

Epsom Downs Summer season race tips

2 July 2024



The Summer Season kicks off at **Epsom Downs** on Wednesday evening with a competitive six-race card for punters heading to the track.

Racing gets underway at 6.20pm with a seven-runner apprentice handicap before rounding off at 9.00pm as ten runners take on the class four handicap.

*Read below to see the latest **Horse racing betting** and tips for Epsom's Wednesday card*

The opener (6.20) is an apprentice handicap over the one mile and two furlong trip with Giselles Defence arriving in the best form of the field, winning at Pontefract in May and getting back on track at Leicester 18 days ago after a poor ninth prior so should take the beating here. Of his rivals, Oj Lifestyle was a Newbury maiden winner in 2022 who hasn't fired since but is dropping down into much calmer waters here.

Race two on the card (6.50) sees seven runners head to the stalls for the maiden stakes in class four for two-year-olds and Sir Peter Fossick for trainer Charlie Johnston is taken to get off the mark on debut, a half-brother to several winners over the this seven-furlong trip so he makes plenty of appeal on paper.

Mr Wagyu is on a losing run but has a fine record at Epsom and is back for more in race three on Wednesday's card (7.25), only slightly edged out on Derby Day so has to be considered back at his favoured track. Indian Creek won this race last year off a 2lb higher mark so is set to be amongst the top end as well in this six furlong class three handicap.

Trainer Ralph Beckett's son of Galileo, Atlantic Convoy, looks ripe for improvement in handicap company and he is the selection in race four on the card (8.00) having taken a step in the right direction when seventh in a Sandown maiden last month and is up in trip here.

The penultimate race on Epsom's card arrives at 8.30 with a one mile and four furlong handicap in class six. A competitive heat, Our Papa Smurf should be bang up there for trainer Gary Moore off the back of a win at Goodwood on June 14, going up in trip here by three furlongs. Of his rivals, Angel On High can give the Moore runner plenty to think about with two thirds and a second in his last three outings.

Finally, the card comes to a close with the ten-runner handicap in class four for three-year-olds and upwards (9.00), with preference in the finale heading to Justcallmepete, who can cash in on his low turf mark - 10lb lower than when he races on the all-weather surface - to take the spoils in the card closer ahead of course and distance winner Marlay Park, who has won four times at Epsom in his career.

Epsom selections - Wednesday

6.20 - Giselles Defence

6.50 - Sir Peter Fossick

7.25 - Mr Wagyu

8.00 - Atlantic Convoy

8.30 - Our Papa Smurf

9.00 - Justcallmepete

Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

10,000 mile pilgrimage to Epsom

2 July 2024



John Bates, grandson of Beatrice Bates, travelled over 10,000 miles from Australia to Horton Cemetery in Epsom to pay his respects to Beatrice. His grandmother is one of 9000 buried in Europe's largest and now abandoned asylum cemetery. The **Friends of Horton Cemetery** continue to battle to retrieve this important graveyard from a property speculator. A **petition**, already signed by over 1200 supporters, calls on Epsom and Ewell Borough Council to change its damaging opinion that the Cemetery is "amenity woodland".

Here is John Bates' personal account of his May 2024 pilgrimage from Adelaide to Epsom.

In loving memory of Beatrice Miriam Bates, a woman of enduring strength and grace, whose life and legacy continue to resonate deeply within our family. Beatrice's journey came to an end in 1933 at West Park Hospital in Epsom, Surrey, leaving behind a mystery that lingered for decades. It was a personal mission of mine to uncover the truth of her final resting place, a mission that revealed not only her burial site but also a profound connection to our family's history.

Beatrice Miriam Bates was laid to rest in Horton Cemetery, a place that, despite the passage of time, faced the threat of being erased by development. Discovering her burial site through ancestry records was a pivotal moment, one that brought closure to our family and deepened our understanding of Beatrice's life. Horton Cemetery, overgrown and largely forgotten by many, stands as a testament to the lives of those who came before us, including Beatrice.

In 2024, ninety-one years after Beatrice's passing, I made a personal pilgrimage from Australia to Horton Cemetery. Walking around the overgrown grounds, I felt the weight of history and the importance of preserving this sacred space. The memorial at the entrance stands as a solitary guardian of the memories held within, a symbol of resistance against the encroaching tide of development.

The 'Friends of Horton Cemetery' have been instrumental in championing the cause to protect this site. Their dedication ensures that the stories of those buried there, including Beatrice's, are remembered and honoured. It is a cause that resonates deeply with me, as I believe in the importance of preserving Horton Cemetery for all the souls who rest there and for the relatives who seek a connection to their past.

