

AUTUMN 2026 Local



news from your borough council

RVP footfall up 1.2 million since Council takeover

pages 14-15

also inside...

Flying the Flag
page 4

Walking, cycling, connecting
pages 6-7

Step into the Amelia Scott
pages 12-13



Artist's impression



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Dear resident

Welcome to the latest edition of our residents' magazine.

There's plenty to celebrate and look forward to across the borough, and this issue highlights some of the exciting projects and achievements helping to shape our future.

You'll find an update on Royal Victoria Place, including the transformation of the car park, which now offers larger parking bays, a refreshed look, improved waterproofing works and solar panels. It's the first council-owned car park to generate renewable energy, helping to reduce energy costs at RVP (see page 16). We also share news of planning approval for the Palm Court redevelopment, which will create a brighter, more attractive and welcoming space for residents, businesses and visitors (see page 14).

We're proud to be the first council in the UK to achieve a BSI award on our journey to Net Zero, and to have once again retained Green Flag status for six of our parks and open spaces (see page 4). There are also updates on active travel, recycling, local projects and the changes ahead through Local Government Reorganisation, with Kent moving to a four-council structure.

As always, the magazine is jam-packed with news, events and stories to keep you informed about what's happening across the borough. I hope you enjoy reading it.

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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Tunbridge Wells' Green Spaces Fly the Flag

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is celebrating after six of its parks and open spaces once again achieved the prestigious Green Flag Award, the international benchmark for quality parks and green spaces.

Dunorlan Park, Grosvenor & Hilbert Park, Calverley Grounds, Woodbury Park Cemetery, The Grove and St John's Recreation Ground have all retained the coveted status, recognising them among the very best managed green spaces in the country. In addition, Dunorlan Park and Grosvenor & Hilbert Park have also retained Green Heritage Site Accreditation, recognising the excellent management and promotion of their historic features.



Tunbridge Wells' parks and green spaces play an important role in supporting health and wellbeing, encouraging recreation, enhancing biodiversity and contributing to the borough's reputation as an attractive place to live, work and invest. They provide valuable spaces for community events, leisure activities

and tourism, helping to make the borough a vibrant and desirable destination.

The Green Flag Award scheme celebrates well-managed parks and green spaces across the UK and around the world.

Remembrance Ceremonies in Tunbridge Wells

Each year, communities across the borough come together to remember those who served in the Armed Forces and the civilian organisations that supported them. Remembrance events provide an opportunity to honour their service and sacrifice, and to reflect on the cost of conflict to service personnel, veterans and their families.

Everyone is welcome to attend these ceremonies. If you are an Armed Forces veteran, please join us to ensure your contribution is recognised.

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

Remembrance Sunday 8 November

10.45am The Service of Remembrance, Parade and March Past

The War Memorial on Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells.

The Service will be amplified and livestreamed on the TWBC website and YouTube channel. 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 Wednesday 11 November

10.50am 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.

We will remember them.

News in brief

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

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



TunbridgeWellsBoroughCouncil



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TWellsbc

Giving Every Child a Fair Start

St Georges Childcare provides subsidised childcare places for young children in Tunbridge Wells who need them most, helping every child get the best possible start in life and providing vital support to families during challenging times. Find out more [stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk/about-us/st-georges-charity](https://www.stgeorgeschildcare.co.uk/about-us/st-georges-charity)

Heat Pumps for Oil Heated Homes

Do you use heating oil to heat your home? If so, you could be eligible for a new £9,000 government grant to upgrade to a heat pump, helping to protect your energy bill from price spikes. Check out the Council website [tunbridgewells.gov.uk](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

Charge While You Park

Great news for EV drivers in St John's. Eight new 11kW charging points have been installed at St John's Car Park, offering a convenient charging option for residents and visitors. Perfect for overnight or longer-stay parking, charging costs just 56p per kWh.

New Little Free Library Opens in Sissinghurst

Book lovers can now enjoy the new Sissinghurst Little Free Library beside the Village Hall. Open 24/7, it's free to use: take a book, leave a book, or simply browse.

Memorial Safety Testing at Tunbridge Wells Cemetery

Tunbridge Wells Cemetery has begun a programme of memorial safety testing to ensure memorials remain safe and stable. Grave owners are contacted if a memorial is found to be unsafe. Notices in the cemetery advise which sections are being tested. For more information, visit [kentandsussexcrematorium.com](https://www.kentandsussexcrematorium.com)

Better Signal, Easier Parking!

Paying for parking at Crescent Road car park is now even easier. New mobile phone signal boosters have been installed, helping drivers access the RingGo app quickly and reliably.

How our Social Housing is Allocated

Myth 1: Other councils can buy social housing in our borough

False. When developers build social housing in Tunbridge Wells borough, those homes are allocated through Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's housing register. Other councils cannot buy them for their own housing lists.

Myth 2: Other councils send social housing tenants here

False. Councils can place homeless households in temporary accommodation outside their area if needed, but this is not social housing. In Tunbridge Wells, we receive very few households from other council areas.

For more information about our Housing Register and allocation process, visit [tunbridgewells.gov.uk/housing/housing-register](https://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/housing/housing-register)



New investment boosts active travel across the borough

Exciting improvements to make it easier and safer to walk, wheel and cycle across Tunbridge Wells borough are moving forward, thanks to investment from Active Travel England.

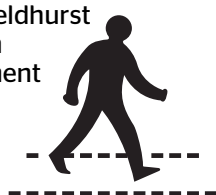
A range of projects are progressing across the borough, from improving routes between local communities and schools to providing secure bike storage in town centres. The programme is being delivered in partnership with Kent County Council and aims to give residents more options for travelling sustainably, whether they're walking, using a wheelchair or mobility scooter, cycling or pushing a pram.

Safer links between Langton Green, Rusthall, the Commons and Royal Tunbridge Wells

Plans to create safer connections between Langton Green, Rusthall, the Commons and Royal Tunbridge Wells are gathering pace.

Following public engagement last year, funding has been secured for the first phase of the scheme, focused on Rusthall High Street, with construction expected to begin later this year. Improvements include upgraded crossings, continuous footways and an extension of existing 20mph speed limits.

Meanwhile, engagement and design continues on other sections of the route. Guided walks with local stakeholders including schools, the Commons Conservators, and Rusthall and Speldhurst parish councils, have already taken place, with further public engagement planned for September.



Improving links between Royal Tunbridge Wells and Hawkenbury

Residents could soon benefit from better connections between Hawkenbury and Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre.

Designs have already been prepared for improvements to walking, wheeling and cycling routes, with funding now in place to support public engagement on the proposals. Engagement is also planned on improvements between Carrs Corner and London Road (A264), with both projects expected to move forward later this year.



Langton Green Rusthall the Commons RTW active travel route engagement event.



Grove Hill Road pedestrian crossing.
Image credit - Urban Movement



Stakeholder engagement walks in Langton Green.



Cyclehoop secure storage hangar in use in The Pantiles.
Image credit - Cyclehoop



Carrs Corner roundabout - RTW Cross Town Route.



Pedestrians cross Speldhurst Road near
Langton Green Primary School.



Junction of Crescent Road, Church Road and Mount
Pleasant Road - RTW Cross Town Route.

New secure bike parking

Cyclists can now benefit from two new secure bike hangars in Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre, offering a convenient and safe place to park for visits to the town. The hangar locations are Crescent Road Car Park (pedestrian entrance off Monson Road) and Lower Walk, The Pantiles.

Parking costs just 50p for up to two hours and is accessed through the HooplR app. Instructions for downloading the app are displayed on each hangar. To find out more about using the hangars and view frequently asked questions, visit hooplR.com/trips

The project is being funded through Active Travel England, alongside support from the Royal Tunbridge Wells Together Business Improvement District (BID). A further bike hangar is also planned for Paddock Wood town centre, with the location to be agreed in partnership with the Town Council.

