

# Spelthorne Borough Council

## Winter Bulletin 2020

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## **Letter from the Leader**

Dear Residents,

I would like to start by thanking you for your tremendous efforts in helping to tackle Coronavirus and keeping yourselves and others safe over the past few weeks and months. It has been a year unlike any other and things that we took for granted, such as meeting with family and friends, have been severely disrupted.

In this edition of the Bulletin we have included a four-page centre pull-out Service Directory. This includes a comprehensive list of local services that Spelthorne Council deliver for our residents, as well as contact information on how to get in touch and details for all your local Councillors.

Supporting new businesses is a priority for the Council and we will be opening a Business Incubator in early 2021 to provide a base for fledgling businesses to develop their ideas and grow their young businesses. You can read more about this on page 6.

We are passionate about improving housing for homeless people and I am proud to say that two properties we have built in Ashford to provide accommodation for homeless families and single people are nearing completion. We have more about these projects on page 23.

The deadline for the Spelthorne Business Awards has been extended so if you haven't entered yet, you have until 11 December to let us know what makes your business special.

Finally, it just remains for me to wish you a wonderful Christmas. I know the celebrations may have to be a bit different this year, but I hope you have a peaceful break and that 2021 is a better year for us all. Cllr

John Boughtflower, Leader of the Council

## **Message from Kwasi Kwarteng MP**

I would like to thank residents for their hard work during these difficult and troubling times. I am heartened to hear about acts of kindness throughout the Borough which have helped to protect and support our most vulnerable residents. We must

all continue to play our part to Keep Spelthorne Safe and support our local businesses as they look to rebuild from the difficulties of 2020.

I was also encouraged by reflections published by Spelthorne Council for Black History Month, which provided local knowledge, promotes equality and celebrates important people from the past and those who contribute towards society today. It was an honour to write a column for it, which you can read at [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/BHM](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/BHM)

## **Support for Spelthorne**

If you or someone you know needs support, please contact Spelthorne Borough Council on 01784 446446 or email [Covid19welfare@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:Covid19welfare@spelthorne.gov.uk) The dedicated team will ask you a few questions to work out what your needs are and how we can help. The Support4Spelthorne community helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm.

## **Message from the Mayor**

Dear Residents,

This year has been unlike any other, with many restrictions on the activities I would usually undertake as Mayor, such as attending local charity functions. These are an integral part of the Mayor's year to highlight the work of the organisations which drive the heart of our community, so it is very sad that these events have not been able to take place.

During my year as Deputy Mayor, I was honoured to attend many of the local activities on behalf of the Mayor. I was received with great courtesy and able to see first-hand the wonderful works being done all over the Borough and feel the community spirit that is in abundance. I am very optimistic for the future and hope we will soon be able to get together in the same way as before.

I am supporting three charities this year - Spelthorne District Scouts, River Ash Guides and Shooting Star Chase. We have been unable to hold fund raising functions for these fantastic organisations so I would be very grateful for any donations to my JustGiving page.

With Christmas fast approaching, it is the time for families to reunite and enjoy the festive season but please do so with great care to ensure none of your loved ones are put at risk. I will be joining in the Christmas Day activities and look forward to visiting as many of you as possible. I hope your own celebrations go well over Christmas and New Year and on behalf of Barbara, the Mayoress, and myself, I wish you good health and happiness.

Cllr Colin Barnard, Mayor of Spelthorne

## **Elections: Thursday 6 May 2021**

The Electoral Register will be published on 1 December 2020 and remain in force until 30 November 2021. If your name is not on the register, visit [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) to make an application.

This Register will be used for the Surrey County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections scheduled for 6 May 2021. If you will be away on this date, you can apply for a postal vote. A timetable for registration and applications can be found on the Council's 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, mobile phone contract or hire purchase agreement.

We will ensure that all polling stations are compliant with Government guidelines regarding Covid-19 at the time of the elections but if you are at all concerned about visiting a polling station during the pandemic, you may wish to apply for a postal vote.

For further information visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/elections](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/elections), email [electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:electoral.services@spelthorne.gov.uk) or call 01784 444218

## **Meals on Wheels at Christmas**

We will be providing our usual Meals on Wheels service up to, and including, Christmas Eve and will have a limited service on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day for those who are eligible.

