

Let's go Electric Epsom and Ewell

8 September 2022



Friday 9 September is World EV day, a global movement to celebrate switching to electric vehicles and driving change. In Surrey, almost half our emissions come from transport, and about half of that is from private vehicles. So, reducing the emissions from the way we travel about – whether that's by walking or cycling more, using public transport or switching to an electric car – can help to drastically reduce our carbon footprint.

Electric vehicles produce virtually no exhaust emissions, so are much cleaner than petrol or diesel cars. And lots of people are choosing to make the switch.

Recent Government data shows a 62% increase in battery-operated electric vehicles in the UK, compared to the same period last year and, for the first time, registrations of new electric vehicles outstripped registrations of new diesel vehicles.

To support residents' switch to electric vehicles, Surrey County Council is installing on-street chargepoints across the county. Phase one of the installation programme will see 80 chargepoints installed across four boroughs – Woking, Guildford, Spelthorne and Waverley. Phase two has already started and includes plans to install 110 chargepoints across six boroughs in the coming months.

Residents can suggest a location for an on street chargepoint near them via a dedicated online map – Have Your Say Today – Surrey EV – Commonplace. Over 1700 suggestions have already been submitted and the information is being used to inform future EV chargepoint installations.

Matt Furniss, Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth, said: "On World EV Day, it's important we recognise the progress we have made in supporting residents to switch to electric vehicles, and the ongoing work to ensure we meet our goals. Transport is such a huge contributor to our carbon emissions in Surrey, so changing the way we travel and reducing our emissions from transport is a key area for achieving our climate change targets.

"We have recently invested over £39m in buses including a new, electric on-demand bus service in Mole Valley."

Surrey County Council has a target to be a net zero carbon council by 2030 and a net zero county by 2050, in line with government targets.

Access to chargepoints for electric vehicles is essential in order to give resident's the confidence to make the switch, especially those who do not have access to their own driveway or for whom it's not appropriate to install a chargepoint at home.

Current estimates are that we would need 10,000 chargepoints in the county by 2030 to meet demand from electric vehicle owners.

Read about one resident's experience of switching to electric, and why she's a total convert now! Resident Blog: Going Electric... (commonplace.is)

Epsom's Ashley Centre stands with Ukraine

8 September 2022



The Ashley Centre in Epsom provided premises in the Mall to **Surrey Stands With Ukraine** rent and bills free since 7th March 2022. Now the unit is required for retailing. The Ashley Centre continues its generosity to the people of Ukraine by permitting the Epsom based charity to operate a kiosk in the public court. In addition the Ashley Centre owners are providing a large partitioned office space in Global House in adjacent Ashley Avenue. Here, Surrey Stands With Ukraine and the **Epsom Refugee Network** can carry on their activities. Processing donated goods destined for Ukraine and providing English classes and advice sessions to Ukrainian refugees.

Image: SSWU volunteers Rob and Anne-Marie Carlin with Epsom and Ewell Mayor Clive Woodbridge beside the new kiosk in the Ashley Centre 3rd September.



Alan Avis of Surrey Stands With Ukraine spoke to **Epsom and Ewell Times**. “We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the public, the Ashley Centre for our rent free accommodation and to Epsom and Ewell Borough Council for waiving all business rates. In six months SSWU has raised £200,000 and sent 40 vans to Ukraine filled with an estimated £1,000,000 worth of essential humanitarian supplies. The mission continues in our new and excellent facilities”.

The manager of the Ashley Centre, **Jacqui McGeeghan** told The Times “We are proud to have such strong links with the community and when we were approached to support the community and Ukrainian families we did not hesitate. The Ashley Centre has provided a dedicated space, The Ukrainian Hub, to allow the local team to operate a central donation point. In addition, the space acted as a platform to reach out to our loyal visitors and raise awareness for the efforts to raise money, food and medicine for local Ukrainians, and supporting their own families living in Ukraine in this difficult time of war.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be able to assist the charity and to date, the local initiative has been exceptionally well supported. As a result, the organisation has collected much-needed supplies and supported many of the Ukrainian families in the Epsom & Ewell community at this most crucial time”.

Civilised protest to save civilisation?

8 September 2022



Sunday 4th Sept, Epsom & Ewell’s climate action group put on a hard-hitting and thought-provoking street-theatre performance in Epsom centre. Right in the middle of town, on the big crossroads near the clock tower, a colourful backdrop had been erected, depicting landscapes ravaged by drought, forest fires and flooding. Against this backdrop, a dozen actors played out a silent lament, mourning the victims of climate disasters in the global South. The emotional impact of bodies on the ground being covered by shrouds was further amplified by a slow, powerful drumbeat and a bugle playing ‘the last post’...

Not surprisingly, this performance drew strong reactions from the public. Some felt greatly strengthened in their perception that a changing climate is a grave danger to us all, and the cause of worldwide injustice. However, there were also some who disapproved of the graphic nature of the performance and who felt that ordinary people were made to feel bad for things that are really the responsibility of governments and commerce?

As far as the local climate action group (Epsom & Ewell XR) is concerned, all views for-and against are welcomed, as they feel the gravest danger to us all will come from indifference to the issues.

