



Good King Wenceslas comes to Epsom and Ewell

27 October 2022



Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell has teamed up with the **Rotary Clubs of Epsom and Ewell** to bring **Project Wenceslas** to the Borough for the sixth year running. Project Wenceslas enables those who receive, but do not need, the **Government's Winter Fuel Payment** to donate it to either Rotary Club of Epsom or Rotary Club of Ewell. This money will be distributed to people in critical need of assistance with energy bills, much needed during the **Cost of Living crisis**. All monies donated are redistributed 100% without any deductions for costs or expenses.

If you would like to know more about donating your Winter Fuel Payment, please contact Epsom Rotary via their website or Ewell Rotary via their website and search for Project Wenceslas.

If you are struggling with fuel bills, then contact Citizens Advice Epsom & Ewell on 0808 278 7963 (Mon-Fri, 10am - 4pm) or see the CAB website : www.caee.org.uk

Surrey County Council on the level.

27 October 2022



On 2nd February 2022 the **Government** published its **Levelling Up White Paper** which laid out an agenda for tackling inequality across the country. It outlined the future landscape for devolution in the UK and provided a blueprint for improving opportunity and outcomes in education, the economy, infrastructure, transport, and health by The White Paper also set out a commitment to bring devolution in the form of County Deals 'to every part of England that wants one by 2030'.

The Government's **Levelling Up White Paper** presents a rare opportunity for the **Surrey County Council** to pursue a devolution deal for Surrey that will bring new powers, freedoms and flexibilities, better enabling the council to deliver for residents against the **2030 Community Vision**, the council's four strategic priorities (Growing a sustainable economy; Tackling health inequality; Enabling a greener future; and Empowering communities), and work towards the overarching ambition of No One Left Behind.

In April 2022, Surrey County Council's Cabinet was presented with a paper that outlined the key implications of, and opportunities within, the Government's Levelling Up White Paper for Surrey, particularly in relation to the devolution framework and a County Deal for Surrey. Within this, it set out the initial ideas being explored and developed in partnership with stakeholders that would form proposals within a County Deal.

More recently the government have announced two Level 3 devolution deals to establish the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and East Midlands County Combined Authority. Both deals align closely with the wording set out in the Devolution Framework and have provided a useful basis from which to compare with the proposals being considered for Surrey's County Deal.

Despite securing these devolution deals, progress has slowed in government due to a number of factors, including the ongoing challenges with the cost-of-living crisis, the Conservative Party Leadership contest to elect a new Prime Minister and then the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Capacity within the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is limited, so until the first set of early County Deals are agreed they are unlikely to start negotiating with new areas.

Once negotiations begin, there is a chance that the "core" proposals set out in a Council Report will evolve and new proposals could emerge as part of discussions. The intention before any final County Deal is agreed is for the details of the deal to be brought back to the Cabinet to endorse and for wider members to have appropriate opportunities to comment, scrutinise, and approve.



Key areas subject to proposals and consultations include:

Housing Strategy

The Cabinet agreed with the recommendations outlined in a report on a single, unifying housing strategy for Surrey.

Housing is fundamental to people's wellbeing and life chances, but there is not currently a joined-up housing strategy for the county.

The council is working with partners in district and borough councils, Registered Social Landlords, developers, businesses and health providers to provide ambition, focus, direction and alignment across the whole Surrey housing system.

The full report is available [here](#).

Surrey Skills Plan

The Cabinet endorsed the Surrey Skills Plan, which aims to help deliver the skills, jobs and opportunities for Surrey's economy to thrive.

The Skills Plan will officially launch at the Surrey Skills Summit on 10 November at Sandown Racecourse.

The full report is available [here](#).

Healthy Streets for Surrey

Cabinet endorsed the new healthy streets planning guide, which aims to support the creation of high quality, attractive, safe, accessible and sustainable developments.

The developments outlined in the guide will bring a raft of benefits, including:

- More cycling and walking
- Streets where children can play safely
- Improved air quality
- Reduction in residents' transport carbon footprint
- Creation of attractive and popular streets that will require less long-term maintenance.

The full report is available [here](#).

