

Spelthorne Borough Council Summer Bulletin 2023

Letter from the Leader

Dear Residents,

I am Cllr Joanne Sexton and I was recently elected to the position of Leader of the Council. I am very excited about my new role and can't wait to start making positive changes for all the residents of our Borough. As councillors we are all here to represent our residents and take that responsibility very seriously. If you have any ideas or concerns you would like to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I would very much like to welcome all elected councillors, particularly those new to our organisation. I would also like to congratulate Cllr Chris Bateson on his appointment as Deputy Leader, I look forward to working closely with him to deal with the many challenges ahead this Council faces. I would also like to congratulate Cllr Denise Saliagopoulos who was elected as Mayor and is following in her mother's footsteps in this role, and Cllr Elizabeth Baldock as the Deputy Mayor. I wish them all every success in the year ahead.

We have another packed edition of the Bulletin for you, and I hope you find the information useful. In the centre spread we have details of some of the events running in Spelthorne over the summer – covering a wide range of activities which include events on water to outdoor theatre and music events. Most of them are family-friendly and many are also free to attend.

If you don't already know, we run a fantastic Meals on Wheels service for anyone who finds it difficult to prepare their own food. The team are really friendly and many people like having someone visit on a regular basis. We have an interview with Patti Rogers on page 23 which gives a lot more information if you're interested in this service.

Finally, I hope you have a good summer and get a chance to come along to one of our events.

Cllr Joanne Sexton, Leader of the Council

Email: cllr.sexton@spelthorne.gov.uk

Report fraud

If you suspect someone is committing fraud in Spelthorne, you can report it anonymously:

- unlawful subletting
- abandoning social housing
- obtaining housing by deception
- falsely claiming to be homeless
- claiming housing reductions/discounts for addresses they don't live at

- failing to tell us other adults are living with them
- falsely claiming to be a student
- claiming to be the sole occupant of a property that is empty
- falsely claiming business discounts or relief
- failing to declare they have another business or claiming a false charitable exemption

Report online at www.report-fraud.co.uk/spelthorne or call 01737 276 620

A new Mayor for Spelthorne

Carrying on her mother's legacy is the mission of Spelthorne's new Mayor, Cllr Denise Saliagopoulos. The Mayor took over the chains of office from Cllr Susan Doran at the Annual Council Meeting on 25 May 2023.

Cllr Saliagopoulos is the daughter of the late Cllr Isobel Napper, who was Mayor in 2013. Cllr Napper, sadly, was unable to finish her term of office due to her passing in August of that year due to breast cancer.

Cllr Saliagopoulos will be raising money for the Jasmine Suite over the course of her Mayoral year. She said: "My Mother, the late Mayor of Spelthorne, unfortunately did not finish her term due to her death. I am so honoured to be chosen by my peers to carry on her charity wishes through my term. One of my charities will be the Jasmine Suite at Ashford Hospital. The opening of the Suite was the last official engagement my mother carried out. The Suite is dedicated to the care of our residents with breast cancer and their treatment. It will be my great honour to continue to support this. One in three women will suffer from breast cancer, which is a truly frightening statistic."

Cllr Saliagopoulos has lived in Spelthorne her whole life where she brought up her son George. Her husband, Yanis, like her father, owned his own Stonemasonry business in the Borough. She now works for a care provider and has a great passion for helping those living with dementia and wants to highlight this growing health issue.

Her second charity therefore is Daybreak who provide a care respite facility at St Peter's Church in Staines-upon-Thames. She said: "Carers and families can bring their loved ones to Daybreak in the knowledge that they will be well supported and looked after. They particularly welcome those with dementia, which is something that I care passionately about. It is a growing issue for our elders, and sometimes younger people too."

For more information about the Mayor and her charities, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/mayor

Contact the Mayor's office by email mayor@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 446275.

Coronation celebrations

Spelthorne was awash with red, white and blue as we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla over the Bank Holiday weekend in May. With picnics in the parks, street parties and celebrations at the Community Centres, residents were ready to mark this momentous occasion.

