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19th November 2026

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30th November 2023

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COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Well trained Father Xmas coming to Epsom

27 November 2023

Epsom Rotary are pleased to confirm the dates for this year’s street collections with Tilly the Train and Father Christmas around Epsom Town and we are excited to confirm we … READ MORE



COUNCIL HOUSING PLANNING

Anchored in reason on local housing need?

26 November 2023

The Draft Local Plan lacks a proper negotiating position on future house building numbers in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. So said an unnamed member of the public who … READ MORE



FOOTBALL SPORTS

Penalty shoot out in normal time….

25 November 2023

Abbey Rangers 2-1 Epsom & Ewell. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. Saturday 25th November 2023. In a match decided by three penalties and some rather odd officiating, we were … READ MORE

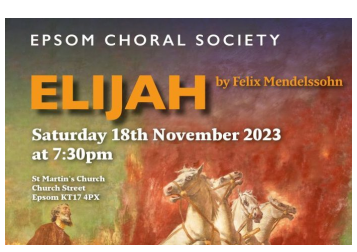


NATURE NEWS

Surrey Hills now a “National Landscape”

25 November 2023

All designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales are becoming National Landscapes, including the Surrey Hills National Landscape. The new name reflects their national importance; the … READ MORE



ARTS CULTURE

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Lavish production of Elijah reviewed

24 November 2023

Nigel Williams reviews Epsom Choral Society's performance on Saturday 18th November of Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio Elijah staged in the town's St Martin's Church. The Old Testament prophet's story was lavishly … READ MORE



COUNCIL FINANCES

Poorest will pay for a Council's mismanagement

24 November 2023

Vulnerable people are set to bear the brunt of service charge rises after Woking Borough Council's executive committee agreed to inflation-busting increases. People who receive community meals or extra care … READ MORE



COUNCIL CRIME FINANCES

Good money goes after bad

24 November 2023

A cash-strapped council will spend up to £350,000 on an investigation into potential fraud in its housing department. Guildford Borough Council confirmed police are working alongside an accredited anti-fraud investigation unit … READ MORE

Well trained Father Xmas coming to Epsom

30 November 2023



Epsom Rotary are pleased to confirm the dates for this year's street collections with Tilly the Train and Father Christmas around Epsom Town and we are excited to confirm we have added new routes this year. Tilly the Train has been a feature of Epsom Rotary Street Collections for a number of years and has brought many smiles on faces over time, along with Father Christmas able to chat to children and bearing a small gift. Christmas is a special time for us all and the monies collected will go to local charities, to include Epsom Pantry and Epsom Girl Guiding, who will also take part in some of the collections. Tilly the train was invented as long ago as 1970 by a group of apprentices from Epsom Coaches and has been the highlight of the Epsom Rotary Christmas Street collections and the approach will be by Christmas music and a band of Christmas elves!

There will be nine street collections this year from Sunday, 09 December to Sunday, 17 December 2023 as well as some collections at the Ashley Centre with carols by various local schools and local choir group.

Dates for the Ashley Centre Carols/by the Clock Tower are:

Wed, 06 Dec 2023 – from 10.30am with Stamford Green School and 2.00-3.00pm with Rosebery School – Ashley Centre

Thurs, 07 Dec 2023 – from 20.30am – 12.30pm With Epsom Choral Society, 1,00 -2,200pm with The Vale School and 2.00-3.00pm with Meadow Primary School – Ashley Centre

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Wed, 13 Dec 2023 – 1.00-2.00pm with St Martins Junior School – The Clock Tower Epsom

Tilly the Train and Father Christmas Street Collections are:

Sun, 10 Dec 2023 – from 4.30pm – Hazon Way and Miles Road and area

Mon, 11 Dec 2023 – from 4.30pm – Parklawn Avenue and area

Tues, 12 Dec 2023 – from 4.30pm – Langley Vale and area

Wed, 13 Dec 2023 – from 4.30pm – Hookfield area

Thurs, 14 Dec 2023 – from 4.30pm – Woodcoote area

Fri, 15 Dec 2023 – from 4.30pm – Mopsey Crescent and area

Sat, 16 Dec 2023 – from 4.30pm – Horton & Manor Park area,

Sunday, 17 Dec 2023 – from 4.30 – College Ward area

We hope to see many wonderful people along the way and thank you for supporting.

Maria Anstiss – Epsom Rotary

Image: Rotarian Elves welcome the arrival of Father Christmas to the Tilly Train garage (early hours 25th December 2022).

Surrey Hills now a “National Landscape”

30 November 2023



All designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales are becoming National Landscapes, including the **Surrey Hills National Landscape**. The new name reflects their national importance; the vital contribution they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that they do.

This is a significant milestone for the UK and the next step in fully realising the National Landscapes’ vision to be the leading exemplars of how thriving, diverse communities can work with and for nature in the UK: restoring ecosystems, providing food, storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change, safeguarding against drought and flooding, whilst also nurturing people’s health and wellbeing.

The Surrey Hills National Landscape was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1958, the second to be designated in the country. It covers around a quarter of Surrey, the most wooded county in England, and is situated within the London Metropolitan Greenbelt with 1.5 million people living within 10km of the landscape. With rising national pressures regarding climate change, the biodiversity emergency the mental health crisis, the Surrey Hills as a National Landscape will better protect precious habitats such as heathland, downland and woodland which are home to important species, as well as providing space for people and nature to thrive.

Kathy Atkinson, Chair of the Surrey Hills National Landscape says:

“There’s often a healthy scepticism around talk of “re-branding” and people might reasonably ask, “What’s the point?” in calling the Surrey Hills a National Landscape instead of an ‘AONB’.

Firstly, the legal status of the Surrey Hills as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is unchanged. This amazing area retains the same protections in law as a National Park. As set out by the Glover review in 2019, AONBs are fragmented, misunderstood and often see even greater pressures with less resource. Glover recommended not only a renaming of ‘AONBs’ to National Landscapes, but the power which could follow in terms of a strengthened network, with increased funding, governance reform, and new shared purposes to help us fight against the challenges our protected landscapes may face.

