

Spelthorne Borough Council
Summer Bulletin 2024

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Letter from the Leader

Dear Residents, I can hardly believe we are marking 50 years since Spelthorne Borough Council was established. We have already held some celebrations and have more planned over the summer if you can join us.

We welcomed Cllr Med Buck as our new Mayor at the Annual Council Meeting which is held each May to elect the council leaders and committee members. He brings a wealth of experience and a passion for supporting the community, and will be a real asset for Spelthorne. You can read more about the Mayor on page 5.

We always want to hear your views on how we are performing as a council and have launched a residents' survey on a range of aspects including how satisfied you are with your local area, the services we provide, and how safe you feel in the community. Having a really good understanding of your views, ideas and experiences will help us make Spelthorne a better place. If you do not take part, we are unable to make the changes that are required, so please take the opportunity to have your say. Your feedback is vital - by working together, we can make a difference.

There is so much going on in Spelthorne during the summer and you can find details about events taking place near you on and pages 11 and 12. These range from music and outdoor theatre, to treasure hunts and art sessions for the kids. Many of the events are free to attend.

Our new leisure centre, Eclipse, is nearly completed and we are so excited that we'll soon be opening the doors to residents. It is shaping up to be a fantastic

centre with amazing facilities which will encourage more residents to participate in sport and physical activity. I hope you have a wonderful summer and get the opportunity to come along to one of our events. If you have any ideas or concerns you would like to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Cllr Joanne Sexton, Leader of the Council

Report it, so we can sort it

Let us know if you see an issue in your neighbourhood so we can deal with it quickly. We want residents to work with us to make Spelthorne a clean place to live and work.

In 2023 we received a total of 794 reports via our website relating to neighbourhood issues, with fly-tipping receiving the most complaints. You can report problems involving litter, graffiti, dog fouling, bonfires, noise, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles and other problems using the online form at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/report or call us on 01784 451499.

A new Mayor for Spelthorne

Supporting the community is the mission of Spelthorne's new Mayor, Cllr Med Buck. The Mayor took over the chains of office from Cllr Denise Saliagopoulos at the Annual Council Meeting on 23 May. The mayoral role involves presiding over council meetings and representing the authority at civic and ceremonial events.

The Mayor will be raising money for four charities during the year:

- Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals' Charity which aims to enhance the hospital environment by providing supplementary equipment or additional services that are above and beyond what the NHS can provide.

- Stanwell Food Bank, established in 2018, supports households that need help accessing food as well as offering residents freshly cooked meals, community events and a place to meet and enjoy the park.
- Manor Mead Primary School in Shepperton provides a rich and varied curriculum to meet the needs of individual pupils with an emphasis on supporting independence and ensuring learning is fun.
- Newlife, founded over 30 years ago, provides disabled and terminally ill children with life changing equipment and support for families.

Cllr Buck moved from London to Spelthorne in 2015 and was elected as councillor for Ashford North and Stanwell South in 2023. He has a wealth of experience and a proven track record of leadership.

Having served in senior management and leadership roles in the NHS and other organisations for nearly twenty years, he has a strong commitment to the community and has a clear vision for the future. Cllr Buck believes in the power of community collaboration and is committed to working with everyone to address the challenges we face and lead Spelthorne towards a brighter and more prosperous future. His wife, Madhuri Buck, will be his consort over the course of the mayoral year.

Cllr Med Buck said: "I am overjoyed to be chosen to represent this great Borough as the Mayor of Spelthorne and I would like to thank my fellow councillors for this opportunity. I am absolutely committed to representing this community and supporting residents during the coming year. The charities I have chosen are very important as they all provide a range of services and support, particularly for residents who are vulnerable." Cllr John Doran was also elected as Deputy Mayor.

For information about the Mayor's events, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/mayor, email mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446275.

Celebrating Spelthorne's 50th anniversary

Spelthorne Borough Council marked 50 years since its creation in April. This milestone is shared with many of the borough councils established after the Local Government Act of 1972.

Spelthorne Borough Council was created by combining two former districts - Staines Urban District and Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District. These two urban districts were part of Middlesex before 1965, when they were transferred to Surrey on the creation of Greater London. The district was awarded borough status from its creation, allowing the chair of the council to take the title of mayor. Since its establishment, the Borough of Spelthorne has had 16 political leaders and 54 mayors.

The half century was marked with several events. The Civic Awards Trust presented the Council with a plaque at their awards ceremony on 17 April and a church service was held at St. Matthews Church in Ashford on 9 June. Parties are also being held at the community centres in the summer and commemorative trees are being planted in the autumn.

Spelthorne Partnership Assembly

Building on the strong links made through the Residents' Association meetings, Spelthorne Council is pleased to announce the launch of the Spelthorne Partnership Assembly. The assembly, led by Leader of the Council, Cllr Joanne Sexton and Deputy Leader, Cllr Chris Bateson, will meet four times a year and is open to all residents and partner organisations, including Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and the NHS.

