

AUTUMN 2025 Local



news from your borough council

A panto dream come true

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also inside...

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Sleeping Beauty



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Dear resident

Welcome to our autumn edition!

As the days grow shorter, there's still plenty to enjoy across the borough. This month brings Heritage Open Days and the Climate and Nature Fair in Calverley Grounds on 13 September. Autumn really feels underway when tickets go on sale for the pantomime – this year it's the spectacular *Sleeping Beauty* – and unbelievably, the ice rink returns for its 15th year!



Sustainability is a key theme in this issue. From our newly approved Borough Climate Change Strategy to encouraging greener schools and supporting initiatives like The Repair Café Academy, together we're making real progress. We've also secured £1.3 million to help improve local homes with energy-saving upgrades – such as insulation, solar panels, and more, see page 25.

We're thrilled to have opened our first youth hub in Paddock Wood, already buzzing with young people. More hubs are planned across the borough soon.

If you're one of the 11 million daily tea drinkers in the UK, don't miss the Fairtrade Town Group's feature on page 22.

Plus, see the results from the first phase of the Community Governance Review on page 5.

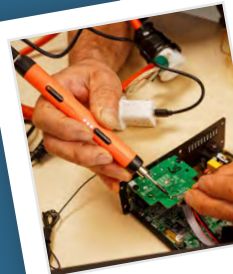
As always, the magazine is packed with news, events, and stories to keep you informed and inspired this season.

Enjoy!

William Benson
Chief Executive

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

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

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

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What We Do

Over the summer our What We Do campaign shared more about the brilliant work that our Digital Services and Amelia Scott teams do to support you. From improving the systems you use to access services, to providing one to one advice through our Contact Centre we've showcased the diverse skills these teams put to use day to day.

 youtube.com/@twellsbc

In our What We Do podcast, we heard from David Bonninga, Digital Services Manager, about his lengthy career at TWBC. David has worked behind the scenes in infrastructure, and in front line customer service, which has given him a resident-focused approach to his work. When we asked what one thing he would say to residents, he told us that your feedback is essential to developing accessible systems.

'Reach out to us, your one voice may help a hundred people experiencing the same problem.'

We also heard from our Contact Centre team: Lesley and Jasmine had a lot of stories to tell about life on the front lines of Council customer service. With a wealth of knowledge about our services, the Contact Centre team provides direct assistance to anybody who calls the Council - and their podcast showcases their passion and the strength of the bond between their team, who support each other so that they can support you. They get calls about everything from bins to recipes for Christmas dinner, and they will always do their best to find a solution (or recipe).

'You have no idea what you're going to face, that's the fun part of the day...'

Which services do you want to know more about? Tell us by emailing communications@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Stay tuned on our social media and e-newsletter for more What We Do content.

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Try online first

 tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Your call is important to us and we'll answer you as quickly as we can.

If you're trying to contact us and you'd like to beat the phone queue then going online is the quickest and easiest way to:

- find Council information
- tell us about a problem
- make a payment
- sign up for services
- report a change in circumstances

Whether it's:

-  about your Council Tax
-  about your Housing Benefit
-  to tell us you're moving
-  to report a missed bin collection
-  to report a broken bin
-  to apply for a resident's parking permit
-  or another Council service

Go online first and beat the queue!

Did you know...

The Amelia Scott has welcomed over one million visitors, hosted over 900 events and the Contact Centre has handled over 500,000 calls.

Over the past year, TWBC received a total of 59,006 digital form submissions.

Garden waste renewal was the most used form at 11,738.



Community Governance Review update

Thank you to everyone who took part in Phase One of our Community Governance Review. Your views are helping shape how local representation could evolve in the unparished areas of Tunbridge Wells.

Between 2 June and 3 August, we received 1,044 responses to our public consultation. Most responses came via our online survey, with a small number submitted on paper.

What You Told Us

- 60% of respondents support creating new parish or town councils
- 29% were opposed, and 11% were unsure

Of those in favour:

- 67% prefer a single town council
- 33% support multiple councils



Top Benefits Identified

- Improved local decision-making (672 votes)
- Better community representation (649 votes)
- Local management of services and community assets (647 votes)

Top Concerns Raised

- Potential cost to residents through a Council Tax precept (603 votes)
- Increased bureaucracy (481 votes)
- Lack of clarity on what the council/s would do (410 votes)

What's Next?

All feedback from Phase One will inform our Draft Recommendations, due to be published at the end of September. We'll then launch Phase Two of the consultation from 22 September to 23 November, inviting further public input.

This is your chance to help shape how your community is represented. Stay informed and get involved – your voice matters.

NEW LIGHTS FOR 2025

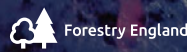
CHRISTMAS AT BEDGEBURY

A magical after-dark trail for everyone

21 November – 31 December

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christmasatbedgebury.co.uk



The Mayor of Tunbridge Wells

In May councillors elected a new Mayor, David Osborne, for the 2025-2026 term of office, David's partner Linda Seely is Mayoress.

David, who represents Culverden ward, has lived in Tunbridge Wells for nearly 40 years. He has three children. He describes himself as 'a modest golfer' and he is also a keen cyclist. His working life is in the financial sector and as a councillor he has sat on a number of Council committees including chairing the Finance, Innovation and Transformation Cabinet Advisory Board.

It's been a busy few months for David since he took office. His diary was quickly filled with events like the Friends of Hawkhurst 10k and 5k, visiting care homes during Care Home Week, attending the Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony at Kent County Council, the Annual Prizegiving at The Skinners' Kent Academy, the Summer Exhibition St Gregory's Catholic School and Meadows Fest School Fair. And he's hosted the Mayor's Charity Bowls Match at the Grove Bowling Club in Tunbridge Wells.

David said: 'It's a privilege to represent the residents of the borough of Tunbridge Wells. Over the past two months I've had the opportunity to visit many of our wonderful towns and villages to open fetes, plant trees, visit schools and visit care homes. It is uplifting to see the enormous level of voluntary community participation, without which so many traditional events would be lost.'

As well as representing the borough, the Mayor uses their term of office to promote and support local charitable causes. David has chosen Royal Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets (TS Brilliant) as the charity he will fundraise for:

'For 90 years the Sea Cadets, my charity this year, has been helping young people in the borough fulfil their potential through their unique blend of comradeship, discipline and fun. I hope as many people as possible will attend their parade in Royal Tunbridge Wells next month.'



Freedom of the Borough Parade

The Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets are celebrating their 90th anniversary this year and they have been awarded the Freedom of the Borough.

Mark Sunday 12 October in your diary as the date when the cadets will have the honour formally presented to them, after which they will exercise their freedom by marching in Royal Tunbridge Wells.

For this notable event TS Brilliant will host West Kent District Sea Cadets for the annual Trafalgar Day Parade. Some 250 sea cadets, junior sea cadets and Royal Marines cadets will take part in the parade to commemorate both the 90th anniversary and the 220th anniversary of The Battle of Trafalgar. Veteran Standard Bearers and a detachment of former TS Brilliant cadets and staff will join them.

The parade begins at 10.30am, you are invited to come along to Mount Pleasant Road (near the War Memorial) and show your support.

