

Elmbridge. review

The official newsletter of Elmbridge Borough Council

December 2018



Healthy walks in numbers



* Figures from 2017



Elmbridge
Borough Council
... bridging the communities ...

What's on in Elmbridge?

Shout! holiday activities

Get ready for the Christmas holidays while your children enjoy some festive fun. Free Shout! drop-in sessions for 5 to 13-year olds will be held on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 December from 9.30am to 4.30pm at Elm Grove Hall, Hersham Road, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1LH.

Activities will include seasonal arts and crafts, woodland decorations, games and Roman style wreath making with Elmbridge Museum. Children can stay for as long or as little as you wish!

No need to book – register on site.

Healthy walks holiday programme

Healthy walks are taking place every day over the festive season, including Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Enjoy a cup of mulled wine with our volunteer walk leaders and a seasonal meander in your local winter wonderland in friendly company. Visit elmbridge.gov.uk/healthywalks for more information.

Bike classes

Try out our new bike classes every Tuesday, 11.45am-12.30pm, and Friday, 3.30pm to 4.15pm, at Xcel Leisure Complex spin studio, Waterside Drive, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2JG.

Suitable for cardiac rehab and GP referral patients. £3.50 per class.
Call **01372 474 574** or email health@elmbridge.gov.uk.

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Mayor's message

Councillor Mrs Shweta Kapadia

In the last few months I have enjoyed Heritage Day celebrations in Cobham and Walton, visited some of our schools and attended community events, meeting many fantastic volunteers.

I was delighted to open the new gymnastics hall at the Xcel Leisure Complex and to celebrate Elmbridge,

once again, winning the Riparian Challenge Trophy in the Great River Race. My thanks to all who organised these and other events, and helped to raise funds for my chosen charity Elmbridge Rentstart.

Several Surrey Mayors attended my Civic Day which was an opportunity for me to showcase some of Elmbridge's wonderful attractions. In turn, I have attended functions at other Surrey boroughs.

Finally, my consort Ramesh and I look forward to celebrating the festive season with you. We send you season's greetings and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019.



Serving with compassion

As Christmas and the end of the year draws ever nearer, it seems apt to stop and reflect on the impact of the work we do as a Council.

Many of the services we provide make a real difference to the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Put simply, what we do matters. While Christmas is a time for festivities, it also brings with it the risks of cold and isolation for some of our residents. As you will read in this issue, our vital meals on wheels service is an effective way of tackling this. Delivered by volunteers, the service provides hot meals, even on Christmas Day.

But the scope of our help extends way beyond the winter months. In the article about our affordable housing schemes you'll find out how we are seeking to ensure that we respond to the housing needs of not only this generation, but to that of future generations too. And our support for the White Ribbon campaign, also highlighted in this issue, is yet another example of our continued efforts to promote equality and respect in our community.

While we are committed to providing the best services, this is only possible by employing the best people. Elmbridge Borough Council is a great place to work;

we care about our employees' wellbeing and offer flexible working to help people achieve a healthy work/life balance. If a career with the Council interests you, look out for opportunities advertised in the Elmbridge Review and online at elmbridge.gov.uk/joinus.

I wish everyone a safe and joyous festive period and look forward to further delivering on our vision in 2019.

Robert Moran
Chief Executive, Elmbridge Borough Council

News in brief

For more news sign up to our monthly email

elbridge.gov.uk/enewsletter



Recycle your Christmas tree

Once the festive season is over, there's no need to throw your tree away. You can recycle your Christmas tree on Saturday 12 January at Garsons Garden Centre, Winterdown Road, Esher KT10 8LS. Garden waste customers can also recycle their Christmas tree in their garden waste bin. Just make sure the tree is cut up and the lid of the bin is closed.

Bank accounts from your local credit union

If you're thinking of opening a bank account, have you considered your local credit union? Boom is a credit union for people who live or work in Surrey, Kingston or West Sussex, which gives local people access to affordable loans, bank accounts and prepaid cards.