Beatrice's story, accessible to all through the efforts of the 'Friends of Horton Cemetery,' shines a light on her resilience and spirit. Her life, though marked by challenges, is a testament to the courage and strength that define our family. Her memory serves as a beacon, guiding us to cherish our heritage and to honour the lives of those who came before us.

As we reflect on Beatrice's life, we are reminded of the importance of family, history, and the relentless pursuit of truth. Her legacy is a testament to the enduring power of love and remembrance. Through the efforts to preserve Horton Cemetery, Beatrice and all those resting there are given the respect and recognition they deserve.

In honour of Beatrice Miriam Bates, let us continue to share her story and all the stories of those buried in Horton Cemetery and protect the places that hold our collective memories. Her spirit lives on in each of us, a symbol of resilience and hope for generations to come.

Rest in peace, dear Beatrice. Your story will never be forgotten.

With all our love,

Your Grandson.... John E. M. Bates.

Beatrice Bates full story can be read on The Friends of Horton Cemetery **website** [HERE](#)

Eric Tenney

2 July 2024



Eric Tenney, passed away on 9th June 2024
in Henford Nursing Home

Cremation service takes place on 5th July 2024 11.45 at Randalls Park
Road Crematorium, Leatherhead, Surrey

27th June 2024

2 July 2024

ELECTIONS WESTMINSTER

Epsom and Ewell Parliament candidates interviewed



25 June 2024

On Monday 17th June James Hains of the Epsom and Ewell Times conducted interviews with Gina Miller (True and Fair Party), Mhairi Fraser (Conservative), Helen Maguire (Liberal Democrat), Stephen McKenna ... [READ MORE](#)

ELECTIONS WESTMINSTER

More opinions of opinion polls



25 June 2024

In the run-up to the 2024 general election, polling data for party support in Epsom and Ewell shows a fluctuating political landscape. Epsom and Ewell has returned a Conservative Party ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY SPORTS

Epsom kickboxers seek funds for world championships



25 June 2024

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25 June 2024

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ELECTIONS WESTMINSTER

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24 June 2024

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EDUCATION ELECTIONS WESTMINSTER

Taxing question for Surrey’s private schools



23 June 2024

Labour’s proposal to add VAT to private school fees has ignited a fierce debate in Surrey, home to numerous prestigious independent schools. The policy, aimed at generating £1.5 billion to ... [READ MORE](#)

MARK TODD WESTMINSTER

Mark my words for Labour candidate



23 June 2024

Epsom and Ewell Times is publishing the appeals of the Parliamentary Candidates standing in the General Election for the constituency of Epsom and Ewell. This is the appeal for Mark ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY HEALTH

First steps for mental health



22 June 2024

The National Health Service (NHS) has introduced “First Steps to Support,” a new service which is designed to help residents aged 18 and over manage their mental health. This comprehensive ... [READ MORE](#)

HELEN MAGUIRE WESTMINSTER

Lib Dems’ Helen Maguire - “Getting Things Done”



22 June 2024

Epsom and Ewell Times is publishing the appeals of the Parliamentary Candidates standing in the General Election for the constituency of Epsom and Ewell. This is the appeal from Liberal Democrat ... [READ MORE](#)

STEPHEN MCKENNA WESTMINSTER

The Green promises



20 June 2024

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ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Justice Stops Oil



20 June 2024

A Surrey campaigner is “over the moon” after a landmark legal decision found that planning permission given to drill for oil at Horse Hill is unlawful. The Supreme Court has ... [READ MORE](#)

GINA MILLER WESTMINSTER

A True and Fair view of the world



20 June 2024

Epsom and Ewell Times is publishing the appeals of the Parliamentary Candidates standing in the General Election for the constituency of Epsom and Ewell. This is the appeal from The ... [READ MORE](#)

Epsom and Ewell Parliament candidates interviewed

2 July 2024



On Monday 17th June **James Hains** of the Epsom and Ewell Times conducted interviews with Gina Miller (True and Fair Party), Mhairi Fraser (Conservative), Helen Maguire (Liberal Democrat), Stephen McKenna (Green Party) and Mark Todd (Labour). The interviews were filmed by the Creative and Media Team at **NESCOT** in Ewell. Epsom and Ewell Times extends our immense gratitude to NESCOT for their professionalism and service especially **Charlie McCarthy**.

Mayuran Senthilnathan of the Reform Party was called away at short notice and could not make the schedule.

Here are the interviews:

Epsom and Ewell Times thanks all the candidates who took part.

They are all a credit to our democracy whether you agree with them or not.

