Take a fresh look at Staines-upon-Thames

Enjoy the tranquil stretch of riverside, quality restaurants and shops at vibrant Staines-upon-Thames

All this at London Square Staines upon Thames.

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✓ Landscaped courtyard gardens
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✓ Contemporary specification
✓ Residents’ gym
✓ 2 mins walk to the High Street shops, bars, restaurant and cinemas
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Stylish 1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments from £359,950

The Sales Suite and stunning two bedroom Show Apartment,
High Street, Staines-upon-Thames, TW18 4BY, open Thursday – Monday, 10am – 6pm.

To arrange your appointment call 0333 666 0107 or email StainesUponThames@londonsquare.co.uk

Computer generated image depicts the exterior at London Square Staines upon Thames and is indicative only. Photography depicts the two bedroom Show Apartment at London Square Staines upon Thames and is indicative only. Travel times sourced from National Rail Enquiries. Details and prices are correct at time of going to press October 2017.
35 mins to London Waterloo

www.londonsquare.co.uk
**Talking makes a difference**

We spoke to Ali Foster (pictured above) who funded Brighter Berkshire who gave us her top tips to better mental health.

She said: “We have no problem talking about our physical health. “It seems easier to say we have flu when perhaps we really feel paralysed, unable to even get out of bed.”

Here are my top tips:

- Connect with people around you, family, friends and colleagues.
- Be active; even going for a walk, cycling or playing football can help.
- Learn new skills and gain a sense of confidence and achievement.
- Support others; even a smile, thank you or kind word will help.
- Be more mindful of your thoughts and feelings at any given moment.

Visit brighterberkshire.com for more information.

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**Join the battle to beat flu this winter**

Residents in vulnerable groups can receive a free vaccine to protect them from seasonal flu.

The free jabs are available to anyone aged 65 or over, anyone over six months old and in a clinical risk group, pregnant women, all two or three year-olds, children in reception or years 1, 2, 3 and 4, and anyone in a long-stay residential home.

Flu can result in serious complications, such as hospitalisation, disability and death, for people at risk.

The best way to protect yourself and your family is to get a free flu vaccine before the illness starts circulating.

Don’t put off getting the flu vaccination this winter. If you’re eligible get it from your GP or pharmacy – it’s free because you need it.

Long-term conditions including neurological problems, liver or kidney disease, diabetes and other illnesses can make you more likely to catch the flu and 50 times more likely for it to be fatal.

Children can be inoculated without needles. Youngsters between two and eight can receive the inoculation via a nasal spray from a GP practice or school nurse.

Anyone outside one of the high risk groups can still get a flu vaccine from a participating pharmacy for between £7 and £12.99 depending on the provider. Visit http://bit.ly/2ysqpvj to see a list of participating pharmacies.
Council and heart charity fund exercise equipment

Anyone recovering from heart attacks, surgery or cardiac health issues can benefit from new exercise equipment.

Working alongside The Heart Rehabilitation Organisation of Berkshire (THROB) we donated three static bikes and three rowing machines worth thousands of pounds, to help people recover from issues with their heart.

Exercise classes supporting residents after they finish an NHS-led six-week rehabilitation programme are held in leisure centres across the borough.

Keith Jarvis, THROB’s treasurer, returned to Windsor Leisure Centre where he took the class 13 years ago following a heart attack. He said: “THROB has had a long association with the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead in supporting exercise classes and community initiatives across the entire borough.

“This includes paying for exercise instructors to gain nationally-recognised qualifications to run the classes.

“We also have supplied portable defibrillators which are available within the community 24/7.

“We look forward to continuing this special relationship.”

So Much Improvement with a Little Exercise (SMILE) runs a series of activities at Windsor and Magnet leisure centres to help promote activity and healthy living in the over 50s.
St Peter’s makes ‘good’ progress

St Peter’s Church of England Middle School in Old Windsor has been rated ‘good’ in every category by Ofsted.

The recognition follows years of hard work to improve standards after the school was put into ‘special measures’ in November 2013.

But after its latest inspection, published last month, it was praised for its outcomes for pupils, behaviour and welfare, the quality of teaching and leadership.

Cllr Lynne Jones, ward member for Old Windsor, said: “This is great news for the pupils, staff, parents and governors at St Peter’s and wouldn’t have been possible without their work.

“It’s also brilliant to see the school commended for the social and cultural opportunities being developed and the positive culture for learning.”

Other schools in the borough have also had successful Ofsted inspections over the summer including Holyport College and Braywick Court School which were both ranked as “outstanding” in every category.

Primary school applications open

Do you live in the Royal Borough and have a child that was born between 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014? If so, your child is eligible to start school in Year Reception in September 2018.

