



## Epsom and Ewell Youngsters Join Thousands for Day of Outdoor Adventure

17 June 2025



Over 2,000 Beaver Scouts and Rainbows take part in Surrey's Bazzaz event

Young adventurers from Cuddington, Epsom, Stoneleigh, and Ewell were among more than 2,000 Beaver Scouts, Rainbows, and volunteers who gathered at Merrist Wood in Guildford last weekend for *Bazzaz* – Surrey's flagship activity day for 6- to 8-year-olds.

Held every three years, *Bazzaz* offers a rare opportunity for children to immerse themselves in over 100 action-packed activities, ranging from caving and rock climbing to tomahawk throwing, circus skills, go-karts and inflatable obstacle courses. The event aims to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience through fun and challenge.

Despite soaring temperatures, participants were well-prepared with sun hats, sunscreen and plenty of water. A midday highlight was an unexpected treat as the **Red Arrows** flew overhead, returning from the King's Birthday celebrations in London.

Feedback from the young participants was as bright as the weather:

"I had lots of fun and I liked the train ride," said Sam, aged 7, from Epsom.

"Caving was the best because it was challenging and I made a new friend," added Matthew, 7, from Guildford.

Emily, aged 5, from Woking, said: "It was awesome! I enjoyed climbing because I haven't tried that before."

Milly, 6, from Haslemere, shared: "I liked making my dad a Father's Day card."

And Noah, 7, from Banstead, summed it up simply: "I liked doing all the activities with my friends."

The event was supported by an army of adult volunteers, without whom such experiences would not be possible. Richard, a Beaver Scout leader from Surrey, said: "It was a brilliant day for everyone. Some activities were pure fun, others focused on building #SkillsForLife – all of them gave the children something special to take away."

### About Beavers and Rainbows

**Beaver Scouts** (ages 6-8) and **Rainbows** (ages 5-7) are part of the UK's long-established Scouting and Girlguiding organisations. Together, they offer thousands of children a safe and inclusive environment to learn through play, develop life skills, and enjoy the outdoors.

Nationally, the Scout Association offers over 200 different activities – from abseiling to coding – supported by more than 100,000 volunteers. But demand continues to outpace capacity, with nearly 30,000 young people currently on waiting lists across the UK.

To find out more about volunteering with Scouts in Surrey, visit [surrey-scouts.org.uk](http://surrey-scouts.org.uk)

## Epsom Square's Music Festival in the round

17 June 2025



Saturday 14th June. In a town better known for its racecourse than rock and roll, Epsom discovered a new spirit last weekend with the first-ever Epsom Square Music Festival – an ambitious, joyful celebration of grassroots talent and community spirit.

"We just wanted to get more music into Epsom," said Toy, the festival's organiser, speaking from Metropolis (formerly Epsom Social) which served as the hub of the day-long event. "As a new venue, it felt right to do something for the community."

The result was ambitious by any measure: three outdoor stages and over 100 performers across 39 acts, playing everything from acoustic soul to funk and rock. The diversity wasn't only musical, either. "We had performers as young as four, maybe younger," Toy said, "and then, of course, we had the proper grown-ups too." The result was a line-up that reflected the whole community, mirroring Epsom in all its lively charm.

The festival came together in just six weeks, a feat made possible by local support and backing from sponsors such as Epsom Picturehouse, Go Epsom, Epsom & Ewell Families, and music retailers Guitar Guitar and Realistic Music Academy, both of which sponsored their own stages. "We're so lucky in this town," said Toy. "There are so many individuals who are brilliant at what they do that, if you decide to throw together a music festival in six weeks – it's entirely doable," she laughed. "Though next time, I'd like a bit more lead time."

Toy, who also runs the Realistic Music Academy, knows the town's creative undercurrent better than most. Attracting performers was "actually really easy", she said, as she "just put out a post, and suddenly we had 38 acts signed up... the interest is absolutely there."