Bike hangar introductory offer

If you are cycling into Royal Tunbridge Wells town centre, you can now store your bike in one of two new secure, weatherproof bike hangars.

For a limited period, new users can get 50% off credit by entering the code **TWELLS** when adding credit to their account. Get £5.00 of cycle parking credit for just £2.50.

Download the HooplR app for details: hooplR.com

Offer valid until 30 September 2026.

Southborough Walking Routes

Further plans are being explored to improve walking routes between Southborough town centre and High Brooms Station, including areas around local schools, with Active Travel England funding.

Together, these projects form part of a wider programme to give residents greater choice in how they travel, helping create safer, healthier and more connected communities across the borough. Looking to the future, funding has also been earmarked to review and develop designs along the A26 between Royal Tunbridge Wells and the borough boundary with Tonbridge & Malling.

Safer journeys to school

Work is continuing to develop safer routes around several primary schools in the St John's and St James' wards of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The project aims to make it easier and safer for children, parents and carers to walk, wheel or cycle to school. Kent County Council's Active Travel team is leading further design work, and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council will be engaging directly with the schools.

Cabinet update

Cllr Ben Chapelard

Leader of the Council

The Government's decision to create a new West Kent unitary council marks the beginning of an important period of change for our area.



From April 2028, services currently delivered by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent County Council will be brought together under a single authority covering Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling and Maidstone. The aim is to make local government simpler and easier for residents to access. Read more on page 17.

While planning for the new council is now under way, I want to reassure residents that there will be no immediate changes to council services. You should continue to access services in the usual way.

As we shape the new council, a key priority will be ensuring that the distinctive character of Tunbridge Wells borough and the needs of our communities continue to be represented. That is one of the reasons we have supported proposals for a town council for Royal Tunbridge Wells, bringing the town in line with other towns and villages across the borough and helping to ensure a strong local voice remains at the heart of decision-making. Read more on page 30.

This is a significant change, and we will keep residents informed as plans progress.

Cllr Mark Ellis

Innovation and Transformation

Digital transformation is often most successful when it goes unnoticed, simply making services easier, faster and more accessible. A

recent example is the new Amelia Scott website, developed entirely in-house by our Digital Services team. Serving as the digital front door to one of our borough's most important



cultural and community destinations, the new website has been redesigned around the needs of residents and visitors, with a fresh modern appearance, enhanced accessibility, improved navigation and a much more intuitive events and learning experience.

The new platform makes it easier to discover what's on, access services, sign up for activities and engage with everything The Amelia Scott has to offer. By bringing development in-house, we have reduced costs, increased our ability to respond to user feedback and created a website that we can continue to evolve as customer needs change. It is an excellent example of how investment in digital skills and transformation can deliver better services and greater value for residents.

Cllr Christopher Hall

Finance and Property

A couple of momentous decisions took place in July which will shape how local government is done in Kent, and how your services will be delivered but it could also affect your finances and what you can expect for your money when you pay Council Tax. The first big decision was the one from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to abolish all principal councils in Kent and to create a West Kent Council from 1 April 2028. This new council will take on delivery of all services currently provided by Kent County Council, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone councils. The second was a vote at TWBC to create a new Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Council for the town. You may be forgiven for wondering whether this will affect you financially and while I think both moves have the potential to be very positive, provided the Prime Minister devolves power to the new regional councils, you may be wondering if this will affect your Council Tax.

A new Town Council for Tunbridge Wells will come into being in May 2027 but a budget will be set beforehand. It will start to



levy something called a precept, which is an extra levy of tax on top of the usual amount you would pay in Council Tax. Residents of Southborough, Paddock Wood and rural areas like Cranbrook are used to seeing this on their bills but for anyone in the town of Tunbridge Wells, this will be new. How much could this amount be? A town council does not have a cap on how much it can raise to cover its costs so this is something we're all going to have to look out for and quiz our election candidates about when we elect them. If the services it runs are quite small, like running allotments or public toilets, then the extra precept will also be quite modest. If the council runs other services like car parks or purchases larger assets, then the charges would be higher. It's anticipated that the new council will probably start small and grow gradually over a number of years.

There is also a chance that our Council Tax for the new West Kent Authority could go up because not all Council Tax levels in West Kent are the same. Maidstone is the highest at an average of £310.68 and Tunbridge Wells the lowest at an average of £217.10. Over time these tax levels will be brought together under something called Council Tax Equalisation, which for us in Tunbridge Wells is likely to mean tax going up towards the higher levels to make it universally fair across West Kent. I have recommended when asked that this is phased over a long period to reduce any shocks to residents. Plus we will really want to see good value in return for the increase.

As ever I am conscious that it's your money that I'm taking care of at TWBC and will be working hard with my colleagues to give you the best value for your Council Tax until 2028.

Cllr Corinna Keefe

Housing and Communities

As we head into a new school year, I'm looking back and celebrating the progress we've made with youth hubs in the past year.

The Paddock Wood youth hub, in association with the YMCA, has gone



from strength to strength. Over in Horsmonden, the youth hub at St Margaret's Church has expanded their activities with an upgraded outdoor area and arts workshops with Trinity Theatre. Meanwhile, a new youth hub in Rusthall has made a strong start. It's been great to see so much support from the Rusthall community.

We've also had outdoor activities running in different parks over the summer holidays. Watch this space as we continue to develop new youth hubs in parishes across the borough.

Cllr Matt Lowe

Planning

I'm pleased to report that the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has now been formally adopted by the Council. At a time when our environment can feel under threat, it's important that we are able to support and make use of the valuable work like this.



Produced by some of the leading experts across the county, the strategy is an important step in helping us protect and improve nature in our borough and the wider Kent and Medway area. It identifies the places that are already important for wildlife and biodiversity, to help ensure they are protected and better connected. It also highlights areas where there are opportunities to create new habitats and support nature's recovery in the future.

Importantly, the strategy will help guide investment and action to the places where it can make the biggest difference, and support planning decisions by recognising and safeguarding our most valuable natural environments.

The Council was actively involved in developing the strategy and will use it to help inform decisions that support biodiversity and environmental improvements locally.

You can find out more at:
naturerecoverykent.org.uk/

Cllr Justine Rutland

Economic Development and Deputy Leader

The Amelia Scott was buzzing over the summer holidays, as hundreds of mini Indiana Joneses explored the Archaeology Adventure exhibition, uncovering local finds dating as far back as Roman Britain. There is still a little bit of time left to visit (until 4 October). By the time you read this, the Amelia Scott's new website will be live, making it easier to explore everything, and every event, this wonderful civic centre has to offer: knitting festivals, iguanodon bones, 20th-century Tunbridge Wells hats, a stuffed Arctic Fox, flint tools found at the High Rocks and portraits by Reynolds and Gainsborough, to name just a few. There are also new maps and family guides to ensure you get the most from your visit.



Meanwhile, Cranbrook Museum put on a gem of an exhibition about the Benenden architect George Devey. Drawing on its rich local collections, its autumn highlight is A History of Clock and Watchmaking in Cranbrook. The museum is open Tuesdays to Saturdays until the end of October.

Congratulations to the team at the Assembly Hall Theatre, which is not only relentless in its pursuit of exciting programming but also improving the theatre experience. Launching soon is a 'view from seat' tool which will allow customers to see exactly what their seat view will be like before they buy their tickets. The theatre has excellent sightlines, and this will help those coming for the first time to get a sense of where they will be located for a performance. Also, look out for a new digital platform that allows customers to order interval drinks and snacks from their phones.

Cllr Pamela Wilkinson

Sports, Leisure, and Health

Local authority sports centres play a vital role in our communities, providing subsidised access which



ensures more residents can benefit from their health and social benefits. When Fusion Lifestyle entered administration, we were committed to protecting and improving these assets and I am therefore thrilled we have entered a contact with SERCO Leisure. Getting the new contract over the line required immense hard work as well as the support of SERCO but we successfully secured a smooth transition which safeguarded local jobs and continuity of service.