You must apply through the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, even if your preferred school is in another borough.

The online admissions portal will open on the council’s website on 1 November 2017, and close at midday on 15 January 2018. The system can be accessed on a PC, laptop and mobile devices.

If you are unable to make an online application at home you can visit your local library, or request a paper application form from the admissions team on rbwm.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk or 01628 683870.

For more information see the council’s website.

Children’s centres

Children’s centres across the borough offer a host of services for families including healthy living advice and support services.

Our centres now offer services including parenting and nursing services, connecting all the support options available to families.

Parents and carers said some of the most useful services included exercise and fitness activities, school holiday sessions and family first aid courses.

Another £10,000 to help youth projects

This is the sixth year in a row that the Youth Voice Youth Choice scheme has been run, and you can now vote for your favourite to get a slice of £10,000.

Groups and individuals applied in October for up to £2,500 and shortlists have been drawn up.

Voting will be on the WAMSTER youth service website and the projects with the most votes will secure funding.

Visit www.wamster.org.uk to vote.

Winners of the first £10,000 will be announced on 28 November. An awards event will take place on 5 December.

Another £10,000 will be available to apply for from February.

A previous set of winners with Cllr Nataasha Ainey at Windsor Guildhall.
Making the most of living within the Royal Borough

Did you know you can renew your yellow Advantage Card online?

We ask residents to keep the same card as long as they live in the borough, but keep their subscription updated. Renewals can be done in person at an issuing centre or through the online form on the website.

If you need a new card, you should visit an issuing centre in person with a recent proof of address as we need a new photo of you for the card. Residents can now get cards at Maidenhead, Ascot and Windsor libraries as well as local leisure centres.

You can also sign up to our e-newsletter for regular offers and competitions emailed out at the start of each month. We're in the early stages of preparing our annual Christmas Advantage Card prize giveaway. There are lots of great ideas for Christmas presents all of which can be purchased with your Advantage Card if you're not lucky enough to win. In previous years we've given away luxury afternoon teas at Coworth Park and the Macdonald Berystede, ice skating tickets, beauty sets, days out for the family from Duck Tours and Jump In and meals at local restaurants. Sign up now to make sure you don't miss out at www3.rbwm.gov.uk/advantagecard.

Coworth Park's scene from a previous Advantage Card competition.

Advantage Card - For discounts throughout the borough

Don’t miss out on fantastic discounts from local shops, days out and restaurants. Get a card at your local leisure centre for over 200 local discounts including free entry to Windsor Castle and discounted parking in the borough.

New offers each month with competitions
Recent competitions offered afternoon tea at the Bird in Hand, champagne from Laithwaites, tickets to the Windsor Festival, a home-delivered meal from Absolute Cuisine, tickets to the Rose Show and Windsor Christmas Gift Fair...

Get offers emailed to you every month—sign up now at www.rbwm.gov.uk
Discounted tickets for events like the Windsor Horse Show and Windsor Racecourse, 50% off Legoland tickets, discounts for half-term activities, on days out, shopping, dining, home services, sports events and courses and much more...

Over 200 discounts available to download
Offers include discounts in council car parks, for on-street parking and some free evening parking. 10% off at The Crown at Bray, 25% off at Browns Brasserie and The Real Greek, French Brothers, Norden Farm and much more...

The Yellow Advantage Card is free to borough residents.
Apply in person with proof of address and renew your subscription every two years.

T: 01628 796252 www.rbwm.gov.uk
Prime Minister opens memorial garden

A memorial garden at Oaken Grove, dedicated to the life and achievements of Maidenian Sir Nicholas Winton was officially opened during the summer by Prime Minister and Maidenhead MP, Theresa May.

She thanked the council, designers, the Winton family and everyone involved in the project for all their hard work.

Nick Winton, son of Sir Nicholas, said: "The garden is a perfect place to remember others who are dear to us and to reflect on life."

Sir Nicholas’ brave actions on the eve of the Second World War led to the rescue of 669 children from Nazi-occupied Prague. He lived much of his life in Pinkneys Green until he died in 2015 at the age of 106.

The garden has been created to reflect Sir Nicholas’ part in organising the rescue of hundreds of children who were brought to the UK by train to escape persecution and the wider war.

Railway sleepers run through the garden alongside a pathway marked by stones bearing quotes from Sir Nicholas, selected by his family.

An ornamental pond with a fountain sits in the centre.

Free car parking in town for Christmas

This festive season enjoy free weekend parking in Maidenhead from 25 November until 26 December.

We want to make Christmas shopping as easy as possible this year in Maidenhead so we are offering this incentive so you can make the most of the town centre and all the Christmas events.

