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

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# Epsom horse owners asked to take survey

7 September 2023

Britain’s inaugural **Thoroughbred Census** has been initiated, inviting former racehorse owners to partake in the survey open until December 31, 2023. The primary aim is to enhance the traceability of retired racehorses.

About the Census: The census is a collaborative effort with Retraining of Racehorses (RoR), the official aftercare charity of British Racing, funded by the Racing Foundation. It receives support from World Horse Welfare and Weatherbys General Stud Book and is coordinated with experts from Hartpury University. This initiative is a crucial component of British Racing’s Horse Welfare Board’s five-year welfare strategy, ‘A Life Well Lived.’ The project’s objective is to enhance the traceability of thoroughbreds after their racing careers conclude.

The Census seeks to address a recognized data gap resulting from infrequent updates to equine identification documents (passports) once thoroughbreds transition into private ownership. By improving data accuracy, British Racing and RoR aim to provide enhanced support to owners, including access to educational resources and avenues for competition if desired. Additionally, it fosters informed and supportive communities. Furthermore, it equips the Horse Welfare Board and RoR to enhance and adapt welfare initiatives and facilitates rapid and effective communication in the event of an equine disease outbreak.

**Helena Flynn**, Programme Director of the Horse Welfare Board, stated, “This campaign will help us emphasize responsible ownership and the critical role every thoroughbred owner plays in ensuring the accuracy of their equine identification document (passport).”

What Information Does the Census Require? To complete the survey, owners must provide the horse’s equine identification document (passport) number, microchip number, age, current residence, second career, and other pertinent details to compile a comprehensive dataset for retired British racehorses in 2023.

Why is an Additional Objective of the Census Necessary? Typically, new horse owners are expected to update ownership information within 30 days. During their racing careers, this information is meticulously maintained by breeders, owners, and trainers in the Weatherbys General Stud Book. However, data for former racehorses significantly declines when they enter private ownership after retiring from racing, with equine identification document (passport) compliance averaging just 20% across the equestrian community. This decline may stem from a lack of awareness regarding the importance of this phase, uncertainty about associated costs, a reluctance to update documents even after a horse has passed away, and a general disinterest in participating in the process.

Therefore, an additional goal of the census is to engage with private owners to encourage them to review and, if necessary, update their horse’s equine identification card (passport). Moreover, owners of horses previously registered with licensed British trainers will be invited to register their horses for free with RoR.

**David Catlow**, Managing Director of Retraining of Racehorses, emphasized, “The ‘social license’ for the use of horses in sport is under increasing scrutiny, with the welfare of former racehorses after retirement being a specific concern. This initiative is a significant stride toward ensuring thoroughbreds enjoy a healthy and caring existence throughout their lives, while also providing the racing industry with pertinent data to inform future decisions.”

To complete the form, please visit: https://uwe.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8bNJFzR2FB95ZlQ

Participation in the census is voluntary, but owners are strongly encouraged to join the community and contribute. Full findings will be disclosed in the first quarter of 2024.

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# White van man to go green?

7 September 2023

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Diesel van owners who drive along the Guildford stretch of the A3 more than three times a week, could be eligible for a grant to replace their vehicle with an electric model.

Surrey County Council is working in partnership with Guildford Borough Council to deliver a £11 million National Highways scheme, aimed at reducing high levels of pollution in the area. Applications can be made here from today (Thursday 07 September) as 'International Day of Clean air for blue skies' gets underway.

Vehicle dealerships that sell and lease qualifying electric light commercial vehicles are also being encouraged to apply to participate in the scheme. Applications can be made at www.surreycc.gov.uk/a3evgrantdealer. A free event is being held for interested dealerships in Guildford on **Tuesday 12 September 2023**. Tickets can be booked here.

**Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth said**, "Reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality is a major priority for Surrey County Council as we strive to achieve our target to be a net-zero county by 2050. Pollution levels on this stretch of the A3 are unacceptable and we want to do all we can to improve this situation and protect the health and wellbeing of local residents.

"I'm delighted that we are able to offer van owners a financial incentive to replace their diesel vans with electric alternatives and to support small businesses in the switch to lower emissions. We'll also be increasing the provision of charge points near the A3 as we are across the county.

"I encourage franchised dealers who supply light commercial electric vehicles to support this scheme and apply to be an accredited dealership. This is an important first step in our joint work to improve air quality along the A3 and we hope to announce further joint interventions in the near future."

