

Competition: Win a family ticket to The Nonsuch Town and Country Show!

26 April 2022



Would you like to win a family ticket to the Nonsuch Town and Country Show? Read on to find out how!

In order to win the ticket, all you need to do is tell us where in Epsom this photo was taken! The prize will go to the first person to guess the location, if no one guesses, then whoever is closest by Friday (29th April) will be selected as the winner, and have their details given to the event organisers.

Rules:

- You must guess where in Epsom the photo below was taken
- You **MUST** submit your guess via Twitter, Facebook or via Email (with the subject heading “Nonsuch Competition”).
- The **FIRST** person to guess correctly will be declared the winner at once, and win the family ticket to the Nonsuch Town and Country Show.
- Failing that, the **CLOSEST** person will be declared the winner on Friday.

Where in Epsom/Ewell was this photograph taken?



Do you know where this was taken? Get in contact and see if you're right!

To submit your answer, tweet us here, send us a Facebook message/comment or email in at admin@epsomandewelltimes.com

Aldi donates 2000 meals to Surrey charities over the Easter period

26 April 2022



Aldi helped local charities in Surrey provide 2000 meals to people in need over the Easter school holidays.

The supermarket paired its stores up with local charities, community groups and food banks to donate surplus food, making the most of unsold fresh and chilled food throughout the Easter period.

Around 105 tonnes of food were donated throughout the UK, with more than 187,000 meals expected to be donated to causes focused on supporting families and children.

The donations followed research from Aldi and community-giving platform Neighbourly which found that 98% of food banks in the South East have seen demand soar since the start of the year.

Neighbourly recently polled more than 700 food banks and community causes nationwide and found that an estimated 30% of people using these services in the South East in recent months have been new to the food banks.

On average, food banks in the region reported an average rise in demand of around 24% for their services so far this year, with expectations of further increases of around 28% in the next three months as higher energy bills and an increase in national insurance contributions add to the pressure.

Liz Fox, Corporate Responsibility Director at Aldi UK, said: “The school holidays can be a busy time for the local charities and organisations we support, but, especially in the current climate, food banks are experiencing even greater demand than usual.

“We’re proud to support so many good causes in Surrey, helping them to provide meals to those in need over the recent school holidays.”

Steve Butterworth, from Neighbourly, added: “The findings of our latest survey highlight that the cost-of-living crisis is clearly deepening, with families and households up and down the country really starting to feel the pinch and turning to charities and local causes for support as a result.

“During what is a hard time for everyone, anything people can do to give back in the coming weeks will make all the difference.”

Aldi has community donation points in stores nationwide to help those in need and is encouraging customers to help in any way they can. According to its poll with Neighbourly, products that are most in-demand at local community groups include tinned food, tea and coffee, UHT milk, toiletries, and household cleaning products.

All’s well that ends well for the Wells Centre

26 April 2022



Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is to transfer the running of the long-mothballed Wells Community Centre, located at the end of Spa Drive, The Wells Estate in Epsom, to Epsom Wells Community Association (EWCA). EWCA is a charity newly registered in December 2021, whose stated aims are: “..... to reopen The Wells Community Centre. The centre will be available to the community for hire purposes. We also aim to run classes that fulfil our values of education, wellbeing, environment and community.” The Charity has a nine-strong Board of Trustees chaired by Vanessa Marchant, all residents of the Borough.

The Strategy & Resources Committee of EEBC agreed at its meeting on 29 March 2022 that the community group would take responsibility for the building and put it back into use for hire, a café, and a range of community-led activities. The Council will grant a lease of the site with an initial two-year rent-free period after which the rent payable will reflect the community use of the building.

EWCA have produced a viable business case that sees the existing building renovated, and long-term managed by the Wells residents at no short or long-term costs to the Council and council taxpayers. The business case proposal is for a “reimagined centre” which will mix community group use, private hire, a business hub and hot desk space with a community café.



The Wells Centre - Image © Alan Becken

It plans to reinvigorate the offering on the premises to deliver a modern, forward-looking, multi-generational community centre. The centre will support Epsom & Ewell’s “Future 40” plans, helping to make the Borough an even better, brighter place.