If you are interested in attending the next meeting in the autumn, please register by emailing community.development@spelthorne.gov.uk or calling 01784 446433.

Planning Enforcement at Spelthorne Council

Each year the Planning Enforcement team at Spelthorne Council investigates around 350 possible breaches of planning control. They look into cases where something has been built without planning permission or where the conditions set out in the planning permission have not been met.

Examples include construction of buildings or structures such as a wall or fence, change of use of buildings or land, works to protected trees and hedgerows, unauthorised advertising displays, work to listed buildings and demolition of certain buildings in Conservation Areas. Planning enforcement plays a vital part in the planning process. By identifying and tackling cases of unauthorised development, the enforcement process ensures fairness, stops unacceptable development and gives residents confidence in the system.

A breach of planning control is not a criminal offence and local councils can use their discretion on what action to take. The purpose of planning enforcement is to remedy the problem rather than to punish the mistake. In most cases the Council will attempt to resolve the breach by negotiation and may offer the opportunity to apply for retrospective planning permission. Where serious harm is being caused however, the Council will take firm action and may not enter into any negotiations before doing so.

To manage resources effectively, cases are prioritised according to the level of harm identified from the initial complaint. Dependent on the outcome of that initial response, the priority rating may be changed. The team does not deal with civil issues such as neighbour disputes, land boundary or ownership disputes, deeds of covenant issues or works to party walls.

The Planning Enforcement team recently obtained a High Court Injunction Order prohibiting a landowner from keeping mobile homes and other vehicles on land at Chertsey Road in Shepperton. In April, the team also successfully prosecuted an individual who breached a Tree Preservation Order at a property on The Avenue in Sunbury.

New enforcement legislation was introduced in April which tightens enforcement powers. The main change relates to an increase in the time given

to councils to take action for certain types of breaches, which is good news for helping protect the community against unauthorised development.

For more information and advice, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/enforcement, email customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 451499. You can report a planning enforcement issue online at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/report

Spelthorne honours volunteers

Spelthorne Council paid tribute to 16 volunteers at the Civic Trust Awards, which honours residents for their voluntary service in the Borough, in a ceremony on Wednesday 17 April.

The Trust recognises individuals who have given at least 12 years' service to volunteering in the Borough, and letters of commendation are awarded to those who have done a further 10 years. During the evening, the Civic Trust presented the Council with a special plaque to recognise its 50th anniversary.

Civic Awards

- David Brown, 6th Staines Scout Group
- John Graham, Sunbury Skiff & Punting Club
- Amanda Griffiths, 1st Sunbury Rainbows & Brownies
- Alison Hogan, 1st Shepperton Guides
- Sharon Holmes, Shepperton District Scouts
- Stewart Holmes, 6th Staines Scouts
- Pauline Newman, Daybreak Respite Care Centre
- Siobhan O'Sullivan, Sunbury Junior Regatta
- Sylvia Peacock, 6th Sunbury Brownies
- Kathy Purdon, Staines District Brownies/ Manna Foodbank
- Ken Saunders, Staines Strollers/ Spelthorne Boccia and others
- Patricia Whisker, Daybreak Respite Care Centre
- David Furst (posthumous), Laleham Residents' Association

Letters of Commendation

- Anne Damerell, Home Start/ SCAN/SMHA

- Judy Parsons, 1st Sunbury Guides, Rangers & Brownies
- Ann Scott, 1st Sunbury Guides, Rangers & Brownie

Spelthorne Volunteer Drivers

Spelthorne Volunteer Drivers, a charity which helps elderly and/or disabled residents in the Borough get to medical appointments, is looking for drivers who can spare an hour or two each week. It is an interesting, varied and rewarding role and the amount of time you give is entirely up to you. You will of course be paid expenses. We also need duty control officers, based at home, to take calls from clients between 10am and 12noon on weekdays. The role is carried out on a rota basis and would suit a person who is housebound.

If you would like to know more, please email spelthornevolunteerdrivers@gmail.com or call 07817 926736 between 10am and 12noon, Monday to Friday.

Visit the website at <https://spelthornevolunteerdrivers.org.uk>

Daybreak respite care

At Daybreak we offer respite care and support to people in the community with chronic illnesses, physical disabilities, dementia or social isolation.

We give carers a well-earned break for five hours on a Tuesday, while their family member receives respite care of the highest standard. We provide a happy and vibrant environment where people can enjoy some company, a home cooked meal and regular musical entertainment. Our provision of care includes blood pressure and sugar monitoring, continence care, dietary needs, personal care and supervision of prescribed medication. Each guest has an individual care plan.

We are based at St. Peter's Church Hall on the Laleham Road in Staines and are open from 10am – 3pm every Tuesday (excluding Christmas and Easter).

