

# Elmbridge review

The official newsletter of Elmbridge Borough Council

June 2019



## Reasons to #LoveElmbridge

**3** historic parks  
and gardens



**6** scheduled  
monuments

**20** countryside sites  
covering 550 hectares



**25** conservation  
areas

**32** playgrounds



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

## Love being outdoors this summer

It's official: we're not exercising enough. According to Sport England, nearly half of Elmbridge residents aged 35 to 74 exercise less than 30 minutes per week\*.

So, why not start this summer? There are so many ways to get active and make exercise fun. Try exercising outside – not only will you burn calories and release endorphins, but the sunshine will give you a healthy dose of vitamin D. You could try:

- The outdoor gym equipment in recreation grounds in Cobham, Hershams (Coronation), Long Ditton and Molesey Hurst
- A tennis pass to play for free at your 12 local parks tennis locations or check out the summer community tennis programme at [elmbridge.gov.uk/parkstennis](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/parkstennis)
- Free daily healthy walks or the regular cycle rides on offer. Find out more at [elmbridge.gov.uk/healthywalks](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/healthywalks)
- Gardening at one of the 17 local allotment sites in Elmbridge - grow your own crops to share with family and friends. If a whole plot sounds daunting, the Cobham Community Garden is on the lookout for new volunteers. See more at [elmbridge.gov.uk/leisure](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/leisure)

Free taster sessions at local sports clubs are also available this summer. See the back page for more information.

\*Sport England Active Lives Survey May 2018

# Welcome

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## Mayor's message

**Councillor Mrs Mary Sheldon**



"I am immensely honoured to represent the Borough of Elmbridge as its First Citizen. During the coming year my husband John and I look forward to meeting many of the borough's residents and volunteers who help to make Elmbridge such a special place."

Mary Sheldon has been a Councillor for Hersham since 2006. Since then she has been on the Planning Committee and the North Area Planning sub-Committee (which she chaired for several years). She has served on a number of other Committees and working groups, and also as a member of the Cabinet with responsibility for Leisure and Cultural Services. Mary is Chairman and Trustee of Hersham Youth Trust.

Mary has chosen Elmbridge Mencap as her Mayoral charity. Elmbridge Mencap aims to improve the lives of children and adults who have learning and physical disabilities.

Following the results of the May local elections, you can find your local councillor details at: [elmbridge.gov.uk/councillors](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/councillors)

## #LoveElmbridge

Green, thriving, vibrant ... just a few words that might spring to mind when you think about Elmbridge. That's why we're celebrating all that's great about this borough with our #LoveElmbridge campaign. If you've been following us on social media recently, you'll have seen lots about what makes Elmbridge such a great place. But don't just take our word for it, according to a survey commissioned by Royal Mail, Elmbridge is in the top 10 happiest areas to live in England. The index is based on life expectancy, earnings, inequality, carbon emissions, crime, deprivation and access to health services.

In this issue, you'll find there's plenty that we're doing to ensure that Elmbridge is a great place for everyone. From the vast array of activities to help you keep healthy and active to town centre improvements and community events, what's not to love?

We're also making strides towards ensuring that you feel safe in your community. Two pages in this issue are dedicated to community safety to update you on initiatives, provide details of organisations you can turn to and give you tips on protecting your home and vehicle.

But, we can't make Elmbridge such a great place without you, our residents. So many of you are helping to protect and

care for the borough through volunteering. In fact, Elmbridge has the most volunteers out of all the Surrey boroughs and we are enormously grateful that people give their time to benefit the borough.

As always there is more for us to do to make this borough even better and we are asking for your help to achieve that. As part of #LoveElmbridge, we need your help to improve air quality. Look out for our tips on the small changes you can make which will help make a huge difference to lives across the borough and help us all to love Elmbridge a little bit more.