This new contract represents a positive step forward, with residents already noticing immediate improvements to cleanliness and presentation. Planned investment will see an upgrade to the gyms, modernisation of the studios, expansion of the children's swimming programme and the strengthening of the GP referral scheme, fulfilling our ultimate goal to inspire residents of all ages and abilities to get active.

Cllr Rob Wormington

Environment and Sustainability

There are two key developments in my portfolio that I'd like to share.



Firstly, I am very proud to say that Tunbridge Wells is the first local authority in the UK to have its route to net zero accredited by the BSI. In practice, this means that our plans to reduce emissions have been independently assessed and found to be both robust and achievable. This provides a strong foundation for our future work, and for future councils to build upon. Read more on page 18.

Secondly, we have the fantastic news that the solar panels on the roof of Royal Victoria Place have now been switched on. They will provide over a third of the energy needed for the site, making a positive contribution to both the environment and the Council's finances. The panels also create a canopy over part of the top floor of the car park, so do take a look the next time you're visiting.



A Brand New Celebration of Creativity!

This October 2026, we will be proudly launching our very first Paddock Wood Fringe Festival!

It's a month-long celebration of local creativity, participation and community spirit through the visual and performing arts.

Inspired by the energy of the Edinburgh Fringe and running alongside the popular Paddock Wood Proms classical concerts, this new festival promises to be informal, inclusive and full of surprises. It's a chance for everyone in Paddock Wood and surrounding areas to discover and celebrate the fantastic talent and creativity right on our doorstep.

Already confirmed highlights include:

- Beer & Beatles with Paddock Wood Ukulele Club in the John Brunt VC pub
- a beautiful Faith & Nature art exhibition
- Paddock Wood Community Voices "Songs from Stage and Screen" singalong
- many more exciting performances and workshops still to be announced

Community groups, schools, artists, musicians and makers of all ages and backgrounds are warmly invited to open their doors and take part. Host a show, workshop, taster session or work-in-progress in your usual venue or any suitable space around town. We especially hope to reflect the rich cultural diversity of Paddock Wood residents.

The festival will culminate in a grand showcase, "The Last Night of the Fringe", at the end of October, bringing together performers from across the event for one big celebration.

All events are completely free, ensuring everyone can join in the fun regardless of age or circumstances.

Full details, dates and venues will appear on the Paddock Wood Fringe website, paddockwoodfringe.org.uk, and **PaddockWoodFringe** on both Facebook and Instagram.

Come and be part of something special... your town, your creativity, your Fringe! See you there!



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SCAN TO REPORT

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.

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 2027.

Thank you for helping keep the register up to date.



Young people aged 16 and 17 can register to vote now. Registering now means they won't miss out once they reach voting age.

twbc.online/elections

This Autumn, Every Weekend is a Mini Break



Who says you have to travel far to escape the everyday? This autumn, your next great day out could be just a few miles from home. Treat your weekend like a mini break and discover some of the borough's best-loved attractions, alongside a few hidden gems. Whether you're trying a new restaurant, exploring a historic site, or uncovering a part of the borough you've never visited before, there's plenty to inspire an autumn adventure.

Top attractions to visit

Nestled in peaceful countryside near Lamberhurst, the romantic Gothic ruins of **Bayham Old Abbey** offer centuries of history, tranquil walks and unforgettable views. It's the perfect partner to pair with a visit to **Scotney Castle** or lunch at one of the area's welcoming eateries.

In the heart of Royal Tunbridge Wells, **The Amelia Scott** combines a museum, art gallery and library under one roof. Its fascinating collection helps tell the history of Tunbridge Wells borough. It's well worth a visit to uncover the area's past and learn more about where you live. Look out for temporary exhibitions too.

Another way to learn about Royal Tunbridge Wells' history is to step back through time as you ascend the steps of **Trinity Theatre's Clocktower**. Exhibitions and interactive displays await on each floor, culminating in panoramic views across Royal Tunbridge Wells. Free tickets are available on Tuesdays and Saturdays until 31 October.

Prefer to enjoy the great outdoors? Join one of **Bedgebury Pinetum's** guided autumn walks and explore the spectacular changing seasonal colours on display. Walks take place at 10am on 4, 9, 17 and 26 October. Or discover the fascinating stories behind Royal Tunbridge Wells with a guided history walk. Public tours are available through The Pantiles Events, while private tours can be arranged by contacting visit@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Explore the countryside on foot

Walking is one of the best ways to explore the borough and discover places you've never been before. For keen walkers, the Tunbridge Wells Circular offers a marathon-length 27-mile walk that can be completed in a day. Alternatively, choose from four shorter circular walks, all starting and finishing in Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The Pembury Circular takes walkers through Tudeley Woods and towards the village of **Tudeley**, where a short detour leads to All Saints' Church and its remarkable Marc Chagall stained-glass windows. Afterwards, stop at The Poacher and Partridge for a refreshing drink or bite to eat before making your way back.



Taste something new

Whether it's new to you, or one of the brand-new restaurants recently opened in the borough, why not try a new eatery this autumn?

Senza Fondeli, Royal Tunbridge Wells

A charming Italian restaurant on The Pantiles serving coffee, brunch, lunch, and dinner, with highlights including bottomless lasagne nights and al fresco aperitivos.

Sentido Restaurant, Sandhurst

An authentic Spanish restaurant in rural Kent, specialising in traditional tapas and paella.

Portofino Ristorante & Pizzeria, Royal Tunbridge Wells

A newly opened Italian restaurant near Tunbridge Wells station, serving classic pizzas and pasta dishes.

Willow & Sage, Cranbrook

An award winning Cranbrook favourite, offering brunch, Sunday roasts, and more right in the heart of the historic town.

What's on this autumn

12 September: Natural History Museum Presents: Dinosaurs Live at The Assembly Hall Theatre

26 September: Space Safari: Drone and Light Show at Dunorlan Park

26 & 27 September: Food & Drink Festival at Calverley Grounds

October 2026: Howard Hodgkin: In a Public Garden Exhibition at The Amelia Scott

See all events at visittunbridgewells.com/events

Youth Programme

Creative Clothing Lab

Spend a day with fashion professional, Penny Warner.

4 Oct 2026

This is a creative fashion workshop exploring clothing as a form of identity, communication and self-expression. Participants customise T-shirts using paint, stencil, appliqué and mixed media techniques, experimenting with graphic imagery, text, layering and expressive surface design.



Documentary Making Intensive

Calling video journalists of the future! This is your chance to have fun and learn some brilliant skills!

26 Oct-28 Oct 2026

This immersive and exciting 3-day course, aimed at young people aged 13-19, will take you through the process of creating your own documentary, you will produce and direct your own short documentary on a local issue, giving your voice and work a platform from which to be heard.



Creative Health at The Amelia

Our creative health programme has grown significantly over the last few months. We are pleased to announce that we have successfully launched three new programmes, with more on the horizon.

A new bereavement support group has been meeting weekly, learning about the collection and then working with their hands to paint, sculpt or create something meaningful to them. This supportive environment has led to friendly chat, and connection when sharing everyone's experiences.



In August we launched Create and Connect to encourage positive mental health habits through visual arts. This weekly, welcoming group meets to experiment with watercolour, photography, collage and while creating connections within their community.

Finally, we have been working with the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Housing team to establish a wellbeing group for those with housing needs.

