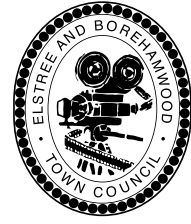


Issue 3

Spring 2025

# WD6 NEWS



The online magazine for Elstree & Borehamwood residents



## Reel Studio 70 Cinema: Film & TV Heritage launch

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## Made at Elstree special

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Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council



### for an Event Steward

I am looking for people with good communication skills and the ability to work as stewards for Town Council events. This is a paid occasional position and the tasks will be wide and variable. You should be able to follow requests and instructions from myself. Please contact me by email [richard@hbwa.org.uk](mailto:richard@hbwa.org.uk) if you are interested or want more information.

Richard Jarvis (Town Council Head Steward)

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# Teddy's Trails

Eighteen country walks around Borehamwood and Elstree

Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council's much-acclaimed network of country walks has now been published as a book. With 266 pages, fully illustrated, and spiral bound for easy use, it is a must-have guide for everyone who loves our locality and is interested in its past.

Available from Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council for only £10 a copy (including free postage and packaging) at [www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](http://www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk) or by phone on 0208 207 1382.

Also available at Fairway Hall and Elstree & Borehamwood Museum.





# Town Council relaunches saved Reel Cinema with “Spectacular” film and television exhibition

## Actress Michelle Collins opens Elstree & Borehamwood’s rebranded “Reel Studio 70” cinema

A year after it was threatened with closure before Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council and Hertsmere Borough Council stepped in to save it, Borehamwood’s independent local cinema has been officially relaunched with a spectacular exhibition to celebrate both its film and television heritage and its current thriving industry.

EastEnders star Michelle Collins (Cindy Beale) was invited to cut the ribbon for the refurbished cinema and exhibition launch with Town Mayor Alpha Collins, as a life-size Stormtrooper from Star Wars looked on. Invited guests from Elstree’s film sector, local residents and dignitaries packed out the exhibition hall for the opening.

The exhibition is free to enter and open to the public during cinema opening times, seven days a week. It includes a striking set of information panels at the cinema entrance which recount the 110-year history of film and television at Elstree.

In the main hall a display case boasts memorabilia loaned by former film and TV industry workers and their families. These include much-loved historic artefacts dating back decades such as the actual MGM lettering from its studios’ tower (from the 1960s), a crew’s jacket worn by Scooter on The Muppets Show (1976), photos of King Charles’ visit to Elstree Studios to open its sound stages (1999) and the model of Tower Bridge used in Paddington in Peru (2024).

Meanwhile a gallery of framed photos and film posters adorns the adjacent wall with the original George Lucas Stage plaque at Elstree Studios from the year 2000.

Finally, an isolation booth to the rear of the hall offers an immersive experience with a screen showing a series of short documentaries and video interviews with film cast, crew and directors who had filmed at Elstree such as Steven Spielberg and Stanley Kubrick. Visitors can select and watch these via interactive software which was produced by The Elstree Project under the auspices of Howard Berry, Principal Lecturer in the Film Department at University of Hertfordshire, whose students also helped with this initiative.

Relaunched as “Reel Studio 70 Borehamwood,” the name evokes nostalgia for the town’s historic Studio 70 cinema that was demolished in 1981 to make way for office blocks.

As part of the deal to save the independently-run cinema, aside from housing the free public exhibition, a screen and cinema theatre will be made available periodically for community use.

Councillor Dan Ozarow, Curator of the Exhibition and Deputy Mayor of Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council said: “This is an incredibly proud day for our town and this initiative has been truly community-led. Former and current film industry workers and their families, local councillors, students, TV stars and residents have all come together not only to keep Hollywood in Borehamwood, but now to encapsulate both the historic heritage and current vibrancy of our film and television sector in this spectacular exhibition.”

Councillor Jeremy Newmark, Leader of Hertsmere Borough Council said: “I’m so pleased that our councils have delivered for local people, saved valuable jobs and underscored our deep seated and long term commitment to the film industry in our area.”

Saving the cinema and establishing the film and television exhibition is the first stage of the Town Council’s ambitious Culture and Creativity Strategy. This aims to revitalise the cultural fabric of Elstree & Borehamwood and revitalise our public space.

*Cllr Dan Ozarow and Dan Salter*





# Paul Welsh

Paul Welsh MBE (18 July 1953 - 4 September 2024) was a distinguished British film historian and a fervent advocate for the preservation of the UK's cinematic heritage. His enduring commitment to the film industry, particularly in relation to Elstree Studios, left an indelible mark on the preservation and celebration of British cinema.

Paul's passion for film history was evident through his extensive work in

documenting and promoting the legacy of Elstree Studios. He authored "Elstree Confidential," a comprehensive volume that chronicles his 50 years of encounters with stars and visits to film sets in Borehamwood's studios. This work stands as a testament to his deep connection with the film community and his dedication to preserving its history.

Beyond his literary contributions, Paul played a pivotal role in the establishment and success of the Elstree and Borehamwood Museum. As one of its founders and most steadfast supporters, he was instrumental in curating exhibitions and events that highlighted the rich film heritage of the area. His efforts ensured that the legacy of Elstree Studios and its contributions to British cinema were recognized and celebrated by both locals and visitors.

In recognition of his significant contributions to film preservation

and history, Welsh was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). His passing on 4 September 2024 was met with profound sadness within the film community. Elstree Studios paid tribute to him, acknowledging his unwavering advocacy and the lasting impact of his work.

