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19th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

Let’s think about Spring!

14 November 2024



Residents of Cuddington ward held a community bulb plant on the 9th of November, thanks to fantastic local volunteers. Help from RA Surrey Councillor **Eber Kington** via an allocation from Your Fund Surrey, plus a generous crocus donation from Wandgas Sports and Social Club, enabled Councillor **Kim Spickett** (RA Cuddington) to obtain enough spring bulbs for three streets. “We have been planting bulbs in various locations in the ward for the last three years. The aim is to have spring colour and happy bees in every street, so we tackle a new area each Autumn. It is great exercise and a wonderful way to meet your neighbours”.

The streetscape around Wandgas has been planted with Crocus tommasinianus Whitewell Purple, a good match for the club kit colours.

Kim said “All our pollinating insects are fans of Wandgas cricket and football – now they will have somewhere to enjoy half-time refreshments”.

In the surrounding streets, Kim, volunteer residents of all ages, RA Surrey and EEBC Councillor **Steven McCormick** plus the Wandgas team planted “Tenby” daffodils and early snowdrops.

The bulbs will ensure a boost for wildlife and some neighbourhood cheer after a long winter.

MAIN PHOTO, LEFT TO RIGHT: Wandgas Club Secretary Gary, President Chris, Managers Alison and David, Paul. INSET PHOTOS: volunteer Nicky’s snap of the volunteers in action and examples of the flowers to expect during Spring 2025

Kim is also chair of Surrey’s Wildflowering Project. They have groups all over Surrey, bringing native planting and people together.

14th November 2024

14 November 2024

Council Housing Planning

Epsom and Ewell Green Belt battle lines drawing near



13 November 2024

The latest draft of the Local Plan has just been revealed. The headline news is that the housing target has been significantly reduced by omitting the Ewell East Station Green … Read More

Community Letters Transport

Has Epsom’s new MP missed the bus to a new hospital?

12 November 2024

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Dear Editor, Our new MP Helen Maguire has supported the construction of a new hospital, complete with an accident and emergency (A&E) department, near the Royal Marsden Hospital in the … Read More

Education News



Surrey Uni to research mono-syllabic complexity

12 November 2024

The University of Surrey is part of an international team of researchers that has been awarded £8.3 million to better understand human language by researching one of the world's most … Read More

Council Education Transport

Surrey school kids' country walk saving money



12 November 2024

Children have been told they can walk 4.9km through fields and over an unguarded railway line by Surrey County Council bureaucrats who cancelled their free bus passes. The decision has left their … Read More

Football Sports

Epsom and Ewell FC progress in FA Vase

10 November 2024

Epsom and Ewell 2-0 North Greenford United. Isuzu F.A. Vase – Second Round. Saturday 9th November 2024. It's official! This is now definitely a Vase run! We may have had … Read More

Environment News Planning

Surrey University to get a third of its power from the Sun



10 November 2024

Permission has been granted for The University of Surrey to build a solar farm on green belt land. The scheme will provide the university with 34 per cent of its … Read More

News Planning Policing

Surrey Police HQ redesign will quieten the dogs

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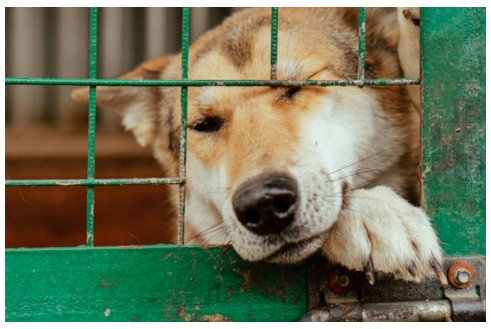

10 November 2024

Plans to redevelop Surrey Police headquarters, at Mount Browne, have been given the go-ahead. The changes also include a new access road which the Force say will speed up response … Read More

Business Education News



Epsom and Ewell College wins Surrey’s employer of the year

10 November 2024

Nescot college in Reigate Road, Ewell, won “Employer of the Year’ at the Surrey Business Awards last night, against some stiff competition. (NESCOT stands for North-East Surrey College of Technology.) … Read More

Council Housing Planning

Did a fair view prevail on Epsom’s modular homes for the homeless?



9 November 2024

The decision by Epsom & Ewell Borough Council 7th November to approve three modular homes for temporary accommodation on Fairview Road has ignited a fierce debate. The council framed this … Read More

Community News Volunteers



Sir Ed supporting Epsom based Ukraine charities

8 November 2024

Today, Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the resurgent Liberal Democrat Party, accompanied by Epsom and Ewell MP Helen Maguire, visited the “Ukraine Hub”. Offices generously provided by the owners … Read More

News Policing

High price of Surrey police officer’s false report

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8 November 2024

An ex-police officer has been banned from the profession after she “maliciously” made a “false” complaint about child sexual abuse to the NSPCC, a misconduct hearing has ruled. The former … Read More

Community Council



Surrey needs more foster carers

7 November 2024

Fostering can mean everything to those involved; that is the message of a powerful new fostering film from over 100 councils. ‘Everything’, a new fostering recruitment fil

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Has Epsom’s new MP missed the bus to a new hospital?