For more details or to change your usual arrangements, please contact us on 01784 444265 by Friday 11 December.

## **Test and Trace self-isolation payment**

If you are asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and you meet the Government's criteria, you may be entitled to £500 as part of the new Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme.

To qualify, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because you've tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has
- be employed or self-employed
- be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result

- be currently receiving universal credit, working tax credit, income-based employment and support allowance, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income support, housing benefit and/or pension credit

To apply visit: [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SIP](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SIP) email [benefits@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@spelthorne.gov.uk) or call the Benefits team on 01784 446374.

### **Council Office - Christmas closure**

The Council's Customer Service phone lines will close for Christmas from 4.45pm on Thursday 24 December and reopen at 8.45am on Monday 4 January 2021.

The Council's out-of-hours emergency number is 01784 451499.

### **Spelthorne Business Incubator**

The first ever Business Incubator in Spelthorne will be opening its doors in early 2021 to provide a co-working environment for start-up businesses, alongside an exciting programme of business support.

The 5000 sq ft space has been designed to provide a supportive base for fledgling businesses to develop their ideas and grow their young businesses. Bringing businesses together under one roof will provide an exciting and vibrant environment to turn an innovative spark into a strong commercial enterprise.

New technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and cyber-based economies are all helping to inspire businesses of the future and Spelthorne Council is leading the way in supporting entrepreneurs to turn pioneering ideas into tangible products for use in the real world.

Located in The Summit Centre on the A316 opposite Costco, the Incubator will benefit from the excellent transport links that connect the Borough to London, the South East and beyond. The facility will offer flexible office space and working areas, hot desks, permanent desks and serviced office facilities for both new and existing businesses.

A support programme providing training workshops, seminars and events will be available for the incubator tenants and the wider Spelthorne business community. As businesses develop and outgrow the Incubator, they will be supported in finding their next business location within the Borough.

For more information, email [e.development@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:e.development@spelthorne.gov.uk) or visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk) or <https://sbf.biz>

### **Supporting high streets**

High streets throughout the country have been badly affected by the impact of Coronavirus, with many shops and businesses struggling to stay afloat. Spelthorne Council has been working to support business during this difficult period with a number of measures designed to help them cope with the challenging trading environment and encourage more shoppers back to the high street.

The Council has appointed a full-time town centre manager for Ashford, Shepperton and Sunbury to take a proactive role in the revival of the town centres through project delivery, partnership working and developing new ideas and initiatives.

The Council successfully applied for grants to help make the town centres Covid-secure by providing hand washing stations and updated signage. In Staines-upon-Thames, the mosaic in the high street has been repaired and a web cam and digital screens have been installed to give shoppers better information. More bicycle racks have also been introduced across all towns to support and encourage the uptake of cycling.

Shops and businesses will continue to need support for some time to come and the Council is working to make further help available over the coming months.

### **Survive, strive, thrive**

Spelthorne Council has been working alongside the Rotary Club of Staines and Spelthorne Business Forum to help local businesses stabilise and mobilise their operations in the wake of Coronavirus with a series of webinar events on topics such as strategy, operations, wellbeing, leadership, digital transformation, finance, accounting and planning.

To listen to the webinars, visit <https://sbf.biz/events/category/all-events>

### **Spelthorne Business Awards**

There's still time to enter the Spelthorne Business Awards! The categories are:

- Best New Start Up  
Sponsored by Federation of Small Business
- Best Business in Staines-upon-Thames Business Improvement District  
Sponsored by Staines-upon-Thames BID
- Best Corporate Responsibility Business  
Sponsored by Worldwide Energy Logistics
- Best Small Business  
Sponsored by A2 Dominion

- Best Exporter of the Year  
Sponsored by Heathrow Airport
- Best Franchise  
Sponsored by McDonalds
- Best Creative / Innovative Business of the Year  
Sponsored by Shepperton Studios
- Healthy Business Award  
Sponsored by Everyone Active
- Best Sustainable Business of the Year  
Sponsored by Kwasi Kwarteng MP
- Best Business in Ashford and Stanwell  
Sponsored by Spelthorne Business Forum
- Best Business in Shepperton and Charlton  
Sponsored by The Powerhouse
- Best Business in Staines-upon-Thames and Laleham  
Sponsored by Enterprise Holdings
- Best Business in Sunbury and Halliford  
Sponsored by The Hazlewood, the Home of London Irish

To enter, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SMBA](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/SMBA) by 11 December.

