

ISSUE 52

SPRING 2026

ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD



TOWN CRIER

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 18 March
at 7:30pm

See page 26 for
more details

Farmers and Craft
Market 2026

Page 9

Save St Nicholas School
Middle pages

Dear neighbours

Welcome to Issue 52 of Town Crier!



Elstree and Borehamwood is entering a period of change and opportunity. Residents will soon be able to vote in a town-wide referendum on our Neighbourhood Plan.

This community-led document gives local people a direct say on issues such as housing needs, protecting green spaces, town centre improvements, creative industries, transport and employment. While separate from the borough council's Local Plan, it will help ensure local priorities align with wider planning policies. I strongly encourage you to vote so your voice is heard.

Change is also underway nationally, with the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill expected to soon enter the statute book. This would see county and borough councils replaced by new strategic authorities and regional mayors within the next couple of years. I have been a strong advocate for town and parish councils to be given a central, empowered role in this new system. We will continue to exist, and as the layer of democracy closest to residents, we are best placed to represent neighbourhood communities.

At the time of writing, the future of St Nicholas School in Elstree village remains uncertain following Hertfordshire county council's proposal to close it. The town council, alongside our Hertsmer borough council partners, has worked tirelessly to oppose this. If the final decision goes against the school, we will seriously consider supporting a judicial review to challenge it. We stand firmly in solidarity with the children, families and staff affected.

Our Farmers and Craft Market continues to thrive. Upcoming dates are Saturday 28 February and Saturday 28 March 2026, from 10am - 2pm at Fairway Hall. From April the market will move outdoors to its new location in the Civic Office car park (see p.9).

We recently approved our annual budget. For just £1.60 per week per household, residents receive a wide range of services, events and representation from our hardworking staff and your unpaid councillors. This places us among the best value-for-money parish councils in the country.

I am immensely proud of Boreham Wood FC, who have a genuine chance of promotion to the Football League for the first time in their history. The support from fans has been outstanding, and I encourage everyone to keep backing the team and attending matches. We truly are a small town with big dreams.

Upcoming events include our annual parish meeting on Wednesday 18 March and the Easter Funday on Saturday 26 April (see p.26).

Finally, this will be my last edition as Town Mayor before handing over the chains to my successor in May. Serving you has been one of the greatest privileges of my life, and I thank you all for your support.

With best wishes

Cllr Dan Ozarow
Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood
For mayoral enquiries please email the Mayor's secretary at admin@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk



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The Year Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, the Council continues to work constructively across party lines and in partnership with residents, always in the interests of the whole community.

A key focus has been the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. My sincere thanks go to members of the public, officers, and councillors past and present who have contributed their time and energy to this important work. The plan ensures local views carry extra weight in planning decisions and will be going to public referendum later this year, with further details to follow.

It is great to see the town market back up and running, alongside a varied programme of events, details of which can be found on page 9. The council is also working with local faith leaders on community initiatives, including an inter-faith tree planting in Maxwell Park, symbolising environmental responsibility and bringing people together.

As a final note in this brief welcome, all residents are warmly encouraged to attend the annual parish meeting on 18 March, an important opportunity to hear more and to have your say. If you would like to make a presentation, please do get in touch with the town council office to be added to the list.



Cllr Richard Butler
Leader of the Labour and Co-operative Party for the Town Council

Christmas in Elstree & Borehamwood

Elstree and Borehamwood town council brought festive cheer to the town this Christmas with two much-loved events that captured the spirit of the season and brought the community together.

The celebrations began on Sunday 30 November with the annual Christmas light switch on, a highlight of the local calendar that once again filled the town centre with excitement and sparkle. Families and residents gathered to enjoy a magical afternoon packed with festive attractions, including a free Santa’s Grotto, where children had the chance to meet Father Christmas, a free ice rink that proved hugely popular with all ages, and an indoor Christmas Market offering a wonderful range of seasonal gifts, crafts and treats from local traders.

This year’s light switch on was made even more special by the involvement of the Lord Lieutenant’s Cadet for Hertfordshire, Flight Sergeant Lucy Waller, who joined Town Mayor Dan Ozarow to officially turn on the Christmas lights. Their countdown was met with cheers as the town centre was illuminated, marking the start of the festive season in Elstree and Borehamwood.

The celebrations continued on Tuesday 16 December with the town council’s annual Christmas Concert, held at 96 Shenley Road. The event was completely sold out, demonstrating the strong community support and enthusiasm for this much-anticipated evening of music. The BBC Elstree Concert Band delivered a fantastic performance, taking the audience on a festive musical journey with pieces from



Evita, A Nightmare Before Christmas, Star Wars and many more well-loved favourites.

Together, these events showcased the town council’s commitment to creating memorable, inclusive celebrations and strengthening community spirit. From twinkling lights to stirring music, Christmas in Elstree and Borehamwood was truly something special this year.

Dan Salter



Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council Diwali Festival 2025

It was a great pleasure to help organise 2025 Diwali Festival on behalf of Elstree & Borehamwood town council, alongside Cllr Parveen Rani and our entertainments officer, Dan Salter.

Held at Allum Hall, the festival brought together residents, families, performers and community organisations to celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, in a spirit of unity, joy and togetherness.

The stage came alive with performances ranging from kirtan and classical Indian dance to Ramayana scenes and lively Bollywood routines. Local cultural groups and organisations worked incredibly hard to create a programme that was meaningful, inclusive and enjoyable for all ages.



The Town Council was honoured to welcome a number of distinguished guests and community leaders, including Lord Krish Raval OBE, Cllr Alpha Collins, Mayor of Hertsmere, Cllr Jeremy Newmark, Leader of Hertsmere Borough Council, and Cllr Dan Ozarow, Mayor of Elstree & Borehamwood, along with representatives from faith organisations, councillors and the High Commission of India. Their presence highlighted the importance of Diwali as a celebration that brings people together across cultures and backgrounds.

I was proud to say during my remarks that Diwali is not only about lights and colour, but about connection, kindness and community. This festival truly reflected those values.

My sincere thanks go to the performers, volunteers, stallholders and council staff who made the day such a success, and to everyone who attended and helped create such a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Cllr Tushar Kumar

Remembrance Sunday 2025 at Elstree War Memorial

Remembrance Sunday 2025 was a deeply moving occasion for our community, as residents came together to honour the service and sacrifice of those who gave their lives for our freedoms.

It was an honour to lay a wreath on behalf of Elstree & Borehamwood town council at the Elstree war memorial, paying tribute to the fallen and reflecting on the profound cost of war.

The Service and Act of Remembrance

provided a moment of quiet reflection, bringing together councillors, faith leaders, young people and residents to stand in unity and remember those who served. This was followed by the Civic Service of Remembrance at All Saints Church, Borehamwood, which offered a thoughtful continuation of the day's commemorations.

Sincere thanks are extended to the Revd Louise R. Collins for leading the services with great care, dignity and compassion.

Remembrance Sunday remains an essential moment in our civic calendar, reminding us not



only of the sacrifices made in the past, but of our shared responsibility to uphold the values of peace, service and understanding in the present.

Lest we forget.

Cllr Tushar Kumar

Borehamwood brought to a standstill as local people pay tribute to war fallen at Remembrance Sunday parade

On Sunday 9 November 2025 hundreds of residents lined the streets to pay their respects to Borehamwood and Elstree's war heroes during the Remembrance Day parade.

Organised by Elstree and Borehamwood town council, the parade headed by the local cadets, the Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood Dan Ozarow, Mayor of Hertsmere Alpha Collins, local councillors, servicemen and women, veterans, emergency service personnel and representatives of community organisations left Clarendon Road, heading to the War Memorial on Shenley Road where a two minute silence was held.

The ceremony was led by Rabbi Gershon Silins of the Liberal Synagogue Elstree who opened proceedings saying:

"Friends, we gather today - people of many faiths and of none - to remember with gratitude all who have served, suffered, and died in the cause of freedom and peace. We come to honour their courage, to comfort those who still grieve, and to renew our shared

hope for a world healed of war and hatred."

Readings then followed from Radha Mohan, of the Bhaktivedanta Manor Hare Krishna Temple, Rabbi Alex Chapper of Borehamwood and Elstree Synagogue, the respective Mayors and two members of the Youth Council; Shardul Gupte and Amelie Supran. Andrew Grady played The Last Post.

As the poppy wreaths were laid, Len Denbigh of the Royal British Legion read out the names of those whose lives have been given or taken away in wars and conflicts past or present before George Carr ended proceedings with the Piper's Lament.

Town Mayor Dan Ozarow gave a moving speech, reflecting upon his own grandparents' service in World War II before paying tribute to two local war veterans; John Poyner (95) and Richard Day (98) who recently passed away. He continued: "John and Richard came from different corners of the military and lived very different lives, yet they were united by the shared spirit – one of duty, humility, and quiet resilience. Both men were witnesses to history and active participants in shaping

it. They endured hardship, they served with honour, and they carried their experiences into the world with dignity and purpose. Soldiers. Peacemakers. Storytellers."

