

# YOUR SHERWOOD

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014



*Sherwood's  
heritage photos  
Recognise anyone?*

**We love where we live!**

Community members win awards

**Understanding autism**

Information and support

**Win £50k business support**

Young Start-up Talent back for 2014



## welcome...

*...to the first Your Sherwood of 2014 and I hope you are all geared up for an exciting year.*

Most exciting, the first homes at the old Kemble

Close site have been completed and the rest are well underway. You can read about the regeneration – and also see what's happening down at the Lake and Woods – inside.

Bob Backhouse is moving on with his project to trace the history of Sherwood, and has provided Your Sherwood with some historical photos. Take a close look, and if there are any faces you recognise please do let us know.

In the face of spiralling energy prices we look at how you could reduce your bills, including the new local 'collective switching' initiative.

We also look at the Love Where We Live awards which had a strong Sherwood contingent. And if you are 16 to 25 and have a great business idea the Young Start Up Talent competition is back looking for a local young entrepreneur to help.

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](mailto:yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk) or calling **01892 501446**.

**Steve Mandaluff**  
Your Sherwood Editor

**Front cover: Sir William Siemens, the Victorian electrical pioneer who lived in Sherwood (see page 15)**

## It's a knockout for Tunbridge Wells FC!

There will be no FA Cup glory for Tunbridge Wells this year after beating Pagham in the Extra Preliminary Round and then Whitstable Town in the Preliminary Round they were eventually knocked out by Eastbourne Town in First Qualifying Round.

But get down to Culverden Stadium and support your local team anyway!

### **Ticket prices**

Adults £6 - Concessions £3 - Under 16s £1.

[www.tunbridgewellsfc.co.uk](http://www.tunbridgewellsfc.co.uk)

# News bites



## Stop riding mini motorbikes illegally or face eviction

**...That's what a couple in Caley Road have been told.** In the last issue of Your Sherwood we highlighted how the inappropriate usage of mini-motos is a growing problem in Sherwood, and now a couple who have been illegally using a mini-motorbike have been warned they could lose their home if their behaviour continues.

Mini-moto's are subject to the same rules as any other vehicles and it is illegal to ride a mini-moto on the pavement or on public land. In the past year local police have seized six bikes and given three warnings in the area.

The Caley Road couple were served a 'Notice of Seeking Possession' by their landlords, Town & Country Housing Group. This came after police issued a notice under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 which refers to vehicles being used in a manner which causes distress or annoyance. The Notice of Seeking Possession means that the residents could lose their home if their anti-social activity continues.

The warning came after Kent Police and Town & Country Housing Group, both members of the Tunbridge Wells Community Safety Unit (CSU), worked closely over a number of weeks to gather evidence of the couple's law-breaking.

Further information about reporting and tackling anti-social behaviour can be found on the Kent Police website - [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk). The website also has a free leaflet you can download which explains the law and offers advice for parents, bike owners and landowners.



## A fruitful initiative for Temple Grove Academy pupils

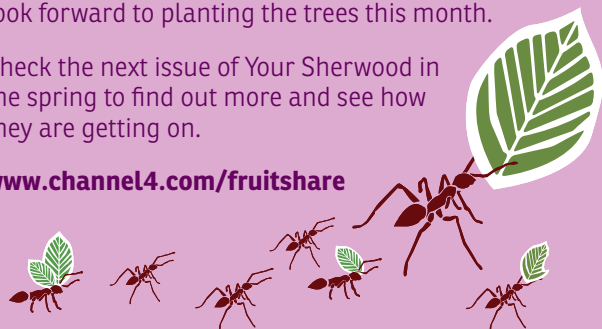
'Fruitshare' is TV's River Cottage chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's captivating new project – and the pupils of Temple Grove Academy are taking part.

Hugh's on a mission to make the most of fruit and he wants as many people as possible to grow their own. In conjunction with a number of partners including the Woodland Trust and Channel 4, Fruitshare is a collaborative project that aims to get children engaged with fruit growing.

The scheme was established to inspire children to plant and cultivate fruit trees at school and the academy applied to take part and receive the trees. The pupils look forward to planting the trees this month.

Check the next issue of Your Sherwood in the spring to find out more and see how they are getting on.

[www.channel4.com/fruitshare](http://www.channel4.com/fruitshare)



## Only rain down the drain in the Yellow Fish Campaign!

Environmental and nature loving Sherwood residents are being sought to spearhead a campaign to raise awareness of the sources of water pollution and help keep Sherwood Lake clean.

The Yellow Fish scheme has been created by the Environment Agency to support a simple message – only rain down the drain!

Many drains flow directly to a brook, river or beach. For instance a number of the drains in Sherwood flow directly to Sherwood Lake. Pouring oils, paints, solvents, chemicals or dirty water down these drains can cause great damage and affect the local environment.

The Yellow Fish Campaign is very simple. Volunteers mark drains using the Yellow Fish stencil. Awareness is raised locally by distributing leaflets and putting up posters reminding people to dispose of their liquids carefully and that only rain should go down the drain!



### to get involved...

contact the Environment Agency

🌐 [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yellowfish](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/yellowfish)

📍 Yellow Fish, Environment Agency, Sentinel House, 9 Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park, Lichfield, Staffs WS13 8RR or email [yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk](mailto:yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk)

## It's war for Sherwood's young people!

Young people from Sherwood recently engaged in modern warfare – but don't worry it was just a game!



The group of seven all took a trip to Laser Tag with Sherwood Youth Club. Laser tag is a fast-paced team based warfare game. Teams battle it out on the day using laser rifles that fire a beam of infra-red

light (like a TV remote) and activate a sensor on the enemy's head. It's all great fun and 100% safe.

The young people really enjoyed the day, including their visit to McDonald's on the journey back, and would love to get a bigger team together to go back into battle again.

Sherwood Youth Club meets every Tuesday during term time at TN2 Community Centre.

The group for those in school years 7, 8 and 9 runs from 5.30pm to 6.45pm

The group for those in years 10 and above runs from 6.45pm to 8pm.



# What's in the stars for 2014?

Did you know we are now a couple of weeks into the catchily named 'International Year of Family Farming and Crystallography'? That is what the UN has designated 2014 as. But what else will be special about 2014?

