Chinn up for women

On International Women's Day (Friday 8th March) and Epsom and Ewell's association with the struggle for equal rights for women through the actions and death of Emily Davison, local Labour Councillor **Kate Chinn** (Court Ward) shares her thoughts on the special day:

Today is International Women's Day and this year's theme is to inspire inclusion.

It means breaking down barriers, challenging stereotypes, and creating environments where all women are valued and respected. I've heard repeated the old idea that women don't really understand figures. Tell that to the three women at NASA who did the maths that were instrumental in one of history's greatest operations – the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit celebrated in the book and film **Hidden Figures**. A great read and watch

World renowned feminist, journalist Gloria Steinem reported:- "the story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organisation but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights"

We can all do what we can to support and advance women.

As the IWD website states:- "When women aren't present, we must ask: "if not why not." When women are discriminated against, we must call out poor practice. When the treatment of women is not equitable we must take action"

Local politics is a way that women can get involved with their local communities and work with the community, other councillors and partner agencies to make a difference in their local community.

I became active as I believe local politics matter. People need a decent home, to feel safe in their communities, access to the services they need and the opportunity to enjoy the good things in life. We need "bread and roses too", a phrase attributed to a strike in Massachusetts in 1912 now often referred to as the "Bread and Roses strike". The slogan pairing bread and roses, appealing for both fair wages and dignified conditions. Now a poem by **James Oppenheim**.

It's only good governance that can enable both and why local and national politics are so important to all of us.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in politics then please do get involved and there is plenty of available help and support. Talk to your local councillors and the local political parties. Both the political parties and Epsom and Ewell Council run sessions on being a councillor; some in person and some on line

I believe it is important to mark International Women's Days. One of the many reasons is to celebrate the inspirational women we have both past and present. **Emily Wilding Davison**, Mary Seacole, Rosa Parks and Malala Yousafzai, to name just a few of so many women who have made the world a better place.

Cllr Kate Chinn

7th March 2024

BUSINESS COUNCIL FINANCES WESTMINSTER

Mixed reaction to Hunt's budget in Surrey



6 March 2024

In a significant development outlined in today's Spring Budget, Surrey MP and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt confirmed the Surrey County Deal agreement, heralding a new era of devolution for Surrey County ... READ MORE

BUSINESS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Water company blind to Mole pollution?



6 March 2024

A single Surrey river and its tributaries have had more than 4,500 hours of raw untreated sewage dumped into it by Thames Water already this year, according to a campaign ... READ MORE

COUNCIL FINANCES

Woking's whopping bail out and tax rise



5 March 2024

Woking Borough Council has raised its share of tax by 10 per cent. It comes as the bankrupt council was offered an "exceptional" £785 million Government bail out The major ... READ MORE

CRIME NEWS

False schizo claim rapist gets 8 years



4 March 2024

Following a three week trial an Epsom man who claimed schizophrenia goes down 8 years for rapes. Joseph Head, 25, of Chase Road, Epsom, was found guilty of three counts ... READ MORE

RUGBY SPORTS

Cornish Collect Crucial Win on Heartbreak Hill



4 March 2024

Sutton & Epsom 22 – London Cornish RFC 31 . Saturday 2nd March. The fixture at the Richard Evans Memorial Playing Fields in November was notable for the debut of Willem ... READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

March puts spring in Salt's steps





4 March 2024

Epsom & Ewell FC 6-2 Sandhurst Town. Combined Counties League - Premier Division. Saturday 2nd March 2024. Cast your mind back just four days to our heaviest defeat of the ... READ MORE

BUSINESS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Gatwick Airport Expansion



2 March 2024

The six-month inquiry into Gatwick Airport's plan to double capacity is underway. Airport chiefs at the country's second busiest airport want to modify its northern runway so that it can ... READ MORE

BUSINESS COUNCIL

Surrey takes over enterprise partnerships



1 March 2024

Businesses will be at the heart of Surrey's economic growth as they are set to benefit from a single strategic vision and leadership for the Surrey economy as part of the ... READ MORE