**Andrew Bean, Principal Air Quality Advisor at National Highways said,** "We are delighted to be working with Surrey and Guildford Councils on this scheme. Not only are we working together to improve air quality around the A3, we are reducing carbon emissions and helping businesses that regularly travel up and down the A3 at the same time.

"We strongly encourage all interested dealers to sign up and help deliver electric vans for local businesses and regular users of the A3".

**Cllr Merel Rehorst-Smith, Lead Councillor for Regulatory and Democratic Services at Guildford Borough Council said**, "This scheme is one of the new measures we're supporting to help improve air quality along the A3, benefitting Guildford and the surrounding villages. Our officers have worked hard to get this scheme of the ground and obtain the funding for it. We hope that local dealers and businesses will want to get involved."

"Offering diesel van owners financial help to switch to an electric vehicle will be a real incentive for them to use a greener form of transport."

More information is available at www.surreycc.gov.uk/a3evgrantdealer

Image: Will Mellor – actor from White Van Man series. CC BBC

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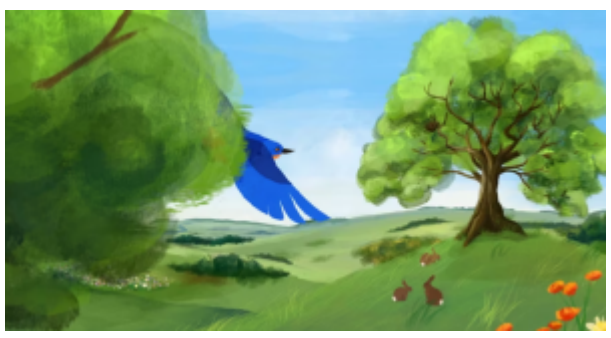
# Surrey Uni film award in the Cannes

7 September 2023



A thought-provoking animated film made at the **University of Surrey**, which encourages its viewers to ***Remember the Future***, has achieved the accolade of 'Best Environmental Film' at the **Cannes World Film Festival**.

Co-created by the University's Institute for Sustainability to support its vision of a world where everyone can live fulfilling and healthy lives within the limits of the planet, the film seeks to draw in viewers emotionally and win hearts and minds to the need to collaborate and act.

*Remember the Future* was produced and directed by Jon Weinbren, who is the Programme Director for Surrey's MA in Film, Animation and Digital Arts within the University's Department of Music and Media. The film shows a tree that is ailing because of environmental damage. The tree is saved from destruction by cooperation between an optimistic, visionary child and a songbird, delivering an upbeat, hopeful way forward.

Professor Lorenzo Fioramonti, Founding Director of the University of Surrey's Institute for Sustainability, said:

"A tree is a symbolic and almost permanent thing. We see it through the seasons and ages, with a child dreaming of a future which rubs out the climate emergency. We see the solutions which are within our reach. We hope this film plants the seed and encourages people to work with each other and be connected."

Co-written by Tom Hill and brought to life by a team of artists led by animation director Izzy Barszcz, the film was crafted using digital natural media techniques to create an evocative water-colour feel. It also features an original song composed and performed by Surrey alumna Alice Mills.

Jon Weinbren said:

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“We experimented with using some of the latest AI-based image generation and style transfer techniques, but the quality we were achieving wasn’t high enough. Instead, our team of animators resorted to ‘traditional’ digital painting techniques to create the hand-crafted look and feel which, along with a beautifully arresting, specially composed song, helps the film engage on a powerful emotional level.”

Nathalie Hinds, Head of Operations and Partnerships at the Institute for Sustainability, said:

“Achieving a sustainable world takes cooperation and inspiration, as well as technology and regulation. At Surrey, we’re working on all of these, with the Institute for Sustainability taking an active, leading role. Strategic partners of the Institute, who were lucky to have an exclusive preview of the film, gave feedback how the film not only creates a sense of urgency, but is a true beacon of hope. They hope to use it within their organisations to inspire staff and suppliers.”

Remember the Future has been entered for other film festivals and will also screen at the Electric Theatre as part of Guildford’s Car Free Day on Sunday 24 September. Find out more about Car Free Day, watch a trailer or see how the film was made on YouTube.

For information about the MA in Film, Animation and Digital Arts, visit the website.

