

The local magazine for
Epsom, Ewell, Ashted and Leatherhead

The Magazine

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INTERVIEW INSIDE

Helen Maguire

The former Army Officer who is standing to be your next MP



THE BIG INTERVIEW



Helen Maguire

TELLS US WHY SHE'S STANDING TO BE THE NEXT MP FOR EPSOM & EWELL

Talking to Helen leaves you excited and energised to be in the presence of someone who not only wants to make a difference to people's lives but has the drive, focus and energy to do it.

Helen grew up in Sheffield with the Peak District on her doorstep, before joining the 'red caps', the Royal Military Police, seeing service in Bosnia and Iraq.

For her community work Helen received the 'Leaver of the Year award' in the British Ex Forces Business awards

Now down south and a mum of three teenage kids, she runs her own business as a charity

fundraiser while finding time for cross country running with Epsom & Ewell Harriers.

"Like many who come to work in London, we moved out from Lewisham to give our children the opportunities to benefit from our green spaces as I did as a child in the Peak District National Park.

"I'm therefore passionate about caring for our countryside and about helping to resolve the climate emergency we now find ourselves in."

Helen was a Parish Councillor in Claygate and Chairman of the local recreation ground when fire devastated the community's local sports pavilion.

“The fire presented a great opportunity to provide something far better for the wider community. So we took this opportunity to raise over a £1m for the build, and now have a facility which is used more widely by local people and one which is far more inclusive and accessible for less abled residents.

This year Helen was awarded the British Empire Medal in King Charles III’s first New Year’s honours list.

“As your local representative, **I want to make a difference.** I want to push the Government into providing better healthcare for our underfunded local service; to stop sewage being poured into our rivers; to help struggling families; to stop the degrading of our local services. Hard pressed people need to see help at hand, not a country in crisis – a country which can’t even satisfactorily provide health, dentistry, and care services.

“I want to change that.”



My Unforgettable BEM Experience

by Helen Maguire

Receiving the **British Empire Medal** was an honour I’ll forever cherish, a symbol of the power of collective action and community spirit.

It all began with **a devastating fire**, a moment that ignited a deep sense of responsibility within me. Over the course of five years, I rallied the Claygate community, spearheaded fundraising efforts, and led the reconstruction of the community pavilion and created a family garden.

On the day of the ceremony at Loseley House, Guildford, I was delighted to have **my parents and husband by my side**, celebrating this remarkable achievement.

The gracious Lord Lieutenant Molyneux put us at ease with his historical insights and briefing on the proceedings.

The event itself was a joyous celebration of the **many incredible individuals in Surrey** who, over the years, have selflessly contributed to their communities through sports, healthcare, scouting, and more.





Helen Maguire wants to see leadership from the government on the NHS and Care Services

REAL LIFE

Is this Care in the Community?

Does this government care about our most vulnerable?

There is no closer issue to the hearts of local residents than our NHS and care systems.

But if we only focus on numbers that highlight under-investment in hospitals, record waiting lists, ambulance problems, access to GP and dentistry services, then we are in danger of taking our eyes off the less able individuals in our community who are really suffering.

Lib Dem parliamentary candidate Helen Maguire told us, “Too often I am coming across those in our community who are being left behind by a regime that no longer seems to care.

“One local lady, who is visually impaired and suffering from numerous debilitating ailments, tells me that she is “living in hell” thanks to the withdrawal of financial support from Conservative controlled Surrey County Council.

“As funding and other support gets

withdrawn, many are feeling increasingly isolated.

“If you are elderly and cannot see or walk, then being told to get your blood pressure checked in a self-help booth at your local surgery is not sensitive given the difficulties accessing such self-services. If you have no family but have to rely on the limited hours provided by a care worker, then getting to the pharmacy can be problematic.

“*Care in the community must mean CARE in OUR community.*”

“As this lady said to me most eloquently, ‘care in the community has turned into no care in the community’ - this is not a civilised society.

“**I agree... and I want to do something about it,**” said Helen.



Helen: a real champion for our environment

Helen backs the Climate Change Emergency declared by the Liberal Democrats in Mole Valley.

She has campaigned tirelessly in the fight against sewage dumping in the Rivers Mole and Hogsmill. Whilst recognising the need for more low-cost and social housing in our area, she condemns this government's lack of national planning policy that still threatens our precious Green Belt.

“Under-investment in our sewage plants led to around 6,000 hours of foul discharge in our rivers in 2022 – that’s the

price we have paid for years of excessive dividend payments to shareholders.

“Instead of policies to support electric cars, we see minimal investment in the national network to power them. Instead of plans for upgrading our homes, we see ill thought through policies.

“Instead of long term plans for extending wind farms in the North Sea, the Government is now struggling to find anyone to build them.

“**We need far-sighted leadership** like we saw in 2014 when Energy

Secretary, and now Lib Dem leader, **Ed Davey** helped to quadruple the UK’s renewable power and make it the world-leader in offshore wind – creating good jobs across the country, tackling climate change and bringing down people’s energy bills.

Sadly, his record was not matched by subsequent Tory governments.

“**Long term policy is what we need** and this is what I and my fellow Lib Dems will deliver to ensure people of this country are in a better place than they are today”, said Helen.

COST OF LIVING

People across our area are struggling through the cost of living crisis.



“We are all paying the price of Conservative failure”

When times are tough we expect our Government to take steps to help resolve issues.