Bus Services in Surrey

Cabinet agreed to the recommendations outlined in a report on the council's response to the National Bus Strategy (Bus Back Better).

As part of this Cabinet approved a consultation about the future for bus services in Surrey.

The council will be seeking residents' views on investment proposals, the introduction of more on-demand buses and possible alterations to some existing bus routes.

The consultation will run from 3 November - 6 January 2023.

The full report is available [here](#).

Surrey County Council News with edits by Epsom and Ewell Times

New Fire Chief to the rescue

27 October 2022



Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have appointed **Dan Quin** as their new permanent Chief Fire Officer. Dan has been acting-up as Chief Fire Officer since June 2022, prior to that he was the county's Deputy Chief Fire Officer since October 2019.

He has served his whole career within Surrey Fire and Rescue Service since joining over 23 years ago in 1999 as a firefighter at Leatherhead Fire Station and takes on the role following a robust interview process.



Dan is also the Vice-Chair of the **United Kingdom Rescue Organisation** who are the industry leads in advancing professional rescue skills nationally.

Speaking of his new appointment, Dan said: "I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed as Surrey's permanent Chief Fire Officer and very much looking forward to building on the plans I put in place during the last few months as Acting Chief. As someone who has been in the service for the whole of my career, I am aware of the many strengths as well as the areas we need to improve upon. I am dedicated to making Surrey one of the best fire and rescue services in the industry and I know we have the people to help see that through."

Council Leader **Tim Oliver** said: "I'm pleased to welcome Dan as Chief Fire Officer. After a very positive spell leading Surrey Fire and Rescue Service on an interim basis, Dan was clearly a very strong candidate for the job. I'm confident he will be a great leader of the service - knowledgeable, experienced and approachable to staff and partners across Surrey. He will continue on the improvement journey that is well underway and I'm confident SFRS is in good hands to continue its journey to being an excellent service."

Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Protection, **Denise Turner-Stewart** said: "Having worked with Dan before and very recently too, I am very pleased to hear that he has been made our Chief Fire Officer and am looking forward to continuing to work closely alongside him. Dan brings a wealth of experience from serving the residents of Surrey for over 20 years already and it gives me great confidence that Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and the safety of residents are in good hands."

Surrey County Council news

Surrey Skills at the Summit

27 October 2022



Surrey County Council launches **Surrey Skills Plan** at **Skills Summit** November 10. A landmark event in Surrey next month will bring together education providers and businesses in a bid to turbo charge Surrey's local economy.

The Surrey Skills Summit at **Sandown Racecourse** on 10 November will give leading local businesses the opportunity to outline what skills they need in the years to come. Education providers including colleges and universities will be on hand to discuss tailoring vocational offers and training, with a view to developing Surrey's workforce of the future.

The event will also launch the **Surrey Skills Plan**, including recommendations and actions to help deliver the skills, jobs and opportunities for Surrey's economy to thrive.

The Summit will also include:

- Presentations from experts on the national skills landscape, including developments and their implications for Surrey businesses and training providers.
- Case studies from Surrey businesses who have taken creative approaches to meeting their recruitment, retention and skills needs
- The chance for businesses to have their voice heard to help build a world class skills system in Surrey that meets the needs of all businesses and residents.

Learn more and register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/surrey-skills-summit-tickets-415842374737>

Matt Furniss, Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth, said:

"Surrey has the UK's second largest GDP after London and for decades has been a natural home for companies from across the world. As competition for talent becomes tougher and skills shortages become more pronounced, it's essential for Surrey to become more proactive in planning for the future. The Skills Plan and events like the Skills Summit are essential for growing a sustainable economy for Surrey. We need to come together to provide the right conditions for business to thrive, delivering skills, jobs and opportunity for all."

Surrey County Council News

Safer nights in Epsom in sights

27 October 2022



Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's (EEBC) Environment and Safe Communities Committee approved the allocation of a grant for plans to improve safety in the area. - Tuesday 18 October -. In a bid that resulted in a £271,712 grant from the Home Office Safer Streets programme, the council put forward a range of initiatives to promote safety within Epsom's night time economy.