On **1 January** Latvia officially adopted the euro currency – becoming the eighteenth Eurozone country.

**Next month** sees the 22nd Winter Olympics taking place in Sochi, Russia. With an average February temperature of 8.3°C Sochi will be the warmest city to have ever hosted a Winter Olympic Games.

On **29 April** an annular solar eclipse will occur which will be visible from parts of Antarctica and Australia. An annular solar eclipse occurs when the moon's diameter is smaller than the sun's, blocking most of the sun's light and causing the sun to look like a ring.

This summer sees the 2014 FIFA World Cup taking place in Brazil. It will run from **12 June to 13 July** and will be the first World Cup in which goal-line technology will be used.

Also in **June** the Sky City skyscraper is planned for completion in Changsha, Hunan, China. When it is completed it would be the tallest building in the world 10m taller than the current record holder, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

On **24 August** NASA's New Horizons spacecraft will cross the orbit of Neptune after travelling for over eight years. New Horizons is scheduled to reach its mission target, Pluto, in 2015.

On **18 September** the Scottish Government intends to hold a referendum of the Scottish electorate, on the issue of independence from the United Kingdom. The question asked in the referendum will be 'Should Scotland be an independent country?'

At the end of the year on, **31 December 2014**, the United States and the United Kingdom will officially withdraw their troops from Afghanistan, marking the end of their 13-year involvement in the war in Afghanistan.

And in Sherwood, by the middle of next year phase one of the redevelopment of Sherwood will have been completed and by the end of the year phases two and three will be nearing completion.

# Community organisers hit Sherwood!

**Sherwood's two community organisers have recently arrived in the area and some of you may have already seen them.**

Kersti and Harriet (pictured) will be out and about over the next few months encouraging Sherwood residents to start thinking about the things they would like to see happening in Sherwood and then supporting the development of a network of people to help make these ideas become a reality.

Previous community organisers have been involved in community action days, cooking classes and breakfast clubs. They are here to listen to what you have to say and to help you make a difference.

**got an idea?...** Is there something you would like to see happening in Sherwood? Get in touch with Kersti or Harriet

📧 [harriet.amos@corganisers.org.uk](mailto:harriet.amos@corganisers.org.uk)

☎ 07872 109745

📧 [kersti.hill@corganisers.org.uk](mailto:kersti.hill@corganisers.org.uk)

☎ 07872 109771



## Local support for family carers

Are you raising a child for a relative or a friend? If so, there's a dedicated support group in Sherwood for you.

The Grandparents & Family Carers Support Group was set up to offer practical and emotional support to those caring for children when their parents are unable to do so themselves. They also organise family activities and fundraising events throughout the year.

All grandparents, family and friends carers are welcome to come along for a chat and support from others in similar situations over a cup of tea and biscuits.

The group meets at the Little Forest Children's Centre on Friars Way on the first Wednesday of each month from 9.45am to 11.45am. Why not join them for their next meeting on Wednesday 5 February?

**for more information...** contact Stephanie Salter at the Little Forest Children's Centre

☎ 01892 776290 / 01892 532319

☎ 07825 380113

## Access All Areas!

A partnership project between a number of agencies will provide IT skills and pre-employment support to up to 400 local residents in Sherwood.

Access All Areas sees Town & Country Foundation, Working Futures, Counselling First, St Phillip's Church and St Gregory's School working together to deliver weekly two hour training sessions.

St Gregory's School will provide ICT training, Working Futures will offer pre-employment advice and Counselling First will focus on building self confidence and dealing with any mental health concerns or issues.

The sessions have been put on following feedback from local residents who participated on Working Future's programmes.

**The Access All Areas sessions take place every Wednesday from 12noon to 1.45pm at St Philip's Church. They are open to anyone to attend, so if you want to find out more call Dawn on 07736 946333 or just turn up on the day!**







# We love where we live!

The people and groups who make Tunbridge Wells a great place to live were celebrated last October at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Love Where We Live Awards ceremony.

The awards recognise individuals, groups, charities and businesses who are dedicated to helping others in the community, benefitting the environment or accomplishing personal goals.

In total there were eight different categories and an overall Love Where We Live award winner and Sherwood was well represented in the nominations.

**Lynda Howlett** was a finalist in the **Individual Hero category** which recognises individuals who make a special effort to enhance other people's lives.

Lynda was praised for a number of the things she does for the Sherwood community, namely:

- The free counselling service she provides to people facing difficult circumstances. Lynda is a professional counsellor.



- The work she does to help people who are facing a variety of personal problems get back on their feet.
- Her voluntary involvement in local groups and committees that support residents – she has been part of the school parent teacher's association, a trustee for TN2 Community Hall and helps run a church Sunday school.



And perhaps equally importantly Lynda was described as 'always bubbly and smiling with many a wisecrack, Lynda is a true champion of Sherwood'.

Lynda was narrowly beaten to the award by **Chantelle Jackson** who, despite undergoing major life-threatening surgery when she was 15 and struggling with other health issues, has done much to enhance the lives of others. Chantelle herself at one point worked at an after school club in Sherwood for troubled teenagers.





**Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors Team**



Also up for an award were the **Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors Team**. **Brian Senior**, the vicar at St. Philip's Church, and Sherwood resident **Dawn Stanford** are both involved in this fantastic team, who, on most Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from

10pm until 4am, can be found in Tunbridge Wells town centre.



The Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors Team not only won the category they were nominated for – **the Safer Community Award** – they also won the overall **Love Where We Live Award!**

The group was praised for:

- Offering care and support to people who are out socialising and drinking in the town centre and moving between the pubs and clubs.
- Listening and helping people to reconnect with friends, mediating disputes between customers and door staff, helping youngsters stay out of trouble and providing a calming influence if things start to get heated between alcohol-fuelled people.
- Showing true loyalty to their community and helping to generate a safer environment for everyone, all without judgement and on a purely voluntary basis.



Winners of all the awards were chosen by an independent judging panel.

They were announced at an awards ceremony at the Assembly Hall Theatre on Wednesday 2 October.