## **Enhancing the River Ash**

Spelthorne Council has been making improvements to the River Ash along the stretch of river between Shortwood North Allotments and Ashford Community Centre.

Co-funded by the Environment Agency and Colne Valley Landscape Partnership, the project has provided a legacy of works, improving the area not only for wildlife but also making it more accessible with upgraded footpaths and nature boards. It is hoped that the site can become classified as a Local Nature Reserve in 2021.

As a Borough dominated by aquatic environments, the Council is keen to utilise these natural features to their full potential to improve the biodiversity of the area and create a pleasant environment for residents.

## **Living next to a watercourse**

If you own land next to a ditch, stream or brook, you are a 'riparian landowner' meaning you are responsible for keeping it clear, even though it may seem to be beyond the boundary of your home or run through a piped section. Ensuring ditches are kept clear is essential to help prevent flooding.

For more information, visit [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) and search 'living near a watercourse.'

## **Help to heat your home**

If you are living in a hard-to-heat home and either receive a means-tested benefit or have an annual household income of less than £30,000, then you could be eligible to receive full funding for energy efficiency improvements to save money on your energy bills.

If you think you may qualify for funding, contact Action Surrey on 0800 7832503 who can assess your eligibility over the phone.

## **Greener homes**

If you're a homeowner or residential landlord you can apply for a Green Homes Grant voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient improvements to your home, which could save up to £600 a year on energy bills.

Improvements could include insulating your home to reduce your energy use or installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide your home produces.

For more information, visit [www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk](http://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk) or call 0800 444202.

## **Spelthorne Litter Heroes**

Spelthorne Borough Council has honoured 32 children as 'Spelthorne Litter Heroes' for taking part in litter picks across the Borough. The children, who were nominated by Spelthorne Litter Pickers, have been sent a certificate signed by the Mayor of Spelthorne, Cllr Colin Barnard. The first 32 to be named Spelthorne Litter Heroes are:

Rory Barnes, Sam McKenna, Henry Brown, Ollie Miles, Kamrun Dusanjh, Rosa Miles, Rohan Dusanjh, Leo Minas, Eden Gurd, Sonny Minas, Ishana Gurd, Nadia Mouawad, Liam Harrington, Aoife O'Neill, Lewys Jenson, Ellissa Pawson, Nevaeh Jenson, Gabriella Pawson, Oliver Jenson, Malik Santoudji, Lydia Mouawad, Marlow Somerville-Cairns, Zac Kislingbury, Anya Stevenson, Liam McBride, Joe Tippell, Riley McBride, Max Tippell, Erin McKenna, Lewis White, Lilly McKenna and Oscar White.

If you would like to nominate a Spelthorne Litter Hero, email your details and photographs to [news@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:news@spelthorne.gov.uk).

## **No rubbish excuses**

Spelthorne Council is stepping up its battle against litter with the launch of the #NoRubbishExcuses campaign.

The Council frequently receives feedback from residents regarding the cleanliness of the Borough and know they are keen for us to do more to tackle littering. We know the majority of residents do not drop litter and are grateful for their help and support in keeping local neighbourhoods clean and tidy. There is, however, a small minority of selfish individuals who persistently drop litter.

During lockdown, our parks, green spaces and river were used and valued by a huge number of people in the Borough but sadly, alongside this came a substantial increase in litter which exceeded anything our enforcement teams have ever had to deal with. As we step into the recovery phase for the Borough, we feel there is no better time to clean up Spelthorne!

There are already regular litter pick events and groups running across the Borough who are energising the community and making a real difference. The Council is showing their support by providing advice and equipment for the litter picks.

For more details on the campaign, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/norubbishexcuses](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/norubbishexcuses)

## **A climate emergency**

Spelthorne Council has declared a climate emergency for the Borough and has joined the growing number of domestic and international authorities that have adopted a carbon-neutral target.

Across the Council's services, all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions will be aligned with the goal of achieving a shift to carbon neutrality. The Council intends to accelerate its efforts by introducing greener buildings, transportation, investments and increasing renewable energy.