Some of you braved the inclement weather on the Saturday for our Coronation Party at Lammas Park in Staines and enjoyed the entertainment despite the relentless rain. Thankfully the weather improved on the Sunday for our live band performances in the Walled Garden in Sunbury.

We hope you enjoyed your own celebrations and had fun with family, friends and neighbours, or took the opportunity to volunteer during the Big Help Out on Bank Holiday Monday. Thank you to all the Council staff who helped to organise our events and the local school children who made beautiful bunting flags which were displayed in the high street and stores in Staines-upon-Thames.

Taxi and private hire licensing

Spelthorne Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that taxi/private hire drivers, proprietors and operators meet the relevant conditions to hold licences. Licensed drivers undergo an enhanced criminal record check, have a high standard of medical fitness, pass tests in the knowledge of the Borough, have basic English and numeracy, undergo certain training and pass a driving assessment.

Their vehicles must be fit for purpose, comfortable, and have regular MOTs and suitable insurance. Operators must also be licensed and abide by rules on record keeping. Since the Immigration Act 2016, all licence holders must have the right to work in the UK.

You can contact Spelthorne's Licensing team if you have any comments, compliments or complaints about your Spelthorne taxi or private hire journey.

For more information, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/taxiandprivatehire

Spelthorne honours volunteers

Spelthorne Borough Council paid tribute to 12 volunteers at the 40th anniversary of the Civic Trust Awards, which honours residents for their voluntary service in the Borough, in a ceremony on 18 April.

Spelthorne Civic Awards Trust recognises individuals who have given at least 12 years' service to volunteering in the Borough, while letters of commendation are awarded to those who have done a further 10 years.

Civic Awards

- Barbara Barnard, Princess Alice Hospice Shop, Shepperton, St Nicholas Church
- Jacqueline Bond, Leader 2nd Sunbury Guides
- Donnica Colman, Laleham Residents Association
- Nycki Day, Joint District Commissioner, Sunbury Girlguiding
- Dik Gregory, Shepperton Village Fair
- Jim Mathieson, Burway Rowing Club
- Christine Miles, The Phoenix Project, Leader Staines Girlguiding
- Isobel Parr, Joint District Commissioner, Sunbury Girlguiding
- Wendy Ransom, St Peters Church, Manna Foodbank, Leader 7th Ashford Girlguides
- Wendy Wallis, Leader 6th Sunbury Rainbows

Letter of Commendation

- Eric Champion, Riverside Arts Centre
- Robin Sider BEM, Shepperton Village Conservation Group, Spelthorne MS Society, Armed Forces Champion

Daybreak respite care

Daybreak offer respite care and support for older people in the community and people with chronic illnesses, physical disabilities, dementia or social isolation. We aim to give carers a well-earned break for five hours on a Tuesday, while the person they look after 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/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, Laleham Road, Staines, TW18 2DX 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, contact Care Manager Sally Kidd on 077610 47930 Monday-Friday, or email sallykdaybreak@gmail.com

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).

To request an application form, call June Stillwell on 07885 846840 or email june.stillwell@btinternet.com. The deadline for completed applications is Monday 16 October.

New disabled sport association

North Surrey Sports Association for Disabled People has recently been set up to provide more opportunities for disabled people within Spelthorne and neighbouring areas to participate in sport. It is intended to raise funds for setting up clubs, providing coaching and competition for disabled people and training for coaches.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email nssadp@gmail.com

Spelthorne Business Awards 2023

Entries for this year's Spelthorne Business Awards are now open. There are 17 categories to choose from, including two new categories - Best Hospitality and Leisure Business and Retail Excellence Award.

Town Category

- Best Business in the Staines-upon-Thames BID area
- Best Business in Staines-upon-Thames and Laleham
- Best Business in Sunbury and Halliford
- Best Business in Ashford and Stanwell
- Best Business in Shepperton and Charlton Village

Business Sector Category

- Overseas Trader of the Year
- Creative / Innovative Business
- Best Construction and Property Business
- Healthy Business Award
- Best Franchise of the Year
- Best Small Business
- Best Sustainable Business of the Year
- Best Corporate Social Responsibility
- Best New Start Up
- Community Service Provider of the Year
- Best Hospitality and Leisure Business
- Retail Excellence Award

The winners of each category will be shortlisted for the Best Business in Spelthorne award. The competition is free to enter for any business with a trading

address in Spelthorne. Online entry is open until midnight on 2 October and the black-tie gala dinner to announce the winners will take place on 24 November.

