

Queen fit hats raise £9K for brain charity

15 August 2022



An online auction of a collection of 15 hats created for the Platinum Jubilee by some of the UK's leading milliners has raised close to £9,000 for **Brain Tumour Research**. The collection of hats was inspired by the seven decades of The Queen's reign and entitled "Hats Fit For A Queen".

Pieces by Royal milliner **Rachel Trevor-Morgan** and milliner to the stars **Stephen Jones OBE** formed part of the collection, which was displayed in the **Queen Elizabeth II Stand** at **Epsom Downs Racecourse** on both days of **The Cazoo Derby** (June 3rd & 4th), before subsequently being auctioned online.

The Cazoo Derby formed part of the official celebrations for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The project formed part of **Go Epsom's** wider Platinum Jubilee festivities across the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, which celebrate The Queen's lasting association with hats and their continued importance as a quintessential piece of raceday style.

The initiative was a new collaboration between Go Epsom, **The British Hat Guild**, Brain Tumour Research and Epsom Downs Racecourse and was promoted via the hashtag HatsFitForAQueen.



The project formed part of Go Epsom's wider Platinum Jubilee festivities across the **Borough of Epsom and Ewell**, which celebrate The Queen's lasting association with hats and their continued importance as a quintessential piece of raceday style.

The initiative was a new collaboration between Go Epsom, The British Hat Guild, Brain Tumour Research and Epsom Downs Racecourse.

Karen Pengelly, Bid Manager for Go Epsom said: "I am delighted that we have been able to help raise so much money for Brain Tumour Research with 'Project Hat'. It was very satisfying to see some of these incredible hats being worn over The Derby weekend by some extremely well known celebrities. And to know that they have now gone on to be cherished by their new owners is wonderful. If Her Majesty the Queen had been able to attend the Derby I feel sure she would have been very touched to have seen the efforts that the UK's top milliners had gone to as a nod to her."

Hugh Adams, Head of Stakeholder Relations at Brain Tumour Research, said: "We are extremely grateful to Go Epsom, Epsom Downs Racecourse and The British Hat Guild for staging this wonderful exhibition, creating such a valuable platform to raise awareness of brain tumours and for the money raised. The auction proceeds will fund the equivalent of three days' research at a Brain Tumour Research Centre of Excellence where scientists are focused on improving treatments and, ultimately, finding a cure. To be a part of this wonderful initiative during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations have made this very special for us."

Edwina Ibbotson, on behalf of The British Hat Guild, said: "All the 15 members of the British Hat Guild who took part were honoured to participate in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We loved the idea of making hats from all decades of HRH The Queen's reign from styles which would have been worn at The Derby in the 1950's and right through to the modern day. The Guild have a close relationship with Brain Tumour Research, and we were thrilled that our members creations could be auctioned off to raise vital funds for them and their important work."

Simon Durrant, General Manager at Epsom Downs Racecourse, said: "The Hats Fit For A Queen display at The Cazoo Derby proved to be a great success and the whole **Jockey Club team** are delighted to see the collection raise close to £9,000 for Brain Tumour Research. It was a great honour for The Cazoo Derby to be part of the official celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and we hope the money raised for Brain Tumour Research will ensure that there is a positive and impactful legacy for this initiative."

Council Pride in Not Uncommon Green Flag

15 August 2022



Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is pleased to have received a Green Flag Award for Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve, one of 2208 UK winners. The award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

This is the 16th year that **Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve** has received this award.

Over the last few years, borough parks and nature reserves have been vital places for people to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely.

Councillor John Beckett of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee said: “We have some fantastic parks and green spaces in the borough. The news that Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve has achieved the Green Flag Award for the 16th year in a row is a testament to our teams and volunteers whose hard work all year-round ensures it is well maintained. We are also reminding everyone to be fire aware and not to light any BBQs in our green spaces as there is currently such a high risk of fires spreading in this dry spell.”

Commenting on the news Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve has met the Green Flag Award standard, **Keep Britain Tidy’s Accreditation Manager Paul Todd** said: “I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve worthy of a Green Flag Award.

“Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve is a vital green space for the local community. This award is testament to all the hard work of staff and volunteers, who do so much to ensure that it maintains the high standards demanded by the Green Flag Award.”

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

A full list of Green Flag Award-winning parks and green spaces is available at <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/sites/default/files/2022%20GFA%20UK%20winners%20list.pdf>.

The Green Flag Award Scheme (<http://greenflagaward.org/>) is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Keep Wales Tidy and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

Keep Britain Tidy is a leading environmental charity. It sets the standard for the management of parks and beaches, inspires people to be litter-free, to waste less and live more sustainably. It runs campaigns and programmes including the Great British Spring Clean, Eco-Schools, Love Parks, Eco-Schools, the Green Flag Award for parks and green spaces and the Blue Flag/ Seaside Awards for beaches. To find out more about Keep Britain Tidy, its campaigns and programmes visit www.keepbritaintidy.org.

