

Spelthorne Borough Council
Bulletin magazine
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Message from the Leader of the Council

Dear Residents,

It's spring again! A time for refreshing, for new beginnings.

As I enter my fourth year as your Council Leader it is important to reflect on what has been achieved. Following our highly successful commercial property investments, which have put the Council on a firm financial footing, and protected all our services, we are now in a position to shift our attention to providing much-needed homes for our residents.

Over the next five years our Council plans to build over 600 homes, many of which will be 'affordable', for 'key workers' and for people on our housing register.

For the third year running, we have presented a balanced budget with no cuts to services, no use of reserves, no disposal of assets and, for Band D properties, a below inflation increase in our share of Council Tax.

Whilst recognising that a viable Heathrow Airport is crucial to our future prosperity and in particular those of our younger residents, I am also acutely aware of the potential negative impacts. We are working hard with Heathrow to ensure the best overall outcome for our residents. Part of this is promoting our Southern Light Rail scheme to provide a sustainable, affordable and low impact connection into Heathrow from Staines-upon-Thames, improving access for residents and boosting the town's economy.

As I said at the start of this letter, this is a time of new beginnings, a new season. Local elections take place on 2 May and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Councillors for their hard work and dedication to serving our communities during the last four years, and to the officers and staff who have supported them. For my part, it has been a great honour and privilege to serve as your Leader and I look forward to continuing to do so, if re-elected.

Cllr Ian Harvey, Leader of the Council

Farewell from the Mayor

As I write this, my final message to you, my term of office is nearing its end. I have never known time to fly past so quickly! It has been an honour and a pleasure to represent our Borough as Mayor and a great experience for my consort Linda and I.

It has given us an insight into the valuable work of many organisations, both large and small, in Spelthorne and the positive impact their contributions have on the life of our Borough.

have mentioned volunteers before, but I reiterate how impressed we have been by the enthusiasm, commitment and patience of our volunteers throughout Spelthorne. Many of our services would not run so effectively, or even at all, without them.

There have been many memorable events during my term of office. The WW1 Remembrance weekend really highlighted the community spirit that exists in Spelthorne, beginning on the Friday with an event outside the council offices led by Rev. Michael Burley and attended by eleven schools including the local nursery. Pupils took part in readings and laid wreaths and each school was presented with a perspex 'Tommy' as a souvenir. On the following day 'The Armed Man' concert was kindly hosted for me by Staines Methodist Church. The annual Sunday Remembrance service in Staines was very well attended.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of our twinning relationship with Grand Port in Mauritius. My visit there last October, and also to Melun in France, was extremely positive and reinforced the links between our Boroughs.

I have tried to achieve a mix of fun, formality and fundraising in my Mayoral year. Two events still to go are a St. George's Day lunch at Great Fosters in Egham and my Ball at the Runnymede Hotel on 23 and 27 April respectively. More details can be found at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/mayor.

My four charities, Rentstart, Shopmobility, The Penrose Club and East to West will receive the proceeds of our fundraising in May to help them continue their excellent work.

The support I have received from my fundraising committee, family, colleagues, council staff and friends has been incredible. My thanks in particular go to my consort Linda Burton, Deputy Mayor Mary Madams and her consort Andrew, and last but certainly not least, my secretary Sheila Kimpton.

Cllr Jean Pinkerton OBE, Mayor of Spelthorne

Info: email the Mayor's office at mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446275.

Take a look at Ashford's Fordbridge Centre

Located in Clarendon Road, the Fordbridge Centre in Ashford offers a warm welcome with tea and coffee, lunchtime meals, hairdressing, chiropody and a wide range of activities to help keep your mind and body active.

The knitting circle meet every Tuesday from 9.30am until noon for a relaxing morning socialising, sharing ideas and patterns or just a cup of tea and a chat. A selection of wool is provided or you can bring your own.

Our craft club meet on the first Thursday of every month and on the fourth Thursday of every month we host a Scrabble club and games morning from 9.30 until noon – both great ways to meet new people in a relaxed environment.

To find out more about the full range of activities at the Fordbridge Centre, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/fordbridgecentre or call 01784 243880.

New bus for Shepperton

The Greeno Centre in Shepperton celebrated the arrival of a new community bus at the end of 2018 after receiving donations of £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund and £3,000 from Shepperton Parish Charities. It replaces the old bus and provides comfortable, wheelchair accessible transport for local people visiting the Centre.