In conjunction with the Safer Streets bid, a 'Night Time Safety' survey, specific to Epsom town centre, was created. Only 30% of those who responded said they felt safe in the town centre at night, and only 18% of respondents said they felt safe within Epsom's nightclubs. The bid also cited a rise in spiking in the borough, with two anecdotal reports of spiking in 2019 and 2020, and nine reported crimes involving spiking in 2021.

Councillors at the committee meeting approved a decision to spend £172,512 of the grant on replacing sixteen CCTV cameras in Epsom, which, according to the bid, were outdated and expensive to run. The monitoring costs of the sixteen cameras will be funded by the **Epsom BID** (known as "**Go Epsom**"). The cameras are currently monitored by **Surrey Police**, but EEBC has said that they will now be monitored locally.

The bid states that 'The CCTV will be monitored during busy weekend periods via 24-hour security based in the shopping centre. Security will be able to speak directly to the police to prevent late night incidents occurring or escalating, feedback live information and protect those who appear vulnerable. The CCTV will also be available for investigation purposes.'

Councillors also approved the decommissioning of four CCTV cameras in Ewell and Stoneleigh, after officers found that it was 'unlikely' that the cameras were being used enough to meet an identified pressing need, as set out under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

The funding of accredited training for staff at Epsom's licensed premises was deemed an 'essential part' of the Safer Streets bid, which cites 'a lack of training and awareness with licenced premises and their staff around VAWG [Violence Against Women and Girls], including drink spiking and identifying vulnerabilities.' The bid also states that there is a lack of nonauthoritarian guardians available at night time, and that police are often unable to assist vulnerable people while also addressing offences.

One respondent to the Night Time Safety survey said: 'There's not always someone nearby or a close location I can trust'. Part of the funding will go towards training and uniform for Street Pastors, an existing group of volunteers from local congregations who offer support to those who are out in the evening. However, they do not feel comfortable being out in the early hours of the morning, and incidents of violence peak between 3am and 4am. Therefore, the bid also suggests supplementing the Street Pastors scheme with a 'Night Angels' initiative, which, being open to a wider demographic of volunteers, might increase the number of people available to offer support during the night.

Councillors also approved plans to provide drink testing and anti-spiking kits at licensed premises.

A communications package will be used to disseminate information about the improvements through advertising and social media.

Was this why she was in Epsom Saturday?

27 October 2022



Epsom and Ewell Times did not know **Gina Miller**, who visited The Market Square Saturday*, was going to announce yesterday her intention to stand against **Chris Grayling MP** at the next election. So, not a bad start for her campaign. She is standing for a party she launched earlier in the year named the "**True and Fair**" Party. This new political group states it is not about left and right but about right and wrong.

*See post: National Polio Day marked in Epsom



Quoting from its website Gina Miller states: "True & Fair is the only political party prepared to bring in radical reforms to fix the systemic failures in the UK's machinery of government, to legislate for electoral reform, Parliamentary checks and scrutiny, improve anti-corruption laws across politics and public life, and focus policy-making on fairness, and right and wrong, not right and left. A real-world plan for the future through new politics, new thinking, new partnerships."

The party has announced a grand total of 9 prospective candidates to fight seats at the next General Election. An election that must be held by January 2025 at the latest.

Gina Miller became a household name, revered and detested in equal proportions, for her spearheading a successful legal challenge against a tactic of the UK Government (the prorogation of Parliament) to get Brexit done.

Chris Grayling MP enjoys a majority over all other candidates of 4197 at the 2019 election from a total of 59,451 votes cast. The Liberal Democrats came second with 13,946 votes and Labour third with 10,266. The Greens got 2047 votes and the Borough's current Mayor, Cllr Clive Woodbridge (Residents Association) stood as an independent and received 1413 votes. Chris Grayling's traditional opponents may be dismayed if Gina Miller's intervention has the effect of increasing his first place lead.

See <https://epsomandewelltimes.com/westminster>

Milton Impossible finally accomplished in Epsom

27 October 2022



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

27 October 2022



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

Surrey's Safe Drive Stay Alive returns

27 October 2022



To **Dorking Halls** next month, for its first live performances in three years. The live show has been performed in front of 190,000 young people between the ages of 16-19 since its inception in 2005 and is an emotionally engaging and thought-provoking education production, coordinated by **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service**.