Any green space that is freely accessible to the public is eligible to enter for a Green Flag Award. Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag Award status. A Green Flag Community Award recognises quality sites managed by voluntary and community groups. Green Heritage Site Accreditation is judged on the treatment of the site’s historic features and the standard of conservation.

See yesterday’s report on **Epsom Common Association**

Flagging Up Epsom Common

Flagging Up Epsom Common

15 August 2022



28th July **David King** and **Cynthea Blunden** of the **Epsom Common Association** (ECA) represented **Epsom & Ewell** at the **Green Flag Award** ceremony in Lambeth Community Hall. This marked the sixteenth successive year that **Epsom Common** has received this award, which describes itself as “the international quality mark for parks and green spaces”. Much of the Common is designated as a **Site of Special Scientific Interest**. **Natural England** consider all of this land to be in “favourable” condition. Taken together, these points suggest that **Epsom and Ewell Borough Council**, which owns and manages the Common, is successfully balancing the various and sometimes conflicting demands of a recreational open space and a nationally important nature reserve. The new flag will be flying over **Stamford Green** just as soon as the flagpole that blew down last winter is replaced.

At 176 hectare, **Epsom Common** is the largest Local Nature Reserve in Surrey, with habitats including: rough grassland, woodland with veteran oak pollards, remnants of heath, and several ponds. Management is guided by the **Council’s One Hundred Year Plan: 2016 to 2116**, which has been approved by **Natural England**. Clearly woodland containing trees aged five hundred years or more takes some time to reach maturity, but even grassland, consisting of short lived plants, takes many years to fully develop its potential range of plants and animals. So planning for the long term is essential.

The **ECA** was founded by local residents in 1974 to fight a proposed road across the Common. In 1979, in partnership with the Council, the ECA completed the restoration of **Great Pond dam**, recreating the mediaeval pond that had been drained in the Victorian era. Nowadays the ECA has a membership of around five hundred households, and works closely with the Council’s **Countryside Team** and the **Lower Mole Partnership** to protect and improve the Common. After two years with activity limited by the pandemic, the usual programme of events has resumed.

As well as their conservation work, by the end of this year ECA will have: distributed three newsletters; held two public meetings with guest speakers; and arranged several expert led guided walks, looking at birds, butterflies, etc. Every few years they also hold an “**Epsom Common Day**” on Stamford Green, most recently in 2019.



The Summer sun into the clouded sky over the Great Pond brings out the yellow

On Tuesday evenings in summer (until the end of August) the volunteers hand-pull bracken for a couple of hours, to prevent selected areas of heath or grassland being smothered. Their labours are relieved by a break for homemade sparkling elderflower drink and chocolate brownies. During the autumn ECA will hold the three remaining conservation tasks of the year’s programme of eight. Each task runs for two days, usually the third Sunday of the month and the following Monday. The task programme is guided by the One Hundred Year Plan and agreed with the Council’s Countryside Team. The work typically involves removing scrub and small trees to maintain and improve areas of grass and heath; they have also planted a hazel coppice.



Epsom Common under plough

Why is all this management work desirable? Old photographs show that before the **Second World War** much of the Common was open, with small areas of woodland and some old trees, many of which are still alive. Much of the open land was ploughed for agriculture during and immediately after the war. This ceased around 1955, and most of the Common was then essentially left alone. By the 1980s the previously ploughed area had become an almost impenetrable mass of young trees. This uniformity of age, along with the absence of the animals such as: aurochs (the extinct large wild ancestor of domestic cattle), wild boar, beaver, etc., that once shaped woodland and kept it more open, resulted in a habitat that was neither particularly natural nor rich in variety of plants or animals. On the Common, grassland and lowland heath were probably manmade habitats, arising from a combination of tree felling and grazing, but they support species not found in woodland. By careful management a mixture of grassland, heath, ponds and varied woodland, can be created and maintained, leading to a much greater range of plants and animals.

During the summer, three areas of the Common are grazed by cattle, this year a total of fourteen animals. The cattle graze the grass and heathland in a way that cannot be replicated by mowing. In recent years the **Great Pasture** has been extended to include an area of woodland, a habitat in which the cattle's ancestors would have been at home. Today's **Belted Galloways** and **Dexters** also appear happy to forage amongst the trees, particularly during hot weather. For their health the cattle must be checked every day, as are the fence lines and water troughs. Each week the ECA provides four of the daily checks; without their contribution it is unlikely that grazing could be continued.

Finally, ECA make excellent hardwood charcoal from logs harvested during conservation work. Last year, thanks to a grant from the **Council's Community Infrastructure Levy**, they were able to take delivery of a modern charcoal retort. Compared with the conventional ring kilns used previously, the retort greatly reduces the smoke and increases the yield. The charcoal sales help finance ECA's activities. Volunteers are not paid, but of course they do have to pay for tools, fuel, insurance, etc.

If you would like to find out more about ECA's efforts to keep the Common special, please visit their website: epsomcommon.org.uk or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EpsomCommonAssociation

They welcome new members, whether you wish to take part in conservation tasks or simply support their efforts through your membership.