For more details and to enter, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SBA

Your Spelthorne Borough Councillors

Borough councillors are elected by the community to make decisions on behalf of residents about local services including rubbish and recycling, environmental health, services for older people, planning, housing, leisure facilities and parks.

They represent their ward areas for four years. Councillors are not paid a salary for their work, but they do receive an allowance. If you have a problem in your area or wish to comment on an aspect of the Council's service, you can contact one of your local councillors. If you are not sure who your local councillor is, visit <http://my.spelthorne.gov.uk>

Call Committee Services on 01784 446240 or email committee.services@spelthorne.gov.uk

Solar Together

Solar Together is running in Spelthorne again. 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 it's needed.

Having your own solar panels can be an intelligent investment; not only can you reduce your energy bills, but you will be powering your home with clean energy.

For more information and to register, visit <https://solartogether.co.uk/surrey>

Electric vehicle charge points

Spelthorne Council is committed to improving the infrastructure for charging electric vehicles. As part of this commitment, we are working with Surrey County Council to share our residents' suggestions as to where future electric vehicle chargers could be located. This data is shared with all the Surrey boroughs.

To make a suggestion, visit <https://surreyev.commonplace.is>

Net Zero Innovation Programme

Spelthorne Council recently worked with the Open University and Talking Tree to secure funding from the Local Government Association's Net Zero

Innovation Programme which was used to run workshops to design community-led actions on climate change.

The workshops ran from January – May, where members of the community discussed how climate change is affecting Spelthorne and what the best ‘future version’ of Spelthorne would look like. The workshops were documented by six young people from the Spelthorne Youth Hub who were trained in digital documenting and editing for the project.

A shortlist of six projects were ranked, with two chosen to be taken forward by the group – community food growing and rewilding areas of the Borough. If you would like to get involved in these projects, which are open to everyone, please email sustainability@spelthorne.gov.uk

Carbon Literacy training

Meeting the target of Net Zero emissions is everyone’s responsibility and the Council is rolling out Carbon Literacy training for all its staff and councillors to provide everyone with an understanding of the science of climate change and the carbon emissions created in their working and personal lives.

Staff can become certified after attending the training and making two pledges to reduce their carbon emissions in the workplace. Our staff members know their role best and can identify changes to reduce carbon emissions that may not have been obvious to others. We have already received some pledges including reducing the number of fridges in our offices to cut-down on the amount of electricity the Council uses.

Recycling bank revamp

Spelthorne was successful in winning a fly-tipping intervention grant of £38,000 in the spring which will be used by the Council to improve the signage at each of the 17 recycling bring sites across the Borough.

The sites operated by the Council are in car parks, streets and parks around the Borough and accept a variety of items including mixed plastics, paper and card, glass, metal cans, clothing, shoes and small electrical appliances.

As a Borough we use our recycling bring sites a lot, particularly the textiles bins where we collect more at the bring sites than from the kerbside collection. All the sites will be receiving CCTV and new signage to show what materials are accepted. They will also carry a warning against leaving items outside of the bins, which is classed as fly-tipping. From summer, these sites will be monitored and anyone found fly-tipping items will receive a fixed penalty notice of up to £400 or be prosecuted. The Council will also target other fly-tipping hot-spots during the same period.

Please ensure that you do not employ people to remove your rubbish unless you have checked they hold an Environment Agency Waste Licence and they've provided you with a waste disposal notice. You can check by visiting the Environment Agency's website at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-all>

No pizza boxes please

Last year we managed to recycle over 46% of our waste in Spelthorne, which is great news. However we are still seeing a few items commonly put in the recycling that should be going in the rubbish bin. These common contaminants can result in whole truckloads of recycling being incinerated rather than recycled.

