

# Epsom and Ewell Town-Twinning Association invites Cyril Frazer Award entries

16 February 2026

**Epsom and Ewell Town-Twinning Association**



Epsom and Ewell Town-Twinning Association is inviting applications for this year's **Cyril Frazer Award**, a prize established in memory of Cyril Frazer, who died in 2016. Cyril Frazer was Mayor of Epsom and Ewell when the town was first twinned with Chantilly in 1995 and was a founding member of the association. Alongside his commitment to town twinning, he was passionate about singing and was a keen member of the Epsom Male Voice Choir.

Both of these interests are reflected in the award, which offers a top prize of £500 and is open to individuals and groups within the Borough. The award will be made to qualified applicants who meet some or all of the agreed criteria, including living or studying in the Borough, meeting a special need such as mental or physical health, benefiting young people, having cultural or educational value, being related to music or the performing arts, furthering friendships or links with Chantilly, or supporting a key twinning or community event.

Last year's winner was Sarah Carpenter of Southfield Primary School, with runners-up Siobhan Cornell and Jo Johnstone from the French and Music departments at Wallace Fields Junior School, and Olivia Gioffredo from Epsom College. The winner received a £500 grant to support French visits and learning activities planned by Southfield Park School, while the joint runners-up each received £250 to support their work in French education and musical study.

Association secretary Diana Deavin said: "Last year we were very impressed by the quality of the submissions received, which is why we awarded a total of £1,000 in the end. We are looking forward to receiving ideas and suggestions and are hopeful that this year will exceed our expectations once again. Please do consider submitting an application, as we are keen to receive entries from as wide as possible a range of potential beneficiaries and keep Cyril's name alive in this very meaningful way."

The prize will be awarded at the Twinning Association's AGM in June, with a closing date for applications of **May 31, 2026**. For further information or to apply, contact [diana@epsomtwinning.com](mailto:diana@epsomtwinning.com).

Related report:

Epsom and Ewell Town-Twinning Association presents Cyril Frazer Awards for 2025

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## Edinburgh Duke visits Surrey's Arts University

16 February 2026



Thursday 12th February, The Duke of Edinburgh visited University for the Creative Arts (UCA) and its School of Creative & Cultural Industries, to celebrate it providing 170 years of practice-based, creative education and to meet its current young creatives who study across traditional and emerging arts.

UCA welcomed The Duke, who has a professional background in the creative industries and is a Patron of a range of organisations that aim to widen opportunities within the sector.

His Royal Highness was met at UCA by Joint Acting Vice-Chancellors, Professor Melanie Gray and Professor Mark Ellul, alongside Chancellor, Dame Magdalene Odundo; Executive Dean, Professor Sophy Smith; and Pro-Vice Chancellor Academic Partnerships & Industry Engagement, Professor Lyndsay Duthie.

Professors Gray and Ellul, commented: "We are honoured to welcome HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, a recognised champion of the arts, to UCA in Farnham. We were delighted to give His Royal Highness a tour of our specialist facilities,

where he got hands-on experience of traditional crafts to future-facing technologies, and introduce him to the next generation of creatives, our talented student community.”

The Duke was also introduced to globally renowned fashion designer and UCA Chancellor Emerita, Dame Zandra Rhodes. Zandra began her own creative career at UCA, studying at one of its former art colleges in the 1960s, which she credits as the foundation for her creativity.

Other alumni to meet The Duke included actor Gabin Kongolo, who made history as the first Black person to perform and speak Welsh on stage at Shakespeare’s Globe and ceramicist Tim Fluck, a British Ceramics Biennial Fresh Talent Award winner.

The Duke’s tour formally commenced in UCA’s creative workshops, including its glass studio, where UCA is among only a handful of specialist institutions in the UK to offer a degree in the subject. Before the tour shifted up a gear, showcasing UCA’s high-tech filmmaking space, its Virtual Production studio. Students used real-time rendering software and motion capture to immerse His Royal Highness in a scene from Moryow, which was shot in the space and will make its debut on the film festival circuit later this year.

Professor Duthie then led a Creative Economy Roundtable discussion in which The Duke actively participated, alongside UCA academics and members of the University’s very own Creative & Cultural Industries Leaders Network, as well as alumni.