Don’t forget that Sunday and Bank Holiday parking in Maidenhead is free all year round and the majority of shops are open 11am - 6pm.

New places to eat out in Maidenhead

Looking for a new place for breakfast or lunch? There have been a few additions to Maidenhead in the last few months.

At the beginning of October New York Deli, an independent café, opened where Café Aroma used to be. Hot dogs, paninis and coffee are just some of the tempting treats to try.

Also now open at Chapel Arches is Bakeddl, a Turkish bakery and coffee shop. It also serves salads of Anatolian/Middle Eastern origin, Italian sandwiches and croissants throughout the day. It also has a beautiful riverside location, perfect for sitting out in warmer weather.
Thames Street goes one-way

A trial one-way system on the section of Thames Street opposite the Theatre Royal Windsor is coming to an end.

Starting in September the council and its highways partner Project Centre arranged for a temporary change to the road layout. The new design only allows traffic travelling into the town centre to use the stretch of Thames Street between River Street and Datchet Road.

Vehicles travelling out from the centre need to turn left in River Street before reaching the theatre.

During the trial the area was monitored to see whether it would help to better manage bus services by creating a new hub in Thames Street to free up space opposite Windsor Castle.

A more detailed report setting out whether the changes should be made permanent is expected to be put before councillors shortly.

Life-saving kits need homes

A community partnership is seeking to place 10 defibrillators throughout Windsor town centre.

By working together with local groups in the Windsor Community Defibrillator Partnership we aim to purchase and maintain a network of the devices to improve the safety of residents, workers and visitors.

Using one of the life-saving machines on someone who suffers a cardiac arrest can dramatically increase their chances of survival if administered quickly. The machines are easy and safe to use and will only give a shock if they detect an irregular heartbeat.

Chris Davies, of the Rotary Club of Windsor St. George, said: "This has been an excellent example of a group of like minded organisations, working together to address an issue that will save lives in our community."

Five defibrillators have been funded so far and are due to be installed at Windsor Royal Shopping, Minton Place, Goswell Hill, Bachelor Acre and Oxford Road East.

Other sites have been identified and further funds are being sought. The council has contributed £725 so far through its community grants panel.

To contribute or find out more contact paul.roach@rbwm.gov.uk. Other partners in the scheme include Thames Valley Police, Windsor Lions and the Rotary Club of Windsor St George.

Refurbished arts space re-opens

The arts centre on St Leonards Road, Windsor has been refurbished and reopened with a brand new identity.

The council and the new tenant are working closely to deliver improvements to the building.

The Old Court opened for the first time last month. Martin Denny, director of the venue, said: "We are very excited about the future and keen to build on the legacy and reputation of the Firestation."

"The centre will still be a vibrant arts centre at the heart of the local community. We will be introducing new ideas, as well as continuing to provide an eclectic mix of music, drama, comedy and film."

Windsor & Eton Brewery is running the bar, following its success at The George, Eton, as well as events run in the brewery itself.

The venue continues to be available for private hire and use by community arts organisations by contacting 01753 911333 or martin@martindenny.co.uk

Working better with borough’s businesses

We are working together with businesses throughout the borough to help protect communities from terrorism.

Over the last year we have successfully hosted a series of sessions to raise awareness among stakeholders and ensure those who live and work in our towns have the right knowledge.

Known as Project Griffin, the internationally acclaimed scheme allows businesses to help their own communities by learning how to spot and report suspicious activity and think more about things like evacuation procedures and emergency planning.

Paul Roach, Windsor, Ascot and Eton town manager, said: "It’s been great to see how the whole business and tourism community in the borough has come together for our mutual benefit."

"We live in a world where taking precautions and being in the know can save lives and improve safety for everyone."

“We are pleased to have been able to help deliver these sessions to make our communities more prepared should the worst happen."

The course is a joint project between Thames Valley Police’s South East Counter Terrorism Unit and the Windsor, Eton and Ascot Town Partnership and is free for businesses or organisations with front facing staff working in public spaces.

The scheme locally has been sponsored by The Castle Hotel in Windsor.
Youngsters cut down waste

The borough’s next generation have been learning about how to reduce the waste they create.

Schools took part in a competition to see who could earn the most points by improving their eco-friendly credentials.

The winners were Courthouse Junior School who scooped £1,500 which they will donate to an endangered wildlife project.

For more information or to sign up see: www.greenredeem.co.uk/rbwm

What happens when clothes are recycled?

Our improved service allows you to recycle unwanted clothes and textiles rather than put them in the bin. All you need to do is place your clean, dry clothes and textiles in your pink bag.