Recycling can be confusing at times but we try to keep our message simple and these items normally end up in the recycling because people think they are disposing of them correctly. The most common ones we see are plastic bags, polystyrene and takeaway food packaging – particularly pizza boxes. These items need to go in your rubbish bin. Doing this will help keep our recycling 'clean' and means that more of it can actually be recycled and reused.

There is a weekly food collection that runs alongside the rubbish and recycling collections. Food waste is actually very valuable as it is used to generate both green electricity and soil fertilisers.

By making a few small changes to what we put in our bins we can have a huge impact on how much of our waste gets reused and recycled.

To check if a particular item can be recycled in Spelthorne, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/recycling-search or call 01784 446411.

We want your old clothes!

This spring our textile recycling contractor was bought out by a new parent company which sees their base of operations moving from Germany back to the UK. Fewer miles travelled for our recycling is only a good thing.

We've seen our textiles tonnages drop-off a bit over the last year, so do remember that you can put out a bag of textiles (a carrier bag tied up to keep the contents dry) every week with your rubbish and recycling bins. Or take them to one of our many bring sites across the Borough where we have bins for textiles, bags and shoes.

All your textiles will be recycled. Those that can still be worn are destined for the second-hand clothing market. High quality items remain in the UK for resale through established second-hand retailers and the rest of our wearable recycled textiles are sold throughout Europe and further afield where there is a high demand for these items.

The items that cannot be reused as wearable clothing are either broken down into rags which are sold to industry, reducing the need for paper or virgin fibre fabrics, or reduced to fibres and remanufactured into insulation products. One of the primary markets for these is the automotive industry - you could be driving around with your old jeans under the bonnet.

For more information about our textile collections, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/textiles

Look out for our new fleet

This summer our new waste collection fleet will start to appear on our streets. We have new recycling, garden waste, food collection and general purpose vehicles arriving over the next few months with a smart new livery that clearly identifies our waste collection vehicles. We'll be coming to empty a bin near you!

Summer events in Spelthorne

Saturday 15 July, 2.30pm

Ashford Horticultural Society Summer Show

Come along and enjoy the atmosphere and display of our summer flower and produce show.

Venue: St. Matthew's Church Hall, Muncaster Close, Ashford, TW15 2EE

Cost: Free

Info: Visit www.ashfordgardeningclub.org.uk, email barbara.baghapour@live.co.uk or call 07949 989366.

Saturday 15 July, 7.30pm

Spelthorne Choral Society: Songs of the Sea

Concert featuring Stanford 'Songs of the Fleet' 'Revenge', 'Parry' and 'The Chivalry of the Sea'. We are supporting the RNLI.

Venue: St Peter's Church, Laleham Road, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 2DX

Cost: £12 online, £15 on the door, accompanied children free

Info: Visit www.spelthornechoralsociety.com

Tuesday 18 July, 6.30pm-8.30pm

Surrey Canoe Club: Nelson Mandela Day Event

Family and youth taster session. Min Age 8. Boat, equipment, coaching and insurance included. Advance booking is essential.

Venue: Surrey Canoe Club, Thameside, Next to M3 Motorway Bridge, Laleham, TW18 1FA

Cost: £10 per person event rate

Info: Visit <https://surreycanooclub.org.uk>, email admin@surreycanooclub.org.uk or call 07447 049157.

Saturday 22 July, 11am-4pm

Spelthorne Museum: Archaeology Activity Day

Hands-on fun activities related to archaeology, sifting, pottery examination, artefact analysis, learning about Spelthorne's rich history with help and guidance from museum staff. No booking required.

Venue: Spelthorne Museum, access via Staines Library, Friends Walk, Staines-upon-Thames

Cost: Free

Info: Visit www.spelthornemuseum.org or call 01784 461804.

Saturday 22 July, 10am-2pm

Spelthorne Resource Centre: Art Open Day

Bring your children along and have fun together making summer themed crafts. For families with children aged 4-11 years. Children must be accompanied by a parent/ carer. No booking necessary.

Venue: Staines Park, Commercial Road, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 2QW

Cost: £1 per child (50p for siblings)

Info: Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/resourcecentre, email leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk or call 01784 461769.

