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

19th November 2026

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Suffragette stage play review

3 March 2023



Sarah Dewing, who initiated the statue of Emily Davison in Epsom's Market Square reviews "**Emmeline**" a play about the foremost British suffragette, Emmeline Pankhurst, and the fight for the vote for women at the start of the 20th century.

"Emmeline" was performed at Esher Theatre on 24th and 25th February, as part of a tour that began in Oxford and will end in Manchester on 8th March, International Women's Day, It is the debut play of young playwright and actor Beatrice Hyde, who also played Sylvia Pankhurst in the production. It was staged by the Theatre Lab Company, a London-based theatre company and was directed by Its Artistic Director, Anastasia Revi.

Beatrice condensed thirty years of suffragette history into two and a half hours, which sounds intense, but the interval broke it up nicely. She spent five years researching the Pankhursts and the events that took place around the struggle for government acceptance of women's suffrage.

The play focused on the relationships between the newly widowed Emmeline and her three daughters, Christobel, Adela and in particular, Sylvia. Her relationship with her mother becomes increasingly fractious as the strategies pursued by the Women's Social and Political Union, founded by Emmeline, become increasingly at odds with her socialist principles. These were encouraged further by her relationship with the founder of the Labour movement, Keir Hardie.

At the same time as we are let into the Pankhurst family dynamics, we are shown their social and political context including the debate around the cause between prominent politicians of the day and many of the stand-out events during the suffragette era, including the actions of Emily Wilding Davison at the Epsom Derby in 1913.

The play was well acted by a diverse cast of actors, with a stand-out performance by Georgie Rhys as Emmeline in particular. Direction was impressive, given the sheer intensity of the plot, and coordination of all the different aspects of the production.

The set was very simple but effective, with a two-tier stage with raised platforms at the rear and sides, minimalist lighting and a variety of props that often acted as symbols rather than literal objects. The sound design accompanying the production was an important aspect of the overall impact of the play, with several authentic and beautifully sung suffragette songs. reprieved throughout the play to rousing effect.

I loved the use of the background presence of an actor portrayed as the "heroic woman" motif throughout the play, representing the movement and its ups and downs. This was inspired by an illustration on the front page of an original Suffragette newspaper. I also thought the sound design and production really took the play to a different level.



Emily Davison Statue and the play Emmeline

For me, the psychological aspects of the play highlighted the personal costs, as well as rewards and triumphs, that are paid by those in single-minded pursuit of a mission to the exclusion of all else, including health, safety and relationships with loved ones. The play alludes to Emmeline's drive to finish the work started by her beloved husband as the source of this obsession.

Ironically, without those like Emmeline and her daughters, who willingly devote their lives to a cause, social progress could not happen. In this case, women would not have the rights they have today, even if there is still a away to go. This is brought home to the present day at the end with a scene where Emmeline is portrayed as her statue outside the Houses of Parliament, This play is an impressive debut for Beatrice Hyde, but also a production that I would highly recommend for anyone with an interest in 20th Century history, women's rights and psychological drama.

Sarah Dewing
Chair
Emily Davison Memorial Project

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After Ronnie Scott's? Epsom of course!

3 March 2023



Fresh from their 'Two for the Road' concert at **Ronnie Scott's**, internationally renowned virtuoso jazz guitarist visiting from Norway, **Frode Kjekstad** is pairing up with local legend **Nigel Price**. Together with Italian drum sensation **Laura Klain** and the brilliant **Mikele Montolli** on double bass, they will give a special live concert in the heart of Epsom on **Saturday 11th March**.

Epsom Jazz Club, resident in the Oaks Room, Church Street, Epsom has sold out all its regular Tuesday concerts this season. So this is the last chance to enjoy the unique cabaret seated venue until next season starts in May. A real taste of the world famous Ronnie Scott atmosphere and music brought to your own Town.

Frode has wowed audiences whilst playing alongside heavyweight jazz stars such as Dr Lonnie Smith, Mike LeDonne and Eric Alexander.

Epsom Jazz Club advises buy your tickets in advance. Go to www.epsomjazzclub.com for tickets.

Surrey celebrates LGBTQ+ month

3 March 2023



Surrey History Centre celebrates the February LGBTQ+ month with, among many others, the story of local born **Quentin Crisp**, who attended **Kingswood School in Epsom**. Born in Sutton and named Denis Charles Pratt in 1908, he changed his name in his twenties, had a colourful and controversial career and died in 1999.

"*I started to wear make-up because it was necessary for me to live out my life getting up, going to work, buying food and going home again, so that someone could be seen to be homosexual and to be part of life*."

This quote, following the screening of his acclaimed work **The Naked Civil Servant**, encompasses Quentin Crisp's attitude to his appearance and homosexuality – it was vital to his individuality, something on which he refused to compromise.