See also press release from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council issued 12th August

Council Pride in Not Uncommon Green Flag

Epsom Hospital bucks Brexit staff bottleneck

15 August 2022



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

The share of homegrown doctors and nurses joining England's NHS is at its lowest for seven years, BBC analysis of workforce data has found.

Some 58% of doctors joining the health service in 2021 came from the UK, with health bosses increasingly turning to international recruitment.

The **British Medical Association** told the BBC the NHS faced a “workforce crisis”. It “faced a challenge retaining staff from overseas, due to the “financial and bureaucratic barriers” they faced. **Dr Amit Kochlar**, its international committee deputy chair, said medical graduates were charged up to £2,400 to apply for indefinite leave to remain, with each of their dependents facing the same fee.

While overall numbers have been increasing, critics said declining domestic recruitment was unsustainable to keep pace with demand.

Patricia Marquis, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Director for England, said ministers must do more to reduce the “disproportionate reliance” on international recruits. “We are seeing a sharp increase in people leaving nursing, with more of our members saying they are considering alternative careers,” she said.

Danny Mortimer, chief executive of NHS Employers, said it was “high time for the government to commit to a fully-funded, long-term workforce plan for the NHS” to tackle “chronic workforce shortages”. He said “relentless demand” was affecting staff due to vacancies which stood at around 110,000 – “gaps which cannot and should not be filled through international recruitment alone”.

A recent report by the cross-party Commons health and social care select committee concluded the large number of unfilled NHS job vacancies was posing a serious risk to patient safety.

The BBC analysed workforce data provided by NHS Digital from 2015 to 2021, to investigate if trends it previously reported following the Brexit referendum in June 2016 continued. The share of UK doctors joining the health service had fallen from 69% in 2015 to 58% last year. Over the same period, the share of new UK nurses fell from 74% to 61%. Recruitment of doctors from the Rest of the World rose from 18% to 34% over the same period, and that share of international nurses rose from 7% to 34%.



In the **Epsom and St Helier Trust** the level of UK recruitment remained even though there was a 13.7% reduction in EU recruitment and a corresponding 13.7% increase in worldwide recruitment during the period analyzed.

News and data provided by the **Local Democracy Service of the BBC** in which **Epsom and Ewell Times** is a partner. For the full in-depth report [CLICK HERE](#)

Epsom’s Summer school sanctuary for refugees

15 August 2022



The Epsom Refugee Network has succeeded in securing for 75 students of all young ages a six-week Summer school at St Johns in Leatherhead. With the generous support of the school, 25 teachers, 30 general volunteers and donors the school provides English lessons, playtime and opportunities for refugee children fleeing war zones and persecutions to be “children again” and make friendships. Afghani, Syrian and Ukrainian children mix happily as one together with English and refugee teachers and volunteers.



Jo Sherring and Nina Kaye, on right, of Epsom Refugee Network explaining to Chris Grayling MP

Chris Grayling, Epsom and Ewell's MP, visited Tuesday 2nd August and said to Epsom and Ewell Times' reporter: "Epsom Refugee Network is amazing in what it has done. The school is a fantastic achievement and is making a huge difference".



Safe environment for refugee children of different nationalities to play at St Johns School

Ukrainian volunteer Olha Zyatyk said "It is a great thing really. A huge number of children, 114 have been registered, giving them a possibility to find friends and not feel alone. We learn from each other to understand the cultural differences. All helps make a new life in a new country".



St Johns School Leatherhead Surrey - Summer home for refugee school.

Helping Ukrainian refugees access work

A group of Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network volunteers are supporting Ukrainian refugees to find suitable employment in the local area. Many Ukrainian refugees have professional qualifications and significant experience in areas such as: accountancy, medicine & health care, teaching and construction. In order to secure a job in the UK at the same level they have previously been working at, many have to convert their Ukrainian qualifications into the UK recognised equivalent, an ambition which is both costly and time consuming.

The Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network work support group is looking for local employers who can utilise the extensive skills and experience that these refugees bring to us now; who can offer jobs that do not require UK professional qualifications as a prerequisite to carry out associated or similar work; recognising that work offered in the UK is unlikely to be at the same level than they have recently been operating at.

If you have a vacancy that may be suitable for a Ukrainian refugee or want to know more please email: epsomrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

For any further information on local initiatives to support refugees please visit Epsom & Ewell Refugee

Network www.epsomrefugeenetwork.org

Bringing to life the dead in Epsom's forgotten cemetery - Historic England awards local charity.

15 August 2022



Historic England has announced £9,988.00 in funding to the **Friends of Horton Cemetery** Charity in **Epsom and Ewell** as part of its 'Everyday Heritage Grants: Celebrating Working Class History.' [Photo: Aerial shot of Horton Cemetery taken in 1952.]

This grant will help the charity realise their heritage project titled '**Out of Sight, Out of Mind**' which will amplify in-progress research by 50+ volunteers to reconstruct biographical histories of the thousands of men, women and children buried in 'pauper graves' within the largest abandoned hospital cemetery in the UK. Co-creation of 900 ceramic flowers to commemorate former psychiatric patients without memorialisation, an exhibition and crafting workshops.