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# Hampton Court ULEZ maze challenge

7 September 2023

The expansion of London’s Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to the Surrey border affects attractions like Hampton Court Palace, some of which is on the charge boundary.

ULEZ, introduced by Transport for London to improve air quality in the capital, sees drivers of non-compliant cars charged to enter the area it covers.

Hampton Court Palace, located alongside the Thames and just over Hampton Court Bridge from Surrey is largely inside the new London ULEZ however some routes from its car park avoid charges.

The A308 towards Staines and the M3 forms the border of the ULEZ, meaning cars travelling along it are not passing into the zone.

Therefore non-compliant cars will not need to pay the daily charge of £12.50, and those driving to Hampton Court Palace will not be in the zone on entering the landmark’s car park.

However the exit from the palace’s car park is on the other side of the roundabout, where Hampton Court Road continues towards Kingston, and is just inside the charging zone.

According to a camera map on ulez.co.uk, the first camera on the A308 is further up the road, on the corner with Campbell Road.

This means drivers coming out of the car park and turning left to go back towards the roundabout, as they would need to, may not be caught entering the zone.

In response to a query on Twitter about driving to and from the palace in the newly-extended zone, Historic Royal Palaces said: “Hampton Court Palace and its car park are within ULEZ, however if you are driving from outside of London into our car park and back out again you will not be seen by the enforcement camera and will not be charged – provided you don’t re-enter the zone.”

A link was included to the TfL site to check whether or not a car meets the emissions standards, and would therefore need to pay the charge.

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What would Henry VIII have made of a tax like the ULEZ charge?

in addition to non-Parliamentary “benevolences” he exacted from the wealthy he did impose a tax on all beards, except his own. So maybe the vagaries of ULEZ would have been to His liking.

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A Historic Royal Palaces spokesperson said: “Our priority is to continue to provide clear information for visitors, to inform the decisions they make about travel to and from Hampton Court Palace. We will continue to work with TFL to ensure that we provide the most up to date information on this.”

The ULEZ  is in force 24 hours a day, midnight to midnight, every day of the year, except for Christmas Day.

According to TfL, nine out of ten cars seen driving in outer London already meet the ULEZ emissions standards.

Since its introduction, TfL said the ULEZ had already helped to reduce nitrogen dioxide pollution by nearly half in central London and by a fifth in inner London.

Several Surrey councils objected to the expansion of the zone, calling for a scrappage scheme to be extended to Surrey residents and for more exemptions.

Related reports:

Signs of Surrey resistance to ULEZ continue

London Mayor confirms drive of ULEZ to Epsom border. ULEZ explainer.

High Court gives ULEZ the green light to Epsom’s borders

ULEZ court challenge begins

ULEZ driving old cars to Epsom market

Challenge to ULEZ gaining grounds

Many Surrey motorists will be paying the ULEZ charge.

ULEZ Court battle looming

Image: Luke Nicolaides CC BY-SA 2.0

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# Surrey to fight Ash dieback

7 September 2023

Surrey County Council will undertake a programme of woodland management across its countryside estate this autumn, with a focus on tackling Ash dieback to protect public safety where needed, as well as identifying current and future nature recovery opportunities.

As England’s most wooded county, Surrey is heavily affected by Ash dieback, a non-native fungus which weakens the structure of Ash trees, making them liable to fall in an unpredictable way. Unfortunately, there is no known cure for Ash dieback and the disease spreads rapidly, with around 80% of the nation’s ash trees anticipated to succumb to it.

While trees in higher risk areas will need to be felled in the interest of public safety, Surrey County Council recognises the amount of ecological, historical and cultural importance that woodland has in the county, as well as its contribution to biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

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Residents had previously raised concerns about getting the balance right between protecting the public and protecting nature. As part of the planning process for this year's upcoming works, several local experts have been consulted to support in developing an appropriate approach and methodology, including Surrey Bat Group, Surrey Badger Group, Surrey Dormouse Group, Save Surrey's Countryside, Surrey Botanical Society and Butterfly Conservation Surrey amongst others. The Council will continue to liaise with local experts throughout the season in addition to its work with organisations such as Natural England, the Forestry Commission and Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Recognising the guidance provided, the Council's approach will now focus on higher risk areas around public rights of way, car parks and roads. This approach has led to around 2400 metres of permissive path being removed from the felling programme at Sheepleas in West Horsley. Notices to divert the public away from some quieter permissive paths have been installed, an approach which follows similar action on National Trust land to minimise disturbance to biodiversity and encourage areas for wildlife to thrive.