If you would like to enquire about any of these groups please e mail creativehealth@theamelia.co.uk

What's on

October Half Term

26 October

Messy Monday

Every Weds, Fri & Sat

Discovery Days

31 October

Coffee Concert

Halloween Silent Disco

Dates for your Diary - On Sale Soon

20 November

Prosecco & Printing with Gemma

26 November

Kids Printing Workshop

11 & 12 December

Christmas Wreath Making

Elf Workshops - throughout December

Upcoming Exhibition

Howard Hodgkin: In a Public Garden

23 October 2026 – 21 February 2027

A major print retrospective of one of
Britain's most celebrated artists



In a Public Garden brings together more than forty vibrant and richly worked prints by Howard Hodgkin. Spanning five decades of his career (from 1966 to 2016), the exhibition offers a vivid introduction to an acclaimed artist celebrated for his extraordinary use of colour and his ability to turn personal moments into powerful visual experiences. We are delighted to welcome this touring exhibition from Pitzhanger Gallery in London.

As always our exhibitions are **FREE** for all to enjoy.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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PITZHANGER
MANOR & GALLERY

Citizens Advice at The Amelia

A new service has launched
in The Amelia...a Citizens
Advice Bureau (CAB)
Video Kiosk!

If you wish to use CAB
services in Tunbridge Wells,
you have several options:

- **Make a Video Call** - from a Video Kiosk; already operational at over 40 locations across Kent, including The Amelia Scott.

Video Kiosks enable people, who may not be digitally confident, to access alternative face-to-face advice in their local area.

Days and times that the video kiosk is available will differ according to the community space it is located in.

- **Make a Video Call** - from the comfort of your own home using your own laptop/tablet/smartphone - Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.
- **Visit the CAB office** - 8th floor of RVP, Tunbridge Wells - open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am-2pm, where a CAB team member will guide you on what to do next.
- **Telephone CAB**: 0808 278 7810 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

More information at: kentadvicehub.com

citizens
advice



The Amelia
Video Kiosk
is open
Wednesdays
and Fridays
2pm-4pm.

Want help with a Bus Pass?

Whilst we are unable to help with Bus Passes, at The Amelia Scott you can apply for, renew or replace a lost Older Person's or Disabled Person's Bus Pass through Kent County Council.

See kent.gov.uk/buspass, email buspass@kent.gov.uk or telephone **03000 41 83 83**.



ROYAL VICTORIA PLACE

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Changing Times Focus on Palm Court

Exciting progress is being made on the Royal Victoria Place development project, bringing us another step closer to creating a vibrant, modern destination at the heart of Tunbridge Wells.

Following extensive community engagement and feedback, the designs continue to evolve and become more detailed. We are delighted that planning permission has now been granted for the Palm Court element of the project, marking a significant milestone in the transformation.

The images on the right show artist's impressions of the proposed refurbishment bringing a bright, welcoming and contemporary space. The architectural design draws inspiration from Decimus Burton's Palm House at Kew Gardens and also reflects the curved roof style in the Atrium at the Amelia Scott.



Artist's impressions of Palm Court future refurbishment

Key improvements include:

- More accessible facilities, including new and improved toilets.
- Removal of the scenic lift to open up the central atrium and create a greater sense of space.
- The former opening to the lower level, which previously housed an escalator, will be infilled, creating a much larger ground-floor area and making Palm Court feel even more spacious and welcoming for visitors.
- A new environmentally friendly roof, supporting the Council's sustainability and carbon reduction ambitions.
- Enhanced retail spaces designed to attract the brands and businesses residents want to see in the borough.
- Improved lighting, new flooring, refreshed finishes and modern glass balustrades throughout.
- A new leisure offering within the former basement food court area.

Together, these improvements will transform Palm Court into a lighter, brighter and more inviting environment for shoppers, visitors and businesses alike, helping to ensure Royal Victoria Place remains a thriving destination for years to come.

The refined designs will be presented to Full Council for endorsement in November, and we look forward to sharing further updates as the project continues to move forward.



Artist's impression

The decision on the application for listing of 3-7 Camden Road has delayed the designs of the cinema, leisure and food and beverage development of Ely Court, but we will be excited to progress these designs once we are in a position to do so.

The car park refurbishment is now complete, featuring improved parking spaces and solar panels that generate renewable energy for the centre.

Together, we're building a brighter, greener and more vibrant future for the heart of Tunbridge Wells. For more information about the Royal Victoria Place transformation, visit rvpfuture.com

Royal Victoria Place

Successes since Tunbridge Wells Borough Council took ownership



+£1.685m

New Net Operating Income secured (24 new tenants, 25 renewals)



£925k

Saved in service charges for tenants



+340k

Footfall per annum



25.1%

Increased footfall this year

Royal Victoria Place has attracted **24 new tenants**, including popular brands like **Kidsbury**, **Sostrene Grene** and **Jamaica Blue**.

A major milestone is the arrival of **Primark**, with a 31,000 sq ft flagship store featuring entrances on both mall levels.

People aged under 35, who participated in a 2024 survey by the Borough Council, identified Primark as the number one brand they wanted to come to the town centre.

Planning permission granted in June 2026 for **Palm Court development**.

Ely Court development design programme awaiting Government decision on listing.

Increased **social media followers** by approx **4,000**.

Content interaction on social media up by **over 100%**.

Fundraising activities raised **over £100k** in donations.

Supported **over 50 charities and community groups** across **64 events**.

Hosted **over 50 free events**.

NEXT EDITION

The buzz isn't slowing down at Royal Victoria Place! In the next edition, hear directly from some of the newer businesses in RVP, along with established businesses embracing their new surroundings. With excitement continuing to build among retailers, shoppers and residents alike, there's plenty more to look forward to.

More Than a Car Park:

RVP's £10.6m Transformation Delivers for Visitors and the Environment

Royal Victoria Place Car Park has been transformed into a modern, sustainable facility that is helping to power RVP while providing a brighter, safer and more accessible experience for visitors.

Royal Victoria Place Car Park has undergone a major transformation, delivering a modern, future-ready facility for shoppers, workers and visitors to Tunbridge Wells.

The £10.6 million refurbishment has extended the life of the car park for years to come while significantly improving the customer experience. The order was placed just before tensions in the Middle East resulted in a spike to both the cost of raw materials required and shipping costs. This decision also ensured that the project was completed on time and within the revised budget. The project was carefully phased so that the car park could remain open throughout most of the works.

Visitors will immediately notice the difference. The refurbished car park now offers 959 extra-wide parking spaces, including accessible and parent-and-child bays, making it easier to park today's larger vehicles and giving drivers more room to get in and out comfortably.

Improved lighting, clearer signage and colour-coded levels have created a brighter, safer and more welcoming environment, helping customers find their way around with confidence.

"This is more than a car park. It's helping to power Royal Victoria Place while making parking easier, safer and more accessible for visitors."

Generating clean energy

One of the most exciting features sits on the roof.

A new solar canopy containing 973 solar panels is expected to generate enough renewable electricity each year to supply around 40% of Royal Victoria Place's annual power needs.

Visitors will be able to see the impact for themselves through a new display in the shopping centre showing how much electricity is being generated and used in real time.

The system is expected to save almost 90 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, supporting the Council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions while cutting energy costs.

Built for the future

Alongside the visible improvements, extensive structural repairs, waterproofing and resurfacing works have protected the building for the long-term, ensuring this important town centre asset continues to serve residents, businesses and visitors for many years to come.

The result is more than a refurbishment. It's a modern, sustainable facility that supports the town centre economy, improves the visitor experience and helps power a greener future for Tunbridge Wells.

