

# Benches mark the victims of Co-Vid across the Borough

23 October 2022



**Epsom & Ewell Borough Council** is installing 14 memorial benches across the Borough to commemorate all the lives lost in the Covid-19 pandemic. Metal benches have been placed at Alexandra Receptions Ground, Long Grove Park, Nonsuch Park, Shadbolt Park, Stoneleigh Broadway and The Grove in Ewell Village.

Mayor Clive Woodbridge, College Ward Councillors Julie Morris and Nigel Colin, Cllr Hannah Dalton and Elena Ciesco. Acting Borough Chief Executive Jackie King also attended.

More metal benches have been or are in the process of being installed at Auriol Park, Ewell Court Park, Mounthill Gardens and The Wells Centre. Wooden benches will also be placed at Epsom Common, Grandstand Road, Horton Country Park and Hogsmill by the steppingstones at a later date. Flowers will also be planted around the benches where appropriate.

Funding for the benches was provided via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Councillor **Hannah Dalton**, who put forward the CIL bid, said, "The past two years have been extremely hard for everyone in the Borough, but more so for those who have lost loved ones. These benches are our permanent memorial to all those affected by the pandemic. "I hope they will bring comfort to grieving families, ensuring that their loved one will always have a place in and be remembered by our community."

Councillor **John Beckett**, Chair of Environment and Safe Communities Committee, added, "While these benches memorialise the pandemic, they also represent a time for reflection within the Borough. I can't think of a more fitting tribute to those we have lost, than to have something to remind us of and generations to come."



A Robin is a feature of the Co-Vid victims memorial bench

One of the benches, for each of the Borough's Wards, was the place of a moving speech by **Mayor Clive Woodbridge** on Saturday morning 22nd October. In **Alexandria Park** The Mayor spoke of the loss so many across the Borough have suffered during the pandemic. As of the week ending 7th October 2022 the UK Government funded **LG Inform** states that 474 persons have died of Co-Vid in Epsom and Ewell.

Mayor Woodbridge recognised how deep the bereavement is felt by relatives who came to the bench this day especially as he had this year suffered the loss of a son. As an example of the reality of loss he read a tribute to one Epsomian who succumbed to the virus.



Elena Ciesco who campaigned for memorials in the Borough

**“Luigi Ciesco** was born in Italy in 1941 and at the age of 19 he moved to England in 1960 to start a new life. He met Vincenza his wife, at a wedding in Italy and soon after, they were married, settling first in Hook Road and then in Alexandra Road in Epsom for 45 years. They went on to have 4 children and 8 grandchildren and were married for 57 years. He was an amazing, fun loving and cheeky man, a real character and he was known and loved by so many. He loved his family, and he loved his Italian music and he loved to dance. He was an extremely hard-working man and worked in the NHS. He grew all his own vegetables and was an expert gardener and wine maker.

The Covid memorial benches mean a great deal to the bereaved families. The world seems to have moved on from Covid but they have not moved on, they are forever changed. The benches show the reality of how cruel this virus is and how it does not discriminate from young to old. We all hope that it makes people stop and think about our loved ones never to be forgotten.”

## Inspirational Surrey Syrian awarded

23 October 2022



**Surrey Arts** inclusion music teacher **Raghad Haddad** has won the Inspirational Music Leader Award at the Youth Music Awards 2022. Raghad received her award on 19 October in Troxy London in recognition of her work for Surrey Arts as a diverse leader of refugee background, supporting vulnerable children in Surrey.

Raghad Haddad is a viola player from Yabroud, a small town in the mountains north of Damascus. Since being granted asylum in the UK in 2018 she has performed at numerous charity events in London and Brighton and recently performed with Damon Albarn, The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and The Orchestra of Syrian Musicians.

On behalf of Surrey Arts Raghad has worked on multiple projects supporting vulnerable children including SEND and refugee children and has been the executive producer of a major international music project involving the United Nations and 120 participants from around the world.

After finding out she won the award, Raghad said: *“I was speechless when they announced my name as the winner of the Inspirational Music Leader at the Youth Music Award 2022 this week!*

*“It’s such an honour to have received this award and I’m so grateful to my colleagues at Surrey Arts for the support they have given me since I arrived in the UK from Syria.*

*“Thank you for giving me the opportunity, not only to rebuild my own life but also the privilege to help others affected by war, poverty, climate change and discrimination. Sadly, the need to support displaced communities is not getting smaller*

*and I look forward to supporting more of your transformational projects in the months and years ahead."*

**Kavyan Hajirostami** also won the Young Leader Award for their work with Big Leaf. Big Leaf support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) across Surrey and work closely with Surrey Arts on a range of music and arts projects. You can find more information about Big Leaf here: <https://www.bigleafoundation.org.uk/>

Surrey County Council news

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## Anyone for tennis and computers?

