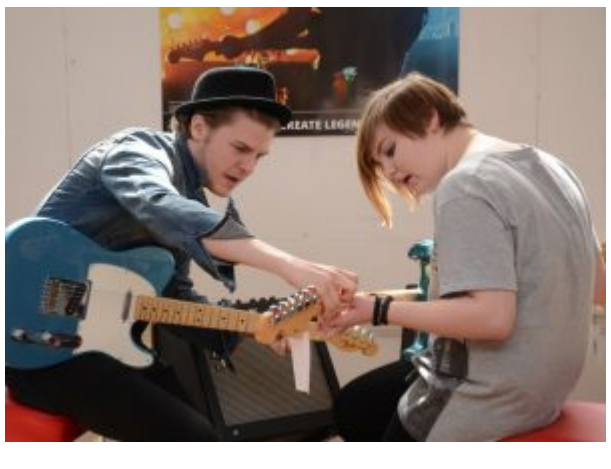
EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

19th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

# Learn to play music in Epsom

27 September 2024



UK charity Music for All is thrilled to announce their annual flagship event Learn to Play is back for 2024 giving everyone in Epsom a chance to take part in ‘the biggest free music making weekend of the year!’

The event will be held in **Guitar, Guitar** – 6 Capitol Square, Epsom on the 11th -13th October and is open to all; regardless of age, experience and background and provides opportunities for participants to experience a free taster music making lesson from a musical instrument!

Learn to Play aims to inspire, encourage and enable both new and lapsed music makers to enjoy the wide range of benefits of music making, as well as connecting and championing local UK music providers through a shared celebration of music making.

Learn to Play arrives at a time where music making opportunities are difficult to access due to current cuts to arts education, resulting in many primary schools failing to meet basic music curriculum needs for young people 1 impacting the future of the UK arts, the creative potential of the next generation and the people who deliver quality arts education in the UK.

**Sonali Banerjee**, Music for All’s General Manager explains: “The Learn to Play weekend is needed now more than ever and through our regional music making events we aim to inspire as many people as possible in experiencing the unique joys and benefits of music making. The arts enrich our lives, our community and economy, as well as improving our mental health. We welcome all age-groups and particularly encourage youngsters who may not have the opportunity to experience music lessons at school, to come along and try out an instrument of their choice.”

Music for All believes everyone should have equal access to music making and supports disadvantaged individuals, educators and community projects through cash and instrument award rounds throughout each year.

The positive impact of using music to support and enhance mental and physical health throughout people’s lives has long been documented in numerous academic and social research. Learning to play music is a fantastic opportunity to:

 Challenge your mind and strengthen your memory
 Feel pride and a sense of achievement
 Connect with others and make new friends
 Take a break from stresses and worries
 Have fun whilst being creative
 Explore the joy of music-making!

**Jamie Cullum**, Musician and Music for All ambassador said: “Playing a musical instrument is an amazing thing to have in your life. Sadly, not everyone has the opportunity to have those experiences. I am proud to be a supporter of the Music for All charity and delighted to be involved in their work in changing lives through music. I encourage everyone to participate in a Learn to Play event near them.”

**Joshua Franklin** attended a Learn to Play event nearly a decade ago and has experienced the numerous opportunities and benefits since taking part. “At eight years old Joshua decided he wanted to play the Saxophone but was unfortunately turned down from taking lessons at school for being under the age threshold. Joshua was still determined to learn so attended a Learn to Play saxophone lesson at Dawkes Music’s in Maidenhead.

Through this experience, he managed to convince his school that he was ready and able to continue learning. Joshua excelled playing the saxophone, taking his first exam (Grade 3) aged nine, achieving a distinction at Grade 8 three years later, gaining a ABRSM Diploma and taking his music G.C.S.E exam two years early, achieving a Grade A.

Joshua’s love for music has continued through obtaining a Grade A in A-level music. He now plays lead alto in Cardiff University’s big band and attends local jazz jam nights where he frequently plays along with others at local venues.”

The Music for All YouTube channel will also have a series of online tutorials by professional musicians available, including some big names! In previous years these have included Music for All charity supporters and Ambassadors such as Jools Holland, Alison Balsolm, Anne Denholm, Rob Rolfe and Dave Tench – these tutorial lessons can be accessed by anyone at any time; subscribe for free here: Music for All UK charity – YouTube.

Those interested in getting involved in Learn to Play ‘24 events and accessing their free music lesson should simply visit the Learn to Play website, select their closest venue using the interactive map and register their interest directly with the

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venue.

For more information on Music for All visit: www.musicforall.org.uk

The Learn to Play ’24 event is generously supported by the NAMM Foundation. Other partners include Music Industries Association, Black Lives in Music, Make Music Day UK, Music Mark, Making Music and Take it Away.

To get the latest updates on Music for All and the Learn to Play ‘24 event follow us on our social channels

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# 26th September 2024

27 September 2024

Council Housing Planning

## Epsom Local Plan controversy heats up



26 September 2024

Epsom & Ewell Council’s Tense Debate Over Green Belt Protections and Housing Targets: Key Decisions from the Strategy and Resources Committee Meeting On Tuesday, 24th September 2024, the Strategy and … Read More

Council Housing Planning

## Challenges to Epsom and Ewell Council’s Handling of Local Plan




26 September 2024

In a scathing critique of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s approach to its Local Plan, the campaign group Epsom Green Belt has raised serious concerns over the Council’s progress and … Read More

Arts Culture

## Fair Art in Epsom second to none



25 September 2024

Your creative senses will be tingled from the moment you arrive at the second Art Surrey contemporary art fair coming to The Duchess Stand, Epsom Downs Racecourse, 4 – 7 … Read More

Health News

## Surrey Coroner’s bed safety concerns



24 September 2024

A frail, elderly man “cried for help for over an hour” before tragically dying after getting stuck in a gap between his care

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home bed extension, a Surrey coroner has … Read More

Football Sports

# Late Seaford rally too late to knock Epsom out

23 September 2024

Epsom and Ewell FC 3-2 Seaford Town FC. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Saturday 21st September 2024. Although ultimately irrelevant, two Seaford Town goals in the 86th and … Read More

Rugby Sports

# Sutton & Epsom Denied at the Death in Epic Encounter



23 September 2024

Sutton and Epsom RFC 43 v Old Reigations 48. Saturday 21st September 2024. It has been a Jekyll & Hyde start to the campaign for Sutton & Epsom. However, the … Read More

