmas Tree Recycling Campaign

### Back this year!

For a suggested donation of £25, Hospice in the Weald will collect and recycle your real Christmas tree—no hassle, no mess!

All funds support free care for patients with terminal illness and their loved ones.

Collections: 10-12 Jan 2026 in postcodes TN1-TN20.

Closing date to register for collection is 2 Jan 2026.



Register at [hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://hospiceintheweald.org.uk) or email [fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk)  
[hospiceintheweald.org.uk](http://hospiceintheweald.org.uk) or email [fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@hospiceintheweald.org.uk)

# Changes to bin collection days

If your collection day is...	Your bins will be collected on...
Thursday 25 December	Saturday 27 December
Friday 26 December	Monday 29 December
Monday 29 December	Tuesday 30 December
Tuesday 30 December	Wednesday 31 December
Wednesday 31 December	Friday 2 January 2026
<b>2026</b>	
Thursday 1 January	Saturday 3 January
Friday 2 January	Monday 5 January
Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January
Tuesday 6 January	Wednesday 7 January
Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January
Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January
Friday 9 January	Saturday 10 January
Please put your bins and/or boxes out for collection by 7am	

Collections up to and including 24 December do not change



## What can you recycle this festive season?



### Christmas cards

Green box  
But no glitter or foil ones please.



### Wrapping paper

Green household waste bin if it's not metallic, doesn't have glitter and you can scrunch it - and it stays scrunched! - you can recycle it



### Small household batteries

Brown recycling bin  
In a small bag on top of the bin please.



### Glass bottles and jars

Brown bin  
Whatever the colour of the glass.

### Food waste

Food caddy  
Reduce food waste by menu planning and having a shopping list, and making the most of leftovers - Christmas pudding ice cream anyone?



### Christmas trees

Real trees will be collected with garden waste if you subscribe to the service. Please take the tree out of its pot and place alongside your black bin. Or sign up for Hospice in the Weald's Christmas Tree Recycling scheme.



### Food packaging

Brown bin  
Plastic bottles, trays and tubs but not black ones please; cans, tins and foil.



Green box  
Cardboard boxes/sleeves.



Green household waste bin  
Black plastic, juice, and non-dairy milk cartons.



# Joy to the Wells

Events from the Business Improvement District and Visit Tunbridge Wells

## Your Christmas Calendar Countdown!

**Joy to the Wells**  
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

**5 Dec - 4 Jan**  
Enjoy the magic of the Skate Ice Rink in Calverley Park  
<https://bit.ly/skateRTW>

**15 Nov - 24 Dec**  
Visit Santa in his enchanted Cabin at Royal Victoria Place  
[enchantedcabin.co.uk](http://enchantedcabin.co.uk)

**5 Dec - 4 Jan**  
Brand-new walk-in Snow Globes! Swirling snow and festive cheer—perfect for a fun festive photo!  
[festivetw.com](http://festivetw.com)

**13-31 Dec**  
Enjoy a brand-new spin on a much-loved yarn in this action-packed spectacular. Sleeping Beauty pant!  
[assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk)

**12-27 Dec**  
Based on the 2009 smash-hit holiday film, Nativity! The Musical, family friendly laughter and fun guaranteed!  
[trinitytheatre.net/events/nativity/](http://trinitytheatre.net/events/nativity/)

**12 Nov - 17 Dec**  
Donate presents for the Mayor's Annual Toy Appeal  
[twmta.co.uk](http://twmta.co.uk)

**18-20 & 22-23 Dec till 7pm**  
RVP Christmas Late Night Shopping - shop till late  
[royalvictoriaplace.com](http://royalvictoriaplace.com)

**8 Nov - 30 Dec**  
Ride the magical Polar Express at The Spa Valley Railway  
[spavalleythepolarexpressride.com/](http://spavalleythepolarexpressride.com/)

**24 Dec**  
King Charles the Martyr Scratch Nativity - all are welcome to this much-loved service, costumes optional  
[kcmtw.org](http://kcmtw.org)

**15-14 Dec**  
Visit the beautifully decorated trees at King Charles the Martyr Church Tree Festival  
[kcmtw.org](http://kcmtw.org)