EWCA proposes to be responsible for the Wells site in its entirety and release the Council from any ongoing financial responsibility. In addition, the Council would receive rental income from the commencement of the third year of the lease.

Councillor Colin Keane, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee said “We have listened to the local community and worked with EWCA to enable them to develop a business case to run the centre.

“The Council is committed to enabling and encouraging EWCA to succeed and a revived facility would support the principle that enhances the Cultural and Creative opportunities in the Borough where people work together for all the community.

“Crucially, this plan will also remove any financial call on the Council’s resources to enable the Council’s other key priorities for residents to be pursued”.

The decision of the Council was a culmination of a five-year campaign by local residents to re-open the centre.

The plan to close the Council owned and run Wells Centre first came to light during the November 2015 County Council bye-election when the Labour Party candidate Kate Chinn brought it to light.

The Council had decided the decision should be made in secret. The minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee for September 2015 indicate that an item was shielded from public scrutiny on the dubious ground of “*Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*”. It would be very odd if this right to exclude the public could be used to hide information about the Council’s own finances.

The Council eventually called a consultation meeting at the Wells Centre when every suggestion that residents advanced was stonewalled.

When the Wells Centre originally closed, a small group of locals decided to find out exactly what local residents thought of the closure. It became clear that there was not just a desire for the centre to re-open, but also a desperate need.

The group found isolated lonely people, families with nowhere to go within walking distance, entrepreneurial returning-to-work mothers who now had no premises, young people no longer able to access youth groups, and many more.

This core group formed EWCA and was supported by like-minded residents from elsewhere in the Borough and after petitioning, marching, canvassing, and researching, they were satisfied that a reopened centre was a viable business idea.

Supported in particular by Borough Councillors Kate Chinn (Lab), David Gulland (Lib), Bernie Muir (Con) and Nigel Collin (RA) and helpfully advised by council officers the business plan was finally presented to the Council.

The business plan is over 80 pages long. In essence, the plan is for an integrated centre offering activities that fall into the following categories; wellbeing, education, fitness and environment. For a more in-depth overview visit <https://indd.adobe.com/view/73d5b9e9-62ae-40ae-a457-282ada7246fa>

Vanessa Marchant adds: "Post pandemic we are all more aware of what is on our doorstep, our communities rose to the fore and many don't want to return to the commuter corridor lives they were living previously. With approx 70% of commuters now having a flexible week, activities within a 20-minute neighbourhood are due to get a real boost according to multiple news stories. So our already strong business case has been made stronger by the turbulent times we are living through. We will create a shorter version of the plan to share with people in the coming months."

On funding, she said to the Epsom and Ewell Times - "We will not receive a subsidy from EEBC. We intend to apply to any and every fund we can, but primarily we are looking to YourFund, the National Lottery, CIL, local philanthropists and community fundraising initiatives." In conclusion, EWCA thanks and appeals - "We are extremely happy with the Council decision. This result is the culmination of many years of hard work on the part of the local community, the members of the charity Epsom Wells Community Association (EWCA) and our council member advocates from Labour, Liberal Democrats, Conservative and the RA. The hard work of fundraising now begins and we will need help from the local community to make this happen.

Vanessa Marchant said, "That we won the vote is still sinking in but the real work in bringing the Centre back to life is just beginning."

If you would like to be involved please get in touch via the EWCA website at <https://epsomwellscommunityassociation.org/contact/> or via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/savethewellscentre>

Introducing the Daily Chess Puzzle!

26 April 2022



From today, Epsom & Ewell Times will be hosting a daily chess puzzle for readers to solve. Chess is a wonderful game and a daily puzzle is a great brain trainer!

The puzzle is kindly provided by chess.com

Check it out here!

Council passes "Stand with Ukraine" motion, Labour amendment rejected.

26 April 2022



On Tuesday night 19th April 2022, at a meeting of the Full Council of Epsom and Ewell Borough, the Council debated and passed a motion titled "Stand Together with Ukraine". It was a motion setting out to:

- a) Note the Commitments already made by the Government to house displaced Ukrainian families.
- b) Utilise the support funding provided by the Government to meet the welfare and care needs of Ukrainian families arriving in the borough via the Homes for Ukraine scheme.
- c) Signpost those residents who house people displaced by this act of aggression to the information and support they are seeking.



