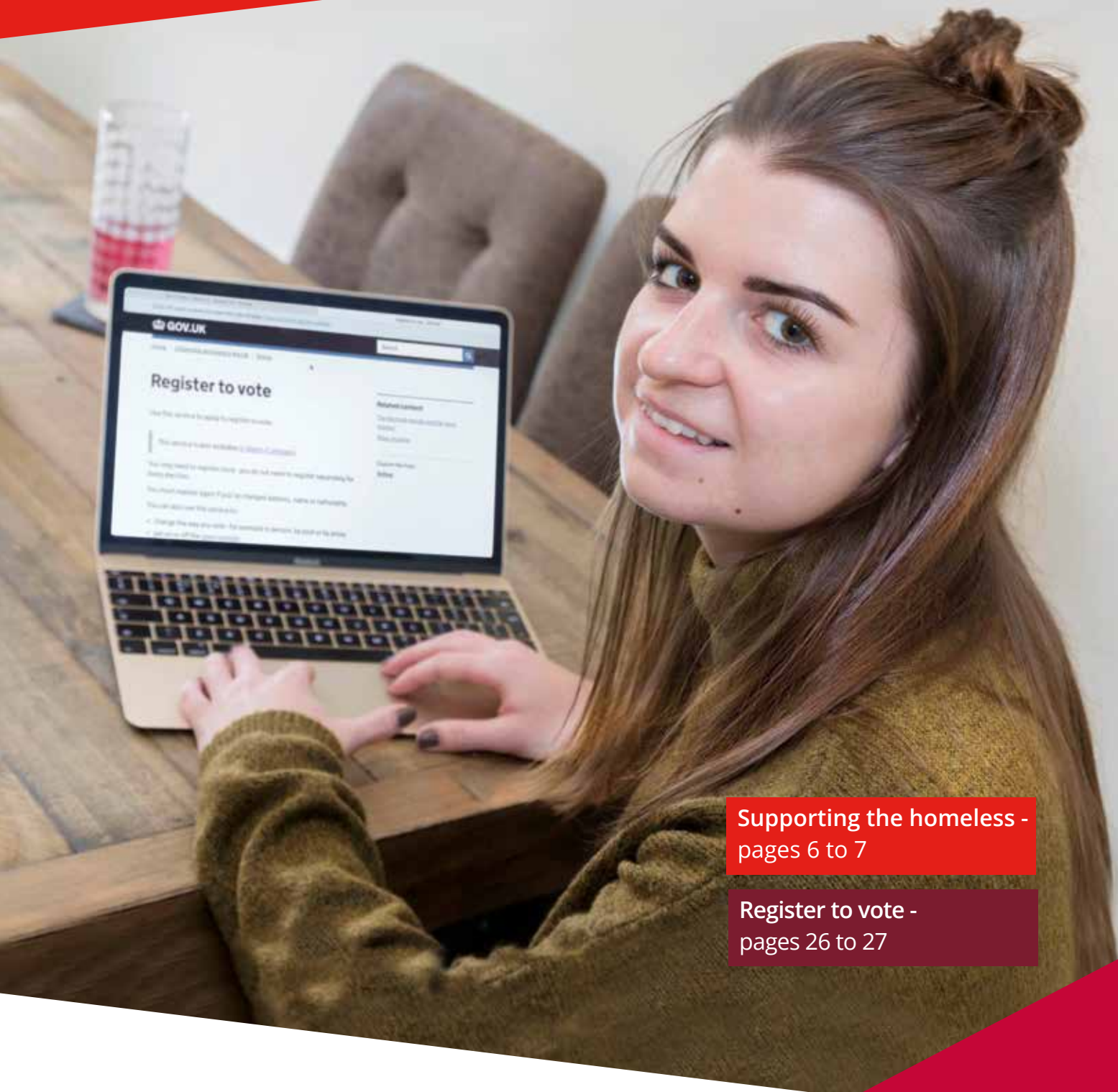


# Your Chesterfield

Incorporating Our Homes tenants' newsletter



Supporting the homeless -  
pages 6 to 7

Register to vote -  
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# Welcome

January is always a time to reflect on the year that has gone by and look forward to the coming 12 months.



Councillor Tricia Gilby

One of the highlights of 2018 for me was the tremendous displays of knitted and crocheted poppies that were hung from the Town Hall, Market Hall and many town centre shops.

It really was a fitting way to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War, and was supplemented by a range of other commemorative events throughout November.

Chesterfield is a great community to live in and it never ceases to amaze me how everyone pulls together for the common good. I really want to thank the army of volunteers who knitted or crocheted the poppies that proved such a spectacle.

Another example of people working for the common good is the way seven churches, supported by the public and voluntary sector, have joined together to provide a night shelter giving beds for homeless people during the coldest months of the year. We have contributed £25,000 towards the running of the shelter, along with our neighbouring councils.

My biggest tinge of disappointment in 2018 was that we lost out to Scotland in our bid to get the Talgo train factory, which would have created 1,000 jobs. I am pleased, however, that the company has committed to having an innovation centre near the Barrow Hill Roundhouse which will focus on train research and development and build on the skills we have in this area.

The bid has really put the former Hartington Colliery site on the map in terms of inward investment. Work is still continuing by the landowners to prepare the site so it is ready for development and we have received other investment enquiries as a result of the Talgo bid.

This year will bring more positive developments with the completion of some major projects, and considerable progress made on others. The Premier Inn on the former Co-op site will open in early March and in the spring work to build the new Saltergate multi-storey car park will be completed.

During 2019 we will see the main Peak Resort leisure site buildings near Unstone under construction and the next phase of the Waterside development begin. Building will also start on the new Enterprise Centre on part of the Holywell Cross car park site.

This year is also a significant one for the council as May will see the council elections where you elect all your local councillors to represent you for the next four years. So now is the right time to check that you are registered to vote to ensure you can cast your vote on 2 May.

**Councillor Tricia Gilby**  
Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council



Poppy cascade at Chesterfield Town Hall



## Saltergate car park taking shape

Work is progressing well on the new Saltergate multi-storey car park.

It is due to open in the late spring and will provide a high quality, secure car park for residents, commuters and visitors to the town.

With 530 spaces, the car park will be open 24 hours and have wider spaces and more disabled spaces than the previous car park which was demolished last year. It will also have six electric vehicle charging points, with the option to add a further ten.