Throughout his life Crisp was a controversial figure; within the gay community he was not liked by everyone. However, his contribution to the gradual acceptance of openly gay men is universally acknowledged.

Early Years

Born Denis Charles Pratt in 1908 in Sutton, then part of Surrey, he was the fourth child of Charles and Frances Pratt, a solicitor and a former governess.

Attending Kingswood Preparatory School in Epsom, Crisp was mercilessly teased for his effeminate behaviour. In 1922, he won a scholarship to Denstone College, near Uttoxeter, and on leaving in 1926, studied journalism at King's College London. Failing to graduate, he then took art classes at the Regent Street Polytechnic.

Leaving home to move to central London at the end of 1930, Crisp adopted his new name and cultivated an effeminate appearance that shocked many and provoked homophobic attacks.

Crisp attempted to join the army at the outbreak of the Second World War but was rejected and declared exempt by the medical board on the grounds that he was 'suffering from sexual perversion'. He left his job as engineer's tracer in 1942 to become a model in life classes in London and the Home Counties. He continued posing for artists into the 1970s. "*It*

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was like being a civil servant," he explained in his autobiography, "*except that you were naked.*"

Fame, acceptance and America

Crisp became a gay icon after the publication of his memoir, The Naked Civil Servant (1968), brought his exhibitionism and refusal to remain in the closet to the attention of the general public. In 1975, a film adaptation of The Naked Civil Servant was broadcast on British and American television making both actor John Hurt and Crisp household names. Crisp declared himself one of the great stately homos of England.

Afterwards Crisp developed a one-man speaking show that toured Britain but he still felt like an outsider. In 1981, Crisp moved to New York where, experiencing a fuller sense of social acceptance, he continued his one-man show, An Evening with Quentin Crisp.

During his extraordinary life Crisp wrote a number of influential, controversial and provocative works, and acted in a variety of television dramas, films and stage plays, the last being the film Orlando with actress Tilda Swinton.

Just short of his 91st birthday, Quentin Crisp died in November 1999, in Manchester on the eve of a nationwide revival of his show. With a minimum of ceremony his body was cremated and his ashes flown back to the US and scattered across his beloved Manhattan……. "

You can read more of this story and others from the Surrey History Centre HERE and use its interactive map to find out about the lives of gay figures who lived or had connections with the County of Surrey.

Courtesy Surrey History Centre

Image – painting by Ella Guru of Quentin Crisp – creative common licence

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Emily and Emmeline

3 March 2023




The suffragette movement is celebrated in the heart of Epsom with the statue of **Emily Davison** in Epsom's Market Square. At our neighbouring **Esher Theatre** between 24th and 25th February Emily's colleague **Emmeline Pankhurst**'s life and struggle will be brought to life in a drama play by **The Theatre Lab Company**. "Emmeline – The Suffragette Movement, follows the journey of the inspirational leader of the Suffrage movement on her life's mission to achieve the vote for women. Delving into the dynamics of the Pankhurst family, Emmeline explores the tensions that arose between her and her daughter Sylvia on militant tactics and social values, emblematic of the conflicts that divided the movement. Does the end justify the means?

Should the cause come first, no matter the personal cost? A story of the courage and sacrifice of the Suffragettes, their struggle and exaltation, and their undying determination that made history.

"A story to inspire the country to continue the fight for human emancipation."



ABOUT THE COMPANY

Theatre Lab Company is a London-based international theatre company, with reputation for mesmerising theatrical imagery, physical theatre/performance and work that crosses the boundaries of culture, language and taboo.

Notable credits include commendation from Off West End (2019), an award by Global Entertainment Awards for Most Innovative International Theatre Company — UK (2018), critiques selection at Avignon Festival D'OFF, (2014)and Prague International Theatre festival (2007), nominations for a Fringe First and Total Theatre Awards,Edinburgh Festival (2007) They have produced their shows in highly acclaimed venues like RIVERSIDE STUDIOS (2010-2014), Sadler's Wells Theatre (2016), Hoxton Hall Theatre (2017-2018) ,BT at Oxford Playhouse (2019) and National Theatre of Greece (2005).

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Reviews

A thoughtful, well-researched and compelling production.” 4. STARS **** LONDON THEATRE 1

“Every element of this production was so well thought out and meticulously refined to create a cohesive masterpiece.” 4.5 STAR ****1/2 THEATRE AND OTHER THINGS LDN

“This is an important, informative and entertaining production that everyone should see.” – BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

Tickets: https://eshertheatre-tickets.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173627634

Spring comes early for Epsom and Ewell jazz fans

3 March 2023



Question: What do the following three people all have in common? An accordion player with the Strictly Come Dancing live band, one of the most exciting vocalists of her generation and a finalist in the 2022 BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year competition?

