EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

26th November 2026

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# Inspirational Surrey Syrian awarded

21 October 2022



**Surrey Arts** inclusion music teacher **Raghad Haddad** has won the Inspirational Music Leader Award at the Youth Music Awards 2022. Raghad received her award on 19 October in Troxy London in recognition of her work for Surrey Arts as a diverse leader of refugee background, supporting vulnerable children in Surrey.

Raghad Haddad is a viola player from Yabroud, a small town in the mountains north of Damascus. Since being granted asylum in the UK in 2018 she has performed at numerous charity events in London and Brighton and recently performed with Damon Albarn, The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and The Orchestra of Syrian Musicians.

On behalf of Surrey Arts Raghad has worked on multiple projects supporting vulnerable children including SEND and refugee children and has been the executive producer of a major international music project involving the United Nations and 120 participants from around the world.

After finding out she won the award, Raghad said: *"I was speechless when they announced my name as the winner of the Inspirational Music Leader at the Youth Music Award 2022 this week!*

*"It's such an honour to have received this award and I'm so grateful to my colleagues at Surrey Arts for the support they have given me since I arrived in the UK from Syria.*

*"Thank you for giving me the opportunity, not only to rebuild my own life but also the privilege to help others affected by war, poverty, climate change and discrimination. Sadly, the need to support displaced communities is not getting smaller and I look forward to supporting more of your transformational projects in the months and years ahead*."

**Kavyan Hajirostami** also won the Young Leader Award for their work with Big Leaf. Big Leaf support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) across Surrey and work closely with Surrey Arts on a range of music and arts projects. You can find more information about Big Leaf here: https://www.bigleaffoundation.org.uk/

Surrey County Council news

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# Surrey Art for Ukraine

21 October 2022



**ShedArt Gallery** will be painting for **Epsom** based **Surrey Stands With Ukraine** during **Mole Valley Arts Alive** in October. There will be paintings of sunflowers and other subjects in different media and sizes. All proceeds from the sale of these paintings will go towards a bus pass for a local Ukrainian family and the rest will go directly to the charity.

In addition to the Ukraine-themed paintings, there will be over 100 other works on display including from two new artists who have recently joined the Gallery. These events are always a lot of fun for everyone and it's a chance to meet the local artists and see how they work.

One artist has welcomed a Ukrainian family into her home and the gallery has become aware of how difficult it is for them to live in a different country and not able to speak English and hence not able to work. They decided to help by dedicating wall space in their gallery to Ukraine. Some of the artists have chosen sunflowers as their theme. Some will donate a piece of their existing work to this cause.

In addition to the Ukraine-themed paintings, there will be over 100 other works on display including from two new artists who have recently joined the Gallery. These events are always a lot of fun for everyone and it's a chance to meet the local artists and see how they work.

ShedArt Gallery is located in Harlow House Barn, Dukes Road, Newdigate RH5 5BX Telephone: 07851 71395

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(Do not use Post Code on SatNav. Enter from Rusper Road end – no entry from Partridge Lane)

There is free parking and toilets, with complementary tea and coffee available. Please note that there is a small flight of stairs to access the studio.

Admission is FREE.

www.shedartgallery.com shedart@shedartgallery facebook.com/Shedartgallery Instagram.com/Shedartgallery

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# Ukrainian refugees made welcome by King’s rep.

21 October 2022



Vice Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Sir Stephen Lamport came to Epsom Saturday 24th September. Addressing an audience in Epsom Methodist Church he condemned the aggression of Russian President Putin. He welcomed to Surrey those refugees from Ukraine who have come. He applauded the work of local charities, including Surrey Stands With Ukraine.

His speech was followed by 90 minutes of classical music performed by Ukrainian musicians. Sergei Sinkovski and Yevheniia Semydilko played Bartok duets on violins and Vivaldi. Kateryna Bolkunevych sang Casta Diva from Bellini’s opera Norma and Song to the Moon by Dvorak. Her powerful voice filling the vaulted Worship Hall. She was accompanied by pianist Bogdana Ravliuk who played Ukrainian composer Lysenko’s elegy.