The cost is £30 per day which includes a two-course lunch and all refreshments.

For more information, email Sally Kidd at sallykdaybreak@gmail.com or call 077610 47930 (Monday-Friday).

Staines Parochial Charity

Staines Parochial Charity will be allocating their annual financial grants in the autumn to local residents who are facing financial difficulties due to problems such as poor health, disability, low income or homelessness. Relevant charities can also apply. To be eligible for a grant, you must have lived in the Staines area for at least two years (or in the case of charities, been active in Staines for at least two years).

The deadline for completed applications is Monday 14 October.

To request an application form, email the Secretary, June Stillwell, at june.stillwell@btinternet.com or call 01784 463013.

Eclipse Leisure Centre opening soon

Work to build the new Eclipse Leisure Centre is now in the final stages and we are looking forward to opening the doors this autumn.

A special event was held on the site of the new centre on Tuesday 30 April, with children from Riverbridge Primary school joining the Mayor of Spelthorne to bury a time capsule. The students worked on a project to compile diary entries and their reflections of Spelthorne in 2024 to produce a unique booklet which was placed in the time capsule, together with information about the rare medieval coins found on the site during the excavation and archive photos of the current leisure centre.

Over the coming months, we will be arranging open days for residents to come and have a look around the new centre and will be announcing a

programme of events to celebrate the opening on our website and social media. For more details, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/eclipseleisurecentre

Parks tennis

LTA Free Park Tennis is a new programme that gives more people the chance to play tennis by offering fun, social tennis sessions in the community. Sessions are free for all ages and abilities, running for one hour every Sunday at 9.30am (Stanwell Village) and 11am (Cedars Park in Sunbury) by a team of trained volunteers. This could be you!

Park Tennis Activators work together as a team, running games and exercises that will help more people get active and discover their love for tennis. Training, equipment (including your own hoody) are all provided. If you are interested in becoming a Tennis Activator, contact Steve.

To find out more, email Steve at tennisspelthorne@gmail.com

Parent and child sessions

Tennis Spelthorne is also offering parent and child sessions in Stanwell Village and Cedars Park in Sunbury. Sessions are £7 (free for home schooled with ECHP, 50% discount for families receiving income support). Parents will get to be involved, so get a group of friends together for some fun and fitness and an opportunity to play each other at the end of the session whilst the coach focuses on the children.

Cedars Park (Mondays)

4.10pm - 4.55pm age 5-8

4.55pm - 5.40pm ages 9 and 10

Stanwell Village Park (Wednesdays)

4.30pm - 5.15pm age 5-8

5.15pm - 6pm ages 9 and 10

To book or for more information, visit tennisspelthorne.com/community-project.

Pickleball

Fast becoming one of the most popular racket sports in the world, pickleball brings together some of the best elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis, into a fun and exciting game for people of all ages and abilities.

Visit <https://tennisspelthorne.com/pickleball> to book a free social session or enquire about coaching.

Boost for Sunbury Leisure Centre

Spelthorne Council has been awarded just under £995,000 by the Government and Sport England to add solar panels and replace old gas boilers with heat pumps at Sunbury Leisure Centre. Gas usage at the centre will be reduced to zero as a result, a big step towards meeting the Council's carbon reduction targets. The award for Spelthorne Council represented the highest grant given to any authority in the South East. Full details regarding the timings will be confirmed soon. The Council does not anticipate needing to close the leisure centre during the work.

Summer events

Saturday 6 July, 10am - 12 noon

Plant Swap

Come along and swap a plant that you no longer want or buy one from our stall. Venue: Church Road, Ashford (by the fish and chip shop)

Cost: Free

For more information, email barbara.baghapour@live.co.uk

Saturday 6 July, 11.30am - 4.30pm

Laleham Village Fair

Summer fair for the local community with music, food, activities and family fun. Venue: Laleham Recreation Ground, The Broadway, Laleham, TW18 1RZ
Cost: Free
For more information, visit <https://laleham-residents-association.org.uk>

Saturday 13 July, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Ashford Horticultural Society summer show
Every year Ashford Horticultural Society holds a show of flowers and produce that members have grown and are proud to show. Tea, coffee and homemade cake will be available. Venue: St. Matthew's Church Hall, Muncaster Close, Ashford TW15 2EE
Cost: Free
For more information, email barbara.baghapour@live.co.uk

Saturday 20 July, 10am - 2pm
Spelthorne Resource Centre
Summer Art Open Day Come along and make some summer crafts this holiday! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Spaces are first-come first-served. For children aged 4-11 years. No need to book. Venue: Spelthorne Resource Centre, Staines Park, Commercial Road, Staines TW18 2QJ
Cost: £1 per child (50p for siblings)
email d.harding@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 461769.