EDUCATION NEWS

IoT Launch: Nescot Welcomes Industry Leaders



29 February 2024

The Sussex and Surrey Institute of Technology (IoT) at North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot) in Ewell welcomed over 60 guests at its opening event on Wednesday 28 February. ... READ MORE

IoT Launch: Nescot Welcomes Industry Leaders

The Sussex and Surrey Institute of Technology (IoT) at **North East Surrey College of Technology** (Nescot) in **Ewell** welcomed over 60 guests at its opening event on Wednesday 28 February. Visitors had the opportunity to explore the state-of-the-art facilities, participate in hands-on activities and discover the wide range of resources and training opportunities available at the newly opened IoT.

The IoT at Nescot is the first new space to open as part of the Sussex and Surrey IoT and specialises in digital technologies with courses and apprenticeships from software development, cyber security, AI (Artificial Intelligence) and networking to cloud computing, data handling, 'internet of things' and IT support.

Visitors included partners and employers from varied industry sectors who were able to find out the many ways in which they can support the future of skills development in the IT sector. Anchor employers including NatWest, Roche Diagnostics, Southern Water, Pearson and Gatwick Airport pledged their ongoing support to work with the Sussex and Surrey IoT in various ways, from recruiting apprentices and upskilling existing staff to working with curriculum experts to help shape study programmes and providing mentoring.

Nescot staff and students also had the chance to explore the newly opened IoT. Computing staff, and students on our computing courses were on hand to showcase the specialist technology facilities and share their excitement with visitors about the courses available.

Julie Kapsalis, Principal and CEO at Nescot said, "We were delighted to welcome our first guests to the IoT at Nescot which was buzzing with activity the whole day. It's been wonderful to showcase our specialist digital technology facilities, resources and training. We are looking forward to working with businesses and partners to address current skills gaps and prepare for future skills needs."

Demonstrating some of the technology, Joseph, a student on our Level 3 Computing course said, "The focus on specialist digital technologies is a great opportunity to enhance my knowledge. Nescot is the perfect choice for the Institute of Technology with great access and networking opportunities."

Another student, Jeremy added, "I'm really excited about the Institute of Technology which is a great addition to Nescot. The technology and devices being installed here are amazing!"

Peter Goodenough, Computing tutor at Nescot, said, "With the Institute of Technology we can offer progress. Computers are in every walk of life and every industry. The IoT at Nescot is offering courses to enhance future skills and aid long term sustainability. You can choose from a wide range of courses on offer, from learning how to design, create and program smart devices, industrial and home robotics to making you mindful of your digital footprint."

For more information on the IoT at Nescot please visit their website

Sussex and Surrey IoT

The Sussex and Surrey IoT includes Nescot, Chichester College Group (CCG) and the Universities of Sussex and Brighton. The IoT will enhance higher level skills training, with a new state-of-the-art hub and specialist satellites for delivery at locations across the region. The investment will create new cutting-edge facilities for higher level technical training with a focus on digital, sustainable technologies, engineering and construction.

Find out more about the Sussex and Surrey IoT here

Image: A guest trying some of the VR (Virtual Reality) kit in the VR room at the IoT. Credit NESCOT

29th February 2024

COUNCIL FINANCES

Computer lets down County Council workers



28 February 2024

Surrey County Council's new £30 million payroll system has left staff "wiping tears of frustration and helplessness" over missed payments, it its claimed. It is claimed that the payroll system ... READ MORE

COMMUNITY

Money advice and more for free in Epsom and Ewell



28 February 2024

A report published in October of 2023 by the UK mental health charity Mind found 2.7m people had considered suicide due to financial pressures and over the last couple years ... READ MORE

COUNCIL SOCIAL CARE

More Surrey children in care to be cared for in Surrey



28 February 2024

In a move to bolster support for children in care, Surrey County Council has announced the inauguration of three state-of-the-art children's homes, marking a significant stride in their commitment to ... READ MORE

