Make way for Epsom Derby visitors?

Rail strikes will reduce services to Epsom, Epsom Downs and Tattenham Corner stations Friday – Oaks Day and Saturday – Derby Day. With over 100,000 spectators anticipated to attend the annual great flat race, held in Epsom for over 240 years, abandoning trains for cars, local roads can be expected to be jammed.

Maybe give that trek to the DIY store a miss this Saturday?

A Department for Transport spokesperson said: "These strikes have been coordinated by union leaders to disrupt passengers in a week which will see major events such as the first-ever all-Manchester FA Cup final, the **Epsom Derby** and a number of concerts and festivals across the UK.

"Not content with impacting the hundreds of thousands of people who have looked forward to these events all year round, unions are also targeting their own members' pockets by forcing them to miss out on pay every time they strike.

"The government has facilitated a fair and reasonable pay offer, now union leaders must do the right thing and put this to their members."

The unions say they have not been given a pay offer they can recommend to their members. Aslef rejected the government's 4% offer, which they described as "risible" since train drivers have not had a pay rise for four years.

A special meeting of **The Epsom and Walton Downs Conservators** was convened last night in the Town Hall to discuss arrangements for the Derby. It went into secret session and we can only speculate that the impact of the rail strikes was likely to have been discussed. Cllr **Steven McCormick** was confirmed as chair and was joined on the podium by **Simon Durrant** of **The Jockey Club**, owners of Epsom Downs and the racecourse.

Epsom and Ewell's Satisfying Film Festival begins

Led by Epsom resident and professional producer **Chris Hastings**, this years **Satisfied Eye International Film Festival** is hosted in the iconic flying saucer shaped **Bourne Hall** in **Ewell**. The Festival is sponsored by The Epsom and Ewell Times.

Starts tomorrow (Friday 26th May) through to Sunday. There is something for everyone. Here is a synopsis of the main action:

List of events ...

Friday 26th May: 7.30 People's Choice (our best films as selected by local judges) (already sold out)

Saturday 27th May

- 12.30 Amazing Animations (our best animated shorts)
- 1.45 All Blood Runs Red (selection of shorts celebrating diversity)
- 3.15 Stranger than Fiction (selection of documentary shorts)
- 4.30 Still Working 9 to 5 (full length documentary that looks at the cultural impact of the 80s movie starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin)
- 6.15 The Darker Side (a selection of twisted shorts)

Sunday 28th May

- 12.30 Best of British (a selection of our best home grown films)
- 1.45 The Lighter Side (a selection of comedy shorts)
- 3.15 Sobs, Sniffles & Smiles (a selection of shorts focusing on the human condition)
- 4.30 Wonder Women (a selection of our best shorts directed by women filmmakers)
- 6.00 Finding Her Beat (full length documentary about the attempt to put on the world's first all female taiko concert)

There are also a number of additional events:

Saturday and Sunday 12.30-4.30 Free Kids Animation

All weekend, several photo ops including The Iron Throne, Back to the Future DeLorean, a working Johnny 5 from Short Circuit



Sunday 7.30 a live taiko drumming performance and workshop (Finding Her Beat ticket holders only)

See

www.satisfiedeye.com

The Satisfied Eye International Film Festival (SEIFF) returns to Epsom for its 4th season this May.

SEIFF, which rated in the top 100 festivals in the world within its first year, returns with a selection of the best independent features, shorts, documentaries and animation from around the world; as well as free animation screenings for children.

With a high-quality programme including Oscar and BAFTA nominees and winners, premieres, familiar faces ranging from Hollywood legend Jane Fonda to A list regular Oscar Isaac, comedies and cartoons, horror and sci fi, world cinema to the best of British, there is guaranteed to be something for everybody.

Tickets are £5 per screening or a full festival pass costs £25 allowing full access to the entire festival (festival passes at the Early Bird price of £20 until the end of April).

Full event details and tickets at www.satisfiedeye.com/tickets

Related reports:

Spotlight on Epsom's Film Festival

The Times to award film festival passes has come (tickets already won).

Banking on you and me in Epsom and Ewell

The Epsom and Ewell Time Bank is launching soon and they're having a social gathering early June 2023. If you're interested in registering or have any questions, this is your chance to get involved.