Paul Welsh's legacy continues to inspire film historians and enthusiasts. His life's work not only preserved the history of British cinema but also ensured that future generations could appreciate and learn from the rich tapestry of stories and achievements that define the UK's film industry.



D Salter

# Cookster: The Darkest Days

Cookster: The Darkest Days is the highly anticipated British crime drama based on the true-life story of crime author Jason Cook. The film stars Craige Middleburg (Gassed Up), Nick Moran (Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels), Tracy Shaw (Coronation Street) and Indonesian actress and model Elvira Devinamira (Suami Yang Lain).

The film follows Jason's life story from 1981 to 1993 and deals with themes such as bullying, dyslexia, peer pressure and drug addiction. The film features a plethora of stellar performances, especially from British acting veterans Nick Moran and Tracy Shaw, who give a real sense of gravitas to the scenes that they are in. Craige Middleburg and Samuel Staite (Dig Me No Grave) both shine on screen as two very different Jasons from two different eras of his life, both eventually colliding head-on to the same destructive point of substance abuse.

Nick Moran said, "When Jason asked me to play his dad in a film so very personal to him, it was an honour and an obligation to help him bring his truth to his very genuine film." Tracy Shaw said, "It was great to be a part of telling Jason's life story on screen. Playing Jason's mother was an honour with the responsibility of finding true emotions to share with the audience.

This stylish, gritty and unique British gangster film is directed by Stephen Roach (The Crucifix) and was produced by prolific filmmaker Djonny Chen of Silent D Pictures in co-production with Jason Cook. The film features music by DJ Luck & MC Neat, The Midnight and Louise Browne. The film was shot on location in and around Borehamwood utilising the help of local people and businesses



Ajay Nehra of AJAMAX



# Sky Elstree Studios

Sky Studios Elstree in Borehamwood is fast becoming a premier production hub in the UK, hosting major projects such as *Paddington in Peru* and *Wicked*. These highly anticipated films demonstrate the studio's cutting-edge capabilities and its growing influence in the global entertainment industry. Opened in 2023, Sky Studios Elstree offers state-of-the-art facilities and advanced technology, making it an ideal location for large-scale productions.

## Paddington in Peru

*Paddington in Peru* marks the return of the beloved bear in the third instalment of the *Paddington* series. Directed by Dougal Wilson, the film sees Paddington embark on an adventure back to his homeland in Peru, accompanied by the Brown family. This shift from the London setting of the previous films allows for a deeper exploration of Paddington's origins and his relationship with Aunt Lucy.

Sky Studios Elstree is played a vital role in bringing this new chapter to life. The expansive sound stages and cutting-edge visual effects capabilities allowed for the creation of the film's lush jungle settings, as well as iconic Peruvian landmarks like Machu Picchu. The combination of physical sets and advanced CGI ensured that *Paddington's* return to Peru was visually stunning while maintaining the series' signature heartwarming charm.

The film delivered the humour, adventure, and emotional depth that fans have come to love, with themes of family and kindness remaining central to the story. Sky Studios Elstree's resources provided the perfect backdrop for *Paddington's* new journey, ensuring that *Paddington in Peru* will be a memorable and visually rich addition to the franchise.



## Wicked

Another major production at Sky Studios Elstree was *Wicked*, the film adaptation of the acclaimed Broadway musical. Directed by Jon M. Chu, *Wicked* tells the untold story of the witches of Oz, focusing on the complex relationship between Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, and Glinda, the Good Witch.

Sky Studios Elstree's 13 sound stages provided the space needed to recreate the magical world of Oz, complete with elaborate sets and visually stunning effects. The studio's advanced technology was essential for capturing the film's large-scale musical numbers, including the iconic "Defying Gravity" sequence.

With a star-studded cast led by Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, *Wicked* was an immersive and visually spectacular adaptation. The decision to split the film into two parts allows for a more detailed exploration of the characters and their emotional journeys. The second part coming on November, 2025.



## Sky Studios Elstree: A rising force in filmmaking

The production of *Paddington in Peru* and *Wicked* at Sky Studios Elstree highlights the studio's growing role in the entertainment industry. Its advanced facilities and commitment to sustainability make it a desirable location for major international productions. As these films come to life at Sky Studios Elstree, Borehamwood's status as a key player in global filmmaking continues to grow.

*D Salter*

# 40th Anniversaries of Return to Oz and Young Sherlock Holmes



## Return to Oz: A darker journey back to the emerald city



Released in 1985, *Return to Oz* is a follow-up to the beloved 1939 classic *The Wizard of Oz*. Directed by Walter Murch, the film departs from the cheerful tone of its predecessor, diving into a much darker and eerie portrayal of L. Frank Baum's Oz stories, primarily drawing inspiration from *The Marvelous Land of Oz* and *Ozma of Oz*. The film stars Fairuza Balk as a young Dorothy Gale, whose return to Oz reveals a land far removed from the colorful utopia she once knew.

The story begins with Dorothy being treated for her dreams of Oz, only to find herself transported back to a decayed and broken version of the magical land. The Yellow Brick Road is in ruins, the Emerald City lies in disarray, and her old friends are missing. A menacing new villain, the Nome King, has taken control, aided by the sinister Princess Mombi, who collects severed heads for her personal use. Alongside new allies like Tik-Tok, Jack Pumpkinhead, and a flying moose-like creature called the Gump, Dorothy embarks on a perilous journey to restore Oz and save her friends.