Epsom poet Audrey Ardern-Jones, who’s Ukrainian mother fled Kiev in WWII to escape the Nazi occupation read three poems including a haiku. Translated and read in Ukrainian by the evening’s co-presenter Darina Dvorinchenko.

Young star of Surrey’s Yehudi Menuhin School of Music, Vadym Perog, born in Odessa, played a Mozart sonata for violin accompanied on the piano by Svitlana Kosenko.

The evening was crowned by Juliya Komyshan who brought tears from the standing audience with the Ukrainian national anthem. She played and sang other music using the traditional Ukrainian bandura instrument; to the amazement of all.

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# Piano jazz cabaret in Epsom

21 October 2022




Jazz pianist Gabriel Latchin’s Trio performed in the Oaks Room (Conservative Club, Church St Epsom) on Tuesday last. The ever-growing **Epsom Jazz Club** audience were thrilled with the booking. The Trio performed wonderfully varied sets featuring unique versions of songs by Bossa Nova pioneer João Gilberto, a beautiful reworking of “They All Laughed” by the inimitable Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong, and Latchin’s own composition “Carlora” (a dedication to his parents).

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Gabriel Latchin, Jeremy Brown and Josh Morrison

American jazz bassist Christian McBride is quoted as saying “Gabriel is an excellent musician and one hell of a nice guy”. No-one could possibly argue with that.

He’s made a name for himself as one of the UK’s finest musicians, known for his effortlessly swinging feel, deep repertoire and compelling performances, and Epsom’s Tuesday night crowd lapped the three musicians up.

**Gabriel Latchin** was accompanied on stage by the rock-solid **Jeremy Brown** on double bass and long-standing collaborator **Josh Morrison** on drums. A truly wonderful Jazz Trio and understandably a number of the audience were keen to purchase and take home a personalised CD.




Juliya Komyshan plays Bandura

And if that wasn’t enough, Epsom Jazz Club had also organised an interval act! Ukrainian refugee **Yulia Komyshan** had previously performed on the Bandura at a Ukrainian Music Evening held at Epsom Methodist Church, and her remarkable rendition of a blues number went down equally well this week with the Jazz enthusiasts. Incidentally, there’s another Ukrainian Music Evening this Saturday 24th September – again featuring Yulia and her Bandura!

The next Gabriel Latchin Trio album is scheduled for release in early 2023. But until then we’ll just have to make do with listening to his first three albums “Introducing”, “The Moon And I” and “I’ll Be Home For Christmas” on rotation.

Epsom Jazz Club returns with its monthly residency at The Oaks Room on Tuesday 18th October, featuring the ever-gigging and ever-swinging **London Django Collective**. This is sure to be a popular concert – for more information and to purchase tickets in advance visit EpsomJazzClub.com

@EpsomJazzClub on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook

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# UCA Epsom MA Graduation Show 2022

21 October 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.

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# UCA tips for clearing

21 October 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 in a creative subject is no longer just about following your passion – it's a sound career choice" says **Julian Henry, UCA's Head of Student Recruitment**.

"If you're looking at courses in Clearing, choosing a creative degree, can help you develop the skills that employers of the future are looking for – innovation, problem-solving and collaboration. You might also be surprised by the types of creative courses on offer, such digital art, games design or even business degrees focused on creative thinking."

For students thinking beyond a traditional degree and looking for a course that will let their imagination run free, the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) in Epsom offers its top tips for Clearing.

