



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 card has more than £1million in prize money up for grabs as the big gun trainers send their stars to Surrey for one of the most prestigious race days of the season.

The £550,000 Group 1 Betfred Oaks is the highlight on day one but not far behind that is the another Group 1, the Coronation Cup, with a prize pot of £445,000 up for grabs.

The Epsom card on Friday gets underway with the Woodcote Stakes (2.00), a six-furlong contest in class two for the two-year-old's. New Charter looked a handy type for trainer Richard Hannon when chasing home a current Royal Ascot favourite at Newmarket a fortnight ago and is taken to go one better at Epsom, but will face stern competition from Teej A, who won her maiden at Chester in fine fashion and will be bang up there once again.

The second race of the day is off at 2.35 and is a class two handicap over the extended mile trip, with 16 runners set to head to the starting stalls. Preference in this one goes Bopedro ahead of stablemate at David O'Meara's yard Blue For You, who finished third and fourth respectively in a handicap at York's Dante meeting earlier this month and both should improve at Epsom.

The first Group 1 on the card is race three at 3.10 - the Coronation Cup - and a small field of five will battle it out for the £252,360 first prize. Defending champion Emily Upjohn, trained by John and Thady Gosden, is back for more in 2024 and is the one to beat over the 1m4f trip once again. Luxembourg, a four-time Group 1 winner for master trainer Aidan O'Brien, rates as the obvious danger but needs to bounce back from a poor showing in the Dubai Turf at Meydan last time out. Feed The Flame is an intriguing runner in this one as well, heading over from France for trainer Pascal Bary having finished third of nine in the Prix Gany at Longchamps and connections opting to throw him into a Group 1 on British debut.

Fourteen runners look set for the start in race four of the cracking Epsom card on Friday at 3.45 - the Nifty 50 handicap - over the 1m2f distance. Ben Brookhouse's I Still Have Faith shaped well on seasonal reappearance at Nottingham after a fine 2023 campaign and is taken to score a fifth career win ahead of two Karl Burke runners in Bolster in Liberty Lane, who both won last time they were on track and will have plenty to say in proceedings.

The Group 1 Betfred Oaks is the feature race on day one at Epsom (4.30) and this year's renewal looks a belter, with £311,905 heading the way of the winner. That could well be Ylang Ylang for trainer O'Brien, who was a promising fifth in the first classic of the season in the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket and should relish the step up in trip here for a yard looking for a seventh win in the race since 2015.

Cheshire Oaks winner Forest Fairy looks to be a main player in the Oaks for trainer Ralph Beckett, who is no stranger to success in this race having won it with Look Here in 2008 and Talent in 2013, while Irish trainer Dermot Weld also has a live chance with Ezeliya, who has two wins from three starts and recently scored in a Group 3 at Navan.

After the big one, there are two more races on the Epsom card for punters to find a winner. The Listed Surrey Stakes (5.10) can go the way of Balmacara, trained by Eve Johnson-Houghton, who was a ready winner at Doncaster just over a month ago in a novice stakes contest.

Finally, the day one card comes to a close at 5.40 with the 12-runner class two handicap over the seven furlong trip and preference in the finale goes to the Roger Varian-trained Mission To Moon, who returned from a seven-month absence to score in fine style at Goodwood a month ago and is bred from a family who gets better with age.

*Epsom selections - Friday (via **Royal Ascot odds**)*

2.00 - New Charter

2.35 - Bopedro

3.10 - Emily Upjohn

3.45 - I Still Have Faith

4.30 - Forest Fairy

5.10 - Balmacara

5.40 - Mission To Moon

Copy provided by BoyleSports

Picture this house in the centre of Epsom!

31 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 addition to the Picturehouse Cinemas family, Epsom Picturehouse is set to encompass all the best that the world of film has to offer. Tickets are on sale now for *Furiosa*, George Miller’s epic *Mad Max* prequel starring Chris Hemsworth and Anya Taylor-Joy, and film lovers will be able to book soon for new releases including the horror thriller *A Quiet Place: Day One* and Marvel Studios’ *Deadpool & Wolverine*.

There’ll also be chances to catch this year’s wonderful family titles, *Inside Out 2* and *Despicable Me 4* - and don’t forget to ask for the discounted Family Ticket! Film fans can also catch up with a wide range of classic movies from directors such as the Coen Brothers and Stanley Kubrick - perfect to revisit on the big screen.

The fun doesn’t stop there: we’re pleased to announce our Summer Outdoor Cinema season. Enjoy alfresco cinema under the stars as our pop-up screen comes to Bourne Hall in Ewell from Friday 05 July. Bring a blanket for the perfect way to spend a summer evening, with crowd-pleasers like *Mamma Mia*, *Twilight*, and *Back to the Future*!

