

ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD

TOWN CRIER

The magazine for Elstree & Borehamwood residents



Town Flag Competition Winner

See page 11 for details



Hear ye! Hear ye!



Letter from the Mayor...

Christmas 2020 will be different. Because of Covid we are unable to host many of our traditional town activities where we all gather as a community. Annual events such as the public fireworks display and the turning on of the festive lights ceremony have been put on hold.

This does not mean that your town council has put its feet up. Council officers and members have been busy organising events remotely to retain as much normality as possible whilst complying with government COVID rules. Council meetings take place as usual via Zoom. Like all council meetings, they are open to the public and can be viewed live online. For details, please visit the town's website.

Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council alongside First Impressions organised a competition to design a new town flag. I look forward to seeing the winning entry flown around town.

Festive lights in our high streets will be on during the Christmas period and all the Christmas trees will be in place.

It was my pleasure to launch the fantastic new cycle hub at Elstree and Borehamwood Station. It is a state-of-the-art secure cycle storage facility for commuters to use. Hopefully this new hub will encourage commuters to leave their cars at home and cycle to the station instead, thus reducing traffic congestion and pollution during rush hour.

I will be paying my respects privately at the town war memorial on Armistice Day in this 75th year since VE and VJ days. Like those that lived through that period, we will keep calm, make do and carry on despite the virus.

In addition to the above I look forward to taking part in socially distanced Mitzvah Day events in Elstree and Borehamwood. Mitzvah Day is the UK's largest faith-led day of social action.

Before I sign off, I must say that sometimes it takes an interruption to daily life to remind us how much we count on the dedication of key workers. They are the everyday heroes on the frontlines of this pandemic. They carry out their work providing essential services to our communities. On behalf of all our residents, a big thank you.

My wife Gina, my daughters and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy Chanukah and a healthy, happy, successful and peaceful new year.



Cllr Simon Rubner
Mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood

For Mayoral enquiries please email the Mayor's Secretary at admin@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

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While we take reasonable steps to check our advertisers are bona fide, readers should carry out their own checks before entering into any contract or arrangement.

virtual ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD'S GOT T★LENT



with host
Brian Burton



If you think you have an entertaining talent, skill or party piece we want to hear from you!

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we are unable to hold the normal Talent Show so this year we will be holding a virtual one on YouTube.

1st Prize £75

2nd Prize £50

3rd Prize £25

To enter please download an application form www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk and email it to dsalter@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk along with a video of your act.

You can also WhatsApp your video to 07543976635

Closing date is Monday 14 December

Compost Corner

“When you are old enough to come here on your own, you’ll no longer want to!”

Considered words of a father to his ten-year old son. Dave Gowlett had got away with only the occasional visit to his dad Alf’s allotment during his teenage years. It was 72 years ago in 1948 that his dad had taken on an allotment plot a few years after leaving the army. Back then, the allotment site at Melrose Avenue was much larger, extending back to the railway line. Two allotment tenants even kept pigs on their plot, recalls Dave.

Dave is probably the longest serving allotmenter who, in the course of seasons passing, has now given up his two plots to someone else on the Council’s growing waiting list. Dave has fastidiously worked his plots for over 40 years, and they’ve always looked well cared for, producing an abundance of fruit and veg.

Having grown up in the war years and with a love of working out-of-doors, Dave is a very efficient gardener, also having acquired expertise in landscape gardening and sports ground maintenance – particularly the careful and time-consuming cultivation of the cricket lawn at London Colney.

Many allotmenters who have talked to this quietly spoken gentleman will have appreciated and benefitted from his words of wisdom, such as his discovery of keeping a handful of selected bean seeds in his pockets for several days, which dried them to perfection for storage and sowing the next year.

Given the right conditions, what is carefully tended will return, and continue to provide nourishment for many years to come. Your kind and thoughtful words sown, and your quiet presence will always revisit and inspire us at Melrose allotments. We will look out for you and your bike along Shenley Road where many more have spotted you over the years.

Please keep in touch, and enjoy your retirement!

Tatties, taters, and spuds!

Jim Mullen at Melrose allotments should be rightly proud of his potato crop this year. He grows several varieties, and by liberally applying well prepared compost around the seed potatoes, the result is jackets and chips all round!

Anne Nicodemus



Borehamwood and District Garden Craft Society

It has been a very unusual summer for the members of the Borehamwood and District Garden Craft Society.

We all worked hard in our gardens and allotments which kept us busy in the long summer days. It helped us keep our minds focused on the beauty of nature rather than the danger around us.

Using the society WhatsApp group and Facebook, we shared pictures of our most precious achievements, organized exchange of seeds and produce, asked for help when necessary, and got invaluable advice from our most experienced gardeners. Keeping the rules of social distancing, we organised meetings between a small number of members always out in the open in our gardens so that no one was exposed to any risk. We are happy that all our members managed to stay away from the virus and so far have coped pretty well with the isolation. We have been supporting each other in many ways in order to maintain high spirits and carry on in a normal way as much as possible in quite extraordinary social conditions.

We are exceptionally proud of our member Janet Towers who took the initiative and made a fabulous flower display “Strip, strip, hooray” with which she represented the BDGCS in the virtual Town Flower

Festival on 20 June 2020 marking the 50th anniversary since Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer started making films in Borehamwood studios. Pictures of all entries have been displayed at different buildings around the town. Janet’s flower arrangement was one of the best if not the absolute winner.

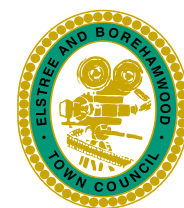
We missed the opportunity to display our fabulous flowers and produce to the wider community at our shows this year but we are looking forward to a better year ahead.

Our AGM has been scheduled for 9 February.

The first flower show for 2021 is scheduled for 10 April at Allum Hall. Everyone is welcome!

Christmas Wishes and Happy Holidays to All.





InspireAll, who manage events in partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council, have teamed up with Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council to bring the very first Window Wanderland to Elstree and Borehamwood.



What is Window Wanderland?

Window Wanderland is a fun family-friendly event where communities create illuminated displays in windows. You can use the street-facing windows of your home, business, school, nursery, car, shop, or even your door, or front garden.

When is Window Wanderland?

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 December 2020 between 6pm - 9pm.

How do I get involved?

To get involved in this FREE event visit www.windowwanderland.com and register your display on the Hertsmere page.

How do I view the displays?

A few days before the event head to the Hertsmere Event page on www.windowwanderland.com and download the map, wrap up warm and go for a walk around your neighbourhood.



Competition

Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council are offering £200 for the best window display.

To enter fill in your details below and return to Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council along with a photograph of your window display.

Email: dsalter@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Post: Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council, Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood WD6 5BT

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Terms and conditions:

- The competition is open to residents of Elstree and Borehamwood aged 18 years or over except employees of InspireAll/Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council and their close relatives and anyone otherwise connected with the organisation or judging of the competition.
- Entries must be residents of Elstree and Borehamwood and live in the house/flat that is being entered.

**Closing date
2 January 2021**



School News

Little Angels Preschool



Little Angels Preschool has been working hard over the last few months to achieve its RHS level 5 award.

The children created a community project which saw them take part in a beanstalk growing competition at home over the lockdown period. Since returning in September we are currently preparing our new vegetable patch for which Travis Perkins kindly donated soil, and the children enjoyed transporting it to fill our vegetable patch. We can't wait to start planting vegetables to use in our cooking activities.



If you would like a place at Little Angels Preschool we take from 18 months to five years old. We are a charity which means all profits are returned to the preschool to support the children.

If you would like a space please visit our website www.littleangelsborehamwoodpreschool.com or call us on 020 8207 2430.



Woodlands Primary School

During Covid, we have been working hard to continue to improve our setting. Here are just a few photographs of some of the new and improved areas:

Year 6 staff have transformed their cloakroom area to reflect the trust, ownership and responsibility that the children will have throughout the year.

The Reception staff have also transformed their room. The room has been utilised to make the most of the space and new resources create

a fresh and exciting environment in which the children can learn.

Our focus this half term has been upon 'Be Positive' and it certainly has been a positive start back. As we move into the second half of the autumn term, our focus will be on being kind. Please look out for some of our kindness being spread in the community.



Kenilworth Primary School

This term we have really loved having our Kenilworth community coming back to school together.

Virtual poet visit

In March, Key Stage 2 were meant to have enjoyed a workshop with the fantastic poet Joshua Seigal. Unfortunately, it had to be postponed because of lockdown but on the 22 September the children of Kenilworth finally got to enjoy their workshop – albeit virtually. Dialling into the classroom, Joshua Seigal talked to the classes and supported them to develop their creativity and write their own poems. The children really enjoyed Kenilworth's first ever virtual workshop and Joshua Seigal tweeted that he had a really lovely day virtually meeting our children.



Learning assemblies

Although we are back together, we are all in our separate bubbles and we do miss our gathering together for special events and assemblies. To ensure that we still get to celebrate each other we are holding virtual learning assemblies each Thursday. They are a fantastic opportunity for the children to share their incredible learning together and to get to spend some virtual time together as our school community.

Year 1 exploring the local area

After a long time away, our Year 1 children were very excited to be back in school. This half term, their geography unit has been all about their local area and they had a fantastic time roaming around the school grounds once more. They were given zoomed in photos of areas around our school and were challenged to discover where the photos were taken. The children were brilliant investigators and enjoyed talking about all of their favourite areas of the school.



Bon appetit with Year 2!

In geography, Year 2 have been learning about the seven different continents. As well as learning a fantastic song (which they sing at every opportunity!) they had an afternoon looking specifically at Europe. They wanted to find out more about another country within Europe so were able to explore some amazing French attractions, including the Eiffel Tower, found out some cool facts and sampled some traditional French food.

The Big Soup Share

On Wednesday 7 October, Reception class took part in the Royal Horticultural Society's Big Soup Share.



The children picked vegetables (cabbage, tomatoes, onions, beetroot, beans) from our growing patch, cleaned them, prepped them and put them together with a can of sweetcorn and some carrots from the snack bowl to make a vegetable soup. The whole class had some of the soup they made and shared with Nursery class – it was very tasty, well done Reception!

Tiggy the Therapy Dog

This half term, our nursery children have got a very special new penpal. They received a special letter from Tiggy the puppy, who has just started its training to be a therapy dog. They were very excited to receive their letter and photos from Tiggy and worked with their teacher to write a reply to their new friend. They are looking forward to hearing more about Tiggy's training adventure and hopefully meeting her in school one day when she has passed all of her training.

Animal visitors

As part of their science lessons, Year 2 have been looking at the life cycle of butterflies. They have been able to learn about the four stages of metamorphosis, on a daily basis, through careful observation of their very own wildlife!

