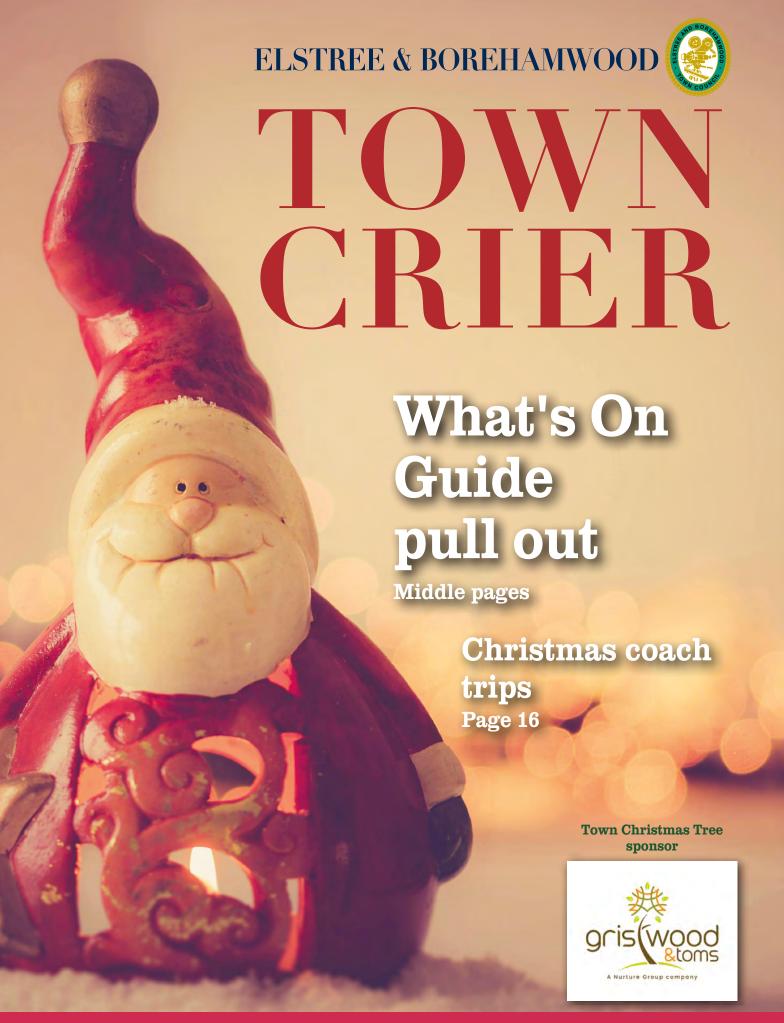
ISSUE 51 WINTER 2025



Welcome to the relaunch of Town Crier magazine!

I am deeply honoured to be writing this as your Town Mayor. Those of you who are familiar with my personal story will appreciate this when I say that in my darkest moments I found the inspiration to fight back and get to where I am from the stories of the daily struggles that I have heard from having spoken to residents' or having visited their homes over the years.

Thank you to all who have supported me on this journey.

The Wood is a special place, not just because we are home to Star Wars, Eastenders and Strictly, nor due to our beautiful green spaces or our fantastic football club, but because of our people.

Our community is at its best in times of crisis. The alarming incident in Cowley Hill that shocked us all a couple of months ago led to the mass evacuation of neighbours and controlled explosions by specialist police.

But it brought us all together.

Just like with the Balmoral Drive fire a few years ago, many of you offered food, blankets, shelter or just support to those affected and none of cared what their backgrounds were.

At my Mayoral inauguration I promised that here at Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council, we would transcend political interests for the benefit of local people. The age of political toxicity is over.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to express my solidarity with our town's Jewish community over the horrific antisemitic terrorist attack in Manchester and also with our Muslim community after the attacks on three mosques just up the road in Watford.

Speaking of solidarity, I hope we will all rally round the staff, parents and children at St Nicholas CofE Primary School in Elstree Village which is threatened with closure by the county council.

Here at the Town Council I'd encourage you to pay a visit to the following events we are organising:

- Christmas Lights Switch-On and Indoor Christmas Market at 96 Shenley Road - Sunday 30 November
- Special Christmas Farmers and Craft Market at Fairway Hall Sunday 7 December, 11am-5pm
- BBC Elstree Concert Band Christmas Show at 96 Shenley Road Tuesday 16 December (See www.ticketsource.co.uk/EBTC)

Full details are inside our special "What's On In and Around WD6" pull-out in the middle pages of this magazine.

Finally, a shout out to my Mayoral charity for this year - SPACE

Hertfordshire, which supports families of children and young people who are neurodivergent. Enjoy

We Are The Wood



For mayoral enquiries please email the Mayor's secretary at admin@ elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

the return of Town Crier magazine!



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Advertising

Advertising in the Town Crier is welcomed, with priority given to local, reputable businesses. We will limit ad space to contribute towards costs only – Elstree and Borehamwood Town Crier is not a profit making enterprise.

How to supply adverts

Call us to book a space in the next edition. Any artwork must be submitted in pdf or jpg format and correctly sized for the space required.

• Full page (A4): £400 + VAT

• Half page (A5): £200 + VAT

• Quarter page (A6): £100 + VAT

To advertise please contact Dan Salter

Email: dsalter@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk, tel: 020 8207 1382

While we take reasonable steps to check our advertisers are bona fide, readers should carry out their own checks before entering into any contract or arrangement.



Leader's letter

It is a pleasure to welcome you back to the Town Crier, the community newsletter of Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council. Much has been achieved since our last edition, as we continue to strengthen community life, support local enterprise, and enhance the services and events that make our town such a vibrant and welcoming place.

A particular success has been the monthly market at Brook Road car park, offering new opportunities for local traders, artisans, and entrepreneurs. It has quickly become a popular meeting place, with free family activities and a platform for local groups and organisations to promote their work.

Our Entertainments Committee, chaired by Councillor Linda Smith, has launched inclusive new events such as Borehamwood's first Food Festival, Pride Celebration, and Diwali Festival at Allum Hall and Manor House, led by Deputy Mayor Councillor Tushar Kumar. These occasions have celebrated our town's diversity and unity.

We continue to work closely with Hertsmere Borough Council, led by Councillor Jeremy Newmark, on shared priorities.

Together we have helped secure the future of our local cinema—an essential part of our heritage as the Town of

Film and Television and supported the introduction of Community Enforcement Officers, improving safety and cleanliness across our streets.

Looking ahead, work continues



We recently welcomed our new Town Clerk, Gillian Martell, and thank Tracey Malton, our outgoing Clerk, for her years of dedicated service.

None of our achievements would be possible without our staff and councillors, whose commitment to Elstree and Borehamwood remains unwavering.

Councillor Richard Butler Leader, Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council

Suggestions please!

PAUL ROBESON 1898-1976 Singer and Actor lived here 1929-1930

The Town Council is sponsoring a scheme of plaques to commemorate people and places that have played an important part in making our town or our country what they are today.

The people can have been prominent in any walk of life - sport, the arts, entertainment, education, industry, science, politics - you name it. The only restriction is that they should have been deceased for at least ten years.

Any building is eligible if it was used for a significant purpose or lived or worked in by a significant person. Or a location may be memorable for something that took place there.

Please let us have your suggestions (in not more than 200 words each). If possible, please give relevant dates, and links to sources of further information.

Send your suggestions (with your name and contact details) to dsalter@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk or drop a note to Dan Salter at Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council, Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood WD6 5BT.



Borehamwood Farmers & Craft Market

A celebration of local produce and artistry

The Borehamwood Farmers & Craft Market is a much-loved highlight of the local calendar, showcasing exceptional regional produce, handmade crafts and true community spirit.

Held at Brook Road car park, the market features a wide variety of stalls offering fresh farm produce, artisan bread, cheeses, homemade preserves and beautifully crafted goods. Visitors can also enjoy freshly prepared hot food and live music, creating a lively, family-friendly atmosphere.

Organiser John Shackel said: "The market has become a cornerstone of the Borehamwood community. It's about more than shopping – it's about celebrating local creativity, good food and togetherness."

The market runs on the fourth Sunday of each month, April to November, 10am–2pm.

A special Christmas Market will be held inside Fairway Hall on Sunday 7 December, 11am— 5pm, featuring Santa's Grotto, live music, hot food and festive market stalls for all the family.

John Shackel

Town Council events 2025

A year of celebration and community spirit

The Town Council's 2025 calendar was bursting with colour, creativity and community pride, as a host of new and returning events brought residents together throughout the year. From festive celebrations to reflective moments of remembrance, each occasion highlighted the town's growing spirit of inclusion and togetherness.

The year began with the opening of the Film and Television Exhibition at the REEL Cinema, featuring fascinating artefacts that showcased the rich history of film and television in Elstree and Borehamwood. The exhibition proved a popular attraction for residents and visitors alike, celebrating the area's proud connection to the screen industries.

April saw the first Easter Kids' Activity Day on Saturday 19 April at Fairway Hall. Designed for families, the event offered free arts and crafts, an energetic Easter egg hunt, and plenty of chocolate treats. Laughter filled the hall as children enjoyed hands-on fun while parents mingled with neighbours, marking a joyful start to the event season.