If you don’t have a pink bag, you can use any plastic bag. Just write ‘textiles’ on the bag and then place it next to your bins on collection day.

They are then transferred to JMP Wilcox in the West Midlands – the UK’s largest clothing recycler – which makes sure everything passing through its door is recycled or reused.

Wilcox sorts through 200 tonnes of clothing a day by hand, separating items out by type and quality – dying anything that’s got wet in transit in industrial dryers.

Anything reusable is sorted and sent all around the world. Almost 80 percent goes to Africa.

Woollen jumpers go to Pakistan where they are used to make carpets.

Unfortunately shoes that aren’t tied together get separated during the sorting process and are rarely matched up again.

Blankets, linen and towels are sorted and all the white materials end up as hand wipes and the coloured items used for industrial cleaning rags.

Stained and torn items are run through a metal detector and zips or buttons are cut out by hand. Zips are sent to be melted down and the buttons are sent to Pakistan.

Remaining clothes and textiles that can’t be reused become industrial rags or shredded as filling for mattresses and car seats.

Holiday bin collection times

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Normal collections resume from Monday 15 January

Collections are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Details of any changes can be found at www.rbwm.gov.uk

Please remember:
- Put your recycling and refuse out by 7am and no earlier than the night before.
- If you have wheelie bins we can only collect rubbish inside the bin unless it is folded cardboard.
- Take excess rubbish to the Stafferton Way tip.
Officially a Fairtrade borough

The Royal Borough has had its Fairtrade Borough status renewed by the Fairtrade Foundation for at least another two years.

The title covers the whole of the Royal Borough and recognises the council and a significant number of retail and catering outlets and community organisations are all supporting the Fairtrade. The borough has held this status since 2006.

A certificate confirming the renewed status was presented to Cllr Samantha Rayner, the council’s lead member for culture and communities in July at Clewer Green C of E Aided First School in Windsor.

Dianne Redvers, chair of the Royal Borough Fairtrade Steering Group, said: “Buying products with the Fairtrade logo on guarantees farmers in developing countries will get a fair wage for the products they grow.”

The group of dedicated volunteers has been working continuously on this renewal campaign.

Anyone interested in joining the group or who wants to find out more should email Dianne at dk_male@hotmail.com or see the group’s Facebook page, RBWM Fairtrade Steering Group.

Improved green space open for fun

A new park opened over the summer in Dedworth.

The previously unnamed bit of land at the back of the Broom Farm estate now has picnic benches, paths and improved drainage.

A competition to come up with a name was run in the Windsor Express newspaper and the winning name “Victoria Park” was put forward by resident Robert Irvine. This echoes the roads on Broom Farm estate that are all named after recipients of the Victoria Cross.

Cllr Ed Wilson, ward councillor for Clewer South, said: “Our parks team have done a fantastic job in enhancing this site.

“It will be a great open space for service families living on Broom Farm, and I hope residents from across Windsor will also make good use of it too.”

The total cost of the park was £50,000; half was funded by a council budget from its Olympic Legacy project and the other £25,000 came from capital.

Centre’s new management

A community centre in Maidenhead has been boosted by a new board of trustees and a new name, while still retaining its dedicated volunteers and members.

Shirley and Sheila, part of the knitting club.

The York Centre on York Road, has been open since the 1960s and is now called Maidenhead Community Centre. It’s a great place to meet and hosts lots of activities including yoga, exercise and arts and craft classes. The café is open Monday–Friday from 10am–2pm. A cooked lunch is available on Tuesdays and Fridays, where there is a set menu for £5.

The centre is currently seeking new volunteer chefs or kitchen hands that would be happy to spare a few hours a week. Or you might have a particular skill or interest that you could share or like to run an activity.

The various rooms in the centre are also available for private hire. Please visit: maidenheadcentre.org.uk for availability and prices.

Please telephone 01628 203400 or email: bookings@maidenheadcentre.org.uk for further details. The team looks forward to hearing from you and welcoming new volunteers.
Meet your councillors

Ascot & Cheapside

Cllr Lilly Evans

How long have you lived in the borough?
My husband and I moved to Sunningdale five years ago after 30 years in Virginia Water.

How long have you been a councillor?
I have been a borough councillor since 2015 and Sunningdale parish councillor since 2013.

What made you want to become a councillor?
I wanted to contribute my expertise to the improvement and growth of the area and services for local residents.

What has been the highlight of your role so far?
I have been very fortunate to work alongside Cllr Hilton who is a knowledgeable and committed councillor and a generous colleague and mentor.

Are there any parts of the role you don’t enjoy?
I am not keen on too many evening meetings but realise most of what we do requires councillor and officer cooperation. Given their other responsibilities there appears to be little other choices.