We need to use this rebrand as a step change to how we connect with our protected landscapes. To excite and engage the widest possible public in the task of protecting the Surrey Hills, a cherished landscape that is under threat like never before. This is a critical decade for our natural world, and National Landscapes brings the opportunity to collectively reduce the impact of substantial threats from a National and localised perspective. So, I urge everyone to embrace our National Landscapes vision as a tool to help us support a healthy and thriving landscape, for nature and for people.”

Text provided by Surrey Hills National Landscape

Related Reports:

Winter walks in the Surrey wilds

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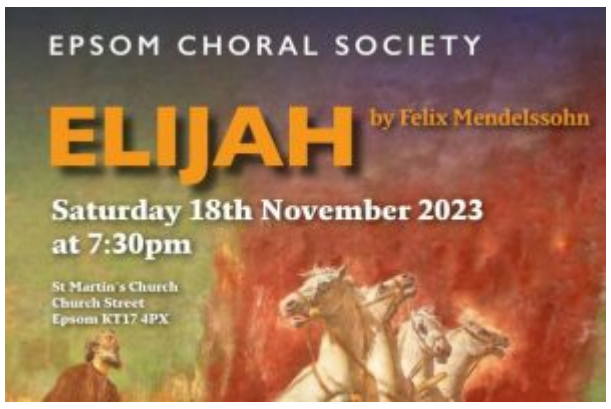
Oiling the wheels of justice on Surrey Hills

Image – Surrey Hills Credit Aleksey Maksimov CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED

Lavish production of Elijah reviewed

30 November 2023



Nigel Williams reviews **Epsom Choral Society**'s performance on Saturday 18th November of Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio Elijah staged in the town's **St Martin's Church**.

The Old Testament prophet's story was lavishly told with five soloists, an orchestra of strings, brass, woodwind, timpani and organ, and a chorus of several dozen well-drilled and responsive singers under conductor **Julian Collings**.

Your reviewer had attended their open rehearsal early in the term, when **Marion Lea** was supplying single-handedly (well, two-handedly) all the orchestra's notes on the piano and the chorus were learning how their parts fitted together. In the time since, Epsom Choral Society turned early sketches into a complete painting. An "iron" sky could be coloured by high woodwind chords, limping string phrases could suggest Elijah's weary departure for the wilderness, and ringing timpani and organ chords underpinned a song of pious thanksgiving for the end of a famine. Felix Mendelssohn knew how to deploy an orchestra and the best way to appreciate it was to hear it live.

The Choral Society's task was to project their sound from the tiered staging behind the orchestra and unfold a series of choruses with very different challenges. In chordal passages they needed to keep in tune with each other, whereas in complex contrapuntal turn-taking movements the challenge was also keep up with the tempo and find their entries in among all the other notes. Elijah is also a big sing. It needs a lot of volume to deliver its full dramatic grandeur. They deliberately avoided over-singing the afternoon rehearsal, so there was still something in the tank even by the final two choruses, delivering whirring scale passages as Elijah went by a whirlwind to heaven. Those words ended very loud but began with some dramatic rapid whispering. Mendelssohn's style relishes the idea of light "shining forth". In one of those contrapuntal passages, the tenors, though fewer in number, still had that luminous quality more than two hours into the concert.

Before then, we had heard ample demonstrations of prowess from elsewhere in the choir. Not quite as outnumbered as the tenors, basses had a difficult task to make their entries clear when competing with organ, timpani and low strings but they were up to it.

Elijah is very much an English piece, written in the tradition of German composers working this side of the Channel. Mendelssohn was keen to make his lines fit the words of his English translator, William Bartholomew, and Choral Society made sure we heard them. You don't often hear the word "laveth" in song but we heard it on Saturday. The most German-sounding moment came when the Angels' trio "Lift thine eyes to the mountains" was sung by the choir sopranos and altos, instantly painting a scene of alpine villagers, with a lightness of touch that belied words about a foot that shall not be moved. There were not so many opportunities to show off delicacy and beauty of singing tone. They took that one, and the serene full-choir chorus that followed, "He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps." I missed "He that shall endure to the end", cut for reasons of timing, which I think would have showed them off well.

Having an orchestra, the English Sinfonietta, and five soloists was a luxury. Treble Brandon McGuinness, taught singing at Epsom College by Christopher Goldsack, sang a resolute succession of top Gs while the orchestration changed underneath him. It is worth hearing those notes while they last. I have heard John Findon (tenor), Elizabeth Findon (soprano) and Judy Brown (mezzo) before and fully understand why they regularly get invited back. Judy Brown got the show-stopping movement, "O Rest in the Lord". She kept it simple, with a voice both unaffected and affecting, offering half reassurance, half lullaby. They also gave us some delectable ensemble singing in the soprano-mezzo duet "Zion spreadeth her hands" and quartet "Cast thy burden upon the Lord".

By far the largest role went to bass James Geidt as the prophet himself. Accustomed to operatic performance, he learnt much of his part by heart, so when singing he could look to the audience or the other performers. He brought a voice that was rich and treacly and looked the part with a luxuriant Old-Testament beard. His acting skills led his character from pompous confidence through fear and weariness to final moments of joy.

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There was plenty of joy. Epsom Choral Society had learnt their parts well. They sang of rescue, perseverance and redemption, themes that were joyful enough, but they could also take pleasure in performing to high standard.

Nigel Williams belonged to St Martin's Church choir for almost twenty-five years alongside several Choral Society members, singing second bass and composing a handful of pieces for them to sing. His edition of Am Himmelsfahrtstage with English translation is available from the Choral Public Domain library.

