



VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

Volume 22 Issue 3
AUTUMN 2025
21st EDITION



THE 71st WEST END VILLAGE SHOW 'For the Village by the Village'

What a Show! Sunshine, Smiles, and a Record-Village Day.

For all the Village Show news, read Julia Iveson's full report with more photos inside.

'Thank you' to the Chairman, Alastair Joel, the Flower Show committee and all the volunteers for their hard work in putting on such an amazing Show!



The beautiful flowers in the Marquee.



'Dunk the Damsel' is always fun to watch!



Oliver and Lara Newman were busy preparing Rosettes for the Dog Show



The 'twirling' Teacups at the Funfair!



The debut of the 'People's Choice Photograph' competition was won by Mark Bisson with his lovely image of a 'Robin in Flight'.

Many congratulations Mark!



Mabel (above left) with 'Dougal', a Labradoodle, who won 1st Prize in the Cross Breed Class and 'Twister', a Spaniel, (with Tina) won 1st Prize in the Best Rescue Class, proudly wearing their Rosettes!



Right: The Winners of the Children's Sports proudly donning their medals. Thea Loveridge supervised the races and friends and families cheered them on!

SURREY POLICE **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 3528 Nick Reynolds is Sgt for Esher and Claygate

PC 3435 Ian Hallam is the local Esher Officer

Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email: **Please note: the email address has changed for the Elmbridge Policing Team to elmbridge@surrey-police.uk**

Contact for Neighbourhood Watch, is now :

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

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 & X](https://www.facebook.com/SurreyPolice&X) (formerly Twitter).

IN THE KNOW—SURREY & SUSSEX

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

- ◆ Cars continue to be stolen. If you have a modern car it's time to check whether your vehicle is eligible for a security update. Always remember to keep your car keys and fobs out of sight and if you have a keyless car use a signal blocking pouch. A variety of Trackers are available and can be fitted. When purchasing a new vehicle make sure it is legitimate. Check the V5 and service history, the VIN, (Vehicle Identification Number) and carry out an HPI (Higher Purchase Investigation)
- ◆ Please keep yours safely stored and securely padlocked.
- ◆ Burglaries have also been reported in the area. Ensure that windows and doors are securely locked at all times. Even the smallest open window can be an entry point!
- ◆ Doorstep deliveries continue to be stolen. Please arrange for deliveries to be left with neighbours if you are out.
- ◆ Beware of on-line fraud and phone calls—never give your personal details to anyone. on-line

SURREY POLICE **NEW BOROUGH COMMANDER**



I would like to introduce myself as your new Borough Commander for Elmbridge. It is a role that I have aspired to for the past several years of my career, and I am therefore delighted to be given the opportunity to serve the residents of Elmbridge, including many friends and family who live in the area.

I bring with me 20 years of policing experience and have previously managed the response teams based out of Esher Civic Offices. My most recent role was working on an investigation team based at Staines Police Station.

One of my priorities will be around creating safer town centres for everyone to enjoy. I know that retail crime can have a significant impact on local businesses and can leave shop staff feeling fearful and vulnerable within their workplace. I recognise the scale of retail crime in Surrey, and I am proud to have previously led a team that has so far secured 20-plus years of custodial sentences for organised crime groups targeting retail stores across North Surrey.

I plan to meet with representatives from each of the town centres within the borough and look at ways we can work together to further reduce criminality impacting these areas. This includes targeted days of action against shoplifting, greater emphasis on town centre patrols and providing additional advice and reassurance to the retail community.

My team and I look forward to talking to more of you while out and about in Elmbridge.

Christopher Thoday, Elmbridge Borough Commander

WEST END BRIDGE CLUB

We are a small club which meets every Tuesday afternoon in the Village Hall.

We play friendly bridge and new members are very welcome. We are not competitive and members only enjoy a pleasant afternoon with like-minded people.

Anyone interested, requiring more information should contact:
Sandra Elms on 01372 466433



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

Mail: hirehall@wevh.org

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.



WELCOME TO ALL NEW WEST END RESIDENTS

We welcome new residents to the village and hope that you find our newsletter informative and entertaining! We have a number of well established clubs and societies in the village of which you can be part at your own discretion.

We hope you settle into our unique village life and enjoy the lovely environment, its wildlife, woodlands and friendly community spirit with all it has to offer.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

As we look forward to our 21st year of publication in 2025, we face a backdrop of ever increasing costs, In order to keep the Village News viable, a number of supporters have made donations to become a 'Friend of the Village News'. This would involve making an annual donation of £50.00 to commence whenever feasible, with the opportunity of having your name published in a list of 'Friends of the Village News' or to remain anonymous if preferred. Alternatively, contributions in units of £10 would also be very welcome.