Working with the other emergency services, the event aims to raise road safety awareness amongst young people and positively influence their attitudes to driving as well as their role as a passenger in cars.

The performance has been designed to engage an audience of young learner and novice young drivers, a group that is at higher risk of collisions, injury and death on the UK's roads and aims to make young people aware of their responsibilities as road users and the wide ranging and potentially devastating consequences should these not be taken seriously. The ultimate aim is to reduce the number of road traffic collisions involving young people and the number of deaths and injuries amongst this at-risk driver group.

The performances comprise a series of films featuring people recalling true stories and real-life impacts of road traffic collisions. Between each of these films, speakers, including personnel from the emergency services and members of the public personally affected by a road death, recount their own experiences.

Over the last 17 years, 285 performances have been held, with, this year, 70 different schools, colleges, youth groups and even army bases from across the county attending. In the past two years, Coronavirus restrictions forced the event to be staged online, where an estimated 28,000 young people tuned in.

This year, Safe Drive Stay Alive are offering free tickets to the public performance on Wednesday 9 November, providing an opportunity to witness this impactful performance for yourself. Spaces are limited, so secure your today by visiting: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/safe-drive-stay-alive-tickets-430812460667>

The event has been supported by organisations including the **Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey**, **Surrey RoadSafe**, **Toyota GB**, **esure** and **Sheilas' Wheels, Ringway, Surrey Educational Trust (SCC)**, as well as the **High Sheriff of Surrey**, the **Safer Guildford Partnership** and **Safer Surrey Heath**. Additional funding is provided by a large number of town and parish councils across Surrey. This funding allows the event to be put on free of charge, and cover venue hire and transportation costs for attendees to and from the venue. To find out more about Safe Drive Stay Alive, please visit: <https://safedrivesurrey.org/>

Surrey County Council News

Surrey's challenges with social care

27 October 2022





Surrey County Council must work closely with independent care providers to meet the challenges facing social care and continue to improve choice for residents, Surrey's new director of adult social care has said.

In her first keynote speech to Surrey's care sector, **Liz Bruce** embraced the need for a new working relationship between the council and providers of residential, nursing and home-based care to help build for the future of social care including planning for the biggest care reforms in decades.

As well as preparing for the reforms - which are set to usher in a lifetime limit on care costs of £86,000 - the care sector in Surrey is operating in an "unprecedented" economic environment and dealing with recruitment pressures and the impact of Covid-19, Mrs Bruce said.



Liz Bruce new Director of Adult Social Care

Addressing the **Surrey Care Association**'s autumn conference in Dorking, Mrs Bruce said new relationships and "new thinking" would enable the council and providers, along with their NHS partners, to move "together ahead".

Forging a closer relationship would enable the partners to better shape services around the needs of residents and communities and enhance the choice of care and support options available.

Earlier this year, Mrs Bruce became Joint Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Integrated Commissioning working across Surrey County Council and Surrey Heartlands integrated care system.

She told the conference: "*We need each other more now than ever. We're stronger together and we've got more in common together - we mustn't let people divide us. We're far more powerful and influential to central government if we're saying the same things.*

"How we work together going forward is all based on relationships. We need to innovate together and to do that we've got to have a good relationship and have dialogue. None of us can do what we're trying to do on our own so we need to come together and work in partnership. I'm optimistic we can do that."

Areas where there are opportunities to work together include on shared issues such as workforce and training. A key focus for adult social care is supporting providers and residents with better information, advice and guidance to help the make informed life choices, especially when considering or requiring care.

The county council's commissioning strategy for older people, covering the period until 2030 and drawing on input from providers and the NHS as well as residents and staff, aims to champion greater choice, quality and control for residents.

As well as supporting people to lead independent and active lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible, the blueprint spells out how the council and partners will work together on ensuring intensive and personalised care options for people with more complex needs, in line with the council's ambition to tackle inequalities in health so that no one in Surrey is left behind.

Mrs Bruce took up her new role in Surrey in May from the London boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth where she was Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health. She has previously held senior positions at London's tri-borough partnership - Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea - and at Manchester City Council and Warwickshire County Council.