After the ceremony, many of those gathered joined a Service of Remembrance at All Saints' Church led by the Revd Louise Collins and also met at the British Legion Social Club.

Councillor Dan Ozarow



Mayor visits French twin town for Armistice Day 2025

On 11 November 2025 Town Mayor Dan Ozarow visited Elstree and Borehamwood's official twin town, Fontenay-aux-Roses in France to commemorate Armistice Day.

There he paid tribute to the fallen from both towns and laid a poppy wreath at the Cenotaph in their main square and cemetery. He was joined by Martine Eni

from Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association as hundreds of local people, schoolchildren, local officials including Fontenay's Mayor Laurent Vastel and service personnel took part in the Remembrance Service.

During the visit, Dan and Martine discussed ways that we could support local schools to create language and cultural opportunities for children in Borehamwood and Elstree.



Royal British Legion poppy appeal

As the Poppy Appeal organiser for the Royal British Legion in Borehamwood, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the businesses and residents who supported our appeal this year.

I would like to thank especially the town council which helped to highlight the occasion with the display of poppies on the high street lamp posts and also its efforts in organising the Remembrance Parade and Service. A big thank you must also go to all the hundreds of people who turned out on the Sunday to either participate or to watch the event.

As you should be aware, we raise money in support of ex service people and their dependants and with your support this year we were able to mount a concerted campaign towards this aim.

With the aid of the local army and air cadets we were able to have street collections within the local shopping area and with our small band of volunteers we were able to man stalls at Morrisons, Marks and Spencer and Tesco stores.

Also, a big thanks to those ladies locally that knitted poppies for us which proved very popular with the public.

Again, I would like to thank all those who donated so generously towards our charity which enabled us in these uncertain times to raise a total of £38,478.94p. Well done to the people of Elstree and Borehamwood.

The Legion still has its social club in Shenley Road, and it welcomes new members to come along and take part in its varied activities and social events. Saturday nights are live music and dancing and Sunday nights are easy going discos. We also have bingo and quizzes and have a darts team and snooker and pool tables. Please check out our web pages for up-to-date information of all events.

We would also welcome along anybody who would be willing to help with our future fund raising, especially with preparing, delivering and collecting poppy boxes and of course giving some time to help on our fundraising stalls. The Poppy Appeal is not just one week a year, but rolls on throughout 52 weeks, so what ever time you can give would be much appreciated.

Many thanks to you all.

For further details contact the Royal British Legion at 289 Shenley Road or call 020 8386 2900.



*Carol Denbigh
Poppy Appeal Organiser, RBL Borehamwood*



Remembering Carol Denbigh

Shortly after writing this article Carol sadly passed away.

Her loss is deeply felt by all who knew her and by the many communities she served so faithfully. Carol dedicated over 50 years of service to the 7th Borehamwood Scouts giving her time, energy, and heart to Scouting in countless roles across the district and county. Through her quiet determination and steady leadership, she helped shape the lives of generations of young people, encouraging confidence, kindness, and a sense of service to others.

She was also a long-serving and highly respected volunteer with the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, where she led local fundraising

efforts for many years. Her commitment was recognised by community groups and local branches alike, a reflection of the trust and admiration she inspired.

We thank Carol for her incredible service, dedication, and compassion. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched and the values she championed.



Blue Skies Hub launch event

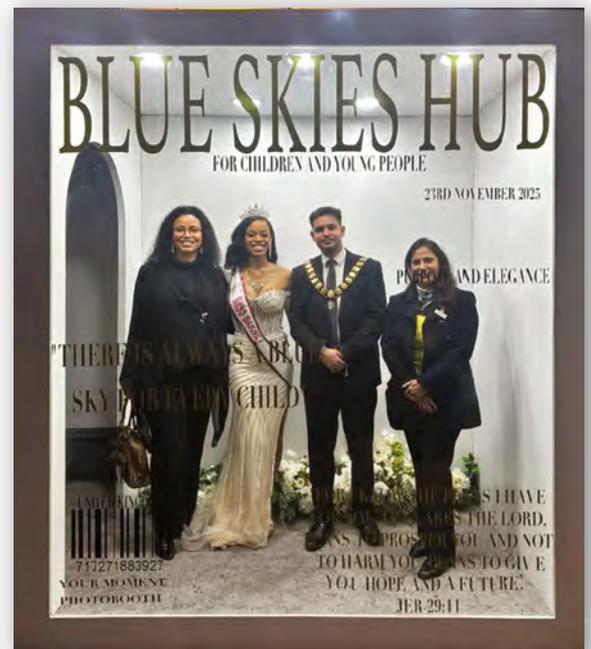
It was a pleasure to attend the launch of the Blue Skies Hub at the Village Hotel, a fantastic initiative dedicated to supporting children, young people, and families both locally and internationally.

Blue Skies is driven by a clear and inspiring mission: to give every child the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive through play, while also providing essential resources to communities most in need. Its work reflects a strong commitment to early development, inclusion, and long-term positive outcomes for families.

A particular highlight of the launch was the introduction of the Stay and Play Community Scheme, an innovative programme designed to help bridge the childcare gap for young families. By offering a safe, welcoming environment where children can learn through play and parents can connect and support one another, the scheme promises to make a meaningful difference within the community.

Congratulations to the entire Blue Skies team on a successful and uplifting launch. Their dedication and vision will undoubtedly have a lasting impact, and it was inspiring to see such a positive initiative begin its journey.

Cllr Tushar Kumar



100 Years of making magic

Elstree Film Studios, proudly located in the heart of Borehamwood, is celebrating its centenary. A hundred years of storytelling, groundbreaking productions and unforgettable screen moments.

From Star Wars and Indiana Jones to The Shining and Superman this public asset has been the home of legends and contributed hugely to our local economy. Recently, our stages have also welcomed some of the UK's most iconic television productions, including The Crown, EastEnders, Strictly Come Dancing and Big Brother.

That legacy of excellence continues to bring pride to our town. With state-of-the-art sound stages, fully serviced production offices, bespoke workshops and an expansive backlot, our local studios supports productions of every scale and genre.

Our centenary celebrations have already seen a visit from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh who praised Borehamwood's contribution to the UK creative industries whilst unveiling a commemorative plaque. We also set a Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people dressed as on-screen characters. We've hosted a series of public screenings with more to come - watch out for details of the 2026 screenings including Paddington and Suffragette.

Local people and community groups are participating in our '100 Short Films for 100 Years' initiative. We're inviting local residents, schools, community groups and creatives to make a 100 second film inspired by one of three themes and see it shown on the big screen! For more details see: www.elstreestudios.co.uk/100-films/ (expert support is available for shooting and editing your short film).

As Chairman of the studios, I'm determined that our centenary celebrations deliver a permanent legacy for the area. This will be achieved through the Elstree Immersive Experience set to open in the heart of our town next year and a set of iconic Hollywood style lettering visible from the A1.

Cllr Jeremy Newmark



Christmas cupcake competition at Summerswood School

It was lovely judging the Christmas-themed cupcake competition at Summerswood School, a festive and creative event that brought together pupils, families, and staff in true seasonal spirit.

I had the pleasure of judging alongside borough councillor Parveen Rani and Abbi from Roaming Roast. Families were challenged to bake and decorate twelve Christmas-themed cupcakes, and every entry was beautifully presented. The children demonstrated incredible creativity, imagination, and skill, which made the judging both enjoyable and extremely difficult.

Awards were presented for the best bakes from each key stage, as well as a prize for the best staff bake, giving everyone an opportunity to be recognised for their effort and enthusiasm.

A heartfelt thank you to Mrs Vanessa Brown, Reception Class Teacher and Parental Engagement Lead, for organising such a joyful, well-run, and inclusive event. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the festive season while encouraging creativity and community involvement within the school.

Clr Tushar Kumar



Celebrating Romanian National Day in Borehamwood

I was pleased to attend the Romanian National Day Festival at Allum Manor Hall, a vibrant celebration filled with culture, colour, and community spirit.

The event showcased the richness of Romanian heritage through traditional performances, live music, food stalls, and artisan displays. A special highlight was the beautiful and heartfelt performance by Mariana Anghel and her daughter, which was warmly received and truly captured the essence of Romanian culture.

My thanks to the organisers and volunteers for creating such a welcoming and well-organised event. Celebrations like these are a wonderful reminder of the diversity of our community and the importance of coming together to recognise and celebrate each other's cultures.

Borough councillor Parveen Rani



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Elstree village experiences a renaissance as residents' committee is formed

Elstree village is one of the most beautiful areas in our town. Aldenham Reservoir and the country park attract many a visitor from far and wide. Picturesque green spaces, magnificent wildlife and its rich history along with its tight-knit community and village-feel make it a special place to live.

Among the villagers there has been a feeling that their area has been neglected for many years. However, that era is over and developments in recent weeks and months are breathing new life into this community.