Living well in Spelthorne

Spelthorne Council offers a range of services designed to help residents live independently. Our four Community Centres provide a warm and welcoming environment for older people and the wider community, offering opportunities to meet people and keep fit with activities such as tai chi, line dancing, computing, art and language classes, cookery lessons and social events and trips. Members benefit from reduced fees for activities and also have access to services including chiropody, hairdressing and hearing aid maintenance.

Other services offered by the Council include Meals on Wheels, a personal alarm system (SPAN) which connects people to help if they fall or become unwell, and Spelride, a bus service for elderly or disabled residents. A range of other equipment such as pill dispensers, fall detectors and smoke alarms are also available.

Cllr Maureen Attewell, Cabinet Member for Independent Living, said: "I don't think we can underestimate the importance of these services in helping people who need support, not just to live independently, but also to get out and socialise. My thanks go to our team who provide an excellent service and always go the extra mile for their clients."

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/older-people or call the Independent Living team on 01784 446389.

Greeno Centre charity dinners

26 April and 26 July, 6-9pm

Dinner and entertainment to raise money for the Greeno Centre in Shepperton. Tickets £10 per head. Call 01932 246173.

Dates for your diary

Spring art open day

Saturday 6 April, 10am-2pm

Pop along to the Resource Centre and have fun with your children making spring-themed crafts. Entry fee £1 per child (50p for siblings). No need to book.

www.spelthorne.gov.uk/resourcecentre

Xplorer - family orienteering

Tuesday 9 April and Thursday 18 April, 10.30am-12.30pm

Xplorer is the perfect outdoor activity for families, offering a friendly navigation challenge that is educational and fun. The aim is to find a number of markers that are located around the park using a simple map. Events will be taking place from 10.30am-12.30pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 9 April Long Lane, Stanwell

Thursday 18 April Staines Park (Commercial Road)

Staines 10K

Sunday 12 May, 9am

Come along and support the runners taking part in this year's Staines 10K, starting outside the Council Offices in Knowle Green. Visit www.staines10k.co.uk for route information.

Staines Bowls Club centenary celebration

Saturday 18 May and Sunday 19 May

Staines Bowls Club is celebrating its centenary this year with special open days on 18 and 19 May. Come and have a go with our members and qualified coaches. We offer free coaching and reduced initial membership. Contact Derek Clark on 01784 457975 or visit www.stainesbowlingclub.co.uk

Shepperton Village Fair

Saturday 8 June, 11am-5pm

Since 1973, Shepperton Village Fair has been a major annual family event, attracting thousands of visitors. Held close to the Thames on Manor Park, the Fair kicks off with a large procession through the High Street, followed by spectacular arena displays, fairground rides, stalls, competitions, a huge marquee and the famous Great Nauticalia Raft Race. Visit www.shepperton-fair.org

Staines-upon-Thames Day

Sunday 30 June, 11am-5pm

Staines-upon-Thames Day is a free event with lots of entertainment

and activities for all ages including boat trips, kayaking, face painting, fairground rides, a food market, music, dancing and much more. Visit www.stainesuponthamesday.co.uk

What's on

Our 'what's on' page is packed with information about local activities and events, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/whatson

Investing to safeguard services

At a time when many councils have been cutting services to survive cuts in funding, Spelthorne Council has developed a programme of commercial property investment to safeguard the services we deliver to residents. We have published a Capital Strategy document which explains why we have taken this approach, how it is benefitting residents and our plans for the future.

You can read the document at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/propertyinvestments

Who do I contact?

Residents tell us that they are sometimes unsure whether to contact us or Surrey County Council when they have a query, so we hope this check-list of the main responsibilities is helpful:

Spelthorne Borough Council	Surrey County Council
Planning and building control	Roads and pavements
Housing and housing benefits	Potholes
Council Tax	Footpaths
Rubbish and recycling	Bus passes
Parks	Disabled parking badges
Environmental Health	Education
Food safety	Social services
Car parks	Libraries
Elections	Births/deaths/marriages registration
Fly tipping	Street lighting
Licensing	Trading standards
Day centres	Fire and rescue
Meals on Wheels	
Leisure	
Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk, call 01784 451499, email customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk	Visit www.surreycc.gov.uk, call 03456 009 009, email contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk

Where your Council Tax goes

We collect Council Tax on behalf of Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner. For every £1 of Council Tax, Spelthorne Borough Council receives 11p, Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner receives 13p and Surrey County Council 76p.

Council Tax bands

Council Tax is charged at eight different levels, (bands A to H) depending on your property value. The table below shows both the Spelthorne Council Tax and the total Council Tax chargeable for each property band for 2019/20.