Councillor Alex Coley (Residents Association - Ruxlet Ward) authored the "Stand with Ukraine" motion

Cllr Alex Coley (Residents Association - Ruxley Ward), proposing the motion, stated: *"In these worst of times for the Ukrainian people, we have seen the best of people in our Borough, who've responded with an outpouring of kindness and generosity."* The motion was unanimously passed by the Chamber, with one amendment (rejected) being submitted by Labour Party Councillors, Kate Chinn and Debbie Monksfield of Court Ward.



Councillor Kate Chinn (Labour Part - Court Ward) authored the amendment

The amendment called on the Government to take in more Ukrainian refugees, to step up its humanitarian obligations and provide more support to European countries, who are taking the majority of refugees. Councillor Chinn said, *"The government has been dragging its feet on the biggest refugee crisis in a decade."* The reception was frosty, with members describing it as "Confusing" and "Political point-scoring". Cllr Liz Frost (Residents Association - Woodcote Ward) stated her uneasiness, telling the Council more leniency in refugee policy could lead to *"terrorists"* finding easier pathways into the UK. Cllr Coley responded by stating that the aims of the amendment were better addressed to the Home Affairs House of Commons Select committee who could *"look into some of the things that are happening that perhaps should be done in a fairer and more effective way"*, concluding that as a Borough Council, it isn't their place to scrutinise Government policy.

The motion is an important message to Ukrainian citizens, some of whom will be relocating to Epsom under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, and an important reassurance of solidarity for Ukrainians already living in Epsom and Ewell, and beyond.

If you're local to Epsom, and you'd like to help during the Ukraine Crisis, please get in contact with Surrey Stands with Ukraine and the Epsom Refugee Network, two fantastic community charities that are doing excellent work for disenfranchised people.

Have any thoughts on this motion? Let us know via email: admin@epsomandewelltimes.com, or through the contact form, found [HERE](#).

Potential Strike could affect Epsom: Train company crossing the lines?

26 April 2022



General Secretary Michael Lynch of the Rail and Maritime Union 8th April has alerted rail workers to the prospect of a strike ballot affecting the Epsom and Ewell Borough's Waterloo line services (Epsom, Ewell West and Stoneleigh stations). Strike action is threatened following an internal rail company inquiry that found a railman guilty of a series of sexual harassment accusations made by female workers, after which, SWR allowed him to return to the same workplace without advising the complainants.

At the time of this report, the matter is being referred to an urgent "avoidance of dispute" negotiation between the Union and the management of SWR. Michael Lynch has told members: *"The Union's National Executive Committee has considered this matter and is appalled at the insensitive way SWR is handling multiple cases of serious harassment that will have a detrimental impact on female members working for the company. It is incomprehensible that the individual has been found guilty but remains employed at the same location and is expected to work with the victims of his actions. Ultimately, the company has failed their employees and have failed even by ACAS standards in dealing with this case."*

In response to Epsom and Ewell Times, a spokesperson for SWR said: "This matter has not been concluded and remains part of an ongoing process. It would be inappropriate for us to comment further on any specific details. However, we want to make clear that South Western Railway takes a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of any kind. We take any reports of abuse extremely seriously and will investigate complaints fully."

Our request to SWR to clarify the "ongoing process" remains unanswered.

We'd love to hear from you via email at admin@epsomandewelltimes.com Let us know your views here at Epsom and Ewell Times.

Not in my back-garden centre!

26 April 2022



John Dipre of the Dipre family-run Marsden Nurseries Ltd, owners of the Epsom bordering Ashtead Park Garden Centre in Pleasure Pit Road, has applied to Mole Valley District Council to demolish this popular garden centre and restaurant and build on the site 26 two to four-bedroom houses.