A basic, classic 'engage' current account with Boom costs £2 per month and comes with a handy budgeting tool. You can also earn cash back rewards and Boom will set up a savings account alongside your current account. There are no credit checks, just simple ID requirements.

The account is ideal for anyone who may need to claim Universal Credit (read more about this on page 4). For more information visit boomcu.com or call Catherine on 01483 9917958, Monday to Thursday or leave a message.

High Court extends protective injunction

Elmbridge Borough Council has been granted a three-year protective injunction banning the setting up of unauthorised encampments or fly-tipping on all identified public land.

Following on from the recent three-month injunction granted in August 2018, the High Court has extended that injunction for a further three years. The injunction covers all of the Borough's parks, open spaces and car parks.

You can read the full details at: elbridge.gov.uk/news/high-court-injunction.



Join Team Elmbridge

Online registration opens in February 2019 to recruit members for Team Elmbridge to represent the borough at the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games 2019.

The Games, which is the largest multi-sport youth competition in the county, aims to introduce children to new sports outside of school. Free training sessions are provided by local sports clubs to prepare participants for the competition. Last year, 1,500 participants aged 7 to 18 competed across 20 sports events, ranging from cricket to judo, with the hope of winning a medal for their Borough.

It is a great opportunity for young people to learn a new sport, develop skills and make new friends. If you would like your child to take part, please visit elbridge.gov.uk/sport.

Elmbridge Sports Awards 2018

The annual sports awards ceremony was held at ACS Cobham International School on 9 November to recognise those who have shown great dedication or excelled in sport over the year. The winners were:

- Junior Sports Personality of the year – Finian Morris (Papercourt Sailing Club)
- Youth Sports Personality of the year – Chad McDade (England Karate Kan)
- Senior Sports Personality of the year – Stuart Channon (Walton Athletics)
- School of the year – Cleves School
- Volunteer of the year – Lionel Frewin (Cobham Rugby Club)
- Coach of the year – Charlotte Potter (Ippon Judo)
- Mick Burgess Sports Club of the year – Elite Sporting Provision (KT One Two project)



- The Mayor's Award for Outstanding Service to sport – Jack Rutherford (Walton Athletics)
- Inclusive Sports Awards – Elmbridge Community Link

For photos of the evening, check out Elmbridge Borough Council on Instagram [@elbridgeBC](https://www.instagram.com/elbridgeBC).

Shaping Elmbridge



Community in Bloom

Local In Bloom groups have been working hard this year to make Elmbridge a greener and brighter place to live.

A growing group of keen 'bloomers' have been making their mark on Thames Ditton with stunning planters on Thames Ditton station platforms and improvements to the shrub beds outside Home of Compassion. Meanwhile Hersham in Bloom, supported by local businesses, created another stunning display around the village - a fitting way to celebrate their tenth anniversary.

Elsewhere in the Borough, keen gardeners and green fingered volunteers have been using their creativity and dedication to create floral displays that improve the appearance of their local area and encourage their communities to take pride in their village.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with your local group or email us at greenspaces@elmbridge.gov.uk.

Developing a new natural play area

The project for a new landscaped play area in Brooklands Community Park is now underway. Davies White landscape architects have been appointed to design the play area and LockWood Landscapes will build it. Their approach is forward-thinking and experimental and they welcome stakeholder involvement in their projects. Our vision is to create a rich learning environment for children so they can experience their natural surroundings. Given the historical importance of Brooklands Community Park, it is important that the natural play equipment blends in, while providing opportunities for imagination, exploration and adventures.



Residents who expressed an interest in the development of the new play area were invited to attend a hands-on creative workshop to develop ideas with the designers. Children of all ages were also involved in the process. Their input has played an important part in the development of the final design.

For further information, please email greenspaces@elmbridge.gov.uk.



New footpath across Leigh Hill common

Following the woodland management works carried out on Leigh Hill common last winter, we have been working in partnership with Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust to introduce a new path through the restored area of the common, along Leigh Hill Road.