In November 2025, Hertsme borough council invested heavily in Composers Park, unveiling a fully refurbished and inclusive children's play area. Meanwhile Elstree and Borehamwood town council has put Elstree village at the heart of its Creative Arts and Culture strategy. In recent months the Liberal Synagogue, Elstree on the High Street has been hosting classical music concerts that are open to the public and supported by the town council.

After many years without a Vicar, St Nicholas Church will soon be welcoming Revd Steven Young who will share his time between there and Borehamwood churches, and there is much anticipation about the reopening of The Plough pub on the high street after the Kiss Kiss restaurant closed down in 2019.

Meanwhile the villagers themselves are working hard to keep up the community spirit. Vanessa Brown coordinated a Christmas Lights competition, and they recently elected a new residents' committee to act as a voice for the community.

Dettie Quirke, chair of the new committee said: "This development is so important for our village as I believe it will strengthen our community by giving everyone a voice, improving communication and shaping positive change. Our committee will help build the sense of belonging in our village, will help problem-solving and shared responsibility for where we live. Our goal is to create a more connected and empowered committee where residents influence the decision-making for our village over matters that affect their daily lives."

Cllr Dan Ozarow



Celebrating local creativity and children's literature in Borehamwood

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Wendy Gallagher and Margaret Townsend, the talented mother-and-daughter duo from Borehamwood behind the children's book *Pink Patsy and the Rainbow*.

It was inspiring to hear about the creativity, care, and imagination that have gone into their work. *Pink Patsy and the Rainbow* is a joyful and thoughtful story that encourages children to engage with reading through colour, creativity, and storytelling. Wendy and Margaret's shared passion for nurturing a love of books in young readers was clear throughout our conversation.

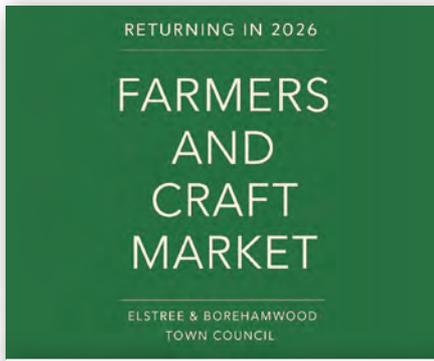
Borehamwood is fortunate to have such dedicated local creatives who contribute positively to children's learning and imagination.

Supporting authors and illustrators who are committed to inspiring young minds plays an important role in strengthening our community and celebrating the value of literacy.

I wish Wendy and Margaret every success as they continue to share *Pink Patsy and the Rainbow* with children and families in Borehamwood and beyond, and I look forward to seeing their work reach many more young readers.

Borough councillor Parveen Rani





Farmers & Craft Market back for 2026

The much-loved Farmers and Craft Market is back for its third year – and it’s set to be bigger, better and more vibrant than ever before! With a brand-new main location and an exciting programme of dates throughout 2026, this community favourite promises a fantastic year of fresh food, unique crafts and local talent.

This year the market moves to its new outdoor home in the Civic Centre carpark, conveniently located behind Hertsmere borough council and The Venue, offering more space for traders, easier access for visitors and an even more enjoyable shopping experience. Alongside the outdoor markets, popular indoor events will return to Fairway Hall for the cooler months, ensuring the market can be enjoyed all year round.

The season kicks off with two indoor markets at Fairway Hall on Saturday 28 February and Saturday 28 March, before heading outdoors on Sunday 26 April, followed by Sunday 24

May and Sunday 28 June at the Civic Centre carpark. A highlight of the summer will be the Food Festival in Meadow Park on Sunday 5 July, celebrating the very best of local produce and street food. The market then continues on Sunday 26 July, Sunday 23 August, Sunday 27 September and Sunday 25 October at the Civic Centre carpark.

As winter approaches, the market returns indoors for a cosy festive feel with dates at Fairway Hall on Sunday 22 November and Sunday 13 December – perfect for Christmas shopping and seasonal treats.

Visitors can expect a fantastic mix of farmers, bakers, street food vendors, artisan makers and independent businesses, all offering high-quality, locally produced goods. From fresh fruit and vegetables, cheeses and breads to handmade jewellery, candles, artwork and gifts, there is something for everyone.

Whether you’re a regular or a first-time visitor, the Farmers and Craft Market is the perfect place to support local traders, discover something new and enjoy a great day out with friends and family.

Dan Salter



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Dr. Ian Campbell RIP

We are sorry to report the passing of long-serving, well-respected and loved local doctor Ian Campbell.

Dr Campbell died peacefully at home on Sunday 25 October 2025 in his 100th year with his family in attendance. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Elstree and Borehamwood for over fifty years where he was a long time supporter of the Marysmeals charity, served as club president in 1982-3, oversaw the inauguration of the Rotaract Club and the first club to sponsor the local mini-marathon. He also was very supportive of other local organisations, such as Brookside Boys Club and Maxwell Park Community Centre.

Nick Male writes: Our Rotary motto 'Service Above Self' could have been written for Ian Campbell. For those of us who knew him, he exemplified the true spirit of our great international movement. This had been recognised by his many Rotary awards, accepted with humility and grace.

I was a child when I first met Ian and I was seventy-two when I attended the beautiful funeral which was so appropriate for him and at which members of his family spoke with such courage and tangible love.

My late father, Rotarian George Male was in Rotary with Ian and admired him tremendously. At one time the Club went carol singing every Christmas. Those evenings always ended with mulled wine and mince pies at the Campbell home in Red Road. Ian and Joan were wonderful hosts.

When my father was in hospital, who was the volunteer driver taking me to see him? Naturally, it was Ian.

Of all the people I have met in my life, Ian was the most selfless. Family man, family doctor, an inspiration to us all. How wonderful, at the end of a long life, well-lived, to be able to say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

Nick Male
Past President Rotary Club of Elstree & Borehamwood



Ian receiving a commemorative tankard from the district governor for 50 years of Rotary service in 2023



If you would like to get in contact with the family, please email cathcampbell.awt@gmail.com

Exclusive Women of Influence Circle Anniversary Awards Gala

It was a privilege to attend the Exclusive Women of Influence Circle (EWIC CIC) Anniversary Awards Gala and fundraising night in Borehamwood.

It was an inspiring evening celebrating community leadership, empowerment, and women driving positive change.

The event recognised outstanding individuals and organisations whose dedication and

service continue to make a real difference. It was an honour to present awards to this year's remarkable honourees, many of whom were from Elstree & Borehamwood, and to acknowledge their meaningful contributions across a wide range of community initiatives.

EWIC CIC's work plays a vital role in supporting local families and strengthening community resilience. Their initiatives include foodbank support delivered with dignity, skills and development programmes that empower

women and young people, and legacy-driven events that foster confidence, inclusion, and long-term community connection.

My sincere thanks to the entire EWIC CIC team for hosting such a warm and well-organised event. I am proud to support their mission and look forward to seeing the continued positive impact of their work across Hertfordshire and beyond.

Cllr Tushar Kumar



“Serving the Community Today, Shaping a Brighter Tomorrow – Uniting for Good”



The Rotary Club of the Studios & Elstree & Borehamwood has continued to strengthen community spirit and goodwill locally.

In December 2025, club members teamed up with the Grinch at Tesco Extra, Borehamwood, supporting Borehamwood Brass and the Community Choir. Their nightly performances before Christmas helped raise over £1,920 for the NSPCC.

On New Year’s Day, members joined London Rotarians in the annual parade, raising awareness for Rotary International’s End Polio Now Campaign.

Further supporting local youth, the club hosted the Youth in Music event at All Saints Church, Borehamwood, on 7 February 2026. Talented students, nominated by teachers and schools, showcased their skills in a welcoming environment, with Rotary Club President George Carr commending the high standard of performances and thanking all involved.

The club will again support Keep Britain Tidy’s

Great British Spring Clean 2026, the UK’s largest environmental campaign. Running from 13 to 29 March, the initiative invites residents, schools, and organisations to pledge to pick up litter.

The Great Big School Clean will also engage pupils, encouraging everyone to help keep Elstree and Borehamwood clean.

The club’s partnership with Bipolar UK continues throughout 2026, promoting mental health awareness and wellbeing. The Rotary Club will support Bipolar UK’s work, encourage community involvement, and help raise crucial funds for support services.

A highlight this year will be a 5 km awareness and fundraising event, inviting broad community participation. Details will follow as planning progresses.

Through these initiatives, the Rotary Club unites the community, supports youth achievement, and champions environmental and mental health causes, shaping a brighter future for all.

For further information about, or how to become involved, please contact the club secretary via Email: secretary@studio-elstreeandborehamwoodrotary.org.uk or visit the club Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/tsrcoeandb#> or web site www.studio=elstreeandborehamwoodrotary.org.uk



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From 1906 to today

A fresh welcome awaits you at Allum Manor

Visitors to Allum Manor this winter will have noticed something different the moment they stepped inside Allum Hall.