**Robert Moran**  
Chief Executive,  
Elmbridge Borough Council

# News in brief

For more news sign up to our monthly email  
[elbridge.gov.uk/newsletter](mailto:elbridge.gov.uk/newsletter)



## Are you recycling right?

Do you know what's new in recycling? It's always worth checking what and how you can recycle to reduce what you throw away, as recycling services can change and packaging can be confusing.

Also, if you put the wrong items in your recycling bin, it might not be emptied. That's because the reprocessor could reject the whole truck load and everyone's recycling would then be thrown away.

To find out if you're recycling right, including what to do with food, clothes, home textiles, garden waste and small electrical items, use the search tool at [jointwastesolutions.org](http://jointwastesolutions.org).

## Explore the past

Elmbridge Museum has just launched Museum Explorers, a club for young historians aged 7 to 11 and their families. Meetings are held at locations across the borough to explore the history of Elmbridge through interactive and engaging activities.

On 29 June, Museum Explorers will be at Weybridge Library Hall. Come along to find out about the Georgians who built Claremont and Painshill and meet 'The Mannered Mob', a group of 18th century re-enactors.

Later in the year, there will be a chance to experience an air raid during WWII and a visit to King Henry VIII's Court! For dates, times and venues, please visit [elbridgemuseum.org.uk](http://elbridgemuseum.org.uk). You can also check the website for details of the museum's temporary exhibitions.

## Shaping Elmbridge - a new Local Plan

We are working hard to progress our new Local Plan. This long-term plan aims to marry our national obligations to build more homes in Elmbridge with our desire to protect the character of our borough.

The next stage is a public consultation due this summer and we encourage all residents to get involved. You can sign up to alerts on the Local Plan through our website at [consult.elbridge.gov.uk](http://consult.elbridge.gov.uk).

## Chances for young people to get active

The charity, Eikon, is helping young people in the borough to develop regular active habits. Funded by the Elmbridge Community and Safety Partnership, Eikon provides a weekly non-contact boxing session for 10-14 year olds. The free sessions take place on Fridays between 5pm and 7pm at Walton Youth Centre, Elm Grove, KT12 1LH. For further information, please contact Lorraine Dixon on **07378 306314**.

## Is your area in bloom?

Did you know there are three active 'In-Bloom' groups in Elmbridge that are working hard to enhance their local areas? The In-Bloom groups in Hersham, Thames Ditton and Weybridge are looking for volunteers and we'd love to hear from you if you could lend them a hand.

Alternatively, if you would like to set up your own group in your neighbourhood, please get in touch. Your group can be as big or small as you like - it only takes a few committed residents to get the ball rolling.

To get involved with the existing groups or to set up your own group, please email [greenspaces@elbridge.gov.uk](mailto:greenspaces@elbridge.gov.uk).



## Save the date

The Elmbridge Food Festival returns to Painshill in Cobham over the weekend of 21-22 September. Join us for a host of local food and drink producers, live cookery demonstrations, musical performers and children's entertainment.

Entry to the festival is **free**, with plenty to keep you and the family entertained for the whole day. Free parking will also be available at Painshill and the Leg O'Mutton field.

We'll be revealing the full list of stalls and demonstrations in the lead up to the festival. Visit [elbridge.gov.uk/foodfestival](http://elbridge.gov.uk/foodfestival) for more information or follow [@ElmbridgeBC](https://twitter.com/ElmbridgeBC) on Twitter.



# Community safety

## In your community

It's important that you feel safe where you live and work. Your wellbeing and safety is a priority for us which is why we provide products and services and work with partners to ensure you can find help and support when needed. On these two pages, you'll find information and advice on some of the top issues affecting Elmbridge, as well as services you can access to improve safety.



## Protect your home from break-ins

Help us continue the downward trend in burglaries in Elmbridge with our top three tips to prevent break-ins:

### 1. Mark your property to deter burglars

Make your valuables less attractive to thieves by using a property or police approved forensic marking solution only visible under ultraviolet (UV) light. This can take the form of a special marker using ink or paint.

