



# Epsom Town Challenge

## Leader's Information

The Epsom Town Challenge has been launched to celebrate the unveiling of the Emily Davison statue in Epsom Market Place.

On 4th June 1913, suffragette Emily Wilding Davison ran onto the racetrack during the Epsom Derby and was struck by King George V's horse. She died four days later at the Cottage Hospital in Epsom. We will never know why she did what she did, but we do know that Emily deserves to be remembered for more than just her actions on that day. She was a passionate campaigner who played an important part in gaining the vote for women.

The Emily Davison Memorial Project was founded to raise a statue of Emily in Epsom. Artist Christine Charlesworth made the statue and recycled the clay that she used for Emily to make a sculpture of another trailblazing young woman - Greta Thunberg. Christine is a member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, Society of Women Artists and the Surrey Sculpture Society and lives in Godalming.

The statue features lots of details that relate to Emily's life and achievements. Emily was born on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1872. In 1895, she got a First Class degree at St Hugh's College Oxford, but universities and colleges didn't allow women to graduate. In 1908 she was finally awarded a First Class Honours degree in Modern Languages at the University of London. On marches she would proudly wear her mortarboard and gown and hold the degree certificate she had waited so long for. On the bench, you can see her mortarboard on top of three of her favourite books. In 1906 Emily joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) - you can see her membership badge on her lapel. She went to prison nine times for interrupting men-only meetings, throwing stones at windows and setting fire to pillar boxes.



She went on hunger strike seven times and was force-fed 49 times. You can see her hunger strike medal with seven bars on her jacket and her Holloway brooch on her blouse. On Census Day in 1911, Emily hid in a broom cupboard in the Houses of Parliament so she could put it as her address on the census form. You can see the form in Emily's left hand.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1913, Emily's body was taken from Epsom to London where she was accompanied by 5,000 suffragettes. She was buried in Morpeth, where her family came from. In 1918, property-owning women over 30 were given the vote and in 1928, women over 21 were included. In 1968 all women over 18 could vote.

**Start at the Emily Davison statue in Epsom Town Centre Market Place.**

1. What are the names of Emily's favourite books which are next to her on the bench?

*Answer: Holy Bible, Leaves of Grass by Walt Whitman, A Golden Key by Chaucer.*

**Walk to the Clocktower in the Market Place.**

2. Who is the Clocktower in memory of?

*Answer: Plaque on front reads "In memory of those who died in the service of their country".*

**Look at the flagpole next to Clocktower.**

3. Who donated the flagpole?

*Answer: The Royal Automobile Club*

*Clue: A plaque at bottom of the flagpole states that it was a gift to the Borough of Epsom & Ewell on the occasion of the Borough's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.*

4. What is on the flag?

*Answer: Grass, horses and water.*

*More information - the green and white symbolise the grass and the chalk of the Downs, and the two horses' heads mark Epsom's long association with horse racing. The two wavy bars of blue represent Ewell and its springs.*

5. In the Market Place where did a king stay and with who?

*Answer: Charles II and Nell Gwynne resided here c. 1670.*

*Clue - there is an Epsom & Ewell Notable Resident plaque on the building where Caffé Nero is now.*

6. What award is on the NatWest building?

*Answer: The Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Design Award 1993*

*Clue - there is a plaque on the first floor on the right hand side of the building.*

**Look across the road towards Wilkos.**

7. When was the Wilkos building constructed?

*Answer: 1999.*

*Clue - Look at top of building where it is inscribed.*

**Walk down towards the crossroads and cross over to Lester Bowden.**

8. What year was Lester Bowden established in Epsom?

*Answer: 1898.*

*Clue - this is on two signs left and right of the name sign.*

9. What bird is over the entrance?

*Answer: an eagle.*

*More information - Lester Bowden is part of Spread Eagle Walk. This is why the statue is of a spread eagle.*

*Clue: there is a sign saying "Spread Eagle Walk" to the right of Lester Bowden.*

