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# RUNNYMEDE Voice

AUTUMN 2010 • ISSUE 12

# Games galore!

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# welcome

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Welcome to *Runnymede Voice*. These are already challenging times for local authorities. We expect more pressures on us following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review to add to the £2.5million savings we have to find mostly before 2013. Yet, Runnymede residents are charged the sixth lowest Council Tax levels in England.

Even with these challenges, we are committed to providing top class services to improve and regenerate the borough. We are close to Heathrow and motorways and we will work to support and develop Runnymede's economic vibrancy.

The borough's many strong, well-established communities take pride in their environment and cultural heritage. We want to conserve what's good in public facilities and services. Our new Corporate Plan will seek to:

- regenerate our town centres, bringing much-needed retail, housing and leisure facilities
- work with residents of our villages to improve facilities
- make Runnymede an even safer place to live and work, developing our partnership with Surrey Police and others
- provide high quality parks and open spaces and leisure centres to give young and old opportunities to enjoy their leisure
- create more housing choice and opportunities for social housing, rented or

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private ownership

- protect and enhance our environment by developing local planning policies and involving residents in decision making

- maximise our cultural heritage. The Magna Carta was sealed nearly 800 years ago, in 1215, in Runnymede Meadows and we want a legacy for Runnymede of educational and economic benefit.

So despite short term challenges, the future for Runnymede is exciting.

We will continue to keep you informed and encourage you to have your say as this agenda develops. Enjoy your read of *Runnymede Voice* which is also online at

[www.runnymede.gov.uk/rvoice](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk/rvoice)

**John Furey**  
Leader, Runnymede  
Borough Council

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WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING 12 PRIORITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR BOROUGH:

### Healthier and safer communities

- Maintaining **clean and safe streets**
- Increasing **access to health and social support facilities**
- Supporting **vulnerable people**
- Promoting **sports and leisure facilities**
- Supporting **communities**

### Prosperous communities

- Increasing **access to decent housing**
- Identifying and implementing **solutions to traffic congestion**
- Supporting and promoting **existing local businesses**
- Revitalising **town and village centres**
- Safeguarding and increasing **job prospects**
- Protecting **the natural environment**
- Promoting **the sustainable use of resources.**

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If you cannot easily read this, please telephone **01932 425610** for an alternative format of this item.

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Your comments about the contents, style or delivery of this magazine are welcome. Contact the Editor. The content of the magazine is correct at the time of going to print.

## Councillors on call at Chertsey Bookshop surgeries

Councillor surgeries are to be held at the Chertsey Bookshop, 95-99 Guildford Street, Chertsey, on Tuesday 9 and Tuesday 30 November, 5-7pm.

Surrey and Runnymede Councillors will be there to answer queries, questions and comments on local

services, including planning, highways, parks and leisure, housing, elderly services, waste and recycling, community safety and many others.

Councillors would also like to know if residents are happy with proposed surgery days and times.



Minus 5 youngsters outside the refurbished Victory Park Pavilion

## Positive outcome for pre-schoolers

Addlestone pre-school Minus 5 is back in its Victory Park Pavilion after improvements to the building costing £116,000.

Staff and children shared the nearby bowls club facilities for a short time, then found a longer term temporary home at The King's Church in Marsh Lane, Addlestone, while the work was being done.

Improvements include the replacement of the timber-framed windows and wall cladding with white UPVC, installation of a disabled toilet, ramp rebuilding and internal refurbishment. These were funded by Surrey County Council's Early Years Unit and Runnymede Borough Council.

# Royal honour for Age Concern

Joint work by Age Concern branches Runnymede and Spelthorne has won them the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The branches have been recognised for their partnership work with Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals to improve information and services for patients being discharged and for pioneering a care pathway for stroke patients, to prevent fuel poverty and their returning to a cold home.

"Runnymede Borough Council

provides grant aid to Age Concern Runnymede, so we are delighted about the award," said Suzanne Harrison, the Borough's Community Partnership Officer.

"It shows that, despite meeting the challenge of increasing demand for their existing services, Age Concern Runnymede is still able to work innovatively with Age Concern Spelthorne and St Peter's Hospital to provide new services to help older people discharged from hospital."



Diana Cotty, Chair of Age Concern Runnymede, receives the award from the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Sarah Goad, JP, representing the Queen

## YOUR

## community

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## Three great halls for hire

Looking for a venue in Runnymede for a party, reception, meeting or exhibition? Try one of the three community halls managed by Runnymede Borough Council, says Community Halls Manager Sheila Norris.

“Runnymede is lucky to have three very popular community halls at competitive prices,” she said.

**Chertsey Hall** has raked seating for hire and can cater for large functions with its good catering facilities. **Thorpe Hall** is a grade 2 listed building with plenty of character for special events and Egham’s **Hythe Centre** is a modern building with excellent catering facilities for larger functions.

“Now it is coming into the winter season, more organisations and individuals are looking to book rooms for their get-togethers and events, in places that are good value for money and have good car parking,” said Sheila.

“Runnymede’s three halls are treasures... each has various-sized rooms that would suit children’s parties, wedding receptions, evening dances, conferences, exhibitions and regular weekly activities.”

● For more information, telephone 01932 425684 or email [halls@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:halls@runnymede.gov.uk)

## Fund gives residents the

▼ A new fund launched for the benefit of Runnymede residents will award grants to existing services and new initiatives.

The fund has been set up by Runnymede Association of Voluntary Services (RAVS) in order to encourage local giving. Local charities and voluntary organisations will be able to access this fund to help and support the needs of local residents. It is particularly timely in the light of cuts in funding for voluntary services, which will have a negative effect on the lives of many in the local community.

The fund – which is permanent – means people who care about the borough of Runnymede and its residents can either donate to the fund now, or can leave a legacy to it in the future.

It provides an easy way for people to contribute funds for the benefit of vulnerable people and their local community. The aim is

to secure a fund of such a value the yearly interest will make available a substantial amount for annual giving to charities.

“It is very early days in the life of the fund and we wish to acknowledge with thanks the generous donation from Procter and Gamble,” said RAVS’ Trustees Chairman Arthur Birkby.

“We recognise that many Runnymede people already give generously to national charities but we would ask everyone to consider supporting our local charities and, particularly, this fund. To ensure the success of this bold initiative, we urgently need people’s help in building this fund.”