## The 2013 Love Where We Live award winners in full!

### Lifetime Achievement Award

**Winner – Eileen Collett**

Finalist – Shirley Bartlett

### Ethical Business Award

**Winner – Cafe Bliss**

Finalist – Heath Stores

Finalist – West Kent YMCA Furniture Warehouse

### Charity of the Year Award

**Winner – 3H Fund (Helping Hands for Holidays)**

Finalist – Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre

Finalist – Royal Tunbridge Wells Scouts

### Young Volunteer of the Year Award

**Winner – Helen Campbell**

Finalist – Issy Denman

Finalist – Yasmin Lawrence

### Best Group Award

**Winner – Nourish Community Food Bank**

Finalist – Number One Community Trust

Finalist – Horsmonden Social Club

### Individual Hero Award

**Winner – Chantelle Jackson**

Finalist – Lynda Howlett

Finalist – Catherine Tasker

### Sports Achiever of the Year Award

**Winner – Fern Sneddon**

Finalist – Jade Coatsworth

Finalist – Tunbridge Wells Football Club

### Safer Community Award

**Winner – Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors**

Finalist – Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services

Finalist – Martyn Steers

### Love Where We Live Award

**Winner – Tunbridge Wells Street Pastors**

**Congratulations to all the winners and finalists!**

a community that cares

**YOUR SHERWOOD**



# Understanding autism an

**Over 500,000 people in the UK suffer from an 'autistic spectrum disorder' and in England it's estimated that one in every 100 children has some form of autism. Together with the families who care for them, that's over two million people whose daily lives are touched by this lifelong condition that begins in childhood and last through adulthood.**

*Leonora Bennett of local support group **Advocacy for All** explains what autism is and how it can affect people...*

## **What is autism?**

Autism is lifelong neurological condition that affects communication, socialisation and imagination.

There is a spectrum of autism conditions varying from very severe – where people are unable to communicate or care for themselves – to high functioning autism, which is mostly invisible but social functioning and understanding is affected. Asperger syndrome is a form of autism.

## **How does autism affect people?**

People with autism often have difficulty reading body language and making conversation and may focus intently on one interest throughout their lives.

People with Asperger's or high functioning autistics are often natural loners who may struggle to make friendships, and need to do things in a certain way. Their interests can be narrow and social settings can cause anxiety. They are often sensitive to loud sounds and scents. Despite these difficulties they are often very intelligent and capable individuals.

Their extraordinary attention to detail and ability helped make some people with Asperger's great scientists, artists and inventors. Albert Einstein, Bill Gates and Mozart are believed to have autism.

## **How to spot that your child may have autism**

If you suspect your child may have autism then look out for any of the following traits:

- The desire to play alone even in mixed company and ignoring or not interacting with other children
- A frequent need to lay out toys in order or category, eg lining up cars or counting objects
- A sensitivity to certain foods, light or sounds, sometimes causing a physical reaction or distress
- An insistence on doing things one way and struggling to learn new things
- Obsessive interest in something sometimes unusual
- Difficulty expressing themselves and communicating

If your child is diagnosed with a form of autism there will be many things to consider as a parent, including coping with daily life at home and choosing a school that is right for their condition.





# and Asperger's

## Coping with autism

Whether in childhood or adulthood, getting a diagnosis of autism can be helpful in understanding behaviour and working out what kind of support may be needed to help manage the condition.

Adults with autism may find it difficult to find or hold down a job because of the social demands and changes in routine that working involves. But support may be available to help them find work that matches their abilities and skills. Children may benefit from an autism-specific educational environment, where their behaviour is understood and their skills and talents can be recognised and developed.

While there is currently no cure for autism, a wide range of treatments and activities are available that can help improve and manage symptoms. These include specialist education, specialist behavioural programmes, leisure activities and community support groups.

### More information and support...

There are a number of organisations nationally and websites that can offer information, advice and support to those with autism or their carers. These include:

- 🌐 [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)
- 🌐 [www.livingautism.co.uk](http://www.livingautism.co.uk)
- 🌐 [www.autistica.org.uk](http://www.autistica.org.uk)
- 🌐 [www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](http://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk)
- 🌐 [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- 🌐 [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

## New Tunbridge Wells support group

*for adults with high functioning autism or Asperger's*

Run by Advocacy for All, this group meets monthly in TN2 Community Centre for members to share experiences and gain confidence through working on social skills and discussing important issues.

Leonora Bennett who runs the group says it has many benefits, 'The group is great and there is always a positive environment, with the members working on each others strengths and uniqueness. The group raise the topics and choose the activities, and I've seen many members make lots of new friends and improve their social lives.'

Meetings take place on the first Monday of every month at the TN2 Community Centre from 1pm to 3pm. The next session will be held on 3 February.

The group accepts referrals from friends, family or self-referral and you can also refer to our website.

**find out more...** For more information on the group or anything to do with autism

📞 020 8300 9666

📠 07715 068948

✉ [info@advocacyforall.org.uk](mailto:info@advocacyforall.org.uk)

🌐 [www.advocacyforall.org.uk](http://www.advocacyforall.org.uk)

## Oakley School pupils get back to nature

Oakley School is Tunbridge Wells' designated special school for pupils with profound, severe or complex needs, including autism.

Last year some of their pupils put their unique talents to work to create a series of stunning 'leaf mosaics' with the help of local artist Jane Churchill.

**To find out more...**

visit their website - [www.oakleyschool.co.uk](http://www.oakleyschool.co.uk)



# Young Start-Up Talent is back!



- **Are you aged 16 to 25?**
- **Do you have a great business idea?**
- **Would business support worth £50,000 help make your idea a reality?**

## **...Then enter the Young Start-Up Talent West Kent competition!**

Young Start-Up Talent is an entrepreneurial initiative that is aimed at inspiring young people into the world of business. It ran in West Kent for the first time in 2013 and was such a success it has returned in 2014 for a second year.

The way the competition works is simple. Give the Young Start-Up team your business idea and if it is shortlisted you will go into the semi-finals. Succeed there and you will be in the final and close to the £50,000 prize fund!