*Return to Oz* was a commercial failure upon release, with critics and audiences finding its dark themes and unsettling imagery too jarring for children. However, the film has since gained a cult following, appreciated for its unique take on the Oz mythos, impressive practical effects, and hauntingly beautiful visuals.

Though not a feel-good family film, *Return to Oz* stands as a bold and imaginative exploration of Baum's universe. It delves into themes of courage and resilience, offering a grittier, yet ultimately hopeful, vision of Oz that continues to captivate viewers seeking a deeper and darker fairy tale.

## Young Sherlock Holmes: A whimsical origin story

*Young Sherlock Holmes*, released in 1985 and directed by Barry Levinson, offers an inventive glimpse into the imagined teenage years of the legendary detective. Written by Chris Columbus, the film combines mystery, adventure, and fantasy, presenting a speculative origin story of how Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson first met.

Set in Victorian England, the story begins when John Watson, a new student at Brompton Academy, befriends a precocious and observant young Sherlock Holmes. Their friendship quickly deepens as the pair stumble upon a sinister conspiracy involving a string of mysterious deaths. Each victim appears to have been driven to madness and suicide by terrifying hallucinations induced by a secret toxin. Holmes, ever the inquisitive mind, takes on the case with his characteristic wit, determination, and burgeoning deductive skills.

The film introduces Elizabeth Hardy, Holmes's first love, whose tragic fate profoundly shapes his later stoic demeanor. It also provides a fictional explanation for many of Sherlock's iconic traits, from his mastery of deduction to his aversion to emotional attachment.

*Young Sherlock Holmes* is notable for its groundbreaking special effects, including one of the first-ever uses of fully computer-generated imagery (CGI) to create a living stained-glass knight. Though not a box office success upon release, the film was praised for its inventive storytelling, charming performances, and rich period detail. Nicholas Rowe as Sherlock Holmes and Alan Cox as Watson deliver compelling performances, capturing the youthful energy of their characters.

While not directly tied to Arthur Conan Doyle's canon, the movie has since gained a cult following for its blend of action, mystery, and heart. It remains a delightful reimagining of Holmes's early years, appealing to fans of both the detective genre and coming-of-age adventures.





## The Dam Busters (1955): A cinematic classic celebrates 70 years

The Dam Busters, directed by Michael Anderson and released in 1955, is one of the most iconic British war films. It dramatizes the true story of Operation Chastise, an ambitious World War II mission led by Royal Air Force Squadron 617 to destroy German dams and cripple industrial production in the Ruhr Valley. The film, adapted from Paul Brickhill's book *The Dam Busters* and Guy Gibson's memoir *Enemy Coast Ahead*, highlights innovation, heroism, and sacrifice.

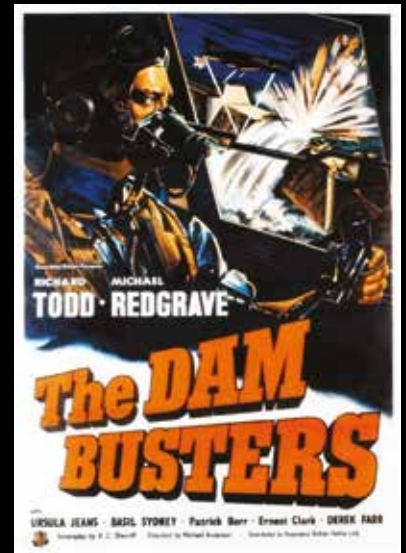
Central to the mission was Barnes Wallis, a British engineer who developed the revolutionary "bouncing bomb." These bombs skipped across the water's surface to breach heavily defended dams. Wallis, played by Michael Redgrave, is portrayed as a dedicated and brilliant mind who faced skepticism and challenges in developing his invention. Richard Todd delivers a commanding performance as Wing Commander Guy Gibson, the leader of the daring raid.

The film's climax showcases the tense and meticulously executed bombing runs. Remarkable for its time, the special effects relied on scale models and practical techniques to depict the bomb tests and dam breaches, creating an enduring sense of realism. Eric Coates's stirring *Dam Busters March* further cemented the movie's place in cinematic history.

The *Dam Busters* received critical acclaim and remains a hallmark of British cinema. It captures not only the technical ingenuity and bravery

of the operation but also the human cost, with several RAF crew members losing their lives.

Beyond its historical significance, the film influenced subsequent war films and even popular culture, with parallels drawn to George Lucas's *Star Wars*. Decades later, it continues to resonate as a testament to courage and innovation in the face of adversity, immortalising the legacy of those who risked everything for their mission.



2025 will see the release of three major films filmed at Elstree: *Jurassic World: Rebirth*, *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy*, and *Wicked: For Good*.

**Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy** marks the return of Renée Zellweger as Bridget Jones, now navigating life as a widow and single mother. Hugh Grant and Emma Thompson reprise their roles, with Chiwetel Ejiofor and Leo Woodall joining the cast. Directed by Michael Morris, the film is set to premiere on February 14, 2025.

Now available to book at REEL Borehamwood (<https://reelcinemas.co.uk/>). Film times 14:20, 17:10, 19:00 and 20:00.

**Jurassic World: Rebirth**, directed by Gareth Edwards, introduces Scarlett Johansson and Mahershala Ali to the franchise. The film aims to revitalize the series with a fresh narrative and is scheduled for release on July 2, 2025.