Do you have another job?
I am a Sunningdale parish councillor and public governor of Ashford and St Peter’s Hospital Trust. I am a paid part-time professional management consultant and organisational change consultant.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
My husband and I are keen walkers and I like to travel and visit new places.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
We are fortunate to live in an area of outstanding beauty and amazing potential. I am committed to making sure we don’t reverse the trend of young families leaving the area due to unaffordable housing costs.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
In my ward the views from the racecourse over the countryside on a sunny day. Further afield it is Windsor Great Park.

Cllr David Hilton

How long have you lived in the borough?
I have lived in the borough for 30 years.

How long have you been a councillor?
I was first elected 16 years ago.

What made you want to become a councillor?
As a parish councillor I gained insights into local government and felt I could contribute when I retired.

What has been the highlight of your role so far?
I became cabinet member for finance in 2007 and in the 2008/9 budget delivered a Council Tax increase 3.1 percent below inflation. Taking the first steps towards a low Council Tax.

Are there any parts of the role you don’t enjoy?
Not really.

Do you have another job?
No I am retired. I admire my councillor colleagues who work and also manage to commit time to being a councillor.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Go to the gym, read and follow an interest in wine and travel.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
Providing homes for all residents, but especially the younger generation, and boosting the economic vibrancy of the borough. As principal member for Ascot regeneration I am working on the project that aspires to deliver an Ascot centre reflecting the status of the racecourse.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
One has to be standing in the grandstand at Ascot Racecourse looking out over the across delightful views into Windsor Great Park. Another is enjoying a stroll with my wife through the shopping area and historic parts of Windsor.

Eton & Castle

Cllr Malcolm Alexander

How long have you lived in the borough?
My wife and I moved to Windsor three years ago, to be closer to family.

What made you want to become a councillor?
I have been a councillor for 18 years, 16 of those years on East Hertfordshire District Council. During that time I was cabinet member for community protection and the environment and also deputy leader.

What has been the highlight of your role so far?
I felt it was time to put something back.

What has been the highlight of your role so far?
It was a thrill to stand for the seat, winning it was even better. To have contributed to the very successful Eton Walkway was another high point.

Are there any parts of the role you don’t enjoy?
The downside to being a councillor is that we don’t have a magic wand, and however much we would like to support every idea, there are often obstacles.

Do you have another job?
I have been retired for quite some time, but the diary bulges.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I’ve had an allotment almost since we moved to Windsor, where I grow vegetables while my wife spends time putting the garden to rights. I’m a keen cook and we like to entertain.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
Housing is a big issue. The government will impose sites if we do not choose them and we need to help people of all incomes.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
Windsor Castle. It never fails to impress us.
Meet your councillors

Belmont

Cllr Lisa Targowska

How long have you lived in the borough?
I moved to Maidenhead in 2012 when I was offered a job at the council.

How long have you been a councillor?
I have been a councillor for two years now.

What made you want to become a councillor?
While working at the Royal Borough I came to appreciate how hard councillors work and I wanted the opportunity to be a part of that. In addition, with the regeneration of Maidenhead becoming a councillor seemed like an ideal opportunity to improve the community for future generations.

What has been the highlight of your role so far?
I particularly enjoy my post as principal member for HR. I genuinely want staff to enjoy coming to work.

Are there any parts of the role you don't enjoy?
The tough decisions. There have been many times at council and cabinet meetings where the arguments on either side of an issue are finely balanced.

Do you have another job?
I work as a lawyer.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Most of my spare time is taken up running or rowing. I spend a lot of hours either on the water or running beside it to Cookham or Windsor. When I get the opportunity, I also enjoy travel photography.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
That the borough is somewhere people want to call home.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
It has to be the Thames. We are very fortunate in this borough to be able to escape into the countryside within minutes.

Cllr Marion Mills

How long have you lived in the borough?
I have lived in the borough for 35 years.

How long have you been a councillor?
I have been a councillor since 2011.

What made you want to become a councillor?
I became a councillor to get more involved in the borough and to be in a position to put something back into society. I am a people person and being able to help residents is very rewarding.

What has been the highlight of your role so far?
Becoming involved in the sustainability panel in time to agree to solar panels being installed on the Town Hall's roof and seeing the huge savings these have made - currently over £35,000.

Are there any parts of the role you don't enjoy?
No, but I do sometimes find the time it takes to bring about change rather frustrating.