Professor Duthie said: “The UK’s creative and cultural industries contribute £126bn to the economy and support over 2.4 million jobs. Concurrently the sector is being fundamentally reshaped by emerging technologies. It was encouraging to hear His Royal Highness articulate a vision that aligns so closely with ours. At UCA, we are preparing the next generation not just to adopt new tools, but to shape how they are used — equipping students to think critically, create boldly, and lead an industry evolving faster than ever before.”

The Duke’s tour concluded with the unveiling of an artwork created by second year BA Graphic Design student, Ella Stevenson and received a piece of glassware designed by glass technician, Laura Quinn. The works marked The Duke’s visit, celebrating 170 years of UCA.

The Duke said: “Congratulations on 170 years of developing all those essential arts, crafts and keeping the creative flame well and truly alight.”

University of the Creative Arts.

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## Epsom MP sponsors special youth art in Parliament

16 February 2026



Surrey young people using NHS mental health services have taken their artwork to the heart of government, with an exhibition at the House of Commons offering MPs an insight into their experiences and the support they received.

The exhibition, taking place from 10-15 February, showcases work created by young people supported by the STARS and New Leaf services, part of Mindworks Surrey. STARS supports young people affected by sexual abuse and assault, while New Leaf supports those who are in care, leaving care, adopted or under special guardianship orders.

Young people are sharing their artwork with MPs to showcase how creativity supports young people’s mental health and to highlight the positive impact of the services.

The pieces explore identity, hope, growth and recovery, capturing what can be difficult to articulate in words and offering an honest reflection of young peoples’ lived experiences of mental health support.

One young person whose artwork is being exhibited said: “STARS has changed my life, I can be me now. I was shocked when I heard my art would be at the House of Commons, I am really proud that people like my picture and what I created.”

Rebecca Robertson, Specialist Mental Health and Art Therapist said: “The young people we support have expressed their thoughts and feelings around their life experiences using art materials.

“Art making can provide an important alternative to more traditional verbal therapies and can be a vital part of helping young people to engage in support, particularly when working with trauma.”

The House of Commons event was sponsored by **Helen Maguire, MP for Epsom and Ewell**, who attended the exhibition last summer and supported bringing the art to Parliament.

Helen said: “I’m delighted to see this exhibition come alive. It demonstrates the powerful work that New Leaf and STARS do and the importance of young people getting the right care and support for their mental health.”

Emina Atic-Lee, Service Manager for STARS and New Leaf services, said: “We are incredibly proud to see the voices of the young people we support take to the stage at the House of Commons. Each piece offers an honest and powerful window into how young people use creativity to make sense of their experiences, express emotions that are hard to put into words, and recognise their own strength.

“To showcase this work in such a nationally significant setting is a truly special moment for them and for everyone involved in the services.”

Press release from Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

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## 12th February 2026

16 February 2026

Community Council Finances

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10 February 2026

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Community News Volunteers

### Epsom advice centre training advice first-aiders



10 February 2026

Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell (CAEE) is inviting frontline workers and volunteers from other charities and organisations to train as Advice First Aiders, equipping them with the skills to identify ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

### Mole Valley backs maximum council tax rise as deficit looms



10 February 2026

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News Policing

## Is it a fair cop for Surrey Police to evict its tenants for no fault?

10 February 2026

A pregnant mum facing eviction from her police-owned home has said Surrey Police's latest concessions 'do not go far enough' and are "insulting", despite the force extending the moving deadline ... [Read More](#)

Football Planning Sports

## Council didn't stand up Dorking Wanderers



9 February 2026

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Family Notices Notices

## Hazel Diana Tibbert, 86, of Longthorpe, Peterborough



9 February 2026

Hazel Diana Tibbert, 86, of Longthorpe, Peterborough, passed away peacefully on 28th January 2026. Hazel was born on 8th July 1939 in Surrey, growing up in New Malden. Following her ... [Read More](#)

Community Education News

## Ewell's Nescot graduates prove you don't have to move away to go far



9 February 2026

Over 90 Nescot students gathered at Epsom Downs Racecourse on Friday for their Higher Education Graduation Ceremony, donning caps and gowns to celebrate their success with proud parents, families and ... [Read More](#)

Arts Culture Education

## Rosebery school Epsom puts Henry 8's six on stage



9 February 2026

An Epsom school brought Broadway and the West End to Surrey last week with a successful run of the musical 'Six: Teen Edition'. The play, which is adapted from the international ... [Read More](#)