1. **Don't panic – just breathe!** Take the time to think about what you want from your course and what you want to get from your university experience.
2. **Focus on your strengths.** Think about what you're passionate aboutand the skills you have that are often undervalued in traditional subjects, like imagination, curiosity and open-mindedness.
3. **Keep an open mind and think outside the box.** Want to pursue a creative career – then think creatively about what you study – you might be surprised by the range of creative courses on offer.
4. **It's not all about grades**. It's fine to change your mind about your what you want to study but do think about whether your qualifications and personal statement are still relevant. At UCA we consider more than just grades – we want to know about your creative potential.
5. **Check out your options**. Don't wait until Clearing Day to start looking at universities and courses, ask questions online or sign-up to online events to find out more.
6. **Think about what you need.** Universities come in all shapes and sizes. At UCA we are focused on creating a personal, supportive and close-knitted communities.
7. **Contact someone and ask questions.** If you're curious about a course, contact the university and ask questions. There's no commitment and you might just learn something from the way they respond.

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“When you choose to study a creative degree, you’ll be stepping into more than a games design studio, film set or architecture workshop – you’ll be stepping into a lifetime of learning, creating, and opportunities.”



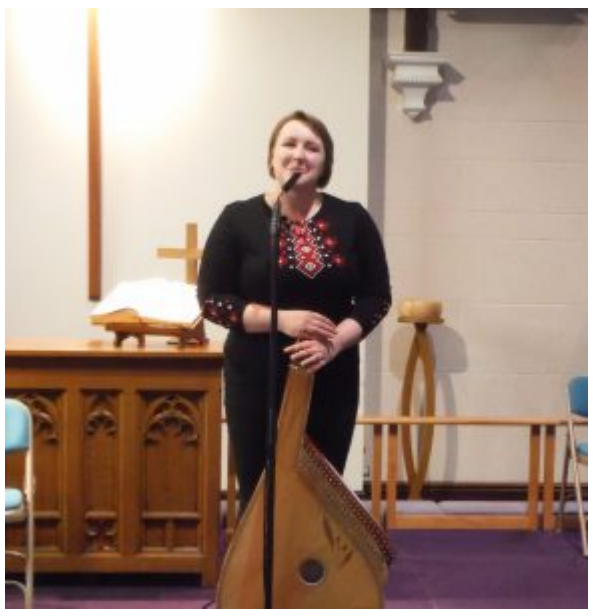
A recent graduate from UCA **Alex Rahneva** enthuses.

“UCA gave me the opportunity to become more independent through self-work and be able to adapt to different circumstances. I think the key skill I’ve learnt for my future is the resilience to create independent work.
And the advice I would give to students would be, believe in your work and trust your talent. It might be very daunting to put yourself out there but at the end of the day, making connections is all about showcasing your work, your skills, and your creative ability to innovate. Industry experts recognise and value this above all else!

I’ve had plenty of opportunities at UCA to meet and network with people from the creative industries, including amazing networking opportunities with industry experts at Graduate Fashion Week. As well as opportunities to meet and network with companies like Meta/Facebook and USP (Unique Style Platform), having won awards sponsored by them at UCA’s Business School for the Creative Industries Industry Awards 2022. Both experiences have been eye-opening and gave me experience and guidance on how to make my way into the fast-paced and global creative industry.”

# Blues on a bandura blow minds in Epsom

21 October 2022



Ukrainian refugee musicians delighted a packed audience in the Epsom Methodist Church Saturday 30th July. On behalf of the local community **Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Cllr Clive Woodbridge** extended a warm welcome to all Ukrainian refugees and thanked the sacrifices of local hosts who have taken them into their homes.

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Organised by **Lionel Blackman** with **Nina Kaye of Epsom Refugee Network** and **Surrey Stands With Ukraine,** the evening was compered by **Darina Dvorinchenko,** a refugee from Odessa, who also conducted all the required interpretation.

In response to the Mayor professional pianist **Natalia Zadorizhna** expressed the deep gratitude to our community for all we are doing in standing with her country in the “evil time”. And that gratitude was demonstrated by fine performances also from her young daughter **Diana**, who played the piano and recited from memory and in English the Ukrainian poem “**Love Ukraine**” by **Volodymyr Sosiura**.