Community Council

# Epsom Council dead set against the dead?



22 September 2024

Tuesday 17th September Epsom and Ewell Borough Council gave one minute of its time before discarding a motion to take steps to recover an Epsom cemetery of 9000 souls from … Read More

Community Health

# Local women’s health specialist on GTPS



22 September 2024

Greater Trochanteric Pain Syndrome (GTPS) is a prevalent condition, particularly affecting peri- and post-menopausal women. It causes significant discomfort in the soft tissue on the outside of the hip and … Read More

Council Housing Planning

# Housing Targets Spark Fierce Debate in Epsom and Ewell




22 September 2024

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New Government proposals for housing targets have prompted a passionate response from local officials, community groups, and residents. The Government's recent consultation on planning reform suggests a dramatic 41% increase … Read More

Education News

# Surrey Tory MPs against school fees VAT



22 September 2024

Special Educational Needs families should be  exempt from Government plans put VAT on independent school fees, six Surrey MPs have said. Claire Coutinho, Jeremy Hunt, Ben Spencer, Rebecca Paul, Greg … Read More

Community Foodbank Volunteers

# Keeping Good Company



22 September 2024

Over the past 3 years we've been increasing our work to address the root causes of poverty in our community, while continuing to support those who need our help. This … Read More

Council Education

# Surrey child misses two years of education



22 September 2024

A child missed out on two years of education due to shortages in SEND school places. Surrey County Council (SCC) has been forced to pay a mum almost £11,000 after … Read More

Community Council Education

# Surrey's 3 Unis and Council leaving no one behind



22 September 2024

Surrey County Council, in partnership with Surrey's three leading universities – Royal Holloway, University of London; University for the Creative Arts; and the University of Surrey – is proud to … Read More

News Transport

# Gatwick expansion update

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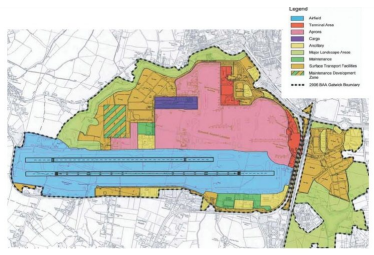

22 September 2024

Local authorities have said they will not support Gatwick Airport’s plans to expand unless its growth is dependent on meeting environmental and noise targets.  According to legal documents, the impacted … Read More

Health News

# Surrey Coroner calls for action over ambulance wait



22 September 2024

The death of a man who waited more than three hours for an ambulance has prompted calls from a coroner for quicker clinical assessments. Philip Ross died at the Royal … Read More

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# Fair Art in Epsom second to none

27 September 2024



Your creative senses will be tingled from the moment you arrive at the second **Art Surrey** contemporary art fair coming to The Duchess Stand, Epsom Downs Racecourse, 4 – 7 October 2024.

Art Surrey opens on Friday 4th October with a Preview Evening with a complimentary glass of fizz from 5.30pm to 8.30pm and opens over the weekend on Saturday 5 October 11am-5pm and Sunday 6 October 11am-5pm.

This exciting art fair curated by Art Surrey and Ewell based Art Adviser and Gallery, Caiger Art, offers art lovers and collectors the chance to browse and purchase artworks from over 80 of the most exciting contemporary and traditional artists selling today, many of whom are Surrey based artists.

As final preparations get under way, **Carol Caiger**, Director of Art Surrey, is, once again, excited to be bringing this art fair back to Epsom. “We had a very successful art fair at Epsom Downs last year so had no reservations about coming back for a second event.We had great feed back from visitors and one of our favourite comments was, ‘It’s like a London Art Fair, but right on our doorstep”. Being one of the largest art fairs within the south east of England, this contemporary art fair will the perfect place to find artwork to start your art collection, or add to your collection if you are already an art enthusiast!”

There will be over 3000 works of art to see, paintings, drawings, prints, digital art, mixed media art, photography, sculpture, glassworks and ceramics. With all artwork ranging from £50 to over £3000, there will be something for everyone.

Weekend facilities include a bar and café / restaurant serving teas, coffee and food throughout Saturday and Sunday, so you can easily spend a whole day there! The venue is also wheelchair accessible.

Have a sneak peek at the limited edition art fair brochure here:

*Brochure – Epsom 2024*

Tickets are available to buy for the Friday Preview Evening, Saturday and Sunday from https://artsurrey.co.uk/tickets/,

For further information about te art fair or art advisory contact carol@artsurrey.co.uk or call 07828513885

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# Keeping Good Company

27 September 2024



Over the past 3 years we've been increasing our work to address the root causes of poverty in our community, while continuing to support those who need our help. This has hopefully contributed to a slight fall in foodbank use this year, although numbers are still much higher than a few years ago.

We have now opened our second Pantry and there have been increasing opportunities for us to influence and work with other organisations towards our vision of ending poverty in Surrey.

However, as we enter this Harvest season we are facing a number of challenges. Overall, our food donations are down, some of our funding has dried up, we have to be prepared in case foodbank use goes up again (with energy prices due rise) and we have both a higher number and more complex cases in our support work. Poverty is still very much in our midst.

The good news is that as we have developed our work and focused increasingly on prevention – trying to stop people getting to crisis point – preventing poverty is now very much getting on the agenda. Our End Poverty Pledge has picked up traction and gradually individuals and organisations are signing up and realising that to beat poverty we need to commit to actions and work together to change our culture.

This has been matched with our participation work which has grown mainly through the Poverty Truth Commission. With our commissioners we have produced a Short Guide to Participation, which includes some case studies to show how people with lived experience of poverty are shaping what we do and encouraging others to take the participation 'journey' too.

It's an exciting time but we need to continue pushing so that we see a constant in the reduction in foodbank use, people escaping poverty and developing their resilience so as an organisation we are working ourselves out of a job!

This year we have seen some encouraging changes within our foodbank. In May we piloted a new foodbank model at one of our largest centres, after running 2 focus groups with both clients and volunteers. Our 'Choose Your Food' model seeks to recreate a shopping experience for our clients, where instead of being handed over a packed bag of food and toiletries, clients can now walk around with a shopping basket and select their own food and toiletries.