Next came the Firsts Food Festival on Sunday 6 July, held in Meadow Park the day after Families Day. This vibrant celebration of global cuisine featured over 15 food stalls from around the world, alongside the popular monthly Farmers' Market. Visitors sampled everything from spicy street food to sweet desserts, turning the park into a hub of flavour and festivity.

Summer continued in style with the town's inaugural Pride event on Sunday 17 August at Fairway Hall. This lively celebration embraced diversity and inclusion, with BBQs, cocktails, face painting, arts and crafts for the kids, and a photo booth that captured countless smiles. The event was a heart-warming success, reflecting the town's welcoming community spirit.

Autumn brought the return of the Diwali celebration on Saturday 18 October, now in its



second year. The event sold out instantly, featuring 15 different groups performing music, dance and drama, alongside delicious traditional food.

As the nights drew in, residents gathered in Meadow Park for the annual Fireworks Night on Wednesday 5 November. Set to iconic movie music, the free display dazzled crowds with spectacular sights and sounds.

Finally, the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 9 November, led by Rabbi Gershon Silins at the Shenley Road Memorial, paid tribute to those who served and sacrificed – closing a remarkable year of community, culture and connection.

Dan Salter - Entertainments Officer







Boost your mood with a walk with others

A little movement can make a big difference to how you feel – it has so many benefits and can really lift your mood. So why not join a fun, free Health Walk today?

A Health Walk is a wonderful way to meet like-minded people, explore your local area, and improve your fitness. The walks are led by friendly, supportive volunteers — easily recognisable in their yellow jackets!

Volunteer Elaine, who helps lead a walk on Mondays at 11am from St Michael and All Angels Church, Brook Road (WD6 5EQ), encourages everyone to give walking a go. She said:

"For me, it's been much more than just walking to feel fitter. The walking groups are so welcoming, and I've made such great new friends along the way. Walking outdoors together is simply the best way for me to start my day."

Elaine's gentle walk lasts up to 45 minutes. Those looking for a longer or more vigorous workout may prefer the Wednesday walk from Aberford Community Centre. Each walk is supported by two volunteers who ensure the pace suits everyone and that no one is left behind

Getting involved couldn't be easier – just wear sensible shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and drop by on the day.

All walks are free, and no booking is required. Find out more and register at www. hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks, or arrive 15 minutes early to complete a New Walker form.

With a range of walks each week in and around Borehamwood, there's sure to be one that suits you. You'll feel better after the walk – and even more so after a cuppa and a chat!

If you're a regular walker and would like to help others enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of walking, please contact the Health Walks Team on 01992 555888 or email healthwalks.cms@hertfordshire.gov.uk



A colourful celebration at the Autumn Show

In September, the Borehamwood & District Garden/ Crafts Society hosted its Autumn Flower & Produce Show in the hall at Allum Manor. Supported by the Town Council, the event was graced by the Mayor, who kindly presented the prizes.

Visitors were treated to a vibrant display of flowers and vegetables, showcasing the incredible talents of our members. From dazzling dahlias and towering sunflowers to beautifully arranged autumn blooms and baskets of home-grown fruit and vegetables, there was plenty to admire.

Guests enjoyed free entry, delicious homemade cakes, and live music from local guitarist Paul Lomax, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the afternoon.

Tasting Autumn's best

October brought another delicious gathering as members met to compare and taste over 20 varieties of apples, all lovingly grown by our own gardeners. The event also featured a hotly contested apple cake competition – and with 14 entries to sample, choosing a favourite was no easy task!

Looking ahead

Our Spring Show will be held in early April, and we look forward to sharing more details in the new year.

If you'd like to join the society or simply find out more about gardening in Borehamwood, please get in touch at borehamwoodgardencrafts@gmail.com



EastEnders at 40

Would you like to have a photo taken behind the bar of the Queen Vic? You might even want to dress up as a character.

Inside the museum at 96 Shenley Road we have created a replica of the bar with help from the BBC.

Amazingly 10 years have gone by since the 30th Anniversary exhibition of EastEnders and we are pleased to present our latest effort which is, of course, a celebration of 40 years of that famous 'soap opera' being made here in Borehamwood.

The BBC has been instrumental in supporting us for both exhibitions and provided many of the 'props' that have featured heavily in that continuing drama, so come and view them all.



Additionally, we are giving away free EastEnders At 40 souvenir beer mats!

So please come up and see us sometime – we know you will enjoy your visit.



Our town joins "Wave of Light" vigil for Baby Loss Awareness Week

On Wednesday 15 October, local residents and councillors held a candlelit vigil to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week as part of the national "Wave of Light."

They observed a minute's silence to remember all the babies and children locally who had passed away too soon, and loss families shared their experiences.

As part of the Borehamwood and Elstree commemorations, the evergreen tree at the corner of Shenley Road and Furzehill Road had been decorated with pink, blue and white ribbons during the preceding days.

In a moving speech, the Town Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood, Cllr Dan Ozarow, reflected on his own experience of sibling and baby loss, saying: "As some of you here will know, the loneliness and trauma of pregnancy, baby or child loss can be eased simply by meeting with and speaking to others who have been through the same thing. We are like a community. We are like a family. This is why gatherings like this are so important."

Tina Nandha, who has been organising the local vigils for the past few years, said: "So many hearts get broken when families lose a baby, but it's a comfort to know that we can heal some of the pain by surrounding ourselves with a supportive community. Every BLAW remembrance event in Borehamwood allows me to connect with more parents and families



of loss. Even if it's a small conversation that we have, it's a chance for us to remember the babies we lost too soon. For that reason, I will continue to organise these every year."

In 2023, a permanent Angel Tree was planted in Kenilworth Park (Manor Way end) for parents, siblings and loved ones to visit and remember their angel babies and children.

Cllr Dan Ozarow





Yes – we have our very own radio station!

Boreham Wood Radio (BWR) is your local community radio station, run entirely by volunteers. BWR broadcasts from Elstree Studios and covers Boreham Wood, Elstree, Radlett and Shenley.

It's an exciting time at BWR. We're now broadcasting live weekend shows, including Good Times, Great Music with Dereck Staines and Ken Moorton (Saturdays, 9am-12 noon) and The Dave Ellis Soul Show (Saturdays, 8pm-10pm). New programmes are added month by month, so stay tuned for updates.

We love to showcase local stories, with a growing collection of podcasts featuring local people, organisations and events. You may have seen us out and about in the community at Families Day in July, or more recently at the Farmers and Craft Market. We also support local groups by promoting their events. Listen to BWR or visit our website to find out what's happening locally. If you have a story to share or an event to promote, get in touch!

From our fully-equipped studio, we run a 24/7 radio service, with a music library of over 12,000 tracks. BWR is licensed by Ofcom and you can listen online, on your smartphone, on your smart speaker

(instructions below), and across South Hertfordshire on DAB Digital Radio.

We're proudly supported by Hertsmere Borough Council, Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council, Clarion Housing Trust, Elstree Studios, and the local Rotary Club.

BWR is powered by dedicated volunteers who produce, present and run the station, and we're always excited to welcome new people. Want to be involved? We have opportunities in presenting, producing, technical operations, studio support, website management, social media, administration, finance, and fundraising. We've made great progress so far, and you can be part of it!

Find out more or tune in:

Website: www.borehamwoodradio.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bwradio

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/borehamwoodradio

Listen live: https://borehamwood.broadcast.radio/

On your Smart Speaker, just say: "Open Radio Player," then "Play Boreham Wood Radio."

Contact us: bwoodradio@gmail.com

Sarah Joy Tann



SCAN TO LISTEN LIVE

Get back to books at Borehamwood Library!

Feeling overwhelmed by the sense that you can't stop doomscrolling? You're not alone. But there's a bright, book-filled place right here in Borehamwood that offers a refreshing escape: your local library!

At Borehamwood Library, you can swap anxiety-inducing headlines for adventures, mysteries, and laughs waiting inside thousands of books. Whether you're after a gripping thriller, a cosy romance, or the latest bestseller, there's something for everyone- and if we don't have it, you can borrow it from the county's wider collection thanks to our 99p reservations, cheaper than a coffee on the high street!

Need a peaceful space to study, work, or simply unwind? We've got you covered with comfortable seating areas, free Wi-Fi, and quiet spots throughout the building. And the best part? It's all free to join!

But Libraries are more than just books. Members can also make use of our PC facilities for two hours every day completely free of charge, and access our digital resources such as eBooks, audiobooks, and eMagazines by signing up to BorrowBox and Libby with their Library card. Nowadays, the Library is at your fingertips, even when you're at home.

Speaking of 'home', families love our regular children's events too, including Baby Rhyme Time, Story Time, LEGO Club, and our popular monthly Tech Club. It's a place where young imaginations grow and parents and children alike can meet and make friends with others, all thanks to the Library! We're really a little community at the heart of Shenley Road.

So, next time you catch yourself scrolling through the news for the tenth time, or telling yourself (again) to get off Twitter/X, take a break and visit Borehamwood Library instead. It's good for your mind, good for your mood, and a wonderful way to reconnect with your community.

David Powell



Would you like to join us for a fun filled morning?

DR96, over 60s Club, celebrated its 10th birthday with a party in March this year. At the inaugural celebration each member received daffodils courtesy of Tesco. Our Tesco champion, Marion Naylor, arranged that for us.

Our name came from Drop in at 96. And the club has 120 members with about 80 attending every week.

