



*Merry
Christmas*

VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

**Volume 10 Issue 4
CHRISTMAS 2013**

The Village News Team would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. 2013 has been a mixed bag of events and emotions. There have been many events in and around the village, including the superbly organised successful annual Flower Show which, despite the weather, was supported by both villagers and outsiders. The immensely popular West End's Got Talent Show in October, (more inside) was a huge success! The West End Sports & Social Club has organised a fantastic array of events, including Halloween, the Carol Concert, New Year's Eve party, as well as the cricket and football fixtures. The long awaited and very welcome road works have finally been completed in West End Lane and Winterdown Road, making the village look so much better. Thank you to the Surrey County Council for all their work and the minimum disruption during busy times. A huge thank you to David Page and his team who have been very busy working hard to keep the green, ponds and woodlands looking outstanding.

The lowest point of the year was without doubt the loss of our two beautiful swans and cygnets in such tragic circumstances. However, the pen and cygnet are doing well. They are still in the nursery at the Swan Sanctuary, but will be moved to the main lake in the Spring. A cygnet was seen by the pond recently but left after two days, but may return in time. Let's hope that 2014 (our 10th Anniversary year) will bring much happier times and that a new pair will eventually come to nest in West End. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the village in their own way, whether it be keeping the green tidy (thanks to Richard Gale), organising sports events, coffee mornings, feeding the wildfowl around the pond, supporting the Sports & Social Club, Village Hall, St. George's Church, the Prince of Wales, and the Village News and, not least of course, those who care for friends in need.

Angela Stockbridge



Above: Sandra Green who has been working at the restaurant since 1992.

ELIZABETH TRELIVING CELEBRATES 20 YEARS CATERING AT GARSONS

I have now spent 20 years of my life serving many customers, many of whom are still visiting us after 20 years, the main comments we receive are that we are different from anywhere else we have a special banter that our customers love, they are not treated as just another customer. Part of the success has been the consistency in staff, they like seeing the familiar faces and know everyone by their name. When I came here I was a fairly young mum with three daughters, the youngest being 6 weeks old, when I negotiated the contract, at my first meeting she was only two weeks old and I can remember Derek Richardson saying to me well you are in good fettle considering you have just had a baby. That's nothing, as a private caterer, I actually did a function when she was less than a week old. She was too weeks early!

Now I am a proud grandmother or Nonnie as I am known, to a super little boy, who I am eagerly teaching to cook. Food and drink trends have changed over the past 20 years, but I endeavour to keep up with them all. many of the recipes are created by myself and my team. I have totally loved the past 20 years and look forward to many more.

Elizabeth Treliving



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS RECEPTION SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER 2013 from: 7.30pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL



Finger Buffet by Elizabeth, Home Cooking
Welcome drink on presentation of your ticket
If you would like to bring your own bottle please do.

Drinks can also be purchased by Members from the Sports & Social Club Bar
Raffle

We would like to support the work of the Swan Sanctuary and the Village News
Dress Code: Smart Casual

Please do come along and enjoy an evening with good food, background music and interesting company.

Tickets £10 per person

**RSVP:
by 12 DECEMBER**

Tickets available from
Angela Stockbridge
01372 460703 or
Lynn Bezant
01372 468909



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Esher, Surrey

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'TIME 4 TEA'
in aid of Meningitisuk/Meningitis Trust



Alice and Bryan Austin held a Time 4 Tea event in aid of Meningitisuk/ trust in September which raised £520. We would like to thank all our neighbours and friends for their kind support, some who were unable to attend generously donated for which we thank them for. Needless to say Garsons happily contributed by donating a £25 Voucher and our local Waitrose the cream and jam for our delicious cream tea.

We as a family fundraise as much as possible to help eradicate this devastating disease, which in the past few years has taken the lives of THREE young people from families in our local area alone. Along with our fund-

raising activities we act as support to those affected by Meningitis and aim to spread awareness in order for people to act as quickly as possible to recognise the symptoms.