Band	Total £	Spelthorne Council £	Surrey County Council £	Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner £
A	1277.67	134.96	969.00	173.71
B	1490.62	157.45	1130.50	202.67
C	1703.57	179.95	1292.00	231.62
D	1916.51	202.44	1453.50	260.57
E	2342.40	247.43	1776.50	318.47
F	2768.29	292.41	2099.50	376.38
G	3194.18	337.40	2422.50	434.28
H	3833.02	404.88	2907.00	521.14

The Council Tax bands are the maximum you will have to pay for 2019/20. The total Spelthorne share of Council Tax for most households will be an average of £3.90 per week.

Capture Spelthorne photography competition 2019

Spelthorne Council is looking for the best photographs of the Borough. This is a chance for you to get outside, explore our beautiful Borough and show off your photography skills. We are looking for pictures that tell a story about Spelthorne in the following categories:

Living in Spelthorne

What does Spelthorne mean to you? Send us photographs of local places / landmarks or events that you feel depict life in Spelthorne and capture the spirit of this vibrant community.

Urban landscape

Spelthorne is home to many interesting buildings, from the historic to the modern. Which buildings capture your imagination or reflect where you live?

Hidden gems

This is an opportunity for you to capture those hidden gems or secret corners that you want to share with us. Be as creative as you like.

Water scenes

Did you know that a third of Spelthorne is covered by water? From the River Thames to the many reservoirs and lakes, we would love to see your waterside snaps. You could include wildlife, boating or simply lovely waterscapes.

Under 16s

We can accept entries for any of the listed categories.

The winner of each category will receive: -

- £50 prize money
- their picture published in one of the following publications (TW15/18 magazine, Sunbury Matters/Shepperton Matters)

The overall winner will receive:-

- £100 prize money
- their picture published on the front cover of the summer edition of the Bulletin magazine
- a copy of the Pinewood Studios photography book and a pair of tickets for the cinema at Shepperton Studios

Additionally, the finalist pictures for each category will be displayed at an exhibition in the Borough.

How to enter: Up to five photos can be submitted per entrant, as digital images. Please include a short caption that best describes the image, your chosen category and provide your contact details (name, telephone number and postal or email address, plus your age if you are under 16).

Email your entries to photography@spelthorne.gov.uk by 31 May 2019. Finalists will be notified by Monday 10 June 2019 and the winners will be presented at an evening reception in the Korda Theatre, Shepperton Studios on 4 July 2019.

Follow the action on Twitter and Facebook #captureSpelthorne

The Spelthorne Business Plan competition

Are you a budding entrepreneur who dreams of starting your own business? Kwasi Kwarteng MP is hosting his 6th Business Plan Competition in partnership with Spelthorne Borough Council. If you have a great business idea but need

some help to get things off the ground, this is an opportunity to give your idea the boost it needs, with a prize of £3,500 plus mentoring support from local business experts.

The six best entries will be asked to present their business idea to panel of expert judges at a Dragons' Den style final hosted at BP on 23 May. Each of the finalists will be given training to perfect their pitch and prepare for the final. Entries are welcome from individuals or teams of up to four people.

To enter visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/businesscomp or search @Spelthorne Business Plan Competition on Facebook. The competition is open to Spelthorne residents aged over 16.

Applications must be received by Monday 15 April.

For further details, please email Tracey Carter at tracey.carter@parliament.uk

Business Awards 2019

Recognising the hard work and achievements of local businesses, this event will showcase the 'best of the best' with awards for the following categories:

- Exporter of the Year
- Creative Business of the Year
- Healthy Business Award
- Best New Start-Up
- Best Business in Staines-upon-Thames and Laleham
- Independent Business of the Year
- Best Business in Ashford and Stanwell
- Best Business in Sunbury, Shepperton and Charlton Village
- Best Small Business

The deadline for nominations is Monday 16 September. To find out more and to make a nomination, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SMBA

Music in the parks

Join us on Sundays between June and August, 2pm-4pm, at either the Walled Garden in Sunbury-on-Thames or the Lammas Park in Staines-upon-Thames for a free afternoon of music in beautiful surroundings.

A full programme of dates and artists will be available from the end of May at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/whatson

Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing is a way of linking people with social, emotional and practical needs to a range of local non-medical support services.

Spelthorne Council can support adults in a variety of areas including:

- Physical and mental wellbeing
- Community Centres
- Financial support
- Advice and Information
- Leisure services
- Housing options advice and adaptations
- Council services
- Befriending schemes
- Family support

For more information, email socialprescribing@spelthorne.gov.uk, call 01784 448631 or speak to your GP.