The club is run by a committee, Sandra Parnell, Sasha Capocci, Georgina Doolan and Brenda Pryor. Thanks go to our volunteers, Liz Cunnington, Lynne Oakley and Jackie Thornhill who make the teas coffees and refreshments.

Members meet at 96 Shenley Rd, Borehamwood WD6 1EB from 10am - 12 noon every Wednesday. Each week there is a quiz, bingo, Hoy and a raffle. Our exercise tutor, Sarah Donelly, leads classes every fortnight. There is a range of entertainers when we can sing along or dance.

Over the past year we have had several trips including one to Southend. The DR96 club is booked to visit Van Hauge Garden Centre, Ware in November for afternoon tea and a visit to their Christmas shop. In the new year we have a New Years' party on 21 January at the Blue Check in Bushey.

We have held several parties over the past year paid for with grants from Hertfordshire Council and Hertsmere Borough Council.

Most years funds are raised with a Macmillan tea party. A couple of times the club has raised money for Rotary charity Purpleforpolio, providing funds to vaccinate against polio.

DR96 have recently received a grant from Hertfordshire County Council for a Winter Celebration. This is planned for December.

There is an annual membership fee of $\pounds 5$, and it costs $\pounds 3$ every visit Additional funds are raised from bingo, raffle and Hoy.

Interested? contact

Sasha Capocci: 07771862820 email sashacapocci@hotmail.com Sandra Parnell: 07736809015 email: sparnell513@gmail.com



The Monday Club celebrates with joyful party and good news

The Monday Club recently held a wonderful party at Maxwell Park that brought together members, local leaders, and friends of the community.

Among the special guests were Deputy Mayor Tushar Kumar and Councillor Parveen Rani, whose presence added to the sense of celebration. Also invited was Pat Strack, a dedicated supporter who has tirelessly completed grant applications for our clubs. Although Pat could not attend as she was away, her efforts were warmly acknowledged throughout the event.

We were delighted to welcome Hannah Oliver from the borough, who shared fantastic news that gave our members even more reason to celebrate. Thanks to Pat's hard work, the Monday Club, Tuesday Dementia Club, and Wednesday Club have all been awarded vital grants. This announcement was met with smiles, cheers, and plenty

of excitement, as the funding will help us continue running the clubs that mean so much to our members.

The party itself was filled with laughter, good food, and plenty of fun. Guests enjoyed refreshing glasses of Pimms before the music began, which soon had everyone dancing around the tables and singing together. The joyful atmosphere set the perfect tone for the afternoon.

Our talented member Linda led a creative card-making activity, teaching others how to design cards for every occasion. This was a highlight for many, as members love the chance to learn new skills and express their creativity. Later, Deputy Mayor Tushar joined me in hosting a lively game of bingo, which brought out lots of smiles and friendly competition.

It was truly a fun couple of hours, with everyone leaving in high spirits. The Monday Club once again showed how community, friendship, and a little bit of celebration can make a big difference.

Interested? contact

Sasha Capocci: 07771862820 email sashacapocci@hotmail.com Sandra Parnell: 07736809015 email: sparnell513@gmail.com

Cllr Sandra Parnell



Would you like to join us for a fun filled afternoon?

The VIC has been running for 13 years. It is based at Maxwell Community Centre, Maxwell Rd, WD6 1JJ from 1.30pm - 4pm fortnightly.

Bread and soup are served on arrival with tea and refreshments later in the afternoon.

Are you or someone you know visually impaired? Are you looking for somewhere to go for friendship and support?

Our programme of activities includes; quizzes, games, bingo, flower arranging, exercise sessions for physical and mental wellbeing, friendship and support, and so much more.

Over the past year we have celebrated with a Christmas Party at the Manor Hotel, Barnet Lane, Elstree

In the summer all of us enjoyed a canal trip with fish and chips near Kings Langley.

Some VIC members took part on 12 October in the Disability Games organised by Barnet Rotary Club at the Spires at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore.

The VIC has recently received a grant from Hertfordshire County Council for a Winter Celebration. This is planned for December Why not give us a try? All ages welcome. First session is free after which there is a weekly fee payable to cover the group's running costs.



Unfortunately, we are unable to provide any direct personal care but if you have a carer they are welcome to attend with you.

For more information and to book your first visit please email us, or ask someone else to on your behalf;

Sasha Capocci: 07771862820, email sashacapocci@hotmail.com vicclub.borehamwood21@gmail.com



The Friends

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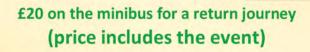
Community

and anyone who enjoys music events.

Where Are We?

MAXWELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE,

MAXWELL ROAD, BOREHAMWOOD, WD6 1JJ





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On The Door



Uniting for good - Servicing the community of Elstree & Borehamwood

The Rotary Club of the Studios, Elstree & Borehamwood has enjoyed a productive six months, marked by leadership changes, active community service, and successful fundraising.

In June, George W.H.A. Carr took over as President from Sam Covill, who was honoured with a Rotary International award. At the same event, Andrew Grady received a Paul Harris Fellowship, recognising his significant contribution to the club.

The club continues its twice-monthly meetings at The Manor, Elstree, combining fellowship with guest speakers and planning future projects. Music is a key focus, highlighted by the Autumn Gala Concert with the Elstree Mozart Players in September, which both entertained and raised funds for charity. Over the summer, the club supported bandstand concerts at Meadow Park, fostering live music within Borehamwood's community.

Service remains key to the club's values. On 20 September, members joined residents for a litter-pick at Farriers estate. November's Charity

Quiz Night supported Prostate Cancer UK and The Stroke Association. The club also took part in Remembrance Sunday, honouring those who gave their lives for a safer world.

The club provides ongoing support for local charitable initiatives, including active participation with the Dementia Club and coordination of cinema outings for schoolchildren. In addition, the club has contributed to the Disability Games held at the Aspire Centre in Stanmore.



Through concerts, clean-up efforts, fundraising and acts of remembrance, the Rotary Club upholds its motto, "Service Above Self".

For more information, visit www.studioelstreeandborehamwoodrotary.org.uk, email secretary@studioelstreeandborehamwoodrotary.org.uk, or call 020 8386 3151.

Andrew Grady Committee Chair: Publicity & Marketing



Supporting childhoods in our community: Join the NSPCC Christmas Craft & Gift Fair



The Elstree & Borehamwood NSPCC Committee has worked year-round to raise vital funds for the NSPCC's work with abused and neglected children. With steadfast support from our friends in Borehamwood Brass, we share a simple aim: to help give every child a safe, happy childhood.

This year's programme has been wonderfully received. Our Summer Lunch brought neighbours together for food, conversation and generosity. The Schopwick Garden Party bloomed with colour, while our Autumn Concert – featuring players from the Elstree Mozart Orchestra – filled the hall with uplifting music and community spirit. Thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered or donated; your kindness makes a real difference.

Next up is our Christmas Craft & Gift Fair at Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree, on Sunday 7 December, from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Expect a wide range of handmade crafts, unique gifts and festive bargains. Live performances from Borehamwood Brass and talented local musicians will entertain throughout the day, and refreshments – including our much-loved Chinese noodle lunches – will be served from open to close. The venue offers disabled access and free, limited parking.

Every ticket purchased, every stall visited and every slice of cake enjoyed helps fund the NSPCC's essential services – supporting children and families here and across the country. If you can't stay long, drop by for a

quick browse, a hot drink and a carol or two; if you can, bring friends and make a day of it. Either way, you'll be part of something special.

Please mark the date, spread the word and join us for a great family day out in aid of a great children's charity. Together, we can keep children safe and help them thrive.



HATCH FRESH FOOD DAILY

Bringing flavour and community to Borehamwood

The HATCH came to Shenley Road in summer 2024. Launching onto our vibrant high street, HATCH is a unique space offering takeaway street food to the Wood.

We offer a range of dishes from different cultures and change our menus often so there is always something new to try, from tacos to stir frys to currys to slow cooked specials. We offer GF and vegan options too and our emphasis is on fresh food daily.

Every day between 12 to 13 people come for lunch and we get to know our regulars. HATCH isn't just about selling food; it's about community engagement and recognising that sometimes people just need a catch up or a quick stop along their journey and a warm welcome.

We are known for our salt & pepper chicken. A dry rub, full of flavour... our chicken is cooked up deliciously with peppers and onions and served on fluffy basmati. This dish is mentioned time and again on our Google page and helped us to achieve a 5 star rating.

The owner/chef Pixie personally advocates for the homeless and has just completed her 5th annual sleep out for Streets of London charity. The amazing customers of HATCH helped raise over £1,200 this year to help!

We love the Borehamwood community and have chosen to affiliate with very specific charities, projects and companies in our area.

We are super proud to sponsor the amazing young ladies of the Borehamwood Youth U11 Lionesses. We attend as many games as

possible to support our girls at Borehamwood Youth Football Club

We proudly sponsor and work with John Byrne and his amazing family from 4-4-2 Sports and we support and applaud his dedication to helping children through sports.



Over the last year we have supported Borehamwood Food Bank, The Ollie Foundation, Santa's Garden Grotto and we work often with Sebby's Corner. Sebby's is very dear to us and the team who run this charity do amazing work for the community.

After an amazing summer launching the catering side of the business, we were so grateful to be included by the Town Council in local events. We have been lucky enough to be included in the Borehamwood Street Food Festival as well as the ever-growing Farmers and Craft Market. These are great opportunities for us to meet local people and engage with the community.

