



**Volume 17 Issue 3
AUTUMN 2020 EDITION
POST-LOCKDOWN**

WEST END VILLAGE HALL IS OPEN

We are pleased to report that West End Village Hall re-opened on 3rd August following the closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have carried out a full Risk Assessment and put all the hygiene, cleaning, signage and social distancing measures in place to fully conform to government regulations and guidelines. There is a "Keep this Hall Covid-19 Secure" poster on the front door which also acts as our self-certification and, before booking the Hall, our hirers will need to agree to the "Special Conditions of Hire during Covid-19". Full details can be found on our web site wevh.uk or wevh.org by following the "Covid-19 Re-opening" link.

The response to this initiative has been very gratifying and the Hall is fully booked for every weekday morning and afternoon up to pre-Christmas. There is still availability during weekday evenings and at the weekends although these sessions are already being quickly taken up. If you are considering a children's party, family occasion, meeting or other function allowed under current Covid-19 rules, please visit our web site (wevh.uk or wevh.org) where you can view availability and send us a Booking Enquiry Form. Welcome back.

Paul Gibson

Footnote: This article was written before the latest government "Covid-19 Rule of Six" legislation was announced. We are still awaiting guidance on the implications of this legislation for Village Halls.

West End Village Hall



Ideal for children's parties, meetings, functions and family occasions.

Adult parties strictly for Village Residents only by special arrangement.

TO BOOK

Visit: wevh.org or wevh.uk
Mail: hirehall@wevh.uk

WEST END VILLAGE SHOW

As the village will have realised by now, we had to cancel the entire Village Show this year. We had hoped to put on a scaled down version of the Flower Show in and around the Village Hall, particularly after a good season for the allotmenters and lockdown crafters. However, after much consideration on how this could be achieved, it was decided it would be more sensible to err on the side of caution for the well-being of everyone involved.

We look forward to life returning to normal and, with fingers crossed, plan for a bigger and better Show in 2021.

Steve Kelly, Chairman

WEST END ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION—'FUN SHOW'



Having learnt that unfortunately the West End Village Show had to be cancelled this year, we decided to hold our own "Covid safe" Fun Show at the Nightingale Road allotments for our plot holders on Saturday September 5.

Six tables were erected in the car park, cleaned and then sanitised with disinfectant cleaner.

The tables were then marked out for plot holders to stage their exhibits for 9 classes. For six of the classes, the normal RHS rules on size and numbers were relaxed - there was a first prize of a bottle of wine for the winner of each class. The other 3 classes were for the 3 categories of onions and were judged in accordance with the RHS handbook. For each class, the judges awarded first, second and third places. The entrant with the best overall performance over the 3 onion classes was awarded our own Onion Cup.

The name of each entrant was hidden for judging which was carried out by Angela Stockbridge and Alice Austin.

The plot holders who had entered the show then assembled at least 2 metres apart on a plot at the back of the allotments for prize giving.

Footnote: This article was written prior to the new "Covid-19 Rule of Six".

*Top left: Paul Gibson winner of the Onion Cup.
Left: Gill Watt winner of Vase of Flowers.
Right: Admiring the colourful produce.*



The Onion Cup



Article: & Photos:
West End Allotment Association

WALTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

The Magnificent Seven

The Covid lockdown has been a double-edged sword for astronomers in general, and for WAG it has been no different. Regular pub meetings in the Prince of Wales, and observing sessions on the Green ceased until just recently which was disappointing, but on the positive side we were blessed with an unprecedented run of clear skies immediately after the start of lockdown for a couple of months. It seems unlikely to have been a total coincidence that planes stopped flying almost completely at the same time, highlighting the impact aviation has on the clarity of our skies day and night. Even now I am noticing a real gain in visibility of objects which used to be difficult from home but now can be seen much more easily.

In the absence of significant formal group activity, I will focus this report around two of my own experiences in July, plus an impromptu group session we held on 30th July.