A number of other measures are being put in place to minimise the impact of necessary works on nature including:

- Having a qualified ecologist on site throughout the works;
- Investing in specialist equipment and using specialist contractors to minimise disturbance;
- Undertaking work outside of ground nesting bird season;
- Creating new habitats for protected species such as Dormice;
- Development of new long term woodland plans linked to the Council's nature recovery strategy;
- Replanting or encouraging natural regeneration of suitable tree species wherever appropriate.

Following extensive arboricultural and ecological surveys, works are anticipated to focus around targeted areas of **Sheepleas** (West Horsley), **Newlands Corner** (near Guildford), Park Ham (near Bletchingley), **Norbury Park** (Leatherhead/Dorking), **Brockham Quarry**, **Beech Avenue** (Effingham) and areas of the **Downs Link** path. All works are subject to all necessary permissions and licenses being secured, so may be subject to change. Where Ash dieback works are taking place, tree species other than Ash may also be removed for safety reasons.

**Marisa Heath, Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for the Environment comments**: "Ash dieback has had a devastating effect on ash trees not only across Surrey but nationally. Over the coming months we will be undertaking safety works across our countryside estate, however we will be managing this carefully and have minimised felling where we can.

"We will also be looking at how we can improve the overall quality and biodiversity of our woodland in order to develop long term woodland habitat management plans, as we understand the important role that trees play in helping us reduce the impacts of climate change and also in providing important habitats to a range of species. We have facilitated the planting of over 385,000 trees and we have plans to plant more during this tree planting season, but also to ensure we have a range of habitats for nature recovery."

As part of Surrey's ambition to be a carbon neutral county by 2050, Surrey County Council has a target to facilitate the planting of 1.2 million new trees (one for every resident) by 2030. Tree planting season is underway and more details on how to get involved can be found online.

'Show and tell' walks are being offered to the public as an opportunity to find out more about Ash dieback and the Council's plans to address it. Details of the events are below:

- **Beech Avenue, Effingham:** 9 September, 9.30am to 11am. Meet on corner of Beech Close and Beech Avenue, KT24 5PQ. Please park respectfully in nearby roads.
- **Sheepleas, West Horsley:** 9 September, 12pm to 1.30pm. Meet at Green Dene car park, KT24 5TA.
- **Newlands Corner, near Guildford:** 16 September, 9.30am to 11am. Meet at White Lane car park, GU5 9BQ.
- **Norbury Park, Leatherhead**: 16 September, 11.30am to 1pm. Meet by Wild About Coffee (please note there is no parking at the coffee van – use Young Street, Fetcham or Crabtree car parks and follow signs)

Booking is not required, simply turn up at the meeting location shortly before the start time. For those unable to attend site walks, there will also be public drop-in sessions during September and October with details available online.

Further details on Ash dieback works are available atwww.surreycc.gov.uk/ashdieback , including a short information video. Onsite information will also be available at each site throughout the works.

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# Epsom and Ewell Citizens Advice Bureau AGM 2023

7 September 2023

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**CITIZENS ADVICE EPSOM & EWELL**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Citizens Advice Epsom and Ewell will be held at the Epsom Club, 41-43 Church Street, Epsom, KT17 4PW on Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 5.30pm.

Agenda:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Resolution A: To approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Treasurer's oral report
5. Resolutions:

   B. To approve and adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2022-23.

   C. To note the Board's appointment of Longmeade Consult Ltd as the Independent Examiner.

   D. To note the retirement of Patrick O'Driscoll as Trustee /Director under Article 44.

   E. To elect the following new Trustees/Directors for a three-year term:
   (a) Simon Culhane
   (b) James Thornton
   (c) Barry Nash
   (d) Sarah Noak

Members who are unable to attend may appoint a proxy. Proxy forms must be submitted by email to the Company Secretary at secretary@caee.org.uk or delivered to Citizens Advice Epsom and Ewell, Old Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5AG at least 48 hours before the meeting. An instrument of proxy which is not so delivered shall be invalid.

Company Secretary

By Order of the Board

# World class live-jazz returns to Epsom

7 September 2023

Epsom Jazz Club returns this Tuesday 12th September for another three highly anticipated world class jazz concerts, beginning with their first intimate duo show.