NEWS POLICING

Surrey Police roots out non-PC conduct



27 February 2024

There is a culture of "sexualised conversations" within a Surrey Police training group, an officer's gross misconduct hearing panel heard. PC Adam Watkins was found culpable of making sexually inappropriate ... READ MORE

COUNCIL CRIME

Primary school blighted by drive-by fly-tipper



27 February 2024

A "horrible, antisocial" pile of rubble was fly tipped outside a popular Surrey primary school by a lorry in a drive-by dump and run. Neighbours heard a truck driving down ... READ MORE

COUNCIL HOUSING PLANNING

A Green Group that won't belt up



26 February 2024

In a comprehensive critique of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's handling of the Local Plan, a local environmental advocacy group, known as Epsom Green Belt, argues there are shortcomings in the ... READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

Face saved by late rally



26 February 2024

Epsom & Ewell FC 3-4 Alton. Combined Counties League - Premier Division. Saturday 24th February. A competitive and entertaining, if niggly encounter at the Madgwick on Saturday ended with visitors ... READ MORE

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Two years on - Epsom stilled by Ukrainian voices



24 February 2024

Saturday morning the Epsom community gathered at the Epsom Market Place to mark the solemn occasion of the second anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine. Organized by ... READ MORE

COUNCIL CRIME FINANCES

Police probe abuse of public funds



24 February 2024

Suspected fraud and alleged breaches of procedure in Guildford Borough Council's housing maintenance team have snowballed, culminating in a police investigation. Last year, the council instigated a staff investigation following ... READ MORE

FAITH

Lessons in slowing down in Surrey



23 February 2024

St Augustine's Abbey in Chilworth, near Guildford Surrey, will open its doors to the public on May 18, 2024, offering a rare insight into the world of Benedictine monks. This ... READ MORE

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Bags of Confidence in Epsom for cancer survivors



22 February 2024

Epsom-based cancer support charity Look Good Feel Better is partnering with Epsom Café Moka in the Ashley Centre for a popup sale of preloved bags on Thursday 29th February 2024 ... READ MORE

ARTS BUSINESS

All things Epsom in art work



22 February 2024

A young artist's work was unveiled for the first time on 16th February at The Ashley Centre in Epsom. Created in celebration of all things Epsom, the giant mural by ... READ MORE

COUNCIL HEALTH

Surrey's hotline for mental health



22 February 2024

Ahead of Helpline Awareness Day (Friday, 23 February), Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Surrey County Council are highlighting a local 24-hour NHS mental health crisis helpline that ... READ MORE

Two years on - Epsom stilled by Ukrainian voices

Saturday morning the Epsom community gathered at the Epsom Market Place to mark the solemn occasion of the second anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine. Organized by the **Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network** (EERN) and **Surrey Stands with Ukraine** (SSWU), the event aimed to show solidarity and support for the people of Ukraine during these challenging times.

The atmosphere was one of unity and reflection as locals joined together to honour the resilience of the Ukrainian people. The local Ukrainian choir, **Renaissance**, delivered a moving rendition of the Ukrainian National Anthem, followed by a heartfelt prayer for Ukraine, touching the hearts of all those in attendance.

Jo Sherring, founder of the Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network, welcomed the crowd, emphasizing the importance of standing in solidarity with Ukraine during this difficult period. "We are privileged to have met and worked with such wonderful people and we will continue to support them as long as they need our help" she stated.

Roy Deadman, Chair of Surrey Stands With Ukraine thanked all the volunteers who have devoted countless unpaid hours to raising funds, collecting donations and sorting and packing aid for Ukraine.

A member of the choir, **Konstantyn**, a Ukrainian resident of Epsom, stepped forward and gave a poignant speech expressing his gratitude for Britain for its unwavering support to the Ukrainian community. "It is with a profound sense of appreciation that we extend our gratitude to everyone who has supported our country, whether in word or deed," he remarked.

