EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

19th November 2026

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Why Does No One Care About Epsom & Ewell Football Club?

1 July 2025



By most measures, Epsom & Ewell Football Club should be one of the borough's proudest institutions. Founded in 1918, steeped in history, and once a beacon of non-league ambition, it's a club that has worn its local colours with pride for over a century. And yet, in 2024, it plays its home matches outside the borough, in front of modest crowds, with little official support, and almost no recognition from those it nominally represents. How did it come to this?

From Wembley to Nowhere

The club's golden era came in the mid-1970s. Under manager Bob Smith, Epsom & Ewell reached the FA Vase final at Wembley in 1975, taking more than 10,000 fans to the twin towers. They lost narrowly to Hoddesdon Town, but the day cemented their status in the non-league elite. Just two years later, they were crowned Athenian League champions, playing stylish football and regularly attracting crowds of several hundred to West Street Ground in Ewell.

That ground, tucked between residential streets, was a symbol of grassroots football. A modest stand, small clubhouse, and rickety fence ringed the pitch — but it was home. Children ran the lines as ball boys, pensioners leaned on the barrier rails, and on Saturday afternoons, you could hear the cheers echo down Ewell High Street.

All that changed in 1993. Pressured by rising costs and development interest, the club sold the West Street Ground, and with it, lost its physical and emotional anchor in the borough. The land was sold for housing. Since then, Epsom & Ewell FC has led a nomadic existence, groundsharing with clubs like Banstead Athletic, Merstham, Leatherhead, Chipstead, and currently Corinthian-Casuals in Tolworth — nearly six miles from the borough boundary.

A Club Without a Borough

It is now 31 years since Epsom & Ewell FC played a competitive fixture in Epsom or Ewell. An entire generation has grown up without ever seeing their town represented in senior men's football. Few children wear the club's blue and gold; few adults even realise it still exists.

What happened? And more to the point — where was the borough council?

In the three decades since losing West Street, the club has repeatedly tried to secure land for a new stadium within the borough. Sites have been proposed, explored, and rejected. Discussions about Long Grove, Court Recreation Ground, and even sharing facilities with local colleges have all ended in failure. Most recently, informal talks about part of the Horton area being earmarked for community sports development went nowhere.

Supporters point to the contrasting support other councils give their clubs. Sutton United, for instance, receives backing from Sutton Council, which helped secure funding for facilities upgrades when the club was promoted to the Football League. In Epsom, the silence has been deafening. There has been no public plan, no council-led consultation, no transparent effort to bring the borough's only senior football club back home.

Struggling for Survival

The club is currently playing in the Combined Counties League Division One — the 10th tier of English football. It exists thanks to a dedicated band of volunteers, a threadbare budget, and the goodwill of its landlords. Crowds rarely exceed 60–70. With no clubhouse revenue, limited sponsorship, and minimal visibility, it's little wonder the club's financial situation is precarious.

In 2019, the club formally became a Community Interest Company (CIC), a status intended to attract grants and funding by aligning with social benefit goals. While that has helped underpin youth development and safeguarding policies, it hasn't solved the central issue: without a home, the club cannot grow.

Even now, Epsom & Ewell FC runs youth teams, junior girls' sessions, and has engaged in local community coaching schemes. But ask any parent at those sessions where the senior men's team plays, and many will shrug.

The Missed Potential

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What's so frustrating is how easily this could be different. Epsom is one of the largest towns in the South East without a senior football club playing within its boundaries. The borough's population is over 80,000, and youth football is thriving — the likes of Epsom Eagles and Ewell Saxons run dozens of sides from U7s to U18s. Local talent is not in short supply. But with no flagship club, no clear pathway, and no local stadium to rally around, that energy is scattered.

The irony is that other non-league clubs across Surrey have built strong community models with much less historical pedigree. Why not Epsom?

Councillors have, over the years, said that land availability, planning complexity, and infrastructure costs make a return difficult. That may be true — but where is the political will? Where is the long-term strategic thinking about using sport to promote community health, pride, and youth engagement?

With millions spent on new housing, green infrastructure, and civic regeneration, a modest community stadium with a few hundred seats, changing rooms, and floodlights should not be an insurmountable dream. Yet for 30 years, it has been exactly that.

Do You Care?

This brings us to the title question: *Why does no one care about Epsom & Ewell FC?*

Maybe it's because we've forgotten how important sport can be to a town's identity. Maybe because the club's quiet survival hasn't shouted loudly enough. Or maybe we just assumed someone else would fix it.

But the truth is, without meaningful public interest — and without council support — Epsom & Ewell FC will remain a ghost club. It will still play fixtures in Tolworth or elsewhere, cheered on by a few die-hards who remember the old days, while the borough it bears in its name carries on, unaware.

It doesn't have to be this way.

A Special Correspondent

Image – an imagined modest stadium that could be Epsom and Ewell FC's.

Epsom race tips for Wednesday meet

1 July 2025



Epsom Racecourse presents its latest Flat card on Wednesday evening, hosting six races; five handicaps and a maiden.

Read on for a preview of Epsom's card, courtesy of Betano, who provide the latest ***horse racing betting.***

Up first is an Apprentice Handicap, run over a mile and a quarter (6.20). Ed Dunlop's Bobacious won last time out at Leicester under Mason Paetel, who rides again, giving five pounds. With the stable in good form, this gelding should make a decent showing of himself and is generally good at holding his form. Jim and Suzi Best's nine-year-old gelding Early Morning Dew looks a good option for the win, though, due to having winning course form, and will relish the conditions. His age and experience might counteract the inexperience of his nonetheless capable rider Ashley Lewis.

Next is a two-year-olds' maiden over seven furlongs (6.50). Only two of the six runners have been seen on the track before; Gary and Josh Moore's Eschweiler and Richard Hannon's filly Ibshara, whose twice placing form is the best of the two. A newcomer for Roger Varian, Starlight Time was inexpensive as a yearling, but does have a smart pedigree and might do well on debut for a yard whose juveniles are going well.

Race three is a six-furlong handicap (7.23). Jennie Candlish's Alzahir carries a five-pound penalty having won at Chester just four days ago, but the trainer may get around this by employing the very valuable five-pound claiming rider Warren Fentiman. He still shoulders a lot of weight in comparison to his rivals, though, which might leave Huscal with a good chance under Billy Loughnane.

A mile and a half handicap follows (7.58). Big Bear Hug won his first start for Jim Boyle just under a month ago and has good course form, but would probably prefer the ground to be softer to show his best side. Graham has dipped to a career low Flat mark, but is out of form judged by his last appearance at Goodwood, ninth of nine, leaving Vaynor looking tempting down to a very workable mark for Charlie Hills. He ought to get on with conditions and could get back to winning ways here.