14 November 2024

Dear Editor,

Our new MP Helen Maguire has supported the construction of a new hospital, complete with an accident and emergency (A&E) department, near the Royal Marsden Hospital in the southern area of Sutton. [See Epsom and Ewell Times 12th October 2024 “Public meeting about Epsom Hospital future“].

While well-intentioned, her recommendation seems to miss a significant concern shared by residents in Epsom, Ewell, and much of Sutton: accessibility.

The current sites—Epsom Hospital and St Helier Hospital—are better served by public transport than the proposed location near the Royal Marsden, which lacks convenient train and bus links. Moving our local A&E services to this “public transport desert” would place a greater burden on people relying on public transport, particularly those without access to a car.

Epsom Hospital, for example, is within walking distance of Epsom Station (though it’s still a 20-minute walk). It is served by several bus routes, including:

- **E5** (Langley Vale – Epsom – Watersedge): every 30 minutes from Epsom Clock Tower, though it only passes the hospital every two hours.
- **166** (Epsom Hospital – Epsom – Banstead – West Croydon): an hourly service from Monday to Saturday, no service on Sunday.

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- **293** (Epsom Hospital – Epsom – North Cheam – Morden): every 20 minutes during peak times.
- **408** (Epsom – Ashtead – Leatherhead – Cobham): runs approximately every hour on weekdays.
- **479** (Epsom – Ashtead – Leatherhead – Guildford): every 30 minutes at peak times.

St Helier Hospital, also in Sutton, has additional connections:

- **151** (Wallington – Sutton – Worcester Park): every 10 minutes peak.
- **157** (Morden – Croydon – Crystal Palace): every 12 minutes peak.
- **S1** (Mitcham – Sutton – Banstead via Wrythe Lane): every 20 minutes peak.
- **S4** (Roundshaw – Wallington – Sutton – St Helier): every 30 minutes peak.
- Other services such as the **154**, **164**, and **280** serve nearby areas, with buses stopping outside or near the hospital.

In contrast, public transportation from Epsom Clock Tower to the Royal Marsden site involves multiple transfers. A trip requires at least two or three buses, such as the S2, S4, 293, SL7, and S4, taking anywhere from 45 minutes to 1 hour and 15 minutes depending on timings. For many, this could be inconvenient, time-consuming, and impractical—especially in emergencies.

For residents reliant on public transportation, moving A&E services to a poorly connected area would be disruptive. We should seek solutions that keep healthcare accessible and ensure that those who need urgent care can get there quickly. I urge our MP and local authorities to consider this reality as they deliberate on the future of our local healthcare services.

Yours faithfully,

Stuart Gosling

Epsom Resident

Sir Ed supporting Epsom based Ukraine charities

14 November 2024



Today, Sir Ed Davey MP, leader of the resurgent Liberal Democrat Party, accompanied by Epsom and Ewell MP Helen Maguire, visited the “Ukraine Hub”. Offices generously provided by the owners of the Ashley Centre and where Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has waived all business rates.

The premises are home to the Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network and Surrey Stands With Ukraine.

Sir Ed was introduced to the leaders of the refugee network, Nina Kaye and Jo Sherring, who told him of the hardships faced by refugees fleeing persecution and conflict. He saw English classes in session and shook hands with many refugee students.

The Party leader and new MP were given a tour of the Hub and took part in packing winter survival packs for Ukraine. Costing £50 the smart packs contain a gas cooker, a power bank and a flexible re-chargeable torch. Essential items fo civilians effected by the inevitable power outages that will occur this winter throughout Ukraine.

If you wish to donate please visit Surrey Stands With Ukraine and businesses that sponsor full packs will benefit from the charity’s extensive social media coverage.

Sir Ed then helped pack some survival kits and proceeded to help clean walking aids the charity is sending to Ukraine.

The Hub was full of volunteers for both charities who work closely together and a press posse was all around.

Sir Ed undertook a series of interviews with media representatives and fielded questions ranging from the election of Donald Trump to the future for Ukraine.

Image: Sir Ed Davey MP and Helen Maguire MP and Roy Deadman of SSWU in Epsom’s Ukraine HUB

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Job Listings

14 November 2024



Employers and agencies – submit your job listing on this form

Date applications close	30/01/2026
Start date of employment	02/02/2026
Employer’s name	Hearts of Care Agency Ltd
Work place address	Surrey
Job title	Support Worker
Job Description	Job Title: Health Care Assistant/Support Worker Reporting To: Registered Manager/ Assistant Manager/Senior Healthcare Assistants Main Purpose of the Job To provide care and other duties as part of the Service User’s individual service/care plan, to a high standard in accordance with company policies and procedures. To ensure residents retain their dignity and individuality. To provide care in accordance with best practice and legislative requirements, reflecting policies and procedures and agreed standards under the direction of the Senior Carer. To support and enable service users to maintain skills and personal interests while delivering person-centred care unique to each individual To maintain skills at a current level and undertake such training and development as required, from time-to-time, to maintain and progress knowledge
Salary information	from £15 per hour dependant on care package
Website if any	www.heartsofcareagency.co.uk
Name of employer’s contact	Stracey Rile
Employer’s email or other contact link	

7th November 2024

14 November 2024

Community News

Epsom and Ewell remembers

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6 November 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is proud to announce that Remembrance Day memorial services, parades and activities will take place to honour those who have died in the service of … Read More