Neighbours are up in arms and objections are mounting before the consultation deadline of 25th April passes. Objectors point out that recently the Council had removed the site from an area for potential development. It is said to occupy a sensitive area of the Green Belt as it separates Epsom from Ashtead. The roads around are narrow and bendy and already hazardous. Public transport is threadbare. The Langley Vale E5 bus every two to three hours that crosses Epsom is the only one apart from a weekday daily school service.

The Applicant, John Dipre, has been involved as Director of no less than 120 registered companies, most of which have been in homes, investments and property. He claims that the proposed development will be an improvement for nature as presently most of the land is tarmac and his plans will see trees, hedges and grassy areas grow.

No affordable housing is planned for the development.

The full plans can be seen via molevalley.gov.uk/planningsearch and enter MO/2022/0474

Issues relating to development, housing, planning, brownfield sites and affordable housing are addressed in an opinion piece exclusively for the Epsom and Ewell Times by Tim Murphy you can read [HERE](#).

If you are affected by a significant planning application email us or use the contact form and we will consider reporting on it.

Want more from us? Read more Council News here.

The Northman Review: Robert Egger's Viking Epic does not disappoint.

26 April 2022



There are SPOILERS for The Northman in this review. Film watched at ODEON Epsom.

Robert Eggers' latest feature may find itself being remembered as the most accessible of his filmography so far, with a simple enough, easy to follow plot (it's Viking Hamlet, not rocket science) and immense popcorn-munching fight scenes, including a climactic lava-lit battle at the mouth of a volcano, where it wouldn't have been too much of a visual stretch to give the characters lightsabers instead of shortswords. The main character, Amleth, is a Viking Prince and heir to his father's (played by Ethan Hawke) Kingdom, who witnesses his Father betrayed and murdered by Amleth's uncle Fjölfnir, who also steals his kingdom and kidnaps his mother. So begins his quest for revenge, he speaks it aloud to himself while he's escaping the Irish coast: Avenge father, rescue mother, kill uncle. This admirable conflict is well established, the sides are drawn clearly and the brutality of the ordeal young Amleth has to go through gets the audience rooting for him instantly.

The next time we see Amleth he's a grown man, a Viking berserker who raids villages along the Slavic coast. It's on one of these raids that we're truly reintroduced to Amleth, as he cuts and slashes his way across a village in a sequence so truly brutal and raw, that you completely believe that this is a man who had his world taken away from him. The story wastes no time and after a brief magical encounter with Bjork (not kidding, wish I was), Amleth is on his way to confront his uncle. Alexander Skarsgard throws himself into the role completely, delivering earth-shattering Viking-berserker wolf-howls and vengeful promises of retribution, while also carrying the more dramatic parts of the film, like the chemistry-oozing scenes featuring Anya Taylor-Joy's Olga. The cast is certainly star-studded, Ethan Hawke's King Aurvandill commands a powerful presence for his brief screentime, Hawke is a wonderful actor, who puts 100% into every role he plays, opposite him, Nicole Kidman plays Queen Gudrún, a multi-layered and complex character that she plays effortlessly. Willem Dafoe makes an appearance as court jester/he-witch Heimir the Fool, a role he absolutely knocks out of the park.

The Northman, like all Eggers films, is shot magnificently, Jarin Blaschke (who also collaborated with Eggers on his 2019 film The Lighthouse, as well as his directorial debut The Witch) does an incredible job at making you feel like you're in the middle of a village being raided, you can practically feel the bite of the cold in the wide-shots of the Icelandic landscape, simply put, the camera work is exhilarating and visceral. The visuals are a treat from start to finish, the epic shots of a smoky volcano, the incredible establishing shots of settlements and villages, and the trippy dream-sequence vision quests that occur more than once, are all delightful to spectate. Blaschke uses everything at his disposal to his advantage, colour, light and phenomenal framing bless our screens with pure movie magic.

Eggers manages to build a very gritty, realistic depiction of the dark ages, the production and sound design come together to transport the audience to a violent, cold, but very real 895AD, whose magnificent scope simply must be seen to be believed. The film is markedly an Egger's picture, with mysticism and surreal elements scattered throughout, but if anything, he's reined in some of his more Lovecraftian and horror-based inspirations, with The Northman being much more accessible to the everyday filmgoer than the surreal psychological cosmic-horror that was The Lighthouse. It's a bit of a shame, to me, the film absolutely thrives in these surreal scenes and is at its best in these scenes, and honestly, I wish he lent into them a little more.