Our penultimate race is another handicap over a mile and half (8.30). With the biggest field of the day, made up of 11 runners, it's not an overly strong race, but there are plenty of horses here with a chance. Jack Langley and Rupert The

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Prince make their handicap debuts here having both run well in classified stakes last time out, so could improve in this class of race. Richard Hannon's Emily Rebecca should have a good chance having shown signs of improvement in her last couple of runs. With Sean Levey an asset in the saddle, she could be our winner.

The finale is a seven-furlong handicap (9.00). Made up of eight runners, it is one of the more competitive races on the card. Hodler, Dream Of Mischief and Marlay Park are all course and distance winners, with the latter looking to have the best chance on this occasion. He will like the conditions, ran well enough last time on ground which was softer than ideal for him, and is down to mark which ought to be more than workable for him.

Epsom selections – Wednesday:

6.20 – Early Morning Dew

6.50 – Starlight Time

7.23 – Huscal

7.58 – Vaynor

8.30 – Emily Rebecca

9.00 – Marlay Park

Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

Epsom Picturehouse blossoms with Pride

1 July 2025



Picturehouse Epsom is proud to announce a powerful new partnership with Blossom LGBT to launch OUT — a year-round celebration of LGBTQ+ cinema.

Together, we're amplifying queer voices on screen and creating space for connection, reflection, and community — showing that Pride isn't just a once-a-year event, but an ongoing conversation and opportunity to build lasting community.

About Blossom LGBT

Blossom LGBT is a national non-profit supporting LGBTQIA+ young adults aged 16–30. Based in Surrey, their mission is to ensure that no young person faces exclusion — social or economic — because of who they are or whom they love.

They work to break down systemic barriers of discrimination, poverty, and disadvantage, empowering the next generation to thrive.

At Blossom, we are dedicated to creating a world where LGBTQIA+ young adults can overcome discrimination, thrive in safe and supportive communities, and access the tools and opportunities needed to succeed with dignity and purpose. We are designed for the community, by the community.

It's vital that young people see themselves reflected in film, not just to feel visible, but to know that their stories, identities, and futures matter. Representation can inspire confidence, spark ambition, and help young people imagine a world where they belong.

Our Venue: Epsom Picturehouse

Epsom Picturehouse is a brand-new six-screen cinema in the heart of Epsom Square. With a rich programme of arthouse and quality mainstream films, plus a stylish café and bar, it offers a perfect setting for inclusive, community-focused events.

We're excited to open our doors to OUT and host a variety of screenings, discussions, and gatherings that celebrate the richness and diversity of LGBTQ+ lives and experiences.

Joe Stroud from Epsom Picturehouse said:

"I'm delighted that, at the heart of all this, we're celebrating community. What better way to do that than by sharing powerful stories on screen and using them as inspiring conversation starters?"

What is OUT?

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OUT is a long-running Picturehouse initiative that celebrates LGBTQ+ stories — from reclaimed classics to bold new voices. Now in its tenth year at Clapham Picturehouse, we're thrilled to extend this initiative to Surrey, helping local audiences build connections and community through film.

Clapham's OUT journey began in 2014 with a screening of *Dallas Buyers Club*, and has since included landmark titles such as Barry Jenkins' *Moonlight*, the historic Best Picture winner at the 2017 Academy Awards. Now, it's Epsom's turn.

Upcoming Events: Brokeback Mountain + Q&A Panel — 6 July

Join Blossom LGBT for a special 20th anniversary screening of *Brokeback Mountain*, directed by Ang Lee and starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal — a landmark film for the LGBTQ+ community.

Following the screening, we'll host an open and thoughtful Q&A with invited panellists, exploring the film's emotional journey — touching on themes of love, repression, and resilience.

Together, we'll reflect on how life for LGBTQ+ people has changed (and in some ways stayed the same), especially in rural communities. How do those experiences echo in today's legal battles and cultural conversations?

The evening will feature invited guests, including Outline, an organisation supporting people with their sexuality and gender identity through a helpline, website, and support groups. Also attending are the Mary Frances Trust (MFT) LGBT Peer Support Group, as well as Walk and Talk 4 Men — a free support group for men to come together, walk, talk, and support their mental health while enjoying some fresh air.

This event is for anyone seeking connection — whether you're exploring your own journey, supporting someone close to you, or simply curious to learn more. We invite you into a warm, inclusive space to listen, reflect, and be part of a growing community.

Mark your calendars for more upcoming events celebrating LGBTQ+ stories:

Sun 29 Jun

- reDiscover *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (15) at 17:10

Mon 30 Jun

- Out Queer Futures (Cert TBC) at 20:30
- reDiscover *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (15) at 19:45

Tue 01 Jul

- Discover — Preview *Hot Milk* (15) at 20:15

Wed 02 Jul

- *Brokeback Mountain* plus Q&A (15) at 18:30

Stay tuned for more film nights, conversations, and creative community events throughout the year. Whether you're a long-time advocate or new to the conversation, there's a seat here for you.

Let's make Pride more than a moment — let's make it a movement. See you at the cinema.

For more information about the organisers, visit blossom.lgbt or email Steph Elhaddad at Steph.Elhaddad@blossom.lgbt.

26th June 2025

1 July 2025

Arts Culture

Epsom Choral Society ends term on a high note



24 June 2025

21st June, St Andrews, Northey Avenue: Fresh from their triumph at this year's Leith Hill Music Festival, Epsom Choral Society presented an end-of-term programme consisting of three wonderful contemporary items … Read More

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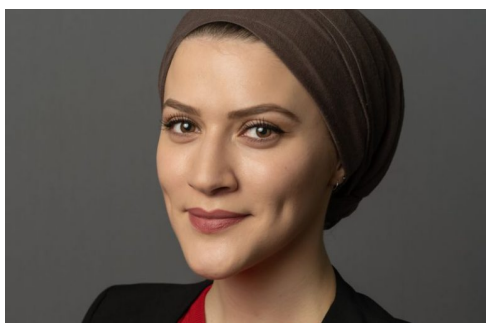
Business

Epsom banking on more women business owners



24 June 2025

Epsom Metro Bank's Local Director, Sammie Zejnuli champions the need for more women business owners Women-owned businesses are a significant and growing force in the economy, with women entrepreneurs leading … Read More

Community Volunteers

Great Get Together Got its Act together.