From early July, expectations were high for the snappily named Comet C/2020 F3 NEOWISE to become a naked eye object. We were well overdue a decent comet in the Northern Hemisphere; Hale-Bopp in 1995 was probably the last really good one. In early July, the comet was visible just before dawn, and typically on the morning of 6th July which had lovely clear skies, I managed to mess up setting my alarm so missed the earliest chance to see it. Reports were very positive; a real comet, with a tail and everything! The weather prevented any further opportunities until 11th July by which time it was visible before midnight but at its best in the early hours. I spotted it from near my house at around 11.30pm, then dragged myself out of bed at 2.30am on 12th and took the slightly spooky walk up to Molesey Heath with my scope. It was well worth it and the views were spectacular; a bright comet visible with the naked eye and very clear in the scope at low power with a long tail and a well defined nucleus. I managed some quick pictures with my phone which came out surprisingly well. I observed the comet a number of times over the next few weeks as it got higher in the sky, but further from the Earth and dimmer. Over this time, the nucleus turned a beautiful green colour, something that showed very clearly in photographs. I am very pleased to have had the chance to see this lovely object so clearly, and hope that we don't have to wait so long for the next one.

Next up, and the reason for the somewhat bizarre title of this article, was a bold attempt to observe all seven planets in one session. I had seen from checking the position of the planets that this was possible from around 19th July, but weather and everyday life got in the way until 31st July when I finally had the chance to attempt it. We had an impromptu club meet up on the Green in West End on 30th,



Above: The Comet at dawn

horizons from West End are not low enough due to the trees, so it was another walk in darkness up to the Heath, trying not to be terrified by grunting hedgehogs! Setup and observing by 2.45am, I quickly caught Jupiter with its four Moons and Saturn with its lovely rings, both low down in the South West. Mars was higher up in the South East, showing a white polar cap and some dark markings, while Venus was low down, just rising in the East North East. A little later, when higher, it would look like a mini half Moon in the scope.

Those were the four easy ones, visible with the naked eye and simple to find.



Above: Comet NEOWISE with Tail

observing Jupiter, Saturn and the Moon, plus also the Comet which by that time was quite dim but still visible. Leaving the group meet, I was home by 1am, packed up ready and in bed by 1.30am for a quick power nap, and up again at 2.30am! The

Right: The Green Comet



Neptune and Uranus are more difficult; much fainter (invisible to the naked eye) and requiring hopping from known stars in the telescope finder and reference to a star app on my phone to identify them. Neptune showed as a tiny blue disk at high power, and Uranus as a slightly larger grey-green disk. Fairly undramatic in the eyepiece, but quite impressive when you consider that Neptune is over 4,300 million km away.

So, six down, one to go and by this time it was about 3.30am. The last target was Mercury, due to rise at 3.53am. I spent the time observing a few other targets such as the Seven Sisters and the Andromeda Galaxy. During this time it was wonderfully quiet, except for what I assume to be croaking toads, surprisingly loud but adding to the atmosphere. There was some low cloud on the North Eastern horizon as Mercury rose, so it was actually around 4.15am before I finally picked the planet up in the scope, and by 4.25am it was visible with the naked eye. I was not able to discern the phase, but was glad just to have got it and completed the challenge.

So, seven magnificent planets seen through the scope in one session, eight if you include the one I was standing on. It's the first time I have done that in over twenty years of observing and was a night to remember. As I packed up, the skies were beginning to brighten with the approaching sun, and the dawn chorus had kicked off in all its wonderful glory adding further to my memories of the night.

Who needs sleep anyway?

For those interested, Jupiter and Saturn can be easily seen currently low down in the South at around 10pm but are visible for all of the evening. Mars rises in the East at around 10pm currently and is quite high up in the South at about 4am, blazing a lovely orange red colour. It will be at its best in October.

Stuart Davis, Chair

WEST END HEROES

If you're an early riser and going for a walk, a run, or a bike ride you may have come across one of the small army of West End heroes who have been collecting the litter that people discarded during this summer that we will all remember. These include David Bramley and John Westwood. I caught up with two more of these West End litter collectors, Nik and Judy Wilkinson who have been living in the village since 2000.



Above: Judy picking up litter.

Photo: Nik Wilkinson

Nik said, 'There are a lot of people collecting litter. The way we see it is that we're privileged to live in a beautiful place and doing it is a part of a wider community spirit.'