### 2. Control access to all areas

Simply shutting the door won't prevent burglaries. Double-lock the door every single time you leave the house. Remember – lift, lock and remove.

### 3. Join your Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can cut crime and the opportunities for crime; help reassure those who live in the area; and encourage neighbourliness and closer communities. You can also sign up to [intheknow.community](https://www.intheknow.community).

## How to keep your vehicle safe and sound

Having your car broken into and losing your belongings to thieves can be very distressing, and recently we've seen an increase in vehicle crime in the borough. Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your vehicle, and what's in it, safe:

- Always lock it
- Close windows and the sun roof to prevent 'fishing'
- Secure anything that is on the outside of your vehicle
- Hide electrical items and leave no clues
- "Take it with you" eg coins, sunglasses, medication, phone and documents

You can find more information on crime prevention at: [surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention](https://www.surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention).



## Report crime without fear

Fearless is a site where you can access non-judgemental information about crime and criminality. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, it's a safe place to report crime anonymously.

The site also features an A-Z of crime and explains criminal behaviour such as 'county lines', where criminal gangs set up a drug dealing operation in a place outside their usual operating area.

It's important to remember that Fearless is not a replacement for the emergency services so if something is happening that needs immediate action, ring 999.

You can find out more at [fearless.org](https://www.fearless.org).

## What to do if you experience hate crime

Hate crime is any crime that targets a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's disability; race or ethnicity; religion or belief; sexual orientation; or transgender identity.

You have the right to live your life free from abuse and violence. If you are affected by hate crime, the most important thing to do is to tell someone. Surrey Police take reports of hate crimes very seriously and are committed to reducing the harm that hate crime causes victims.

If you would prefer not to speak to the police, there are other agencies or organisations you can turn to:

- [Stop Hate UK - 0800 138 1625](https://www.stop-hate-uk.org)
- [Citizens Advice - 0300 330 1179](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)
- [True Vision - report-it.org.uk/your\\_police\\_force](https://www.true-vision.org.uk)
- [Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

## Safer independence wherever you go

Our community alarm and telecare service offers a wide range of technology solutions to help you maintain your independence inside and outside of the home.

The service, which already supports 1,700 residents across the borough, now includes mobile devices. Find out more below about these devices which are available to rent from us.

### ElmAssist - launching in spring/summer 2019

This year, we have been trialling the new ElmAssist mobile phone with residents across Elmbridge. The ElmAssist is a compact, easy to use phone that allows you to get help in an emergency, wherever you are.

Unlike the classic community alarm, which is tailored for home use, the ElmAssist can be used anywhere and doesn't need to be linked to a landline. The phone connects directly to our local monitoring centre, which is available 24/7. Your ElmAssist mobile number can then be given out to people who care about you. Perfect for friends, family and carers, they can call you day or night to make sure you are ok.



Features of ElmAssist include:

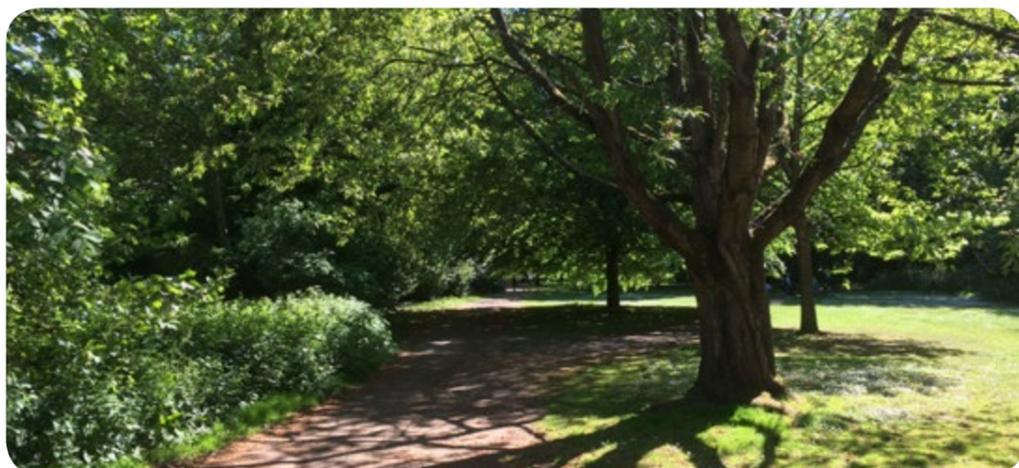
- an emergency assistance button for immediate two-way calling
- bigger buttons to make answering and ending calls easier
- a battery life of up to five days; and the phone is fully charged within 1-2 hours
- ElmAssist will be available to rent at £21pm.