24 June 2025

Sunday, St Joseph's Church in Epsom was buzzing with laughter, music, and the spirit of community as residents gathered for The Great Get Together — a free, vibrant family event … Read More

Council Council constitution News

Epsom and Ewell Considers New Community Councils as Local Government Shake-Up Looms



23 June 2025

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council (EEBC) will meet Thursday, 26 June for an extraordinary session to decide whether to launch a formal Community Governance Review (CGR)—a move that could lead … Read More

Health News Westminster

Assisted Dying Bill Passes in Commons — Epsom MP Explains Absence



22 June 2025

In a historic moment for UK parliamentary debate, the Assisted Dying Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons on Friday 20 June 2025, following a narrow but … Read More

Crime News Policing

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Surrey Police officer inspires change to racism law in private places



21 June 2025

Surrey Police officer Sergeant Candice Gill is celebrating this week after successfully campaigning for an amendment to the law that will have a far-reaching impact. While it is a criminal … Read More

Council Transport

Bus station app for visually impaired a first in Surrey



20 June 2025

Surrey County Council is now the first UK local authority to provide a new app to help guide blind and partially sighted passengers around bus stations across the county. The … Read More

Council Education Transport

Victory for parent power after axed bus route is replaced



20 June 2025

Campaigning parents whose children were told to bring torches and walk across unlit heathland by Surrey County Council have won a long-fought victory after it was announced that axed school … Read More

Community Health Westminster

MP Slams ‘Patchwork Repairs’ as local Hospitals Face £150m Backlog



20 June 2025

Liberal Democrat MP for Epsom & Ewell, Helen Maguire, has criticised the government’s response to the mounting repair crisis at Epsom and St Helier hospitals, warning that the very future … Read More

Community Crime Culture

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Mental Health and Justice in Special Epsom Film Screening



19 June 2025

A powerful evening of film and conversation is coming to Epsom Picturehouse on Monday 23 June, as local mental health charity Mary Frances Trust teams up with national organisation Women … Read More

Arts Culture

Menuhin Hall’s Summer Festival Returns for Three Weeks of Music and Community



19 June 2025

The Menuhin Hall, one of Surrey’s premier venues for classical music, will once again host its annual Summer Festival from Friday 13 June to Friday 4 July 2025. Set within … Read More

Council Local History

Surrey house of distinction gets £200K to repair



19 June 2025

One of the great Surrey buildings will have another £200,000 of repair work after its owners said they were “morally obligated” to maintain the special 19th century site. Pippbrook House … Read More

Community Health

Epsom Therapy Garden in the Running for BBC Green Award



19 June 2025

A tranquil corner of Epsom that has quietly blossomed into a hub of therapy and conservation has earned recognition in the BBC Radio Surrey Make a Difference Awards. St Ebba’s … Read More

Business Council Council constitution

Gatwick Diamond authority denied

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18 June 2025

Merging Reigate and Banstead Borough Council with its neighbour Crawley has been ruled out – in a decision that has left drivers behind the move “disappointed” with the Government. This … Read More

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Epsom Choral Society ends term on a high note

1 July 2025



21st June, St Andrews, Northey Avenue: Fresh from their triumph at this year’s Leith Hill Music Festival, Epsom Choral Society presented an end-of-term programme consisting of three wonderful contemporary items on a theme of jazz and improvisation. Plus a fourth – which earned its place by virtue of being a world premiere! The whole evening worked like a giant crescendo, starting quietly and ending with Will Todd’s magnificent and sometimes wild *Mass in Blue*.

Jazz as a genre poses huge demands on a traditional choir. It’s no longer enough just to master the notes, the rhythms and the dynamics. The whole concept of flexible swing rhythms can feel positively alien to those steeped in classical music. Full marks, therefore, to ECS conductor Julian Collings, for helping the choir to overcome what is, in essence, a new language to give us an evening of singing that was convincing, exuberant and full of vitality.

Hats off also to the supporting cast: saxophonist Alex Flower, bassist Ben Summers, drummer Tom Lee and pianist Peter Jaekel. Ultimate accolade must go to soprano Lisa Swayne for her stratospheric ululations that took *Mass in Blue* to a different level.

Opening the concert was Ola Gjeilo’s (*1978–*) *Evening Prayer*. Gjeilo’s reflective, not necessarily religious, compositions with sumptuous harmonies have made him a great favourite with choirs on both sides of the Atlantic. Composed in 2010, the powerful words of St Augustine were reverently and warmly sung, with all three protagonists – choir, pianist and saxophonist – creating an atmosphere of contemplation within a framework of gentle and optional improvisation.

And thus, having been transported heavenwards, we were brought down to earth with a bump!

This fun little ditty *True Story* (words by Michael Rosen) was one of a song-set of ten by Russell Hepplewhite, who conceived of inviting ten living poets to document his/her personal response to the current world, and setting these to music. It’s not clear whether the full set is ever intended to be performed all together, since they are being individually premiered this year by choirs from around the country.

The song chosen for ECS is set very simply for choir and piano – which makes it accessible for many choirs. Excellent diction was vital to the storytelling; along with a spirited enjoyment of the text – where one man’s ecstasy at the birth of his son is mirrored against another man’s wonderment at the hatching of a pigeon’s egg.

The John Rutter (*1945–*) of the *Birthday Madrigals* is a totally different Rutter from the one of popular Christmas carols. These songs are settings of Elizabethan texts infused with the spirit of jazz, whilst perpetuating the great tradition of English part songs. That Rutter is capable of this level of technical mastery of the jazz idiom, together with his lightness of touch and superb invention, makes for a set of five miniatures indispensable to the choral anthology.

And ECS rose to the challenges, giving us an impressive array of singing – from the nimble, joyful and carefree to soulful blending of voices; from fearless high spirits to judicious balancing of the ladies’ long, lyrical phrases against harmonious humming from the gentlemen. Optional piano accompaniment in the a cappella numbers provided subtle support for tricky shifting harmonies. What a treat to take us to the interval!

Ever since the 10th century if not before, man has made music to glorify his gods – from the monks’ Gregorian chants to the masses of Haydn and Beethoven, each reflecting the conventions of their time. In 1991, Paco Peña created a fiery and rumbustious *Misa Flamenca* to celebrate the Almighty. So it seems appropriate, inevitable even, that in 2003, Will Todd (*1970–*) should decide to make use of a contemporary idiom to fashion his own offering.

Mass in Blue needs small but vital supporting resources – soprano solo, piano, bass, saxophone, drum kit. But smallness in scale does not mean smallness in achievements. Quite the contrary. What shines through is a superbly confident writing

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technique that is strong, clear, propulsive and above all, enjoyable for both singers and listeners alike.

No one should under-estimate the amount of hard work that the choir must have put in to meet the merciless technical challenges. There are sliding intricacies of jazzy rhythms, seemingly indecipherable within the confines of traditional notation; there are rapid changes of tempi, metre, dynamics and everything else going; there is the uber-cool, quasi-fugal and multi-layered *Benedictus* – all of these demanding agile and committed singing to maintain the driving momentum. Members of ECS embraced all these hurdles and more, and with the return of the mighty soprano adding fire to the quadraphonic build-up to a bone-shakingly thrilling finale.

Yes, we were gripped. All of us.
Job done. BRAVISSIMO!