Saturday 20 July, 10am-4pm
Summer of Sport - Crazy Golf
Join us inside the Elmsleigh Centre for a 9-hole crazy golf course as part the Visit Staines Big Summer of Sport. Venue: The Elmsleigh Centre, Staines.
Cost: Free
For more information, visit www.visitstaines.co.uk

Tuesday 23 July, 10am-4pm
Little Green Boat Company - Summer Bear Hunt
To mark the start of the school holidays, why not join us for a delightful Bear Hunt at Lammas Recreation Ground. For children aged 12 years and younger.

Venue: The Little Green Boat Company, Lammas Park, Staines-upon-Thames
TW18 4XZ

Cost: Free

Visit www.thelittlegreenboatcompany.co.uk/staines/summer-bear-hunt or call
07765 701011.

Saturday 27 July, 12 noon

Family Fun Day

A day for people to visit Ashford Youth Club and have some fun. Includes a
barbecue, bouncy castle, music, crafts and more. Venue: Ashford Youth Club,
Kenilworth Road, Ashford, TW15 3EL

Cost: Free

email ashfordyouthclub@gmail.com

Tuesday 30 July, 11am-2pm

Home-Start Spelthorne - Picnic in the Park

Our annual picnic in Staines Park. We will have games, a toy sale, crafts, bake
sale and train rides. Suitable for all the family. All proceeds will go to
HomeStart Spelthorne. Venue: Staines Park, Commercial Road, Staines-upon-
Thames, TW18 2QW

Cost: £2 per adult, £1 per child

email info@home-startspelthorne.org or call 01784 463200.

Saturday 31 August, 1pm-3pm

Shepperton Horticultural Association - Autumn Show

Display of members' produce including vegetables, flowers, baking, handicraft
and photographs. New members welcome, see our website for details. Venue:
Shepperton Village Hall, High Street, Shepperton, TW17 9AU

Cost: Free

Visit www.sheppertonha.co.uk

Free outdoor theatre in Staines

Thursday 1 August, 1pm

The Guy in the Luggage Rack

An aerial theatre show about grief, memory and relationships, combining physical comedy with striking aerial acrobatics.

Venue: Memorial Gardens, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 4SD.

Thursday 8 August, 11am and 2pm

Tape That

A charming, light-hearted, non-verbal acrobatic duet. Two performers construct a visual world using colourful tape, object manipulation and partner acrobatics.

Venue: Two Rivers (outside Costa)

Thursday 15 August, 12noon - 3pm (various intervals)

The Jukeboxes

Two beautiful 1950s Jukeboxes sit side-by-side. Watch them spring to life as two performers (hidden inside) recreate classic pop music videos in a lip-syncing musical medley. The Beatles, Sinéad O'Connor, Miley Cyrus, Stevie Wonder and Adele all make cameos, and the audience is encouraged to sing along.

Venue: High Street, Staines-upon-Thames.

Thursday 22 August, 12noon and 2.30pm

Knot

Two male dancers using extreme physicality, complex lifts and contact choreography, to explore the many facets of human relationships through physical expression.

Venue: The Elmsleigh Centre, Staines-upon-Thames.

Thursday 29 August, 1pm

Jemima Puddle Duck

A delightful new adaptation of Beatrix Potter's much-loved tale. Prevented from hatching her eggs at the farm, foolish Jemima goes in search of a

nesting place in the forest and soon she meets a charming 'gentleman' who offers her the perfect nesting place in his woodshed.

Venue: Memorial Gardens, Staines-upon-Thames.

Please pre-book at www.visitstaines.co.uk

Music in the Park

Join us for a free afternoon of music in the beautiful surroundings of either The Walled Garden, Thames Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6AB or The Lammas Band Stand, Lammas Recreation Ground, Wraysbury Road, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 4XZ.

All performances start at 2pm and finish at 4pm. Please bring your own chairs or picnic blankets. Refreshments are available to purchase at both venues.

Date	Venue	Performer
Sunday 7 July	The Walled Garden	British Airways Band Sunday
14 July	The Walled Garden	Saxophany Sunday
14 July	The Lammas Bandstand	Staines Lammas Band
Sunday 28 July	The Walled Garden	Bourne Concert Band
Sunday 4 August	The Walled Garden	Thames Harmony Chorus
Sunday 11 August	The Walled Garden	Dale Harris Classical Guitarist
Sunday 18 August	The Walled Garden	All That Jazz
Sunday 18 August	The Lammas Bandstand	Staines Brass Band
Sunday 25 August	The Walled Garden	The Linden Wind Orchestra
Sunday 1 September	The Walled Garden	Staines Lammas Band

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

Heat pumps

Have you thought about replacing your current heating system with a low carbon technology heat pump? We have created a page of frequently asked questions to help you understand what they are, if one would be right for you, available grants and handy links.