6th November 2025 weekly

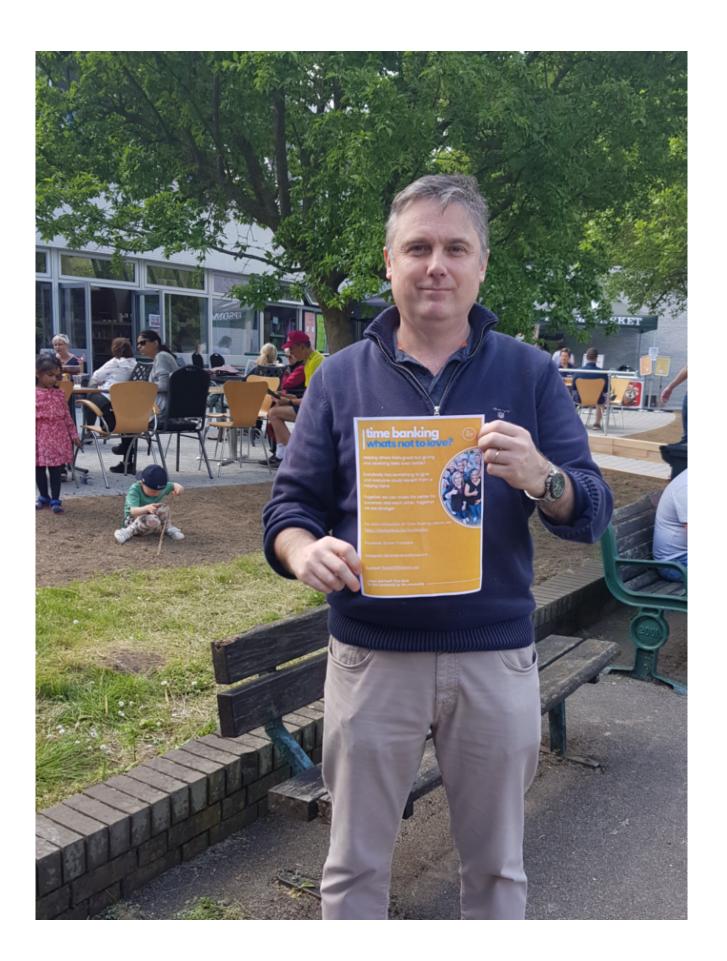


ISSN 2753-2771

As Benjamin Franklin once said, "time is money. But in truth, it's much more valuable that ... it's Productivity, Freedom, Enjoyment, Friends / Family and giving back to your neighbourhood and building a stronger community," so says **David West**, Founder of the **Epsom and Ewell Time Bank** who is launching the community project to benefit everyone saying, "It's free to join and use, giving it's members an opportunity to meetup and exchange their skills, experience and time."

For every hour you help someone, you earn an hours credit, which can be spent on someone helping you. It's a way to meet new people, make friends, and feel more involved in your community.

David told the Times "By sharing your time you are redefining the nature and connections within your community from the bottom up. Working together, building new relationships and creating new opportunities for the common good." He went on to explain "We are apart of the Time Bank UK charity, using their Internet Time Bank software to match people with the community projects and work."



The Epsom and Ewell Time Bank was at the weekend's **Festival of Ewell** and is organising a social gathering and Q&A in June 2023. If you're interested in registering for the Time Bank or have any questions, this is your chance to get involved.

The Time Bank community is free to join and all activities are managed by Time Banking UK's web-based software and overseen by a Epsom and Ewell Time Broker.

David West at The Festival of Ewell

To find out more about the social gathering and stay up-to-date, follow the Epsom and Ewell Time Bank on Facebook and Instagram. For more information on Time Banking, se Time Banking UK's website or email the Epsom resident and organiser, David at EpsomTB@gmail.com.

Epsom and Ewell Time Bank Registration - https://tol2.timebanking.org/epsomandewell

Epsom and Ewell Time Bank Facebook Group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/831821940256246

Epsom and Ewell Time Bank Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/epsomandewelltimebank/

Time Banking UK - https://timebanking.org/howitworks/

How does Time Banking help? Time Bank claim:

- 85% meeting more people.
- 80% felt more part of the community than before.
- 74% made new friends.
- 74% experienced a lift in mood or reduced depression.
- 69% felt they could ask for or receive more help.
- 66% said they experienced reduced loneliness.
- 60% said their quality of life, health and wellbeing had improved.