**15 Nov - 24 Dec**  
Soak up the vibe at The Pantiles Special Christmas Markets with food, drink, jewellery, art, gifts, fashion & vintage  
[pantilesevents.com](http://pantilesevents.com)

**15 Nov - 3 Jan**  
Free Elf Trail for families to enjoy - find the 12 cheeky elves up to no good in a number of shop, office, restaurant and café windows  
[joytothewells.co.uk](http://joytothewells.co.uk)

**10-22 Dec**  
A guided theatrical tour of RTW incl. food & drink stops - perfect for a work do or with friends  
[joytothewells.co.uk](http://joytothewells.co.uk)

**12-20 Dec**  
The Round Table's infamous santa sleigh will visit areas of RTW to spread cheer & invite food donations to Nourish Foodbank  
[rtwroundtable.co.uk](http://rtwroundtable.co.uk)

**6-7 and 13-15 Dec**  
Check out what's on this December at The Amelia  
[theamelia.co.uk/whats-on](http://theamelia.co.uk/whats-on)

**16 Nov - 24 Dec**  
Book tickets and jump aboard Rudolph's Runner, for a 40-minute train adventure through town and help Rudolph find his reindeer friends!  
[joytothewells.co.uk](http://joytothewells.co.uk)

**5-30 Dec**  
A custom-created, heartwarming Christmas adventure for all the family. On a cosy Christmas Eve, a struggling toymaker meets a clumsy elf  
[kidsburyplay.com](http://kidsburyplay.com)

**19 Dec**  
A christmas tradition at the theatre, this musical celebration features Early Music, British Folk, Classical & Pagan-Christian songs  
[trinitytheatre.net](http://trinitytheatre.net)

**6 Dec**  
Baroque specialist Steven Devine returns for KCM's annual Christmas concert - Bach's famous Magnificat for full orchestra, soloists and five-voice choir  
[kcmtw.org](http://kcmtw.org)

**Take part in the Hilbert & Grosvenor Park 3km Santa in the City fun run!**  
[santainthecity.co.uk/event-info-tw](http://santainthecity.co.uk/event-info-tw)

**Visit Tunbridge Wells**

**ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOGETHER**  
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Join in the fun and jump aboard Rudolph's Runner for a 40-minute land train adventure.

There are four different stops across Royal Tunbridge Wells on this interactive ride to help Rudolph find his missing reindeer friends.

Find out more and book your tickets at [joytothewells.co.uk](http://joytothewells.co.uk)

## Christmas in Tunbridge Wells

**Joy to the Wells**  
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

**Rudolph's Runner**  
STATION SPONSORS: MADDISON'S, BERRY & LAMBERTS  
• Book online and jump aboard  
• 40min family interactive experience  
• Help find the missing reindeers

**The Twelve Elves of Xmas**  
SPONSORED BY: THE IVY  
• Find naughty elves playing around town  
• Free children's trail activity  
• Check in to be in a chance to win prizes

**Beau Nash's Jolly Jaunts**  
ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOGETHER  
• Discover RTW through a guided theatrical tour  
• Perfect for a work do or friends  
• Includes Xmas food and drinks

**Paramount Place**  
By Redwood Village Group  
Funded by UK Government  
To find out more scan here or visit [joytothewells.co.uk](http://joytothewells.co.uk)

**New exciting activities this Christmas in Tunbridge Wells!**

The picture is not held by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

# Christmas magic in the countryside



VISIT  
TUNBRIDGE  
WELLS



Embark on a magical three-hour journey at Christmas at Bewl Water. Meet joyful elves, share a personal moment with Santa, and watch the Cheer-o-metre measure your Christmas spirit.



Enjoy a magical Christmas lights spectacular at Bedgebury Pinetum. Explore new awe-inspiring installations including 'floating candles' and 'choir of trees'. Plus you can spot Santa along the way, too.



National Trust members will love visiting Scotney Castle at Christmas. Each room of the Victorian mansion is decorated with inspiration from some of the best-loved books in their collection including Alice in Wonderland and A Christmas Carol.