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.

News in brief

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

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



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Food and Safety team

In July the Food and Safety team was audited by the Food Standards Agency. A three-day long audit was carried out and the final report was wholly positive noting the hard work and professionalism of the officers and there were no improvement actions or follow-up actions for the team to complete.

The Food and Safety team keep you safe by making sure that food premises across the borough comply with food safety legislation at all stages of production and service.

Blue Badges

Our Parking team joined up with Kent County Council officers for a day to check that Blue Badges displayed in parked vehicles were being used correctly. Out of a total of 47 badges checked only one offered cause for concern as it had expired; that badge was retained by the officers.

Building a Community Nature Reserve Together

We're working with Kent High Weald Partnership and we need you - landowners, residents, businesses and schools to provide space for nature and collectively create a Community Nature Reserve!



Dedicating just a 2m² piece of land is all that's needed to create your own mini-reserve and be part of the mega-Community Nature Reserve. To help you get started there will be a free tree giveaway scheme when up to 2,500 trees will be available to people signing up to the project.

Over time the aim is for the nature reserve to reach at least the size of a football pitch, it will provide opportunities for citizen science projects and measurable nature and climate achievements.

Voting matters

Every year, we check the **electoral register** is up to date so that everyone who has the right to vote in upcoming elections can have their say.

We've sent letters asking you to follow the instructions to check your details. Responding online is quick and easy. If we don't hear back from you our canvassers will be calling at your home to ask you about your form.

Thank you for helping keep the register up to date.

Nationally, the rules around **postal votes** have changed. You now need to reapply for your postal vote every three years. If this applies to you we'll contact you and let you know how to reapply in plenty of time so you're ready to vote in the elections in May 2026.

[twbc.online/elections](https://www.twbc.online/elections)

Food waste

If you live in one of the small number of properties that currently do not have a food waste collection service, you'll be pleased to learn that from spring next year that will be changing. Across the borough all properties will have food waste collected. We'll keep you informed, look out for information from later this year/early 2026.

Cheaper broadband

If you have young people in education you'll know that home broadband is increasingly essential for supporting learning but it can be difficult to afford. There are cheaper broadband and phone packages called social tariffs for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits. Some providers call them 'essential' or 'basic' broadband, find out if you qualify and help your family stay connected

[ofcom.org.uk/phones-and-broadband/saving-money/social-tariffs](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-and-broadband/saving-money/social-tariffs)

Benefits changes

Universal Credit is replacing some older-style benefits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance

If you receive any of these benefits you should receive a letter telling you what is happening and how you can make a claim for Universal Credit. Look out for your letter and follow the instructions.

Cabinet update

Cllr Astra Birch

Housing and Communities

I'm thrilled to announce the successful launch of our first youth hub, a weekly club supported by YMCA youth workers and Paddock Wood



Town Council volunteers. It's already seen fantastic attendance! We're actively working to establish three more locations across the borough in the coming months.

In July, my colleagues and I met with Town and Country, our largest housing association, to explore closer collaboration on delivering more affordable family homes, which are much-needed. Phase 1 of their Showfields Housing Estate redevelopment is on track to deliver 83 new homes by 2027.

Cllr Ben Chapelard

Leader of the Council

Of the many highlights since my last update here are two which stand out.

I recently attended the 'topping out' ceremony of Paramount Place (on the former cinema site). The building has now reached its highest point. It will be great to see this plot of land back in use after 25 years of being a blight on Royal Tunbridge Wells town.

What a joy to welcome the judges of Britain in Bloom. Royal Tunbridge Wells is in the national competition this year with the town looking particularly flowery!



Cllr Mark Ellis

Innovation and Transformation

We're committed to delivering greater value for residents by working smarter. We're making good progress using technology to work more efficiently and productively, with a focus on making sure staff time is used well ahead of Local Government Reorganisation. By embracing modern technology and investing in our workforce, we're enhancing the services you rely on while preparing for upcoming changes. New digital tools are streamlining processes across the Council, reducing the administrative burden. Staff are receiving targeted training to boost their digital skills and adapt to new ways of working. This strategic approach ensures we're ready to maintain excellent service delivery throughout the transition period while building a more efficient, future-ready organisation.



Cllr Christopher Hall

Finance and Property

In my last column I talked about the Capital budget, that is the amount we spend on maintaining our parks, buildings, car parks to meet legal requirements and also keep our assets in good working order. You may remember that we are investing over £10m in maintaining our car parks, due to water damage, weathering and other repairs. I'm keen to get cracking with the lifts at Torrington for starters! To pay for those improvements we need to generate additional revenue. That's why we need to increase car parking charges from 1 October and bring car parks like Torrington into line with other town centre car parks. I think it's fair that visitors to the



borough and users of the car parks make a relatively modest contribution to the cost of maintaining them and that the full cost shouldn't always sit with the taxpayer.

In other news I was pleased to see the feasibility study for Royal Victoria Place approved by my colleagues at Full Council in July. This is an exciting regeneration project which will need significant borrowing to invest. I have every confidence in the business plan and its clear strategic vision that any borrowing required will be met by an uplift in income generated from the shopping centre and business rates. It's the investment in our town centre that many of you have been asking for and I'll be keeping a close eye on progress as the project moves forward.

Finally, we have launched a public consultation on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme which runs until 28 September. We want your views on whether the Council should increase the benefit thresholds to those residents struggling to pay Council Tax due to low income or unemployment. Take part online at twbc.online/consultations

Cllr Matt Lowe

Planning

Many of you will have noticed the steel structure rising on the North Farm Industrial Estate, just east of the A21. This light industrial development, which McLaren Construction is constructing on behalf of Royal London, saw the steel frame erected in July, following major earthworks to level the site. The land is allocated in the Local Plan as a key employment area and is expected to provide nine units in the first phase, creating lots of local jobs. Completion is due in late 2026, with some units available from April 2026.

The scheme includes significant



tree planting, protection of ancient woodland, and buildings designed to blend with the landscape using sympathetic materials and colours. Though it predates mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain, it's on track to meet the 10% target. The masterplan also enhances pedestrian and cycle connectivity, including an extended route along Longfield Road, supported by S106 contributions. It's exciting to see this vision come to life - bringing new opportunities, boosting the local economy and supporting sustainable growth in Tunbridge Wells.

Cllr Justine Rutland

Economic Development

The Royal Victoria Place redevelopment project has been progressing well with a number of actions over the summer, including the appointment of a design team and the preparation of the leasing strategy. We have also been planning the next round of public engagement, which will take place after Christmas.



Over in Economic Development, we have been considering applications for the Business Decarbonisation scheme and the Community Grants Fund round 4. It is really wonderful to see so many great projects being set up across the borough and our pot of UK Shared Prosperity Fund put to such good use. I hope we can share the results in our next issue of Local.

The Amelia Scott is embarking on an exciting Arts Council England-funded project entitled 'Our Radical History' which will work with local schools to celebrate Tunbridge Wells's history of radical activism and local democracy, while the Assembly Hall Theatre and ice rink teams are - dare I say - finalising plans for Christmas! Please look out for updates across our social platforms and in the weekly email newsletter to residents.