23 October 2022



Pupils at Shawley Community Primary Academy **Epsom Downs** will put their racket skills to the test this half-term and take part in an exciting afternoon of tennis coaching and computer-based learning activities, with education charity, **Rackets Cubed**.

The unique initiative combines racket sports with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) lessons at the local Sutton Sports Village, rounded off with a well-deserved and nutritious hot meal for the budding athletes and computer whizzes.

Supporting all children to be healthy, happy and ambitious learners is at the heart of Shawley Primary Academy's approach. The school has partnered with Rackets Cubed to help widen access into sports and STEM learning for more children in the borough, empowering each pupil to realise their full academic and sporting potential.

The charity aims to improve the lives of children and young people across the UK and raise aspirations through its integrated programme of sport, education and nutrition learning. As part of the enriching afternoon, pupils in years 5 and 6 will be getting served with:

- Racket sports - a structured coaching session with a professional sports coach
- STEM activities - one hour of fun and engaging computer-based activities delivered alongside the sports coaching, to complement the core school curriculum
- Nutrition - A healthy and hearty meal will be provided at the end of the session to help the children re-energise, whilst learning about the importance of nutrition for classroom and sporting achievement

While tennis fans bid farewell to old legends such as Serena Williams and Roger Federer this year, the future is looking bright with newcomers such as Naomi Osaka and Emma Raducanu. This makes it a perfect time to introduce more local children to the sport and nurture the next generation of diverse tennis talent.

By providing pupils with the opportunity to try extracurricular opportunities that otherwise might not be easily accessible, Shawley and Rackets Cubed are working to help children dream bigger, develop their skills and discover new passions.

**Sports Lead at Shawley Community Primary Academy, said:**

*"We are very excited here at Shawley to begin this partnership with Rackets Cubed and help break down barriers to sports and STEM learning. The positive growth and self-fulfilment of our pupils is central to what we do, so being able to align ourselves with a charity that is also driven by these aims was incredibly important to us. Sports can create an infinite number of opportunities and benefits when it's regularly engaged in, so it wonderful to work with Rackets Cubed and help our pupils access professional coaching and training, which all contributes to their wider success."*

For more information about Shawley Community Academy, please visit: <https://www.shawleyprimaryacademy.co.uk/>

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## Vice Chair of Trustees and Company Secretary vacancies CAB

23 October 2022

Vice Chair of Trustees and Company Secretary vacancies Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell are advertising for a Vice Chair of Trustees and a company secretary (both volunteer roles) to join/support our Board of Trustees. These are very rewarding roles and will be critical in furthering the work of CAEE particularly as we support local people through the

cost of living crisis. Further information and application packs are available on our website. For an informal chat about the roles, contact our Chair of Trustees via the website. Closing date for applications is 14 November.

We also have a number of other volunteer roles available including reception and admin supporters, fundraisers, research & campaigns volunteers.

Please visit our website [caee.org.uk/volunteer/](http://caee.org.uk/volunteer/) for more details.

Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell  
21 October 2022

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## Le Pire, The Worst - Epsom burglar gets 3 years.

23 October 2022



A man who stole £23,000 when he burgled a house in Epsom, will now spend just under three years behind bars for his crime. **Alfred Pire**, 25, of York Road, Chingford, pleaded guilty to using a crowbar to break into a home on East Street, Epsom, on the afternoon of 23 May. After conducting an untidy search, Pire took approximately £23,000 in cash and fled the scene.

In his rush to leave the crime scene Pire left the crowbar behind, allowing officers to swab it for DNA bringing up a match on the system. Investigators also trawled through footage from nearby CCTV images and were able to match Pire to a man acting suspiciously in the area at the time of the burglary.

At sentencing at Guildford Crown Court on Monday, 17 October, Pire was sentenced to 32 months in prison. Unfortunately, the money stolen in the burglary was not recovered.

Investigating officer **PC Brown** said: "Pire was brazened enough to drive to the scene in his own vehicle and use a crowbar to break into the victim's house, stealing a significant amount of cash that was proceeds of years of hard work and long hours from the victim's business. The impact this has had on the victim has been huge.

"We know that when your house is burgled victims can feel extremely violated and uncomfortable in their own home. No-one should have to feel like this due to another persons' selfish and criminal actions, so we are very pleased that we were able to bring the victim some closure with the successful prosecution of Pire."

Surrey Police

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## Insurers against poverty?

23 October 2022



**Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell (CAEE)** has launched a crowdfunding scheme with the **Aviva Community Fund** to raise money to deliver critical Cost of Living advice to local people. Aviva has selected CAEE to be part of the Aviva Community Fund where Aviva employees can allocate £25 (donated by Aviva) to their chosen charity project on the scheme. The crowdfunding scheme is not limited to Aviva employees - the public are encouraged to donate towards community fund projects. In addition, Aviva has pledged to match donations (one per donor) up to the value of £250 to help tackle the Cost of Living crisis.