You can also enjoy a magical Santa's Grotto experience at Salomon's Estate. Gingerbread decorating, festive colouring and crafts, a present from Santa and a festive fairy trail.

See all Christmas events in Tunbridge Wells - [visittunbridgewells.com](http://visittunbridgewells.com)

Photos by David Hodgkinson Photography, Emma O'Halloran



## There's lots happening in Royal Victoria Place for everyone to enjoy this Christmas

Take a stroll through the Window Wonderland that is Royal Victoria Place, soak up the seasonal sights, and then head online to cast your vote for your favourite window display, helping to choose a 'People's Choice' winner. By voting, you'll not only help crown this year's winner, you'll also be entered into the prize draw for the chance to win a £50 Fenwick gift card!

**ROYAL VICTORIA  
PLACE**

TUNBRIDGE WELLS



Much-loved Giant Teddy has come back to enjoy Christmas in Tunbridge Wells. This year Giant Teddy is joined by the warm and wonderful Mrs Claus and a surprise visitor for 30-minute story times over the festive period. Each session featuring a new, enchanting Christmas tale. Perfect for little ones and their grown-ups and don't forget to bring your teddy bear - they're invited too!

Step inside the cosy Enchanted Cabin this Christmas and have a magical, personal meet-and-greet with Father Christmas, guided by his jolly (and occasionally mischievous) elves.



There's a Christmas adventure for all the family at Kidsbury as the role play village transforms to a magical theatre for the heartwarming tale of The Christmas Elf and the Toymaker. On a cosy Christmas Eve, a struggling toymaker meets a clumsy elf. When their worlds collide, chaos gives way to wonder with laughter, courage, and kindness.



For further details and booking information for ticketed events visit [royalvictoriaplace.co.uk](http://royalvictoriaplace.co.uk).

# The Amelia

## Warm Welcome Spaces



The Amelia Scott is proud to be one of thousands of Warm Welcome Spaces right across the UK.

Together, these community spaces bring connection, friendship, and human warmth to communities, helping people feel less isolated and lonely and boosting wellbeing. Warm Welcome Spaces come in all shapes and sizes, but what they have in common is being places where people of all ages, and all cultures, backgrounds, faiths, and walks of life can come together in their communities. We have a range of activities across the winter season to enable all to connect in what can be a difficult time for many. Keep an eye on our social media and website for details.



## Elf Workshops - Magical Mission to the North Pole

**6, 7, 13, 14, 21 December**

Bring your little ones for a session of festive storytelling, craft and fun, running throughout December. £7.50 per ticket.

Sessions can be booked in person or online [theamelia.co.uk/whats-on](http://theamelia.co.uk/whats-on)

## COMMONS

A FILM BY DAVID BLANDY



Commons is an expansive and thought-provoking new film by acclaimed artist David Blandy, presented for the first time at The Amelia Scott in Tunbridge Wells. Blending archive, local history, nature, and storytelling, Commons invites audiences on a journey through the ancient woodlands and shared spaces of Tunbridge Wells Commons.

**Until 11 Jan 2026**

**Free Entry**

## Coming soon



© Bob Thomas / Popperfoto via Getty Images

## LIFE THROUGH A ROYAL LENS

**13 February - 7 June 2026**

Following its hugely successful debut at Kensington Palace, Life Through a Royal Lens arrives at The Amelia Scott as the first stop on its national tour.

Life Through a Royal Lens is a major photography exhibition that explores one of the most photographed families in the world, the British Royal Family. From the reign of Queen Victoria to the present day, discover their enduring relationship with the camera. Works from renowned photographers such as Cecil Beaton, Rankin, Annie Leibowitz, and Lord Snowdon are featured. We can't wait for you all to see it!



-  [theamelia.co.uk](http://theamelia.co.uk)
-  [theameliatunbridgewells](https://www.facebook.com/theameliatunbridgewells)
-  [theamelia\\_tw](https://twitter.com/theamelia_tw)
-  [theamelia\\_tw](https://www.instagram.com/theamelia_tw)



**Join us  
for a day of  
craft,  
colour and  
creativity!**

## 7 March 2026

Yarnival is our inaugural festival celebrating all things yarn. Hosted at The Amelia Scott, Yarnival will be a unique platform for artisans, crafters, makers and enthusiasts to showcase their talents, share

knowledge and connect with a community of likeminded individuals.