Further actions and street-theatre are being planned.

Epsom & Ewell XR can be contacted at epsomewellxr@gmail.com

BBC misreports Epsom and Ewell planning?

8 September 2022



On Friday 2nd September **Mark Easton**, the **BBC's** top home affairs reporter, swooped down on **Epsom and Ewell**. Our Borough suffers from nimbyism and we could easily meet our housing targets, was his report's message. The **Epsom and Ewell Times** takes his two minute report to task.

First - he opens his report while standing on **Epsom Common** off **Woodcote Side**. The implication being that this area could in part be developed for housing. Did he not check it was a **Local Nature Reserve** and **Site of Special Scientific Interest**?



Secondly, he travelled to **Station Approach Stoneleigh** and suggests the rejection of a plan to build a four storey block of flats was mistaken. The plan was rejected in February 2022. The developer **Woolbro Homes** (a part of **St James Group Ltd** which is a wholly owned subsidiary of the multi-million **Berkeley Group Holdings Plc**) did not exercise its right of appeal to a Planning Inspector.



Image of original 6 storey block

Perhaps they accepted the grounds for refusal which included overdevelopment, overbearing and incongruity. Moreover, the applicants had failed to sign a commitment to affordable housing.



Thirdly, the report of the BBC showed **Cllr Liz Frost** objecting to a 22 room residence for students near Epsom's

University for the Creative Arts in Ashley Road, Epsom. The reportage gave the impression that housing needed to meet ordinary housing targets was being denied. UCA indicated in connection with the case that it is attracting mainly foreign students to its new business courses. See Epsom and Ewell Times report on the meeting [HERE](#)

Lastly, Mr Easton claimed no Councillor was available for comment. The **Epsom and Ewell Times** know of at least two Councillors who attended the Planning Committee meeting who were NOT asked. Mark Easton is not available for comment as his direct contacts cannot be found. **Grace Manning-Marsh** of **LandTech**, was interviewed by Mr Easton, she was critical of Epsom and Ewell's failure to authorise developments on **Green Belt**. She did not ring back when asked to talk to us.

An Epsom style of socialism?

8 September 2022



Surrey's first food hall, **Epsom Social**, has just opened its doors on 29th August. The 200 seat venue will bring together 8 food vendors, with a central bar serving local coffee from Redber, craft beer from Esher-based Big Smoke brewery, cocktails, wine and non-alcoholic drinks, and a range of entertainment from local artists.

The food hall features 7 tempting kitchens in addition to regularly rotating pop ups offering up a range of cuisines and innovative menus. Food options will include local pizza purveyors Doughboyz, award-winning Venezuelan street food vendors Pabellón, Curry On Naanstop (as seen on BBC's 'Britain's Top Takeaways'), as well as Lebanese, Mexican, Korean and dessert options.



Complementing the 8 food vendors is a 12 metre long bar, where Guildford-based Redber coffee and Esher-based Big Smoke craft beer will be served, in addition to a selection of wines, spirits and cocktails. Another key offering of Epsom Social is a performance area where there will be a curated range of events such as live music, sport on a large screen, comedy nights, cultural events and cooking demonstrations, using local artists and creatives where possible.

Located in the heart of the town, at Epsom Square, just off the high street and 1 minute from the train station, Epsom Social is open Monday - Sunday catering for everything from the morning coffee run, lunch and dinner through to evening cocktails and get-togethers.



Peter Farrell

Co-founder of Epsom Social, Peter Farrell, said: "We can't wait for the local community to experience the really exciting things planned for the venue."

Councillors agonise over student accommodation plan.

8 September 2022



Council postpone a controversial planning application for their own site visit. **Mr Colin Preston**'s plan to knock down a neglected house called **Green Gables** in Ashley Road, Epsom was deferred. A **22 student bedroom** development is proposed to take the place of the neglected Green Gables house. The development provides no more than 8 square metres per bedroom with two shared kitchens and two shared living spaces. **Thursday 1st September, Epsom and Ewell** Borough Council's **Planning Committee** discussed a number of objections matching the number of bedrooms. 22 in all, concerning loss of privacy, overdevelopment, impact on the nearby Worple Road conservation area and many other grounds.



Proposed linked two building student accommodation above and current scene below.

The **Woodcote (Epsom) Residents' Society** submitted "...excessive scale would be visually obtrusive, over-shadow the rear gardens and result in significant light spillage from the glazed stairwell and lobby area at night. The amenity area would give rise to unacceptable levels of noise and disturbance and the narrow footpath between the proposed buildings and the boundary with Ladbroke Road properties being a potential area for antisocial behaviour and security concerns..."

The **Strategic Housing Market Assessment** (SHMA) of Epsom and Ewell BC dated September 2019 concludes that "there does not seem to be a great demand for additional Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) at the moment". Mr Preston, the developer, contacted the **University of the Creative Arts** (UCA) situated just yards away in Ashley Road. UCA responded with the following: "We can confirm that UCA is broadly supportive of an increase in provision of student accommodation in and around Epsom and Farnham, both in Surrey. We have opened a dialogue with the local authorities in both towns, with a view to enlisting their support in addressing what is an increasing need for suitable accommodation for our students."