**Lisa Davis**, CEO, CAEE said: “The Cost of Living crisis is affecting all of us with rising prices and concerns about the future. But for some, the crisis is truly devastating. People coming to us are understandably very worried about paying their bills, heating their homes and looking after their families. Demand for our services is predicted to grow this winter so this campaign is crucial to help us support the local community during this difficult time.”

CAEE is an independent charity and needs to raise funds to keep its services running for the benefit of the community of Epsom & Ewell. It gives free advice and information about many different issues including debt, benefits, housing and employment advice. This can include crisis support such as vouchers for the local food bank and funds to help with fuel payments. CAEE can check that people are claiming all the benefits and other money that they are entitled to and help with budgeting skills whether they are in debt or worried about managing their money effectively.

Please visit the CAEE crowdfunding page for more information and to donate: <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/citizens-advice-epsom-ewell-cost-of-living-advice-services>

Or visit the CAEE website [www.cae.org.uk](http://www.cae.org.uk)

About Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell CAEE is a small, local charity offering free advice and information for all who live, work and study in the borough of Epsom & Ewell. All advice is free, confidential, impartial and independent. As a small charity we are responsible for raising our funds. It costs, on average, £60 for each client that we help. To make a donation please visit [www.cae.org.uk/donate/](http://www.cae.org.uk/donate/)

Just £5 per month could enable us to help another client this year. If you need advice, please contact our friendly team at Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell on 0808 278 7963 (Mon-Fri, 10am - 4pm) or see our website: [www.cae.org.uk](http://www.cae.org.uk)

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## Epsom Pantry breathing life into the community

23 October 2022



**Epsom Pantry** is a member-led community hub and food shop opened by **Good Company** (Surrey). Opened to create a network of support and a much-needed source of affordable grocery shopping within our community. The Pantry is a means of strengthening people’s financial and emotional resilience while also helping to reduce the dependency on food banks. The cost-of-living crisis means more and more households are struggling to make ends meet. The Pantry offers vital financial savings, access to healthy nutritious food and the opportunity to be part of a growing community of support during a time when it is most needed.

Image: *Volunteers Faye and David in the Pantry*

Since officially opening back in July they now have 170 members, supporting a total of 299 adults and 258 children. The Pantry membership has grown very quickly, far exceeding its aim of reaching 100 members in a year!

**Bex Loomes**, Epsom Pantry Manager said “With growing numbers comes a great sense of community. As soon as the shop opens there is a buzz and a lovely atmosphere. We have seen long lost friends reunited, shoppers sharing new recipe ideas, and people sitting down to chat with new friends, in a space they feel is their own. If you are in Epsom Monday to Friday, do pop in and say hello. We are open for limited hours but there is often someone in the shop ready to show you around.”

Epsom Pantry works through a membership system. Anyone can apply online to become a part of Epsom Pantry or be directly referred to the Pantry by Epsom & Ewell Foodbank. The Pantry offers an alternative food-aid that is available to anyone we see at our food banks centres. They also help people before they are in that crisis situation.



*Maggie and Harris showing off the allotment fruit and veg*

For £5 members get to choose 10 items from the shelves. Each week this includes meat, dairy, fridge, and freezer items, as well as all the store cupboard basics and toiletries. Fruit, vegetables, eggs, and bread are all given out for free! Our members are taking home over £30 worth of food shopping for just £5, meaning they are saving an average of £1,000 a year on shopping bills.



*All smiles in the Pantry with Jane, Sarah and Faye*

When not open for shopping, they are running community activities. So far these have included free children's cooking classes with Jayne from Grow, Cook, Enjoy; energy advice consultations and top ups with Dave from Surrey Community Action; and adult low-cost, low-energy cooking classes with Chef Renu.

Newest staff team member **Jane** (Pantry Co-ordinator) will be heading up these community activities going forward, engaging with local agencies, and involving the wider Epsom community in what Epsom Pantry do here.

**Epsom Pantry**  
24 South Street  
Epsom  
KT18 7PF

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## Fostering new parents

23 October 2022



**Surrey County Council** and 56 Local Authorities across England have worked together to share ideas and jointly fund the creation of a short film to raise awareness of fostering. It is aimed at finding more people who may be interested in becoming foster carers and providing nurturing, positive homes for children and young people across the country who need them.

The new film, simply called 'Childhood', highlights the impact of neglect on children, particularly brothers and sisters who may be left at times to try and care for each other. It shows the journey of 'Sophie' and 'Charlie' who are in a very difficult home situation where their needs are not being met, to being nurtured and supported through foster care to attend school and be able to enjoy their hobbies and interests. In other words, have a childhood.

