

Welcome to the **Runnymede Climate Change and Sustainability** e-newsletter, and thank you for subscribing. Each quarter, we will be sending you updates on environmental initiatives taking place within the Council and across the borough, alongside information and advice to help you live more sustainably.

For more Council content, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn for daily updates.

Runnymede Cooks in-person classes kick off

Our in-person, hands-on vegan and vegetarian cooking classes have got off to a fantastic start. Four classes have passed, led by the wonderful Sally Gerrard from GoodCooks, and the feedback from those participating on the recipes, environment, and final products have been incredibly positive. Watching residents cooking up delicious meals side by side and taking away huge quantities of tasty, simple, budget friendly dishes has been a joy. All the recipes that have been created for the Runnymede Cooks campaign are now available on our website.

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, Runnymede Cooks aims to encourage residents to gain confidence cooking vegan and vegetarian meals at home which are easy to make, affordable, and, most importantly, delicious. We have been working with partner Sally Gerrard from GoodCooks. Sally has been writing recipes, creating tasty food for her clients, and running cookery classes for many years.

Our next event is on Thursday 24th September at Egham Literary Institute from 2pm to 4pm. This session is taking a different approach, with Sally up front running an interactive cooking demonstration across two hours, inviting attendees to get involved in different elements of the cooking process without making the entire dish from scratch. To express your interest in this event and find out more information about our future Runnymede Cooks classes, please visit our website.

Sign up to a class

Try a Runnymede Cooks recipe



Share your Runnymede Grows success

We recently heard from local resident Jo Holloway who claimed a free large growing kit from Pot Gang as part of our Runnymede Grows campaign. Despite a challenging growing year with high temperatures, Jo has had some lovely results and shared some pictures with us of her thriving produce.

Jo said “I’ve so enjoyed growing the seeds and it has really encouraged me to grow more. In fact, inspired by the scheme I grew garlic this year and was thrilled to win First Prize for it at the Royal Egham Show!”. Congratulations Jo!

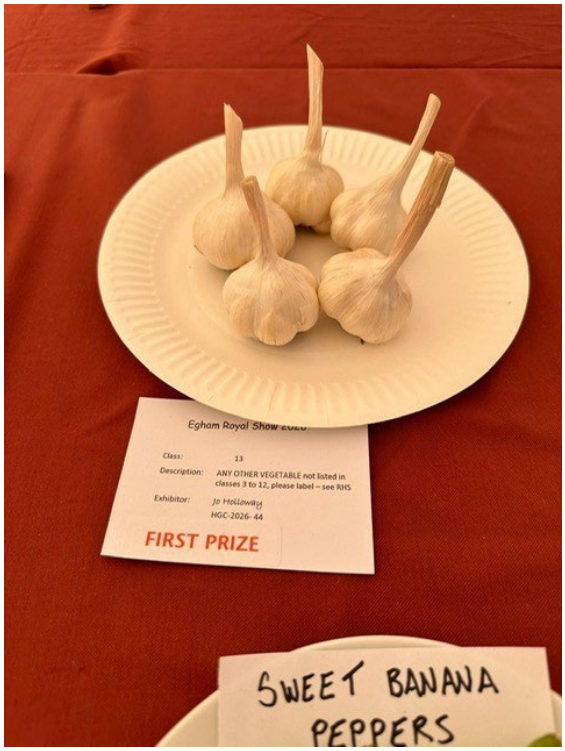
If you’ve claimed a free kit as part of Runnymede Grows or are part of a local group that has received a grant through our small grants programme, we’d love for you to let us know how you’ve found growing your own ingredients by emailing climatechange@runnymede.gov.uk.

All our grow kits have been allocated, but to join our waiting list for either a large or windowsill kit or to learn more about our Runnymede Grows campaign, visit our website.

Join our waiting list

Email us your success





Celebrating sustainability at the Business Awards

Twenty-nine local businesses were recognised at the 2026 Runnymede Borough Council Business Awards at Royal Holloway University, celebrating the borough as a great place to live, work and do business. The event includes a dedicated award for Sustainability, which seeks to showcase the efforts of businesses that have shown significant initiative in moving towards a greener and more sustainable future.