Do you have another job?
I normally do have another job, but am currently unemployed.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time I enjoy meeting up with friends and family, watching films (often DVDs rented from Maidenhead Library), cooking and gardening.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
I am looking forward to seeing the regeneration of Maidenhead bring more life into the centre of town, and the arrival of the Elizabeth Line. I want residents to be happy living here.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
Windsor Castle, it is so spectacular, but I do also love Ray Mill Island and the fountain opposite Alexandra Gardens.

Cllr Philip Love

How long have you lived in the borough?
I moved to Maidenhead in 1978.

How long have you been a councillor?
I was first elected in 1983.

What made you want to become a councillor?
I met a Belmont councillor and said I was passionate about local issues. I told him I enjoyed starting my own company. He suggested I take on the role if I enjoyed a challenge and making things happen.

What has been the highlight of your role so far?
Following calls for an arts centre in Maidenhead I was asked to see whether a site in Attwood Road could become an arts centre. Together with the Maidenhead Arts Council, I formed and chaired the Norden Farm Centre for the Arts. The theatre and studio space opened in September 2000.

Are there any parts of the role you don't enjoy?
I get frustrated when a problem takes longer to solve than I would have liked.

Do you have another job?
Having sold my business a few years ago, I'm now retired, but I sit as a trustee with Citizens Advice - Maidenhead and Windsor.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy gardening as it also keeps me fairly fit, travelling, golf occasionally and spending time with family and friends.

What is your main aspiration for the Royal Borough and its residents?
I am confident that in a few years time when the regeneration takes shape residents will finally have an attractive and vibrant town centre they'll be proud of.

What is your favourite place in the borough?
Walking along Winter Hill and down to the river.
Winter is coming

We're getting ready for the winter season and making sure the borough can keep moving, whatever the weather throws at us.

We have around 750 tonnes of salt in stock and a fleet of gritters and snow ploughs ready and waiting at our depot in Stafferton Way.

Every day throughout the season our highways partners VolkerHighways will assess weather reports and decide if action is needed to clear the roads of ice or snow.

Across the borough there are 145 miles of priority roads which get treated as part of the primary gritting routes programme and a further 31 miles on the secondary routes.

A full list can be found on the winter service web page and we regularly update our Facebook and Twitter pages to inform residents when this is taking place.

In addition to the gritters we have a network of yellow bins full of salt that can be used by the community.

Footways and cycleways are not usually pre-salted but can be cleared or treated during severe or prolonged weather.

Last winter we treated a total of 6,742 miles – the equivalent of gritting from Maidenhead to the Equator.

Major grants awarded to 50 worthy causes

The council is pleased to be able to support local groups and charities with our grant funding schemes and we have several funding rounds a year. This year we have given £290,000 to local charities and voluntary groups – a record amount for the organisation. This money has been shared among 50 groups.

Baby Bank gets funding boost

Baby Bank Windsor was founded in 2015 by Amy Tiel and Rebecca Misty and helps families who struggle to pay for essentials for their children. They recently got a grant of £1,000 from the council.

The group collects pre-loved items in very good condition such as cots, clothes (newborn through to teenagers), buggies and Moses baskets. All items have to be clean and from smoke free homes. They also provide baby essentials like nappies, baby wipes, baby toiletries, bottles and formula.

Amy Tiel, Baby Bank chair, said: “Rebecca and I and all our volunteers run Baby Bank around the demands of our own families and jobs and we are always looking for volunteers to help sort donations, apply for grants or maintain our social media.”

To support or volunteer for the group please see their Facebook page or twitter account @Babybankwindsor

Cash injections – the latest round included:

- Clewer Scout and Guide group which was awarded £1,000 to improve the storage needs at the hut.
- Maidenhead Community Centre will get £3,000. Simon Chan, one of the centre’s trustees said: “We are delighted to have been awarded this grant which will allow us to update our signage and provide our service users with Wi-Fi and internet access.”
- Phoenix Gym has been awarded £5,000.

To see a full list of the grants or find out more about how to apply for funding see online at: www.rbwm.gov.uk/grants
Value of young volunteers

Young people have been giving back to their community, spending thousands of hours helping the borough Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

Young people engage with activities throughout their Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) experience. The collective value of candidates volunteering last year in the borough totalled more than £38,000.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme, which was founded by HRH Prince Philip in 1956, offers young people aged 14-24 the chance to learn new skills, make new friends, get involved in their community and plan and undertake a series of expeditions, gaining confidence and independence.

On average, groups spent a total of 10,348 hours keeping fit, 9,541 hours volunteering and 8,970 hours learning new skills. As a result, for the year 2016/17 there was a 34 percent increase in the number of young people starting the scheme and a 37 percent increase in the number who managed to complete their award to one of the three levels of bronze, silver, or gold.

Around one third of the young people taking part did so through centres managed by the borough.