At a glance

£10.6m

Investment delivered

959

Extra-wide parking spaces

973

Solar panels installed

40%

Of RVP's electricity needs supplied by solar power

89 tonnes

Annual CO² saving

71 weeks

Project duration

On time

Delivered ahead of key milestones

On budget

Completed within approved funding



973 solar panels installed on RVP car park roof

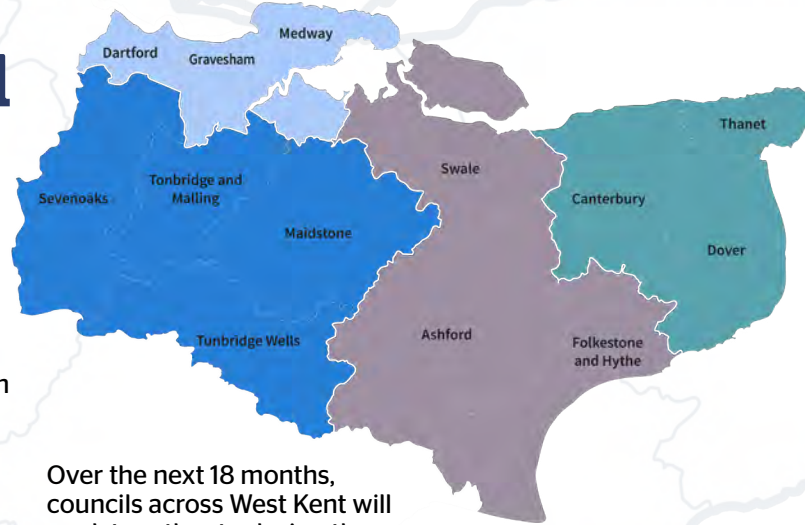
Government Confirms New West Kent Council

Residents across Tunbridge Wells will be served by a new West Kent unitary council from 1 April 2028, following confirmation from the Government.

The new council will bring together services currently provided by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council under a single authority. West Kent Council will be one of four new councils in Kent.

For residents, the aim is to make local government simpler, with one council responsible for services that are currently delivered by two. This could make it easier to access support, get things done and understand who to contact when help is needed.

While this is a significant change for local government in Kent, there will be no immediate changes to council services. Residents should continue to access services in the usual way while plans for the new council are developed.



Over the next 18 months, councils across West Kent will work together to design the new organisation, building on existing partnerships and shared services. The focus will be on creating a council that can deliver high-quality services, support local communities and businesses, and represent the needs of West Kent into the future.

We'll continue to keep residents updated as plans progress and more information becomes available.

TN2 Gateway Takes Shape at North Farm

A major new business development is rapidly taking shape at North Farm Industrial Estate, creating modern, sustainable space for companies looking to invest and grow in Tunbridge Wells.

Located on Kingstanding Way, TN2 Gateway will provide around 500,000 sq ft of high-quality warehouse and industrial accommodation across nine units. Work began in January 2025 and construction is progressing well, with the first three units now complete. The remaining buildings are expected to be finished by 2027.

Sustainability is at the heart of the scheme. TN2 Gateway is being built to achieve BREEAM Outstanding and EPC A+ ratings, recognised as the highest standards for energy-efficient and environmentally responsible buildings in the UK.

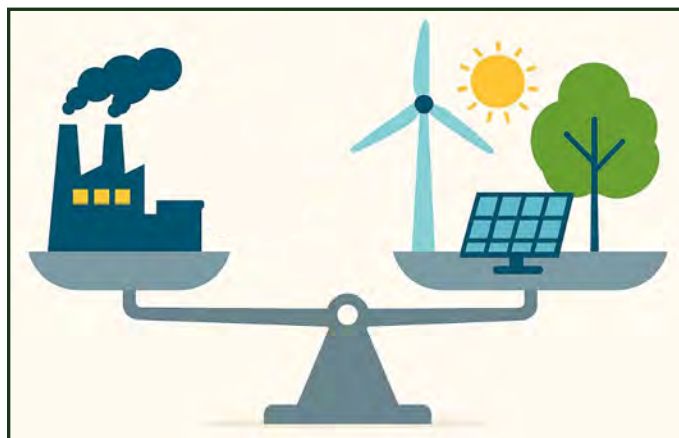
Features include solar panels on every building, carbon-neutral heating systems, energy-efficient LED lighting and electric vehicle charging facilities. The development will also include extensive landscaping, with wildflower meadows, a pond, more than 350 new trees and green buffer zones to create an attractive setting for businesses and wildlife alike.



Artist's impression

Climate Action Spotlight

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has become the first local authority in the UK to achieve independent verification against the BSI Net Zero Pathway.



This recognises the Council's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a clear, evidence-based plan that meets nationally recognised standards. It gives residents confidence that progress towards net zero is being measured, monitored and independently verified.

New strategy

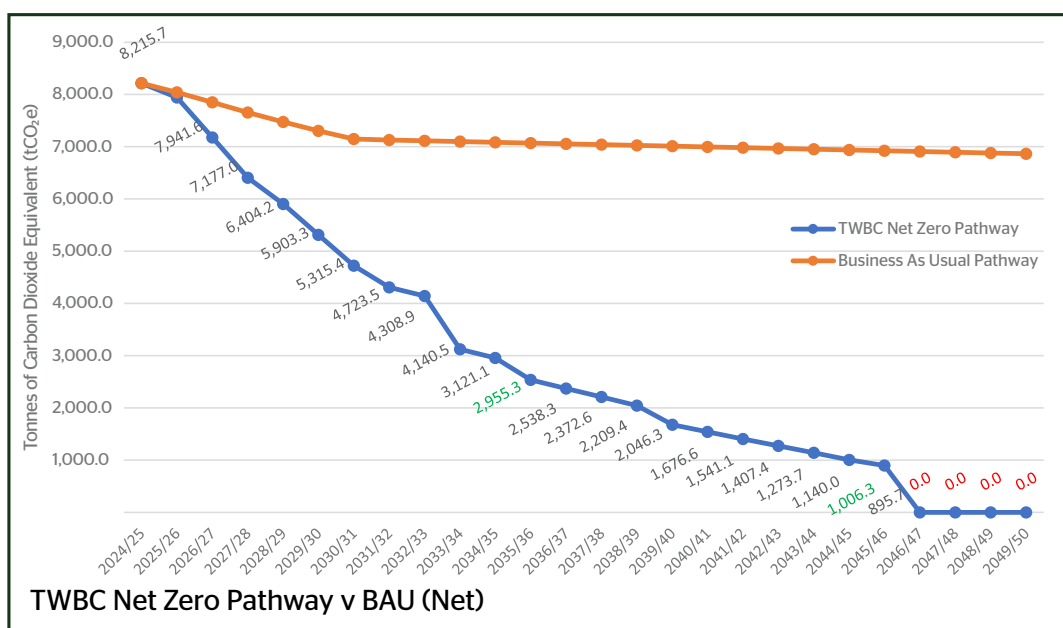
In July 2026, Full Council approved a new Corporate Net Zero Strategy, setting out how the Council will reduce emissions across its operations, services and supply chain. The strategy commits the Council to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 31 March 2047.

The Council has already reduced its direct operational emissions by more than 50% since 2018. The new strategy focuses on cutting emissions as far as possible before considering the limited use of carbon offsets.

Borough Emissions Continue to Fall

The latest Government statistics show that greenhouse gas emissions across Tunbridge Wells borough have continued to decrease:

- 2.3% reduction between 2023 and 2024
- 33.1% reduction since 2014
- 48.1% reduction since 2005



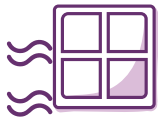
To read the Corporate Net Zero Strategy, visit:

twbcclimateaction.co.uk/what-were-doing/corporate-net-zero-strategy

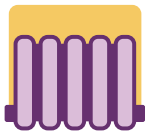
Get Your Home Ready for Winter

With colder weather on the way, now is a good time to improve your home's energy efficiency. Small changes can make a noticeable difference to your comfort and heating costs.

Six Simple Ways to Save Energy



Stop draughts around doors, windows, loft hatches and letterboxes.



Service your boiler and bleed radiators to help your heating system work efficiently.



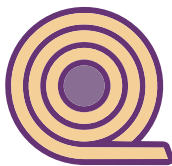
Use heating controls wisely. Turning your thermostat down by just 1°C can reduce energy use while keeping your home comfortable.



Close curtains at dusk to help keep heat indoors.



Switch to LED bulbs, which use less electricity and last much longer than traditional lighting.



Check your insulation. Topping up loft insulation and insulating hot water pipes can help reduce heat loss and lower your energy bills.