The positive impact of the new model has been felt across the whole of our foodbank operations. Our clients, who have consistently said they much prefer this model, not only because it helps make a foodbank visit more dignified but also because it means clients actively contribute to reducing food waste, by only taking the items they need and want, even when they are entitled to more.

Our volunteers, who have enjoyed greater engagement with clients as they choose their food. And, from an operational perspective, a decrease in stock sent to the centre. As clients are only taking what they need, they are actually taking less food. In the first 2 months following its launch, the amount of food taken per person has reduced by 20%.

We are now exploring how we can transition other centres to this model, so all our clients, across every foodbank centre, can share in the same experience.

With our Summer holiday period over and the restart of school, so too the foodbank is getting ready for a new Harvest season. Every year we are blessed to receive donations from schools and churches which help to keep our centres and pantries stocked for those in our community experiencing financial hardship. Whilst, so far in 2024,we have seen an encouraging decrease in numbers of people attending our centres, we know that with winter approaching, families and individuals will see their bills increase and many will need support to ensure they can access essentials, like food and toiletries.

Unfortunately, the first 6 months of 2024 saw an 18% reduction of stock in, compared to the same period in 2023. We rely on the generous and faithful donations of our community to help us secure the stock we need to continue supporting families and individuals through our food provision projects.

If you would like to organise a food donation this Harvest, see our 2024 wishlist below. Please click on this link for a list of our donation points. If you are organising a delivery directly to our hub (Good Company Hub, Ruxley Lane KT19 0JG), please let us know by contacting us on foodbank@goodcompany.org.uk

New Chair of Trustees needed!
A fantastic opportunity for someone who is passionate about helping people locally and being part of our vision to see a community free from poverty.

Fundraising Manager role

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We're looking for an experienced, creative and proactive Fundraising Manager who is passionate about our vision to create a poverty-free future for our community.

Jonathan Lees
Founder and Managing Director, Good Company

For more information visit

Good Company – Supporting Our Community

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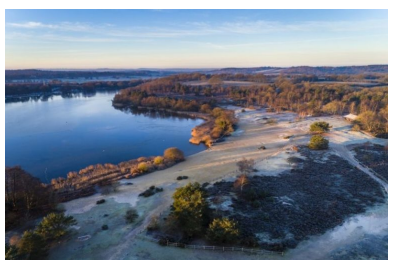
# 19th September 2024

27 September 2024

Environment Nature News

## Surrey's outstanding beauty expanding?



18 September 2024

The Surrey Hills could be made significantly larger as Natural England considers expanding the borders of the county's "iconic and beautiful" landscape. Each year millions of people are drawn to … Read More

Crime Housing News

## Epsom landlord fined for neglect




18 September 2024

A bedsit landlord who repeatedly ignored warnings to fix flats dubbed "cold", "damp", "filthy", and a "firetrap" has been hit with a court bill approaching £32,000. Epsom Pars Limited, which … Read More

Council Transport

## Will Surrey reporting tool fill the pot-holes?

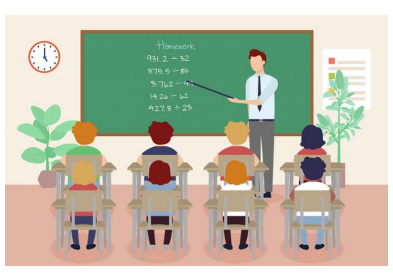


17 September 2024

Surrey County Council's new 'FixMyStreet' online reporting tool will now make it easier for residents to report potholes, faulty traffic signals and other street defects, following its launch today (Tuesday … Read More

Council Education

## Surrey multiplies to subtract innumerate numbers



17 September 2024

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Free, flexible Multiply courses are now available for Surrey residents who would like to improve their confidence using numbers. Around half of the UK working age population don’t have strong … Read More

Rugby Sports

# Blue sky sees Black and Whites in the red

17 September 2024

Beckenham 29 Sutton & Epsom RFC 14. Saturday 14th September. Sutton & Epsom arrived at Balmoral Lane as league leaders after a comprehensiveColfeians victory by 50-7. Beckenham had impressed with … Read More

Council Housing Planning

# Village divide on Parade



17 September 2024

Plans to demolish and rebuild a shopping parade in Oxshott, has been met with controversy among locals, with some residents decrying it as a “monstrosity” that would be “entirely out … Read More

Football Sports

# A hat-trick of wins for Epsom and Ewell FC

15 September 2024

Tooting & Mitcham United 0-2 Epsom and Ewell FC. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Saturday 14th September 2024. After a horrible start to the season with five straight … Read More

Council Finances

# A question of Surrey’s future budget

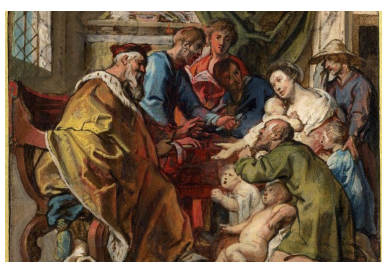


15 September 2024

Surrey County Council (SCC) are currently seeking feedback from residents on how the council uses its financial resources. These views will help inform the draft budget for the 2025/26 financial … Read More

Community Council Finances

# Would members of Epsom’s H band stump up?



15 September 2024

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People living in homes in the top council band will be asked to help the community  after plans to ask Band H homeowners to voluntarily pay into a council-run charity … Read More

Community Council Health

# Walking the talk on Epsom Downs



15 September 2024

On 10th September, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council hosted a Walk & Talk event at Epsom Downs Racecourse to mark World Suicide Prevention Day. Over 65 people, including residents and representatives … Read More

Community News

# Epsom residents score double-century



15 September 2024

Two residents at Linden House Care Home in Epsom have celebrated their 100th birthdays surrounded by fellow residents, relatives, and the dedicated staff at the Surrey-based home. Edith Valerie Griffiths, … Read More

Education News

# Surrey scientists invite children to reach for the stars

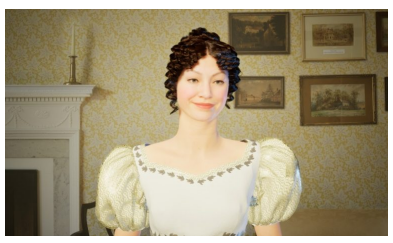


15 September 2024

Children need to dream big and reach for the stars to become the country’s future space engineers and budding astronauts, say the organisers of Guildford’s World Space Week High Street … Read More

Arts Culture Education

# UCA bring Austen character into 21st century



15 September 2024

Fans of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice will finally get the chance to have a conversation with their literary hero when speaking with the world-first Elizabeth Bennet avatar – Lizzy. … Read More

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# Epsom residents score double-century

27 September 2024

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Two residents at Linden House Care Home in Epsom have celebrated their 100th birthdays surrounded by fellow residents, relatives, and the dedicated staff at the Surrey-based home.