Find out more at: picturehouses.com/epsom

Clare Binns, Managing Director of Picturehouse Cinemas, says: “We’re thrilled to be opening the doors and welcoming the people of Epsom into Picturehouse’s 28th cinema - at long last! Our cinemas are shaped by their communities, and with six screens, a bar and a restaurant, this beautiful new venue will be a perfect space for bringing people together to relax, enjoy delicious food and drink, and soak up all the magic of the big screen.”

Book a private screening to give your clients, colleagues, or employees a big-screen experience that blows them away, or enjoy a night of gaming in our specially-created event screen.

As part of our nod to local history, we’ve even dedicated one of our screens to Epsom’s first-ever cinema, The Electric Theatre, which opened its doors to the neighbourhood’s cinema lovers in 1910. We’re proud to continue its legacy by honouring this jewel in the community, where people queued up for hours for silent films, newsreels, and live piano accompaniment.

Epsom Picturehouse Founder Membership is on sale now. The first 1000 customers who purchase an annual Membership for the new cinema will get their names installed in the building, on a specially commissioned Founder Members’ Wall. The Memberships will also include an additional 2 free tickets to use when the cinema opens its doors. Learn more and sign up at picturehouses.com/epsom-membership.

About Picturehouse Cinemas:

Picturehouse is an award-winning UK film company incorporating cinema, distribution and home entertainment, formed in 1989 to challenge the multiplex model. Its flagship cinema Picturehouse Central is situated in the heart of London’s West End, with the rest of its 28 venues located across England and Scotland.

Picturehouse’s architecturally unique cinemas sit in the heart of local neighbourhoods and cater to a diverse and wide-ranging audience. They provide bespoke food and drink offerings across their cafés, bars, restaurants and members’ bars. The programme is curated to champion films made for all ages and backgrounds, from quality mainstream film through to foreign-language and documentary features, as well as live event cinema and in-person events and Q&As when available.

Follow the latest news on Ealing Picturehouse on social media:

Twitter: @Epsom_PH

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Picture House press release.

30th May 2024

31 May 2024

COUNCIL HOUSING PLANNING

A Surrey council resists green-belt housing



30 May 2024

A contentious plan to build dozens of affordable homes in Surrey was rejected by councillors who prioritized protecting greenbelt land over addressing the area's housing shortage. Developers had wanted to ... [READ MORE](#)

HORSE RACING LOCAL HISTORY SPORTS

Should the Epsom Derby go back to Wednesday?



28 May 2024

The first Wednesday of June used to be for many an unofficial bank holiday. Office, retail and factory staff parties filled Epsom Downs enjoying a day off and the annual ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY LOCAL HISTORY

D-Day celebration on Epsom Downs



28 May 2024

A special event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings is taking place on Epsom Downs on Thursday 6 June, 7-9.30pm. The event is being jointly run by Epsom ... [READ MORE](#)

ARTS HORSE RACING SPORTS

Epsom Derby week read?



28 May 2024

A tale of triumph and tragedy, dreams and disasters aptly describes the life of Bernard Dillon, as detailed in a new book by Stephen Fernane. This captivating biography delves into ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL

Building bridges across the Borough



26 May 2024

Epsom and Ewell Times welcomes the third Mayor to be appointed since we started. For the year 2024/2025 Councillor

Steve Bridger (RA Stamford Ward) has the honour and burden of ... [READ MORE](#)

NEWS WESTMINSTER

6 out of 11 Conservative MPs leaving Surrey



25 May 2024

Michael Gove MP for Surrey Heath has brought the total Conservative MP retirees in Surrey to SIX out of the ELEVEN all present Conservative held Surrey constituencies. On 5th February ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL PLANNING

Every dog must have their day care centre



24 May 2024

A dog day care centre 'vital for the community' has been approved for retrospective planning permission despite officers recommending it for refusal. The application was judged by officers as inappropriate ... [READ MORE](#)

CHRIS GRAYLING NEWS WESTMINSTER

Grayling bids farewell....



24 May 2024

With the date of the General Election confirmed to be the 4th of July 2024 Epsom and Ewell's Member of Parliament since 7th June 2001, Chris Grayling, who is not ... [READ MORE](#)

Grayling bids farewell....

31 May 2024



With the date of the General Election confirmed to be the 4th of July 2024 Epsom and Ewell's Member of Parliament since 7th June 2001, **Chris Grayling**, who is not standing for Parliament this time, writes to his constituents.

Dear constituent

As you will know, the Prime Minister has called a general election for 4th July. All Parliamentary activity is now ceasing and there will be no new debates or Parliamentary motions before the election.