The Northman is very well-paced and rarely dull, even its calmer scenes are stacked full of well-written character interactions and powerful performances, Claes Bang puts in an excellent shift as the villainous Fjölfnir, as does Gustav Lindh, who plays his son Thorir. One of the things I really liked about The Northman was how it portrayed a character who was almost completely selfish in his motivations, not driven to stop his Uncle because his Uncle was an evil man but driven entirely by his own revenge and personal grudges. The film explores this throughout, introducing elements that make Amleth and the audience question the moral absolutism of his quest. While this complexity is appreciated, it falls a tad flat by the film's conclusion.

Eggers has cemented himself as a visionary with his first two films, a master of substance and style, and The Northman deserves to stand amongst his stunning filmography. Overall though, it's in the third act of his Viking Epic that this substance begins to wear little thin, certain contrivances in the plot begin to arise and it feels like the film is plodding along to the next beat until we reach the (admittedly thrilling) climax. However, that is a small gripe compared to the pure majesty of the film, a visual marvel and an absolutely exhilarating ride, I'll be shocked if it doesn't adorn top ten lists at the end of the year.

Council Report: Funding available for local projects

26 April 2022



Image: CIL funded water fountain in Alexandra Recreation Ground.

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is inviting bids from the community for funding for public infrastructure projects which will benefit the borough.

Over the last four years, the Council has allocated £1 million to a variety of community-driven infrastructure projects in Epsom, Ewell and Stoneleigh. The projects, championed by residents, have included additional street lighting, restoration of public footpaths, new play and gym equipment in parks and a new bus shelter. Sustainability projects such as water fountains in borough parks have also been enabled by this funding.

Applications for the 2022/23 scheme are now open until 31 May 2022.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allows the Council to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in the borough and is used to support new physical and social infrastructure and also to improve existing facilities. Under current legislation, 80% of total CIL collected must be allocated towards borough-wide infrastructure and up to 5% towards administration.

In addition, at least 15% of levy receipts must be spent on priorities that have to be agreed with the local community. This 15% is often referred to as the 'neighbourhood portion' of the levy and ensures the community are fully engaged.

In Epsom and Ewell, residents and local community groups are invited to bid for these funds from the neighbourhood portion of the levy for projects within the borough, with successful bids selected by a committee of councillors.

Full details on how to apply for funding can be found on the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council website; www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/CIL15

Want more from us? Read more Council News here.

Witness appeal after burglary in Epsom

26 April 2022



Surrey Police are appealing for help to find and speak with a man in connection with a burglary of a residence that took place in Epsom on April 9th (Saturday).

The burglary took place on Chessington Road at around 12:15 PM. It's believed that two suspects made their way into the property through the front door, after which they stole the victims car.

The police believe that the man seen in the image may be able to help identify the suspects and aid their investigation.

Dressed in a dark jacket with a baseball cap on, the man appears to be caucasian and clean-shaven. If this is you, or someone you know/recognise, please get in contact with Surrey Police as soon as possible through

- Live webchat on their website: <https://www.surrey.police.uk/>
- Their online reporting tool: <https://www.surrey.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report/>
- Calling 101

Council driving forward with electric chargers

26 April 2022



Work has begun on the installation of Park and Charge electric vehicle charging points within Epsom & Ewell Borough Council car parks.

Hook Road car park is the first council car park to benefit from the scheme, with six new charging points currently being installed. These will allow people to pay for both charging and parking their electric vehicles at the same time.

Councillor Neil Dallen, Chair of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee said “The best travel options for the environment are walking, cycling or using public transport. The use of electric vehicles can be a positive contribution to air quality, as they emit fewer greenhouse gases and air pollutants than petrol or diesel cars.

“This new facility can help support drivers make the switch to electric vehicles. It can also encourage electric car drivers to visit the borough, supporting our local businesses, shops and amenities.”

The installation work is being undertaken in partnership with Joju Solar, a leading UK company for electric car charging point installation.