We are delighted and ready to bring the magic of Christmas to the children of Borehamwood this year through our food as we will be the sole food vendors at Imperial Place Christmas Market, The Town Council Christmas Grotto and the Borehamwood Light Switch On

Roll on Xmas!

Pixie

Balancing Birth

Movement and relaxation for pregnancy and birth preparation

Pregnancy is a time of transformation - physically, emotionally, and spiritually. At Balancing Birth, our Pregnancy Movement and Relaxation Classes offer a nurturing space to help you feel more comfortable, calm, and confident as you prepare for your birth.

Led by an experienced midwife, Body Ready Method Certified Pro™, and Hypnobirthing teacher - these classes combine gentle movement, mindful breathing, and guided relaxation to support your body's natural alignment and balance. Each session is designed to ease common pregnancy discomforts, create space for your baby to find an optimal position, and prepare your body for a smoother, more straightforward birth - reducing the likelihood of interventions.

Our classes are grounded in body balancing and functional movement techniques that strengthen and align your body for birth, while promoting calm and connection. You'll also learn breathing and relaxation tools that can be used throughout pregnancy, labour, and beyond.

Alongside movement and relaxation, the classes offer an opportunity

for discussion and questions – a chance to share experiences in a safe, supportive environment. With midwifery guidance woven naturally into the sessions, you'll leave feeling informed,

reassured, and more in tune with your body and your baby.

Many women find the classes an invaluable part of their pregnancy:

"Thank you for your support all the way through this journey. I'm so glad that I joined your classes - they really helped and guided me through."

Suitable for all stages of pregnancy from 12 weeks onwards, no experience is needed. Come as you are - move, breathe, and restore while preparing both body and mind for a more positive birth.

Weekly classes take place at Maxwell Park Community Centre in Borehamwood

For class times and bookings, visit www.balancingbirth.co.uk Or contact BronInstagram: @balancing_birth | 07979695455 | bron@balancingbirth



Borehamwood Brass

A year of musical excellence and community spirit

2025 has been a notable year so far for Borehamwood Brass, marked by dynamic concerts throughout the spring and summer, the receipt of a Civic Award for services to Hertsmere Borough Council, and recognition from the NSPCC for over 40 years of support and fundraising. We are truly grateful for the continued encouragement the band receives and for the fantastic community engagement at our concerts.

With thanks to our Musical Director, Mark Mansell, audiences have enjoyed a varied repertoire featuring everything from traditional brass band music to epic film and television themes. We are especially

grateful to Mark for his dedication to Borehamwood Brass and to the talented

group of Royal College of Music alumni who regularly attend rehearsals and concerts, enriching our sound and inspiring newer players.

As we head into autumn, our focus turns to our festive programmes. Our players are looking forward to performing at events including the Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council Lights Switch-On, the NSPCC Christmas Fayre, Christmas carolling sessions at Tesco Borehamwood, and our Christmas Concert at St Mark's Church, New Barnet, on Friday 12 December.

You can follow us on Facebook and X (Twitter) @BorehamwoodBrass or visit our website at www.borehamwoodbrass.org.uk for details of our future appearances. Please continue to support your local town band at these events

As we continue to grow, we are also seeking new players for our friendly ensemble. If you play a brass instrument – or used to play at school – and are looking for a welcoming group to make music with, why not

try Borehamwood Brass? We rehearse every Friday evening from 8pm - 10pm at the Catholic Parish Centre, 291 Shenley Road, Borehamwood WD6 1TG.

If you're interested, call Simon Mansell on 07802 301122.

Julie Smith (Tuba)



Aircraft Museum attracts fascinating visitors

It's not uncommon for visitors to the de Havilland Aircraft Museum, near London Colney, to have a personal connection with the exhibits. Some had relatives who worked at the factory or flew as cabin crew, while others served in the RAF.

Recently, David Esam and his cousin Robin Staniforth visited the museum for a Mosquito Cockpit Experience. David's father, Richard, and Robin's father, Charles, had both flown in Mosquitos.

Richard and Charles were identical twins who were determined to stay together during their aircrew training. However, shortly before an important medical, Charles contracted flu. Fearing they would be separated, Richard took the medical twice – once as himself and again posing as Charles. Both were passed as fit and left for Canada to train as navigators. Richard survived the war, but sadly Charles was shot down and killed on a reconnaissance mission over Normandy.

Aged just 22, Pat Nolan was one of the first and youngest stewardesses recruited by the airline BOAC for its newly launched international jet service in the early 1950s.

She toured the Comet 1 fuselage and recalled its layout, facilities and



crew positions with remarkable accuracy. Pat was also well informed about its technical features. Before flying, she completed two months of training covering hospitality, first aid, and desert, arctic and jungle survival.

Compared with piston-engine aircraft, the Comet was quiet, comfortable and almost twice as fast. The entire cabin was 'first class', complete with silver-service meals. Anticipating expansion of the Comet routes to South America, Pat and her colleagues took Spanish lessons. Despite enjoying the lifestyle, Pat left BOAC in 1956 – love was clearly in the air, as she married one of her passengers.

Derek Lamb



Christmas in Elstree & Borehamwood

Christmas Church Services

St Michael & All Angels Church

Every Sunday at 9.30am, plus

Sunday 30 November 9.30am Candlelight Communion and

Advent Carols

Thursday 18 December 2pm Candlelit Carols + mince pies @ the

Welcome Café

Wednesday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm Family Nativity Service with

Christingles

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion

Thursday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am Christmas Day Family Communion

Borehamwood Baptist Church

Sunday 21 December 10.30am Carol Srevice

Thursday 25 December Christmas Day

10am Christmas Day Service

Holy Cross Church

Every Sunday at 9.30am, plus

Sunday 21 December 9.30am Service of the Word with

Christingles

Thursday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

No service

All Saints Church

Every Sunday at 11.15am, plus

Sunday 30 November 1.30pm - 4.30pm Christmas Lights Big

Switch-On

Church open for activities and storytelling.

Saturday 6 December 3pm 'Finding Hope @ Christmas' Memorial

Service

Sunday 21 December 11am Service of the Word with Carols

4.pm Crib Service

Thursday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

11am Christmas Day Family Communion

Sunday 28 December 10am Christmas Service for all the churches

St Nicholas Church

Every Sunday at 9.15am, plus

Friday 12 December - Saturday 13 December 10am - 4pm

Christmas Art Festival - 'The Joy of Christmas' With St Nicholas School. Coffee and mince pies

Sunday 14 December 6.30pm Candlelit 'Nine Lessons and Carols'

Mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies

Thursday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

No service

Town Council Events





NOVEMBER

Sunday 23 November, 11am - 5pm





Tuesday 25 November, 7pm Boreham Wood vs Leicester City

(11am Mitzvah Day bulb planting)



www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Friday 28 November, 7.30pm The Drifters

The Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk

Saturday 29 November, 5.30pm Boreham Wood vs FC Halifax Town



www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Saturday 29 November, 7.30pm Arrival - The Hits of ABBA

The Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk

29 November – Sunday 14 December (Weekends only) Monday 15 December - Wednesday 24 December (Daily) Winter-Fest (with Santa's Magical Grotto)

Aldenham Country Park, Elstree. Festive farm activities + grotto.

www.aldenhamcountrypark.co.uk

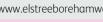
Sunday 30 November, 2pm - 6pm (Switch On at 4.30pm)

Christmas Lights Switch On

96 Shenley Road, Borehamwood



www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk



DECEMBER

Monday 1 December, 7pm - 8pm

Carols Singalong @ The Wellington Pub

The Wellington Pub, 4 Theobald Street

With the Mayor of Hertsmere and the Parish Singers. Collection for the Mayor's charities, 'Herts Young Carers' and 'Learning Through the Arts'

Tuesday 2 December, 7pm

Boreham Wood vs Wolverhampton Wanderers



www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Saturday 6 December 2025 - Saturday 3 January 2026 Cinderella

The Radlett Centre, Radlett WD7 8HL www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Sunday 7 December, 11am – 5pm

Elstree & Borehamwood Farmers & Craft Christmas Market

Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT Santas Grotto, jazz band, Elstree Productions, hot food. www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk



Sunday 7 December, 10.30am - 3.30pm

NSPCC Christmas Fair

Allum Manor House & Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree, Herts WD6 3PJ Email: anngoddard999@hotmail.com

Friday 12 December - Wednesday 31 December Cinderella

The Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar EN6 2HZ www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk

Sunday 15 December - Friday 19 December, 6pm - 8pm **Borehamwood Brass Playing Christmas Carols**

Tesco Extra, Borehamwood, WD6 1JG

Tuesday 16 December, 7.30pm

BBC Elstree Concert Band - Christmas Concert

96 Shenley Road, Borehamwood www.ticketsource.co.uk/EBTV

Saturday 20 December, 3pm **Boreham Wood vs Carlisle United**



www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Tuesday 30 December, 7.45pm Boreham Wood vs Solihull Moors

www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk



JANUARY

Saturday 3 January, 3pm Boreham Wood vs York City

www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Friday 9 January, 7.30pm **Upbeat Beatles**

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL www.radlettcentre.co.uk



A Festive Day for the Whole Family!



Meet Santa in his Grotto - bring your little ones for a special Christmas memory!