Edith Valerie Griffiths, known as Val, and Evelyn Houseman marked their milestones with a small but special get together with friends and family. Val and Evelyn, who have both lived rich and active lives, were delighted to share their landmark birthdays with those closest to them.

Val, who was born in Richmond, Surrey, experienced a childhood of frequent moves due to her father's work. Despite the disruptions, Val developed a passion for sports, excelling in tennis, table tennis, ice skating, and skiing. During World War II, she was evacuated to Berkhamsted but returned to London after a year. Val married at the age of 33, becoming a mother to three boys, and is now also a grandmother of three.

Evelyn, a lifelong resident of Epsom, is renowned for her knitting and love of fashion. Having worked as a seamstress, she takes pride in the knitted jumpers she still wears today. Evelyn has always been passionate about music and dance, and she never misses a chance to be the first on the dance floor when Linden House hosts live entertainment.

Maintaining a healthy diet and drinking very little alcohol has helped Val live a long and happy life. Val's family believes that moderation has been key throughout her life but also acknowledge that good genes have played a significant role in her longevity.

Josephine Gbadamosi, manager of Linden House said: "Celebrating Val and Evelyn's 100th birthdays has been a wonderful experience for everyone at Linden House.

"These incredible women have lived rich, full lives, and their stories continue to inspire us all. It's a privilege to have them as part of our community, and we look forward to creating many more happy memories together."

Linden House, located in Epsom, Surrey, is rated 'Good' by the CQC, with an 'Outstanding' rating for its well-led category. Part of Wren Retirement Living, Linden House is managed by Healthcare Management Solutions, committed to providing high-quality care in a supportive and engaging environment.

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# UCA bring Austen character into 21st century

27 September 2024



Fans of **Jane Austen**'s Pride and Prejudice will finally get the chance to have a conversation with their literary hero when speaking with the world-first Elizabeth Bennet avatar – Lizzy.

Created by StarPal in collaboration with **University for the Creative Arts** (UCA), the avatar has been developed to mirror the human qualities of Austen's character as detailed in the novel, such as empathy and humour. Her conversations, which fans will have with her face-to-avatar, will evolve, giving each person who talks to Lizzy a unique experience.

How does Lizzy feel about being a world-first? She said: "It is quite an interesting notion indeed – I must say being Elizabeth Bennet in a world far removed from my own time is an unexpected but intriguing experience. It allows me to share the intricacies of our society and my life with new audiences."

Following consultation and guidance from Jane Austen's House in Hampshire, Lizzy's knowledge bank has been curated from a selection of novels, manuscripts and period-accurate information.

Lizzy is set within a Regency-style background. Her dress and hair have been designed and created by students from the Games Arts and Digital Fashion courses at UCA, drawing on fashion templates from the period.

**Sophy Smith**, Director of Games and Creative Technology at UCA and the originator of the project, added: "It is so exciting to finally be able to lift Elizabeth Bennet off the page and to be able to have real-time conversations with her. To be able to cross time in this way is joyful – you get a real sense of speaking directly to someone from the 18th century.

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And she has such a strong personality! Imagine – you can now have Elizabeth Bennet as your friend, to chat with throughout the day and offer you advice.

“This technology has the potential to transform experiences within both the museum and heritage, as well the education sector. Visitors to Jane Austen’s House, will have the opportunity to not only experience the renowned author’s home but also engage directly with one of her most famous characters. And think about how it could transform learning – instead of only having text-based revision guides, students can now learn about literature by speaking directly to the characters.”

Director of Jane Austen’s House, **Lizzie Dunford**, said: “It has been fascinating to watch this project develop, and to witness the innovative staff and students at UCA developing these new technologies, and new ways of accessing literary and cultural heritage.”

**Tanguy Dewavrin**, the COO of StarPal, the company which built the avatar, commented Lizzy is continually surprising them: “It’s amazing how real she is – she’s just so impressive.”

**Anya Haber**, an MA Digital Fashion student who created the dress in 3D, added: “This project brought the ideation into the digital, but historical garments can be tricky to create accurately, so there was a mix of history and modernity. It was exciting bringing to life the cut of dress, accessories, and embroideries – all inspired by historical drawings and descriptions. It showed how useful technology can be in a historical setting, letting fans engage with fictional characters…and that’s just the beginning.”

Fans will have the chance to interact with Lizzy if they visit the Learning Centre at Jane Austen’s House between September and mid-December – included with House entry.

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# 12th September 2024

27 September 2024

**Featured**

Community Volunteers

## Rosebery Park Public Party – Sat 21st Sept.




10 September 2024

Rotary is a global Club of like-minded individuals, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers founded in 1905 in Chicago in the United States, working to give something back to the community they … Read More

Education Westminster

## A uniform approach to Epsom’s schools



11 September 2024

Epsom and Ewell’s new M.P., Helen Maguire, has called on local schools to address the growing concern over costly school uniforms, reaching out to 15 headteachers on 5th September. In … Read More

Horse racing Sports

## Seven-race card tips for Epsom Thursday



11 September 2024

Epsom Racecourse hosts its penultimate meeting of the Summer on Thursday with a seven-race card for punters heading

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to the track.  Racing gets underway at 2.00pm with a novice stakes … Read More

Rugby Sports

# Sutton and Epsom Rugby off to a flying-start



9 September 2024

Sutton & Epsom RFC opened their 2024-25 league account against Old Colfeians, on Saturday 7th September, over whom they had completed an impressive double last season. There were nine changes … Read More

Football Sports

# 91st minute strike wins for Epsom and Ewell FC

8 September 2024

Camberley Town 0-1 Epsom and Ewell FC. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Saturday 7th September 2024 In my preview for this match, I wrote that on this day … Read More

Business Education

# Government Minister immerses herself in NESCOT




5 September 2024

Staff and students were delighted to host Baroness Jacqui Smith, the Department for Education’s Minister of State for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education on her visit to Nescot (North East Surrey College of … Read More

# Seven-race card tips for Epsom Thursday

27 September 2024



Epsom Racecourse hosts its penultimate meeting of the Summer on Thursday with a seven-race card for punters heading to the track.