Make sure you vote on 4th July and don't forget your photo ID.

20th June 2024

2 July 2024

FEATURED

WESTMINSTER



Epsom and Ewell General Election Public Hustings

12 June 2024

Epsom and Ewell Times, in collaboration with NESCOT, will host a public hustings for local voters. Your opportunity to question Parliamentary Candidates on Wednesday 26th June at 7pm. The hustings ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

King awards Epsom's refugee resettler



20 June 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council are very pleased to share that their Community Development Manager Rachel Kundasamy has been recognised in the King's birthday honours this year. Rachel has been ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Ewell Teachers who go further awarded

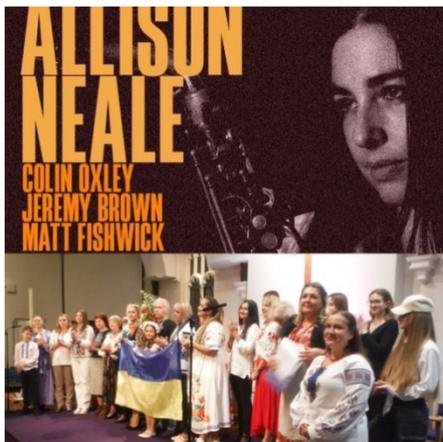


19 June 2024

The Creative Media Teaching Team at Nescot college in Ewell, Surrey, has been recognised with a Silver Award for Further Education Team of the Year in the Pearson National Teaching Awards. Now in the ... [READ MORE](#)

ARTS COMMUNITY

Two antidotes to politics coming up in Epsom



18 June 2024

Need a welcome break from election campaigning, canvassing and TV debate political bickering? In the heart of Epsom classy professional live jazz comes to the Comrades Club, The Parade Epsom ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL

King's Gongs for Surrey leaders



15 June 2024

Tim Oliver, Conservative Leader of Surrey County Council and Rachael Wardell, Executive Director of Children, Families and Lifelong Learning at Surrey County Council have both been awarded OBEs in The ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL HEALTH

Council unaware it was Mental Health Awareness Week?



15 June 2024

Former Epsom and Ewell Mayor Rob Geleit (Labour Court) has accused the Council of removing references to his schizophrenia from his final speech. Cllr Geleit argues that the action reflects ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY FAITH NATURE

Cleanliness is next to Godliness

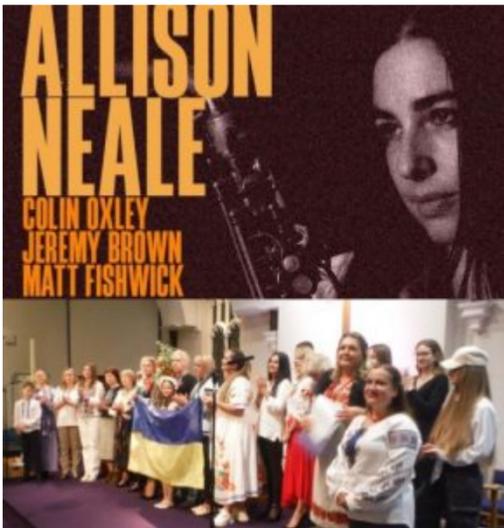


13 June 2024

On Sunday, June 9th, around 30 volunteers from ASEZ WAO UK, a local young adult volunteer group inspired by the World Mission Society Church of God in Epsom, gathered to ... [READ MORE](#)

Two antidotes to politics coming up in Epsom

2 July 2024



Need a welcome break from election campaigning, canvassing and TV debate political bickering?

In the heart of Epsom classy professional live jazz comes to the Comrades Club, The Parade Epsom on Thursday 27th June at 7.30pm. Epsom Jazz Club presents Allison Neale and an evening of West Coast jazz with Colin Oxley, Jeremy Brown and Matt Fishwick. [Click here for details](#). Flat rate ticket price of £20 buys you a comfortable seat at a cabaret table and bar. Compares with £30 for Ronnie Scotts and you don't have to commute to London.

On Saturday 29th June at the Epsom Methodist Church an evening of Ukrainian music: brass ensemble, violinist, opera singer and Ukrainian refugee choir and more. Entry is FREE. The evening opens at 6pm with a finger buffet (you may bring a plate to share) and the entertainment begins at 7pm ending about 8.30pm. Come and support professional Ukrainian musicians and enjoy first class music. Ashley Road, Epsom. Epsom Music (a charity) comes together with partner local charities The Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network and Surrey Stands With Ukraine in organising and supporting this event.

