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

6th November 2025 weekly

ISSN 2753-2771

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The seasonal goodwill of Epsom and Ewell

In the middle three weeks of December local rotarians escorted Father Christmas around the streets of Epsom accompanied by Tilly the train and a band of helpers from local youth associations. Joining the effort were **Wilsons of Epsom** on two of the nights, when they provided a driver and a Santa Claus.

It was a truly wonderful experience with young children and adults saying how delighted they were to see Santa Claus; and they gave generously to help local charities. This year knocks on people's doors returned and they were pleased to see the Train and Santa after the COVID lay-off.

With today's Social Media such as WhatsApp, children were ready and waiting. It was a wonderful sight when the train started down a street to see little groups in the darkness waiting. Tilly was also happy to have so many photos taken of her.

Around £6000 was raised for local charities, which included the youth organisations who helped.

Epsom Rotary, over the festive season, supported a group of young carers to a pantomime trip, a Christmas Card Appeal raised £250, the Christmas Hamper and Balloon Race Competitions, Carol singing and collections in the Ashley Centre raised even more cash for local charities. They supported the **Meeting Room** by collecting and donating presents and collecting donated foods from Waitrose.

Rotary and the local charities they support thank the marvellous generosity and spirit of Epsom and Ewell's wonderful local community.

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