**Wicked: For Good** continues the adaptation of the acclaimed musical, exploring the complex relationship between Elphaba and Glinda. The film is slated for release on November 21, 2025.



# BICS Annual Art Competition 2024

The 2nd Annual Art Competition, organised by the Borehamwood Indian Cultural Society (BICS), was a resounding success, building on the achievements of the previous year.

Approximately 110 children, aged 5 - 15, participated in both online and in-person events, mainly from schools in the Hertsmere area. The themes for this year's competition were "Favourite Character or Person," "Favourite Traditions or Celebrations," and "Multicultural Britain."



Participants were divided into three age groups: 6 - 8, 9 - 12, and 13 - 15. A panel of judges, including Ms. Anu Sabherwal Hamilton, Ms. Pratibha Mistry, and Mrs. Uma Koodlingam, praised the creativity and quality of the submissions. Tiebreakers, where needed, were decided with help from additional judge Ms. Parul Maru.

The competition highlighted a range of subjects, from global sports figures to religious festivals, reflecting Britain's multicultural society. Prizes were awarded in both online and in-person categories.

### Online stream winners:

- 6 - 8 Years: Jessica Scutelnicu (Edge Grove School)
- 9 - 12 Years: Sai Khyathi Varma Addala (The Abbey School Reading)
- 13 - 15 Years: Sindhuja Keerthipati (The Latymer School)

### In-person stream winners:

- 6 - 8 Years: Naira Parashar (St. Nicholas Elstree COE)
- 9 - 12 Years: Maggie Redington (Loreto College)
- 13 - 15 Years: Somansh Patro (QE Boys)



The in-person competition was held on 19 October at Allum Manor Hall Elstree, followed by the award ceremony, which was also attended by the winners of the online stream.

The award ceremony was attended by Deputy Mayor of Hertsmere, Cllr Parveen Rani, alongside Cllr Tushar Kumar, Cllr Prabhakar Kaza, and Cllr Aaditya Kaza.

All participants received certificates, a box of Indian sweets, and a magazine. BICS encourages all children in Hertsmere to watch for next year's competition through school newsletters and notice boards.

*Nilesh Thatte*



Photos by Deepak Gupta

## Twin Town bench installed at Meadow Park

To commemorate Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council officially being "twinning" with Offenburg in Germany, Fontenay-Aux-Roses in France and most recently Shoham in Israel, a bench featuring the logos of our four towns has been installed near the bandstand at Meadow Park.

The twinning relationships help promote our town internationally and foster reciprocal cultural, social, sporting and economic ties for the benefit of local people.

It is hoped that the bench will improve the park experience by giving visitors an additional bench to sit, rest and enjoy its surroundings and activities.

*Cllr Dan Ozarow*





## Come and try a FREE Health Walk in Borehamwood

Have you been unwell or not walked for a while? If so, why not join a short, sociable walk on Mondays from St Michael and All Angel's Church? The First Steps Walk is ideal for people who are gradually trying to build up their fitness and for seasoned walkers who may find they can't walk as far as they used to.

Walking is the simplest way to improve your health and wellbeing. The benefits are proven and include:

- Helping your heart and lungs to work better;
- Lowering your blood pressure;
- Keeping your weight down and managing blood sugar levels;
- Boosting your mood;
- Keeping your muscles and bones strong which protects your joints.

Volunteer Elaine, who helps to lead the walks on Mondays with Lawrence (pictured), encourages everyone to give walking a go. She said "For me, it's been much more than just walking to feel fitter. The walking groups are so welcoming. And I have made such great new friends along the way. Walking outdoors together is just the best way for me to start my day."

Getting involved is simply a case of putting on a pair of sensible shoes, appropriate weather proof clothing and dropping by on the day. There is a choice of three regular weekly walks in the Cowley Hill area.

People who want a longer workout may want to pop along to the Wednesday walk from Aberford Community Centre. Walks are supported by two volunteers who ensure the pace is suitable for everyone.

**All walks are FREE, no booking is required. Just turn up 10 mins before the walk or 15 minutes before your first walk to complete a New Walker Form. Register online if you prefer on [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks)**



## New Borehamwood Farmers and Craft Market is a huge hit!

After months of planning, Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council opened our much acclaimed Farmers and Craft Market in May. It has been running on the fourth Sunday of every month from 10am - 2pm ever since.

Based at the car park next to Meadow Park, stallholders include those selling jewellery, home-made cards, customised t-shirts, fresh jam, cheese, olives, toys for pets as well as a café, food stalls, psychics, bakers, butchers, charities and wildlife organisations.

Highlights at recent markets include the addition of a bouncy castle and face-painting to help make the market more child and family orientated as well as visits from Chase from Paw Patrol!

The market has widely praised by visitors and local residents across social media and is bringing a sense of pride to our town.

A special thanks to Rob Craig, our Warden who is steering things, our stewarding team led by Richard Jarvis and market Coordinator Steve Hall who tragically passed away in the autumn but has helped leave a wonderful legacy.

Councillor Richard Butler, who had the idea to establish the market, said: "I am so pleased at how the market is going and we hope to see it grow in size over the coming year with additional market days added."

*Cllr Dan Ozarow*



# Calling all young people 11-18 years for 2025 and beyond!

## Youth Council Achievements 2024

### Overview

The Youth Council has enjoyed numerous and varied achievements from their work programme over last year, benefitting from the vibrant contributions of several new Youth Councillors, who already had experience of attending and supporting groups, like Luci at Herts Youth Network & Friday Night Club, and Aspen at JLGB, and who was also a panelist at 2023 Question Time event. Needless to say, every Youth Councillor deserves a big thank you for every contribution, making a real difference to the town.