If you would like to become a Friend or simply make a donation, the bank details are:
A/C name: Village News (West End)
Account no: 56514794 Sort Code: 60-08-04
For further information on becoming a Friend, please contact our Treasurer, Derek Richardson at derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC CORNER



'A young Goldfinch' Photo: Don Tyzack



'My Woodland Walk' Photo: Sally Martin



COBHAM MILL'S LAST HURRAH Sunday 12th October, 2-5pm

As autumn rolls in and the trees start showing off, Cobham Mill is preparing for its final open day of the year. On Sunday 12th October, from 2pm to 5pm, Surrey's only working watermill will be in full swing—grinding flour, turning its wheel, and charming visitors one last time before its winter break.

If you've never seen a waterwheel in action or wondered how flour is made the old-fashioned way, this is your moment. Friendly volunteers will be on hand to explain the mill's workings, its rich history, and perhaps even the curious business of paddleboard swapping (not the kind involving wetsuits and lakes).

Once the last slice of cake is gone and the final grain is ground, the mill undergoes its annual transformation. The top stone is lifted, the vacuum cleaner makes an appearance, and everything is moved up high—because the mill floor always floods in winter. It's not a mishap, it's tradition. And the deep clean isn't just for show—it's to make sure the local mice don't throw a rave in the rafters while the humans are away. Before all that, there's one last afternoon to enjoy: tea, scones, cake, a few souvenirs, and plenty of good conversation. There's a quiz and colouring for children, and dogs are welcome too—because even your spaniel deserves a bit of heritage.



Inside the Mill



Gem amongst the Mill boxes

Entry is free. Whether you're a history lover, a curious local, or just someone who enjoys the sound of rushing water and the smell of fresh flour, Cobham Mill's final open day is a delightful mix of nostalgia, engineering, and cake.



Afternoon Tea at the Mill

*Photos: Ann Forrest
William Forrest, Chairman—Cobham Mill Preservation*

HALLOWEEN

Don't forget to prepare for the ghouls, bats and ghosts coming on Halloween. Get your hats, masks and cloaks out and your pumpkins carved and lit.

We shall be looking round the village to find the scariest garden into which anyone might dare to step!



COUNCILLORS' CORNER

News from your local Elmbridge councillors (EBC) (www.esher-residents.com): West End is part of the Esher Ward for EBC and has elected 3 independent Esher Residents' Association (ERA) councillors: Simon Waugh, Richard Williams and Simon Leifer, ERA Chair. They receive no salary and only minimal allowances.

The Unitaries are coming! – Elmbridge Borough Council to be abolished

Background

In December 2024, central Government published its English Devolution outline plans to create unitary councils in areas, like Surrey, that currently have a 'two tier' system of district/borough councils and a county council. It also proposes more Mayoral Strategic Authorities in these new areas. These groupings of unitary councils, once set up, will have powers transferred to them from Government for things like strategic planning, transport, infrastructure, and economic development and skills.

Current structure of local government

The Government wants a 'single-tier' system in Surrey with a far smaller number of unitary councils each delivering all the local council services. This means that all 12 councils in Surrey, including Surrey County Council, will be abolished in their current form. Currently in Surrey responsibilities for delivering services are split across a range of councils. Local councillors are elected to these different council tiers. Surrey has a two-tier council system, with some services (like education, adult and children's social care and roads) delivered by Surrey County Council and others (like bin collections, planning and housing) run by the local borough or district council (such as Elmbridge Borough Council).

What does this mean for Elmbridge?

The Government has indicated that it expects unitary councils to have a population of around 500,000 or more. This means that it is most likely that we will see two or three unitary authorities across Surrey, each covering a much larger area than current borough and district councils do. In the future, a new Strategic Authority, each with a directly elected Mayor, will be set up as well, covering several unitary areas.

What's happened so far?

In May 2025, the following proposals were submitted to Government: A proposal for three unitaries in Surrey. This is supported by nine councils: Reigate & Banstead, Tandridge, Runnymede, Spelthorne, Woking, Epsom & Ewell, Surrey Heath, Guildford and Waverley. A proposal for two unitaries in Surrey. This is supported by three councils: **Surrey County Council, Elmbridge and Mole Valley.** The Government is expected to decide on proposals by the middle of October 2025. If approved elections for new shadow unitary councils will be held in May 2026, with a view to the new unitaries going live on 1 April 2027.

The ERA's view

The ERA recognises the benefits accrued from having one authority responsible and accountable for all services and agrees the current two tier system can be confusing. However, there are concerns about the haste of the planned changes and the potential erosion of democracy. There will be far fewer elected councillors representing far larger areas and residents so this will mean greater geographic separation from residents and a greater workload. Whereas district and borough councillors are often residents who hold down full-time jobs, will the role now become the preserve of those of independent means? It could deter younger candidates from putting themselves forward. Do residents want to be represented by just the wealthy and/or the retired?

Within Surrey there are three councils struggling with massive debt – Woking with £2.5 billion – the highest in England, Spelthorne with over £1 billion – the second highest in England (and where the Government has appointed commissioners to oversee the running of the council) and Runnymede with over £1/2 a billion.

For obvious reasons we don't want to see Elmbridge residents in a unitary authority which includes any of those councils and their debts. That is why Elmbridge has sided with Surrey County Council and Mole Valley in proposing a two unitary authority model which would result in an East/West split (see above right). There are many unanswered questions and we anxiously await the Government's pronouncements this Autumn that will determine our fate.