Cllr Pamela Wilkinson

Sports, Leisure, and Health

Sport and leisure are non-statutory services, this means councils choose to provide them, they do not have to do



so. This can make funding these services challenging especially with tight public budgets. One crucial source of support is Section 106 payments - contributions from developers - to offset the impact of new developments.

We're currently developing proposals to improve Putlands Leisure Centre using around £1.2 million in developer contributions. We'll be working closely with Paddock Wood Town Council and centre users to shape the scheme. Similarly, at Hawkenbury Recreation Ground, we're planning to enhance the number and quality of football pitches while retaining the existing cricket square and racquet courts, again using developer funding.

Volunteers also play a key role in delivering services. A great example is our Wellbeing Walks, coordinated by the Health team and led by dedicated Volunteer Walk Leaders. These free walks help people get outside, meet others, and enjoy the benefits of walking. They run weekly or monthly in locations like Cranbrook, Calverley Grounds, Rusthall, and Paddock Wood. No booking is needed—just visit our website or call 01892 554411. ramblers.org.uk/wellbeing-walks/royal-tunbridge-wells

Cllr Rob Wormington

Environment and Sustainability

Exciting developments are underway in Tunbridge Wells, starting with the launch of a new community nature reserve.



In partnership with Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP) and local residents, we're planting 2,500 trees to boost biodiversity and protect our natural spaces. KHWP will be at the Tunbridge Wells Climate & Nature Fair on Saturday 13 September in Calverley Grounds to share more about our upcoming tree giveaway. See more about the event on page 23.

TWBC has also approved a new Borough-wide Climate Strategy. This is a plan for everyone in our area - not just the Council. The plan's target is for our area to reach net zero by 2050, partly driven by things like adoption of electric vehicles and air source heat pumps. We are accelerating our effort. The strategy is underpinned by robust data, ambitious interim targets and a commitment to resourcing our part of its delivery.

Finally, we have started working with Kent County Council, Mike Martin MP and rural parishes to support road safety improvements in our villages. We have allocated £25,000 per parish, and will be funding projects based on parish feedback, with final decisions expected early next year.

From the Garden back to the Ground

How your garden waste is helping Kent grow greener

Every time you trim the hedge, mow the lawn, or pull up weeds and then place the green waste in your black garden waste bin you're helping turn natural materials into something useful again through an environmentally friendly process.

Across the borough, in 2024/25 alone, residents collected and composted **7,836.25 tonnes** of garden waste. That's a victory for waste reduction and a win for climate action, sustainable farming, and local ecosystems.

Thank you!



***PAS100 is a certification for composted materials, ensuring they meet specific quality standards for safe and effective use.**

What happens to your garden waste?

Once your black garden waste bin is emptied, the green waste inside is taken on a short journey via the North Farm waste transfer station to a commercial composting site in West Malling.

There, the garden waste is laid out in long rows where it's carefully turned, aerated, and monitored for several weeks. Through natural microbial activity, heat, and time, your garden waste transforms into a peat-free compost or soil improver that's nutrient-rich and full of life.

This compost can then be used by

- Local farms to enrich crops
- Commercial gardeners to improve flowerbeds and landscapes

It's sustainability in action; your waste becomes a resource, not a burden.

Garden Waste → Compost

What happens to the garden waste?

The content of the black bins collected from our borough goes to a composting facility. It is processed to produce quality PAS100 and CQP certified soil conditioner for the agricultural, viticultural and horticultural markets.



Why collecting garden waste matters more than ever

Each year, the UK produces millions of tonnes of garden waste.

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



How you can get involved

Want to be part of this green movement?

1. Subscribe to the garden waste collection service

For just £66 per year (that's only £1.27/week), you get regular, convenient collections (see below).

or

2. Try home composting

Perfect for keen gardeners, you can produce compost for your own beds and borders.

or

3. Use North Farm HWRC

Whether you have large volumes or occasional loads of garden waste, the North Farm Household Waste Recycling Centre accepts garden waste all year round.

Garden waste collections

It is easy to sign-up to the fortnightly garden waste service and pay online.

twbc.online/gw-sign-up



**Please don't put
black sacks in
your black bin.**



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Cabinet on Tour 2025

This year, the Cabinet has been on the road - visiting parishes across the borough to hear directly from local councils and communities. The aim? To better understand the unique challenges each area faces and to celebrate the beauty, heritage, and assets that make our parishes so special.

Cranbrook & Sissinghurst - 26 March

Housing was top of the agenda. The Parish Council highlighted the urgent need for affordable starter homes and housing for key workers. Chair Kim Fletcher shared this message:

'Cranbrook is very open to 2-3 bed starter homes at high density to enable working people to get onto the housing ladder. We desperately need carers, mechanics, builders. A starter home at £430,000 is not going to enable local people to live here, and having no school will put them off.'

Capel - 14 May

With development proposed in East Capel, the parish population could double. Chair Hugh Patterson led a walk through Five Oak Green, pointing out traffic hot spots and rat runs. Concerns were raised about how infrastructure will cope with the expected growth.

Southborough - 9 July

At Yew Tree Road car park, Mayor John Francis welcomed the continuation of two hours' free parking. However, the car park's poor condition - riddled with potholes and the need for resurfacing was flagged. TWBC has committed to investigating resurfacing options and funding.



Championing Charities and the Voluntary Sector in Tunbridge Wells

Park ward councillor, Corinna Keefe tells Local about her role as the Council's Champion for Charities and the Voluntary Sector.

One of the most exciting things about joining the Council is discovering just how much amazing work is going on behind the scenes. Since I was elected in May 2024, some of my favourite discoveries have been through my work as charities' champion.

My role is to support charities in our borough and find ways for them to work with the Council even more effectively. I also try to encourage connections between local charities and businesses.

We're lucky in Tunbridge Wells, because we have a very generous and active population. As well as many national charities, we also have lots of homegrown organisations, involved in everything from wildlife protection to hospice care, legal advice, food banks, and support for carers.

New charities pop up all the time, and we also have some amazing fundraisers in the area, such as the Crochet for Cancer campaign by local 11-year-old Kirsty, or the Trail with a Tale that's currently livening up Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre in aid of Demelza.

But these are also hard times for the voluntary sector. It's no secret that funding is scarce. It's also tough for charities to find enough volunteers and trustees.

So how can we at the Council help?

In the past year, we've held two summits for charities at The Amelia Scott. Based on their feedback, we've been able to support funding applications by sharing some of our local data; collaborate with Council officers to improve services for vulnerable residents; and we're even looking at finding shared spaces where charities can work alongside each other.

We've also launched an online page (twbc.online/vcsforum) where charities can share news items with us, access useful resources, and fill in surveys. We have a regular newsletter to keep sharing funding opportunities and local updates. In the long term, we want to keep offering more events and chances to communicate, because we're all stronger when we work together.