As a first step, the Council is fully assessing and identifying its own carbon footprint and is planning to launch Community Climate Change Forums to involve residents in making the Borough more sustainable.

For more information, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/goinggreen](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/goinggreen)

## **Recognising dedicated volunteers**

The Spelthorne Civic Award Trust is now in its 37th year, having been founded in 1983 by Mr Alf Goddard MBE to acknowledge the work of Spelthorne residents who have devoted their time to voluntary service in the Borough.

We are inviting local residents and voluntary organisations to nominate individuals who have given a minimum of 12 years' service so that the Trustees can consider them for an award. Candidates do not have to live in the Borough but their work should have benefitted Spelthorne residents.

The awards are presented annually in April and a recording of this year's presentation can be viewed on YouTube (search Spelthorne Civic Awards).

### **Supporting local charities**

Spelthorne Borough Council has made donations, totalling £71,000 to support local charities and food banks in the Borough which have all played a vital role in supporting vulnerable residents over the past few months.

The money has been granted to the Council by Defra with the aim of providing additional funding to support residents experiencing financial hardship because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Council elected to use the funds to support the ongoing work in the community carried out by local food banks, an information and advice service to be delivered by Citizens Advice and by working with Voluntary Support North Surrey to administer a hardship fund.

Cllr Maureen Attewell, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Community Wellbeing, said: "I want to place on record this Council's appreciation for all the fine work these organisations have been doing and continue to do - they are true local heroes."

For more information about these organisations, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/foodbanks](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/foodbanks), [www.voluntarysupport.org.uk](http://www.voluntarysupport.org.uk) and [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/runnymede-spelthorne](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/runnymede-spelthorne)

### **Spelthorne Rentstart**

Rentstart is a local homelessness charity that provides advice to single people and childless couples with a connection to Spelthorne, to help them find affordable rented accommodation.

Despite the recent challenges, the number of clients we have assisted so far this year is higher than any previous year since 2009.

If you need Rentstart's help or are interested in becoming involved with our work, email [info@spelthornerentstart.org.uk](mailto:info@spelthornerentstart.org.uk) or call 01784 446422.

## Home-Start Spelthorne

Home-Start Spelthorne provides young families with support and friendship, helping to overcome isolation and improve mental well-being. If you are a parent of children under 5 and could benefit from some support or if you would like to join our team of trained volunteers, contact us now.

Email Home-Start Spelthorne on [info@home-startspelthorne](mailto:info@home-startspelthorne) or call 01784 463200.

## Changes to rubbish collections over the Christmas period

Collection	Scheduled collection day	Revised collection day
Recycling	Monday 21 December	Normal collection
	Tuesday 22 December	Normal collection
	Wednesday 23 December	Normal collection
	Thursday 24 December	Normal collection
	Friday 25 December	Monday 28 December
Rubbish	Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December
	Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December
	Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December
	Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January 2021
	Friday 1 January 2021	Sunday 3 January 2021
	Monday 4 January 2021	Back to normal

Garden waste collections stop from 18 December 2020 and restart 1 February 2021. For more details check your garden waste calendar or visit [my.spelthorne.gov.uk](http://my.spelthorne.gov.uk)

## Don't bin that food waste

Up to a quarter of the contents of our rubbish bins is made up of food waste. Recycling your food waste by using Spelthorne's weekly food waste collection service is a great way to stop your rubbish bin filling up as quickly.

And because the food waste bin is emptied every week, it means that you don't have food waste hanging around for two weeks between collections. All the food waste we collect is used to generate electricity and fertilizer.

Food waste bins can be ordered for free - email [neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodservices@spelthorne.gov.uk) or call 01784 446411

## Wrapping paper and cards

You can recycle wrapping paper and cards as long as they are not lined with foil or plastic, don't have glitter, or contain batteries.

### **Christmas tree recycling**

We will be operating free Christmas tree collections from 11-15 January 2021. Simply remove the base and decorations and leave your tree out with your bins on your usual collection day. If you miss the collection, you can take your tree to the Community Recycling Centre in Shepperton or one of the following drop-off points:

- Fordbridge Park, Ashford
- Manor Park, Shepperton
- Old Bathing Station, Fordbridge Rd, Sunbury

### **Commercial waste company launched**

The Council has launched a new commercial waste company called Spelthorne Direct Services Limited. Based in Spelthorne, our collection service is available to all businesses to help you reduce your waste and recycle more.