Dutch scouts go English in Epsom & Ewell

For over 35 years a close friendship has existed between the **1st Cuddington Sea Scouts in Epsom & Ewell District** and the Karel Doorman Zeeverkenners Groep of Bergen Op Zoom in the southern Netherlands. The roots of the relationship go back to the 2nd World War, Arnhem, disrupted schooling and a Royal Navy Admiral.

The relationship centres around reciprocal visits on a 3 or 4 yearly basis; and 2019 saw the last pre-pandemic visit. The Groups kept in touch over lockdown (and they had a brief joint paddle-boarding session with a motorcycling leader in 2020), but there was incredible excitement when at the end of April 2023, 74 Dutch Sea Scouts and leaders arrived in a double decker coach for their 12th visit.

Their journey had taken them via a day trip to Canterbury and they arrived to meet the **1st Cuddington** team who were cooking dinner. Over the course of the week they had a week with joint boating at the Warspite Water Activity Centre on the Thames; a hike down (and up) Box Hill with Warspite Scouts and Explorers, London Zoo, a day of boating at the Dockland Scout Project in central London, kipping on a ship in the West India Dock, exploring London, swimming in Guildford, widegames with Explorers, joint discos and much more.

Neighbours at 2nd Cuddington provided accommodation for the girls whilst the Dockland Scout Project supplied both accommodation and a day of boating in the shadow of Canary Wharf; there was also support from Scout partners at Ajax Sea Scouts

About Scouts

- Scouts, the world's largest youth movement, was founded on 1 August 1907.
- In the UK, Scouts is supported by The Scout Association, enabling 7,000 Scout Groups across the country to provide opportunities to over 475,000 young people aged 6-25.
- There are now more than 638,000 individuals actively involved in Scouts in the UK.

- All genders, races and backgrounds are welcome at Scouts. Every week, it gives almost half a million people aged 4-25 the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.
- Scouts helps members gain these skills by encouraging them to ask the big questions and listen with wide open minds. It helps them to take a deep breath and speak up, think on their feet, ignore the butterflies and go for it. With Scouts, young people don't give up they get back up and try again, often with the support of the friends they've made there.
- Over 200 activities are offered by Scouts around the UK, from canoeing and caving to coding and community projects, made possible by the efforts of over 163,000 adult volunteers.
- Worldwide, Scouts has over 50 million members, both male and female, and operates in nearly every country in the world.
- UK Scouts has over 250 Scout Activity Challenge badges. These require participants to achieve a level of understanding and skill realistic and appropriate to their age range.

The Times to award film festival passes has come

Epsom and Ewell's own international film festival is coming. The **Satisfied Eye International Film Festival**, now in its fourth season and consistently rated in the top film festivals in the world, is already acknowledged for its high quality programme. This year, due to Co-Vid delays, the Festival has two year's worth of submissions from over 50 countries; so the organisers could cherry pick even more for an extra high quality programme.

SUPPORT EPSOM AND EWELL TIMES AND WIN TWO FREE FILM FESTIVAL PASSES

To celebrate the first year of **Epsom and Ewell Times** donors supporting our advertisement free quality news service can choose to be entered into a draw for two full free film festival passes. Click HERE to donate.

The Festival takes place at Ewell's Bourne Hall in Spring Street between Friday 26th and Sunday 28th May.

There will be more Oscar nominees than ever before, with European and UK premieres and some of the best up and coming directors, producers and other talent from around the world.

The People's Choice screening this year (Friday 27th ... films chosen from the programme by local filmgoers) is probably the strongest they have ever had, with an Oscar nominee, an Oscar winner and a real battle to see who picks up the People's Choice award.

The Festival is part of the sci-fi rebranding of Bourne Hall this year so there will be some extra fun treats in store for film and TV fans.

Anyone who likes a good photo op can come and have their picture taken in the Game of Thrones' Iron Throne, get a selfie with the Back to the Future DeLorean and a whole lot more during the festival.

And there's scheduled to be a live performance after the screening of **Finding Her Beat**. The film is a joyous, uplifting documentary that follows the struggles to launch the first concert for women taiko drummers ... something reserved normally only for men.

There will be free screenings for children throughout the weekend at Bourne Hall, Spring Street.

This year sees the first ever **Emily Davison Award** for Best Female Director. The association with Epsom and Ewell being obvious with the statue to the famous suffragette in Epsom's Market Square.