Yarnival will be held in our magnificent Upper Atrium, a beautiful bright and airy space that usually houses our adult library.

There will be a variety of stalls and workshops for beginners and experts alike. Tickets available now on our website.

[theamelia.co.uk/yarnival](http://theamelia.co.uk/yarnival)



## WHAT'S ON

### December

- Christmas Concert
- Elf Workshops
- Painting & Prosecco

### January

- History Hour: A Beacon of Hope
- Holocaust Memorial Talk
- Community Freshers Fair
- History Detectives: Behind your front door - a beginner's guide to house history

### February

- Half Term - Discovery Days
- Exhibition - Life Through a Royal Lens Opening
- Messy Mondays
- Relaxed Discovery Days



# Royal Victoria Place - Changing Times

**The transformation of Royal Victoria Place continues. The project team will submit a planning application in spring 2026 with development work beginning in 2027.**

## The project will bring:

- A boutique cinema and enhanced leisure facilities at Ely Court
- A revitalised Palm Court with improved retail and community leisure space
- New homes at Market Square

Just a few days ago the initial proposals were on show in a pop-up unit in the centre where residents, businesses, and community groups were invited to view the designs and provide feedback. There is another opportunity to see the proposals on Saturday 6 December.

If you haven't commented but would like to, there is still time, all feedback must be received by 12 December. You can see the plans and find a digital feedback form at [rvpfuture.com](http://rvpfuture.com).

The design team is very grateful for your input as the project progresses, it is invaluable in shaping the planning application to reflect the needs of the community and transforming Royal Victoria Place into a vibrant, mixed-use destination.



## New stores

Royal Victoria Place is ready to welcome Primark to the town with a new sign above the entrance to the centre. The planned opening date is 12 December - see you there!



The store was listed by many residents as one they'd like to see in the town but it's not the only new arrival in Royal Victoria Place. Great coffee and food are on offer at Jamaica Blue and Kochi Café and handmade cakes and pastries will be available from Dulce's Patisserie in the new year. Not a new arrival but good to see Oliver Bonas has moved into larger premises opposite its former home.

Ely Court continues to attract new, independent operators too. Recent additions include Frook Eats, The Denture Centre and Zerdo - Gourmet Shop.

**ROYAL VICTORIA  
PLACE**

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

## Heli-lift

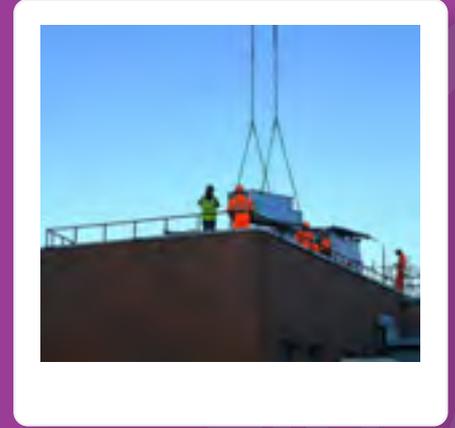
Enabling a helicopter-lift of heavy plant and machinery onto the roof of the new Primark store was something a bit different for our Property and Parking teams in September.



Because of the restricted access and different roof levels on the Primark site it became very clear that a heli-lift was the most efficient way to get the job done. The Council was asked for permission for the top floors of Royal Victoria Place car park to be used to store the plant and machinery and for it to be lifted from the car park across the glass roof of the centre to the store.

The heli-lift went ahead on a Saturday evening, ahead of schedule because of high winds forecast for the planned day, and it proved to be quite an attraction with people stopping to watch from a number of vantage points in the town. In a very smooth operation each heavy item was moved from the car park across to its new home with the whole process completed in just 45 minutes.

Giving permission for the heli-lift saved the town centre from at least two weeks of road closures and disruption if the plant and machinery had been brought in any other way. We were very happy to help!