Spelthorne Youth Awards

Where unfound stars can shine!

Do you know a special young person aged between 5 and 19 who lives or goes to school/college in Spelthorne and deserves recognition for their achievements? You may wish to nominate them for a Spelthorne Youth Award.

We are looking for nominations in the following categories:

- Outstanding academic achievement
- Personal achievement
- Community spirit
- Triumph over adversity
- Sports achievement
- Unselfishness, kindness and bravery
- Arts achievement (including performing arts)

The young people will be made aware of their nominations and then short-listed for an award. The top nominees from each category will be invited to an awards ceremony on 14 May and presented with a certificate and prize by the Mayor of Spelthorne.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 5 April. For more details and to make a nomination visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/youthawards

Leisure Directory

Pick up a copy of our 2019 Leisure Directory from your local library, leisure centre, or doctors' surgery. It's packed full of special interest clubs, groups and sporting activities to help you make the most of your leisure time.

You can also download a copy at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisuredirectory or call Leisure Services on 01784 446433.

If you run a local activity or are part of a club or group and would like to be included in our 2020 directory then please complete our online form.

Specsavers Surrey Youth Games 2019

Are you aged 6-16? Interested in trying a new sport? Then why not come along to the Team Spelthorne Specsavers Surrey Youth Games free training sessions.

The Surrey Youth Games is the largest annual youth sports festival in Surrey. Sponsored by Specsavers, the main aim of the Games is to provide opportunities for young people to try new sports and increase their activity levels. Around 2000 young people, in school years 2 - 11, will experience a competitive, countywide sporting event when they take part in the Games on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 June 2019.

In preparation for the Games weekend, Spelthorne Borough Council is holding between 4 and 8 weeks of coaching sessions for each sport, which will begin in April/May. The training sessions are free of charge and offer young people a fantastic opportunity to try a new sport or improve on existing skills.

There are a wide variety of sports on offer, including badminton, boccia, boxing, 'couch to 2k' running, girls' football, hockey, judo, lacrosse, netball, squash, table tennis and tennis. All sessions will be led by qualified coaches and, following the coaching sessions, teams will be chosen to compete in the Games at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford.

To be eligible for Team Spelthorne you must either live or go to school in Spelthorne. All sports are suitable for beginners and participants must not be part of a club in the sports they choose to take part in.

Details for the coaching sessions, age ranges and full eligibility can be found on the website. You must register in advance of the sessions.

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/surreyyouthgames, email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446433.

Local Elections are taking place on Thursday 2 May

The Electoral Register was published on 1 December 2018 and will remain in force until 30 November 2019. If you are not on the Register, visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote to make an application by Friday 12 April.

This Electoral Register will be used for the Borough Elections on 2 May 2019. If you will be away on this date, you may apply for a postal or proxy vote. There is a

timetable for registration and applications prior to an election and this can be found on our website.

The Electoral Register is also used by Credit Referencing Agencies to establish where people live when they apply for any form of credit such as a mortgage, loan or hire purchase agreement.

For further information, including the deadlines for registration and postal/proxy vote applications, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/elections, email electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444218.

Advice Plus at Staines Library

A2Dominion hold free advice sessions from 10am – 2pm on Mondays at Staines Library. Their advisors can help with a range of issues including housing and financial advice, Universal Credit support, benefits and legal advice, counselling and family support.

For more information, email community.investment@a2dominion.co.uk or call Paul Williams on 0800 432 0077.

Shepperton Studios granted planning permission for expansion

Plans for the expansion of Shepperton Studios were approved by Spelthorne Borough Council's planning committee on 12 February.

Although reservations were highlighted about encroachment into protected Green Belt, planning officers recommended granting the application with a legal agreement and a number of conditions.

The application will now be referred to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, who will have the final say.

Support Shopmobility with Amazon Smile

Staines Shopmobility is a registered charity which hires scooters and wheelchairs to help people with limited mobility access the shops and other facilities in Staines town centre. An escorted shopping service is also available for people with visual impairments. You do not need to be registered as a disabled person, be a regular wheelchair user or a Blue Badge Holder to use the service.

If you shop with Amazon, you can support Shopmobility by using AmazonSmile which offers all the usual products, prices and features as Amazon.co.uk but also donates 0.5% of your spend* to Shopmobility, at no extra cost to yourself.