Surrey asbestos pay-out to Epsom caretaker's family

The family of a former Epsom school caretaker has paid tribute to an 'amazing' husband and dad after lawyers recently secured them a settlement in connection with his asbestos-related cancer death.

Colin Bradley, was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the lung associated with exposure to asbestos, often decades previously.

Following his diagnosis, Colin, from Epsom, instructed asbestos-related disease specialists at Irwin Mitchell to investigate his illness and help him access the specialist treatment and care he required. However, he died aged 75 before he could see his case concluded.

The case was continued by Colin's son Darren Bradley, 53, in his dad's memory. His legal team has now secured a significant settlement from Surrey County Council in connection with Colin's mesothelioma.

Colin was employed by the local authority as a caretaker at Cuddington County First School from 1976 to 2003. The school is now Cuddington Primary School, run by the Howard Partnership Trust, who were not involved in the case against Surrey County Council - the defendant in the claim.

Surrey County Council admitted that the exposure Colin had to asbestos dust should not have happened, and conceded liability in his claim.

For this year's Workers' Memorial Day of 28 April, Darren joined the legal team to warn people of the ongoing danger posed by asbestos and to pay tribute to an 'amazing' dad who was taken from his family due to exposure to the hazardous substance.

Paul Ramsay, the asbestos-related disease specialist supporting Darren and his family, said: "The past few years have been incredibly difficult for Darren and his family. To face the distress of Colin's diagnosis and declining health due to mesothelioma has taken its toll on all of them.

"Colin was determined to get at the truth of his asbestos exposure and while nothing can bring Colin back to his family, the conclusion of the case and settlement gives them some closure and the answers they were looking for.

"However, Colin's death is also a stark reminder of the dangers still posed by asbestos, including in public buildings. While many people associate the use of asbestos with heavy industry its use was much more widespread, including in schools, hospitals, leisure centres and offices.

"Our own research shows that the presence of asbestos in public buildings, including schools continues to be a real concern throughout the country. In speaking out, Colin's family hope to make others aware of the risks of this material. This year's Workers' Memorial Day is an opportunity to remember workers like Colin and pause to reflect and remember all those who have been lost."

Before his death Colin believed he had been exposed to asbestos in the boiler room and various service areas whilst working at the school.

Colin had always been in good health and did not drink alcohol or smoke but began to feel unwell in August 2020, with a loss of energy and appetite.

After consulting his GP and being sent for tests, mesothelioma was diagnosed in December 2020. Colin began chemotherapy on 13 January, 2021, but his condition continued to deteriorate. He died six months after his diagnosis, on 22 June 2021.

Colin was married to Lorraine Bradley, 65, who is step-mum to Colin's sons, Darren, Mark and Simon Bradley.

Darren said: "All of our lives changed the day of dad's diagnosis. As he'd always led such an active and healthy lifestyle, it was hard to accept anything so serious could be wrong. The speed his illness progressed shocked us all.

"Dad was the central figure in our family, always there encouraging, supporting and looking after us all, even long into our own adult lives. His loss has left a huge void – and it is especially upsetting to see Lorraine left widowed and alone when they still had so much to look forward to in their retirement – but I take some comfort knowing that he would have been proud that we secured an admission of liability from his former employer.

"It's hard to imagine you could come across such a dangerous substance in a school environment and it's shocking to think it could still be there in other schools, posing a risk to others.

"I hope that by speaking about my amazing dad, we can reflect on how much we miss him every day, but also warn others of the dangers that still exist by coming into contact with asbestos. If we can help keep another family together or help make the argument for asbestos removal, dad's death won't have been in vain."

Workers' Memorial Day on 28 April remembers those who have died as a result of their employment, and campaigns to improve health and safety standards in the workplace and increase protection for employees.

Research undertaken by Irwin Mitchell suggests more than 4,500 public buildings across 20 of the UK's largest local authorities still contain asbestos, averaging at 225 buildings per authority.

A special Epsom school's future secured.

The future of Kingswood House School on West Hill in Epsom has been secured after the planning brought by local developer Steve Curwen, was refused by Surrey County Council on 21 st March. The School's landlords have also confirmed in court proceedings pending with the School that they have no objection to the grant of a new lease to the School.