For the current year 2021/2022, UCA has approximately 1,800 students enrolled on our Epsom campus, of which 321 first years were housed in university provided accommodation. The others rely on the local private rental sector, or commute further away. Recently UCA also commenced a February intake into our Business School for the Creative Industries which is proving quite attractive to students, especially those from abroad.”

Following a 90 minute debate the application was not decided on pending a site visit voted for by a majority of the Councillors.

Epsom and Ewell Times understands that UCA is heavily oversubscribed for the coming academic year. More student accommodation appears to be required by the Borough for its growing University population.

At the meeting **Cllr Liz Frost**, not a member of the Planning Committee, (Residents Association – Woodcote Ward) spoke against the proposal. She described the proposal as “Overdevelopment, far too close to neighbouring properties and overbearing. Rear of properties will be flooded by lighting from the development. Inevitably there will be disturbing noise effecting enjoyment of neighbouring gardens. Conditions suggested to deal with noise are unenforceable without a warden on site. The 32 square feet of outside amenity space wholly inadequate.”

Local Ladbroke Road resident **Paul Ring** described the development as “a cramped student house in multiple occupation (HMO) and there would be disturbance from the movement of students in a narrow space”.

Spencer Copping, the agent for the applicant, defended the application and asked the Committee to support the recommendation of the Council officers to approve the plan.

The **Council Officer** argued that there would be a requirement for a “management strategy” to deal with anti-social behaviour and that would mitigate risk of disturbance of neighbours.

Cllr Steve McCormick (RA Woodcote) expressed concern about the lack of amenity space for the students. The Officer explained that as a student accommodation the development was not subject to amenity space requirements and the nearby Rosebery Park mitigated this. The Councillor proposed refusal of the application. Cllr **Previn Jagutpal** (RA Stamford) also spoke against on grounds of the density and lack of amenity space.

Cllr Alex Coley (RA Ruxley) asked for the matter to be put off to allow a Councillors’ inspection and despite the Chairman **Cllr Humphrey Reynolds** describing site inspections as a “waste of time”, a majority voted to inspect. If a decision had been reached approval would have been voted for by **Cllr Kate Chinn** (Labour Court Ward) who recognised the need for more student accommodation in the Borough. **Cllr David Gulland** (LibDem College Ward) reluctantly accepted there were no legal grounds to refuse that would withstand an appeal to an inspector and would vote in favour.

Cllr Jan Mason (RA Ruxley Ward) could not accept that 22 students should live together without a responsible supervisor living there. They would play hip-hop music and make noise. She thought the rear of the development looks “like a prison”. She asked “Why white brick? That would not fit the area.”



Green Gables next to white rendered houses in Ashley Road



Houses opposite Green Gables

Green Gables' registered proprietor is one **Bernard Wells** who has owned it since at latest 1994 and the property is subject to a **Swindon County Court** charge in 2008 in favour of **Thames Water Utilities Ltd.** The **Land Registry** entries can be out of date due to months' long backlogs in data entry.

Strikes cross East St., Epsom

8 September 2022



Following a strike of mail workers and a picket at Epsom's East Street Sorting Office CWU workers picket the telephone exchange on the other side of the street. See our report on postal strike [HERE](#).

The dispute, which involves more than 40,000 CWU members working for BT and Openreach, was triggered by BT's imposition of real-terms pay cuts for all CWU-represented grades, claim the Trade Union.

CWU claim that instead of following normal negotiating protocols – under which a draft deal that is fair and acceptable to both sides is arrived at through discussions, and then recommended by the union to its membership for their ratification – this year BT abruptly terminated the talks after just six short meetings. Firm proposals had only been tabled by management in the latter two of those meetings.

BT claims the flat-rate settlement of £1,500 equates to between 3.8% and 8% dependent on where individuals sit on the pay scale.

The CWU therefore calculates that even the biggest beneficiaries of this year's imposed flat rate pay award have only received around 5% – with the vast majority of CWU-represented grades receiving only a little over 4% and some below 3%. That compares with spiralling inflation that saw the Government's preferred (typically lower) CPI measure hit 10.1% in July (RPI 12.3%) and even the Bank of England predicting CPI will top 13% within months.

In 2021 members received no consolidated pay rise at all, and even the agreed settlement in 2020 was slightly below inflation. In fact, since 2020, BT pay for CWU grades has increased by just 6.6% (including the £1,500 imposed award for 2022). Without any improvement to the imposed £1,500 award, this represents a real-terms pay cut since 2020 of 6.9% based on RPI, and 2.8% based on CPI. This is despite BT's declaration of a £1.3bn annual profit, a £761 million dividend payout for shareholders and a 32% pay increase for the CEO.

The CWU conducted its first company-wide industrial action ballot in BT Group since 1987 in June. In Openreach, where 28,425 CWU members were entitled to vote, participants recorded 95.8% 'yes' vote for industrial action on a 74.8% turnout. In BT, where 10,353 were issued with a 'yes' vote of 91.5% was recorded on a 58.2% turnout.

As a result, the first national industrial action in BT Group for three and a half decades took place on July 29 and August 1 and again on Tuesday August 30 and Wednesday August 31.