The presence of The Worshipful the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Councillor **Rob Geleit**, and the Lady Mayor, added a sense of official recognition to the event, further underscoring the community's commitment to standing with Ukraine.

Although unable to attend in person, **Chris Grayling**, MP for Epsom & Ewell, conveyed his heartfelt message of solidarity to the Ukrainian community. "I am sorry not to be with you this year, but wanted to take this opportunity to extend my hand of

20th November 2025 Weekly

ISSN 2753-2771

friendship to all of our friends in Ukraine, both those of you who are here, and to your families who are back there.

I am very grateful to all of those locally who rose to the occasion, providing homes and other support for those escaping the War, to the teams of volunteers who continue to work with the Ukrainians who are here, and also the team in Surrey Stands For Ukraine who continue to provide direct aid to those back in Ukraine.

I know that this is a sombre occasion, but it is one which is really important as a signal of our determination to stand with Ukraine. That determination will not waver here in Epsom and Ewell."

The event served as a reminder of the ongoing struggle faced by the people of Ukraine and reaffirmed the commitment of the Epsom community to support them in their quest for peace and stability.

This week SSWU sent its 100th van packed with aid to Ukraine and the day's event raised over £1000. The charity is sending a long-laddered fire engine to Zaporizhzhia. Being near the front line the city's tower blocks can be struck by Russian missiles before the siren warns.



Alan Avis (SSWU), Cllr Neil Dallen (Residents Association), Mhairi Fraser (Conservative PPC), Cllr Bernie Muir (Conservative Borough and County), Lady Mayoress, Cllr Robert Geleit (Mayor and Labour Councillor), Helen Maguire (Liberal Democrat PPC), Roy Deadman (SSWU) joined together at the offices of SSWU and EERN in Global House. Offices generously donated by the **Ashley Centre** and generously exempted from business rates by **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council**.

Politicians from all parties suspended differences in supporting the event.

Lionel Blackman director of the charity for SSWU observed: "After the disunity and chaos in Parliament this week over the war in Gaza it was heartening to see local politicians from all sides demonstrate their united support for the humanitarian work being done in the Borough and Surrey for Ukrainians here and at home."

If you wish to hear the Ukrainian Choir Renaissance and other professional Ukrainian musicians come to the social and music

evening free of charge (leaving collection at discretion) on Saturday 30th March at the Epsom Methodist Church Ashley Road. Bring and share nibbles appreciated from 6pm and music starts at 7pm. No booking necessary.

Top Image- Ukraine Choir Renaissance with supporters from EERN and SSWU

Bags of Confidence in Epsom for cancer survivors

Epsom-based cancer support charity **Look Good Feel Bette**r is partnering with Epsom **Café Moka** in the Ashley Centre for a pop-up sale of preloved bags on Thursday 29th February 2024 from 11am until 2pm. Funds raised will go towards supporting people facing cancer to build back their self-confidence and improve their overall well-being.

Leigh Beth Stroud, Look Good Feel Better's Community Fundraising Manager, explains: "Our first ever 'Bags of Confidence' pop-up sale is open to everyone and will raise much-needed funds for people undergoing treatment for cancer. Pre-loved, quality handbags will be available to buy, so do come along and have a browse on the day."

This year, Look Good Feel Better celebrates its 30th anniversary. The charity embarked on its journey in 1994 to support people living with cancer and has helped over 200,000 people to date regain their confidence and self-esteem. Look Good Feel Better knows how challenging it can be to process a cancer diagnosis and manage the physical and emotional side effects of cancer treatment.

The charity runs workshops face-to-face and classes virtually to support women, men, and young adults through this time. Services are free and open to anyone facing cancer, and the workshops are led by trained volunteers in the beauty industry to provide practical advice about changes to skin, eyebrows, eyelashes, hair, and nails during treatment, and body confidence.