However entrants will have to face the wrath of Young-Start Up's own 'Dragon's Den' style panel made up of local businessmen. On the panel for 2013/14 are:

- Jo Ellis - Operations Director at Town & Country Housing Group
- Richard Karn - Managing Director of the Courier Media Group

- Michael Stevens – Senior Partner at Cripps Harries Hall (Solicitors)
- Stephen Mason – Managing Director of Mason International
- Matt Turner and Lorraine Nugent - the founding partners of Young Start-up Talent.

The winner will receive £50,000 worth of support donated by local businesses. This includes cash and other free services such as advice on legal, accountancy and HR issues, signage, PR and marketing, information communications technology, radio advertising, premises and more.

The Young Start-up Talent team will be delivering workshops and assemblies to schools, colleges and youth groups across the region until the end of March 2014.

**The closing date for entries is 31 March 2014.**

***Find out more...*** If you are aged between 16 and 25 or know of someone who would benefit from the initiative, visit the Young Start-Up Talent website to find out more about entering.

🌐 [www.youngstartuptalent.co.uk](http://www.youngstartuptalent.co.uk)



## The talented Young Start-Up winner of 2013

The 2013 Young Start-Up Talent Competition for West Kent was won by Mohammed Abusayed (known as Abu) for his linen hire company – SMT Trading Ltd – which provides businesses with high quality linen based products and laundry services.

For Abu, the £50,000 prize fund has made a real difference to his company.

'Since winning the prize fund I have more than doubled



my client base' said Abu. 'The project has helped me become more confident talking to customers and has enabled me to grow as I have been able to purchase a much needed new van. I have so far been introduced to business networking and received a laptop and IT support from Extech, along with some great advice and mentoring sessions from the judges and sponsors.'

## You don't need to be top of the class at school to succeed in business!

*Want a bit of encouragement to aspire to the Young-Start Up Competition? Here are five famous faces to inspire you. They are all recognised as highly successful entrepreneurs and yet they all started out with nothing except an idea. In fact there's not a single university degree between them!*



### John Caudwell...

UK billionaire tycoon left school without completing his A-levels to become an apprentice at Michelin, followed by sweeping the floors at a pottery factory. But after launching his mobile phone distribution business in

1987, the Caudwell Group soon became valued in the billions. In April 2010 John purchased the luxury super yacht 'Apoise' for around £29million!



### Duncan Bannatyne...

Entrepreneur Duncan Bannatyne, famous for his role on BBC television series Dragons' Den, left school at the age of 15 to join the Royal Navy. After serving a few years he was dishonourably discharged for throwing an

officer overboard and spent several months in jail. Bannatyne's business empire all started with an ice cream truck that he purchased for £450. Fast forward to the present day, and his wealth is now estimated at around £430 million.



### Alan Sugar...

Lord Sugar as he is now known came from humble beginnings in the east end of London. Famous for his TV series, The Apprentice, Sugar began his business empire selling electrical equipment out of the back of an old van after leaving

school at 16. Sugar now has an estimated fortune of £770million.



### Thomas Edison...

After being mainly home schooled Edison gave up on education at the age of 12. But that didn't stop him from inventing many of the devices that have shaped the modern world, including the light-bulb, the phonograph, and the video

camera. Thomas Edison is now remembered as one of the most famous inventors in history and is learned about in schools all over the world.



### Steve Jobs...

Apple founder Steve Jobs gave university a try, but left after just one term. After starting Apple Computers in his garage, Jobs went on to create what would in later years become the most valuable company in the world with a market value that

hit £260billion in early 2012. Before his death in 2011, his personal fortune was estimated at around £4.5billion.

**That's just five – there are many more successful entrepreneurs like Simon Cowell, Sir Richard Branson and Bill Gates, who all achieved success from very humble beginnings, who we could mention. But the list would be too long to publish here!**



# Get the best energy deal

The Autumn saw an avalanche of fuel price hikes from the biggest energy suppliers and those that have not yet announced price increases will do so before the winter is out. With a record number of households now facing serious 'fuel poverty', how can you ensure that whoever your gas or electricity supplier is, you are getting the best from them.

## Can you qualify for extra help?

If you receive the Guaranteed Credit element of Pension Credit you may qualify for the government's Warm Home Discount Scheme. Some suppliers offer the scheme's discount to a wider group of customers, so it is worth checking with your energy provider if you think you may qualify.

If you are of pensionable age, disabled or have long-term health issues you can ask to be put on your energy supplier's Priority Services Register and receive extra services from them, such as help with taking meter readings and priority reconnection in the event of a power cut.

## Are you paying for what you use?

When you receive your bill, check your meter to see if the bill is accurate. Estimated meter readings from your supplier can be inaccurate and could make it more difficult to keep on top of payments and understand your energy use.

## Could your home be more energy efficient?

There may be simple steps you could take to reduce the amount of energy needed to heat, light or run your home. For free and impartial advice on how to save energy in your home, contact the Energy Saving Advice Service on **0300 123 1234** (you just pay the price of a national rate call), [energy-advice@est.org.uk](mailto:energy-advice@est.org.uk) or visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk).

## Could you save money by changing the way you pay?

Customers who pay by monthly direct debit often receive a discount of between five and ten per cent for doing so. You could also save another ten per cent by switching to an online tariff.

## Could you save money by changing your tariff?

If you haven't checked your tariff for some time, you may be paying more than you need to for your gas or electricity. Phone your supplier to check if you are on the best tariff for your needs and consumption. It may also be cheaper to buy both your gas and electricity from the same supplier to benefit from a dual fuel discount.

## Could you save more money by changing supplier?

If you've been with your supplier for some time you've probably not checked whether their prices are as competitive as when you signed up with them. Use a price comparison website accredited by the Ofgem Confidence Code to check out the cheapest deal available and see what you could save. To get the most accurate prices you will need details of your energy consumption over a full year, so dig out your gas and electricity bills for the last 12 months.

Alternatively, and even easier, consider joining a collective switching scheme in which households club together to



switch energy supplier. Collective switching gives power to communities by bringing people together to find the best deal for them, and a government report published in October 2013 estimated that over 21,000 households had saved an average of £131 on their bills through collective switching.