To register for AmazonSmile visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

*Applies to eligible purchases. Excludes VAT, returns and shipping fees.

Spelthorne Joint Committee

The Spelthorne Joint Committee is made up of both Borough and County councillors and meets quarterly at the Borough's Knowle Green offices to discuss topics which affect both councils including education, young people, transportation, highway improvements, Heathrow expansion and rights of way. Spelthorne residents are welcome to attend and have the opportunity to ask questions. Petitions can be submitted up to 14 days ahead of each meeting. The next meetings will be held on:

- Monday 15 July
- Monday 30 September
- Monday 16 December

The start time is 6.30pm.

To contact the Committee Officer, email gregory.yeoman@surreycc.gov.uk or call 01483 517530.

Heathrow consultation: Spelthorne Council's response

Heathrow ran an eight-week 'Airspace and Future Operations' consultation between 8 January and 4 March asking for feedback on possible changes to flight paths, night flights and runway operations. The consultation looked at options for both for the existing two runways and how an expanded Heathrow with three runways could operate in the future. The Council responded with its views and made the following points:-

- There should be no increase in flights before the final airspace design and third runway have been implemented
- Independent Parallel Approaches (IPA) should be dropped as an interim measure because this will result in newly overflowed areas with additional noise for our residents
- The Compton departure route needs to be removed as soon as possible because it results in planes flying low across our Borough
- The ban on night-time flights needs to be an actual ban, not just on scheduled flights, with flights only permitted in emergency situations, because the
- 'scheduled' ban does not offer any reassurance that residents will be guaranteed a peaceful night's sleep
- Fines for breaches of the night-time ban need to be channelled to affected communities to ensure they are compensated

- Heathrow expect to hold another consultation in June 2019 on their preferred scheme which will cover physical aspects of expansion. Make sure you take part to ensure your views are taken into account.

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/heathrow to read the Council's full response.

The EU Settlement Scheme

Do you need to apply to stay in the UK?

EU citizens and their family members living in the UK need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme if they want to continue living here after June 2021. The scheme will allow EU citizens and their family members to continue to live, work and study in the UK.

Who is eligible?

- EU citizens and their family members
- Resident in the UK by 31 December 2020.
- Those resident in the UK for more than five years will be eligible for settled status. Those resident in the UK for less than five years will be eligible for pre-settled status
- People who are not serious/persistent criminals
- Irish citizens do not need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme

Settlement Scheme

If you have been a resident for more than 5 years you will be given immediate settled status when you apply. If you have been resident for less than 5 years you will be eligible for pre-settled status, meaning you can stay for another 5 years, but must apply again and get settled status if you want to stay for longer.

When does the scheme open?

The scheme will be fully open to the public by 30 March 2019. The deadline for applying is 30 June 2021, or 31 December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

For more information, visit www.gov.uk/eu-settled-status

Ashford Hospital car park purchase

The Council is planning to purchase a car park on the site of Ashford Hospital's old incinerator which is surplus to requirements, with the aim of developing the land for key worker homes. This housing will be particularly welcomed by hospital staff looking to live close to work, as well as other key workers in Spelthorne such as teachers and members of the emergency services.

Speaking of the planned purchase, Cllr Ian Harvey, Leader of the Council, said: “I am absolutely delighted that we are in a position to deliver these much needed homes for our vital key workers who contribute so much to the Borough.”

Every ward at its best

The Council has been working on an initiative called ‘every ward at its best’ which is a project to deal with problem sites across the Borough which could be an annoyance or an eyesore to residents.

The aim was to look at these sites afresh, including things which have been deteriorating for a while, may not have been reported to us, or would benefit from a rounded approach, leading to small but noticeable improvements.

Things that were reviewed included:

- Messy front gardens which we worked with the homeowner to improve
- The Borough’s public notice boards were looking shabby and in some cases were broken, so funding was found to replace these with new, more modern boards
- Planning powers were used to make the owners of an empty shop replace shutters that were tatty and unattractive

The Council has a number of enforcement powers so if you are concerned about a particular site please contact us or speak to your local councillor. Contact the Customer Services team by email at customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 451499.

Shopping parade improvements

Spelthorne Council is close to completing improvements to four shopping areas as part of an upgrade project.

Funding of £200K was pledged by Spelthorne Council and Surrey County Council in 2016 for improvements to shopping parades located in Edinburgh Drive in Staines-upon-Thames, Groveley Road in Sunbury, Clare Road in Stanwell and Woodlands Parade in Ashford.