Cleanliness is next to Godliness

2 July 2024



On Sunday, June 9th, around 30 volunteers from ASEZ WAO UK, a local young adult volunteer group inspired by the World Mission Society Church of God in Epsom, gathered to clean along the stream at Longmead Road. The event, joined by Howard Gregory, Chairman of the Epsom & Ewell Tree Advisory Board, aimed to prevent plastic pollution in local waterways.

This litter pick was part of the group's Blue Ocean campaign, which strives to reduce pollution in streams, rivers, beaches, and seas. In just two hours, the volunteers collected a total of 37 bags of litter, removing mainly plastics to prevent them from entering the waterways. Passersby at Longmead Road were pleased and cheered the volunteers, expressing their gratitude.

ASEZ WAO UK conducts cleanups like this almost monthly, fostering a positive mindset and a sense of community.

The World Mission Society Church of God, located on East Street in Epsom, is a global church with over 7,500 branches and approximately 3.5 million members. The church teaches about God the Father and God the Mother through the Bible.

The group remains committed to keeping the waterways in Surrey plastic-free.

ASEZ WAO UK

13th June 2024

2 July 2024

FEATURED

NEWS WESTMINSTER



Epsom and Ewell General Election Public Hustings

8 June 2024

Epsom and Ewell Times, in collaboration with NESOCOT, will host a public hustings for local voters. Your opportunity to question Parliamentary Candidates on Wednesday 26th June at 7pm. The hustings ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL PLANNING

Miniature railway set to get bigger



12 June 2024

There will be a new train line coming to Surrey - for enthusiasts, engineers and eager families looking for a day out. The Surrey Society of Model Engineers has been ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY LOCAL HISTORY

Campaign to save Ewell Village's Glyn Hall



12 June 2024

Tucked away in the heart of Ewell Village is Glyn Hall, a not-for-profit community space providing a venue for local organisations, including those linked to the arts, music and education. ... [READ MORE](#)

EDUCATION SPORTS

Local college to drive student success



12 June 2024

From September, Nescot College in Ewell, Surrey is offering a new course on Motorsport Vehicle Maintenance and Repair with spaces still available for school leavers aged 16 - 19. An element of the course ... [READ MORE](#)

WESTMINSTER

Reform candidate for Epsom and Ewell



10 June 2024

Epsom and Ewell Times will publish the appeals of the Parliamentary Candidates standing in the General Election for the constituency of Epsom and Ewell. This is the first from Reform ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL EDUCATION NATURE

First school art works for Surrey's trees



7 June 2024

An exciting competition kicked off across Surrey on the 1st June to encourage young people to celebrate ancient trees and have their artwork featured in a new children's book, 'The Thousand ... [READ MORE](#)

ARTS CULTURE

Epsom author thinks the unthinkable



7 June 2024

Published on 28th May 2024, The Unthinkable Truth by Epsom based author Yona Bouskila is a gripping thriller that delves into the depths of the human mind and explores how ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY LOCAL HISTORY

A beacon of hope in a troubled world?



7 June 2024

6th June 2024 marked 80 years since D-Day. The massive allied military campaign that signaled the beginning of the end of Nazi tyranny in Western Europe. The Borough of Epsom ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY SPORTS

Epsom Sports Club £1 million boost



7 June 2024

Epsom Sports Club has been awarded £1 million in funding by Surrey County Council towards constructing a new clubhouse as part of the YourFundSurrey Large Community scheme. The clubhouse will ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL PLANNING

Guildford cathedral appeal dismissed



7 June 2024

Plans to build 124 new homes around Guildford Cathedral have been thrown out by an inspector as the proposal would cause a negative impact on the distinct character and history ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY HEALTH SPORTS

Gold star at the end of the Rainbow



6 June 2024

Better's Rainbow Leisure Centre in Epsom has maintained its 'Excellent' status from QUEST - the Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure. This follows a mystery visit from the organisation in ... [READ MORE](#)

Epsom and Ewell General Election Public Hustings

2 July 2024



Epsom and Ewell Times, in collaboration with NESCOL, will host a public hustings for local voters. Your opportunity to question Parliamentary Candidates on Wednesday 26th June at 7pm. The hustings will be held in the Adrian Mann Theatre, NESCOL, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom.