I am not standing for re-election and so cease to be an MP when Parliament is dissolved on 29th May. I will, though, remain responsible for urgent constituency case work in Epsom and Ewell until polling day and until my successor is elected.

As the campaign has now started, I will no longer be responding to emails about party or policy issues. However if you have an urgent personal problem which requires my help during the campaign period, please feel free to raise it with me at chris.grayling.mp@parliament.uk, which will remain operational until polling day.

Once Parliament has been dissolved my constituency data records will be destroyed, as is required legally. If you contact me for help with an urgent matter please let me know at the same time if you are happy for your issue and data to be passed on to my successor if the your case is still outstanding at the time of the election.

It has been a great honour to represent this constituency, and I send my good wishes to everyone locally for the future.

With best wishes

Chris Grayling

23rd May 2024

31 May 2024

WESTMINSTER

Out of the starting gates in Epsom and Ewell's political Derby



22 May 2024

Today British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced a General Election will take place on July 4th. Helen Maguire PPC for the Liberal Democrats said: "Hard-working families in Epsom, Ewell, Ashted, ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL HOUSING PLANNING

Doubtful Henry VIII would have permitted



22 May 2024

The decades-long planning battle to build almost 100 homes and a hotel opposite Hampton Court Palace will soon be decided with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport set to ... [READ MORE](#)

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Not loving it in Cobham

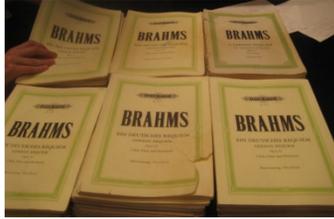


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A proposed new McDonald's is "the last thing Surrey needs"; that's according to residents living near the proposed site. The fast-food giant has published plans to takeover the former Loch ... [READ MORE](#)

ARTS CULTURE

How amiable are thy tabernacles ?



22 May 2024

Jane Pickles reviews Saturday May 18th's Ashted Choral Society concert at St Martin's Epsom. If you live in north Surrey, you are lucky to have such a busy and vibrant ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL FINANCES

Banded together to fight the band

Band	2023/24	Increase	2024/25
A	£1,490	£70	£1,560
B	£1,739	£81	£1,820
C	£1,987	£92	£2,079
D	£2,235	£104	£2,339
E	£2,732	£127	£2,859
F	£3,229	£150	£3,379
G	£3,726	£173	£3,899
H	£4,471	£208	£4,679

21 May 2024

A decades-long council tax battle has been won netting residents of a retirement village up to £9,000 each after it was ruled all 113 people there had been in the ... [READ MORE](#)

NEWS

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21 May 2024

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BUSINESS COUNCIL

Surrey Business Support Service



20 May 2024

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GINA MILLER WESTMINSTER

Candidate seeks health and happiness for all



20 May 2024

A healthy population is the foundation stone of a prospering economy, writes Gina Miller. Amidst economic and social turbulence, politicians tend to fall back on 'growth' as the route to salvation. ... [READ MORE](#)

LOCAL HISTORY

Surrey's corpse railway and death in Victorian times



18 May 2024

The Victorians treated death very differently to people today and would photograph their deceased alongside living members of their family, take locks of hair from the departed and seal it ... [READ MORE](#)

ARTS CULTURE

Spanish fiesta came to Epsom



17 May 2024

Epsom Symphony Orchestra - Epsom Playhouse - 4th May - Review by Sarah Haines. What an uplifting and colourful music evening put on by Epsom Symphony Orchestra. Their May concert ... [READ MORE](#)

ARTS EDUCATION

Surrey Arts appointed to lead Surrey Music Hub



17 May 2024

Surrey Arts, part of Surrey County Council has been appointed by Arts Council England to lead the Surrey Music Hub from September 2024, as part of an ambitious national programme ... [READ MORE](#)

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Cyclist death prompts A217 review



17 May 2024

The death of a "fit and active" cyclist has prompted a coroner to raise concerns over paths near a main road in Tadworth. A man named John Bass died after falling ... [READ MORE](#)

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Non-political and all-political

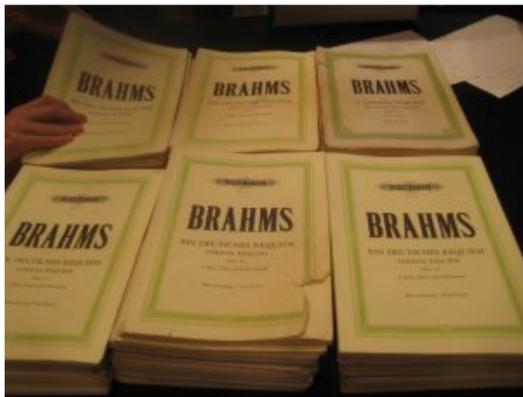


16 May 2024

Dear Editor, It is good to see that, despite stepping down as a Borough Councillor, Vince Romagnuolo has lost none of his enthusiasm for historically partisan approach to local politics. ... [READ MORE](#)

How amiable are thy tabernacles ?

