



The local magazine for Epsom, Ewell, Ashted and Leatherhead

The

# Magazine

EASTER 2024



**Community policing  
under threat**

**page 5**

**HELEN**

**MAGUIRE**

Listening to local residents

*"Why I joined the army" - page 4*

**NO MORE  
WAITING!**

***It's time to fix our NHS***

**Page 6**

# COST OF LIVING CRISIS

**The shocking rise in the the cost of living has affected everyone. And with Government support slow to arrive and the latest budget only making things worse, local residents are feeling the pinch.**

**This government's policies have led to inflation and increased costs.**

They have been exacerbated by Brexit's aftermath, which alone has left the UK economy 5% worse off.

As a small business owner and former Chair of a local community-managed sports and social centre, Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate **Helen Maguire** knows full well what it's like to have to run small businesses at a time of high inflation.

Liberal Democrats will recover from this crisis by:

- ✓ investing in infrastructure, innovation, and skills, creating jobs.
- ✓ a one-off windfall tax on oil and gas super-profits to alleviate the cost-of-living crisis.
- ✓ creating fairer taxes, reversing

Conservative tax cuts for big banks.

The Liberal Democrats plan to empower small businesses, reform business rates and so revitalise our high streets.

For example. Mole Valley District Council, covering part of the Epsom & Ewell constituency and run by the

**Conservative economic mismanagement affects us all**

Liberal Democrats, has been actively supporting local businesses. They are pressing to get the banking hub established in an area which no longer has any bank branches.

The Mole Valley Lib Dems are also supporting the establishment of a Business Improvement District to

# A Waste of Space



## A WASTE OF SPACE

No industrial strategy from the Tories, so more prime manufacturing space remaining empty (pictured above and on front cover). Helen Maguire pictured in Leatherhead where empty office blocks and manufacturing units serve to highlight the deprivation in North Leatherhead.

match those in Dorking and Epsom, again to benefit the local economy. The biggest boost is likely to come from the Transform Leatherhead project, a development to revitalise the centre of Leatherhead.

**This is the impact of local Liberal Democrats working for you!**

“One of my priorities as your next MP,” said Helen “will be to improve the support given to small business for the well-being of local communities and the contribution they make to the overall economy.”

## THE CRISIS IN NUMBERS

**£3,855**

The amount the average household will spend this year to service debts, an extra £1,917 compared to the year before Liz Truss’s mini-budget

**£200 million**

The real terms cut to the schools’ building programme next year

**£107**

The average cost in January of food and non-alcoholic beverages that cost just £100 a year before

## THE INTERVIEW

# HELEN MAGUIRE

Helen Maguire's path into the Army began with a realisation during a transformative stint of charitable work in Tanzania.

**She chose the Army and a path where she felt she could make a real difference to people's lives and that might lead into international humanitarian work.**

This quest led her to the world-renowned Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, where she underwent the rigorous officer training that would mould her into the formidable leader she is today.

She tells us about her Army life in her own words.



I was working in Tanzania after finishing Uni and had a light-bulb moment. I decided to join the Army because I knew they were building schools and doing other good stuff working with the UN. The Army delivers community projects in countries all over the world. With my degree in French and German, this appealed to me.

**"My whole purpose was to do some good in the world. I had to have to do it wearing combat body armour and I had my thigh in case someone decided to shoot me. I had some heavy-duty stuff directed at us but thankfully we all returned."**

Officer training at Sandhurst was seriously tough. But, after years of doing physical exercise, from serious dancing to cross country running in the Peak District, I found I was probably in better physical shape than most.

I then decided to join the Royal Military Police because of their pragmatic approach and their emphasis on productivity over appearance.

As I had studied languages, I felt I would be of best use abroad. Eventually I ended up in some volatile regions like Bosnia and Iraq. There I had to face the harsh realities of leadership - doing some proper soldiering often in isolated areas.

Being a young woman in a war zone with different cultures and lots of experienced soldiers around me wasn't easy. But I just stuck to fulfilling my duties and got

# JIRE

on with the job at hand.

I learned a lot from the Army. My service involved

various postings, I became a captain, and I got great experience. That experience helped me during my professional career and in work in the community.

I left the Army after giving birth to our first child. I didn't want to leave, but I couldn't stand the thought of having to leave my son at home as I was sent to

**“I was never good in the world, but I didn't think I'd need body armour, a rifle and a pistol strapped to my back. I was never expected to shoot at me and my soldiers. Yes, we were expected to be shot at us, and at times it was scary, but we all returned safely.”**

Afghanistan. As many mothers know well, juggling a career and children can be tough.