Surrey County Council News

National Polio Day marked in Epsom

27 October 2022



Gina Miller supported **Epsom Rotary**'s fight against rising cases of Polio. Today is **National Polio Day** and on Saturday local Rotarians were raising awareness in Epsom's Market Square. They raised £300 from the Borough's generous public and that will be matched by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**.

Gina Miller with Peggy Rowell of Epsom Rotary in Epsom Market Square

With the news reporting Poliovirus has raised its ugly head, here in the UK, it is a reminder how important the Rotary International PolioPlus campaign is. Not since 1984 has there been a case of polio in the UK, which was declared polio free in 2003. Although, no cases have been detected or confirmed and the risk of someone catching polio in the UK is low, it has come as major blow to Rotary, that it has been identified, here, in the UK. The emphasis is being placed on trying to make sure that all children and unvaccinated adults have been fully immunised against the disease. This is because the poliovirus is opportunistic and will exploit gaps in population immunity.

The **Rotary PolioPlus campaign** was launched in 1985, becoming a founding member of the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative** in 1988. In this time, Rotary members, working with communities around the world, have contributed more than 2.1 billion US dollars and countless volunteer hours for the fight to end polio. Now polio is considered eliminated in most first world countries with Afghanistan and Pakistan being the only countries in the world where the infection is classed as an endemic.

The fight has to continue and as Rotarians we can play a key role in raising funds and awareness to achieve a polio-free world and ensure we protect the gains Rotary has worked so hard to achieve.

Polio Outbreaks 2022

Poliovirus (Poliomyelitis) has been confirmed in non-endemic countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, India, the United Kingdom, and New York in 2022. In recent years, polio-endemic countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan have reported polio outbreaks, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

And on September 26, 2022, the U.S. CDC issued a global Alert - Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions, regarding polio outbreaks and poliovirus detections in various countries.

On September 13, 2022, the WHO added the USA to a list of about thirty countries where circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) has been identified in 2022. This action is related to genetic sequences in July 2022 from a polio (Acute flaccid myelitis) patient in Rockland County, NY, and wastewater specimens collected in various New York counties, linked to poliovirus samples collected in Israel, and London, indicating multi-country, community transmission.

Our own correspondent

The Agony and the Ecstasy

27 October 2022



ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT RFC 31 - SUTTON & EPSOM RFC 29 - 22nd October. This was **Sutton & Epsom**'s first ever match against **Royal Wootton Bassett** RFC. Both clubs were desperately in need of a victory with S&E's solitary victory only just better than their host's winless start to the campaign. In front of a large crowd swelled by Ladies' Day at Ballards Ash, a euphoric home crowd roared on their team to a 31-29 victory in a match of fluctuating fortunes.

Under cloudy skies but spared of any rain Freddy Bunting kicked off the contest for Sutton and Epsom. It has become an unfortunate this season that S&E are slow out of the blocks when on the road. The opening fifteen minutes of this match was sadly no exception. After five minutes not only had RWB lock Josh McCaffertey scored a try from close-range converted by Troy Cusack but also they had been reduced to 14 with a yellow card issued to Number 8 Tom Brooker. In



addition prop Alex Mount had departed injured to be replaced by Will Lloyd.

Inspired by the early score the Wiltshire All Blacks pressed hard to make the most of their numerical advantage. The Black & Whites defence was rather too porous as first Number 8 Kyle Lovell and then winger Jone Waqadanidrola made significant breaks. The first Sutton & Epsom attack ended with Kyren Ghumra departing with a torn hamstring and Stefan Cooksammy entering the fray. Approaching the quarter hour mark the hosts won a 5-metre line out and this time the ball was spun wide and full back Sam Williams ran a superb line to scythe through the defence and score under the posts. Troy Cusack made it 14-0 in as many minutes.

S&E finally awoke from their slumber and began to claw back the deficit. The reliable boot of Freddy Bunting immediately got them on the scoreboard with a perfectly struck penalty for 14-3. It was RWB's turn to concede a penalty and be punished with the familiar 5-metre line out resulting. The scrappy S&E line out fortunately ended with a knock on providing Sutton with a scrum. A slick set move resulted in Ollie Baptiste-Wilson taking the aerial route to score in the corner. Freddy Bunting converted from the touchline to make it 10-14. Five minutes later the ugly Lane kicker bisected the uprights for another penalty success to reduce the gap to a solitary point, 13-14.