## Other sources of information

**Home Heat Helpline** – A service funded by the energy suppliers, for customers struggling to pay their bills. **0800 336699** (freephone) [www.homeheathelpline.com](http://www.homeheathelpline.com)

**Citizens Advice consumer helpline** – For information and advice about switching your energy supplier. **08454 04 05 06** (call charges may apply) [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

## SWITCH TOGETHER to save £££s on your energy bill

You could save money simply by fixing the price of your energy tariff. And the **Energy Deal scheme** can help you do just that.

Energy Deal is a collective switching scheme supported by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. By negotiating directly with energy suppliers, this scheme aims to secure a competitive tariff for the residents taking part.

Households registering with Energy Deal can join the scheme to see if they could save on their energy bills and get support to guide them through the switching process.

You can participate for free and with no obligation to switch your supplier. The more households signed up, the better the chance of securing a competitive deal.

All you need to take part are the details from your annual energy statement or recent bills.

You can help friends and family join in by registering up to five households on the same email address.



To take part,  
register by 17 February at  
[www.energydealswitch.com](http://www.energydealswitch.com)  
or call 01892 554635 9am - 5pm

# It's onwards and upwards for Temple Grove Academy!



Temple Grove Academy's new headteacher has now been in post for more than two months and is excited about what the future might hold for the school.

Taking over from interim headteacher Elizabeth Maxted, Sam Linton joined the Academy on 1 November 2013 with a remit to lead and manage the academy, raise educational standards and strive for continuous improvement.

**“** *I'm delighted to take up the role of Headteacher at Temple Grove Academy' explained Ms Linton. 'The academy's ethos to inspire children's love of learning and to provide an outstanding education for its pupils matches my own. I believe that all children are entitled to a high quality, creative education which encourages them to achieve and thrive.*

'Temple Grove Academy has started to improve the quality of its teaching and learning. I look forward to building upon these improvements, working alongside the children, parents, staff, governors and local community to create an outstanding academy that provides a first class education for all.'

Ms Linton joins Temple Grove Academy from Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Temple Grove in Bromley, where she was Head of Primary Phase.

Knights Temple Grove had a background of years of underachievement prior to it becoming an academy under Ms Linton's leadership. In just two years Ms Linton raised pupils'



attainment from 49% in 2011 to 75% in 2013 (including English and mathematics). The quality of teaching also improved from 31% good or better teaching in 2011 to 100% in less than a year with all inadequate teaching eradicated.

Chairman of Temple Grove Academy Trust, Nigel Prescott commented: 'We are very pleased to welcome Ms Linton to Temple Grove Academy. Her track record of improvement and achievement at her previous academy speaks for itself and we believe her experience, enthusiasm, vision and educational ethos will be of enormous benefit to pupils and staff at Temple Grove Academy.'

Visit [www.templegroveacademy.com](http://www.templegroveacademy.com) for more information about the school.



 **Temple Grove Academy**  
Tunbridge Wells

## Soaring to new heights



*Our new headteacher, Ms Sam Linton, would be pleased to meet you and give you a tour of the academy.*

**Call 01892 520 562 to arrange your visit.**

**Hope to see you soon!**





# Faces from Sherwood's history

Local Councillor Bob Backhouse has had a fantastic response to his project to trace the history of Sherwood with photos and stories flooding in! Here are just a few....

Recognise anyone? If so, let us know by emailing [yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk](mailto:yoursherwood@tchg.org.uk) or calling 01892 501446.



Sherwood Group late 1940's



Sherwood United (local football team) supporters

Mickey Delves and Brian 'Spud' Taylor



High Brooms Hotel Men's Outing to Margate 1964



High Brooms Hotel Ladies Outing to Margate 1964



Oak Road Football Club 1965



High Broom Brick and Tile Company





Gas Works Team 1954



First ever Oak Road football Team 1952



Christmas Party in ORETA Hall around 1953, run annually by Mrs Andrews

**contribute your story...** If you can help Bob with this history project then please do get in touch for an interview or to share a story

☎ 01892 535086

✉ [bobbackhouse@gmail.com](mailto:bobbackhouse@gmail.com)

📍 23 Blakeway, Sherwood, TN2 3DF

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

## The Siemens heritage

We revealed in the last issue of Your Sherwood how Victorian electrical pioneer Sir William Siemens lived in Sherwood and used to love to walk down to the Lake. The extract from his biography below talks about his time here:



Sir William Siemens

**'Always keeping in mind beauty of scenery as his principal object, he fixed on one of the most lovely districts to be found within a reasonable distance of the metropolis, namely, the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells.'**

After some searching, he found a suitable estate called "Sherwood," a mile or two east of the town on the road to Pembury. He purchased this at the end of 1874, and entered on its occupation early in the following year. Shortly afterwards, being greatly pleased with the place, he bought some land adjoining, extending the grounds to about 160 acres, laid out new ornamental plantations, considerably enlarged the house, and made many other improvements in the property.'

(Taken from *The Life of William Siemens* by William Pole, published 1888)

Who would have thought that Sherwood would have been home to the co-founder of one of the world's biggest and best electrical brands?

Over the years, some of the world's most influential inventions can be attributed to Siemens, including:

- The first automatic dial telegraph in 1847 and the first alarm bell system to warn railway workers of approaching trains.
- The first devices for measuring voltage and resistance in 1860.
- The discovery of the electro-dynamic principle which was the starting point for electrical power engineering, giving us power generation and electric motors.
- The world's first commercial power station, and also its first electric street lighting, in Godalming, Surrey, in 1881.
- The world's first electric train for Bush Mills, Northern Ireland, in 1879 and, in 1883, the first public railway designed by Siemens was opened on Brighton seafront and still runs today.

# Sherwood regeneration



*The first new homes built as part of the new Lakewood development have been completed and the new residents should be moving in very soon. This is what else has been happening...*

## Phase one progress

Phase one, which will see 63 homes being built on the Kemble Close site, should be completed by early summer this year.

## Homes for sale

In total there will be 24 homes for private sale as part of phase one. The first four homes were released at the end of last year, with a further 13 three-bedroom houses set to be released in March, and then five four-bed and two three-bed homes being released in April.