# Give your child the gift of Swimming Lessons

## Swim School

Learning to swim with confidence

Following the Swim England Learn to Swim Pathway and led by qualified swimming teaching, your child will develop water confidence. Guiding them from their first steps in the water all the way through to achieving multiple badges and certificates! **Being able to swim is the most important life skill a child can learn.**

- ✓ Great value
- ✓ 1-2-1 sessions available
- ✓ Friendly teachers
- ✓ Track your child's progress online

### Want to swim?

We offer a range of swimming sessions at **Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre** and **The Weald Sports Centre**. From **lane swims**, **general swims** and **fitness swim sessions** to **family swims**, **inflatable swims** and **SEND swims**. Plus, we run general diving sessions at Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre!

**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](http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/our-locations/kent)

fusion

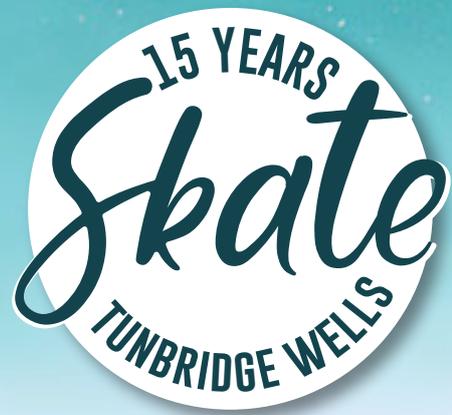
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

## GROOMBRIDGE FARM SHOP



- Order online and collect safely
- Local delivery available
- Local, seasonal and from our farm

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



In its 15<sup>th</sup> year, Calverley Grounds transforms into a magical ice rink, bringing festive cheer to Tunbridge Wells. Experience the thrill of skating under the lights in the heart of the town. Whether you're a seasoned skater or a first-time beginner, there's something for everyone. Grab your mittens and skates, and make unforgettable memories with family and friends this festive season.

5 DECEMBER – 4 JANUARY  
[FESTIVETW.COM](http://FESTIVETW.COM)



For more information  
01892 864429



## MG Care Homes

Quality nursing care in small family settings

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

The borough is going to be a greener, more biodiverse place as projects to plant more trees make good progress. The Council made a commitment in its Strategic Plan to a 10-year tree planting scheme and we're pleased to share some of the work that's taking place in support of this.

We have awarded a grant of £50,000 to Kent Wildlife Trust to support their wilding project at Furnace and Hoathly farms; owned by the Trust in the Lamberhurst area of the borough.

The funding will be used to plant around 5,000 native species of hedgerow trees by the end of 2027. The hedgerow is part of Kent Wildlife Trust's ambitious project to create a near-continuous corridor for nature over 343 acres, allowing former arable land to naturally revert through wilding to a wood pasture and thriving woodland. The wilding project will also see approximately 100,000 trees naturally regenerate over 10 years as healthy ecological conditions return and the funding will play an important part in making this happen.

Councillor Rob Wormington, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability said:

'This work will give an amazing boost to biodiversity in our borough. I'm looking forward to seeing what new flora and fauna thrive when given the opportunity to do so with this project.'

In partnership with Kent High Weald and CPRE Kent, we are helping to plant a further 10,000 trees as part of the Hedgerow Heroes project this winter! This is a fantastic project focussed on restoring lost hedgerows and creating new habitats across Kent and nationally, providing homes and corridors for wildlife and helping to tackle the impacts of climate change. It also provides lots of local volunteer opportunities as plenty of willing helpers will be needed to get all these trees in the ground.

If you want to get involved and enjoy a rewarding day in the great outdoors this winter planting up lost hedgerows - please visit [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk) and search hedgerow heroes.

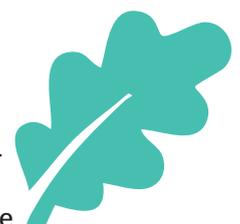
We'd love your help!

Another programme of tree planting in partnership with Kent High Weald over a two-to-three-year planting season will see the addition of 1,200 trees to Dunorlan Park. These will be young tree whips which will establish quickly. Much of the planting will be done by the amazing group of Monday Volunteers who spend so much time helping to maintain and nurture this special and much-loved place. If you'd like to find out more about volunteering in Dunorlan Park please contact [parksteam@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:parksteam@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)



Winter is the Perfect Time to Welcome Wildlife!