Over the past few years, traffic has become increasingly busy in the Leigh Hill area as it links into the A3 and M25. The previous narrow footpath on the grass verge along Leigh Hill Road was becoming unsafe.

Work was undertaken to create a safe and relatively open route from Leigh Corner, ideal for getting to St Andrew's School, the health centre and the hospital. The new footpath, designed to retain a rural appearance, opens more opportunities for residents to get to their destination on foot, as well as providing safe access across Leigh Hill Common.

The project was made possible by funding from the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy and the Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust (Leigh Hill is part of the Tilt Conservation Area). For more information, please visit elmbridge.gov.uk/countryside.

Serving the community

Preparing for Universal Credit

Wednesday 28 November 2018 sees the roll out of Universal Credit in Elmbridge for new benefits claimants and those with a significant change in circumstances. If you are aged 18-65 and claim benefits (or may need to start claiming benefits), support is available.

What is Universal Credit (UC)?

Administered by the government's Department for Work and Pensions, UC is a new online single payment benefit system for working age people who are unemployed or on a low income. Under this scheme, several existing benefits and tax credits will be merged into a single payment.

What support is available to help get ready for UC?

We recognise that UC is a major change to the benefits system and so a range of support is available to help new benefit claimants. The Council, your landlord (if you are a housing association tenant) and Citizens Advice (Esher and Elmbridge West) can offer you help with getting online and personal budgeting.

What do I need to know about UC?

- Claims are made online.
- Payments are made monthly to a bank account in your name that can receive automated payments.
- Any housing costs you are entitled to will be included in your monthly payment and you are responsible for paying your landlord.
- You can work as many hours as you like or are able.
- As your earnings increase, UC reduces gradually to help you stay in work.
- The Council still administers council tax support. Even if you move to UC, you should continue to contact us for council tax support.

More information about Universal Credit is available on elbridge.gov.uk/housing-benefits/universal-credit or the government's website gov.uk/universal-credit. You can also download a handy pdf guide on how to prepare for Universal Credit from elbridge.gov.uk/getset.

Affordable homes in Elmbridge

The rising costs of housing both nationally and locally might be good news for some, but for others who have borne the brunt of the effects – from the high costs of renting to the struggle to buy a home in the area where they grew up, it can be a major concern.

To tackle this, we have made it a key priority for us to increase the supply of affordable homes in Elmbridge. In the last financial year, 52 affordable homes were delivered, and there are over 100 more anticipated for delivery in 2018/19.

What is being delivered?

Current affordable housing developments include:

- Construction underway at Rivernook Farm in Walton-on-Thames to include 40 affordable dwellings provided by PA Housing
- 128 affordable homes being provided by housing association, A2 Dominion, as part of the Jubilee Meadows scheme in Hersham.
- Metropolitan Thames Valley building 43 affordable homes as part of the Imber Riverside scheme in East Molesey, with completion expected in mid-2019.

How do we deliver?

Currently most new affordable homes are delivered by housing associations. We work closely with them to increase the number of affordable homes to meet the needs of local people. This includes providing financial support to housing associations for new-builds or the purchase of existing homes for use as affordable housing.

We also ensure that most new housing developments include a contribution towards affordable housing. Developers can provide a proportion of the proposed homes on the site as affordable housing or, on smaller sites, provide a financial contribution to support affordable housing delivery elsewhere.

What else?

We also make Council-owned sites, which are surplus or underused and suitable for housing, available for redevelopment for affordable housing. We intend to develop a number of these schemes ourselves and in March this year we established a council-owned housing company to facilitate this. The first five homes in Thames Ditton are expected to complete by December 2018 and a further five are due in Weybridge in 2020.



Safer, happier, healthier

Delivering a difference in Elmbridge

“I just love volunteering”

Trish has been a meals on wheels volunteer for over 20 years. Each week she supports her local Centre for the Community by delivering meals to residents in the area.