/continued....



The 2 unitary model favoured by Elmbridge, Mole Valley & Surrey County Council

If you want to contact us please email on:

helloesher@esher-residents.com

Simon Leifer, Simon Waugh & Richard Williams

ESHER FRENCH CIRCLE

Esher French Circle starts its 2025-26 programme in October:

Wednesday 15 October



Odile Hughson will give a talk on The Kashmir Shawl – its history and its place in Provence today.

Wednesday 19 November



Brigitte Whiteing will give an illustrated talk about Normandy – one of France's most visited regions.

Wednesday 10 December



Peter Prowse will talk about how songs can be reinterpreted – rather than just translated – when they cross the Channel or the Atlantic. There will be ample opportunity to sing along to songs in both English and French.

Esher French Circle: all welcome

Esher French Circle offers monthly talks – in French – by native or fluent French speakers, for anybody interested in keeping up or improving their French, in a relaxed and convivial setting. The talks take place in West End Village Hall, Esher

The meetings are on the third Wednesday of most months and the doors open at 7pm. There is ample opportunity to mingle and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits before the main talk starts at 7.30pm. Esher French Circle warmly welcomes anybody with an interest in France and French life.

More information is available on the club's website:

www.cerclefrancais-esher.uk

or from Peter Prowse on M 07973 213039

Email: peter.c.prowse@gmail.com



THE ESHER PLANTERS' CLUB



As regular readers will know, the Esher Planters' Club is a group of volunteers that works on behalf of Esher in Bloom (a committee of the Esher Chamber of Commerce). We restore and maintain areas of planting in central Esher, including the black planters outside the High Street shops (most of which have now been decorated) and the areas outside the "No.4" boutique and the old Barclays Bank. In a challenging, hot and very dry summer, the club have managed to keep most of the plants alive, thanks to some very generous local businesses supplying us with water and an inventive use of hoses and sprinklers. We have also been lucky to identify a plentiful source of compost! So the results of our efforts are (we hope) quite pleasing to the eye!

We have had some much-appreciated financial support from local councils as well as from local businesses. And the Club's membership continues to grow. There is no subscription and no special skills requirement. We meet every Friday at 10 am in Hummings bar on the High Street. The sessions (weeding, watering, planting etc.) are usually around a couple of hours. All are welcome to join, even if only to enjoy a chat and a cup of coffee or tea! If you would like to know more about what we do just get in touch with me, Roger McCormick, at

rsmccormick@btinternet.com

(or call me on 07802 604316)

or just come along on a Friday morning!

All support is very much appreciated!

Roger McCormick

NEWS FROM WEST END PONDS



INDY'S AUTUMN DOG BLOG

These last few summer months have whizzed by and I have so much to repawt. In June I travelled all the way to Cumbria with my Nana whilst my Mummy, Daddy and girls went to Morocco. I gave Mummy the sad puppy dog eyes which usually work but she said dogs don't usually fly. I thought well, if pigs can then I should be able to, but with my poorly elbows, I didn't like to try. (You may remember I have arthritis that stops me from being quite so adventurous as I used to be). Cumbria was as pawsome as always. My naughty niece Teasel lives there and now has a sweet seven month old puppy sister, Rowan. Nana hired a special dog buggy for me, and we all walked miles around lakes and on disused railway tracks. Well to be precise, they all walked, and I rode in the buggy like a princess. Swimming is good exercise for me so at every opportunity Teasel and I were teaching Rowan. We were determined she should maintain the Flat Coat image of being expert swimmers. I'm pleased to say she finally got the hang of it and now doesn't swim like a steamboat with paws splashing under her chin. We took the boat on Derwent Water, had a trip on the Ravenglass steam railway where I let the wind blow through my ears, smelling the steam, the cows, the sheep and the flowers. The whistle and the noise of the engine was very uplifting. I'm sure you'd get excited too, wagging until you bend in the middle.



It must be the season for puppies because Nana's friend, Lee, who you may remember sadly lost her canine companion, Flossie, just after Christmas, has just acquired a beautiful golden cocker spaniel, Finlay, who looks just like a teddy and is just adorable. Many happy cuddles, Lee!

I have had several trips to the seaside this summer, swimming and eating doggy ice cream. Have you tried it? Tongue out delicious! I now have my very own buggy which is a real human magnet.

I get so much attention I'm thinking of handing out pawtographs.

As you may recall, I love the West End show, always a glittering occasion, and highlight in the year. 2025 certainly did not disappoint and for a welcome change the sun made it even more appealing. I enjoyed meeting you all and having a good sniff. In the sausage catching competition, I had a chinwag with a very affable chocolate labrador called Lily. I wanted to lick her to see if she was really made of chocolate but restrained myself as I thought that might be considered rather rude.



Should you see me about, I am the flat-coated retriever sporting a pink collar and a distinguished limp, do feel free to stop and say hello. While vigorous play is no longer on my agenda, a friendly chat and a good fuss are most welcome.