It's also important to acknowledge the incredible contributions of regular adult attendee Bob Redman, 'Friend of the Youth Council', whose links with local groups such as Borehamwood and Elstree Community Radio (BECR) have given Youth Councillors an amazing opportunity to promote their activities in the wider community, and Councillor Tushar Kumar, who acts as a vital and important link between themselves and the Town Council.

### Guest speakers at Youth Council meetings

Emma Turner and Charlie Mackey from Herts County Council asked to attend to speak to YCLrs, to get views about how to engage better with young people, and for their input into a Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. Ideas were for example, to hold workshops to promote walking in green spaces, recording and putting on Facebook high street interviews.

Emma returned with Anustia Vettiuelu to feedback progress, and give another opportunity for Youth Councillors to contribute to the Walking, Wheeling, and Cycling Strategy.

John Cartledge also spoke to Youth Councillors about Teddy's Trail, a publication identifying walking routes around Hertsmer (available from EBTC). He suggested ideas they could get involved in.

At their October 2024 meeting, Cllr Dan Ozarow and Emma Petrou attended to discuss their plans for a new youth venue at Smith's Social Club offering a safe space to meet others and for expression, music, performance, games, activities, speakers etc. Youth Councillors are keen to continue to support the development of this valuable community asset.



### Representing the Youth Council at Committee and Partnership meetings

Youth Councillors attend Town Council committee meetings throughout the year, a chance to input their views and influence decision making. The Youth Council was invited to lead on Walk Under a Mile, Cycle Under 2, Scheme (WUAMS) discussed at the Sustainable Transport Sub Committee, which Amelie and Patience helped lead. Amelie was interviewed for two podcasts about the scheme with Bob for BECR.

Amelie also represented the young people of Hertsmer at a public event discussing active and sustainable transport solutions in Hertsmer, engaging with the community and sitting alongside other panelists including Transport Planning Managers, the police, a university lecturer and councillors. The Hertsmer Big Green Transport Talk was a well-attended event held in Elstree Studio's and the Youth Council had an opportunity to highlight aspects relevant to young people and our future requirements for transport in the area.

Considerable input was also made in other committees – the Youth Council's bee box initiative, and maintenance of rose planters outside the REEL Cinema are some ways Youth Councillors contribute to the work of the Environment and Planning Committee.

Youth Councillors also help grow town twinning contacts through the International Affairs Committee, subassist Council events through the Entertainment Committees, and raise concerns regarding the train station and public transport around Elstree and Borehamwood at the Transport & Community Safety Forum. The Youth Council also holds a seat on Sky Studio's Community Board.

### Events and initiatives

Youth Councillors have continued to participate in council run events throughout the year, and develop their own initiatives. As well as their bee box initiative, YCLrs took on the maintenance of the planters in Centenary Place originally planted up by them in 2014, and they are now joining Rotary litter picks in the town. They have also been invited by the Borough Council to input into the re-wilding of the copse in Elstree. YCLr representatives always take part in the





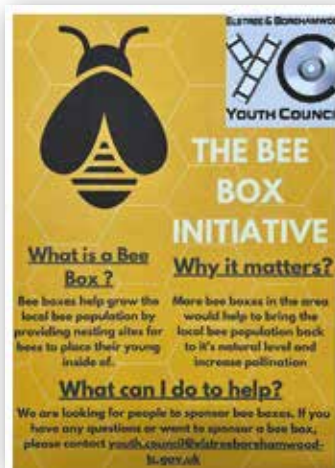


moving Remembrance Sunday parade, and lay wreaths at the war memorials in Elstree, and Shenley Road.

In November last year, the Youth Council ran a 'Youth Question Time' event at the Civic Offices, which involved a panel comprised of local politicians and representatives from local groups, who answered questions from young people in the audience. The event was a resounding success, and saw passionate debate over topics such as housing, the economy and the environment – stay tuned on the YC TikTok for clips of the debates!

### Publicity and social media

Youth Councillors create their own promotional posters and leaflets (notably Sam who designed the QT Event, Bee Box Sponsorship Initiative, and Walk Under A Mile Scheme, all impressive and professional looking posters). A PowerPoint presentation was recently created by 2024 chair, Nathan, and vice-chair Sam, and there are plans to do presentations to school assemblies, youth groups and others as part of the recruitment drive. Every Youth Councillor is given a hoodie, baseball cap and t-shirt sporting the Youth Council logo. The opportunity to create podcasts was new last year, with recordings made by Leo (YC), Amelie (WUAMS), Sam (Bee boxes) and Nathan (YC/QT). The Youth Council was able to make use of the new station kiosk, and



Town noticeboards for poster display. Former chair Leo began making popular Tik Tok posts. Youth Councillors continue to produce articles for WD6 News, highlighting what they've been doing throughout the year.

### Looking ahead

This year, a key priority for the Youth Council will be to continue their recruitment drive – and consider more ways to promote itself in the local community to grow its numbers.

Also being considered are the events that Youth Councillors wish to run this year – whether for example, to hold their 4th Question Time, organize a Model United Nations event, or something completely different. Initiatives are

all decided on the basis of what is important to young people living in Hertsmere.