This announcement follows an open call earlier this year, inviting community or heritage organisations across the country to apply for grants of up to £25,000.00 in a bid to further the nation's collective understanding of the past. Competition was intense with 57 successful bids being announced today out of 500 nation-wide applications.

Historic England hope the grant will contribute positively to participants' wellbeing, as well as providing innovative volunteering opportunities for young people or those facing loneliness and isolation. Local heritage also gives people a sense of pride in place, a cornerstone of the levelling up agenda, and they are excited to help it act as a powerful catalyst for increasing local opportunities and prosperity.

Dr Alana Harris, Director of Liberal Arts at King's College London, local Epsom resident and expert consultant to the Friends of Horton Cemetery will direct the Project. She said "The support of Historic England is a ringing endorsement of the importance of Horton Cemetery as a heritage site of national importance and widespread interest. I am excited by the opportunities provided by this prestigious funding grant to involve more people in remembering these forgotten histories."

Kevin McDonnell, who leads the volunteer research team, responded to the award of this grant: "Winning this grant is down to the skill, dedication and time generosity of the great team of volunteer researchers who are telling the stories of the forgotten people, mainly Londoners, buried in this cemetery as paupers, and bringing them "back to life".

The Friends of Horton Cemetery are encouraging teams researching other psychiatric hospital cemeteries around London to use a similar model to theirs. Anyone interested in working on these projects should email hortoncemetery@gmail.com

Visit www.hortoncemetery.org for further information

Another consultation during the holiday month....

15 August 2022



Epsom and St Helier and St George's Hospital are holding a series of workshops starting this week and next for patients and the public to attend. The workshop will involve shaping the new joint strategy for St George's and Epsom and St Helier Hospital. The workshops will be approximately 60-90mins long and facilitated by the hospital's transformation and strategy team. Teas and coffees will be served on the night. A full break down of the events, dates and times can be

found below. **Epsom and Ewell's** will be held at the **Premier Inn Dorking Road** Epsom on Wednesday 10th August at 6.00pm RSVP via esth.sguh.strategy@nhs.net

NHS
St George's, Epsom and St Helier
University Hospitals and Health Group

Help shape the future of our hospitals

Are you interested in the future of St George's, Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals and Health Group?

- The NHS has changed a lot in the last few years, and we have an opportunity to think again about how we offer outstanding care to our patients.
- We're developing a new five year strategy and would like to hear your views.
- Join one of our workshops to tell us what already works well and what we could do better.

Location	Venue	Date and time
Wandsworth	WPDC 3rd Floor, Building 1, Burntwood School, Burntwood Ln, London SW17 0AQ	Monday 1 August 6pm - 7pm
Sutton	Sutton Holiday Inn, Gibson Rd, London SM1 2RF	Wednesday 3 August 6pm - 7pm
Merton	Antoinette Hotel Wimbledon, The Broadway, London SW19 1SD	Tuesday 9 August 6pm - 7pm
Surrey Downs	Premier Inn Epsom Central hotel, 2-4 Saint Margaret Drive Odd, Dorking Rd, Epsom KT18 7LB	Wednesday 10 August 6pm - 7pm

To register to attend an event, please email:
esth.sguh.strategy@nhs.net
with your name, if you are a patient or member of the public, and which workshop you would like to attend.

Blues on a bandura blow minds in Epsom

15 August 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.



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 Komysan**, 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.



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

Surrey Police shines spotlight on anti-social behaviour in Epsom and the County

15 August 2022



Last week, as part of a national ASB Awareness Week, **Surrey Police**'s safer neighbourhood teams (SNTs) joined forces with partners to shine a spotlight on anti-social behaviour (ASB) across Surrey including **Epsom and Ewell**, and to raise awareness of the many different ways in which they can tackle ASB within communities and provide help and support to those affected.

Epsom and Ewell Beat were out on Longmead Estate raising awareness of ASB issues with the local council and **Rosebery Housing**.

On social media, they spent the week sharing advice and guidance on anti-social behaviour and where to report instances in your local area. The posts touched on criminal damage such as graffiti, neighbour disputes, the Community Trigger, fly-tipping, and vehicle nuisance.

ASB is not low level and can have a huge impact on the lives of individuals and communities. **Jo Grimshaw**, who leads on tackling ASB for the Force said: "Our teams work hard to deal with anti-social behaviour on a daily basis - it's part of Surrey Police's core business. The national week of action gives us the opportunity to highlight the work they do to protect people and communities from those who think it's acceptable to behave in a threatening, aggressive or anti-social manner. We work closely with Surrey Police's partners to ensure that ASB victims can be referred to the appropriate

agency if they are better placed to offer support and get the right outcome. If a civil resolution cannot be reached, there are a range of enforcement options available, including warning letters, closure orders, criminal behaviour orders and criminal prosecution.”

If you have reported an incident three or more times in six months and feel you are not being listened to or that the issues are still happening or escalating, you are entitled to ask for a review of your case. This is called the Community Trigger, and you can activate it through your Local Authority:

<https://asbhelp.co.uk/community-trigger/community-trigger-directory/>

In the last year Surrey Police have issued across the County:

- 47 Closure Orders
- 9 Criminal Behaviour Orders
- 57 Reactive Dispersal Orders
- Over 300 warning letters.