The Malmesbury Road men were starting an unfortunate trend of conceding penalties at the breakdown, a first half trickle that was to turn into a torrent in the second period. Cheered on by the sizeable crowd the home team rallied and were indebted to a sublime 50/20 kick by Troy Cusack as he rolled the ball into the far right corner. The RWB line out, which was possibly their greatest strength in this contest, provided clean ball and centre Daniel Hale supplied the finish. Troy Cusack added the extras to extend the lead to 21-13. There was time for one more Freddy Bunting penalty attempt but it was blown wide and the half concluded with the hosts enjoying an interval advantage of 21-33. Both camps had plenty to reflect upon in a contest that was far from over.

The weather held and Royal Wootton Bassett restarted the game defending their 8-point advantage. From the outset they were on the back foot. It was their turn to be defending a 5-metre line out after a penalty and moments later to be reduced to 14 men. The referee was exceedingly consistent in his punishments. The difference was that unlike the Wiltshire line out which was very secure the Sutton version was totally unreliable. Ten minutes of pressure and numerous opportunities in the left hand corner were squandered.

Finally, tactics turned to Bunting's boot and another three points were added for 16-21. The S&E cause was being aided by an outbreak of penalties that had reached epidemic proportions that was infecting the Ballards Ash XV. After a quarter of an hour in the second period after carries from Boaden and Harwood the backs took over. Archie FitzGerald muscled over the gainline, the ball was recycled and Ollie Baptiste-Wilson finished with aplomb. Though the conversion from the flank failed it was all square 21-21 as the game entered the final quarter.

The one-way traffic was halted when RWB on their next visit to S&E territory won a penalty just outside the 22 adjacent to the posts. Effortlessly Troy Cusack regained the lead with the hosts 24-21 to the good. A minute later the visitors scored their best try as Ollie Baptiste-Wilson completed his hat trick. Tom Brooker burst down the blindside from halfway, sold one dummy and then passed to the speeding winger who did the rest.

Despite the errant conversion Sutton and Epsom led by 26-24. From the restart Tom Brooker took the catch but fell heavily and was forced to leave the pitch. The Black & Whites continued to press hard to extend their lead and with the frequency of penalties conceded by the hosts it was unsurprising when an opportunity within Freddy Bunting's range arrived. Once more the Rugby Lane kicker's aim was true and the visitors led 29-24 with five minutes left on the clock.

Indiscipline now hit the Surrey team's ranks. Ominously the ball was kicked into the corner from a penalty. Valiant defence was matched by infringements resulting from sustained pressure. Finally, the ball went wide and the space was exploited as the Wiltshire All Blacks' hooker Scott Parry touched down for their fourth try and a bonus point. Troy Cusack was the man of the moment and put the Malmesbury Road team ahead 31-29 with the conversion. Sutton moved ever onward into the host's half. Archie FitzGerald burst into the 22, was tackled and the whistle blew but it was a penalty to the home team against the centre for rolling on the deck. With great relief the ball was kicked to touch, the whistle blew and the celebrations began for Royal Wootton Bassett.

It was a demoralising day for the Black & Whites as, once again, they failed to overcome the significant handicap of a dreadful start. With defeats by 4, 3 and 2 points and a draw in their first seven matches it is a serious case of 'what might have been' as they now join their hosts in the relegation zone. The lethal Ollie Baptiste-Wilson had the unusual feat of scoring a league hat trick for S&E but still ending up on the losing side. For RWB their line out was excellent, the kicking of Troy Cusack superb and the running of Man of the Match Daniel Hale was enough to engineer their first win of the campaign.

Once again Sutton will be breaking new ground in terms of league opposition when they host Oxford Harlequins next Saturday 29th October. It will be last of the 3pm kick offs at Rugby Lane before switching to the seasonal variations. After reaching the giddy heights of topping the table consecutive defeats to title rivals Wimbledon and Havant has seen the Quins drop to fourth in the league but they will still provide stiff opposition for the Black & Whites.