Over the 2025 Christmas break the entrance foyer was refurbished for the first time since the building opened almost 30 years ago, replacing a well-worn but tired floor with something fresher, brighter and more welcoming.

The timing was deliberate. Carrying out this major work over Christmas avoided disruption to the more than 20 community groups and events that use the hall every week. The project was also very much a home-grown effort, completed with hands-on support from Allum Manor's own caretaking team — a practical reflection of how, as a self-funded local charity, Allum Manor reinvests income into the upkeep and improvement of the venue for the community.

While the new floor is only the first phase, with improved lighting and further decoration to follow, it raises a broader question about how

community spaces evolve. Allum Manor has always adapted to the needs of local people — your space, your way is not a slogan dreamed up recently, but something the Manor has quietly delivered for generations.

That history stretches back well over a century. The first recorded wedding celebration at Allum Manor took place in 1906, when Sydney Brine, a young butcher's assistant from Dorset, married Elizabeth Evans, the daughter of the Manor's groundsman and head gardener, Henry Evans. More than 100 years later, weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other celebrations remain a key part of life at Allum Manor.

Alongside the physical improvements, a newly redesigned website, www.allummanor.co.uk, showcases how the Manor's spaces can continue to support community events, functions and celebrations for years to come.

Sometimes progress starts not with a grand gesture but simply with a better welcome at the door.

Dan Slosberg, Trustee, Allum Manor



Before and after



We are here to help you!



We provide food for local people in need. No-one should have to go hungry.

You can get a referral voucher for a 3-day food supply from various agencies in the area, like the local council, Citizen Advice, a school or your doctor's surgery etc.

Our website and how to donate



Find us on Facebook



How to Help Us!

Donations are fundamental to our ability to help those in need and are always deeply appreciated. We are always in need of:

- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Beans
- Soup
- Noodles
- Biscuits
- Tinned Meats
- Tinned Fish
- Jams/Spreads



You can donate at the following locations:

- Donate at the foodbank directly
- Donate at our Tesco Extra collection point in Borehamwood
- Donate through the website

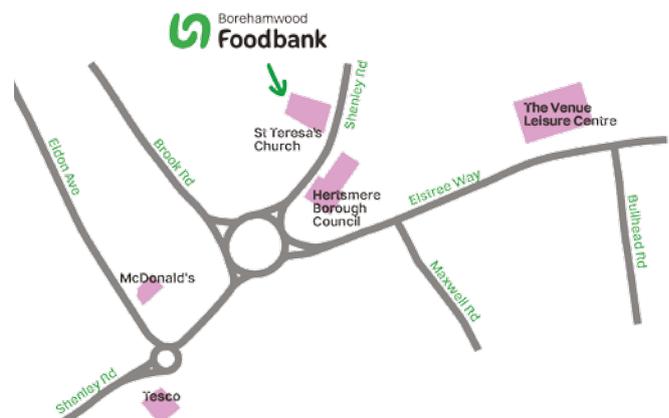
07560 245 749 | info@borehamwood.foodbank.org.uk | www.borehamwood.foodbank.org.uk

[facebook.com/borehamwoodfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/borehamwoodfoodbank)

Borehamwood Foodbank is a local registered, charity no 1155599.

The foodbank is open:
Mondays 12.30pm-3pm
Thursdays 10am-12.30pm

St Teresa's, 291 Shenley Road,
Borehamwood, WD6 1 TG



07560 245 749 | info@borehamwood.foodbank.org.uk | www.borehamwood.foodbank.org.uk
Borehamwood Foodbank is a local registered, charity no 1155599.

Get active with the family



The Venue Leisure Centre on Elstree Way is a welcoming and friendly facility that is a great place to get active, have fun and get together with friends and family.

The start of a new year is always a good time to start a new activity, whether that be to embark on a fitness regime, try a new fitness class, start a new habit of an early morning swim or relax with a sauna and steam session. Whatever your health and wellbeing aspirations are for 2026, the team at The Venue can help.

The team at The Venue Leisure Centre are on hand to help you and your family enjoy quality time together with lots of activities to choose from, working out in the gym or splashing about in the pool. For little ones the under-water themed soft play is perfect to let the little ones run around and let off some steam. You can also simply get together with friends for a coffee and a catch up in the café.

Swimming lessons are also available, running 50 weeks of the year, 7 days a week and follow the Swim England 'Learn to Swim' scheme, providing all aspects of swimming lessons teaching a lifelong skill through fun activity. There are lessons available for children aged 4 months to adults, available during daytime, early evening or weekends.

For those that are new to activity there are a number of classes running every week. Why not come along and try a high energy indoor cycling class, or relax with a Yoga or Pilates session? Everyone is welcome at The Venue, no membership needed, just pop in and choose your favourite activity.

Visit www.thevenueleisurecentre.co.uk to find out more.

The Venue Leisure Centre Team



Our latest Ofsted inspection found us to be...

GOOD in all areas



**HERTSWOOD
ACADEMY**

*Thanks and congratulations
to our local community*

*'Pupils feel safe and
happy at this school.'*

*'Pupils are polite, courteous,
and behave well.'*

*'A wide range of extra-curricular
activities enrich pupils' experience.'*

*'Leaders have high expectations for
the achievement of all pupils.'*

Learn more about our school and read our report in full at

HERTSWOODACADEMY.ORG

SAVE OUR

Community rallies to support the future of our school

In an incredible show of unity, parents, staff, governors, and local residents have risen together to defend the future of our school in a recent Walk of Hope. Our community’s message could not be clearer: this school matters - deeply, personally, and profoundly - to so many.

Over 700 supporters signed our original petition, each signature carrying the hope, love, and conviction of those who refuse to see this vital part of our community lost, and 473 people commented on the consultation. Hertfordshire County Council will meet in mid-February to discuss if closure remains on the cards.

Headteacher Mrs Kate Johnston-Grant said, “Learn, Enjoy and Succeed Together isn’t just our vision statement; it’s the promise we make to every child. By protecting our village school, we ensure that all children

experience life in all its fullness, growing with joy, confidence, and a true sense of belonging.”

We are strengthened by the firm backing of Sir Oliver Dowden MP and our local councillors, all of whom recognise the school’s vital role in the community.



“St Nicholas is not just a school, it is the beating heart of Elstree’s community. It has a proud reputation for nurturing children, especially those with special educational needs, and for offering a Christian ethos that many families actively choose. I have engaged directly with Hertfordshire County Council and the Department for Education to ensure that every alternative is properly explored.

Once a school is lost, it is lost forever, and we must do everything possible to secure a future for St Nicholas.”

Sir Oliver Dowden, MP

“St Nicholas has been at the heart of our community for generations. Founded in 1884 and rebuilt on a purpose-built site in 1968, the school has educated local children and supported families for over a century. Closing it would be a devastating loss to Elstree; I will do everything I can to work with parents, staff and the diocese to find a sustainable way forward.”

Clr Caroline Clapper, County Councillor



R SCHOOL

“St Nicholas is the heart of our village, and consulting on its closure is the wrong direction for Elstree. It’s our only local primary school, it supports children with additional needs, and closing it would force families to travel further and increase traffic and emissions. The consultation also ignores the significant future development planned nearby, which will make the school even more sustainable in the long term. I fully oppose this proposal and urge residents to speak up in the consultation.”

Cllr Harvey Cohen, Elstree Ward Councillor, Deputy Conservative Group Leader



“I’m supporting the campaign to save St Nicholas because it plays an integral role in our community. The closure of Elstree’s only school and the only Church of England faith school in the area would be an act of callous disregard for local families. It would also discriminate against the much higher than average proportion of SEND pupils at St Nicholas. My message to the politicians, accountants and bureaucrats at Hertfordshire county is clear. ‘Hands off St Nick’s’.”

Cllr Jeremy Newmark, Leader of the Council, Hertsme borough council



“I attended St Nicholas when the current school was built; my dad was the first headteacher. It was then and still is a lovely school at the heart of Elstree village. I’m sure given the chance it can be a vibrant, successful school once more.”

Cllr Chris Shenton, Bushey St James, Deputy Leader, Hertsme borough council



“I am astonished at the county council’s proposals to close St Nicholas school. It would leave Elstree village without a state school, rip the children away from their friends, place increasing strain on other schools in the surrounding area at a time when budgets are under pressure, and most upsetting of all, would have an especially profound impact on the disproportionately high number of SEND children there. This is why Elstree and Borehamwood town council is urging the county council to reconsider this short-sighted move. I send my solidarity to all the teachers, governors, parents and children at this concerning time.

Cllr Dan Ozarow, Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood





Elstree Mozart Players

Bringing the community together through music and charity

The Elstree Mozart Players, in partnership with The Rotary Club of the Studios & Elstree and Borehamwood, presented an Autumn Gala Concert 2025 on Sunday 28 September 2025 at Allum Manor & Hall, Elstree.

The concert was conducted by Derek Holland, with distinguished guest conductor Owain Arwel Hughes CBE.