If you'd like to get involved, charities are always in need of more volunteers and trustees. tunbridgewells.works/volunteering/

is a great place to look for local opportunities. And if you're already involved with a charity, but all of my work was news to you... Please do get in touch!

corinna.keefe@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



Over 20,000 people get our weekly e-mail

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Call: 03000 41 22 22
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Sustainability

Borough Climate Change Strategy

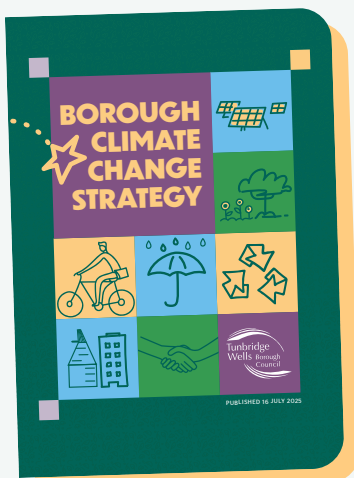
Climate change is a global crisis requiring urgent, collective action. Failure to limit warming to 1.5°C or 2°C risks severe impacts on weather, biodiversity, health, and economies.

In response to this in 2019 the Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. Since then, emissions across the borough have fallen by 42.3%, and the Council's own emissions by 24%. The new Borough Climate Change Strategy explains how we aim to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 through community collaboration and targeted actions across various sectors.

Your views informed the strategy. In summer 2024, the Sustainability team began a three-month consultation across the borough to discuss the draft climate change strategy. This engagement involved over 750 residents and provided valuable insights into the borough's views on our approach to achieving net zero goals. Thank you for your contributions.

Seven key themes were identified, each supported by three core ambitions. Action plans have been developed under each theme to guide the path toward net zero. The action plans cover a five-year period and will be reviewed and updated in 2030. While they are for the 2025-2030 period, our commitment to the climate emergency extends beyond it.

The final version of the Borough Climate Change Strategy received Full Council approval in July. The strategy was then officially published marking the start of its implementation across the borough.

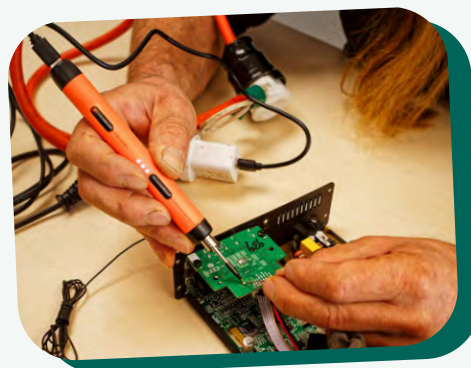


Repair café – Repair Academy

We were very pleased to support a new two-hour workshop in June at Trinity Theatre, teaching younger teenagers the skills to repair clothing and electronic goods.

This was the first Tunbridge Wells Repair Academy and there were two workshops running side by side. One group of 12 young people focused on sewing, learning different types of stitching which they then put into practice, personalising their own T-shirts and jeans.

The 12 teenagers in the electrical group dismantled broken games consoles and worked out what was needed to repair them. Then they reassembled them and got to play on them! The games consoles came from Team Repair, a startup dedicated to helping young people learn repair skills which also align with school curriculum requirements.



The feedback from participants was positive, they really enjoyed the workshops and many would like to continue their learning.

The event was a collaboration between the Tunbridge Wells Repair Café, Trinity Theatre, the Sustainability team and The Amelia Scott. Future events are being planned, so if you know a young person interested in attending, drop an email to twellsrepaircafe@gmail.com and updates will be sent out as soon as the new dates are booked.



Building sustainable schools

Schools play a crucial part in shaping future generations, and through thoughtful planning and action, they can lead by example in tackling climate change.

Victoria Harrison, local teacher and specialist in Education for Sustainable Development tells us about the role schools can play...

What if schools in Tunbridge Wells could lead the way to combatting climate change? They could with your support. From September 2025, all education settings in England from nurseries to universities should have a Climate Action Plan. It's part of a bold national mission to put sustainability at the heart of education and help the UK reach net zero.

Each plan will focus on four key areas:

- cutting carbon emissions
- preparing for climate impacts
- boosting biodiversity
- empowering students through climate education and green careers

With the borough-wide aim for net zero by 2050, schools have a vital role to play. As significant energy users, they contribute to local emissions, but they're also catalysts for local change, bringing together students, families and the wider community.

In each education setting, the Sustainability Lead will guide this journey, turning plans into action and inspiring young people to become changemakers.

But schools can't do it alone.

Do you work in sustainability, construction, energy, ecology, or design? Are you passionate about nature, climate justice or community action? Could you revive neglected greenspace, help calculate carbon footprints or bring real-world insights into the classroom? If so, your experience could make a meaningful difference to schools in Tunbridge Wells.

Reach out to your local school directly or volunteer through the Climate Ambassador Programme, which connects professionals with schools to help them meet their climate goals
climateambassadors.org.uk



For more information
01892 864429



MG Care Homes

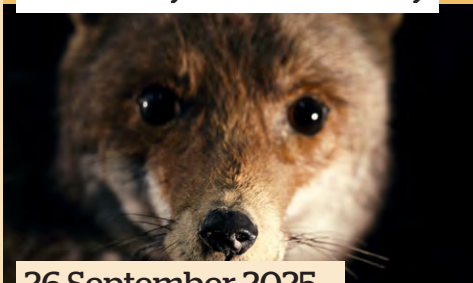
Quality nursing care in small family settings

www.mghomes.co.uk

News from

The Amelia 

Commons: A Film by David Blandy



26 September 2025 –
11 January 2026

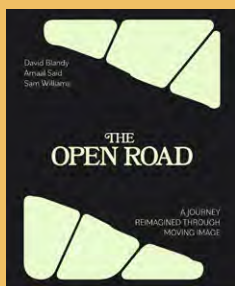
David Blandy's new film **Commons** explores nature, history, and shared land through stories inspired by Tunbridge Wells Commons and local heritage collections.

Presented for the first time at The Amelia Scott, **Commons** is a poetic and thought-provoking multi-channel video installation. Told through the voices of a fox, a crow, a fossil, and a broken mobile phone, the film offers a unique perspective on the landscapes and layered histories of the Commons.

Blending 1930s archive footage, museum artefacts, and newly captured scenes, **Commons** reimagines pilgrimage as a journey through memory, ecological connection, and shared space. Drawing inspiration from *The Canterbury Tales* and the legacy of local activist Amelia Scott, the work offers a reflective experience rooted in local heritage.

Commissioned by The Amelia Scott as part of the Kent and Medway Museum Partnership National Portfolio Organisation, and Film and Video Umbrella. Part of *The Open Road* series, co-commissioned by a partnership

of visual arts organisations; Film and Video Umbrella, The Amelia Scott, Cement Fields, FLAMIN, Forma, and Three Rivers. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England.



Creative Health

We talk often about Creative Health here at The Amelia Scott but what exactly is it and what does it mean for you? Creative health refers to the use of arts and creativity to improve people's health and wellbeing, both physically and mentally. At The Amelia Scott, we believe culture has the power to enrich lives, foster wellbeing, and bring communities together. That's why we're committed to offering inclusive, free creative health programmes that support mental and physical health through meaningful cultural experiences. Keep an eye on our social media and website for details of forthcoming courses, free to all.