The crowds clearly agreed. Nearly 500 free tickets were 'sold' in advance, but many more drifted into the square over the weekend, drawn by the buzz of the music and conversation.

On stage, highlights came thick and fast from a variety of performers, but it was local newcomers Vault, a four-piece with an average age of just 14, who perhaps best captured the festival's mission. "This is the only way for us to get out there," they said. "There should be more venues – other than Metropolis, there's not many places for us to play."

Toy, who also runs Realistic Music Academy, agrees. "There's definitely a need for more places to play music in Epsom," she said. "I'd love to do this again next year. I just want more of it – more stages, more performers, more everything."



But beyond the lively crowds and standout performances, the weekend carried a deeper message: local music matters, community matters – and when Epsom comes together, it's capable of creating something genuinely special. A triumph of town spirit – and, with any luck, the start of something much bigger.

For those who love jazz Epsom's own Epsom Jazz Club stages monthly live jazz nights with quality national and international artists at the Epsom centrally located Comrades Club in The Parade Epsom. The next jazz evening at 7.30pm is Thursday 26th June featuring Atlanticus. See [www.epsomjazzclub.com](http://www.epsomjazzclub.com) for details.

Donovan Livesey

Photo is of the band "Vault".

## Epsom Joins National 'Great Get Together' Inspired by Jo Cox's Legacy of Unity

17 June 2025



**A celebration of community spirit and shared humanity is coming to Epsom on Saturday as part of a nationwide initiative inspired by the late MP Jo Cox.**

Hosted by local charity *Good Company (Surrey)*, the free event—branded *The Great Get Together*—will take place in Epsom and promises an afternoon of food, music, games and family entertainment. The day will begin with a formal welcome from the Mayor of Epsom and Ewell, Councillor Robert Leach, accompanied by the Mayoress.

The event is one of hundreds taking place across the UK this weekend to honour the message of Jo Cox, the Labour MP for Batley and Spen who was murdered in 2016. Cox is remembered for her powerful maiden speech in Parliament, in which she said: *"We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us."* Her words have since become the cornerstone of an annual campaign celebrating unity and community cohesion.

In Epsom, the programme includes live performances from the Ukrainian Choir, a Disney singalong, and the Freedom Pulse Brass Band. Children will be kept busy with games, crafts, a treasure hunt, and even Crazy Golf. There will also be henna hand-painting and a showcase of artisan goods.

Jo Sherring, who leads the *Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network*, said the day is about bringing people together:

"Hosting a community event like The Great Get Together allows us to bring people from all walks of life together in a spirit of unity, friendship and shared humanity. It's an opportunity to celebrate our diversity, forge new connections, and show that Epsom is a place where everyone belongs."

*Good Company (Surrey)*, the charity behind the event, also operates the Epsom & Ewell Food Bank, the local Refugee Network, and community pantries in Epsom and Banstead.

While the event is free to attend, organisers ask that attendees book tickets in advance via the QR code on promotional flyers or the charity's website, where a full afternoon timetable is also available.

*The Great Get Together* campaign is run by The Jo Cox Foundation and aims to encourage people across the UK to bridge divides and build stronger, more connected communities. The Foundation states: *"Change starts at the community level; we all have the power to make a difference."*

Further information about the national initiative can be found at:

□ <https://www.jocofoundation.org/our-work/stronger-communities/great-get-together/>

### Contact for local event:

Jo Sherring

Lead, Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network

□ 07849 631747

□ [jo@goodcompany.org.uk](mailto:jo@goodcompany.org.uk)

## Epsom Red Cross Volunteer honoured by King

17 June 2025



A British Red Cross volunteer from Epsom who has spent 40 years with the organisation has been awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the King's Birthday Honours.

Jon Richards, 61, followed in his mum's footsteps as a volunteer with the British Red Cross and has worked across a number of different services during his four decades with the charity.

Jon enjoys helping individuals and families, having attended numerous callouts across the South East as well as helping at rest centres. This included an incident in 2014 when Jon volunteered for four days straight, supporting people caught up in severe flooding in London and Brighton, and in 2017, when he supported the response at Grenfell Tower.