These orders are proving very effective in reducing the behaviour of those committing ASB, as well as giving some respite to residents and the community.

It can be really confusing for victims to work out which agency is responsible for tackling each of the different types of ASB.

If you are a victim of ASB or know someone who is being exploited in your area, please let Surrey Police know so they can take action. For more information on the reporting options available to you visit:

www.healthysurrey.org.uk/your-health/community-safety/asb

A Greener Future in Partial Sight As Verges To Be Left Unmown

15 August 2022



Roadside verges in Surrey will be cut less frequently to foster biodiversity, according to Highway Authority, Surrey County Council. In a move to ease the pressure on native nature from human activity, around 700 species of wildflower will be left unmown, and plants and wildlife in the area restored. “It’s time to redefine our ideas about what well-managed public spaces look like,” said **Andrew Jamieson**, Projects Director at **Surrey Wildlife Trust**. “It’s an essential part of our joint plan to restore and support Surrey’s plants and wildlife and take a first step towards a greener future for the neighbourhood.”

Feature photo: *credit Jon Hawkins - Surrey Hills Photography*

The decision builds on the **Climate Change Delivery Plan** published in 2020 to respond to Surrey County Council’s climate emergency declaration and set a target for Surrey to be net zero by the half of the century. Supporting and increasing biodiversity will contribute to become a carbon free county by 2050, said **Matt Furniss**, Conservative Cabinet Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Economy, in the press release. “Vegetation has fantastic benefits for both Surrey’s wildflowers and wildlife.”

According to research, over 97 per cent of UK wildflower meadows, equal to 3 million hectares (7.5 million acres), have been lost since the 1930s and replaced with monocultures with a lower ability to store carbon. Emissions relating to the consumption of goods and services by Surrey residents and businesses are estimated to be more than twice greater than those measured as part of the net zero targets.

According to the Climate Change Delivery Plan, land can naturally reduce the county’s carbon emissions by 3%. Not surprisingly, the strategy includes the **Growing Back Greener programme**, through the facilitation of planting, the reduction of flooding and the support to native biodiversity, as one of the main goals to achieve. Surrey itself aims at growing 1.2 million trees over the next decade.

Although nature and its safeguard are known to lead to multiple accomplishments, mixed concerns among residents were stirred after the measure was announced. “Many people fear a tick population explosion because of ‘wild’ grassland: where you have wild mammals, you have ticks,” said **Kim Spickett** of **Epsom and Ewell** based **Surrey Wildflowering Project**, a community-led initiative to promote and celebrate the borough’s diverse environments. “But ticks frequent parks and gardens too, not just countryside. Our nature reserves have safe paths that you can use to walk safely with dogs and children.”



Roadside verges, that tend to thrive on the sides of highways, might also cause safety issues if left untended as sightlines might be affected. “A sightline for traffic can be cut and the rest left to bloom,” said Spickett. “That said, wiping out or “scalping” makes no sense. Mowing blades can have the height adjusted to “top” the grass and leave shorter flowers intact.” Echoing Spickett, SCC acknowledged the risk to sightlines and promised to ensure safety while pushing to keep the verges intact. “Highway safety remains paramount, and sightlines will be kept clear,” said Furniss. “Any issues with vegetation impairing visibility can be reported via our website.”

Advice on ticks and tick bites can be found on the NHS website.

New plan to transform dementia care in Surrey

15 August 2022



A five-point plan sets out to improve the lives of Surrey residents with dementia and their families.

A joint health and social care dementia strategy of Surrey County Council and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership, outlines an ambition for everyone with dementia and their carers to live in dementia-friendly communities and be able to live well at home for as long as possible.

Research suggests that approximately 17,700 people in Surrey are currently living with dementia. Between 2020 and 2030 it's projected that this figure will rise by more than a quarter to 22,600.

The five-year plan, which includes direct input from people living with dementia and their carers, sets out how the county council and the wider Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership, that includes the **Surrey Downs Health and Care Partnership** that covers **Epsom and Ewell**, will work with other organisations to support people with dementia, their families and carers so that those diagnosed can maintain their independence and enjoy a good quality of life.

The new joint health and social care dementia strategy will focus on:

- Preventing well - raising awareness of dementia and preventative actions people can take
- Diagnosing well - making sure people have equal access to dementia care by addressing inequalities and gaps
- Living well - making sure everyone has the opportunity to live life to the full following diagnosis
- Supporting well - engaging with communities and faith groups to ensure we reach out to people with dementia and their carers

The work will create dementia-friendly communities and help to deliver the county council's ambition and tackle inequality to ensure no-one is left behind in Surrey.

The strategy has been created in partnership and collaboration with people with dementia and their carers and other organisations, including Alzheimer's Society, Dementia UK, Healthwatch Surrey and district and borough councils.