The wondrous pair of Cuban Jazz violinist **Omar Puente** and Italian pianist and composer **Ilario Ferrari** have performed their "**Mediterranean meets Cuba**" show numerous times in London to sellout crowds and now Epsom Jazz Club has encouraged them to bring it to our Borough to launch the new Season. Omar can often be seen leading his own sextet in venues such as Ronnie Scott's and upon many a Jazz Festival stage. Ilario is equally busy, having just released his third

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album as band leader, a work for piano and string quartet that combines Classical music, contemporary Jazz and Indian rhythms. They promise to take the audience on a journey from Cuba, the shores of south Italy and back, exploring the common ground and new possibilities that come from the encounter of the Afro-Cuban Jazz tradition and the Mediterranean Culture.

Next month, on Tuesday 10th October Epsom Jazz Club plays host to an all-star Saxophone Quartet led by swing and the straight-ahead focussed **Fraser Smith**. In-demand pianist **Rob Barron** makes his return to Epsom after his visit in August (with vibes player Nat Steele), alongside revered bassist **Simon Read** and stalwart jazz drummer **Steve Brown**. Swinging sax quartets are often so popular with audiences and these four musicians are amongst the best. Following Fraser's album release in April this year, the band has been gigging all over the UK showcasing much of the music from "TipTop!" as well as hard bop / bebop arrangements of popular standards.

And finally, on Tuesday 7th November arguably one of the world's best jazz clarinettists, **Giacomo Smith**, will be performing on the Oaks Room stage. Born in Italy and raised in upstate New York, Giacomo leads many great projects (including Kansas Smitty's, Hot Five, Trav'lin Light) as well as being in demand all over the world as a soloist and collaborator. He's produced recordings for Jamie Cullum, rising star Jas Kayser and the debut album from actor Damian Lewis alongside performing regularly as a featured soloist with Gregory Porter the Southbank Sinfonia and other international orchestras. His writing, production and collaborations have garnered 10m + streams and counting. Alongside New Zealand born jazz guitarist and banjo player **Alexander 'Honey' Boulton**, and US born (and Manhattan School of Music and Royal Academy of Music graduate) double bassist **Will Sach**, Epsom Jazz Club has booked a phenomenal trio for their Autumn Season finale!

Tickets for all these concerts are on sale now and available to buy in advance either via their website **EpsomJazzClub.com** or by going directly to the **ticket site**.

http://twitter.com/EpsomJazzClub

http://facebook.com/EpsomJazzClub

http://instagram.com/EpsomJazzClub

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# Reeds Weybridge 27 – Sutton & Epsom 12

7 September 2023

Following the disappointment of last season's relegation **Sutton & Epsom RFC** had a stern test in their Regional 2 South East opener with a trip to Reeds Weybridge. The hosts are one of the country's most upwardly mobile clubs with six promotions in the last eight campaigns whilst they finished finished third at the last time of asking. There was some compensation for missing out on their habitual climb up the rugby pyramid. An excellent cup run ended in an 18-3 defeat to league rivals Battersea Ironsides at Saracens' StoneX Stadium in the final of the inaugural Papa John's Regional 2 South Plate. For the Black & Whites it was their first league encounter with the men from Whiteley Village. S&E welcomed debutants Chris Ballard, Kean Orchard and Max Russell to the 1 st XV whilst, on the other end of the scale, it was a red-letter-day for Will Lloyd as the veteran prop made his 100 th 1 st XV league appearance. Unfortunately, Sutton failed to open their account at the first time of asking as Reeds Weybridge deservedly won by 27-12.

On a magnificent summer's afternoon, with a cricket match in progress on the other side of the trees, S&E's new captain, Freddy Bunting, initiated proceedings kicking down the modest slope with a gentle breeze in his face. The hosts completely dominated the opening fifteen minutes. They imposed their tempo and pattern on the game. After an initial penetrative carry by a forward or two the ball was spun wide. Despite the territory and possession the forward bursts were modest rather than devastating. Sutton survived a quick tapped penalty from the alert Ollie Palmer but having cleared their lines incurred their first penalty to the new experimental tackle laws. A probing kick to the corner gave RW a great attacking platform. The first assault was repelled by a Matt Whitaker tackle but swift recycling saw the ball swung blind and an overlap was created for lock Cameron Goodwin to stride home. Jack Jesty added the extras with a sweetly struck conversion from the flank for a 7-0 lead.