The programme featured acclaimed soprano Janice Watson, who performed the popular Flower Duet with Elizabeth Venner, alongside instrumental soloists Dylan Lehner on trumpet, plus Barry Solomons on oboe.

Proceeds supported Prostate Cancer UK, one of the two chosen charities of Rotary President George Carr, and Breast Cancer Now, championed

by Owain Arwel Hughes, with the evening being warmly received by the audience, raising approximately £800 in total for the charities.

The concert highlighted the ongoing collaboration between the Rotary Club and the Elstree Mozart Players, combining high-quality music-making with support for important charitable causes within the local community.

Looking ahead, the Elstree Mozart Players are pleased to announce an exciting concert season for 2026.

The spring concert takes place on Saturday 14 March 2026 at All Saints Church, featuring Mozart's Requiem (D minor, K.626) as a scratch choral performance, and Schubert's Symphony No. 8 "Unfinished".

The Civic Festival concert on Sunday 28 June 2026 will include Crusell's Concerto for Clarinet, Horn and Bassoon, Beethoven's Eroica Symphony, and special guest artist Adria Jackson.



The autumn concert on Sunday 27 September 2026 returns to Allum Manor & Hall with a wide-ranging programme, including works by Verdi, Hamilton Harty, Herbert Parry, Philip White and Arthur Sullivan.

Tickets for all concerts cost £15 in advance, £20 on the day (£15 concessions) and are available via www.ticketsource.co.uk/elstree-mozart-players

Meadow Park Entertainment Arena

Exciting band concerts scheduled for 2026

Meadow Park entertainment arena is gearing up for an exciting summer in 2026, with plans already underway to host a range of activities designed to delight visitors of all ages.

Although the planning process is still in its early stages, the arena has confirmed that its ever-popular band concerts will be returning, with performances scheduled on various dates throughout late June and July.

These band concerts have become a staple of summer entertainment at Meadow Park, attracting residents and visitors alike.

Each event typically features a vibrant mix of genres, from rock and pop to jazz and classical

ensembles. The lively atmosphere, combined with the setting of the arena, creates the perfect backdrop for memorable afternoon of music and community spirit.

These concerts are brought to the town through the collaboration of Elstree & Borehamwood town council, the Rotary Club of the Studios & Elstree and Borehamwood and the bandstand committee presenting vibrant music for all ages.

Meadow Park entertainment arena is renowned for its commitment to providing accessible and enjoyable entertainment. The venue offers a welcoming atmosphere, making it a favourite among concertgoers.

While the full schedule is yet to be finalised,



updates will be shared on the town council's website and social media channels as soon as all details are confirmed.

Visitors are encouraged to check back regularly for announcements regarding these free weekend concerts, which will feature a fantastic programme.

This summer promises a memorable month at Meadow Park entertainment arena.

Borehamwood Brass



Celebrating success and welcoming new players for 2026

At Borehamwood Brass, we are delighted to reflect on the success our band has enjoyed this autumn and Christmas season.

Our concerts have been met with enthusiastic audiences, whose energy has truly lifted our performances—whether we have been playing powerful movie themes, classic brass band pieces or festive favourites.

Once again, we were thrilled to support the Elstree & Borehamwood town council Christmas light switch on, perform at All Saints church and play carols at as many local events as possible, helping to spread Christmas cheer throughout the Hertsmere community. A particular highlight for us was our annual 5-night fundraising residency at Tesco Borehamwood for the NSPCC. Together, we raised over £1,700—an achievement that speaks volumes about the spirit and heart of our band and the generosity of the local community. Our sincere thanks go to Dr

Ann Goddard and her NSPCC friends, as well as members of the Rotary Club of the Studios and Elstree & Borehamwood, who supported us each night.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our Musical Director, Mark Mansell, our regular players, the talented alumni from the Royal College of Music who enrich our sound, and the camaraderie of other local brass band players who lend their support. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped Borehamwood Brass to shine in 2025.

If you currently play a brass instrument or have done so in the past and would like to rekindle the interest, playing a variety of music with a warm, friendly group, we would love to welcome you!

We rehearse every Friday night from 8pm -10pm at the Catholic parish centre, 291 Shenley Road, Borehamwood WD6 1TG. For an informal chat, contact Simon Mansell or email us at borehamwoodbrass@hotmail.com.

Come and be part of our musical journey!

You can also keep up to date with our future events by following us @BorehamwoodBrass on Facebook and Instagram or by visiting www.borehamwoodbrass.org.uk

Julie Smith



**DO YOU PLAY A BRASS INSTRUMENT?
ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET BACK TO PLAYING?
COME & TRY US OUT!**
WHEN? FRIDAY NIGHTS 8PM–10PM
**WHERE? CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRE, 291
SHENLEY RD, BOREHAMWOOD, WD6 1TG**
A welcoming & informal, non-contesting band, perfect if you're
considering returning to play—instruments available to borrow

FIND OUT MORE or JUST COME ALONG!
CALL SIMON on 07802 301122
OR
EMAIL ANDY at borehamwoodbrass@hotmail.com

ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD
TOWN COUNCIL
Presents
**JAZZ
NIGHT**
featuring
The Blue Spark Jazz Band

— at Fairway Hall —
Brook Close Borehamwood WD65BT
SATURDAY, 9TH MAY | 7:00 PM

LICENCED BAR
To book tickets go to
www.ticketsource.co.uk/ebtc



Protecting our local Green Belt

The landscape of Elstree and Borehamwood is defined by its stunning Green Belt. However, protecting these vital open spaces requires more than just appreciation; it requires active community participation.

Currently, Hertsmere borough council (HBC) is drafting the latest Local Plan. This document is the most important tool we have in shaping the future of our town. The Elstree and Borehamwood Green Belt Society (EBGBS) was recently invited to join a working party to share the views of our community with researchers tasked by the council. We were pleased to contribute, ensuring the voice of residents is heard at this critical stage.

The risk of speculative development

Without a formal Local Plan in place, our area is left vulnerable to speculative plans from developers. These proposals often prioritise the profit of developers and landowners, rather than providing the housing and facilities that best meet the needs of local people. It concerns us greatly when Green Belt land is put forward for development independently of the Local Plan process.



The Garden Crafts Society

Its spring! The whole gardening year stretches before us, full of promise and hopes for beautiful flowers and bumper harvests.

I am writing this in January, when outside is cold and uninviting, but tempting emails arrive daily from seed companies and nurseries inviting you to buy all manner of familiar and unusual seeds and plants. By the time you read this I hope you will have enjoyed seeing the snowdrops re-emerge from their winter sleep. Outside my front door a sweetly fragrant pink daphne is already in flower, and daffodils will soon follow.

The Garden Society would like to invite you to our popular spring show where we show off our daffodils, tulips and other Spring flowers. It will be held at Allum Manor Community Centre, Allum Lane on Sunday 12 April 1pm - 3pm. There will be refreshments and plants for sale.

We will also have a stall at the Borehamwood Farmers Market at its

How we take action

The EBGBS acts as a watchdog for our green spaces. We work hard to consider all planning applications submitted to HBC regarding Green Belt land. We advise our members on necessary actions and on what specific planning grounds valid objections can be made.

How to Have Your Say

To submit your views to the HBC Planning Department:

- Online: Visit www.hertsmere.gov.uk/comments using the planning application reference number.
- Post: Write to Planning and Economic Development Unit, HBC, Civic Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, WD6 1WA, quoting the reference number.

We achieve more by working together. Why not join us for just £5 per year? Go to our website at www.ebgreenbelt.org to find out more, join us and help protect our local green spaces.

new venue in the Civic Centre carpark behind The Venue. This will be on 26 April. We will be selling unusual tomato plants along with other vegetable plants (pumpkins, courgettes etc) all grown by society members. So come along and stock up. Many of these plants are happy to be grown in a large pot if you don't have a lot of garden space.

New members are always welcome to join us, new gardeners or experienced ones. We like to share our knowledge as well as seeds and plants.

Contact us at borehamwoodgardencrafts@gmail.com or look on our Facebook page.

Ann Shuker



Still building bridges after 20 years:

Borehamwood and Elstree communities unite on Mitzvah Day 2025

On Sunday 23 November 2025, families, children, faith leaders, councillors, police officers and hundreds of volunteers from across Borehamwood and Elstree came together to support vulnerable communities and improve their local environment as part of Mitzvah Day, the UK’s largest faith-led day of social action.

Mitzvah Day is a Jewish-led initiative based on the principle that performing a “mitzvah” – a small act of kindness – is a blessing, though people of all faiths and none are encouraged to take part.

The day began with the Joely Bear Appeal hosting a blood donation centre at Borehamwood & Elstree United Synagogue. Throughout the day, 120 donors gave blood for patients with cancer and other serious illnesses, an effort expected to save dozens of lives. Founded in 1995 in memory of Joel Renak, who died aged four from a rare blood cancer, the charity recently marked its 30th anniversary and continues to promote blood and bone marrow donation while supporting young cancer patients.