Racing gets underway at 2.00pm with a novice stakes in class four before the action comes to a close at 5.22pm with a nine-runner handicap in class five.

*Read below to discover the latest tips and meeting preview for Epsom’s card on Thursday courtesy of BoyleSports, who offer the latest* ***horse racing odds*** *throughout the season.*

The opening contest on the Epsom card (2.00) sees a field of seven head to the start for the seven furlong handicap in class four, with the two-year-old’s taking centre stage in the opener. Luna Girl was a €95,000 purchase as a yearling for trainer Richard Hannon and ticks plenty of boxes on paper making her debut here. Bold Impact for the Ralph Beckett

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teams also makes plenty of appeal, a thrice-race maiden who has been beaten as an odds-on favourite twice but could go one place better at Epsom this time around.

Race two on the card (2.35) is a seven furlong handicap in class four and a good field of 15 will be taking it on. Red Mirage was a winner at Catterick in April and followed up with a third in a Chester handicap so is a big player here 1lb lower in the weights. He should see off the inform Roscioli, a winner at Salisbury last month and a very good second of 11 in a Lingfield handicap three weeks ago.

Nine runners will head to the start for the class five handicap over the one mile and two furlong trip to mark race three on Epsom's card (3.10). Imperial Cult gets the nod here for trainers Rachel Cook and John Bridger, only narrowly denied in his handicap bid over this course and distance last month having landed back-to-back all weather wins at Lingfield. Mrembo rates the main danger if she can handle the expected softer conditions at Epsom as she has shown preference for better ground than this previously.

A competitive class four handicap is race four of the afternoon (3.45) with ten runners set to tackle the one mile and four furlong distance. Enochdhu gets the very slight edge here, the slow ground expected to be very much in his favour after a disappointing outing on a faster surface at Kempton last week when he was a disappointing fifth of seven. Of his rivals, Haliphon rates the main danger, the Ian Williams runner arriving off the back of a win at Haydock last time out just a week ago.

Dubawi Time looks very much the one to beat in race five of the meeting (4.20) having been bang in-form prior to flopping at Chelmsford last time around where he didn't appreciate the step up in trip so is back down at a more comfortable distance heading to Epsom, while race six (4.50) can go the way of Chips And Rice, who is in good order for trainer James Fanshawe despite being hampered in-running last time out at this track.

Finally, the card comes to a close with the class five handicap for three-year-old's at 5.22 over the extended mile trip. Preference in the finale heads the way of Tribal Chief for trainer David Menuisier, landing a career-best when winning a ten-runner Kempton handicap last month and has a very progressive profile to boost his chances. Crimson Spirit is a previous course winner and was second at Epsom on his last spin so clearly has a liking for the track and rates the chief threat so can fill out the second spot.

**Epsom selections – Thursday**

2.00 – Luna Girl

2.35 – Red Mirage

3.10 – Imperial Cult

3.45 – Enochdhu

4.20 – Dubawi Time

4.50 – Chips And Rice

5.22 – Tribal Chief

Image: Credit Paul. **CC BY 2.0**

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# Rosebery Park Public Party – Sat 21st Sept.

27 September 2024




**Rotary** is a global Club of like-minded individuals, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers founded in 1905 in Chicago in the United States, working to give something back to the community they live in. Epsom Rotary Club is celebrating one hundred years of working with the Community in Epsom on 21st September in **Rosebery Park**. This will be a fun filled day for all the family with market stalls, rides for children, entertainment, and food stands. It promises to be a day of family fun and entertainment. [See event entry HERE]

Rotary began its association with the people of Epsom in June 1924 with an inaugural lunch held by local businessmen marking the start of the Rotary Club of Epsom. Early Community involvement provided a member representative on the Epsom Cottage Hospital Committee and supporting street collections for the hospital fund. Very quickly the club provided support for disabled service men at the Star and Garter home and the Club began providing Christmas hampers to local distressed elderly.

The Armed Forces service connection was restored recently in 2020 when Surrey County Council and Royal British Legion Surrey started a monthly hub for military veterans who were potentially isolated and lonely. This is organised by Epsom Rotary and RBL Epsom and Ewell in partnership, with two offshoot activity groups, archery and model making. Over thirty

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members of various ages, men and women have formed small friendship / support groups of their own and are offered coach outings such as to the D Day Museum Portsmouth. This year we have organised trips to the Poppy Factory in Richmond, and the Christmas lights in the West End.

Veterans' Hub members and supporters

Into the late 1920s/30s Epsom Rotary worked locally as Rotary members played an active role in restarting the Epsom Chamber of Commerce and nationally providing cash and clothing for the hunger marches during the General Strike in 1926. The Club continued to expand its involvement locally during the second World War by supporting Armed Forces personnel at the anti-aircraft gun sites at Ashtead and Headley and the Canadian soldier's military hospital at West Park.




In the Community the Club was instrumental in starting the Annual Careers exhibition in 1957 and soon after visits to Wisley Gardens were organised for the elderly in the community. In 1957 Epsom Rotary set up a Christmas tree by the clocktower in the town Centre which was an annual event for many years. During the 1970s Thomas the tank engine arrived as part of the Christmas Street collections. The train was constructed by apprentices at Epsom Coaches and remains the centre piece of Christmas collections to this day focussed on Epsom and Langley Vale, now renamed as Tilly the train. These are always joyous occasions with great excitement amongst both children and parents as the train approaches.

Recent years

In 2012 in conjunction with Epsom and Ewell Borough Council the Rotary clubs of Epsom and Ewell organised a Community Fun day at Hook Road arena with a fun fair, pitches for local artisans and charities. This proved highly successful and continued until 2019 until the pandemic.

The Centenary Party in the Park in Rosebery Park is a natural successor to this with the added element that it is a celebration of one hundred years of Epsom Rotary serving the Community. In recent years, the Club has developed more "service related" projects which involves members giving more of their time to work on Community projects. This approach has always been part of the Rotary ethos. Examples include supporting the Veterans Hub highlighted earlier, leasing an allotment from the local Council with a small group of resolute members growing an increasing volume of fruit and vegetables which are donated over the summer months to the Pantry, the Good Company/Food Bank shop in South Street in Epsom.