As a valued customer and part of our business community, we will provide you with a service that meets your needs and values you as a client. Spelthorne Direct Services offers general waste, dry mixed recycling and food waste collections and will be introducing further services in the coming months. We also offer a green/garden waste service to private residential estates, housing associations, industrial estates and businesses.

To discuss your commercial waste collections or for a comparison quote, please email [customerservices@spelthorndirectservices.co.uk](mailto:customerservices@spelthorndirectservices.co.uk) or call Graham or Zoey on 01784 605620

### **Spelthorne in Bloom**

Judging for the 31st Spelthorne in Bloom competition took place during July and awards were presented individually to the winners by the Mayor of Spelthorne, Cllr Colin Barnard, in October.

We would like to congratulate everyone who took part and thank them for helping to make our Borough a colourful and pleasant place to live.

Best Kept Front Garden and Best New Entrant  
15 French Street, Sunbury

Best Kept Place of Worship  
St Mary's Church, Stanwell

Best Kept Public Building/Community Garden

## Stanwell Community Allotments

Best Small Pub  
The Feathers, Laleham

Best Riverside Garden  
Stepping Stones, Laleham

Best School Scarecrow  
St Michael's Primary School, Ashford

Best School Garden  
Meadhurst Primary School, Ashford

Best Hanging Basket  
29 Templedene Avenue, Staines

Best Environmental Planting Project and Best in Show  
Stanwell Community Allotments

Best War Memorial  
Stanwell War Memorial

Best Large Pub  
The George, Staines

Best Kept Allotment  
Plot 1A Town Lane, Stanwell

Best School Recycling Project  
Riverbridge Primary School, Staines

Winner of the children's poster competition  
Ayla from Hawkedale Primary School in Sunbury

## **Support for homeless people**

Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) has won a five-year contract to provide an intensive housing management and resident support service at the White House and Harper House in Ashford, both due to open in May 2021.

Located on Fordbridge Road in Ashford, Harper House will bring local homeless families back into the Borough and out of Bed & Breakfast accommodation. The new development includes 20 self-contained flats, gardens and car parking.

The White House on the Kingston Road will comprise 27 en-suite rooms with shared kitchens and four self-contained studio flats for single homeless people who

need support in moving to more settled accommodation. Over the next six months, MTVH and the Council will be working together with local partners and health care teams to ensure residents are well supported. MTVH is the second largest provider of social housing in the Borough and will provide on-site staff, bespoke training, support and education packages for residents.

For full details on these two developments visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/harperhouse](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/harperhouse) and [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/whitehouse](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/whitehouse)

## **Future Staines**

Production of a Development Framework for Staines-upon-Thames is underway, which will provide a structure to shape and transform the town. Consultants, David Lock Associates, are leading on this work and a new cross-party working group has been set up to help steer the project.

The Development Framework is an important element of the new Local Plan as it will set out the opportunities for Staines to deliver new homes, commercial activity and vital infrastructure, whilst addressing key issues such as how traffic problems can be managed, improving public transport links, capitalising on the riverside frontage and enhancing the environment and public spaces. Input from our communities will be key to ensuring the Development Framework is visionary and forward thinking.

David Lock Associates are reviewing and analysing all the information gathered so far and will shortly begin a targeted consultation with key stakeholders. Following this we will move to the Issues and Options stage and undertake a full public consultation.

For more information, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/stainesdevelopmentframework](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/stainesdevelopmentframework)

## **Housing First**

Housing First is a new service which offers a different approach to tackling homelessness by providing intense wrap-around support to homeless people with multiple and complex needs.

It gives people a safe home of their own and puts in place a support network to help them sustain their tenancy, reintegrate into society, and ultimately thrive.

To be eligible, clients must be locally connected to Spelthorne, single or childless couples, be known to local services, have experienced long term homelessness or be at risk of homelessness and have multiple, complex needs.

If you think you may be eligible, please speak with your Housing Officer at A2Dominion or Spelthorne Borough Council, email [spelthornehf@a2dominion.co.uk](mailto:spelthornehf@a2dominion.co.uk) or call 07979 119359.