Meningitis can affect anyone of us at anytime in our lives, not as widely believed just babies and young people. Older people (65 and over) may like to know there is a one off free vaccination available from their GP to protect them against Pneumococcal disease related to Meningitis.

Meningitis UK and Meningitis Trust have now merged giving more power in demanding that this government make a newly developed vaccination available which would help in the fight against Meningitis.

I would like to say a special thank you to Margaret Mazzina, Angela Stockbridge, Lynn Bezant for helping the event to be such a success and of course my lovely niece Claire 'the brilliant fairy cake maker' with her little helpers, Lola Mae and Livvi.

Further information can be found on <http://www.meningitistrust.org/>

Alice Austin

THE RHINESTONE COWGIRLS



We personalise clothing and equestrian items in crystals, such as saddle cloths, riding hats, onesies, tracksuits, hoodies, baseball jackets and bronte style jackets.

We are at the International Horse Show Olympia on the 16 - 22 December, and "Move It" the dance exhibition have asked us to bling up their official T shirts for them in March, also at Olympia.

Edwina and Faith sporting their handiwork!

Contact: Edwina Halanen on 07721 091184



Indian Head Massage increases circulation and promotes relaxation in the areas most vulnerable to tension - head, neck and shoulders which may help with headaches, sinus congestion and eye strain.

Price list:

Reflexology	60min	£40
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Reflexology focuses on pressure points in the feet relieving stress in the whole body and restoring a healthy balance - beneficial for all ages and for a relaxed, mother and baby during pregnancy.

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WEST END LANE ROADWORKS

How great do our roads now look around West End. I was very impressed in the way the work was carried out. At first I thought it would be the usual cones everywhere with no work being carried out for days/ weeks but pleasantly surprised when a team of men arrived on time (well a couple of days late) followed by some very impressive machinery. Initially the manual workers prepared the road for the heavy equipment to dig up, closely followed by a machine to remove the existing surface directly into tipper lorries, then road sweepers cleaned the surface thoroughly before the tar sprayer with a light coating of tar. Next the tarmac lorries arrived and were off loaded manually into the tarmac machine, when laid the heavy rollers came in. Following the machinery were men making cosmetic adjustments, the whole process was continuous and well managed with such precision it was quite entertaining...old man watching 'men at work'. My entertainment was spoilt by the arrival a few days later by men painting miniature bicycles to inform cyclist as to where they should ride...REALLY?



West End Lane roadworks: Article and Photograph: Bryan Austin

LE CERCLE FRANCAIS D'ESHER!

LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE SUR VOTRE PAS DE PORTE

French language right on your doorstep

On the third Wednesday of every month from October to June (the second Wednesday in December) there is a talk in French at 8.15 pm in the village hall on some aspect of French life or culture. Usually some 50/60 people attend the talks which last for an hour and are followed by coffee and biscuits for those who wish to stay and chat. The French language ability of those who attend varies from the completely fluent to "Not done much French since O level but want to improve it." The charge for attendance as a visitor is £5.

We are Le Cercle Français D'Esher. If you would like further information or simply a copy of our programme for the year please contact:

Cavan Taylor on 01932 864258 or cav-an.taylor@btopenworld.com or Brigitte Tiller on 01932 860842 or brigitte@ptiller.com



LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Congratulations to the new Lord Mayor of London



All the churches in the City of London rang their bells for local resident, Fiona Wolf, on her appointment as Lord Mayor of London. She is only the 2nd lady to be Lord Mayor since 1354 when the first Lord Mayor, Sir Thomas Leggy was appointed. The most famous Lord Mayor was, of course, Sir Richard (Dick) Whittington who was four times (not thrice) Lord Mayor of London. He was first appointed in 1397 after he had come to London from Gloucester as a boy and made his fortune as a silk and velvet trader.

Above: Ludgate Hill, in the pouring rain, on Lord Mayor's Show Day, The Princess Alice Hospice is one of this year's Lord Mayor's charities.