Council Housing Letters

There is another way to save Epsom’s Green Belt



6 November 2024

Dear Editor, My 12 year old son spoke at the last local council planning meeting, about the importance of not building on the green belt, and I am writing to … Read More

News

Case for dog-walker regulation after death-mauling

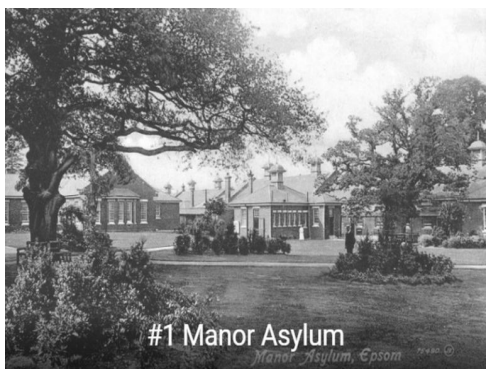


4 November 2024

A coroner has raised concerns about the “lack of regulation”, both locally and nationally, after a professional dog walker was mauled to death in a Surrey park. Natasha Johnston, 28, … Read More

Local History News

Attic find fills gap in Epsom local asylum history



4 November 2024

Last Friday saw the return of a singular missing hospital record book. The book contains the medical case book of women admitted to The Manor Hospital between 19 May 1900 … Read More

Community Council News

Epsom & Ewell consults on anti-social behaviour

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4 November 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is calling on the public to take part in their consultation about a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) from 4 November. The consultation will run … Read More

News Policing

Stolen dog recovered by Surrey Police after 8 years



4 November 2024

After eight long years, a gorgeous Cocker Spaniel called Daisy, who was stolen from her home in Mole Valley back in 2016, has now been reunited with her owners. Daisy, … Read More

Football Sports

Epsom & Ewell FC drowned out by Sheerwater

4 November 2024

Epsom and Ewell 0-3 Sheerwater. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South Saturday 2nd November 2024 On a very mild Saturday afternoon at the KGF Salts fans were hoping for … Read More

Community Faith Health

Warm Wednesdays are back in Epsom



3 November 2024

For the third year running Epsom Methodist Church (EMC) is opening its doors and running itsWarm Wednesdays programme this winter. EMC is just one of the 80 Warm Welcome spacesacross … Read More

Arts Community Local History

Portraits of pauper patients in Epsom's Horton Cemetery,

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inspires artist



3 November 2024

Eric Fong is a multimedia artist whose work spans film, photography, sculpture, and installation, often exploring themes of the body, identity, and vulnerability. His unique approach is informed by his … Read More

Council Housing Planning

Another Surrey borough’s Local Plan agony



3 November 2024

More than 800 homes will be built on Surrey green belt land as part of a 15 year plan for 9,270 new properties in the north of the county. It … Read More

Council Editorial Housing

Is Delay Defensible in the Fight to Protect Epsom’s Green Belt?

1 November 2024

As Epsom and Ewell Borough Council deliberates its Local Plan in the face of imminent, significantly higher government housing targets, the council’s slow-paced approach raises crucial questions about its strategy … Read More

Council Housing Planning

Call to Epsom and Ewell Council to speed plan denied



31 October 2024

Nine opposition councillors on Epsom and Ewell Borough Council are calling for an Emergency Full Council Meeting to fast-track the final stages of the borough’s Local Plan amid looming concerns … Read More

Community Council Finances

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Surrey support for the “financially challenged”

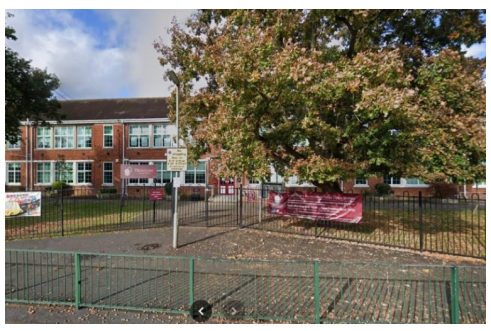


31 October 2024

Surrey County Council welcomes the extension by government of the Household Support Fund in this year’s Autumn Statement, after 86,000 Surrey households were supported by the fund last year. In … Read More

Education News

Epsom school fined for finger loss



31 October 2024

A school trust in Surrey has been fined after part of a pupil’s finger was amputated. The five-year-old boy, a Year 1 pupil at Danetree Primary School in Epsom, had … Read More

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There is another way to save Epsom’s Green Belt

14 November 2024



Dear Editor,

My 12 year old son spoke at the last local council planning meeting, about the importance of not building on the green belt, and I am writing to you, as an Epsom and Ewell Stamford ward resident, to echo my agreement. I’ve gone through the Land Assessment and the Draft Local Plan regulation 18, and am very concerned about the future of our green spaces in Epsom and Ewell.

While I realise there are many ways to work out how many houses to build in Epsom and Ewell, I believe it should be based on how much brownfield space we have, rather than what is possible if we build on the green belt. We obviously need to build social houses (my understanding is that there are about 1,300 families on the waiting list in Epsom and Ewell), and we must do our part with helping to build a proportion of the houses likely to be needed nationally (which the office of national statistics estimates at about a 10% increase over 15 years). The local plan suggests an increase of about 14.5% (on top of 1,300 needed for social houses), so arguably more than we need to build.