Community Council Culture

## Epsom celebrates Ukrainian culture at Festival of Friendship



8 February 2026

The Festival of Friendship - Ukraine brought a vibrant celebration of Ukrainian culture to Epsom from 27 January to 1 February, uniting local organisations and residents in a week of ... [Read More](#)

Business Health

## Epsom therapist seeks to lift our moods in gloomy weather



8 February 2026

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News Transport

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8 February 2026

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Finances News Policing

## Surrey Police precept rising



7 February 2026

The average household in Surrey could pay more than £350 a year towards policing after a £15 council tax hike was given the go-ahead. The police precept – the portion ... [Read More](#)

Community Health Helen Maguire

## Epsom and Ewell's MP champion's Friends of Horton Cemetery mission on "Time to Talk Day"



6 February 2026

On the edge of Epsom lies Horton Cemetery — quiet, overgrown and easy to miss. More than 9,000 people are buried there. Most never had headstones. Many never had visitors. ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

## Epsom and Ewell Borough Council claws back millions to balance books before government shakeup

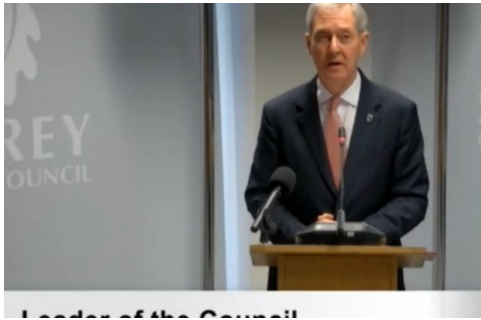


6 February 2026

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has closed a multi-million pound budget gap as it gets ready to be absorbed into a new unitary authority next year. Just months ago, Epsom ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

## Surrey County Council budget approved



6 February 2026

Council tax bills in Surrey will rise by almost five per cent after councillors approved its final budget. Members of Surrey County Council green-lit its last ever budget at a ... [Read More](#)

Health News Policing

## When is attempted suicide anti-social? A Surrey police dilemma



6 February 2026

A woman has criticised Surrey Police for giving her an anti-social behaviour warning after officers intervened while she considered taking her own life. She has claimed the move left her ... [Read More](#)

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## Epsom advice centre training advice first-aiders

16 February 2026



Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell (CAEE) is inviting frontline workers and volunteers from other charities and organisations to train as **Advice First Aiders**, equipping them with the skills to identify people in need and direct them to CAEE and other vital advice services.

Advice First Aiders do not provide advice themselves. Instead, by asking the right questions, they are able to identify relevant issues, signpost people to appropriate organisations, and recognise when more urgent or complex cases should be referred to CAEE's qualified advisers and caseworkers.

The programme places a strong emphasis on identifying marginalised or vulnerable groups who may be less likely to seek advice when they need it. These include young people and people with learning difficulties, carers, LGBTQIA+ individuals, ethnic minorities, displaced people, and older or socially isolated residents.

The free training session lasts around two hours, is delivered in person, and is designed to be a lively and interactive experience. Local organisations that have already taken part and trained Advice First Aiders include **Epsom & Ewell Family Centre**, **Fox Grove School** (part of The Howard Partnership Trust), the Home Improvement Agency Team at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, **Sunnybank Trust**, **Epsom Hub**, and **Epsom Baptist Church**.

Feedback from participants has been positive, with one attendee saying: "I am now more aware and perceptive of people's needs which may not at first be obvious," while another commented that "the course covered a wide range of possible scenarios troubling most clients".

Lisa Davis, chief executive of CAEE, said: "Advice First Aiders serve as a critical link, connecting people in our community with advice and the essential support services necessary to improve their situations."

Beyond immediate advice and crisis intervention, the Advice First Aid programme also helps CAEE to identify and address the underlying causes of problems affecting residents across the Epsom & Ewell borough, informing its wider policy and advocacy work.

Organisations interested in taking part can find more information and sign up via the Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell website.

CAEE release

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## Hazel Diana Tibbert, 86, of Longthorpe, Peterborough

16 February 2026



Hazel Diana Tibbert, 86, of Longthorpe, Peterborough, passed away peacefully on 28th January 2026.