Article and Photograph: Ann Tennant

WEST END PLAYGROUP

This time of year seems to be full of things that can scare children. Halloween, with its associations with witches, ghosties, goulies and things that go bump in the night. Bonfire night with lots of noise and danger from fireworks. The nights draw in and darkness falls well before most children's bedtimes. Even Father Christmas can be an object of fear for some children, one reason why, when he visits Playgroup, he leaves presents and rushes off again before the children can see him. Children's imaginations are wonderful things but can sometimes be quite dark. When we go on our nature walk we often stop before going into the woods to think about what animals might live in the woods that we should listen and look out for. You would be surprised just how many bears, lions and even dragons inhabit that small patch of wild nature.

Children's stories too can be scary. If anyone has read the original Little Mermaid story before it became Disneyfied, or any of the Grimm fairy stories, you will know just how horrid a children's story can be. So should we stop reading scary stories to our children? Childhood is such a short time, should we be protecting them from anything that might frighten them? Is it a mistake to read Red Riding Hood to our children?

Surprisingly, I believe that the answer is a very firm no. Obviously if a child is having nightmares about the troll under the bridge, then a break from the Three Billy Goats Gruff would be a good idea. Other than that though, children need to be exposed to a certain amount of scary stuff. Being scared, and of course then reassured, helps a child's understanding of the world. G.K. Chesterton put it best when he said "Fairy tales do not tell children that dragons exist. Children already know that dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children that dragons can be beaten." A child's life may be full of dragons from a very early age. Small babies do not realise that a mother in another room is still there for them and will get very scared when they cannot see her.

Most children go through a phase of being frightened of strangers. Being left at Playgroup can be a very worrying time. For some, the dragon may be a rough older sibling, even an adult in their lives with problems such as health issues. Children know there is a dragon there, but usually feel helpless against it.

A fairy story which often shows children, or animals, beating or outwitting something bigger, fiercer and scarier than they are gives children hope. It tells them that, although this might be scary, there can be a way out. If we take away the scary part of the story, we also take away the lesson of hope and that I think is a much bigger mistake to make. If all stories are sunshine and lollipops what do children have to rely on when the dragons come?

In the dark part of the year, as the wind blows cold around us and the sun and warmth seem very far away: when we hear the dragons in the woods or the wolves at the door, hope is the one thing that gets us through. The hope that the sun will return, winter will go and the dragons will be defeated.

Tessa Badcock



St George's Church
West End

Christmas Services
Sunday 22 December
9am
Sung Communion,
West End
Tuesday 24 December
3pm Crib Service and
6pm Village Carol
Concert, West End

Christmas Day 9am
Sung Communion,
West End

THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE—ESHER WAR MEMORIAL

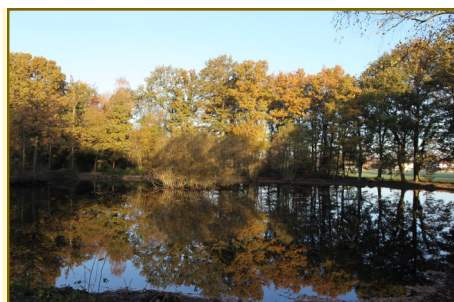
The Service was led by Revd Dr Stefan Collier and Revd Helen Kempster. Michael Birnie carried the processional cross. The service was well attended by local residents and organisations including: The Royal British Legion, Air cadets from the Esher Squadron, the 1st Esher Guides and 1st Esher Brownies. Dominic Raab MP laid a poppy wreath along with many other representatives from local organisations.



Malcolm Parsons laid the wreath for the West End Sports and Social Club, Susannah Bramley for the West End Residents' Association, Margaret Dane for Winterdown WI, Daphne Butler for the West End Afternoon WI and Pat Baumann for the Village News. Below right: Chairman, of Esher Probus, David Albert, lays a wreath. Below left: next to Daphne and Pat is Ken Brookes proudly wearing his medals.

The weather was glorious for the sombre occasion.

The ceremony was followed by a service in Christ Church.



WEST END COMMON NEWS

The Countryside Team have been busy in the ponds this year, clearing encroaching trees and scrub and scraping away silt to keep

them in good condition for wildlife. This work often results in the appearance of one of the UK's rarest plants the Starfruit (*Damasonium alisma*) in the ponds in the following year, so fingers crossed for 2014.