## Reductions in anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is down in Elmbridge, with over 150 fewer incidents reported in the last 12 months.

Following the introduction of the Walton-on-Thames Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), Walton Central has seen some of the biggest reductions in anti-social behaviour, with a twenty per cent drop in recorded incidents. Within this figure, reports of 'rowdy, inconsiderate behaviour' have decreased significantly; this type of behaviour is restricted under the PSPO.

The Walton-on-Thames PSPO is in place until February 2021. You can find out more on our website: [elmbridge.gov.uk/safety](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/safety).



### Pathfinder GPS wristwatch

Since its official launch a year ago, the Pathfinder GPS wristwatch has supported almost 50 people across Surrey and London. Pathfinder is ideal if you have a health condition or disability but is also suitable if you simply want peace of mind while you are out and about.

Pathfinder offers freedom of movement with accurate GPS tracking in the event of an emergency.

Features of Pathfinder include:

- 24-hour monitoring, 365 days a year
- two-way calling
- safe-zone technology - sends an alert every time the wearer leaves/enters a set area
- the choice of three fashionable and discreet designs
- Pathfinder is available to rent at £25pm.

To find out more about community alarm, telecare and technology solutions please call the team on: **01372 474560** or see our website: [elmbridge.gov.uk/communityalarm](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/communityalarm).

## Talk in confidence about domestic abuse

Did you know that you can access confidential help, support and advice if you, or someone you know, is experiencing domestic abuse?

To get help, contact Surrey Police on 101 (999 in an emergency) or North Surrey Domestic Abuse Service (NSDAS), your local outreach service.

NSDAS offers independent, confidential support and information, as well as access to specialist services to anyone who has been affected by domestic abuse - whether they are still in the relationship or not.

They can advise on legal rights, housing options, finances, counselling services and children's needs.

Contact NSDAS on **01932 260 690** or phone the YourSanctuary 24 hour helpline on **01483 776822** (open 9am to 9pm, seven days a week).

For further information please visit: [nsdas.org.uk](http://nsdas.org.uk).

# Supporting our businesses

## A bright future for Walton-on-Thames

For the last two years, the Walton-on-Thames Trading Alliance (WoTTA), together with the council, has been working hard to kickstart the renewal of the town. By tackling important issues raised by local businesses, this work is helping to support a brighter future for Walton-on-Thames.

The work has included reinvigorating the town's event programme, the introduction of free Saturday parking to attract new shoppers and streetscape improvements. The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), developed in partnership with the Police, has also helped to tackle safety concerns in the town centre. You can read more about the success of the PSPO on page 5.

WoTTA has now been granted funding from the council to understand the potential for a Business Improvement District (BID) in Walton. BIDs bring businesses together to decide what improvements they want to make in their town centre, how they will manage these and what it will cost them. This all goes into a business plan which is voted on by businesses in the BID area and if accepted will help deliver additional projects to help support further positive change in the town centre.

Kingston was the first town centre in Britain to create a BID in 2005. Since then, over 300 BIDs have been created across the country including Guildford, Dorking, Epsom, Oxted and Camberley.