1st September 2022

8 September 2022

Dear Subscribers,

Welcome to our resumed weekly and fortnightly service after a brief August break. 28 new reports since 4th August.

Back issues are always accessible via the top of the page editions menu.

Best wishes,

The Team at Epsom and Ewell Times

Thursday 1st September 2022



COUNCIL CULTURE

What an erudite lot we are.

August 31, 2022

Surrey libraries are the second most visited in the country according to the latest UK Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) data, with the figures showing the libraries ... [READ MORE](#)



FOOTBALL SPORTS

Epsom and Ewell Top the Table

August 31, 2022

Oakwood 0-5 Epsom & Ewell, Southern Combination League - Division One, Monday 29th August 2022. Report Source: www.eefconline.co.uk. Reporter: Richard Lambert. Any disappointment felt in the FA Vase defeat at ... [READ MORE](#)



FOOTBALL NEWS SPORTS

Lobsters at home with Salts

August 29, 2022

Salts battle hard but Lobsters progress in the Vase. Redhill 2-1 Epsom & Ewell. Isuzu F.A. Vase - First Qualifying Round. Saturday 27th August 2022. Report Source: www.eefconline.co.uk Reporter: Richard ... [READ MORE](#)



NEWS

Council pledge to support victims

August 26, 2022

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council signs the Anti-Social Behaviour Pledge. Councillor Clive Woodbridge, Mayor of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has signed an Anti-Social Behaviour Pledge which commits the council to ... [READ MORE](#)



BOROUGH HISTORY COMMUNITY NEWS VOLUNTEERS

Adviser to Pope blesses Epsom Heritage Project

August 26, 2022

Baroness Sheila Hollins has joined Freemen of the Borough, the local MP and others in their Patronage of The Friends of Horton Cemetery. Baroness Hollins is a leading figure nationally ... [READ MORE](#)



NEWS

“You’ve NOT got mail”

August 26, 2022

Epsom Posties go on strike. Photo above: Local workers and Labour Party activists outside Epsom’s East Street Royal Mail sorting office today. The biggest strike of summer so far will ... [READ MORE](#)



ARTS

UCA Epsom MA Graduation Show 2022

August 25, 2022

The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) Epsom welcomes the return of its in person postgraduate shows with work created by our master’s students 2022. For one week only, UCA ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY FOODBANK HEALTH VOLUNTEERS

Foodbank feeding thoughts...

August 25, 2022

Gillian Nichols of Epsom and Ewell Foodbank writes: What price do you put on mental health? Among the people that visit foodbanks, many have severe mental health issues due to ... [READ MORE](#)

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Epsom & Ewell	4	
Godalming Town	5	
Shoreham	5	

FOOTBALL SPORTS

Good start to season with Salts

August 25, 2022

Mavericks receive a repeat dose of the Salts. Worthing United 0-3 Epsom & Ewell – Southern Combination League – Division One – Saturday 20th August 2022. Report Source: www.eefconline.co.uk Reporter: ... [READ MORE](#)



FOOTBALL SPORTS

Thrashing good win for the Salts

August 20, 2022

Epsom & Ewell 5-2 Forest Row Southern Combination League – Division One. Wednesday 17th August 2022. Report Source: www.eefconline.co.uk. Reporter: Richard Lambert. On Wednesday night at Fetcham Grove we thoroughly ... [READ MORE](#)

Posts navigati

CRIME NEWS

No immunity for CoVid vaccination thief

August 18, 2022

A Tadworth man who stole empty CoVid vaccination vials and sold them on Ebay gets a suspended prison sentence. What do you do when you get given one of those ... [READ MORE](#)



NEWS

Two Surrey Stabbings in One Day

August 17, 2022

Surrey Police have issued witness and information appeals for two serious stabbings by knives both taking place on 16th August 2022. The first in Horley at about 10.20pm and the ... [READ MORE](#)



NEWS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Nope Buses in Epsom soon

August 17, 2022

Bus drivers strike affecting the people of Epsom and Ewell. There are planned bus driver strikes during the 19th till the 20th of August. Passengers from west and south west ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT VOLUNTEERS

Reaching recyclables others cannot reach

August 16, 2022

Ro Stretton from Epsom has signed up to the Baylis & Harding Free Recycling Programme offered by recycling experts TerraCycle. By sending waste to TerraCycle, Ro also raises money for ... [READ MORE](#)



CRIME

Surrey's Police Chief cracks down on cover-up

August 16, 2022

A Surrey Police officer who “deliberately concealed” her friend’s criminal damage to a car has been barred from policing. The officer told her friend she had put her in “an ... [READ MORE](#)



FOOTBALL SPORTS

Two excellent strikes earn the points for Salts

August 16, 2022

Seaford Town 1-2 Epsom & Ewell FC Southern Combination League - Division One Saturday 13th August 2022 Report
Source: www.eefconline.co.uk Reporter: Richard Lambert. With one swish of the left foot ... [READ MORE](#)



BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Queen fit hats raise £9K for brain charity

August 15, 2022

An online auction of a collection of 15 hats created for the Platinum Jubilee by some of the UK’s leading milliners has raised close to £9,000 for Brain Tumour Research. ... [READ MORE](#)



ARTS BUSINESS NEWS

UCA tips for clearing

August 15, 2022

Epsom’s University for the Creative Arts (UCA) offers advice to degree seeking ‘A’ Level students. “With over two million

jobs in the Creative Industries across the UK, choosing a degree ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Wasting water?