A current activity is providing support/volunteers to work on an Epsom BID led project called Family Fridays that provides family activities in the town centre for young families in the school summer holidays.
Epsom Rotary continues to prioritise support for young people with regional competitions for Young Musicians, Young Chef and French speaking competitions.

International

The first international visit undertaken by the Club was to the Rotary Club of Rheims in France in 1937 and the Club now has an association with the Rotary Club of Chantilly in France which started in the 1990s and there have been several visits in both directions. This ties in with the town twinning of Epsom and Chantilly and reinforces our shared involvement

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with the horse racing industry.

The Club has been involved in several international projects with the current focus being AMECA, a small charity in Malawi providing medical services to the local community in a rural setting. The charity has recently built a maternity unit in an area in great need of support for women and children. Secondly, we have supported the Zimbabwe Victims Support Fund for the last five years, which is a small charity supporting dispossessed families, mainly women and children in Zimbabwe.

The future

As we have seen Rotary continues to evolve whilst reacting to the needs in the local community. We face many challenges, particularly attracting new members from the diverse spread of residents locally the Club needs to continue to thrive. There is less emphasis on procedure and formality which potentially enables a wider cross-section of the local community to become involved.

Rotary is a unique organisation which like no other, gives opportunities to become involved in education, community support, training, international activities, visits to other countries, social welfare, and hands-on experience. The challenge is to ensure that our Club can adapt to whatever the future holds yet retain our
essential purpose of 'service above self.'

Summary

Throughout the Clubs "100 years in Epsom", it has actively looked for opportunities to take part in local charity projects. One of the threads which runs through the Club's history is its contribution to the local community and its close relationship with the Borough Council. From the beginning its membership has included ex-mayors, councillors, and senior officers of the local authority. Over the past one hundred years it has participated in civic ceremonies, attended the annual Mayor's reception and nowadays the incoming mayor is an honorary member of the Club.

**Jim Munns** – Joint President Epsom Rotary Club

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If you wish to join Epsom Rotary you may apply HERE

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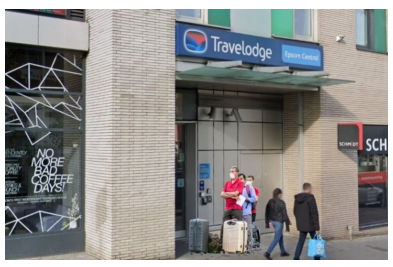
# 5th September 2024

27 September 2024

Council Housing Planning

## What are the solutions to Epsom's homeless crisis?




4 September 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, like many local authorities across England, is grappling with a growing homelessness crisis, as highlighted in a recent press release. [Click here for full press … Read More

Business Council

## Surrey Business Leaders Forum re-booted




3 September 2024

Businesses across Surrey now have a much greater voice in guiding the growth of the county's economy thanks to the relaunched and revitalised Surrey Business Leaders Forum.  Just weeks after the … Read More

Community Environment Volunteers

## Trust the public to check our rivers

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3 September 2024

The Big River Watch is returning. From 6th to 12th September, the South East Rivers Trust is inviting people across the South East to join the only UK and Ireland-wide citizen science … Read More

Community Local History

# Phil Bradley of Ewell was a fair man



2 September 2024

World Fun Fair Month aims to unite Showmen from around the world to celebrate all aspects of fairgrounds, and the joy they bring to communities everywhere, find out more with … Read More

Business Community Local History

# Landmark pub re-assembles Tuesday



1 September 2024

The Assembly Rooms pub, in Epsom, is reopening at 8am on Tuesday 3 September, following an extensive refurbishment project, costing £1.375 million. The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Councillor Steve … Read More

News Policing

# Epsom murders advance police responses




30 August 2024

Surrey Police say its response to coercive and controlling behaviour in domestic abuse cases is “significantly more advanced” following the Epsom College murders. Emma Pattison, 45, was found dead alongside … Read More

Arts Community Council

# Epsom Playhouse gets a 40 year uplift




30 August 2024

Epsom Playhouse opened in 1984 as part of the development of The Ashley Centre and since opening has hosted a wide and varied programme of events featuring both professional and … Read More

Council Education

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# UK library cuts a concern for Epsom & Ewell?

29 August 2024

With 132 libraries closing permanently between 2016-2023 in England, there are growing concerns of further actions from local councils to make savings at the expense of public libraries. Should Epsom … Read More

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# Trust the public to check our rivers

27 September 2024



The **Big River Watch** is returning. From 6th to 12th September, the **South East Rivers Trus**t is inviting people across the South East to join the only UK and Ireland-wide citizen science survey of river health, which has attracted more than 9,000 participants in its first year.

Anyone can join the Big River Watch by downloading the free, easy-to-use app and spending 15 minutes by their local river, answering the simple survey questions. The results will be made available on an interactive dashboard and will help drive action to improve rivers both on-the-ground and via campaigns and political advocacy.

We want to build a complete picture of river health, and topics covered include the plants and wildlife people can see, as well as visible signs of pollution or observations on flow levels. Some of the rivers and chalk streams across South East England provide habitats for rare species such as Beavers, Otters, Nightingales, Turtle Doves, Salmon and Brown Trout. It’s essential that we try and restore healthy ecosystems for these rare species and local communities by carefully monitoring the health of the waterways across the region.

The South East Rivers Trust is running a series of volunteer events across the South East throughout September, including river clean-ups, gravel seeding and planting, where local communities can get involved and help restore their river: www.southeastriverstrust.org/events

**Bella Davies,** CEO at The South East Rivers Trust, said: “People across the UK and Ireland are becoming more and more interested in the health of their rivers, using their voices – and their votes – to show they care. With the Big River Watch, anyone can get involved in monitoring signs of pollution, spotting wildlife, and sharing their connection with their local river. This isn’t just important for us gathering data but is also empowering for people who are demanding better for our rivers.”

**Tessa Wardley,** Director of Communication & Advocacy at The Rivers Trust, said: “We know that no rivers in England are in good overall health, but we also know that environmental monitoring is currently very sparse. Having a large set of data from one weekend will help our experts to understand what’s going on in our rivers, and what needs to be done to make them cleaner, healthier, and part of a thriving wider environment. As well as learning where pollution and wildlife are spotted, we also want to know how spending time near rivers affects people’s wellbeing, so I’d encourage anyone and everyone to spend some time by their river and make their voice heard.”