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/heatpumps

Green Connections

Talking Tree recently held their first Green Forum event, inviting groups from across the Borough with an interest in the environment to network and share experiences and challenges. If your group is interested in attending future events, email talkingtreecec@gmail.com

Solar Together

Solar Together aims to boost solar power from UK homes by making it easier for residents to find a trustworthy installer. It is a group buying scheme that enables you to install high-quality, roof mounted solar panels at a competitive price.

You can also choose to fit a domestic battery system to store surplus electricity generated by the solar panels and use it when needed. Having your own solar panels can produce clean energy, whilst helping to reduce your household energy use and bills.

Phase 3 of the scheme opened for registration on 17 June and installations are expected to take place between October 2024 and March 2025.

For more information, visit www.solartogether.co.uk/surrey

Lower Sunbury Hedgehog Project

The Lower Sunbury Hedgehog Project campaign was started in May by the Lower Sunbury Residents Association in partnership with Friends of Sunbury Park, the Spelthorne Natural History Society and Spelthorne Borough Council.

The project's aim is to stop the decline in hedgehog numbers by improving monitoring and encouraging residents to make their gardens a safe space for spiny friends. Hedgehogs are one of the nation's favourite native animals, yet a third of the hedgehog population has been lost since the millennium and they are now on the IUCN Red List as being vulnerable to extinction.

Hedgehogs thrive in domestic gardens where they find the ideal variety of food and cover. They travel a kilometre or two every night as they forage and search for mates, meaning they need to be able to move between gardens. Making a small hole (5 x 5 inches) at ground level in garden fences and walls creates a 'hedgehog highway', linking gardens to parks and other open spaces.

To get involved, visit The Lower Sunbury Hedgehog Project Facebook page or Spelthorne Council's webpage at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/hedgehog for all the resources you need to get started. You can also visit the Big Hedgehog Map at www.bighedgehogmap.org to register your hedgehog sightings. It is hoped the project will foster a real community spirit in helping these delightful animals.

Get in touch if you would like to set up a similar project in your area.

Chironomids

During the warmer months, some residents in the Borough report problems with Chironomids, mosquito-like insects that live near areas of water, such as lakes and reservoirs.

Their adult stage lasts only a week, during which they swarm as part of the mating process. Although an annoyance, they are not hazardous to health as they don't bite or spread disease. As Chironomids and their larvae are an important part of the food chain for other insects and birds, and it's illegal to use insecticide where there's a risk it could drift into other properties, Thames Water are no longer able to spray the reservoirs with insecticides.

To help alleviate the issue, Thames Water use environmentally friendly methods such as spraying water to discourage the insects, and placing brightly coloured markers to attract them away from residential areas.

If you are affected by this issue, contact Thames Water via their website at www.thameswater.co.uk/contact-us or call 0800 316 9800.

For more information, visit the Council's website at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/chironomids

Spelthorne's sustainable gardens

Sustainable gardening is one of the main ways individuals can help the environment. Whether your garden is a windowsill, a balcony or an acre of grass, you can take small actions which will attract an array of wonderful wildlife and provide you with enormous enjoyment.

If you garden, you're already a champion for wildlife! Sustainable gardening means using gardening practices which have social, economic, global and personal impact. It means reducing your impact on the earth and working with nature rather than against it. Build it and they will come Encourage wildlife in your space by doing some of the following:

- Bug hotels – easy to make at home with bricks and logs, you can provide a shelter for insects to live and lay eggs
- Log piles – decaying wood is essential for certain life stages of beetles and other invertebrates

- Hedgehog tunnels – add a 5x5 inch hole at the bottom of your fence to allow hedgehogs to travel, helping their foraging and mating chances
- Nesting boxes – for birds and bats, to attract day visitors to stick around
- Create a water wonderland - build a pond or even a bucket can offer a haven to wildlife. Add some oxygenating pond plants and ramps to help wildlife in and out of your pond
- Water butts - collecting rainwater is environmentally friendly and cost effective (add a lid to prevent mosquitoes)
- Drinking stations - put out bird baths and bee drinking stations, especially in the hot summer months

Choosing the right plants

Native: This refers to using species that would have naturally occurred in a particular region. Advantages of doing this include preserving local diversity and habitat for the native wildlife which have adapted to exist with these plants. Native plants typically require less water and fewer pesticides, meaning they are lower maintenance.

Variety: Choose a variety of species to provide year-round food and shelter. For example, incorporating evergreen shrubs for cover and plants that produce berries through the winter will support birds all year round.

Climate resilience: Plants that can adapt to our changing climate means that they are more likely to come back year on year, even with changes in the seasons. You may have heard that trees can lock up carbon, but did you know plants also have the ability to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in the plant and soil?

Don't poison me

Step back from using chemicals such as pesticides and fertilisers because they have long-lasting unintended consequences on the ecosystem. For example, using slug killer in your garden can poison and kill hedgehogs which are natural slug predators.