Access to the car park will be controlled by automated speed gates at vehicle entrances and exits, while people will only be able to come through pedestrian entrances by using their parking ticket. This will help to minimise the potential for anti-social behaviour in and around the building.

As we went to press a vehicle diversion was in place on Saltergate while the new car park structure is lifted into place. Although the diversion could be in place until late February, it is expected that the work should be completed before then.

The new car park is part of the Northern Gateway development, which includes the redevelopment of the former Co-op building into a hotel, restaurants and gym. The first of these to open will be the Premier Inn which welcomes guests from early March. Later this year improvements will be carried out to Knivesmithgate and Elder Way.

The scheme will also see a new enterprise centre built on part of Holywell Cross (the Donut) car park, which will offer office space for start-up and

existing small and medium-sized businesses when it opens in spring 2020.

In each of these projects, we have introduced local labour clauses meaning that, where possible, local businesses have been used in the building and supply of materials.

In all, the Northern Gateway scheme is due to create around 500 new jobs.



Councillor Terry Gilby, the council's cabinet member for economic growth (pictured above), says: "One of our key priorities is to grow the local economy. This new car park will offer much improved facilities for shoppers and commuters travelling into Chesterfield and I hope will encourage people to come into the town centre."

For more information, visit:  
[www.chesterfield.gov.uk/northerngateway](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/northerngateway)





# DRIIVe given to rail project

A feasibility study is underway to develop firm proposals for a rail innovation centre at Barrow Hill following a decision by Talgo to invest in the area.

The Spanish rail giant announced in November that it wanted to have an innovation centre on or near the site of the unique Barrow Hill Roundhouse, which would be a key part of its research and development operations in the UK.

Chesterfield Borough Council had also led a bid, with a wide range of partners, for the former Hartington Colliery site, between Barrow Hill and Staveley, to be the location for a train factory that Talgo intends to build. This would have created 1,000 jobs for local people but the company chose to have that part of its operations in Scotland.

Instead Talgo announced its intention to invest in the planned Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle (DRIIVe) centre.

The concept for the centre has been developed by a partnership between Barrow Hill Roundhouse, Chesterfield Borough Council, Chesterfield College, the University of Derby, Newcastle University and Talgo.

Talgo's UK Director, Jon Veitch, said: "There is an engineering renaissance under way, and I want Talgo to be a leading partner.

"We want to see a steady supply of engineers and other skilled people enter the workforce, and be the innovators of the future.

"As part of Talgo's commitment to the UK-wide supply chain, our preferred second facility - in Chesterfield - will act as a catalyst."

The plans recognise not just Talgo's plans for the UK but also the opportunities that will be created when HS2 opens its Line Maintenance Depot at Staveley, creating 250 jobs.

The DRIIVe centre is needed as there are £100 billion of rail infrastructure projects planned across the country. Building a centre would provide the UK rail industry with access to the leading research, testing and innovation facilities needed to help deliver these projects.

The centre would also be the base for skills and training courses covering everything from entry level training to postgraduate study, providing opportunities for local people to gain the skills needed to get the jobs created in the rail sector.

Building upon the existing commercial offer at Barrow Hill - which currently supports 65 rail related jobs - it is also expected that the centre will include commercial workspace that companies supplying the rail industry could use.

Council leader, Councillor Tricia Gilby, said: "To have got down to the last two from around 30 sites in the UK that Talgo initially considered for its train

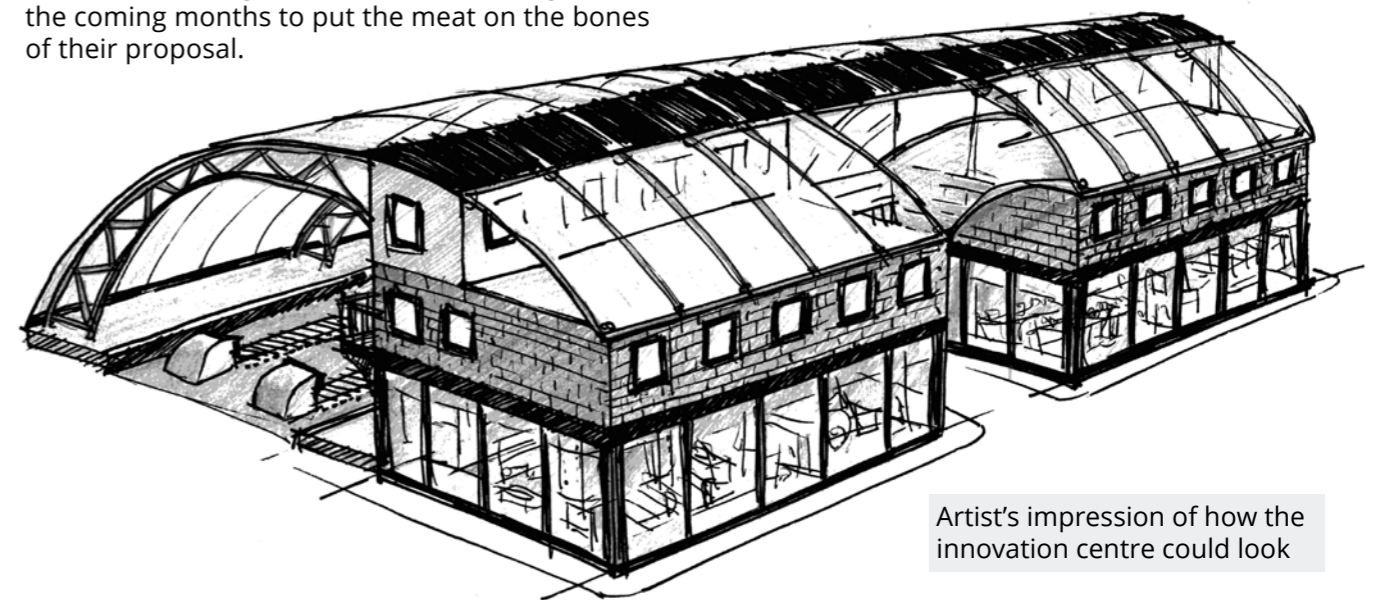
factory shows that Chesterfield is a location that can meet the needs of inward investors.

"While it was disappointing that Talgo chose to base the factory in Scotland the investment they intend to make in the innovation centre is a significant development that will really boost existing and prospective rail industry businesses in the Chesterfield area.