Answer: Starting on Tuesday the 17th of January at 7.30pm in Epsom’s cabaret style venue at the Oaks Room, Church St, Epsom, they are all playing at the Epsom Jazz Club in the next three months!

The Epsom Jazz Club launches its “Spring season” of concerts on **Tuesday 17th January** with the tantalising **L’Esprit du Jazz** quartet taking to the stage in **The Oaks Room** for a highly anticipated performance.

Incepted less than a year ago, Epsom Jazz Club has gone from strength to strength, steadily building its audience for their monthly Jazz gigs. The cream of UK Jazz have accepted invitations to perform at the new Club and have collaboratively helped create something rather special. The intimate 70-seater venue, with each table adorned with a charming cocktail table lamp, is the perfect setting to sit back and listen to some of the very best professional Jazz musicians the UK has nurtured. The venue has a bar open just for the jazz guests.

Accordionist **Karen Street** along with her bandmates **Sam Dunn** (guitar), **Charlie Pyne** (double bass & vocals) and **Katie Patterson** (drums) kick things off for Epsom Jazz Club at 7:30pm this coming Tuesday evening (17th January). Dave Gelly from The Observer noted that “Karen Street has evolved an entire vocabulary for the accordion that works beautifully in the jazz context without forfeiting the instrument’s awkward individuality”.

The vast array of jazz styles explored at Epsom Jazz Club and the variation of instrument lineup each month is purposeful and well-curated. A Piano Trio may perform one month, followed by an all-string Gypsy Jazz ensemble the next. French Musette and the world of Tango will be explored on one given Tuesday evening, while lilting Afro Cuban inspired grooves and hard hitting modern jazz & funk numbers will be offered up at a subsequent event.

The acts booked are no strangers to the renowned jazz stages of London’s **Ronnie Scott’s**, Nottingham’s **Peggy’s Skylight** or Brighton’s **Verdict Jazz Club**. For the price of a train fare into London you can now buy a ticket to see world class jazz musicians performing within the Borough of Epsom & Ewell. A growing number of local residents clearly appreciate this and are in the audience for every concert. Other jazz fans are more selective and only pop along every so often when the lineup suits their tastes. And some are just waiting for leading UK jazz guitarist and longtime Epsom resident **Nigel Price** to make his return to the Club’s stage (hint: he’ll be back in June!).

Epsom Jazz Club welcomes everyone equally – there’s no members-only clique, no tiered ticket pricing, and not a raffle in sight! If the accordion isn’t your thing, how about a wondrously charismatic and mesmerizing jazz singer with outstanding vocal ability? **Emma Smith** brings her loyal trio of gentlemen (**Jamie Safir** piano, **Conor Chaplin** double bass, **Luke Tomlinson** drums) with her to Epsom on **Tuesday 21st February**. Or how about going to see multi-award winning young saxophonist and composer **Emma Rawicz** perform, accompanied by **David Preston** (guitar) and **Scottie Thompson** (piano), on **Tuesday 21st March**?

The Oaks Room venue with bar open for just the jazz club is at the back of the Conservative Club on Church Street, Epsom and is a fine addition to Epsom’s Live Music venues. Tickets are just £15.

For more information on the Spring 2023 jazz programme please visit http://EpsomJazzClub.com or @EpsomJazzClub on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook – tickets are on sale now!

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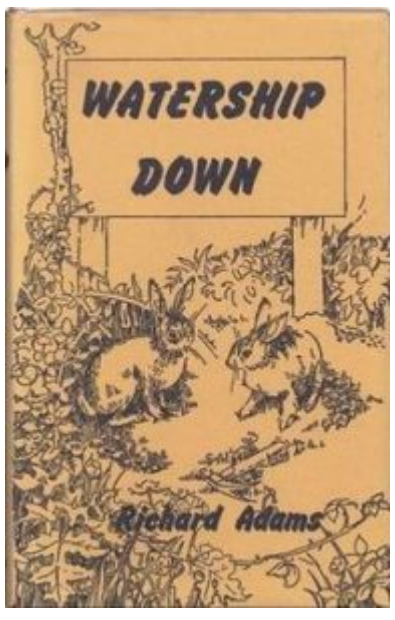
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How “Watership Down” might have been….

3 March 2023



Exclusive to Epsom and Ewell Times a local resident known as “**The History Detectorist**” will disclose on these pages intriguing discoveries. Today’s discovery relates to “**Watership Down**“. In the coming months other intriguing discoveries will be revealed…….