Jon, who also met his wife through the British Red Cross, said: "It's a real honour to be given a British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours for my time volunteering with the British Red Cross.



"We work hard to help people who face the most difficult challenges in life and I'm very proud to be recognised with this award."

Described as a modest and quiet man by his colleagues, Jon's knowledgeable, methodical, and calm approach builds trust with both service users and partner agencies. On one of his most recent callouts, Jon supported in a case of hoarding, where the member of the public would not allow firefighters or social services into their home, but felt comfortable allowing Jon in to discuss alternative accommodation options.

Jon added: "It's important to show kindness and compassion whenever you're carrying out volunteering duties and having met so many brilliant colleagues over the years at the British Red Cross, I know that everyone here will do everything they can to help those in need."

"Throughout the last 40 years, I've worked in so many different areas of the British Red Cross and had a chance to see how big an impact the work we do can have on communities."

British Red Cross Chief Executive Béatrice Butsana-Sita said: "Jon is an incredible ambassador for the British Red Cross and a fantastic example of the brilliant staff and volunteers that support our vital work."

"For 40 years he has been a huge figure in our Surrey services, giving up his time to support people when they need it most."

"I am delighted to see Jon rewarded for his work with a British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours list and would like to congratulate him on this amazing achievement."

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## Epsom Library celebrates refurbishment this week

17 June 2025



To celebrate its extensive refurbishment, Surrey Libraries is holding a **Taster Week** at **Epsom Library** from **Monday 16 to Saturday 21 June**. The newly transformed Library Hub in the heart of Epsom town centre will offer a vibrant programme of free and ticketed activities for all ages.

### What's On

Throughout the week, visitors can enjoy face painting, yoga, author talks, and the library's regular sessions including **Rhymetime, Storytime, digital support, and craft groups**.

Councillor Denise Turner Stewart, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities, said:

'We know that our Library Hubs are in the heart of our thriving and bustling communities. Every effort has been made to ensure that this investment delivers essential services, event, work, study and socialising spaces that our local residents need and want, creating a lasting legacy to serve our communities now and for years to come.'

Two special exhibitions will be on display during the week:

- **'In the Margins'** - celebrating the voices of marginalised disabled artists.
- **Conquest Art Exhibition** - showcasing work by individuals with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

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### Daily Activities Schedule

#### Monday 16 June

- 10:00am-4:00pm: Digital Skills Support - NHS App help (Drop-in)
- 10:30-11:00am: Rhymetime (Under 5s, free)
- 3:00-4:00pm: Knit & Natter Group (Free)
- 3:45-4:15pm: Craft: *Medieval Flags* (Ages 4+, £1 suggested donation)

#### Tuesday 17 June

- 10:15-10:45am: Storytime (Ages 4-8, free)
- 3:45-4:15pm: Craft: *Helicopters* (Ages 4+, £1 donation)
- 4:00-5:00pm: Author Talk - **S.J. Bennett** (£6, book via Eventbrite)

#### Wednesday 18 June

- 10:00am-12:00pm: Bourne Hall Museum
- 12:00-2:00pm: Digital Buddy Session (Free, book in person)
- 2:00-3:00pm: Talk by Surrey History Centre Archivist **Julian Pooley** (Free, book via Eventbrite)
- 3:00-4:00pm: Exercise Class with Rainbow Centre (Free, book in person)
- 3:45-4:15pm: Craft: *Pirate Flags* (Ages 4+, £1 donation)

#### Thursday 19 June

- 10:30-11:00am: Rhymetime (Under 5s, free)
- 3:45-4:15pm: Craft: *Dinosaurs* (Ages 4+, £1 donation)
- 6:00-6:30pm: Choir Performance - Refugee Network Choir (Free, book in person)

#### Friday 20 June

- 10:00am-4:00pm: **Smoothie Bike** - pedal for a fruity reward
- 2:00-3:00pm: Yoga (All abilities, free, book in person)
- 4:00-5:00pm: Craft: *Butterflies* (Ages 4+, £1 donation)