The larvae had already hatched from eggs when they came to the classroom in a pot which contained all they needed to transform to the next stage. They moved around the pot feeding, but mostly liked to hang around the lid of the pot! Next, they enclosed themselves in a cocoon for the next stage as pupae. They all attached themselves to the lid of the pot hanging precariously for a few days. After this they were carefully transferred, still on the lid, into their butterfly enclosure which hung in the classroom – well out of the way of predators... The children were delighted to find them emerging as beautiful adult butterflies at the end of the process.



Their life cycle has been carefully documented through drawings and written observation and the children really enjoyed witnessing this incredible feat of nature

Saffron Green Primary School

Quality Standard Award

Saffron Green would like to announce that it has been awarded The Early Years Quality Standard Award for 2020. At Saffron Green we are extremely proud of our Early Years' team and the provision they offer. Our extensive and recently refurbished unit provides a unique indoor and outdoor learning space for children from ages three to five.



New and extended nursery hours

We are also delighted to announce that from 12 April 2021 (after the Easter holidays) we will be offering nursery provision from 8am to 6pm which we hope will assist parents with their childcare arrangements. Hours above your entitled 15 or 30 funded by the government will be provided on a paid basis. If this is a service you would like to register for please contact us on 020 953 3801 or via email on admin@saffrongreen.herts.sch.uk – we look forward to welcoming many of you on board in April.

“Stay and Play” day

We recently held our annual Early Years Foundation Stage “Stay and Play” session which helps new children settle into nursery and reception. It was a huge success this year with the feedback about our provision from parents being extremely positive. In the descriptions below, for your interest, I have referenced the Department for Education’s Early Learning Goals (E.L.G. - what the children learn) and Characteristics of Effective Learning (CoEL - how they learn).

Here you can see one of our children drawing pictures of themselves and their family. This particular child then wrote her name exploring mark making.
E.L.G. - Art and Design and Literacy



The children love to use our climbing frame where they can explore moving in different ways and develop their gross motor skills which will prepare them for using their fine motor skills. We provided binoculars to assist the children in exploring their immediate environment.

E.L.G. - Physical development and Understanding the World

We set up our water wall where our children can problem solve.

They work out how to get the water to flow through the pipes. The children then decided to float their boat down the ramp and into the water tray to investigate which objects float and which sink.

CoEL - Problem Solving

The children had the opportunity to identify numbers 1 to 5, order them and either trace around them or write the number independently. Some children even drew pictures to represent some of the numbers.

E.L.G. - Numeracy



We always encourage lots of sensory play which allows the children to explore and provides them with opportunities to communicate and develop their language. These children enjoyed feeling the rice and

making patterns with it as well as exploring the sounds it made.

E.L.G. - Literacy and Art and Design

Our mud kitchen offers lots of opportunities across all seven areas of learning. The children used different utensils and materials to cook different pretend foods, weigh their ingredients and serve their families, helping them to develop their fine motor skills and use their mathematical knowledge.

E.L.G. - Physical Development and Maths



Elstree Screen Arts Academy

New beginnings at ESA

It has been a challenging start to the year, but we have some exciting news about our establishment. Over lockdown we have had a change to our branding...

As many of you know, Elstree University Training College has been on a mission to establish itself as a leading school for the provision of specialist training and education for the creative and cultural arts. We have been working with our partners, and our founding sponsor - Elstree Film Studios - since our inception in 2013 to establish our place as the creative school for the culture industry. In recognition of the growth, expansion and success of Elstree UTC, we are embracing a new operating name and adjustment to our public branding. Elstree UTC is becoming Elstree Screen Arts Academy.

So as we move into a new phase in our development, strengthening our partnership with Danes Academy Trust (National Leader in Education) and forming new partnerships across the Elstree Studios community - including Sky Studios Elstree, the largest studios in the UK due to open next door in 2022 - it seems truly time to align our branding with our core purpose: Elstree Screen Arts Academy - the creative school for the culture industry.

The new branding is a lot clearer and more explicit whilst also very well connected to our current identity. The story behind the branding is lovely.

Not enough people know about the legacy of this place. There is a reason why our school occupies the corner of Elstree Way and Studio

Way. The very soil underneath us was the plot upon which British MGM Elstree Studios were built. Actress Dame Sylvia Syms described the studios on whose foundation we sit as 'the closest thing to a dream factory in the UK'. How poetically appropriate that we now train the future creative professionals of the culture industry on the very same land where Stanley Kubrick shot and edited 2001: A Space Odyssey. And today, we have developed meaningful and growing partnerships with creative organisations and technical trades and crafts, all specialising in screen arts and 'behind the scenes creative production. It is marvellous to be woven into such an impressive, collaborative, creative story.

To those students and families who took the leap of faith on this new type of school before many people really knew what a UTC was, you have directly added your contribution to our successful start up and I love you for it. I am so proud to unveil our new look creative school in the coming year as this creative school 'comes of age' and we see the new campus take shape and the additional technical spaces open up creative learning and making - for it is in the creative endeavours, cultural learning and brave productions of our students that ESA emerges with educative 'super powers'... we have long said 'love learning, make magic'.

Applications to study with us are now open for the 2021-2022 academic year. Please apply via our website.

Chris Mitchell, ESA Principal



Five months later and still going strong...

When Elstree Screen Heritage launched Paul Welsh's latest book "MGM British Studios: Hollywood in Hertfordshire" in May we had no idea how well received it would be.

Just over five months later, we'd like to thank everyone who has ordered a copy after visiting the website of Elstree Screen Heritage. Copies of MGM British Studios have been sent all over the world, as far away as Auckland, New Zealand.

To find out what readers have said, you'll find their comments and a review in The Veteran at our website.

If you haven't got your copy yet or if you've started your Christmas shopping, we still have copies available.

Next stop, 500 copies. And we'll refund the purchase price to whoever orders the 500th copy. Will it be you?



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Zoom with the Zoombinis

The computer game Zoombinis is about small blue creatures, each with distinct personalities and appearances, who are escaping imprisonment by the evil Bloats. School governors too have distinct personalities, but some might prefer to be red, orange or green.

Like Zoombinis governors have to meet many challenges and the greatest of all today is coping with remote meetings on computers. There should be no good reason for people not becoming governors but today there is one, which is a need for access to an IT device that enables them join meetings. Even though we have been doing this for more than six months now, some governors are still having difficulty with it. Unfortunately, we will have to persist, as we do not know when it will be safe to meet face to face and I am sure that Zooming will be an ongoing solution.



Like students we have had to learn how to be seen by turning on the video and how to mute ourselves. Pity though, we do not have a button for this in real life. More recently we have had to get to grips with other conferencing tools, not just Zoom, but Teams and G Suite which are more secure.

One of the advantages of Zooming has been better attendance at our meetings. Not having to travel, to go out in bad weather and cover child care duties have made the process more accessible. Against that, I miss the opportunity to interact with real people. Thankfully we are provided with excellent clerks to facilitate our meetings.

If you are interested in becoming a governor and helping to make a difference, contact your local school or go to the website; www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/edlearn/getinvolved/governors/bechschgov/

If you want to know more about being a governor contact me on 020 8386 3151 or email geoff.strack@ntlworld.com

Borehamwood 2000

Borehamwood 2000 FC is an FA Charter Standard, friendly and competitive youth football club, serving girls and boys in the Shenley and Elstree/Borehamwood communities. Formerly the junior section of the National League's Borehamwood FC, we re-formed as our own club in the year 2000 and have been going strong ever since.



Our base for many years now has been the renowned Pursley Playing Fields, Shenley, and we currently host five teams there: Boys U10, U11 and U12, and Girls U10 and U18. Our registration and training fees are very competitive and, as we have only a small number of teams, we are able to ensure that every penny is directed to our most valuable assets - our fantastic kids! We are also rather proud to be an Arsenal Women Sister Club.

As it did for most, Covid strained the club's resources with the previous season abandoned and important fundraisers cancelled. However, we've worked hard, stayed positive and with the support of our sponsors, Sport England, our county and borough councillors, Shenley Parish and Elstree and Borehamwood Town Councils, we managed to get our players back out training and playing as soon as restrictions allowed. Things are a little different from before, of course, with full adherence to Covid protocols for the greater good. However, nothing is insurmountable with good preparation and great staff, and our players are now back doing what is best for them: keeping fit, learning, engaging freely in a team sport and ethic whilst having oodles of fun!

The new season has commenced to much delight and looking ahead, we are very keen to start up a younger girls' side at U8 or U9.

If this is of interest and you are looking for a challenge, get in touch via the club's web resources: www.borehamwood2000fc.com, twitter.com/Borehamwood2000

Victory for schoolgirl in town flag competition

It's official! The poll has closed, the ballot papers have been counted, and Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council is proud to announce the outcome of the competition to design our town's first-ever flag. And the winner is... 11-year old Lily Saron.

The green and yellow background of Lily's beautiful winning entry reflects the colours of the fields and woods in our local countryside, while the silhouette of a tree refers to nature.

The judges who shortlisted Lily's design for the ballot noted that the tree can also be seen as alluding to elements in the names of the twin settlements of Elstree and Borehamwood. The word Elstree is derived from a Saxon personal name, Tidwulf's tree, while Borehamwood comes from the Old English term for a farm on a wooded ridge. And the golden crown is that of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia, of which they originally formed a part.

The runner-up in the under-12s category was Isabella Sasto, aged 8. Isabella explained that "The green represents the fact that we have lots of parks and beautiful green areas. The film reel shows the history and importance of Elstree Studios to the area. The religious symbols represent all of the different communities that make up our wonderful town."



And the best design from a 12 to 16 year old entrant was that of 12-year old Madison Bradley, who said "The colours I used are the Borehamwood football colours and the clapper board is to represent all the movie studios and movies filmed in Elstree."



Welcoming the results of the competition, Town Mayor Simon Rubner said "I warmly congratulate Lily, Isabella and Madison on their excellent designs, and am keen to thank everyone who took part, either by



submitting an entry or by voting for the flag of their choice. I was greatly impressed by the knowledge and creativity which was evident in so many of the designs. We now have a flag which will be a worthy emblem of our whole community, and I look forward to seeing it in frequent use throughout the town."

Watch out for the next issue of Town Crier for details of a forthcoming ceremony at which Lily will be presented with a copy of her flag, and will officially raise it for the first time. Prizes will also be awarded to Isabella and Madison. And the flag will soon be appearing as a banner on posts at the station.



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Crime prevention to tag and trace your bicycles if stolen

On 3 September 2020, Borehamwood Safer Neighbourhood Team and PCSOs led by officer Hamackova, in collaboration with councillors Collins and Kaza, together launched an exercise to prevent the occurrence of crime.

The exercise was held on Leeming Road to provide advice on crime prevention and also to sign residents up to the Online Watch Link system. The officers promoted ECHO which is an anonymous means to express your views. They also handed out leaflets. Meanwhile residents' concerns were addressed.