If you are interested in a property that is for sale please contact **Savills** on **01892 507005** or email **lakewood@outlook.com**. You can also visit **www.lake-wood.co.uk**.

## Homes for sale by shared ownership

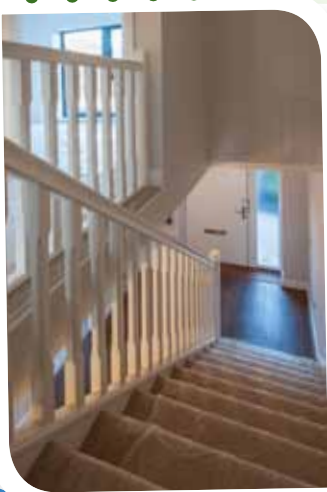
There are nine homes for shared ownership and the first four were handed over at the end of last year. The remaining five shared ownership properties are due to go on sale this spring.

Shared ownership is the ideal way to get a foot on the property ladder if you can't afford to buy on the open market. You take out a mortgage to buy part of the house (usually 25% to 75%) and pay a discounted rent on the other portion.

If you are interested in a shared ownership property contact **Town & Country Housing Group's Sales and Marketing Department** by calling **01892 501677** or emailing **sales@tchg.org.uk**. You can also contact



# generation update



**Homebuy** on **0845 359 6161** or by visiting **[www.homebuyoptions.co.uk](http://www.homebuyoptions.co.uk)**.

## Want to rent a home at Lakewood?

As part of phase one there are 30 homes for affordable rent. The first four have been handed over already and the remainder will be handed over by the end of May. The majority of these properties are flats and there are also some wheelchair-accessible homes.

If you want to be considered for one of these homes you need to be on Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's housing register.

To get on the housing register:

Call: 01892 554606

Email: [housingadvice@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:housingadvice@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

Website: [www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)

Or visit Tunbridge Wells Gateway (8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells)

Homes are let through Kent Homechoice, a Choice Based Lettings scheme. Rather than Town & Country Housing Group allocating empty homes, applicants wanting to move into one of their homes, or to transfer to another Town & Country home in the area, can 'bid' for the properties they are interested in.

When you put your name on the housing register you will receive a user guide and welcome pack. Once you have received this you can start to bid on properties available on the Kent Homechoice website.

For more information visit **[www.kenthomechoice.org.uk](http://www.kenthomechoice.org.uk)**



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# ...Sherwood regeneration update



## Phases two and three progress

Phases two and three are progressing well and demolition on the Silwood Close site has been completed. The 122 new homes, including housing for older people, neighbourhood park and community square are due to be completed by spring 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@hillpartnerships.co.uk**.

## Clifton Road and Burslem Road

At Clifton Road planning permission has been obtained and work is due to start soon to replace eight flats in Clifton Road with five 3-bedroom houses.

We have also applied for planning permission to build six houses and associated allotments on the old Burslem Road garage site. Work on this development will be carried out in tandem with the Clifton Road site.

## Employment and apprenticeships

One of the requirements of the Lakewood project was that a minimum of 20% of workforce is local (within a 15 mile radius of the site). At Lakewood we are achieving 34% since the start of the project.

We also recruited seven apprentices for the Lakewood site and at Spa Meadows in Ramslye. Over the next 15 months six further apprentices are projected to be in place as part of Sherwood phases two and three.

## Excellent Considerate

## Constructors scores for Sherwood

Hill Partnerships, who are working on the regeneration of Sherwood, have recently got some excellent feedback as part of the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

The Considerate Constructors Scheme is a national initiative that was set up by the construction industry in 1997 to help to improve its image. Constructors who register with this scheme, including Hill, are monitored against a Code of Considerate Practice. The Code of Considerate Practice is concerned about any area of construction activity that may have a direct or indirect impact on the image of the industry as a whole. The areas monitored in the biannual inspections assess how the constructor helps to improve their relationships with the general public, the workforce and the environment.

The team at Hill have been working very hard to perform to the high standards of Considerate Practice and their hard work has paid off. At their most recent inspection, Hill's performance at their site in Sherwood was classified as 'excellent', achieving a score of 39 out of 50 (the average for the industry is 31). The assessment is split up into five main categories.

- Assessing the appearance
- Respecting the community
- Protecting the environment
- Securing everyone's safety
- Caring for the workforce



# Pastoral care – compassionate support that's always there for you



**Rob Farnes**

**From clearing snow from your garden path to lending a shoulder to cry on, St Philip's Pastoral Care team is here to help. ...**

When local resident Lu Head approached the St Philip's Church Pastoral Care team for help and advice with money worries, she admits she really was at the end of her tether. And, thinking about the practical and

emotional support she received from the team, she said: 'Quite possibly, St Philip's Pastoral Care team saved me from real desperation.'

Rob Farnes, who leads the St Philip's Pastoral Care team says the aim of the service, which is free and absolutely confidential, is to offer 'practical and prayerful support' for the local communities around St Philip's, as well as for the regular church-goers.

With forecasts of a long, cold winter, the team is all set for a busy time. But, Pastoral Care is not a service only on offer during the winter. Rob Farnes says: 'It's easy to think that people only need help in the winter, and it's true that when people are cold, the need for help and support can be more urgent. But, in actual fact, people need help all year round; even when it is hot and sunny some people can find themselves housebound and in need of help. We don't care any less for people just because it is summer.'

## **Everyone is valued**

Rob has been involved in this aspect of St Philip's ministry for the past five years and his goal is that through tangible word and action the service demonstrates the unconditional love and caring that Christians believe they are charged by Jesus to offer. Rob says: 'My feeling is that a church is a family, and, like all families, we should stick together and nurture each other, so we can all grow and prosper together. For me, the group will be successful when

every single person who has contact with St Philip's feels cared about, and that people have noticed that 'they are there'.

## **Nurturing our youth**

Recently, 9 January marked the launch of the new KidzKlub @ St Philip's, a new activity club for children in school years 3 to 6. The club is free and offers children a brilliant selection of fun and games and Christian teaching. In the same spirit as the Pastoral Care service, the new KidzKlub aims to reach out to all local families, and to offer them a warm, safe and fun environment in which to have fun and get to know the St Philip's church family.