Market Stalls - handmade gifts, local crafts, decorations & produce



Hot Food & Festive Drinks - savoury bites, sweet treats, and mulled delights

Live Music - enjoy seasonal tunes and performances throughout the day

Free Entry · Family Friendly · All Welcome!



Fairway Hall, Brook Close, WD6 5BT



Saturday 10 January, 7.30pm

Women in Rock

The Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk

Saturday 10 January, 7.30pm

Hometown Glory - Adele Tribute with Natalie Black

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Sunday 11 January, 7.30pm

Marty Wilde & the Wildcats

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Thursday 15 January - Saturday 17 January, various times

Goldilocks and The Three Bears

The Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk

Thursday 15 January, 7.30pm

Elvis Years

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Friday 16 January, 7.30pm

The Rozzers - Music of Sting & The Police

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Sunday 18 January, 7.30pm

Think Floyd - Pink Floyd Tribute

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Wednesday 21 January, 7.45pm Boreham Wood vs Scunthorpe United

www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Thursday 22 January, 7.30pm

Cloudbusting The Music of Kate Bush

The Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk

Thursday 22 January, 7.30pm

Back to Bacharach - Burt Bacharach Tribute

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Saturday 24 January, 1.30pm & 6.30pm

Sunday 25 January, 1.30pm

Elstree Productions - Pinocchio

St Michael and All Angels Church, Borehamwood

www.ticketsource.co.uk/ep

Saturday 24 January, 2.30pm & 7.30pm

Relatable - RMTC Gala

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Wednesday 28 January, 7.30pm

Talon - The Best of The Eagles

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Thursday 29 January, 7.30pm

Buddy Holly & The Cricketers

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Friday 30 January, 7.30pm

Let Me Entertain You - A Tribute to Robbie Williams

The Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ

www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk

Saturday 31 January, 3pm

Boreham Wood vs Boston United

www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Saturday 31 January, 7.30pm

Nick Ross Orchestra "The GLENN MILLER & RAT PACK Era"

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Saturday 31 January, 7.30pm

Coldplace - Tribute to Coldplay

The Wyllyotts Theatre, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ

www.wyllyottstheatre.co.uk

FEBRUARY

Sunday 8 February, 7.30pm

Carpenters - Voice of the Heart

The Radlett Centre, Radlett, WD7 8HL

www.radlettcentre.co.uk

Wednesday 11 February, 7.45pm

Boreham Wood vs Yeovil Town

www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk

Saturday 21 February, 3pm

Boreham Wood vs Forest Green Rovers www.borehamwoodfootballclub.co.uk



Elstree & Borehamwood town council meetings

For a full list of our forthcoming meetings, please see the website. All meetings now take place at Fairway Hall.

2 December 2025	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7.00pm
4 December 2025	General Management	Meeting Room	7.00pm
13 January 2026	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7.00pm
20 January 2026	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7.30pm
28 January 2026	Full Council	Main Hall	7.30pm
3 February 2026	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7.00pm
5 February 2026	General Management	Meeting Room	7.00pm
17 February 2026	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7.00pm
18 February 2026	Transport Community Safety	Main Hall	7.30pm
10 March 2026	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7.00pm
17 March 2026	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7.00pm
18 March 2026	Annual Parish Council	Main Hall	7.30pm
25 March 2026	Full Council	Main Hall	7.30pm

Note: Times and venues of meetings may be changed at short notice. Meetings listed are open to the press and public.



Over 60s Coach Trips

For Elstree & Borehamwood Residents

The Town Council is offering a chance to have a day out at a Winter Market for £15. Choose one of the two destinations and bring your proof of age and residence (driving licence or bus pass/passport and a utility bill) along to Fairway Hall, Brook Close, WD6 5BT

Tickets are on a first come, first served basis and are on sale from 9am to 12 noon from Monday to Friday - strictly one per person. Please bring correct change.

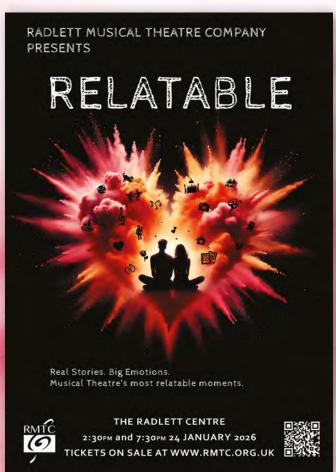
Tickets are non-refundable.

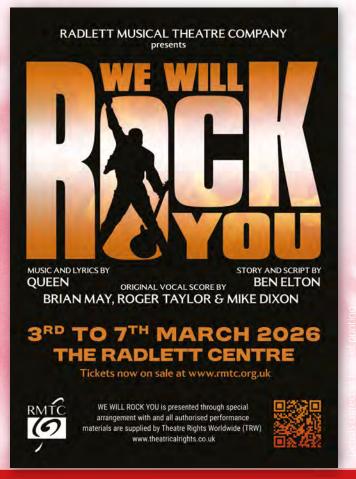
The coaches will leave Fairway Hall at 9am prompt and will depart the destination at 5pm for the return journey. You must be able to board the coach without too much difficulty and can bring a carer (who must also purchase a ticket).

Tickets go on sale between 9am and 12 noon at Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council, Fairway Hall, Brook Close, WD6 5BT

Tuesday 9 December 2025 Winchester

Thursday 11 December 2025 Canterbury





Volunteers get to have fun too

So come and volunteer with girlguiding!

We urgently need more adult volunteers to help keep our Friday Rainbow and Brownie units open. These funloving groups have recently enjoyed trips to the zoo and a sensory safari in Broxbourne Woods.

Our volunteers not only make it possible for the girls to have these wonderful experiences, but they also gain a lot themselves. Volunteers get to watch the girls overcome fears, build confidence, learn about the world around them and make lifelong friends. But it isn't only the Rainbows and Brownies who make friends that last a lifetime – the adults do too! Girlguiding is one big family, and we'd love you to be part of it.

We want to give all girls amazing opportunities, and we can only do that with the support of volunteers.





Please register now to help us, or email: elstreeandbwooddistrict@girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk

Kenilworth Primary embraces democracy with new house system and captains

Kenilworth Primary School is delighted to announce the election of its new House Captains and Vice-Captains as part of the relaunch of its house system. The process gave pupils a hands-on experience of how democracy works, mirroring elections in local and national government.

The school was pleased to welcome Councillor Dan Ozarow, Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood, who spoke to the pupils about the importance of democracy and how using their voices in school connects to being active citizens within the wider community.

A real-life leadership and voting experience

Year 6 pupils who wished to become House Captains first submitted applications, then presented speeches to their house members outlining their ideas for the year ahead.

To make the voting process authentic, Kenilworth Primary worked with the local council, which provided polling booths and ballot boxes. This allowed all pupils to take part in a secret ballot to choose their leaders.

Captains announced and ready to lead

On Monday 6 October, the votes were counted, and the new House Captains and Vice-Captains were announced. The newly elected leaders are eager to get started.

Each captain and vice-captain has signed a contract outlining their responsibilities and duties, counter-signed by Chair of Governors, Rod Woodhouse.

Mrs Sampson and Mrs Chidley said, "This process is about giving our pupils the chance to use their voices in a positive way. We believe our new captains will help make great improvements at school and in the community over the year."

Kenilworth Primary looks forward to a year filled with enthusiasm, student-led projects and active participation under its new leadership team.





Eco-Schools success for Meryfield Community Primary School!

We are thrilled to announce that Meryfield Community Primary School has been awarded the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction! This international recognition celebrates our commitment to sustainability, environmental education, and positive action for our planet.

Over the past year, pupils and staff have worked tirelessly as part of our Eco-Council, leading initiatives that have transformed our school into a greener, more environmentally conscious place. From reducing waste and increasing recycling to creating wildlife habitats and promoting sustainable energy, our whole school community has

The Eco-Schools assessors said they were impressed and inspired by how our school had gone above and beyond to safeguard the planet for future

embraced the challenge with passion and creativity.

generations. Achieving the Green Flag with Distinction places us among the top Eco-Schools in the country – and we could not be prouder!

To celebrate our success, Eco-Schools have planted a tree in our name with Just One Tree to help grow a forest for the future.

A huge thank you goes out to every pupil, parent, carer, and member of staff who contributed along the way. This award is a testament to what we can achieve when we work together to care for our environment and make a positive difference to our world.







Outdoor development at Cowley Hill Primary School

Over the past year, we have worked with Setter Play to redevelop and upgrade the outdoor learning spaces at Cowley Hill Primary School. During the summer holidays, the Setter team worked tirelessly to remodel the areas, making full use of the space and ensuring it can be enjoyed all year round.

The project focused on four key areas:

EYFS play area and forest pathway

The Early Years Foundation Stage area was refreshed with improved all-weather access and features designed to support the curriculum and continuous indoor/outdoor learning. A large mound was removed and replaced with a level surface of bonded rubber mulch. The old sandpit and shelter were replaced with a new roadway for ride-on toys, a story-time corner, and new climbing equipment. The forest area was also transformed, with new pathways, bridges and fencing bringing the space back to life.

KS1 play area

To help children transition from EYFS to Key Stage 1, we created a bright, welcoming space with a rainbow canopy, allowing outdoor learning and play in all weathers. Removing the old grass mound has completely transformed the area.