Lynda Chang is a local musician and advocate of live music

Image: Mass in Blue – Lisa Swayne and Julian Collings

Epsom banking on more women business owners

1 July 2025



Epsom Metro Bank's Local Director, Sammie Zejnuli champions the need for more women business owners

Women-owned businesses are a significant and growing force in the economy, with women entrepreneurs leading a diverse range of industries and contributing to innovation and economic growth. In 2022, the Rose Review reported that a greater number of women in the UK founded more businesses than ever before, despite immense economic uncertainty.

While over twice as many female-led businesses were founded in 2022 than in 2018, we still need to go further because female entrepreneurs represent huge economic potential for the UK: £250 billion could be added to the UK economy if women matched men in starting and scaling businesses.

The Rose Review identified four key areas that women reported they needed more support in to be successful in business: mentoring, access to funding, networking and childcare.

I have witnessed first-hand some of the issues that women face when starting up a new business – particularly around access to funding. Women-led businesses often struggle to secure funding compared to their male counterparts, facing a "funding gap" at every stage of their business journey, and women are often more reluctant than men to take on debt to start up their own business.

There are organisations which can exclusively help women starting out. Both the Women in Business – the UK's leading women in business network – and many chambers of commerce have women in business groups centred around local meetings. While the Women's Business Network hosts online meetings every fortnight. For start-up funding there is the Female Founders Fund, Innovate UK and the Enterprise Hub, but grants will be subject to criteria.

My role is all about relationship banking which is central to the customer service we offer at Metro Bank. We have local directors and local business managers in each of our stores just to support the local businesses in our communities. We are active in our local communities and offer a unique perspective – working with key business influencers to help our business customers access what they need to grow and succeed.

Personally, I have seen that women in business prefer a warm introduction. Having someone they can talk to face to face about any business concern is really appreciated by our female customers. We can help our female business customers create warmer introductions to the advisers they need – be that angel investors, accountants and solicitors, to name a few.

Here in Epsom, some of the most successful women business owners are solicitors, as well as those in tech and the beauty industry.

We regularly hold networking events in our stores for local business owners and I would encourage any woman thinking about starting up a business to come along and have a chat with the women who have made the leap and can offer help and advice at every stage of business development.

Our experience also shows us that women can prefer to deal with women. Emergent female business owners often speak of their frustration at not being understood or even believed by the men they have dealt with in trying to get their new business off the ground.

We know our focus on a more personal approach is working and our relationship banking has helped us cultivate more

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female business customers – one in four of our sole proprietors are women and nearly one in five of all new business current accounts were opened by women last year.

Every woman's path is different and the hard work and challenges should not be underestimated. But the chance to be financially independent, in control of your work-life balance, and the immense job satisfaction is surely worth the chance. So, if that business idea has been buzzing around your head and you are thinking about taking a leap – go for it.

Sammie Zejnuli, Local Director, Epsom Metro Bank

Great Get Together Got its Act together.

1 July 2025



Sunday, St Joseph's Church in Epsom was buzzing with laughter, music, and the spirit of community as residents gathered for The Great Get Together — a free, vibrant family event co-hosted by Good Company and Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network.

The event was officially opened by the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell, Councillor Robert Leach, and warmly supported by local MP Helen Maguire, whose presence reflected the significance of the day for the whole community.

From the moment the gates opened, visitors were welcomed into an afternoon packed with activities, entertainment, and delicious food — all completely free of charge. Families from across the borough came together to celebrate unity, diversity, and neighbourly spirit.

Children and adults alike were kept smiling with a variety of games and creative stations. Highlights included crazy golf, football, face painting, and colourful arts and crafts, all made possible by a team of tireless volunteers.

The entertainment line-up was a true showcase of local talent. Epsom's own Ukrainian Renaissance Choir moved the crowd with their stirring songs, while Freedom Pulse Brass brought rhythm and energy. Helin Konyar, a graduate of Laine Theatre Arts, delighted both children and adults with her joyful Disney song set.

No community celebration is complete without good food — and this one delivered. Lezzet Kitchen, Turkish cooks, served up their famous filled flatbreads, freshly made on-site, alongside Noah's pudding made by the Chickpea Project, thought to be the oldest dessert in the world.

One attendee summed up the day perfectly: "Today was truly unforgettable, filled with love, warmth, and a deep sense of safety. It was inspiring to see so many vulnerable refugee families brought together with the wonderful Epsom community."

Thanks to the dedication of countless volunteers, The Great Get Together was a heart warming success.

Image: Epsom and Ewell Mayor Cllr Robert Leach (RA) and Helen Maguire MP at Epsom's Great Get Together

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19th June 2025

1 July 2025

Council Council constitution News

Debate Opens on the Future Shape of Surrey's Local Government



17 June 2025

Residents across Surrey are being asked to help shape the future of local government in what is being described as the

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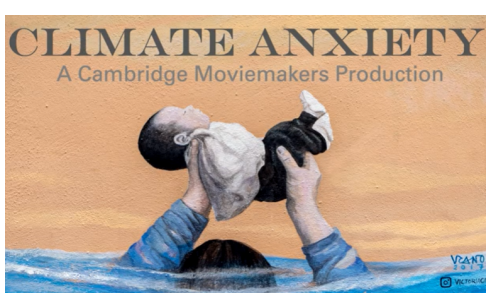
most significant shake-up in over half a century. A … Read More

Arts Community Environment

Green Thinking Takes the Spotlight at Epsom Picturehouse



17 June 2025

Cinema-goers in Epsom are being invited to watch, reflect, and act, as a national eco-film initiative gains local traction. A new strand of community-focused cinema, “Green Screen,” has arrived at … Read More

Community Volunteers

Epsom and Ewell Youngsters Join Thousands for Day of Outdoor Adventure



17 June 2025

Over 2,000 Beaver Scouts and Rainbows take part in Surrey’s Bazzaz event Young adventurers from Cuddington, Epsom, Stoneleigh, and Ewell were among more than 2,000 Beaver Scouts, Rainbows, and volunteers … Read More

Arts Culture

Queen of Dictionary Corner Brings Word Magic to Epsom



17 June 2025

Epsom Playhouse set to host a celebration of the English language on 15 October Britain’s best-loved lexicographer, Susie Dent, is heading to Epsom Playhouse this autumn with her brand-new live … Read More

Arts Community Culture

Epsom Square’s Music Festival in the round



17 June 2025

Saturday 14th June. In a town better known for its racecourse than rock and roll, Epsom discovered a new spirit last weekend with the first-ever Epsom Square Music Festival – … Read More

Arts Culture

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For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

19th November 2026

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Epsom Choral Society to stage world premiere



15 June 2025

A world premiere blending sharp wit, choral storytelling, and jazz rhythms will take centre stage at Epsom Choral Society's summer concert this month. On Saturday 21st June at 7.30pm, the … Read More

Community Volunteers

Epsom Joins National 'Great Get Together' Inspired by Jo Cox's Legacy of Unity



15 June 2025

A celebration of community spirit and shared humanity is coming to Epsom on Saturday as part of a nationwide initiative inspired by the late MP Jo Cox. Hosted by local … Read More