I believe an alternative local plan has been sent to the council showing that it is possible to build all the houses we need on brownfield sites identified in the Land Assessment, plus there will be more spaces that become available over the next 15 years. This means that there are no exceptional circumstances in order to justify changing green belt boundaries.

A Reigate and Banstead Green Party councillor, who is also a town planner, gave a talk earlier in the year explaining that if you build on many small brownfield sites (instead of thousands of houses on one green site), you get small, local firms tendering for the work, instead of big developers, so increasing local employment.

I am also concerned that the council is not listening to residents, with their own consultation showing that 87% of respondents are opposed to building on the green belt. And a 12,000 signature petition has been ignored. While I realise there was a concern that not all the people who signed it definitely live in Epsom and Ewell, I think it is very likely that a huge proportion of them do.

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Additionally, I feel I cannot leave out how disappointed I am that the Local Plan does not specify energy standards to be met for residential house building. I believe the excuse /explanation for this is the 2022 Local Plan Viability Assessment, which includes some analysis of estimated additional costs to building if various environmental standards are adhered to. I believe that this data is incomplete as it isn't clear whether it considers the lower cost of running an energy efficient house and the resulting potential impact in the sale price of the property. It also doesn't compare these figures to the cost of retro-fitting houses, and doesn't mention the financial cost to the country if we fail to protect ourselves against the worse effects of climate change.

With not acting to remove green belt following the consultation, and dragging the process out, we are now at a point where if we delay any longer, new government rules will mean drastically higher number of houses required to be built in Epsom and Ewell, and could almost wipe out all the green spaces (except The Common) over the next 15 years. Please act quickly to avoid this!

And I cannot stress enough to please remember the importance of increasing green and re-wilded spaces across the UK in order to help mitigate the worst effects of the climate crisis. Green spaces are needed for free and natural carbon sequestration, reducing air pollution, natural flood management, and for our declining wildlife. They are also used as important community spaces, and children's' sports, as my son and his friend pointed out in the last planning meeting.

Yours faithfully,

Yvonne Grunwald – Stamford Ward Epsom.

Warm Wednesdays are back in Epsom

14 November 2024



For the third year running Epsom Methodist Church (EMC) is opening its doors and running its Warm Wednesdays programme this winter. EMC is just one of the 80 Warm Welcome spaces across Surrey that are open to all residents free of charge and are a place you can pop in to stay warm, get a hot drink, receive energy advice and much more!

Situated right in the heart of Epsom in Ashley Road, Epsom Methodist Church will be open from 9.30 am to 6pm every Wednesday from 6th November through to the end of March*. We will be providing hot drinks, hot meals, free wi-fi and friendly company and conversation. Everyone and anyone is welcome to drop in for five minutes or stay for the whole day – no booking required.

EMC will also be providing advice on where to go for help with energy bills, benefit problems, financial and housing issues and obtaining warm goods and emergency support. On some Wednesdays we will be joined by advisers from Surrey Community Action who will offer help with keeping energy bills down, dealing with energy providers and claiming benefits such as Pension Credit.

Each Wednesday from 3.30 pm to 6pm EMC's Warm Space will take the form of a free after school club for parents and children. There will be games, crafts and activities before everyone joins together to share an evening meal together. Again no booking is required.
Lead Organiser, Robert Hill, commented:

"Energy prices have gone back up this autumn and we know some households struggle to pay their heating bills. Warm Wednesdays not only provides a place where people can stay warm but they can also find friendship and get practical assistance to help see them through the winter.

"Epsom Methodist Church is proud to be part of a Surrey-wide effort to support communities and provide help for those who need it. And it is great to have the backing of the County Council for what we are doing.

For further information contact Robert Hill on 07802 551636 or email roberthill.home@icloud.com

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Portraits of pauper patients in Epsom's Horton Cemetery, inspires artist

14 November 2024



Eric Fong is a multimedia artist whose work spans film, photography, sculpture, and installation, often exploring themes of the body, identity, and vulnerability. His unique approach is informed by his background as a former medical doctor, merging art with science and technology.

His latest project, Apparitions, is a series of cyanotype portraits derived from Victorian-era glass plate negatives of pauper patients from the Manor Hospital (part of the Epsom cluster). These haunting images were salvaged after being abandoned in the 1990s and now reside at Surrey History Centre. Fong's cyanotypes, toned with ivy leaves gathered from the burial site of Horton Cemetery, symbolise the connection between the patients' bodies and overgrown landscape. This project reclaims the dignity of these long-forgotten individuals and encourages a reflection on mental illness both in the past and today.

You can also view cyanotypes of found Victorian needlework, referencing those made/mended/worn by female patients in Victorian asylums through his Asylum Needlework project.

Keeping with the Asylum photograph theme, Us and Them led by Alana Harris (Department of History at Kings College London), creatively re-imagined 19th-century asylum photographs to highlight issues surrounding disability and challenge how people with disabilities have been portrayed over time.

In partnership with Surrey History Centre, the project unearthed archival photographs taken in local psychiatric institutions and paired them with newly commissioned portraits of the disabled artists. Guided by portrait photographer Emma Brown and oral historian Laura Mitchison, the artists used historical photographic techniques to create new images that provoke questions about ableism, mental health, and representation.

