

YOUR SHERWOOD

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2014

A young child with brown hair, wearing a grey jacket with a fur collar, grey trousers, and red and white checkered boots with purple laces, is watering plants in a garden. The child is holding a green watering can and is looking down at the plants. The background is a lush green garden with various plants and trees.

**Get closer
to nature**

pages 8-9

**Help your
children
stay safe**

pages 10-11

**'Love thy
neighbour'?**

pages 14-15



welcome...

...to August's edition of 'Your Sherwood'

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and making the most of the sun (well, at the time of writing it's been sunny for at least the last fortnight!).

For the more green fingered of you we've got some hints on how you can turn your garden into a haven for wildlife while you make the most of any remaining fine weather in the coming weeks and months. We also look at how we can all stop temperatures boiling over in the warmer weather by being good neighbours.

We know how proud you all are of our local environment. To make sure we keep Sherwood looking great for everyone we focus on how we can all do our bit to discourage some of the anti-social behaviour that would otherwise spoil it.

Of course we've got all the other regular features and latest Sherwood news in this issue, which I hope you will enjoy reading.

Don't forget we are always looking for ideas for articles. So if you do have any suggestions please get in touch by emailing **yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk** or calling **01892 501446**.

Steve Mandaluff
Your Sherwood Editor

New neighbourhood team to be based at TN2 Community Centre

From this autumn you might start to see a few more faces in the area. Starting in October a Sherwood Neighbourhood Team – made up of representatives from a range of organisations – is set to begin working from the TN2 Community Centre.

Keep an eye out for more information in the TN2 Centre and an update in the next edition of *Your Sherwood*.

News bites

Cllr Bob Backhouse re-elected!



At the Borough Council elections in May Cllr Bob Backhouse was re-elected to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to represent the Sherwood ward.

As well as continuing his roles on the Planning Committee and Joint Transportation Board, where he meets with Councillors from Kent County Council to discuss road maintenance, Bob has also been appointed Chairman of Licensing.

The Licensing Committee has a varied area of authority, dealing with taxis, private hire vehicles, clubs and pubs, betting shops, gaming machines, scrap metal dealers, street trading and sex shops.



I would like to thank the people of Sherwood for re-electing me for another four years' said Bob, 'and I look forward to giving a strong voice to Sherwood residents in the Town Hall.

At Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Annual Meeting on Wednesday 11 June another Sherwood Councillor, Cllr Lynne Weatherly, was made the Cabinet Portfolio holder for Communities and Wellbeing.

Call **01892 535086**
or email **bobbackhouse@gmail.com**

Bob and Lynne's weekly surgery is held at TN2 Community Centre every Wednesday from 9.30am to 10.30am, offering Sherwood residents the chance to meet Bob, along with John Sinclair from Town & Country Housing Group, to raise and discuss any issues.



Snapshot from another Sherwood...

Sherwood in Oregon, USA, celebrated the 60th anniversary of their 'Sherwood Robin Hood Festival' last month.

For over half a century the small American town, with a population of just over 18,000, has been holding the event which includes an annual archery competition with Nottingham in England, medieval re-enactments, Maid Marian's Court, Robin Hood and his merry men, a knighting ceremony, and live entertainment as well as food and drink.

SCRAP METAL CRIME ALERT!!!

There have been reports of Sherwood residents being approached by bogus scrap metal dealers.

Often these companies will offer to collect any scrap metal at a very cheap price. After collecting the scrap the material is usually stripped of any valuable assets and then dumped illegally, frequently on waste ground or on estates. The cost to the public is enormous and the cost to the environment is vast.

If you are approached for any scrap metal please check that the company is a registered scrap metal business with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. If they are a licensed business they will display a collector's licence issued by the Council that will include the Council logo.

Registered scrap metal businesses need to:

- Keep a detailed yearly record of their dealings at each place where they store or process/dispatch scrap metal
- Keep each record book for two years after the last entry
- Allow the Council or the Police to inspect their premises, scrap metal and their records
- Renew their registration every three years

If you think you have been approached by an unlicensed scrap metal collector please contact the Council's Licensing Team by calling **01892 554236** or email **licensing@tunbridgewells.gov.uk**. To help the Licensing Team look into the report it

helps if you can collect as much information as possible such as the date, time, location, vehicle registration, make, model, description of person(s) and what makes you think they are not licensed. If you see them flytipping scrap metal please **REPORT IT** (See how on page 16)



View your rent and repairs online!

Town & Country residents can now view their rent and repairs information online with My Home Online. This secure area of the Town & Country website allows tenants, leaseholders and shared owners to:

- see the balance on your current tenancy
- view your regular charges and a statement of your recent transactions (for the last six months)
- see outstanding and completed repairs to your home, block and estate.

It's easy to register for My Home Online

Visit **www.tchg.org.uk/my-home-online** and then follow the simple steps below.

1. To get started you will need to enter the following information:

- **Your tenant reference number** – This 10 digit number can be found in the top left hand corner of your rent statement below your address. Your rent statement is sent out four times a year with a copy of Town & Country's Spotlight magazine.
- **Your first name and surname**
- **Your date of birth**
- **A valid email address** – This must be your own personal email account as you will need to access your emails to confirm your registration
- **A password** – it must have at least six characters including one capital letter and one number (eg Country1). It is your responsibility to remember your password and keep it secret.
- **Click 'Register'**

2. Check your email account to confirm your email address:

- **You will have been sent an email** – this will ask you to confirm your registration. This is sent for security reasons to ensure you are the owner of the email address
- **Click the link in the confirmation email** – you will be directed back to the Town & Country website and see a message saying that your email address has been confirmed.

You can now log in to My Home Online at any time using your email address and password!

If you have any problems registering please call **01892 501480** or email **myhomeonline@tchg.org.uk**



Holiday upgrade works

for Temple Grove Academy!

The start of the summer holidays at Temple Grove Academy meant the start of some essential building refurbishment and fire-safety related works. These are designed to transform the Academy's site into a safer, brighter learning environment for children, and are due to be completed by the start of the new academic year (September 2014).