Hazel was born on 8th July 1939 in Surrey, growing up in New Malden. Following her marriage to Peter she had two children and took on roles at the Sunday School at Epsom Methodist Church. After moving to Bookham in 1975 she became heavily involved in 1st Bookham Scout Group, taking on many roles before moving to be Secretary for Leatherhead Scout District.

She is survived by her husband, two children, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She will be remembered for her kind and caring nature, looking to help others and her yummy cooking.

The Service will be held at Peterborough Crematorium on 2nd March 2026 at 10:30am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to CROPS (Christian Options in Peterborough Schools), an organisation Hazel held close to her heart. <https://rememberinghazel.wordpress.com/>

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## Rosebery school Epsom puts Henry 8's six on stage

16 February 2026



An Epsom school brought Broadway and the West End to Surrey last week with a successful run of the musical 'Six: Teen Edition'.

The play, which is adapted from the international hit musical *SIX* by Toby Marlow and Lucy Moss, tells the story of the six wives of Henry VIII from their own perspective.

Pupils from Rosebery School, part of GLF Schools, performed at the Leatherhead Theatre from Wednesday 28 January to Friday 30 January 2026, this school-friendly 75-minute version brought history to life as a modern pop concert, filled with humour and bold storytelling.

The high-energy show saw the six Queens reclaim their narratives on stage, each sharing her unique perspective through dazzling numbers and dynamic choreography.

The production celebrated resilience, individuality, and sisterhood with tremendous attitude and empowerment, earning enthusiastic applause from audiences across the run.

This ambitious endeavour united more than 140 students from Rosebery School in roles spanning performance, music, technical production, costume design, and leadership.

Rehearsals began in early October, and the students demonstrated exceptional commitment, collaboration, and teamwork throughout the production.

The production featured a fully student-run backstage team handling stage management, wardrobe, makeup, and technical operations, as well as a talented student choreographer who shaped the Queens' movement with creativity and confidence.

The Senior Prefect Team also took part, spearheading a fundraising campaign to support performing arts at Rosebery.

The production also showcased outstanding cross-curricular collaboration. Bespoke costumes were designed by A-Level fashion and textiles students, blending historical influences with contemporary flair. A-Level design and technology students engineered the show's thrones, with music performed by members of the school band.

David Lach, headteacher at Rosebery School, praised the joint efforts of everyone involved in the production. He said:

"This is a truly homemade production, and a distinctively Rosebery production too. From the thrones crafted by our students, to the choreography to the outfits worn, our students have well and truly put their stamp on *Six*.

"The end result was a remarkable performance, blending education and history with contemporary flair and messages of resilience and independence. Huge congratulations to everyone who took part, and thank you to all our wider community who supported us."

James Nicholson, interim CEO of GLF Schools, saw the production last week. He said: "I was hugely impressed with Rosebery's production, which showed great talent, professionalism and imagination. Everyone who took part is a huge credit to the school, and the wider GLF family."

Release on behalf of GLF schools

Photo: Credit: Simon Drake Photography

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## Epsom therapist seeks to lift our moods in gloomy weather

16 February 2026



It feels like Epsom has hardly seen the sun lately, making winter feel longer and delaying the arrival of spring. This kind of dullness is often described as "typical British weather", but at the time of writing some parts of the UK have seen rain

fall every single day of the year so far.

When daylight is limited and the rain never seems to stop, it is entirely normal to feel low, tired, or less motivated than usual. The good news is that there are some simple, evidence-based steps that can help support your mood, even when the weather is working against you.

Here, Mark from Mind & Meaning Therapy shares three proven mental health tips to help give your mood a boost.

## **A small social check-in each day**

We are social creatures, and even small social connections can improve our mood. These do not need to be big events or require a lot of energy. Simple ways to stay socially connected include sending a text to a friend, scheduling a short phone call, or asking someone to meet for a drink.

These small check-ins can significantly increase feelings of connection. Research shows that regular positive social interactions are linked to better mood, greater life satisfaction, and lower levels of stress.

## **Get outside and get some natural light**

Even on grey days, daylight is far stronger than indoor lighting. Try to dodge the showers and get outside for 10-20 minutes once a day. A walk to the shops or a quick loop around the park is enough to help.