- The survey includes questions on river wildlife, signs of pollution, and health and wellbeing
- Results will be updated in near-real time on the **Big River Watch Data Dashboard**
- More than 9,000 people have now taken part in the Big River Watch, 59% of those being new to citizen science

Related reports:

Chalking up a victory for the Hogsmill

Voles let loose on the Hogsmill

Ewell’s wetlands to be celebrated on an open day

Image: Views of the Hogsmill River that runs through Epsom and Ewell

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# Phil Bradley of Ewell was a fair man

27 September 2024



World Fun Fair Month aims to unite Showmen from around the world to celebrate all aspects of fairgrounds, and the joy they bring to communities everywhere, find out more with the Future4Fairgrounds website. Don't forget to check out our social media as we'll have more posts running throughout September to celebrate World Fun Fair Month.

Fairs have been part of Surrey's history for centuries and the origins of many can be traced back to charters and privileges granted in medieval times. Surrey History Centre holds a wealth of sources for fairground history including photographs, illustrations, and published works. Without a doubt, our key fairground collection is that of Fairground enthusiast, **Philip Bradley of Ewell**, who spent his life compiling a written and photographic record of every fair he visited from 1936 until his death in 1999. He amassed 30,000 photographs of fairs across the country and was highly regarded by showmen and fairground people. His collection provides an invaluable history of twentieth century fairgrounds (Surrey History Centre reference 6790). You can find out more about Philip Bradley and his archive on our Exploring Surrey's Past website.

This Bradley photograph shows features the glamorous and daring 'Wall of Death' display riders Patsy Kelly, Bobbie Hall and Gene Dare, known as "The Bombshells", on their motorbike at Guildford Fair, 6th May 1939, just a couple of months before the start of the Second World War (Philip Bradley Collection, Surrey History Centre reference 6790/4/2).

## Fairs during Wartime

During wartime, fairs were affected by blackout restrictions and limited supplies of food, fuel and 'swag'. Coconut shies became rare as coconuts took up valuable shipping space and rifle ranges were deprived of ammunition. Music was also muted in case it drowned out the air raid alert. Many showmen's engines were used for demolition work clearing debris from blitzed cities and demolishing unstable buildings, especially in areas of severe bomb damage in Merseyside, Manchester and London. Find out more about fairs during wartime.

Surrey History Centre

Image: Philip Bradley seated in an Orton & Spooner 'Whale Car' at Butlins Ltd, Florence Park, Oxford, 28 Aug 1943 (Philip Bradley Collection, Surrey History Centre reference 6790/4/8).

| **Heritage open days in Surrey** |
| --- |
| Heritage open days take place between 6 to 15 September, and there's over 200 events in Surrey to choose from. Why not visit The Grange Centre on 13 September, where Archaeologists from Surrey County Archaeological Unit will be opening a testpit in the grounds of the Centre. |

### 09/10/2024 17:30 – 18:45 From Patient to Professor

**Online Zoom Talk**

Dan Jacobson was a teenage inpatient at **Long Grove** Psychiatric Hospital for four months in the years just before its closure in the 1990s. This talk will explore the geography and history of the **Epsom Cluster** of psychiatric hospitals, weaving together his personal and professional journey – from a patient to becoming a professor. What was it like on the wards of the hospital? Dan is going to discuss negotiation and treatment for mental illness. These experiences will be used to reflect on his ongoing research into the changes to the landscape within and surrounding the former hospital sites.

Dan Jacobson, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Calgary, Canada.

Cost: £6
96 spaces available – book this event

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# 29th August 2024

27 September 2024

Football Sports

## Epsom take the boot from landlords

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27 August 2024

Epsom and Ewell 1-2 Corinthian-Casuals, Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Monday 26th August 2024. A late rally almost enabled us to take something out of our first Tolworth … Read More

Council Housing Planning

# Time to press the gas on Epsom’s Local Plan?



24 August 2024

As reported in the magazine Local Government Lawyer (19/08/24) several local councils in England are accelerating the development of their local plans in response to proposed amendments to the National … Read More

Football Sports

# Shaky start to season for Epsom and Ewell

21 August 2024

Sandhurst Town 4-1 Epsom and Ewell. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Tuesday 20th August 2024. We crashed to a 4-1 defeat in our latest League match at Sandhurst … Read More

Crime News

# Epsom College murder inquest



20 August 2024

A coroner has called on the government to tighten gun-licensing laws after the former head of Epsom College and her daughter were murdered.  Emma Pattison, 45, was found dead alongside her seven-year-old … Read More

Council Health

# Walk on the Downs to feel Up.



19 August 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is hosting a walk around Epsom Downs on 10th September to coincide with World Suicide Prevention Day. This event supports the council’s Suicide Prevention Action … Read More

Council Housing Planning

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# Epsom and Ewell Brace for Government Housing Targets



19 August 2024

In a significant policy shift, the newly elected Labour government has reintroduced mandatory housing targets, a move that is set to have far-reaching implications for communities across the UK, including … Read More

Business Housing Planning

# Leatherhead town on the way up?

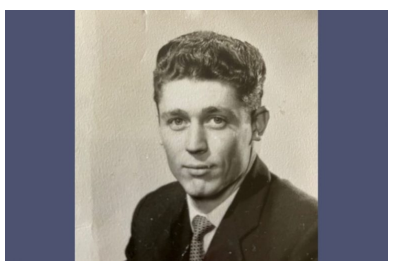



17 August 2024

Leatherhead could become a “destination town” with an updated shopping arcade and cinema screens, according to regeneration plans. The future project could also see a ‘new neighbourhood’ created with up … Read More

Health News

# Epsom welder’s widow seeks help with cancer claim



17 August 2024

A woman who believed her incurable cancer may have been caused by washing her husband’s work clothes is looking for information. Annette, who was married to a former welder in … Read More

News Policing

# No sex please, we’re British police




17 August 2024

Two ex-Surrey Police officers have been banned from the profession for gross misconduct after engaging in sexual activity on various occasions at police stations whilst on duty. One former officer … Read More

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# 15th August 2024

27 September 2024

News Policing

# Surrey police to move to Epsom and Ewell constituency

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15 August 2024

Surrey Police purchased the featured premises in Cleeve Road, Leatherhead, in 2019 for over £20 million. The address is just over 5 miles from Epsom High Street and is in … Read More