Tourist Info



Did you know that the main Tourist Information hub for the borough is inside The Amelia Scott?

With a wealth of information for visitors to Royal Tunbridge Wells and the surrounding area, we welcome local residents and visitors from all over the world. If you live locally and have friends or family visiting, please do pop in to The Amelia Scott, it is the ideal place to start any visit. In particular, the museum's 'Story of the Wells' gallery is a must-see, with a model of The Pantiles, an actual 'pan-tile' to see and many other interesting facts and objects on display.

Our hub includes a beautiful wall map of the borough, a large interactive screen allowing visitors to explore the vast amount of information available through the Visit Tunbridge Wells website, and a brochure display area showcasing a wide range of maps, walking trails and local area guides.

Author visit - Quintin Lake



16 October 7pm

We are delighted to be welcoming author and photographer Quintin Lake to discuss his one man pilgrimage along Britain's rugged shores. He walked 11,000 kilometres in 454 days with one goal in mind: to produce a body of photographic work that gets under the surface of the island nation that we call home.

Kids in Museums

We are eagerly awaiting the results of the Kids in Museums Award 2025. The Amelia was shortlisted

in the category of Best Medium Museum and has been part of a judging process throughout the Summer. Keep an eye on our social media to see how we got on. Whatever the result we are incredibly proud of the team.



Coming
Soon

Keep your eyes on our What's On page and social media channels for details of our festive programme, including Painting &

Prosecco, Christmas Concert and ever popular Elf Workshops.

Change Grow Live



**Change
Grow
Live**

Every Tuesday 11am-3pm

Location: Green Room

CGL provide support and treatment for adults affected by drug or alcohol misuse with a range of services. The Housing team works with individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability, providing support, advice, and assistance with accessing accommodation. They also support those in their accommodation by helping them to navigate the complexities of housing related issues including benefits, evictions, tenancy start-ups and repairs.
changegrowlive.org

Hawkhurst Heritage Day

**King George V
Pavilion, The Moor,
Hawkhurst**



**Saturday 20 and Sunday
21 September 11am-3pm**

Join staff from The Amelia Scott for a weekend of heritage happenings!

Discover more about historic Hawkhurst through a variety of activities; heritage walks, heritage displays, craft activities, artist sessions and lots more!

All FREE as part of Heritage Open Days (see page 21).

For more information visit heritageopendays.org.uk or contact Rural Projects Officer, Linda Redden linda.redden@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

New Arrival: A Folk Art Treasure



The Amelia Scott has purchased an early version of The Old Bright Postman by George Smart of Frant at Mark Hill Auctions.

This rare figure is believed to be the earliest known example of this character, showcasing Smart's distinctive collage technique. As one of his most recognisable works, it offers a unique glimpse into early 19th century folk art and the evolution of Smart's playful style. Special thanks to The Friends at The Amelia Scott and Arts4Kent for generously contributing funds towards this purchase.

Hopping Back in Time



Hop farming was once a major part of life in Tunbridge Wells. Each summer, tall hop plants covered the fields, and families (often from London) came to pick them. It was tough work but also a time of fun, tradition, and community. The hops were used in brewing beer. Over time, the industry declined due to cheaper imports and modern machinery, and most of the local hop farms disappeared. Within the borough, we now only have one operational hop farm remaining.

Discover The Amelia Scott's hop picking display in the lower atrium. A new related display opens this month in the upper atrium.

What's on SEPTEMBER

Out of This World - Sci Fi & Fantasy writing course

Curator Talk - Historical Musical Instruments

Heritage Open Days - Hawkhurst

An Evening of Piano
@The Amelia

Home Education Session
Ages 4-11

Sensing Culture - Group for the visually impaired

Launch of 'Commons'
by David Blandy

OCTOBER

Silver Sunday with Age UK

Game Changers - Board Game Café

Home Education Session
Ages 4-11

History Happy Hour - Cranbrook in 10 Objects

Half Term Week

Halloween/Discovery Days

Sensing Culture - Group for the visually impaired

NOVEMBER

Coffee Concert

Home Education Session
Ages 4-11

Painting & Prosecco Evenings

Sensing Culture - Group for the visually impaired

Christmas Concert

Christmas Tree Switch On

Story Time and Rhyme Time every week



 theamelia.co.uk/whats-on

Beam partnership expands

The Council has expanded its partnership with social enterprise Beam to reduce homelessness in the borough.

The new programme will specifically focus on supporting residents in temporary accommodation (TA). Helping them into properties they can afford in the private rented sector and sustain their tenancies long-term through dedicated training and employment opportunities. The goal is to reduce the time households spend in TA and decrease the Council's expenditure on temporary housing.

Beam will be supporting 20 households in TA over the next 12 months, representing a quarter of all households in TA in the borough.

The partnership, which began in 2022, has already successfully supported 70 homeless households to access secure housing and employment.

After leaving an abusive relationship, Aisha* was placed in temporary accommodation with her young children, but had to move seven times over the course of 12 months due to safety concerns. She was referred to Beam by her housing officer last year, with the goal of finding a safe place to live.

Within two months of working together, Aisha found a three-bedroom private rented home for her and her children.

Aisha said: 'Now I can see my future pretty clearly. I can plan for my future, plan for my kids' future. When anyone goes through this kind of situation, they need a shoulder... I feel like Beam staff members have that empathetic behaviour, and that makes them exceptional.'

*name changed

For Nigel, 65, the concept of losing his home was once unimaginable. 'Sometimes we take things for granted, and suddenly, everything gets snatched from underneath you,' he reflected about being made homeless.

Eligible for support from the Council, Nigel was put in touch with Beam, 'I've never looked back since, because I was so amazed at what Beam did for me and the way they treated me' he said.

With Beam's support, Nigel was able to secure a private rented sector tenancy and now, having worked for many years, including a long period as a NHS support worker, Nigel is looking confidently towards a happy retirement.

beam

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 Part of
portman
dentex

Changing Times at Royal Victoria Place

In July councillors agreed to move forward with a project to transform the shopping centre in Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The project brings a multi-screen boutique cinema and leisure-led businesses to Ely Court. Palm Court will be repurposed with enhanced retail space and Market Square will be developed as a residential area.

This development at the eastern end of Royal Victoria Place will complement the new businesses that have already come to the centre, including Primark which opens this winter.

Cabinet Member for Economic Development Justine Rutland said:

'I am very pleased that the decision has been made to progress the redevelopment of RVP and am especially grateful that it has cross-party support. The feasibility report demonstrates that this project has a solid, detailed evidence base and high levels of public engagement. We now have the opportunity to create something fantastic: new homes, new jobs, new shops and new entertainment and leisure activities for all ages that will support our existing businesses and make Tunbridge Wells the thriving place we all wish it to be.'

When will this happen?

A specialist team has been appointed and they are working towards submitting a planning application in spring 2026.

If the planning application is approved, development could start on site in early 2027 with completion by the end of 2029.

What about the businesses in Ely Court?

We are discussing future opportunities with them, including being in the shopping centre, but they may need to relocate to another town centre location.

Does a residential development on Market Square affect the current occupiers including the gym?