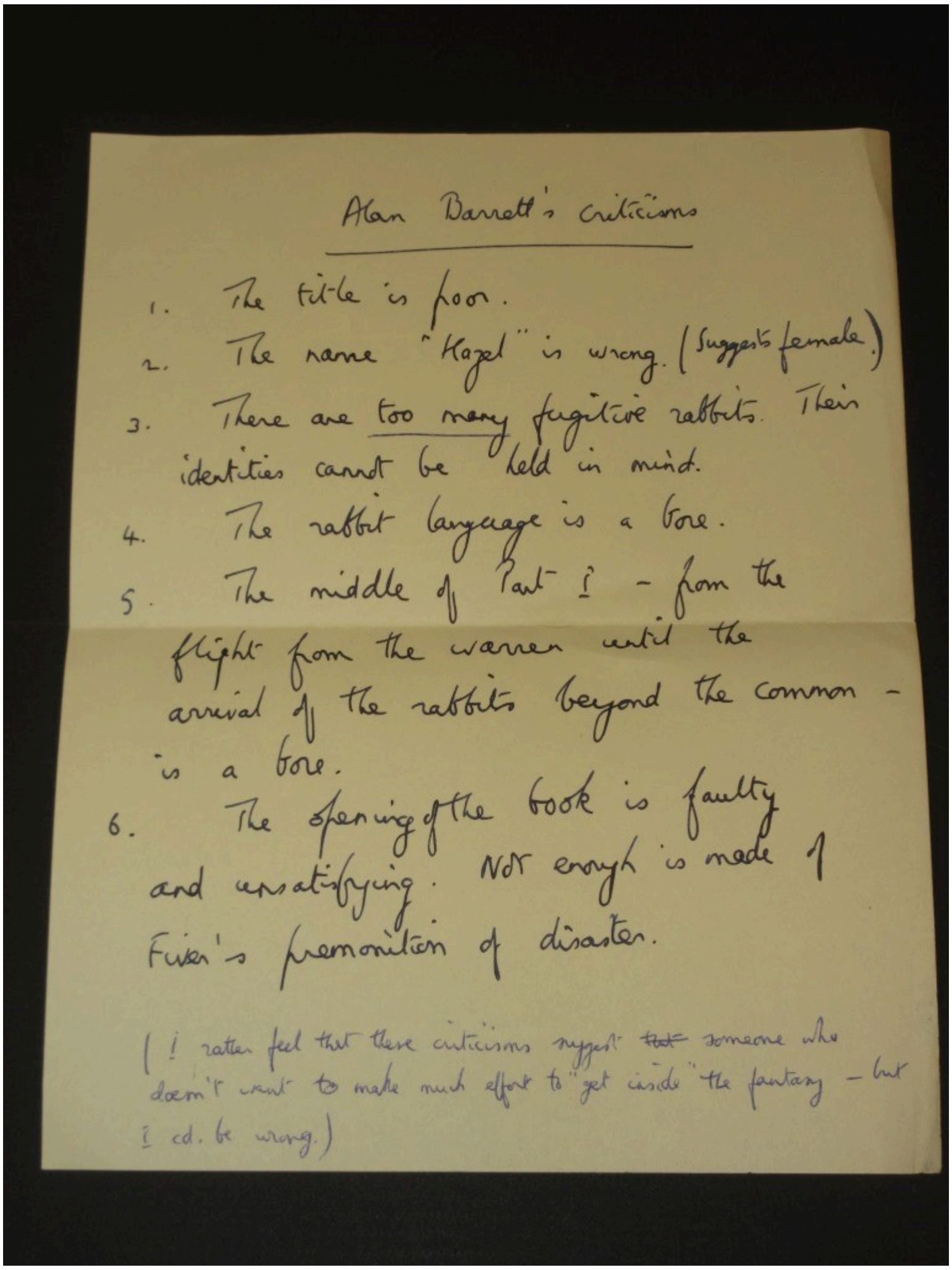
The History Detectorist could not believe his luck when he discovered pre-publication notes relating to the international best-selling novel, “Watership Down” that had remained hidden inside a book that had once belonged to the book’s author, Richard Adams.

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A lifelong fan of Watership Down, he purchased a box of books from a book dealer who had won them at auction prior to the much publicized sale of Richard Adams's more valuable books which he had collected prior to his passing in December 2016 aged 96.

Among the books purchased from the dealer were papers and photographs that had been found inside the books won at auction which are now known to have belonged to Richard Adams also.

"The significance of Richard Adams's notes were not fully understood until I approached Oxford University and corresponded with Richard Adams's daughters", said the History Detectorist, who went on to discover that Alan Barrett, whose name is mentioned at the top of the notes, was an Oxford University friend of Richard Adams. Barrett would give his opinion on the likely success of many of Adams' books and suggest changes etc. "It would appear that the notes were hidden away for more than 50 years so I was delighted to be able to send copies of them to Richard Adams's family".