## **Spelthorne scales down housing numbers**

Spelthorne Council has announced that it intends to revise the housing target set out in the new Local Plan, following criticism of the Government's formula for calculating the number of new homes needed.

The decision to use a lower figure follows a recent Government consultation which proposes a revised method for calculating housing need that would see Spelthorne's housing need figure reduced from 606 homes per year to 489.

Whilst there are no guarantees that this new methodology will be adopted once the Government has concluded the consultation, it represents the most likely figure at this stage and enables work to continue on the Local Plan.

The lower figure means that many of the sites proposed to be allocated for housing will no longer be needed and the Council will be considering which to take out. Following its own consultation on 'Preferred Options' for the Local Plan which took place between November 2019 and January 2020, it is clear that residents have significant concerns over the amount of housing needed, the need for infrastructure to support this growth, and the development of Green Belt sites.

There will be a further public consultation on Spelthorne's Local Plan before it is submitted for examination by an independent inspector.

For more information, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/localplan)

## **Leisure Directory**

Our Leisure Directory is a useful resource, full of activities to enable you to make the most of your leisure time in Spelthorne. From badminton to bridge, railways to rowing and horticulture to history, there's something to suit all ages and interests.

To view our online directory, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisuredirectory](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/leisuredirectory)

## **Low-energy Leisure Centre planned for Spelthorne**

The Council has given approval to pursue a planning application to build a new leisure centre in Knowle Green, Staines. This application will be submitted towards the end of the year with the aim of starting construction of the new centre around mid-2021.

As part of Spelthorne's commitment to become a carbon neutral council, the planned new leisure centre would be the first in the UK to be designed and built to fully meet the ultra-low energy Passivhaus standard.

## **Visit Staines by boat**

A new jetty has been installed on the banks of the River Thames in Staines to allow tour boat passengers to access the town. Located by Memorial Gardens, boat companies will be able to use the new jetty to pick up and drop off visitors exploring the area.

French Brothers cruises will become the first users of the jetty, but all operators will be able to apply for use. Spelthorne's River Thames Task Group, whose primary objective is to enhance access and activities along Spelthorne's 12 mile stretch of river, commissioned the jetty.

## **Light Up Stanwell!**

The Light Up Stanwell Christmas celebrations will continue this year with a fun and festive virtual Christmas lights switch-on Zoom event. Tune in on Friday 4 December at [www.christmasinstanwell.org](http://www.christmasinstanwell.org) to speak with Santa and Mrs Claus, all the way from the North Pole!!

This special event will also feature children's entertainer Jelly Kelly, singalong Christmas carols, and of course the great Christmas lights countdown and switch-on.

During Light Up Stanwell, one lucky household will receive a special prize delivered, live on air, by Santa Claus himself!! This star prize will go to the house with the best Christmas decorations in Stanwell.

To help get you in the Christmas spirit, the Light Up Stanwell Committee, in partnership with Spelthorne Council, is providing free festive craft materials and decoration design ideas.

For more information about Light Up Stanwell, free craft resources and to enter the competition, visit [www.christmasinstanwell.org](http://www.christmasinstanwell.org)

## **Specsavers Surrey Youth Games**

Team Spelthorne registrations for the 2021 Specsavers Surrey Youth Games open in February.

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.

In 2019, around 400 participants aged 6-16 enjoyed six weeks of free coaching sessions across 12 different sports in the lead up to the event. Team Spelthorne entered 24 teams at last year's Games.

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

club in the sports they choose to take part in. Thanks to sponsorship from Everyone Active and Shepperton Studios, Spelthorne Borough Council is able to offer the training sessions free of charge.

The 2021 Specsavers Surrey Youth Games will take place on 19 and 20 June at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford.

For more information about the Games, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/surreyyouthgames](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/surreyyouthgames)

## **Walking for Health**

The Spelthorne Walking for Health Scheme is part of a national accredited scheme which helps people improve their health and fitness. Designed for beginners, the walks are between one and three miles in length and take place three times a week in various areas of the Borough and surrounding areas. Everyone is welcome.

For more information and a programme of walks, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/walkingforhealth](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/walkingforhealth).

To book a place, please email [leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@spelthorne.gov.uk) or call 01784 446433.

