

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025



## Welcome

The first half of 2025 sped by at ECL but as the saying goes, 'time flies when you're having fun! Well it's certainly true to say that the members, volunteers, staff and trustees have been enjoying themselves over the past six months so please read on to find out more...



## All aboard!

One of the highlights of our year is the ECL outing. In February, our volunteers and members took a wonderful trip to the Watercress Line in Hampshire. We boarded the steam train at Alresford and took a scenic journey through the countryside, enjoying a delicious picnic on the way. It was great to see new sights and spend the day with friends. We'd like to say a big thank you to Walsingham Care, Surrey County Councillor Rachael Lake and to volunteer Rosemary, for the generous donation that made the day possible.



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## Making memories

An ongoing project this year has been our ECL scrapbooks. Thanks to a generous donation from Elmbridge Borough Council, we have been able to buy books for every member of our Wednesday group. They spend a bit of time every week adding things that are special to them. Souvenirs from ECL trips, family photos, pictures they've cut out...each book is an individual treasure trove of memories and it's been wonderful to see them being completed.



## All change at AllSports!

It's been all change again at AllSports as we welcome new facilitator George, taking over from Cate. George is a keen golfer and squash player and brings lots of energy to Tuesday evenings. Welcome George! We're pleased to say that Cate will still be joining us a volunteer when she can.



## Hello and goodbye

Along with the changes at AllSports, we've also recently said hello to a new ECL member, Teri, who's been coming along to our Wednesday Multi-Activity sessions and loving them. And at Music Workshop, we've welcomed Jimmy, who's showed us his musical talents on the guitar and mc!

Sadly, we said goodbye to long-term ECL friend Ron Stevens, who passed away in June. Ron has been coming along to ECL with his son Trevor for many years and we will miss him very much.





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## Happy 60th, Rita!

It was long-term ECL member Rita's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in June. We had a wonderful party with a Mardi Gras theme. Volunteer Susannah and her daughter Zoe brought along colourful masks and decorations all the way from Louisiana, which gave the afternoon a fabulous festival feel. And with cakes, balloons, and lots of laughter, it was a very special day.



## Magical music!

Our monthly Sunday Music Workshops continue to be well attended and very much enjoyed. Each month our members pick a theme – recent highlights have included Disney songs, Country & Western and '70s music.



## Celebrating VE Day

In May, we celebrated VE Day at our Wednesday session with a wonderful display curated by volunteer Martin. Our members loved seeing all the memorabilia and history Martin has collected over the years, then creating their own artworks.



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## Alfresco at AllSports

With the warm weather, we've been able to get outside on Tuesday evenings and enjoy playing in the fresh air. From football to cricket, our members are loving improving their ball skills.

Designed for 16 to 30 year olds with mild to moderate autism and/or learning disabilities, AllSports offers skills development, social connection and fun.



## Making a difference

Our fantastic founder and ECL Trustee, Terri Collins, has been chosen as a finalist in the BBC Make a Difference Awards - winners to be announced in September 2025. In preparation for the awards, a journalist from BBC Radio Surrey came along to our Wednesday group and interviewed Terri about why she has chosen to dedicate much of her life to supporting people in need, including her longstanding role as an ECL Trustee. We can't wait to find out the result!



## Thank you!

We couldn't run our activities without the generous donations we receive from our supporters, volunteers and funders.

Special thanks goes to Oatlands Village Fayre our faithful supporters since 2004, the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund who awarded us a grant for our Wednesday Multi Activity Day, Walsingham Care who are funding us over three years for our 60 years plus provision, The Charity of Robert Philips for a grant towards our running costs, RC Sheriff Trust for their generous Arts grant and as always Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey's Your County Councillor Fund for their contribution towards the running of our weekly activities.

**Date for your Diary**

**ECL takes a summer break from 4<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August**