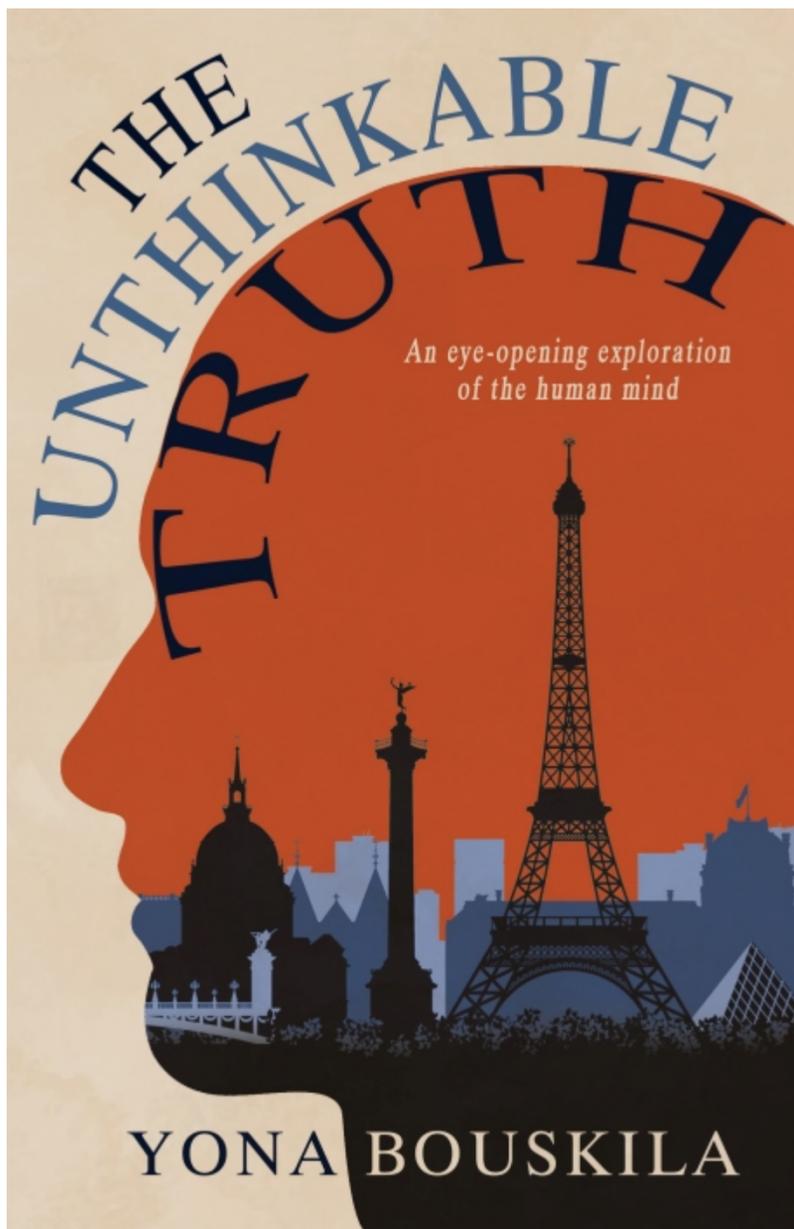
Epsom author thinks the unthinkable

2 July 2024



Published on 28th May 2024, **The Unthinkable Truth** by Epsom based author **Yona Bouskila** is a gripping thriller that delves into the depths of the human mind and explores how real and seemingly innocent scientific discoveries can spiral into global dystopia.

With the authorities set to rob people of their freedom of choice, in order to create a perfectly obedient and mindless society, *The Unthinkable Truth* questions whether free will is simply an illusion, and whether our own human nature could be the catalyst to our downfall.



Making use of his extensive background in neuroscience, the author expertly transports us into a world where a team of scientists, other experts and a characterful AI are tasked with solving the most baffling question about the human mind, creating a gripping narrative that will appeal to all.

Yona Bouskila ticks all the boxes for fans of both thrillers and intellectually stimulating reads, but most importantly, readers aren't required to know the first thing about science to enjoy his compelling and thought-provoking novel.

In the hope of distracting himself from his heartache, George Bennet, a mild-mannered professor of theoretical physics, accepts an invitation by UNESCO to join an eclectic multidisciplinary team of experts, tasked with unravelling the enigma of the human mind.

As this seemingly innocent academic investigation twists and turns, George suspects that they are being duped into aiding a sinister plan, which threatens to shatter the very foundations of society. When the unthinkable truth emerges as their final conclusion, and the plan is exposed, George and the team must be silenced. No matter the cost.

What is the unthinkable truth? Will George survive to reveal it? Only one thing is certain: humanity will never be the same.

Drawing on solid scientific research, *The Unthinkable Truth* is a compelling and intricate thriller that will make readers question their own human nature.