● To make a donation, gift aided if possible, go to [www.justgiving.com/Runnymede](http://www.justgiving.com/Runnymede) For more information email Arthur Birkby on [arthur.birkby@ravs.info](mailto:arthur.birkby@ravs.info) or call **01932 571122**.

## The many benefits of volunteering

The Runnymede community hosts an array of charitable activity including clubs and support networks governed by values and enthusiasm, not profit. The local society contributes enormously to our everyday quality of life and, despite the pressure brought by the recession, it is thriving.

Runnymede Association of Voluntary Services (RAVS) recruits volunteers on behalf of more than 200 charities locally.

The current economic climate has resulted in an increase in the number of people volunteering. Sometimes these people are between jobs and are seeking to contribute their time to worthy causes while

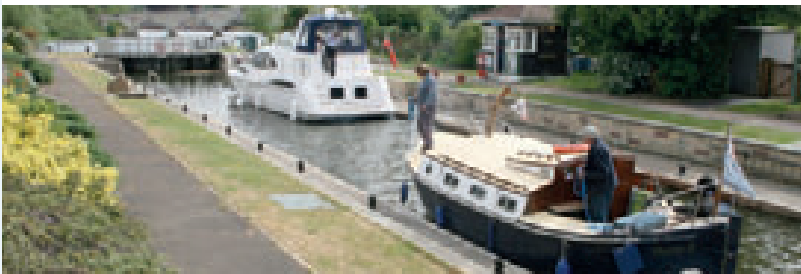
maintaining and developing their skills.

Whatever your age, background or ability the door to voluntary work is open to you. Voluntary work can help you in a number of ways to: meet new people; gain confidence; develop skills; help the community; have fun!

As a volunteer, the range of opportunities is vast. A few examples include: befriend someone in need; help in a hospital; raise funds for a charity; take part in a good neighbours’ scheme; offer professional skills; become a trustee.

● For further information on volunteering please call **01932 571122**, email [ravs@ravs.info](mailto:ravs@ravs.info) or visit [www.ravs.info](http://www.ravs.info)

# chance to support local charities



The fund set up by RAVS will award funds to existing services and new initiatives

# council finances

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## Financial accounts 2009-10

Each year, Runnymede Borough Council publishes a set of accounts. The accounts are an important element in demonstrating how we manage our finances. They show the resources available to the Council and how they are used in everyday services to the community.

The document that contains the full accounting information for 2009-10 is called the Financial Statements. This has to comply with accounting rules which dictate how the accounts should look and what information they should contain. It is subject to an independent audit by KPMG LLP.

A full copy of the Financial Statements can be seen on the council's website at

[www.runnymede.gov.uk](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk) or you can request a copy from our Finance Department by emailing [finance@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:finance@runnymede.gov.uk) Copies are available to view at your local library and at the Civic Centre in Addlestone.

Pages 6-8 provide a brief version of our Financial Statements. To help make our accounts easier to understand, some figures have been simplified.

## Income and expenditure – 2009-10

The Income and Expenditure Account is a summary of the resources generated and spent by the Council in the financial year (April 2009 to March 2010). It reports the net cost of all the functions for which Runnymede Borough Council is responsible and demonstrates how the cost has been financed from general government grant and income from local taxpayers.

Service	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
Council housing	(12,775)	(14,259)	(27,034)
Environmental services	5,845	(2,006)	3,839
Cultural services	5,311	(2,142)	3,169
Services for the elderly	2,425	(817)	1,608
Other housing services	20,989	(19,794)	1,195
Planning services	6,606	(2,132)	4,474
Central services to the public	7,602	(4,878)	2,724
Highways, roads and transport services	1,439	(1,247)	192
<b>Net cost of services</b>	<b>37,442</b>	<b>(47,275)</b>	<b>(9,833)</b>
Net interest and investment income			(691)
Other accounting items			3,345
<b>Amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers</b>			<b>(7,179)</b>
<b>Financed by</b>			
Council tax			(4,418)
National taxes – general GLLP grant			(1,455)
Business rates – amount paid by the government to Runnymede			(4,454)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>			<b>(17,506)</b>

Our expenditure figures include certain changes arising from the revaluation of our assets.

Accounting rules for valuing assets meant that £27.5million of the increase in value of our council housing was credited to this account in 2009-10. This partly reverses the valuation loss that was charged to this account in 2008-09.

These are not cash items, and the sums involved are reversed out in the Statement of Movement on the General Fund Balance shown on the next page.

Therefore, the Council Tax is not affected by changes in the valuation of our assets.

### Statement of movement on the General Fund Balance

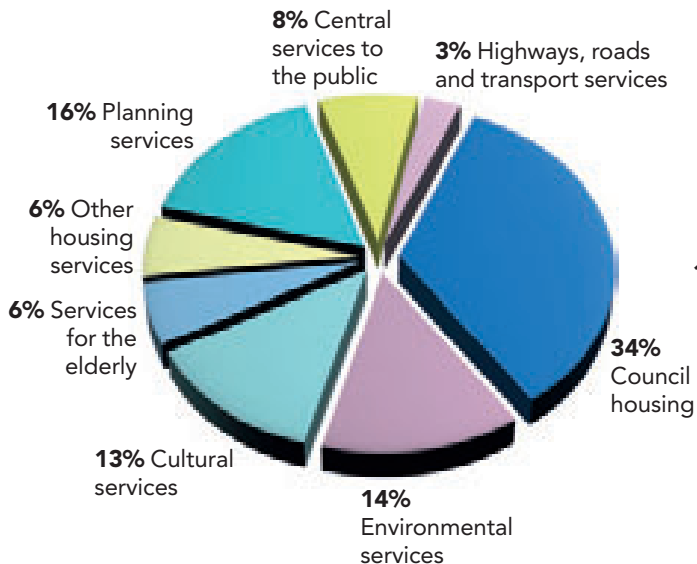
This statement reconciles the movement on the Income and Expenditure Account with the statutory accounting entries that local authorities need to take into account when setting local taxes. These entries total £19.834m.

The statement also includes transfers we have made to and from other reserves. At the end of the financial year, our General Fund reserves stood at £4.012m.