Citizens' bicycles were tagged and registered to enable the police to easily trace, locate and identify stolen bikes and return them to their rightful owners. The tagging of bicycles will also serve as a deterrent to potential criminals who have been in the habit of targeting and stealing very expensive bicycles and scooters in Elstree and Borehamwood.



Accordingly, the exercise will continue on a monthly basis in order to help to protect as many persons from becoming victims as possible. Residents are encouraged to come forward and have their bicycles and scooters registered and tagged by the police to deter potential criminals.

The police initiative in this area is welcome and important for the wider community. Further information on dates to assist residents will be available on the website of Hertfordshire Police.

Clr A Collins, LLM

New cycle hub at Elstree & Borehamwood railway station

After being put on hold due to the coronavirus crisis, improvements to cycle storage at a number of Thameslink stations are now on track

At Elstree & Borehamwood we were pleased to officially open a new cycle hub with storage for up to 100 bikes, CCTV, maintenance and a bike detection system.

This project has been delivered through the government's cycle rail fund, which aims to improve cycling facilities at stations and promote economic growth, improve journeys, and encourage environmentally-friendly transport to cut carbon. Facilitating cycle journeys to stations is an effective way to encourage greater active travel. The total cost of the Elstree & Borehamwood project was £200k, with £180k provided by the Department for Transport and the remainder from local councils.

On Friday 16 October, Town Mayor Cllr Simon Rubner officially opened the new hub.



Santa's coming to town

The magic of Christmas is coming to Borehamwood and Elstree. Children this year more than ever deserve a special Christmas. No more standing in long queues waiting to meet Santa, this year let Santa come to you.

Santa's Garden Grotto is bringing Santa to homes around Borehamwood, Elstree and the surrounding areas throughout December. Santa will be performing outdoor visits either in people's gardens or driveways in a Covid-safe way.

Santa will bring for each child a personalised card, goodie bag and a gift. Santa will talk to the children and ensure they have an experience to remember. There will even be a socially distanced photo opportunity taken with your own camera/phone.

Santa's Garden Grotto was set up by three local businessmen, all of whom have young children and realised the fundamental need to ensure that Christmas this year was extra special.... What's more special than finding Santa waiting in your garden with presents!

Arranging a visit from Santa is by pre-booking only and slots are going fast.

Santa can't wait to meet you all.

To book a visit from Santa please email santasgardengrotto@hotmail.com,

Facebook - [santasgardengrotto](https://www.facebook.com/santasgardengrotto)



Talking newspaper carries on through the coronavirus crisis

The Radlett Elstree Borehamwood and Shenley Talking Newspaper has had to find creative ways to continue to provide its local news and magazine recordings.

Whilst most of our listeners are visually impaired or blind, others suffer from strokes, dementia or other forms of impairment. Normally we record in our own studio in Radlett on a Thursday evening, with a sound editor, news and magazine editor, three to four readers, and a copier. All of the team are volunteers, and give freely of their time and energy to help our listeners. Many of them have done this for a very long time.

We have recorded in this way for over 2000 editions! Our recordings are sent out as memory sticks and are played on our own players which we provide free of charge.

Our studio is small, so with government guidelines due to Covid 19, it has been impossible to use it in our normal manner. Initially we went to a new model where we rang up around 25 percent of our listeners on a weekly basis. We gave them a one on one personal read through of local news and general articles for about 45 minutes each week. This also gave us the opportunity to check in on and get to know better some of our most vulnerable listeners, living in isolation.

Since July, we have modified how we serve these people. Thanks to the expertise of our BBC-trained sound editor, Phil Stannard, we are now all able to sit in our own homes, and are recorded reading pieces selected by our news and magazine editors. He then cuts



and edits it all together, and the recordings are then sent out individually to all our listeners.

This means that our output is now 100 percent back to normal.

Despite having many very elderly and/or vulnerable listeners, we have not lost anyone to Covid-19.

If you or anyone you know would like to receive our weekly recording, which is informative and fun, and which we provide completely free of charge, or if you would like to explore volunteering with us, please email pwgsennett@outlook.com or call Paul Sennett on 07551 725041.



Borehamwood library is open again!

We have been open for a few weeks now, but for anyone who hasn't been in yet, we have removed surplus furniture, enhanced our cleaning, are asking people to wear facemasks and only spend 15 minutes browsing so social distancing can be maintained at all times.

We will also ask you to scan the QR code or fill in a contact details form to comply with NHS Test and Trace. We have staff on the door to welcome you and explain the new rules.

We have also opened some of the PCs but these must be pre-booked so that we can clean them every hour. Printing facilities and the black and white/colour photocopier are also available.

We have so many new books and there is no charge to borrow books, magazines or use the PCs, so make the most of your library membership or come in and join if you haven't already.

We know that coping in the current circumstances is really difficult for everyone but the books are here for you to enjoy and escape into – more than ever we all need that.

We have a new collection of books, "Reading Well", for children to help them cope with all the different emotions. A shared story can help them to express how they are really feeling.

If you have any books taken after 16 March which were due back during the lockdown period, our computer system has been renewing these for you automatically so no fines would have been incurred during that time. Please speak to a member of staff when you return your books at the desk so we can check on your individual situation about books due back outside this period.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Please see our Facebook page @Borehamwood Library, check www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries or call 0300 123 4049 to check our latest opening hours as they may be subject to change as we adapt to current circumstances.



Going to Sweden for a year

Going to Sweden for a year has been a worthwhile decision, granted the country was not my first choice and there was a worldwide pandemic, but here is why it paid off...

Even though Sweden had a controversial plan for tackling Covid, in the long term it meant that they were a lot less strict on restrictions when I got here which has given me a freedom I don't think I would be having in the UK right now.

The first thing I noticed when arriving was the calmness of both the surroundings and the people. At first, I was apprehensive about my location in Linköping, Sweden, because it was so different from what I was used to. Instead of taking the train and Underground to work or the bus to university, I cycle through the forest and town! It isn't unusual to go on hikes on the weekends, and whenever the weather is above 15 degrees everyone is rushing out for picnics. Being an international student means I am surrounded by students from all



around the world which has allowed me to explore and enjoy different cultures whilst also learning about the Swedish culture.

If there is one word you should know in Swedish it's 'fika'. Before coming to Sweden my understanding of the word was that it roughly translated to coffee break, but it is so much more! It is usually in the afternoon but can be any time that feels right. It is the time people of any age have with friends or colleagues to take a break from the day and allows you to gather your thoughts and socialise. This daily activity allows you to feel connected to those around you with no pressure or rush, just coffee, sweet treats, and company. I think fika gives people an insight into Sweden. Efficiency is key, and everyone works hard, but there is always time to relax and unwind.

Moving to Sweden for a year has completely changed my outlook when accompanied by beautiful nature and an array of different people. If someone is thinking of doing a year abroad or going to a new country, I would say DO IT! Take the leap, especially if you are thinking of Sweden.

Ogechi Eni, past vice chair of the Elstree & Borehamwood Youth Council.



The Herts Sports and Physical Activity Partnership is an award-winning organisation that was established in 2003. The partnership is one of 42 active partnerships funded by Sport England, which works collaboratively to create the conditions for an active nation and uses the power of sport and physical activity to transform lives.

Known as HSP, the team works alongside numerous partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors, bringing together expertise, resources and ideas from all parts of the sports, health, physical activity and wellbeing sectors in Hertfordshire.

Active Local is a new initiative from the Partnership and will focus on a target area within each of Hertfordshire's ten local authorities. Through discussions with Hertsmere Borough Council, the Cowley Hill ward in Borehamwood has been identified. We are currently working alongside community groups and organisations to better understand the area; focussing on the people and places within Cowley Hill to design and deliver opportunities that are accessible, affordable and appropriate for all members of the local community.

Our aim is to respond to local need to improve physical activity levels

and get more people more active. We

are currently undertaking extensive consultation, one element of which is a survey open to all those working and living in Cowley Hill, Borehamwood. Please feel free to complete and share the survey using the QR code below, or contact Alex (a.varran2@herts.ac.uk or call 01707 284229) to discuss how we can get the survey out to you.

For more information about the Herts Sports Partnership, please visit sportinherts.org.uk



Box Cleva

After a few months off due to coronavirus the multi award winning initiative Box Cleva came bouncing back to its Borehamwood home at Brookside boys and girls club on Tuesday 15 September.

Under the watchful eye of head trainer Steve Pearson the sessions are run every Tuesday from 5.15pm until 6.45pm during school term. These sessions are slowly picking up with young people coming through the doors to be taught not just the sweet science but educated on all aspects of life, such as healthy living, substance awareness, adaptability, and challenges that they may encounter in the future. The sessions are 90 minutes long, with 60 minutes being taught boxing and training techniques – all of which are non contact. The remaining 30 minutes are split into educational input. Steve Pearson is a fantastic trainer and is accompanied by trainers Sean Murphy (a former Commonwealth Games gold medallist and Lonsdale Belt winner) and Gary Foley, both trainers of a young Anthony Joshua until he turned professional.

A second Box Cleva satellite session also takes place and is funded by Clarion Housing Association. This lasts an hour and runs from 6.30pm - 7pm.

Both these sessions are limited to a maximum of ten children whilst the virus is present. The age group ranges between seven and fifteen years of age. All sessions cost the children only one pound!



Box Cleva started originally in the summer of 2010 with funding from Hertsmere Borough Council and Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. It was run at the old Hawksmoor sports centre on Potters Lane. On the closing and redevelopment of the Hawksmoor centre Box Cleva was moved to The Venue, and just last year the sessions finally moved to the amateur boxing club at Brookside Boys and Girls club, Buckton Rd, Borehamwood WD4 4HN.

These sessions, along with sessions throughout every district in Hertfordshire, have been supported by Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service from the very start ten years ago. In 2016 Box Cleva was awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. Chairman and founder Bob Williams has overseen the running of the sessions from day one and as a serving firefighter with Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is justifiably proud of his achievements.

For referrals please call Steve Pearson on 07986 490286. For further information on this fantastic initiative please visit Box Cleva website www.boxcleva.net

Happy Birthday Florrie Cowley!

DR 96 members and Monday Club members celebrated Florrie Cowley's 100th Birthday on Thursday 3 September.

This was the first of many celebrations arranged for this very active lady. Florrie was surprised when her daughter arrived, as she expected her to be at work. Peter, her son, had set out socially distanced chairs in the garage. DR96 committee were given a tour of the beautiful garden. Florrie still manages the raised flower beds.

Members of DR96 and the Monday Club presented Florrie with a cake and gifts, a bouquet from Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council and a hamper from Marion Joyce Tesco champion completed the surprises. Neighbours held afternoon tea in the garden further along the road.