The winner of the 2026 Sustainability Award was SEKO Logistics. The logistics industry accounts for around 11% of global emissions, but as a key enabling sector for businesses and people, long-term solutions to address environmental impacts are vital. SEKO Logistics have taken strides to reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions with a 30% year-on-year reduction, attainment of EcoVadis Gold rating in ESG activity and a transition to 100% renewable electricity. They actively encourage their staff, customers and suppliers to join them on their journey. Staff benefit from schemes such as an Electric Vehicle Salary sacrifice, while customers can clearly see the carbon-related impacts of their choices through the information available throughout the booking process. Smaller suppliers are helped with free access to consultants to accelerate their own decarbonisation. The business has developed a model template for corporate sustainability and leads the way forward for the industry.

Congratulations to SEKO Logistics on the award and their fantastic work reducing environmental impacts of their organisation and acting as a benchmark for the sector. Congratulations also go to Movie Makers Ltd and Chop and Change who were highly commended in the Sustainability category. You can find a full list of award winners on our website.

Junior Rangers have returned to Runnymede



Last Sunday, we welcomed a new group of Runnymede Junior Rangers. The Rangers have started a six-month adventure to learn practical conservation activities and work as a group, protect their local green spaces, empower themselves and make friends.

The Runnymede Junior Rangers assisted National Trust rangers in removing non-native Sycamore trees which compete with and threaten to shade out Hazel saplings. They were taught how areas where sunlight reaches the ground can be havens for woodland wildlife, particularly young trees and wildflowers such as Bluebells which rely on these open areas to thrive.

By removing the invasive Sycamores, the Junior Rangers helped to ensure a mix of open and closed canopy was retained in this ancient woodland, meaning wildlife and the young Hazel trees would continue to thrive there for years to come.

We attended the 2026 St John’s Eco-Fayre

On Saturday 5th September, officers from our Climate & Sustainability and Open Spaces teams attended the St John’s Eco-Fayre in Egham, hosted by St John’s Church, raising awareness of our Runnymede Cooks and Runnymede Grows campaigns.



It was a fantastic event and a valuable opportunity to hear local perspectives, share practical ideas, and discuss the small changes that can make a big difference. As part of Runnymede Grows, we provided 16 households with free grow boxes from Pot Gang, enabling them to start growing their own produce at home!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to chat with us and to St John’s for hosting. Every conversation helps build a stronger, greener, and more resilient community.

Great Big Green Week 2026

Great Big Green Week is the UK’s biggest ever celebration of community action to protect the planet which took place from the 6 to 14 June 2026. Across Runnymede, there were loads of activities taking place hosted by a range of organisations, from litter picks to plant swaps, and balsam bashes to cooking classes. Build to Learn interactive environmental workshops, using Lego elements to explore various topics, also returned, with 47 workshops across 12 schools engaging an estimated 1,300 students with environmental issues, helping foster an interest in nature, biodiversity and sustainability among young residents. Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in organising activities throughout the week or attended one of these events.

If you have not already seen it on our digital channels, the winners and highly commended entries in the 'Our Beautiful Borough' nature and wildlife photography competition have now been announced. View at the below video to see these images, and the photographers were invited to a meet and greet with the mayor before the photos were displayed for all at the Runnymede Civic Centre.



Surrey Talks Climate Workshop coming to Staines

It’s been a long, hot summer and more people are talking about climate. But often, it’s a difficult conversation; how can you know you’re getting it right when you might only have one chance?

If you’re part of a group focused on environmental improvement, book onto the Surrey Talks Climate workshop to understand how you can encourage people who wouldn’t normally engage with you to join – or just start them along the path to thinking in a different way about their daily choices. The workshop is on 28 November 2026 from 12.30pm to 4pm in Staines (location TBC).

Run by the Surrey Climate Commission, the free workshop will be a lively 3-hour session, which involves lots of participation and discussion based on well-researched information. Plus, cake!

Places are limited, so reserve your space today to avoid missing out.

Sign up to Surrey Talks Climate

If you have any suggestions or comments related to all-things climate change and sustainability in Runnymede, get in touch with the Council’s Climate Change Team at climatechange@runnymede.gov.uk.

Not interested any longer? Unsubscribe.

Copyright © {2024} Runnymede Borough Council

Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone, KT15 2AH | 01932 838383