"We will be talking in more detail with Talgo over the coming months to put the meat on the bones of their proposal.

"The feasibility study, which will be produced by March, will be a crucial part of that as it will provide the evidence needed to finalise precisely what features the DRIIVe centre would house, as well as look in more detail at the building and design costs."

Talgo is one of the companies bidding to supply trains for the HS2 rail network, but is also intending to bid for other rail projects.



Artist's impression of how the innovation centre could look



# Supporting the homeless

We know from the calls we receive and the messages we get on our Facebook and Twitter feeds that one of the biggest issues for residents is the plight of the homeless in the borough.

This year we, along with Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council, are using funding we receive from the Government to fund a shelter run by Derby City Mission, hosted at local churches.

Experienced at running shelters in both Derby and Mansfield, they provide a hot meal and a warm bed for the night seven nights per week.

Councillor Tricia Gilby, the council's leader says: "It's easier than you think to end up without a roof over your head – it can be as simple as missing a few rent or mortgage payments.

"At this time of year when the weather is freezing, it is even more serious with people at risk of hypothermia and other cold-related conditions, which is why we are contributing funding for the night shelter to run in the borough until the end of March."

To access the shelter, please visit the church hosting the shelter for the night at 8pm. People who have visited the previous night are guaranteed a place – there is no need to come early.

There will be the chance to sit and have a hot meal together before lights out at 10pm.

The shelter is hosted at a different church each night. For a map of all of the locations for each night please contact Pathways of Chesterfield at 120 Saltergate, Chesterfield S40 1NG or call 01246 498204.

There are only a few rules: everyone must be treated with respect, no alcohol, drugs or weapons are allowed, smoking is only allowed in certain areas and once people are booked in, it's not possible to leave and come back.

Councillor Gilby added: "We couldn't do this without the local church groups and their volunteers – I'd like to thank them for all of their efforts."

Phil Morton, head of relief of poverty at Derby City Mission, said: "Chesterfield Churches night shelter opened on 1 December and will run until 31 March.

"Our vision for this project isn't for it to be solution to homelessness, but to be part of the process of getting people out of homelessness - to be a warm, dry and welcoming place, meeting the basic needs of people, during some of the worst months of weather.

"We are in partnership with Pathways of Chesterfield, the local authorities and housing providers find a solution for these individuals.

"We have already seen some of the people who have stayed move into accommodation which is amazing. This project wouldn't be possible without the generosity of the people of Chesterfield with their time, their money and their donations"

Councillor Tricia Gilby with Chloe Warren from Derby City Mission which operates the night shelter



To find out more information or to donate towards the cost of providing the shelter, please visit:

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



# Market rents frozen for fourth year running

Rents for market traders have been frozen for the fourth year running.



Councillors agreed to keep the rents paid by traders at the current level as part of the council's commitment to supporting the local economy and to make Chesterfield a thriving borough.

The decision was taken with the agreement of traders through the council's markets consultative committee.

Councillor Steve Brunt, the council's cabinet member for town centres and visitor economy says: "Chesterfield's market is a key visitor attraction for the borough which is why we have taken the decision to freeze the rents for traders for the fourth year running.

"To keep up with the rate of inflation, we would have had to increase rents by three per cent each year - but we listened to the concerns of traders that increasing rents may have a negative effect on their business.

"We continue to work with traders and offer incentives including reduced rates for new traders and car parking offers for visitors."

Chesterfield has a variety of markets with a general market each Monday, Friday and Saturday.

A flea market takes place each an an artisan market held in association with The Market Co. on the last Sunday of each month.

For more information on trading on Chesterfield Market, visit

[www.chesterfield.gov.uk/markettrading](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/markettrading).

## Dementia friendly screening

There will be a special dementia friendly screening of Genevieve at the Winding Wheel Theatre on Wednesday 6 February.

Doors will open at 1pm ahead of the film starting at 1.30pm.

Customers with dementia can see the film for £4 and may bring one carer, family member or friend with them for free.

The cost includes tea or coffee, biscuits and cake. As well as watching the film, there will also be the

opportunity to take part in activities and to chat.

To book a place, call the Chesterfield Theatres box office on (01246) 354222 or visit the Chesterfield Theatres website:

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

# Remembering the fallen

Thanks to everyone who helped us mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War in November.

Early last year, we launched an appeal for 15,000 knitted and crocheted poppies for a poppy cascade from the balcony of Chesterfield Town Hall. We received more than 45,000 from people all over the world.

The extra poppies were used to decorate the windows of shops and businesses in the town centre.

Councillor Steve Brunt, the council's cabinet member for town centres and visitor economy, says: "We were overwhelmed by the number of knitted and crocheted poppies received for our poppy cascade. Thanks to their hard work we were able to provide a fitting way to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War."







A real opportunity for apprentice Marcia Palucci

# Offering opportunities for apprentices

Two of our top priorities are to support the local economy and to improve the quality of life for local people.

This is why we are a partner in the Apprentice Town initiative offering opportunities for people to earn while they study and learn a new skill.

Across Chesterfield, there are a wide number of apprenticeship opportunities available from local employers.

At the council, we employ apprentices in a variety of roles from joiners, bricklayers and electricians, to customer service advisors and digital content editors.

Marcia Palucci joined our property, procurement and contracts law team in autumn 2017 to train as a chartered legal executive.

Marcia passed her first year with flying colours – achieving a 97 per cent rating and a distinction in the Introduction to Law and Practice module.

She has sat another four exams this month and has a further three in the summer.

Marcia says: “My day-to-day role varies depending on what comes into the council that week. My main responsibilities are right-to-buy sales, where people will buy their council house, and I also deal with leases and lease renewals on our industrial units.

“One of the things that I enjoy the most is that I am treated as a proper member of staff not just an apprentice so I have my own workload and I assist in day-to-day tasks.”

Marcia’s manager, Vicky Defilice, (pictured right, with Marcia) is pleased with the progress she is making. Vicky said: “I guess people think that apprenticeship schemes are just for people coming out of school at 16 or 18 but I wanted someone with existing skills. Marcia was already working at the council and has fitted in well with the team.

“Anybody at any age can take on an apprenticeship and get a career going.”

This is something Vicky understands about, having had a similar start to her own career. She said: “I’m really pleased to have Marcia on this apprenticeship scheme as it pretty much mirrors my own start in my professional career.