23rd November 2023

30 November 2023

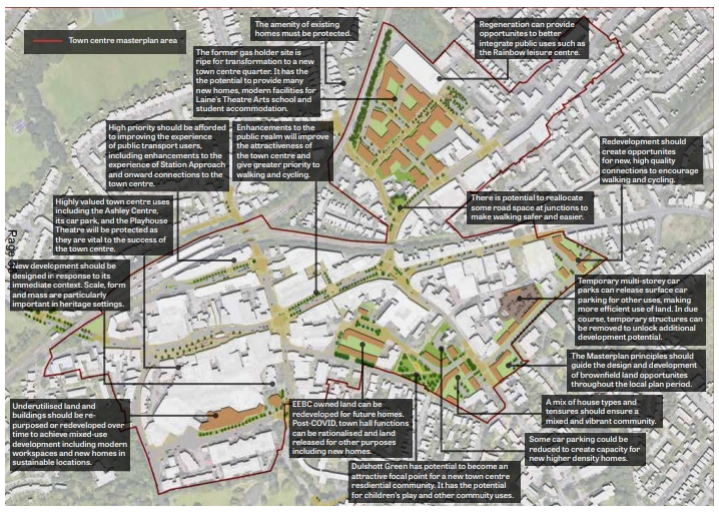


COUNCIL NEWS

Epsom's leader welcomes more power for Surrey County Council

23 November 2023

Following the Chancellor's announcement in the Autumn Statement regarding the extension of devolution and further County Deals, Surrey County Council is engaging in discussions with Government on a Level 2 … READ MORE



COUNCIL PLANNING

Epsom Town Centre Masterplan Unveiled

23 November 2023

Wednesday 22nd November the Licensing, Planning and Policy Committee of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council approved a new iteration of a draft master plan for Epsom's town centre to go … READ MORE



COUNCIL FINANCES

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No way to discharge bankrupt Council

22 November 2023

Bankrupt Woking Borough Council is spending up to £148,000 a year on free charging for electric vehicles – about the same it would cost to save the “Bustler” community bus … READ MORE



COUNCIL EDUCATION

Kids takeover Ewell’s Bourne Hall

22 November 2023

On Friday 17 November Bourne Hall in Ewell collaborated with local college NESCOT as part of a national Kids in Museums Takeover Day event. This project sits within Epsom & … READ MORE



COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Local Council gets in the Christmas spirit for all

20 November 2023

The countdown to Christmas is here! Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and Bourne Hall are bringing Christmas cheer to winter days for residents and visitors. Festivities begin with the Christmas … READ MORE



COMMUNITY NEWS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate Justice. A generation thing?

20 November 2023

With Epsom Hospital Doctor and mother of four Kristine Damberg in the lead, Mothers’ Rebellion for Climate Justice, a global grassroots organization, orchestrated coordinated actions across the UK and 30 countries on … READ MORE



RUGBY SPORTS

Genuine victory on synthetic surface

20 November 2023

Cobham 16 Sutton & Epsom RFC 44. Saturday 18th November. Being the last league fixture in November the S&E squad had a rather Edwardian appearance as if they were members … READ MORE

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FOOTBALL OBITUARY

Stella servant to local football passes

20 November 2023

Stella Lamont, Club President of Epsom and Ewell FC, passed away on Armistice Day 2023 at the age of 95. Born on September 1, 1928, Stella's association with the club … READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

Salts succumb to athleticism

19 November 2023

Epsom & Ewell 2-4 AFC Croydon Athletic. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. Saturday 18th November 2023. A rather harsh 4-2 home defeat to AFC Croydon Athletic in our latest … READ MORE



HEALTH NEWS

East Surrey Hospital Inspection

19 November 2023

Maternity services at East Surrey Hospital have been downgraded after inspectors flagged six key areas for improvement. A report following an inspection of the unit raised concerns with infection control, … READ MORE



COUNCIL FINANCES WESTMINSTER

Finance lessons for Parliament from Surrey Boroughs

19 November 2023

Surrey Heath Borough Council is burning through its reserves and eyeing up serious cuts to services, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee was told. The Monday, November 13, cross-party panel of … READ MORE



NEWS WESTMINSTER

How Surrey MPs voted on ceasefire

19 November 2023

No Surrey MPs voted in Parliament for a ceasefire between Israel and Gaza. The vote took place on Wednesday (November 15) on an amendment to the King's Speech that was … READ MORE

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COMMUNITY CRIME POLICING

What are your priorities for community safety?

16 November 2023

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has launched a public consultation on the priorities for community safety in the borough and are asking residents, workers, visitors and businesses to have their … READ MORE



COMMUNITY SPORTS

Undiluted squash champions of Epsom

16 November 2023

Ebbisham Sports Club in Epsom is proud of its junior squash members, in particular several of its girls who regularly play in the Ladies Team competing against other clubs in … READ MORE



CRIME NEWS

Damning report on local prison

16 November 2023

The availability of drugs at one Surrey prison is a “critical threat to safety”, as inspectors said it had one of the highest positive test rates for illicit substances of all men’s … READ MORE



COUNCIL HOUSING PLANNING

The Plot in the thick of planning options

16 November 2023

At a meeting of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Strategy and Resources Committee held on 13th July it was decided that various Council owned “brownfield” sites would not be offered … READ MORE

Stella servant to local football passes

30 November 2023

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Stella Lamont, Club President of **Epsom and Ewell FC**, passed away on Armistice Day 2023 at the age of 95. Born on September 1, 1928, Stella's association with the club spanned over fifty years. A devoted supporter since 1973, Stella initially joined the Committee in 1979, contributing significantly to the improvement of the Match Programme.

Throughout the '80s, she served as Press Secretary, and in 1993, under her guidance, the club won the prestigious "Special Category" programme award. Stella's dedication was further acknowledged in 1998 when she received a voluntary service award for 25 years of involvement with the Epsom and Ewell Boys League.