Councillor Neil Dallen added, ***“This initiative is being undertaken with a partner to ensure that the associated costs do not impact on council taxpayers who may want or need to use these new facilities”.***

Following completion of the Hook Road installation, work will then continue on Ashley Road car park and with other council car parks following later this spring. A total of 18 electric chargers will be installed with this number reviewed as use demands.

The installation work may involve some car park bays being fenced off temporarily and some short-term limited disruption to each car park. The council aims to keep disruption to a minimum and reduce any inconvenience to car park users.

The initiative forms part of the council’s aspirations to provide more sustainable transport options in the borough under the theme ‘smart and connected’.

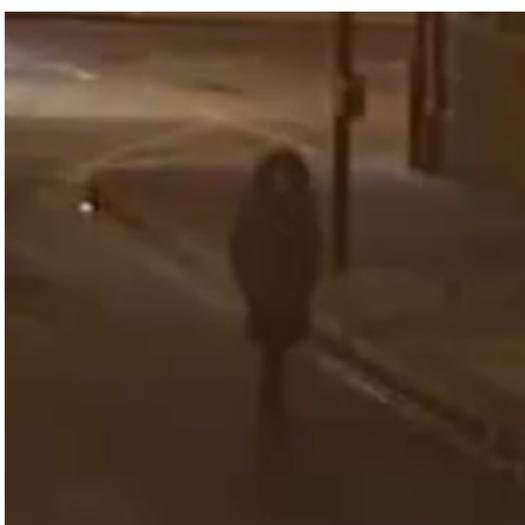
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Want more from us? Read more Council News here.

CCTV appeal following assault in Epsom

26 April 2022





Surrey Police are appealing for assistance in identifying two people who may be able to help them with an assault investigation in Epsom. Officers were called at around 4 am on Sunday, 3 October 2021 following reports that three men had been assaulted on Waterloo Road between Nando's and Epsom Grill. The injuries the victims sustained included bruising, grazes on their face and body, a black eye and an injured knee. Officers have been investigating the assault since it occurred in October, their enquires have recently led them to identify the two witnesses pictured above.

PC Tom Brock said: *"Through the course of our investigation we've identified two people who we believe may have witnessed the assault. We're keen to speak with them both to understand more about what happened. We know the quality of the images is poor but we wanted to release them in the hope someone may recognise themselves or a friend."*

The first person is described as a white male with short brown hair and facial hair. He was wearing glasses, blue jeans, a black padded jacket and black trainers. The second person is described as wearing a long black padded coat with a fur hood pulled over their head.

If you recognise the people in the images or have any information which may help, please get in touch with Surrey Police quoting PR/45210104209 via:

- Webchat on their website [surrey.police.uk](https://www.surrey.police.uk)
- Online <https://www.surrey.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/cor/tell-us-about-existing-case-report/>
- Calling them on 101

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

Rates demand puts temporary brake on Ukraine charity

26 April 2022



UPDATE - Monday 11th April - EEBC: "Having reviewed the documentation and made the necessary checks, [the charity] qualif[ies] for the additional rate relief." Good news for Ukraine.

Monday 4th April Ashley Centre based Surrey Stands With Ukraine received from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, a demand for business rates of £1229 per month. Immediately the charity applied for discretionary relief as they have had to halt purchases of medical supplies. Local MP Chris Grayling has supported the waiver applied for. Thursday 7th a Council spokesman answered the Times: "There is a formal process we have to follow for charitable rate relief, I can confirm this process is underway. There will be no request for payment while we process this. I cannot give a specific date for completion but I can confirm this is being treated as a priority." Nataliya Irvine of SSWU responded: "We understand a computer probably generated the demand but it needs an urgent human intervention to reach a decision. We appreciate and thank the Council for processing an application we made for a street collection licence very quickly, so we know they can."

Want more from us? Read more Council News here.

Menuhin Hall Concert raises money for Ukraine

26 April 2022



Pictured above: celebrated violinist Boris Kucharsky

Wednesday 30th March 2022 15 year old Ukrainian violin virtuoso Vadym Perig led the concert, accompanied by Ukrainian pianist Svitlana Kosenko, in renditions of Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk's "Melody" - (that stirs the heart of every Ukrainian) and his Spanish Dance.