“I joined Derbyshire County Council as a school leaver and after a few years I got a job as a trainee legal executive. I’ve been through exactly the same training that Marcia is now embarking upon and I know this will give her real career opportunities because now I am the manager of the property, procurement and contracts law section.”



We publish details of apprenticeship vacancies both within the council and with local businesses on our website. For more details, visit: [www.chesterfield.gov.uk/apprenticeship-vacancies](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/apprenticeship-vacancies)

If you are a business in the Chesterfield area and would like free one-to-one support in recruiting an apprentice, including funding, please contact Emily Williams in the council’s economic development team on (01246) 345254 or email: [emily.williams@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:emily.williams@chesterfield.gov.uk)



# Be you, just better

A year can make a huge difference to your life – and few people know this better than Jo Calvert.



Jo (left) with Vikki Fenton, lifestyle instructor

This time last year, Jo was unhappy about her weight and her appearance. An injury had put paid to her regular exercise routine leaving her feeling down. She explains: "I had put on quite a lot of weight. An ankle injury meant I didn't feel confident about training outside and had left me feeling pretty fed up. I realised it was time to be a lot more committed."

Jo joined our Active Fitness membership scheme and started using the gym regularly at the Healthy Living Centre in Staveley after hearing an advert on Peak FM.

Jo says: "I have used gyms in the past but I wasn't always that committed but this time I knew I wanted to get healthier."

Although joining a gym can be a bit daunting, Jo says she was soon put at ease: "All the staff are really helpful and friendly. I've been set a fitness programme that means I am now back running on the treadmill. I also do some weights because I was told it's best to do some cardio and some weights as well."

Jo has managed to make using the gym part of her everyday routine. She explains: "I generally go at least four times each week – sometimes it can be less if I'm busy with work or the children's activities but I try to make it at least four times each week."

It's something the whole family are able to enjoy. "My sons are aged 10 and 13 and they take part in the junior gym sessions. They love it and it's nice that the whole family can get involved.

"We have made it a regular part of our lives."

For details on our family memberships meaning kids go free visit

[www.leisureoffers.co.uk/chestfield](http://www.leisureoffers.co.uk/chestfield)

Jo would encourage anyone else to do the same. She says: "You should definitely give it a try – there is something there for everyone from the high impact classes to yoga and Pilates and there are plenty of people there to help you and give you support when you need it from the friendly, expert staff.

"It's about making that first step – it's daunting but when you do it you will feel so much better. Once you do, you can fit exercise into your lifestyle.

"It's not about being a gym bunny but about your health. In the last year, I have lost two-and-a-half-stone. It has changed my outlook on life and I feel so much better for it – I'm still myself but better."

**BE YOU, JUST BETTER**

Kids Go **FREE!**  
Family Membership Now Available

**JOIN NOW & GET 2 MONTHS FREE**  
ON OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Visit [www.leisureoffers.co.uk/chestfield](http://www.leisureoffers.co.uk/chestfield) for more details

**Benefits for the children:**

- Unlimited Swimming
- Gym\*
- Casual Climbing
- Racquet Sports

**Benefits for adults:**

- Gym
- Swimming
- Classes
- Health Spa

\*2 children under 16 years old can join free when 2 adults join together on the Family Membership. Under 14s have restricted gym access. Please ask at reception for details. Terms and Conditions Apply.

**CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL**



# Have your say on Local Plan

We're asking residents and businesses for their views about a draft Local Plan which sets out the proposed future housing, industrial, commercial and leisure land use in Chesterfield until 2033.

## Between now and 2033 the plan proposes

- Setting aside enough land for around 5,250 new homes, with a requirement to build at least 4,374 of those. This is a lower figure than in previous versions of the Local Plan. Most of the sites identified were included in the 2017 draft Local Plan but have been updated following comments made during the initial consultation process.
- Continuing to use the existing Community Infrastructure Levy and 'Section 106' planning agreements to provide community facilities, such as schools and GP services, in places where development takes place
- That major housing developments have up to 30 per cent affordable housing included within them
- Up to 25 per cent of homes on major developments meet the higher 'accessible and adaptable' standard in the building regulations, which means they can be altered to suit people with mobility issues
- All new homes and commercial developments are required to include electric vehicle charging points
- Continued support for the restoration of Chesterfield Canal
- Continued protection of the Green Belt, and a group of new 'green wedges' and 'strategic gaps'
- Developing 44 hectares (108 acres) of employment land.
- Providing 7,736 square metres of new retail space

A six week public consultation on the proposals runs until Monday 25 February and includes drop-in consultation events at:

**Chesterfield Market Hall, Market Place**  
on Tuesday 5 February  
from 10am to 7pm

**The Speedwell Rooms, Inkersall Road, Staveley**  
on Wednesday 6 February  
from 12.30pm to 7.30pm.

Once the consultation is completed the plan will then be considered by an independent

Government planning inspector at a public planning inquiry later this year.

A copy of the plan, including information on how to give comments, can be seen at

[www.chesterfield.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/localplan),

also in the Town Hall, Chesterfield Library and our Customer Service Centre in New Square.

# Our Homes

A newsletter for Chesterfield Borough Council tenants and leaseholders



Brocklehurst Court opens -  
pages 16 to 17

New housing allocations policy -  
pages 18 to 19





# A warm welcome

Residents have moved back into Brocklehurst Court in Brampton after a £1 million refurbishment was completed.

The transformation has seen the outdated 1970s building of bedsits and small flats converted into 17 comfortable one and two-bedroom flats.

The work is part of a major refurbishment programme we are carrying out to improve housing schemes for older people across the borough.

Resident Sheila Lawrence explains: "The bedsits in the old building were very small and a lot of people didn't want to come in because they were very outdated. The new ones that have been made into two bedroom flats are very nice."

Fellow resident Eunice Maddison, aged 91, agrees: "The flat is beautiful. My main bedroom is very big; I have got two orthopaedic beds in there. Having the second bedroom means that there is room for my family to come and stay."

Sheila agrees: "Yes, if Eunice was taken ill, her daughter could come and stay and look after her."

Each flat has been fitted with a new kitchen and bathroom, the whole building has been rewired, lighting around the communal areas has been improved and a new heating system installed.

New windows and entrance doors have been installed to improve the natural light in each flat.