On the actual birthday, 6 September, the family had a get together.



Borehamwood Women's Institute

Borehamwood W.I would be celebrated its 97th Birthday this October 2020.

In the 60s they had 200 W.I members, today we have 24. Our meetings due to lock-down have not been possible, but our president has been keeping in touch with members by phone call, emails and text, and our secretary has passed on information that she has received from Hertfordshire Federation of the W.I and National Federation of the W.I, including the monthly newsletter, which she receives by email, and passes to the members who have an email address.

Our meetings are held at Allum Manor House on the 2nd Monday of every month from 2pm - 4pm. We do need some new members, so why not come along? We hope we will be able to continue our meetings in 2021 so that we can return to normality.

Music in the Wood



Performance shelter project

The partners working towards a permanent band stand in Meadow Park met in October to take the project forward. The partners are Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council, Hertsmere Borough Council and both Rotary Clubs of the town: Elstree and Borehamwood RC and the Studios RC.

A space in the park has been identified. Hertsmere Borough Council installed the electrical point and built a horseshoe mound to define the space. HBC will put down the hard standing as soon as the design is approved.

The performance shelter project, from both Rotary Clubs, organised four successful free brass band concerts in the summers of 2018 and 2019. They were supported by Writers in the Wood, Hertsmere Acoustic Club and the U3A Ukulele band. There were plans to hold more concerts this year but Covid regulations precluded that.



There are plans to extend the genre of music and performances in the park during 2020. 60s 70s 80s, soul, rock, jazz, music and performances from around the world will be on offer. We will be working with a range of organisations who would like to perform in Meadow Park.

Helping in Antigua and Barbuda during Covid-19

At the start of lockdown the high commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, Karen Mae Hill, asked if I could offer some online tuition to students in Antigua and Barbuda.

Two years ago I spent a week in the Caribbean working with the Youth Symphony orchestra, conducting their final concert of the course. As I had managed to master the virtual technology she asked if I knew any other musicians who would be prepared to help.

I am glad to say that some other members of Elstree Mozart Players volunteered their services freely. The others involved include Kate Walsh, our principal flute, well known to our audiences as a soloist and member of the orchestra, Rosemary Wiseman, our cellist, also known to local audiences through playing with the orchestra and at All Saints coffee mornings, and Dylan Lehner who not only plays trumpet with the orchestra but is also a member of Borehamwood Brass. Dylan has taken on both individual and group trumpet tuition. All of these musicians also participated in the recent virtual concert masterminded by Andrew Grady and promoted by the Studios Rotary Club

It has been a tremendously rewarding experience. The students are expected to show a high level of commitment in response to the free tuition provided, which they certainly do, and we are all actively preparing them to become full-time members of the Youth Symphony orchestra.

Derek Holland



Borehamwood Brass 2020

Borehamwood Brass, your local community band, has performed a wide musical repertoire on the standard set of brass band instruments for the local community for almost 50 years.

Since lockdown the band has been keeping in touch via a conferencing session once a week, whilst also setting up a 'WhatsApp' group for everyone to keep in contact.

Unfortunately, for the foreseeable future, the band had to suspend all rehearsals to comply with all the restrictions that are in place, but are reviewing this at regular intervals.

The band are keeping a close eye the government restrictions for music groups, re-commencing rehearsals when all relevant measures required are in place. The band will follow advice from Public Health England and Brass Band England, an advisory body offering training and support for member bands throughout the UK.

They have, however, been requested to assist with performing the Last Post and Reveille, to support the Royal British Legion in Edgware and Borehamwood to mark Remembrance Day.

The band are also looking towards Christmas and are planning to bring some Christmas cheer to the town. Working with Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council they hope to be able to present a 'virtual' event to welcome the start of Advent.



For more information on Borehamwood Brass, and how to join, please look at the band's website and Facebook page, or contact Andrew Grady on 07802 736628 or email borehamwoodbrass@hotmail.com

Website www.borehamwoodbrass.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/borehamwoodbrass

Twitter: www.twitter.com/BWoodbrass



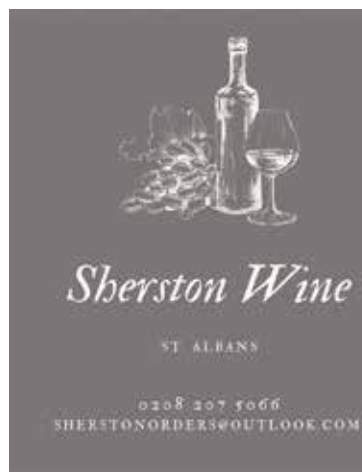
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Foot Health Practitioner
Graduate of the SMAE Institute



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A member of the British association of the Foot Health Professionals (MAFHP) & member of the college of foot health professionals (MCFHP)

Aldenham

introducing



Aldenham Reservoir is a beauty spot, a recreational amenity, a wildlife haven, and the best-known landscape feature of our town. When and why was it built, and how has it evolved over the years?

The reservoir is now 225 years old. It was built in the 1790s, reputedly using the labour of French prisoners of war, by the Grand Junction Canal Company. Its original purpose was to allow the flow in the river Colne to be replenished when the company extracted water from it near Watford to fill its canal.

It was created by damming Tykeswater, a stream which is a tributary of the Colne. The dam is 436 yards long and 28 feet high. The water covers 78 acres and its maximum depth is 19 feet. It is filled by natural inflow from streams, and water is released through a sluice (i.e. tap) in a pipe laid in a tunnel under the dam. There is an overflow weir under the footbridge carrying the public path which runs along its eastern side.



The dam consists of clay, which is liable to swell and shrink, and therefore requires constant monitoring. It has been reinforced at intervals in the past, e.g. by constructing the concrete “wave wall” along its upstream face.

Aside from its operational function, the reservoir has always been a popular place of recreation. An 1883 guide book states that it “is well known to ornithologists and anglers. It is a beautiful lake ... embosomed in grassy hills, secluded with aquatic trees, and consequently the great attraction of the place.” Charles Dickens’ diary records that he went rowing there after attending a christening in Elstree church. And water from the reservoir was once used to supply world-famous water gardens in the grounds of nearby Aldenham House, now part of Haberdashers’ Aske’s school.

Between the two world wars, a sailing club was established, and a small beach was created. Teas were served from the reservoir warden’s house. But swimming and boating came to an end in 1937 when the local water company leased the reservoir for use as a reserve for domestic supply. The need for this ceased after the new Hilfield Park reservoir was built nearby in the 1950s.

In the 1970s Hertfordshire county council decided to develop a country park on Green Belt land in its ownership adjacent to the reservoir, with a rare breeds farm, nature trails, special events and visitor attractions. It leased the reservoir as an extension to the park and developed the perimeter path. But after 40 years the council withdrew from direct management of the park and contracted this to its present operator, a not-for-profit company called Aldenham Renaissance. And when the lease on the reservoir expired in 2016, it was not renewed.

Reservoir

its history



As the reservoir no longer served any operational purpose, it was sold by British Waterways (successor to the canal company) to private developers in 1992, and was sold again in 2015 to its present owner, Liberty Lake Leisure Ltd. This company has made two applications to the local planning authority (Hertsmere) for schemes which would generate income to help defray the costs of maintenance. The first was for a housing development on the south side of Watford Road, and the second was for a "nature retreat" comprising 50 small chalets for rent near the water's edge. Both schemes were rejected as being incompatible with the Green Belt status of the area.

The reservoir is a hugely valued and highly popular amenity, but a large question mark now hangs over its future upkeep and funding.

John Cartledge



Beat Heartbreak

Heart attacks and sudden collapse resulting in the heart stopping can occur in any age group. 3,400 sudden cardiac arrests happen yearly in areas covered by East of England Ambulance service, only 1 in 9 surviving. This is our area!*

Immediate action by bystanders could help many more victims recover.

If someone collapses and you cannot wake them, call 999. The call handler will guide you through while an ambulance rushes to the scene.

Your actions before the ambulance arrives give the person a chance of survival. Knowledge of what to do from a course or online learning helps you to start your life saving actions more confidently. Just making that 999 call and following instructions has saved many lives.

Cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), is needed if the victim is not breathing. Call 999 then push hard on the centre of the chest rhythmically as instructed. Mouth to mouth rescue breaths help too. Chest compressions alone can work. At present do not give rescue breaths to non-family members. See www.life-saver.org.uk/covid

Defibrillator use can further increase the chances of survival: simple and very safe to use. These automated external defibrillators (AEDs) have been placed around the town and in schools.

The ambulance service can tell where the nearest one is in an emergency. CPR is still essential and combined with an AED gives the best chance of survival.

British Heart Foundation volunteer instructors run courses for schools and public groups, currently online learning from BHF and other first aid organisations.

Learn skills: www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/how-to-do-cpr/cpr-training-videos

*Statistics from the British Heart Foundation (BHF)



Practice with these lifelike and emotional scenarios: www.resus.org.uk/public-resource/how-we-save-lives/lifesaver-learning

As a BHF Heartstart instructor I hope to be back to teaching public groups, youth groups and schools soon.

Verity Maclachlan
Heartstart Central Herts Girlguiding



Defibrillator team

Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council Defibrillator Team raised funds to have defibrillators installed across the town.

Now all the venues to which we donated AEDs are reminded that the batteries and pads have to be changed.