**Sinead Mooney**, Cabinet Member for Children and Families at Surrey County Council said: "We have a critical need for more foster carers in Surrey, and we are calling on people to open their hearts and homes, to make sure that Surrey's children can be cared for in their local community. Fostering really can make a huge difference to children and young people, and we offer a strong carer network as a local authority, so I encourage people to find out more."

'Childhood' will be officially launched with a premiere at the Everyman cinema, Birmingham on 13<sup>th</sup> October, with an introduction from **Kevin Williams**, the Chief Executive of **The Fostering Network**, and Rachel Brown, project manager working with Council Advertising Network.

Kevin Williams said "We continue to value and support foster carers but we urgently need more foster carers to come forward to care for children within their local communities. Foster carers are the bedrock of children's social care; they are vital in our society and our young people rely on their care, dedication, passion and skills to support them when they need it most. Across the UK, around 9,265 more fostering families are needed, to make sure every child that can't live with their own family gets the care they need.

"Currently, there are over 70,000 children living with almost 56,000 foster families in the UK, and the number of children coming into care keeps rising. The reasons children become looked after vary widely. We need more people to come forward to foster, to stand by their side and to be there for them no matter what."

The film will then be published on all 56 participating council's social media platforms.

The film will be available to watch and share from all participating local authority platforms from noon on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to help the message spread across the UK using the hashtags #FosterForYourCouncil and #Childhood

Find out more about Fostering in Surrey here: [surreycc.gov.uk/fostering](http://surreycc.gov.uk/fostering) and follow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Anyone can contact SCC today for a friendly and informal chat about fostering in Surrey: 0800 096 9626.

Surrey County Council news

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## Surrey Police tackling drug-dealers

23 October 2022



**Surrey Police** marked **County Lines Intensification Week** (3-9 October) by targeting and disrupting violent county lines gangs and engaging with those most vulnerable to exploitation by these criminals.

The intensification week, which is run nationally, aims to make life as difficult as possible for members of county line gangs, who often use violence and intimidation to exploit children and the vulnerable and to force them to store and 'run' drugs for them.

Over the week, officers focused on visiting local communities to raise awareness of the signs of exploitation and what to do if you think a loved one is at risk. They carried out 31 cuckooing prevention visits, safeguarded 40 vulnerable adults, engaged with over 460 people at local community events, and completed almost 120 prevention and education visits at secondary schools, taxi firms, leisure centres and youth groups.

A total of 11 people were also arrested for various drugs offences, 76 people were proactively stopped and searched, over 250 wraps of heroin and crack cocaine were seized, and more than £2000 in cash and assets were confiscated.

This latest activity was carried out by the neighbourhood and proactive teams and is on top of the 119 county lines that Centurion, our dedicated county lines team, have successfully shut down since their creation in September 2020. This works out at just over one drugs line being closed per week.

**DCI Debbie White** said: "County lines gangs can cause untold misery to their victims as they often utilise violence (including sexual violence), and intimidation to exploit the most vulnerable in our society. Working closely with our partners in neighbouring forces and the South East Regional Crime Unit (SEROUCU), we have become very effective at

using intelligence to identify and target those who may be involved in this criminal activity and bringing them to justice. Your information is vital in allowing us to keep on closing down these drug lines, so if you have any information regarding drug dealing or violent crime in your area, or you are worried that someone is being exploited, we need you to tell us. If you'd rather not speak to police, please reach out to the anonymous and fully independent charity Crimestoppers. Together we can stop the flow of drugs into our county."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey **Lisa Townsend** said: "Driving county lines gangs out of Surrey remains a key priority for me as your Commissioner and this kind of targeted police action is vital in helping take dangerous people and drugs off our streets. These networks are ruthless and actively groom young and vulnerable people in our communities to act as drug couriers or dealers. It is so important we all work together to prevent them falling into the clutches of these gangs. That is why I would ask everyone to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police so they can take immediate action and disrupt this criminal activity in our county."

Surrey Police news

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## 13th October 2022

23 October 2022

Welcome to our weekly update.