Packed audience at Epsom Methodist Church

Young **Liza Pryiemska** played piano, recited the poem in Ukrainian and sang beautifully. 21 year old **Tetiana Zheliba** at short notice replacing an artist who fell sick, took to the fine grand piano at EMC for two compositions.

Young 16 year old **Nika Vlasova** played **Schubert’s “The Bee”** solo on violin.

Like a winged harp carrying angel **Yulia Komyshan**, recently arrived from Ukraine, had heard about the event on a social network and simply turned up unannounced, **Bandura** in hand. She crowned the night with the audience standing to the national song and included in her performance was a remarkable rendition of a blues number. She certainly blew the blues away. The audience all rose to their feet in a sustained ovation for these remarkably talented and brave Ukrainians.

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Darina Dvorinchenko, Mayor of Epsom and Ewell Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Natalia and Diana Zadorizhna, Liza Pryiemska, Tetiana Zheliba, Nika Vlasova and Yuliya Komyshan with her Ukrainian bandura.

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# Epsom bobby who guarded No.10 publishes novel on his 80th.

21 October 2022




Epsom man **Philip Lovel** celebrates his 80th birthday today (Thursday 28 July) in the knowledge that he has successfully published his first ever novel – a classic ‘whodunnit’ now available on Amazon and at bookshops.

Philip is a retired police officer who has lived in Epsom for almost fifty years and has had a decades-long ambition to write. The result was the 190-page crime thriller ‘**The Tribulations of Miss Glass’**, published through London publishing house **Austin Macauley**.

Set in the 1920s and 1930s, the novel tells the story of a missing headmistress, a murder and mysterious goings-on in and around a small town in the Midlands. The enigmatic schoolteacher Letitia Glass and her disappearing colleague are at the centre of the action – with fictional detectives Chief Inspector Martin
and Inspector Carlsen on the trail.

The book’s twists and turns aim to keep readers guessing. Will Miss Glass – who can be cruel and kind in quick succession – reveal her secrets? And whose is the body in the quarry?

Philip said: “I had great fun writing it and am delighted the book has now been published. I drew on my policing experience from the 1960s and 1970s and then adapted it. Policing a century ago was very different to now – no radios, no DNA, and operating under different laws and procedures.” He adds: “A few of the characters are amalgamations of

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teachers and other people I knew from my childhood growing up in Malvern, Worcestershire and later at work but I don't think anyone will recognise themselves!"

Philip plans to spend his birthday in Epsom, celebrating with family – and his new status as a published author.



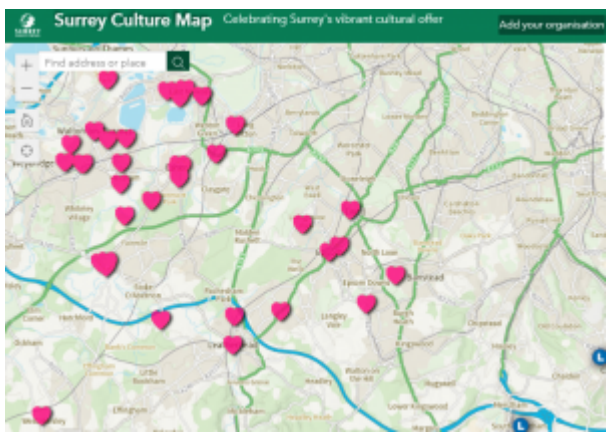
The author Philip Lovel today

The Tribulations of Miss Glass is published by Austin Macauley wwww.austinmacauley.com.

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# Epsom & Ewell – get yourself on the County culture map!

21 October 2022




**Surrey County Council** and partners are making Surrey culture count. A new cultural website has been launched which aims to put Surrey Culture firmly on the map.