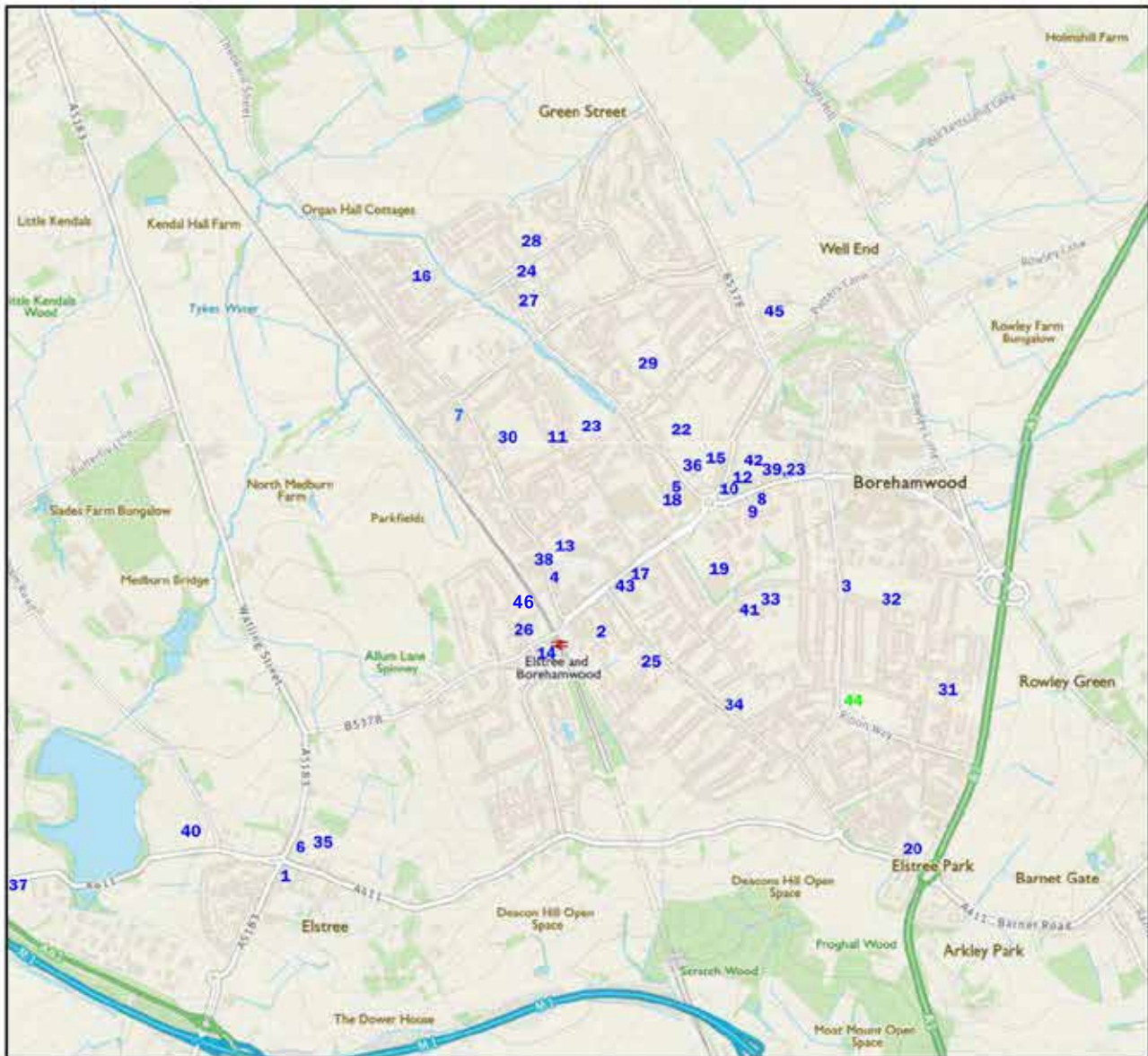
The Town Defibrillator Team was formed when local resident Lawrence Stack sought our help to get AEDs installed across the town. Funds were raised from borough and county councillor

donations, private companies, government grants and private donations. The Town Team were town councillors Clive Butchins, Sandra Parnell, Pat Strack and Farida Turner and former town councillors Eric and Gary Silver as well as Lawrence Stack.

The team also ensured that people working at the venues where the defibrillators were installed had training in CPR. Verity Maclachlan, James Gillett (former station manager) and Lawrence Stack gave training to over 300 people. Lawrence worked to train scouts in CPR.

ELSTREE & BOREHAMWOOD DEFIBRILLATOR PROJECT

LOCATIONS



Amended 1/05/2018 by Clive Butchins

Existing locations:		
1. Comerhouse Dental Care	17. 96 Shenley Road	35. St. Nicolas' C of E Primary School
2. Drayton Road Dental Practice	18. Fairway Hall *	36. St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School
3. Manor Way Dental Practice	19. Tesco	37. McNicholas
4. Grove Medical Centre	20. Morrisons	38. Kinetic Centre
5. Fairbrook Medical Centre	21. Aberford Hall	39. Ibis Hotel *
6. Schopwick Medical Centre	22. Boreham Wood F.C.	40. Elstree Lawn Tennis Club
7. Theobald Medical Centre	23. The Venue	41. Yavneh College
8. Fire Station *	24. Muslem Centre & Mosque	42. Elstree Way Clinic
9. Ambulance Station	25. The BECC	43. Pure Gym
10. Police Station *	26. Allum Hall	44. Three Ways Community Centre
11. Elstree & Borehamwood Synagogue	27. Community Shop (Leeming Road)	45. Hertswood Academy
12. Hertsmere Borough Council	28. Parkside Primary School	46. Ohr Yisroel Synagogue
13. Marks & Spencer	29. Cowley Hill Primary School	* Available 24 hours
14. Elstree & Borehamwood Station *	30. Meryfield Community Primary Sch.	
15. St. Teresas Parish Centre *	31. Saffron Green Primary School	
16. SS John Fisher & Thomas More *	32. Kenilworth Primary School	
	33. Monksmead Primary School	
	34. Summerswood Primary School	

The Borehamwood Foodbank turkey raffle is back for the 3rd year!

Simply buy a raffle ticket to be in with a chance of winning your Christmas turkey - a locally and ethically raised Wrolstad Bronze turkey. All money raised will go towards Borehamwood Foodbank, situated at 291 Shenley Road.

Entries will close at midnight on Monday 30 November with the winner being announced very shortly after to allow time for any unlucky runners up to get to a shop and buy an alternative turkey!

If you'd rather not have the turkey, that's OK, you can still contribute to an important cause to help those less fortunate.

The initiative was introduced in 2016 by locals Charlie and Abbi Rozentals and so far almost £2,000 has been raised! The last turkey raffle raised £805 which was enough to kit out a new storage

facility with much needed shelving to accommodate the growing demands on the foodbank.

Raffle tickets are just £5 so just donate in multiples of 5 to increase your chances of winning e.g £5 = 1 raffle entry, £10 = 2 raffle entries etc.

Simply visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/borehamwood-foodbank-turkey-raffle-2020



Thank you to the people of Borehamwood

As 2020 is nearing its end we're taking time to reflect, what an unusual year! We've dealt with lots of challenges over the previous months. Whilst most local agencies closed their doors during lockdown we are so very proud that we were able to stay open to support local people!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all of our supporters who continued to offer their time by volunteering for us and for all of the wonderful, generous donations which increased to meet the need during such unprecedented times.



Some of the initiatives we have started include raising over £5,000 on our crowdfunding page, providing lunches to school children during lockdown and right through the summer holidays, giving craft packs and home learning packs whilst schools were closed, purchasing school uniforms for families struggling financially, providing cookery packs to families accompanied by YouTube videos to cook along to, providing fresh food packs with the help



of Caritas and introducing a delivery service for those who were shielding. As you can see, we've been busy!

As we move into winter we are expecting to become increasingly busy, but as always and with your help we will do our best to help those who need it. Please keep donating if you can, or if you would rather give your time we would welcome your support!

Wishing you all continued good health and happiness as we move towards 2021.

info@borehamwood.foodbank.org.uk

Kim Gray
Foodbank Coordinator



St Michael and All Angels Church

St Michael and All Angels Church, Brook Road, extends warmest seasonal wishes to all residents of Elstree and Borehamwood as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a time of light and hope for many people and we wish to share our joy with everyone. May all that you value and those you hold dear bring you hope and cheer at this time of year.

We especially remember in our prayers all those who are on their own, and invite you join with us in fellowship at St Michael and All Angels Church, Brook Road, on Sundays at 9.30am and on Christmas Day at 10am. Our services are shorter than usual, given the circumstances, and all Covid-secure measures are in place. There is a special atmosphere of warmth, love and mutual care – all socially distant of course.

Please do come along and experience a 'Candlelit Christmas' on any Sunday in December from 9.30am - 10.30am and on Christmas Day at 10am. Families are most welcome.

For enquiries, phone Vicar Revd Louise Collins on 020 8953 2362 or go to www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7536/ for latest info..



Siggy Cragwell

Thameslink's Siggy Cragwell, aged 80, has worked on the railway since the day after he landed in England as part of the Windrush generation.

He is now Thameslink railway assistant at Borehamwood. Siggy was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at last week's virtual National Rail Awards, hosted by BBC News. He has won this major national rail award for his outstanding contribution in helping passengers.

Siggy is honoured for his international cricket career and 58 years on the railway. Thameslink's oldest member of staff is still playing cricket for England at the ripe old age of 80! Siggy Cragwell gets up at 4am to do the 6am -11am shift as a platform assistant at Elstree & Borehamwood station and then goes to the gym to practise Tai Chi and Taekwondo, to keep him fit for his beloved sport.

Siggy came to Britain from Barbados aged 23 as part of the Windrush generation to help the British government fill vital jobs in hospitals, railways and hotels. He landed in Southampton on 7 March 1962 after an 11-day voyage and started work as a cleaner in Marylebone station the very next day. "I remember it was strange because it was very cold. They paid for everything, found us somewhere to live and we paid it back as we worked." Over the next 17 years based at Marylebone he

worked as a fireman, stoking steam engines, and a chargeman, supervising cleaners and the men who shunted the trains around the yard. He was then promoted to supervisor at Cricklewood Yard where he also shunted trains himself. He was at Bedford when he was poached to be a stores manager.



The Barbados-born all-rounder from Hampstead started playing for the British Railways League in the 1960s before he joined Gordon Hill's BRSA Enfield Club. He has played for London University and a Thames TV side, and has 14 international caps to his name, batting and bowling for the England Over-70s. In one memorable season seven years ago, his side played Australia in three two-day tests and won all three!

We wish him a long career both in cricket and railways.

Prabhakar Kaza

Rotary Club of The Studios of Elstree and Borehamwood

Rotarians in Israel and the UK have joined hands to help autistic children...

Two local Rotarians, Cllr Sandra Parnell and Karren Fielding, both have a love for Israel with close family ties there.

Karren married in Tel Aviv and lived there for ten years, with her children, experiencing the vibrant life and becoming fluent in speaking Hebrew. Sandra is in close contact with her family living in Israel, both visiting the country whenever possible.

Both Sandra and Karren feel a very strong personal bond to Israel, so on hearing about a new method there of teaching autistic children, specifically designed to reach those locked in by their inability to communicate, they arranged to meet in Israel and visited Sandra's grandson Alon's centre for teaching the children in Herzliya. During the visit, Professor Yael Cohen, who owns the school and teaches the autistic children individually, showed a heart-breaking video depicting



the tremendous communication problems leading to a huge lack of understanding of the emotions felt by the children. The video showed the amazing results achieved by the new technique of self-expression through typing.

In later visits to Israel, Karren visited the Rotary club in Tel Aviv and subsequently held an early morning meeting at the Tel Aviv Sheraton hotel to present the concept to the Rotary club leaders, before dashing to the airport to fly back to the UK.

Sandra met with four mothers in Holon city, who told her their heart-wrenching stories. She also visited Haifa Rotary club and presented the idea to them.

The Tel Aviv and Haifa clubs were both very enthusiastic to take things further, and while continuation during these difficult times has been with meetings initiated on Zoom between the UK and Israel, work has begun with teachers of autistic children.