	£'000
<b>General Fund Balance at the start of the year</b>	(6,045)
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account for the year	(17,506)
Accounting entries required by statute	19,834
Transfers to and from other reserves	(295)
<b>General Fund Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b><u>(4,012)</u></b>

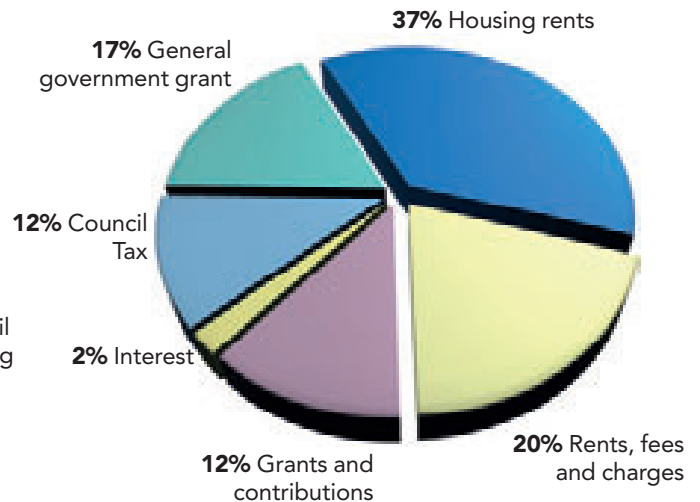
### Where we spent the money

Excluding valuation profits on council housing and awards of housing benefit, the Council spent £42.483 million on services in 2009-10.



### ... and how this was financed

This is where the income came from.



# council finances

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## Balance sheet as at 31 March 2010

The balance sheet shows the financial position of the whole Council at 31 March 2010. It discloses the valuations of our assets, how much money the Council has in the bank, how much money is owed to us, and how much we owe other parties.

This is the net worth of Runnymede Borough Council. Part of our net worth is represented by distributable reserves of £14 million that are available to pay for new capital projects and balances on our revenue accounts.

	£'000
<b>Assets:</b>	
Buildings and land owned by the Council	321,894
Stocks	84
Investments	13,612
Cash in hand	222
Other money owed to the Council	7,711
<b>Liabilities:</b>	
Pension Fund deficit	(36,227)
Other money owed by the Council	(8,246)
<b>Total assets less liabilities at 31 March 2010</b>	<b><u>299,050</u></b>

## Capital expenditure – investing in our services in 2009-10

We also spend money on buying and improving our land, property and other assets so that we can provide services to the community over the longer term.

Capital expenditure incurred in 2009-10 was £4.368 million and was spent as indicated on the right.

The Council has no long-term borrowing.

	£'000
Council housing – improvements and major repairs and replacements	2,935
Capital grants and advances for private sector housing	496
Investment in new technology	199
Leisure and recreational services	128
Improvements and repairs to public buildings and estates	315
Other items	295
<b>Capital expenditure in 2009-10</b>	<b><u>4,368</u></b>

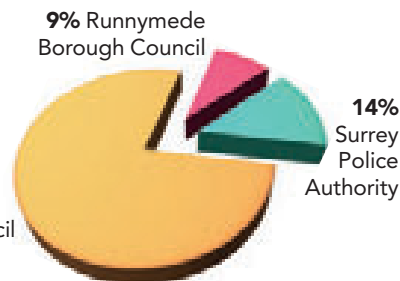
### This expenditure was paid for from the following sources of income:

Capital receipts from the sale of assets and investments	766
Revenue and revenue reserves	2,961
Grants and contributions	641
	<b><u>4,368</u></b>

## Collecting local taxes in 2009-10

Runnymede Borough Council collects all the Council Tax. We pay Surrey County Council and Surrey Police Authority their share of the Council Tax they set each year. Runnymede Borough Council has the smallest share of your Council Tax bill. The Band D Council Tax and how this was shared during 2009-10 is shown here.

<b>Council Tax</b>	<b>£</b>
Surrey County Council	1,089.18
Surrey Police Authority	193.86
Runnymede Borough Council	132.93
	<b><u>1,415.97</u></b>



77% Surrey County Council



# Adult social care is changing – giving YOU more control



▼ The way people access and receive support in Surrey is changing.

Surrey County Council is working with other organisations across the county to ensure people are offered appropriate advice and given the choice and control over the services they need.

This reflects a national change in how social care is to be delivered – from one in which services are prescribed, to one where people can choose the right support and services. By having these personalised services, people will have more control over their lives and be better able to meet their individual needs.

Part of this national

change is the introduction of Self Directed Support (SDS) – a new way of assessing, choosing and providing the support that people need. It helps people to get on with life and remain active in their local community.

SDS lets people make decisions about the support they need. It asks individuals how they want to live their life, what they want to achieve in life and what support they need to do this.

If they are eligible for social care support, SDS gives individuals a Personal Budget. They can then choose which social care and support services to spend this budget on. Individuals can be as creative as they want, as long as the money is

spent to meet their assessed needs and outcomes, and is agreed by practitioners.

This will offer opportunities for local businesses and community groups to provide new services for people with the funds to purchase them. Local workshops will be taking place for organisations to realise the potential that personalised support brings.

Surrey County Council plans to have SDS available across the county by April 2011.

● For further information contact the County Council's Adult Social Care team by phoning **0300 200 1005**, or visit **[www.surreycc.gov.uk/selfdirectedsupport](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/selfdirectedsupport)** For further case studies visit **[www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk](http://www.puttingpeoplefirst.org.uk)**

## Have your say on Surrey's future

Register now for the Have Your Say debate, to give your views on the financial challenges facing Surrey's public services. The event will take place on 18 November at Salesian School, Chertsey, from 7-9pm.

Supported by BBC Surrey, the event will feature panellists from your local council and county council, Surrey Police, NHS Surrey and the volunteering sector. Email **[haveyoursay@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:haveyoursay@surreycc.gov.uk)** to register for a place, or visit **[www.surreyhaveyoursay.info](http://www.surreyhaveyoursay.info)**

# sports and leisure

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## Games

▼ Leisure organisers have completed another busy summer schedule entertaining the youngsters of Runnymede.

There were:

- playschemes, with new venues Darley Dene Infant and Nursery School, Addlestone and Thorpe Lea Primary, Egham joining St Anne's School, Chertsey and Pre-school and Scout Hut in Ottershaw Memorial Fields. Each day provided a range of activities, including arts, crafts, games, sports, face painting and free play.