Cllr Natasha Airey said: “We are always so proud of what our young people manage to achieve inside and outside of the classroom and these numbers show just how much value the Duke of Edinburgh Award is to them and their community.”

One of the young people from this year’s bronze walking group said: “Learning basic survival skills, helping others and achieving the award were the main benefits of participating in the scheme.

“I have learnt that I can do anything if I put my mind to it and I can achieve things I wouldn’t have achieved before.

“Completing the award and learning to swim was one of my proudest achievements.

“There are many things I have got out of taking part in the DoE, the main one is making new friends.

“During my time completing my bronze DoE award, I made many new friends along the way as well as experiencing map reading, new skills and working in a team.”

Caragh Reilly

Council taken over by next generation

On 24 November young people will be taking part in Takeover Day.

This involves shadowing senior managers and elected members of the council and working with them in a variety of different service areas.

This is the fourth year the council will participate in this event with numerous roles to be “taken over”.

If you know someone who wants to take part email Elaine Keating at elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Cabinet tours borough

Over the last 14 months, cabinet meetings have gone back on the road.

This time pupils and teachers have asked their councillors questions when the meeting came to their schools.

In April it was Forest Bridge’s turn. Oliver asked: “Why did you choose to become a councillor?”

Cllr Derek Wilson said he had wanted to get involved in local issues, be a part of the community and make a difference in the decision making.

In June it was Riverside Primary, in Maidenhead and Ethan, Year 6, asked: “What will the council do to decrease the amount of drugs and cigarettes being used?”

Cabinet member for adult services, public health and communications, Cllr Stuart Carroll explained the council had two workers who did lots of work in schools and youth clubs to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Last month it was Berkshire College of Agriculture’s turn and coming up there are plans to visit other schools and colleges.
Singing for Lung Health
Singing for Lung Health is open to anyone with a chronic lung disease, designed to help participants effectively self-manage their conditions by developing better breathing, correcting postural tension, building stamina, and having fun. No singing experience necessary.

They meet every Wednesday from 1.30 - 2.30pm at 4 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7YR.

New members always welcome.

Call Tam on 0776 252 7472.

Maidenhead Bridge Rotary Club - Reindeer racing
Organised by the Rotary Club you can take part in this great charity event on Saturday 10 December between 11am and 3pm in the Nicholsone Shopping Centre (near Clarks just off the main atrium).

Races last approximately five minutes each and involve winding the toy reindeer and their precious sleighs towards you and over the finish line.

Just turn up on the day to take part in this challenge and donate £1 per go, with a prize for the race winner. All money raised at this event will be donated to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, who train and provide assistance dogs to the hard of hearing and deaf.

If you’d like more information please email events@maidenheadbridgeteoryclub.org.uk or call Lisa on 07876 341034. Find out more about the club at www.maidenheadbridgeteory club.org.uk

Access for all
The Access Advisory Forum is comprised of residents who either have a disability or represent a disabled person, members of voluntary groups, associations or charities working with people with disabilities, plus two councillors. Council officers and external guests, relevant to the matters being considered, are also invited to attend. The Forum meets quarterly in Maidenhead Town Hall in the Council Chamber.

Our major functions are to:
• Consider matters affecting people with disabilities in the borough and make appropriate recommendations to the council cabinet or panels.
• Advise on improvements for disabled people to access council services and facilities.
• Encourage the development of an environment independently accessible by disabled people.

We welcome comments or suggestions about improvements to services or amenities for people with disabilities. Please email democratic.services@rbwm.gov.uk

Fit for Life
Saturday 20 January – Sunday 28 January 2018

Fit for Life week offers a variety of sporting and physical activity tasters for 14+, adults and families.

Over the week local clubs and leisure providers across the borough are opening their doors to give the public an opportunity to see what is on offer at their club and to try out their sporting activities.

All activities are free.

Please visit www.getactiverbwm.org for more information.

Pinkneys Green Cricket Club
Are you looking for somewhere for your child to play cricket this winter?

Pinkneys Green Cricket Club is running indoor winter training for junior players.

Training starts 1 January 2018.

For more information please email pinkneysgreencricketclub@gmail.com

Desborough Bowling Club
36 York Road, Maidenhead SL6 1SF.

Bowling is a great sport that can be played by people of all ages. It provides healthy exercise and the opportunity to make new friends.

We are hosting taster sessions every Saturday until 2 December 2017.

10.00am - 11.00am.

For more information call 01628 629403 for full details or go to www.desboroughbc.co.uk

Ascot Farmers Market
Held on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 9am - 1pm in car park 3, Ascot.