Fortunately, in this instance Alan Barrett's criticisms did not deter Richard Adams from publishing his first novel, Watership Down, although at the time the notes were drafted the popular story of rabbits fleeing their home and being forced to find a new one was due to be called "Hazel and Fiver", a title that Alan Barrett clearly objected to and possibly helped to change prior to the first publication of Watership Down in 1972.

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An Epsom Christmas poem

3 March 2023



Christmas comes early in the month of December
But preparations start as early as September
Toys appear in the shop and the store
And children’s expectations start to soar

Adverts appear in the News and TV
Of miraculous games for all to see
Visions of food and decorations so high
Make us all wish that the time was nigh

But leaves have not fallen from the trees
And flowers are still buzzing with the bees
Why are we tempted in this way?
When the Christ child’s birthday is still far away

Have they forgotten that the presents we bring
Are only reminders of the presents for Him
Of frankincense and myrrh and gold
Foretelling the scriptures story of old

And when finally the great day is here
Let us remember, amidst our good cheer
As we celebrate around the table,
The baby Christ child, born in a stable

Michael Barber (first published in 2012)



Michael moved to the Wells Estate in 1966 for his first family home. He continues to live there to this day. He has lived in the Borough for all of his 87 years as his parents lived in Stoneleigh. His connections with Epsom have been as President of the Epsom Cycling Club from 1981 to 1991, and he joined the Epsom Male Voice Choir in 2010 and continues to be a keen and popular member of the choir. He started writing poetry seriously when he became treasurer of the Headley Poetry Group. This group meets monthly to read and share poetry – Michael has had poetry published in the Epsom United Reformed Church Newsletter, the Mickleham Parish Magazine and the Brooklands Museum Volunteers Newsletter.

Notes authored by Audrey Ardern-Jones

Epsom Clock Tower image source: Clive Darra – https://www.flickr.com/photos/osde-info/4252252710/

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Surrey inspiration for writing and photography

3 March 2023



Fanny Burney (1752-1840) lived and wrote in Surrey and was inspired by the area's beautiful countryside and gardens in the Mole Valley area, particularly around Bookham, Mickleham and Box Hill. To celebrate Fanny Burney and the area she loved, Surrey Libraries and Surrey Heritage are pleased to announce our Photography Competition 'Frances Burney's Surrey'.

SHC would love to receive your photographs of places or buildings around Surrey, especially in the Mole Valley area, which were associated with Fanny Burney, or which inspire you today.

The competition is open from now until Sunday 22 January 2023. Submissions should be made online and emailed to leatherhead.library@surreycc.gov.uk and should have been taken during the competition period only.

We would also be pleased to receive printed entries, together with your contact information, at Leatherhead Library.

The winning entry will be announced in February 2023. The winner will receive an Amazon voucher for £50. Two runners-up will each receive an Amazon voucher for £25.

A selection of entries will be on display in Leatherhead Library from December 2022 onwards.

For full details please go to the Surrey History Centre's December newsletter HERE

Text courtesy of the Surrey History Centre

Coining it in Surrey

3 March 2023



Over the last 20 years the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has allowed finds made by metal detectorists in Surrey to be added both to the national database and the county's Historic Environment Record (HER). Any groups of coins, groups of prehistoric metal objects or individual precious metal objects over 300 years old have also been required to be reported to the Coroner under the 1996 Treasure Act. This reporting process is undertaken by the county's Finds Liaison Officer (FLO). The purpose of the Treasure Act is to provide museums with the chance to save important finds before they are lost to commercial auctions and to preserve them for local communities and public collections. Finders and landowners receive full financial reward for everything acquired as part of this process.

One recent discovery from Surrey which has been reported under this law, is a hoard of 28 silver Roman coins (denarii), found dispersed across a small area of equestrian pasture in the Elstead area (recorded as SUR-EA4D41 and SUR-0E4DC2). The coins were most likely originally buried in a bag or box which has long decayed and released its contents to be scattered by ploughing. These coins represent an unusual and significant find for the county and after being declared Treasure at Coroner's Inquest were acquired by Godalming Museum, with financial assistance from Surrey Archaeological Society, Council for British Archaeology South-East and the V&A Purchase Grant Fund

For full details please go to the Surrey History Centre's December newsletter HERE

Images and text courtesy of the Surrey History Centre

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Milton Impossible finally accomplished in Epsom

3 March 2023



Epsom Playhouse's capacity audience had patiently waited 12 months after **Milton Jones** show was postponed in 2022. The King of the One-Liners rewarded their forbearance with his unstoppable flow of puns and word play. "The other day I said to my longstanding girlfriend – sit down". That sort of thing in isolation is OK but when one of a torrent of double-entendres laughter is irresistible.