Pests such as slugs and aphids can be a pain, particularly when growing food in your garden, but if you're patient, predators will usually step in and take care of the pests for you. Try using friendlier deterrent methods such as hanging old CDs to scare birds from crops, or planting garlic near crops to deter slugs.

Spelthorne Youth Awards

The achievements of 47 special young people, aged 5 - 19, were celebrated at an awards ceremony at Kempton Park Racecourse on Friday 19 April. Organised by Spelthorne Borough Council, the bi-annual Spelthorne Youth Awards recognise the outstanding talents and achievements of local young people and the contributions they make to their communities.

Each nominee received a certificate of achievement, and nine young people were selected to receive a Star Award, a glass trophy, and a £50 prize. The ceremony included a new award for Environmental Achievement to acknowledge the work being done by young people to make Spelthorne a greener and more sustainable borough to live, work and study in.

Many congratulations to all the nominees and the following Star Award winners:

Achievement	Winner
Academic Achievement	Daisy Graham
Arts Achievement	Ella Stevenson
Community Spirit	Rowen Baker
Personal Achievement	Holly Adams
Sports Achievement	Jake Glew
Unselfishness, Kindness, and Bravery	Lachlan Stewart
Triumph Over Adversity	Grace Lumbi and Sarah Cagdas
Environmental Achievement	Kieran Perren

Community Allotment in Sunbury

Do you enjoy being outside, socialising with others, and seeing the fruits of your labour? If so, we are looking for volunteers to help with a new community allotment on Groveley Road in Sunbury. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Leisure Services on 01784 446433 or email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk

Annual council grants

Each year, Spelthorne Borough Council gives grants to help local voluntary groups, clubs and organisations. The application process will open again in autumn for the 2025/26 financial year awards. The dates will be promoted on our website, social media and via Voluntary Support North Surrey. We will be highlighting some of the great work of last year's grant recipients over the coming months - keep an eye on the website and social media.

For more information about annual grants, visit our website at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/annualcouncilgrant

Spelthorne Business Awards

Applications for the 2024 Spelthorne Business Awards are now open. There is a category for every business - big, small, well established or newly-formed. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of Spelthorne businesses.

To enter, visit www.spelthornebusinessawards.co.uk

Staines 10K

The Mayor of Spelthorne got runners underway for the start of the 2024 Staines 10K on Sunday 12 May. The race, organised by Staines Strollers and Runnymede Runners, with support from Spelthorne Borough Council, saw 685 runners completing the course.

The men’s race was won for the third consecutive year by Blake Moore from Windsor, Slough, Eton and Hounslow Athletics Club, in 31 minutes and 8 seconds. The women’s race was won by Rebecca Bunting from London Heathside Runners Athletics Club in 37 minutes and 5 seconds.

Thank you to this year’s sponsors and the dozens of volunteers who gave their time to ensure the day ran smoothly.

The full results are available on the Staines 10k website at www.staines10k.co.uk and details of the 2025 race will be available there in the autumn (entries open in February 2025).

Community Centres

Our Community Centres in Ashford, Shepperton, Staines and Stanwell provide a wide range of activities including yoga, pilates, quizzes, art, bridge, computer classes, singing, bingo, dancing, book club and language classes. Some also offer hairdressing, chiropody, and beautician services.

They are great places to have a bite to eat, meet new people or try some activities. Saturday opening The Fordbridge Centre in Ashford and Greeno Centre in Shepperton are continuing to extend their opening times to include alternate Saturdays, until the end of September 2024.

Please contact the Centre to book a place for lunch, by the Wednesday before.

Date	Venue
6 July 2024	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
13 July 2024	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
20 July 2024	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
27 July 2024	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
3 August 2024	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
10 August 2024	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
17 August 2024	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
24 August 2024	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford

31 August 2024	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
7 September 2024	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
14 September 2024	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
21 September 2024	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
28 September 2024	Greeno Centre, Shepperton

Fordbridge Centre

01784 243880, email fordbridgecentre@spelthorne.gov.uk

Greeno Centre

01932 246173, email greenocentre@spelthorne.gov.uk

For information about opening hours, costs and your nearest centre, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/communitycentres, email independentliving@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446389.

Meals on Wheels

If you are struggling to prepare meals for any reason, our Meals on Wheels service can help:

- Delivered to your home on your chosen days
- Hot main course and pudding
- Option to order a sandwich to eat later
- Dietary requirements catered for
- Can be ordered for short or long periods of time

For further information, email m.wheels@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444265.

Support for residents with high needs

If you are caring for someone with a condition such as dementia, sight loss or immobility, you may be interested to know that the Greeno Centre in Shepperton runs a daily OPAL group from 9.30am - 3.30pm for people with support needs.

Our aim is to offer social interaction and stimulating activities, while you get some time to yourself knowing that your loved one is being well looked after. There is a daily charge of £42 to attend the group which can be paid privately or as part of a social care package if eligible.