For more energy-saving advice, visit:

tunbridgewells.gov.uk/housing/energy-advice/save-energy



Recycling Reminder

Before requesting an additional bin, consider whether you could:

- Flatten cardboard and place it beside your recycling box.
- Reduce food waste through meal planning and freezing leftovers.
- Compost food and garden waste where possible.
- Recycle more of the items currently going into your refuse bin.
- Reuse or recycle unwanted clothing and textiles.

A few small changes can make a big difference.

Sustainability Quiz

1. What is one of the cheapest ways to stop heat escaping from your home?
A. Install solar panels
B. Draught-proof doors and windows
C. Replace all your furniture
.....
2. What should you do if part of your radiator feels cold at the top?
A. Paint it
B. Bleed the radiator
C. Cover it with a blanket
.....
3. What is the highest temperature ever officially recorded in the UK?
A. 37.8°C
B. 38.7°C
C. 40.3°C
D. 41.5°C
.....
4. According to the Met Office, which year is currently the UK's warmest year on record?
A. 2022
B. 2023
C. 2024
D. 2025

Answers: D 4: B 3: C 2: B 1: A

Small actions, BIG IMPACT

Putting the right things in the right bin makes a bigger difference than you might think. Every bottle, can, food scrap and cardboard box collected correctly helps save resources, generate energy and create new products.

Brown recycling bin

Rescue your recyclables.

Put these items in your brown recycling bin:

- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays
- Toothpaste tubes
- Tins and cans
- Empty aerosols
- Glass bottles and jars
- Food and drink cartons



Where does it go?

Your recycling is sorted at a Materials Recycling Facility and transformed into new products, helping valuable materials stay in use for longer.

SHAKE IT OUT!

- Empty it
- Give it a quick rinse
- Put it in loose



Green box

For paper and flattened cardboard only.

- Flattened cardboard (eg cereal/egg boxes/shoe boxes)
- Paper
- Envelopes & greeting cards
- Newspaper and magazines



Where does it go?

Collected paper and card are sent for reprocessing and made into new paper and cardboard products.

Rescue Me, Recycle!

Watch the campaign advert online:

youtube.com/watch?v=1oMqrnkRyJM

Thank you for everything you do to recycle, reduce waste and protect our environment. Small actions at home really do make a big impact across Tunbridge Wells and Kent.



#RecycleWeek2026 | 14-20 September 2026

Rescue Me, I'm worth it!

Check your collection day

tunbridgewells.gov.uk/bins



Refuse bin

For household waste that cannot be recycled or composted.

- Polystyrene
- Non-recyclable plastics
- Black sacks
- Nappies & sanitary items
- Bagged pet faeces & litter/bedding
- Crisp packets/sweet wrappers



Where does it go?

This waste is taken to an energy-from-waste facility, where it is used to generate electricity for the National Grid.



Garden waste bin

For garden vegetation only.
No black sacks.

- Grass cuttings
- Plants and flowers
- Hedge trimmings
- Leaves
- Windfall fruit
- Small branches (up to 5cm diameter)

Garden waste collections are available through an annual subscription service.

Sign up at:

[tunbridgewells.gov.uk/
bins-and-recycling/
garden-waste](https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/garden-waste)



Where does it go?

The garden waste collected will be composted and used as a soil improver for farmers to help grow new crops.



Small caddy, BIG impact

Food waste belongs in your food caddy, where it can be wrapped in newspaper or compostable liners.

Kent is making a difference

Food waste recycling increased by 18% across Kent in the last year.

Together we're:

- Reducing waste
- Creating renewable energy
- Producing fertiliser for farms

It might feel like a small action at home, but it's making a big difference across the county.



Where does it go?

Your food waste is taken to an anaerobic digestion plant. This produces fertiliser for farmers' fields and a renewable energy source called biogas.





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Domestic abuse: support is available

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council works with partners across Kent and Medway to support people experiencing domestic abuse and help them access safe accommodation, specialist advice and practical support.

Free 24-hour helpline

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership offers a free, confidential 24-hour helpline:
0800 2000 247

Housing support from the Council

Our Housing team can help residents whose housing situation has been affected by domestic abuse, including:

- Access to refuge accommodation
- Temporary accommodation
- Home security improvements through the SAFER scheme where appropriate

For housing support contact:

01892 526121

housingadvice@tunbridgewells.gov.uk



Building a safer community

The Council is working towards accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA), the national benchmark for housing providers responding to domestic abuse. This work helps ensure survivors receive the highest standard of support.

We also support the Kent Domestic Abuse Champions programme, which trains local people to recognise the signs of domestic abuse and signpost those affected to specialist support.

**Find out more
about becoming
a Domestic Abuse
Champion**



Standing up against violence against women and girls

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is a White Ribbon Accredited organisation, demonstrating our commitment to preventing violence against women and girls and promoting a culture of respect, equality and safety.

On 25 November, to mark White Ribbon Day, we will host a workshop for young men that explores positive role models, healthy relationships and respectful behaviours.



Assessment & Service Centre

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

01732 770251



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- February '27 - Fête du Citron
- April '27 - Keukenhof and other Dutch Surprises
- May '27 - Spring in the Isles of Scilly
- May '27 - Great Gardens of Cornwall
- June '27 - Monets Garden, Versailles and other Great French Gardens
- July '27 - Great Gardens of the North Cotswolds
- July '27 - Great Gardens of East Anglia

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www.pennywoodtours.com,

Email: info@pennywoodtours.com,

Telephone: 01622 434 981

Paper brochures available on request.

Paddock Wood Community Centre

Since opening in July 2023 Paddock Wood Community Centre has become a thriving hub at the heart of the local community.

The centre was the result of many years of planning by Paddock Wood Town Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to provide a much-needed facility for the town's growing population. Today, it hosts a wide range of activities and events for all ages and abilities, helping bring people together and supporting health, wellbeing and community connections.

The popular coffee shop is a favourite meeting place for many visitors. During the warmer months, the tennis courts are busy with players of all abilities, while the venue's modern facilities make it an ideal setting for parties, celebrations and special events.



The centre offers:

- Opening seven days a week
- A large hall that can be divided into two or three smaller spaces
- A meeting room for businesses, training sessions and therapy appointments
- Two full-sized tennis courts
- Free parking, including four disabled bays
- Fully accessible facilities, all on one level

Find out more at paddockwoodcc.co.uk

Democracy Week: Young Producers Bring Local History to Life

During Democracy Week (14-19 October), visitors to The Amelia Scott can explore Tunbridge Wells' rich history of social change through a series of displays created by local Young Producers.

Part of the Arts Council England-funded Unlocking Collections project, the displays explore the theme of Pioneers and Protests, highlighting local people who challenged convention and campaigned for a fairer society.

Drawing on museum collections, archives and local stories, the Young Producers have researched and curated displays revealing the town's long tradition of independent thinking and civic action. While national figures often dominate the history books, these displays shine a spotlight on local individuals whose ideas and actions helped shape society.

Visitors can discover these fascinating stories and explore how past campaigns continue to resonate today. Through Unlocking Collections, young people are not only learning about democracy but helping to bring local history to life and inspire civic participation for future generations.



Honouring the Hop Pickers Line

The history of the Hop Pickers Line has been brought to life at The Burrows in Church Road, Paddock Wood, with the unveiling of a striking new heritage installation.

Showcased at the Hop Pickers Line Group (HPLG) AGM on 16 June, the project was funded by just over £12,000 of Section 106 contributions secured for the 'Art for Hop Pickers Heritage Trail'.

At the heart of the display is the impressive Stilt Man sculpture, depicting the workers who balanced on stilts to attach hop strings to overhead wires in Kent's famous hop gardens. The funding also provided two interpretation panels and four heritage-inspired buffers, which double as public seating.