Following one of Milton's many granddads appearing on Zoom, **Thomas Houghton** provided a creditable and funny warm-up act that was a substantial part of the first half. Not wishing to give too much away in case you wish to catch his show on tour – Mr. Milton made deft use of national flags in holding topical and witty conversations between nations. The EU and Union Jack exchange was the shortest and funniest.

The funny showman has nearby performances coming up in Horsham 29th October, Camberley 2nd November and Farnham 4th November. See: https://miltonjones.com/live-dates/

D-jangling Jazz in Epsom

3 March 2023



The **London Django Collective** (LDC) charmed the capacity audience at Epsom Jazz Club on Tuesday 18th October sweeping all along with their infectious enthusiasm for Gypsy Jazz, playing fabulous versions of Django Reinhardt compositions including "Flèche d'or" and "Nuages" alongside the band's own music.

This Quartet don't just perform standards from the early 20th century, they write their own tunes within this genre as well. LDC exquisitely delivered the captivating "Marrakech" and "Samoreau", composed by guitarists **Kourosh Kanani** and **Harry Diplock** respectively.

Violinist **Matt Holborn** solidly commanded **The Oaks Room** venue, both on his instrument and on the microphone between tracks. And the audience were kept waiting until the very last track ("Billets doux") for a tantalising solo from bassist **Pete Thomas**.

An incredible foursome, and such accomplished ambassadors for this well-loved style of Jazz.

Epsom Jazz Club returns with its final concert of 2022 on Tuesday 15th November, welcoming the **Tobie Carpenter Organ Trio** to The Oaks Room. For more information and tickets visit www.epsomjazzclub.com

@EpsomJazzClub on Twitter/Instagram/Facebook

Stretching Resources?

3 March 2023

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Both "**The Horton**" (Arts Centre) and The **Horton Cemetery** featured on the agenda of the **Epsom and Ewell** Borough Council's **Strategy and Resources** committee Thursday 29th September. For the second time this year discussion on a request to the Council to exercise Compulsory Purchase Order powers over the neglected 9000 body 5-acre cemetery on Hook Road, Epsom, was withdrawn.



Hon Alderman Alan Carlson by the memorial to the 9000 buried in Horton Cemetery. Image Stan Kujawa

As previously reported HERE the bone of contention, between the charity, **The Friends of Horton Cemetery** and a report to Councillors, concerns the valuation basis for compensation to the property speculator, to whom the intact Cemetery was incongruously sold by the NHS in 1983. Trustee of the Charity **Hon. Alderman Alan Carlson** stated "We are grateful our request has not been determined by the Strategy and Resources Committee. Our own independent expert and affordable valuations have not been enough to persuade the Council. We will now obtain more. We are also grateful to the many supporters who on short notice of the matter mounted an effective email campaign to Councillors in protest". He further added: "This 5-acre Cemetery is sacred to a growing number of relatives of the dead. It is a **white elephant** in the possession of **Michael Heighes of Marque Securities,** who cannot in a thousand years develop it at all. This is why he has totally neglected the site for 40 years".

Chairman of the Committee, Councillor **Neil Dallen** (RA Town Ward), responded to the supporters' campaign stating the Council will meet the Charity as "aspects of the Council Report have been misunderstood by the Trust".

The Horton

Just one week after an opening event at **The Horton** arts and heritage centre, the venue appeared on the agenda of the same meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee. However, without challenge from any of the 10 Councillors present, the Committee went into secret session to discuss the item. The committee stating that the item concerned the finances of a "third party" and it was not "in the public interest" for them to be disclosed publicly.

Other items:

The committee approved investment in a new gas boiler for the Council's **Community and Wellbeing Centre on Longmead, Epsom**. The Council has investigated the efficacy of ground and air heat-pump systems, but the building is not well enough insulated for them to be effective. This prompted Cllr **David Gulland** (LibDem College Ward) to query whether insulation should be invested in. The officer responded that the Council was reviewing insulation across the Council's entire estate.

Following the sudden departure of **Kathryn Beldon** from the top Council post of Chief Executive (reported HERE) the committee agreed to extend the employment of **Jackie King** as interim Chief Executive pending a permanent posting. The meeting also noted a requirement for the appointment of a chief legal officer. **Cllr Kate Chinn** (Labour Court Ward) joked she had asked a previous Council law officer **Simon Young** to return from The Falklands where he had migrated to be the islands' lead attorney.

The chief IT officer had been lost recently so an Information Technology strategy review was withdrawn from the meeting.