Wednesday 26 July, 8pm

Staines Comedy Club

Staines Comedy Club brings you the four top comedians on the UK comedy circuit. This summer we are hosting a session on 26 July at the London Stone.

Venue: London Stone 14 Church St, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 4EP

Cost: £5 entry

Info: Visit visitstaines.co.uk or email info@visitstaines.co.uk

Saturday 29 July, 2pm and 7pm

School of Rock

School of Rock is a musical, based on the hit movie. The show follows Dewey Finn, a failed, wannabe rock star who decides to earn an extra bit of cash by posing as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school.

Venue: Riverside Arts Centre, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5QF

Cost: £16 / £18

Info: Visit www.theiamt.co.uk, email info@theiamt.co.uk or call 07309 721663

Saturday 12 August, 10am -4pm

Surrey Canoe Club: Youth Day Event

Youth Paddle Discover Beginners Award. British Canoeing Qualification.

Min age 8 years old. Boat, equipment, coaching and insurance included.

Advance booking is essential.

Venue: Surrey Canoe Club, Thameside, Next to M3 Motorway Bridge, Laleham, TW18 1FA

Cost: £152 per person

Info: Visit <https://surreycanoeclub.org.uk>, email admin@surreycanoeclub.org.uk or call 07447 049157.

Sunday 13 August, 12 noon - 4.30pm

Fuchsia Show

This national show is held by the British Fuchsia Society and is a fantastic chance to enjoy beautiful displays by award-winning growers from across the country.

Venue: Squire's Garden Centre Shepperton, Halliford Road, TW17 8SG (held in the Orangery)

Cost: Free

Info: Visit www.squiresgardencentres.co.uk/whats-on or call 01932 789823.

Free outdoor theatre events in Staines

Wednesday 2 August, 11am and 2pm

A Bee Story

A unique physical theatre show incorporating a kaleidoscope of circus, acrobatics, dance and live music. It tells the story of Queen Bee and Worker Bee who must work together to rebuild their hive.

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

Wednesday 9 August, 11am and 2pm

Gravity

Inspired by the first moon landing, Gravity combines hand-to-hand acrobatics with Motionhouse's signature contact choreography.

Venue: High Street, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 4AH

Wednesday 16 August, 10am-4pm

Circus Skills with Patches

Roll up! Roll up! Patches is in town and she wants you to all visit her circus school where you can try spinning plates, diablos and juggling, while Patches makes you a balloon animal.

Venue: High Street, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 4AH

Wednesday 23 August, 1pm

The Adventures of Peter Rabbit

Peter Rabbit and his naughty cousin Benjamin know that they are not to go into Mr McGregor's garden, but they cannot resist and find themselves face to face with Mr McGregor himself!

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

Wednesday 30 August, 1pm

The Wind in the Willows

Join Mole, Ratty and Badger on their mad-cap adventures in Quantum Theatre's brand-new adaptation of the Kenneth Grahame classic.

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

Music in the Park

Join us for an 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.

Sunday 9 July	The Walled Garden	Linden Wind Orchestra
Sunday 16 July	The Walled Garden	West Drayton Brass Band
Sunday 23 July	The Walled Garden	Rock Choir
Sunday 30 July	The Walled Garden	Bourne Concert Band
Sunday 30 July	The Lammas Band	Stand Staines Brass Band
Sunday 6 August	The Walled Garden	Saxophany
Sunday 13 August	The Walled Garden	All that Jazz
Sunday 13 August	The Lammas Band	Stand Staines Brass Band
Sunday 20 August	The Walled Garden	Thameside Harmony Chorus
Sunday 27 August	The Walled Garden	Dale Harris Classical Guitarist
Sunday 3 September	The Walled Garden	Staines Lammas Band

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

New Leisure Centre on track for 2024

Excitement is building for the new Leisure Centre with the build remaining on track and just under a year to go until its expected completion in June 2024. The state-of-the-art facility is located in Knowle Green in Staines-upon-Thames and benefit from a great range of facilities, including:

- a flagship roof-top design with four artificial 3G football pitches
- 25m eight lane swimming pool with micro filtration technology and spectator seating
- a 20m x 10m learner pool and a splash pad
- sauna and steam rooms
- two dedicated group changing rooms, four family changing rooms and swim showers
- six-court sports hall
- three squash courts with movable walls
- large fitness suite with dedicated free weights and warm-up area
- spin studio and two multi-purpose studios with views across Staines Park
- extensive bike storage and a 300-space car park

The structural frame for the centre has been completed and the aim is to have the building watertight by the end of September. All the walls and slabs to the learner pool, main pool, and basement have been cast and lots of works in the sports hall

and squash courts have already taken place. The extensive use of timber in the construction reduces the amount of carbon used in the overall construction of the building.