August 12, 2022

As drought is declared in Surrey during the driest UK summer in 50 years, councils and services across the county have been taking measures to save water. The temperatures are ... [READ MORE](#)

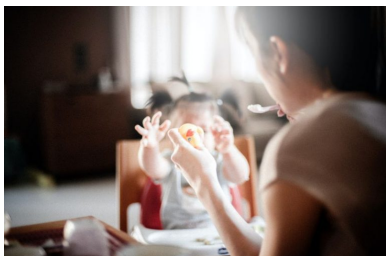


COMMUNITY COUNCIL NATURE

Council Pride in Not Uncommon Green Flag

August 12, 2022

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is pleased to have received a Green Flag Award for Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve, one of 2208 UK winners. The award is the international ... [READ MORE](#)



NEWS

Minding the minders

August 12, 2022

A Tadworth childminder who did not tell Ofsted about changes to the adults living in her house has been given an inadequate rating. Inspectors said the childminder had breached requirements ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY COUNCIL NATURE NEWS VOLUNTEERS

Flagging Up Epsom Common

August 11, 2022

28th July David King and Cynthea Blunden of the Epsom Common Association (ECA) represented Epsom & Ewell at the Green Flag Award ceremony in Lambeth Community Hall. This marked the ... [READ MORE](#)

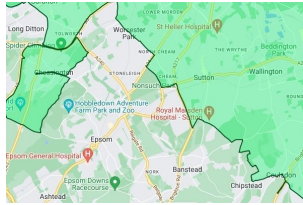


NEWS

Mayor's electrifying car decision

August 10, 2022

The new civic car leased by the Borough of Epsom and Ewell will be a plug-in hybrid vehicle, according to a recent decision by the Council's Strategy and Resources Committee. ... [READ MORE](#)



NEWS

Yet more on ULEZ....

August 10, 2022

By Emily Coady Stemp Local Democracy Reporter: London's proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion would mean drivers trying to get to some popular landmarks in the capital's border with ... [READ MORE](#)



FOOTBALL SPORTS

Shoreham 3-0 Epsom & Ewell

August 9, 2022

Southern Combination League - Division One. Saturday 6th August 2022. Report Source: www.eefconline.co.uk Reporter: Richard Lambert. On Saturday we suffered our third straight 3-0 defeat when visiting Middle Road, home ... [READ MORE](#)



COUNCIL NATURE TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

Verging on reason?

August 6, 2022

Surrey County Council is to take back control of verges and on-street parking enforcement from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and all other County districts. In a bid to streamline ... [READ MORE](#)



COMMUNITY HEALTH

Epsom Hospital bucks Brexit staff bottleneck

August 5, 2022

Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust bucks the national trend in maintaining its level of recruitment of UK qualified medical staff between 2015 and 2021. Nationally the picture is different. ... [READ MORE](#)



FOOTBALL SPORTS

Salts falter at final friendly

August 5, 2022

Leatherhead 3-0 Epsom & Ewell Pre-season Friendly - Stella Lamont Trophy Wednesday 3rd August 2022. Report Source:

www.eefconline.co.uk Reporter: Richard Lambert Tanners ease to victory. In five days we have ... [READ MORE](#)

What an erudite lot we are.

8 September 2022



Surrey libraries are the second most visited in the country according to the latest UK Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) data, with the figures showing the libraries attracted over 550,000 visits last year.

CIPFA surveyed residents as part of the findings, with questions ranging from the overall customer experience, satisfaction with the quality of book stock, and the role libraries play in combating loneliness and isolation.

97% of respondents said they received good or very good standard of care when visiting Surrey's libraries, whilst 83% felt the choice of books on offer was either good or very good (with a further 93% happy with the physical condition of the books).

The results also reinforced the important role libraries play in their communities, with 62% of those surveyed who felt lonely saying libraries help to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.



The findings from the CIPFA survey reflect the broadening appeal of Surrey's libraries and emphasise that modern libraries provide more to residents than just books. They have become a place for performances, workshops and exhibition spaces and offer a myriad of services including free digital access for those without access to a computer.

Below are some examples of what libraries have been providing over and above their core service offerings:

- A year-long partnership with Farnham Maltings has resulted in libraries being a space for some exciting creative events to be staged, exhibited and performed, extending the reach and accessibility of cultural experiences.
- Ensuring that no one is left behind libraries have been the backbone of delivering Surrey's Period Dignity campaign with period products available to be collected for free or donated at all 52 libraries.
- Libraries are there for all people in the community and have been welcoming families from the Ukraine ensuring books in Ukrainian and Russian are available on their shelves. Young Ukrainians have been able to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge thanks to translated materials provided in Ukrainian and Russian.
- This summer during the Jubilee weekend there were 85 Jubilee events and 46 Big Lunches hosted in Surrey libraries as an opportunity for communities to come together and celebrate - to ensure everyone had an opportunity join up and join in with their community.