What the housing development will look like isn't known yet, however it is very likely that it will affect the current businesses and organisations there including the gym and the Camden Centre.

As with Ely Court we are in discussions with current occupiers to see what opportunities it may present for them. The Council is considering the future of the Camden Centre.

Will the residential development on Market Square be houses or flats?

It's too early to say what the development will look like or who will live there. We'll keep you informed as plans progress.

What happened with the consultation about Royal Victoria Place earlier this year?

Thank you if you were one of the more than 2,800 people who took part in the consultation in May. Your views were very important and informed the feasibility study that councillors considered when deciding whether to go ahead with the development project.

We will be undertaking further engagement with residents and businesses when we have an initial design for the development, this is likely to be early in 2026.

In the meantime we welcome your comments about Royal Victoria Place and the proposed development. Write to the Council's Property Investment team at rvp@tunbridgewells.gov.uk.

Is there any more information I can read about the development?

Yes, we've lots of information on our website, search Royal Victoria Place at tunbridgewells.gov.uk

RVP car park

The maintenance and refurbishment project continues until summer 2026 but car park users will already be able to notice some of the work that's taken place including the complete refurbishment of level 2.

When the project is complete 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.



Look out for information about fun activities for your family during the October half-term

Good news for Royal Victoria Place

▲ Footfall is up on 2024

▼ The number of empty units is down

▲ Lettings in Ely Court are up

▼ Service charge costs paid by tenants have been lowered

P

Making parking charges fairer and more consistent

From October there will be changes to parking charges in the Council's car parks. In his update on page 8 Cabinet member Christopher Hall explains some of the reasons for the changes and why car park users should contribute towards the costs of providing car parking.

Many of you said **you agreed with this user pays principle** when you responded to the budget survey last year.

Over the past year, the cost of maintaining and operating the car parks has risen significantly. From essential repairs and cleaning to energy bills and staffing, these expenses have continued to grow.

At the same time **we are investing and modernising the car parks** so they meet the quality standard we have set and that you expect.

On p 19 you can read about the work taking place in Royal Victoria Place car park making it a better experience for users and we've plans to refurbish Great Hall and Warwick Road car parks.



The last time there was an increase was in 2022. The changes we are making now mean increases in most car parks, although in Paddock Wood we've reduced the cost in one of the car parks!

We'll be keeping parking for Blue Badge users free **and we've protected the free parking** in Paddock Wood, John Street and Yew Tree Road car parks.

Price increases for car park season tickets are below the rate of inflation supporting those who rely on town centre parking for work.

To make it fairer similar charges will now apply across car parks of the same type, for example, multi-storey car parks.

We are also increasing the charges for residents' parking permits and visitors' vouchers, which have remained at the same level for many years

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heritage open days

12-21 September

Volunteers across the borough invite you to experience local history, architecture and culture. All for free.

Lots of different events are taking place locally including:

How do you make a cemetery? - An introduction to Woodbury Park Cemetery, a Victorian gem.

Cranbrook Union Windmill

Hawkhurst Heritage Day

St Thomas a Becket Church, Capel, Kent. 150 years of Capel School.

Salomons Museum Talk

There are some fantastic free guided walks too:

The Pantiles - "There's Something in the Water!" (guided walk)

The chance discovery of a medicinal spring in 1606 by a jaded courtier on his way back to London was the start of the story of Royal Tunbridge Wells.



The Elevated Decimus Burton Walking Tour (guided walk)

Decimus Burton was the young architect who, in the 1820s and 1830s, planned and realised a new 56 acre residential and retail estate at the top of Mount Pleasant in Tunbridge Wells to rival the delights being enjoyed down the hill in the famous Pantiles.

Station to Station, Sainsbury's to Sainsbury's (guided walk)

The railway station came to central Tunbridge Wells in 1846. Then another one came along in 1866 just down the road and they were joined together by a tunnel in 1876. This walk will look at the history of both stations and the route between them, calling at the Old High Street.

Events are free but some must be booked.

Find more information at thecivicsociety.org or tunbridgewells.heritageopendays.org

Remembrance Ceremonies

Each year, Remembrance ceremonies pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of all in the Armed Forces and civilian organisations who have helped to protect our freedoms and values.

Key events are remembered and the human cost recalled to ensure we never forget the hardship and sacrifice of the individuals and their families who take risks on our behalf, and suffer the consequences.

2025 is the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, widely considered the most lethal and devastating war in history. Its legacy remains with us today.

Remembrance Sunday 9 November

10.45am The Service of Remembrance and March Past

The War Memorial, Mount Pleasant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The Service will be live-streamed for those unable to attend. A link to watch will be available at tunbridgewells.gov.uk

After the Service there will be a march-past by Armed Forces Veterans and uniformed military and civilian groups. Veterans not already in contact with RBL who would like to take part are encouraged to contact John on 07766 313047.

12.45pm Civic Remembrance ceremonies

Tunbridge Wells Cemetery, Benhall Mill Road.

Starting in the WW2 Garden of Remembrance, wreaths will be laid at the four War Memorials in the cemetery ending at 1.15pm at the RAF Memorial.

Armistice Day Tuesday 11 November

10.55am A short ceremony of Remembrance

The War Memorial, Mount Pleasant Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The Last Post will be played by buglers from the Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets and a wreath laid.

A similar ceremony will be held at the Victoria Cross Grove, Dunorlan Park near the Bayhall Road entrance at about 11.40am. Wreaths will be laid.

All are welcome at these ceremonies.

Remembrance services and ceremonies will be held across the borough, see local websites for details.

Brew It Fair - Drink Fairtrade Tea!



Fairtrade Fortnight: 22 September - 5 October 2025

This year, Fairtrade Fortnight celebrates everything that's wonderful about Fairtrade tea.

Since arriving from China in the mid-17th century, tea has been a comforting ritual in UK households for over 350 years. **In fact, we love it so much that we drink over 11 million cups every day!**

Yet behind this tradition, many tea farmers and workers face serious challenges. Around 60% of the world's tea is grown by smallholder farmers, who often struggle with climate change, unstable prices, and limited influence in the supply chain. Workers on tea estates may also face low wages, long hours, gender discrimination, and dependence on estate management for housing, healthcare, and education.



Fairtrade offers a better way. Fairtrade-certified tea farms and plantations receive a fair price for their tea, plus the Fairtrade Premium - an additional sum invested in ways chosen by farmers and workers themselves. This might mean improving farms, building schools, providing clean water, or funding health centres. For plantation workers, it could support community projects and services for their families.

All of this makes a cup of Fairtrade tea not just delicious, but meaningful.

So, this Fairtrade Fortnight, why not host a Fairtrade tea party, or simply put the kettle on, relax, and enjoy a brew that supports fairness and sustainability?

Did you know?

- All tea comes from the same plant: **Camellia sinensis**
- A tea bush takes up to four years to mature and can produce tea for over 50 years
- Wild tea trees can grow over nine metres tall, but most are kept small for easy harvesting
- Tea pickers are highly-skilled, harvesting leaves by hand
- Tea is the most popular drink in the world after water
- The average tea bag costs just two to three pence



Art installation in Calverley Grounds

The Tunbridge Wells Fairtrade Town Group is working with the Parks team to create a new art installation in Calverley Grounds. The theme will celebrate trees and their importance to the environment, aligning with the Council's current tree-planting campaign.