Community Volunteers

Epsom Red Cross Volunteer honoured by King



15 June 2025

A British Red Cross volunteer from Epsom who has spent 40 years with the organisation has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the King's Birthday Honours. Jon Richards, … Read More

Community Council Education

Epsom Library celebrates refurbishment this week

15 June 2025

To celebrate its extensive refurbishment, Surrey Libraries is holding a Taster Week at Epsom Library from Monday 16 to Saturday 21 June. The newly transformed Library Hub in the heart … Read More

Arts Culture

Epsom born band give birth to first single



15 June 2025

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From the parks of Alexandra Rec to the playlists of rock fans across the country, a new local band with deep Epsom roots is making waves with their debut single. … Read More

Council Finances Westminster

Surrey leaders review spending review



15 June 2025

Government Spending Review Falls Short for Surrey Councils and Epsom Hospital, Say Local Leaders The UK Government's latest Spending Review has drawn a mixed reaction from Surrey leaders, with concerns … Read More

Education News Transport

The Surrey school run or walk?



15 June 2025

Parents want their children to walk to school, but what holds them back? Children are the power brokers that can shift parents' habits on the school run – and could … Read More

Crime News

Surrey jail addresses prison population crisis



15 June 2025

Sixty six temporary prisoner cells, built at HMP Coldingley during the Covid-19 pandemic, will be made permanent in an effort to "ease" the crisis facing the service. Nationally, the prison … Read More

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Epsom Square's Music Festival in the round

1 July 2025



Saturday 14th June. In a town better known for its racecourse than rock and roll, Epsom discovered a new spirit last weekend with the first-ever Epsom Square Music Festival – an ambitious, joyful celebration of grassroots talent and

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community spirit.

“We just wanted to get more music into Epsom,” said Toy, the festival’s organiser, speaking from Metropolis (formerly Epsom Social) which served as the hub of the day-long event. “As a new venue, it felt right to do something for the community.”

The result was ambitious by any measure: three outdoor stages and over 100 performers across 39 acts, playing everything from acoustic soul to funk and rock. The diversity wasn’t only musical, either. “We had performers as young as four, maybe younger,” Toy said, “and then, of course, we had the proper grown-ups too.” The result was a line-up that reflected the whole community, mirroring Epsom in all its lively charm.

The festival came together in just six weeks, a feat made possible by local support and backing from sponsors such as Epsom Picturehouse, Go Epsom, Epsom & Ewell Families, and music retailers Guitar Guitar and Realistic Music Academy, both of which sponsored their own stages. “We’re so lucky in this town,” said Toy. “There are so many individuals who are brilliant at what they do that, if you decide to throw together a music festival in six weeks – it’s entirely doable,” she laughed. “Though next time, I’d like a bit more lead time.”

Toy, who also runs the Realistic Music Academy, knows the town’s creative undercurrent better than most. Attracting performers was “actually really easy”, she said, as she “just put out a post, and suddenly we had 38 acts signed up… the interest is absolutely there.”

The crowds clearly agreed. Nearly 500 free tickets were ‘sold’ in advance, but many more drifted into the square over the weekend, drawn by the buzz of the music and conversation.

On stage, highlights came thick and fast from a variety of performers, but it was local newcomers Vault, a four-piece with an average age of just 14, who perhaps best captured the festival’s mission. “This is the only way for us to get out there,” they said. “There should be more venues – other than Metropolis, there’s not many places for us to play.”

Toy, who also runs Realistic Music Academy, agrees. “There’s definitely a need for more places to play music in Epsom,” she said. “I’d love to do this again next year. I just want more of it – more stages, more performers, more everything.”

But beyond the lively crowds and standout performances, the weekend carried a deeper message: local music matters, community matters – and when Epsom comes together, it’s capable of creating something genuinely special. A triumph of town spirit – and, with any luck, the start of something much bigger.

For those who love jazz Epsom’s own Epsom Jazz Club stages monthly live jazz nights with quality national and international artists at the Epsom centrally located Comrades Club in The Parade Epsom. The next jazz evening at 7.30pm is Thursday 26th June featuring Atlanticus. See www.epsomjazzclub.com for details.

Donovan Livesey

Photo is of the band “Vault”.

Epsom Choral Society to stage world premiere

1 July 2025



A world premiere blending sharp wit, choral storytelling, and jazz rhythms will take centre stage at Epsom Choral Society’s summer concert this month.

On **Saturday 21st June at 7.30pm**, the Society will unveil *True Story*, a brand new choral piece composed by **Russell Hepplewhite** with text by renowned writer and former Children’s Laureate **Michael Rosen**. The performance takes place at **St Andrew’s Church, Cheam (SM2 2HF)**.

Described as “witty and wonderfully offbeat”, *True Story* is based on Rosen’s chaotic and comic account of the birth of his son Joe. Known for his distinctive humour and accessible lyricism, Rosen’s writing lends itself to vivid musical interpretation. Composer Hepplewhite’s score is full of energy and character, promising a premiere that’s both playful and poignant.

The new work forms part of *Living Voices*, a national project from publishers **Stainer & Bell** pairing contemporary British poets with composers to explore modern life through choral music. Other pieces in the collection reflect on themes including youth, memory, health, and landscape—ranging from the light-hearted to the deeply moving.

For Epsom audiences, *True Story* headlines a lively summer programme entitled **‘All That Jazz’**, which also features:

- **Mass in Blue** by **Will Todd** – a jazz-infused setting of the Latin Mass blending gospel influences with the

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classical choral tradition. The Society will be joined by soprano **Lisa Swayne** and a professional jazz trio for this soulful and energetic work.

- **Birthday Madrigals** by **John Rutter** – a playful, jazz-inspired cycle of songs combining Renaissance style with swing-era harmonies.
- **Evening Prayer** by Norwegian composer **Ola Gjeilo**, offering a more serene interlude with choir, piano, and saxophone.

Speaking ahead of the concert, the Society's musical director **Julian Collings** said the programme celebrates the range and vitality of contemporary choral music:

"This concert combines the best of tradition with innovation—bold new work alongside modern classics. We're especially proud to present a world premiere here in Epsom as part of a major national project."

Tickets are £20 (under-25s half price) and are available at:
 www.ticketsource.co.uk/epsom-choral-society/t-molojed
 Box Office: 01372 274418

Image of St Andrews – Google Street view.

Epsom Joins National 'Great Get Together' Inspired by Jo Cox's Legacy of Unity

1 July 2025



A celebration of community spirit and shared humanity is coming to Epsom on Saturday as part of a nationwide initiative inspired by the late MP Jo Cox.

Hosted by local charity *Good Company (Surrey)*, the free event—branded *The Great Get Together*—will take place in Epsom and promises an afternoon of food, music, games and family entertainment. The day will begin with a formal welcome from the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Robert Leach, accompanied by the Mayoress.