## Join the Tunbridge Wells Community Nature Reserve



As the days grow shorter and gardens quieten down, winter offers a golden opportunity to prepare your outdoor space for wildlife. In the autumn edition of Local, we mentioned the

**Tunbridge Wells Community Nature Reserve;** this is a

borough-wide initiative inviting residents, schools, and businesses to create small habitats that collectively form a large, connected nature reserve.

Now is the ideal season to build homes for hedgehogs, install bird boxes, or create log piles and leaf shelters for insects and amphibians. These simple actions provide vital shelter during colder months and help local biodiversity thrive year-round.

By registering your space, you'll receive support from the Kent High Weald Partnership and join a growing community of nature-minded neighbours. Every garden, balcony, or schoolyard can make a difference—especially in winter, when wildlife needs us the most.

Let's make Tunbridge Wells a warmer, wilder place this season—starting right outside your door. Follow the project on Facebook for events and news!

[facebook.com/TWCommunityNatureReserve](https://facebook.com/TWCommunityNatureReserve)



AWARD WINNING DAME

**JAMES  
PEAKE**

TV and  
THEATRE STAR

**MINA  
ANWAR**

STAR OF  
STAGE and SCREEN

**LEE  
MEAD**

CBBC's

**STEWART  
MCHEYNE**

WEST END LEGEND

**DAN  
BURTON**



# Sleeping Beauty

By Morgan Brind

**"PHENOMENAL"**

@thetunbridgewellsmummy - Panto 2024 Review

**13 - 31 December 2025**

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**WOLF**  
entertainment

2:22

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ROBINS

Directed by  
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SUNDAY TIMES

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SPOKEN WORD | MON 19 JAN



MUSIC | THU 22 JAN



VARIETY | FRI 23 JAN



FAMILY | SAT 24 JAN



MUSIC | SUN 25 JAN



COMEDY | THU 29 JAN



MUSIC | FRI 30 JAN



MUSIC | SAT 31 JAN



SPOKEN WORD | WED 4 FEB



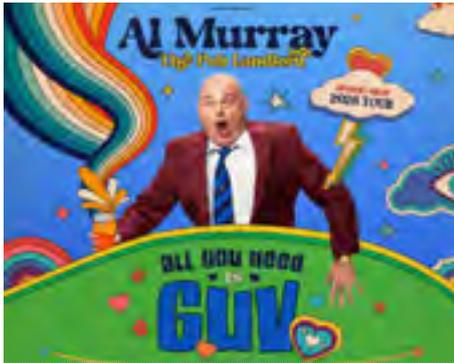
COMEDY | THU 5 FEB



MUSIC | FRI 6 FEB



VARIETY | SAT 7 FEB



COMEDY | SUN 8 FEB



MUSIC | FRI 13 FEB



MUSIC | THU 26 FEB



SPOKEN WORD | FRI 27 FEB



VARIETY | SAT 28 FEB



COMEDY | WED 4 MAR



MUSIC | THU 5 MAR



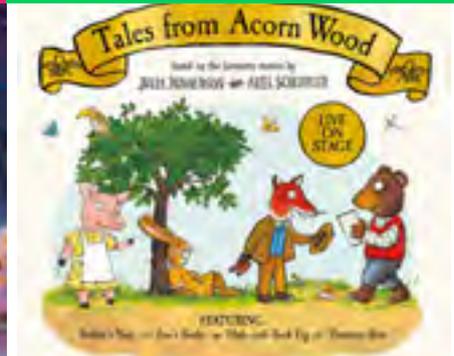
SPOKEN WORD | SUN 8 MAR



DRAMA | MON 9 MAR



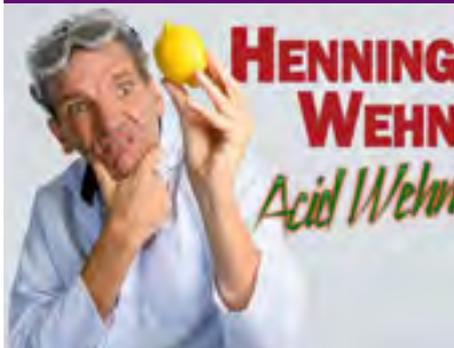
FAMILY | SUN 15 MAR



FAMILY | TUE 17 MAR



COMEDY | THU 19 MAR



COMEDY | FRI 20 MAR



COMEDY | SAT 21 MAR



SPOKEN WORD | TUE 25 MAR

## Building a better borough



Proposals for the number of new councils needed for Kent and Medway, and the geographical areas they should cover, were submitted to the Government at the end of November. Ministers are now expected to analyse the proposals and launch a public consultation early in the new year.

Before the proposals were submitted, members of Tunbridge Wells Borough

Council considered the case for and against the options being proposed and decided which they wanted to support. You can find out more about this at [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://tunbridgewells.gov.uk).

Local Government Reorganisation is the biggest shake up of local government in 50 years. The existing councils in Kent will disappear and unitary councils will be set up. Parish and town councils will not change.

A decision by the Government on the final structure of unitary councils is expected in summer 2026 and new unitary councils could start delivering services from April 2028.

We'll keep you up to date with information about Local Government Reorganisation.