Ann M, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, attended a workshop and said: "I signed up to a number of the charity's workshops, including the hand and nail care; the headwear, wigs, brows and lashes, and the styling for confidence sessions. And I haven't looked back. The biggest thing was that I felt less alone. Cancer can make you feel very isolated, but here I was surrounded by other people, soaking up the good advice and information. It was just what I needed and I would recommend anyone undergoing treatment for cancer should sign up for a workshop."

If you are interested in hosting your own 'Bags of Confidence' event, the charity will provide you with all the support you need, with a colourful fundraising pack with helpful hints and tips available at www.lookgoodfeelbetter.co.uk

Leigh adds: "You might find your favourite designer bag or pick up another hidden gem. 'Bags of Confidence' is a simple and sustainable event where these handbags will go to a new home, while raising funds for the charity. And no bags go to landfill, so it's a win-win situation."

Established 30 years ago, Look Good Feel Better delivers cancer support services in local communities across the UK through a series of face-to-face and online group workshops, along with video tutorials. Its services help people face cancer with confidence, regain their sense of normality, make friends, and most of all look good and feel better. Its vision is to be recognised as one of the UK's leading cancer support charities and the only one dedicated to improving the physical appearance and overall well-being of people living with cancer.

All things Epsom in art work

A young artist's work was unveiled for the first time on 16th February at **The Ashley Centre** in Epsom. Created in celebration of all things Epsom, the giant mural by 21-year-old Bristol University student **Ole Murphy** is being displayed in the Ashley Centre before moving to its permanent home in the pedestrian tunnel on West Hill. The local community and representatives from Epsom Business Improvement District (BID) attended the unveiling along with the artist and his family. The artwork was unveiled outside the shopping centre's flagship store which later this year will become the largest Primark in the UK outside of London.

The mural strengthens Epsom's role as Surrey's leading destination for inspirational artworks. Its bright, bold colours celebrate many elements of Epsom's history, culture and people. Ole Murphy's piece aligns beautifully with the graphic design students from the University of the Creative Arts (UCA Epsom), who created vibrant, colourful artworks for Epsom's outdoor East Street gallery and Ashley Centre windows in 2022, to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A year previously, the town unveiled a statue of suffragette **Emily Wilding Davison**, who died after stepping out in front of King George V's horse Anmer at the Epsom Derby in June 1913. The suffragette flag Davison was carrying when struck by the horse now hangs in the Houses of Parliament, while her statue holds a position of honour in Epsom's marketplace.

Karen Pengelly, BID Manager for Go Epsom, comments: "We are delighted to be adding Ole Murphy's vivid and colourful mural to Epsom's wealth of existing artwork, for enjoyment by all who live in and visit Epsom. Our town has such a rich history and culture, which Ole has captured beautifully in his creative and colourful design. The mural will ensure the West Hill tunnel is bursting with cheer, bringing joy to all those who walk, cycle or drive past."

Every aspect of Murphy's mural has been drawn from local life, from well-known elements such as horseracing and the discovery of Epsom Salts to more niche connections to the area.

Artist Ole Murphy comments: "I wanted the mural to represent the past and present of Epsom. Within my piece, I draw attention to the history and life that surrounds the town. Whilst Epsom is rich in historic events, I wanted to pay homage to current issues. I reference this in the sprinkling of music from the hands and the silhouetted figures that are walking down a runway. The figures represent the old and the new; their silhouettes are traditional but the red runway they are walking in foreshadows modernity in creative degrees at the university. Most importantly, I wanted my mural to be vibrant and light up the tunnel. I hope its colours run joyfully through the spirits of those who stop to observe it."

Epsom has a long history of investing in the arts – as well as a bright future. UCA Epsom announced in 2023 that it had obtained planning permission to turn two former office buildings into exciting new places for students and staff. The campus expansion speaks to how valued the role of art is in Epsom life and how intrinsically it is linked with the town's past, present and future.