31 May 2024



Jane Pickles reviews Saturday May 18th's Ashtead Choral Society concert at St Martin's Epsom.

If you live in north Surrey, you are lucky to have such a busy and vibrant music scene with so many concerts given by so many different groups at so many different venues.

Quantity is one thing but Ashtead Choral Society's Brahms concert on 18 May in Epsom highlighted the sheer quality and professionalism we also have available locally. Kent Sinfonia set the tone for an emotional evening with Brahms Tragic Overture. From Dr Andrew Storey's first down beat we knew that the orchestra was as one in committing to Brahms' journey of light and dark. Being a church St Martin's does not have great sight lines for all seats, but the monitors allow the audience to observe up close what is going on, and it felt like Storey was able to give Kent Sinfonia space to play stepping in to only to encourage and finesse at key moments.

That brought us to Brahms' German Requiem. We knew Kent Sinfonia were up for a night of high emotion, and the choir were not to be outdone with their first haunting 'Selig sind' (blessed are they) which developed into two wonderfully evocative movements delivered by choir and orchestra. The well-known second movement - 'Denn alles Fleisch ist wie Gras' (All flesh is a grass) - was delivered with purpose building to promised 'joy and gladness'. Talking of quality, it was good to see the baritone, Daniel Tate, and soprano, Eleanor Pennell-Briggs back in Epsom for this event. Tate's appearance saw him work his intonation, 'Lord, make me to know mine end', building with the orchestra and choir to a long, glorious final fugue from Storey into which players and singers flung themselves.

After a welcome glass of wine, the choir eased us back into Brahms' journey with the motet-like 'How amiable are thy tabernacles' before Pennell-Briggs gave us the comfort promised by the fifth movement with mesmerizing tenderness and simplicity. Tate's return portended more drama, and the choir did not disappoint with cries of 'death where is thy sting?' from which Storey set up a triumphant 'Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power.' This might have been a fine hopeful and triumphant end to the work, but Brahms gives us a final seventh movement ending as he starts with a reprise of the tender 'selig sind' motif from which Storey eased us to final 'rest from our labours' as Brahms' epic melted into peace.

ACS is commemorating Remembrance Day in Epsom on 9 November and I have no doubt their assembled forces will provide another great evening of quality music with their programme of Hadyn's Nelson Mass and Faure's Requiem.

Jane Pickles

Related reports:

[Ashtead Choral Society give a lesson in three Rs](#)

[Ashtead Choral Society celebrated Surrey's Vaughan Williams.](#)

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Spanish fiesta came to Epsom

31 May 2024



Epsom Symphony Orchestra - Epsom Playhouse - 4th May - Review by Sarah Haines.

What an uplifting and colourful music evening put on by Epsom Symphony Orchestra. Their May concert at Epsom Playhouse was a rich and colourful Spanish Fiesta overseen by Musical Director and Conductor Darrell Davison.

A wonderful start to summer with its promise of outdoor living. Our party had pre performance tapas and spirits which nicely set the stage for what was to come. Chabrier's Espana captured the Spanish way of life in music. Full of character, and contrasting themes including parts that were really powerful and tempestuous. Elsewhere light and springy with happy harp playing. Ending in fantastic fanfare.

Turina's Procession of the Lady of the Dew was a charming little piece: a fantastic soundtrack to a fiesta in Seville. We listened to music from a procession - sedate and respectful; building to a joyful and jubilant end: trumpets playing the Spanish national anthem - this one really was like a film score overture.

Richard Scholfield then treated us to two wonderful pieces playing the solo saxophone (supported by the Orchestra). The first was Ravel's Pavane (arranged by Darrell Davison) - a slow Spanish dance. This was superb playing - soulful and light, a silken sound, romantic, demonstrating the repertoire of the saxophone.

The second was Borne's marvellous Fantaisie Brillante on Themes from Bizet's Carmen - a demanding soloist piece played beautifully and with flair - it was phenomenal, at times racy, playful, a powerful Tango, rapid scales with wonderful percussion joining at the end. At points it was like listening to a horse race.

The second half began with de Falla's Three Cornered Hat Suite 2. This piece depicted melodies from cafes, bars and street musicians. A throbbing intensity from the cellos and double basses interspersed with movements of lightness from the violins and violas and augmented by colourful music from the brass and woodwind. This really caught the essence of Spanish life.

Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccio Espagnole was joyful piece: containing two morning songs, a gypsy song and a Fandango (animated Spanish dance). So many wonderful solo parts throughout the orchestra as they played this colourful piece.

The concert ended with the unforgettable Ravel's Bolero - an extremely popular piece. The familiar tune gradually built and built as more members of the orchestra came in. Two snare drummers stood like sentinels either side of the stage, reminiscent of Torvill & Dean's legendary gold winning ice-skating performance at the Sarajevo 1984 winter Olympics.

Sarah Haines

Non-political and all-political

31 May 2024



Dear Editor,

It is good to see that, despite stepping down as a Borough Councillor, Vince Romagnuolo has lost none of his enthusiasm for historically partisan approach to local politics. Labelling Resident Association councillors closet Conservatives is nothing new. Vince and the Labour Party have never understood the concept of local volunteers whose national voting patterns are often diverse, but who come together in a non-ideological commitment to promote a shared view of localism, civic duty and what is right for all residents in Epsom and Ewell.

If only Vince knew the real national preferences of RA councillors, he might be surprised. Although I never discussed national political allegiances with my RA colleagues, it is sometimes not difficult to know them. There were and are councillors who nationally support the Labour Party, and at least one RA Councillor who was a Labour Party Councillor in another local authority.

So come on Vince, by all means criticise Residents Association councillors if you disapprove of their policies, but please don't use labels and unfounded accusations of national party-political bias to explain the clear voting preferences of residents, the long absence of Conservative councillors, and the actions of Epsom and Ewell MPs over the last 87 years.

With all good wishes

County Councillor Eber Kington

Residents Association Ewell Court, Auriol and Cuddington

[Ed: A right of reply was warranted but we now draw this particular debate to a close on our pages.]

16th May 2024

31 May 2024

COUNCIL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Epsom and Ewell's new Mayor



16 May 2024

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has appointed Councillor Steve Bridger (RA Stamford) as the new Mayor for the year 24/25. In a ceremonial meeting Tuesday 14th May, speeches were made to propose the ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION FINANCES

Annual audit of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council



16 May 2024

The annual Grant Thornton Auditor's Report on the workings of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has delivered a positive assessment of its performance across financial sustainability, governance, and value for money, ... [READ MORE](#)

FOOTBALL SPORTS

Leatherhead Women top their league



15 May 2024

Leatherhead Women's FC finished the season on a high, winning the league without losing a single game. The team finished with a record of 15 wins, one draw and not ... [READ MORE](#)

RUGBY SPORTS

A cloud followed by silver for Old Glynionians



15 May 2024

Old Glynionians are the new holders of the Papa Johns Community Cup Counties 3 South Shield, having overcome Cranleigh in a thrilling 22-21 victory on Sunday 12th May. After an ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Redrawing Surrey's political map - literally



15 May 2024

Major boundary changes could see some Surrey residents change wards for the next local elections in a redrawing of the political map of the county. Council wards in Surrey are to ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL ELECTIONS LETTERS



Up to 2003 MPs happy no Conservatives on Epsom and Ewell Council

12 May 2024

Dear Editor, I note with interest the letter from Mr Kington "Epsom and Ewell was the first Conservative free Council" outlining the dire electoral fortunes of the Conservative Party in Epsom & ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FINANCES

County Councillor Community funding



12 May 2024

Surrey residents can now apply for cash grants to improve their local area through the Your Councillor Community Fund. Last year the Fund supported over 380 community projects via Surrey County Councillors, totalling £404,330. ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL ELECTIONS LETTERS

Green view of Mole Valley elections



12 May 2024

Dear Editor, In Mole Valley national issues probably mostly impacted the main parties who lost support. However these local election results will be of little significance in the forthcoming General ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL ELECTIONS LETTERS

Epsom and Ewell was the first Conservative free Council



12 May 2024

Dear Editor, I refer to your article on the May local elections headed "First Surrey Borough with no Conservative Councillors" and which includes the comment that "The result makes it ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL FINANCES

Spelthorne in financial trouble



10 May 2024

Inspectors have been sent to Spelthorne Borough Council as concern grows over its ability to deal with its extreme debt and borrowing. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities ... [READ MORE](#)

ELECTIONS NEWS WESTMINSTER

Two horse race coming to Epsom?