Youth Councillors will enjoy their third annual trip to the Houses of Parliament during the year. Two years ago, they met and spoke with the then Speaker John Bercow.

It's entirely up to YOU to make a difference, if you are aged 11-18 come and JOIN!

**Contact Youth Council secretary, Anne on 020 8207 1382, or email [youth.council@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](mailto:youth.council@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)**



## Why I joined the Elstree & Borehamwood Youth Council

By Mason Jacobs

In 2020, I organized a program called Keep Borehamwood Tidy. It was a small idea with a big goal: to make our community cleaner and more enjoyable for everyone. I'll never forget the moment Councillor Farida Turner attended one of our events. Her encouragement and passion for the community inspired me, and it was then that I realized how much I wanted to make a lasting difference in Borehamwood and Elstree.

Since then, I've worked hard to support local initiatives and contribute to the town. This year, I was thrilled to join the Borehamwood and Elstree Youth Council, where I can take my involvement to the next level. Being part of the Youth Council gives the opportunity to represent young people in our community and work on meaningful projects that can make a real difference.

I'm excited for what's ahead and grateful for the chance to serve our town in this new role.



Mark Mansell - Musical Director

## Borehamwood Brass: A vibrant year under new leadership



Borehamwood Brass has enjoyed a dynamic year in 2024 under the direction of their new musical director, Mark Mansell. Known for his energetic leadership, Mark has revitalised the ensemble, leading to several successful performances particularly during the festive season.

They were, as usual, on parade for Remembrance Day on Sunday 10 November playing at the Edgware War Memorial, and on Sunday 1 December at NSPCC Christmas Fair and Christmas Lights Switch-On in Borehamwood. On Friday 13 December they performed at the Annual Christmas Concert at St. Mark's Church in Barnet.

### Looking ahead to 2025

The band's Civic Festival Concert is already scheduled for Friday 27 June at All Saints Church.

### New players

Borehamwood Brass is a friendly, encouraging and social band who are currently welcoming new players. They rehearse in Borehamwood, playing at events locally and beyond. If you play a brass band instrument and would like to take part, please get in touch using the details below. The band is looking for euphonium, baritone and cornet players but all are welcome. There are some instruments available to borrow if required.

**For further information, please contact the band secretary Andrew Grady on 07802 736628 or email [borehamwoodbrass@hotmail.com](mailto:borehamwoodbrass@hotmail.com)**



## The Studio Rotary Club of Elstree and Borehamwood A year of community impact and fellowship

In July, the Rotary Club of the Studios of Elstree and Borehamwood sponsored cinema trips for Year 5 and Year 6 students from local primary schools, in partnership with Kids Out charity. President Andrew Grady and members welcomed students with snacks, receiving heartfelt thanks from Saffron Green Primary School.

At the club's Presidential Handover Dinner, District Governor Suraiya Kassamally presented awards for community service, including a Paul Harris Fellowship to Cllr. Sandra Parnell for her long-standing support. Outgoing President Grady highlighted the year's achievements, presenting a £3,000 donation to The Alzheimer's Society. New President Sam Covill then took over.

The club organized several Sunday afternoon concerts at Meadow Park, featuring bands like The Watford Band and Welwyn Garden City Band. These events were attended by Hertsmere Mayor Richard Butler, Cllr. Parnell, and their families.

In August, the club participated in Families Day, hosting a popular "Lucky Dip" booth, and later bid farewell to Naomi Kawamoto, a sponsored student from Japan. President Covill also presented a citation from the International Rotary President, recognizing the club's achievements under Andrew Grady.

On 29 September, the club raised over £300 for SMA UK through an Autumn Concert featuring the Elstree Mozart Players. In October, volunteers, including local scouts, supported a successful litter-picking event for the Keep Britain Tidy campaign.





## Elstree & Borehamwood is Stronger Together on Mitzvah Day 2024

On 24 November 2024 hundreds of residents in Elstree and Borehamwood took part in Mitzvah Day - the UK's largest faith-led day of social action in which they volunteered their time to make their community a better place.

### Activities included:

The children at The Liberal Synagogue Elstree Hub spent the morning baking and decorating gingerbread biscuits and making pizza swirls for Borehamwood Foodbank – along with bringing in items to donate.



Borehamwood and Elstree United Synagogue opened their doors for a blood donor session run by The Joely Bear Appeal. It was attended by 200



Photo by Keith Gold

people, some who donated to save lives for the first time.

At Ohr Yisroel Synagogue in Borehamwood, children and parents made bookmarks for children entering the foster care system for Borehamwood-based Comfort Cases UK.

Deputy Mayor Dan Ozarow, who visited various projects during the day said: "Mitzvah Day is a powerful force for good. It inspires people to volunteer, to help their neighbours, and to strengthen our community. After a year of unparalleled conflict abroad and division at home, Mitzvah Day 2024 offered us a time to heal, connect with each other, and focus on what matters in and between our communities: building a better society for all."

Across the UK that day, 35,000 people of all faiths and none, participated in events under the slogan "Stronger Together."

## There's plenty to do at the de Havilland Aircraft Museum

Founded in 1959, Britain's first aircraft museum is practically on your doorstep, just a mile south of Junction 22 of the M25.

It's open six days a week, Tuesday to Sunday, from 10:30am onwards and the parking is free. The museum is based in the grounds of Salisbury Hall, which was a secret develop centre for the de Havilland Mosquito and Horsa glider.