The communal areas of the building have also been remodelled and refurbished, with an atrium being created to provide more natural light, and additional seating areas into what were dark and lengthy corridors.

The lounge area is bright and clean with artwork showing scenes from Chesterfield's past.

Sheila says: "People like to come and sit in the lounge here, they can play a game, watch television or do a jigsaw – or just sit and have a coffee and talk – it means you don't have to be on your own."

There is also a laundry room with washing machines and tumble dryers as well as a shelter for mobility scooters.

The outdoor areas have been re-designed to include individual patios for the ground floor flats and Juliette balconies for those upstairs. Raised planting beds and seating areas have been created to encourage residents to garden and make the most of the outdoor space.

Councillor Amanda Serjeant, the council's deputy leader, recently met Sheila, Eunice and the other residents at Brocklehurst Court. She says: "What I've heard is the benefit of coming into accommodation like Brocklehurst Court.

"People can go into bungalows or stay in their own homes but increasingly, they find they can be a bit isolated and they are finding things a little bit more difficult to cope with.

"Whereas in a place like this, you've got a space where everyone can come together, have a coffee or a meal of an evening, play some games and have that social aspect as well."

The building has been refurbished to the same standards as the new-build Parkside scheme on Stand Road, which opened in autumn 2016.

The work was designed and managed by the council's in-house architectural services team with the refurbishment carried out by Fortem Solutions. It was completed on time and to budget.

The quality of the work has meant that other local councils have visited Brocklehurst Court for ideas on refurbishing their own hard-to-let bedsit accommodation.

Brocklehurst Court is the first of three refurbishments of our older persons' accommodation. Work is now also complete at Glebe Court in Old Whittington, while Catherine Court in Brampton will be finished in the spring.

Extensive internal and external works will also be carried out to improve blocks of flats on the Grangewood estate.

For more information about accommodation for older people visit:

[www.onthemove-cbc.org.uk](http://www.onthemove-cbc.org.uk),

or call On the Move on (01246) 345700 or visit their office on Low Pavement.





# Changes to housing allocations policy

We will soon be changing the way we allocate council homes to applicants to make it easier and fairer for people to have access to council housing.

We consulted with applicants and tenants over the summer about the proposed changes.

These include:

## Residency in the borough

Currently a potential tenant must live in Chesterfield for 12 months before applying. This has resulted in an increase in the number of unoccupied one-bedroom flats in the borough. The changes remove this requirement, allowing people moving into Chesterfield to apply for a council tenancy. Chesterfield residents will be given preference over applicants from outside of the borough.

## Tenants' financial check

We want to avoid potential tenants being unable to afford to pay their rent so we will introduce a financial risk assessment before we let a property to check if they can afford the rent to help them avoid getting into debt. We will also provide advice and support on any benefits they are entitled to – such as Universal Credit – and help them to apply.

## Limit on moving homes

At the moment, council tenants are able to move homes by transferring into another council property when they choose. Changes to the policy would limit this to mean they would only be able to move when there are changes to their personal circumstances such as the birth of a child or the death of a partner.

## Removing points-based allocation system

Currently, when people apply for a council tenancy, we have to allocate points based on their personal circumstances. The new system removes this requirement

## Requesting a room for an unborn child

Our current policy means that we are only able to allocate a separate bedroom for a child after he or she has been born. The new rules mean that a pregnant applicant will be able to request a room for an as-yet unborn baby.

## Taking into account an applicant's property/assets

The current policy means that anyone can be entered onto the housing register regardless of any property they may own. Under the new rules, we will take into account any assets – including savings, houses, time-shares, caravans, mobile homes and chalets. This means that we will give higher priority to people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to afford their own home.

## Bringing this policy into line with our housing adaptations policy

The council adopted a new housing adaptations policy in 2017. The changes to the allocations policy mean we will use the same criteria when we allocate council homes to our tenants.

The new housing allocations policy was agreed by councillors at the end of last year and will be introduced in March.

Alongside the new policy we will be introducing a new IT system to manage the choice based lettings and allocations process. This will enable applicants to register online and removes the need for lengthy paper application forms.

The property adverts will contain more information to ensure that people have greater detail about the properties they are bidding on.

It is intended that this will be a much easier and quicker process and will improve the whole experience for the customer.

For more information or to apply for council housing in Chesterfield, visit [www.onthemove-cbc.org.uk](http://www.onthemove-cbc.org.uk) or call the team at On the Move on (01246) 345700.

You can also call into the On the Move office on Low Pavement where you can talk to the team face-to-face.





## Barrow Hill improvements already making a difference

Work is progressing well on the refurbishment of the Barrow Hill estate.

Costing £5 million, the programme of works will improve the environment for our tenants and residents.

So far, work has been carried out on the first phase of the programme on the north-eastern part of the London Boroughs estate from Woodford Way to Campbell Drive.

### Costing £1.6 million, this has seen:

- Car parking areas upgraded
- Paths improved and re-routed to make it easier for tenants to get around the estate
- New boundary fences and walls installed around tenants' homes
- New and redesigned green spaces introduced
- New lighting installed on paths.

Councillor Helen Bagley, the council's cabinet member for homes and customers, recently had a tour to see the work carried out on the estate.

She says: "It's great to see the work that has been carried out so far on the estate.

"The design of the estate meant it was sometimes difficult for tenants to get round so it's good to see the new footpaths in place making it easier for residents.

"You can already see that the improvements made so far are making a difference to the quality of life for residents and we will now be moving on to other parts of the estate to improve those areas as well."

Work is being carried out by the Casey Group who specialise in carrying out improvements to housing and social environments.

Work is due to be completed on the first phase of the improvements in late spring.

Planning permission will shortly be sought to begin making similar improvements to the south eastern part of the estate. If approved, this work will start in the summer.

## Praise for Careline service

Following a recent audit, the council's Careline service has been successful in achieving the TEC Services Association Quality Standards Framework Award.

This is an award from the body which oversees the technology such as smart phone apps, wearable devices and pendant alarms that allow elderly and vulnerable tenants to live independently.

The service delivers support via assistive technology and falls response services to 4,200 residents in Chesterfield, Amber Valley, Ashfield and Derbyshire Dales. They also provide a falls recovery service for residents in Chesterfield and the North East Derbyshire district.

The assessment, which took place over two days in November, noted the progress made by the service, which includes:

- Investment in new equipment including Raizer lifting equipment to help residents who have suffered a fall
- New assistive technology equipment – we have replaced any dispersed alarm units that are older than five years
- A new staff structure to help improve customer service.