10 May 2024

The Liberal Democrats continue to tighten their grip on Epsom & Ewell's southern flank in Mole Valley, as the Party cements its position in Leatherhead. With two out of three ... [READ MORE](#)

EDUCATION FOOTBALL SPORTS

Inclusive sportsmanship in Worcester Park



10 May 2024

The annual Linden Bridge Football Festival kicked off with a vibrant display of teamwork, camaraderie, and sheer determination. Organized by Linden Bridge School, Worcester Park, and led by enthusiastic pupils, ... [READ MORE](#)

HEALTH NEWS

Bed pressures rushing doctors



9 May 2024

Pressure to free up hospital beds can “rush” clinicians to make under-informed decisions and discharge plans, a coroner has found. A man who tragically died from hypothermia and chronic alcoholism ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL SPORTS

Making a racket for new padel centre



9 May 2024

Leatherhead could soon host international competition after Surrey’s first indoor padel centre was approved. Padel is a racket sport of Mexican origin, typically played in doubles, and is like a mix ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL CRIME FINANCES

Little solace for Guildford from fraud report



9 May 2024

Weak governance and poor scrutiny at Guildford Borough Council created a ‘quick fix culture’ that allowed potentially millions of pounds to be defrauded from the public purse while vulnerable housing ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NATURE

County lines of trees



9 May 2024

Surrey County Council has worked with residents and community groups to plant over 36,000 new trees across the county. The council remains on track to plant 1.2 million trees by ... [READ MORE](#)

Leatherhead Women top their league

31 May 2024



Leatherhead Women’s FC finished the season on a high, winning the league without losing a single game. The team finished with a record of 15 wins, one draw and not a single loss in the league securing promotion into the Premier Division.

Specsavers have championed the team since its introduction into senior women’s football, with new kits and banners and continued support from the team of opticians and audiologists.

The team plays every home game in Fetcham Grove where you will be able to see the new kits in action.

Specsavers retail director, **Mihaela Ovadiuc** said: “At Leatherhead, we strive to be a shining light within our local community, whether that be directly or indirectly. Supporting Leatherhead Women’s has been such an honour, and we are all over the moon that we are extending the sponsorship. The club aligns with our commitment to promoting healthy and active living and takes pleasure in offering a secure environment for the local community.”

A cloud followed by silver for Old Glynionians

31 May 2024



Old Glynionians are the new holders of the Papa Johns Community Cup Counties 3 South Shield, having overcome Cranleigh in a thrilling 22-21 victory on Sunday 12th May.

After an emotional minute’s silence was held in honour of former Old Glynionians player **Ben Rollinson**, who sadly died aged just 42 last Friday, Glyn started with a fire in their belly and scored two early tries to take a 10-0 lead within the first 20 minutes, but the next 60 minutes would not be as straightforward.

Cranleigh responded with two converted scores to lead 10-14 and appeared to be heading towards half-time full of confidence, but OGs captain Tim Laughton-Scott crashed over the whitewash in the last play of the half to restore the Epsom & Ewell-based side’s lead.

With temperatures rising to an annual peak of 25c down at Shaftesbury Park in Bristol, home of the Bristol Bears Women, and just a point separating the teams at 15-14, everything was set for an exhausting second 40.

Five minutes into the second half, Man of the Match Michael Hume showed speed, power and calm to break through the Cranleigh defence and juggle a back-and-fourth pass with his fellow centre before dotting down to extend Old Glynionians’ lead. The try was converted by fly-half Sam Smith to make the score 22-14.

And that kick that would prove the difference between glory and gut-wrenching defeat, as 35 minutes of gruelling Glyn defence was finally broken by Cranleigh who got over the line to make it 22-21. But as the Crane’s conversion sailed through the sticks, the full-time whistle was blown. The match would end 22-21 in favour of the Old Glynionians.

The 2024 Papa Johns Community Cup Counties 3 South Shield now sits alongside three Surrey Bowls (2008, ’09, ’12) in the Old Glynionians trophy cabinet.

James McFarlane, Chairman of Old Glynionians RFC, said: “Firstly, huge credit has to go to Cranleigh. They have given us one of the hardest-fought games I can ever remember. The one-point winning margin is a fair representation of how tight the game was and how well-matched the sides were, so they should also be proud of their performance.

“Winning this competition is hugely satisfying. There are so many people that have been mucking in both on and off the pitch for so many years, and now it all feels worth it.”

Tim Laughton-Scott, Captain of Old Glynionians RFC, said: “We really had to dig deep out there to win this, so it feels like a very sweet victory. We knew we could do it, but when the score flipped against us in the first half, it tested our belief for sure. We stuck to our game, fought bravely on what was an exhausting day under the sun, and just about came away on top.

“I never expected to be picking up silverware in my first season as captain, but the support from the players and the backroom staff has been great. It’s a big win for everyone involved.”

James Kennedy-Myers, Head Coach of Old Glynionians RFC, said: “I didn’t play but I’m still exhausted! To win our first trophy in over decade and to do it less than 48 hours after the devastating loss of a former player stirs up so many emotions. Rollo [Ben Rollinson] was a great friend of mine, and this win will be well and truly dedicated to him.