The Walton partnership will now undertake the development and campaign phases to further engage businesses locally and develop a business plan that businesses will be balloted on in early 2020.

If a BID is agreed, the additional investment in the town centre will help make a real difference, attracting more shoppers and visitors and, in the longer term, businesses wanting to invest in the town centre.

Updates on the progress of the BID will be posted on our website: [elmbridge.gov.uk/support-for-businesses](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/support-for-businesses).

## Travel options to improve in Weybridge

Thanks to the Brooklands Business Park Accessibility Project, travel options in Weybridge are about to get more inclusive, with less need for people to rely on travelling by car. The scheme will improve accessibility between the Brooklands Business Park, Weybridge railway station and Weybridge town centre.

The scheme, which has attracted over £2m in external funding, is being developed in partnership with Surrey County Council with the aim of improving travel choice and sustainable transport accessibility.

The planned improvements include a new cycle path/walking route from the business park to the station and into the town centre, improvements to pedestrian safety around Weybridge station, new cycle infrastructure, signage to help those travelling on foot or by bike and improved bus facilities.

## Who is your local retailer of the year?

Join us again this July as we celebrate our local independent retailers through the annual retailer of the year awards. You can vote for your favourite local independent business from 1 July.

During the month, we'll also be encouraging you to shop local and support your local businesses. Stay tuned to [@ElmbridgeBC](https://twitter.com/ElmbridgeBC) on Twitter for the latest on how to vote.



## High street enhancements

Look out for improvements to Weybridge High Street this year. We have been working closely with the Weybridge Town Business Group to develop proposals to improve the streetscape at the entrance to the High Street. The plan is to create a flexible, shared space that can be used for events while keeping the on-street parking.

The project, which has been successful in attracting local Community Infrastructure Funding, will help to support the business group as we work together to attract new visitors to the town.



# Serving the community

## Could you let a home to a refugee family?

We are working together with Elmbridge CAN to find a small number of private landlords with properties to let.

As part of the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS), run by the UK Government, we have already helped five families who have fled the war in Syria and we're committed to taking up to 10 more before the scheme ends in 2020.

We're urgently looking for properties in the private rented sector that would not otherwise be let to a local family in housing need in Elmbridge. We do this so that existing housing and homelessness pressures for local people already here are not affected.

If you own a property that you could let to a Syrian family, we'd love to hear from you. Your property will need to be:

- a self-contained dwelling
- available for at least 12 months
- available before 31 March 2020
- ideally near transport links, or within walking distance of main services or shops
- located within Elmbridge



We can pay up to 56 days void property costs, while you wait for the family to move into the property. We also offer a rent guarantee to the landlord where we pay an agreed rent level directly to the landlord, ensuring that it is paid on time each month. We will be providing lots of support to the families through a caseworker, so landlords don't need to provide any additional support (unless they want to).

If you think you might have a suitable property, please get in touch by emailing [housingpolicy@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:housingpolicy@elmbridge.gov.uk) or phoning **01372 474216**.

You can find more information about the scheme and how you can help refugees in other ways on our website at: [elmbridge.gov.uk/makeadifference](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/makeadifference).

## No need to pay to spend a penny

Toilets are free to use where you see this sign



See the full list of participating businesses at [elmbridge.gov.uk/cts](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/cts)



## Care and repair Elmbridge handyperson service

**Affordable and reliable service for small repairs around the house. Available to homeowners and private tenants who are either:**

- Aged 70+
- Have a disability or are vulnerable

Contact us to find out more

01372 474 645  
[careandrepair@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:careandrepair@elmbridge.gov.uk)  
[elmbridge.gov.uk/handyperson](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/handyperson)



# Local events

## Free taster sessions

This summer, local sports clubs are supporting the national Sport England #ThisGirlCan campaign and inviting women 18+ to join in free taster sessions or discounted courses. Visit [elmbridge.gov.uk/thisgirlcan](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/thisgirlcan) to see all the activities on offer. Email [sport@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:sport@elmbridge.gov.uk) for more information.