Sue Wills MBE Assistant Director Art, Culture, Heritage and Libraries said "This is just the tip of the iceberg! We've come a long way in terms of the diversity of services that libraries can offer. This is an exciting period of transformation for our much-loved Surrey Libraries where spaces are re-imagined to deliver a place where social, educational, economic, and cultural activities can be made accessible to all in the community, often free of charge. It's not the physical building that changes it's what's happening inside at the heart of the building that changes."

To find out about all the different events taking place in Surrey Libraries follow on Twitter and Facebook or visit the Surrey Libraries web pages. Libraries - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)

Results are from the Surrey County Council CIPFA plus survey, 2022

The Borough's libraries are:

Epsom Library

6 Epsom Square, Epsom · 03456009009

Ewell Court Library

Ewell Court House Lakehurst Road, Epsom · 03002001001

Stoneleigh Community Library

1 Stoneleigh Broadway, Epsom · 03002001001

Bourne Hall Library

Spring Street, Ewell 020 8393 9571

Council pledge to support victims

8 September 2022



Epsom & Ewell Borough Council signs the Anti-Social Behaviour Pledge.

Councillor Clive Woodbridge, Mayor of Epsom & Ewell Borough Council has signed an Anti-Social Behaviour Pledge which commits the council to supporting victims of anti-social behaviour.



The pledge is a set of principles put forward by the victims' charity ASB Help. ASB Help have previously assisted the Community Safety Partnership on complex community trigger applications.

A community trigger can be activated if an incident has been reported three or more times within a six month period and not received a satisfactory response. This gives the victim the right to demand that agencies deal with persistent anti-social behaviour.

The pledge's aims are as follows:

- Promote awareness - Actively encourage the use of the community trigger to residents and partner agencies
- Legality - Confirm an organisation is legally compliant and embracing the spirit of the community trigger
- Ensure accessibility - Publicise the community trigger so the most vulnerable know what it is and how to invoke it
- Develop the process - Embrace the full potential of the community trigger by continually reviewing and learning from best practice

- Generate inclusivity – Use community trigger review meetings to work collaboratively and strategically, formulating solutions to end the anti-social behaviour
- Establish a precedent of using the community trigger to put victims first and deter perpetrators

Councillor John Beckett, Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee, said “Anti-Social behaviour is not welcome in Epsom & Ewell and we work hard with partner agencies to both reduce and prevent it. Anti-social behaviour can be anything from neighbourhood issues and noise nuisance to tall vegetation, bonfires, flytipping and inconsiderate parking.

“I would like to reassure victims of any sort of anti-social behaviour that we are there to support them. Signing this pledge is a reminder for us as a council and for our partners in the Community Safety Partnership to work more closely with ASB Help and ensure victims are effectively assisted.”

For more information on how to report a community trigger please see <https://epsom-ewell.gov.uk/residents/communities-health-and-wellbeing/epsom-and-ewell-community-safety>.

Adviser to Pope blesses Epsom Heritage Project

8 September 2022



Baroness Sheila Hollins has joined Freemen of the Borough, the local MP and others in their Patronage of The **Friends of Horton Cemetery**. Baroness Hollins is a leading figure nationally and worldwide in the field of psychiatry. A former President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the British Medical Association, she is an adviser to **The Pope** on the protection of minors and is a cross-bench member of the **House of Lords**.

The Charity’s 50+ strong research team leader, **Kevin McDonnell**, said “We are truly honoured that the charity’s objects have Baroness Hollin’s endorsement. Especially as on 6th September we launch our project “**Out of Sight, Out of Mind**”, supported by **Historic England** and **Kings College London**. The story of the Cemetery and the Stories of the lives of those buried there are becoming significant locally, nationally and internationally. We have researchers and followers here, across the United Kingdom and overseas. An extraordinary heritage putting Epsom on the world map.”

Dr Alana Harris, Director of Kings College’s Liberal Arts Department said “The project aims to restore dignity to the 9000 patients buried beside Epsom’s Hook Road, in Europe’s largest asylum cemetery. Our project seeks to recapture these stories and to create a crowd-sourced memorial, overcoming historical amnesia, neglect, and inaction. We are seeking volunteers (who will be trained, and work in pairs) to lead public engagement ‘chat and craft’ workshops, which will discuss the history of the ‘Epsom Asylum’ cluster and its cemetery.”

You can find out more at an information session on Tuesday 6th September 4pm-6pm at St. Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom KT19 8HA and you can contact the Project via www.hortoncemetery.org

Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

Remembering Epsom's Forgotten Residents

Did you know that the largest cluster of psychiatric hospitals in Europe was in Epsom?

And that the unclaimed bodies of over 9000 psychiatric patients who died in these facilities were buried in the local graveyard, Horton Cemetery?

We want to restore dignity to the thousands of people buried in unmarked plots on this wasteland.

Our project, supported by **Historic England**, seeks to recapture these stories and to create a crowd-sourced memorial, overcoming historical amnesia, neglect, and inaction.

We need your help!

We are seeking volunteers (who will be trained, and work in pairs) to lead public engagement 'chat and craft' workshops, which will discuss the history of the 'Epsom Asylum' cluster and its cemetery.