“I’m thrilled with the squad that we have, probably our strongest ever, and look forward to defending our crown next season.”

Image: Old Glynionians lift the Papa Johns Community Cup. credit Lisa Banning/Old Glynionians

Up to 2003 MPs happy no Conservatives on Epsom

and Ewell Council

31 May 2024



Dear Editor,

I note with interest the letter from Mr Kington “*Epsom and Ewell was the first Conservative free Council*” outlining the dire electoral fortunes of the Conservative Party in Epsom & Ewell. But he doesn’t tell the full story.

With the odd exception, despite sporadic efforts by eccentric Tory candidates, it is true that it is only since 2003 that the Tories have made a concerted effort to gain seats on the council. The truth is that successive Tory MPs for the area seemed quite happy with the composition of the council due to the fact that, on the whole, the ruling group was made up of small ‘C’ conservatives and in some cases, card carrying Conservative and UKIP members.

It was during the Labour government, with local government being property funded, that they embarked on a spending spree with taxpayers money. But they gleefully reverted to type when the austerity obsessed Tory/Lib Dem coalition government came to power in 2010 that budgets were slashed following Tory edicts.

Yours faithfully,

Vince Romagnuolo

Former Epsom & Ewell Borough Councillor, 1999-2007, 2015-2019

Green view of Mole Valley elections

31 May 2024



Dear Editor,

In Mole Valley national issues probably mostly impacted the main parties who lost support. However these local election results will be of little significance in the forthcoming General Election in Epsom and Ewell constituency for several reasons.

Firstly only a small area of Mole Valley falls within the parliamentary constituency of Epsom and Ewell, namely Ashtead and Leatherhead. While these two areas will be very important to our campaign in the General Election there did appear to be some tactical or protest voting in the local elections in

Mole Valley as there was no great change in turnout. In Leatherhead Liberal Democrats were elected with a similar vote compared with 2023 despite their record of supporting development in the Green Belt.

The Green Party targeted resources in the Dorking area of Mole Valley in order to maintain a previous strong showing there. Secondly, as local elections did not take place for the Epsom Borough Council area the bulk of voters in the Epsom and Ewell constituency were not able to express their choices at the ballot box.

Nevertheless the threat to the Green Belt will be one of the key issues in the General Election in Epsom and Ewell as a whole so voters will have a genuine opportunity to test candidates about this particular matter, which is of great priority for the Green Party, including in Ashtead and Leatherhead where we will be actively campaigning to galvanise our support there.

Finally, whilst votes were quite well dispersed across different parties in the local elections in Mole Valley there will be even more parties standing in the General Election in Epsom and Ewell including the Green Party. The share of the vote will also probably be quite dispersed as a result in the General Election and in this scenario tactical voting will be of limited benefit. In such circumstances voters will be well advised to vote for policies they believe in, as a surprise result is quite likely.

Stephen McKenna

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Green Party Epsom and Ewell

Inclusive sportsmanship in Worcester Park

31 May 2024



The annual Linden Bridge Football Festival kicked off with a vibrant display of teamwork, camaraderie, and sheer determination. Organized by **Linden Bridge School**, Worcester Park, and led by enthusiastic pupils, this event brought together 15 special educational needs (SEN) schools and over 100 pupils for a day of spirited competition.

The festival, held at **Wandgas Sports Ground**, exemplified the inclusive spirit that Linden Bridge School stands for. Students of all abilities participated in various football matches, showcasing their skills and passion for the beautiful game. From footgolf to mini-tournaments, the atmosphere was electric as players cheered each other on.

One of the festival's highlights was the unwavering support from local businesses. **MetroRod**, a leading drainage and plumbing company, stepped up as the main sponsor. Their generous contribution ensured that every participant received a commemorative medal, a symbol of their hard work and dedication. In addition, MetroRod provided trophies for all participating schools, recognizing outstanding performances and sportsmanship.

Coach Dom, from **KEY Sports Academy**, played a pivotal role in making the festival a success. His expertise in organizing sports events and passion for nurturing young talent shone through. Coach Dom lent equipment and offered valuable coaching tips. His commitment to empowering young athletes was evident as he encouraged fair play and teamwork.

"The Linden Bridge Football Festival is more than just a tournament," Coach Dom shared. "It's about fostering a love for sports, building confidence, and creating lasting memories. These students inspire us all with their determination and resilience."

The **Surrey Special Schools Sports Association (SSSSA)** includes the Linden Bridge Football Festival as a key event in its annual calendar. Linden Bridge School takes immense pride in being an active member of the association. This year alone, Linden Bridge pupils have participated in 25 SSSSA-organized events across various sports disciplines.