## Summer Shout! holiday activities for 5 to 13-year-olds

**Dates:** Monday 29 July - Friday 30 August

**Times:** 8.30am - 5.30pm

**Locations:** Bell Farm School, Hersham KT12 5NB and Xcel Leisure Complex, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2JG

**Cost:** from £27.15 a day with a more card, £32.60 without.

Concessions available

Information and booking at [elmbridge.gov.uk/shout](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/shout)

## Free beautiful bugs\*

**Date:** Tuesday 30 July

**Time:** drop in from 2pm to 3.30pm

**Location:** Old Common, Common Lane, Cobham.

Nearest postcode KT11 1BX.

## Free pond dip and den building\*

**Date:** Monday 5 August

**Pond dip:** drop in from 10am to 11.30am at Chequers Pond, West End Lane, Esher. Nearest postcode KT10 8LF.

**Den building:** Meet at 2pm in Copsem Lane car park, Esher. Nearest postcode KT10 9HH.

## Hersham teddy bears picnic

A free day out for all the family.\*

**Date:** Wednesday 31 July

**Time:** 11am - 2pm

**Location:** Vauxmead Field, Faulkners Road, Hersham, KT12 5JB

## Free play day - family fun\*

**Date:** Wednesday 7 August 2019

**Time:** 11pm - 3pm

**Location:** Hurst Park. Parking at Sadlers Ride, East Molesey - nearest postcode KT8 1SU

## Elmbridge moving art - free exhibition

**Date:** Wednesday 7 August – Sunday 1 September.

10am - 4pm

**Location:** Riverhouse Arts Centre, KT12 2PF

## Free Shout! Out play sessions

**10am-2pm**, for children up to 13 years.\*

**Monday 12 and 19 August** – Cobham Recreation Ground, Cobham KT11 2LN

**Tuesday 13 and 20 August** – Molesey Hurst Recreation Ground, East Molesey KT8 1PD

**Wednesday 14 and 21 August** – Lower Green Recreation Ground, Esher KT10 8LB

Information at [elmbridge.gov.uk/shout](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/shout)

## Saturday Night Project at Xcel

Fun, safe and active things to do for children aged 11-15.

**Dates and times:** Every Saturday night from 7pm to 9pm.

**Location:** Xcel Leisure Complex, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2JG

**Cost:** £3.25 member/£3.90 non-member

## Otago exercise sessions

Strengthen leg muscles and improve balance to prevent falls.

**Day and time:** Every Wednesday 2.10pm to 2.55pm

**Location:** St Paul's Church Hall, East Molesey, KT8 9DR

**Cost:** £5 per session.

Tel: [01372 474574](tel:01372474574)

## Paracise exercise sessions

Gentle on joints, designed to improve posture and balance.

**Day and time:** Every Wednesday 3.10pm to 3.55pm

**Location:** St Paul's Church Hall, East Molesey, KT8 9DR

Cost: £5 per session.

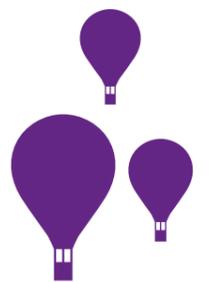
Tel: [01372 474574](tel:01372474574)

\* Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Want cleaner air for a healthier Elmbridge?

### Love Elmbridge by helping to improve air quality

- Turn off your engine at red lights or in heavy traffic to reduce your emissions
- Leave your car at home and check out cycle, bus and walking routes in the borough
- Keep your car well-tuned and your tyres inflated properly to reduce emissions.
- Don't idle in your car especially outside schools



Sign-up for free alerts on air pollution at [airalert.info](http://airalert.info) or find out more at [elmbridge.gov.uk/pollution](http://elmbridge.gov.uk/pollution)