22nd February 2024

COUNCIL HOUSING PLANNING

Here we go again on the Local Plan?



21 February 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has launched a dedicated FAQ section on its website to inform residents about the ongoing development of the borough's Local Plan. According to the Council ... READ MORE

ARTS CULTURE

Arts plan to surprise Surrey and nation



21 February 2024

In a bold move to redefine Surrey's cultural landscape, a comprehensive strategy and vision for the years 2024-2034 has been unveiled by The Surrey Cultural Partnership (SCP). The "Surprising Surrey: ... READ MORE

ARTS CULTURE

English music for Lent in Epsom



21 February 2024

Stainer's The Crucifixion is a classic of the Victorian era which is still loved by church choirs and choral societies. It tells the story of Christ's Passion with compelling arias ... READ MORE

COUNCIL HOUSING PLANNING

New housing around Surrey's cathedral in contention



21 February 2024

A developer is arguing the benefits of 124 new homes next to Guildford Cathedral outweigh the potential harms to the heritage and green space. Vivid Homes is appealing for a ... READ MORE

EDUCATION NEWS

The fellowship of NESCOT



20 February 2024

Nescot (North East Surrey College of Technology) Reigate Road, Ewell, celebrated student success at the annual Higher Education (HE) Awards graduation ceremony at Epsom Downs Racecourse earlier this month (7th ... READ MORE

COUNCIL HEALTH

Coroner catalogues care failures in diabetic death



19 February 2024

Surrey County Council (SCC) has been accused of not taking its responsibilities seriously after an eighteen-year-old tragically died from diabetes. Jake Baker, an 18-year-old with a learning disability and type ... READ MORE

RUGBY SPORTS

Outwitted by Sidcup's set pieces



19 February 2024

Sidcup 45 Sutton & Epsom RFC 22. Saturday 17th February. Sutton & Epsom RFC first played at Crescent Farm in February 1898 and it is a delight to record thatmodern ... READ MORE

FOOTBALL SPORTS

First win of the year for Epsom & Ewell FC





18 February 2024

Camberley Town 1-2 Epsom & Ewell FC. Combined Counties League – Premier Division. Saturday 17th February 2024 After seven successive defeats we finally opened our account for 2024 with an ... READ MORE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION FAITH

New Family Centre grows out of Nursery



18 February 2024

For nearly 25 years Epsom Methodist Nursery has been providing early years childcare in the heart of Epsom – just two minutes from the town centre. Now the Nursery is \dots READ MORE

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Business that connects by insulating



18 February 2024

The Wickes Community Programme has donated insulation products to the value of £1000 to help struggling families in the local community. This initiative is run by the Epsom based charity, ... READ MORE

BUSINESS COUNCIL

A boozy blow to Epsom's "gentrification"?



15 February 2024

Epsom's new B&M bargains store, formerly Wilko, can sell booze from 7am-11pm despite a resident's concerns it could "attract the wrong crowd". After entering administration last summer, the former Wilko ... READ MORE

English music for Lent in Epsom

Stainer's The Crucifixion is a classic of the Victorian era which is still loved by church choirs and choral societies. It tells the story of Christ's Passion with compelling arias and dramatic choruses, as well as moments of reflection, such as the anthem, "God So Loved the World."

The work features in Epsom Choral Society's spring concert at St Martin's Church Epsom on Saturday 9th March. The

20th November 2025 Weekly

ISSN 2753-2771

programme showcases some of the most celebrated English anthems of the twentieth century. In Elgar's "The Spirit of the Lord" the Apostles tell of their calling to preach the Gospel, while Ireland's transcendent "Greater Love Hath No Man" and Howells' haunting "Like as the Hart Desireth" offer evocative interpretations of biblical texts. Finzi's "Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice" is a poignant reflection on the communion gifts of bread and wine, in the words of the 17th-century mystic poet Richard Crashaw.