In 2003, Stella became the President of Epsom and Ewell FC, a position she held with pride. Despite facing health challenges, she remained actively engaged, taking on roles such as Membership Secretary and contributing to the match programme. Her lasting legacy includes her impact on local Boys football and the informative programmess she crafted with meticulous detail.

Stella's commitment endured, even as she faced declining health. In 2016, she received a long service award from the Surrey Football Association, a testament to her enduring influence. Stella's final years saw her contributing articles to the club's programme, showcasing her unwavering dedication.

Beyond her football involvement, a peculiar note in her history involved an appearance in a pop video, "We Stand Around" by I Ludicrous, filmed at the club's old ground. This charming anecdote reflects Stella's unexpected and lighthearted presence in the club's rich history.

As we bid farewell to Stella Lamont, her name will forever be remembered among those who shaped Epsom and Ewell FC into a close-knit family club. Rest in peace, Stella.

16th November 2023

30 November 2023

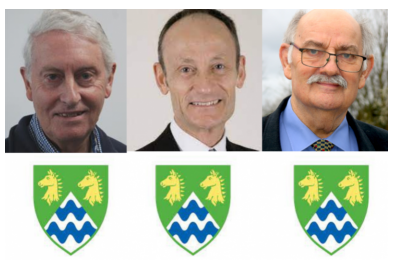


COUNCIL FINANCES

Council staff to get 6% pay increase?

15 November 2023

November 14th, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Strategy and Resources Committee grappled with the decision of recommending a pay award for staff in the fiscal year 2024/25. The recommendation to … READ MORE



COUNCIL NEWS

Local Council stalwarts up for local honour

15 November 2023

In a proposal put to the Strategy and Resources Committee of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council on 14th November, councillors were urged to consider bestowing the prestigious title of Honorary … READ MORE

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COUNCIL PLANNING

Flooding concerns defer Church St care home plan

15 November 2023

9th November Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Planning Committee considered once more the plan to build a care home on the sites of the Church Street police and ambulance stations. … READ MORE



COUNCIL PLANNING

Care home plan lacked the “wow” factor

15 November 2023

9th November Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Planning Committee debated the proposal for a care home on the site of the now demolished Organ and Dragon pub on the junction … READ MORE



ARTS COMMUNITY CULTURE

Ukrainians uplift all in Epsom evening of culture

12 November 2023

On Saturday 11th a choir of locally settled Ukrainians crowned an evening of their nation’s culture at Epsom Methodist Church. Several folk songs preceded a rousing rendition of the National … READ MORE



LOCAL HISTORY

Bonkers about bunkers in Epsom

12 November 2023

The Epsom and Ewell Times joined a group of bunker-busters to explore the little known World War 2 underground complex. Located in 5 acres of private woodland on the west … READ MORE



FOOTBALL SPORTS

Epsom & Ewell FC imperious victory in Imperial Fields

12 November 2023

Tooting & Mitcham 0-3 Epsom & Ewell. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. Saturday 11th November 2023. Cast your mind back to the 4th March 2003. Some young lad by … READ MORE

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BUSINESS COUNCIL

Surrey set for the first ever Festival of Skills

10 November 2023

Hundreds of young people are set to be fired up about their futures at Surrey's first ever Festival of Skills. The free one-day careers event will provide local students with … READ MORE



HEALTH NEWS

Local NHS Trust slow to respond to complaint

10 November 2023

A complaint lodged against Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust regarding the care provided to the late Doreen Pepper, a Parkinson's patient, has raised concerns about medication management … READ MORE

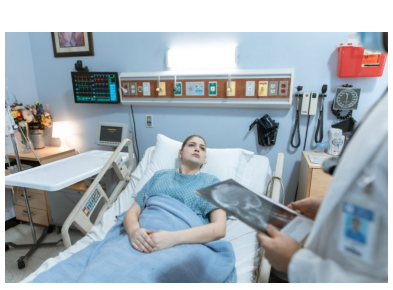


COMMUNITY LOCAL HISTORY

Veteran lives celebrated at Epsom's Comrades Club

10 November 2023

With funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, Surrey County Council has captured the life stories of four veterans and presented the booklets to them and their families in … READ MORE

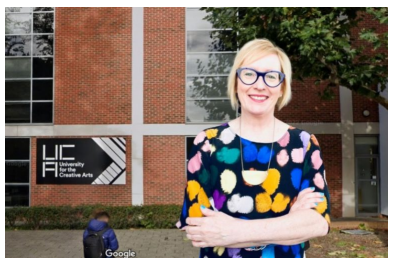


HEALTH NEWS

Staying in bed problems for local NHS

10 November 2023

Hospitals in Epsom And St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust unable to discharge almost two thirds of patients. This is according to a national data collection exercise conducted by the … READ MORE



EDUCATION NEWS

Epsom's University of the Creative Arts new boss

10 November 2023

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The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) has begun a new chapter in its illustrious history, with the appointment of Professor Jane Roscoe as its incoming President & Vice-Chancellor. With a campus … READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

Epsom Derby football cup defeat

10 November 2023

Epsom & Ewell 1-2 Sutton United. Surrey Senior Cup – Second Round. Tuesday 7th November 2023. Our first match back in the Surrey Senior Cup for five years, coupled with … READ MORE

Epsom’s University of the Creative Arts new boss

30 November 2023



The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) has begun a new chapter in its illustrious history, with the appointment of Professor Jane Roscoe as its incoming President & Vice-Chancellor.

With a campus in **Epsom**, UCA is defined by creativity, world-leading research, and innovation. Professor Roscoe joins a specialist university where students build real solutions to human problems, staff are acclaimed for their top teaching quality, and the courses are highly respected among the creative industries.

Professor Roscoe, who has an extensive career in both higher education and the broadcasting industry, will take up the role in February 2024.