The project culminated in a public exhibition at The Horton Arts Centre in Epsom, where the new and historical photographs were displayed side by side. The exhibition opened to great public interest, sparking important discussions around disability and inclusion.

Surrey History Centre read more….

Is Delay Defensible in the Fight to Protect Epsom's Green Belt?

14 November 2024

As Epsom and Ewell Borough Council deliberates its Local Plan in the face of imminent, significantly higher government housing targets, the council's slow-paced approach raises crucial questions about its strategy to protect our borough's green spaces. Led by the Residents' Association, the council is balancing on a tightrope between procedural rigour and an increasingly urgent need for action. But with higher housing quotas looming, is this balance tipping too far towards delay, at the cost of our precious Green Belt?

Nine opposition councillors have proposed an Emergency Full Council Meeting, arguing that swift action is essential to avoid a target increase to 817 new homes annually—double the current requirement. They rightly point out the risks to Epsom's character and environmental integrity. With development pressure escalating, the loss of even a small proportion of green spaces would have lasting consequences, affecting not just our landscape but also the local ecology and community fabric.

Residents' Association leaders, meanwhile, cite the need for strict adherence to regulatory procedures, with Councillor **Peter O'Donovan** (Chair of the Licensing Policy and Planning Committee, RA Ewell Court) cautioning against shortcuts that might render the plan "unsound" in the eyes of government inspectors. RA Leader Councillor **Hannah Dalton**

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(Stoneleigh) echoes this sentiment, emphasising the need for quality and robustness in the plan to withstand scrutiny. But, does adherence to every procedural step outweigh the immediate urgency to avoid a government-imposed target that could open up the Green Belt for development?

If every councillor claims to prioritise the protection of our green spaces, it's difficult to justify the RA's slow and careful approach. What would be lost by speeding up the process, even at the risk of minor regulatory issues? The Local Plan's objective is clear: it must serve the community's best interests by ensuring sustainable development, but without jeopardising the green spaces that make Epsom unique. Rushing to complete this plan before the higher targets take effect doesn't mean compromising on quality—it means acknowledging the urgency of our current position.

The RA's insistence on caution may reflect their commitment to procedural integrity, but in the face of a looming housing target that threatens everything they aim to protect, this stance appears increasingly illogical. The stakes are high, and with public consultation already delayed due to a halt in 2023, it is hard to see what further delay achieves. As **Janice Baker** of the Epsom Green Party rightly points out, legal pathways exist to expedite the consultation phase, saving precious weeks and potentially allowing the community to dodge the higher target.

In the end, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council must decide if this cautious approach truly serves our borough's best interests. Every resident who treasures our green spaces deserves a council that can act quickly and decisively in their defence. The council's commitment to procedural correctness is admirable, but it must be weighed against the real and immediate threat of intensified development. It's time to ask, "What are we willing to risk?" Because in this case, the greatest risk might just be the price of waiting.

Related reports:

Call to Epsom and Ewell Council to speed plan denied

Opposition Calls for Emergency Council Meeting Over Epsom and Ewell Local Plan

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Epsom school fined for finger loss

14 November 2024



A school trust in Surrey has been fined after part of a pupil's finger was amputated.

The five-year-old boy, a Year 1 pupil at Danetree Primary School in Epsom, had been leaving the toilet on 15 June 2022 when his right hand slipped and went into the hinge side of a door.

There was no door guard installed and he trapped his right hand in the door.

This led to the tip of his middle finger becoming detached as his right hand was stuck in the door.

A teacher found the tip of his middle finger, and the boy underwent surgery to re-attach his finger at St Georges Hospital in Tooting, London.

Although younger pupils in Key Stage 1 were taught in a newer building where hinge guards had been fitted on the doors, the incident occurred in a separate building where the older children in Key Stage 2 were taught.

The Key Stage 1 pupils would use the Key Stage 2 building at least once a week to use its library and learn about music and science. While in this building, the Key Stage 1 pupils were allowed to use the toilets unsupervised.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation into the incident found GLF Schools, the trust that runs Danetree Primary School, had failed to identify the risk to its Key Stage 1 pupils while using the toilets. This meant hinge guards were not installed on the toilet doors of the building where Key Stage 2 pupils were taught.

GLF Schools, of Picquets Way, Banstead, Surrey, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The trust was fined £6,000 and ordered to pay £6,875.70 in costs at Staines Magistrates' Court on 30 October 2024.

HSE principal inspector Emma Stiles said: "This little boy and his family could have been spared a lot of pain and upset if the trust had installed widely available, effective and inexpensive hinge guards on the doors the young children had access to. I would ask all schools to review their estates to make sure they have hinge guards where needed so no other children are hurt in this way when at school."