Photographers are welcome and enthusiasts can get up close to the 22 aircraft on show, including our three iconic Mosquitoes, the Comet Jet liner and the recently restored Dragon Rapide. The Amy Johnson hangar now houses our new Cold War exhibition. There are several formerly secret film clips that run continuously and illustrated short talks are offered on most days. Small group tours, led by one of our expert guides are available on Wednesdays for a modest supplementary



charge. Cockpit experiences can be booked to mark a special celebration.

For younger visitors, there is a museum trail and an outdoor play area. Quizzes, craft activities and games are provided during the school holidays.

On summer weekends, the museum hosts classic vehicle rallies and other 'legacy' activities. It's an ideal venue for parties, receptions and conferences using the mezzanine floor, which overlooks the exhibits in the Geoffrey de Havilland hangar.

Our shop has a wide range of model kits, branded clothing and new and second-hand books on aviation. The recently expanded Comet Café offers hot and cold snacks and drinks, with an outdoor picnic area for those who prefer to self-cater.

It's not surprising that we frequently host visits by clubs and societies and have a dedicated schools liaison officer. All areas can be accessed by wheelchairs.

**For more details, google 'de Havilland Aircraft Museum' and find out for yourself that we are 'much more than a museum'.**

# Wave of Light vigil marks Borehamwood Baby Loss Awareness Week

On Tuesday 15 October 2024 families of baby and infant loss in Elstree and Borehamwood came together for the annual Wave of Light vigil to mark the culmination of Baby Loss Awareness Week.

Gathering around the Evergreen Tree on Shenley Road, parents, siblings and friends were joined by local councillors and faith leaders to light candles to remember their angel babies who had passed too soon. Town Mayor Alpha Collins and Hertsmere Borough Council Mayor Richard Butler delivered moving speeches and words of reassurance.

The tree had been decorated in Blue, Pink and White ribbons for the preceding week during which time local families wrote messages, also hung from the tree, to remember their lost ones.



Local Baby Loss Awareness coordinator Tina Nandha who organised the vigil said: "Losing a baby is a heart-crushing experience and to this day, it is still such a taboo subject. Raising awareness through this remembrance event during Baby Loss Awareness Week starts conversations and it is these conversations that will break that silence.

A community of loss parents is forming in Borehamwood and together we will break the silence and pave a better future for the next generations."

Last year a permanent Angel Tree and memorial plaque were inaugurated at Kenilworth Park (Manor Way end) that loss families may visit. It provides a place of comfort, solace and reflection in a peaceful setting and has been warmly received.



**If you would like more information on this please contact [babyloss@wrapitbytina.co.uk](mailto:babyloss@wrapitbytina.co.uk)**

*Clr Dan Ozarow*

## Film & TV Heritage Exhibition

The Reel 'Studio 70' Cinema  
84 Shenley Road  
Borehamwood, WD6 1EH

**FREE ENTRY**

**REEL CINEMA**  
THE REEL HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

## FAIRWAY HALL

Fairway Hall is the ideal venue for

- Childrens and Teenage Parties
- Wedding Receptions
- Social Evenings
- Funerals and Wakes
- Religious Groups
- Keep Fit Classes
- Yoga
- Film Screenings
- Theatre Shows
- Bar Mitzvahs
- Bat Mitzvahs
- Indian Weddings
- Concerts
- and many more activities.

Fairway Hall, Brook Close  
Borehamwood, Herts, WD6 5BT  
Tel: 020 8207 1382  
Email: [hall.bookings@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](mailto:hall.bookings@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)

[www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](http://www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)



## “Who do I talk to about.....?”

With three tiers of local government in Hertfordshire, it can be confusing knowing which authority to contact about a particular service or issue.

Here is a brief list of key functions covered by each council to help untangle the web and to show who does what in your area.

### Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council is responsible for:

- The office of the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayoral engagements
- The management of the three allotment sites at Melrose Avenue, Allum Lane and Stapleton Gardens
- Support of the town twinning with Fontenay-aux-Roses, Offenburg and Shoham
- A programme of entertainment and events throughout the year such as the two week Summer Festival (including the Civic Parade and Families Day), Guy Fawkes night fireworks, Christmas lights switch-on and musical concerts (including the BBC Band and local bands)
- Coach outings for residents over 60 years of age
- The award of grants to local groups and charities and honorary titles to local champions
- The free online magazine “WD6 News”
- Street seating, some notice boards and church clocks
- Upkeep of closed churchyards (All Saints on Shenley Road and St Nicholas in Elstree)
- Upkeep of Elstree and Borehamwood war memorials

- Support for school swimming transport
  - Youth Council
  - Transport and Community Safety Forum
- Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council is the council closest to the residents in the parish. The Town Council is here to be a voice for the residents by representing their views on issues affecting them.

Call: 020 8207 1382 or visit [www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](http://www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)

### Hertsmere Borough Council is responsible for:

- The collection of council tax and business rates
- Kerbside waste and recycling collections, including fly tipping
- Benefits
- Community safety
- Elections
- Street cleaning
- Housing needs
- Local planning and building regulations
- Public car parks and controlled parking zones
- Licensing and environmental health
- Cemeteries

- Leisure services (operated by InspireAll) including The Venue and all parks

Hertsmere Borough Council deals with issues covering the whole of Hertsmere and has a very regulatory remit.