KS2 outdoor gym and classrooms

The KS2 area now includes a modern outdoor gym with steel and rope activities to boost motor skills. Pupils use the equipment fortnightly, with chances to earn extra sessions. Along the new link pathway, two outdoor classrooms provide fresh-air learning spaces and quiet areas for reading and drawing.

We are thrilled with the transformation and already seeing positive effects on learning, behaviour, and wellbeing.

End of Year results - Our best ever!

After the challenges of COVID-19, our pupils achieved an incredible 75.4% at or above the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined. We are so proud of them — well done to the Class of 2025!



Empower Youth Ventures

Bringing opportunities to local children

Empower Youth Ventures (EYV), a community interest company (CIC), continues to make a positive impact across the Borehamwood community by delivering multisports and educational programmes for children from disadvantaged families and those with special educational needs (SEN).

The organisation's mission is to ensure that every child has access to inclusive, high-quality activities, regardless of their background or financial circumstances. Through generous community funding and local partnerships, EYV is able to subsidise programme fees and provide free sessions for families on benefits, helping to remove barriers to participation and build confidence in young people.

This photo captures one of EYV's recent sessions, bringing together enthusiastic children, dedicated coaches, and supportive community members for a day filled with learning, teamwork, and fun.

Empower Youth Ventures continues to rely on community support to deliver its vital programmes and is always seeking new partnerships and funding opportunities to expand its reach.

Anthony McEyeson



My journey with the Elstree & Borehamwood Youth Council



Joining the Elstree & Borehamwood Youth Council has been an inspiring and empowering experience.

From the very first meeting, I felt welcomed and valued, surrounded by peers who are equally passionate about making a positive difference for young people in our community. The council provides us with a genuine platform to share concerns,

contribute ideas, and take action that has a lasting impact. It's been exciting to see people from different backgrounds working together on projects to make our town safer and more vibrant.

Looking ahead, I'm especially excited about the council's 2025–2026 plans. These include welcoming more members, supporting

environmental projects, and strengthening partnerships with local youth organisations.

Overall, my time on the Youth Council has boosted my confidence and motivation to represent young voices in local decision-making. Due to the recent passing of my grandfather, I haven't been able to contribute as much as I would have liked. However, I look forward to taking on more responsibilities in the future and playing a bigger role in upcoming projects.

Arib - Youth Councillor

ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD

Community litter pick at Farriers Way

On Saturday 20 September, I attended a litter-picking event at Farriers Way, organised by the Rotary Club.

It was amazing to meet so many local people of all ages who had volunteered their time to help keep our town clean! The event was a great success — we managed to fill several bags with litter and identify major fly-tipping spots for the council to address.

Nathan - Youth Councillor



Young performers light up Trafalgar Square with a mesmerising Ramayana Musical

Over 20 young performers from Elstree & Borehamwood and neighbouring towns brought the timeless Indian epic Ramayana to life at Diwali on Trafalgar Square 2025, one of London's most cherished cultural celebrations.

Organised by the Mayor of London, the event drew nearly 30,000 spectators who were captivated by the children's spellbinding musical retelling of the ancient tale.

The performance, titled Ramayana – A Musical Journey, was a stunning blend of music, dance, and drama, portraying the values of courage, righteousness, compassion, and devotion. Remarkably, the entire production was performed



by children aged 8 to 17, who balanced months of rehearsals with their school commitments.

Produced by MAD House Production – a creative collective formed by Borehamwood parents Abhinav Sahai, Deepika Banerjee Sahai, Mayuri Harish, and Priya Shivkumar – the show stood as a shining example of art, culture, and community coming together to inspire young minds.

"Our aim was to give children an opportunity to connect with their roots while learning teamwork, empathy, and stagecraft," said Abhinav Sahai, Technical Editor and Voice Over Artist. "Watching them perform on one of London's biggest stages was a moment of immense pride."

The performers represented leading schools across London, including Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet; North London Collegiate School; Haberdashers Girls' School; Queens' School, Bushey; and Watford Grammar School for Girls.

The event was attended by Parveen Rani, Former Deputy Mayor of Hertsmere, and Tushar Kumar, Deputy Mayor of Elstree & Borehamwood, who praised the children's heartfelt performance.

In the true spirit of Diwali, the group raised over £1,400 for Save the Children UK, spreading light through kindness and creativity. Their remarkable achievement has inspired plans to showcase the production at other community events, including the Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council Diwali celebration on 18 October.

Abhinav Sahai

Youth Council Question Time 2025

Supporting our local community

The Elstree & Borehamwood Youth Council is pleased to announce the return of Youth Council Question Time on Wednesday 26 November 2025 at Fairway Hall, Borehamwood Council Offices (main hall).

This event brings together young people, local leaders and community representatives for an evening of discussion and collaboration. The 2025 theme, "Supporting Our Local Community", highlights unity, local engagement and empowering the next generation to shape our town's future.

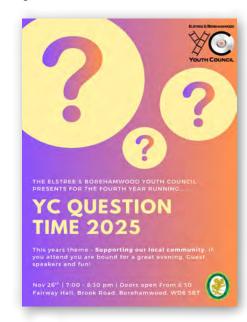
Open to all young people aged 11 to 21, the event also warmly welcomes parents, carers and members of the public who wish to support the voices of our youth. Question Time offers a valuable chance for young residents to ask questions, share ideas and engage directly with decision-makers, local services and community groups on the issues that matter most to them.

This year, the Youth Council is delighted to be sponsored by HATCH Borehamwood, whose generous support makes the event possible. The evening's panel will feature a range of speakers, including Deputy Mayor Tushar Kumar, Youth Councillors, and representatives from Services for Young People, Gratitude and other local organisations. Together, they will discuss youth engagement, wellbeing, community support and opportunities for local growth and involvement.

Youth Council Question Time is more than a date in the diary – it's a celebration of community spirit, active citizenship and the power of young voices. Whether you're passionate about making a difference, curious about how local government works or simply keen to hear from others in your community, this is an evening not to be missed.

Join us on Wednesday 26 November 2025 at Fairway Hall, Borehamwood. Doors open at 6:00pm; arrive early to ensure seating.

For information or to submit a question in advance, call 07752 472573, email mason.youth@outlook.com or contact youthcouncil@elstreeborehamwood-tc. qov.uk





40 Years of EastEnders

Borehamwood's hidden star

This year marks 40 years since EastEnders began filming at the BBC Elstree Centre in Borehamwood – the real home of Albert Square. Since 1984, our town has been the backdrop for one of Britain's most loved dramas, bringing the East End to Hertfordshire week after week.

When the BBC set out to create EastEnders, it chose Borehamwood for its rich film and television heritage. The studios here had already hosted classics like Auf Wiedersehen, Pet and The Muppet Show. A section of land behind Clarendon Road was transformed into a full-scale set, complete with the Queen Vic, launderette, and the famous terraced houses. Though the show is set in East London, every episode has been made right here for four decades.

Over the years, the set – built to last just 15 years – became part of TV history. By the 2010s, however, it was showing its age. In 2022, a brand-new Albert Square was unveiled, built with real brick and modern materials to suit high-definition filming. The new set carefully preserves every beloved detail while ensuring EastEnders can continue to thrive for years to come.

For Borehamwood, the show is more than a production. It's part of our local identity. Generations of residents have grown up hearing the buzz



from the studios, catching glimpses of filming, and taking pride in our town's role at the heart of British television.

As EastEnders celebrates its 40th anniversary, Borehamwood celebrates too – four decades of stories, laughter, and drama that all began right here, behind the studio gates.

So next time you hear that iconic theme tune, remember: Walford might be in London, but its heart beats in Borehamwood.

Dan Salter

Elstree roars again

2025 blockbusters bring Bridget, dinosaurs and Wicked magic to Hertfordshire

Elstree's screen heritage is roaring back to life in 2025, with three crowd-pleasing tentpoles anchoring production in Hertfordshire: Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy, Jurassic World: Rebirth and Wicked: For Good.

Much of the heavy lifting has taken place at Sky Studios Elstree in Borehamwood – colloquially "Elstree" – whose new stages and backlots have rapidly become a magnet for major studios. Wicked established the site as a flagship hub, building vast interior worlds on soundstages and spilling onto nearby backlots; Part Two, For Good, continues that momentum into 2025.

Renée Zellweger's return as Bridget has been rooted firmly in London life, but the production also retreated to Elstree to craft interiors and controlled sets – proof that the studio's flexibility suits character comedy just as well as fantasy spectacle. Local shoots in Hampstead and the Lake District were complemented by stage work at Sky Studios Elstree, keeping cast and crew within easy reach of central London.

Universal's dino saga has ranged far and wide – from Malta's tanks to Thailand's coastlines – yet

Jurassic World: Rebirth also parked at Elstree for studio work, tapping into the UK's deep crew base and visual-effects expertise. The franchise's embrace of Hertfordshire underscores how global blockbusters now stitch together location splendour with precision-engineered stagecraft.

The impact for the region is tangible. For local suppliers, trainees and seasoned technicians alike, the pipeline from Bridget to Jurassic to Wicked signals sustained opportunity and a steady rhythm of production. The

mix of genres – from heartfelt British comedy to Hollywood-scale fantasy and action – demonstrates the remarkable adaptability of Elstree's facilities and its crews.