By the end of the project, the Academy will have replaced the deteriorating asphalt roofs of all its buildings and the electrical wiring, lighting, fire doors and fire partitions throughout. The Junior building lighting was replaced last summer and it had a noticeable impact on children's learning, particularly in the dark winter months. Works to enhance safety include resurfacing the playgrounds and the installation of new CCTV system.

These improvements are being funded by a capital grant of £496,000 awarded earlier in the summer by the Education

Funding Agency (EFA), taking the total grant funding received since January 2013 to a massive £1.25million.

Chair of Governors to the Academy, Nicola Denoon-Duncan explained:

“ This is an enormous boost for the Academy. We are determined to transform the environment within which the children enjoy their learning and enrichment activities. We still need to find more funding for other necessary projects, but the EFA's recognition of the need to improve the fabric of our buildings, in awarding this grant, is very welcome.



The Infant school playground will be resurfaced soon, thanks to the EFA grant.



Skidders' Foundation to sponsor

new primary school at Knights Wood

The Skidders' Foundation is set to sponsor the new primary school that will be situated in Dandara's new Knights Wood housing development at Knights Park.

The Skidders' Foundation, with the support of The Skidders' School and The Skidders' Kent Academy, will run the new school.

Skidders' Kent Academy Principal, Sian Carr, is excited about the prospect of the new school:

“ *'This is a wonderful opportunity' said Sian. 'As educators it is our job to ensure that ALL our students, be they 4 or 18, receive the highest quality education and develop the character and skills to be successful.'*

The School will have academy status and will be known as Skidders' Kent Primary School. It will educate boys and girls aged 4 to 11 and will initially open in September 2015 with 30 pupils in Year R (reception) and 15 students in Years 1 and 2.

There will be a phased programme of growth to a capacity

of 210 students across seven classes and the potential to extend to two form entry, in line with the projected increase in the birth rate. In addition a satellite unit will provide inclusive provision for up to 12 pupils with special educational needs.

Roger Gough, Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Education, sees a bright future for the school, saying: *'We are pleased to be working with the Skidders' Foundation, with its strong tradition of providing high quality education in Kent, to provide this new school. This exciting development will help meet demand from the new housing development for school places in the area.'*

The Skidders Foundation was asked by the Department of Education to sponsor the new school.

What 'academy status' means

Academy status means the school answers directly to the Department for Education rather than to the education authority and gains greater control over key educational, budgetary and operational decisions.

St Philip's Open Day – open to everyone!

It's a busy year for St Philip's church, with plenty going on as it celebrates its tenth anniversary. **September 13** is a day not to be missed as St Philip's hosts an Open Day for local residents to join in the celebrations in a fun way.

From 11am to 3pm a wide range of family fun activities will be on offer, including hoopla, throwing beanbags into buckets, and eating donuts on a string. There will also be craft activities for children as well as a chance to test your knowledge on the church. A typical question might be: 'How many hands are there in the stain-glassed window?'

Inside the church there will also be information stalls on the activities run by St Philip's to help the local community, which range from providing spiritual support for personal wellbeing to the more practical support services given freely by the church. These include the Pastoral Care team, who offer practical as well as prayerful support, and the Cybercafe, which



runs every Wednesday morning during term-time, giving free help with IT for anyone who drops in.

The Open Day is also a chance to sample the delights of the Coffee Shop, which has opened every Friday morning for the past 25 years (and is still going strong!) and which will provide a welcome chance to sit down and make friends over a cuppa and a cake. You'll also find more information on St Philip's toddler groups (held on Thursday and Friday mornings), as well as its KidzKlub, which runs every Thursday during term-time between 4.45pm and 6pm.

So, make September 13 a date in your diary!

Forum for the Muslim ladies of Tunbridge Wells

Tunbridge Wells Muslim Women's Forum is a community organisation that aims to inspire and create a diverse welcoming environment for Muslim women in the Tunbridge Wells area.

The group was established in July 2012 and the following month, on 25 August 2012, they held Tunbridge Wells' very first women's Eid Party. This has now become a regular event and their third Eid Party is organised for 23 August this year.

Tunbridge Wells Muslim Womens Forum



The Forum also introduces Muslim women to services they may not be aware of in the local area such as local English classes, NHS services, libraries and children's centres.

Muslim women interested in joining the Tunbridge Wells Muslim Women's Forum can find out more by calling **Sufia Rahman** on **07729 854743** or emailing **twmwf@hotmail.co.uk**. TWMWF can also be found on Facebook, just search for Tunbridge Wells Muslim Women's Forum.

All faiths welcome!

*There are many groups representing different religious faiths based in and around Tunbridge Wells. 'Your Sherwood' would like to see as many of them as possible represented in the newsletter. If you would like the activities of your faith's community group to be featured in 'Your Sherwood', please contact **Steve Mandaluff** on **01892 501446** or email **yoursherwood@tchq.org.uk**.*

Not 'just one of those days' for Jenny Bays...



Jenny's birthday treat!

Sherwood resident Jenny Bays celebrated her 80th birthday in style in May when her own bus turned up to kick off the celebrations.

Jenny was pictured with the 277 Sherwood Shuttle bus that bears her name for her 80th Birthday Party on 24th May (five days before her actual birthday on 29th May). As you will see from the photo above, Arriva also very generously provided a cake for Jenny in the shape of a bus!

Many family members and friends going back over her time in Sherwood came along to join in and help Jenny celebrate, including local MP Greg Clark. Jenny's family came from all over England, namely Plymouth, Fareham, Darlington and Preston to join her for the day. Finally, as a special surprise it was arranged for Jenny to 'Skype' her sister in Canada, so she was able to see and talk to her over the internet.

Jenny's eightieth birthday will be one she won't forget in a hurry.

And a bloomin' great time as well!

Jenny also had time to pop over to Hill's offices on Greggs Wood Road to have her photo taken with some of the plants that were taken from the Jubilee Garden before work started on the Lakewood project.

The Jubilee Garden was created by local residents as a peaceful place to go and relax. Jenny spent a lot of time

working on the garden, landscaping it, looking after the plants and keeping it in good shape for everyone to enjoy.