The current leisure centre will remain open while the new one is being built.

As well as being a modern design with all the latest facilities one would expect, the new leisure centre will also be extremely energy efficient as the first full scale leisure centre to be built to the ultra-low energy 'Passivhaus' standard. The Council expects the new centre to use between 60 and 70% less energy than a typical modern leisure centre - a major step in helping the Council achieve its aim of becoming carbon neutral in the coming years.

For more information, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/newleisurecentre

New course record at Staines 10K

Blake Moore from Windsor, Slough, Eton, and Hounslow Athletics Club smashed his own course record for the Staines 10K on Sunday 14 May finishing in a time of 29 minutes and 55 seconds, knocking 11 seconds off his time from last year.

The women's race was won by Kylara Hassall from Woking Athletics Club in a time of 39 minutes. The event, organised by Staines Strollers and Runnymede Runners with support from Spelthorne Borough Council, saw 635 runners complete the course. There was a great community spirit with lots of supporters cheering the runners on and many volunteers involved including local scouts who manned the water station to ensure runners stayed hydrated.

This year's event was kindly sponsored by Rowberry Morris solicitors, Staines BID, Azets, Oasis, London House Companies, Thames Side Brewery and AC Breeze Air Conditioning and supported by Everyone Active, Runners' Retreat, Sport Systems, Collingwood Services, Staines Chiropractic, Laleham Camera Club and 1st Egham Scouts.

The full results of the 2023 race are available on the Staines 10k website at www.staines10k.co.uk and photos from the event can be viewed at <https://www.lalehamcameraclub.uk/Public-Events/Staines-10K-2023>

Extra care housing

Extra care is a service offered in Spelthorne for people aged 55+ looking for care in a supported environment, whilst still maintaining their independence. There are 123 extra care units in Spelthorne, across three locations - Beechwood Court and Mitchison Court in Sunbury and Chestnut Court in Stanwell.

Living in Extra Care means you continue to live independently as you do now, but with the peace of mind that there is help on hand. You have your own front door and letterbox and can have your friends and family over to visit.

The units are self-contained one and two-bedroom flats. All have wheelchair access and accessible showers, lifts and an emergency call system in each flat. In Beechwood Court and Chestnut Court, there are restaurant facilities and activities, with Chestnut Court also having a Day Centre on the premises.

Care is provided by onsite carers, with the needs for each resident being individually identified by an Adult Social Care assessment. The type of support includes personal care, medication, meal preparation, cleaning, laundry and shopping. Two of the schemes have night staff and all have a scheme manager. More information about the facilities at each location can be found on the websites listed below:

Mitchison Court, Downside, Sunbury

www.housing21.org.uk/our-properties/search-our-properties/mitchison-court/

Beechwood Court, Churchill Way, Sunbury

<https://a2dominion.co.uk/rent/Retirement-living/Beechwood-Court-Sunbury-on-Thames>

Chestnut Court, Mulberry Avenue, Stanwell

<https://a2dominion.co.uk/rent/Retirement-living/Chestnut-Court-Stanwell>

For more information, contact Spelthorne Council's Housing Options team on 01784 446380.

Help to take that next step

Located near the Bus Station in the Elmsleigh Centre in Staines, Spelthorne Council's Job & Skills Hub is dedicated to finding employment and skills opportunities for local people. Whatever your age, situation, skills or background, drop-in and see us if you need help to take your next step. We are open from 10am – 4pm on weekdays.