Buoyed by the opening score on five minutes the Hersham men looked to stamp their authority on the game and extend their advantage. Despite the next ten minutes being one-way traffic the hosts and spectators were frustrated by the stop-start nature of the proceedings. Errors

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were met with a bountiful whistle as infringements and rustiness were not excused by Referee Wright. A second try for RW seemed inevitable as Coriolanian Sutton defence was required to hold their line. The ball was sent wide for an inevitable score but a diving Michael Davies intercepted a pass with a catch more familiar to cricket than rugby. The frustrated hosts conceded a penalty and the visitors cleared from under their posts.

Belatedly S&E had some possession and immediately put it to great effect. Fluent handling saw them arrive for their first visit into the alien 22. Another penalty was awarded and Bunting kicked to the corner. Before the lineout was taken prop Alex Mount was replaced by Tom Boaden. From the throw a well-executed lineout saw the mass of Black & White shirts bundle over the line. Rob Hegarty emerged from the pile to claim the try. Freddy Bunting's touchline conversion drifted wide as Reeds led 7-5. Their followed a period of dominance from the men from Rugby Lane. The visitors mimicked their opposition by failing to add to their total despite the monopoly of territory and possession. Though they were unfortunate that when Ben Tame crossed the whitewash from another lineout the referee was unsighted and gave the only decision available to her and Reeds had a relieving drop out. However, the visitors only had themselves to blame for failing to secure the lead. They were turned over near the line and conceded a penalty with a try at their mercy. It was the turn of RW to show the virtues of Horatio on his famous bridge.

Sutton's profligacy was punished in the 40 th minute. Chris Ballard's pass was impeded at the ruck and the loose ball was poached. Captain Bunting made an excellent tackle to stop the try but the second wave saw hooker Rhys Day score despite another thunderous tackle. Jack Jesty added the conversion to stretch the lead to 14-5. There was eight additional minutes to the half and Sutton spent more time in the far 22 but to no avail as the sides went into the interval with Reeds Weybridge 14-5 to the good.

Naturally Sutton and Epsom were desperate for the opening score of the second period. But within a minute it was the boot of Jesty that added an early penalty from in front of the posts for a healthy advantage of 17-5. The visitors played at a higher tempo but still struggled to be clinical as they tried to get back into the game. Frequent blasts of the whistle impaired both teams until the Hersham side were offered another opportunity to extend their lead. For the only occasion in the game Jack Jesty erred and S&E's task was not made any harder. Solid defence rebuffed the Black & Whites as Gareth O'Brien's scything run was halted by the offence of crossing. Reeds Weybridge then gave the visitors a lesson in scoring. From a period of sustained pressure and patient ball retention blindside Joe Wastie rounded off the attack. Normal service resumed from Jack Jesty and RW led by the sizeable margin of 24-5.

Sutton and Epsom needed a rapid reply and it came from the most familiar source. An alert Chris Ballard took a quick tap penalty then the ball was spread wide and S&E threatened again but this time Matt Whitaker was on hand to score. Freddy Bunting eased over the conversion to trail 12-24. For Reeds' Captain Herbie Finn there was not the standard scalding vituperation that often follows these moments but the sagacious advice to his troops that the game was not over. The Black & Whites needed to maintain the pressure and add to this score to create doubt in the minds of their opponents. However, careless penalties were conceded, the ball was cleared and any flames of recovery were extinguished by the commendably calm game management of the hosts.

In the last five minutes Referee Wright brandished a yellow card, going about the task with a mortician's lofty detachment from the irksome job in hand. Reeds would have to play out the game with 14 but is was too late to have a telling impact as Joe Wastie went from player to spectator. After five minutes of time added on the hosts were awarded another penalty and the assured Jack Jesty bisected the uprights to conclude proceedings with Reeds Weybridge victorious to the tune of 27-12.

Reeds deserved their victory. Their lineout provided quality possession, their forwards carried effectively and they played at pace. Through notable absentees in their ranks they perhaps lacked that telling intervention in the back division to punch holes in the defence but they will not be overtly concerned having taken the points. Unlike Sutton and Epsom they opted to kick simple penalties and kept the opposition at arm's length. The hosts played with an excellent tempo and to their familiar pattern and imposed themselves on the game in the first quarter. They should have gained more than their solitary goal but early season rustiness will no doubt be replaced by clinical efficiency in the weeks to come. Their defence was resolute and their game management in the last quarter meant there was going to be no famous Sutton comeback.