In short, 2025's biggest films aren't just passing through Elstree – they're being built there. From a cosy Camden flat to emerald cities and mosasaur mayhem, Hertfordshire's stages are where British craftsmanship meets global box-office ambition.

Dan Salter



Saving the British Hollywood's local cinema one year on

Reflections on Reel Studio 70 Borehamwood Cinema's Relaunch and the Creation of Elstree and Borehamwood's Film and Television Exhibition.

A year after Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council and Hertsmere Borough Council stepped in to save Borehamwood's independent local cinema from closure, Reel Studio 70 at The Point on Shenley Road is thrivina.

Relaunched in December 2024 following a wholesale refurbishment and the launch of a spectacular exhibition housed at Reel that celebrates both the town's historic film and television heritage and its current thriving industry, EastEnders star Michelle Collins cut the ribbon as a life-size Stormtrooper from Star Wars (filmed locally) looked on.

Over the past twelve months, since guests from Elstree's film sector, local residents and dignitaries packed out the exhibition hall for the opening, the cinema has gone from strength to strength, even hosting the world premiere of Cannes Film Festival prize-nominated Cookster: The Darkest Days (featuring Nick Moran and Tracy Shaw). The film tells the story of Borehamwood-born Jason Cook, a dyslexic teenager turned drug-runner turned inspiring author and film-maker. The cinema continues to offer affordably priced tickets and regular children's activities.

Its hosting of the Elstree and Borehamwood Film and Television Exhibition (free to enter during cinema opening hours) draws visitors from near and far and includes a striking set of storyboards at the cinema entrance recounting the 110-year history of film and TV at Elstree.

In the main hall, a display case boasts memorabilia loaned by former film and television industry workers and their families. These include much-loved historic artefacts such as the original MGM





lettering from its studios' tower (from the 1960s), a director's jacket worn by Scooter on The Muppets set (1976), photos of King Charles' visit to Elstree Studios to open its sound stages (1999), and the model of Tower Bridge used in Paddington in Peru (2024). Artefacts continue to be added, most recently this summer a boundary wall brick from the old MGM Studios (originally built for Amalgamated Studios, 1935–37).

Meanwhile, a gallery of framed photos and film posters adorns the adjacent wall, alongside the original George Lucas Stage plaque from Elstree Studios, dating from 2000.

Finally, an ergonomic isolation booth to the rear of the hall offers an immersive experience, with a screen showing a series of short documentaries and video interviews with film cast, crew and directors who have filmed at Elstree, such as Steven Spielberg and Stanley Kubrick. Visitors can select and watch these via interactive software produced by Principal Lecturer Howard Berry from the University of Hertfordshire's Film Department and his students.

Relaunched as "Reel Studio 70 Borehamwood", the name evokes nostalgia for the town's historic Studio 70 cinema, demolished in 1981 to make way for office blocks. As part of the agreement to save the independently run cinema, screens will be periodically made available for community use.

Dubbed the "British Hollywood" for having produced iconic films including Star Wars, Indiana Jones, A Clockwork Orange and The Shining, Borehamwood was once home to six major film studios in an industry spanning 110 years of history. Today, Elstree Studios and BBC Elstree continue the legacy as the filming locations of Strictly Come Dancing and EastEnders, while current box office hits Wicked and Paddington in Peru were produced at Sky Studios Elstree, as is Jurassic World: Rebirth, due for release later this year.

Councillor Dan Ozarow, Curator of the Exhibition and Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood, said: "It makes me incredibly proud to see how former and current film industry workers and their families, local councillors, students, TV stars and residents have all come together not only to keep Hollywood in Borehamwood, but to encapsulate both the historic heritage and current vibrancy of our film and television sector in this spectacular exhibition."

Cllr Dan Ozarow and Dan Salter

Getting over the 'S' word

Kerry took on her allotment after a long wait only this year, and she managed to rope in family members for their muscle and advice in order to get cracking. Her early experience of 'growing your own' came via her grandad and mum, though she had no interest at the time. Now, as a mum and a first-time plot holder, she started with a lot of research through Googling, joining Facebook groups, and reading books to discover the what, when and hows of growing fruit and vegetables.

There were already established plants and basic infrastructure that she'd inherited from the previous tenant: three raised beds, a greenhouse, and a good-sized shed. Of the inherited plants, Kerry kept cutting down the horseradish foliage, thinking it was an annoying weed, until she found out what it was! Another was lovage, a traditional herb, some of which she was more than happy to pass on to a fellow allotmenteer. She

explained she had still to get to grips with composting and was looking into suggested types of bins and methods.

Kerry and family really hit the ground running this year, growing an amazing array including cucumber, tomato, chilli, peppers, aubergine, mint, coriander, strawberry, watermelon, courgette, pear, leek, beetroot, onion, radish, celery, runner bean, corn, French bean, cauliflower, broccoli, blackberry, grape, gooseberry and blackcurrant.

An initial drawback was meeting the relentless advance of slugs — α word she hadn't been able to say until recently, but is now getting over with repeated exposure!

When asked, "What advice would you give anyone thinking about getting an allotment?" she has no hesitation in saying, "Go for it! Go one step at a time, getting advice and support where you can. You never stop learning, even if you've been at it for years."

Anne Nicodemus







New Stapleton Gardens allotments: Growing space, growing community

A greener, more inclusive space for Borehamwood's gardeners

There's a fresh buzz in the air – and it's not just from the bees! The long-awaited New Stapleton Gardens Allotments have officially opened, creating a vibrant new hub for gardeners in Elstree and Borehamwood.

After months of preparation and plenty of muddy boots, the onceempty stretch of land has been transformed into a thriving patchwork of plots. Now it's alive with the sound of spades in soil, wheelbarrows rattling over paths, and friendly chatter between neighbours.

More plots, More people

The new site boasts 100 individual plots – doubling the previous allotment space. Around 50 plots will be allocated to people on the ever-growing waiting list, helping more residents enjoy the benefits of allotment gardening, from growing fresh produce to connecting with the community.

Cllr Dan Ozarow, Town Mayor, said: "We are thrilled to have secured the future of allotment space in this part of our town. Through the new Stapleton site, we're creating a haven of biodiversity with permanent allotments for everyone to enjoy. Doubling the number of plots and adding inclusive facilities marks real progress for our community.

We thank existing plot-holders for their patience during the transfer and welcome new gardeners of all ages discovering the joy of allotment life."

Sustainability lies at the heart of the design, with a managed biodiversity area featuring wildflowers and a pond to attract bees, butterflies, and birds. A new building includes accessible toilets and storage, while ecofriendly practices such as composting, water conservation, and wildlife-friendly planting are encouraged.

Community and learning

Future plans include a shared community plot where those on the waiting list can try gardening before taking on a full plot.

With 100 plots, green facilities, and a thriving community spirit, New Stapleton Gardens Allotments are set to become Borehamwood's green heart – a place to grow, learn, and connect.

www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk/allotments

Rob Craig



Is protecting our local green spaces important to you?

It is to us. We are the Elstree and Borehamwood Green Belt Society (EBGBS), local volunteers who protect the countryside against development on, or damage to, designated Green Belt in our area.

Why? It's important. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

"The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence."

Green Belt serves to check unrestricted sprawl; prevent neighbouring towns from merging; assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and assist in urban regeneration.

Our Society is needed to speak up against developers who have the time and financial resources to put forward strong arguments to build on our Green Belt

We have seen a huge amount of development in Elstree and Borehamwood over the last few years. There are many brownfield sites

(previously developed but currently vacant, unused or underused) that should be considered first. Local people feel passionate about protecting the few areas of green space left—to protect the flora and fauna, and not push out the wildlife that inhabits these areas, be they birds, bats, stoats, deer or insects; for environmental reasons, including maintaining our air quality; for recreation by walking in open countryside; and for our mental health, to be able to see fields and trees in our local area.

There are plans in consultation right now, and others submitted for permission for housing developments on local Green Belt.

Our website, www.ebgreenbelt.org, has information about these current potential developments, action required to protect this Green Belt, and lots more.

Why not join as a member for just £5?

See our website or contact ebgbsmembership@gmail.com. Remember, when it's gone, it's gone.

Helen Stammers

Woodcock Hill Village Green

WHVG Committee members Chair Pat Strack, Clive Butchins, Andrew Grady, Sandra Parnell, and Pete and Sue Williams continued to try to prevent Taylor Wimpey taking part of the Village Green at Masefield Avenue, Vale Avenue and Byron Avenue.

Many thanks to Emma Montlake at the Environmental Law Foundation. Our legal team, Richard Buxton, led us through two Judicial Reviews. This was pro bono. Our costs were court costs only.

Unfortunately, we lost them both. Our appeals were funded by donations from members, the Elstree and Borehamwood Green Belt Society and two separate grants of \pounds ,3000 from the Open Spaces Society.

As a small charity, we were lucky to be protected by the Aarhus Convention. We were able to mount the challenge so that, if we lost, the cost was limited.

The land at Vale/Masefield/Byron Avenues is still in the Green Belt and is in no way grey belt. Taylor Wimpey, obviously, will press hard to build on this land.

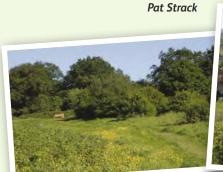
Taylor Wimpey agents have made a successful application to build a footpath to the new Village Green located on the other side of the railway in Elstree.