For Nik and Judy their West End litter campaign started during the early days of lockdown when they decided they would adopt the regime of a morning walk. 'We were aware that we were blessed to have each other

and also to be living in this beautiful environment. But during lockdown we noticed a distressing increase in the amount of litter so every morning when we went out we simply took a bag with us and picked it up.' What did they do with the litter they collected? When their wheelie bins became full, Nik and Judy's neighbours kindly said they could add the litter to theirs.

Taking community spirit yet further, Nik and Judy have even washed and donated to charity some of the things they've found because it's not just pizza boxes and beer bottles; Nik and Judy frequently find articles of clothing. 'We've found wet socks, children's clothes but the most intriguing piece of discarded clothing was a single Wellington boot.'

Everyone is grateful for what the litter collectors are doing to keep West End beautiful. Nik said, 'We get a lot of people passing by who see what we're doing and who say, thank you.'

I think we all echo that sentiment.

Merle Graham



NEW DEFIBRILLATOR FOR VILLAGE HALL

A new defibrillator is now located outside the Village Hall. The committee of the West End Village Show is proud to have initiated its purchase and has joined forces with the Village Hall in sponsoring this public facility.

Proceeds from the Village Show are donated annually to local charities and good causes and this is one of them. The continued support from residents of the village is much appreciated and this life-saving initiative is aimed at 'giving back to the community'.

To help someone who is in cardiac arrest effectively, a defibrillator needs to be found as quickly as possible, so the central and well-known location of the Village Hall was felt appropriate. No training is required - anyone can use it. Clear instructions are on the outside of the unit. It's just a matter of dialling 999, giving your location and you will be given a code to open the box.

Defibrillators are also available at Garsons and at the Village Club during opening hours.

Steve Kelly, Chairman

DEFIBRILLATOR

OUTSIDE VILLAGE HALL

No training required - anyone can use it

Dial 999 and give the location

You'll be given a key code to open the box

Follow written instructions on the portable unit

Verbal instructions are provided once turned on.

PHOTOGRAPHIC CORNER



The Culprit Photo: Don Tyzack

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ.....

Call 999 for Emergencies only.

Call 0800 555111 for Crimestoppers.

Call 101 - Surrey Police for General Enquiries and non-urgent matters.

This number will also transfer you to Esher Police Station, which is open from

09.00-17.00 hours Monday to Friday.

Sgt 2190 Greg Turner covers Esher

PCSO 15215 Vicky Holdaway covers Esher & Claygate

All are contactable on 101.

Contact for Neighbourhood Watch is now:

<http://elmbridgehw.ourwatch.org.uk/>

PC40489 Chris Smith is the local PC Tel: 101 or ext. 38298

Tel: 101 Extension: 38857

Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email:

the Elmbridge Policing Team at

elmbridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk

IN THE KNOW—Surrey & Sussex

- ◆ KEEP YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS SECURELY LOCKED AT ALL TIMES AND ONCE AGAIN PLEASE REMOVE ALL VALUABLES FROM CARS WHEN PARKED.

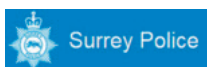
- ◆ **WATCH OUT! CAR THIEVES ARE ABOUT!**

Please report suspicious incidents via 101, or in an emergency 999.

You can also contact Surrey Police online:

<https://www.surrey.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

Or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SurreyPolice> & Twitter



BUTTONS & BOW CLUB (The Busy Bees)

What a strange time we are all having. Like everything else, Coronavirus has affected us all including our weekly meetings. Our last one was celebrating St. David's Day in March. All our speakers, entertainers, outings and holidays had to be cancelled. I've made 'phone calls to a lot of members each week to keep in touch and to keep spirits up.

Because of the age of our members (many now over 90) we cannot see being able to open Club meetings until Spring 2021.

BUT when we do, there will be a lot of catching up and celebrating! In the meantime, I hope all will respect the Government rules. This is new to us all—because those of us who remember the "War Years" - were at least able to lead relatively normal lives with none of the restrictions we are experiencing now.

WE WILL BE BACK TOGETHER AND STRONGER!