At the Liberal Synagogue Elstree, children, parents and teachers baked and decorated treats while assembling toiletry bags for Borehamwood Foodbank. Later, as the rain cleared, volunteers from Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities gathered outside Fairway Hall to plant daffodil bulbs as part of Gratitude’s “Sowing the Seeds of Peace” project – a lasting symbol of hope and cooperation.

The day concluded with a community litter pick around local streets, footpaths and green spaces, with dozens of sacks of rubbish collected. Donations of baby toiletries, toys, food and hand-knitted items were also gathered for local charities and hospitals.

Reflecting on the day, Town Mayor Dan Ozarow said: “People from all walks of life focused on kindness and helping strangers. It was simply about seeing each other as neighbours and as humans.”

After 20 years, Mitzvah Day continues to embed compassion, cooperation and community spirit at the heart of society.

Cllr Dan Ozarow



Photos by www.jampondphotography.com

Boost your mood with an outdoor walk

Walking in the company of others helps you look and feel good. It is invigorating and fun! Join our free Health Walks to:

- Explore local parks and the countryside
- Make new friendships
- Be in the present moment
- Improve your balance and confidence

Health Improvement Coordinator at Hertfordshire county council, Claudette, said: “Sharing a walk with someone is brilliant for emotional wellbeing and companionship. You can also set a goal and track your progress which provides a sense of achievement and boosts self-esteem.”

There’s a choice of three walks in Borehamwood. You can get the week off to a great start by joining our First Steps Walk (Mondays 11:15am at St Michael and All Angels church in Brook Road). This walk lasts up to 30 minutes and is ideal for people who have mobility issues. There is also the option of a slightly longer walk at 11am.



If you are looking for more vigorous daytime workout, join our Wednesday walk from Aberford Community Centre. Find other walks in Hertsmeire by visiting www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks

Simply turn up on the day and if it’s your first walk please arrive 15 minutes before the start to complete a New Walker Form. If you prefer, you can register online. Any questions, contact us on healthwalks.cms@hertfordshire.gov.uk or 01992 555888.

Borehamwood Library



Do you want to be able to make the most of your tablet or smart phone?

Why not try our "Tea and Tablets" group - a sociable and informative session to help you make the most of your tablet or smartphone and meet new people for a chat over tea and biscuits.

This is held monthly on a Wednesday and is only £4 per session including refreshments. The next session will be 18th March 2026 from 2.30-4pm

We spend the first half of the session learning about the monthly topic, break for tea and then we will answer other individual questions you may have

We cover topics such as WhatsApp, online shopping, using Bluetooth devices, email management, sharing documents and photos and using BorrowBox to download free audio books and e-books

Places are limited so please pop into the library to secure your place on the next session, call 0300 123 4049 or email



borehamwoodteaandtablets@hertfordshire.gov.uk

For additional help with your IT and device queries, we also offer chargeable pre booked 1-1 IT lessons with staff throughout the week and free IT help from our knowledgeable volunteers on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings

It's the National Year of Reading

Would you like to get back into reading? Well, this is the year to do it!

It's free to join the library and you can borrow up to 30 books at once so why not pop in, grab a book and help us celebrate the National Year of Reading in 2026?

You can join during our fully open hours below

Monday	9am - 6pm fully open
Tuesday	9am - 12noon self-service / 12noon - 6pm fully open
Wednesday	9am - 6pm fully open
Thursday	9am - 12noon self-service / 12noon - 7pm fully open
Friday	9am - 1pm self-service only
Saturday	9am - 4pm fully open

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Are you a Compassionate Neighbour?

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care seeks volunteers in Borehamwood

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care is encouraging local people in Borehamwood to volunteer with its Compassionate Neighbours initiative – to reduce isolation and loneliness for local people living with life-limiting illness, frailty, or bereavement.

Alison May, Senior Community Engagement & Development Manager, at the charity says, "Through regular visits, chats and shared activities, Compassionate Neighbours make a huge difference to people in their community. Our fully trained and supported army of volunteers provides social and emotional support, helping to build stronger, more compassionate communities."

One local resident, who has been matched with a Compassionate Neighbour volunteer, says: "Thank you for matching me up with someone so compatible! I feel so happy to have met my wonderful

Compassionate Neighbour – I know we will get along famously and am looking forward to seeing her soon!"

For Wendy, a Compassionate Neighbour volunteer, the role is deeply rewarding thanks to: "Knowing that I am actively making a difference to someone's life."

Volunteer Vicki explains: "It's so lovely to hear she enjoys her time with me as much as I enjoy my time with her. She's a lovely lady and we have some great chats together."

The person Vicki supports, adds: "She's so kind and lovely. We have a good chat, and I enjoy her company. She even lives on the street where I grew up and has been down the road to find my old house! Just what I wanted and needed. My friends say... How lucky you are to have lovely Vicki coming to visit!"

"Compassionate Neighbours is about people helping people – giving time, listening, and building friendships that ease loneliness. Volunteers are at the heart of this movement, and we simply couldn't reach as many local people as we want to, without them," concludes Alison.

Can you help?

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care offers training and ongoing support to all Compassionate Neighbours. With a time commitment from just one or two hours per week, if you want to make a positive difference in your community, this could be the role for you.

To find out more, visit the Rennie Grove Peace website, call 01923 330330 or email volunteers@renniegrovepeace.org



Unlock new opportunities in 2026 with support from Communities 1st



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

If one of your goals for 2026 is to find a new job or get back into the workplace but you are facing barriers like lack of internet access, skill gaps, confidence issues, or aren't sure if your CV is up to scratch, our Employment Support service can help! The team offers free personalised

guidance and can help with CV writing, personal statements, interview preparation, and more. Come and see us any Friday at our Leeming Road Hub from 9:30am - 3:45pm or you can refer yourself online via our website www.communities1st.org.uk/employment-support

If you're looking for a fun and relaxing way to spend a few hours, or would like to meet new people, our regular Creative Community Cafes could be just the thing! Sessions are free and take place weekly in community centres in Borehamwood and Radlett. We create a welcoming and inclusive space where you can enjoy a variety of activities including arts and crafts, board games, quizzes, puzzles, indoor and outdoor bowls, and more! Whether you want to try something new, share your hobbies, or simply relax and chat, there's something for everyone. Visit www.communities1st.org.uk/creative-cafe for more information.

If you are supporting a local group, Communities 1st can help. We support voluntary, community, social, and faith organisations to give them a stronger voice with decision makers and commissioners. We also support groups with governance, help them to secure funding, training and much more. Get in touch on memberservices@communities1st.org.uk

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



HERTSWOOD ACADEMY

Sport, club, event and performance spaces for hire in Borehamwood



- Community Theatre
- Sports Hall
- Astroturf
- Squash Courts
- Basketball Courts
- Playing Fields
- Activity Studio
- Conference Room
- Modern Classrooms
- Large Event Spaces

0330 1333272

sales@communitylettingsuk.co.uk



Available evenings and during school holidays

Fairway Hall

The heart of community life in Borehamwood

At the centre of Borehamwood’s vibrant community stands Fairway Hall, a much-loved local venue managed by Elstree and Borehamwood town council.

The hall continues to be a welcoming space for residents, hosting everything from family celebrations and charity fundraisers to public meetings and community classes.

With its spacious main hall, fully equipped kitchen, accessible facilities, and convenient

onsite parking — which includes electric vehicle (EV) charging points — Fairway Hall offers a modern, flexible setting for events of all sizes. The adjoining Green Room provides an ideal breakout or meeting space for smaller groups, making the venue suitable for both private hire and community use.

In addition to regular bookings, Fairway Hall proudly hosts several town council-run events, including the ever-popular Easter celebrations and Borehamwood Pride, which bring residents together to celebrate community, inclusion, and local pride.

The town council also supports local charities and community groups, offering discounted rates for block bookings of six or more sessions — helping these organisations continue their valuable work within the area.

“Fairway Hall has always been at the heart of Borehamwood life,” said



Community facility renamed Drayton Road Community Hall

Shortly after building their church on Furzehill Road in 1965, Borehamwood Baptist Church constructed an adjoining hall building for use by the local community.

Over the decades this space has seen celebrations, barn dances, theatrical performances, clubs and social activities for the church community and beyond.

During the week, the ground floor of the building has been the location of Little Angels Preschool for many years, providing quality early year education for local families. Upstairs the facilities have recently been enhanced with the help of a generous grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy by Elstree and Borehamwood town council. The improved men’s toilet facilities have meant that all the groups who use the hall during the week and those who hire the space for family celebrations benefit.

The space is used by a wide variety of groups from the church’s Illumin8 Youth Club on a Friday night to Hertsmere Women’s Table

Tennis Club on a Tuesday evening to a Zumba Class run by We Move, She Moves on Monday evenings. In addition, the hall is now home to Potters House Pentecostal Church who meet on a Sunday morning and Thursday evening.