## Take part in litter pick

Residents in the Racecourse Park area can take part in a community litter pick held monthly.

The Racecourse Rubbish Rangers, supported by the council, hold their litter pick on the last Wednesday of each month from 11am.

To take part, meet at the bus stop on Racecourse Road at the end of Mountcastle Street/Walk. Equipment including litter pickers and vests will be provided.

This is followed by a free lunch of sandwiches and fruit juice at Stand Road Park Pavilion from 12.30pm.

## Brightening up our estates

Volunteers have helped us plant more than 22,000 bulbs which will brighten up the borough next spring.

These have included children from New Whittington Primary School, Hasland Juniors, Westfield infants, Staveley Junior School, Highfield Hall Nursery and Barrow Hill Primary School as well as the Friends of Stand Road Park, Monkey Park and the Chesterfield in Bloom committee and Macintyre, which supports people with learning disabilities.



### The bulbs included:

- 16,000 daffodils
- 2,000 crocus
- 3,000 iris.

For more information on Chesterfield in Bloom or to join the committee, contact John Ramsey by emailing: [john.ramsey@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:john.ramsey@chesterfield.gov.uk) or call (01246) 345097.



# Keeping you safe from fire risk

Action taken by our housing teams to further improve fire safety procedures for our tenants following the Grenfell Tower tragedy has proved a success.

Following the Grenfell fire in June 2017 where 78 people lost their lives, we were approached by groups of tenants who were concerned about their own safety.

We do not have any blocks of flats above five storeys, or with the same type of cladding as that at Grenfell Tower, meaning we would not have a fire on the same scale. It also means that, if a fire were to break out, it would be possible for firefighters to rescue people by ladder reducing the risk of people losing their lives.

Nevertheless, we acted quickly to reassure people by holding fire safety roadshows, and offering our tenants advice on how they can reduce their own risk from fire. We also produced a leaflet to tenants offering further advice and updated our fire safety policy.

We continue to carry out fire risk assessments which identify work and actions that are required to ensure these high standards are maintained. This includes carrying out regular checks of fire safety and carrying out regular repairs, including the replacement of fire doors and closers.

During the last year, the policy has been tested when three small fires broke out in council homes – each of them was contained showing that the procedures are robust and fit-for-purpose.

To view the fire risk assessments for each area, visit our website at

[www.chesterfield.gov.uk/fra](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/fra)



# Welfare standards licked

A dog care centre in Chesterfield has become the first to receive a licence under new animal licensing laws following an inspection by us.

Divine Dog Care run by Julie Spooner, offers a home from home for canines during the day.

It was praised by the council's inspector for having high standards of care and hygiene, and having all the required documentation in place so has been given a licence for the maximum period of three years.

Under new laws introduced last October, animal businesses are now risk rated on their welfare standards.

Inspections take place every one to three years and inspectors award one to five stars depending on the quality found.

Councillor Chris Ludlow, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We are offering support to other local animal businesses to prepare them for the new inspection regime and to ensure they also meet the highest standards."



Julie and two of her doggy visitors

A list of all animal licensed businesses in our borough can be seen at

[www.chesterfield.gov.uk/animal-licensing](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/animal-licensing).

## Mercian exhibition at Chesterfield Museum

Visitors to Chesterfield Museum can see a special exhibition about the First World War and its impact on Chesterfield and the surrounding area.

The exhibition, mounted by the Museum of the Mercian Regiment, runs at the museum on St Mary's Gate until Saturday 16 March, and contains information on those from the area who went to war between 1914 and 1918.

The museum is open each Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free. For more information on the exhibitions and regular events, visit: [www.chesterfield.gov.uk/museum](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/museum)

## Walking Festival tickets on sale soon

Tickets for this year's Chesterfield Area Walking Festival will soon be going on sale.

This year's festival runs from Saturday 11 to Sunday 19 May and will include a variety of walks of different lengths suitable for all ages and abilities.

Tickets will be available from Chesterfield Visitor Information Centre in Rykneld Square. For more information, call (01246) 345777 or 345778 or email [tourism@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@chesterfield.gov.uk)



# Panto stars visit Gussie's Kitchen

Families who use Gussie's Kitchen had an exciting meeting before Christmas as a real life Cinderella and Prince Charming visited the Chesterfield-based social eating project.

Children's TV favourite Naomi Wilkinson, who starred as Cinderella at the Pomegranate Theatre production this pantomime season visited along with X Factor singer Rhydian Roberts who played Prince Charming.

Both were impressed with the social eating project at Saints Augustine Church on Derby Road, which provides hot, healthy meals to local people each week.

The kitchen, which first opened its doors in 2016, offers a three course meal each Tuesday using food provided by FareShare East Midlands. Adults are able to enjoy the food in return for a donation, there is a charge of 50p for children to eat and under-fives eat for free. The food used is in date but would otherwise be thrown away.

People also have the opportunity to take away a bag of groceries for a small charge.

The project also gives people who may be isolated the opportunity to meet and chat together.

Naomi Wilkinson said: "It was really great to visit Gussie's Kitchen and meet the lovely people who work and volunteer there to offer delicious food to some people who really need it.

"There's a lovely atmosphere and a social space for people who need some companionship and a little bit of extra help."

The project has received funding from Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire County Council and is supported by local Tesco branches and Saints Augustine Church.

For more information on Gussie's Kitchen, visit

[www.facebook.com/gussiessuperkitchen](https://www.facebook.com/gussiessuperkitchen)

or call 07805 084 367.



# Cutlery firm brings 60 jobs to Chesterfield

I-Grunweg, an award-winning supplier of houseware and catering products, is moving its operations to the former Franke Sissons site.

The family-owned business, which has a turnover of £10 million, designs and distributes premium stainless steel kitchen products, with a particular specialism in quality kitchen knives.

It will move to the Sheepbridge Industrial Estate in May once refurbishment work on the former Franke Sissons building has been completed.

The company sells products through some of the biggest names in retail, including Harrods, Selfridges, John Lewis, House of Fraser, Waitrose, Lakeland and Costco, as well to catering businesses and restaurants.

They also sell products online across the globe.

Owner Ben Grunweg said: "We were attracted to Chesterfield because it is next to the M1, which as a distribution business is great for us. There



Ben and David Grunweg

are good local facilities here and the fact that Chesterfield is going to get HS2 is important as a lot of our customers are based down in London."