Kingswood House School has existed on its site for over 100 years and has within its 250 pupils, 172 with registered special educational needs (SEND) the highest number of any school in Surrey. The School has been awarded the status of "Asset of Community Value" in recognition of its contribution to the local community and has recently been graded "excellent" in an inspection undertaken by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

The proposed planning application would have seen the 100 year old school replaced with a much smaller school of only 60 pupils for extreme special needs. The application was met with a very high level of local opposition culminating in 440 objections and a petition of 150 due in large part to a fear that it was a precursor to an application to build houses on the school playing field and indeed, across the whole site in the event that the proposed school did not proceed.

Related reports:

Campaign to save special Epsom school builds

Battle for Epsom School continues....

Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes..?

Grayling stood up by developers....

The Cost of Surrey's Crime Commissioner: "It's criminal"?

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey Police was elected in May 2021 on a turnout of Surrey voters of 38%. That was 5% higher than the national average but the election coincided with Surrey County Council's election in all the County's 81 single-member seats.

The Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner is Conservative **Lisa Townsend**. Her office explains her role: "Your Commissioner is responsible for overseeing the work of Surrey Police, holding the Chief Constable to account on your behalf, and funding key services that strengthen community safety and support victims."

The Liberal Democrats are calling for the abolition of this post after uncovering the cost of running the office. They state the post has cost £3.2 million since 2019. And claim: "Since 2021, the Surrey Commissioner, Lisa Townsend, has had three staff members to run her office social media feeds. The Commissioner has increased the office costs since being elected by £180,000 - the equivalent to seven community police officers. Since the Commissioner was elected, Surrey has also seen a fall in community officer numbers (39)."

6th November 2025 weekly



ISSN 2753-2771

This compares with an annual budget for Surrey Police of about £250 million and its employment of approximately 2153 officers.

Julie Morris Leader of the Liberal Democrat group on Epsom & Ewell Borough Council told The Times:

"I have never understood the purpose of Police Commissioners. Political appointees have no place in solving crime. My experience is that many crimes considered small and personal are unworthy of being given Police attention. These can cause a great deal of emotional distress and are simply neither followed up nor are they treated seriously. Putting resources back into those categories of crime will help grow confidence in the Police."

Top Image is a **mock up** by Epsom and Ewell Times of Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner Lisa Townsend holding two mobile phones.

Lisa Townsend responded to the **Epsom and Ewell Times** and said: "Surrey Police now has more frontline officers than ever before. It will be officially announced this week that the Force has not only met but exceeded its target for extra officers under the government's programme to increase numbers by 20,000 across the country. That means more than 300 extra police officers will have joined the ranks since 2019. This is great news for residents and I believe the new recruits will help to make the Force the strongest it has been in a generation.

"Last year, Surrey Police made an operational decision to temporarily halt the recruitment of Police Community Support Officers which was identified as one way of helping the Force meet its savings target. There were no 'drastic cuts' - these posts were replaced with new warranted officers and there were no redundancies or loss of numbers to Surrey Police's frontline teams. We expect PCSOs to be back to the current numbers within the next three years and I am pleased to say that recruitment for this important role has been reopened and the Force are actively seeking applications right now.

"As far as my office budget is concerned, it is important to stress that is accounts for just 0.5% of the total policing budget for which I am responsible.

"When I was elected as Commissioner in 2021, there were only three PCC teams in the entire country that were smaller than we had in Surrey. I would be failing in my elected duty if I did not make sure it is properly equipped to effectively carry out all the responsibilities and growing demands of the PCC role.

"There was a small increase in my budget last year that added posts where we were at our weakest or least resilient which included one extra post in our communications team. I do not employ three people to 'run our office social media feeds' - the communications team fulfil a number of crucial roles on our wider engagement with the Surrey public across the county.

"My office is also responsible for commissioning vital services across our county that provide life-changing support for a variety of people across Surrey including survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence. In addition to our existing funding streams, over the last two years our commissioning team have worked tirelessly in managing to secure mpre than £4m in government funding for a range of projects in Surrey. This money will help provide key services helping some of the most vulnerable in our society as well as local projects, such as the Safer Streets initiative, that are making a real difference to our communities."

Alex Coley - who has been chairing Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Community and Wellbeing Committee and was reelected on 4th May for the RA in Ruxley Ward responded: "I attended the Police and Crime Panel on 18th April and was surprised to learn that the Surrey Police Group is showing both a capital underspend and a revenue underspend for this financial year. Several million pounds of surplus funds. In February the PCC decided to increase the share of Council Tax by 5.07%. This is a percentage increase greater than all 11 districts and boroughs in Surrey, even greater than the increase from the county council. I have to wonder why, given the multi-million pound surplus. How will this money be used?