# galore are a whole lot of fun...

● SPLASH, this year based at The Magna Carta School, Egham, included a number of new activities and trips, including Brighton beach and pier, Whipshade Zoo, Westfield Shopping Centre, Youth Festival, Funky Nails, mini-makeovers, Pulsar Laser Quest, cheerleading, dance mats and hair braiding.

● Year-round ROAR\* provided 10 free play sessions at various parks and open spaces during the summer. Attendances totalled 248, with 96 new children taking part.

● Playday at Runnymede

Pleasure Grounds, Egham, attracted 400, with children enjoying free play activities, ranging from junk modelling, music making, kite making and mask making to an assault course, playzone, wacky races and a water slide.

"It was a really fantastic day," said ROAR's Activity Co-ordinator Emma Parnell. "It was great to see so many families taking part in so many of the activities together, which is one of the aims of the ROAR scheme. In the age of computer games, homework and household chores, it was

great to see children being children and enjoy playing."

\* ROAR – Runnymede Open Access Recreation – is a three-year Lottery-funded project to give five to 13-year-olds more opportunities to take part in free open access

play in parks, open spaces and community venues.

● For more information about these services visit [www.rbcyouth.co.uk](http://www.rbcyouth.co.uk) or contact Leisure Services on **01932 425685** or email [leisure@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@runnymede.gov.uk)



## news

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# Magnificent seven blossom to take 2010 bloom honours

▼ The winners of Runnymede in Bloom 2010 have been presented with their prizes. The seven category winners are:

#### **Residential front garden**

Mr Philip Houghton, Green Lane, Addlestone.

#### **Senior citizen front garden**

Mr L J Boswell, Mead Close, Egham.

#### **Overall front/rear garden**

Mr and Mrs Harrington, Franklands Drive, Row Town.

#### **Communal garden scheme**

Darley Dene Sheltered Housing, Garfield Road, Addlestone.

#### **School garden**

Sayes Court Primary School, Farm Drive, Addlestone.

#### **Business/pub garden**

The Black Prince, Woodham Lane, New Haw.

#### **Allotments**

Mrs Gillian Halls, Boshers Allotments, Whitehall Lane, Egham.

Regular entrant Mr Houghton regained his title after coming second last year. He won the residential front garden category every year from 2005 to 2008.

Mr Boswell's win was his second in a row and allotments winner Mrs Halls regained the title she won as a new entrant last year.

Sayes Court Primary School won its category for the second consecutive year

and the Black Prince public house was a first time winner. Darley Dene won again following their first win in 2005.

The judges for the Borough's 14th competition were Runnymede Mayor Cllr Margaret Roberts, Councillors Peter Taylor and Margaret Harnden, Bob Sleat from the Woodham and New Haw Horticultural Society, and Runnymede Borough Council's Amenities Officer Robin Taylor.

"I had the pleasure of visiting all the gardens shortlisted and was extremely impressed with the very high standard of

the entries, particularly the colourful and well thought out displays in both the front and back gardens," said Cllr Roberts. "It was a joy to be one of the judges on the day and to meet so many keen gardeners. All were winners in their way, irrespective of placing."

The presentation ceremony took place at the Runnymede Civic Centre, where the Mayor and Colin Squire handed out vouchers from four-time sponsor Squire's Garden Centre to the value of £40 for first, £20 for second and £10 for third in each category.



Mr and Mrs Harrington, overall front/rear garden winners



Mr Boswell



The Runnymede in Bloom 2010 winners were presented with their certificates and prizes at the Civic Centre



won the senior citizen front garden prize for the second year



Sayes Court Primary won the best school garden prize

## news

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## Boxing Inclusion Zone is a big hit!

BIZ – Runnymede’s Boxing Inclusion Zone – is now open on Saturdays for boxing and kick boxing.

The community boxfit exercise gym in the Runnymede Centre, Addlestone, was set up in March as a motivational facility for children excluded or at risk of exclusion from school. It originally opened during the school day and in the evenings.

The zone is just one example of integrated working by Surrey Police Safer Neighbourhood teams and Borough offices.

The BIZ committee members – representing Surrey Police, Runnymede’s Youth Intervention Team and Safer Runnymede and Volunteers – have been awarded commendations for their work by Assistant Surrey Chief Constable Jerry Kirkby.



The BIZ team, left to right, PC Christopher Rhodes, Dr Brian Perry, Oliver Wilson, Andrew Lloyd, Sergeant Alan Sproston, Wendy Roberts and Inspector Roger Nield. Not pictured, management team members PCSOs Simon Mount and Chris Steels

# Recycling service to start

From 31 January, Runnymede Borough Council is launching an extensive new weekly recycling service that will collect plastics, cardboard, Tetrapak and food waste as well as the materials currently collected.

As the new scheme is so comprehensive, at the same time, refuse collections will become fortnightly.

Our borough currently has the lowest recycling rate in the county at around 27%.

A lot of waste is going in wheeled bins rather than being recycled. Indeed, only about half our households recycle regularly. By increasing our recycling rate to up to 50% we can reduce the amount of waste being collected and sent to landfill



or incineration

Runnymede Borough Council Director of Technical Services, Peter Sims said: “Surrey County Council is the waste disposal authority and landfill tax is currently £48. That will increase every year by £8. Further costs have to be added for our collection and disposing of the waste.

“The amount of waste that can go to landfill is decreasing annually under targets set

under legislation and if Surrey fails to meet these targets, it will either have to pay fines or buy landfill allowances from other authorities. When disposal costs are added to this, it becomes a hefty bill for local taxpayers.”

The new recycling and waste collection services coming to Runnymede in January mean a new way of sorting out your household materials and food waste before the Council collects it.

A new black box will take cardboard, plastic containers and juice cartons. A new pair of waste food containers let you recycle all your cooked and raw food waste. Unwanted batteries, spectacles and mobile phones can also be recycled.

These will be collected weekly the same day and time as the usual blue box for glass, cans, aerosols and clean aluminium foil.

The Runnymede black wheelie bin will be collected from your address every fortnight, to empty waste that cannot be recycled.

All households will receive detailed information about which materials can be recycled and how, in leaflets before the scheme starts, as well as information about changed collection days.