For the visitors it was a delight to see the return of Matt Whitaker. Sutton and Epsom without Whitaker would be like Hamlet without the Prince and for the umpteenth time the opposition declared him the pick of the S&E bunch. Debutant Chris Ballard at 9 impressed with not only his service but also his ability to exploit the gaps. It was not for want of effort that centurion Will Lloyd failed to be on the winning side. He was rock solid in the scrum, made his carries and offloads as well as a crucial intervention on the line that prevented a Reeds try. Neither side benefited from the frequency of the stoppages but the Black & Whites failed to play with the fluency that was demonstrated in pre-season. One feels a victory would transform their demeanour.

Next Saturday 9th September league rugby returns to Rugby Lane with a 3pm home fixture against Beckenham RFC all are most welcome to attend.

**Sutton & Epsom**:

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Michael Bennion, Max Russell, Michael Davies, Freddy Bunting ©, Ciaran Mohr, Gareth O'Brien, Chris Ballard, Alex Mount, Chris Farrell, Will Lloyd, Kean Orchard, Josh Glanville, Ben Tame, Rob Hegarty & Matt Whitaker.
Replacements: (all used)
Tom Boaden, Ewan McTaggart and Ross Parsons.

**Reeds Weybridge**
Brad Robbins, Kitan Ojo, Josh Clark, Billy Maddock, Jack Grady, Jack Jesty, Ollie Palmer, Lennan Day, Rhys Day, Riley Milsom, Cameron Goodwin, Herbie Finn ©, Joe Wastie, Lewis Jones, Michael Wasko.
Replacements: (all used)
William Scott, Shannon Fullen and Peter Daverns.

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# Befriend the aged

7 September 2023

Loneliness is something that people of all ages can feel, but it is older people who perhaps feel this more acutely. Our **Volunteer Befrienders** visit an older person on a regular basis to offer a supportive and reliable relationship to our clients who may be socially isolated to provide companionship and support.

If you have an hour or two a week to spare, it would be great if you could consider becoming a Volunteer Befriender for **Age Concern Epsom and Ewell**. No specific qualifications are required, just good listening skills, reliability, an interest in older people and a sense of humour.

We will ensure you receive the necessary training before you start your befriending journey and will provide ongoing support. If you would like to know more, please contact Jane Hodgson, Volunteer Co-ordinator on jane.hodgson@ageconcernepsom.org.uk or by telephone on 01372 732456.

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# Fair photography of Ewell man celebrated

7 September 2023

Fairground enthusiast, **Philip Bradley of Ewell**, spent his life compiling a written and photographic record of every fair he visited from 1936 until his death in 1999. He amassed 30,000 photographs of fairs across the country and was highly regarded by showmen and fairground people. His collection, held at **Surrey History Centre**, is of national importance, providing an invaluable history of twentieth century fairgrounds (SHC ref 6790). You can find out more about Philip Bradley and his archive on the Exploring Surrey's Past website

The top image shows a superb shot taken by Bradley of Elias Harris' Wall of Death ride, 'The Demon Riders', at Lindfield Fair, 1949.

We all remember the fun and excitement of going to fair – the thrilling rides, the sights and sounds of fairground machinery, eating too much candyfloss, and the tears and tantrums at not being able to win a cuddly toy on the coconut shy! If you're interested in researching fairgrounds in Surrey, or just want a trip down 'Memory Lane', look no further than our Exploring Surrey's Past website 'Fairgrounds in Surrey' theme pages to discover all about fairs in the county and the sources we hold here Fairgrounds in Surrey (exploringsurreyspast.org.uk).

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# Epsom Scouts Summer Swiss adventures

7 September 2023

This summer was packed with Scouts travelling on International Expeditions and trips and Surrey Scouts joined in on the fun. Scouts from 3rd Epsom & 8th/14th Epsom joined 700 other young people from across Surrey to have their own summer adventure.

The Scouts attended Surrey's Kix. Challenging themselves to take part activities over a week at Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC), Kandersteg, Switzerland.

This year sees the centenary of KISC, where at the beginning on August, saw Dignatories from Switzerland and members of WOSM (World Scout Scout Movement) and members of the Commissioner team from UK Scouting take part in the festivities.