The local Rotarians will be presenting this to all 58 clubs in Rotary's London district to promote this wonderful concept, which can even reach further afield internationally. The goal is to build a treatment centre which will include the teaching method, developing it and supporting research in this field in Israel and the UK and eventually across other countries internationally.

For more information: sparnell513@gmail.com, karrenfielding@icloud.com

**Karren Fielding BA (Hons)
in Philosophy and Psychology**

Studios Rotary Club book swap project

Studios Rotary Club has decided to reopen the book swap at Elstree & Borehamwood station. Travellers are encouraged to take a book from the shelf to enjoy reading it.

The collection box at Morrisons is open.

At Tesco the manager is selling books to raise funds for the Elstree and Borehamwood Dementia Club (EBDC), run by Studios Rotarians Sasha Capocci, Sandra Parnell and Pat Strack, Northwick Park Rotarian Eric Silver and Dr Ann Goddard. EBDC is closed during the covid pandemic.



Youth project at Hertswood Academy

Studios Rotary Club has been working with partners Clarion Futures Charity Foundation, Lecliffe and Connexions to start a youth club at Hertswood Academy.

The project was proposed by a student at Hertswood Academy. The Studios youth committee is chaired by Pat Strack with Sasha Capocci, Victor Eni, Nick Male, Sandra Parnell as members.

Clarion Foundation has raised £10,000 for the project and that is match funded by another sponsor, making a total of £20,000. Further funding will be sought by Studios Rotary Club.

A paid youth worker, Corina Best, has been appointed to run the project. Corina is well known in the town for her work with young people. Covid-19 has halted the project for the time being but it will commence as soon as it is safe so to do.

Negotiations are well advanced for a Friday night at Hertswood where a variety of activities will be on offer.



Self expression through typing

During lockdown the Studios Rotary Club, international committee, has been moving forward with a project to help non-verbal autistic children.

The project is "Self expression through typing", at the Herzliya centre. A meeting place for group treatments for individuals on the autistic spectrum. This is a method used to get young people with autistic spectrum disorder to communicate through a computer. Expertise will be shared with the National Autistic Society UK.

The project is supported by Modi'im Rotary Club in Israel. Studios Rotary members and members of Modi'im RC held a joint Zoom in

September to look at how each club could support the project.

The Studios Rotary Club has pledged to sponsor a student with a scholarship for therapists for treating individuals on the autistic spectrum. This project involves providing a scholarship for training therapists in Kibbutzim College (Tel-Aviv), three semesters using the Yael Cohen method to "express by typing with autistic people".

The international committee, Sandra Parnell, Nick Male and Karren Fielding helped by Andrew Grady, will make presentations to London District Rotary Clubs to raise awareness and funds. The Herzliya Centre has provided a video showing how the method works and includes interviews with the families.

For more information please see the college website www.smb.ac.il/training-hosts-groups/expression-through-typing

Studios Rotary Club brings cheer

To brighten dark days as the clocks change, Sandra Parnell and Pat Strack were pleased to secure a donation to provide potted roses for the elderly and infirm in the community on behalf of Studios Rotary Club.

At the end of October and early November, Pat and Sandra with helpers from the community delivered to club members DR96, the Dementia Club Monday Club and the visually Impaired Club and others.

Reactions were amazing that such a small gift brought joy and cheer. Knowing they were not forgotten was important. Seeing a masked face at the door was strange but soon they were smiling.

It was sad as well to find some members had gone into care, died or were in hospital. Covid-19 has changed all our lives significantly.



Rotary Club of Elstree & Borehamwood

Our Rotary Club was formed in 1942 when we received the charter which was flown over from the Rotary headquarters in Chicago on a bomber aircraft – and we have been thriving since.

Yes, we are missing our weekly meetings over lunch, but we are still meeting every week on Zoom early on Thursday evenings and we welcome visitors who would like to find out more about Rotary or tell us about their good causes, to which we usually make a donation.

But Rotary is not just about supporting charities and other worthwhile projects, such as the worldwide fight to eradicate polio. We have just donated £200 to the project to mark World Polio Day on Saturday 24 October. It also provides an opportunity for fellowship – getting together with like minded people who share the objects of Rotary.

Our district conference this October was of course virtual and several of us attended some of the sessions. In normal times there is the opportunity to attend Rotary Conference in all sorts of exciting places around the world.

When I visited the Rotary Club of Kigali Virunga (Rwanda) in 2019 I discovered another facet of Rotary: "swallowship" – in other words enjoying a meal after the meeting.



We are a great bunch of "fellows" (females were allowed into Rotary in the 1980s) so if this sounds like your cup of tea do please contact me and I will send you the link to join one of our meetings.

Clive Butchins
President 2020-21
email: clive@myself.com



At the District Conference

In Memoriam

Mayor Cynthia Barker R.I.P.

Coming as a shock to many of us, Cynthia, our Borough Mayor and sometime town councillor, sadly passed away on Monday 14 September 2020 at the age of 58.

She was a member of the Rotary Club of Elstree & Borehamwood for eleven years and a trustee of the Elstree & Borehamwood Museum, as well as being a long-time supporter and committee member of the local NSPCC branch, all alongside her duties and activities as a local councillor on both Hertsmere Borough and the Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council.

She never forgot her Filipino heritage and was involved with the diaspora in the UK. She was very proud to have been the first ethnic Filipino councillor and mayor in this country.

She will be remembered most fondly for her enthusiasm and dedication to ensuring everything that she was involved in was a success. She was always a joy to work with and was helpful, considerate and generous with both her time and contributions.

On a personal note, I was privileged to work with Cynthia, with whom I got on really well, in several roles:

- Campaigning for and serving for a time as councillors on the Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council;
- Within Rotary, including as secretary during her presidency and with her being my secretary for my time as president;
- As fellow trustees for the Elstree and Borehamwood Museum.

She leaves behind a daughter and four grandchildren and will leave an enormous gap in their lives and those of others who knew her. She will be missed most sorely. May she rest in peace forever.

Clive Butchins



John Brown

John Brown, aged 91, passed away on 17 August 2020 at home after being taken ill last September and diagnosed as suffering from pulmonary fibrosis.

A remembrance service was held at All Saints Church Borehamwood, but was restricted to only 20 attendees due to covid restrictions.

His coffin was covered with the National Standard drape to recognise his service. Members of the Royal British Legion gave the exaltation at the end of the service and the standard bearer dipped the legion standard at the coffin.

His coffin was carried out by his five grandsons and his granddaughter and outside the church they halted whilst the RBL bugler played the Last Post.

The funeral party then travelled to Garston crematorium where entry was made to the music of Elgar's Nimrod. After the committal the party left to the musical theme of "Allo Allo", one of John's favourite TV programmes.

John attended the Royal Russell School, Purley, Croydon, where he was a sponsored pupil from Harrods where his widowed mother worked. His older brother Phil, who also attended the school, was killed in action in Italy at the age of 19. John left school and was shortly called up for National Service and was attached to RHQ of the Royal Artillery stationed at Bulford Camp, near Salisbury. It was here that he met his wife to be, Audrey, who was also serving at Carter Barracks. They were married in 1949 and went on to have 71 years of happy life together. They moved to Morpeth Avenue, Borehamwood in December 1954.

John started work with British Railways as a clerical assistant and progressed to his final position of Office Manager when he retired. Over his working life he was transferred from BR to National Carriers, then to Fashion Flow which was dealing with M & S's supply chain.

John dedicated his life to the Royal British Legion, Borehamwood branch, where he had many volunteer roles, including 40 years as a welfare worker, where he visited the sick and needy ex-services personnel. He was Poppy Appeal organiser, Branch Vice Chairman and then Branch Chairman for 17 ½ years. He then became Branch President up until October last year when his illness first affected him.

He was a very respected member of the local community where he always attended public meetings of the local council and was also a vice president of a local scout group.

He is survived by his wife Audrey, two daughters, Carol and Gillian, together with six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.



Pat O'Donnell

Pat O'Donnell was a wonderful friend to us in both the Elstree and Borehamwood Green Belt Society and Elstree and Borehamwood NSPCC.

He was a valued member of the Green Belt committee and generously contributed his internet skills to the cause of conservation. He set up our website and ran it for us. He transformed our expenses by masterminding the printing of our newsletter at a fraction of the previous cost.

We will all miss his participation in our discussions and his readiness to take part in demonstrations and campaigns.

We will also miss his kind and gentle friendship and his soft Irish brogue.

His support of the NSPCC was through the bookstall team. Twice yearly we run a second hand bookstall which attracts book addicts with its huge selection and rock bottom prices. Pat was very well read and used his wide knowledge to organise the hundreds of paperbacks and hardbacks ranging in subject from chick lit to abstruse philosophy. He would then sell books with the rest of the team making a substantial sum towards the £10,000 which we sent annually to support the work of the NSPCC for children.

I shall miss him personally as he was one of a band of friends who were fans of the direct transmission films at the Reel Cinema and Radlett Centre and was a guest of my family.

He was involved in so many other community events and gave his help so willingly. We shall all remember him with great affection.



*Ann Goddard
Chairman of Elstree and Borehamwood
Green Belt Society and NSPCC*

Jim McKean, Chairman of Allum Manor

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and all staff at Allum Manor, and also as his friend of many years, I am greatly saddened to report that Jim McKean passed away on Sunday 6 September after a short illness.

I knew Jim for over 30 years and am proud to have served as a Trustee of Allum Manor under Jim's guidance as chairman.

Jim served on the Board of Trustees from the 1990's and with the late Arthur Jones was instrumental in building Allum Manor into a unique asset for our local community. There was no limit to his dedication to the success of Allum Manor.

A Scotsman and trained as a civil engineer, Jim travelled the world and lived with his wife Jean in Links Drive, Elstree, just a short walk from Allum Manor.

That was a walk which he made many times over the years. As well as remaining very much involved in day-to-day operations and active in planning future developments, Jim was also a regular member of the audience at Allum Manor hall performances.

Jim's belief in and loyalty to Allum Manor and the community which it serves never faltered. He was determined in his duty, always honest and true to his word, and a source of inspiration to all trustees and staff as well as a kind host to everyone who has visited Allum Manor over the years.

To say we will sorely miss him fails to do justice to the debt which we all owe to Jim McKean and his family.

Norman Shuker
For the Board of Trustees, Allum Manor

Tributes to Jim McKean

I have known Jim for over the 18 years that I have been a Hertsmere and town councillor. He has been a friend and a colleague to me. My thoughts on our friendship were that he would do anything to help anyone. Jim was not only a gentleman, he was a gentle man.

The many times I went to see Jim to hire the hall for my charity The British Friends of Orr Shalom, he was fair, helpful and understanding and always ready to sit and listen to what I had to say.