For more information, please contact us: either phone **0800 052 0067** or email your query to [recycling@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@runnymede.gov.uk)

Recycling roadshows, page 24

# Register to vote: use your X

▼ Now's the time to make sure you are on the electoral register before the forthcoming local elections and possible national referendum in May 2011.

Runnymede Borough Council has sent out registration forms to the 60,000 anticipated eligible voters in the 33,500-plus households across the borough, to make sure the electoral register is up to date and everyone entitled to vote can do so. To date, 50 per cent of households have returned their forms.

The national annual canvass takes place between August and November every year. Local authorities send forms to every household with details of those who are on the electoral register. Residents can add themselves to the register, amend the details where they are out of date or confirm that there are no changes.

"Our next Borough Council elections on 5 May 2011 may be joined by a

national referendum the same day, so it is vital that everyone completes their registration form," said Runnymede Borough Council Electoral Registration Officer Paul Turrell.

"It takes only a few minutes. You are not automatically entitled to vote in any election just because you pay Council Tax or have voted before. Make sure nothing stops you from having your say on who represents you and what voting system you would prefer."

● Runnymede's voters, especially those voting for the first time, can find out more at [www.runnymede.gov.uk](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk) or the Electoral Commission's [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk). Alternatively, contact the Electoral Services Team at the Civic Centre on **01932 425650**, email [rob.curtis@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:rob.curtis@runnymede.gov.uk) or use the web link [www.runnymede.gov.uk/elections2011](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk/elections2011)



## Orchestra hits the right note

Members of the Linden Wind Orchestra performed in Runnymede Pleasure Gardens as part of this year's Bands in the Park Concert Series.

The Bourne Concert Band and Egham Band each performed twice during the five-concert series at three venues – the Pleasure Gardens, Abbey Fields and Walnut Tree Gardens.

- For more information about the orchestra and bands, visit their websites:  
Bourne Concert Band: [www.bourneconcertband.org.uk](http://www.bourneconcertband.org.uk)  
Egham Band: [www.eghamband.co.uk](http://www.eghamband.co.uk)  
Linden Wind Orchestra: [www.lworchestra.co.uk](http://www.lworchestra.co.uk)

## YOUR

## community

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## Get a bin for green waste

Do you struggle with your green waste bags and would prefer to use a wheeled bin? We now have 240L green wheeled bins available!

Buy the bin for £34 (reduced price for those in receipt of Council Tax or Housing Benefit) then pay an annual charge of £45 to have it emptied every fortnight, reduced to only £40 if you pay online or wish to pay by direct debit.

If you already have bags and want to change to a bin, or if you don't already use the service but would like to start with a green bin, telephone the Runnymede Recycling Hotline on **0800 052 0067** and we will be happy to discuss the current pro rata rates with you.

# What a picture!



Here's a selection of entries in this year's Runnymede Photography Competition: The Magic of the Land of the Magna Carta.

The competition, organised by Runnymede Borough Council, is in its second year and again is kindly supported by the *Surrey Herald* (and *Staines and Egham News*).

The closing date for the competition was extended a week to Friday 15 October. Community partnership officer Suzanne Harrison said: "The extra week gave people time to look back on their pictures, or still capture whatever they think creates the magic of the land of the Magna Carta."

The winning and finalists' photos will be in the first edition of 2011 of *Runnymede Voice* and will be on public show as part of a mobile display around the Borough.

Youngsters under 11 can win tickets to Chessington World of Adventures, or, for 11 to 18-year-olds, tickets to Thorpe Park. Winners in the adult category and open (all ages) category win £50 vouchers.

## Free wills

One in three of our Marie Curie nurses in London are funded through gifts left to the charity in people's wills.

Marie Curie Cancer Care is working in partnership with solicitors for a limited time to offer free wills to people aged 55 and over. The nearest neighbourhood firm of solicitors working with Marie Curie Cancer Care is Owen White & Catlin, in Spelthorne Borough.

For more information, contact Toni Denyer, Legacy Advisor, on **01883 832 639** or email [toni.denyer@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:toni.denyer@mariecurie.org.uk)

## Awards for those who make a difference

Runnymede Access Liaison Group held its Achievement Awards evening on 25 October.

The award categories and recipients were:

### Individual Award for Services to the Disabled

Winner: Brenda Cobban, Recrodiss Social Club.

Runner-up: Elaine Linton, Runnymede Dolphins.

### Achievement by a Group or Service in Serving the Needs of the Disabled

Winner: White Lodge Centre.

Runner-up – New Haw Community Association.

Commended: St Peter's Hospital.

### Achievement by an Organisation or Individual for Providing or Improving Access to Buildings or a Service for the Disabled

Winner: Customer Service Team, Tesco, Egham.

Runner-up: All Saints' Church, New Haw.

Commended: Millman's Chemist, Egham.

### Individual Achievement by a Disabled Person

Winner: Lorraine Reed.

Runner-up: Joshua Challis.

Commended: Clive Tyrell.

### Family Carer Award

Winner: Louisa Lines.

Runner-up: Sheila D'Lassalle.

Commended: Sally Brown.

### Special Award

Pat and Edna Brown: they have given almost 20 years' service to Runnymede Access Liaison Group, since it began in 1991, to help improve access for disabled people all over our Borough. They are both aged 80.

## Angels from the realms of classrooms

The Mayor's Christmas Carol Singing by schools takes place in Runnymede Civic Centre on Tuesday 7 and Thursday 9 December, 12noon-1.50pm, in the reception area. The Mayor and the Chief Executive will be visiting.

Last year's inaugural carol singing saw schools give 20-minute performances. For more details about how to get your school's name on the list, contact the Mayor's Secretary Mandy Smith, on **01932 425502** or email [mandy.smith@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.smith@runnymede.gov.uk)

## Call for more landlords to offer accommodation

If you own a property, then Runnymede Borough Council's Housing Needs team may be able to help you find a tenant.

We always have families or single people eager to find accommodation in the Runnymede area. We need all kinds of accommodation – one, two, and three bed properties and some single rooms. Our properties require a gas certificate, Energy Performance Certificate and an electric certificate.

And what's in it for you?