The committee approved the business plan being put this Autumn to a vote of business rate payers in the central Epsom area. This would allow **Epsom Bid Ltd** (known as **Go Epsom**) to continue for another 5 years to make improvements to the business zone, funded by an additional levy to business rates. Cllr **Eber Kington** (RA Ewell Court Ward) expressed

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enthusiastic support for the recent work of **Epsom Bid** in the changes and activities it has initiated.

What an erudite lot we are.

3 March 2023



Surrey libraries are the second most visited in the country according to the latest UK Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) data, with the figures showing the libraries attracted over 550,000 visits last year.

CIPFA surveyed residents as part of the findings, with questions ranging from the overall customer experience, satisfaction with the quality of book stock, and the role libraries play in combating loneliness and isolation.

97% of respondents said they received good or very good standard of care when visiting Surrey's libraries, whilst 83% felt the choice of books on offer was either good or very good (with a further 93% happy with the physical condition of the books).

The results also reinforced the important role libraries play in their communities, with 62% of those surveyed who felt lonely saying libraries help to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.



The findings from the CIPFA survey reflect the broadening appeal of Surrey's libraries and emphasise that modern libraries provide more to residents than just books. They have become a place for performances, workshops and exhibition spaces and offer a myriad of services including free digital access for those without access to a computer.

Below are some examples of what libraries have been providing over and above their core service offerings:

- A year-long partnership with Farnham Maltings has resulted in libraries being a space for some exciting creative events to be staged, exhibited and performed, extending the reach and accessibility of cultural experiences.
- Ensuring that no one is left behind libraries have been the backbone of delivering Surrey's Period Dignity campaign with period products available to be collected for free or donated at all 52 libraries.
- Libraries are there for all people in the community and have been welcoming families from the Ukraine ensuring books in Ukrainian and Russian are available on their shelves. Young Ukrainians have been able to take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge thanks to translated materials provided in Ukrainian and Russian.
- This summer during the Jubilee weekend there were 85 Jubilee events and 46 Big Lunches hosted in Surrey libraries as an opportunity for communities to come together and celebrate – to ensure everyone had an opportunity join up and join in with their community.

Sue Wills MBE Assistant Director Art, Culture, Heritage and Libraries said "This is just the tip of the iceberg! We've come a long way in terms of the diversity of services that libraries can offer. This is an exciting period of transformation for our much-loved Surrey Libraries where spaces are re-imagined to deliver a place where social, educational, economic, and cultural activities can be made accessible to all in the community, often free of charge. It's not the physical building that changes it's what's happening inside at the heart of the building that changes."

To find out about all the different events taking place in Surrey Libraries follow on Twitter and Facebook or visit the Surrey Libraries web pages. Libraries – Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)

Results are from the Surrey County Council CIPFA plus survey, 2022

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The Borough's libraries are:

Epsom Library

6 Epsom Square, Epsom · 03456009009

Ewell Court Library

Ewell Court House Lakehurst Road, Epsom · 03002001001

Stoneleigh Community Library

1 Stoneleigh Broadway, Epsom · 03002001001

Bourne Hall Library

Spring Street, Ewell 020 8393 9571

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

3 March 2023



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 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.

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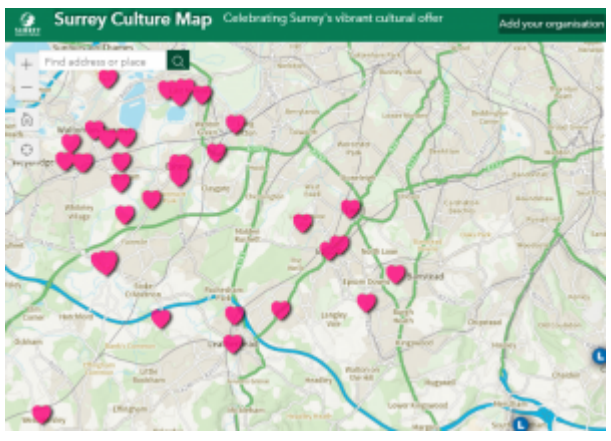


The author Philip Lovel today

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

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

3 March 2023



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 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.....

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

Surrey’s child passports to local culture beat 7 hours queueing for France….

3 March 2023



Surrey County Council is bringing back the exciting free summer passport scheme for families with children aged 4 to 11, this time with a focus on culture. The Surrey Culture Explorer Passport holds captivating adventures that encourages families and children to learn about Surrey’s rich heritage, arts and culture, with a chance to win exciting prizes worth up to £100.

Designed to offer a fun way for children to discover Surrey’s unique culture and arts scene, the activity runs from July until October, giving families ideas and inspiration for days out during the summer holidays.

The Surrey Culture Explorer Passport can be collected for free from one of Surrey’s 52 libraries (including Bourne Hall in Ewell and Epsom Square libraries) and will help children to keep track of their adventures as they collect stickers for completing up to 10 fun “local history” challenges.