Sutton & Epsom

Austin Bell, Kyren Ghumra, Archie FitzGerald, Freddie Bunting, Ollie Baptiste-Wilson, Jamie See, Owen Clemett, Alex Mount, Chris Farrell ©, Tom Boaden, Matt Harwood, Josh Glanville, Ben Tame, Rob Hegarty & Tom Brooker.

Replacements: Will Lloyd, George London & Stefan Cooksammy.

Royal Wootton Bassett

Sam Williams, Mark Trowbridge, Daniel Hale, Connor Tomley, Jone Waqadanidrola, Troy Cusack, Rhys Higginson, Harry Daynes, Scott Parry, Jake O'Neill, Epi Druavesi, Joshua McCafferty, Jack Daynes, Gavin Ougan & Kyle Lovell.

Replacements:



Phillip Bardwell, Oliver Craig Baycroft & Iwan Floyd.

Benches mark the victims of Co-Vid across the Borough

27 October 2022



Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is installing 14 memorial benches across the Borough to commemorate all the lives lost in the Covid-19 pandemic. Metal benches have been placed at Alexandra Recreations Ground, Long Grove Park, Nonsuch Park, Shadbolt Park, Stoneleigh Broadway and The Grove in Ewell Village.

Mayor Clive Woodbridge, College Ward Councillors Julie Morris and Nigel Colin, Cllr Hannah Dalton and Elena Ciesco. Acting Borough Chief Executive Jackie King also attended.

More metal benches have been or are in the process of being installed at Auriol Park, Ewell Court Park, Mounthill Gardens and The Wells Centre. Wooden benches will also be placed at Epsom Common, Grandstand Road, Horton Country Park and Hogsmill by the steppingstones at a later date. Flowers will also be planted around the benches where appropriate.

Funding for the benches was provided via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Councillor **Hannah Dalton**, who put forward the CIL bid, said, "The past two years have been extremely hard for everyone in the Borough, but more so for those who have lost loved ones. These benches are our permanent memorial to all those affected by the pandemic. "I hope they will bring comfort to grieving families, ensuring that their loved one will always have a place in and be remembered by our community."

Councillor **John Beckett**, Chair of Environment and Safe Communities Committee, added, "While these benches memorialise the pandemic, they also represent a time for reflection within the Borough. I can't think of a more fitting tribute to those we have lost, than to have something to remind us of and generations to come."



A Robin is a feature of the Co-Vid victims memorial bench

One of the benches, for each of the Borough's Wards, was the place of a moving speech by **Mayor Clive Woodbridge** on Saturday morning 22nd October. In **Alexandria Park** The Mayor spoke of the loss so many across the Borough have suffered during the pandemic. As of the week ending 7th October 2022 the UK Government funded **LG Inform** states that 474 persons have died of Co-Vid in Epsom and Ewell.

Mayor Woodbridge recognised how deep the bereavement is felt by relatives who came to the bench this day especially as he had this year suffered the loss of a son. As an example of the reality of loss he read a tribute to one Epsomian who succumbed to the virus.



Elena Ciesco who campaigned for memorials in the Borough

Luigi Ciesco was born in Italy in 1941 and at the age of 19 he moved to England in 1960 to start a new life. He met Vincenza his wife, at a wedding in Italy and soon after, they were married, settling first in Hook Road and then in Alexandra Road in Epsom for 45 years. They went on to have 4 children and 8 grandchildren and were married for 57 years. He was an amazing, fun loving and cheeky man, a real character and he was known and loved by so many. He loved his family, and he loved his Italian music and he loved to dance. He was an extremely hard-working man and worked in the NHS. He grew all his own vegetables and was an expert gardener and wine maker.

The Covid memorial benches mean a great deal to the bereaved families. The world seems to have moved on from Covid but they have not moved on, they are forever changed. The benches show the reality of how cruel this virus is and how it does not discriminate from young to old. We all hope that it makes people stop and think about our loved ones never to be forgotten."