The new website and cultural map will be a good resource for those living in or visiting Surrey to find out about all the rich, diverse, and inclusive cultural events. This will also enable the creative industries in Surrey to network, keep up to date and ensure they've been counted on the map.




**Susan Wills MBE** Assistant Director Arts, Culture & Libraries said;

"Surrey is a place where creative people, ideas and enterprises thrive, and where everyone has equal access to and benefits from a rich, diverse and inclusive culture. We want to support the cultural sector by raising awareness of all the great things on offer in Surrey, and provide a resource  to empower the sector to further develop and enhance initiatives . We want our residents and visitors to Surrey to understand what a truly great cultural offer there is right on their doorstep."

**Mark Nuti** Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities said "I think residents in Surrey will be surprised at the vast range of cultural activities going on in their local communities. We'd love you to take a look at the new cultural website to

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find out more.”

**Epsom and Ewell Times** has reached out to all its local culture contacts to make them aware. Play your part and spread the word…..

Visit **surreycc.gov.uk/culture**

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# Come to Epsom not Mayfair for fine art

21 October 2022



The **Ashley Centre’s** new pop up art gallery has extended it’s stay until 31st July – plus the show, which is now open daily, has also added work by four new artists. Situated opposite Moka cafe in the main concourse, the Pop Up Gallery now displays work by a dozen west London and **Surrey based artists**.




With a mixture of styles from traditional landscape, abstract pieces through figure painting, to technicolour animals and graffiti style urban street art, there is something for everyone ! And with prices starting at only £20, this summer is a great time to start your original art collection.

Landscape painter **Jane Scofield** joins **Dilys Foster** and **Di Phelps Lester**: all inspired by the natural world , they produce colourful atmospheric landscapes in acrylic and mixed media. **Stephen Doak** works in cut paper and collage as well as painting mid century inspired coloured abstracts.

Russian born **Yulia Robinson** favours bright colours and pieces often featuring beautiful birds in dreamlike landscapes . **Raph Thomas** is a young artists who has produced a whole animal kingdom of technicolour animals. If there isn’t your favourite animal in his portfolio, he takes commissions.

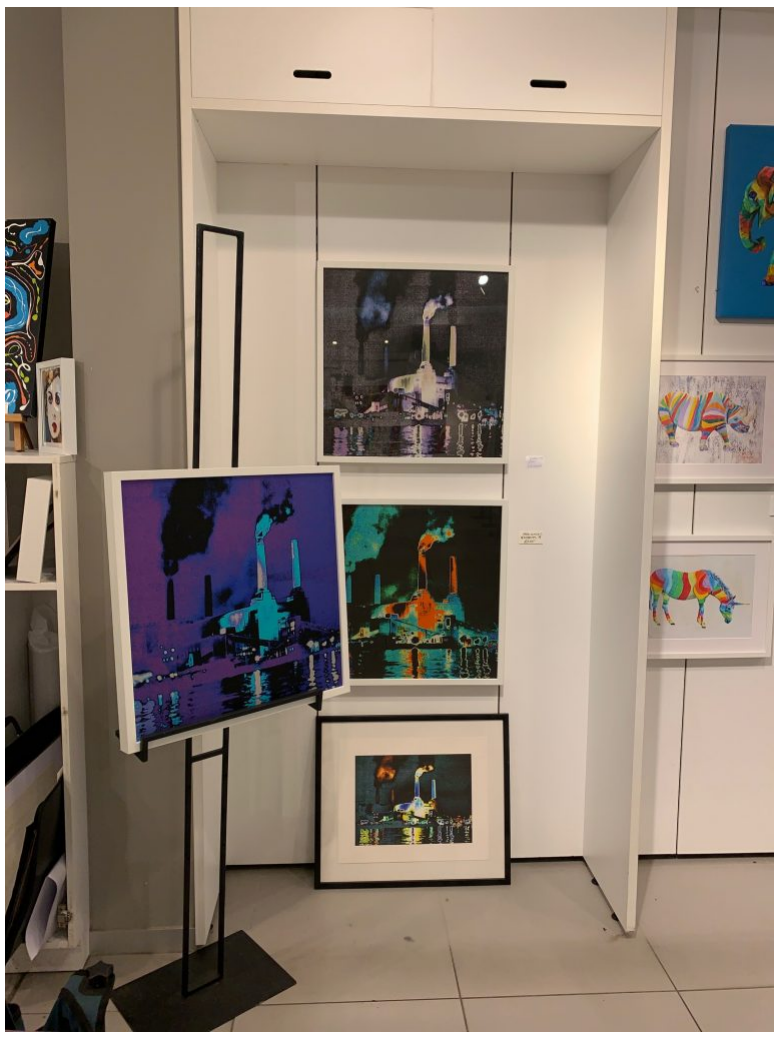
**Luis Alvarez** and **Emma Champion** both use texts and captions in their work . Though in very different styles, art lovers with a taste for text can find a message for their walls here.