How did you hear about meals on wheels volunteering?

Shortly after moving to Elmbridge from London, I became a member of my local Centre. I would pop in for a cup of tea and to join in with some of the activities they have available. This is how I found out about the Meals on Wheels service and volunteering.

How long have you volunteered for?

My first delivery was back in 1997- so over two decades!

Tell us about your volunteering role

After spending the morning catching up with friends at the Centre, I leave to start my round at 11.30am. My round consists of delivering meals to seven or eight people which usually gets me back to the Centre for around 12.45pm, just in time for lunch.

When delivering a meal, I also carry out a wellbeing check to ensure each resident is doing okay. I might be the only person they see that day, so a hot meal, a smile and a wellbeing check goes a long way.

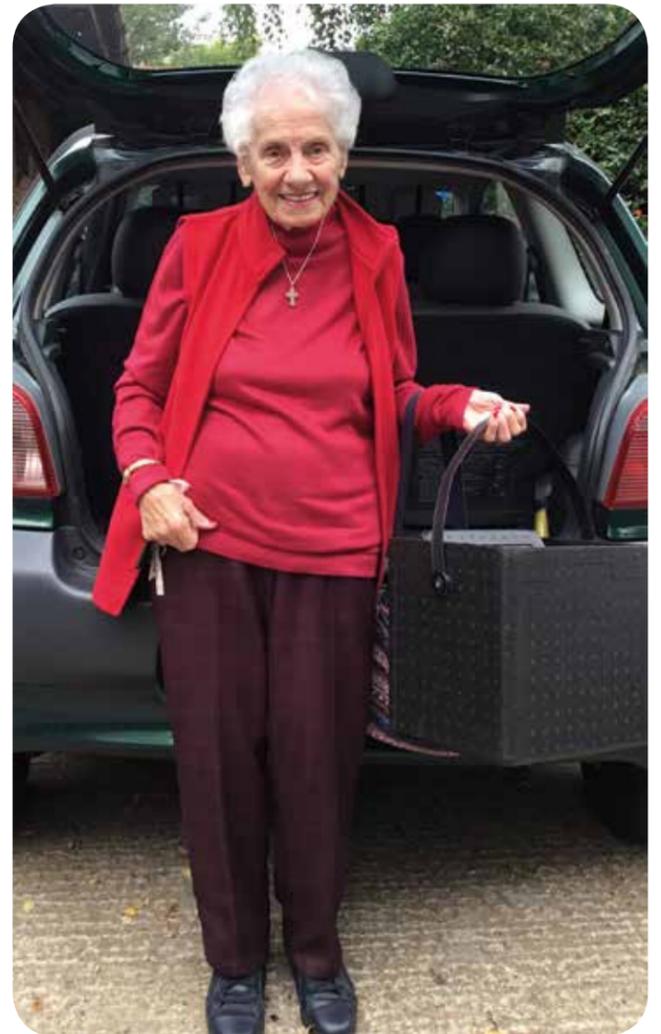
What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

Each time I volunteer I feel like I am giving back to the community. The residents are pleased to see me which makes me feel really appreciated in my role.

What would you say to someone interested in volunteering?

I just love doing it. Staying active is important to me and volunteering truly makes a difference to other people's lives.

If you are interested in becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer, please call the Community Support Services team on 01372 474 552 or email commsservices@elmbridge.gov.uk. For further information visit elmbridge.gov.uk/css/volunteer.



Top tips for a crime-free Christmas

Surrey Police are working hard over Christmas to keep you and your family safe, but there are steps you can take to help them:

- While stocks last, collect a free SelectaDNA kit from the Civic Centre in Esher – front counter (bring proof of residence in the Borough).
- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you, especially in busy shops and crowded streets.
- Avoid going back to your car to leave your shopping part-way through your trip.
- Avoid becoming an easy target – don't leave boxes for new electronics and other items outside your wheelie bin.
- If you see anything suspicious call the Surrey Police non-emergency number on 101.