Work at Woodlands Parade in Ashford, the last area to be completed, is expected to be completed by early April.

Cllr Colin Barnard, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, said: “Shopping parades are important as an ingredient to help bind local communities together; they provide a critical service for disadvantaged members of the community, particularly those with lower mobility levels. This is an excellent investment which helps keep our local parades at the heart of the community.”

Stanwell Women's Institute: 1919 – 2019

2019 marks the Centenary of the Stanwell WI. Their first meeting was held on 1 May 1919 and the group is still going strong. They meet on the first Tuesday of every month in Stanwell Village Hall and are always happy to welcome new members. They have a full programme planned for this centenary year including their birthday celebrations in May.

For more details, visit their Facebook page @StanwellWI

Amazing grazing

Working with Surrey Wildlife Trust and local farmers, Spelthorne Council graze cattle on four sites in the Borough. Grazing is a traditional way to keep grass down whilst improving biodiversity by encouraging the growth of wildflowers and other 'insect friendly' plants.

Cattle are grazed during the following times:

Sunbury Park:	April – September
Shortwood Common:	April – November
Staines Moor:	April – November
Dumsey Meadow:	August – December

Remembering the fallen

The Council has been fulfilling a commitment to plant 851 trees in the Borough, one for every person who lost their lives in WW1, following the First World War centenary celebrations in November. As well as the Centenary Wood in Laleham Park where 100 trees were planted in November, a further 200 trees have been planted at the following locations:

Bishop Duppas Park, The Old Bathing Station, Moormead Rec, Stanwell Moor Rec, Ashford Park, Manor Park, Alexandra Park, Kenyngton Manor Rec, Grovely Rec and Long Lane Rec.

More planting will follow in the autumn.

Ashford Rotary Club

Ashford Rotary Club is a small club with around 20 members which raises money to help the local community and individuals in the Ashford and Stanwell area. The group meets from 6pm every Monday at Ashford Manor Golf Club and, as well as raising funds for good causes, they hold regular social events and invite guest speakers to their meetings.

The Club is particularly well known for its Christmas float collections and this year purchased a new float after a fundraising effort by its members and receiving a grant from Spelthorne Borough Council.

If you are interested in joining the Ashford Rotary Club visit www.ashfordrotary.org or call 01784 252481.

Get ready for spring

Get ready for spring by planning how to dispose of your grass cuttings, leaves and prunings. There are three ways you can dispose of your garden waste:

- Home composting - this is the most environmentally friendly option –visit www.recycleforsurrey.org.uk/garden-waste to buy a discounted compost bin or www.spelthorne.gov.uk/digesters to buy a discounted Green Johanna (which composts both garden and food waste).
- Garden waste collection service - if you subscribe to our convenient collection service your garden waste will be collected every two weeks throughout the year, except over Christmas and in January. If you would like to join the garden waste collection service visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/gwform

The annual subscription to this service is £56 plus a one-off payment of £25 for the brown wheelie bin. You can pay by direct debit and view the collection dates or download the collection calendar on My Spelthorne. If you are a keen gardener or have a large garden, make disposing of your garden waste even easier by taking advantage of having a second bin at the discounted price of £30 per year. This offer is available to residents who already subscribe to the service. The discount will be automatically applied when you order the second bin. There is also a one-off cost of £25 for the second garden bin.

- Community Recycling Centre - Take your garden waste to the Community Recycling Centre at Charlton Lane in Shepperton (for free).

Free clear bags for textiles and small electricals

Before you have that spring clear out of your wardrobes and cupboards, collect up to ten clear bags from the Council Offices at Knowle Green or your local Community Centre. Place your textiles and small electricals in separate bags and then leave them kerbside by 6am on your collection day. Our '3 in 1' service (food waste, textiles and small electricals) collects items weekly for recycling. For more information, please visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/kerbsidecollections

Birthday cards and wrapping paper

If you receive cards or wrapping paper that contain foil, glitter, batteries, embossing (raised/recessed patterns) or a paper/plastic mix, please put them in your rubbish bin as they are not recyclable.

Plastic coated wrapping paper can be difficult to spot. To test whether wrapping paper has a plastic coating, scrunch it in your hand and if it springs back, it is probably plastic lined and therefore not recyclable (paper stays scrunched up).

Thank you in advance

We would be grateful if you could put your bin out for collection by 6am at the kerbside with the handles facing the road. Heavy bins turned backwards can be difficult for our crews to move.

Please also put fire ash and the vacuum cleaner dust in a bag before placing it in your rubbish bin.