Take care and call me if I can help you.

Happy Christmas to all from all at B&B.

Betty Bowpitt, Chairperson Contact: 01372 465937



An Evening 'Mackerel' Sky Over Painshill Park

Photo: Margaret Dane



Looking forward to Halloween?

The White Pumpkin—Garsons colourful pumpkin field, is a wonderful view from my back garden!

Photo: Angela Stockbridge

PARK CLOSE GATE

Residents may have noticed that a gate has recently been installed across the small lane which allows access from Park Close to the More Place footpath to Esher. (See photo) A number of people have already complained to ERA about this as now the only way to the footpath is via the right of way on West End Lane. This path is steep and in winter there is some risk of slipping and injury.



ERA is looking into what if anything can be done to restore access via Park Close. It would help a future appeal process if anyone who uses this route could let either Doug Fryer or David Bramley know, and include for how long they have done so. Most long term (20+year) users have already contacted us, but Surrey CC have now advised that appeals will be considered from anyone who has used the route in the last 20 years. A 'Public Right of Way User Evidence Form' can be obtained from ERA and can be completed by anyone who has used the path in the past and wishes to continue to do so.

David Bramley 07899 874372
Doug Fryer – dougmeadowcot@hotmail.com



Trish Fox sent in this amazing image of a Sparrowhawk devouring a pigeon in her garden!

WINTERDOWN WI

Sadly the Corona Virus continues to have a large impact on all our lives and because of Government restrictions we have been unable to resume our meetings as such. At the beginning of August seven members complete with their chairs and drinks did meet up on the recreation ground and had a very enjoyable meeting.

The first craft meeting since lockdown was hosted by Ann Tennant. Only three people were present and so social distancing was quite easy. Sue Dane brought her completed quilt to show us. She had spent many hours stitching together hexagons made from materials that held special memories for her. The quilting and backing were professionally done by the Quilt Shop in Dorking. The finished result is stunning.



Left: Sue Dane with her quilt.
Photo by Ann Tennant

We were able to have our September meeting in the Village Hall. We were limited to 18 people and had to take our own chairs and drinks. There was little business to discuss and because we were seated at least a metre away from each other conversation was a little difficult but it was nice to catch up with people we hadn't seen for a long time.

We were not able to have a speaker at that meeting, however the wildlife of West End decided to join us in the shape of a young frog. It caused quite a diversion and at least ten minutes of coaxing it towards the door before it made a bid for freedom.



Left: The Frog
Photo: Caroline Thyer

Our next meeting on the 1st of October will be held in the village hall with the same restrictions in place. We hope to have a speaker but if this is not possible we will try to have alternatives in place. Winterdown WI will be 50 years old next June and we will come up with ways to celebrate its Golden Anniversary.

We are always pleased to welcome new members. Do come and join us. We usually meet at 8pm on the first Thursday in the month.

For more information contact: Secretary, Ann Tennant on 01372 466725 or visit our website: www.winterdownwi.co.uk

Caroline Thyer

WEST END ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION FUN SHOW



Above :
Paul Puccioni won 1st Prize in the Tomato class.
Right: Judges Angela Stockbridge & Alice Austin followed the RHS judging guidelines and enjoyed presenting the prizes.

FUN SHOW WINNERS

	1st	2nd	3rd
Class 1 Onions over 250gms	Mark Joshua	Paul Gibson	Bob Waller
Class 2 Onions 250gms and under	Bob Waller	Paul Gibson	Debbie Harding
Class 3 Spring Onions	Paul Gibson	Ciaran Gannon	Bob Waller
Class 4 Tomatoes	Paul Puccioni & Monica McKinnel (Joint First)		
Class 5 Beetroot	Paul Gibson		
Class 6 Carrots	Paul Gibson		
Class 7 Corn	Richard Tomiak		
Class 8 Vase of Flowers	Gill Watt		
Class 9 Pot of Jam	Mark Joshua		
Onion Cup	Paul Gibson		



WEST END PLAYGROUP



West End Playgroup and Forest School reopened on 1st September and we were delighted to see children and parents again after such a long break. We started the term with a topic about keeping healthy as this seemed to be the most appropriate way to start the year.