“I am delighted to be joining an institution with such a long history of arts education and am looking forward to helping it build a new legacy within the creative industries both here in the UK and around the world,” ***said Professor Roscoe.*** *“I’m excited to get started and to be working with UCA’s tremendous staff and talented students.”*

Professor Roscoe comes to UCA from the University of Greenwich, where she has been Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chair in Creative Industries since 2021. Before this she held leadership roles at the University of the West of England, Bristol, and the London Film School. Outside of academia, she has also shaped the schedules for television across Australia, as Head of Channels and Head of International Content at SBS (Special Broadcasting Service).

Together with her career history, Professor Roscoe is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, a member of BAFTA, the Royal Television Society, the Academy of Arts and Sciences and the International Design Organisation. She also has almost 60 published works, and multiple commissioned research projects, to her name.

This wealth of experience and expertise made her the perfect fit for UCA’s next chapter, according to **Jeremy Sandelson, Chair of the Board of Governors:**

“We were hugely impressed by Professor Roscoe’s experience within higher education and the creative industries, and her track record will not only complement UCA’s values and ambitions but enhance them further. We are excited to usher in a new era with Professor Roscoe. Her vision for the University will be fresh, inclusive, and ambitious.”

UCA’s interim President & Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nick Foskett, said: *“The University is looking forward to working with Professor Roscoe to deliver its ambitious plans for the future.”*

9th November 2023

30 November 2023

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COUNCIL HEALTH

Surrey Borough flushed with pride

8 November 2023

Toilets in Waverley have reclaimed their thrones as some of the country’s best bogs after inspectors released their results from unannounced lavatory visits. Two watering closets in Waverley Borough Council’s parks … READ MORE



BUSINESS EDUCATION

AI training hub coming to Surrey

8 November 2023

Surrey is set to become home to a high-quality training hub in Artificial Intelligence (AI), a move which could have transformative impacts in the way vulnerable residents engage and access … READ MORE



COUNCIL EDUCATION

Surrey boosts specialist school places

7 November 2023

Surrey County Council is pleased to announce the creation of 230 new specialist school places for September 2023 for Surrey’s children with additional needs and disabilities. The creation of additional … READ MORE



COUNCIL PLANNING

Epsom care home plans

6 November 2023

Plans for a care home on the site of a former police station could finally be decided next week.An application for an 86-bed care home for people with dementia in … READ MORE



RUGBY SPORTS

Sutton and Epsom sink Sidcup

6 November 2023

Sutton & Epsom RFC 30 – Sidcup 20. Saturday 4th November. Regional 2 South East is a most competitive league where any side can overturn its opponent so giving hope to … READ MORE

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FOOTBALL SPORTS

Epsom and Ewell FC caught Knapping?

5 November 2023

Epsom & Ewell 0-4 Knaphill. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. Saturday 4th November 2023. We have been unfortunate to come up against arguably the best two teams in the … READ MORE



BUSINESS COMMUNITY PLANNING

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5 November 2023

A 16th century pub in the heart of the Surrey Hills has been saved from developers after plans to convert one of the last remaining Abinger watering holes into houses, … READ MORE



NEWS POLICING

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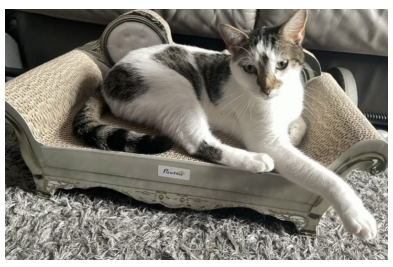

CRIME NEWS POLICING

Anti-Yob Cat protection petition

3 November 2023

“Heartbroken” pet owners claim a group of teenagers are “trapping cats” for their dogs to “rip apart”.A petition signed by 3,675 people is calling for more action from the RSPCA … READ MORE



ARTS CULTURE

New Conductor – New Sounds

3 November 2023

Epsom Chamber Choir, directed by their new conductor Jack Apperley, provided a feast of contemplative music in their

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Evening Meditations concert on Saturday night (28th October). The harmonious sounds of … READ MORE



OBITUARY

Advocate for Epsom’s underdog remembered

3 November 2023

Roger Bristow was by a long stretch one of Epsom and Surrey’s most successful criminal court defence advocates, dedicated to ensuring that all his clients received fair justice regardless of … READ MORE



ARTS CULTURE

Expect miracles from Epsom Choral Society

2 November 2023

Epsom Choral Society, renowned for its diverse and engaging programming, will be performing Mendelssohn’s masterwork “Elijah” on Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 7:30pm at St Martin’s Church in Epsom. Under … READ MORE



COMMUNITY HEALTH

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Mental health is still quite a taboo subject and breaking down those barriers to talking openly remains quite a challenge but one group in Surrey is hoping to get those … READ MORE

New Conductor – New Sounds

30 November 2023



Epsom Chamber Choir, directed by their new conductor **Jack Apperley**, provided a feast of contemplative music in their Evening Meditations concert on Saturday night (28th October). The harmonious sounds of the well-blended voices pleased the ear in the excellent acoustics of **St. Martin’s Church, Epsom**.

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In the opening piece, *In splendoribus sanctorum* by James Macmillan, we were soothed by a velvety start before a heart stopping moment when the saxophone began to interweave its seemingly improvisatory melodies into the texture. The piece ended with echoing instrumental phrases from the back of the church. The scene was set for an evening of saxophone music blending effectively with the human voice.

The soprano and alto saxophones, beautifully played by Naomi Sullivan, featured in many of the works, bringing new and interesting harmonies to some 16th and 17th century pieces by Orlando Gibbons and Thomas Tallis, and adding atmosphere and colour to contemporary works such as *O Wisdom* by Will Todd. Paul Mealor's piece for male voices *I saw eternity* had the saxophone blending in effectively with the voices, while wind chimes added an ethereal sound. Naomi also played arrangements of two flute pieces by J. S. Bach and C. P. E. Bach.