Indy 

Left: Work has been carried out on the annual pollarding of the Willow trees and clearing the undergrowth surrounding the West End ponds. Notice how low the water level is at this point following weeks of hot dry weather with very little rain.

Angela Stockbridge



**CLAREMONT LANDSCAPE GARDEN
AND CLAREMONT FAN COURT
SCHOOL JOIN FORCES FOR
HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2025**



Claremont Landscape Garden and Claremont Fan Court School are delighted to announce a special collaboration for this year's **Heritage Open Days on Saturday 20 September**, offering visitors a rare opportunity to explore both the historic landscape garden and the elegant mansion house in one unforgettable experience.

For one day only, a gate between the two properties will be opened, allowing guests to **freely wander between the garden and the school grounds**. Entry to Claremont Landscape Garden will be **free of charge**.

Visitors can explore the landscape garden with its extraordinary views, serpentine lake, grotto, and regency terrace. For this special occasion, areas usually closed to the public—including the **grass amphitheatre** and the **Belvedere mount**—will also be accessible.

At Claremont Fan Court School, guests will be invited to explore selected rooms of the historic mansion's ground floor on a **free-flow basis**. Visitors can enjoy a **self-guided tour** exploring the mansion's rich and varied history, complete with **room guides** and a **children's trail**. Claremont's resident historian, **Pamela Rider**, will also lead **two guided tours**, offering rare access to areas normally closed to the public — including the **tunnel, basement, ice bath, and Queen Victoria's bedroom**. In recognition of Claremont's wartime legacy, **Kingston Aviation** will be stationed in the **mansion's drawing room to commemorate the achievements of Sir Sydney Camm and his team from the Hawker Aircraft Company**.

Speaking about the collaboration, Property Operations Manager at Claremont Landscape Garden, Rob Bishop said, "We are delighted to be working more closely with our neighbours. We share such a strong and unique history – is a wonderful opportunity for the local community to learn more about our shared heritage."

Claremont Fan Court School added "We are thrilled to be joining forces with our National Trust neighbours, Claremont Landscape Garden. Together, our event will help recreate the historic scale of the Claremont royal estate. The day will be a brilliant opportunity for our local community to explore our school and the Landscape Garden".

The garden and the mansion house were once part of the Claremont estate in Esher, which was shaped by some of the most influential designer of the 18th century including **John Vanbrugh, William Kent and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown**. Over its 300-year history, Claremont has been home to a Prime Minister, an East India Company commander and European royalty. In the 1930s, the estate was divided with Claremont Fan Court School acquiring the mansion house and 100 acres of parkland, with the 49 acres that forms Claremont Landscape Garden left to the care of National Trust.

Claremont Landscape Garden is open from 10am to 5pm (last entry at 4pm) will **also** be free to enter on **Sunday 21 September**.

Claremont Fan Court School is open for self-guided tours from 11am – 4pm. Pre-booked guided tours are also available at 11.30am and 2pm.

For further information please contact:

Wanda Arden, Snr Marcomms Officer, National Trust Surrey Landscapes at

Wanda.arden@nationaltrust.org.uk

Kate Bradford, Community and Alumni Officer, Claremont Fan Court School at

alumni@claremont.surrey.sch.uk

Wanda Arden, Snr. Marketing and Communications Officer

**WEST END VILLAGE SHOW 2025
"For the Village by the Village"**



What a Show! Sunshine, Smiles, and a Record-Breaking Village Day

After two years of wet Village Show days, this year's event was blessed with dry weather and a very busy green from morning to late afternoon.

The annual Village Show, held on August bank holiday Saturday drew crowds of all ages who enjoyed a jam-packed day of entertainment, competitions, and community cheer. The atmosphere was electric, and our green was buzzing with laughter, music, and activity.

Special thanks go to Epsom & Ewell Silver Band and Kingston Hospital Radio, whose lively performances gave the day a joyful soundtrack. Matto the Clown proved a hit once again, delighting children and adults alike with his antics and infectious energy.

Committee-led activities were a resounding success, with favourites like the Exhibition Marquee, Raffle, Dog Show, Children's Sports, Book & Toy Stall, Smash-a-Plate, and Coconut Shy all drawing big crowds.

Exhibition Marquee

A total of 563 entries filled the marquee with colour and creativity. Despite concerns over a particularly dry summer, entries held their own, and the newly introduced Hydrangea category was a visual standout. The debut of the 'People's Choice Photograph' competition added a new layer of excitement. Voting slips ran out within 45 minutes as eager attendees cast their votes, crowning Mark Bisson's "Robin in Flight" the winner. This popular category is set to return next year, with even more voting opportunities.

Raffle and Silent Auction

This year's Raffle Stall introduced a new paperless system, which many found quicker and easier. Ticket sales soared, helping to raise vital funds for local charities. The return of the Silent Auction also proved successful, with all four locally donated items contributing several hundred pounds to community causes. Please bear this in mind for next year if you have anything you wish to donate.