Land adjacent to the east of the Village Green bounded by Furzehill Road, Carrington

Avenue and Close, will now be built on. The original application was turned down by Hertsmere Borough Council Planning Committee. David Wilson Homes appealed and won the right to build there. Fortunately, some of the land was registered as a Local Wildlife Site in 2002 and that cannot be built on. Some of the trees that have been subject to a Tree Protection Order seem set to be removed.

There are still grave concerns about the emergency access at the corner of Carrington. Avenue Asbestos was dumped there in the past and cars are parked opposite.

Details of AGM on our website. www.woodcockhill.org.uk





A new interfaith initiative for Elstree and Borehamwood

Local faith leaders, wider community organisers and councillors have founded a simple yet powerful new interfaith initiative to promote understanding, hope, and the celebration of difference.

Convened by the Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood, Dan Ozarow, representatives from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Hare Krishna organisations shared an English afternoon tea and pledged to champion inclusivity over exclusion, and unity through diversity.

At the time of writing, a Peace Walk was planned through the town on Thursday 13 November, coordinated by the Mayor of Hertsmere in which the public, schoolchildren, councillors and faith leaders



would symbolically walk together between places of worship, pausing for a moment of reflection in each and praying for peace.

The group also confirmed its involvement in Mitzvah Day on Sunday 23 November, is planning a large interfaith celebration event in the summer, and has published statements of support to the local Jewish community after the horrific terrorist attack in Manchester, reinforcing a shared commitment to service and solidarity.

Rabbi Gershon Silins from The Liberal Synagogue Elstree said: "We are spearheading an interfaith initiative that will celebrate our different communities and the way in which the differences between us create the mosaic that makes Britain both diverse and united. We gather to think about the best ways to advance the story of our Britain, which takes pride in being British, as one of inclusivity, not exclusion."

Pastor Rachel Waitt from Borehamwood Baptist Church added: "It was a joy to meet with leaders of other faiths and begin to dream of ways that together we can be a blessing to our local community. I hope that in meeting and working together as leaders of different faith groups, we can be an example of the strength and hope of our modern United Kingdom."

Cllr Dan Ozarow



Dressed in their distinctive red vests, Community Enforcement Officers have become a familiar and friendly sight across the borough. Out every day, they're not just upholding the rules – they're helping to keep neighbourhoods safe, support local businesses, and make shared spaces welcoming for everyone.

The initiative is funded through a dedicated pot, created partly from unused allocations for additional Police Community Support Officers and strengthened by a £35,000 annual contribution from Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council. This has enabled the team to grow from three to four fully trained officers, focusing extra resources on the Borehamwood and Elstree area.

A formal service level agreement between Hertsmere Borough Council and the Town Council sets out shared branding, communication protocols, and a clear process for handling local reports and requests.

Acting as a bridge between the community and local authorities, the officers combine enforcement, engagement and education to improve everyday life. They've tackled fly-tipping, littering and illegal waste through patrols and investigations, and carried out more than 120 Duty of Care visits to local businesses, offering practical advice on waste management.



Partnership working is central to their approach. The team collaborates with police and licensing officers to promote responsible management at venues, and with housing colleagues to bring empty properties back into use. Joint patrols with Police and Fire Service teams have also helped prevent arson and reduce anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces.

Having completed Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) training, officers will soon be formally recognised under the scheme – giving them new powers to take direct enforcement action when needed.

So next time you see those red vests on patrol, give them a wave – they're helping to keep our borough safe, clean and connected.

Communities 1st

Communities 1st is a local charity helping people and organisations to connect, grow, and make a real difference.

The friendly team at Your Community Hub on Leeming Road offers wellbeing advice, help with form filling, employment support, foodbank assistance, office services, volunteering opportunities, and more.

We provide many ways to stay socially connected and make new friends. Creative Community Cafés take place across Hertsmere and are the perfect place to enjoy your favourite hobby and meet like-minded people. Men That Meet at Windsor Hall is a group



for men of all ages and backgrounds, offering a supportive space to socialise and improve



mental wellbeing. Our Befriending Service provides emotional support and companionship to combat loneliness through regular phone calls.

If you find it difficult to use public transport, our Community Car and Shopper Bus services can help. Our popular Day Trippers outings are ideal for older residents and those who find it challenging to get out alone.

We offer learning opportunities through our Community Learning Programme, supported volunteering, employment support, and professional skills courses. Our Digital Champions attend Computers and a Cuppa sessions to help people navigate the online world with confidence.

The Volunteer Centre can help you find the perfect volunteering role, even if you only have a little time to spare. With our Let's Give platform, volunteering opportunities find you! If your organisation needs help with volunteer recruitment or management, we can assist.

Our Para Dance UK team hosts inclusive online dance classes each week during term time for all ages and abilities, and we also run lawn bowls sessions in Borehamwood.

Visit www.communities1st.org.uk, email us@communities1st.org.uk, or call 01727 649900 for more information.

Supporting Our Community – Citizens Advice Hertsmere AGM



It was a privilege to attend the Citizens Advice Hertsmere Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Civic Offices earlier this week. The event brought together councillors, community partners, volunteers, and staff, all united by a shared commitment to supporting residents across Hertsmere.

Citizens Advice Hertsmere continues to play an indispensable role in our borough, providing free, impartial, and confidential advice on a broad range of issues including housing, employment, benefits, and debt. The service remains a vital source of support for many local residents, ensuring that help is available to those who need it most and that individuals are empowered to make informed decisions about their circumstances.

During the AGM, I was pleased to hear about the organisation's achievements over the past year and to learn more about the challenges facing our community. The discussions highlighted the increasing demand for advice and support, particularly in relation to the cost-of-living pressures affecting so many households. It was encouraging to see how the team continues to respond with professionalism, compassion, and innovation, ensuring that residents receive the guidance they need.

I also had the opportunity to speak with Chief Executive Officer Carolyn Buller about the organisation's ongoing impact and the ways in

which Citizens Advice Hertsmere is adapting to meet changing local needs through partnership working and service development.

My congratulations go to the newly elected Chair and the entire team for another successful year. It was also a pleasure to catch up with Jillian, Chair of Trustees at Borehamwood Foodbank, which continues to make an outstanding contribution to supporting families across our community.

Cllr Tushar Kumar



"Who do I talk to about.....?"

With three tiers of local government in Hertfordshire, it can be confusing knowing which authority to contact about a particular service or issue.

Here is a brief list of key functions covered by each council to help untangle the web and to show who does what in your area.

Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council is responsible for:

- The office of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayoral engagements
- The management of the three allotment sites at Melrose Avenue, Allum Lane and Stapleton Gardens
- Support of the town twinning with Fontenayaux-Roses,Offenburg and Shoham
- A programme of entertainment and events throughout the year such as the two week Summer Festival (including the Civic Parade and Families Day), Guy Fawkes night fireworks, Christmas lights switch-on and musical concerts (including the BBC Band and local bands)
- Coach outings for residents over 60 years of age
- The award of grants to local groups and charities and honorary titles to local champions
- Town Crier magazine
- Street seating, some notice boards and church clocks
- Upkeep of closed churchyards (All Saints on Shenley Road and St Nicholas in Elstree)
- Upkeep of Elstree and Borehamwood war memorials

- Support for school swimming transport
- Youth Council
- Transport and Community Safety Forum Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council is the council closest to the residents in the parish. The Town Council is here to be a voice for the residents by representing their views on issues affecting them.

Call: 020 8207 1382 or visit www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Hertsmere Borough Council is responsible for:

- The collection of council tax and business rates
- Kerbside waste and recycling collections, including fly tipping
- Benefits
- Community safety
- Elections
- Street cleaning
- Housing needs
- Local planning and building regulations
- Public car parks and controlled parking zones
- Licensing and environmental health
- Cemeteries

• Leisure services (operated by InspireAll) including The Venue and all parks

Hertsmere Borough Council deals with issues covering the whole of Hertsmere and has a very regulatory orientated remit.

Call: 020 8207 2277 or visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Council is responsible for:

- Highways
- Education and libraries
- Social services
- Trading standards
- Public transport
- Bus passes and disabled parking permits
- Registrar of births, deaths and marriages
- Street lighting, pavements and cycle ways
- Adoption and fostering
- Fire and rescue services
- Recycling centres
- Footpaths and rights of way

Hertfordshire County Council is the top tier of local government and provides services on a county-wide basis

Call: 0300 123 4040 or visit www.hertsdirect.org

Town councillors

Town Mayor - Cllr Dan Ozarow Deputy Mayor - Cllr Tushar Kumar

Borehamwood Cowley Hill

Cllr Richard R Butler

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Cllr Jeremy Newmark

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Cllr Linda D Smith

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Borehamwood Hillside

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Cllr Tushar Kumar

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Borehamwood Kenilworth South

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Cllr Pooja Nirmalakumaran

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Elstree

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Rob Craig - Operations & Revenue Officer Email: rcraig@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Jenny Simon - Mayor's Secretary/Admin Email: admin@elstreeborehamwood-tc.qov.uk

John Shackel - Market & Projects Co-ordinator

Email: jshackel@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Services Team: Anne Nicodemus, Carl Irvin & David Rodgers-Hall

Fairway Hall Duty Team: Neil Robinson &

Kerry Turner



8pm 7

(Doors open at 7:30pm)
96 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1EB



Tickets available on the door (card only) and at www.ticketsource.co.uk/ebtc