A scientist by training, a thinker by nature, and an author by passion, Yona Bouskila has a particular fascination with the human mind in all its aspects. This enduring passion, together with his penchant for thrillers, served as the driving force behind his novel, *The Unthinkable Truth*, which he describes as a thought-provoking thriller that culminates in an eye-opening revelation on the mind and humanity. He studied biology (with philosophy) and received a PhD in neuroscience from UCLA.

He is involved in medical research and development. Before that, he conducted brain research at several institutions in the US and Europe. He writes short stories, often with a humorous slant, and his debut novel will be published in May 2024. He lives in Epsom with his wife and pets, where he enjoys the Surrey countryside and contemplating life.

A book promotion will end on 10th June
(<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Unthinkable-Truth-Yona-Bouskila-ebook/dp/B0CW1N2JTJ>)

A beacon of hope in a troubled world?

2 July 2024



6th June 2024 marked 80 years since D-Day. The massive allied military campaign that signaled the beginning of the end of Nazi tyranny in Western Europe.

The Borough of **Epsom and Ewell** came together on Epsom Downs to celebrate this momentous day. Events organised by Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, the Epsom branch of the Royal British Legion and Epsom Bid Ltd honoured the ultimate sacrifices of a then young generation of servicemen.

About 1500 residents flocked to the Downs, enjoying fish and chips while entertained by a choir and the **Epsom and Ewell Silver Band**. The Grandstand exhibited a gallery of photographs of Epsom and Ewell in wartime. The exhibition will be transferred to Bourne Hall in Ewell in due course.

The Worshipful Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Cllr. **Steve Bridger** addressed the assembled, paying tribute to the fallen and survivors of the historic day. Just before 9.15pm the Mayor lit the great Beacon at the viewpoint car park on Grandstand Road.

Related reports:

[D-Day celebration on Epsom Downs](#)

Gold star at the end of the Rainbow

2 July 2024



Better's Rainbow Leisure Centre in Epsom has maintained its 'Excellent' status from QUEST - the Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure. This follows a mystery visit from the organisation in April plus a planned audit in May.

Rainbow's facilities include two pools - full-size and teaching - a sports hall, 100+ station gym, soft play area, spa and a

senior activity room.

The centre has approximately 70 members of staff (full and part-time) and around 3,000 members who are mainly families or adults over the age of 66.

QUEST's report commented on the centre's excellent, well-maintained facilities and its extremely warm, friendly and welcoming staff. Emily Simmons, General Manager, comments, "I am immensely proud of the centre and our team. Achieving QUEST Excellent status is no easy task and staff consistently work hard to maintain the high standards they set themselves.

"QUEST is a fantastic tool for evaluating best practice and customer service levels. It sets the standard for leisure centre management and sports development, taking into account programming, facilities, management policies and procedures, staff training and development, and environmental impact. This award means both customers and staff are getting the highest level of service, care and support."

Better's Head of Service in the area Steve Hannen adds, "A huge well done! It's a great achievement for Rainbow to maintain Excellent status. This is not an easy thing to do and the entire centre team should be proud."

Rainbow Leisure Centre is managed by charitable social enterprise GLL under the 'Better' brand. Supporting the wellbeing of local communities is an important part of the organisation's ethos.

GLL press

6th June 2024

2 July 2024

EDUCATION HORSE RACING SPORTS

Student racemakers favourites at the Derby



5 June 2024

Ewell based Nescot (North East Surrey College of Technology) were proud to be part of this year's Epsom Derby Festival. Our Travel and Tourism students were once again 'Racemakers' and ... [READ MORE](#)

LOCAL HISTORY

Epsom's gypsies celebrated this month



5 June 2024

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) History Month is a chance for everyone to celebrate the rich and unique histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people across Surrey. This year's theme ... [READ MORE](#)

WESTMINSTER

Surrey seats to watch in the election



4 June 2024

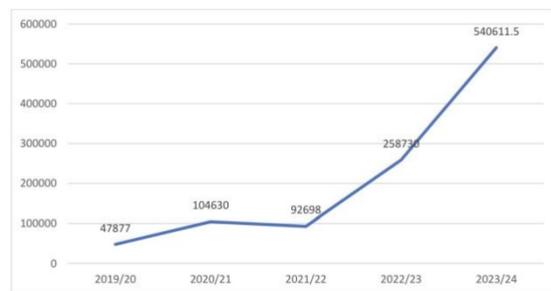
The BBC's Local Democracy reporter Chris Caulfield analyses prospects for Conservative candidates in some Surrey constituencies: There is a chance of a seismic shift in the Surrey political landscape at ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL EDUCATION FINANCES

Failing children costs Council taxpayers half-million

42. During 2023/24 the total amount paid in financial remedies was £540,611.59.

Figure 4: Financial Redress payments year-on-year



3 June 2024

Fines paid out by Surrey County Council for repeatedly failing children and young people topped half a million pounds in the past year - more than doubling its previous worst ... [READ MORE](#)

HORSE RACING NEWS SPORTS

Computer's gift of a Trojan Horse?