They were followed by Ukrainian pianist Dinara Klinton playing Rachmaninov's Elegie.

Sublime performances all the more remarkable to be accomplished considering the emotional turmoil being felt by the players from the violence being inflicted on their homeland.

The programme continued to a near capacity audience in the superb Menuhin Hall in Stoke D'Abernon with a Mozart duet for violin and viola and a student and school alumni ensemble, including the School's Director of Music Ashley Wass at the piano and soprano Mary Bevan, in Faure's magical La Bonne Chanson.



Yehudi Menuhin, the hall's namesake, widely celebrated violinist and conductor

After an interval during which some of the Ukrainian ticket holders had the comfort of meeting Dinara Kinton, celebrated violinist Boris Kucharsky and student ensemble stretched their arm muscles to the limits in a performance of Brahms's very energetic String Sextet No 2 in G major.

Programme sales and collections raised money for the Disaster Emergency Committee's funds for humanitarian relief for Ukraine.

The Menuhin Hall is a somewhat hidden gem only 20 minutes drive from Epsom and Ewell. You can see its programme of concerts at <https://themenuhinhall.co.uk/>

Epsom Choral Society opens its centenary celebration 2022

26 April 2022



From Epsom Choral Society

This year Epsom Choral Society celebrates its Centenary and is doing so in style!

Our first concert was on **Saturday 19th March 2022** at St Martin's Church, Epsom attended by The Mayor, Peter Donovan and his wife. For this concert, the audience was treated to Vivaldi's *Gloria*, one of the most popular pieces from the Italian Baroque era, as well as three works which were all written for Epsom Choral Society - Cecilia McDowall's *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*, Jonathan Willcocks' *O Joyful Soul* and Adrian Payne's *I Hid My Love*.

The soloists were Lisa Swayne, soprano, Helen Semple, soprano and Carolyn Holt, alto, all top-class young professionals and the concert was conducted by Epsom Choral Society's Musical Director Julian Collings.



Epsom Choral Society with Mayor Peter Donovan and his wife

Our other concerts in this Centenary year include **Songs from the Shows** in St Andrews Church, Cheam on 25th June 2022, **Messiah** at the Epsom Playhouse on Saturday 3rd December 2022 and our ever-popular Christmas Concert on Saturday 17th December.

Epsom Choral Society is Epsom's longest established choir and has continued to sing throughout the pandemic. At first via Zoom, then rehearsing outside in a garden and even, thanks to the kindness of the Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, live-streaming a concert in a car park which was heard by over 5,000 local residents thanks to What's On In My Town.

Continued ...

Briefing notes:

1. Epsom Choral Society has been singing for 100 years and has around 90 singers. It usually puts on at least four concerts each year which attract a loyal following. Epsom Choral Society is a friendly choir - they do not require auditions but do aim for high performance standards. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings under the baton of their Musical Director, Julian Collings. www.epsomchoral.org.uk
2. Cecilia McDowall composed *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* in 2009 for Epsom Choral Society as a tribute to Handel on the 250th anniversary of his death, with words taken from *Messiah*. It was first performed by Epsom Choral Society on 21st March 2009 at St Martin's Church, Epsom.
3. Jonathan Willcocks' *O Joyful Soul* was premiered by Epsom Choral Society on 30th June 2018. It was commissioned in memory of Cecil Wiltshire who had sung with the choir for 67 years, funded from the generous legacy that he left the choir. The piece's five movements were selected from religious and secular texts that encapsulated both his interests and his gentle and generous nature.
4. Adrian Payne's *I Hid My Love* received its world premiere by Epsom Choral Society on 15th June 2013 at St Martin's Church, Epsom. It was performed again the following year at the European Choral Festival in Überlingen in Germany and the choir has sung it on tour in France and The Netherlands. Adrian has sung with the choir for 25 years.

Contact: Nina Kaye: publicity@epsomchoral.org.uk, 07778 406834



Epsom Choral Society rehearsing in the 60s



Epsom Choral Society rehearsing in 2022