Perhaps funds are not being effectively committed to policing priorities? The PCC is now half way through a four year plan in which the flagship policy is the prevention of violence against women and girls. A crucial policy for policing nationwide. However, it was revealed in February that Surrey Police have the worst rape charge rate in England and Wales. Furthermore, the PEEL report in June last year, by HMICFRS the policing inspectorate, showed a grading of Requires Improvement for suspect and offender management, with specific issues discovered in the management of sex offenders."

"It's criminal" is a well known expression denoting waste and has not been used here to suggest any criminal act.

Epsom & Ewell local election results

All the results are in and the Residents' Associations, as expected, retain control of the Borough Council. The Liberal Democrats gained two seats by winning all three seats in College Ward. With the retirement of LibDem **David Gulland** the Party's group leader **Julie Morris** is joined by new LibDem Councillors **James Lawrence** and **Julian Freeman**. The third slot gained at the expense of the sitting Councillor **Nigel Collin** of the RA. The other LibDem gain was top of the poll in Stamford, **Alison Kelly**.

Bernie Muir of the Conservatives had represented Stamford Ward but chanced her arm in the newly created ward of Horton and topped the poll. She and her Conservative colleague **Kieran Persand** beat long-serving and senior RA Councillor and former Mayor **Eber Kington** and new RA arrival **Henal Ladwa**.

Mr Kington had surrendered a safe seat in Ewell Court Ward to contest the new Horton Ward, where he lives. This defeat was despite Mr Kington recently leading a popular motion to pause the progress of the Draft Local Plan, to see what the Government is up to exactly with central housing targets.

The Residents' Associations won 26 seats. Liberal Democrats 4. Labour 3 and Conservatives 2.

However, the share of the total Borough vote shows the Conservatives (20%) having a greater share than the Liberal Democrats (17%) and Labour (15%). The Greens, who fought a few wards, failed to cross the line and have no Councillors.

The turnout of 19867 votes compares favourably with the 2019 turnout of 19051 and perhaps shows that fears of a downturn in turnout because of the new requirement for photo ID being presented at polling stations has not been made out.

Related Reports:

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Election Results 2023

Why vote Liberal Democrat in Epsom and Ewell?

Why vote Conservative in Epsom and Ewell?

Turn up to turn downturn in turnout!

Worrying about voter ID law

No photo - no vote!

Cautious candidates cause College and Court cancellations

Why vote Green in Epsom and Ewell?

Horton hustings heat up election

Beginning to line up for local elections

Register to vote deadline for elections

4th May Surrey goes to the polls

We are very very sorry for hustings hosting hash

Why vote Labour in Epsom and Ewell?

Why vote for the Residents' Associations in Epsom and Ewell?

Ultra-sound school kids

Youngsters at **Ewell Grove Primary and Nursery School** have done it again. Back in the testing times of Covid during 2021, classes decided to organise their own entertainment programme to raise money for **Epsom Medical Equipment Fund** (EMEF), the charity launched in 1979 to help **Epsom General Hospital.**

This was the start needed to launch an appeal for the GE Ultrasound Scanner required by the Labour Ward theatre in Maternity

6th November 2025 weekly



ISSN 2753-2771

at Epsom. With their parents backing them, they succeeded in raising nearly £1,000.

Last year they decided to repeat the feat - this time they brought a magnificent £1,132 which started the appeal off with a flying start.

This week the school was invited to present the GE Ultrasound scanner to **Dr. Dickson Osagie**. The school set the children a project to decide who would represent the school. There were eight lucky winners who visited the hospital with headteacher **Mrs Kate Keane**. "They were excited to learn the function of the Ultrasound scanner and how it works," said Mrs Keane.

Dr Osagie added "We were very lucky to have an ultrasound donated to us by EMEF. It is a £27,500 piece of equipment. The Labour Ward theatre did not have its own dedicated ultrasound for the anaesthetic team to use. Donating this machine has gone a long way in improving the care we give to pregnant women in the hospital as it will help us to be able to put in difficult cannulas, also when epidural for pain relief is difficult to perform, the ultrasound helps make this easier."