2 June 2024

The computer won the Derby! On the eve of yesterday's famous Epsom flat race Epsom and Ewell Times published winner tips Los Angeles from Royal Ascot Odds and first to ... [READ MORE](#)

HORSE RACING SPORTS

Human versus computer tips for Derby winner



31 May 2024

One of the biggest Flat races of the season arrives at Epsom Downs on Saturday afternoon as the £1.5 million Epsom Derby takes centre stage in the sporting world. The ... [READ MORE](#)

CRIME POLICING

Bearing the balls of Derby week in Langley Vale



31 May 2024

Residents of Langley Vale, an estate adjacent to the renowned Epsom Racecourse, have expressed growing frustration and concern over repeated incidents of anti-social behavior and vandalism coinciding with the annual ... [READ MORE](#)

NEWS WESTMINSTER

BBC Question Time Came to Epsom



31 May 2024

Last night, Epsom College played host to BBC's Question Time, with Fiona Bruce at the helm. She opened the programme by highlighting Epsom's famed salts and rich horse racing heritage. ... [READ MORE](#)

HORSE RACING SPORTS

Top Tips for Oaks Day at Epsom Racecourse



31 May 2024

One of the biggest Flat race meetings of the British racing calendar is upon us as day one of the Derby meeting gets underway at Epsom Downs today. The seven-race ... [READ MORE](#)

ARTS CULTURE

Picture this house in the centre of Epsom!



30 May 2024

After much anticipation, Epsom Picturehouse — a six-screen cinema, café, and bar at the heart of Epsom Square — will be opening its doors on Saturday 01 June. The latest ... [READ MORE](#)

Epsom's gypsies celebrated this month

2 July 2024



Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) History Month is a chance for everyone to celebrate the rich and unique histories of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people across **Surrey**. This year's theme is 'What does family mean to you?' and encourages everyone to think about the importance of family. With the diverse cultures of nomadic and travelling communities, family is the bond which ties everything together. The community has an amazing oral history tradition of sharing stories of ancestors and cultural traditions that garner a sense of pride in Romani heritage.

You can find out more about this year's campaign and download a fantastic GRT history timeline on their website.

Did you know that Romany Gypsies have been present in Britain since at least 1515 after migrating from Europe during the Roma migration from India? The first mention of the GRT community in Surrey dates back to 1596 and can be found in the papers of the More family of Loseley.

Surrey Heritage has celebrated GRT History Month for many years now and supports the work of the Surrey Gypsy Traveller Communities Forum with their events such as Romany Day at the Rural Living Museum, Tilford. The Forum has deposited records relating to their community and the work that they do to the archive here, including poetry, newsletter, videos and publicity material (SHC reference 10379)

Text and image courtesy Surrey History Centre. See more local history news [HERE](#).

Related reports:

[Daughter of Lord Rosebery who helped Derby Gypsies](#)

Image: Photograph of Gypsies leaving **Lady Sybil Grant's site at Epsom**, early 20th century (SHC reference 6035/1/18)

Human versus computer tips for Derby winner

2 July 2024



One of the biggest Flat races of the season arrives at Epsom Downs on Saturday afternoon as the £1.5 million Epsom Derby takes centre stage in the sporting world.

The Group 1 contest, open to three-year-old horses only, is run over the 1m4f distance at the track, and in 2024, 16 runners have been declared for the showpiece race to battle it out for the £882,408 top prize at 4:30 on Saturday.

Many eyes will be focused on City Of Troy, trained by Ballydoyle maestro Aidan O'Brien, who looked like a world-class prospect as a two-year-old before being well-beaten at odds-on in the 2000 Guineas to start his three-year-old campaign. O'Brien won this race last year with Auguste Rodin, who also flopped in the Guineas before bouncing back, but City of Troy hasn't got the best stall draw from stall number one, which has seen his odds drift slightly.

Another O'Brien runner, **Los Angeles**, could be the play in the Derby. A winner of the Group 1 Criterium de Saint-Cloud back in October, he backed that up with a win in the Derby Trial at Leopardstown on May 12 and will relish the step up in trip at Epsom.