Sinead Mooney, Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, said:

"Dementia is already an important health issue and the number of people living with dementia in Surrey is expected to increase significantly in the future. Our new dementia strategy is crucial in setting out how we will build on the good work we already do, and continue to improve outcomes for residents across Surrey.

"The new strategy has a much wider focus, encouraging organisations and services to become more dementia-friendly and therefore making a real difference to dementia care in Surrey."

Dr Sophie Norris, GP and Dementia Clinical Lead for Guilford and Waverley, said:

"The strategy sets out the collective ambitions we want to achieve across Surrey to improve the dementia care pathway. In developing this strategy, we have worked with organisations that support people with dementia, their staff, the local voluntary sector and other partners. The strategy provides the chance to reaffirm Surrey's commitment and determination to help people with dementia, and their unpaid carers to continue caring if they are willing and able, and to support their health and wellbeing by achieving outcomes they have identified matter most to them. The jointly held vision is for all people with dementia and their carers to live in dementia friendly communities. They will know where to go to seek information, advice and help. They will have access to the care and support that enables them to live well at home for as long as possible and to die with dignity in their place of choice."

An easy read version of the joint health and social care dementia strategy is also available.

To find out more about support for dementia in Surrey visit the Surrey County Council website.

A Good Company life saved

15 August 2022



Harris came to the volunteers at **Epsom and Ewell's Foodbank** for help at the end of last year. Epsom and Ewell Foodbank is operated by registered Charity **The Good Company (Surrey)** and is directed by local hero **Jonathan Lees**. Over the past two years, **Harris** has recovered from a major heart operation and a stroke. This completely changed his life as previously he had loved running and being active. The stroke also really knocked his confidence and so he had become withdrawn.

Photo shows Jonathan Lees (left) and Harris (right) with other Epsom Pantry volunteers at its opening.

The charity started to offer him opportunities to participate in focus groups, which he enjoyed being part of. They supported him in a back-to-work interview, liaising with agencies (including the Council, Citizens Advice and his GP). They supported him with his Personal Independence Payment (PIP) application to the Department of Work and Pensions, which has recently been awarded.

Harris was recently introduced to **The Epsom Pantry** and he has started to volunteer there. The staff say he is a real asset there. He is also a very calming presence for customers and Harris absolutely loves it as it has given him a new purpose.

Harris said "I thought of committing suicide before I met Alison (one of the support workers) but she gave me food, help and hope that things could be better, I couldn't have gone on without her. I am born again. I don't know how I would manage if it wasn't for her, the Foodbank and The Pantry, (these) guys are like family, greatly appreciated. Blessed Love."

For more information on Epsom Pantry please contact Bex pantry@goodcompany.org.uk

The Foodbank has two vacancies at the moment:

Vacancy - Pantry Coordinator

An exciting vacancy for our new project - Epsom Pantry. Now officially open, our Pantry is a members-only shop.

For £5 members will be able to purchase a weekly food shop including fresh fruit and vegetables and family favourites to stock up the cupboard and fridge.

We are recruiting a Pantry Coordinator to work with our Pantry Manager on this exciting new initiative.

For more details and to apply, please click [here](#).

Closing date is 24 July 2022 at 23:59

Vacancy - Foodbank Manager

An exciting opportunity to join our team. We are recruiting for a Foodbank Manager. Interested? More info and application details [here](#).

Closing date is 30 July 2022 at 23:30

Hear all about an Epsom charity's medical support for Malawi.

15 August 2022



Undaunted by the 4500 miles distance between **Epsom** and **Chilaweni** in Malawi, local resident **Ruth Markus** heads a charity founded in her son's name. "**Alex's Medical & Educational Clinic in Africa**" (AMECA). Before he died at the age of 23 Alex was a junior doctor, a British Army officer and a qualified paratrooper. AMECA is committed to healthcare delivery, training healthcare professionals and to healthcare education in sub-Saharan African countries, through sustainable initiatives.

Feature photo is Alex providing medical care. His passion and vocation.

The **AMECA Primary Healthcare Clinic** at Chilaweni in Malawi opened in May 2017 and is dedicated to the memory of Alex. The Clinic currently serves 38,000 people in 23 villages. It sees on average, 4,000 outpatients each month. These communities had no prior access to any accessible healthcare facilities.



Ameca Maternity Clinic opened November 2020

AMECA supports surgical training at district hospitals in Malawi through **Links in Africa for Surgical Training** (LAST). Led by AMECA's Clinical Director, Consultant **Surgeon Paul Thomas**, LAST is committed to providing surgical training to improve sustainable surgical healthcare in Africa.



On **August 7th at 10am** at **St Martin's Church**, Church Street, Epsom **Ruth Markus** will speak about the work of the charity and update on the Maternity Unit built at Chilaweni Village. The illustrated talk will celebrate the success of the maternity unit and maternity mentorship programme, implemented to raise standards of clinical care for mothers and babies and to deliver respectful and inclusive treatment to mothers.