The installations celebrate the former Hop Pickers Line, which once ran from Paddock Wood through Horsmonden, Goudhurst and Cranbrook to Hawkhurst. By preserving and sharing this fascinating chapter of local history, the project will help connect residents and visitors with Paddock Wood's heritage for years to come.



Fairtrade Fortnight: 21 September - 4 October 2026

People, Planet and Progress

Visitors may have noticed a new addition to the Fairtrade flower bed outside The Amelia Scott. A sundial, originally gifted to Tunbridge Wells by our twin city of Wiesbaden, Germany, has been installed among the plants in the colours of the Fairtrade logo.

Tunbridge Wells has been a Fairtrade Town since 2007, while Wiesbaden became a Fairtrade City in 2012. The sundial reflects the strong links between our communities and our shared commitment to supporting fairtrade.

Fairtrade helps farmers and workers receive a fair price for their products and better working conditions. It also supports communities to tackle the challenges of climate change and protect the future of products we enjoy every day, including coffee, chocolate and bananas.

This Fairtrade Fortnight, choose Fairtrade products and support a fairer future for people and the planet.



ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE AUTUMN SEASON

for full details and to book tickets visit our website

assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

01892 530613



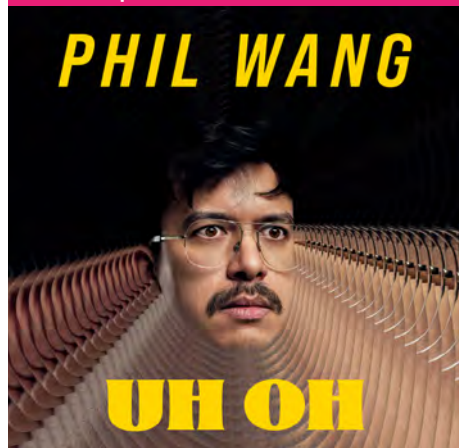
FAMILY | WED 9 SEP



MUSIC | FRI 11 SEP



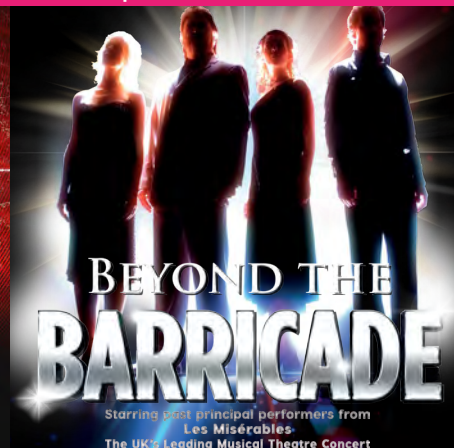
FAMILY | SAT 12 SEP



MUSIC | SUN 13 SEP



COMEDY | WED 16 SEP



MUSIC | THU 17 SEP



MUSIC | FRI 18 SEP



COMEDY | SAT 19 SEP



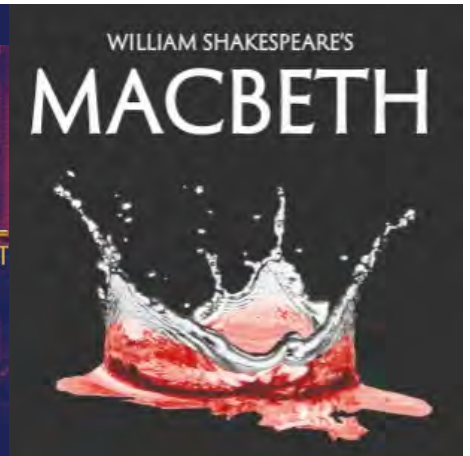
MUSIC | THU 24 SEP



MUSIC | FRI 25 SEP



MUSIC | WED 30 SEP



THEATRE | THU 1 OCT



MUSIC | FRI 2 OCT



MUSIC | SAT 3 OCT



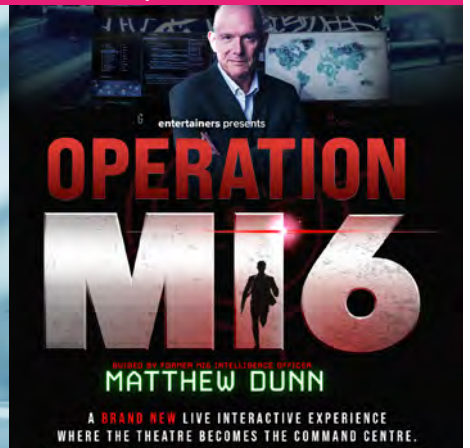
COMEDY | MON 5 OCT



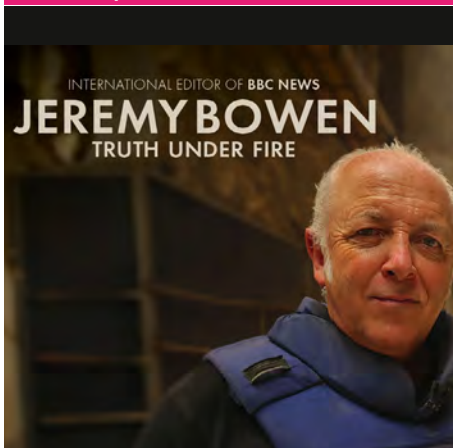
MUSIC | THU 8 OCT



MUSIC | FRI 9 OCT



SPOKEN WORD | SUN 11 OCT



SPOKEN WORD | MON 12 OCT



MUSIC | TUE 13 OCT



SPOKEN WORD | WED 14 OCT



COMEDY | THU 15 OCT



MUSIC | FRI 16 OCT



VARIETY | SAT 17 OCT



THEATRE | TUE 20 – SAT 24 OCT



SPOKEN WORD | SUN 25 OCT



VARIETY | MON 26 OCT



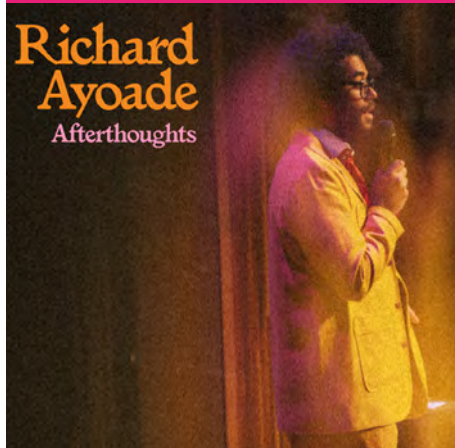
SPOKEN WORD | TUE 27 OCT



MUSIC | FRI 30 OCT



VARIETY | SAT 31 OCT



COMEDY | MON 2 NOV



MUSIC | FRI 6 NOV



MUSIC | SAT 7 NOV



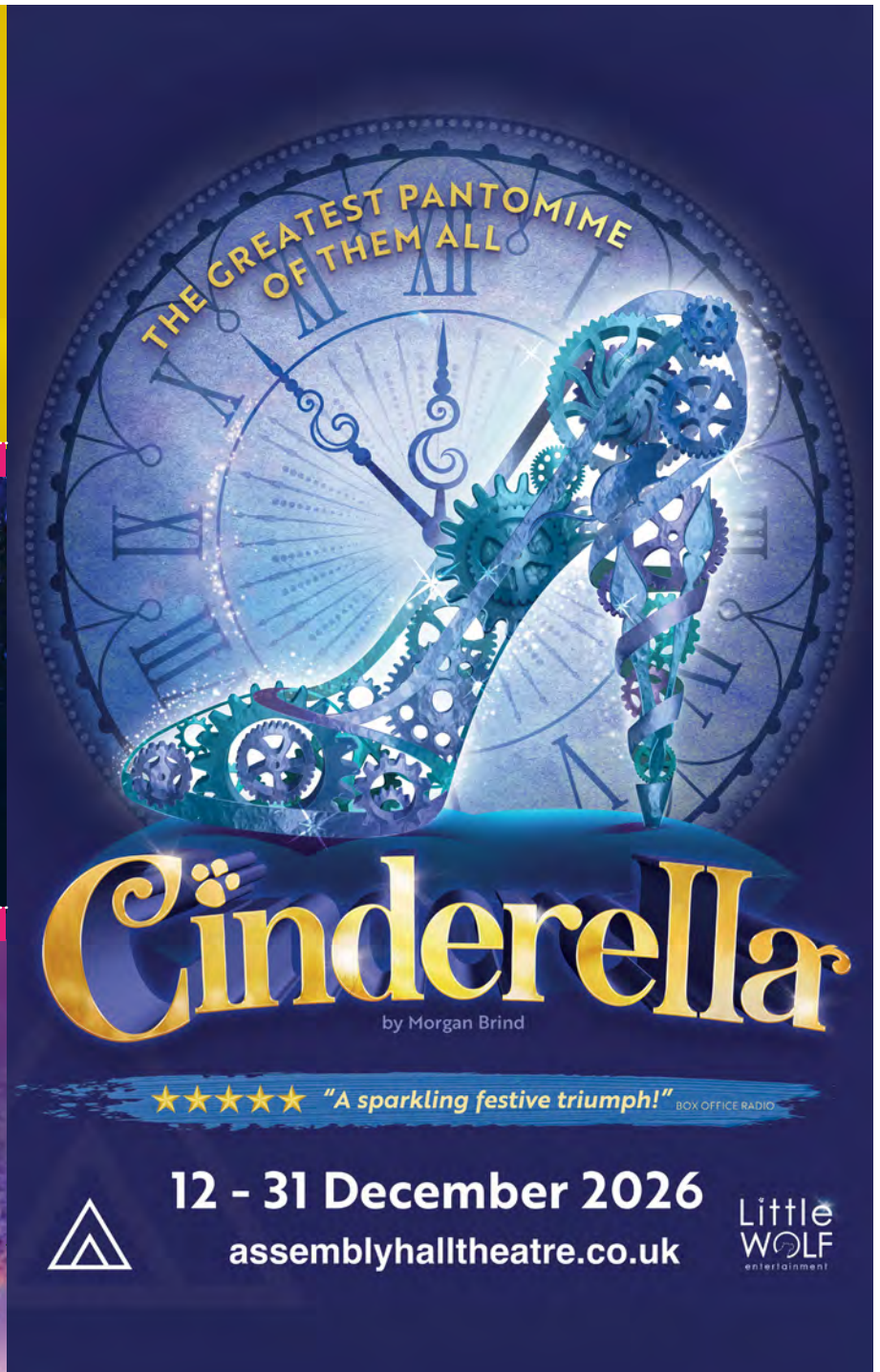
COMEDY | WED 11 NOV



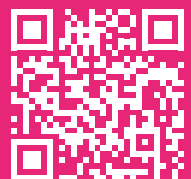
MUSIC | THU 12 NOV



DANCE | FRI 13 NOV



assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk
TUNBRIDGE WELLS



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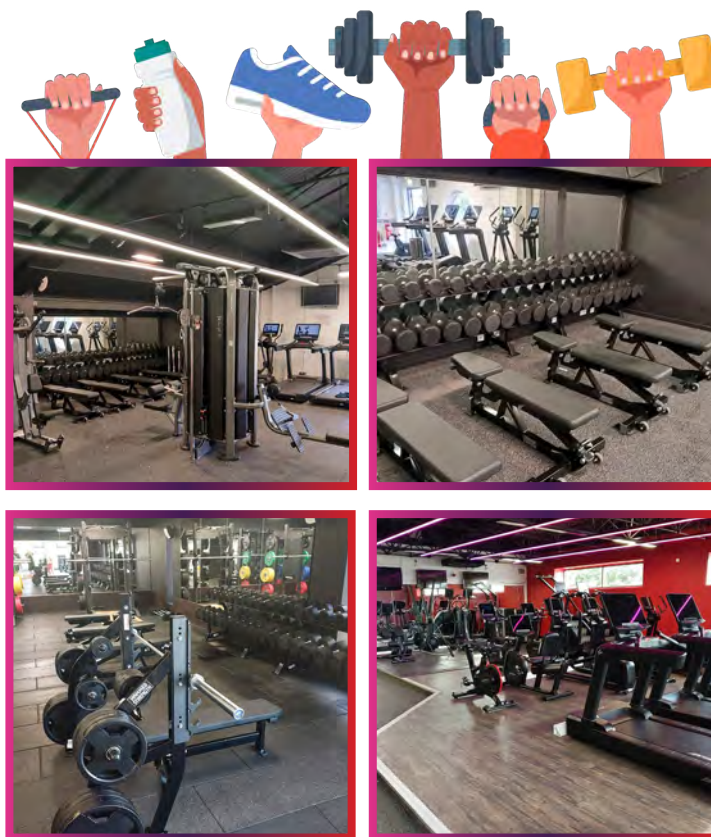
Leisure Centres: Investment Delivering Results

Residents are already seeing improvements across Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre, Putlands Sports and Leisure Centre and Weald Sports Centre following the start of Serco Leisure's seven-year lease.

Backed by an £8 million investment programme from Serco and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, significant upgrades have already been completed. New gym equipment has been installed, centres have been deep cleaned and redecorated, and all staff have successfully transferred and completed training on new systems.

Dedicated Membership Help Desks helped customers through the transition, while site-wide clear-outs, landscaping works and the introduction of new branding have given the centres a fresh new look.