Explorers who finish 10 challenges can enter a prize draw and win one of the following sponsored prizes:

- A family ticket for 4 people to visit Brooklands Museum, including the Concorde Experience.
- A ticket for up to 5 children and one adult for a Top Golf Experience in Addlestone.
- A £100 voucher to spend at The Adventure Zone.
- A £100 voucher to spend at Godstone Farm.
- A family ticket to the Nova Cinema in Woking.
- 5 tickets for 1 winner for Guildford Airhop.
- A £15 voucher to spend at Appletree Studio.
- A painting kit containing 3 Ceramic Bisque Pieces, including acrylic paints and a brush from Calli’s Corner.
- A family ticket up to a maximum of 6 people to Thorpe Park.
- A family ticket for four people for a treetop adventure at Go Ape Chessington.
- A family ticket to the British Wildlife Centre for 2 adults and up to 4 children.
- A family ticket for 4 people to Bockett’s Farm.

The activities range from hosting a ‘Big Lunch’ or tea party with friends, families or neighbours, crafting, learning about Surrey’s history, science and making art.

The County is doing this because they want children to discover what culture means to them, whether it’s creating a piece of art, learning about history, dancing, writing their own stories and much more. On top of that, they want to raise awareness about all that the County’s amazing libraries offer and encourage children to read more. Surrey libraries present fantastic resources and offer an incredible events calendar. Find out what events are happening in your nearest library. Find out about all the services available from libraries.

Mark Nuti, Cabinet Member for Communities at Surrey County Council, said:

“Before you run out of ideas during the holidays check out the brilliant new Surrey Libraries initiative for the summer holidays – the Cultural Explorer Passport has got something for everyone. The libraries team have really gone to town this year after last year’s Surrey Nature Explorer Passport success, this year it’s bigger and better than ever. Our libraries are an amazing source of entertainment, information, culture all with an added big dollop of fun!

“I challenge all young explorers to get involved and I assure you, you will open up a new world that you can visit time and time again and a world that will always pleasantly surprise you.

“Enjoy your holidays and I’ll look forward to drawing the prizes later in the year – I hope to see you at a library near you soon!”

See the website for more information on the activities, prizes and how to join in.

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Ukrainians in tune with the hearts of Epsom

3 March 2023



On Saturday 18th June Epsom Music with Surrey Stands with Ukraine organised a very special evening with Ukrainian musicians at the Epsom Methodist Church. The evening was hosted and presented in Ukrainian. Church Minister **Catherine Hutton** welcomed an audience of Ukrainian refugees and their English hosts.

Picture above features Ukrainian pianist Anastacia Tolstonog and her musically gifted children, Maryan and Hannah.

R**obin Sebastian** (*aka Kenneth Williams on stage and screen*) and on behalf of Headley Parish Council presented to **Anne-Marie Carlin** of Surrey Stands With Ukraine a cheque for £6000.

Recently arrived from Ukraine, **Mariya Zhornikova**, of Kharkiv Arts University, opened the music with **Debussy's** Pagodes from the Estampes Suite for piano.



Vadym Perog and Svitlana Kosenko

Svitlana Kosenko, professor of piano at the **Yehudi Menuhin School** in nearby Cobham, accompanied outstanding violinist 17 year old **Vadym Perog**, who's technical mastery of a work by **Maurice Rave**l was spellbounding.

Anastacia Tolstonog, professional pianist and piano tutor, accompanied her recently arrived 16 years old son **Maryan van Prooijen**, who was enrolled, together with his musical 14 years old sister, **Hannah**, at the Yehudi Menuhin School. They had been studying at the **Kyiv Lisenko State Music Lyceum**. Anastacia also played solo pieces by **Scarlatti** and three works by Ukrainian composer **Viktor Kosenko**.

Many in the audience were moved to tears by the passion of the players and the beauty of their music.

Nina Kaye, of the Epsom Refugee network, recited a moving poem written by local poet **Audrey Ardern-Jones** entitled "White Roses", written in honour of Audrey's mother, who fled to England from **Lviv**, during the Second World War. You can read the poem HERE in English and Ukrainian

The evening's success was assured by the interpreting skills of **Darina Dvorinchenko**, also recently arrived from Odessa, Ukraine.

If you know of opportunities for Ukrainian pianists to perform or tutor get in touch with The Epsom and Ewell Times and we will pass your message on.

Youtube video courtesy of Cllr Steven McCormick of parts of the concert HERE

https://www.youtube.com/embed/WsRSl0hZG7E

Yehudi Menuhin School's professor of piano Svitlana Kosenko accompanies violin virtuoso Vadym Perog.

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