As part of the plans for the new Lakewood development it was proposed to keep the Jubilee Garden and move it to the top of the Neighbourhood Park area. Jenny helped choose the plants to be potted and kept until the new Jubilee Garden is ready, which should be sometime next year.

Photo: Jenny Bays and Valentina Williams, Resident Liaison Officer for Hill, pictured with the plants that will go in the new Jubilee Garden.



The 277 shuttle bus heroes

The three 277 buses that serve our neighbourhood are all named after people from Sherwood who have, over many years, made a positive contribution to the life of their local community. As well as the one named after Jenny, who has devoted much of her time to voluntary work for over 30 years, buses are also named after Keith Marden, who was Head Teacher of the local primary school for over 20 years, and after the Reverend Brian Senior, who has been the vicar of St. Philip's Church for over a decade.



The 277 shuttles between Sherwood and the Town Centre via Ferndale every 15 minutes during the day from Mondays to Saturdays.

Get closer to nature in Sherwood



Make your garden a wildlife haven

Even living in a built-up housing development like Sherwood, it's easy to help all sorts of wildlife to thrive by turning your garden into their sanctuary.

As we live in the High Weald, the wildlife we see in our gardens is often species that are 'refugees' from the fringes of the ancient wildwood that used to cover this part of Kent – birds such as blackbirds and robins, or butterflies like tortoiseshell and peacock.

So trees are the backbone of a wildlife garden. If you don't have room for large trees, you can sometimes 'borrow' trees from neighbouring gardens or countryside by planting shrubs and small trees around your boundary to reproduce a woodland edge. And your fences or sheds can give extra vertical habitat if they are clothed in plants such as honeysuckle or ivy, 'the queen of the climbers', as it provides

evergreen shelter, nectar for bees in autumn and berries in the depths of winter.

Nothing will do more to increase your garden's value to wildlife than the addition of a pond. However small, a pond will introduce frogs and dragonflies as well as colour and drama to a sunny corner. You can also easily recreate another threatened habitat, the flowering meadow, by being a little more relaxed and leaving some of those odd corners that are awkward to mow just grow and do their own thing.

Meadows are important habitats for minibeasts, which in turn are the base of the foodchain for wildlife. You can also encourage them with a compost heap in the corner, or log pile hidden in the hedge.

Don't forget that whatever you can do will be rewarded by the pleasure of experiencing our fascinating wildlife up close in your own garden!



Dig in at the Sherwood Community Herb Garden

The Sherwood Community Herb Garden, located where Trebilco Close meets Oak Road, was established in 2011 with support from Town & Country Foundation, the charitable arm of TCHG.

Since then, under the guidance of Kent High Weald Partnership, a team of local volunteers have been going to great efforts to maintain the garden – planting, nurturing, watering and replacing a variety of plants. With assistance from KHWP, Tunbridge Wells in Bloom and Town & Country, they have also been able to invest in a shed and more gardening tools to help with their work.

Thanks to their dedication and hard work, the herb garden is now something of a hidden gem – a place to enjoy some peaceful tranquility as well as to get involved. It's a shame that at the moment it can only open for just a few hours a week. But with a little extra help from a few more volunteers these opening times could be extended. Many more people would then be able to benefit from the peaceful surroundings that the garden provides and to reap the rewards of their labour.

From 12 noon to 4pm on 20 September, an open day will be held to encourage more people to help out at the herb garden. This free fun day will include face-painting and games – as well as food – to enjoy and to welcome the community to this unique Sherwood space. See the flyer in this issue of *Your Sherwood* for more information.



Sherwood goes wild!

A bleak bank of clay on the corner of Oak Road and Sandhurst Road has been transformed into a thriving mix of wild flowers thanks to the hard work of local people and a local garden designer.

The area was an overgrown mass of weeds, brambles and mud. However garden designer Mary Nightingale came up with some ideas for the garden, and the Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP) organised the soil and sourced the plants. Local residents joined the KHWP to help clear the land and the transformation began!

The seeds sown included a mix of annuals, biennials and perennials so there should be a changing but equally colourful display over the coming years.

If you are a budding gardener and want to help with community projects, or if you have any suggestions for other areas of Sherwood that would benefit from some green fingered expertise then please get in touch with us at *Your Sherwood* by calling **01892 501446** or emailing yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk

An allotment of fun!

A number of allotments are to be created on the old Burslem Road garage site, but do you have any suggestions for other areas in Sherwood where allotments could be created?

If so please get in touch with *Your Sherwood* by calling **01892 501446** or emailing yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk

taking care of
our environment

YOUR SHERWOOD

Spot the signs of

Help your children spot

With the school holidays in full swing children will naturally be looking for alternative sites to play, but a building site should not be one of them.

There is a lot of construction work underway in the regeneration of Sherwood, and tempting as it may seem for children to explore the site for fun and adventure, there are many hazards and hidden dangers as well as

obvious ones lurking. For this reason stringent health and safety requirements are rigorously enforced on-site to protect anyone visiting or working there, and entry is strictly forbidden to unauthorised personnel.

Hill, the developer responsible for the Lakewood site, have put together some puzzles and brainteasers to both test your health and safety awareness and to help you share this important message with your children in a fun way.

The answers are page 18.

Safety Sign Scramble

We've got eight safety signs here and what they mean, but the order they are in is scrambled! See if you can match up the statement to the safety sign!

A



B



C



D



**1. Caution!
Dangerous Chemicals**

**2. Hard hats and
protective clothing
must be worn**

**3. Caution!
Electricity**

4. No pedestrians

**5. Caution! Falling
objects**

**6. Keep out!
Construction site**

**7. Caution!
Construction work
taking place**

**8. Caution!
Explosive materials**



E



F



G



H

WORDSEARCH.....