The playgroup has been resounding to the sound of the children singing “This is the way we wash our hands, wash our hands, wash our hands, this is the way we wash our hands, so early in the morning” We have been practicing how to use tissues and have been learning to count to 20 too! Our forest school and nature walks have seen the children enjoying a violinist by the pond and trips to the allotment to look at the fantastic abundance of tomatoes and other vegetables growing, not to mention the pumpkins at Garson’s Farm. We have had lots of enquiries from new parents, eager to get their children signed up for the new year ahead



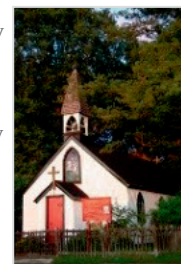
and so we have started to do viewings from the outside of playgroup looking in. It would seem, that after more than 45 years at the village hall, West End Playgroup may well survive to tell the tale of 2020 after all, and how relieved we are about that.

If you know anyone who is looking for flexible childcare please recommend us and keep the spirit of the playgroup in the village alive.

*Helen Yates, Manager,
Telephone: 07395 901584*

ST GEORGE’S CHURCH, WEST END

Sadly, the churches were all closed the day after Darren was installed as our new Rector. However, this didn’t stop him. Within no time he had managed to set up our online Sunday services – so that many of us were able to take part in a regular Sunday service.



Since the 19th July Christ Church has been holding their regular 10.30am Eucharist – where members of both our congregations have been attending and taking part (readings and intercessions). Darren has finally got to match some faces to voices and emails! Although we are unable to sing hymns our Director of Music, Stuart Whatton, has managed to include both organ and piano music, with one member of the choir performing a solo each week during the communion.

As you can imagine, the preparations for opening Christ Church were lengthy and detailed – involving our two safeguarding officers overseeing all aspects of Government and Church guidelines, which were unbelievably comprehensive. Everyone worked wonders and Christ Church opened on the 19th July. For those of you who know Christ Church, it is vastly bigger than St George’s, so the time and work involved in trying to safely work out how and when we could re-open St George’s became a huge challenge. After much thought, deliberation, planning and hard work, Darren and the team have planned to re-open in September. Initially we will only open every other week. Because of social distancing we can only accommodate 15 people – which is less than HALF our usual congregation. Another challenge! Because of these restrictions we have to know in advance who is coming – so if you wish to join us at a 9am service, please contact our Parish Secretary Melanie (contact details below) and we will try to accommodate you as soon as possible. Remember there is always the option of the **weekly** 10.30am service at Christ Church.

Upcoming services would normally be as follows – however **PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND FENCE NOTICES FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION** as all of these are subject to changes!

PET SERVICE	Postponed until Spring 2021
HARVEST	
(Christ Church)	Sunday 4 th October
(St George’s)	Sunday 11 th October
ALL SOULS	Sunday 1 st November at Christchurch
REMEMBRANCE	Sunday 8 th November

Website details: <https://www.esherparish.org.uk>

Parish Secretary: Melanie Williams Tel: 01372 462282

Email: office@esherparish.org.uk

Well we **all** missed the Village Show this year. Whatever part you will have played in the event – it was all a bit of an anticlimax – and we at St George’s missed the busy coming and going of visitors – buying bread and cakes, supporting the raffle and admiring the inside of our church that some had never seen. However – “we always look on the bright side of life” and will be re-energised and enthused to return next year. Perhaps a time for us to think of some new ideas?

We are all looking forward to our re-opening and hope that the bell works for our first service. We haven’t dared to test it yet.....but don’t worry – we’ve got a couple of referee whistles we can use if needed!

Finally – thank you as always, for your continued support.

Andrea Lindow (462041) and Bridget Williams (462731)

AUTUMN BERRIES - WEST END COMMON

Left: Sloes—the beautiful (and useful!) fruit of the Blackthorn tree—on West End Common and next to it the striking red fruit (haws) of the May tree.

Photos: Peter Bedford



WEST END CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

HOLIDAY

By Sheila Lucas

(continued from the Summer Edition.....)