A competition for artists will be launched later this year, with more details in the winter edition of Local.

Local businesses interested in supporting the project are invited to get in touch:

contact@twfairtrade.org.uk



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Nourish helps people in food crisis across Tunbridge Wells borough and south Tonbridge by delivering short-term, emergency food parcels.

Last year, we delivered 159,498 meals to people like you and me: teachers, nurses, care workers, retired couples, young parents working hard to make ends meet.

For the first time in our history, donations have fallen significantly, and we are now in urgent need of financial support so we never turn away someone in food poverty.

We are asking for a little help from a lot of people.



£1.50 could pay for a family pack of 4 baked beans tins



£5 could pay for a meal for a family of five



£10 could buy a day's food for a family of five



£40 could provide a family of five with food for a whole week



To help people in food crisis, give via our website or scan the QR code.



www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk

Tunbridge Wells CLIMATE & NATURE FAIR



**SATURDAY
13th
SEPTEMBER**



**10am – 5pm
Calverley Grounds
twcan.org.uk**



Cripps



Youth hubs

The Council's Strategic Plan says

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

And they're popping up!



New and existing sessions take place at

Where	When	Who
Cranbrook High Street (behind Congregational Church)	Wednesday 3pm-5pm	Years 7 and 8
Horsmonden Waiting list only	Friday 5pm to 7pm	Year 6 upwards
Paddock Wood Community Centre	Friday 4.30pm-6.30 pm	Year 7 upwards
Tunbridge Wells Showfields Community Hall	Wednesday 5.30pm-7pm	Ages 8-12
St Luke's Church	Tuesday 3.30 pm-5.15 pm	Year 6 upwards

Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, Astra Birch said:

'I'm thrilled that the new academic year brings with it new safe spaces for our youngsters after the school day ends, all across the borough.'

Look out for information about groups starting at The Amelia Scott and in Rusthall.



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a fundraising
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Come and try Scottish Country Dancing. . .

. . . it's a great social and energetic activity, which makes it an excellent way to keep fit, it takes the place of going to the gym. You'll get a chance to meet new people, plus there's good music to listen to and move to. It works the brain as well.

All this and it's great fun.

The Tunbridge Wells Scottish dancing group is running a free 'have a go' evening on TUESDAY 16th September

at St. Augustine's School, Wilman Road,
Tunbridge Wells TN4 9AL
(off Powdermill Lane, behind the Cross Keys pub)

Time : from 7.30 - 9.30pm

You don't need to come with a partner, come alone or bring a friend/s. The more the merrier. Scottish heritage not necessary. And MEN – you don't need to wear a kilt.

Come along and give it a go — try something new.

For more information tel: 01892 532712 or
Email: secretary@rscdstunbridgewells.org.uk

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Local Government Reorganisation



Government ministers want councils like Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to deliver the services they provide in a different way.

In the biggest shake up of local government in almost 50 years, they want to merge the councils in Kent to create a number of unitary councils serving roughly 500,000 people each.

This is known as Local Government Reorganisation.

How will councils change?

Under the current system Kent County Council delivers some services like education and roads, and borough councils like ours deliver others, like the recycling and waste collections and planning services.

In the proposed new system unitary councils would deliver all council services in one area.

The existing Kent councils are in the process of working out the best way to organise themselves including how many unitary councils there should be and what areas they should cover.

Those new unitary councils could start delivering services from April 2028.

What do these changes mean for me?

At this stage nothing will change and the services you use will continue to be delivered just as they are now.

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

Make a Local Impact: Home visits to support Tunbridge Wells families

Can you spare a couple of hours a week to support a local family? If you have parenting experience and would like to make a positive impact on a family with young children, then Home Start South West Kent would love to hear from you.

Home Start volunteers provide weekly home visits to families with babies and pre-schoolers. It might be reassuring a new family with a first baby, or giving an extra pair of hands to a family of baby twins and a toddler. They can help play, organise the home or help by getting everyone out the house to the park or local groups.



Sometimes just knowing that a friendly person is coming once a week is enough to boost parents' confidence and help families thrive.

Volunteers are given online and face to face training and have ongoing supervision as well as monthly meetings to chat with other volunteers and hear from guest speakers.

Find out more about working with Home Start South West Kent

home-startswk.org.uk

Or email scheme manager Sarah Jarvis at

contact@home-startswk.org.uk

£1.3 Million secured to improve local homes

The Council has secured funding to install free* energy-efficiency improvements in homes across Tunbridge Wells borough. These upgrades can make your home warmer, more comfortable, and help lower both energy bills and carbon emissions. We're working with E.ON to deliver these measures.

You could qualify for improvements like insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps, and more.

Do you:

- Own or privately rent your home?
- Have an EPC rating of D-G? (if you don't know don't worry, we can help)
- Have a household income under £36,000 or receive a means-tested benefit?

If so, the Warm Homes Local Grant scheme could help.

Check your eligibility at eonenergy.com/grant-finder or call **0333 202 4820** (Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm).

Or scan the QR code

e-on



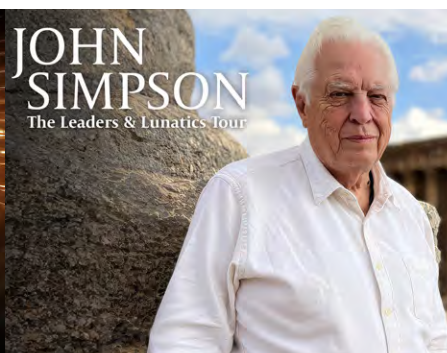
*Some fees are applicable to landlords. All applications made need to meet the eligibility criteria set by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Department for Net Zero and Security. A financial test may be carried out to confirm eligibility and a free home survey is also required before improvement recommendations can be made to your home. Improvements are funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to help meet the UK zero carbon targets. Savings will depend on the property type, household size, energy usage, and the installed heating system.