Goggles

Ivor Goodsite

Construction

Danger

Warning

Chemical

Electricity

Caution

T	W	A	R	N	I	N	G	S	
M	A	B	S	C	A	U	T	I	
N	R	C	U	T	G	K	C	O	
T	Y	W	H	A	R	D	H	A	
U	B	K	I	Y	C	D	E	T	
M	C	O	H	R	A	O	M	R	
A	S	S	O	N	E	W	I	G	
C	O	N	S	T	R	U	C	T	
H	O	Y	H	C	S	Y	A	T	
I	H	A	K	R	Y	U	L	G	
N	T	G	E	A	N	A	S	T	
E	D	W	T	I	V	M	C	A	
R	S	O	C	B	O	G	D	N	
Y	G	O	G	G	L	E	S	D	

danger

ay safe this summer

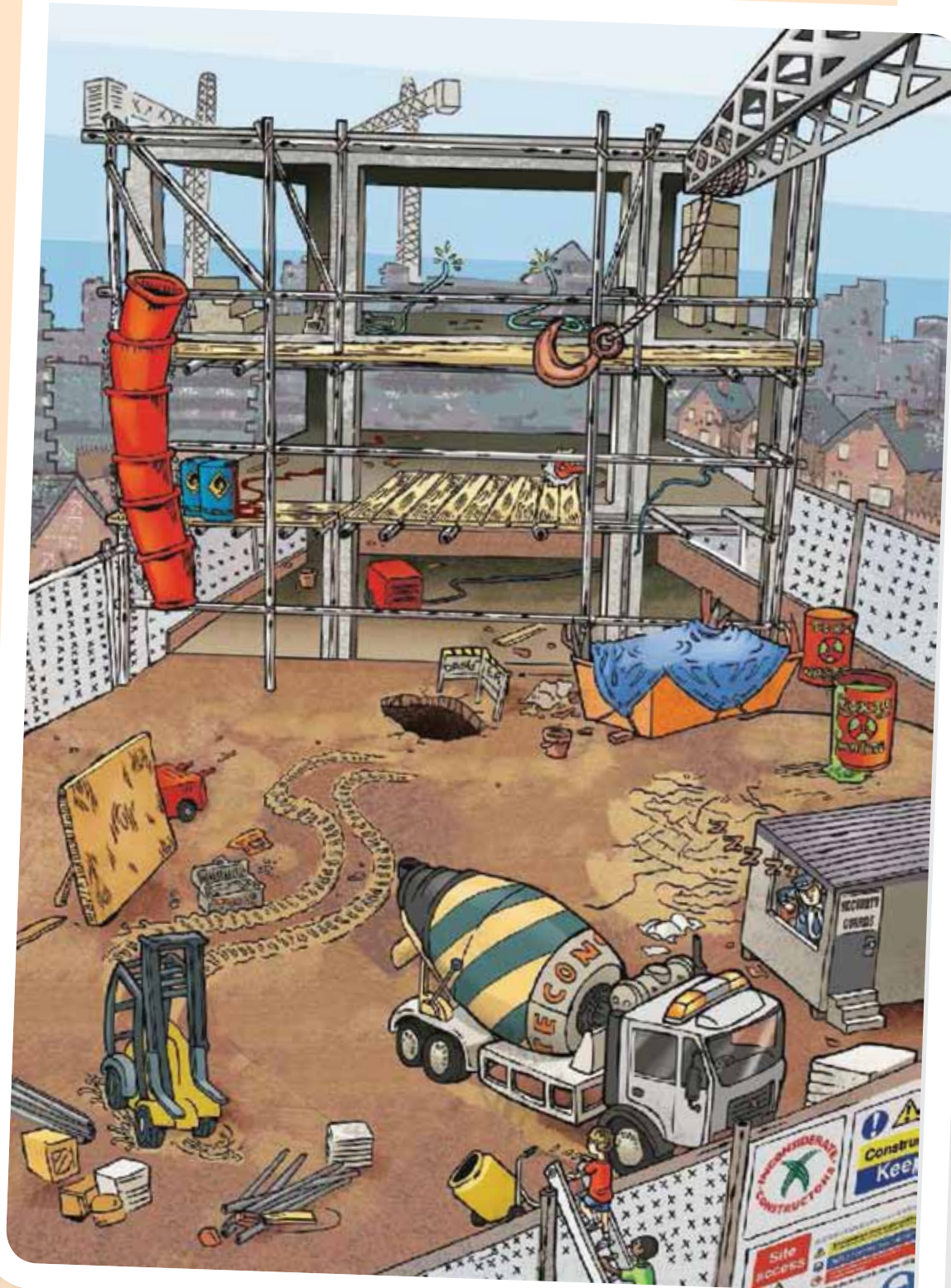


HUNT THE HAZARD

There are 15 safety hazards in this picture. Draw a circle round each danger or hazard that you can find, and then check your answers on page 18.

sign
ls
ty
Worker
Machinery
Boots
Hard hat

I	G	N	D	E	Y	N	E
O	N	G	E	R	M	B	L
S	E	H	I	T	B	M	E
T	T	M	N	W	G	H	C
K	I	O	D	O	T	K	T
U	S	G	V	R	G	A	R
V	D	V	O	K	T	M	I
I	O	N	R	E	C	B	C
D	O	E	N	R	W	H	I
H	G	O	K	T	S	D	T
N	R	C	N	A	V	N	Y
K	O	E	I	G	R	S	I
A	V	C	U	B	C	Y	T
G	I	A	S	C	N	V	E





Lakewood takes shape!

As you will see from our photos the Lakewood regeneration on Greggs Wood Road is continuing to take shape. Photos show some of the new homes going up and Lynes Place – the road named after Kevin Lynes, the Kent County Council councillor for Tunbridge Wells East who was a great Champion for Sherwood.

Sherwood regeneration plan

Phase one of the new Lakewood development is now very close to completion and new residents are moving in most probably as you read this!

Phases two and three of the regeneration project – 122 new homes, including 40 homes for older people, a neighbourhood park and a community square are due to be completed by summer next year.

If you have any queries about the development please do not hesitate to contact Hill's Resident Liaison Team on 0800 032 6760 or email residents@hill.co.uk.

Phase four includes the flats further up Greggs Wood Road past the TN2 Community Centre. The developers, Town & Country Housing Group, are now beginning to look at what can be put here and will be consulting with residents in the autumn with a view to submitting a planning application in the winter.

Clifton and Burslem Road

At Clifton Road eight flats are being replaced by five 3-bedroom houses. Planning permission has also been granted to build six houses and allotments on the old Burslem Road garages. Work on both of these projects is well underway. The building contractor on these two new sites is Airey Miller Construction Management.