If I thought the ceiling was low downstairs it was even lower upstairs and Uncle Dick had to duck to get in the door and to avoid the beams. He bent to put my case beside my bed, ruffling my hair as he straightened up and told me to come down when I'd settled in. Mum was stopping the night and going back on the train the next day. I didn't want her to go. I looked around, white walls and ceiling interspersed with black beams, a small bed with a pretty white linen bedspread embroidered with blue flowers, a dark wood wardrobe, a matching chest of drawers and a wooden chair with a cushion, the colour of bluebells. I approved. As I went to look out of the window though the timber floor seemed to be sloping towards it and looking back at the door it didn't seem to be quite square in the wall. I knew how Alice in Wonderland must have felt. What really shocked me was the view. It was, well, of nothing. A flint wall, denoting the end of the garden lawn, then green. Green fields, green hedges, green trees and green hills. Even the sky looked green, heavy with rain. Thoughts of home flooded into my head. The denseness and silence of the yellow smog in winter, the grey shiny flag stones when they were wet, the comforting smoke blackened red brick buildings crowded together as if giving me a hug and noise, yes, people and traffic. The cries of the stall holders, the news vendors, the rag-and-bone man with his horse and cart, the smell of fish and chips, vinegary cockles and whelks, the reassuring sight of red trolley buses and looking forward to fun trips to the fair on Blackheath. I missed it all with a dull ache as though I'd never experience it again.

I couldn't say goodbye because I was so angry when Mum left the next morning. How could she leave me here? I was put to work immediately. I had to feed the chickens, collect the eggs, feed the dogs, help prepare lunch and clear up. The jobs went on and on. The next morning I was woken early by a cacophony of birds singing and cows mooing so loudly I had to get up to see what was happening. Big mistake. I was immediately sent to the milking shed, yet again in the rain, to wash the cows' lady parts. I've never been so embarrassed in my life but the water was so cold I soon became more concerned that it must make the cows feel very uncomfortable.

Later, sat with my back to the warming Aga at breakfast, everyone piled around the long pine farmhouse table; Uncle Dick, Auntie Mabel, their son, Nige, and the farmhand, Dave, I asked why I had to wash the others. For a moment everyone looked blank then laughed.

'Udders, I think you mean my lovely,' Auntie Mabel explained in between sobs of laughter. Although I was mortified at having made such a stupid a mistake, I had to join in. Then the sun came out and somehow the world changed. The whole place transformed. I still continued with my jobs but I loved talking to the hens, gradually learning all their names as they clucked back to me. The cows had names too and I tickled their soft muzzles after I'd cleaned the udders and teats ready for milking. The sheepdogs were always pleased to see me and made a huge fuss of me, mostly of course because they knew I had their food. What I enjoyed the most though was riding on the tractor and on the trailer. Nige and I would go out to check on the sheep with the dogs and move them to new pastures when they'd eaten the grass and lovely blond-haired Nige, who was only fifteen but I thought was the bee's knees, even let me drive sometimes, although I was sworn to secrecy. Then towards the end of the summer the neighbouring farm workers came to Oakleigh and we harvested fields of hay using the tractor to pull a machine that cut the grass and baled it so we could stack the bails on the trailer to store in the barn. Uncle Dick shared the machine with another farm and the following week we were to go to Downs Farm with our tractor and trailer to help them. But not me as it was then the end of the holidays and I had to go home and back to school. By the end of each day we were filthy with the dust from the hay, bronzed by the sun, exhausted by the full day's physical labour and so ready for the delicious meal that Auntie Mabel had ready for us all. I didn't want to go back to London. To people crowded together, the clamour, the smells, the tiny house, the lack of all things green and the confines of school. I'd miss all the animals, the outdoor life and the freedom of a different sort to the independence I had back in London. I did want to see Mum of course but I hadn't had time to miss her, not really.

From then on each Easter and Summer I'd spend my holidays at Oakleigh Farm and at Christmas Mum would come too. We both looked forward to the peace and sense of well being that the farm offered us in different ways.

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) EASING OF LOCKDOWN AND RETURN TO A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD!