Call: 020 8207 2277 or visit [www.hertsmere.gov.uk](http://www.hertsmere.gov.uk)

### Hertfordshire County Council is responsible for:

- Highways
- Education and libraries
- Social services
- Trading standards
- Public transport
- Bus passes and disabled parking permits
- Registrar of births, deaths and marriages
- Street lighting, pavements and cycle ways
- Adoption and fostering
- Fire and rescue services
- Recycling centres
- Footpaths and rights of way

Hertfordshire County Council is the top tier of local government and provides services on a county-wide basis

Call: 0300 123 4040 or visit [www.hertsdirect.org](http://www.hertsdirect.org)

## Useful information

### Barnet General Hospital

Wellhouse Lane, Barnet EN5 3DJ  
020 3758 2000

### Borehamwood Library

96 Shenley Rd, Borehamwood WD6 1EB  
0300 123 4049

### Borehamwood Police Station

Civic Offices, Elstree Way,  
Borehamwood WD6 1WA, 01707 354000

### Citizens Advice

2 Allum Ln, Elstree, WD6 3PJ  
0344 411 1444

### Cowley Hill Primary School

Winstre Rd, Borehamwood WD6 5DP  
020 8953 2218

### Elstree and Borehamwood Museum

96 Shenley Rd, Borehamwood WD6 1EB  
01442 454 888

### Elstree & Borehamwood railway station

Station Road, Borehamwood WD6 3LS  
03450264700

### Elstree Screen Arts Academy

Studio Way, Borehamwood WD6 5NN  
020 8386 6220

### Fairbrook Medical Centre

4 Fairway Ave, Borehamwood WD6 1PR  
020 8953 7666

### Hertswood Academy

Cowley Hill, Borehamwood WD6 5LG  
020 8238 7200

### Kenilworth Primary School

Kenilworth Dr, Borehamwood WD6 1QL  
020 8953 3459

### Meryfield Community Primary School

Theobald St, Borehamwood WD6 4PA  
020 8953 2106

### Monksmead Primary School

Hillside Ave, Borehamwood WD6 1HL  
020 8953 3328

### Parkside Community Primary School

Aycliffe Rd, Borehamwood WD6 4EP  
020 8387 3000

### Saffron Green Primary School

Nicoll Way, Borehamwood WD6 2PP  
020 8953 3801

### St Nicholas Elstree Church of England Primary School

St Nicholas Cl, Elstree, WD6 3EW  
020 8953 3015

### St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Brook Rd, Borehamwood WD6 5HL  
020 8953 3753

### Schopwick Surgery

Romeland, Elstree, WD6 3BJ  
01707 354000

### Summerswood Primary School

Furzehill Rd, Borehamwood WD6 2DW  
020 8953 3139

### The Grove Medical Centre

Borehamwood Shopping Park,  
Borehamwood WD6 4PR, 020 3538 3959

### Manor View Practice

121 Theobald St, Borehamwood WD6 4PT  
020 8953 3355

### The Venue Leisure Centre

Elstree Way, Borehamwood, WD6 1JY  
020 8386 9886

### Watford General Hospital

Vicarage Rd, Watford WD18 0HB  
01923 244366

### Woodlands Primary School

Alban Cres, Borehamwood WD6 5JF  
020 8953 2717

### Yavneh College and Primary School

Hillside Ave, Borehamwood WD6 1HL  
020 8736 5580

# Town councillors

Mayor: Cllr Alpha B Collins  
Deputy Mayor: Cllr Dan Ozarow

## Borehamwood Cowley Hill



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## Borehamwood Kenilworth North

## Borehamwood Kenilworth South

## Borehamwood Shenley Road

## Elstree

## Elstree & Borehamwood town council meetings

For a full list of our forthcoming meetings, please see the website.  
All meetings take place at Fairway Hall.

4 February	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7:00pm
6 February	General Management	Meeting Room	7:00pm
18 February	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7:00pm
19 February	Transport Community Safety Forum	Main Hall	7:30pm
4 March	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7:00pm
5 March	Annual Parish Meeting	Main Hall	7:30pm
10 March	International Affairs Sub Committee	Main Hall	7:00pm
11 March	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7:00pm
19 March	Full Council	Main Hall	7:30pm
8 April	Environment & Planning	Meeting Room	7:00pm
10 April	General Management	Meeting Room	7:00pm
22 April	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7:00pm
23 April	Transport Community Safety Forum	Main Hall	7:30pm
13 May	Entertainments	Meeting Room	7:00pm
21 May	Annual Council & Mayor Making	Main Hall	7:30pm

Note: Times and venues of meetings may be changed at short notice.  
Meetings listed are open to the press and public.

## Contacting the council staff

Phone: 020 8207 1382 (all staff)  
Address: Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council  
Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood WD6 5BT  
Website: [www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](http://www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)

For information on WD6 News, contact the editor below or for FAQs and guidelines visit our website

**Gillian Martell - Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer**

Email: [gmartell@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](mailto:gmartell@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)

**Tracey Malton - Deputy Clerk & Finance Officer**

Email: [tmalton@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](mailto:tmalton@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)

**Dan Salter - Entertainments Officer & Town Publications Editor**

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**Rob Craig - Operations & Revenue Officer**

Email: [rcraig@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](mailto:rcraig@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)

**Jenny Simon - Mayor's Secretary & Admin**

Email: [admin@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)

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**Kerry Turner - Fairway Hall Duty Team**

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**Hall Bookings**

Email: [hall.bookings@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk](mailto:hall.bookings@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk)