## **Cycling for Health**

Spelthorne's Cycling for Health Scheme offers organised rides of between 7-12 miles every fortnight, starting within the Borough and riding through surrounding areas. Rides take place during the week and are aimed at older adults who are getting back into cycling. All rides are free of charge.

For more information or to book a place, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/cyclingforhealth](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/cyclingforhealth) or call 01784 446433.

## **Family orienteering**

Xplorer is the perfect outdoor activity for families, offering a friendly orienteering challenge that is educational and fun. The aim is to find markers that are located around the park using a simple map.

Our Christmas Xplorer event takes place between 10.30am-12.30pm on Tuesday 22 December at Ashford Recreation Ground on Clockhouse Lane. The sessions are free, but you need to book your place in advance on our website.

The event will go ahead in line with social distancing guidelines but may be cancelled if Covid-19 restrictions change.

For more information on Xplorer or to book a place, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/xplorer](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/xplorer)

## **Remembrance Sunday**

In light of the ongoing situation with Coronavirus, public Remembrance parades and wreath laying ceremonies could not be held this year but the Council was keen not to let the occasion go unmarked and moved its commemorations online by sharing videos of local councillors laying wreaths at each of the war memorials.

Cllr Robin Sider BEM, Spelthorne's Armed Forces Champion, said: "We are acutely aware that 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It was only right that Remembrance Sunday should not pass without being suitably marked so we made the decision to move the commemorations online to ensure public safety and enable residents to join with us in remembering those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country."

To view the online Remembrance commemorations, search Spelthorne TV on YouTube.

## **Unitary update**

Surrey Leaders welcome the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG's) recent announcement and clarity on local government reorganisation. MHCLG makes it clear there is no compulsion for proposals for reform of local government in two tier areas nor a need for structural change, but that any work going on should:

- be based on locally led improvements
- be based on locally led proposals for any council restructuring, rather than top-down Whitehall solutions being imposed on local areas

Cllr John Boughtflower, Leader of Spelthorne Borough Council, said: "We are pleased to hear this announcement from government and welcome having more clarity around this important issue. As a Council we have always said that whichever model of governance we choose at county level, we must ensure the needs of residents are put first and the best interests of local areas, and different groups within our Borough, are fully represented. I look forward to continuing to work with our residents and the other councils in Surrey to develop a strong vision for the future."

For more details, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/yourfuture](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/yourfuture)

## **New Residents' Forum**

A new monthly Forum has been introduced to enable Residents' Associations to discuss local issues with Spelthorne Council's leadership team.

At the first meeting, held online in September, the Residents' Associations were asked to list the top five priorities for their areas. This helped to identify the most common issues, which were:

- Spelthorne's Local Plan (and preserving Green Belt land)
- The proposals for a unitary authority
- HGV traffic
- Regeneration and support for high streets
- 20 mph speed limits

Deputy Leader, Cllr Maureen Attewell, said: "The Residents' Forum is designed to give Residents' Associations a 'stronger voice' by providing a direct link to the leaders of the Council and senior staff members. The first meeting went very well and gave us the opportunity to understand more about the issues which are causing concern for individual areas, identify the steps we can take to tackle specific problems and make positive changes for the benefit of local residents."

For more details, visit [www.spelthorne.gov.uk](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk)

### **Fordbridge Veterans' Hub**

A new drop-in service for ex-servicemen and women is coming soon to Fordbridge Fire Station in 2021.

Established by the Spelthorne Armed Forces Partnership, the Veterans' Hub will meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 10.30am – 1pm and provide an opportunity for ex-service personnel to come together to have a brew and a banter. Support will be on-hand each month from different charities to provide expert advice and to signpost users to appropriate sources of help.

Cllr Robin Sider BEM, Chairman of the Spelthorne Armed Forces Partnership said: "At a time when we are facing significant uncertainty and long periods of isolation, it has never been more important for veterans to reach out if they need support. We hope Fordbridge Veterans' Hub will make a difference, providing an important resource and enabling ex-servicemen and women to come together to support one another at this difficult time."

Current restrictions have prevented the Hub from launching this autumn, but it will open as soon as it's safe to do so. In the meantime, if you're a veteran why not join

Fordbridge Veterans' Hub's online community, search @Fordbridgehub on Facebook or Twitter.

Help and advice is also available on the Council's website at [www.spelthorne.gov.uk/afc](http://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/afc)