While Surrey Scouts were on site, they met Scouts from Australia, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal and other parts of the UK.

Thirteen coaches set off from Cobham Services (thanks to them for accommodating their departure and return). Apart from the UK contingent visiting south Korea for the World Scout Jamboree, this expedition was the largest contingent of Scouts from the UK visiting overseas this year.

While in Switzerland, Scouts Walked high into the Mountains with our trained (and KISC trained) Mountain walkers, rafted from Thun to Bern (as well as getting to visit Thun & Bern), went high into the trees as part of a High Rope course in Interlaken (as well as getting to visit Interlaken).

All Troops also helped out on site and got to visit the local area. Troops also chose a Troop day, where some Scouts went up the Schithorn (the one in the Bond movie), Jungfrau, Rothorn (via a steam ship and train), visited the Thermal pools in Brigerbad, Tobogganing at Lake Oeschinen, Zip Wire and Trotti bikes in Grindelwald amongst other things.

**Ian MacQueen** Expedition leader said "KIX 2023 took two years to plan with and aim to give 700 Scouts and leaders the opportunity to try new activities, make new friends and learn skills for life. I think it is safe to say we achieved our aim and more. My thanks to the staff and leaders who made the event a success. We will now start to plan KIX 2026"

Owen a Scout from 1st Nork said "My favourite thing about KIX was the river rafting and being able to invade all the other boats".

Caramay a Scout from 3rd Epsom said "My favourite bit of the week was the trip to the Thermal baths because it gave an opportunity to rest during the active week".

Samuel a Scout from 3rd Epsom said The rafting was the best because the experience was enjoyable and the scenery was amazing."

Scouts are for Boys and Girls aged 10.5 to 14. Pre-pandemic youth membership was 479,000 (2020)
Up until the pandemic, The Scouts enjoyed a sustained period of growth, with total membership rising by nearly 200,000 between 2006 and 2020

2020 to 2021, youth membership fell from 480,083 to 362,752 – a 24.5% decline – and adult membership fell from 155,907 to 141,863. 2021 to 2022 membership growth is 362,668 to 421,852 – an increase of 16%

All genders, races and backgrounds are welcome at Scouts. Every week, it gives almost over a third of a million people aged 6-25 the skills they need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, the tricky challenge and the big dreams: the skills they need for life.

Individuals are 15% less likely to suffer from mood swings and anxiety if you've been a Scout or Guide, according to a Cohort study by the University of Edinburgh and Glasgow, 2016.

Neil Wibberley

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Epsom scouts on Korean jamboree

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# Pot of gold for Rainbow?

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**Rainbow Leisure Centre** in East Street Epsom has been shortlisted for a prestigious award from trade association UK Active.

The centre – which was renovated recently- boasts a 25m pool, dance studio, large gym and over-60s social room. As a result, it has been nominated for 'Local and Regional Club/Centre of the Year' in recognition of its huge contribution to the local community.

Rainbow caters to customers of all ages with an innovative programme that includes fourteen classes dedicated to people over 60, plus swimming, gym sessions and classes for the centre's junior members – currently numbering more than 500. The centre is also used by three disability clubs and four special needs schools who participate in tailored activities such as ping pong, dance and Boccia.

Customers are kept involved in the centre's plans with social events and 'Meet the Manager' sessions. Currently, they are accepting almost 30,000 bookings per month.

The centre is run by charitable social enterprise GLL under the 'Better' brand. The organisation's ethos is to reinvest profits to support local communities and Rainbow is an important part of this commitment.

**Darren Pope**, Rainbow's General Manager, comments, "We couldn't be prouder to have been shortlisted for the best centre/club in the South of England. Making the shortlist would not have been possible without the incredible work from the staff at Rainbow. No matter what the result, I am very proud of my team's achievements this year."

UK Active award winners will be announced at the end of October this year.

**Better** was founded in 1993 as a charitable social enterprise with seven leisure centres in Greenwich. In 1996 the social enterprise started expanding outside of the London Borough of Greenwich and now runs all kinds of community services and spaces across the UK. Now renamed Better, over 250 public sport and leisure centres and 57 libraries are managed in partnership with more than 30 local councils, public agencies and sporting organisations. Membership to the organisations' centres has increased to over 650,000 with 40 million visitors a year.

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