Following the reduction in the 'R' rate, the number of infections from this deadly pandemic has been falling. The Government has put in place strict guidelines in order to reduce transmission by stipulating the necessity for wearing masks both inside shops, museums and crowded places in order to halt the spread of the virus. Some, however, have ignored this advice, raising fears of a second wave of cases. Social distancing has not always been observed on beaches, at mass gatherings, parties and illegal raves around the country, creating a greater risk of infection. However, following easing of the lockdown, traffic has returned to our busy roads. Cycling and walking is encouraged and cycle lanes are being put in place on many local roads. Many businesses, restaurants, sports activities, pubs, outdoor cinemas and other organisations are gradually reopening in accordance with the safety guidelines.

Schools will be reopened for children of all ages from September with special safety and hygiene measures in place to help protect both staff and pupils. Social distancing is still required and all payments in shops and restaurants are made by card rather than cash where possible. The 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme offered by restaurants saw an increase in people dining out. Overseas holiday destinations and popular tourist attractions have reopened including public parks. Wisley, Hampton Court Palace, Painshill Park, the bustling Kingston Riverside with paddle boarders and riverboat trips are amongst many other local attractions reopening with strict social distancing rules in place.

Many countries in Europe and around the world are seeing a second spike in cases, thousands of people have lost their lives and jobs and the Health Secretary has warned that the Government will not hesitate to impose stricter measures to contain the coronavirus if necessary.

PLEASE HELP TO PROTECT LIVES—FOLLOW THE RULES

As of 10th September there are 27.8million confirmed cases and over 907,000 recorded deaths from Covid-19 worldwide and rising.

Local lockdowns continue and further restrictions are being put in place by the Government to try and contain the virus.

PLEASE STAY SAFE AND WEAR YOUR MASK WHEN REQUIRED



Waiting for Wisley these days



Photos: Top: Waiting for Wisley these days. Photo: Don Tyzack
Above: Painshill Park Open Air Cinema— seated 2 metres apart in a glorious setting overlooking the lake. Photo: Angela Stockbridge

**Footnote: This photo was taken prior to the new
"Covid-19 Rule of Six"**

Angela Stockbridge

WEST END BRIDGE CLUB

The Club is tentatively starting up again. We are allowed 18 people in the Village Hall, so that will be four suitably distanced tables, Hand-gel sanitizers will be available, and the English Bridge Union advises that face-masks should be worn. Please provide your own tea and biscuits.



Are conditions favourable for a Cross-Ruff?

The pre-conditions for an effective cross-ruff are as follows:

- A. A partnership with a singleton or void in each hand.
- B. A sprinkle of Aces to get you on your way
- C. A reasonable trump fit—the more top trumps the better, so you won't get overtrumped in the later stages.

Here is an illustrative hand:-

West (Dealer)	S A,K,J,6,4	East	S Q,9,2
	H Void		H x,x,x,x
	D x,x,x,x		D A,x,x,x,x
	C A,x,x,x		C x

The bidding, with East/West vulnerable, was short and sweet.

West: One Spade. North: Two Hearts. East: Four Spades. (All pass).

East was gambling with his 4 Spade bid. He knew he should have had a fourth Spade, but he liked the look of his singleton Club, not to mention his holding in the enemy suit, Hearts, which suggested a shortage in his partner's hand. South wondered about bidding 5 Hearts (he held J, 10, x,x) but thought better of it.

The play was soon over, because North could not resist opening with the Ace of Hearts. This resulted in Declarer's trumps all being made separately, all eight of them. Plus two Aces. Contract made on a mere 18 High-Card points.

Note 1. The only opening lead to scupper the contract was a trump.

In the above hand, North held a singleton trump, normally a much frowned upon lead, but here it was indicated to cut down on ruffs.

Note 2. Remember to cash your side-suit winners before you embark on your cross-ruff. You do this to stop an opponent spoiling your fun by suddenly overtrumping you because he has a short suit.

Our friendly Bridge Club meets every Tuesday at 1.30pm in West End Village Hall. If you're on your own, we'll find you a partner. Ring Kay Moulton on 01372 464775 for full details.