Classic Fun and Games

- **Dog Show:** A record-breaking day for entries! The crowd favourite, Sausage Catcher class, was so fiercely contested we nearly ran out of sausages - congratulations to Siya, the winner. A big well done also to Eve, crowned Best in Show. Huge thanks to Hershams Hounds for raising awareness for greyhound rehoming and connecting with dozens of potential adopters.
- **Children's Sports:** A joyful highlight, with plenty of eager participants and proud parents.
- **Book & Toy Stall:** Thanks to generous donations, this stall enjoyed a bumper year.

- **Coconut Shy:** Back by popular demand and so successful that all coconuts were gone by 2:30 pm! We'll be better stocked next year!
- **Smash-a-Plate:** Still a crowd favourite and one of the most profitable stalls of the day. Many thanks to Oxfam and Princess Alice Hospice for their donations.

More Highlights

Visiting Arts & Crafts stallholders praised the friendly atmosphere and strong turnout, with many already reserving their spots for next year. Fairground rides were well attended, as were the various traders' stalls. The return of Dunk-the-Damsel, run by Hershams Guides, was another welcome sight.

The Classic Car display was once again a crowd-pleaser, along with a visit from a police car and a fire engine, both of which delighted younger visitors.

Gratitude All Around

The Committee extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a part in the Show's success: the volunteers who helped with planning, setup, on-the-day assistance and packing up, as well as to our generous sponsors: Garsons, Savills, Home Cooking by Elizabeth, The Prince of Wales, and Remedi Medispa.

Most importantly, thank you to our village community. Your energy, generosity, and unwavering support are what make this day so special. We may be a small village, but together, we put on a truly big show.

Save the Date! Mark your calendars – next year's Village Show will be held on **Saturday, August 29th, 2026**. We can't wait to see you there!

Julia Iveson - Publicity

VILLAGE SHOW IN PICTURES



Competitive 'cookery' friends at the Village Show!

We didn't manage to get a photo of the two winning competitors together this year, but this is Adam Brenner and Wayne Barrett last year when they won the same classes as this year in the Cookery section.

Adam won the Sticky Treacle, Ginger & Lime Cake Recipe and Wayne won My Favourite Cake (gentlemen only)!
Congratulations to you both!

Photo: Courtesy of Adam Brenner



Marion Ford (right) receiving the Silver Challenge Cup for her beautifully stitched and intricate Handicraft.



As always the Dog Show proved extremely popular with an enormous number of entries.



The very successful Coconut Shy attracted plenty of players!

(Below) Paul Gibson's 'Collection of 4 Distinct vegetables'. Paul was awarded the RHS Banksian Medal, the Oddfellows Cup, Nanhoran Cup and the Bailey Trophy (the Onion Cup).

Mark Vincent won the NUS Medal for the Best in Vegetable (for his perfect tomatoes)

Congratulations to all those who entered and were awarded prizes.



Humphrey Bedford's Auction success!

The item is a signed shirt of the British & Irish Lions rugby tour to South Africa in 2009, that being the year that he was born!



Matto the Clown who always enthuses and delights the children, hijacked Chris Stride, our friendly and jolly postman!



Seb Goodall (age 8) won 1st Prize in the Children's (7-9 yrs) Birthday Card class.

The judge's comments read: "Stunning artwork and words"

Well done Seb! 



Stephanie Parcell was delighted with 3rd Prize for her image of St. George's Church 'red door' in the 'Splash of Colour' category of the Photographic section.



Show photographs: Jonathan Little, Fiona Cameron & Angela Stockbridge

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WEST END

All of us at St George's thought that this year's Village Show was another huge success. Of course, the weather made a huge difference, as did our new enormous banner outside the Church, advertising our wares.

Photo: Charles Hawkshaw-Burn

We were extremely busy the moment we opened our doors.

Photo: Peter Bedford



As usual we had our renowned Cake Stall (and marmalade!) and the Gift and Bottle Stall. Baking in West End must have reached a peak on Friday – we had enough cakes, cookies etc. to cover more than 3 pasting tables. We often wonder if we will have many left over – but they were all sold by 4pm!

Photo: Stephanie Parcell

We were overwhelmed with the generosity after our call for items for the Gift and Bottle Stall. There was such a wide range of excellent items, there was something for everyone – and they were soon snapped up. Between the two stalls we raised over £1,400 towards our restoration fund (the next project is a new floor) and would like to thank everyone for helping, supporting, buying and being so generous. Thank you all.



No doubt many of you will have enjoyed the cream teas and cakes served in the Village Hall by the great team from Christ Church. This is always hugely popular – as can be seen by the queues at the door.



Above: Wendy Tanqueray serving Refreshments.

Photo: Will Stevens



Above: Organising Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall, L-R: Teresa Allen, Jane Tyrell and Janie McCulloch

Photo: Angela Stockbridge

Our thanks go to everyone involved in organising the Village Show – it always generates a wonderful community spirit... long may it continue. Many of us have for many years enjoyed relaxing after our hard work at the Bank Holiday Monday Opera evening. However, this year we had a bumper turnout from St George's – when about 22 of us gathered to enjoy this very enjoyable and worthwhile fundraiser for Save The Children.