In recent years it has become apparent that this space is a somewhat hidden local gem. To raise its profile and make discovering it easier, the church has taken the decision to rename the upstairs hall – Drayton Road Community Hall – to promote its location and enable new potential hirers to find it.

If you would be interested in hiring the hall for a club, social or community activity or for a family celebration, do get in touch via hallhire@borehamwoodbaptist.org.



a spokesperson for Elstree and Borehamwood town council. “We’re delighted to see it used by so many residents and groups — and to offer modern facilities like EV charging to meet the community’s growing needs.”

Whether you’re planning a celebration, meeting, or community event, Fairway Hall remains a welcoming and environmentally conscious venue where Borehamwood comes together.

For hire rates, event details, or booking information, please contact Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council or visit the website www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Kerry Turner

Volunteer needed for Elstree and Borehamwood Museum’s next exhibition

The town museum is planning a new exhibition “A People’s History of Elstree and Borehamwood” - based around the theme of local protests from past decades until modern times. But they need a volunteer researcher. Would you have a few hours spare per week to help with this? The role would involve:

- A visit to Hertfordshire Archives and Library Service in Hatfield to go through the microfilm copies of the Borehamwood Post since 1950.
- Online research into more recent protests (50 hours)
- Gathering together photos and preparing suitable text for the museum displays (40 hours)
- You would need to work independently with occasional supervision from the Museum Curator.

**If you are interested, please contact Cllr Dan Ozarow
Mobile: 07944 052859
Email: cllr.dan.ozarow@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk**

Borehamwood & Elstree comes together in moving tree-planting ceremony to celebrate local faith and community spirit

In a moving act of commemoration on 1 February 2026, local residents joined civic and faith leaders, children and young people to plant five trees as a symbol of how important unity, the building of community and supporting one another is in our town.

On the eve of the Jewish festival of Tu’bshvat (the anniversary of the trees), the Christian festival of Candlemas and the month in which the Islamic festival of Ramadan commences, the Birch, Hornbeam, Hazel, Hawthorne and Rowan trees were planted at Maxwell Park, Borehamwood; symbolising renewal and new beginnings, strength and resilience, peace and reconciliation, love and hope and protection and spiritual growth respectively.

Among those who planted trees were the Town Mayor of Elstree & Borehamwood, Dan Ozarow, Mayor of Hertsmere Alpha Collins, local

leaders of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Hare Krishna faiths, council leaders and youth councillors.

Especially poignant was the presence of the family of Borehamwood resident Jose Marques who died tragically following an incident while cycling on Rowley Lane last month. Family members planted a tree in his memory and thanked the people of Elstree and Borehamwood for their incredible support since then.

Town Mayor Dan Ozarow, the event convenor, commented: “Time and again we come together to look after one another in our town. Whether that be through crisis, tragedy, celebration or simply to make it through life’s day-to-day challenges. We are all Woodies, regardless of where we come from and our community spirit is unbreakable. We are a special place and these trees symbolise that spirit.”

Pastor Rachel Waitt of Borehamwood Baptist Church — from the network of faith leaders in Elstree and Borehamwood — reflected: “Each event strengthens us as a town. Bringing people together and building community. Just like the trees planted, we are building for tomorrow, not just today. Every moment of unity breaks down division and hate. Let us keep on keeping on!”

The event was supported by Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council and Hertsmere Borough Council.

Cllr Dan Ozarow

Photos by Gobind Gopari



Youth Council’s Question Time Event

Every year, the Elstree and Borehamwood Youth Council runs an event called Question Time.

This event involves people from various areas of the local community to come and talk to the Youth Council, and other attendees, about

their roles and experiences. As the name suggests, the audience then asks members of the panel any questions that they may have. This time, it was on 26

November 2025 at Fairway Hall. The welcome address was made by Town Mayor Cllr Dan Ozarow, followed by some amazing panellists, including 4-4-2 Sports, Boreham Wood Radio, local PCSO and Community Enforcement Officers, Hertfordshire County Council’s Services for Young People, Gratitude, and local business HATCH who sponsored the event. Overall, we had a very strong turn out with some engaging speakers. Valuable connections and collaborations were made, such as some new guest speakers to the monthly Youth Council meetings.



*Joseph Dadds
Vice-Chair of the Youth Council*



Borehamwood and Elstree U3A

A place for the retired and semi-retired to make new friends and join in old and new activities

New members are always welcome at your local branch of the U3A. We are part of a national movement, but very much a friendly and locally-based group with lots of activities on your doorstep. As well as monthly branch meetings open to all members we have more than 20 smaller groups covering a wide range of activities (including book groups, walking groups, craft groups, music and language groups, history including family and local history, board games, bridge, crosswords, Rummikub and Scrabble).

Branch meetings are a good opportunity to find out what we have to offer. We always have a "meet and greet" table where new members are made welcome. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at St Teresa's parish centre in Shenley Road. Doors open at 10am with refreshments and time to chat, usually followed by a talk starting at 10.30am and lasting about an hour.

Our programme for the next few months (all at St Teresa's Parish Centre, 291 Shenley Road, Borehamwood WD6 1TG at 10am):

- 17 March** David Armitage from the Elstree and Borehamwood Museum on "The Growth of Borehamwood"
- 21 April** Easter Branch Social (with entertainment from "Strummers in the Wood", our ukulele group)
- 19 May** Geoff Lambert (+dog) on the charity "Medical Detection Dogs"

Branch meetings are free to members, who pay a £20 annual subscription. Guests/prospective new members pay £3 on the door (just turn up - no need to book in advance).

To find out more, come along to a branch meeting, call us on 07708 551 033, or visit our website at <https://borehamwoodandelstree.u3a.site.uk>

Judith Sear



Ramblers Group on the Grand Union Canal, August 2025

Local clubs

The Monday Club

Meets every Monday except Bank Holidays at Maxwell Community Centre, Maxwell Rd, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ from 10am - 12pm. A small club for the over 60s. Refreshments served. Monthly fee £12.

Tuesday Club (The Dementia Club)

Meets every Tuesday at Fairway Hall, Fairbrook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 4BT from 2pm to 4pm. A small club that welcomes those living with dementia and their carer and those feeling isolated at home. Refreshments served.

DR96

Meets every Wednesday at 96 Shenley Rd, Borehamwood, WD6 1EB from 10am to 12noon. A club for over 60s. £5 per annum plus £3 when attending. Refreshments served.

The Visually Impaired Club (The VIC)

Meets fortnightly at Maxwell Community Centre, Maxwell Rd, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ from 1.30pm to 4pm. Members are offered soup and a roll at 1.30pm. Tea and refreshments are available during the afternoon. A friendly club that welcomes those with visual impairment and their carer, and those feeling isolated at home. Weekly fee payable.

New members welcome to all these groups. If you would like socialisation, entertainment, chair exercises, quizzes, bingo, trips, parties, celebrations, speakers, and more, then contact.

Sasha Capocci: 07771862820 sashacapocci@hotmail.com

Sandra Parnell: 07736809015 sparnell513@gmail.com

Pat Strack: 07790315428 pat.strack@icloud.com

Creative Community Café**Mondays, from 10am - 2pm**

Windsor Hall, Blyth Close, Gateshead Road, Borehamwood, WD6 4EE

Tuesdays, 10am - 3pm

Farriers Way Community Centre, 27 Farriers Way, Borehamwood, WD6 2TB

Wednesdays from 12noon - 4pm and Thursdays from 12noon - 2pm

Aberford Community Centre, Aberford Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1PL

Thursdays, 10am - 2pm

Organ Hall, 37 Bairstow Close, Borehamwood, WD6 4TB

www.communities1st.org.uk/creative-cafe

Email: welcome@communities1st.org.uk
Telephone: 01727 649970

Chatter Table**Monday (excluding Bank Holidays), 1:30pm - 3pm**

St Michael's and All Angels Church Hall, 142 Brook Road, Borehamwood, WD6 5EQ
www.leecliffe.org/chatter-tables/

Twinnies – Mother & Baby Group**Monday, 10am - 10.40am and 11am - 11.40am****Friday, 10am - 10.40am and 11am - 11.40am**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ
www.twinniesminis.com
Email: twinnies@gmail.com

Generation Plus**Monday**

Keyboard (Musical) -
Allum Manor 9:45am - 11:45am (£7)

Pilates - The Venue Leisure Centre, Elstree Way 12:45pm - 13:45pm (Centre fee applies)

Bowls (Indoor) - Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, 2pm - 4pm (£6)

Tuesday

Art - Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, 1:45pm - 4pm (£6)

Zumba Gold - The Venue Leisure Centre 2:30pm - 3:30pm (£6)

Aqua Aerobics - The Venue Leisure Centre 3pm - 3:45pm (Centre fee applies)

Wednesday

Table Tennis - Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, 10am - 12noon (£6)

Careful Conditioning - The Venue Leisure Centre, Elstree Way 11am - 11:50am (Centre fee applies)