More information can be obtained from the website AMECA | Alex`s Medical & Educational Clinic in Africa

Foodbank latest

15 August 2022

28th July 2022

Our urgent needs list - 28th July 2022: Thank you to those who arranged supermarket deliveries directly to us last week, we really appreciate getting donations we need this way. **We have completely run out of:** Chocolate spread, Chocolate, Powdered milk

We urgently need: Tinned vegetables, Tinned fish, Noodles, Pasta sauce, Cooking sauce, Brown sauce, Small bags of sugar, Sponge pudding, Long life fruit juice, Squash, Biscuits, Rice pudding, Children's treats - Freddo's, chocolate buttons etc. Sanitary towels, Adult toothbrushes, Baby wipes, Nappies - size 5, size 6 and size 6+, Washing powder, Household cleaning products - antibac spray, cleaning wipes, oven cleaner etc. (No bleach please!) *Please no more of these items as we are fully stocked:*

Pulses, pasta, beans, rice, washing up liquid, cat food, dog food, peanut butter, milk UHT, non-dairy milk. Booking a supermarket delivery? Let us know when to expect it. You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask); Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Good Company Hub, (Behind West Ewell Primary School), Ruxley Lane, Ewell KT19 0JG. Donation drop off times: Monday to Friday 9am - 2pm. We are closed on Bank Holidays. * *Please make sure all donations are sealed, in date and do not contain alcohol**



**CAN'T GET TO
THE SHOPS?**

You can send us a small donation by text

**TO DONATE ANY AMOUNT
BETWEEN £1 AND £20 PLEASE
TEXT**

FOODBANKGIFT

**FOLLOWED BY YOUR
CHOSEN AMOUNT OF 1-20 TO
70450**

If you'd like to enquire about making a larger
donation please email us at
foodbank@goodcompany.org.uk



New Epsom Pantry offers more than food to the struggling....

15 August 2022



A Pantry has been officially opened by the Mayor Clive Woodbridge last month. It has been launched in Epsom as another way of helping people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, to try to reduce dependency on foodbanks.

The shop in South Street stocks a wide range of food, including fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen and chilled produce as well as tinned and packaged items.

Members pay £5 a visit and can choose items that value around £30, so they can save money on their grocery shopping bills.

Epsom Pantry has been set up with support from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. The Pantry is part of the Good Company charity, which runs numerous projects in Surrey including five foodbanks and the East Surrey Poverty Truth Commission.



Jonathan Lees - director The Good Company

Jonathan Lees, Managing Director of Good Company said: "This year Epsom and Ewell Foodbank is marking 10 years of existence. That is not acceptable. We cannot accept dependency on foodbanks, which are only meant to be a temporary measure."

As well as helping with the cost-of-living crisis, Epsom Pantry will offer other community services such as cooking on a budget, debt management and housing and job advice.

Epsom Pantry Manager Bex Loomes said: "Since the Pantry opened its doors, it has been filled with a sense of community and togetherness. The cost-of-living crisis means more and more households are struggling to make ends meet. We know that the Pantry offers vital financial savings, and we hope that access to healthier foods and the development of skills and confidence through volunteering will allow us to tackle isolation in our community."

If you'd like to know more about Epsom Pantry please visit www.goodcompany.org.uk

[CLICK HERE FOR LATEST REQUESTS FROM THE FOODBANK](#)

Grayling stood up by developers....

15 August 2022



The Developers promoting the development of the site of Kingswood House School bizarrely failed to show up at their own public consultation on Thursday night (7th July). The event which had been organized by Steve Curwen of Stonegate Homes Ltd on behalf of the freeholders of the site (the Aczel brothers) was scheduled to take place at The Cricketers Inn on Stamford Green between 5pm and 7pm on Thursday 7th July.

Had Mr Curwen or the Aczels attended, they would have been greeted by between 70 and 80 local residents who despite having been given barely 72 hours notice of the event by the developers, turned up in force to show their support for the School and their objection to the development proposals.



Cllr Bernie Muir (Con) (centre and top photo) and residents not impressed by developers' no show.

It was standing room only in the small room which the developers had organized for the meeting and in their absence and that of the freeholders, it was left to the School to thank residents for showing up and for indicating their strong opposition to the plans. Headmaster Duncan Murphy noted the valuable role the School plays, providing education for 250 boys and girls, very many of whom are SEND pupils (Special Education Needs and Disabilities).

Chris Grayling MP also attended and voiced his strong support for the School and objection to the plans and was supported by councilors Bernie Muir and Steve Bridger. Bernie Muir encouraged all attendees to sign a register noting their attendance.



Steve Bridger (Councillor for Stamford Ward) told Epsom and Ewell Times "I support and will continue to support Kingswood House in every aspect against this planning application, being a local school providing first class education. It is a great asset to the Borough and the students that attend."

Sited in West Hill Epsom for over 100 years Kingswood House is a renowned special educational needs and disability (SEND) school and is facing the termination of its lease as developers seek to build a housing estate on the land. The valuable role the School plays has been recognized by Council's recently awarding the School the status of an: "Asset of Community Value". This is a rare accolade, unusual for a school and reflects the high value of the school to the local community. Also, the school has been shortlisted by Independent School Parent magazine for an award in this year's annual Contribution to Social Mobility category. See Epsom and Ewell Times exclusive breaking the story.