Natural light helps regulate the body clock, which in turn supports both mood and sleep. Studies have found that people who spend more time in daylight during the winter months are less likely to report depressive symptoms than those who remain indoors with low light exposure.

## **Do one thing to improve your sleep**

Sleep and mood are closely linked, and improving sleep can make a noticeable difference to how you feel emotionally. Simple, proven steps include going to bed and waking up at roughly the same time each day, reducing smartphone use before bedtime (for example by leaving your phone in another room), keeping the bedroom cool while ensuring a warm bed, avoiding caffeine late in the afternoon, and leaving an hour or two between your last alcoholic drink and bedtime.

Better sleep helps the brain regulate emotions and reduces stress, making it easier to cope with everyday ups and downs.

## **What to do if low mood is persistent**

If your mental health feels poor over a longer period, or if everyday life feels unusually overwhelming, speaking to a mental health professional can help. Support can make a real difference.

You can contact Mark at Mind & Meaning Therapy in Epsom to explore what may be behind how you are feeling and to find support that suits you.

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### **Mind & Meaning - Therapy in Epsom & Online**

[mindandmeaning.co.uk](http://mindandmeaning.co.uk)

Email: [hello@mindandmeaning.co.uk](mailto:hello@mindandmeaning.co.uk)



Sponsored article.



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## 5th February 2026

16 February 2026

Community Council Letters

### Appeal to twin Epsom with Bucha in Ukraine



4 February 2026

From the committees of Surrey Stands With Ukraine and the Bucha-Epsom Association to all Councillors of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. Re: Motion to Support Twinning with Bucha, Ukraine ... [Read More](#)

Crime News Policing

### January crime and safety round-up



2 February 2026

Epsom and Ewell Times does not normally report individual crime incidents. However, as a trial, we are publishing a monthly round-up of crime and community safety matters with a local ... [Read More](#)

Helen Maguire Westminster

## The New Year view from Westminster



2 February 2026

From Epsom and Ewell Member for Parliament - Helen Maguire The new year often brings a quieter moment. A chance to take stock once the noise and festive chaos of ... [Read More](#)

Rugby Sports

## Sutton & Epsom beaten by Gravesend as yellow card proves decisive



1 February 2026

Sutton and Epsom RFC v Gravesend Saturday 31st January. On an autumnal October afternoon Sutton & Epsom defeated Gravesend 29-12 at the Rectory Field. That victory in Round 6 sent ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Social care

## Now regulated, Epsom and Ewell greenlights children home



31 January 2026

Plans to turn a 'quiet' family house into a children's home for vulnerable young people have been approved despite strong objections from neighbours, warnings from police, and a heated council ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

## Red rag at Bull Hill as residents rage over high-rise plans



31 January 2026

Huge high rises including hundreds of homes near a small Leatherhead park will kill the town and plunge precious playspace into shadow, say campaigners fighting the plans. Mole Valley District ... [Read More](#)

Business Council

## Epsom on course to connect Surrey businesses



31 January 2026

An innovative initiative to help Surrey businesses benefit more from spending in the region's £50 billion economy will soon launch. Source in Surrey has been developed by Surrey Chambers of ... [Read More](#)

News Policing

## Penchant for porn on Surrey police computer leads to ban



31 January 2026

A Surrey Police officer was dismissed for watching porn, taking pictures of his genitals and buying cocaine on a work device. Former Detective Constable (DC) Luke Turner has also been ... [Read More](#)

News Policing

## Paradox of Protection policy for tenants: triggers Surrey police evictions



31 January 2026

A pregnant mum says families have been left facing a "very real prospect of being homeless" after being told to leave Surrey Police subsidised housing. At least 15 households living ... [Read More](#)

Council Education

## "Go all in" is Surrey's literary call to read books



31 January 2026

Surrey Libraries are thrilled to be taking part in the National Year of Reading, a UK-wide campaign designed to inspire more people to rediscover the joy of reading. A Department ... [Read More](#)

Council Planning

## Epsom & Ewell's Council responds to Local Plan concerns



31 January 2026

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has responded to questions raised about the handling of its Local Plan examination, following criticism from a local resident that key issues were not discussed ... [Read More](#)

Education News

## **A recipe for success - Dame Prue Leith visits Ewell's Nescot**



29 January 2026

Dame Prue Leith DBE visited students at Nescot college in Epsom today, to share her experience, expertise and enthusiasm with students, including the next generation of culinary talent. Prue, a ... [Read More](#)