Education News

## A classes for Rosebery girls



15 August 2024

The class of 2024 at Rosebery School Sixth Form did themselves proud with one in three A level results including an A* or A. The excellent results also saw 86 … Read More

Horse racing Sports

## Racing tips for Friday at Epsom



15 August 2024

The action continues at Epsom Downs this week with a competitive six-race card on offer for punters heading to the track on Friday 16th August. Racing gets underway at 1.40 … Read More

Football Sports

## When a 2 goal defeat marks improvement

14 August 2024

Epsom and Ewell 0-2 Jersey Bulls. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South – Tuesday 13th August 2024. Jersey Bulls are not the sort of team you want to face, … Read More

Business News

## Hyperia’s screams have mixed local responses



13 August 2024

What’s it like being neighbours to one of the biggest theme parks in the UK? “It depends if you like screaming,” residents say. Living next to Thorpe Park has split … Read More

Council Housing Planning

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# Social housing options boxed in



12 August 2024

Hundreds of people desperate for social housing will finally have homes to call their own after a seven storey block was approved – despite concerns it would blight historic views … Read More

Arts Health

# Mental health art exhibition in Epsom



12 August 2024

Children and young people using mental health services have been taking part in a ‘My Voice Matters’ exhibition, which allows participants to express themselves through the medium of art.  The … Read More

Football Sports

# Things can only get better.....?

12 August 2024

Epsom and Ewell 0-5 Guildford City. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Saturday 10th August 2024. On Tuesday our club acclaimed a “great” performance in defeating Step Four Phoenix … Read More

Business Nature

# Wine tasting on the slopes of Leith Hill



10 August 2024

Wine aficionados will soon be able to sample the delights of pinot noir, chardonnay, and cabernet in their famous fermented form after a Surrey Hills vineyard was granted planning permission … Read More

Arts Council

# Redhill theatre gone to rack and ruin?




9 August 2024

There are currently no plans to reopen a much loved Surrey town centre theatre according to a new report. The Harlequin Theatre in Redhill closed its doors in September 2023 … Read More

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Environment News

# ‘Don’t put your national trust in Barclays’ climate protestors urge.



9 August 2024

On Saturday, 3rd August, visitors to Box Hill from Epsom, Ewell, and surrounding areas held a peaceful demonstration, urging The National Trust to cease banking with Barclays. The group organised … Read More

# A classes for Rosebery girls

27 September 2024



The class of 2024 at Rosebery School Sixth Form did themselves proud with one in three A level results including an A* or A.

The excellent results also saw 86 per cent of students achieve grades A* to C and the average vocational qualification saw a distinction, so it was celebrations all round.

“These results are a testament to the unwavering hard work, dedication and determination of our exceptional cohort,” said David Lach, Head of School.

“We could not be prouder of the Class of 2024. We have always known they were a special and talented group, and we are delighted that their efforts have resulted in such fantastic outcomes. Well done, girls!”

There were many outstanding results, but to highlight a few of the school’s most notable performers: Ysabel C was awarded an incredible 4 A*, Ilana A and Edith P achieved 3 A*s and 1 A, Rachel A achieved 4 A grades. Jessica W received 3A*s. Connie H, Becca J, Elizabeth Q P and Maya S were awarded 2A*s and an A in their core A levels but with Maya and Connie also achieving an A* in their EPQ.

“Following the school’s recent Outstanding Ofsted Judgement for Sixth Form Provision, and building on last year’s record-breaking results, Rosebery School Sixth Form continues to excel and grow stronger each year – with the school receiving a record number of both internal and external applications to join the Sixth Form in September,” said Mr Lach.

# Racing tips for Friday at Epsom

27 September 2024



The action continues at Epsom Downs this week with a competitive six-race card on offer for punters heading to the track on Friday 16th August.

Racing gets underway at 1.40 with a class five nursery contest before rounding off at 4.35 as eight runners tackle a class

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five handicap.

*Read below to discover the latest tips for Epsom's card on Friday, courtesy of* ***OLBG:***

The opening race of the afternoon (1.40) sees a field of nine head to the start for the class five nursery for two-year-old's. Liberty Bird was a runner up last time out at Leicester for trainer Charlie Johnston and gets the nod here to bag a second win of the campaign, having been victorious at Beverley in June. Enchanted Eye rates the main danger from the Eve Johnson Houghton yard, a good second on nursery debut at Leicester 29 days ago.

A small field of four will take on race two of the afternoon at Epsom in the maiden fillies' stakes (2.15) over the seven furlong distance. The Amy Murphy-trained Creative Lady is the clear pick on form here, a decent second in a Lingfield maiden last time out and is the one to beat here. Graduated, for trainer Dr Richard Newland, can fill the second spot, second at Brighton on her last spin.

A class four handicap marks race three on the Friday card at 2.50, with eight runners set to travel over the six furlong sprint distance. Winner of this race last year, Musicka is back for another crack for trainer David O'Meara and has hit form at the right time with a second in a big-field handicap at York last month so is the one to beat again. Of his rivals, Tourist can make his presence felt if bouncing back to form following a fifth at Doncaster last time out.

Race four (3.25) is an 11-runner handicap in class six for horses aged three and older, with preference heading the way of Imperial Cult, who landed a career best when scoring in a 12-runner handicap at Lingfield 17 days ago to follow up another win at that venue a month previously so is taken to complete the hat trick here ahead of Corporate Raider, a Brighton winner in June and second at that track 45 days ago.

The penultimate race on Epsom's card this week arrives at 4.00 as six runners head to the start for the extended mile handicap in class five. Unreal Connection for trainer Amanda Perratt looks the one to beat here, a previous winner at Epsom who was fourth in a Sandown handicap when last seen. Eretat is the main danger, a cosy winner at Wolverhampton three weeks ago who is bidding to follow up.

Finally, the card comes to a close with the class five handicap over seven furlongs (4.35) and eight runners will take it on, with preference heading the way of Marlay Park, a four-time course and distance winner who has yet to fire this season but is sliding down the weights as well as dropping in grade here.

**Epsom selections – Friday**

1.40 – Liberty Bird

2.15 – Creative Lady

2.50 – Musicka

3.25 – Imperial Cult

4.00 – Unreal Connection

4.35 – Marlay Park

Image: Credit Paul. **CC BY 2.0**

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