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MUSIC | THU 11 SEP



SPOKEN WORD | SAT 13 SEP



VARIETY | SUN 14 SEP



SPOKEN WORD | SAT 20 SEP



SPOKEN WORD | SAT 20 SEP



SPOKEN WORD | SUN 21 SEP



VARIETY | MON 22 SEP



COMEDY | TUE 23 SEP



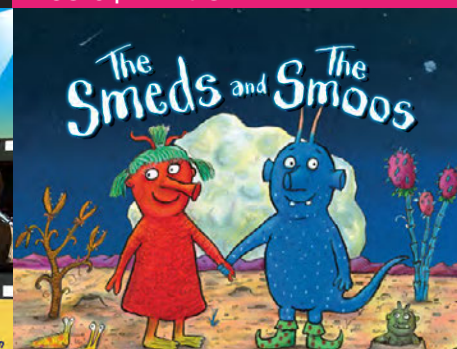
MUSIC | FRI 26 SEP



COMEDY | SUN 28 SEP



MUSIC | TUE 30 SEP



FAMILY | WED 1 OCT - THU 2 OCT

 <p>FRANCIS ROSSI</p>	 <p>entertainers presents THE MAGIC OF MOTOWN</p>	<p>WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET</p> 
MUSIC FRI 3 OCT	MUSIC SAT 4 OCT	DRAMA MON 6 OCT
<p>ANTIQUES EXPERT ON THE ROAD</p>  <p>Featuring MARK SMITH The Medals and Militaria Expert</p>	<p>AGATHA CHRISTIE & SIR DAVID SUCHET LIVE</p> 	<p>tall stories THE GRUFFALO'S CHILD</p>  <p>LIVE ON STAGE</p>
SPOKEN WORD TUE 7 OCT	SPOKEN WORD WED 8 OCT	FAMILY THU 9 OCT – SAT 11 OCT
<p>ABBAMANIA</p> 	<p>Oh eck! It's been 50 years..... SU POLLARD STILL FULLY CHARGED</p> 	
MUSIC SUN 12 OCT	COMEDY MON 13 OCT	DANCE TUE 14 OCT
<p>A TRIBUTE TO THE CARPENTERS</p> 	<p>Buddy THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY</p> 	<p>TIME of Death</p> 
MUSIC WED 15 OCT	MUSIC THU 16 – SAT 18 OCT	SPOKEN WORD SUN 19 OCT
<p>THE BEST OF HANS ZIMMER & FILM FAVOURITE ILLUMINATED</p> <p>PERFORMING THE BEST OF LION KING • STAR WARS • INCEPTION JURASSIC PARK • HARRY POTTER • E.T. GLADIATOR • JAMES BOND • AVATAR SCHINDLER'S LIST • INTERSTELLAR TITANIC LOTR MATRIX DUNE</p> 	<p>LEVEL 42</p>  <p>WITH SPECIAL GUESTS ROACHFORD WORLD MACHINE 40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR 2025</p>	
MUSIC MON 20 OCT	MUSIC TUE 21 OCT	COMEDY THU 23 OCT

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STEWART
MCHEYNE

WEST END LEGEND

DAN
BURTON



By Morgan Brind

"PHENOMENAL"

@thetunbridgewellsmummy - Panto 2024 Review

13 - 31 December 2025

assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk



Little
WOLF
entertainment

"What a fantastic show" ★★★★★

@MAMDOITBLOG 2024

Sleeping Beauty

by Morgan Brund



Assembly Hall
Theatre

Little
WOLF
entertainment

13 - 31 December 2025

Enjoy a brand-new spin on a much-loved yarn this Christmas with our action-packed spectacular and spellbinding adventure!

Leading the cast are TWO stars of TV and West End Theatre: **Lee Mead** and **Mina Anwar**, plus award-winning Dame **James Peake**, CBBC favourite **Stewart McCheyne**, and west end legend (and Olivier award nominee) **Dan Burton**.

Deep inside the Castle, Nurse Nancy is making plans for the christening of Princess Rose, when the wickedly glamorous Carabosse, a thorn in the royal family's side, discovers she's not invited and sets out to put a spindle in the works!

It's down to the dashing Prince Vince to hack his way through the thorny thicket, wake his true love and help her save the kingdom.

Will true love's kiss break the curse? Will Mervin the Magician ever get a spell right? Will Nurse Nancy look any better after a hundred years of beauty sleep?



With daring duels, doting dragons, lavish sets and costumes, and of course bucket loads of laughs, the team behind last year's smash hit, *Aladdin*, return to cast their spell over Tunbridge Wells once again.

If you snooze you lose, so book now, as tickets are already selling fast!

01892 554441

assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk AssemblyHallTheatre AssemblyHallTheatre

DATE	MORNING	MATINEE	EVENING
13 Dec		1pm	5pm
14 Dec		1pm	5pm
15 Dec	10am	1.45pm	
16 Dec	10am	1.45pm	
17 Dec	10am		7pm
18 Dec	NO PERFORMANCES		
19 Dec	10am		7pm
20 Dec		1pm	5pm
21 Dec		1pm	5pm
22 Dec		1pm	5pm
23 Dec		1pm	5pm
24 Dec	11am	3pm	
25 Dec	MERRY CHRISTMAS!		
26 Dec		1pm	5pm
27 Dec		1pm	5pm
28 Dec		1pm	5pm
29 Dec		1pm	5pm
30 Dec		1pm (SP)	5pm (RP)
31 Dec	11am	3pm	

	BAND A	BAND B	KIDS A	KIDS B
SCHOOLS: please email GroupBookings@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk				
GREEN	£32.00	£29.00	£22.00	£19.00
RED	£39.50	£36.50	£29.50	£26.50
PURPLE	£42.50	£39.50	£34.50	£31.50
GOLD	£45.00	£42.50	£38.00	£34.50

Groups of 8+ save 10%, Groups of 15+ Save 20%, Groups of 50+ save 30%^

Schools Tickets available at excellent rates. Plus schools receive 1 complimentary ticket with every 10 full priced tickets purchased.^

To purchase Schools or Group Bookings, please email GroupBookings@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk

(SP) Signed / (RP) Relaxed Performance: See website for details.

*(cannot be used in conjunction with other offers, terms and conditions apply, offer only valid until 30 June inclusive). Not valid on Schools or Green Performances.

^(cannot be used in conjunction with other offers, terms and conditions apply)

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

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Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre: 01892 540744
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This autumn in Tunbridge Wells...



VISIT
TUNBRIDGE
WELLS

The sun may have set on summer but that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy the great outdoors. Tunbridge Wells truly comes to life in autumn. From the dazzling displays of flowers in Scotney and Sissinghurst Castles to the autumnal hues in Hargate Forest and Broadwater Warren. We've picked some of the best activities to enjoy this autumn.

High Weald Walking Festival

The High Weald Walking Festival is back and this year there are a series of walks taking place across Tunbridge Wells. Visit Tunbridge Wells has teamed up with Boots On Adventures to offer a free guided history walk from Cranbrook to Sissinghurst on 21 September. Starting on the beautiful Cranbrook High Street and walking the surrounding fields of Sissinghurst Castle Gardens. Hear tales of ghostly murderer, evacuees, grumpy prisoners of war and bohemian parties!



We're also offering a wonderful woodland walk on 13 September from Sherwood Lake & Woodland, Tunbridge Wells.

 highwealdwalks.org/guided-walks

 bootsonadventures.co.uk

Scotney Castle

Autumn is one of the best times to visit Scotney Castle as the gardens put on one final dazzling display before winter sets in. The castle grounds are lit up with yellow and orange hues creating the perfect backdrop to autumn events. Head to the castle on 13 and 14 September for the Heritage & Harvest Autumn Fair or visit the Victorian mansion house to see 'A Century of Costume at Scotney Castle' on display until 2 November.



 nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/scotney-castle

Tunbridge Wells Food & Drink Festival

Foodies will love the display of food and drink on offer at this year's festival in Calverley Grounds. Try, taste and buy from stallholders selling a delicious range of food and drink produced in and around Kent and from across the globe. This year's festival runs on 27 and 28 September.



For more information about these and all upcoming events visit

 visittunbridgewells.com/events