News Policing Westminster

## **Epsom & Ewell MP presses government on firearm licensing safeguards**



29 January 2026

Epsom & Ewell's MP Helen Maguire led a Westminster Hall debate on 28 January calling for tighter safeguards in the firearms licensing system, with a particular focus on making medical ... [Read More](#)

Council Council constitution

## **Surrey declares experiment in community engagement a success**



29 January 2026

Surrey County Council has endorsed the continuation of its pilot Neighbourhood Area Committees (NACs), hailing them as a successful new way of ensuring that "community voices are heard" during the ... [Read More](#)

Education News

## **Royal visit to Surrey University**



29 January 2026

On 28 January, HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh and the University of Surrey's Chancellor, HRH The Duke of Kent, visited Surrey to celebrate the University's innovation, research and hands on ... [Read More](#)

Business Council

## Council agrees to continue jobseeker support in Epsom & Ewell



29 January 2026

On 27 January 2026, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Strategy & Resources Committee approved continued funding and delivery arrangements for the Epsom & Ewell Hub (EE Hub). This decision ensures ... [Read More](#)

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## Appeal to twin Epsom with Bucha in Ukraine

16 February 2026



From the committees of Surrey Stands With Ukraine and the Bucha-Epsom Association to all Councillors of the Borough of Epsom and Ewell.

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### Re: Motion to Support Twinning with Bucha, Ukraine - Full Council, 10 February 2026

Dear Councillors,

We write to you as a residents of Epsom and citizens of Ukraine resident in Epsom who believe we should stand shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine. Surrey Stands With Ukraine was founded in Epsom — a grassroots, volunteer-run charity formed at the outset of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

Since then, our community has come together in ways few could have imagined. Epsom and Ewell has sent over **£5 million worth of humanitarian aid** to Ukraine. Through initiatives by *Surrey Stands With Ukraine*, *Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network*, local schools, churches, and dozens of individual volunteers and host families, we have built bonds of solidarity, compassion, and friendship with Ukraine — and especially with **the people of Bucha**.

This is why we urge you to support the motion at Full Council on 10th February to **endorse a twinning arrangement between Epsom and the town of Bucha**.

Now is the time:

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do something meaningful — not just symbolic — that reflects the values our Borough has shown in abundance since 2022.

**The hand of friendship has been extended to us by Bucha**, a town now known around the world for both the suffering it endured and the resilience it has shown. Its Mayor, Anatolii Fedoruk, has held office for 28 years and has

personally asked that Epsom become its **first UK twin**. That offer may not remain open forever. Delay may see it pass to another town.

This is not a political issue. Nor should it be subject to any “party line”. We appeal to you all to treat this matter as a *free vote of conscience*, guided by your role as civic leaders, not party representatives.

This twinning initiative has nothing to do with sending aid or diverting council resources. **No funding or council officer time is required**. As with our Town’s twinning with Chantilly, the operational side will be entirely run by a dedicated **Bucha-Epsom Association** — a volunteer-led, self-financing group which will invite councillors and community leaders on to its committee and work closely with the Chantilly association to avoid duplication.

What is needed from the Council is a **symbolic yet vital endorsement** of the principle of twinning — the first step to recognising what our community has already built, and what it can go on to achieve.

Twinning with Bucha now — *during the war*, not after — carries a deeper meaning. True friendship is shown in hard times as well as good. Kindness should always be forefront of our minds in all our actions. That is the kind of friendship Bucha seeks, and one we should be proud to offer.

Imagine the future educational and cultural benefits:

- Our children participating in moderated online exchanges with students from Bucha.
- English-learning Ukrainian youth paired with Epsom school pupils for real-life conversation.
- Artists, musicians, sportspeople, and teachers collaborating across borders.
- Civic resilience and peace building projects that our Borough could help shape.

At a time when war continues and local government reorganisation looms, it may feel tempting to delay. But we urge you not to let that be an excuse. If anything, the imminent changes make it *more compelling* that **Epsom and Ewell makes this decision now**, while it still exists as a borough council with a distinct identity. Let our legacy be something enduring, generous, and globally visible.

This proposal brings no burden, only benefit. It requires no budget, only goodwill. It demands no partisanship, only perspective.