Isobel Squire, Chair of Epsom Choral Society, expresses her excitement for the event, stating, "We are thrilled to offer balm for the soul with an evening of glorious English choral music. Whether or not you are a believer, the soaring melodies and gorgeous harmonies of these wonderful settings of sacred texts are quaranteed to uplift your spirit."

Epsom Choral Society is delighted to welcome back esteemed international soloists John Findon (tenor) and Jon Stainsby (bass), alongside organist Peter Jaekel, for what promises to be an unforgettable evening of musical inspiration. Music Director, Julian Collings, said: "The five works chosen for this concert revolve around the Lenten themes of preparation, waiting and penitence. From John Stainer's gloriously Victorian depiction of the events leading up to the Crucifixion to the emotional intensity and heartfelt intimacy of the music of Herbert Howells and Gerald Finzi, this concert presents some of the best and most moving music from the English Choral tradition."

Tickets for "English Music for Lent" are available online at https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/epsom-choral-society/t-moaqzdo or by phone at 01372 727078.

Tickets are priced at £20 in advance or £22 on the door. Admission is free for attendees under 18 years of age. Each ticket includes a complimentary programme and a glass of wine.

The fellowship of NESCOT

Nescot (North East Surrey College of Technology) Reigate Road, **Ewell**, celebrated student success at the annual Higher Education (HE) Awards graduation ceremony at **Epsom Downs Racecourse** earlier this month (7th February). 110 graduands along with 300 family members and friends came together to mark the culmination of their hard work.

Degrees, diplomas and professional awards were conferred in over 15 subjects ranging from teaching to osteopathy. Colleagues from Nescot partners including University of Greenwich, Kingston University, Open University were on hand to assist **Julie Kapsalis**, Principal and CEO, with conferring the degrees.

Guests of honour for the ceremony included Councillor **Robert Geleit**, Mayor of Epsom & Ewell (Labour Court Ward), a former HND student of Nescot and **Brian Finch**, Chair of Epsom Downs Racecourse who kindly brought along the amazing Derby trophy. Brian who was the guest speaker, congratulated the graduates on their achievement and spoke about key lessons from his career journey in his inspirational speech.

At the ceremony, annual awards for outstanding endeavours and achievements were also presented by our guests of honour to six nominated students from the Nescot Class of 2023. The prizes included awards sponsored by the College and by the **Rotary Clubs of Epsom and Ewell**.

To mark Nescot's 70th anniversary, Principal and CEO, Julie Kapsalis was proud to award the college's first **Honorary Fellowships** at this year's graduation ceremony. "2024 sees Nescot celebrate its 70th anniversary, to recognise this incredible milestone and achievement, the college is introducing a new Honorary Fellowship award, the highest accolade the college can bestow. It recognises exceptional achievement and excellence by individuals associated with the college," said Julie.

The first Honorary Fellowship was awarded to **Dee Mathieson**, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Elekta. A former student of Nescot, Dee has had an exceptional career in the science and medical sector. Sharing her journey, she said, "I am very grateful to Nescot for helping me on my way to what has been a fantastic and varied career in cancer care."

The second Honorary Fellowship on the day was awarded to Nescot staff member, **Daniel Addo** from our Security Team. Presenting the award, Julie said, "With his kindness and positivity he is a wonderful role model and encourages students to make the most of their opportunities both in the college and life."

The student vote of thanks was given by **Craig Clout**, who graduated with an Integrated Masters in Osteopathic Medicine. Craig spoke about the supportive and collaborative nature of the college community that contributes to everyone's success.

HE degrees and awards were conferred for the following subjects: osteopathy, animal management, sports therapy, counselling, early years, animal management, healthcare play specialist, food premises inspection, business, creative media (moving image),

20th November 2025 Weekly



ISSN 2753-2771

performing arts, computing, public services, sport and exercise science.

Image: Honorary Fellowship award winners, Dee Mathieson Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Elekta (left) and Daniel Addo, Nescot staff member (right), with Principal and CEO of Nescot, Julie Kapsalis (centre).