Indecent images end policeman's career

27 October 2022



A former Surrey Police special constable will never be in the profession again after failing to report unwanted illegal indecent images. According to an accelerated misconduct hearing outcome posted on the force's website, Special Constable **Alan Harvey** breached the "standards of professional behaviour" and was so serious "it warranted dismissal".

Surrey Police handed Mr Harvey's name to the LDRS on request as the hearing notice and outcome refers to him as "Special Constable Harvey". However, limited details have been released since the hearing took place on October 3.

Here's what happened:

A notice of the hearing was on the Surrey Police website on September 27, and was seen by the LDRS.

On approaching the force to gain the full name of the officer involved, which was not initially included, the notice was taken down and replaced with one with less detail on the allegations. The original notice of the hearing stated that former SC Harvey had stated, during police interview, that sometimes he would be sent indecent images of children. It said: "SC Harvey failed to report these illegal images to police so that the offenders could be prosecuted, and children safeguarded. Former SC Harvey continued to use the same online services despite having been sent [indecent images of children]."

According to the original hearing notice, the former SC had also accepted in police interview that he may have sent one of the indecent images of children by accident when trying to send legal adult pornography through the online service.

Chief Constable **Gavin Stephens** chaired the hearing on October 3, finding that the breach of the standards of professional behaviour was so serious that former SC Harvey should be dismissed, had he still been serving. The college of policing states that special constables are voluntary officers with the same powers as regular officers, and they take part in frontline police work.

This can mean a varied role including spending "much of their time on the streets", patrolling in crime hotspots or taking part in crime-prevention initiatives.

A Surrey Police spokeswoman said: "The rules breached were that it breached our professional standards, the finding



made was that he would have been dismissed had he still been serving and same goes for the sanctions imposed."

*LDRS = Local Democracy Reporting Service of the BBC with which Epsom and Ewell Times is partnered.

Inspirational Surrey Syrian awarded

27 October 2022



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Surrey County Council news

Anyone for tennis and computers?

27 October 2022



Pupils at Shawley Community Primary Academy **Epsom Downs** will put their racket skills to the test this half-term and take part in an exciting afternoon of tennis coaching and computer-based learning activities, with education charity, **Rackets Cubed**.

The unique initiative combines racket sports with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) lessons at the local



Sutton Sports Village, rounded off with a well-deserved and nutritious hot meal for the budding athletes and computer whizzes.

Supporting all children to be healthy, happy and ambitious learners is at the heart of Shawley Primary Academy's approach. The school has partnered with Rackets Cubed to help widen access into sports and STEM learning for more children in the borough, empowering each pupil to realise their full academic and sporting potential.

The charity aims to improve the lives of children and young people across the UK and raise aspirations through its integrated programme of sport, education and nutrition learning. As part of the enriching afternoon, pupils in years 5 and 6 will be getting served with:

- Racket sports - a structured coaching session with a professional sports coach
- STEM activities - one hour of fun and engaging computer-based activities delivered alongside the sports coaching, to complement the core school curriculum
- Nutrition - A healthy and hearty meal will be provided at the end of the session to help the children re-energise, whilst learning about the importance of nutrition for classroom and sporting achievement

While tennis fans bid farewell to old legends such as Serena Williams and Roger Federer this year, the future is looking bright with newcomers such as Naomi Osaka and Emma Raducanu. This makes it a perfect time to introduce more local children to the sport and nurture the next generation of diverse tennis talent.

By providing pupils with the opportunity to try extracurricular opportunities that otherwise might not be easily accessible, Shawley and Rackets Cubed are working to help children dream bigger, develop their skills and discover new passions.

Sports Lead at Shawley Community Primary Academy, said:

"We are very excited here at Shawley to begin this partnership with Rackets Cubed and help break down barriers to sports and STEM learning. The positive growth and self-fulfilment of our pupils is central to what we do, so being able to align ourselves with a charity that is also driven by these aims was incredibly important to us. Sports can create an infinite number of opportunities and benefits when it's regularly engaged in, so it's wonderful to work with Rackets Cubed and help our pupils access professional coaching and training, which all contributes to their wider success."

For more information about Shawley Community Academy, please visit: <https://www.shawleyprimaryacademy.co.uk/>