We ask each of you, as elected representatives of our community, to do what Epsom and Ewell has done again and again since 2022: **extend your hand, open your hearts, and lead with humanity**.

With hope and determination,

Alan **Avis**

Tetyana **Bilyk**

Lionel **Blackman**

Roy **Deadman**

Galyna **Donstova**

Denise **Faulkner**

Vladimir **Nakonechniy**

Lisa **Stewart**

Pierre-Michel **Tarrant**

Surrey Stands With Ukraine

Bucha-Epsom Association

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## The New Year view from Westminster

16 February 2026



From Epsom and Ewell Member for Parliament - Helen Maguire

The new year often brings a quieter moment. A chance to take stock once the noise and festive chaos of December fades.

This year, that moment felt especially important to me.

Politics in Britain feels deeply unsettled right now, and the wider world even more so. One day brings news of geopolitical relationships breaking down in violent and inhumane acts; the next, warnings of democratic fragility from our neighbours across the Atlantic. It can all feel relentless. I don't blame anyone who feels disillusioned, or let down by establishments and leaders that are meant to provide stability and reassurance. I feel that frustration myself at times.

When that sense of turbulence sets in, I remind myself where my focus belongs. My responsibilities are not abstract; they are here. My priorities and primary interest are with the people of Epsom and Ewell, my community. That clarity matters. It keeps my work grounded, and it shapes what my work in Westminster will be this year.

One tangible example of that focus is recent progress on the issue of pavement parking. Residents have raised this issue with me consistently since before my election in July 2024, and for good reason. Obstructed pavements are not just a minor inconvenience; they affect people's safety. Parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users, people with visual impairments, and older residents are often the ones forced into the road just to get by.

After sustained campaigning, both locally and in Parliament, we are finally going to see meaningful change. This month, the Government gave councils new powers to tackle problematic pavement parking. What this means is that councils, not the police, can act where pavements are clearly blocked or unsafe, without long, street-by-street processes every time. Here's what it doesn't mean: this is not a blanket ban. Councils can still allow exemptions on narrow or busy residential streets where pavement parking is genuinely needed.

This is an important change that puts safety and accessibility first. I'm proud of this progress, not just for the outcome, but for what it represents: local voices being heard and practical problems taken seriously. I was pleased to receive recognition of my campaigning in a letter from Lilian Greenwood MP, the Minister for Local Transport, announcing the changes, and this year my priority will be ensuring that this change is implemented properly and consistently.

Another issue that comes up repeatedly is antisocial behaviour. This can take many forms, from vandalism and loud noise to the misuse of shared spaces. These issues can quietly have a real impact on our community and sense of belonging.

One specific concern constituents raise with me regularly is the growing problem of illegal or unsafe e-scooter use. I hear from parents worried that pavements or public pathways are no longer safe, and from older residents who no longer feel confident on their quick walk to the shops. One parent described a moment where their young child was mere millimetres from being knocked over by an e-scooter travelling far faster than it should have been, on a pathway it had no business being on. I dread to think what kind of irreparable damage could have been done if it weren't for just a few millimetres of space.

When e-scooters are used responsibly and legally, they can have a place in society. But reckless riding and a lack of coordinated enforcement create real and costly risks. Last year I worked with campaigners, police and transport partners to push for a more cohesive, joined-up response to the problem. This isn't about targeting young people or stifling new technology; it's about, as with the pavement parking issue, ensuring our public spaces are safe for everyone who uses them.

For anyone doubting just how much devastation an electric scooter can bring to someone's life and family, I would encourage them to read about Jacob's Journey, and the powerful work his mother Carly is doing as a result.

My work as Primary Care and Cancer spokesperson continues alongside my constituency campaigns, and the two remain closely intertwined. I will continue to fight for better healthcare across the constituency, whether that is through better access to GP appointments or timely treatment for cancer patients.

If there is a running thread through my priorities this year, it is a belief in the value of steady, practical action that is tangible for every single member of the Epsom and Ewell community. In the uncertain times ahead, the basics matter more than ever: safe streets, responsive public services, and a more affordable cost of living. I will continue to work hard delivering this for our constituency.