#### Saturday 21 June - Family Fun Day

- 9:30-11:00am: Face Painting (Ages 4+, £1 donation)
- 12:30-2:00pm: Balloon Modelling (Ages 4+, £1 donation)
- 2:00-3:00pm: Children's Author Workshop with **Sam Stewart** (Ages 8-14, £4, book via Eventbrite)
- 3:45-4:15pm: Craft: *Create Your Own Bookmarks* (Ages 4+, £1 donation)

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### Explore the New Library Hub



Epsom Library now features:

- Flexible event and performance space
- Upgraded furniture and study areas
- Two new meeting rooms
- **Super Access technology:** extended access for members beyond staff hours (book an induction in person)

This refurbishment is part of the first phase of the **Surrey Libraries Transformation Programme**, supported by Surrey County Council's Land and Property and Capital Projects teams.

The initiative aims to improve accessibility, modernise facilities, and offer more to Surrey's communities.

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## Get Involved

- Visit the Epsom Library webpage for more event details.
- **Joining your local library is free** – sign up at the Surrey Libraries website.

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## The Surrey school run or walk?

17 June 2025



### Parents want their children to walk to school, but what holds them back?

Children are the power brokers that can shift parents' habits on the school run – and could be key to making healthier, greener travel choices the norm, according to a new report from the University of Surrey. Commissioned by Surrey County Council and delivered through the University's Institute for Sustainability Innovation Hub, the report looked at how schools across the UK and internationally are encouraging families to walk, cycle or wheel to school instead of driving.

The report's authors found that while families are generally supportive of safer, more active travel, they're often held back by concerns over road safety, time pressures and infrastructure. The most effective initiatives, the report argues, are those that bring together schools, local authorities, planners and families to tackle these issues head-on.

Professor Benjamin Gardner, lead-author of the report from the University of Surrey, said: "The school run is rarely straightforward. Families support safer, active travel, but if we want more children walking or cycling, we need to stop seeing this as just an issue for school staff and parents to deal with. Schemes and reward programmes can spark interest, but they won't bring about changes to the school run unless the wider system supports change. Parents worry about safety, time and whether their child can travel independently. We need a joined-up approach. Lasting change depends on schools, councils, planners and families working together to make walking or cycling feel like the easy and safe option."

Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth at Surrey County Council, said: "We've commissioned this report to better understand how we can support and encourage parents, carers and children to travel to school sustainably. We're investing £5.5m over the next five years to improve road safety to encourage more walking, cycling and wheeling so children can take safer journeys, and to reduce pollution around schools. We're also continuing to deliver Feet First walking training and Bikeability cycling training to provide lifelong road safety skills for Surrey's school children. We're looking forward to working with our schools and others, to design tailored initiatives and infrastructure that will benefit children now and in the future."

The research team reviewed travel initiatives in the UK, Europe and beyond, including Canada, Australia and Brazil. They found that even young children can play a crucial role in influencing their parents' school run choices, especially when schools engage children through activities, lessons or competitions.

Surrey researchers conducted two focus groups with staff and caregivers at Surrey schools, analysed a range of international case studies, and reviewed both academic and grey literature. They used the COM-B model – which looks at capability, opportunity and motivation – to understand what stops or supports families from choosing active travel on the school run. The findings will help shape the Council's new School Travel Effectiveness of Planning (STEP) tool, designed to measure what's working – and what's not – in encouraging active school travel across Surrey.

### About the Innovation Hub

The Innovation Hub is the delivery arm of the University of Surrey's Institute for Sustainability. It brings researchers together with local authorities, businesses and communities to co-create practical responses to real-world challenges. By supporting projects like the School Travel Plan report, the Hub helps translate research into action and strengthen partnerships that benefit both Surrey and the wider region.