These improvements are just the beginning of a long-term programme to enhance facilities, improve customer experience and support healthier, more active communities across the borough.



Discover Kent's Hidden Heritage

Heritage Open Days returns from 11-20 September 2026, offering free access to fascinating historic buildings, sites and experiences, many of which are not usually open to the public.

In Paddock Wood visitors can explore the Old Closed Churchyard, the original Churchyard of St Andrew's Church. In Tunbridge Wells, the team from Scotney Castle will be hosting some creative workshops at St Barnabas School while exploring its history and archives.

For those willing to travel a little further, Canterbury will once again be opening their doors to a variety of heritage venues and unique experiences across the city.

From historic buildings to guided walks, Heritage Open Days is a fantastic opportunity to discover the people, places and stories that have shaped Kent. With all events free to attend, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Find out more and browse events at
heritageopendays.org.uk



A New Town Council for Royal Tunbridge Wells

A new town council is being created for Royal Tunbridge Wells, giving residents an extra voice on local issues and decisions.

Royal Tunbridge Wells is currently the only part of the borough without its own town or parish council. In July, borough councillors unanimously agreed to create a town council for the area covered by the six borough wards of Culverden, Park, Pantiles, Sherwood, St James' and St John's.



The new council will begin operating on 1 April 2027, with the first election for town councillors taking place in May 2027.

Town councils help make sure local people have a say on issues that affect their community. Initially, the new council will just take on responsibility for managing allotments which is consistent with the approach taken in creating town councils for Tonbridge and Maidstone within the new West Kent Unitary area (Sevenoaks has had a town council for over 50 years). Allotment holders will receive more information about the change closer to the transfer date.

Over time, it is expected to take on additional responsibilities, giving residents a stronger voice and a greater say in local matters.

For further information please contact your ward councillor.

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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 and takes the place of going to the gym. You'll get a chance to meet new people, plus there's good music to listen 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 15th 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! Soft shoes preferable.

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

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

More than Football

Hawkhurst United Junior Football Club is helping local boys and girls develop skills, confidence and friendships through football. As an FA-affiliated grassroots club, it provides a fun, safe and inclusive environment for players of all ages and abilities.

The club is about more than winning matches. It focuses on teamwork, respect, resilience and creating opportunities for every child to enjoy the game and reach their potential.



As the club continues to grow, it is looking for a main sponsor and a permanent home ground in or around Hawkhurst. New players are welcome in selected age groups, and volunteer coaches are always needed.

To find out more or get involved, visit:
hawkhurstjuniorfc.co.uk



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