Up to 27 stalls with local artisans selling local fresh produce including gin, fruit, veg, pastries, fish, cheese, pies, game, poultry and more. The market offers hot breakfasts and seating area too.

Free entry. Free parking.

Local buskers welcome.

Thames Valley Farmers Markets Co-operative.

Alwyn Infant and Courthouse Junior School
Feeling crafty? Come and join us for an evening of craft and shopping at Alwyn Infant School on 15 November 7.30pm to 10.30pm. Twenty local crafters will be showcasing their beautiful merchandise for sale. Or you could learn something new by taking part in one of our craft workshops.

Tickets are £3 per person, available at www.alwyncourthouseppta.com

Email: community.classifieds@rbwm.gov.uk to be featured in next edition’s Community Classifieds. Events should take place before the end of May.
# Events 2017 / 2018

## November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 - 11</td>
<td>Guys and Dolls, Deaborough Theatre, Maidenhead</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mos-uk.org">www.mos-uk.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Eton Christmas Lights Switch-on</td>
<td>windsor.gov.uk</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Windsor &amp; Eton Half Marathon</td>
<td>windsor.org.uk</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Windsor Christmas Lights Switch-on &amp; Lantern Procession</td>
<td>windsor.gov.uk</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>A Victorian Christmas, Windsor Museum</td>
<td>windsor.gov.uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Sunningdale Christmas Lights Switch-on</td>
<td>windsor.gov.uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Maidenhead Christmas Lights Switch-on 2017 and Christmas Market</td>
<td>enjoymaidenhead.com</td>
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## December

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29 Nov - 7 Jan 2018</td>
<td>Sleeping Beauty, Windsor Theatre Royal</td>
<td>windsor.gov.uk</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Christmas Fun in Datchet, St. Mary's Church &amp; The Green</td>
<td>windsor.gov.uk</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Art on the Street, Maidenhead</td>
<td>windsor.gov.uk</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Windsor Reindeer Parade, Town Centre, from 2pm</td>
<td>windsor.gov.uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 10</td>
<td>Christmas Tree Festival</td>
<td>enjoymaidenhead.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Reindeer and Reindeer Racing, High Street via Queen Street</td>
<td>enjoymaidenhead.com</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Community Lantern Parade, Outside the Town Hall</td>
<td>norden.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 31</td>
<td>Aladdin, Pearce Suite Theatre, Magnet Leisure Centre</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pearcesuite.co.uk">www.pearcesuite.co.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 &amp; 25</td>
<td>Christmas at St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle</td>
<td>stgeorges-windsor.org</td>
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## January

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 - 28</td>
<td>Fit for Life Week</td>
<td>getactivebw.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Windsor Winter Half Marathon / Duathlon</td>
<td>windsor.org.uk</td>
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## February

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Dorney Lake Winter Half Marathon</td>
<td>windsor.org.uk</td>
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**Maidenhead Farmers’ Market**

Grove Road car park: 10am - 1pm

Maidenhead Farmers’ Market has around 25 stalls with seasonal and speciality guest stalls stocking the very best in local produce. Don’t forget to visit the tea stall.

- 12 November 14 January 2018
- 10 December 11 February 2018

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**Windsor Farmers’ Market**

St Leonard’s Road, Windsor 9am - 1pm

This street market has been running in St Leonard’s Road since 2005. The market offers a wide range of produce and is within easy walking distance of the town.

- 4 November 2017 6 January 2018
- 2 December 2017 3 February 2018

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Around the Royal Borough is produced by the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and distributed to households in the borough. It is also available in council offices, libraries, leisure centres and First Stop Shops. The magazine is available on CD for people with visual impairments. If you have any comments or would like to submit a contribution for the community pages or book advertising space please contact Communications and Marketing, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead SL6 1RF. Tel: 01628 758000. Email communications@rbwm.gov.uk

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Christmas Shopping Hours for Windsor Royal Shopping

DECEMBER 2017
7th December – 10:00am – 7:30pm
14th December – 10:00am – 7:30pm
24th December – 11:00am – 5:00pm
25th December – Closed
26th December – 11:00am – 5:00pm*
27th December – 10:00am – 6:00pm
28th December – 10:00am – 6:00pm
29th December – 10:00am – 6:00pm
30th December – 10:00am – 6:00pm
31st December – 11:00am – 5:00pm*

Late Night Shopping 7th and 14th December.
Free car parking at selected car parks from 4pm

JANUARY 2018
1st January – 11:00am – 5:00pm*
2nd January – 10:00am – 6:00pm

Restaurants & Cafés
Please check with individual establishments for the specific opening and closing times.
* Some stores, cafés and restaurants are open

For more information visit www.windsorroyalshopping.co.uk
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