"Our students thrive when given the opportunity to compete," said Mr. **Borja Vidal**, PE Lead at Linden Bridge School. "The festival allows them to showcase their abilities, make friends, and celebrate their achievements. We're grateful to everyone who made this day possible."

The Linden Bridge Football Festival reminded us that sports transcend barriers, bringing people together in the spirit of unity and joy.

With the success of this year's festival, Linden Bridge School is already planning for next year. The goal remains the same: to create an inclusive platform where every student can shine, regardless of their abilities. As the festival becomes a cherished tradition, it reinforces the belief that sports have the power to transform lives.

9th May 2024

31 May 2024

RUGBY SPORTS

Old Glynonians silver chance in a decade



9 May 2024

Epsom & Ewell-based Old Glynonians RFC will take a team bus to Bristol this Sunday 12th May to contest the Papa Johns Community Cup Counties 3 South Shield Final. The side, ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL FINANCES

Surrey County Council staff strike poll



9 May 2024

Staff at Surrey County Council are voting on whether to go on strike after receiving a revised pay offer which union bosses say is not good enough. Union chiefs representing workers, ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Tarbuck's luck comes to Epsom



9 May 2024

Comedian Jimmy Tarbuck popped into Epsom General Hospital recently - and made a serious bit of business great fun. He was in the Urology Department to present a "new toy", a ... [READ MORE](#)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL FINANCES

Community fund open for bids



9 May 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is inviting community groups and organisations to bid for neighbourhood funds raised by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), to deliver projects that will support new ... [READ MORE](#)

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

First Surrey Borough with no Conservative Councillors



4 May 2024

The Conservatives have been wiped out in Woking after voters handed the Liberal Democrats a huge mandate. The final tally tightened the Lib Dems grip on power giving them 24 ... [READ MORE](#)

NEWS POLICING

Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner re-elected



4 May 2024

The result of the 2nd May 2024 election for Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner was announced Friday and the Conservative Candidate, Lisa Townsend, was re-elected despite a substantial drop in ... [READ MORE](#)

EDUCATION NEWS

From blow your hair to blow your mind?



2 May 2024

Nescot college in Ewell, Surrey is investing £650,000 to transform a hair studio on campus into a virtual reality (VR), immersive space for its students. The state-of-the-art technology, currently being installed, ... [READ MORE](#)

EDUCATION HEALTH NEWS

Meat-free Mondays coming to all Surrey schools?



2 May 2024

Meat-free and plant-based options could be mandated across Surrey schools every Monday according to new council guidance. Only some Surrey schools currently participate in a form of 'meat-free Monday' so ... [READ MORE](#)

Old Glynionians silver chance in a decade

31 May 2024



Epsom & Ewell-based Old Glynionians RFC will take a team bus to Bristol this Sunday 12th May to contest the Papa Johns Community Cup Counties 3 South Shield Final.

The side, formed in 2007 by former Glyn School students and still made-up of a number of alumni, will face fellow Surrey side Cranleigh, having dismissed Streatham-Croydon RFC and King's College Hospital in the quarter-final and semi-final respectively.

This will be the 'Ogs' first final since 2012, where they saw off Merton to win the Surrey Bowl, a competition they also won in 2008 and 2009.

James McFarlane, Chairman of Old Glynionians RFC, said: "Less than two years ago we were finding our feet again after

a COVID-interrupted year or two of on-and-off rugby, so to be heading to a cup final with arguably our strongest ever squad is testament to all the hard work put by so many people at the club.

We'd like to thank The Rising Sun in Epsom, our home pub and clubhouse, for their hospitality this season, our brilliant sponsors, Radford & Sons Butchers in Stoneleigh, without them we wouldn't have any new kit or quality food for our BBQ social events, as well as the brilliant City Skills. Thanks also to Glyn School for continuing to let us use the facilities. Fingers crossed the boys can get the job done on Sunday"

Tim Laughton-Scott, Captain of Old Glynionians RFC, said: "Things have really started to click this year. We had a mixed bag of results earlier in the winter, but as the players have gelled, confidence levels have grown and I've got a lot of faith in the team going down to Bristol on Sunday. Funnily enough, we've only recently come off our end-of-season tour to Amsterdam, but we all came home in one piece and everyone should be in good shape for the game."

James Kennedy-Myers, Head Coach of Old Glynionians RFC, said: "The boys have already achieved great things this season, including a club-record 10 league wins, and things really have gone from strength-to-strength over the last few months.

"If we turn up with the same energy and commitment we've shown in the previous two rounds of this competition, then there's every chance we can lift the cup."

The match will take place at Shaftesbury Park, the home of Bristol Bears Women and will kick off at 11am.