Yoga - 96 Shenley Road 7:30pm 9pm (£7)

Thursday

Balance & Flex (Chairs) - 96 Shenley Road 10:30am - 11:30am (£6)

Tai Chi - The Venue Leisure Centre 3pm - 4pm (£7)

Friday

Table Tennis - Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road 10am - 12noon (£6)

Aqua Aerobics - The Venue Leisure Centre, Elstree Way 12:05pm - 12:50pm (Centre fee applies)

Board Games - 96 Shenley Road 1:30pm - 4:30pm (FREE)

Pilates - The Venue Leisure Centre

7:15pm - 8:15pm (Centre fee applies)

www.generation-plus.co.uk
Tel: 01707645005

Elstree & Borehamwood Table Tennis Club**Monday, Juniors 6pm - 7.45pm****Adults 8pm - Late**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

www.elstreeandborehamwoodttclubs.co.uk

Email: medotpc@outlook.com

Telephone: 07947602857

Hartbeeps - Mother & Baby Group**Monday**

9.30am, **Happy House**

10.30am, **Baby Beeps**

Wednesday

9.30am, **Happy House**

11.30am, **Baby Bells**

10.30am, **Baby Beeps**

Friday

9:30am, **Happy House**

Allum Manor, 2 Allum Lane, Borehamwood, WD6 3PJ

www.hartbeeps.com

Email: natasha@hartbeeps.com

Telephone: 07753460075

Herts Musical Memories**Tuesday, 11.30am - 1pm**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

Email: admin@hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk

Telephone: 0208 9505757

www.hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk

Bar K Line Dancers**Tuesday, 12.30pm - 2.30pm**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

Email: katsline99@yahoo.co.uk

Telephone: 07927718089

Strength & Balance - Chair Based Exercises**Tuesday, 3pm - 4pm**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

Email: leah.casali@stevenagefcf.com

Telephone: 01438584019

KJ's School of Dance - Advanced Freestyle, Contemporary & Acro**Tuesday**

4.15pm - 6.15pm **Advanced Freestyle, Contemporary & Acro**

Wednesday, classes open to new members

4:15pm - 4:45pm

6 and under Young & Fun Class

4:45pm - 5:30pm **7+ Freestyle, Commercial Street, Contemporary**

5:30pm - 6:15pm **All ages Freestyle Initiative/ Technique Class**

Thursday

4.15pm - 6.15pm **Advanced Freestyle, Contemporary & Acro**

Friday, Competition Squad

4.15pm - 6.15pm **Competition Practice / Private Lessons**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

Karen: 07779 247 529

Jacquelyn: 07896537971

Barnet Combat Junior - Muay Thai Boxing**Tuesday, 5.30pm - 6.30pm**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

Email: barnetcombat@gmail.com

Telephone: 07956340540

Men That Meet**Tuesday, 1:30pm - 4pm**

Windsor Hall, Blyth Close, Borehamwood, WD6 4EE

www.communities1st.org.uk/men-meet

Email: help@communities1st.org.uk

Telephone: 01727 649930

Welcome Café**Thursday, 12.30 - 3pm**

St Michael's and All Angels Church Hall, Brook Road, Borehamwood, WD6 5EQ

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7536/

Email: louise.collins59@hotmail.com

Telephone: 020 8953 2362

The Friends - An Evening Out in the Afternoon**Sunday, 2:30pm – 4:30pm,**

£14 (£20 With Transport included)

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

www.friendsofcarehomes.com

Email: info@friendsofcarehomes.com

Telephone: 01923 289890

Kango Jumps - Ultimate Workout Class**Thursday, 7pm - 8pm**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

Email: kangoofitbykrina@gmail.com

London Taekwondo Warriors - Borehamwood**Thursdays, 18:30 - 19:30**

The Venue Leisure Centre, Studio 2 Elstree Way, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

www.londontaekwondowarriors.co.uk

British Tinnitus Association - Monthly Support Group for Tinnitus Sufferers**Last Friday of the month, 7.30pm - 9.30pm**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

www.tinnitus.org.uk

Email: tinears@outlook.com

Krav Maga - Martial Arts**Wednesday, 4.30pm - 9pm and Sunday 4pm - 7.30pm**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

www.kravmagaur.co.uk

mail: info@kravmagaur.co.uk

Sundance Line Dancing**Wednesday, 8pm - 10pm**

Maxwell Park Community Centre, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1JJ

Telephone: 07842535114

FREE

Easter Funday!

Egg Painting!
Arts & Crafts!
Easter Hunt!
Free Bouncy Castle

Saturday
4th April 2026
Fairway Hall, Brook Close,
Borehamwood, WD6 5BT

Four Sessions
(Ticket Only)
12pm – 12:50pm
1pm – 1:50pm
2pm – 2:50pm
3pm – 3:50pm

Book your free ticket at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/ebtc

Aldenham Country Park

Easter Eggstravaganza

28th March - 12th April

Spring into Summer

Farm • Park • Play • Family Fun

May Half Term
23rd - 31st

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.



Elstree and Borehamwood

Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7.30pm



Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT

Dear Residents of Elstree and Borehamwood

You are cordially invited to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting** called by the Mayor, Cllr Dan Ozarow.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for electors to have their say on anything they consider to be important to the people of Elstree and Borehamwood.

Any registered elector is welcome to attend.

The Council may invite local clubs, societies or other voluntary and statutory organisations to speak about the work of their group.

Town councillors

Mayor: Cllr Dan Ozarow
Deputy Mayor: Cllr Tushar Kumar

Borehamwood Cowley Hill



Richard Butler
 Labour & Co-operative Party
 cllr.richard.butler@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 07706 079439



Jeremy Newmark
 Labour & Co-operative Party
 cllr.jeremy.newmark@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 020 3637 9930



Linda Smith
 Labour & Co-operative Party
 Cllr.linda.smith@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 020 8207 1382

Borehamwood Hillside



Alpha B Collins
 Independent
 cllr.alpha.collins@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 07880 521971



Tushar Kumar
 Labour & Co-operative Party
 cllr.tushar.kumar@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 020 8207 1382



Sandra Parnell
 Conservative Party
 cllr.sandra.parnell@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 020 8953 0832

Borehamwood Brookmeadow



Graeme Alexander
 Independent
 cllr.graeme.alexander@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 07906 563683



Simon Rubner
 Conservative Party
 cllr.simon.rubner@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 020 8207 1382

Borehamwood Kenilworth North



Prabhakar Kaza
 Labour & Co-operative Party
 cllr.prabhakar.kaza@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 07958 146582



Dan Ozarow
 Labour & Co-operative Party
 cllr.dan.ozarow@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 07944 052859



Pooja Nirmalakumaran
 Labour & Co-operative Party
 cllr.pooja.nirmalakumaran@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 020 8207 1382

Borehamwood Kenilworth South

Borehamwood Shenley Road



Rebecca Challice
 Labour & Co-operative Party
 cllr.rebecca.challice@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 07929 661391

Elstree



Farida Turner
 Conservative Party
 cllr.farida.turner@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk
 07977 380173

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.

10 March	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7.00pm
17 March	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7.00pm
18 March	ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL	Main Hall	7.30pm
25 March	FULL COUNCIL	Main Hall	7.30pm
26 March	General Management	Meeting Room	7.00pm
14 April	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7.00pm
21 April	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7.00pm
12 May	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7.00pm
13 May	ANNUAL COUNCIL MAYOR MAKING	Main Hall	7.30pm
9 June	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7.00pm
11 June	General Management	Meeting Room	7.00pm
17 June	FULL COUNCIL	Main Hall	7.30pm
7 July	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7.00pm

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

Contacting the town council staff

Address: Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council
 Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, WD6 5BT

Phone: 020 8207 1382

Website: www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Gillian Martell - Clerk & RFO
 Email: gmartell@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Dan Salter - Entertainments Officer & Town Crier Editor
 Email: dsalter@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

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

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

BOREHAMWOOD COMEDY CLUB

FEATURING THE VERY BEST COMEDY ACTS FROM TV AND THE UK STAND UP CIRCUIT RIGHT HERE IN THE HEART OF BOREHAMWOOD.

96 Shenley Road



RESIDENT MC: PHILIP SIMON

WEBSITE: BOREHAMWOODCOMEDYCLUB.COM

INSTAGRAM: [@BOREHAMWOODCOMEDYCLUB](https://www.instagram.com/BOREHAMWOODCOMEDYCLUB)



Scan here for show dates & information



SCHOOLS' OUT COMEDY CLUB

Raise money for your school with one of our professional stand up comedy nights.



For more details visit: philipsimon.co.uk/fundraisers



School PTA Fundraisers with Philip Simon

Comedy Nights
Pub Quizzes
Event Hosting

What others have said:

"Philip Simon and his team of comedians promised a night of hilarity, and we were not disappointed."

(Edge Grove School PTA)

"The evening was a great success! It all went smoothly to plan. Everyone was laughing their heads off the whole evening."

(Beaumont School PTA)