- ▶ **Helen has lived locally for 14 years, with her husband and three teenage children, so understands local needs.**
- ▶ **In her spare time, she can be found running for Epsom & Ewell Harriers.**
- ▶ **Apart from her Army career, Helen has worked as Chair and Director of different companies and charities. She now runs her own charity fundraising consultancy.**
- ▶ **Dedicated to our community, Helen volunteers with the local foodbank, the Rotary Club, and warm hubs.**

## TIME TO BRING BACK COMMUNITY POLICING

**says Paul Kennedy**  
(Liberal Democrat candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner)

Helen and Paul



**Local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are under threat, warns Mole Valley councillor Paul Kennedy.**

Paul is running for Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in the upcoming election and promises to protect the vital role of PCSOs in Surrey. PCSOs help to deter and tackle antisocial behaviour and crime in the community. However, Surrey has seen a **50% reduction in PCSOs** in the last 3 years, with further cuts on the way.

Paul, who came a **strong second** to winning the last PCC election, vows to slash the PCC's office budget and spend more on frontline policing.

**PCC Election - May 2nd**



# LIBERALS INVENTED THE NHS - CONSERVATIVES WRECK IT!

**The National Health Service (NHS), the brainchild of Liberal MP and social reformer William Beveridge,** is at the heart of the Liberal Democrats' agenda in Epsom & Ewell.

The local health authority, Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, struggles to provide modern healthcare due to outdated facilities, particularly at St Helier hospital where the most critical patients are treated.

The Trust's proposal for a new emergency care hospital in Sutton aims to centralise six core services, including emergency surgery and critical care, which would alleviate the burden on the existing hospitals. This new site would also house state-of-

the-art maternity and paediatric care units, replacing the inadequate services at St Helier.

For Epsom, which will retain 85% of its current work, the plan promises upgraded facilities once

**Following Beveridge's legacy, we demand our promised new hospital. The current situation leaves St Helier in disrepair and Epsom overcrowded, a situation that must change.**

the new hospital alleviates overcrowding. However, these plans have been repeatedly stalled by Conservative governments, despite promises of funding.

We aim to transform

healthcare facilities, improving patient care and working conditions for medical staff. We propose reforms in GP access, NHS dentistry, and mental health services.

We are critical of the Conservative government's neglect of these areas and their lack of direction in improving social care. The Lib Dems pledge to protect older citizens from selling their homes to pay for social care, increase carers' allowance, and introduce free personal care.

**We believe that with a reinvigorated and strong economy we can afford a new and more effective NHS** – one that lives up to the promise of its chief architect, William Beveridge.

# "We need a **GREENER** future"

says Liberal Democrat  
parliamentary candidate

**HELEN MAGUIRE**



**Successive Conservative governments have neglected environmental concerns**, from river pollution to the slow transition to electric vehicles. In Surrey, this government's failure to protect the Green Belt by imposing questionable housing targets on councils is scandalous.

With the availability of building land in Surrey low, **the government's housing targets threatened the Green Belt**. This created such an uproar that the government did a U-turn. Yet a request from Lib Dem controlled Mole Valley District Council to



## **IN A NUTSHELL**

### **Our environmental aims include**

- ✓ planting 60 million trees annually
- ✓ achieving zero emissions by 2045
- ✓ combating fuel poverty with free home insulation retrofits
- ✓ transforming water companies into public benefit companies
- ✓ preventing the dumping of sewage in our rivers.
- ✓ decarbonising the environment by investing in renewable power
- ✓ a target of 80% of the UK's electricity generated from renewables by 2030

exclude Green Belt sites from its new plan, was turned down. Ironically, and cynically, local Tories are now suggesting it's the Lib Dems who want to build on the Green Belt. Utter rubbish!

Our missing grid infrastructure to power electric vehicles is undermining the efforts of environmentally conscious local authorities. The government has the power to resolve this issue but has so far failed to do so.

We are committed to driving change – one which will lead to a more sustainable future.

» **Paul Kennedy is the Liberal Democrat challenger to Surrey's Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).** Paul is a former barrister, accountant and actuary with over 30 years' professional leadership experience.

» **Paul is a local councillor** who has long campaigned to bring back community policing. He will cut the PCC's bloated office budget, and spend the money on frontline policing instead.

» **Paul came 2nd last time** with over 112,000 votes. He is the only candidate who can beat the Conservatives across Surrey.

**LATEST NEWS -**  
**Now it's neck and neck!**



General Election forecast for the new Epsom & Ewell constituency, source: YouGov Survey, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.

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# Paul Kennedy

**Police & Crime Commissioner election 2nd May**



Final result, Surrey PCC election 2021

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# Helen Maguire

**General Election this year**

» **A General Election is coming this year** and not a moment too soon. Time is up for the Tories.

» **Local people trust the Lib Dems** - we have more District and Borough Councillors across the constituency than Labour and the Conservatives combined

» **Labour HQ declares Epsom & Ewell a non-battleground seat. They admit they can't win here** - only the Lib Dems' **Helen Maguire** can win against the Tories.