Callum's story

When Callum came into the Hub he was shy, quiet, and unsure on the career path he wanted to take. He felt he was being pushed along a career path he wasn't interested in. We discussed what he enjoyed doing and what support he needed and he decided an apprenticeship in Design would be a good match for him. He became more confident at communicating and working on his goals, and we worked with him on interview techniques. He applied for a number of opportunities and on his second interview was offered an 18-month apprenticeship in Design.

Sarah's story

Sarah was 48 and working in her dream job for an airline when she was made redundant. She applied for various jobs but either didn't get an interview or, when she did, found the process overwhelming. We spent the first session understanding Sarah's work history and identifying her transferable skills. In the group support sessions, she built on her confidence and realised that local employers would value her skills and experience. The team helped her create a strong CV and covering letter and within two weeks she had secured a new job using her customer facing experience.

For more information, drop into the Hub, visit <https://spelthornejobsandskills.com> or call 07770 481773.

Amazing meadows

The Council created a new wildflower meadow at Greenfield Recreation Ground in Laleham over the winter which is now beginning to bloom.

A seed mix containing more than 50 species of native meadow grasses and flowers has been sown over an area of almost two hectares. Some flowers like poppies and corncockles will bloom this summer but most are perennials and will begin flowering in 2024.

Once mature, this meadow will provide food and shelter to an array of bees, butterflies and birds. The meadow is already home to many ant hills and a variety of trees which have been retained for their wildlife value. The grass will be left to grow long each summer then cut for hay, which will create space for new flowers in the following year. The existing paths around and through the meadow will be kept short to allow walkers to admire the flowers up close, but we do ask that people avoid trampling or picking the flowers so they can continue to provide pollen, nectar and seeds for wildlife.

We hope to expand our meadow creation programme to other parks across the Borough.

Spelthorne in Bloom poster competition

More than 100 gardeners and pupils from local primary schools met at Squires Garden Centre in Halliford on 24 April to launch the annual Spelthorne in Bloom campaign and to recognise the winners of the Children's Poster Competition for 2023.

The overall winner was Layla from Our Lady of the Rosary primary school in Staines-upon-Thames whose beautiful Coronation-themed design features on this year's competition entry forms and posters. Layla 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	Layla, age 10, Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School
SEND poster winner	Caelan, age 5, Manor Mead School
Hand drawn posters, age 4 - 6	Jing Han, age 6, Stanwell Fields C of E School
Hand drawn posters, age 7 - 8	Hannah, age 7, St Michaels Catholic School
Hand drawn posters, age 9 - 11	Layla, age 10, Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School
Computer generated posters	Ella, age 10, St Michaels Catholic School

Colin Squire OBE, Chairman Emeritus of Squire's Garden Centres, welcomed the guests and thanked them for their help in keeping Spelthorne looking beautiful.

The Mayor also thanked the sponsors and volunteers on the Spelthorne in Bloom Committee. Judging is currently taking place for Spelthorne in Bloom and the winners will be announced in October.

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

Welcome to the new Borough Commander

I am Inspector Matt Walton and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Borough Commander for Spelthorne. I have taken over from Maxine Cilia who has moved on following her promotion.

I have been a Constable with Surrey Police for 21 years, starting on Response in Guildford for the first six years of my career. I then spent seven years investigating organised crime across the Force, with the remainder of that time in West Surrey in a variety of roles.

Prior to becoming your Borough Commander, I worked in the same role in Surrey Heath for eight months, helping reduce both anti-social behaviour and violent incidents in the town centre, increasing public confidence to 90% at one point. I look forward to working with you to ensure the Borough is a safe place to live and work.

My current priorities are:

- reducing drug dealing and violence in the Borough with a current focus on Staines town centre and Stanwell
- targeting those who commit serious acquisitive crime with a current focus on thefts of high value tools from vans
- improving our community engagement and creating more opportunities for residents to speak with my team and share their concerns, either face-to-face
- or online
- working with our partners in the community to reduce anti-social behaviour

Matt Walton, Borough Commander at Surrey Police

Choose the Elmsleigh car parks for the cheapest parking

Elmsleigh multi-storey car park and Elmsleigh surface car park charges (Monday – Saturday):

Up to 1 hour £1
 Up to 2 hours £2
 Up to 3 hours £3
 Up to 4 hours £4
 Up to 5 hours £7
 All day £2

Service changes

Surrey County Council is now responsible for on-street parking and the maintenance of highway verges. To contact Surrey County Council, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk or call 03456 009 009.