Helping hand for job hunters

Building on the success of the Sherwood Job Fair in March, which saw over 200 residents attend, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and partners are staging an even bigger event next month.

The event will take place at the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells on **Wednesday 17 September** from **10am to 3pm** and already 22 employers have confirmed they will be there.

There will be four employment workshops covering CV preparation, interview techniques and the do's and don'ts of social media and self-employment.

In addition KCC Apprenticeship Team, West Kent College, National Careers Guidance, Office Angels, the Bridge Trust, Working Futures, Town & Country

Housing Group's Money Support Team, West Kent YMCA and the Kent High Weald Partnership will all be present on the day as well as MP for Tunbridge Wells Greg Clark and other local MPs.

If you are looking for work, need a helping hand to find a job, or just want to find out more about training please drop in.



Lakewood scheme pays off for 'Apprentice of the Year'!

An apprenticeship has paid off twice over for a local man working on the Lakewood development. Not only has he been awarded 'Apprentice of the Year' but his efforts have been rewarded with a full-time job contract.

Sonny Keene, who is from Tunbridge Wells, was taken on as an apprentice plumber as part of Town & Country Housing Group's commitment to deliver 16 new apprentices at the Lakewood development in Sherwood and the Spa Meadows development in Ramslye.

Despite not having any previous site-based experience when he started his apprenticeship in June 2013, the 23-year-old won the 'Apprentice of the Year' category at the Kent Housing Group Excellence Awards.

Sonny completed his apprenticeship in April this year, but his willingness to learn new skills impressed site managers so much that he was then offered a contract with Orchard Plumbing.

Sonny is delighted that his hard work has paid off. *'Within a year I have gone from being in and out of low pay, temporary work with no qualifications, to being nearly NVQ L2 qualified and in a full time job!*

'I hope that my achievements will inspire other people in my situation to chase opportunities, get their head down, work hard and achieve their goals.'

Matthew Adams, Site Supervisor for Orchard Plumbing & Heating, who offered Sonny a permanent contract after the completion of his apprenticeship, praised his employee:

'Sonny encapsulates what any construction company is looking for in an employee. Any young person looking to get into construction could learn a lot from Sonny. He is an asset to my team and a pleasure to work with.'

Town & Country's Spa Meadows scheme in Ropers Gate, Ramslye was completed in May whilst the Lakewood development is well underway.

These two projects have seen twelve apprenticeships already created with a further four planned to be recruited this calendar year. In addition to this over 20% of local labour (from within 15 miles) has been used across the development sites.

The apprenticeships were offered as part of a partnership between Town & Country Housing Group, Hill (who are building the homes) and K10 (an Apprenticeship Training Agency), who are helping to deliver a number of apprenticeships on the sites.

Colin Lissenden, Development Director for Town & Country Housing Group, said: *'Right from the start we've said how important it was to have local people involved in these schemes, both in the consultation phases and the construction. Sonny is one of a number of apprentices we have created and I am delighted that his appetite for learning and hard work has been recognised by the judges.'*

The Kent Housing Group, which sponsors the 'Apprentice of the Year Award' acts as the 'Voice of Housing in Kent'. It is a forum for social housing organisations in the county and has representation from all twelve Kent local authorities, Medway Council, over sixteen housing associations and Kent County Council.



a better
place to be

YOUR SHERWOOD

'Love thy neighbour

You don't have to be best friends with your neighbours to be good neighbours. Simple consideration, tolerance and mutual respect are all it takes.

We imagine being a good neighbour to mean lending a cup of sugar or looking after the cat while next door are away on holiday. But it could just as easily be as simple as being considerate, tolerant and understanding of others and their different lifestyles – the essential ingredients of any relationship.

A good relationship with neighbours will at very least ensure a peaceful co-existence, but could also benefit you in the form of dependable mutual support or even the opportunity to develop firm friendships.

If everyone behaved like a model neighbour life would be so much easier and the world would be a better place – and so would Sherwood. Follow the tips below to help ensure you enjoy a good relationship with your neighbours:

Be a good neighbour

In your street:

- Neighbours can be a good source of support, so if you haven't already, why not introduce yourself and your family?
- Say hello and smile – it costs nothing and can break the ice and get people talking!

- Lend a helping hand – especially if your neighbour has a new baby, is older or if their car has broken down
- Look out for each other – if your neighbour is going away, offer to put out their bins for them and keep an eye on their house
- Park considerately – don't block your neighbours' access to their property or driveway
- Clear up after your dog – as well as being unsightly and dangerous to your health, leaving dog mess is illegal and is inconsiderate to those around you.
- Contact the Council if you see someone failing to clean up after their dog
- Do not drop litter of any kind of – it's an offence, it's also anti-social, and you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice
- Show tolerance towards individuals or families who may have a different lifestyle or culture to your own



Neighbour'?

In your home:

- Take care of your home and garden – keeping it clean and neat makes the neighbourhood a pleasant place to come home to
- Try to close doors quietly – the sound of a slamming door is very annoying
- Be aware of noise, especially in summer time. Noise such as barking dogs, children screaming and loud music can be very intrusive and stressful
- Let your neighbours know if you're having a party and try to keep noise to a minimum
- Don't have a bonfire during daytime as the smoke can blow across your neighbours' gardens and may affect hanging washing



Handling conflict with neighbours

Although most of us will naturally act like good neighbours, there are some who don't – either because they don't realise their behaviour has a negative impact on others, or because they just don't care. So what are the potential triggers of conflict, how can you prevent tempers from boiling over between you and your neighbours, and what can you do about it? This is the advice from Kent Police:

Recognise the signals

There are many different problems that can cause a conflict between neighbours and being aware of these could be the first step to preventing it:

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

- Noise
- Dog nuisance
- Not keeping communal areas clean
- Untidy gardens
- Bonfires
- Parking
- Children playing

Anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated and can come in different forms. The legal definition of anti-social behaviour is 'conduct that has caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any person'.

Get to know your neighbours

Getting to know your neighbour is the best way to prevent any conflict between you and them. It means that if an incident does occur you are able to speak to them in person and discuss any concerns you may have.