We mentioned in our last update that our Rector, Darren, was leaving. His last service at St George's was on Sunday 3rd August when our congregation presented him with a substantial cheque, reflecting both our thanks and appreciation.



Darren's Presentation - Photo: Stephanie Parcell

Having spent a few years at his previous post in Norway, we know that he had a soft spot for our Tin Tabernacle. As you know we continue to welcome the Norwegians who worship monthly at our Church – it reminds them of home.

Both congregations attended a similar presentation (a gift of stays at a Retreat in Ireland) which took place in Christ Church on the 10th August; this was his last service in the Parish. We all wish Darren and his family every happiness in his new Parish.

Dates for your diary – Upcoming Events

Sunday 28th September PET SERVICE AT ST GEORGE'S at 4pm

It will be our 17th Pet Service this year. There is obviously parking locally and the green opposite – on which to take your doggies for a last minute "comfort break" before the service. Posters and leaflets will be put up nearer the time – but make a note in your diary for the event – cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs...whatever your pet – it is welcome! Do tell your friends!

In summary dates to remember are:

PET SERVICE Sunday 28th September (St George's) 4pm
 HARVEST (Christ Church only) Sunday 5th October 10.30am Joint Service therefore No 9am service at St George's
 ALL SOULS (Christ Church) Sunday 2nd November (Christ Church) 4pm
 REMEMBRANCE (Christ Church) Sunday 9th November (Christ Church) 10.50am at Memorial

We shall continue at St George's to be closed on any 5th Sunday of the month. This allows our congregation to join up with our Christ Church congregation - and enjoy the bonus of a beautiful choir. We will be putting a notice on the gate to remind people of the closure. Please do join us at as many or any of the services that you can. You are always very welcome.

DURING THE INTERREGNUM we advise you to check all services at both Churches by visiting website: <http://www.esherparish.org.uk> (Calendar). Here you can also find everything you might want to know about the Parish of Esher including Music on The Green, and their free monthly lunchtime concerts. Finally – thank you, as always, for your continued support, and we wish you all a very happy Autumn.

Andrea Lindow and Bridget Williams

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

Parish Secretary: Melanie Williams Tel: 01372 462282

Email: office@esherparish.org.uk

BELLRINGERS WANTED!



Would you like to learn a new skill, which is both mentally and physically challenging? Or perhaps return to an old one...? No musical ability is required, just good co-ordination skills, being reasonably fit, good determination and the willingness to learn something new. Our practice evening is on a Wednesday evening at Christ Church.

To find out more or register, please contact Ann at office@esherparish.org.uk

THE WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB



PLEASE VISIT OUR
WEBSITE FOR THE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
www.WESSC.org

WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB SPECIAL



Esher & District
RPC



WEST END GOLF SOCIETY



Anyone wishing to join the
WEGS can call
Dave Morgan on
07956 221566



WEST END CC GAIN PROMOTION AGAIN!

Dear Westenders,

I am very pleased to report that our First Eleven under Jon Carter's captaincy have achieved promotion for the second year running. With one match left to play, the team's home win over Ashford on Saturday secured their elevation from Tier 3 to Tier 2 for next season and the team are currently second in the table with one game to go. With the teams in first and third playing each other on the final weekend of the season, a win for West End will see them finishing either in their current 2nd position or as champions, which is what they deserve after such an excellent season.

As I'm sure some of you will know already, we celebrate 150 Years of cricket on the green this year and it's fitting that it is set to be a successful one, with the team set to compete at the highest level it has done in recent history, if not ever! After a hugely successful tour to start off the season, we had some challenging matches for both our league XIs in our new divisions, playing against much bigger clubs, but holding our own. The weather for once has been kind to us and we have lost only 2 games all season to the rain. Our 2nd XI under Joe Bridges have had a very challenging league to play in this year and with one game to go they look like they will stay put for next season when promotion and relegation should make things a little more even. When we are playing clubs with up to seven Saturday sides it makes for a challenging Saturday!

Our Junior section under the leadership of Ruth Lovering has also gone from strength to strength and we have welcomed an additional 24 families into our club this year and we would love to see you come and join us if your children would like to try cricket next year. Details on our website www.weecc.co.uk It's been wonderful to see the green so busy with junior cricketers on a Friday, girls cricket on a Wednesday and then matches over the weekend. Our t20 side lost out narrowly to eventual semi-finalists East Molesey, meaning that we hosted the finals day without a team in the mix for the first time in four years. Godalming CC won on the day but everyone commented on what a beautiful setting we have here at West End.

Our annual cricket sixes tournament took place on the August Bank Holiday Sunday. This year we have renamed the competition in honour of our much missed team-mate David Watkins. The David Watkins Memorial will be an annual event to remember our friend and colleague who was an integral part of West End CC for so many years. Dave was a mentor and to many of us, welcoming and encouraging me when I joined all those years ago. A talented batsman and brilliant wicket-keeper, above all he was a great team and club man and a great pleasure to play alongside. The tournament was closely fought and featured cricketers of all ages. Fittingly the final came down to the last ball and the trophy was presented by David's wife Zoe.