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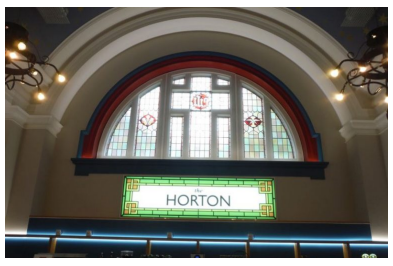
Arts Community News Volunteers

The Horton Hid Hiring From Regulator



30 October 2024

Controversy surrounded the appointment of the salaried Centre Manager of Epsom and Ewell's new arts and exhibition venue, The Horton Arts Centre. Documents obtained by the Epsom and Ewell Times … Read More

News

Caring Mentors in Epsom and Ewell sought for young

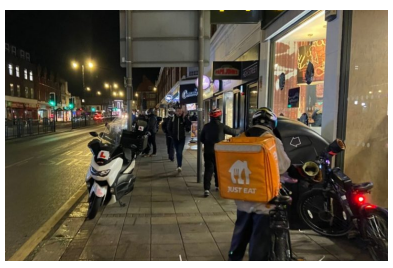


30 October 2024

MCR Pathways, (Mentoring, Charity, Relationships) an award-winning charity dedicated to transforming the lives of young people through mentorship, is looking for volunteer mentors to support a young person throughout their … Read More

Business Community Transport

Epsom High St in need of more love?

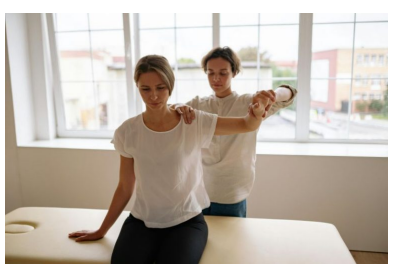


29 October 2024

Driving safely, parking appropriately. Romy Sustar reports: This is the second article in my series following on from "Epsom town as a safe place to Live". It seemed to me … Read More

Health News

Frozen Shoulder Link to Menopause



29 October 2024

Frozen shoulder, also known as adhesive capsulitis, is a painful condition that restricts movement in the shoulder joint due to adhesion and inflammation in the joint capsule. While this condition … Read More

Business Council Environment

Up hill struggle to stop oil drilling in Surrey – pays off?

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ISSN 2753-2771



28 October 2024

A clash between environmental advocates and oil developers at Horse Hill in Surrey has resurfaced as local campaigners question why oil production continues despite a lack of planning permission. The … Read More

Rugby Sports

Miracle with Medway

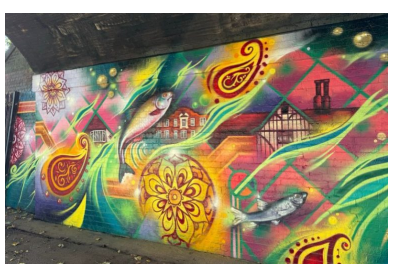


28 October 2024

For the hosts it was a Saturday of availability Armageddon with an injury list mountingthat targeted the front and back rows. Players of yesteryear were called to arms and the … Read More

Arts Community Council

Epsom and Ewell Council bank on street art



28 October 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has completed two new community arts projects in Epsom and Stoneleigh during September and October, in collaboration with globally recognised street artists Positive Arts, local … Read More

Community Council

Licensed to walk



28 October 2024

The Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee has voted to launch a 12-month pilot Commercial Dog Walking Licensing Scheme in Nonsuch Park, starting in April 2025, following a consultation with the … Read More

Business Westminster

Nominate heroic businesswomen of Epsom and Ewell



28 October 2024

A new scheme entitled “MP HERoes“, In Partnership with NatWest and Supported by the Women & Enterprise All-Party Parliamentary Group has been introduced. A cross-party Parliamentary programme that celebrates local … Read More

Football Sports

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19th November 2026

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Epsom and Ewell see more red in away defeat

27 October 2024

Abbey Rangers 2-1 Epsom and Ewell FC. Combined Counties League – Premier Division South. Saturday 26th October 2024. Eleven months ago we visited Addlestone Moor and lost 2-1 in a … Read More

Council Health

Surrey smokers quitting for free



24 October 2024

Ex-smoker Councillor Mark Nuti, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, and Public Health, visited the One You Surrey stop smoking service to find out how we’re supporting smokers to quit. … Read More

Council Housing Planning

Opposition Calls for Emergency Council Meeting Over Epsom and Ewell Local Plan



24 October 2024

In a move that underscores growing concerns over the future of development in Epsom and Ewell, nine opposition councillors from the borough council have requested an Emergency Full Council Meeting … Read More

Business News

Fresh New Look for Ernest Jones Epsom



24 October 2024

Sponsored article: A refreshed Ernest Jones store, designed for Epsom’s shoppers, has opened its doors in the Ashley Centre. Customers are welcomed into a bright interior, with a host of … Read More

Council Education Finances

No wonder Woking went bankrupt. Scandal of private school loans



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24 October 2024

A private school was loaned millions of pounds at favourable rates by Woking Borough Council before it went bankrupt. Now questions are being asked as to whether an independent inquiry … Read More

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Caring Mentors in Epsom and Ewell sought for young

14 November 2024



MCR Pathways, (Mentoring, Charity, Relationships) an award-winning charity dedicated to transforming the lives of young people through mentorship, is looking for volunteer mentors to support a young person throughout their education.

The charity addresses the widening gap in educational and employment outcomes between care-experienced young people and their peers. Research shows that those who do not receive MCR Pathways mentorship are 23% less likely to progress to college, university, or employment compared to their mentored peers. By connecting young people with caring mentors, MCR Pathways helps bridge the gap between aspiration and achievement.