- we find the tenant
  - we provide the tenancy agreement
  - we do the inventory and take photos
  - we provide a month's bond guaranteed by the Council
  - we make visits to the property and liaise between landlord and tenant.
- The cost? This service is free to landlord and tenant.

We have been running this scheme for more than 10

years and, due to the high demand for rental accommodation, we need to encourage many more local landlords.

Here's what one Addlestone resident who has used the Council's private sector bond scheme has to say...

*"I have been on the scheme for six years and have benefited from having a secure home.*

*"I went to see Runnymede Borough Council who were able to match me with my landlord. We met and he kindly offered me the home I am still living in.*

*"From being homeless, we have benefited from having a comfortable home and a good landlord. I ensure my bills are paid every month and my landlord ensures the premises are kept in the best possible state.*

*"Without the efforts of the Council, my children and I would have endured homelessness for longer."*

- If you're interested, phone Runnymede Borough Council's Housing Needs team of Ann or Donna on **01932 425874/5815** or email [ann.lanceman@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:ann.lanceman@runnymede.gov.uk) or [Donna.gregory@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:Donna.gregory@runnymede.gov.uk)



# YOUR community

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## Skateboarders respond to Facebook call

Police are hopeful that incidents of anti-social behaviour will fall at a skate park after reaching out to its users on Facebook.

PC Chris Rhodes organised a meeting with skaters from Aviator Park in Addlestone after posting a comment on their Facebook group.

Forty-three skaters took up his invitation to meet, alongside representatives from Safer Runnymede and the Borough Council.

It came after a joint

action group failed to attract a single skater to a meeting it tried to arrange through a poster campaign.

PC Rhodes said: "It was a fantastic turnout and the youths were very keen to see improvement in the park. If young people take ownership of the facilities the Council puts out, then we are all for it.

"The meeting was very constructive and I was pleased and encouraged so many young people in the local area were able to

attend and have their say. We covered a number of areas and I was keen to emphasise the dialogue we have is very much a two-way process. We are looking at options to improve the skate park and we will hopefully soon be setting up a fundraising committee to organise events and activities to assist with this.

"I was also looking for a commitment from the young people that issues around littering and criminal damage will reduce, so I

think everyone came away from the meeting feeling we had accomplished a lot."

PC Rhodes said the police were increasingly looking at social media as an important tool to enhance relationships with younger audiences and dispel community tension.

Runnymede Borough Neighbourhood Inspector Roger Nield said: "I'm pleased that we have found ways of talking with young people as we're not always very good at it."

## Runnymede residents leading the way

Residents in Runnymede are leading the way in reducing domestic carbon emissions throughout Surrey.

Department of Energy and Climate Change data shows a fall in carbon emissions within Runnymede from 2.5 kilo tonnes to 2.4 kilo tonnes on average per person between 2005 and 2008.

This means that each person has saved the equivalent energy used by 2,000 washing machine cycles a year.

"This has been achieved by insulating homes better, purchasing new heating systems, buying A-rated appliances and installing low energy lighting to name but a few measures.

And, of course, money has been saved too. But there is always more to do," said Verena Boxall, the Borough's Energy Project Manager.

"Although Runnymede residents have made a superb effort in tackling climate change through reducing energy consumption in the home, we can all do more. For those that have not taken advantage of the government grants available then these have been extended into 2011."

Call **01932 425172** for advice on what may be the best solutions for your property and what grants and advice are available.

● Central government has launched the

Feed In Tariff scheme, which offers financial incentives to householders and communities who generate their own electricity from renewable or low carbon sources such as solar electricity (PV) panels or wind turbines.

The scheme guarantees a minimum payment for all electricity generated by the system as well as a separate payment for the electricity exported to the national grid. These payments are in addition to the bill savings made by using the electricity generated on-site. For more information on the scheme visit **[www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)** and also to identify suitable installers for our area.

# Reception team top of the class

Runnymede Borough Council, Tandridge District Council and Surrey Police have teamed up to train 20 staff across Surrey to NVQ level 2 in customer service.

Council and police staff at the front desk of the Civic Centre are now better able to help members of the public and deal with their enquiries.

By working together, the three organisations secured the on-the-job training in a cost-effective way.

Mayor of Runnymede, Cllr Mrs Margaret Roberts presented NVQ level 2 certificates in customer service to three Runnymede Borough Council front of house staff – Christine Hurley, Marilyn Webb and Lynn Mills – and three employees of Tandridge District Council's Customer Services Team and 14 Surrey Police staff.

Cllr Mrs Roberts said: "I would like to congratulate all of you who have passed this qualification and we recognise the hard work you have put in."

Alongside the Mayor at the presentation at police headquarters at Mount Browne, Guildford, were

Chief Inspector Alison Barlow and the Chairman of Tandridge District Council Cllr Alan Jones.

Chief Inspector Barlow said: "This reinforces the importance of partnership working, especially with front counters being co-located in council offices county-wide, and of the professional development of our staff to ensure excellent customer service."

"My thanks go to Julie Ridley, sales director of Weir training, for providing us with this successful programme."

Tandridge District Council Chairman Cllr Alan Jones also commended the group for their achievements.

Certificates went to:

- Christine Hurley, Marilyn Webb and Lynn Mills, all Runnymede Borough Council
- Gill Duff, Ian Given, Pete



The three Runnymede Borough Council people who achieved their NVQ level 2 in customer service, left to right, Lynn Mills, of Chertsey, Marilyn Webb, of Addlestone, and Christine Hurley, of Addlestone

Grimmett, Rachel Hutcheson, Grace Johnson, Chris Jones, Marianna Kajut, Jean Kelvie, Errol Maile, Sonya Nicholas, Caroline Nuthall, Jacqui

Parnell and Emma Thorogood, all Surrey Police  
● Ann Harrington, Christine Morris and Nikki Paintin, all Tandridge District Council.



## Fairtrade campaign launched

The Fairtrade Surrey Campaign has been launched on Surrey University Green, Guildford.

People travelled from all over the county, transporting giant mugs and

Fairtrade-branded inflatable bananas to Guildford. There were a number of prizes awarded, including for the most imaginative transportation of an inflatable and low carbon footprint transport.

# sports and leisure

## Council gets youth voices heard

▼ Are you aged between 11 and 19?

Do you live in or attend a school in Runnymede?