To learn more about the project, read the full report at [www.surrey.ac.uk/news/promoting-active-school-travel](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/news/promoting-active-school-travel)

Image: Benjamin Vautier Snow scene (Children leaving school) VA - PICRYL - Public Domain Media

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## Smarter tickets would boost bus travel

17 June 2025



Public transport in Southern England is struggling, not just because of cost or convenience, but because it has failed to keep up with the digital age, according to a new study from the University of Surrey.

In a study published in *Public Transport*, researchers simulated improvements in areas like payment convenience and real-time service updates. The study found that these tech-driven changes could boost bus ridership by over 30%.

Researchers have found that simple innovations, such as easy payment systems, e-ticketing, and mobile applications, can transform public transport, boost ridership, and improve passenger satisfaction.

The study employed a novel analytical approach, Machine Learning Influence Flow Analysis (MIFA), to understand the attitudes and behaviours of bus passengers in Southern England. The team also analysed detailed survey data, which helped them identify the key factors that influence whether people choose the bus over their private cars. These factors were: addressing issues around payment convenience and real-time information can make buses far more appealing.

Dr Wolfgang Garn, one of the authors of the study and Associate Professor in Analytics at the University of Surrey, said:

"We discovered that passengers want a seamless, hassle-free experience. If paying for a bus journey feels complicated or outdated, people are more likely to opt for driving instead. By introducing smart ticketing and contactless payments, alongside mobile apps that provide real-time updates, we can not only make bus travel easier but also more attractive. This isn't just about technology, it's about fundamentally changing how people view public transport."

The study used advanced machine learning methods, including neural networks and random forests, to create predictive models from survey responses. These models enabled the researchers to identify the factors that most strongly influence bus usage decisions. By simulating improvements in passenger sentiment, such as increased satisfaction with payment methods, the MIFA framework can predict how these changes may alter people's willingness to use buses. The results suggest that these technological enhancements could increase bus ridership by over 30%.

The findings also highlight several critical issues that undermine bus usage, including inconvenient payment processes, a lack of clear information about bus routes and fares, and concerns about reliability and security. The research recommends practical solutions such as integrated smartcard payment systems, real-time travel apps, and expanded bus lanes to reduce journey times. Together, these measures can create a public transport system that competes with the convenience of private cars.

Dr Garn continued:

"Integrated ticketing is an option that needs to be further explored. It allows passengers to travel across different public transport modes using a single ticket or system, typically a smart card, for their entire journey. This means a traveller can switch between buses, trains, trams, and other modes of transport without needing to purchase multiple tickets or navigate different payment systems – an issue that arises when governmental policies do not sufficiently guide multiple private bus transport companies. A related study I worked on demonstrated that increased frequency, low fares, and an improved bus network significantly boost bus ridership."

The future of bus travel in Southern England depends on embracing digital convenience and improving the passenger experience. With smart payments and better information at the heart of this transformation, buses can become the preferred mode of travel for many, not the last resort."

Image credit: Geoff Charles, National Library of Wales. Public domain

## Epsom Picturehouse hosts Refugee Week

17 June 2025



**This year's Refugee Week theme, "Community as a Superpower," celebrates the influence and connection with other cultures that enrich us all, offering fresh perspectives, traditions, and stories that shape a more vibrant, inclusive society.**

Between 16-22 June, Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network (EERN) will honour the talents, stories, and successes of the refugees they support through a series of uplifting cultural events and film screenings. Film has a unique way of showing us what unites us—that shared experience of seeing stories on the big screen and sharing the best of our cultures.

**Community is indeed a superpower—especially during Refugee Week—as it reminds us of the strength found in unity. It celebrates the transformative power of welcoming communities to change lives and challenge the narrative around migration.**

## Local Solidarity and Support

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, the Epsom and Ewell community has shown extraordinary solidarity—welcoming refugees into their homes, raising vital funds, and providing practical support to help newcomers rebuild their lives. All members of the community are warmly invited to attend Refugee Week events in a spirit of unity, compassion, and cultural celebration. Let us come together to show that Epsom stands strong in solidarity with those affected by conflict and displacement.