Have you paid for your parking?

Our parking enforcement officers will be making regular patrols of our car parks this summer. Please ensure you have parked legally, safely, and paid for your session. If you have parked in a disabled bay, you must display your blue badge.

For more information about Spelthorne Borough Council's car parks, visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/carparks or call 01784 444255.

Community Centres

Our Community Centres 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.

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.

Our Fordbridge and Greeno Centres have extended their regular opening days to include alternate Saturdays until the end of September 2023. Members of the Community Centres and non-members over 50 are welcome. Please call the Centre to book a place for lunch by the Wednesday before:

8 July 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
15 July 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
22 July 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
29 July 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
5 August 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
12 August 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
19 August 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
26 August 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
2 September 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
9 September 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
16 September 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton
23 September 2023	Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
30 September 2023	Greeno Centre, Shepperton

Fordbridge Community Centre, Clarendon Road, Ashford, TW15 2PU
Call: 01784 243880
Email: fordbridgecentre@spelthorne.gov.uk

Greeno Community Centre, Glebeland Gardens, Shepperton, TW17 9DH
Call: 01932 246173
Email: greenocentre@spelthorne.gov.uk

Visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/communitycentres or call 01784 446389 for more details.

Disabled Facilities Grant

Disabled Facilities Grant 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:

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

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

OPAL

If you are caring for someone with a condition such as dementia, sight loss or immobility, you may be interested to know that two of the Council's Community Centres run groups 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.

Daily OPAL groups run from 9.30am - 3.30pm at the Fordbridge Centre in Ashford and the Greeno Centre in Shepperton. There is a daily charge of £40 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 01784 446389.

Meals on Wheels

We spoke to Patti Rogers who works as part of Spelthorne Council's Meals on Wheels team to find out who can use the service and how it works.

Who can order Meals on Wheels?

People of all ages who find it difficult to prepare a daily meal or shop can benefit from Meals on Wheels.

What are the meals like?

Examples of some of our meals are chicken in gravy, steak and kidney pie, beef stew and dumplings, chicken curry, chicken and mushroom pie and traditionally we do fish on a Friday!

Is the food nutritious?

Yes, the meals have been developed by our supplier to be nutritionally balanced.

Do you have options for dietary or religious needs?

We can provide options such as gluten free, pescatarian, vegan, allergen free, kosher, Caribbean and West Indian meals. Sugar-free puddings can also be provided for people with diabetes, which taste just as yummy I'm told!

Can I order meals for a short period of time while I recover from an operation?

Yes, meals can be provided on a long-term basis or just for a short while.

When are the meals delivered?

We have a lunchtime service, or an evening delivery for clients who prefer to eat later, subject to spaces.

What are the team like?

The admin team consists of myself and my colleagues in the council offices at Knowle Green and we have a team of friendly drivers based at the Fordbridge Centre in Ashford. We are also lucky to have many supportive volunteers.

Is there a charge?

The current charge for a hot meal and pudding is £4. A freshly made sandwich can also be delivered on weekdays with the hot meal to eat later for tea, or the next day, which costs £1.80.

Can I order meals for specific days if I don't need them every day?

Yes, your meals can be ordered for specific days during the week, with the option to add or cancel meals if you let us know in advance. For people in certain circumstances, we can also deliver hot meals on weekends and bank holidays.

Do you only offer hot meals?

We also have a frozen meal service - you can order up to seven frozen meals which are delivered in one go for you to heat yourself at home.

How quickly can I start receiving deliveries?

Our turnaround is very quick and new orders which are received before lunchtime can usually start the next working day, subject to dietary requirements, or you can choose a future start date if you're not quite ready yet.

How do I sign-up?

If you would like to find out more, you can call us on 01784 444265, email mealsonwheels@spelthorne.gov.uk or visit www.spelthorne.gov.uk/MOW