Our Sunday side under Miles Horwood continues the club tradition of including as wide a membership as possible on match days and one game featured both Jake Whincup (u14) who took his first wickets for the senior team and David Miller who at 77 is our oldest playing member and took 2 catches! We also have a fantastic Over 40's team who play a series of T20 games against local opposition. This is a gentler but nonetheless still competitive form of the game that doesn't take all day, so if you'd like to get back into cricket but you don't want to give up an entire Saturday or Sunday, then please do get in touch. A huge thank you to Paul Campbell who brought this team into being and has been instrumental in the growth of the club and this 'competition'. As Captain, Paul has been outstanding and the side has enjoyed win after win this year. Thanks must also go to Janet Deacon for keeping the teams supplied with much needed home-made cakes at Tea – an essential part of any cricketing day!

Now, back to our championship-chasing first XI. It's fair to say they have given me a few stressful moments recently as games have come down to the wire, but it has been very exciting cricket. So far they have played 17 games and won 12 of them – with only one game cancelled. For reasons unknown the league decided that a cancelled or abandoned game should be worth 10 points to each side and so the teams in both third and first spot currently who both had 3 games called off have an 'extra' 20 points for NOT playing cricket. Nevertheless those two teams (Godalming and Merrow) were certainly the strongest in the league alongside West End.

With the run-in under way we had to play both of these teams knowing they were must-win games. The home game against Godalming was an epic, with West End scoring the winning runs with just 3 balls to go. Then it was Merrow away – a brilliant bowling performance reducing them to 109 all out. All was going well with the run chase until two quick wickets became three, which all too soon became seven. 30 runs to go and a steady partnership between Captain Jon Carter and wicket keeper Jack Hambleton looked to have set the course to victory but a change in the bowling saw Jack caught and West end with 15 runs to get and only 2 wickets remaining. With a fantastic Captain's innings Jon picked off the runs before finishing the game by crashing the ball through the covers for four.

Last Saturday's game was a must-win once again and despite the poor light and slightly damp conditions we got the game done with a comfortable victory over Ashford. There have been some great individual performances this year with Vinay Kumar taking 30 wickets for the firsts and Suraj Giani and Ian Sergeant 31 each for our 2's. Will Lucas joined us this year and has played exceptionally well, scoring over 700 runs and averaging just under 50 as well as bowling some very tight spells. Gareth Hunter has also made a huge contribution with over 350 runs, 19 wickets and 12 catches. 2's Keeper Paul Campbell is top of the League for dismissals. It really has been a team performance this season though with everyone contributing and a fantastic club spirit that runs throughout all of our sides.



aturdy's winning team clockwise from the back... Ed Brew, Ollie Tredgett, Vinay Kumar, George Brew, Patrick O'Neil, Henry Turrell, Jon Carter (c) Rahul Sharma, Gareth Hunter, Will Brew, Jack Hambleton (wk)

In short, your cricket club continues to perform in the best traditions laid down 150 years ago. We are proud to be one of the most inclusive, friendly and sociable cricket clubs in the country and we are proud to still be West End Escher CC.

Chris Hambleton, Chairman West End Escher CC



EMBER MANOR LODGE'S CHARITY GOLF DAY

Sponsored by John Murphy & Company Ltd

In aid of the following Charities: DASH – (Domestic Abuse Stops Here), Myeloma UK, The Surrey Provincial Masonic Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation and the local charity, 'Homestart Elmbridge.

Thanks to the generosity of John Murphy and his business partners, Amy Halstead and Paul Holdship, who organised the day, Ember Manor Lodge will be able to donate a further £7000 to their chosen Charities. John, Paul and Amy's company had sponsored a golf day, dedicated it to Ember Manor Lodge and donated all the individual's contributions, together with the results of a splendid raffle and auction, to the Ember Manor Benevolent Fund.

While good causes benefited, the 76 golfers, and those of us who just propped up the bar, had a splendid day at the Lambourne Golf Club which was, I am reliably informed by those who played, in splendid condition; a great 'track' (golfers speak) and worth

another visit. I can only vouch that the bar had a varied offering and was worth several visits; the BBQ meal was first class.

Unfortunately, the meal had to be eaten in the Clubhouse as, at the critical moment, it rained; wouldn't you know it, in a particularly dry summer it had to rain at that time – but at least the golf was over and the excitement was building towards the prize giving. Thanks to all those that contributed to such an enjoyable day and provided help for so many in need.

*Derek Richardson
17th July 2025*



*Winning Team: Rawlings Flooring
(2nd left is the presenter, John Murphy)*



Men's Prize: John Bentley



Lady's Prize: Lyn Ives

NEWS FROM THE BAR

A huge 'thank you' to Bar Manager, Richard Jenkins, Dan Snell, Assistant Bar Manager, Alice Jenkins and Lily Loveridge, and all bar staff who worked tirelessly providing an efficient bar service to both club members and visitors over the very busy Bank Holiday weekend.