Since opening at the Ashley Centre, **Kate Winskill‘s** iconic Battersea Power Station print  works have proved really popular , whilst she has also added new  figurative paintings to the show.

Younger customers have been drawn to **Lauren Mavromatis**’ powerful autobiographical digital drawings, whilst songwriter and artist **Rory Thomas** infuses his paintings and prints with lyrics from his songs. And if music is a major feature in your life, check out **Emelia Jacks**’ Dancing on Paper monochrome series of prints and paintings inspired by specific songs.

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Prices are affordable too, with prints from £20 and originals from £45 , so there has never been a better time to look for something to brighten up your home. And you don’t have to wait until the end of the show to collect your purchase , as sold art is replaced daily .

**The gallery is staffed by the artists**, so you can find out more about how they work. They all undertake commissions, so if you are looking for a bespoke artwork, come and see what they can offer.

Big paintings are delivered free locally and prints can be posted on customer’s behalf as gifts.

Want to see work in your own home? **Home visits around Epsom** with selected artworks can be booked by appointment with the artists.
Open daily 10.30 – 5.30pm and Sundays 10.30-4.30pm until 31st July 2022

For further information, visit www.arthousegalleries.live or email winskill.kate@gmail.com

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# Top line Jazz soothes the heart of Epsom

21 October 2022




Sandwiched between weekend Festival performances to sizeable crowds in Harrogate and Swanage, **Jo Harrop** delighted Epsom Jazz Club’s modest audience on 7th July by taking to the stage for a sublime midweek concert.

Wonderfully accompanied by local jazz guitarist Nigel Price, Dave Chamberlain on double bass, and Matt Home on drums, Jo effortlessly commanded the room with songs from Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, and more.

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Image – Terry Tomlinson

After moving to London from her home city of Durham, Jo quickly established herself as one of the most unmistakable voices in British jazz, performing everywhere from Ronnie Scott's to the Royal Albert Hall. Epsom Jazz Club is still in its infancy having only been launched in 2022, and was elated to welcome Jo in the midst of her busy touring schedule.

Epsom Jazz Club rests in August and will announce its Autumn programme soon.

More at EpsomJazzClub.com

@EpsomJazzClub on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook

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# UK's 2022 Top Jazz Award nominees to play in Epsom

21 October 2022



**Jo Harrop** is one of 4 nominees for the prestigious annual Parliamentary jazz award for vocalist of the year 2022.
Epsom's own **Nigel Price**, the UK's foremost guitarist and founder of the UK wide jazz club supporting Grassroots Jazz , has been nominated for the annual award for services to jazz.
The winners will be announced at PizzaExpress Live, Holborn, London on Tuesday 5th July.
Both nominees will play in Epsom on **Thursday 7th July at 7.30pm** at the **Epsom Jazz Club** in The Oaks Room in the Conservative Club, Church Street, Epsom.
You can book your tickets for Epsom Jazz Club 7th July for a great evening of jazz.