Clive Craigmile

FRESH WATER CRAYFISH FOUND ON THE VILLAGE GREEN



I was crossing the Green on my regular early morning walk, when I was astonished to see just outside the cricket pitch boundary, between the Social Club and Chequers pond something looking like a small lobster lying on the grass, and which I guessed was probably a crayfish. Naturally I wanted to take a photograph of it, but it was pretty aggressive, waving its pincers at me whenever I was close enough to take a photograph. I continued on my walk and when I returned about an hour later, it was still there but no longer moving. This time I remembered the zoom on my phone and managed to obtain a better picture. A gentleman was walking his dog nearby and I called him over to see it. His immediate reaction was horror "It's a tarantula – I used to see them in South America!"

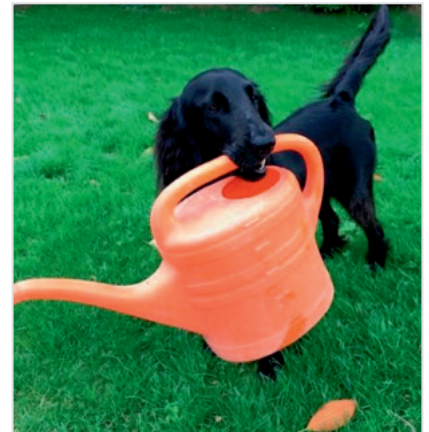
I emailed David Page, the Elmbridge Ranger, who said that it was a first for West End and confirmed that it was a fresh water crayfish, but unfortunately not the endangered indigenous one, but the invasive foreign one. He was puzzled, saying that they do not normally live in ponds as they like fresh flowing water. I wondered whether one of the herons that are regularly on Chequers Pond had picked it up but dropped it in fright!" *John Sandison*

INDY'S DOG BLOG

I can't believe it's been a year since my last birthday. I'm now four can you believe? Such a lot has happened this year. Who would have thought when we were roasting at last year's lovely West End show that 2020 would bring such a paw change? Personally I've found being with my family 24/7 great fun and to relax I've taken up yoga. I've mastered downward facing dog and upward facing dog which often gets me a tummy rub. Easy peasy, pawsy. I really recommend you try it as I don't know what humans seem to find so tricky.

We had an amazing event at the top of the hill in early August when a huge crane lifted a swimming pool over the house into the back garden. It was very nice of my family to install a pool for me even though I'm only occasionally allowed in and spend most of the time as life guard, running up and down at the side of the pool making sure my girls are safe.

Middle August saw the dreaded black holdalls in our hall so I knew exactly what was coming my way. Yes, family away and two weeks with my Nana doing her staycation! Actually it went really quickly as I helped with the gardening.



I had loads of lovely walks, several swims in the river, a stroll out with my friend Flossie around West End and saw a crocodile in the pond, lovely trips out in the car (I do love a good snooze in the car) and a variety of visitors who gave me lots of fuss and attention. Well, we all like to be told we're beautiful don't we?

Everyone said I'd been a big brave girl this time whilst my family were away. I think I was too. I suppose I have to try to be a little bit grown up now I'm four although us flatcoats are the Peter Pan of dogs and never grow up completely.

The other unbelievable event is that I'm an auntie! Yes, my sister had puppies and based on how wonderful I am, my Nana's friend is bringing a new puppy to see us very soon. Her name is Teasel and I will tell you all about her in the Christmas edition.

In the meantime do stop and say a socially distanced hello if you see me. I am the flat coated retriever with the pretty turquoise collar who lives at the top of the hill.

Indy



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HOME COOKING BY ELIZABETH

After a exciting yet challenging summer, My daughter Olivia became engaged this summer. She was 6 weeks old when I took over the catering at Garsons in 1993 to 2016, spending a major part of her life in West End we welcome James to the Home Cooking By Elizabeth family.

As we enter Autumn, Catering is still very different. On our website you will see our Catering in a Bubble menus, offering so many ways of relaxing, having small dinner parties and all types of celebrations all within government guidelines. We been creating different tastes and themes for many parties, including a complete Thai Meal delivered to a lovely family in West End. It has been an challenging but exciting time for us all. We look forward to serving you 7 days a week.

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