## Cultural Events & Film Screenings

Curated in partnership with Ksenia Bugrimova—award-winning Ukrainian film producer and founder of Talented U, a Ukrainian-British screen industry association—Refugee Week events will take place at Epsom Picturehouse, a vibrant new boutique cinema and community hub in the heart of Epsom. Each screening is paired with live music or cultural programming that showcases the creativity and resilience of refugees from Ukraine, Syria, and beyond.

*“Film reflects the joy and humanity in every culture—it reminds us that community isn’t just where we live, it’s who we are. That’s our superpower.”*  
—Joe Stroud, Marketing Manager at Epsom Picturehouse

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### Tuesday, 17 June

#### Live Performance by Yuliia Komyshan

Yuliia Komyshan is a professional bandura player from Poltava, Ukraine. The bandura—a traditional Ukrainian plucked-string folk instrument—holds a special place in the country’s musical heritage. Since arriving in the UK at the start of the war in Ukraine, Yuliia has dedicated herself to sharing the richness of Ukrainian culture through music. She is passionate about introducing global audiences to the sound of the bandura and fostering a deeper connection with Ukrainian musical traditions, both ancient and contemporary. Yuliia performs at concerts whenever she can, using each opportunity to celebrate and preserve her cultural roots.

#### Film Screening: The Taste of Freedom

A young cook discovers a rare 1929 Ukrainian cookbook and, through traditional cuisine, reconnects with her roots and inner strength.

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### Thursday, 19 June

#### Performance by the Ukrainian Renaissance Choir

The Ukrainian Renaissance Choir, founded by concert pianist Nataliia Zadorizhna, will perform the Ukrainian National Anthem and other cultural songs.

*“It is an enormous privilege to stay in the UK and to be surrounded by such noble, caring, and generous people,” says Nataliia, who has lived in Ashtead with her 11-year-old daughter since May 2022.*

Attendees will also have the opportunity to meet members of the Ukrainian community and EERN volunteers supporting displaced families.

#### Film Screening: Rocky Road to Berlin

A road-trip comedy set in the chaos of the 1990s USSR. Two musicians drive to Berlin in an old Pobeda car to trade it for a Mercedes—and discover much more than they bargained for.

#### Plus: Home for Ukraine

A moving documentary featuring former tennis champion Andrew Castle, who shares his story alongside that of a young woman from Mariupol. Previously screened by Film London and other UK festivals. Andrew Castle is hoping to attend and support the event.

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### Saturday, 21 June

#### Live Performance by Basel Saleh

Internationally renowned Syrian musician Basel Saleh will perform a fusion of Arabic and Western classical music on the oud. A conductor and composer, Basel has played at major festivals including Glastonbury and Roskilde and collaborated with artists such as Damon Albarn of Gorillaz.

#### Film Screening: The Walk

Directed by Tamara Kotovska, this hybrid documentary follows Little Amal, a giant puppet symbolising a young Syrian refugee, as she journeys across Europe in a powerful allegory of hope and resilience.

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### Booking and More Information

To book one of the performances or screenings, visit:

<https://www.picturehouses.com/event-details/0000000167/refugee-week/100>

To learn more about Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network, visit:

<https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org>

For more information about the cinema and upcoming events, visit:

[www.picturehouses.co.uk/epsom](http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/epsom)

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#### Community Event - The Great Get Together

Sunday 22 June 2025 1pm-4pm

*St Joseph’s Church Hall, St Margaret’s Drive, Epsom KT18 7QJ*

You will already have received details about our Great Get Together event. This is a FREE community event for all the family, part of a network of events inspired by the Jo Cox Foundation to celebrate all that unites us as a community. We have loads of activities for all ages, so please come and join us and bring friends and family. Although entry is free of charge, please can you book tickets online so that we know the numbers to expect. Also, we would ask you to bring a donation of food to contribute to Good Company’s Food Bank.

Book your free online tickets here where you can also see the range of activities available, all of which are free.