Mentors meet with their mentees for just one hour each week in school. This consistent interaction provides a valuable opportunity for young people to focus on their future, discuss any concerns, and share their thoughts and experiences in a safe and supportive environment. Research shows that even one hour a week with a caring adult can significantly boost a young person's confidence, improve academic performance, and open doors to a brighter future.

Since its founding in 2007, MCR Pathways has made a significant impact, launching its programme in Surrey in 2021 and establishing partnerships with seven schools across the county. With the growing demand for mentors, MCR Pathways is actively seeking new volunteers in **Epsom and Ewell**. If you're ready to make a meaningful impact in your community, find a school near you by visiting mcrpathways.org/school-locator.

To find out more about the programme and to register, head to mcrpathways.org/whats-stopping-you or for any enquiries about becoming a mentor, please reach out to Liz Grace, MCR Pathways' Surrey Volunteer Recruitment Manager, at liz.grace@mcrpathways.org or call 07483 390702. Together, we can help create a future where every young person has the opportunity to thrive. Join MCR Pathways today and be the change in a young person's life!

Nominate heroic businesswomen of Epsom and Ewell

14 November 2024



A new scheme entitled "**MP HERoes**", *In Partnership with NatWest* and Supported by the Women & Enterprise All-Party Parliamentary Group has been introduced.

A cross-party Parliamentary programme that celebrates local women-owned businesses throughout the UK. MP HERoes enables each MP to highlight the vital contribution of women entrepreneurs to the local economy and beyond, generating

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positive PR for the business and for the nominating MP.

By nominating a woman business owner in the Epsom and Ewell Constituency, the goal is to create and celebrate local role models and encourage other women to start and grow a business. All HERoes become part of the MPH community, with regular events and workshops both online and in person, which support the business owner and their business.

Helen Maguire, Epsom and Ewell's new MP, can nominate a local woman business owner from any sector or industry, the only requirement is they are based in your constituency.

If you wish to suggest someone to Helen Maguire email helen.maguire.mp@parliament.uk

NB There is no closing date, business owners can be nominated throughout the year.

Points you may wish to consider when nominating your HERo woman business owner

- established in the area
- provides a useful product or service
- employs local people
- supports the local community

What happens next
We contact the business to let them know about the Award. It's not a competition, all MP HERoes nominated businesses (one per constituency) are award-winners and welcome within the MPH community. The MPH Award runs across 2-years, currently 2024/25.

Next steps for MPs

Once the business is confirmed, each MP and their HERo is featured on www.mpheroes.com and highlighted throughout the local press and on social media. It's great for the business, the local economy, and an opportunity for MPs to promote their support for local business.

Celebration and Awards event at Westminster – 3.00pm November 20, 2024
MPs and their HERoes are invited to a celebration event at Parliament during Global Entrepreneurship Week. A Certificate is presented to each HERo and we hope as an MP you're able to pop in during the afternoon to grab a photo with your business HERo. Should you nominate a business in the next year, the next Celebration takes place in spring 2025.

Image: local women led business Oracle PR

Fresh New Look for Ernest Jones Epsom

14 November 2024



Sponsored article:

A refreshed Ernest Jones store, designed for Epsom's shoppers, has opened its doors in the Ashley Centre.

Customers are welcomed into a bright interior, with a host of new features to improve and enhance their shopping experience.

Every aspect of the refurbishment has been thoughtfully designed with local shoppers in mind.

"We wanted our Epsom customers to feel right at home from the moment they enter our store," said store manager, Denise Ducasse.

"As a trusted jeweller with a reputation for quality, craftmanship and expertise, we're here to help our customers celebrate milestone moments and so we really wanted to heighten that sense of occasion in our store," she said.

"We're really excited and hope our customers, will love our makeover," she added.

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19th November 2026
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To celebrate the opening of the new-look store, this weekend from October 25th-27th, Ernest Jones is inviting shoppers to join them for a glass of bubbly with an opportunity to view the latest collections, learn more about the range of jewellery and watch services available as well as an enjoying an extra 10% off the final weekend of sale.

Ernest Jones Epsom is part of a multimillion-pound store investment programme by parent company Signet Jewelers UK and Ireland. A total of 14 Ernest Jones stores and 41 H Samuel stores across the UK are being refurbished.

“This significant investment underscores our dedication to local high streets and shopping centres across the country. We believe that a vibrant retail sector is a vital part of a thriving community and we hope our refurbished stores will be warmly welcomed by local shoppers,” said Neil Old, Managing Director Signet Jewelers UK and Ireland.

Ernest Jones Ashley Centre, 10 Central Square, Epsom KT18 5DA

24th October 2024

14 November 2024

Health News

Epsom and St Helier Hospitals in Desperate Need of Repairs



23 October 2024

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals are in need of urgent repairs, with more than £150 million required to address crumbling infrastructure, according to the latest NHS data. Epsom and … Read More

Council Housing Planning

Epsom’s neighbour cracks on with its Local Plan



23 October 2024

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More than 6,000 new homes will be built in the Surrey borough of Mole Valley, with Leatherhead taking on the largest share after the district council approved its long-term planning bible. … Read More

Community Council Sports

Loads of coaches for Epsom tennis



22 October 2024

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council’s Environment committee has authorised the contracts for three tennis coaching providers in Epsom. R&A Sport will be carrying out coaching sessions at Auriol Park, Sutton Tennis … Read More