Open communications

Talk to your neighbour face-to-face and at a convenient time. Remember people have different lifestyles so consider this when going to speak to them. Make sure you listen to what they have to say, they may have a reasonable explanation for their actions. Be open to suggestions on how to resolve the problem that will allow for a solution that all are happy with.

Reporting problems

If, however, you feel that you would not be safe approaching your neighbour for fear they could become aggressive then it is best not to approach them directly. If your neighbour is a tenant you could contact their landlord, contact the Council, report it to your housing officer or call **101** instead.

There are several different contacts if you do become a victim of ASB:

Tunbridge Wells
Borough Council
Community Safety
Unit (CSU) **01892
526121**.

Police non-emergency
101.

Police emergency **999**



Don't let anti-social behaviour spoil our Sherwood

Being a good neighbour isn't just about our relationship with the people living next door. It's also about doing your bit by being the eyes and ears of community, and taking responsibility for helping to protect the neighbourhood. It means speaking out and taking action when we see something that threatens the peace and harmony of the community or environment. From keeping your dog under control to reporting graffiti, vandalism and crime, it's about maintaining standards by making a stand against anti-social behaviour in all its forms.

Like anywhere, there are many types of anti-social behaviour that upset and frustrate the residents of Sherwood and spoil their enjoyment of the neighbourhood. Those currently receiving attention are flytipping and the illegal riding of mini-motos. Here is a reminder of the consequences of these activities together with how to report them.



Mini-motos

The law says:

- It is against the law to use a mini-moto, quad bike or motorbike in public parks, open spaces or on footpaths, pavements, cycle routes and bridleways
- It is also an offence to use a mini-moto, quad bike or motorbike on a footpath to pass from one piece of private land to another
- If you are under 16 the only place you can use a mini-moto, quad bike or motorbike is on private land – but you must have the permission of the land owner
- If you are over 16 you can use a mini-moto, quad bike or motorbike on the road if you meet certain legal requirements, or on private land if you have the land owner's permission.

To ride a mini moto, quad bike or motorbike legally you need:

- a full driving licence and Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) certificate – a provisional driving licence and CBT certificate is sufficient to ride a motorbike up to 125cc with 'L' plates
- a valid insurance policy with minimum of third party cover
- an MOT test certificate to ensure your vehicle is roadworthy, with all lights and mechanics in good working order
- registration and tax obtained from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)
- an approved protective helmet.

Advice for residents or landowners:

If you are affected by nuisance vehicles report it. Call **Kent Police on 101** with details including:

- The dates and times that you have been affected by nuisance vehicles
- The location of the vehicles and what they were doing
- Descriptions of the vehicles and people involved
- Whether the vehicles were ridden to the area, or whether another vehicle was used to transport them
- The information you provide will help the Police to identify those responsible and take action to prevent them causing problems in the future.

Flytipping

The cost:

- Each year more than £40million of taxpayers money is used to clean up flytipping
- Flytipping carries a penalty of up to £50,000 or, for very serious offences, up to five years in prison, or both.



Report it:

If you see flytipping in progress – note down details and call the **Tunbridge Wells Street Scene Team on 01892 511679**

If you find flytip waste dumped –

- If it is on Council owned land, or
- If it is household waste such as mattress, sofas, carpets and fridges dumped on the highway verge call **TWBC on 01892 526121** or e-mail info@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
- If it is commercial waste such as piles of tyres or builder's waste on the highway, verge or in a lay-by contact **KCC's Highways Team on 08458 247 800** or email info@tchg.org.uk
- If it is on housing association land, private car parks or drives contact the landowner
- If it is on Town & Country Housing Group land contact **TCHG on 01892 501480** or email info@tchg.org.uk
- If it is on motorways and trunk roads contact the **Highways Agency on 0300 123 5000** or report it via www.highways.gov.uk
- If you are not sure whose land it is contact local Councillor Bob Backhouse by calling 01892 535086 or email bob.backhouse@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

CRIME ALERT!!! ... Bogus scrap dealers operating in the area (See news page 3)

pride in our
neighbourhoods

YOUR SHERWOOD

Community organisers

report on progress

Since taking on their new roles Sherwood's Community Organisers, Harriet and Kersti, have been busy listening to residents over recent months and have some significant achievements to report. These include:

- The football club has been so successful that it has started up again and runs every Monday from 5pm to 6pm at the TN2 Community Centre.
- Some progress, albeit slow, with their plan to install an 'elderly' warning sign to motorists outside St Phillip's Court. Harriet and Kersti are determined to make them take more care as they drive along Sandhurst Road and to watch their speed.
- Have organised a litter pick at Oak Road Playing Field to tackle the issue of litter and fly tipping within the community.
- Setting up an informal residents association which, at the last meeting, had 24 residents attend. This is open to everybody living in Sherwood, whether you own your property or not, and is a safe place to come to discuss any issues and seek support not just from the Community Organisers, but from other residents as well. Cllr Bob Backhouse came to the last meeting and was very helpful in answering questions. The next meeting will be attended by John Sinclair (TCHG Housing Manager) and two representatives from Hill, so if you have any questions for them about housing or the recent developments please do come along.

Harriet and Kersti are keen to speak to all Sherwood residents, so if you see them out and about please say hello and tell them how you feel about where you live.

For more information about what the Community Organisers do and how they can help, call them on **07872 109771** or email **communityorganisers@outlook.com**



*You are invited to the next
Sherwood Residents'
Meeting Monday 1 September
from 6.45pm to 8pm
at the TN2 Community Centre.
Tea, coffee and cake will be provided*

Help Bob chart the history of Sherwood

Local Councillor Bob Backhouse is continuing with his project to chart the history of Sherwood. In particular he would like any information about the land where Green Way, Oakwood Rise and Ashenden Walk is situated. The area used to be fields and brambles and Bob already has some good stories about people playing there and catching rabbits.

Bob is also looking for any stories from anyone who used to work in what is now the North Farm Industrial Estate. There was a record sleeve printing firm which supplied most of the covers for LPs in the UK and Bob is interested in hearing from anyone who worked for them

Finally, anyone who moved to Sherwood in the 1950s and 1960s, Bob is after accounts of your first experiences in the area.