I-Grunweg has received the support of the council's economic development team to help it relocate to Chesterfield.

## Museum brings the Stone Age to life

Youngsters can learn more about life in the Stone Age in a special event at Chesterfield Museum this February half term.

The event takes place on Thursday 21 February where you can handle a range of artefacts such as period axes and arrows, have a go rubbing engravings of Stone Age art and grinding corn using a quern stone to find out about early farming and agriculture.

The museum is open each Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free. For more details, visit:

[www.chesterfield.gov.uk/museum](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/museum).



# Make sure you're registered to vote

We're encouraging all residents to make sure you are registered to vote ahead of the local elections this year.

All 48 seats on Chesterfield Borough Council are up for election on Thursday 2 May, so it is important that everyone who is eligible is on the electoral register. Residents in Brimington and Staveley will also elect councillors to Brimington Parish Council and Staveley Town Council.

You can vote in the elections if:

You are 18 years old or older (you can register to vote at age 16).

You are a British, other Commonwealth, Irish or other European Union citizen

You live in the Chesterfield borough council area.

We wrote to all eligible voters in Chesterfield last summer asking them to make sure their details are correct on the register. If you responded to this, there is no need for you to do anything now.

If you are a new resident, it's important to realise that you will have to make sure you are registered to vote at your new address.

Just because you are paying Council Tax at your new address, you are NOT automatically registered to vote.

Bethany Pinkney, 22, recently moved into a new home in Chesterfield and one of the first things she did was make sure she was registered to vote at her new address.

Bethany says: "It's really important to make sure you register to vote when you move house.

"It's important to realise that you have to go online and register to vote for yourself, that it's not automatically linked through Council Tax. It's a separate department so you will need to go online and do it for yourself."

Registering to vote is very simple. Visit

[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

and fill in your name, address, date of birth and other details.

You will need your National Insurance number. You can find this on your National Insurance card, in official paperwork such as payslips, or letters about benefits or tax credits.

After this, you will receive confirmation from us to say you are registered to vote.

Bethany says: "They are such simple steps, all you need is your date of birth and your National Insurance number, it's so quick and easy."

If you have lost your National Insurance number, you should contact Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs (HMRC) by visiting

[www.gov.uk/lost-national-insurance-number](http://www.gov.uk/lost-national-insurance-number) or by calling the helpline on 0300 200 3502.

They will not be able to tell you your National Insurance number over the phone but they will send it to you through the post.

Bethany feels it is important to be registered: "It's important for me because once you are on the register, obviously that means you are able to go and vote when it comes to an election.

"It also makes it easier when you are getting a mortgage and building your credit score up - if you're not on the electoral register you aren't able to do these things and get any sort of finance credit."

If you are having trouble in registering to vote, you can contact our elections team by calling (01246) 345806 or emailing

[elections@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:elections@chesterfield.gov.uk).

They will be able to offer any advice or support you need.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT





# Platinum celebrations for Pomegranate Theatre

Next month sees the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chesterfield's Pomegranate Theatre, which is owned and run by the council.

The theatre, then known as Chesterfield Civic Theatre, was opened by Kathleen Harrison on 19 February 1949.

Based in the Stephenson Memorial Hall, the theatre was opened as a repertory theatre originally offering a new show each week.

Some of the stars who featured in productions at the theatre in the 1950s and 1960s include: Dame Diana Rigg who made her name starring in The



Avengers and is known to TV audiences today as the Duchess of Buccleuch in ITV's Victoria; Dame Penelope Keith (shown left in a 1959 production), best known to viewers of The Good Life and To the Manor Born and John Challis, known as Boycie to viewers of Only Fools and Horses.

The council continues to invest in the theatre with extensive refurbishment work carried out over recent years. In 2014 this saw:

- Seating in the stalls renewed
- More seats added in the auditorium
- New digital cinema equipment installed to give better quality for the regular film performances on offer as well as broadcasting live performances of productions from across the world.

New disabled toilet facilities were added in the theatre's foyer in 2017, thanks to fundraising by Chesterfield Theatre Friends.

Councillor Steve Brunt, the council's cabinet member for town centres and visitor economy, says: "The Pomegranate Theatre really is a jewel in our crown. Over the years, there have been so many wonderful productions which have brought fun, laughter, tears and suspense to our audiences.

"We have a loyal band of regular theatre-goers and we are always pleased to welcome new audiences too. For example, our relaxed and audio-described performances have proved very popular and enabled a new audience to come who may not traditionally have had the opportunity to enjoy the theatre.

"The programme at the Pomegranate Theatre is always varied with dance, drama, ballet, opera, children's shows, comedy and the regular Pomegranate Screenings offering the chance to see films and live and recorded broadcasts of stage productions and concerts so please book to come and enjoy one or more of them."

To celebrate the anniversary, we are hosting a special 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of plays which began last week and run until 16 March. It features a series of seven plays including: Billy Liar, An Evening with Gary Lineker and Don't Dress for Dinner. The full list can be seen on pages 30 to 31.



We are also celebrating the anniversary with a special exhibition at Chesterfield Museum called Happy Birthday celebrating the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stephenson Memorial Hall this year, the theatre's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the museum.

The exhibition runs in the museum's art gallery from 9 February to 5 April and allows people to share their memories of our cultural venues.

To view the full listings of shows at the Pomegranate Theatre and the Winding Wheel Theatre, visit the Chesterfield Theatres website:

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

or call the box office on (01246) 345222.



# What's on

## Chesterfield Market

Open air market each Monday, Friday and Saturday. Flea market each Thursday.



## Artisan Market

in association with The Market Co. Sundays 24 February, 31 March



## Chesterfield Museum

Open each Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Admission free to exhibitions and events but donations are welcome.

Tel: (01246) 345727  
www.chesterfield.gov.uk/museum

## Mercian Regiment on Tour

until 16 March

The Museum of the Mercian Regiment commemorate the end of the First World War and the impact it had on Chesterfield, and the surrounding areas.

## Happy Birthday

9 February to 5 April

Marking the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stephenson Memorial Hall, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pomegranate Theatre and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chesterfield Museum.