I thought of Jim as a true friend and because of feeling like that we could speak about politics and many other everyday things but still remain friends even if we didn't always agree with our different feelings on that subject.

I will always remember Jim as a true friend. Thank you for being just you. It was my pleasure to have known you throughout many years.

Cllr Sandra Parnell

I feel so privileged to have met him. His dedication and drive to get Allum Manor working was indeed admirable.

Jayshree Malde (local resident)

Our relationship goes back to when I was first appointed as "Manager" of the Citizens' Advice Bureau in 1987 and I was asked to join the then management committee; of course Jim was already there, and there he remained!

He has done wonderful things for Allum Hall and for the community and will be much missed.

Sue Pearlman (CAB)

It was a pleasure and an inspiration to have seen him give his report at the AGM in 2019 and the results of his influence and the work he has done over the years was clear for all to see.

Paul Moser (Hertsmere Mencap)



Over the years I had much contact with Jim and happy memories of how he always encouraged me in my various ventures using Allum Manor as well as the Hall. I always referred to him as "Gentleman Jim" ... and we always shared a joke. He was a well-known and well-respected member of our local community and will be greatly missed and always remembered by all who knew him.

Susan Moser (Hertsmere Mencap and other local charities)

Such a gentleman, whose sole aim was in improving our community. He always acted in such an understated way, was a mine of information and never wanted to take credit for the wonderful and long lasting work he did for the benefit of all our residents. He was someone to look up to and will be sorely missed by many.

Harvey Cohen (Elstree ward Councillor, Hertsmere Borough Council)



The legacy of Jim McKean

Just over a year ago the autumn issue of *Town Crier* described the history of Allum Manor, from its origins in the 18th century through its many years as a private residence before the creation of the Elstree Borehamwood and District Community Association and subsequent joint efforts by the association, local authorities and community groups to create the community centre we have today.

But that account did not mention the key role played by those individuals who have volunteered over the years, and in particular local residents who have served as chairmen of the association. In their turn, Arthur Howse and then Arthur Jones guided the efforts to renew the Manor House and to replace the previous halls with Allum Hall.

And then in 1997 Jim McKean became chair of the association. By then Jim had already served on the management committee for over 10 years. Funding for an extensive redevelopment programme had been secured two years previously from Hertsmere Borough Council and in 1997 Jim faced the challenge of guiding the programme from start to finish.

As a chartered civil engineer, experienced in project management, Jim was more than equal to the task.

By November that year, the new Allum Hall was officially opened. Work on the Manor House, discovered to be in a far worse state of repair than expected, took longer but in March 1998 the Manor House was also officially re-opened.

By 1998, the 50th anniversary of the community centre, Jim and his fellow trustees had delivered to their local community a totally refurbished centre, fit for purpose.

But Jim's work was not done, and over the next 20 years he led efforts to satisfy local needs for low-cost, high quality facilities, welcoming a growing range of charities, clubs, community bodies and special interest groups who made Allum Manor their home. And in each case, these groups knew that Jim was their host and their friend.

Jim also had to strike a balance between serving such community groups and hiring the facilities to private groups. The centre had to pay its way, and Jim was just the right man to attract the new revenue required to support the centre day-by-day and also build up the reserves needed to 'future proof' the centre.

Thanks to Jim's continuous efforts, many local families can trace their family history through events they held at Allum Manor. And who will ever forget the concerts and exhibitions which Jim brought to the centre, returning year after year.

The value of Jim's determination to build up those reserves has never been clearer than in this 'year of Covid'. While the centre was itself under lockdown and many of its staff were furloughed, with Jim's full support and undimmed enthusiasm the trustees agreed to carry out an extensive programme of maintenance and investment, including redecoration of every room in the Manor House.

Thanks to Jim's foresight and his prudent control of expenditure, the centre is open again and welcoming back groups in safety.

Jim naturally treated people courteously, was friendly, upright and dependable, with the professionalism carried over from his past work career. He never lost his determination, belief in and loyalty to the community and to the success of Allum Manor.

To say we will sorely miss him fails to do justice to the debt we all owe to Jim McKean and the example of stewardship which he set over so many years. The values of community service which he always showed us will continue to inspire – and challenge – the trustees to ensure that Allum Manor is always at the service of Elstree, Borehamwood and district.

As Jim would always say on parting, 'all the best'. Thank you Jim.

*The Board of Trustees,
Allum Manor*



'Writers In The Wood' and 'PC Writers' poetry competition winners:

In October, Sarah Gunn, the administrator for 'PC Writers' (Writers In The Wood's sister group in France) and Lorraine Reed (administrator for Borehamwood's writers circle 'Writers In The Wood'), organised a poetry competition to bring a little fun into 2020 for our members.

Sarah is an author who lived in Hertfordshire before moving to France. Sarah connected with writers and authors in her previous home town through 'Writers In The Wood.' Since then, Sarah has also started up a writers circle in her local area. It was decided between the two admins that giving authors in England and France the opportunity to connect with each other would be both exciting and beneficial. This has proven to be the case and members from both groups share their written creations, offer feedback and take part in fun writing tasks.

Thanks go to our competition judge author Steven J Pemberton. Not only has Steven been a very supportive and helpful member of WITW from its very early days, he also creates many wonderful stories that he



shares in the groups for his fellow members to enjoy.

Thanks also to the Town Crier magazine for supporting local writers and publishing the winning poems. Finally, thank you to all those who took part!

Bio:

After being medically retired as a teacher and trainer, SJ Gungum and her partner decided to up sticks and move to Poitou-Charentes. Here, Sarah Jane decided to start her dream of becoming a full-time writer. She has four short stories published on Amazon Kindle, two in the Stevenage Writers Group Anthology (UK) and two 'pocket reads.' More information and stories can be found at her website www.novelquill.com. Sarah Jane is currently working on a novel based on true historical facts. She is the founder of PC Writers and holds regular meetings and workshops for her members.

PC Writers:

PC Writers was founded by SJ Gungum in September 2019. We have two types of meetings. The first is workshop based, where writers get together with their current novels, poems, lyrics, or anything they fancy. This is a non-structured meeting with coffee and cake. The second meeting is held in the evenings and usually follows a structure with a specific topic and writing exercises. At the end of the evening, we create a 'writing challenge' to be completed for the next month's meeting. The writing challenges have been popular with non-members and some appear on the PC Writers website.

PC Writers is a sister-group of Writers In the Wood, based in the UK. They share writing challenges, book signings, and a love of writing. It is their hope to have a Writers' Exchange in the future.

For more information please send a Friend Request to PC Writers on Facebook. Alternatively, please go to www.novelquill.com/pc-writers

Representing 'PC Writers'

Saving Time

by Roger Jackson

Suddenly I am retired. It just sneaked up on me.

*Luckily everything is helping to save us time,
now a precious commodity.*

*Trudging around the supermarket in "do it yourself mode"
is over.*

*Sit down and do it from your smartphone.
Even your smart fridge will do it for you.*

*We are rather like Minotaur in the labyrinth of the internet,
being fed continuous streams of information that we don't want,
constantly being hypnotised by flashing adverts.*

*Spending hours looking, in hope of finding something to save us
time, something that will make us young again, something as yet
we didn't know that we needed or wanted, so that we could be
the first to have it whatever it is.*

All to save us time.

Representing 'Writers In The Wood'

Minotaur

by Terry Potter

*On entering the Labyrinth
The tears that you shed,
Formed by wit, and pathos
Are sufficient to cleanse any Stables.
Although, much of the excrement
Is self-administered*

*The anger you find there,
Will provide all the power and tenacity
Required for completing your task.*

*The pearls of wisdom, nuggets of knowledge.
The sum of the experiences of Life.
That you will find in the realms contained.
Are equal to an orchard of Golden Apples
From the Tree of Knowledge.*

*Having waded through the mires of despond,
And climbed the dizzy peaks.
Traversing the wide plains of platitudes*

*You will have completed the twelfth labour.
And have come face to face.
With the Minotaur.*

*How else would you describe,
A man born in late April.*

Black History Month

Here in Borehamwood, I serve as an elected councillor. Constituents bring their legitimate concerns about alleged racism, for example in respect to housing, bullying at work, neighbourhood issues, access to services and so forth. I always seek to resolve these problems by taking their concerns seriously and bringing the matter to a decisive end whereby all parties involved get a satisfactory outcome.

In addition to various family and personal concerns, I am also aware of many residents who carry a deep sense of grievance concerning slavery, institutional racism, the past legacy of colonialism, prejudice, xenophobia and homophobia.

Now that it is Black History Month, let us revisit time in history. Given, Britain was a part of the Roman Empire and the Roman Empire was multicultural with slaves from Africa, Asia, Europe and other parts of the world since ancient time. In short, Blacks did not first come to the UK on the Empire Windrush. Blacks were first brought here as captive slaves from Africa by European slave traders through kidnapping, banditry, trick and artifice, and by social violence, from more than a millennium ago up to the 19th century.

Here in the United Kingdom, laws have been enacted to stamp out racism against Blacks and Ethnic Minority people. Yet, more is needed to buttress said legislations. There is an outcry for reparation for slavery which does not always mean 'pay poney' but to say 'sorry for the wrong' meted upon the Blacks and Ethnic Minority people.



Others argue that descendants of slaves and inflicted African nations are owed financial and material restitution by European nations that were slave traders. During the 'abolition of slavery' the slave owners were compensated with millions for alleged loss of earnings whilst the freed slaves were not given any compensation for their toil to the slave masters from sunrise to sundown.

Meanwhile, all is not lost. Sadly, the killing of George Floyd in America by police officers has reignited the conversation about educating the masses in schools and in both social and print media about the importance of human equality, dignity and rights which are pertinent to human survival, as featured by the organization 'Black Lives Matter' around the world and also here in Elstree and Borehamwood.

During the demonstrations held in Elstree and Borehamwood, Cllr Collins, Cllr Gray, Cllr Newmark and other speakers condemned racism in all forms and demanded: "Slavery of the past should not be swept under the carpet but taught in schools, enabling the mindset of people to become emancipated, ameliorated and enlightened."

Finally, as a Councillor in Elstree and Borehamwood, I consider it a privilege to serve and endeavour to work with residents of all racial backgrounds for the common good of fellow human beings, leading to harmony and equal opportunity.

Cllr Alpha Bird Collins, LLM

Elstree and Borehamwood Museum

Even though most unfortunately our museum is closed for now, it is certainly not 'down and out.' Volunteers have been working hard to get a 'socially-distanced Covid-free' exhibition up and running in the café area at 96.