The event is one of hundreds taking place across the UK this weekend to honour the message of Jo Cox, the Labour MP for Batley and Spen who was murdered in 2016. Cox is remembered for her powerful maiden speech in Parliament, in which she said: *"We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us."* Her words have since become the cornerstone of an annual campaign celebrating unity and community cohesion.

In Epsom, the programme includes live performances from the Ukrainian Choir, a Disney singalong, and the Freedom Pulse Brass Band. Children will be kept busy with games, crafts, a treasure hunt, and even Crazy Golf. There will also be henna hand-painting and a showcase of artisan goods.

Jo Sherring, who leads the *Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network*, said the day is about bringing people together:

"Hosting a community event like The Great Get Together allows us to bring people from all walks of life together in a spirit of unity, friendship and shared humanity. It's an opportunity to celebrate our diversity, forge new connections, and show that Epsom is a place where everyone belongs."

Good Company (Surrey), the charity behind the event, also operates the Epsom & Ewell Food Bank, the local Refugee Network, and community pantries in Epsom and Banstead.

While the event is free to attend, organisers ask that attendees book tickets in advance via the QR code on promotional flyers or the charity's website, where a full afternoon timetable is also available.

The *Great Get Together* campaign is run by The Jo Cox Foundation and aims to encourage people across the UK to bridge divides and build stronger, more connected communities. The Foundation states: *"Change starts at the community level; we all have the power to make a difference."*

Further information about the national initiative can be found at:
 https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/our-work/stronger-communities/great-get-together/

Contact for local event:
Jo Sherring
Lead, Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network
 07849 631747
 jo@goodcompany.org.uk

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Epsom Red Cross Volunteer honoured by King

1 July 2025



A British Red Cross volunteer from Epsom who has spent 40 years with the organisation has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the King's Birthday Honours.

Jon Richards, 61, followed in his mum's footsteps as a volunteer with the British Red Cross and has worked across a number of different services during his four decades with the charity.

Jon enjoys helping individuals and families, having attended numerous callouts across the South East as well as helping at rest centres. This included an incident in 2014 when Jon volunteered for four days straight, supporting people caught up in severe flooding in London and Brighton, and in 2017, when he supported the response at Grenfell Tower.

Jon, who also met his wife through the British Red Cross, said: "It's a real honour to be given a British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours for my time volunteering with the British Red Cross.

"We work hard to help people who face the most difficult challenges in life and I'm very proud to be recognised with this award."

Described as a modest and quiet man by his colleagues, Jon's knowledgeable, methodical, and calm approach builds trust with both service users and partner agencies. On one of his most recent callouts, Jon supported in a case of hoarding, where the member of the public would not allow firefighters or social services into their home, but felt comfortable allowing Jon in to discuss alternative accommodation options.

Jon added: "It's important to show kindness and compassion whenever you're carrying out volunteering duties and having met so many brilliant colleagues over the years at the British Red Cross, I know that everyone here will do everything they can to help those in need.

"Throughout the last 40 years, I've worked in so many different areas of the British Red Cross and had a chance to see how big an impact the work we do can have on communities."

British Red Cross Chief Executive Béatrice Butsana-Sita said: "Jon is an incredible ambassador for the British Red Cross and a fantastic example of the brilliant staff and volunteers that support our vital work.

"For 40 years he has been a huge figure in our Surrey services, giving up his time to support people when they need it most.

"I am delighted to see Jon rewarded for his work with a British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours list and would like to congratulate him on this amazing achievement."

12th June 2025

1 July 2025

Education News Transport

Smarter tickets would boost bus travel



11 June 2025

Public transport in Southern England is struggling, not just because of cost or convenience, but because it has failed to keep up with the digital age, according to a new … Read More

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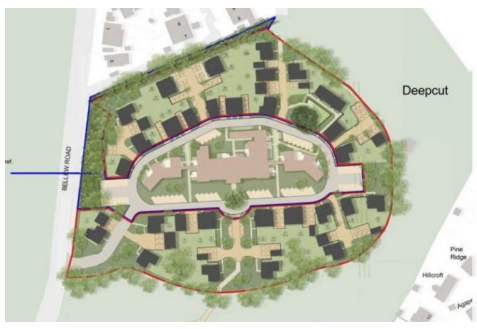
Housing News Planning

9 year process finalised for 1200 Surrey homes



11 June 2025

The final planning application of the 1,200-home Deepcut regeneration project has been approved. The massive housing project was given the initial green light back in 2014 when Surrey Heath Borough … Read More

Arts Community News

Epsom Picturehouse hosts Refugee Week



11 June 2025

This year’s Refugee Week theme, “Community as a Superpower,” celebrates the influence and connection with other cultures that enrich us all, offering fresh perspectives, traditions, and stories that shape a … Read More

News Planning

Oxshott High Street redeveloping?



10 June 2025

Plans to redevelop part of a Surrey high street have been put forward. Oxshott village store and post office and a former takeaway spot could be knocked down and transformed … Read More

Community Council Nature

Grafton Stables to Remain Green Space



10 June 2025

Grafton Stables in Cuddington, a 13.5-acre green space bordered by residential properties, is set to remain open to the public after Surrey County Council (SCC) confirmed it will be managed … Read More

Arts Community Horse racing

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Epsom Derby's Speed and Spirit Captured in New Station Art Project

7 June 2025

A new art installation at Tattenham Corner Station is shining a light on Epsom's rich racing heritage while adding a burst of creativity to commuters' journeys. This initiative, part of … Read More

Horse racing Sports

Epsom Derby Day Tips



6 June 2025

Derby Day at Epsom is one of the highlights of the British racing calendar, with a stellar card for racegoers to enjoy in Surrey on Saturday afternoon. The Derby itself … Read More

Local History News

Surrey talk for those not afraid of Virginia Woolf

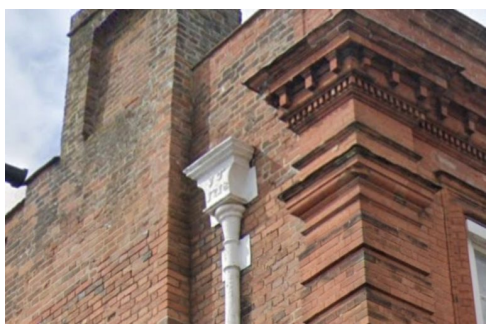


6 June 2025

"Mrs Dalloway" at Woking. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Virginia Woolf's iconic novel from the Lushington Archive at Surrey History Centre Virginia Woolf's use of members of her own family … Read More

Community Local History

Farnham Museum repairs hitting £2M



6 June 2025

The cost of repairing "one of the most important buildings in Surrey" has ballooned to nearly £2 million after further setbacks were discovered – with Waverley Borough Council now on … Read More

Horse racing Sports

Epsom Racecourse: Preview and Tips for Oaks Day

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6 June 2025

The Derby meeting is upon us and the greatly-anticipated Oaks Day card hosts seven intriguing races. Read below for a preview of the Epsom card courtesy of Racing TV, who offer … Read More

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Epsom Picturehouse hosts Refugee Week

1 July 2025



This year's Refugee Week theme, "Community as a Superpower," celebrates the influence and connection with other cultures that enrich us all, offering fresh perspectives, traditions, and stories that shape a more vibrant, inclusive society.