NATURE POEMS POET'S CORNER

### Epsom Common Bird Walk Poem

October 13, 2022

It's an early start, binoculars in hand, we follow the winding path through the trees; all shades of green surround us as we stand dawn chorus resounds, distant bird calls tease. On the pond, ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

### Epsom College top independent school 2022

October 12, 2022

Epsom College has been judged Independent School of the Year 2022 at an annual awards ceremony that celebrates the very best in education and student experience in UK independent schools. ... [READ MORE](#)



NEWS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

### Re so la - "a very good place to start"?

October 12, 2022

Guildford's MP has labelled a "blanket ban" on solar farms "unwise" and says she supports a bid by the University of Surrey for a site outside of the town. The ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL PLANNING

## Claygate not to suffer children's home

October 11, 2022

Plans for a children's home in a Claygate cul-de-sac have been refused despite support from Surrey County Council which needs more beds for Surrey's vulnerable children. The application for a ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY COUNCIL HEALTH

## Lighting up for menstrual dignity

October 11, 2022

On Tuesday 11 October Surrey Fire and Rescue Service lit up Guildford Fire Station in a show of support for Binti, an international menstrual dignity charity based in Weybridge, Surrey. ... [READ MORE](#)



FOOTBALL SPORTS

## Epsom and Ewell FC Top the Table

October 10, 2022

Epsom & Ewell 2-0 Hailsham Town. Southern Combination League - Division One. Saturday 8th October 2022. It was back to League action on Saturday following our midweek League Cup defeat, ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY NATURE NEWS

## Princess Anne's Epsom visit kept a bit secret

October 9, 2022

Epsom and Ewell Times exclusive: 21st June 2022 HRH The Princess Royal entered the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. The Court Circular states: Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEERS

## Can we be sustainable?

October 9, 2022

Sustainable Epsom and Ewell is an independent, apolitical and entirely volunteer led environmental group aiming to raise environmental ambitions in the Borough. Sustainable Epsom and Ewell was founded in late ... [READ MORE](#)

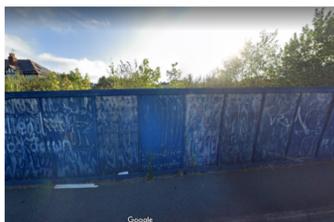


COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

## Surrey's Fire Service sends 4x4 to Ukraine

October 7, 2022

Two Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) staff members set off to Poland yesterday (Thursday 6 October) to donate another 4x4 Land Rover to the Ukrainian Fire and Rescue Service. ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL PLANNING

## "Blot on the landscape" - Ewell care home inked in

October 7, 2022

A derelict site in Ewell is to become a 70-bed care home. The Organ Inn was known to any one of Epsom and Ewell driving to London. Situated prominently on ... [READ MORE](#)

## Posts navigation

COUNCIL PLANNING

## 14 against 59 = 70? Dilemma for Headley

October 6, 2022

Councillors have been warned to "be under no illusions" that a plan for 70 homes at Headley Court could be progressed as they rejected an application for 59 homes on ... [READ MORE](#)

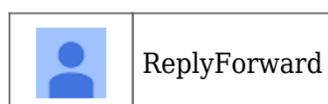


COUNCIL HEALTH

## Will "Top Tory" Surrey County lobby Coffey?

October 6, 2022

A council chief has called on select committee members to use their status as a "top Tory" authority to influence health spending at government level. Calling ambulances backed up outside ... [READ MORE](#)



# Epsom College top independent school 2022

23 October 2022



**Epsom College** has been judged **Independent School of the Year 2022** at an annual awards ceremony that celebrates the very best in education and student experience in UK independent schools. The winner of the overall Independent School of the Year Award is seen as a standard-bearer for the sector. This year's esteemed judging panel of industry experts selected Epsom College, stating that the school is a 'beacon of excellence' and showcases the benefits of an independent education in the UK.

The award is not one that can be applied for. The judging panel looks at schools from across the country who are shortlisted for one of the 22 award categories for the Independent Schools of the Year awards and selects the school that has impressed them the most as the overall Independent School of the Year winner.

**Dr Helen Wright**, Chair, Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2022, said: "Epsom College is a shining example of all that is best about independent education in the UK. Epsom College is renowned as achieving academic success whilst delivering an exceptional student experience to its pupils of all ages, skills and backgrounds. The College is a worthy winner of the overall Independent School of the Year 2022 accolade and I congratulate all the students and staff who have helped to make the school the beacon of excellence which it undoubtedly is."

Epsom College was also named as the winner of the **Student Wellbeing Award** at the ceremony, hosted at the Royal Thames Yacht Club on Tuesday 11 October. The judges were hugely impressed by the evidence of the whole-school approach to mental health and the wellbeing of both its staff and pupils. Especially the supreme importance of such support in the 2021-22 academic year and beyond, as school communities continue to recover from the impact of the pandemic.

Independent schools are part of their local community and the College's commitment to its outreach and service programme was found to be a shining example of best practice in that area.



Emma Pattison head of Epsom College - c. John Wildgoose

**Emma Pattison**, Head of Epsom College, said: "What an incredible honour to be named Independent School of the Year. This Award acknowledges what a fantastic school Epsom College is. The founding principles of the school, benevolence and excellence, are two things we live by every day. We put focus on time, space and heart and spirit to give all the young people in our care everything they need to become the best version of themselves - in the classroom, on the sports field and in any field of interest that lights that spark within them. There is so much amazing work to be celebrated in the industry at the moment, so this is a real privilege to be named the best of the best. I am incredibly proud to be Head and we will display this award with real pride!"