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# Epsom Choral works 100 years

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**Epsom Choral Society** (ECS), which is celebrating its Centenary this year, put on a spirited performance at its "**Songs from the Shows**" concert on Saturday 25th June at St Andrews Church in Cheam.



The choir has traditionally concentrated on lighter repertoire for its summer concert and this year it caught the mood with a programme of medleys from famous musicals such as Porgy and Bess, Guys and Dolls and Oklahoma! Les Misérables received particularly enthusiastic applause. The evening was enhanced by two soloists from the Epsom Light Opera Company: Lian Downes, who performed 'Meadowlark' from The Baker's Wife and James Turnbull, who sang 'Empty Chairs at Empty Tables' from Les Misérables. The evening came together under the expert baton of Musical Director Julian Collings with a band which, despite being much reduced by the rail strike, provided all the rhythm and colour needed for a great evening.

The final concert in the choir's Centenary Season will be **Handel's Messiah at Epsom Playhouse** on Saturday 3rd December, and ECS would love to see you there. What better way to celebrate 100 years of singing? Visit their website HERE



# Epsom's first Oaks race winner for sale

21 October 2022

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Epsom based sculptor Kendra Haste has created a painted galvanised wire sculptor of Lord Derby's 1779 inaugural Oaks winner, Bridget. Epsom's own "The Oaks" became the second oldest "classic" horse race after Doncaster's 1776 St Leger. The Oaks race is for three year old fillies and is run over 1 mile, 4 furlongs and 6 yards of Epsom's Downs racecourse. So called as the first race started from Edward Smith Stanley, 12th Earl of Derby's estate, in the area now known as Oaks Park in Carshalton.




Kendra Haste at her workshop. *Image Iona Nicol*

Bridget, a thoroughbred, was kept in a stable block on the estate and has a very special link to Kendra. 243 years later, the building is home to the sculptor's studio.

The piece depicted above is the first in a series of small unique maquette sculptures depicting Bridget. For further information about these works, you can enquire here.

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# ESO and a Moldovan "rock" an Epsom audience.

21 October 2022

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Sunday 15th May 2022 local music lovers gathered for Epsom Symphony Orchestra's second concert of the year. Long-standing conductor Darrell Davison introduced the programme with his customary relaxed style. Edward Elgar, the 20th century's quintessential English composer, borrowed his 18th century predecessor, George Handel's strings and two oboe Overture in D Minor and converted the work for a full symphony orchestra. The unmistakable Elgarian tones overlaid a familiar Handelian form.

Now warmed up ESO's 52 players embraced Brahms' violin concerto with gusto and together with young Moldovan violinist Ionel Manciu demonstrated the acoustic prowess of Epsom Playhouse's main auditorium. Not a single nuanced whisper of Manciu's strings could be missed from the back of the Hall. As if Manciu's technical skills had not been demonstrated enough during his improvisations in the 2nd movement he treated his audience to an encore of Grigora Dinicu's "The Clock," where the tick-tock of time was plucked from the neck of his instrument with his left-hand rather that the usual right bow-hand near the bridge.

The concert ended with Dvorak's next most popular symphony after "The New World" 9th, namely the 8th. If there is any doubt about the value for money and time attending your local orchestra performing in a local venue, then the final stupendous bars of the Symphony, being played with an energy and precision equal to anything you might hear in a London concert hall, set those doubts to rest.

ESO's next concert is on Saturday 15th October 2022 featuring Nielsen's Helios Overture, Grieg's Piano Concerto and Sibelius's Second Symphony. Visit www.epsomsymphony.co.uk and Epsom Playhouse for tickets. Do support your local orchestra. In particular encourage the Borough's younger generation to experience the excitement of 54 skilled musicians on stage "rocking" with sounds that only ignorance stands in the way of enjoying.

By our special and independent music correspondent – Lionel Blackman.

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