But the Conservatives have been so focused on their own internal party bickering that they have taken their eye off the ball – and **we are all suffering as a result.**

Surrey is a relatively wealthy county, yet residents are not immune from the soaring cost of mortgages and rents. For those looking to get to work in London, season tickets from our towns into Victoria and Waterloo have risen to a whopping £2,500 to £3,000.

If anything, the Conservatives have made our quality of life all the more difficult with their shambolic handling of the economy.

While mortgage payments have rocketed and taxes risen, food gets more expensive every week. The soaring price of energy bills are crippling while fuel costs are hammering our self-employed

plumbers, electricians and other tradesmen.

“This is affecting many I speak to,” says Helen Maguire, “so for them it is a worrying time.

“The Government are so out of touch and have few credible solutions and that is having an impact on all our lives in Surrey.

“We need a proper windfall tax on the oil companies and to reverse the tax cuts awarded to the banks. **We can then continue supporting energy bills and provide guarantees to help people with their mortgages.** The winter fuel allowance for the elderly will double if Lib Dems are elected.”

We need a local MP who knows how hard things are for people right now and who will fight to get the support our area needs.





Former military police officer Helen

Making things work!

Helen wants to be our MP – to get our public services working again properly

“I want our country to work better and so improve the quality of life,” says Helen.

“Our NHS is in crisis. We don't have enough consultants, doctors, nurses or beds in the Epsom & St Helier Trust to support the local population.

“I also want to see our Police services properly funded following the cutbacks imposed by successive Tory administrations.

“Policing in Surrey is suffering from under-investment. In nine out of ten cases of bike crime, the Police don't even identify a suspect! In Epsom a private police force has been brought in by traders, to tackle the epidemic of shoplifting by organised gangs and threats to staff. Why? Because such crimes tend not to be investigated by Surrey police.

“As a former military



Helen discusses RAAC at Danetree School with a parent

police officer, I find this unacceptable. It is yet another impact on people's quality of life. “Schools are crying out for more per pupil funding particularly after the recent increase in teacher's pay came out of existing school budgets and so reduced per pupil funding. Furthermore, investment in school infrastructure has been woeful and our very own Danetree primary school had to close a building due to the RAAC safety crisis.

“Time and again, whether **hospital buildings, the police, schools, access to**

GPs, dentists, waiting lists of every kind, ambulance services, or our military, the one constant factor is the failure of this and previous Tory governments to invest in the very public services that we all rely on.

“I wanted them to get a grip on these issues, but they have clearly failed to do so.

“So, if they are not prepared to sort things out then they should step aside and let others get on and do it. If elected as your local MP, then that's exactly what I am committed to do.”

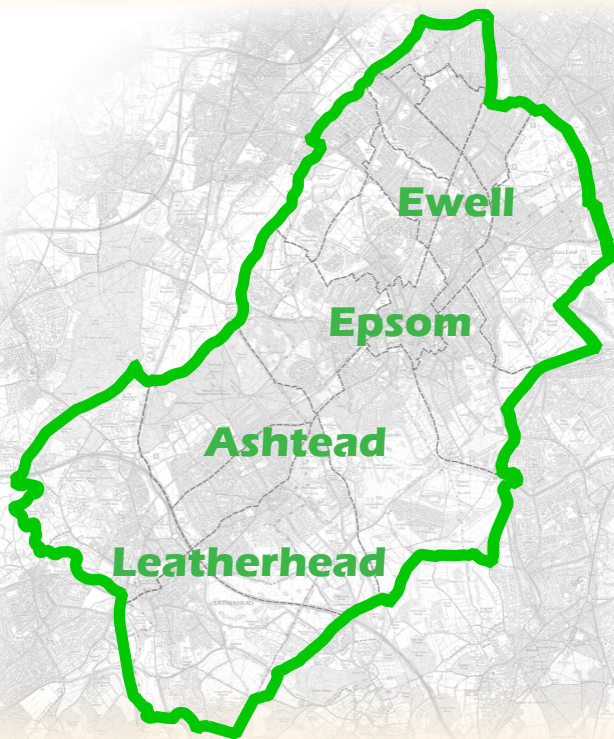
New Boundaries, New MP...

and it's going to be **Liberal Democrat** or **Conservative** here at the next General Election.

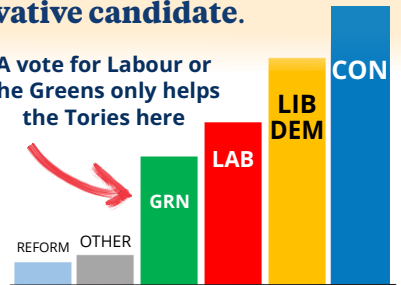
The new parliamentary constituency of Epsom & Ewell - established following a review by The Boundary Commission - has lost Nork and Tattenhams from Conservative-controlled Reigate & Banstead but has gained Leatherhead from Lib-Dem controlled Mole Valley.

So, with Chris Grayling standing down, voters in Epsom, Ewell, Leatherhead and Ashtead will get to choose a **new** MP at the next General Election. Everyone knows that Labour and Green can't win here. **Only Helen Maguire can beat the Conservative candidate.**

Map contains Boundary Commission for England and OS data © Crown copyright and database-right 2023.



A vote for Labour or the Greens only helps the Tories here



General Election forecast for the new Epsom & Ewell constituency, 29 Sept. 2023
source: Stonehaven Election MRP



This will be our chance to elect a local MP who will fight for our community

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