Are you passionate about your community?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, why not join the Runnymede Youth Council? This is a great opportunity to get the voice of young people in Runnymede heard by the Borough Councillors, County Councillors and everyone living or working in the Borough.



We aim to make Runnymede a better and safer area for young people to live, work, play and go to school. The way we aim to do this is to invite you, the young people of Runnymede, to join the Youth Council.

● To find out more please call Natalie Clarke on **01932 425688** or look at the Youth Council page on [www.rbcyouth.co.uk](http://www.rbcyouth.co.uk)



### Shooting stars wanted for netball team

Calling all nine to 14-year-old girls who want to play netball!

Weybridge Vandals Netball Club is launching junior training in January.

Training, on Thursdays between 6.45pm and 7.45pm, will be at Sir William Perkins School, Guildford Road, Chertsey.

Anyone aged 15 and above would be welcome at senior training, which follows the junior session from 8pm.

● For more information email Emma at [imp21@hotmail.com](mailto:imp21@hotmail.com) or call Kate Carey on **01932 425683**.

### Sporting chance for youngsters

If you are part of a sports club in Runnymede or you live or attend a school in Runnymede and are aged between 11 and 19, then why not join Runnymede Youth Sports Council (RYSC)?

RYSC aims to express "one voice for youth sport" through the following channels:

- campaign on local sporting issues that young people care about
- promote and encourage activities and events that create sporting opportunities
- celebrate the achievements of young sports people in Runnymede
- support sporting initiatives both on



a local and national level

- support and promote any local 2012 campaigns.
- For more information, visit [www.rbcyouth.co.uk](http://www.rbcyouth.co.uk) and click on Runnymede Youth Council or contact Runnymede's Sports Development Officer on **01932 425683** or email [kate.carey@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:kate.carey@runnymede.gov.uk)



Star turns, left to right, Keith Heal; Kristaps Rancevs with Cllr Jonathan Wilson; Edward Upcott with Cllr Morton Moore; former world canoeing champion Anna Hemmings

# Dedicated stars are recognised

▼ North Pacific rower Chris Martin – one of Chertsey's own – has been awarded the Runnymede Medal in the Runnymede Sports Awards 2010.

His father accepted the medal on Chris' behalf from former world champion canoeist Anna Hemmings.

Chris, 28, and his team-mate Mick Dawson spent 189 days rowing 6,930 miles from Japan to America.

The awards event – at Royal Holloway, Egham – honoured outstanding contributions made by dedicated sports coaches, clubs, volunteers, teams and clubs across the Borough.

"We are certainly very lucky to have such high-calibre candidates," said

Runnymede Mayor Cllr Mrs Margaret Roberts.

Sport Runnymede Chairman Matthew Griffin said the selection panel had been amazed at the number of high-level nominations, including a number of internationals.

"We also have so many individuals whose commitment and achievements go unrewarded though, and this was our chance to say thank you and well done."

The award winners and those highly commended were:

**Volunteer of the year**  
Mark Laffery, Staines Boat Club. **Highly commended:**  
Hollie Baker, Stuart Edmeads, Grace McFall,

Helena Spinks and Andy Edmeads, all sport acrobatics; Christine Roberts, football.

**Young volunteer of the year**

Kristaps Rancevs, Strodes College.

**Coach of the year**

Stevie Rankin, Egham Hollowegians and Knights Rugby.

**Community sports coach of the year**

Mark Fellows, community basketball services.

**The Ray Denne Chairman's Award**

Daryl Mitchell, Manorcroft United FC.

**The Watkins Achievement in Sport for the Disabled**

Mark Brown, Fairways.

**Highly commended:**

Margaret Campbell, swimming.

**Sports club of the year**  
Staines Boat Club.

**Sports personality of the year**

Edward Upcott, acrobatic gymnastics.

**Young sports personality of the year**

Daniel Maslin, cycling.

**Highly commended:** Alice Upcott, gymnastics.

**The Barry Combes Memorial Young Sports Team of the Year – Year 11**

Salesian rugby team.

**Outstanding service to sport**

Keith Heal, Egham Hollowegians and Knights Rugby.

**Runnymede Medal**

Chris Martin, rower.

# YOUR community

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## River clean-up

More than a dozen volunteers have treated the River Bourne in Chertsey to its annual clean-up.

Environment Agency and Runnymede Borough Council staff co-ordinated and supervised the operation that saw the stretch of river cleared between Free Prae Road and Staines Road.



Shopping trolleys, tyres and traffic cones were among the items found in the river

## Sign up to flood warning service

With winter approaching, Runnymede Borough Council has reminded residents about the risks of flooding.

About 12 per cent of the Borough lies within the Environment Agency flood plain, which equates to some 7,000 properties at direct risk of flooding from rivers. Flooding can also be from other sources, including surface water, groundwater, foul sewer or even burst water mains.

Residents who live in

flood risk areas are encouraged to sign up to the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct service.

Residents have also been reminded to put in place measures to protect their property from flooding and to make and implement a flood plan.

"We would encourage people who live in large communities at risk of flooding to revise their flood plan regularly and practise it," said Head of Engineering

Services, Steve Fuggles.

In order to alleviate the effects of flooding, the Council has a rigorous maintenance programme for ordinary watercourses and river banks owned by the Council.

The works carried out range from pipe winching, through rubbish clearance to proper ditching works.

The Council has a dedicated team trained to carry out the works through its Direct Services Organisation.

Steve added: "We would also like to remind residents not to fly tip into the watercourses, as the debris could cause serious blockages leading to localised flooding problems."

● Residents unsure whether their property is at risk of flooding, or for any other flooding advice, should contact the Environment Agency or Steve Fuggles on **01932 425120** or email **[Stephen.fuggles@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.fuggles@runnymede.gov.uk)**

# Stunning dresses on display

Chertsey Museum's new fashion exhibition *Brides Revisited* showcases wedding dresses from the Olive Matthews Collection dating from the 18th century to the present day.

The exhibition in the Fashion Gallery – which includes some stunning examples – will be on view until the end of August next year.

Pride of place is given to a beautiful 1780 wedding ensemble and there are gorgeous dresses from the 19th and 20th centuries. These include two exceptionally well-preserved 1880s bustle dresses and some wonderful Edwardian examples.