Many of the works with saxophone were arranged by the Yorkshire born saxophonist Christian Forshaw. They brought back memories of the now disbanded Hilliard Ensemble with their recordings of a cappella singing and improvised saxophone accompaniment.

Much of the programme involved quiet tones, but just before the interval we were treated to a sax solo entitled ….*so this is what happened* by Christoph Enzel – a loud, rousing, multiphonic piece, sounding like a whole band rather than just one instrument.

The concert also included soaring close harmonies in Cecilia McDowall's *The Lord is good* and Gail Randall's simpler setting of George Herbert's *The Call*. Herbert Howells *Requiem*, a relatively short reflective work, was performed with great attention to the speech rhythms and dynamics. The solo lines in this and other pieces in the programme were sung beautifully by different members of the choir and the saxophone blended well with the voices.

Susan Morris

Expect miracles from Epsom Choral Society

30 November 2023



Epsom Choral Society, renowned for its diverse and engaging programming, will be performing Mendelssohn's masterwork "Elijah" on Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 7:30pm at **St Martin's Church in Epsom**.



Prophet Elijah detailed in the Madonna and Child with Saints by Andrea di Bonaiuto

Under the baton of their music director **Julian Collings**, the performance will bring together a stellar cast of soloists,

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including soprano Elizabeth Findon, mezzo-soprano Judy Brown, tenor John Findon, and bass James Geidt. These outstanding vocalists will join forces with the Epsom Choral Society to transport audiences through the dramatic and uplifting narrative of Mendelssohn's powerful oratorio. There will be a special solo appearance by 14-year-old treble, **Brandon McGuinness**, a pupil at **Epsom College**.

A landmark in the choral-orchestral repertoire, "Elijah" is acclaimed for its vivid storytelling and emotional intensity, featuring grand choruses, captivating arias and thrilling ensembles.

Elijah was a prophet and a miracle worker who lived in the northern kingdom of Israel during the reign of King Ahab (9th century BC). God performed many miracles through Elijah, including resurrection, bringing fire down from the sky, and entering heaven alive "by fire."

This performance promises to deliver a night of wonderful music, underlining Mendelssohn's genius for expressing profound spirituality and human emotion through music.

"We are delighted to present this enduring classic of the choral repertoire, conducted by Julian Collings and featuring an exceptional quartet of soloists. In Mendelssohn's dramatic setting of the story we will be evoking earthquake, wind and fire in what promises to be an unforgettable evening of music at St Martin's in the heart of Epsom." commented **Isobel Squire**, chair of Epsom Choral Society.

Entry is £18, or just £9 for students and under-18s.

Tickets are available via the Epsom Choral Society website www.epsomchoral.org.uk or on the door on the night.

Epsom Choral Society is a community-based choral group with a rich history dating back to its formation in 1922. The society brings together music lovers from Epsom and the surrounding area, providing a platform for local talents to perform major choral works. The group is committed to fostering a love of music in the community and regularly collaborates with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists.

ECS puts on at least four concerts each year which attract a loyal following. Epsom Choral Society is a friendly choir – they do not require auditions but do aim for high performance standards. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings under the baton of their Musical Director, Julian Collings.

Related Reports

Elijah returns to Epsom before the end of times

Flyer

2nd November 2023

30 November 2023



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Warnings a failed subcontracted apprenticeship scheme was a "major risk" were ignored leaving a Surrey college with a £25million financial time bomb that it now hopes to solve by selling … READ MORE



LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Latest news from Surrey History Centre

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LOCAL HISTORY OBITUARY

Local historian Peter Reed will be missed

1 November 2023

In Loving Memory of Peter Reed (23/08/52 – 19/10/23). Peter Reed passed away on October 19, 2023, leaving a void in the hearts of many. Born and raised in Epsom … READ MORE



ARTS COMMUNITY

New home needed for disability theatre group

1 November 2023

A performing arts charity that won the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service has been made homeless after crumbly concrete was found in the hall it had called home for the … READ MORE



BUSINESS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Thames Water left human waste to fester

31 October 2023

Thames Water has been accused of backtracking on a goodwill gesture after subjecting Camberley residents to a “disgusting” summer of stench caused by raw, untreated, human waste left to fester … READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

Scoreline does not reflect performance

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Farnham Town 5-1 Epsom & Ewell. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. Saturday 28th October 2023. Our trip to the Memorial Ground, home to Farnham Town, was always going to … READ MORE

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Local historian Peter Reed will be missed

30 November 2023



In Loving Memory of **Peter Reed** (23/08/52 – 19/10/23). Peter Reed passed away on October 19, 2023, leaving a void in the hearts of many. Born and raised in Epsom and Ewell to James and Evelyn Reed, Peter's journey was defined by his unwavering dedication to his family and his profound impact on the community.

A man of generous spirit and unwavering kindness, Peter's life reflected a passion for understanding the inner workings of the world around him. From an early age, his curiosity led him to disassemble toys, cultivating an interest in creation, particularly in woodworking and exploring historical contexts. His inquisitiveness matured into a fascination with the evolution of technology, particularly in the realm of computers and their historical significance. His career path led him to utilize his technical acumen at the Inland Revenue, Lambeth Council, and a London medical center, where he not only honed his skills but also used his expertise to benefit various charitable causes.

Peter's profound love for history propelled him to join the **Epsom and Ewell History Centre** at Bourne Hall in 2005. There, he spearheaded the creation of the website and served as the dedicated webmaster for the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer. His commitment extended beyond mere content creation; he tirelessly assisted countless individuals, locally and internationally, with historical inquiries, demonstrating his wealth of knowledge and willingness to help others.

Recognized as the driving force behind the History Explorer website, Peter's collaborative efforts with local experts and his encyclopedic knowledge of the area facilitated an invaluable resource for researchers and history enthusiasts. His significant contributions were felt and appreciated by numerous individuals and organizations, symbolizing his profound impact on the preservation and promotion of local history.