Meanwhile, on the wonderful blog which is easily found at elstree-museum.org.uk, Simon and Matt have put together a really fascinating, interesting alphabet of items from our archive collection, giving history and background information on everything from kitchen roll to underwear and from Dead Man's Penny to shopping. Do take a look.

We look forward to announcing our re-opening as soon as possible, but in the meantime why not visit our website for lots of information about our collections and what we do?

And if you would like to be more involved you can volunteer or become a Friend.

Watch this space

Elaine Butchins



Ain't no stopping our French conversation sessions now!



For many years, the Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA) has been running free French conversation sessions for intermediate/advanced speakers. Participants must be members of BETTA (details below). We are always keen to welcome new members to these meetings and to all our activities.

The sessions are run voluntarily by a native French speaker on the last Tuesday of the month in the café area of 96 Shenley Road from 2.30pm to 4.15pm. We are pleased that, during the long period of Covid 19 lockdown, we have successfully continued online. It has enabled participants to keep on improving their French, and as Jane Ashford, one of our group, said: "it's a really great way to come together, actually or virtually, to speak French and to feel that no one is judging you on the level of your language skills."

These meetings are a way of exploring various aspects of French culture. Sylvie Scanlon commented: "We are from all walks of life and it is interesting to hear various points of view on all kinds of topics. We



have resumed meeting on the internet and it works very well. It is very relaxed and great fun." After informally chatting in French, we discuss articles on current issues or on topics of general interest. Elaine Butchins said these sessions are "enjoyable, instructive, companionable and help me keep up my French."

Conviviality is at the heart of our gatherings. David Rose, another long-term attendee, kindly remarked: "Our leader makes all involved whatever their abilities feel listened to and given time to express themselves in the beautiful French language."

Feel free to get in touch through our email bettagroup@hotmail.com and also visit our website at www.betta.org.uk to find details of membership.

Irmine Mason

Woodcock Hill Village Green

In July, Taylor Wimpey consulted on its proposal to deregister part of the Village Green, exchanging it for land further west over the railway line, adjacent to Barnet Lane. These proposals:

- are inferior ecologically;
- are further for most residents, requiring a steep 1 in 4 climb;
- would require tree felling (protected by Tree Preservation Orders) for a footpath from Byron Ave, home to the muntjac deer, and would change the Village Green from a nature reserve to a rural park.

WHVG committee have taken legal advice. The proposals were rejected by the committee but also by the MP, county, borough and town councillors, Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the countryside charity CPRE, Open Spaces Society, Elstree and Borehamwood Green Belt Society, Elstree and Borehamwood Residents Association and an overwhelming majority of residents. Nothing more has been heard as yet.

Village Green status was protected by law. Developers have managed to get the law changed. An application has been made under the Hertsmere Local Plan review to build 110 homes on the site.



The Horses' Field: David Wilson Homes have applied to build 270 homes on green belt site HEL209a as part of Hertsmere Local Plan. Hertsmere Borough Council is now in the next phase of this review of the plan. Including a large part of the Village Green!

Working parties (socially distanced) took place monthly led by Alex Melsom. Tree, scrub and litter clearance, pond and meadow planting. The biggest event, Mitzvah Day 13 November 2019, saw Oliver Dowden and family join residents.

Next dates: Mitzvah Day Sunday 13 December and 10 January.

All proposed events on the Village Green were cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. Check our new website for more information.

Membership contact pat.strack@ntlworld.com 020 8386 3151. £5 per household pa. www.woodcockhill.org.uk



Money matters in difficult times

Town Council Community Grant Awards (1st Tranche 2020/21)

In the first tranche of grant applications for the 2020/21 municipal year, the Town Council is proud to have assisted the following organisations with grant awards to contribute to the cost of local activities which are of benefit to the community (or a section of it).

The total sum granted in Budgeted, Community, Special and Fee Waiver grants to date is **£27,568**.

As follows:

- Aldenham Renaissance Community Interest Company - £5,000 (Covid-19 costs – car park entry system);
- Penniwells Riding Centre for the Disabled - £500 (Covid-19 costs);
- Boreham Wood Football Club - £1,600 (stadium board);
- Borehamwood 2000 Football Club - £768 (new goal posts);
- Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association (BETTA) - £1,000 (running costs).

Further information (including an application form and guidelines) can be obtained from the council offices or downloaded (www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk) from the council website.

The council would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the above organisations the very best and to thank them for their work in making life better for people in the area, especially in these difficult times. Grant applications will now be considered at every meeting of the council's General Management Committee.

What some of the recipients said

"The Club was thrilled to receive a cheque for £768 from Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council which will be used to purchase new goal posts. Thank you EBTC."

Dave Makamian (Chair, Borehamwood 2000 FC).

"Grateful thanks to Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council."
Chairman of Penniwells Riding Centre for the Disabled.

Town Council Special Grant Awards (2020/21)

Recognising that the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have placed unprecedented burdens on local education services, the Town Council also responded by utilising £20,000 of its school swimming budget to help schools (through their parents' and teachers' associations) to provide IT support so that students are best equipped to continue with their learning. The monies were used to purchase laptops or tablets for the students most in need in each school.

- Friends of Kenilworth £1,250;
- Cowley Hill Primary School £2,500;
- Woodlands School Staff & Parents Association £2,500;
- Friends of St Teresa's School £1,250;
- St Nicholas C of E VA Primary School £1,200;
- Friends of Meryfield £2,500;
- Summerswood Primary School £2,500;
- Parkside Community School PTA £2,500;
- Saffron Green Primary School £1,250;
- Friends of Monksmead Parents Association £1,250.

What some of the recipients said:

"A huge thank you for the emergency IT grant. This will help hugely with the studies of our young children here at St Nicholas."

Mrs K Johnston-Grant (Headteacher).

St Nicholas Elstree Church of England (VA) Primary School.

"Thank you for the very generous gift. We have developed a new way forward of supporting children's learning if they needed to work from home and having the ability to spend money on these computing resources is superb."

Miss Sarah Kneller (Headteacher).

Summerswood Primary School.

Town Council budget and Covid-19

The impact of the pandemic on Town Council finances has been significant, especially as the authority focusses on entertainment services. Key areas of council work have been concentrated in refurbishing Fairway Hall and making the offices fit for work in line with a Covid-19 risk assessment. The grounds team have been maintaining the allotment and cemetery sites. Office staff have been ensuring that community and Council meetings can continue remotely (using the Zoom platform), keeping core administrative functions operating smoothly and ensuring that the Town Mayor is best able to carry out his functions safely and to the best of his ability in representing Elstree and Borehamwood.

Whilst several council events (such as Families Day and Fireworks Night) have been forced to be cancelled, the Entertainments Committee continues to look at innovative ways in which council budgets can be utilised to provide safe alternative uses of monies (e.g. a virtual talent competition or new flag poles in the town) or how in better times to come, even better services can be delivered (e.g. an enhanced fireworks display or even bigger Festival Fortnight).

Losses on Fairway Hall hire are likely to total around £25,000 as no income has been received so far this financial year. The council applied for and was successful in receiving a £10,000 rebate from Hertsmere from the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF). Covid-19 precautions to date have resulted in expenditure of c.£3,000.

At the last General Management Committee meeting, it was agreed that the setting of a draft budget for 2021/22 would be deferred until early 2021 to allow the Council to take account of the base rate set by Hertsmere Borough Council and the nature of the changing rules and regulations for local authorities on how to manage finances in the changing circumstances. The council wishes to provide assurances to residents that every effort is being made to continue with council services to the best of its abilities in a way that follows government guidelines and best protects the health and wellbeing of everyone. To end with some good news, some services (e.g. allotments) have become even more popular!



“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 and Offenburg
- 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 quarterly magazine “Town Crier”
- 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 Road Safety Forum
- Community Safety meetings

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

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 Hertsmere Leisure) 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

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

Just published!

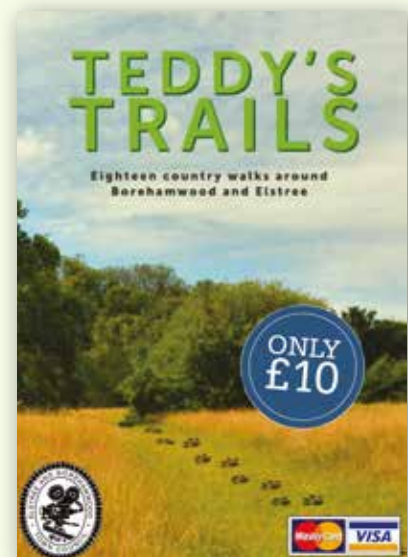
Teddy's Trails are now available in print ...

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.

Teddy's Trails are named after the fox terrier whose joy in exploring the countryside inspired the book. There are 18 walks, ranging in length from 3 to 8 miles, with copious notes about places of interest along the way and people associated with them.

It is priced at only £10 a copy.

It can be ordered by phone from Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council on 020 8207 1382 (card payments accepted) or by post from the council at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood WD6 5BT (cheques payable to Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council).



“We thoroughly enjoyed it and didn't even get lost! I saw places I had never before seen and learnt a great deal more about the countryside where I live.” Helen (Borehamwood)

“I love how it is presented. What a lovely tribute to Teddy.” Dan (Elstree)

“Congratulations on a splendid production.” Lawrence (Edgware)

“The indications are clear, and I love the additional information and historical remarks you provide.” Marco (Borehamwood)

Town Councillors

2020/21 Mayor: Cllr Simon Rubner

2020/21 Deputy Mayor: Cllr Sandra Parnell

Borehamwood Hillside



Cllr Sandra Parnell (Con)

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Cllr Clive Butchins (Con)

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Cllr Pat Strack (Con)

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Cllr Richard Butler (Lab)

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Borehamwood Brookmeadow



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Cllr Simon Rubner (Con) Mayor

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Borehamwood Kenilworth South



Cllr Prabhakar Kaza (Lab)

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Cllr Jeremy Newmark (Lab)

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Borehamwood Shenley Road



Cllr Rebecca Challice (Lab)

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Elstree



Cllr Farida Turner (Con)

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Town Council offices are closed until further notice. To contact a member of staff, please use the emails below.

Elstree & Borehamwood Town Council meetings

For a full list of our forthcoming meetings, please see the website.

25 November	FULL COUNCIL	Zoom	7.30pm
2 December	Community Safety	Zoom	7.00pm



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

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

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Tracey Malton - Deputy Clerk and Finance Officer

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Neil Robinson - Hall Supervisor

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Paul Miller - Hall Supervisor

Email: pmiller@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Anne Nicodemus - Council Warden

Email: warden@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk

Hall Bookings

Email: hall.bookings@elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk



WE HAVE

BUYERS & TENANTS WAITING

FOR PROPERTY IN THIS AREA



Call us to arrange a free market appraisal or pop in to discover why we are **different from the rest...**

MORRIS & JOEL

48 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 1DS

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