Showing our support for White Ribbon Day

To mark White Ribbon Day on 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) we organised a range of activities, including a bake off and a football tournament, to help raise awareness of domestic abuse support services.

Last year, Surrey was awarded 'county accreditation' from the White Ribbon campaign, meaning all agencies in the Surrey Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) partnership have White Ribbon Status.

If you are affected by domestic abuse you can get help:

- In an emergency dial 999.
- Call North Surrey Outreach for emotional and practical support. 01932 260690 (Monday – Friday 9am - 4pm)
- Outside these hours, call the Your Sanctuary helpline 01483 776822 (9am – 9pm, 7 days a week).



Funding awarded for youth boxing club

The Elmbridge Community and Safety Partnership has awarded funding to Eikon to deliver an open access boxing club at Walton Youth Centre. The project is designed to support young people aged 10-15 to develop more regular active habits. The youth workers will support engagement and build relationships of trust to encourage those less confident to participate.

The activity has been chosen by young people and is designed to respond to their specific needs, to support them to become more active, encourage team building skills, and build relationships with positive role models.

Supporting our businesses

Support to shop local this Christmas

Start planning your Christmas shopping with free parking, festive events and the chance to discover something new on your doorstep.

Small Business Saturday – 1 December

Now in its sixth year, Small Business Saturday is a national campaign aimed at encouraging people to support small businesses in their communities.

To celebrate the day, shoppers will be able to park for free in all Elmbridge Borough Council town centre and village car parks. Why not take advantage of the free parking and shop local or enjoy community events such as the Weybridge and Claygate Christmas lights switch on?

Free parking at Christmas

You can continue to shop local in the lead up to Christmas with free parking on Saturday 15 December, Saturday 22 December and Monday 24 December in Elmbridge Borough Council town centre and village car parks.

This is part of a wider initiative of ongoing Saturday free parking offers across Walton, Molesey, Hersham, Long Ditton and Thames Ditton to support our town and village centres.

You can find your nearest free parking offer at elmbridge.gov.uk/parking.



Have you spotted a Boomerang Bag?

'Boomerang Bags' is a grassroots, community project tackling plastic pollution at its source.

Volunteers across Thames Ditton, Claygate and Molesey have come together to make re-useable 'boomerang bags' using recycled materials, providing a sustainable alternative to plastic bags.

The handmade bags are given away to independent shops, friends and neighbours and can be used and reused or passed on to others in need. To find out more visit boomerangbags.org.

Join us

Careers at Elmbridge

We have a vision for Elmbridge. We want to protect our Borough while safeguarding our environment and maintaining a community for all – can you help us do that?



To find out more visit our website elmbridge.gov.uk/joinus
Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)



Are you a landlord?

A House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licence is now required for **all privately owned properties** occupied by five or more people.

You need an HMO licence if your property:

- is rented to five or more people from two or more households
- has shared facilities such as a kitchen or bathroom
- has any number of storeys.

Landlords found operating an unlicensed HMO could be prosecuted or issued with a financial penalty of up to £30,000 per offence. Apply for your HMO licence by contacting our Private Sector Housing team:

Tel: 01372 474625 | Email: pshousing@elmbridge.gov.uk |
Web: elmbridge.gov.uk/housing/hmos



Services over Christmas

Meals on wheels service

The seven days a week hot meals on wheels service will continue to operate throughout the Christmas and New Year period with a special service provided on Christmas Day. Customers will be contacted to confirm their meal requirements.

Community alarm will be monitored and emergencies will be responded to throughout the Christmas period.

Community transport will operate as normal for Centres, except on Christmas Bank Holiday days. All other services will not run between Christmas and new year. Contact **01372 474 944** for more information.

Relief carers scheme will operate a limited service from 24 December until 1 January. A normal service will resume from 2 January. Contact the Relief Care team for more information: **01372 474 547**.