Come and find out more at our information session on

Tuesday 6th September 4pm-6pm

at St. Barnabas Church, Temple Road, Epsom
KT19 8HA

For further information visit
linktr.ee/outofsightepsom or email
alana.harris@kcl.ac.uk



"You've NOT got mail"

8 September 2022



Epsom Posties go on strike. Photo above: Local workers and Labour Party activists outside Epsom's East Street Royal Mail sorting office today. The biggest strike of summer so far will begin today as 115,000 postal workers came out for a "dignified, proper pay rise". Members of the Communication Workers Union - which represents Royal Mail Group workers - have started a series of national strike action.

This will be followed by further strike action on Wednesday 31st August, Thursday 8th September and Friday 9th September.

The decision follows the union's recent ballot for strike action over pay, which saw members vote by 97.6% on a 77% turnout to take action.

The union is demanding that Royal Mail Group make an adequate pay award that covers the current cost of living increases for our members.

Management imposed a 2% pay rise on employees, who were classified as key workers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, through executive action earlier this summer.

In an economic climate where inflation looks set to soar to 18% by January 2023, the imposition would lead to a dramatic reduction in workers' living standards.

CWU General Secretary Dave Ward said: "On Friday, we will see a tremendous outpouring of workers' unity in villages, towns and cities across the country. There can be no doubt that postal workers are completely united in their determination to secure the dignified, proper pay rise they deserve. We can't keep on living in a country where bosses rake in billions in profit while their employees are forced to use food banks.

"When Royal Mail bosses are raking in £758 million in profit and shareholders pocketing in excess of £400 million, our members won't accept pleas of poverty from the company. Postal workers won't meekly accept their living standards being hammered by greedy business leaders who are completely out of touch with modern Britain.

"They are sick of corporate failure getting rewarded again and again. Royal Mail's leadership have lost the dressing room

- and unless they make efforts to get real on discussing a pay rise that postal workers deserve, serious disruption will continue.”

CWU Deputy General Secretary Terry Pullinger said: “Our members worked miracles during the pandemic and know full well what they are worth. They are fighting for a no strings, real-terms pay rise – something they are fully entitled to. Those managing Royal Mail Group are treating our members with contempt by imposing such a minimal amount. Royal Mail Group have failed to recognise the strength of feeling and have clearly lost the dressing room on pay, so they have left us with no choice but to fight. Our members deserve a pay rise that rewards their fantastic achievements in keeping the country connected during the pandemic, but also helps them keep up during this current economic crisis. We won’t be backing down until we get just that.”

Royal Mail has responded according to the **Financial Times:** “The CWU had rejected a pay award worth up to 5.5 per cent, which would have added about £230mn to Royal Mail’s annual “people costs” at a time when the business was already lossmaking. This decision by the CWU is an abdication of responsibility for the long-term job security of its members. In more than three months of talks, CWU has failed to engage meaningfully on the business changes required.

“We’re really sorry for the disruption that this strike action is likely to cause to you. We want to reassure you we will do everything we can to minimise disruption and get our services back to normal as quickly as possible.

Royal Mail has well-developed contingency plans, but they cannot fully replace the daily efforts of its frontline workforce. We will be doing what we can to keep services running, but customers should expect significant disruption.

On days when strike action is taking place:

- We will deliver as many Special Delivery and Tracked24 parcels as possible
- We will prioritise the delivery of COVID test kits and medical prescriptions wherever possible
- We will not be delivering letters (with the exception of Special Delivery)

What you can do:

- Post your items as early as possible in advance of the strike dates
- Continue to post your items at Postboxes or Post Offices, however collections will be less frequent on days when strike action is taking place”

UCA Epsom MA Graduation Show 2022

8 September 2022



The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) Epsom welcomes the return of its in person postgraduate shows with work created by our master’s students 2022.

For one week only, UCA Epsom will be displaying innovative work by Epsom MA Graphic Design students as they take the next step in their careers and begin to shape their futures in the creative industries.

Foodbank feeding thoughts...

8 September 2022



Gillian Nichols of **Epsom and Ewell Foodbank** writes: What price do you put on mental health? Among the people that visit foodbanks, many have severe mental health issues due to traumatic experiences, poor circumstances, and often unaddressed medical issues they've faced in their lives. At Epsom Foodbank we have a higher motive than simply feeding the people who need us.



We want to help reduce the need for our Foodbank services through addressing the cause of the problem, not just the problem itself. And we are already doing this very successfully.

Our outstanding counselling service has been sitting alongside the foodbank, working with clients to help them move on from their problems towards independence and work.

It's hard for many of us to understand the plight of the people we help. It is best described in their own words which you can read at the end of this letter.

To have a qualified Counsellor available at our Foodbank is a huge asset which has changed lives. We really want to do more of this. But we need funding in order to do it. And it doesn't take a huge amount. In fact, just £50 per month would make all the difference.

A partnership or donation from your company can enable our Counsellor to keep working with people, building their confidence, and helping them escape from dependence by listening, offering therapy services, and having them know someone is there and looking out for them.