The 1920s and 1930s are well represented with high-fashion pieces and items

from the second half of the 20th century include romantic styles with modern twists.

Apart from the 18th century group, the rest of the exhibits will be new to visitors, having never been displayed before. Many have associated photographs and accessories which help to bring them to life as the stories of the dresses emerge.



Many of the dresses have not been displayed before

## WHAT'S ON AT CHERTSEY MUSEUM

### Until Saturday 13 November

#### CHERTSEY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Art exhibition by pupils from schools and colleges in the area. A chance to see how much young artistic talent there is locally.

### 20 November to 31 December

#### EXHIBITION CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF GUIDING

The exhibition will be put together by members of the local Girl Guiding UK units.

### Until April 2011

#### CHILDHOOD IN THE PAST

Discover how children through the ages played, learned and lived with this family-friendly exhibition.

### Until August 2011

#### BRIDES REVISITED

This new fashion exhibition

showcases wedding dresses from the Olive Matthews Collection dating from the 18th century to the present day and includes some truly stunning examples.

### Saturday 6 November

**15 MINUTES OF FUN** 2pm-4pm Draw a firework picture with chalk and glitter. Free family craft activities.

### Friday 19 November

**MUSEUM MONKEYS** 9.30am-11am Storytelling, sing-a-long and craft activities for under 5s. Cost £4.50 per child.

### Saturday 20 November

**RUNNYMEDE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB** 11am-12.30pm or 2pm-3.30pm 8-16 years

This month: Egyptian Extravaganza. Cost £4.50 per child.

### Saturday 4 December

**15 MINUTES OF FUN** 2pm-4pm Free family craft activity: making Christmas cards.

### Friday 17 December

**MUSEUM MONKEYS** 9.30am-11am Storytelling, sing-a-long and craft activities for under 5s. Cost £4.50 per child.

### Saturday 18 December

**RUNNYMEDE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB** 11am-12.30pm or 2pm-3.30pm 8-16 years  
This month: 18th Century Feast. Cost £4.50 per child.

### Wednesday 22 December and

### Thursday 23 December

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ACTIVITY** 11am-12.30pm and 2pm-3.30pm

5-12 years. Cost £4.50 per child

### Saturday 8 January

**15 MINUTES OF FUN** 2pm-4pm Free family craft activity.

### Friday 21 January

**MUSEUM MONKEYS** 9.30am-11am Storytelling, sing-a-long and craft activities for under 5s. Cost £4.50 per child.

### Saturday 15 January

**RUNNYMEDE YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB** 11am-12.30pm or 2pm-3.30pm 8 to 16 years. Cost £4.50 per child.

● Chertsey Museum, The Cedars, 33 Windsor Street, Chertsey. Tel: 01932 565764; email: [enquiries@chertseymuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chertseymuseum.org.uk) website: [www.chertseymuseum.org.uk](http://www.chertseymuseum.org.uk)

# Christmas household collections for kerbside recycling and refuse

PLEASE KEEP THIS CALENDAR HANDY AND USE IT AT CHRISTMAS TIME



Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday      Sunday

● For more information, call the Domestic Waste Hotline **0800 0962028**, the Recycling Hotline **0800 0520067** or visit [www.runnymede.gov.uk](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk).

<b>27 DECEMBER</b> Bank holiday <b>No collection</b>	<b>28 DECEMBER</b> Bank holiday <b>No collection</b>	<b>29 DECEMBER</b> Normal collection	<b>30 DECEMBER</b> Normal collection	<b>31 DECEMBER</b> Normal collection	<b>1 JANUARY</b> New Year's Day <b>No collection</b>	<b>2 JANUARY</b> <b>No collection</b>
<b>3 JANUARY</b> Bank holiday <b>No collection</b>	<b>4 JANUARY</b> Monday double collection with side waste	<b>5 JANUARY</b> Tuesday double collection with side waste	<b>6 JANUARY</b> Wednesday collection	<b>7 JANUARY</b> Thursday collection	<b>8 JANUARY</b> Friday collection	

Normal service resumes Monday, 10 January 2011

<b>25 DECEMBER</b> Christmas Day <b>No collection</b>	<b>26 DECEMBER</b> Boxing Day <b>No collection</b>
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## Mulch better way to dispose of your trees

The Christmas tree recycling scheme is for our residents who want to recycle their trees. Please take your real Christmas trees to Weybridge Garden Centre, New Haw Road,

Addlestone KT15 2BU, where they will be shredded into mulch, from **Tuesday 4 to Sunday 23 January, 9am-6pm, Monday to Saturday, and 10.30am-4pm on Sunday.**



A member of the public finds out about the new recycling service at one of the roadshows

## Your chance to find out how new kerbside recycling service will work

A series of roadshows to highlight Runnymede's revamped recycling service, which comes into operation on 31 January 2011, has begun.

The roadshows run from 10am-4pm (unless stated otherwise) and are the ideal chance for residents to ask questions about the new service.

"The enhanced kerbside recycling service will allow our residents to recycle more of their waste, rather than send it to landfill," said Runnymede's leisure and environment committee chairman Cllr Mike Brown.

"The current kerbside recycling service is not able to collect a variety of recyclable items, such as plastic bottles and cardboard; the enhanced

service will, as well as the items already being collected."

Food waste collections are also being introduced.

- Roadshows dates and locations are:  
November 5 – New Haw Community Centre  
November 6 – Civic Centre, Addlestone  
November 7 – Sainsbury's, Chertsey  
November 13 – Sainsbury's, Staines/Thorpe  
November 14 – Tesco, Addlestone  
November 17 – Tesco, Egham  
November 20 – Sainsbury's Chertsey  
November 21 – Homebase, Staines/Thorpe

- November 23 – Chertsey Hall, Chertsey, 10am-12noon
- November 27 – Tesco, Addlestone
- November 28 – Tesco, Egham
- November 30 – Murray Road car park, Ottershaw
- December 4 – Homebase, Staines/Thorpe
- December 5 – The Broadway, Woodham
- December 7 – Tesco, Egham
- December 9 – New Haw Community Centre
- December 11 – The Parade, Virginia Water
- December 12 – Civic Centre, Addlestone
- December 15 – Sainsbury's Chertsey
- December 18 – Tesco, Egham
- December 19 – Sainsbury's, Staines/Thorpe.