For more information, email opal@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01932 246173.

Helping people to stay in their homes

Disabled Facilities Grants are available to help fund the cost of aids and adaptations to enable disabled people to live independently in their own home. The type of adaptations which can be funded include:

- widening doors
- level access showers
- stair lifts
- installing ramps
- improving access to rooms

For more information, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/DFG, email dfg@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 448607.

Update from the Spelthorne Borough Commander

As summer begins, we head into what hopefully will be warmer and drier months and thoughts start to turn to holidays.

We have continued to push our priorities targeting burglary, vehicle theft, violent crime and illegal drugs. When you look at violent crime, this is down nearly 10% on last year and we continue to have highest crime detection rate in the county of Surrey. Overall reported crime is slightly up on last year by just over 1% but again our crime detection rate is up.

Often our biggest issue is the reporting of incidents so I can then best direct my limited resources. Reports of anti-social behaviour remains lower than last

year however we know that people don't always contact us about everything. That's one of the reasons why run our 'meet the beat' events and attend resident meetings so we can ensure we are capturing this missed reporting.

I want to continue my message to the residents of Spelthorne - please report any concerns otherwise we don't know it's happening and other areas that do will take priority. Surrey police recently secured funding from the Home Office of £1m pounds to help target crime/ASB 'hotspots'. We currently have two of the fifteen countywide hotspots in our area based on reported data. This is why I need you to report matters to us as it's so important, not just in terms of funding but directing our activity.

Matt Walton, Borough Commander, Surrey Police

Food for thought

One of Spelthorne's priorities is to protect our community and one of the ways we do this is to ensure the production, preparation, storage, distribution and supply of food by businesses within our Borough is safe.

Within the Environmental Health department is a small team of staff who take on responsibility for enforcing the provisions of food safety legislation. This work includes food hygiene inspections, investigating complaints made against food businesses, providing advice to businesses, food sampling, imported food controls and investigating outbreaks of food poisoning.

The biggest part of our work is carrying out food hygiene inspections and issuing food hygiene ratings. We undertake approximately 350 unannounced inspections each year. There are around 840 food businesses within our Borough and this includes a wide variety of different types of operations such as restaurants, takeaways, food manufacturers, supermarkets, convenience stores, home caterers, market traders, warehouses, schools, nursing homes and hospitals.

The frequency of inspection ranges from once every six months to every three years, depending on the risk presented by the business to the public. Businesses are provided with a food hygiene rating, the highest rating being 5 for 'very good' and the worst 0 for 'urgent improvement required'.

The team has powers to close a food business if it presents an imminent risk to public health, for example if there's an infestation of pests, poor structural conditions or contamination by sewage. The vast majority of businesses within Spelthorne achieve a rating of 3 (satisfactory) or higher. Those businesses with a rating of 2 or lower receive revisits and additional monitoring checks between routine inspections. You can check the ratings of food businesses online at ratings.food.gov.uk.

Around 80 complaints are received against food businesses each year. The subject of these complaints includes allegations of illness, poor hygiene practices, concerns about cleaning and general repair, pest infestations and foreign body allegations.

We also work closely with our colleagues at the UK Health Security Agency and each year receive around 140 notifications of illnesses which could be linked to contaminated food or water. We investigate these notifications to try to identify the source and prevent the spread of illness.

For further information, contact the Environmental Health team by email at eh.commercial@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 451499.

Changes to HMO licences

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are residential properties which are occupied by five or more people and form at least two households. This type of property has to be licensed by Spelthorne Borough Council and the process for this has recently changed.

Previously licences were issued by the Council to landlords for up to five years. Under the new scheme, licences are now granted a one, three or five-year licence term, depending on the risk rating of the property.

With a focus on risk assessment, Spelthorne Council aims to encourage HMO landlords to take proactive steps to address any identified risks, promoting a safe environment for tenants. Existing HMO licence holders will be transferred to the new scheme upon expiry of their current licence. For more details about the scheme or to download an HMO licensing application pack, visit the Council's website at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/hmo

Looking for a cattery or kennels?

As holiday time approaches, pet owners may look for someone they can trust to care for their pets in a safe and suitable environment while they are away.

If you are looking for someone to provide accommodation for your dog or cat, you can check if they are licensed for animal boarding and find out what their star rating is. Businesses (including individuals working from home) should be able to provide you with these details or you can check the Council's website.

Licences are only issued to businesses and individuals who can demonstrate their compliance with minimum animal welfare standards. The star rating (one is the lowest and five the highest) takes into account considerations such as the length of time a business has held a licence and compliance with optional higher standards.

A list of businesses licensed with Spelthorne is available on our website at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/animal.

For further information, contact the Environmental Health team by email at eh.commercial@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 451499.