Emma Pattison, who joined Epsom College at the start of this academic year, takes over from the previous headmaster **Jay Piggot** after a ten-year tenure.

**Epsom College** was officially opened in 1855 by **Prince Albert** and granted Royal Patronage by Queen Victoria the same year. The reigning monarch has been Epsom College's patron ever since. The College - originally known as the Royal Medical Benevolent College - first opened its doors to 20 pensioners, who were either qualified medical men or their widows. They were provided with free accommodation and an income. The College also looked after 40 foundation scholars; these were the sons and orphans of medical men who were fed, clothed and educated by the College.

Today, Epsom College provides a rounded education to 1,100 girls and boys aged 11-18, where excellent results are aligned to a breadth of opportunity outside the classroom. The school is in the top 1% in the UK according to data from the Department of Education. Its co-curricular programme has been voted for six years running among the 'Best of the

Best' in UK independent education by The Week magazine.

## Lighting up for menstrual dignity

23 October 2022



On Tuesday 11 October **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service** lit up Guildford Fire Station in a show of support for **Binti**, an international menstrual dignity charity based in Weybridge, Surrey. The service will be looking to supplement **Surrey County Council's** ground-breaking initiative, as the first UK council to provide free period products across the county and eradicate menstrual stigma and taboo whilst normalising the conversation.



Surrey Fire and Rescue Service are to explore the distribution of Dignity Packs where needed when carrying out community engagement activities.

The event at Guildford Fire Station was attended by representatives from the Service, including Acting Chief Fire Officer, **Dan Quin**, and Chief of Staff **Bernie Beckett**. They were joined by actor and Binti ambassador **Nina Wadia**, star of TV programmes including *Eastenders*, *The Outlaws*, *Dr Who* and contestant on last year's series of *Strictly Come Dancing*.

The lighting up of Guildford Fire Station coincided with **International Day of the Girl Child**, which seeks to highlight the challenges faced by young females to their education, their physical and mental wellness, and the protections needed for a life without violence across the globe. 2022 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl, following its establishment by the United Nations. They note that over the past 10 years, there has been increased attention on issues that matter to girls amongst governments, policymakers and the general public, and more opportunities for girls to have their voices heard on the global stage. Yet, investments in girls' rights remain limited and girls continue to confront a myriad of challenges to fulfilling their potential; made worse by concurrent crises of climate change, COVID-19 and humanitarian conflict.

Surrey County Council initially worked with Binti to host collection and donation points at 35 Surrey buildings, including libraries and County Council buildings upon the launch of the partnership in May 2021. Since then, the initiative has spread to a total of 55 collection and donation points where people can take period products to enable Period Dignity.

Other organisations in Surrey have also come onboard, including Morrisons branches in Woking and Weybridge, as well St James Church in Weybridge.

Commenting on their support for Binti, Acting Chief Fire Officer, Dan Quin, stated: "We are delighted to be supporting Binti. As a Surrey-based charity with a global impact, they share our passion to support and protect those in need. I look forward to seeing the partnership develop, and hope that our communities will benefit from our planned work with Binti, as they have from the scheme established by our colleagues in Surrey County Council, and in particular Surrey Libraries."

**Manjit K. Gill MBE**, CEO and Founder of Binti commented, "We believe period products should be available like toilet paper is and Surrey County Council are leading the way to create this change. With the cost of living crisis impacting many the campaign has been designed to ensure everyone has free access. Surrey is having menstrual conversations every day and working with Surrey Fire and Rescue Service is so exciting because we think period stigma will become a thing of the past."

Binti was the first period charity registered in the UK, they have offices in India, US and The Gambia. They have now opened a period charity shop the first of its kind in Walton on Thames. Girls can buy period products and discuss all things related to menstruation. Binti's vision is to provide menstrual dignity to all girls, all over the world. This means

facilitating access to pads to ensure menstrual health, educating girls about what menstruation is and what they can expect from it, and dispelling stigma, taboos, myths and negative perceptions around menstruation.

For more information on how to donate and collect and ways to get involved, visit Surrey County Council's Period Dignity webpage or the Binti website.