**Continue down the High Street towards Macdonalds and turn right at the end into Church Street past The Faraday pub. Stay on this side of the road but look for Number 1 Church Street on the opposite side of the road.**

10. When was Number 1 Church Street built?

*Answer: 1895.*

*Clue - look for an old terracotta building.*

**Carry on along Church Street. Opposite the fire station there is a new bench made in 2021.**

11. Who is this bench to thank and remember?

*Answer: To thank and remember the tireless efforts of our key workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Walk up Dullshot Green across the green to The Parade turning right towards the Town Hall.**

12. What two words are under the sign on the front door of the Town Hall?

*Answer: None Such.*

*More information - the motto "None Such" refers to Nonsuch Palace, a Tudor royal palace built by Henry VIII and much loved by Queen Elizabeth I, but now long since destroyed. Charles II gave it to Barbara Countess of Castlemaine who had it pulled*

*down around 1682-3 and sold off the building materials to pay gambling debts. The site, Nonsuch Park, lies partly in Epsom and partly in Sutton.*

13. Which emergency service is situated in the Town Hall?

*Answer: The police.*

*Clue - there is blue lantern at the front and a sign on the left hand side of the main entrance.*

**Cross over The Parade here and turn left into Ashley Road. Stay on this side until you get to Epsom Methodist Church.**

14. How many turrets are there on front of Epsom Methodist Church?

*Answer: Two.*

*Clue: Look up to see the turrets.*

**Carry on along Ashley Road to the pedestrian crossing where you can go over the road to Epsom Footcare and look at plaque above entrance.**

15. What year was Sergeant Thomas Green killed by rioters whilst defending Epsom Police Station near this site?

*Answer: 1919.*

*Clue - the plaque with this information is on the left hand side of the entrance.*

**Walk up past the back entrance to The Ashley Centre and cross at the lights to the outside of the Epsom Playhouse.**

16. Who is the sculpture of outside the Epsom Playhouse and who created it?

*It is of dancer John Gilpin and was created by sculptor Tom Merrifield.*

*More information - Tom Merrifield was a dancer before he became a sculptor.*

**Walk round the corner into South Street turning right at the end, back into the Market Place.**

17. What number Building of Historic Interest is The Assembly Rooms (Wetherspoons)?

*Answer: 44.*

*Clue - this information is on the Building of Historic Interest plaque to the right of the building.*

18. Can you find the names of the two horses on the sculpture in front of The Assembly Rooms?

*Answer: Diomed and Gallileo.*

*Clue - the names are carved into their flanks.*

*More information - To celebrate the Millennium Epsom & Ewell Borough commissioned Judy Boyt to create a sculpture that connected the town to the famous Derby race on Epsom Downs. It depicts the first winner of the Derby, Diomed in 1780, racing against the new Millennium winner, Gallileo through the symbolic winner's circle. Gallileo died in 2021.*

**In the centre of the Market Place is a water trough.**

19. Who was the water trough presented by?

*Answer: The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association*

*Clue - This is carved into the side of the trough.*

**In the Market Place you can find the answers to the last question.**

20. What French town is Epsom twinned with and how far away is it?

*Answer: Chantilly and it is 265 miles away.*

*Clue - there is a plaque on the Clocktower marking the twinning of the two towns in 1996 and there is a sign post in the Market Place with the distance from Epsom.*

## Badge Order

Badges are £1 each. Postage is: £1 for 1-10 badges, £2 for 11-30 badges, £3 for 31-60 badges or £4 for 60+ badges.

To order badges please email your name, address where badges are to be sent, your unit name and the number of badges required to: [mary@maryzoeller.co.uk](mailto:mary@maryzoeller.co.uk)

Payment can either be made online to:  
Account Name: Epsom Division Girlguiding  
Account Number: 59624612  
Sort Code: 60-14-41  
Reference: *Town Challenge*

or send your details and cheque made payable to *Epsom Division Girlguiding* to:  
Epsom Division Town Challenge  
48 Meadowview Road  
Epsom  
Surrey KT19 9UB