## Pomegranate Theatre

www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk  
Box office: (01246) 345222

### 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary season: Billy Liar



Tuesday 29 January to Saturday 2 February, evenings 7.30pm, Wednesday matinee 2pm, Saturday matinee 3pm  
Written by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall, presented by Tabs Productions.

### 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary season: The Killing of Sister George



Tuesday 5 February to Saturday 9 February, evenings 7.30pm, Wednesday matinee 2pm, Saturday matinee 3pm  
Written by Frank Marcus, presented by Tabs Productions.

### 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary season: How the Other Half Loves

Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 February, evenings 7.30pm, Wednesday matinee 2pm, Saturday matinee 3pm  
Farce by Alan Ayckbourn, presented by Rumpus Theatre Company.

### 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary season: An Evening with Gary Lineker



Tuesday 26 February to Saturday 2 March, evenings 7.30pm, Wednesday matinee 2pm, Saturday matinee 3pm.  
Written by Arthur Smith and Chris England, presented by Rumpus Theatre Company.

### 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary season: Anybody for Murder

Tuesday 5 March to Saturday 9 March, evenings 7.30pm, Wednesday matinee 2pm, Saturday matinee 3pm  
Comedy thriller by Brian Clemens and Dennis Spooner, presented by Tabs Productions.

### 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary season: Don't Dress for Dinner



Tuesday 12 to Saturday 16 March, evenings 7.30pm, Wednesday matinee 2pm, Saturday matinee 3pm  
Written by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Robin Hawdon. Presented by Rumpus Theatre Company.

## Winding Wheel

www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk  
Box office: (01246) 345222



### Adult panto: Hansel and Gretel go down in the woods

Friday 8 February, 8pm  
FOR ADULTS ONLY  
Slick, fast-moving, farcical fun and bawdy sexual innuendo.

### The ELO Experience

Saturday 9 February, 7.30pm  
The world's foremost tribute to The Electric Light Orchestra.

### Rock and Roll Paradise

Sunday 10 February, 8pm  
Tribute show rammed full with the country's best tributes to rock 'n' roll's stars, supported by the Paradise Band.



### An evening with Kim Woodburn

Thursday 14 February, 7.30pm  
The star of How Clean is Your House in conversation with BBC's Alex Belfield

### The Upbeat Beatles

Saturday 16 February, 7.30pm  
Tribute show taking you through the Fab Four's long and winding road from the early Cavern days



through Beatlemania, America, and Sergeant Pepper to Abbey Road.

### Gaelforce Dance

Tuesday 19 February, 7.30pm  
Celebration of Irish dance, music and song.

### An evening with Alice Roberts

Friday 22 February, 7.30pm  
Alice shares insights, anecdotes and behind-the-scenes stories from her personal journey to explore Britain's past.

### Hello Again: The Story of Neil Diamond

Saturday 23 February, 7.45pm  
Musical journey through Neil Diamond's glittering 50 year career from the Bang Years to the present day.

### The Blues Band

Friday 8 March, 7.30pm  
The band on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour.

### Let's Hang On



Saturday 9 March, 7.30pm  
Musical journey through the prolific career of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

## Pomegranate Screenings

### Pomegranate Screenings

Highlights from film and satellite broadcasts at the Pomegranate Theatre

### Film: Stan and Ollie (PG)

Friday 1 to Thursday 7 February, various times  
Starring Steve Coogan and John C Reilly as the inimitable movie icons, Laurel and Hardy.

### Royal Opera Live: La Traviata

Sunday 3 February, 2pm  
Presented by Royal Opera Live via satellite broadcast.

### Everybody's Talking about Jamie

Sunday 3 February, 7pm  
Live broadcast of a new musical for today set in Sheffield.

### Film: The Front Runner (15)

Friday 8 to Thursday 14 February, various times  
Starring Hugh Jackman as the charismatic US politician Gary Hart.

### National Theatre Live: I'm Not Running

Sunday 17 February, 7pm  
New play by David Hare about an NHS doctor who becomes an independent MP.



# Contact us

We provide more than 50 services to our residents including: waste collection and recycling, street cleaning, leisure and park facilities, housing, environmental protection, planning, regeneration, housing, markets, theatres and tourism.

The answers to most of your queries will be available on our website: [www.chesterfield.gov.uk](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk).

If you can't find what you are looking for, you can fill in a contact form [www.chesterfield.gov.uk/contact](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/contact).

For general enquiries, you can call us on  
(01246) 345345

For enquiries about specific services call:

Chesterfield Theatres box office  
(01246) 345222

[box.office@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:box.office@chesterfield.gov.uk)

Chesterfield Visitor Information Centre  
(01246) 345777 or 345778  
[tourism@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@chesterfield.gov.uk)

Healthy Living Centre

(01246) 345666

[hlcenquiries@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:hlcenquiries@chesterfield.gov.uk)

Queen's Park Sports Centre

(01246) 345555

[qpsscquiries@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:qpsscquiries@chesterfield.gov.uk)

For housing related queries please call our main number except for:

Careline

0300 323 0076

Homelessness prevention team

(01246) 345825

[homelessness.prevention@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:homelessness.prevention@chesterfield.gov.uk)

Homelessness (out of hours)

0845 6058 058

(01629) 532600

On the Move – for all council house waiting list and allocations queries

Visit the website at [www.onthemove-cbc.org.uk](http://www.onthemove-cbc.org.uk)

(01246) 345700

[onthemove@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:onthemove@chesterfield.gov.uk)

Neighbourhoods team

(01246) 345071

Rents and rent recovery

(01246) 345501 or 345510

Reporting housing repairs

0800 5875 659

[repair.requests@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:repair.requests@chesterfield.gov.uk)

Emergency housing repairs – out of hours only

(01246) 345041

## Are we accessible to you?

کیا ہم تک آپ کی رسائی ہے؟ اگر نہیں تو ہمیں بتائیے!

你可覺得易於與我們接觸？若不的話，請提出要求。

Czy łatwo jest skontaktować się z nami? Jeżeli nie, powiedz nam o tym!

Siamo accessibili nei vostri riguardi? In caso contrario rivolgetevi a noi!

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We aim to provide what you need to be able to understand our information or talk or write to us.

On request we will provide free of charge:

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Translation of written material into other languages

Material in braille, large print and recorded onto CD.

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General enquiries: 01246 345345 Text 07960 910264

Web: [www.chesterfield.gov.uk](http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk) Email: [info@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:info@chesterfield.gov.uk)

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