New Public Space Protection Order gets the go-ahead

Following a public consultation in January, Spelthorne Borough Council has introduced a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle a number of issues which have been concerning residents.

The Order covers:

- a ban on tents or similar structures being used on public land (to prevent littering)
- a ban on any device for cooking (e.g. barbecues) in parks or open space (to prevent risk of fire and damage to the area)
- the introduction of an exclusion zone covering Stanwell Moor and parts of Stanwell where taxis and private hire vehicles are prohibited from parking

The PSPO enables the Council's Joint Enforcement Team to issue Fixed Penalty Notices in relation to the issues outlined above and prosecute repeat offenders.

To see the full results of the 'Misuse of Public Land PSPO' consultation, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/PSPO

To report any of the issues mentioned above, or problems such as fly-tipping, noise, dog fouling, graffiti, bonfires or antisocial behaviour, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/report or call 01784 451499.

We can collect your unwanted textiles and small electricals

Textiles: we can accept clothing in any condition eg. with holes or stains (but clean), accessories (such as scarfs, gloves, hats, belts and bags), blankets, sheets, throws, pillowcases duvet covers, curtains, towels and tea towels, tights, underwear, socks, shoes, boots and slippers in pairs.

We can't accept pillows and duvets.

Small electricals: we can accept irons, toasters, kettles with cables laptops, calculators, mobile phones, chargers, hairdryers, clippers and straighteners lamps, torches, cameras, power tools, smoke detectors and thermostats, remote controls, remote controlled cars batteries, connectors, clocks and watches.

We can't accept lightbulbs, large items like televisions, vacuum cleaners, PC monitors or white goods.

We collect every week - tie your textiles and small electricals in separate carrier bags and place them on top of your bin on your collection day.

Alternatively, take them to one of our recycling banks - visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/rblocations for a list of locations.

Keep Spelthorne Clean

Keep Spelthorne Clean is a community campaign encouraging everyone to take pride in Spelthorne by helping to make a difference in our neighbourhoods, town centres, parks and open spaces.

As a Council we are committed to maintaining Spelthorne as a clean and green borough and together we are all responsible for the environment around us. We are addressing problems such as litter, graffiti, dog fouling and fly-tipping and are asking residents to keep reporting issues to us so we can resolve them as quickly as possible.

We have taken several actions to make this Borough cleaner and safer for our residents. There is also a great deal being achieved by community groups, such as Spelthorne Litter Pickers, which we are very grateful for. We also thank the school children who took part in our poster competition.

Our actions:

- we implemented a Public Space Protection Order on the misuse of public land for taxis, tents and barbecues, following a residents' consultation (see page 25)
- we have secured funding to install CCTV cameras to manage fly-tipping hotspots
- we are trialing new ways of working to address the issues of street sweeping in difficult to access roads
- we respond to requests to remove public facing and offensive graffiti within 48 hours

Do you want to be part of Keep Spelthorne Clean?

- If you want to arrange a litter pick, we can supply a range of equipment including bags, litter pickers, signage and gloves and can collect the litter afterwards.
- If you are part of a Residents' Association, help us identify specific areas where some additional focus may be needed to tackle local issues. This could include extra street sweeping if you can arrange for your road to be kept clear of cars.
- If you are part of a community group and working on a project to tidy up or improve your local area, approach your Ward Councillor who may be able to support you with a Better Neighbourhood Grant.

Let us know about any issues by reporting them at www.spelthorne.gov.uk/report or calling 01784 446411.

Spelthorne in Bloom poster competition

More than 120 gardeners and pupils from local primary schools met at Squires Garden Centre in Halliford on 16 April to launch the annual Spelthorne in Bloom campaign and to recognise the winners of the Children's Poster Competition for 2024.

Sarah Squire, Chair of Squire's Garden Centre, welcomed the guests and thanked them for their help in keeping Spelthorne looking beautiful.

The overall winner was Olivia from Our Lady of the Rosary primary school in Staines-upon-Thames whose beautiful Olympics-themed design features on this year’s competition entry forms and posters. Olivia and the other winners were presented with prizes by the Mayor and Nick Wood-Dow, Chair of the Spelthorne in Bloom Committee.

Category	Winner
Overall winner	Olivia, age 10, Our Lady of the Rosary School
SEND poster winner	Pink Class, Manor Mead School
Hand drawn posters, age 4 - 6	Isabelle, age 6, St Michael Catholic School
Hand drawn posters, age 7 - 8	Millie, age 7, St Michael Catholic School
Hand drawn posters, age 9 - 11	Olivia, age 10, Our Lady of the Rosary School
Computer generated posters	Charlie, age 10, Staines Preparatory School

Judging is currently taking place for Spelthorne in Bloom and the winners will be announced in November.

For more information about Spelthorne in Bloom, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SIB, email spelthorne.inbloom@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 444288.