The new KidzKlub runs every Thursday (during term time) at St Philip's between 4.45pm and 6pm. It's totally free and all are welcome. Parents/carers can stay, and free refreshments and free wi-fi are available.

**for more information... contact St Philip's Pastoral Care service.**

[www.stphiliptunbridgewells.org.uk](http://www.stphiliptunbridgewells.org.uk)

☎ 01892 531031

**KidzKlub bog roll challenge**







# Winter time at Sherwood Lake & Woods

**The still and frozen, misty months of January and February are upon us. While so much of the natural world sleeps, the time is right to help make a better lake and woodland for when it wakes. So before frost-bitten months make-way for the spring-time thaw, the Kent High Weald Partnership will be finding work to be done, as well as fun to be had, at Sherwood Lake & Woods.**

## Desilting Sherwood Lake

Over the coming months, work will be taking place at Sherwood Lake to remove some of the large quantities of silt that have built up over its 120 year existence.

Where silt builds up in water bodies it may be one of two different types - mineral, or organic. Mineral silts can build up in still waters as soil washes in from surrounding land or fast flowing streams. Organic silts build up where nutrient rich matter, such as leaves and fishing bait, don't fully decompose, or aren't taken up by the plants and animals living in the water due to an imbalance in the food chain.

A recent survey of Sherwood Lake found its silts to be mostly organic. Therefore following on from the desilting works, the Kent High Weald Partnership will be introducing new aquatic plants to the lake. These plants will help to absorb nutrients from the remaining silt, and bring back a better balance of life in the lake for all its inhabitants.



## Join in with our warming winter activities

Once again there will be a packed program of activities coming up between January and April, guaranteed to stop Jack Frost from nipping at your nose! KHWP will be looking for help with woodland work, making the paths around the lake and through the woodlands better. There will also be a chance to create some better cover for birds by getting stuck in with a bit of tree planting. KHWP will also dedicate time to lakeside management tasks: shoring up the banks, and replanting the lake's edges with beneficial plants.

Check out the dates and activities on offer, and help make a difference by lending a hand.





## Are you a Wild Child?

As well as our programme of volunteer work improving access around Sherwood Lake, we have been running a series of events to get children and families using and enjoying the lake and woods more.

Easily the most popular of these has been our 'Wild Cooking' sessions. Although this might conjure up visions of catching rabbits and eating wild greens or bugs (think 'I'm a Celebrity!'), the reality has been much more fun!

We have used some food from on site, such as roasting sweet chestnuts, but it has been much more about learning how to start a fire with a flint and natural materials, how to use tools safely to whittle sticks to cook with, and an idea of how to prepare and cook food properly on an open fire.

We provided dough prepared the night before to wrap round sticks and toast over the coals. If you used a stick of the right size you could pop your sizzling sausage in the hole left behind, for a hot dog cooked in the woods. Those with a sweeter tooth preferred nutella and toasted marshmallows with their bread!

We have had families with children of all ages come along to try wild cooking sessions, and everyone agrees it's a great way to spend a couple of hours in the woods – food tastes even better if you've cooked it yourself in the fresh air!

**So why not join in the fun at our next Wild Child session?**

**Wild Child Workout! - Saturday 15 February, 10am to 1pm**

A special hands-on day fit for all the family! Get busy in the woods, giving wildlife a helping hand, and have a go at cooking something yummy on the fire. A fun and free event suitable for all ages.



"We joined your event at Sherwood Woods yesterday with myself, my wife and 3 kids! Wow! Nick and Rebecca were just excellent with the kids and did KHWP proud! We had a great time and learned a lot about wild cooking!!

Please send our thanks to them both for hosting us in the woods which back onto our house in Sherwood Road! My son is now asking me for a flint and steel fire lighter!!!! Yours, still smelling of smoke and wild food!!

Mr & Mrs J  
Sherwood Road

## Lend a hand and make a difference!

There's always a warm welcome awaiting new volunteers on any of our practical days so do come along. Tools, training, tea and biscuits are all provided. If you're short of a pair of boots, give KHWP a call on 01580 212972, and a pair can be brought along for you to borrow on the day.

**Thursday 23 January and Thursday 6 February, 10am to 3pm** Tree planting to create bird-friendly areas around the lake

**Thursday 6 March and Wednesday 19 March, 10am to 3pm** Lakeside management – bank revetment and planting

taking care of  
our environment

YOUR SHERWOOD

# Skidders' Kent Academy

## achieves national first!

The Skidders' Kent Academy has become the first state non-selective school in England to become an authorised International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, for a five year Middle Years Programme (MYP).

As an IB World School, the Skidders' Kent Academy becomes part of a global community of schools committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young people who will make a positive contribution in and beyond the classroom.

The MYP is the curriculum framework by which the Academy teaches national curriculum and GCSE subjects. It is an approach to learning that develops core skills including: critical thinking, reflection, balance and risk taking.

Matt Topliss, Vice Principal at Skidders' Kent Academy, says: *'Being an IB World School offers Academy students opportunities to further develop key life skills that are fundamental to academic success. Additionally, we pride ourselves on being at the forefront of education and we are very*

*proud to be the first non-selective state school to be accredited to run this programme.'*

For more information on the IB Middle Years Programme see: [www.ibo.org/myp](http://www.ibo.org/myp)

**To find out more about Skidders' Kent Academy website visit: [www.skidderskentacademy.org.uk](http://www.skidderskentacademy.org.uk)**



## Students have an enriching day with the Council!

Students at Skidders' Kent Academy came together with borough councillors to share ideas about how they could make the town a better place for young people as part of the Academy's curriculum enhancement programme.

The Chief Executive and officers from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, supported by teachers, worked with students in Year 10 to introduce them to the work of the Council. Students presented their ideas to the Council Cabinet. Laurie Barton-Wright, Centre Manager of the Royal Victoria Place Shopping Centre also helped judge the presentations.

Nine groups presented a wide range of ideas including a dance studio and public art in car park stairwells. There were two winning ideas: a digital gallery with public art to

'capture the moment' and public shelters.