While Peter leaves behind no immediate family of his own, he leaves a lasting legacy in the hearts of his sister, nieces, and a community that deeply appreciated his dedication and expertise. His loss is deeply felt, but his remarkable contributions to the Epsom and Ewell community will forever be remembered and cherished.

Peter Reed's passion, dedication, and selfless commitment to preserving local history have left an indelible mark. His legacy lives on in the continued work of those he inspired, ensuring that the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer remains a testament to his invaluable contributions to local heritage. He will be greatly missed, but his impact will resonate through the cherished memories and the enduring legacy he leaves behind.

Image: Peter Reed with his local history "angels".

26th October 2023

30 November 2023



COUNCIL NEWS PLANNING

Local Plan to move forward after passionate debate

26 October 2023

Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillors voted to "un-pause" work on a new Local Plan for the district at an extraordinary meeting held in the Town Hall chamber on Tuesday 24th October. … READ MORE

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NEWS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Ewell “no new oil” pensioner punished

25 October 2023

Judit Murray, a 69 year old resident of Ewell, was today sentenced to a 12 month community order with 60 hours of community service at Westminster Magistrates Court. Ms Murray … READ MORE



LOCAL HISTORY

Epsom’s Erotica By Candlelight

25 October 2023

A pale and slender man, suffering from ill health, began drawing an image by candlelight inside a room in Epsom’s Spread Eagle Hotel in June 1896 probably knowing he was … READ MORE



ARTS COMMUNITY

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in Epsom

24 October 2023

Following a successful run of Little Shop of Horrors last November, Leatherhead Opera Society have been busy preparing for their next musical production, and it’s a big one! The title … READ MORE



COUNCIL PLANNING

Local Plan (2022-2040) Un-Pause Recommended

24 October 2023

Ahead of tonight’s Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held at The Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom at 7.30pm the Epsom and Ewell Times summarises the Report submitted to Councillors by … READ MORE



COMMUNITY TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

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A bridge closed too far?

24 October 2023

In a saga that has left many residents scratching their heads, a seemingly routine footbridge closure in Epsom has morphed into an unexpected and prolonged headache. The bridge, over the … READ MORE



COUNCIL OPINION PLANNING

Cllr Persand intervenes ahead of Local Plan debate

24 October 2023

Opinion from Councillor Kieran Persand (Conservative Horton Ward) on the Local Plan business. Tonight, at 7:30pm, your Epsom & Ewell Borough Councillors will be meeting to decide on whether or … READ MORE



COMMUNITY NEWS

Warm Wednesdays return to Epsom

24 October 2023

Last winter Epsom Methodist Church, in the heart of Epsom, opened up its premises every Wednesday as a place where people could come to keep warm, enjoy hot drinks and … READ MORE

RUGBY SPORTS

Sutton & Epsom go under at Gravesend

22 October 2023

Gravesend v Sutton and Epsom RFC. Saturday 21st October. The last occasion that Sutton & Epsom ventured to the Rectory Field was during Gravesend’s triumphant title-winning season of 2013-4 as … READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

A hard-earned three points for Salts

22 October 2023

Spelthorne Sports 0-1 Epsom & Ewell FC. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. On Saturday we visited the Spelthorne Sports Club for another important League match. This was a venue … READ MORE



HELEN MAGUIRE NEWS WESTMINSTER

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LibDem PPC awarded Medal by the King

20 October 2023

Epsom & Ewell Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate Helen Maguire received a British Empire Medal (BEM) in The King’s Birthday Honours list announced in June. The honour was given for the … READ MORE



NEWS SPORTS

Over the Moon for World BMX result for Glyn boy

20 October 2023

A teenager from Ewell has been celebrating after his first time representing Great Britain in this year’s BMX World Championships. Hugo Moon, 15, competed against 200 riders in his age … READ MORE

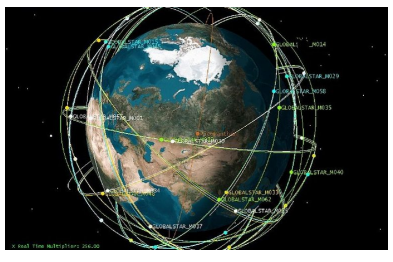


COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Play streets coming to Epsom and Ewell

20 October 2023

A closed-street scheme is being launched in Epsom to “get more children away from their ipads and TVs and actually play outside”. A ‘play street’ for Miles Road was approved … READ MORE



BUSINESS EDUCATION

Satellite comms. pass Surrey Uni test

20 October 2023

A satellite company called Eutelsat OneWeb recently made a big advancement. They successfully connected their low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites to a 5G mobile network for the first time. This … READ MORE



NEWS POLICING

Reigate Police Station closes with a concrete problem

20 October 2023

Officers and staff are being moved out of Reigate Police Station following the discovery of dangerous crumbly concrete inside the building. The move leaves CCTV of public spaces in Mole … READ MORE

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Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in Epsom

30 November 2023



Following a successful run of Little Shop of Horrors last November, **Leatherhead Opera Society** have been busy preparing for their next musical production, and it's a big one!

The title character in this show holds the record for the most expensive stage prop ever, and with "Chitty Hire" on board, this production certainly won't disappoint. This November, LOS proudly present a dazzling production of the beloved musical "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" at the Epsom Playhouse. This amateur production is set to captivate the hearts of audiences young and old with its enchanting story, memorable tunes, and the sheer excitement of live theatre.

The musical, with a book by Jeremy Sans and music by Richard and Robert Sherman, is based on the classic 1968 film, which follows the adventures of the eccentric inventor Caractacus Potts (played in this production by Joe Black) as he rebuilds a magical car and sets off on a whirlwind journey with his children Jeremy and Jemima. They are joined along the way by Truly Scrumptious (played by Charlotte Fisher) and together they must outwit the villainous Baron & Baroness, as well as the evil Child-catcher – prepare to experience heart warming moments, daring escapades, and the power of imagination throughout!