Contribute your story...

If you can help Bob with this history project then please do get in touch to give an interview or to share a story:

Bob can be contacted every Wednesday between 9.30am and 10.30am, when he holds his weekly surgery at the TN2 Community Centre. If he isn't there, material can be left at TN2 or he will be happy to see people in their own homes.

Phone: 01892 535086

Email: bobbbackhouse@gmail.com

Write: 23 Blakeway, Sherwood, TN2 3DF

Dandara goes into the woods

As part of its new housing development Dandara has been working in and around Knights Wood.

Dandara is legally required to prepare a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). This will establish details of how the woodland areas owned by Dandara will be improved and managed in the long term and funded by the development.

The main objectives for the woodlands are to actively manage trees and vegetation, including removal of extensive rhododendron, the creation of glades and rides, active management of habitats which support identified wildlife, including protected species and the creation of natural pedestrian through-routes for local people to use.

Dandara has been working closely with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Forestry Commission and Kent High Weald Partnership preparing the LEMP but, given the size and variation within the woodland, this is an extensive project. You may see a lot of activity on site as construction begins but please do not think Dandara has forgotten the woods. It is very important to get the approach right, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to ensure the woodland will be improved, managed and enjoyed by local residents.

New woodland trail open to all!

A new walking and running route around the woods has been opened up and waymarked by KHWP volunteers, just in time for summer! The 1.2km route through the woods starts at the spillway on the dam, heads north towards the quarry, up into the woods and along the bottom of the Old Walled Garden, before heading back down the hill again to the lake.

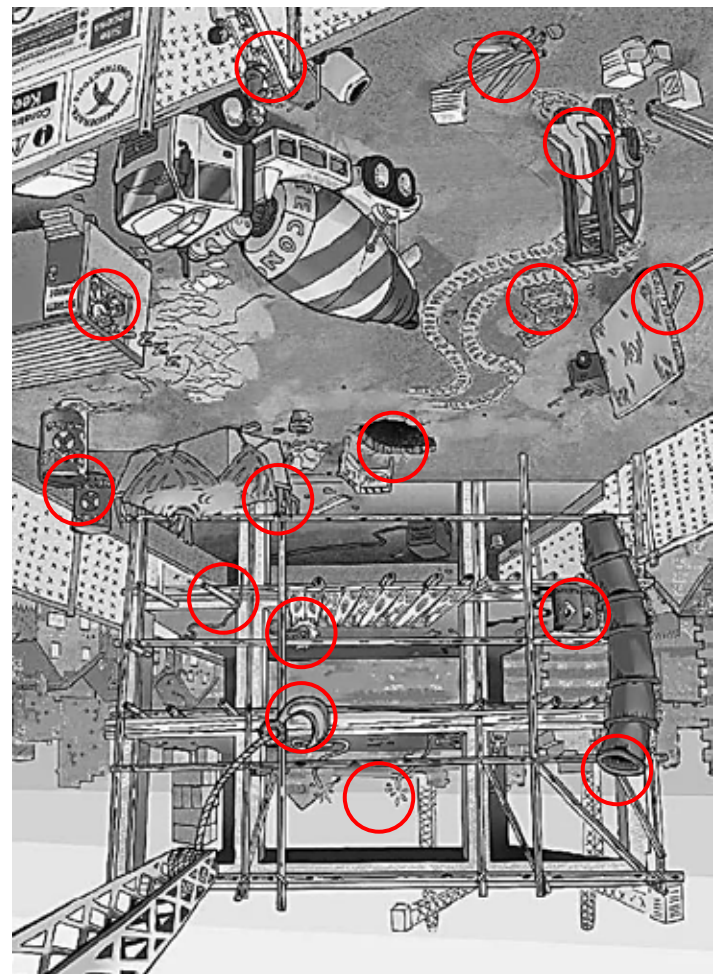
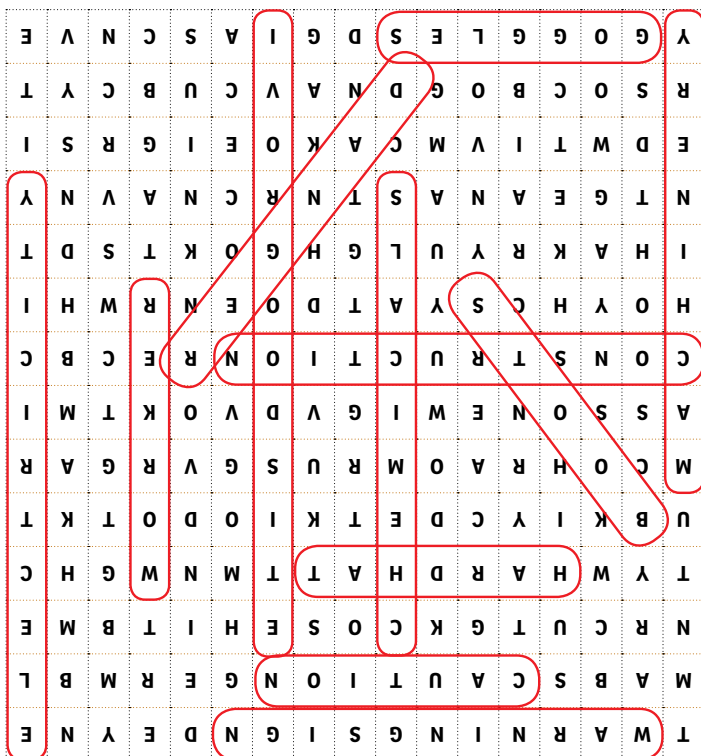
The waymarkers were harvested from chestnut coppice stools within the woods. They were then split and branded by volunteers before being installed over the course of several practical task days.

If you prefer to avoid the hills, then the lakeside pathway offers a flatter, shorter, but no less pretty walk. New sections of boardwalk have been built by volunteers to make the muddy patches passable, no matter what the weather!



ANSWERS TO PUZZLES (PAGES 10-11)

1H 2E 3D 4C 5G 6B 7F 8A



Profile on...

John Sinclair

John works for Town & Country Housing Group as the Neighbourhood Housing Manager for their homes in Sherwood.