Winning student, Daniel Speight, designed an outdoor shelter which was presented with drawings and a model. He said: *'The product was designed to bring modern ideas into rural Tunbridge Wells and to be an open and welcoming social hub for all ages. It feels great to win, but better knowing we've contributed to the community of Tunbridge Wells.'*

Council Leader David Jukes said: *'It was fantastic. The imagination that these students have is absolutely amazing and it's a great comfort to know that they will be part of the future shape of the borough.'*





## Profile on...

### Lynda Howlett

Lynda moved to Sherwood from East London 30 years ago. Her balcony in Silwood Close faced the woods and from there she used to sit gazing at the trees and lake, which she describes as 'bliss'.

Lynda recalls an 'amazing' set of neighbours happy to help in any situation and, as many of them had children, always on call for child-minding duties if needed.

After working for the Benefits Agency in London for over 20 years, in 1998 Lynda began training to be a counsellor. For many years she was a member of the then Sherwood Park School PTA and also been a trustee at TN2 Community Centre. She has also worked for 15 years for a local charity with children and teenagers who are 'at risk' and with teenage school refusers.

Lynda currently works as a professional counsellor, supervisor and art therapist. Her art therapy provides an outlet for children and adults who find it hard to express their thoughts and feelings through words. Her voluntary work in the community involves offering counselling to Sherwood residents. Lynda is also an active member of St. Philip's Church, helping with Sunday teaching groups.

In recognition of her work in counselling Lynda was nominated for a 'Love Where We Live' Award. She was runner up in the individual awards, which she describes as 'a very humbling honour'.

#### What is the best thing about Sherwood?

*The community and the spirit of being neighbourly.*

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

*People are more important than possessions; spend as much time with family and friends as you possibly can. My Nan gave me this piece of advice.*

#### What is the best 'advice for life' you would pass on to your children/grandchildren/future generations?

*Be kind and caring to all people and play an active part in your community.*

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

*Obtaining my Diplomas for counselling, I left school at 15, to go to work and I went back to college when I was 40, which was very scary.*

#### What would you buy if you won the lottery?

*Homes for my children.*

#### What has been your most embarrassing moment?

*I've had lots of embarrassing moments, and far too many to list, however, they mostly would involve me opening my mouth before I have engaged my brain.*

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

*Becoming a grandmother, which has totally changed my life.*

#### If could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

*To be kinder to myself, I can give myself a hard time.*

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

*A radio, spare batteries and my granddaughter!*

#### What is your favourite film?

*The Sixth Sense.*

#### Where would you most like to live in the world?

*Here. I am happy surrounded by my family and friends.*



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

# Dates for your diary

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS STATED

## Regular events

<b>First Monday of every month</b> 1pm to 3pm. TN2 Centre	<b>Autism and Aspergers Support Group</b> Support group for adults with high functioning autism or Aspergers. Share experiences and gain confidence through working on social skills and discussing important issues
<b>Tuesdays</b> 2pm to 4pm TN2 Library	<b>Work Club</b> 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
<b>Tuesdays</b> 10am to 10.30am TN2 Centre	<b>Baby Bounce and Rhyme</b> 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
<b>Alternate Tuesdays</b> 12noon to 2pm TN2 Centre	<b>CAB surgeries</b> Get free, independent and confidential advice from a trained advisor. Call 01892 533 880 for exact dates
<b>Tuesdays (term time only)</b> 5.30pm to 8pm TN2 Centre	<b>TN2 Youth Group</b> If you are 11 to 17 come along for sports, board games and arts and craft
<b>Wednesdays</b> 9am to 11.30am St Philip's Church	<b>Cyber Cafe</b> Improve your IT ability with a free cyber café. A crèche is also available
<b>Wednesdays</b> 9.30am to 10.30pm TN2 Centre	<b>Housing Surgery</b> Turn up to discuss any tenancy related issues you may have with your Housing Manager. No appointment necessary
<b>Wednesdays</b> 12noon to 2pm St Philip's Church	<b>Access All Areas sessions</b> ICT Training, pre-employment advice and help with self-confidence and any mental health issues
<b>First Wednesday of every month</b> 9.45am to 11.45am Little Forest Children's Centre	<b>Grandparent and Family Carers Support Group</b> 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
<b>Thursdays (term time only)</b> 4.45pm to 6pm St Philip's Church	<b>KidzKlub</b> Activity club for children in school years 3 to 6, enjoy some free fun and games!
<b>Thursdays</b> 2pm to 3pm TN2 Centre	<b>Hop, Skip and Jump</b> 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
<b>First and third Thursdays of the month</b> 7.15pm to 8.45pm TN2 Centre	<b>Socialize discos</b> For adults with disabilities and take place on the first and third Thursday of each month
<b>Second Saturday of each month</b> 12noon and 2pm St Philip's Church	<b>'Ladies of a certain age'</b> This group of ladies over 50 meet to share a spot of lunch and some spiritual discussions
<b>Sundays</b> 11am to 1pm Trebilco Close herb garden	<b>Help at the herb garden!</b> Help look after the community herb garden at the bottom of Trebilco Close – new volunteers always welcome!

## Special dates

<b>Thursday</b> 23 January 10am to 3pm	<b>Tree planting</b> to create bird-friendly areas around the Sherwood Lake
<b>Thursday</b> 6 February 10am to 3pm	<b>More tree planting</b> to create bird-friendly areas around Sherwood Lake
<b>Monday</b> 17 February	<b>Deadline</b> for registering with the energy deal scheme
<b>Thursday</b> 6 March 10am to 3pm	<b>Lakeside management</b> – bank revetment and planting
<b>Wednesday</b> 19 March 10am to 3pm	<b>Lakeside management</b> – more bank revetment and planting
<b>Monday</b> 31 March	<b>Deadline</b> for entering the Young Start Up Talent competition

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**WWW.SHERWOODPLAN.COM**

YOUR SHERWOOD is brought to you by the Sherwood Plan partners: Town & Country Housing Group, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent County Council; the agencies leading on key themes – K College, Kent High Weald Partnership, and the Primary Care Trust and the Team Sherwood resident representatives who we thank for their time and enthusiasm.