# Trust the public to check our rivers

The **Big River Watch** is returning. From 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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

# Phil Bradley of Ewell was a fair man

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

#### 20th November 2025 Weekly



ISSN 2753-2771

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

## **29th August 2024**

Football Sports

### **Epsom take the boot from landlords**





#### 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

### **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

# **15th August 2024**

**News Policing** 

## Surrey police to move to Epsom and Ewell constituency



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

## 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

**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

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

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 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

## 8th August 2024

Health Helen Maguire Westminster

### **Our Health Deserves Better**



9 August 2024

I want to take this opportunity to thank those who voted for me at the general election. There is much to do to improve our situation in Epsom & Ewell ... Read More

Health News

### Epsom Hospital upgrade at risk?



8 August 2024

A "crumbling" Surrey hospital trust says it is "cracking on" with plans for a new hospital and upgrades despite concerns the government could scrap a funding plan Epsom General Hospital and ... Read More

Football Sports

#### **Epsom rose from the ashes of Phoenix defeat**



8 August 2024

Phoenix Sports 1-3 Epsom and Ewell FC. Emirates F.A. Cup Extra-Preliminary Round Replay - Tuesday 6th August 2024. Well this was a strange one! With just fifteen minutes remaining, we ... Read More

Council Environment

#### A question of Chalk Pit noise and dust



7 August 2024

Noise and dust pollution from the Chalk Pit waste recycling centre in Epsom continues to exacerbate the Council as residents' complaints continue unabated. On 26th March 2024 Epsom and Ewell ... Read More

Council

## Epsom and Ewell Mayor's busy year



7 August 2024

The Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Cllr. Steve Bridger (RA Stamford) addressed the full council 30th July and told the meeting about his business. "My Mayoral year has started well, ... Read More

Community Council Volunteers

#### Council pay tribute to Epsom tree hero



7 August 2024

Councillors of Epsom and Ewell stood in silence in memory of local tree hero Mike Ford. The full council meeting held in the Town Hall chamber on 30th July heard ... Read More

Community Football

## Local football feel the blues from Chelsea FC



7 August 2024

The Epsom and Ewell Colts, a longstanding community-led grassroots football club, are facing a crisis after the abrupt cancellation of their primary training venue at Blenheim High School. The school's ... Read More

Crime Policing

## Surrey Police's response to national disorder



6 August 2024

Following the tragic events in Southport last week and the subsequent violent disorder we have seen across the country, we are providing our communities with an update on our policing ... Read More

Football Sports

### Epsom replay rise from the ashes hoped for





5 August 2024

Epsom & Ewell 0-0 Phoenix Sports. Emirates F.A. Cup Extra-Preliminary Round. Saturday 3rd August 2024. Our first competitive match at the ninth official "home" ground in club history took place ... Read More

Council Transport

### Surrey roads get better marks



2 August 2024

Nearly £2m will be spent this year on improving road markings across the county, with over 48 miles of line painting already completed. Surrey County Council has substantially increased its ... Read More

# 1st August 2024

Council Environment Planning

## East Street development not off the Hook



31 July 2024

On Tuesday, 16th of July, the Environment Committee at Epsom and Ewell Council sat down to discuss the possibility that there might be considerable environmental issues at the Hook Road ... Read More

Council Transport

### Paving the way to better regulation?



31 July 2024

In a move aimed at reshaping the landscape of local business regulations, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has voted to discontinue its current pavement licence policy. This change comes as ... Read More

Horse racing Sports

### **Epsom Racing tips for Thursday**



31 July 2024

Racing returns to Epsom on Thursday, with six races on the card for what is expected to be an exciting evening of racing. Timed perfectly to pick up punters following ... Read More

Council Housing Planning

### A lesson in Green Belt development?



31 July 2024

A controversial plan to build 446 homes on Green Belt land near Horley, Surrey, has been approved on appeal, overturning the local council's initial rejection. The development, proposed by Rydon ... Read More

**Environment Nature News** 

### **Green Flag Awards Honour Epsom and Ashtead Commons**



31 July 2024

Local communities are celebrating as both Epsom Common and Ashtead Common have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award, recognizing them as two of the best-managed green spaces in the ... Read More

Letters News

## Bikes that blight the blind



29 July 2024

Dear Editor, I would like to bring a serious problem to the attention of Epsom residents, that is if they are not already aware of it but do not want ... Read More

Arts Culture

### The lime light a foot in Epsom



29 July 2024

Aydin Mustafa, a lifelong performer and dedicated advocate for the arts, has taken on a new role as the Owner and Director of Footlights Epsom, the first Footlights franchise in ... Read More