Community Asset to be stripped?

15 August 2022



Epsom's **Kingswood House School** faces closure as developers move in.

Sited in **West Hill Epsom** for over 100 years this renowned special educational needs and disability (SEND) school is facing the termination of its lease as developers seek to build a housing estate on the land. 250 pupils enjoy first class facilities and green space at the Council's recently recognised "**Asset of Community Value**". This is a rare accolade, unusual for a school and reflects the high value of the school to the local community. Also, the school has been shortlisted by **Independent School Parent magazine** for an award in this year's annual Contribution to Social Mobility category.

Tomorrow (Thursday 5pm 7th July) at The **Cricketers Pub**, Stamford Green Road, Epsom the freehold owners of the land, (James, Richard and David Aczel) are staging a "public consultation".

Richard Evans, the Chair of the School's governors said "Our school is already a thriving SEND-focused school for 250 boys and girls and the proposed school is on a small part of the site and will only accommodate a fraction of this number."

Headmaster **Duncan Murphy** said "100% of the site should be kept for a school, and no housing should be allowed. Although the landlords will say otherwise, there are other sites for housing which are far more appropriate." The school are urging local residents to attend the meeting at the Cricketers and make their views known.

The freeholders claim "Epsom is far behind its local housing delivery targets and needs a great deal of housing for local people, with a high demand for family housing. The scheme delivers a specialist school for local children that will be funded by the local education authority. The scheme delivers new local housing with 1, 2, 3 & 4 bed homes. All high quality and with parking (incl electric charging) and grounds to provide a high standard of design. This is a local scheme for local people. The scheme is highly sustainable, re-using buildings where possible and creating highly energy efficient new buildings where required."

Below is the registered land (edged red) leased till March 2023 by the Axzels to Kingswood House School Trust and an aerial view of the site. Lastly, the proposed development demonstrating how most if not all the green space available to 250 pupils will be swallowed up by new housing.



Title plan of Kingswood House School's lease (edged red).



Aerial view of Kingswood House School's site.



New development in grey and proposed reduced school site in colour.

102 year old Epsom veteran wears his medals again!

15 August 2022



A 102-year-old Surrey war hero who was unable to wear his medals due to the condition of the ribbons can finally pin on his honours again, thanks to a local veterans' project which arranged a repair mission.

George, who served in the British Army during the Second World War and now lives in Epsom, showed the old, frayed ribbons to a trained volunteer who was documenting his life story as part of the Force for Change veterans' project.

On hearing George's predicament, Tracey Morris, the project lead for Epsom and Ewell, contacted **THE SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN AND FAMILIES ASSOCIATION** [SSAFA], the Armed Forces charity. Tracey, a communities and prevention coordinator in the county council's adult social care team, worked with Adrian Muddin, SSAFA's divisional secretary, to arrange for the honours to be sent to medal specialists in London.

SSAFA has strong links with the London Medal Company, which was pleased to support George's request. The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans then stepped in to transport the medals to the company's premises in Leicester Square, because of the age of the medals and to ensure their safe delivery and return.

The taxi collected the honours from an event marking the third anniversary of the Epsom and Ewell Veterans Community Hub, where George was showing his medals, still in the cardboard box in which they were delivered to him more than half a century ago. The honours were then conveyed from the hub to the medals company for repair.

Complete with new ribbons and displayed on a rack, the medals were reunited with their owner at the Comrades Club in Epsom, where George was also able to meet and thank Kim Morton, representing SSAFA, Ian Lingham, of the taxi charity, and Tracey.

The local veterans' project brings together former service personnel through friendship groups, events and days out and may involve an opportunity to record their life stories for the archives.

It's a pilot scheme which is initially focused on three areas of Surrey – Epsom and Ewell, Guildford and Surrey Heath. Places are available in all three locations. Former service personnel, whether younger or older, are encouraged to get involved.

The county council is working with armed forces charities and local museums and organisations to deliver the project, which is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, under its Force for Change programme.

Sinead Mooney, Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, said: "Thanks to everyone involved in this heartwarming project and particularly to George for telling his story and highlighting the benefits of the groups and networks for veterans in Surrey. I'd encourage anyone who has served, whether younger or older, to find out more about the opportunities in the county."

Helyn Clack, chairman of Surrey County Council and the Surrey Civilian Military Partnership Board, said: "It's particularly fitting during Armed Forces Week to be celebrating the repair and return of the medals that George so richly earned. I'd like to pay tribute to him and indeed all those across Surrey who have served, and are currently serving, for their courage and contribution."

For more information about support for veterans across Surrey, visit Surrey Information Point. You can also download the free Forces Connect mobile app which signposts veterans, armed forces personnel and their loved ones to local support and advice. Search "Forces Connect" in Apple's App Store or the Google Play Store.

The Epsom and Ewell Veterans Community Hub is holding an indoor street party on Sunday 26th June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Any veteran wishing to attend must register in advance (contact tracey.morris@surreycc.gov.uk or call 07790 585352).