He joined Town & Country in 2007 and managed his first area in 2008 – a small area within Tunbridge Wells town centre. He went on to manage housing in Showfields, Ramslye, Maidstone, Chatham, Orpington, Bromley, Paddock Wood, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Cranbrook and Hawkhurst. Working in so many different areas has enabled John to understand the needs of different communities and generations and how managing each individual area can require a completely different approach.

He has been managing Sherwood since October 2012. One of his first memories of Sherwood was seeing Kemble Close demolished.

Before working for Town & Country John worked as a sports coach, coaching PE in primary schools as well as football coaching after school and in the school holidays.

Outside of work John plays semi-professional football in the Ryman Football League and has recently taken up golf as he prepares for his retirement from football!

What is the best advice you have received and who gave it?

Don't take it personally' – I can't remember who gave me this advice but I do know this is so important... I think this about life generally and not just in my work.

What has been your greatest achievement and/or proudest moment?

I have played football at Wembley Stadium and the Emirates Stadium. That was pretty special and not something most people can be lucky enough to do.

What would you buy if you won the lottery?

I would want to travel the world. There is so much to see out there and I would love to visit and experience what the world has to offer.

What has been your most embarrassing moment?

I don't think I have one stand out moment as I embarrass easily anyway. Crashing into a lamppost on my bike when I was 13 must be up there. There were a lot of people all around me too. I guess that's what happens when you don't pay attention!

If you would like to suggest someone we could profile in the next issue please email yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk or call Steve Mandaluff on 01892 501446

What is the most exciting thing you've done or best experience you've had?

Flying over and being in the Grand Canyon is a phenomenal experience. The pictures I have just don't do it justice, its one of the wonders of the world and it needs to be seen with your own eyes!

What is the trait you most dislike about yourself?

I have quite a bad memory! I am often forgetting plans that I make until I get reminded – thankfully I have a work calendar to remind me of my appointments!

What is the trait you most dislike in others?

I dislike dishonesty.

When are you happiest?

If I have a coffee and some cake in front of me and nowhere to be I am pretty happy!

What three things would you take with you to a desert island?

Music, a football and coffee

What is your favourite piece of music?

I like a bit of everything, I wouldn't say any one song in particular as it always depends on what mood I'm in. What I love about music is that it has a way of suiting or enhancing your mood.

Where would you most like to live in the world?

I always wanted to live in America and went over to experience it. However, I think England offers so much and I think it's often nicer to visit other places than live there.

Where would you most like to go on holiday?

I would love to experience Antigua, Barbados or some other Caribbean island. I imagine complete peace and relaxation.



Dates for your diary

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS STATED

Regular events

First Monday of every month 1pm to 3pm. TN2 Centre	Autism and Aspergers Support Group Support group for adults with high functioning autism or Aspergers. Share experiences and gain confidence through working on social skills and discussing important issues.
Tuesdays 2pm to 4pm TN2 Library	Work Club If you are looking for work why not take advantage of free access to computers and the internet for job searching. The library has books to borrow that can help you in your search for work.
Tuesdays 10am to 10.30am TN2 Centre	Baby Bounce and Rhyme A fun way to help your baby or toddler (aged under 3 years) develop a love of language. Each session lasts about 20 minutes and includes the opportunity to join in with nursery rhymes and action songs.
Alternate Tuesdays 12noon to 2pm TN2 Centre	CAB surgeries Get free, independent and confidential advice from a trained advisor. Call 01892 533 880 for exact dates.
Tuesdays (term time only) 5.30pm to 8pm TN2 Centre	TN2 Youth Group If you are 11 to 17 come along for sports, board games and arts and craft.
Wednesdays 9am to 11.30am St Philip's Church	Cyber Cafe Improve your IT ability with a free cyber café. A crèche is also available.
Wednesdays 9.30am to 10.30pm TN2 Centre	Housing Surgery Turn up to discuss any tenancy related issues you may have with your Housing Manager. No appointment necessary.
Wednesdays 12noon to 2pm St Philip's Church	Access All Areas sessions ICT Training, pre-employment advice and help with self-confidence and any mental health issues.
First Wednesday of event month 9.45am to 11.45am Little Forest Children's Centre	Grandparent and Family Carers Support Group The group provides help for those raising children in their families that are not their own, due to the actual parents being unable to do this themselves. Come along for a chat and support.
Wednesdays 8pm and Fridays at 10.30am TN2 Centre	TN2 Bingo
Thursdays (term time only) 4.45pm to 6pm St Philip's Church	KidzKlub Activity club for children in school years 3 to 6, enjoy some free fun and games!
First Thursday of every month 1pm to 2pm TN2 Centre	Hop, Skip and Jump The Hop, Skip and Jump sessions are great fun and use resources such as trampolines, parachutes, slides and rockers, tunnels and tents, etc. They are for children between 0 and 5.
Fourth Thursday of each month 2pm to 4.30pm Camden Centre Market Square.	The Tunbridge Wells Tea Dance! Get your dancing shoes on and enjoy music, dancing, tea and cake – and meet new friends. £2.50
First and third Thursdays of the month 7.15pm to 8.45pm TN2 Centre	Socialize discos For adults with disabilities and take place on the first and third Thursday of each month. £3.50
Alternate Saturdays 11am to 4pm TN2 Centre	Lakewood Community Market and Bootfair Local products, hand made items, face painting and computer advice are all on offer
Second Saturday of each month 12noon and 2pm St Phillips Church	'Ladies of a certain age' This group of ladies over 50 meet to share a spot of lunch and some spiritual discussions.
Sundays 11am to 1pm Trebilco Close herb garden	Help at the herb garden! Help look after the community herb garden at the bottom of Trebilco Close – new volunteers always welcome!

a better place for
a brighter future

YOUR SHERWOOD

YOUR SHERWOOD – CONTACT US

Your Sherwood goes to every home in the Sherwood ward and we are always on the lookout for Sherwood related news and stories. Please get in touch if you have something you think readers might be interested in.

✉ yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk ☎ 01892 501446 🌐 www.sherwoodplan.com 📺 search 'Team Sherwood'