Helen Maguire MP



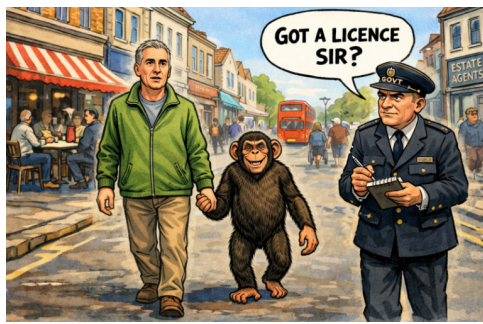
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## 29th January 2026

16 February 2026

Council Finances

### Bit of monkey business in Epsom's Town Hall Chamber



27 January 2026

A meeting of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council on 22nd January saw councillors approve a new schedule of planning fees and charges for ... [Read More](#)

Council Culture Finances

## Independent view of Ewell's Bourne Hall



27 January 2026

BBC LDRS reports: Up to £359,000 could be spent on rejuvenating Ewell's Bourne Hall Museum under new plans but opposition councillors have stressed that key information on the decision has ... [Read More](#)

Letters Nature

## 100 years campaigning to keep Surrey Green



26 January 2026

Dear Surrey, The countryside is your greatest achievement. A beautiful masterpiece built by centuries of collaboration between people and nature. From meadows and woodlands to rivers, coasts, and the green ... [Read More](#)

Faith Local History

## A surprise glimpse into 1883: Christ Church Epsom Common's Parish Magazine



26 January 2026

Out of the blue, Christ Church Epsom Common was recently approached by a Worcestershire-based bookseller and gratefully accepted her kind gift of a bound volume (about the size of a ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

## Surrey council budget published



25 January 2026

Surrey residents can expect to pay 4.99 per cent more council tax next year under plans in the new budget. Surrey County Council has revealed it is losing a huge ... [Read More](#)

Council Finances

## **A Surrey Council's finances don't add-up for 6th year running**



25 January 2026

Spelthorne Borough Council's finances are still so muddled that they will not be fully fixed before it disappears into a new mega-council in West Surrey, says a new report. External ... [Read More](#)

Council Housing Planning

## **Redhill developers make a towering mistake**



24 January 2026

Two major landmark towers that would have dominated a Surrey town have been dismissed with campaigners claiming a major victory in their long-running battle. Developers Solum Regeneration had been hoping ... [Read More](#)

News Transport

## **Heathrow 3rd runway green-light by 2029?**



24 January 2026

Heathrow Airport has begun working on its third runway planning application with the aim of getting the green light by 2029. Last November, the Government indicated that the West London ... [Read More](#)

Crime Policing

## **Surrey Police's AI powered face recognition cameras in the spotlight**



23 January 2026

Surrey Police will continue to use AI-powered surveillance vans to scan thousands of people's faces in public locations despite fears over ethnic bias, said councillors calling for their use to ... [Read More](#)

Council Environment

## EEBC reports air quality milestone and revised carbon emissions figures



23 January 2026

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council's Environment Committee has noted a series of climate and air quality updates, including the formal revocation of the Ewell High Street Air Quality Management Area ... [Read More](#)

Business Community Education

## Ex-Gendarme launches Epsom safety awareness programme for children



23 January 2026

A new safety awareness programme for children has been launched in Epsom by former French armed police officer Xavier Vollin, who now works in the UK as a close protection ... [Read More](#)

Council Council constitution

## The process of appointing the new local government chiefs begins



22 January 2026

Councillors from across Surrey met this week for the very first time as part of two new committees set up to manage the county's biggest council shake-up in decades. The ... [Read More](#)

Council News

## Goldman sacks the Epsom and Ewell Residents Association



22 January 2026

A councillor representing Nonsuch ward has become the latest member of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council to change political alignment mid-term, with Shanice Goldman joining the Conservative group. Cllr Goldman, ... [Read More](#)

Council Editorial Finances

## Process matters – but so does the balance sheet



22 January 2026

Epsom & Ewell Times has recently published a run of stories raising concerns about process, openness and transparency at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council (EEBC). Those issues matter. A council ... [Read More](#)

Athletics Sports

## Epsom and Ewell's MP in the running for .... running



20 January 2026

A hardy team of Epsom & Ewell Harriers women braved freezing conditions for the third fixture of the Surrey Cross Country League season at Oxshott Woods on 10th January, hosted ... [Read More](#)