Centres for the Community

All Centres are closed 25 and 26 December 2018 and 1 January 2019.

Please note that opening hours may be affected during this period. Contact your local Centre for more details.

Claygate, Hersham, and Molesey – Centres will be closed on 24, 25, and 26 December, and 1 January.

Walton and Weybridge – Centres will be closed on 25 and 26 December, and 1 January.

Cobham – Centre will be closed on 25, 26, and 31 December, and 1 January.

Thames Ditton – Normally only open on a Monday and Thursday. The Centre will be closed over Christmas on 24, 27, and 31 December.

Housing options – From 4.45pm on 21 December through to 8.45am on 27 December and from 4.45pm on 31 December through to 8.45am on 2 January 2019, anyone who is made homeless and has nowhere to stay on those nights should use the following contact number **0300 123 7719**.

Parks and recreation grounds opening hours

Monday 24 December: 7.30am – 4.30pm

Tuesday 25 December: Closed

Wednesday 26 December: 9am – 4.30pm

Thursday 27 December – Friday 28 December: 7.30am – 4.30pm

Saturday 29 December – Sunday 30 December: 9am – 4.30pm

Monday 31 December: 7.30am – 4.30pm

Tuesday 1 January: 9am – 4.30pm

Car parks – All Council car parks will be open to the public over the holiday period. Charges will not apply in all Council-run town centre and village car parks on: Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 December 2018 (inclusive) and Tuesday 1 January 2019.

Elmbridge public halls will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Opening times outside these are subject to demand/bookings.

Elmbridge cemeteries are open to visitors throughout the year between the hours of 9am and 8pm, or half an hour before sunset, whichever is the earlier. The cemeteries Office, based at the Civic Centre, will be open for enquiries between 8.45am and 5pm up to and including Friday 21 December 2018 and will resume on Thursday 27 December 2018. The cemeteries office will also be open for enquiries on Monday 31 December from 8.45am to 4pm. It will be closed on Tuesday 1 January 2019 and re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2019.

Civic Centre is closed: Monday 24 to Wednesday 26 December 2018 and Tuesday 1 January 2019.

Christmas holiday bin collections

Please note the changes to bin collections over the Christmas period. Make sure your bin is out by 6.30am.

See below for further details:

Normal collection day	Revised day
Monday 24 December	No change
Tuesday 25 December	Thursday 27 December
Wednesday 26 December	Friday 28 December
Thursday 27 December	Saturday 29 December
Friday 28 December	Monday 31 December
Monday 31 December	Wednesday 2 January
Tuesday 1 January	Thursday 3 January
Wednesday 2 January	Friday 4 January
Thursday 3 January	Saturday 5 January
Friday 4 January	Monday 7 January
Monday 7 January	Tuesday 8 January
Tuesday 8 January	Wednesday 9 January
Wednesday 9 January	Thursday 10 January
Thursday 10 January	Friday 11 January
Friday 11 January	Saturday 12 January

Adverse weather – Should bad weather disrupt collections over the festive period please keep your refuse/recycling bins out. We will try to collect any missed bins as soon as we can. You can check our website and Twitter feed [@Elmbridgebc](#) for up-to-date information.

Xcel opening hours

Monday 24 December – Closed

Tuesday 25 December – Closed

Wednesday 26 December – 9am-5pm

Thursday 27 December – 9am-5pm

Friday 28 December – 9am-5pm

Saturday 29 December – 10am-7pm

Sunday 30 December – 9am-5pm

Monday 31 December – closed

Tuesday 1 January – closed

Wednesday 2 January – normal opening times

Hurst Pool opening hours

Monday 24 December – 9am-3pm

Tuesday 25 December – closed

Wednesday 26 December – closed

Thursday 27 December – closed

Friday 28 December – 7am-3pm

Saturday 29 December – 9am-3pm

Sunday 30 December – 9am-3pm

Monday 31 December – 7am-3pm

Tuesday 1 January – closed

Wednesday 2 January – normal opening hours