Charity Gala Night



25 years ago for the Millennium celebrations in 2000 an Opera Gala was held in the marquee on Bank Holiday Monday to raise money for the village - initially helping to finance the Village Hall extension which opened in late 2002. In the 25 years since, the Gala has continued and since 2006 it has raised funds for Save the Children.

This year's Gala featured a number of emerging young opera soloists together with on piano, Janet Haney, a coach at the Royal Academy of Music. Over 270 attended, many picnicing on the green beforehand and we are pleased to report that over £6,000 was raised for the charity.

Roger Marsden



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Village News team thank members of the West End Motor Club, (L-R) Ken Berry, Geoff Cox, Roger Brown and Geoff Inman, for raising much needed funds for the Village News at the Village Show. An amazing total of £193.00 was raised through donations.

Your generosity, enthusiasm and support is much appreciated.

Thank you.





WEST END MOTOR CLUB

Villagers with long memories will remember that the informal West End Motor Club formed round in 2005/6, and celebrated Charles Pocklington's life with their first Pocklington Classic Rally, to France that year. We repeated the format to different destinations each subsequent year (covid excepted). Organizing accommodation and sometimes ferries for up to 20 old men with their precious cars was quite an undertaking, not to mention devising things for them to do when not in the bar. So after 15 Classic Rallies up to 2021 we decided to pause for breath. Charles' widow Eileen was our supporter and patron throughout this period, hosting our departure each year from her house. When she passed away last year the link was gone and we decided there should be no more Pocklington Classic Rallies in the old format and organized a final 'End of an Era' lunch run.

David Rolfe was a founder member and keen supporter of the motor club. Sadly, as previously reported in this newsletter, David passed away in January this year, 2025. After some deliberation, and a few pints, the motor club decided to institute a regular event in his name and so the David Rolfe Classic Run was born. It would take the form of occasional runs to places of interest and/or refreshment not too far from West End. The inaugural run was organized to take place on 18th July driving to The Parrot at Forest Green, and a table was booked for lunch at 1pm.

We had kept Pat Rolfe and her family informed of our intention. They were very happy with the idea and offered to host a 'grand depart' from their property, for which we were very grateful.

On the fine sunny morning of the 18th July I arrived at Rolfe Towers in good time for tea, coffee and croissants from about 10.00am courtesy of the Rolfe family. Ken and Geoff were already there organizing and directing parking on the drive, and when that was full, on the front lawn. Philip brought David's former 1927 Bentley 4½ litre looking magnificent, having been meticulously restored since he bought it from David about 10 years ago. In all 12 classic cars were there ready to go.



A new rally plaque had been designed for what we hope will be a series of 'David Rolfe Classic Runs'. Ben had generously arranged their production and was to deliver them on the day. Rally plaques are important in our world, but really only as souvenirs. We arranged to set out by 11.15am and Ben arrived in a cloud dust in his well tuned Austin 7 'Box' Saloon, bringing the plaques.

After thanking our hosts and Ben, I explained that the run had no set route, was not a competition, and cars should try not to form convoys. The plaques were distributed, attached to the cars which were going on the run and we set out at about 11.05am, one or two at a time. David's old Bentley was second last and I brought up the rear in 'Lockdown', as in after the Lord Mayor's Show. Most 'Runners' had uneventful journeys and 17 of us had charged our glasses and were ready to sit down for lunch by 12.45pm.



The rally plaque designed by Ben Thompson

The friendly, helpful, efficient staff at The Parrot were ready so we hurried in and sat down. The food was good and we would recommend this pub to anyone who does not already know it. As has become our custom in recent years we took a moment to remember former members who would never be joining us again, and including those who could not join us on this occasion for reasons beyond anyone's control, the toast was 'absent' friends'.

By about 2.45pm we were had finished, left the table and made our various ways home, concluding the inaugural David Rolfe Run. As far as I have heard everyone enjoyed the event.



We'll be doing something like it again in a little while so if you have an interesting car and would like to be included please keep in touch. And if you just like talking car why not join us for a chat in the club at about 8pm on most Thursday evenings please contact Ken.

Photos: Geoff and Philip - Plaque: Ben - Story: Roger

THE WEST END MOTOR CLUB AT THE VILLAGE SHOW

Amongst the collection of immaculate classic cars on display was this fitting and nostalgic tribute to the late David Rolfe. A collage of photographs showed David in his garage and at various 'motoring' events. Also included was his trusty Volvo Estate Reg. GAN 88J, which has been part of many a happy 'meet-up' over the years!



L-R: An Austin 7 (just visible), a Caterham 7 and Morgan 4/4

Photos: Angela Stockbridge

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VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

Please make a diary note of copy dates:
Winter: Friday 28th November by 1pm
Spring 2026: Friday 14th March by 1pm
(N.B. Easter Sunday 5th April)

Please contact Angela Stockbridge Email:
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