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## Grafton Stables to Remain Green Space

17 June 2025



Grafton Stables in Cuddington, a 13.5-acre green space bordered by residential properties, is set to remain open to the public after Surrey County Council (SCC) confirmed it will be managed by the council's Countryside Team.

Earlier this year, the council placed the land on the market with the potential for housing development—sparking local concerns that up to 40 homes could be built on the site. The move led to significant opposition from residents, local groups and councillors, who argued that the site's mature trees—some protected by Tree Preservation Orders—and its value as a community green space made it unsuitable for development.

Local County Councillor **Eber Kington** (RA Ewell Court, Auriol & Cuddington) met with SCC officials to highlight planning restrictions and the importance of the site to the community. "I felt there was a strong case against the sale," he said. "The site is a vital part of our local green space network."

Cuddington Residents' Association, the local sports community at Wandgas Sports and Social Club and other campaigners also put forward an alternative bid to retain much of the green space, alongside limited development to fund its upkeep. Meanwhile, Cuddington Borough Councillors Kim Spickett and Phil Neale launched petitions that attracted more than 1,000 signatures.

In March, a motion was passed at County Hall, calling for SCC to adopt a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy—a process that allows local authorities to transfer land to community groups at less than market value if it promotes social and environmental well-being. With no existing CAT policy at SCC, Councillor Kington's motion cleared the way for Grafton Stables to be considered under such a scheme.

Following discussions, SCC has now confirmed that the site has been withdrawn from sale and will instead be managed as a public green space. Resident Julie Willis, who has lived next to Grafton Stables since childhood, welcomed the decision. "It's an incredible outcome for the community and for the trees and wildlife that call this space home," she said.

No details have yet been released on how the new countryside management arrangements will operate, but residents and community groups are expected to be invited to help shape the future of Grafton Stables.

Related report:

[Shock as Surrey Council Puts Protected Woodland Up for Auction](#)

## Epsom Derby's Speed and Spirit Captured in New Station Art Project

17 June 2025



A new art installation at Tattenham Corner Station is shining a light on Epsom's rich racing heritage while adding a burst of creativity to commuters' journeys. This initiative, part of the Art@thestation project launched at Epsom main station in October 2024, transforms everyday travel into a gallery experience, offering young artists a unique platform to share their work.

Led by The Art Society Epsom with support from Southern Railway and its London head office, the project celebrates the energy and excitement of Derby Day and the iconic Tattenham Corner bend. Local artists were invited to explore the theme of 'Speed'—a nod to both the daily rush of life and the fast-paced world of horse racing.

The project's success has been driven by collaboration between Angie Child, Head of Young Arts Volunteers at The Art Society Epsom, and Ben Robinson, Commercial Development Manager at the University for the Creative Arts Students' Union (UCASU). Their efforts have brought together a striking collection of images that celebrate local identity and creativity.

One of the contributors, Richa Elangovan, a Master's student in Graphic Design at UCA Farnham, shared:

"My artwork and style consists of messaging through my concept illustrations: topics I'm passionate about include environmentalism, climate change, feminism, and human and animal rights. I use art as my tool for expression on issues otherwise sidelined."

The installation is a testament to how art can enrich public spaces, spark meaningful conversations, and bring the community together. Ben Robinson said:

"We're proud to support young talent and bring this celebration of the Derby into the heart of the community. A massive thank you to The Art Society Epsom for partnering with us on this. We're always looking to showcase student work and can't wait to see how these pieces brighten the station this summer."

For local artists and residents keen to get involved, Angie and her team welcome new participants—contact her at [Volunteers.tase@gmail.com](mailto:Volunteers.tase@gmail.com) to be part of this dynamic project.

Meanwhile, the UCA Students' Union continues to seek out new venues for student art—anyone with a space that could use a creative spark can reach out to [ben.robinson@uca.ac.uk](mailto:ben.robinson@uca.ac.uk).

Photo L to R: Ben Robinson, Alistair McGeachy, Richa Elangovan and Angie Child

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/romanastar>