Surrey County Council news

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## 6th October 2022

23 October 2022



COUNCIL

### County children home challenges

October 5, 2022

The challenges facing Surrey County Council's bid for more children's homes include high property prices, competition for places and no priority for the authority for homes in the area. Officers ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL FOOD

### Thought for Food in Surrey

October 5, 2022

The first Surrey Food Summit took place at the WWF Living Planet Centre in Woking last week. Surrey County Council organised the event to bring together stakeholders across the local food system, ... [READ MORE](#)



BUSINESS COMMUNITY

### Epsom Firefighters making businesses safer

October 4, 2022

Statistics for the UK show that 30 people die and 2,000 are injured each year as a result of fires in the workplace. The damage to businesses caused by fire costs ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL NATURE

### Council partnerships secure Surrey nature reserve

October 3, 2022

Last week saw the official handover of Tice's Meadow Nature Reserve to Surrey County Council. This much-loved wildlife haven on the outskirts of Farnham saw its long-term future safeguarded when ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY FOODBANK VOLUNTEERS

## How to help “low-incomes” with your £400

October 3, 2022

The Epsom and Ewell Energy Support Scheme is a plan to offer those running into difficulties immediate help with their bills, and then advice and financial support to improve energy efficiency or ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

## £11.9m to help Surrey residents cut their energy bills

October 3, 2022

Grants of up to £25,000 are now available for eligible Surrey residents to help make their homes warmer and more energy efficient. People living in hard to heat homes and ... [READ MORE](#)



FOOTBALL SPORTS

## Epsom and Ewell pressed-on to Victory

October 2, 2022

East Preston 1-3 Epsom & Ewell Southern Combination League - Division One. Saturday 1st October 2022 Report Source: [www.eefconline.co.uk](http://www.eefconline.co.uk) Reporter: Richard Lambert. We won our second consecutive match by the score ... [READ MORE](#)



RUGBY SPORTS

## Sutton and Epsom Rugby Just Fall Short

October 2, 2022

BOURNEMOUTH 28 SUTTON & EPSOM 25: Sat. 1st Oct. Sutton & Epsom travelled to Chapel Gate with confidence following their opening win of the season against Brighton the week before. ... [READ MORE](#)



NEWS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

## “Frackin’-hell!” - in Surrey?

October 2, 2022

Epsom and Ewell has so far escaped the grant of licences for shale-gas exploration. Other Boroughs in Surrey are

targeted. 25th September Business and Energy Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg announced: “In ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL PLANNING TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

## Housing plan flying in the face of opposition

October 1, 2022

Wisley Airfield town plan: We report on a Surrey housing application that illuminates issues all local boroughs face today [Ed.] : To paraphrase from a popular TV show: “Wrong location, ... [READ MORE](#)

BOROUGH HISTORY COUNCIL CULTURE

## Stretching Resources?

October 1, 2022

Both “The Horton” (Arts Centre) and The Horton Cemetery featured on the agenda of the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Strategy and Resources committee Thursday 29th September. For the second ... [READ MORE](#)



ATHLETICS SPORTS

## Ring-tails are heads for Harriers

October 1, 2022

Epsom and Ewell Harriers sang “God Save The King” and then won some races on Ashtead Common. Sunday 25th September. Lauren Johnson triumphing in the 10K fun run and her ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

## More trees please for Surrey

September 29, 2022

Surrey County Council will receive £298,000 from the Defra Local Authority Treescaping Fund (LATF) to increase tree planting and keep on target with the planting of 1.2 million trees, one ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL

## Tongham Tories Tetchy Tongues Ticked Off

September 29, 2022

Epsom and Ewell Times’s inspiration, “The Guildford Dragon” was a victim of inappropriate comments from two Guildford Councillors. Report from LDRS: Two Guildford councillors breached the authority’s code of conduct ... [READ MORE](#)



HEALTH NEWS

## Should go to Specsavers not Epsom Hospital?

September 29, 2022

Our special correspondent shares his local experience. In the good old days before Covid 19 you could visit the surgery to book to see a doctor, or instead telephone. You ... [READ MORE](#)



CRIME

## Surrey social media sex fiend gets 18 years

September 29, 2022

A man who used multiple personas to target children online has been sentenced to 18 years behind bars in a case the Guildford Judge called 'the worst I've seen for ... [READ MORE](#)

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## Can we be sustainable?

23 October 2022



**Sustainable Epsom and Ewell** is an independent, apolitical and entirely volunteer led environmental group aiming to raise environmental ambitions in the Borough. Sustainable Epsom and Ewell was founded in late 2019.

As a group they organise events for local residents, have a website with useful local information and tips for residents, and take action with our Council. They also have a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.

At Sustainable Epsom and Ewell they feel strongly about our local environment and want to share their resources and extensive local knowledge to get more residents involved and taking action. They have high ambitions for our Borough and believe the Council can and should take a greater lead and bolder actions to address, mitigate and adapt to the Climate and Environmental Crises.



Sustainable Epsom and Ewell and St Martin's Church Eco Fair 2022

Over the past years they have organised several events including “**Green Friday**” to raise awareness about the excessive consumption culture promoted through Black Friday events, a Cycling themed debate where both Surrey and Local councillors spoke as well as committee members of the **Epsom and Ewell Cycle Action Group**.