Business Horse racing

Modern Yard Revitalizes Epsom’s Historic Racing Scene



22 October 2024

The Daily Telegraph (Monday 21st October) has highlighted a significant revival for Epsom’s historic role in British horse racing, reporting on the recent developments at Downs House, a training yard … Read More

Council Finances

Only the cashless will be “on the Hook” Road car park Epsom



22 October 2024

A town centre car par centre is set to go cashless after plans to upgrade its ticket machines were approved. Pay metres at the Hook Road multi-storey car park in … Read More

Council Editions Editorial

Correction to our Epsom and Ewell Council reports

21 October 2024

We apologise unreservedly to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Chief Executive Officer Jackie King for an unintended publication of a report dated 26th September 2024 titled Challenges to Epsom and … Read More

Football Sports

Fofahan makes FA fans as Epsom & Ewell progress in Vase

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21 October 2024

Epsom and Ewell FC 3-1 Berks County. Isuzu F.A. Vase – First Round. Sunday 20th October 2024 Just 6 days before the 50 year anniversary of our very first F.A. … Read More

Council Housing Planning

Epsom & Ewell's Green Belt controversy tightens



18 October 2024

Tensions flared during a heated meeting of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee (LPPC) in Epsom on October 17th, 2024, as residents voiced strong objections to the proposed housing targets … Read More

Community Council Finances

Epsom & Ewell Council Greenlights Local Projects



18 October 2024

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Licensing and Planning Policy Committee has given its provisional backing to over £2 million in Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for a variety of local … Read More

Arts Culture

Verdi's Requiem adapted for Epsom Church



18 October 2024

Epsom Choral Society (ECS) will perform the Verdi Requiem on Saturday 23rd November at 7:30pm, at St Martin's Church in Epsom. This concert promises to be a remarkable event, showcasing … Read More

Community Council

County pledge to Epsom charity's fight to end poverty



18 October 2024

In a significant move for the region, Surrey County Council (SCC) has signed Good Company's End Poverty Pledge, marking a bold step towards addressing the growing issue of poverty across … Read More

Council Housing Planning

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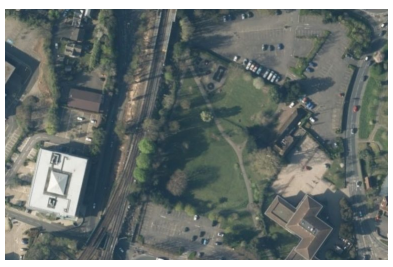
Mole Valley ‘won’t bend’ to petitioners



17 October 2024

The fight to protect the green gateway into a Leatherhead goes on after campaigners seeking to stop a popular park from being turned into high rises were told the council … Read More

Community Education

Nescot proud to sign the Armed Forces Covenant



17 October 2024

North East Surrey College of Technology (Nescot) is proud to have officially signed the Armed Forces Covenant at a special event at the college today (16 October). The Covenant is a … Read More

Council Environment

Epsom and Ewell adopts new Climate Action Plan



16 October 2024

Tuesday 15th October Epsom and Ewell Borough Council’s Environment Committee approved a new five year Climate Action Plan (2025-2029). The Plan outlines a comprehensive strategy to meet the Council’s commitment

Modern Yard Revitalizes Epsom’s Historic Racing Scene

14 November 2024



The Daily Telegraph (Monday 21st October) has highlighted a significant revival for Epsom’s historic role in British horse racing, reporting on the recent developments at **Downs House**, a training yard with a prestigious past. According to the *Telegraph*’s racing correspondent, **Marcus Armytage**, the once derelict site is now undergoing a transformation into a modern facility, spearheading efforts to attract London-based owners back to the area.

The report details how New Zealander **Mark Travers**, who has lived in the UK for two decades, undertook the ambitious seven-year project to restore Downs House. Situated just a quarter of a mile from the start of the Derby, Downs House had long symbolized Epsom’s decline as a training hub, having lost its prominence as a centre for racehorse training

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decades ago. However, the newly revamped facility, now boasting space for 70 horses and cutting-edge amenities, is positioned to revive the town's fortunes.

The *Daily Telegraph* also reports that **George Bake**r, a Stewards' Cup-winning trainer, will move his operation to Downs House in January. Baker, along with his wife Candida, was struck by the state-of-the-art facilities and the untapped potential of the nearby gallops. The move signals a bold step forward for Epsom's equine industry, which has long played second fiddle to more prominent centres like Newmarket and Lambourn.

Baker, who has trained horses from his base in Chiddingfold, shared with the *Telegraph* how unlikely the move to Epsom once seemed. Yet, the combination of modern infrastructure and proximity to London convinced him to seize the opportunity. In an era when racehorse ownership is increasingly attractive to Londoners, Downs House's accessibility could be a game-changer.

As reported, Baker hopes that his move will contribute to the broader rejuvenation of Epsom as a competitive training centre. With room for 50 horses initially, Baker is aiming to fill the yard within two years, making the facility a top choice for owners seeking convenience and quality.

While Epsom's journey back to its glory days remains a work in progress, the ambitious restoration of Downs House, as highlighted in *The Daily Telegraph*, marks a pivotal step in the town's efforts to reclaim its place on the racing map.

Image: Downs House aerial – Google

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