Everyone knows the importance of mental health, and how poor mental health lies at the root of so many social issues. If you can help support this incredible life-changing service, contact **gillianaudreynichols@gmail.com**



No immunity for CoVid vaccination thief

8 September 2022



A Tadworth man who stole empty CoVid vaccination vials and sold them on Ebay gets a suspended prison sentence. What do you do when you get given one of those proof of postage receipts in your local post office? Crumple it up and stuff it in the bottom of your bag? Pop it in the recycling pile by the back door when you get home? Diligently file it away somewhere safe?

Luckily for our investigators convicted thief and fraudster **Steven Flint** took the last approach, but unluckily for him, his neat and tidy admin was eventually his downfall.

Flint was working as a contract security guard at three vaccination sites in the county during the peak of the Covid vaccination roll-out in January and February 2021 when he stole a large quantity of empty Covid vaccine vials to sell them on eBay.

Investigators initially used Post Office CCTV footage and eBay account details to connect Flint to the crimes and he was

arrested on suspicion of theft and fraud at one of the sites he worked at in February 2021. Flint had completed 13 shifts before he was arrested.

During a subsequent search of his house, police officers found empty vaccine vials and multiple receipts for packages posted to Flint's eBay buyers.

Surrey Police detectives also discovered that Flint had fraudulently used the details of an acquaintance to set up a new eBay account to cover his tracks.

Steven Flint, 34 of Bidhams Crescent, Tadworth was found guilty of theft on 19 July at **Staines Magistrates Court**. He had previously pleaded guilty to fraud by false representation. He was sentenced to one year imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, at Staines Magistrates Court on **Wednesday, 17 August**.

Flint was also ordered to complete 150 hours of unpaid work.

Detective Inspector Paul Gordon from Surrey Police's proactive investigation team said: "Covid vaccine vials remain the property of the NHS. Due to their sensitive medical nature, this ownership is maintained before, during and after the vials are used. Taking these items could only have been theft.

"Flint's crimes took place when the very successful national vaccine programme was in its infancy and any actions which jeopardised public confidence in the vaccine roll-out were treated with the utmost seriousness. We, along with our health service partners and the vaccine manufacturers, reacted extremely quickly to the situation, working together to identify and arrest Flint."

Lorna Hart, Surrey Heartlands Covid Vaccination Programme Director said: "The NHS will never charge for a Covid-19 vaccination and patients should only ever accept a vaccine from an NHS vaccination service.

"Thanks to the success of our NHS vaccination programme, frontline teams have done an incredible job, delivering over 2.2 million Covid-19 vaccines to people across Surrey Heartlands.

"As part of the autumn booster programme many people, including everyone aged 50 and over, will be offered a Covid-19 booster, as well as a flu jab, to help increase people's protection against respiratory viruses ahead of winter so we would encourage anyone who is invited to get vaccinated. We also continue to offer the Covid-19 vaccine to anyone who is eligible."

Written by Karen Parker of Surrey Police

Two Surrey Stabbings in One Day

8 September 2022



Surrey Police have issued witness and information appeals for two serious stabbings by knives both taking place on **16th August 2022**. The first in **Horley** at about 10.20pm and the second in **Leatherhead** at about 11.10pm. **Epsom and Ewell Times** reprints the Police appeals below:

Surrey Police.

We are appealing for witnesses after a man was stabbed in the chest in **Horley** last night (**16 August**).

Police were called after the victim, a man in his 20s, was found with a single stab wound on a grassed area near **Roffey Close** around **10.20pm**.

The man was approached from behind and thrown from his bike to the ground by two men wearing balaclavas. He was then believed to have been dragged along the ground before being stabbed.

Two men were seen making off from the scene towards the recreation area near Sangers Walk shortly afterwards.

The victim was taken to hospital where he remains in a serious but stable condition.

Enquiries are underway and we are appealing to anyone who witnessed the attack, or who has any dashcam or doorbell camera footage or any other information, to come forward.

Detective Sergeant **Lee Marks** said: "We would like to reassure local residents that we are doing everything we can to identify those responsible and ensure they face the consequences of their actions."

If you can help, please contact us straightaway quoting reference **PR/45220087990** via contacts below

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We're appealing for witnesses following a stabbing in **Leatherhead** yesterday (**16 August**).

Last night officers received a report that someone had been stabbed on **Kingston Road**, near to the junction with **Cleeve Road** and the footpath leading to Leatherhead train station. This assault occurred between 11pm and 11.15pm. The victim was taken to hospital with stab wounds to his hand and arm.

Officers cordoned off the area last night to conduct enquiries and this was taken down at 10.30am this morning.

Sergeant **Elliott Hartley**, of Mole Valley Specialist Neighbourhood Team, said: "I know that many local residents will have been concerned this morning after seeing the police scene on Kingston Road. We're continuing to work hard to establish what happened last night and we're asking anyone who was walking home from the train station around the time of the assault to please get in touch. The victim has been discharged from hospital and is recovering at home."

If you witnessed this assault, or have any information which could help our investigation, please contact us quoting PR/45220088010 via

- Webchat on our website <https://www.surrey.police.uk/>
- Our online reporting tool <https://www.surrey.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report/>
- Calling us on 101

If you do not wish to leave your name, please call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.