Between 16–22 June, Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network (EERN) will honour the talents, stories, and successes of the refugees they support through a series of uplifting cultural events and film screenings. Film has a unique way of showing us what unites us—that shared experience of seeing stories on the big screen and sharing the best of our cultures.

Community is indeed a superpower—especially during Refugee Week—as it reminds us of the strength found in unity. It celebrates the transformative power of welcoming communities to change lives and challenge the narrative around migration.

Local Solidarity and Support

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the Epsom and Ewell community has shown extraordinary solidarity—welcoming refugees into their homes, raising vital funds, and providing practical support to help newcomers rebuild their lives. All members of the community are warmly invited to attend Refugee Week events in a spirit of unity, compassion, and cultural celebration. Let us come together to show that Epsom stands strong in solidarity with those affected by conflict and displacement.

Cultural Events & Film Screenings

Curated in partnership with Ksenia Bugrimova—award-winning Ukrainian film producer and founder of Talented U, a Ukrainian-British screen industry association—Refugee Week events will take place at Epsom Picturehouse, a vibrant new boutique cinema and community hub in the heart of Epsom. Each screening is paired with live music or cultural programming that showcases the creativity and resilience of refugees from Ukraine, Syria, and beyond.

> *"Film reflects the joy and humanity in every culture—it reminds us that community isn't just where we live, it's who we are. That's our superpower."*
> *—Joe Stroud, Marketing Manager at Epsom Picturehouse*

Tuesday, 17 June

Live Performance by Yuliia Komyshan
Yuliia Komyshan is a professional bandura player from Poltava, Ukraine. The bandura—a traditional Ukrainian plucked-string folk instrument—holds a special place in the country's musical heritage. Since arriving in the UK at the start of the war in Ukraine, Yuliia has dedicated herself to sharing the richness of Ukrainian culture through music. She is passionate about introducing global audiences to the sound of the bandura and fostering a deeper connection with Ukrainian musical

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traditions, both ancient and contemporary. Yuliia performs at concerts whenever she can, using each opportunity to celebrate and preserve her cultural roots.

Film Screening: The Taste of Freedom
A young cook discovers a rare 1929 Ukrainian cookbook and, through traditional cuisine, reconnects with her roots and inner strength.

Thursday, 19 June

Performance by the Ukrainian Renaissance Choir
The Ukrainian Renaissance Choir, founded by concert pianist Nataliia Zadorizhna, will perform the Ukrainian National Anthem and other cultural songs.

> *"It is an enormous privilege to stay in the UK and to be surrounded by such noble, caring, and generous people," says Nataliia, who has lived in Ashtead with her 11-year-old daughter since May 2022.*

Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet members of the Ukrainian community and EERN volunteers supporting displaced families.

Film Screening: Rocky Road to Berlin
A road-trip comedy set in the chaos of the 1990s USSR. Two musicians drive to Berlin in an old Pobeda car to trade it for a Mercedes—and discover much more than they bargained for.

Plus: Home for Ukraine
A moving documentary featuring former tennis champion Andrew Castle, who shares his story alongside that of a young woman from Mariupol. Previously screened by Film London and other UK festivals. Andrew Castle is hoping to attend and support the event.

Saturday, 21 June

Live Performance by Basel Saleh
Internationally renowned Syrian musician Basel Saleh will perform a fusion of Arabic and Western classical music on the oud. A conductor and composer, Basel has played at major festivals including Glastonbury and Roskilde and collaborated with artists such as Damon Albarn of Gorillaz.

Film Screening: The Walk
Directed by Tamara Kotevska, this hybrid documentary follows Little Amal, a giant puppet symbolising a young Syrian refugee, as she journeys across Europe in a powerful allegory of hope and resilience.

Booking and More Information

To book one of the performances or screenings, visit:
https://www.picturehouses.com/event-details/0000000167/refugee-week/100

To learn more about Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network, visit:
https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org

For more information about the cinema and upcoming events, visit:
www.picturehouses.co.uk/epsom

Community Event – The Great Get Together
Sunday 22 June 2025 1pm-4pm

St Joseph's Church Hall, St Margaret's Drive, Epsom KT18 7QJ

You will already have received details about our Great Get Together event. This is a FREE community event for all the family, part of a network of events inspired by the Jo Cox Foundation to celebrate all that unites us as a community. We have loads of activities for all ages, so please come and join us and bring friends and family. Although entry is free of charge, please can you book tickets online so that we know the numbers to expect. Also, we would ask you to bring a donation of food to contribute to Good Company's Food Bank.

Book your free online tickets here where you can also see the range of activities available, all of which are free.

Epsom Derby Day Tips

1 July 2025

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Derby Day at Epsom is one of the highlights of the British racing calendar, with a stellar card for racegoers to enjoy in Surrey on Saturday afternoon.

The Derby itself is a hugely historic race, having been held at the Surrey course for a remarkable 245 years. The free entry for the inner course makes the event even more unique, providing families the perfect opportunity to enjoy a day of racing, with seven races in total on the card.

Wet weather is projected for Derby Day, with thunderstorms presenting the possibility of disruption, but a top class cast of runners and riders will bring in the punters.

Read below for a preview of the Epsom card courtesy of **Racing TV**, who offer the latest horse racing free bet offers.

13:00 Princess Elizabeth Stakes (Fillies' And Mares' Group 3)

The opening race of the day will see 11 runners taking the just over a mile trip for this Group 3 contest. The two favourites for the race look to be Royal Dress and **Skellet**, with little to choose between this pair, the latter's scope for improvement this season and form on softer ground gives her the edge for this contest.

13:35 Betfred Diomed Stakes (Group 3)

For this second Group 3 contest, this race has an interesting triple Group 3 winner from Germany, in the form of Geography. However, a lack of UK experience and inclement weather conditions on good to soft ground suggests the likes of **Persica**, could fare better, having won in similar conditions in April at Newmarket.

14:10 Betfred 3yo 'Dash' Handicap

A large field will line up for the third race, which is a 5f 'Dash' which is the only Class 3 race of the afternoon. **Mademoiselle** looks a progressive type and made a strong second-placed start to this season having finished 2024 in fine form with two wins, although this is a step up in class.

14:45 Aston Martin 'Dash' Handicap (Heritage Handicap)

Another short race to precede the main event of the afternoon, with this one being a Class 2 contest. Oisin Murphy's presence on board **Jer Batt** is a positive indicator for a horse who is also on a competitive mark for trainers David & Nicola Barron, making this one to watch.