However, their biggest events to date have been two **Eco Fairs**, organised in partnership with **St Martin of Tour's Church** in 2021 and 2022. The aims of the Eco Fair are threefold:

- 1) to highlight and showcase the groups active in our Borough as well as Council teams active in the environment fields,
- 2) to inspire local residents and groups to volunteer, take action and share experiences,
- 3) to highlight the strong proportion of residents keen to take personal action whilst encouraging the Council raise their green ambitions through action.

The 2022 fair included over 14 different groups, including Surrey Wildlife Trust, Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Group, the Lower Mole Partnership, Oxfam, the Epsom Repair Cafe, Dr Bike and the Epsom Civic Society as well as local green businesses.



Sustainable Epsom and Ewell and St Martin's Eco Fair 2022  
MP Chris Grayling with the Sustainable Epsom and Ewell Team  
Photo: Emma Ward

This year in addition to the many residents who attended, the Fair attracted a visit from MP **Chris Grayling** and Epsom and Ewell's Mayor **Clive Woodbridge**.

In the short-term future, they hope to continue to expand their reach to residents, campaign for real, ambitious and proactive Council measures in the environmental fields and provide opportunities for local groups and residents to meet and engage through events.

[www.SustainableEpsomEwell.co.uk](http://www.SustainableEpsomEwell.co.uk)

Facebook/Instagram: @SustainableEpsomEwell

## Surrey's Fire Service sends 4x4 to Ukraine

23 October 2022



Two **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service** (SFRS) staff members set off to Poland yesterday (Thursday 6 October) to donate another 4x4 Land Rover to the **Ukrainian Fire and Rescue Service**.

This donation is part of the National Fire Chief Council and UK charity FIREAID's convoy 4. Convoy 3, which was delivered in May this year, also saw a donation of two 4x4 Land Rovers by SFRS.

The vehicles, which have been decommissioned by the service, are typically used for off-road/rural firefighting. The service has worked with its Fire Authority, Surrey County Council, to prepare and release the vehicle.

The two staff members who have volunteered, will meet other UK Fire and Rescue Services who are donating items, they'll then handover the vehicles in Poland next week.

**Acting Chief Fire Officer, Dan Quin, said:** "I am proud to be able to continue our support to the people of Ukraine during this incredibly difficult time. Thank you to all organisations who are supporting these efforts and to Chris, who also donated the equipment during the last convoy, and Lee from our Engineering team, who are supporting the delivery. Chris will be taking us on the journey over on our Instagram channel, so please do follow us so you can witness another historic effort from UK Fire and Rescue Services."

**Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety (which includes Surrey Fire and Rescue Service), Denise Turner Stewart, said:** "Surrey County Council's priority is to ensure no one is left behind and supporting yet another national convoy does just that. I am so pleased that we are able to support this national effort and we would like to sincerely thank all involved." Surrey County Council has a lot of information available on [surreycc.gov.uk](http://surreycc.gov.uk) for communities who'd like to support, as well as guidance for Ukrainians coming to Surrey.

Surrey County Council News

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## Thought for Food in Surrey

23 October 2022



The first Surrey Food Summit took place at the WWF Living Planet Centre in Woking last week. Surrey County Council organised the event to bring together stakeholders across the local food system, including farmers, local food businesses, food caterers and local food initiatives in Surrey to begin sharing different perspectives on challenges, including related health inequalities, in our food system and explore ideas for addressing them together.

The council is in the process of developing a food partnership and whole food system strategy to ensure it can provide nutritious, affordable, local and sustainably produced food for residents. The food summit is an opportunity to better understand the local food system, and to co-produce the whole-system food strategy. Recognising the current economic climate, the strategy aims to have an initial focus on addressing food poverty and sustainability challenges.

Those in attendance heard from a number of speakers during the event, including Emily O'Brien of Sustainable Food Places, Cllr Marisa Heath, SCC lead member for environment and CEO of Plant Food Alliance, and David Edwards, Director of Food Strategy at WWF. There was also an opportunity to engage in a food system mapping activity, to draw together our priority areas of action and build on existing work.

**Carolyn McKenzie**, Director of Environment and Project Sponsor for the food strategy said: "The food summit was an important event to bring together our key stakeholders and build a vision for a sustainable food system in Surrey."

For further information please visit the Surrey Food Partnership - Healthy Surrey webpage or contact the food strategy leads at Surrey County Council - Jane Semo ([Jane.Semo@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Semo@surreycc.gov.uk)) or Negin Sarafraz-Shekary ([SarafrazShekary.Negin@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:SarafrazShekary.Negin@surreycc.gov.uk)).

Surrey County Council news