Community Crime Policing

### Epsom Town as a Safe Place to Live? Is it our future or our past?

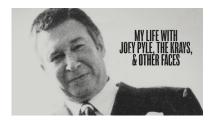


29 July 2024

Epsom and Ewell Times is putting the spotlight on crime and anti-social behaviour blighting residents and businesses in the centre of the town of Epsom. In a series of reports ... Read More

Crime Culture

### **Crime story of an Epsom workhouse baby**



26 July 2024

Born 1946 in the Epsom Union Workhouse Ronnie Field lived a life of crime. Together with local Epsom author Martin Knight he tells his story in Nefarious - A Life ... Read More

# **Epsom Racing tips for Thursday**

Racing returns to Epsom on Thursday, with six races on the card for what is expected to be an exciting evening of racing.

Timed perfectly to pick up punters following the day's racing at Glorious Goodwood, the action begins at 6pm, with the final race taking place at 8:35pm. The going on the Downs is good to firm, but with another day where the temperatures are set to top 30 degrees, the ground could be firm by the time racing gets underway.

Read below to find out the latest **horse racing odds** and tips from Thursday's Epsom card.

#### 18:00 - Peter Bromwich Apprentice Handicap

The opener is a 1m2f handicap, with four-year-olds and above contesting this Class 5 contest. Having finished second over a shorter trip at Epsom earlier this month, **Chips And Rice** will run off an unchanged mark and could push the fancied Big Bear Hug.

#### 18:30 - Pick And Place Your Stakes Challenge EBF Restricted Novice Stakes

Next up, a race for Novice two-year-olds, with a 7f trip to negotiate in this Class 4 contest. Parole D'Oro's second placed start at Ascot makes for an appealing option, however, debutant **Noble Phoenix** is an exciting newcomer and could upset the odds.

#### 19:00 - Outdoor Advertising Is The Best British EBF Fillies' Handicap

Another Class 4 race is up next, with a 1m1/2f trip for a top prize of £7,731 on offer for the winner. **Dreamrocker** is the favourite, with a career-best win at Ascot 20 days ago representing excellent form and this should be enough to push through a 4lb rise in weights.

#### 19:30 - Iron Maiden Red Wine Handicap

Up next, a Class 6 handicap for three-year-olds which will be run at just over seven furlongs. Having finished a strong fourth at Doncaster 21 days ago, **Moakadd** for Roger Varian is the likely frontrunner, down 1lb.

#### 20:05 - Miles Commercial Handicap

The penultimate race of the card is a Class 5 contest, run over 1m4f and open to 4yo+ horses. Having shown a marked improvement in form so far this year, **Roque Tornado** is expected to continue this good form as the front-runner in this race.

#### 20:35 - Trooper 'Time People Please!' Handicap

Finally, this 6f handicap sees just five expected runners for what is a close Class 5 contest to call. With a first time visor fitted and good form this season, **Macanudo** will be expected to perform well especially when considering a drop back in grade for this race.

#### **Selections - odds courtesy of BoyleSports**

18:00: Chips And Rice - 11/4

18:30: Noble Phoenix - 6/1

19:00: Dreamrocker - 11/4

19:30: Moakadd - 3/1

20:05: Rogue Tornado - 4/1

20:35: Macanudo - 15/8

Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

# Bikes that blight the blind

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring a serious problem to the attention of Epsom residents, that is if they are not already aware of it but do not want to do anything about it. For at least the last year I have been battling and campaigning against motorbike delivery riders who insist on illegally parking in Epsom Square (formerly Derby Square) off Epsom High Street and all along that stretch of the High Street.

Continually all through the day these motorbike riders park their motorbikes and I do mean the whole of the motorbike, on the pavement. They ride their motorbikes on to the pavement and park up. At times their has been as many as 21 motorbikes parked on the pavement outside shops like McDonalds. It is a serious safety issue as well as being an illegal parking matter.

I have reported this issue to Surrey County Council Parking Enforcement Team dozens of times and all that happens is that they send an Enforcement Officer out, who simply moves the motorbike riders on and what always happens is the riders return later on. The Parking Enforcement Team should be fining them and then they might start to listen.

#### 20th November 2025 Weekly



ISSN 2753-2771

I have contacted my local new MP a couple of times about this issue but I have yet to receive an acknowledgement about the matter. I am sure my local MP is very busy as she is newly elected but

this is a local issue and that should be the focus of any MP, to deal with their local issues. I am a blind person living in Epsom and their are a higher than average of blind people in Epson as there is a residential housing building in Epsom for blind people.

Surrey Parking Enforcement Team need to get a grip of this situation before there are some serious accidents.

Regards

Russell Bailey

Swail House Association for the Visually Impaired

Image: Delivery moped on pavement in Epsom - Google