# Youth hubs

**In the last edition we told you about the youth hubs which are helping fulfil the Council's Strategic Plan commitment:**

**We will create youth hubs across the Borough for 12-17-year-olds providing activities chosen by young people.**

And now we're pleased to say The Amelia Scott, in partnership with YMCA, has joined the list!

Every Tuesday in The Amelia Scott (Residency Suite) from 3.30pm-5pm for year 7+.

If you know a young person who's into gaming, painting, chatting or simply chilling - they'll be very welcome.

Other hubs are happening in Cranbrook, Horsmonden and Paddock Wood, see local sites for details. For information about other hubs in Tunbridge Wells search youth hubs at [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://tunbridgewells.gov.uk).



# Calverley Precinct Market

Have you visited the monthly market in Calverley Road pedestrian precinct yet?

The market is usually held on the last Sunday of the month but with Christmas in mind this month the market is on Sunday 21 December, 10am-4pm.

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 to something special at the market, and then relax at one of the many nearby cafés or restaurants, all within walking distance in the heart of Tunbridge Wells.



# Developers' contributions to improve pitch provision at Hawkenbury



A project to improve and extend sports pitch provision at Hawkenbury Recreation Ground is expected to begin in the new year, subject to confirmation of a decision to release the funding.

£10,000 will be used to appoint a project manager to develop a plan of work for new drainage, ground levelling, bringing the former bowling green back into use for sports, layout of new pitches and other measures to improve the playing surface.

The funding will come from s106 developer contributions. Planning applications can have conditions attached to them which require developers to put aside sums of money - s106 contributions - for investment in the local community. The money is held by the borough council and can only be used for the purpose listed in the planning approval.

Once the project plan for the recreation ground is complete another decision will be taken about using s106 funds to go ahead and carry out the necessary work. The timing of the work will take account of the fixture requirements of the sports teams that use the pitches.

The project supports the Council's Strategic Plan which says: 'We will review outdoor sports facilities for grass-roots clubs across the borough to improve and develop provisions'. It also fits in with a longer-term proposal for a Hawkenbury Hub; the expansion of existing facilities at Hawkenbury and additional facilities developed on adjoining land.

Improving the network of paths at Hawkenbury Recreation Ground, widening the footways and installing solar lighting making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists is another s106 project that has been approved. This work is expected to begin in the spring, subject to weather conditions.

## Other s106 projects

In recent months s106 money has been released to the Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons towards helping with the impacts of increased recreational pressures on the commons.

Brenchley and Matfield Parish Council received s106 funding to be used towards repairs to Matfield Pavilion and replacement of wooden posts in the immediate surroundings

Agreement has been given for funds to be released to the borough council for a scheme of improvements at Putlands Sports Centre, Paddock Wood.

In Frittenden s106 money helped towards a range of enhancements to the Memorial Hall covering everything from a pop-up bar to a high-quality external notice board. One of the most noticeable changes will be the installation of acoustic dampening to improve the audio environment of the hall.





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