The Leatherhead Operatic Society's cast and crew have been hard at work for the last few months under the watchful eye of director John Harries-Rees, and are perfecting this production with their talent, dedication and passion, which is sure to shine through in every performance. With musical direction from Sam Fisher, and choreography by Louise E. Wilson, this production features a talented ensemble of local actors, singers and dancers, all coming together to create a show that promises to be a 'fantasmagorical' treat for the whole family.

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" boasts a memorable score, with songs including "Truly Scrumptious," "Hushabye Mountain," and of course, the hugely popular "Me Ol' Bamboo". Audiences can expect top-notch musical performances that will have them humming the tunes long ager the show has finished!

This production is a must-see for all ages, and the Epsom Playhouse is the perfect venue to bring this timeless tale to life. Don't miss this chance to experience the magic of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" with your friends and family. Tickets are on sale now and selling fast, so make sure to secure your seats early!

Performance Details:

Dates: November 21st – 25th, 2023

Venue: Epsom Playhouse, Ashley Avenue, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5AL

Tickets can be purchased from www.epsomplayhouse.co.uk or by calling the Box Office on 01372 742555.

The Leatherhead Operatic Society started way back in 1904, and since then have staged hundreds of musicals old and new, including Beauty and the Beast, Hairspray, South Pacific, Oklahoma, My Fair Lady, Camelot, Guys and Dolls, Oliver, Fiddler on the Roof etc.

Image – Chitty Chitty Bang Bang in the Epsom Market Square

Warm Wednesdays return to Epsom

30 November 2023



Last winter **Epsom Methodist Church**, in the heart of Epsom, opened up its premises every Wednesday as a place where people could come to keep warm, enjoy hot drinks and a lunchtime bowl of soup and have a friendly chat with others. In the afternoons Warm Wednesdays hosted an after-school club that included children's entertainment and an evening meal for all the family. Everything was free of charge and the initiative proved very popular, with an army of volunteers making and serving over 1,000 meals during the course of the winter.

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From 1st November through to 13th March 2024 Warm Wednesdays is back and from 10am to 6pm will be making the same offer available as last year. On the first Wednesday (November 1st) students from the nationally acclaimed Laine Theatre Arts will be coming to the after-school club to lead a Disney-themed entertainment session.

In an exciting new development Warm Wednesdays will this winter also include a weekly one-stop advice cafe. The church has partnered with a range of local organisations including Citizens Advice, The Mary Frances Trust, Epsom & Ewell Employment Hub, The Good Company, Surrey Community Action and Surrey County Council, to offer advice and support on:

 Mental health and wellbeing
 Benefits, welfare rights, housing and rents
 Energy saving in the home and dealing with energy suppliers
 Finding a job and accessing training
 Budgeting and managing your money
 Getting help in a crisis

Robert Hill, one of the organisers of Warm Wednesdays explained: “No appointments are required – just drop in, grab a free hot drink and have a chat to one of the friendly advisers. One week the advice café will operate in the morning from 11.30am until 1pm and the next week in the afternoon from 3.30pm to 5.15pm.

“We know life is tough for many people at the moment. Some people just want to be part of a friendly community where they can stay warm and make new friends. Others have particular worries and pressing concerns. And some will simply welcome somewhere where they and their children are entertained and catered for in a relaxed environment.

“We look forward to welcoming back many of those who joined us last year as well as making lots of new friends this winter.”

Further details and a map of Epsom Methodist Church’s location can be found at

https://www.epsommethodistchurch.org.uk/Groups/409512/Warm_Wednesdays.aspx

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Over the Moon for World BMX result for Glyn boy

30 November 2023



A teenager from **Ewell** has been celebrating after his first time representing Great Britain in this year’s BMX World Championships.

Hugo Moon, 15, competed against 200 riders in his age category at the event, which took place in Glasgow.

The annual competition saw 3,000 riders from some 50 countries take part, with each competing in three races, or Motos, to secure a coveted top-four place in the final.

Despite having only taken up the sport in 2020, Hugo, a student at Glyn School, a member of GLF Schools Multi Academy Trust, achieved fourth, third and fourth places in his qualifiers. He finished sixth in the Eighth Final to attain an overall ranking of 48th in the world.

“Hugo had an amazing time and enjoyed being part of the GB team, although it was a little overwhelming, as it was his first experience of an event of this magnitude, and the sheer scale of the event was impressive,” said Hugo’s mother, Sheryl Moon, who was there with his father and older sister to support him at the event.

“It was a rollercoaster of emotions from nervousness to excitement and enjoyment. Participating was not just about winning but also about personal growth. He learnt the value of perseverance, resilience, and the importance of setting goals and striving for them.”

“He loved being in the GB tent with all the camaraderie, nervous energy and banter,” she continued. “The spirit of the GB riders and supporters was so strong; the support and encouragement were heart-warming.

“He was a little disappointed as he really wanted to be in the top 32, but, if he did it again, I’m sure he could achieve that now that he’s experienced his first World Championships. With some more regional and national races under his belt, he will only get better and faster.”

Currently attached to Runnymeade Rockets, with whom he trains twice a week, Hugo first took up Park BMX when he was 12, before progressing to competitive racing aged 13. His selection for Team GB was based on his high national ranking

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the previous year.

As well as his family, the Year 11 student has been supported by friends and staff members at Glyn School, part of the GLF Schools Multi-Academies Trust – although GCSEs mean he will be unable to compete in next year's event.

"Watching Hugo compete was nerve-wracking but also very exciting for us – I'm sure competing is far easier!" added Mrs Moon. "The crowd atmosphere was electric and so supportive towards all our GB riders. The event was not without drama, with some riders falling and being injured in practice or in races. We were just praying he stayed on his bike and got through each race. But, honestly, we are so proud of him.

"Hugo has been on an amazing and fast journey to get to this level. This experience will stay with him forever, and to be able to say he represented Great Britain is a huge honour."

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