Away from the Irish challengers, Macduff for trainer Ralph Beckett is expected to be in contention. Fourth in the Royal Lodge on his final start as a two-year-old, he returned at three with a decent second to Arabian Crown in the Sandown Classic Trial and is another who will enjoy the further trip.

Trainer Andrew Balding is no stranger to having big-priced runners go well in this race and he has an outside chance with Sayedaty Sadaty, runner-up in Listed races at Newcastle and Newmarket this session but could well take a giant leap forward here. Sea The Stars won the Derby in 2009 and Bellum Justum, one of his offspring, could pose a real threat for Balding, with top-jockey Oisin Murphy on board.

Before the big one, however, there is no shortage of action elsewhere on the Epsom card with another seven races on offer, kicking off at 1:25 with a Class 2 handicap over the 1m2f trip. Balding could get the card off to a perfect start for him with Portsmouth, scoring in fine style at Epsom in the season opener last month and backed it up with a runner-up finish at Goodwood.

Nine runners will take on the Group 3 Princess Elizabeth Stakes, race two on the Epsom card, at 2:00. Preference is for Dahlia Stakes runner-up Running Lion, who is down in class and she should take plenty of beating. The progressive Sparks Fly, who excelled as a three-year-old, rates as the main danger, very much up in class but wasn't disgraced in handicap company at Haydock on seasonal return.

The third race on the card (2:35) is the Group 3 Diomed Stakes. Of the eight runners tackling the extended mile distance, Embesto for trainer Roger Varian is taken to get the better of last year's winner Regal Reality, who is back for more this weekend and also cannot be ruled out having placed in both starts this year.

The lead-up to the Derby cranks up with the five-furlong "Dash" at 3:10 for three-year-olds, and a whopping field of 20 will head to the start. Due For Luck is back on track this season having finished a neck third at Chester last time out to rediscover some form. Another who can bounce back is Vince L'Amour, a winner of a pair of handicaps at Ripon and Catterick last month and was a strong second when up in grade at Chester but bombed out last time around at York. Grandlad and Knicks, both winners last time out, are also ones to keep an eye on in a very competitive Dash.

Clarendon House should be too strong for his rivals in the second "Dash" on the card at 3:45, a winner at York just over a fortnight ago from the re-opposing Looking For Lynda. Sylkie Wilie rates the chief threat, however, handily weighted for this one having not won in 14 outings but was runner-up in this race last year and arrives off the back of a fifth of 15 in a Musselburgh handicap.

The Derby takes all the attention at 4:30 before two further races wrap up the Derby meeting for 2024. It's tough to look past Ziggy in the Class 2 handicap (5:15), who returned from 15 months off with a second at Epsom's season opener. In the finale (5:50), the selection is for Mr Wagyu, who is taken to kick on with his superb record in this race having won it in 2022 and was third last year.

Epsom selections - Saturday from Royal Ascot Odds

1:25 - Portsmouth
2:00 - Running Lion
2:35 - Embesto
3:10 - Vince L'Amour
3:45 - Clarendon House
4:30 - **Los Angeles**
5:15 - Ziggy
5:50 - Mr Wagyu

SuperComputer Predictions

City of Troy has been given a staggering 29.9% chance of winning the 2024 Epsom Derby on Saturday, according to the Best Payout Online Slots SuperComputer.

The SuperComputer is created by generating a specific code, which simulates the race 1,000 times, after being fed information relating to factors such as conditions, weight, jockey, trainer, and form, as well as betting market odds.

With the going officially declared as Good to Soft for the big day itself, the Aidan O'Brien-trained City of Troy has emerged as the huge favorite for the race, with a win percentage chance of 29.9%.

In second place is Ancient Wisdom at 11.8% and then Dancing Gemini at 10.2%. However, the chances of Ambiente Friendly also making a late surge for top spot are just 10.1% as well.

A spokesperson for Best Payout Online Slots said:

"Sports fans have throughout history relied on their 'gut feeling' or 'instinct' to make predictions for a season, which can certainly be blighted by personal preferences or bias. However, the Best Payout Online Slots SuperComputer aims to remove the sentiment and emotions of predictions and instead replace these inexact methods with logical and intelligent predictions relying on data. By creating the code, we can simulate the race and create as accurate a model as possible - leading to the final matrix of positions we see above."

How does the SuperComputer work?

The SuperComputer is a probability model, not determined by human predictions or bias. What happens is the SuperComputer estimates the outcome of the race based on a horse's current strength (based on factors such as conditions, weight, jockey, trainer, and form) and betting market odds.

The machine then simulates the remaining games in a season 1,000 times and constructs an average league table from the 1,000 simulations, to rule out anomalous results.