15:30 Betfred Derby (Group 1)

One of the highlights of the season, The Derby is run over 1m4f with prize money of £909,628 for the winner making it the richest race of the British Flat season.

Vying for this prize will be the leading trainers and jockeys, with the combination of Aidan O'Brien and Ryan Moore winning an 11th Oaks for O'Brien on Friday, a feat they could repeat for the Derby. They will combine to boost Delacroix's hopes, but **Pride Of Arras** is a huge hope after just two races for Ralph Beckett and good pedigree for this trip.

16:15 Encore Lifestyle Northern Dancer Handicap (GBBPlus Race)

Up next, another race run over 1m4f, but this time a handicap. An interesting contest, but with a favourite who has gone well in the mud for Ralph Beckett, it will be hard to look past **Valvano**, who also has handicap form.

17:00 Hong Kong Jockey Club World Pool Lester Piggott Handicap (GBBPlus Race)

The penultimate race of the day is a Class 2 with a £38k prize for the winner, to keep the punters entertained following the main event. Despite a disappointing handicap debut, **Hornsea Bay** has since been gelded and could go well under Danny Tudhope.

17:40 JRA Tokyo Trophy Handicap

The final race of the day, and the 2025 Derby meeting, is a 6f sprint. For this, **Eye Of Dubai** looks like an interesting proposition for a yard which has won this race twice before, and has two Class 2 wins under their belt to call upon when checking the form book.

Selections:

13:00 – Skellet – 9/2

13:35 – Persica – 5/2

14:10 – Mademoiselle – 6/1

14:45 – Jer Batt – 13/2

15:30 – Pride of Arras – 5/1

16:15 – Valvano – 9/2

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17:00 – Hornsea Bay – 11/2

17:40 – Eye Of Dubai – 13/2

Image: Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

Surrey talk for those not afraid of Virginia Woolf

1 July 2025



“Mrs Dalloway” at Woking. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of Virginia Woolf’s iconic novel from the Lushington Archive at Surrey History Centre

Virginia Woolf’s use of members of her own family and close friends as models for her characters is well known. Her father, that eminent of all eminent Victorians, Sir Leslie Stephen was the curmudgeonly Mr Ramsay in To The Lighthouse and her mother, the beautiful Julia Jackson, is sensitively portrayed as his long-suffering wife. Other characters in the novel are drawn from friends who were invited to stay with the family at Talland House where the Stephen family spent their summer holidays. One of those families was that of the lawyer and positivist, Vernon Lushington whose daughter Kitty married newspaper owner Leopold Maxse and became the model for Mrs Dalloway in Woolf’s iconic novel.

To celebrate the centenary of the publication of Mrs Dalloway, Dr David Taylor will tell the story of Kitty Maxse and her relationship with Virginia Woolf and other members of her family from the Lushington family archive held at Surrey History Centre. This talk will follow the Surrey History Trust AGM.

Location: Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 6ND.

Date and time: Monday 30 June, 7pm to 9pm.

Tickets: free, register online.

Surrey History Centre for more news click HERE

Epsom Racecourse: Preview and Tips for Oaks Day

1 July 2025



The Derby meeting is upon us and the greatly-anticipated Oaks Day card hosts seven intriguing races.

Read below for a preview of the Epsom card courtesy of ***Racing TV****, who offer the latest horse racing* ***free bet offers.***

Kicking off the afternoon’s top class action is the Listed Surrey Stakes, run over seven furlongs (1.30). Topping the ratings is The Waco Kid, whose two starts so far this season has been far below his best, so connections try him in first time cheekpieces here in the hope that he can recapture his Tattersalls Stakes winning form of last year, in which race he finished ahead of Diego Ventura. Given a fair amount of weight by the colts, Formal might spring a surprise on a track which just might suit her.

Next is the two-year-olds’ Woodcote Stakes over six furlongs (2.05), which introduces just one debutant in the shape of George Baker’s Trinculo, who has his work cut out for him on his first try here amongst a high quality field. Charlie Appleby has a very good strike rate at Epsom, therefore his talented, fast colt Maximised looks the most likely of these, but Havana Hurricane could be a close second.

The Group 1 Coronation Cup is next, with a quality multi-national field of seven runners (2.40). French raider Calandagan tops the ratings, has beaten some of his opponents here in the past and is fit from a run in Dubai in April. He’s tough and will be up to this, but is untried at this tricky track. Bellum Justum ran a good race in the Derby over course and distance last year and has taken a step forward this term already, so could pick up a place at least. Irish Oaks winning filly You Got

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To Me musn’t be underestimated in this company, but does lack a prep run.

3.15 brings the Nifty 50 Handicap, run over a mile and quarter. John & Thady Gosden have a very strong strike rate of 31% at Epsom, therefore their runner Mutaawid is worth considering after a particularly impressive six-length win last time at Newmarket, but he has been heavily penalised for that performance by the handicapper. Roger Varian’s Defiance should have a chance, having finished a close second over course and distance last year in the Blue Riband Trial, but may need this run to get up to speed for the season, leaving Rathgar looking a good option with proven ability over undulating tracks and remaining on the same mark as his last three starts.

The eagerly anticipated feature is next; the Group 1 Oaks over a mile and a half (4.00). Godolphin’s 1,000 Guineas winning Desert Flower is the best on ratings by a long way, but she is untried over this trip. There is, however, plenty of staying power throughout her pedigree, so this is unlikely to have too great an impact on her ability to win the second leg of the fillies’ Triple Crown. Aidan O’Brien’s Miinie Hauk ought to be her main competition, but Ed Walker’s Qilin Queen, who is well equipped with a staying pedigree and shouldn’t be underestimated.

The penultimate race of Oaks Day is a handicap run over a mile and half a furlong (4.35). Ebt’s Guard is slowly improving and could be at the sharp end here, while Bopedro comes from David O’Meara’s bang in-form stable and wouldn’t be without a chance having placed on both his last starts with an eyecatching jockey booking in Rossa Ryan. Two Tempting is last year’s winner, but has risen sharply in the weights since that performance. A lower weighted, reliable sort such as Mr Baloo might be a better option.

The finale is a seven-furlong handicap of 13 runners (5.10). Rhoscolyn was last year’s winner of this race, and returns on a one-pound lower mark than his victory, but he might want slightly good to soft or soft ground. Although well beaten by Rhoscolyn that day, Darkness does have good course form and, having won well last time out at Thirsk, arrives in good sorts. He might prefer good ground here, but is versatile enough to cope with softer going if the rain comes.

Epsom selections – Friday

1.30 – Formal

2.05 – Maximised

2.40 – Calandagan

3.15 – Rathgar

4.00 – Qilin Queen e/w

4.35 – Mr Baloo

5.10 – Darkness

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