We will also be stepping up our control of Himalayan Balsam next year as we continue to tackle this invasive weed.

The strong winds on Monday 28th October resulted in a number of trees blown over or damaged and the Countryside Team worked throughout the Borough helping to clear roads, followed by a busy week clearing the Commons and Countryside sites of fallen trees.

Wildfowl Attacks.

As reported in the autumn issue incidents of out of control dogs attacking wildfowl on our ponds continue to be reported. Following the incident on 25th July last year which resulted in a Police Caution for the owner of the dog that attacked and killed the cob swan at West End Pond, we ask that residents report any incidents of dogs attacking wildfowl to the Police immediately. Dog walkers should be aware of their responsibility to keep their dogs under control and not allow them to disturb wildlife.

Dave Page, Elmbridge Countryside Team

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY MARATHON

Jenny Andersson hiked a 26 mile marathon on 7 September - that's right 26 miles!



I wondered if my recent marathon hike for Alzheimer's might make a news piece for the next issue. If you have a gap and wanted to put it in, I wrote a short paragraph below and have attached a couple of pictures.

"You're used to seeing Jenny on a horse, riding out from Garson Farm Stables through our woods. You might have seen her on foot over the Summer. She was in training for her first cross country marathon hike from Stonehenge to Avebury on behalf of Alzheimer's Society. She completed the 26 miles across beautiful Wiltshire countryside with co-pilot Adie Callaghan whose Mother has early onset dementia, in just under 8 hours, raising over £1200! Jenny, who is a cancer survivor has also completed the London Moonwalk, The Thames Path Challenge, and is planning to do a 100km marathon around the Isle of Wight next August.

Jenny is now also helping local ladies who would like to get fitter through walking, by organising group hikes in the area, and creating training plans for those who have always thought they could walk a marathon but have never got round to it. You can contact her on 07702285207 or via www.hikercise.co.uk."

WELL DONE JENNY!

WEST ENDS GOT TALENT CONTEST 12 October 2013



Above: Congratulations to Max Robson who came second in the children's section who sang 'Electricity' from Billy Elliot.



Below Left: Congratulations to the winner of the children's section: Jessica Mason who sang 'With You' from the musical 'Ghost'.



Right: Terri Orton (alias Victoria Wood) was winner of the adult section and performed Victoria Wood's 'Let's do it' with great gusto and style!



Congratulations, Terri!

There are more pictures from the show in the Sports & Social Club Special. *Photographs: Angela Stockbridge*

A HOMAGE AND GOOD BYE TO WEST END

From a dog owner perspective

When I moved to West End I thought I had landed in paradise. 2½ years later I realise it was true. What a special place it is in combining the best of so many worlds.

Surrounded by beautiful green and an abundant choice of hour-long walks, right on your doorstep, no need to get in the car, something that's very hard to find even in the countryside.

Having walked in West End woods and Esher common nearly every day since I moved here I am still discovering new 'off-the-track' spots and corners. The lovely river-walk along the Ledges which I call 'adventure walk' always is a highlight and is always so inspiring. It is quite a rarity to have so much green accessible to the public, a particular bonus to someone like me with two working gundogs to train.

Then there's all the water, numerous ponds and the river to choose from. Only dog owners will know how utterly enjoyable it is to watch your dogs having so much fun dipping in & out of the water (Editor's note: avoiding of course the village ponds) or having that cooling swim in summer (lucky them!).

I watched a family of little ducklings grow up this summer in the pond just on the border of the Green. They appeared to get so used to us visiting every day swimming over in excitement seemingly wanting to get involved in the retrieving tennis balls 'game'. Little experiences like this add to the uniqueness of this place.

If you're tired of all the walking, there's the short stroll across the beautifully serene golf course up into Esher to have a cheeky drink or two, sitting outside at one of the lovely cafes or restaurants.

Not to mention the fast train journey into London, priceless if you need to get to a work meeting quickly. The Prince of Wales with its lovely beer garden, picking strawberries for breakfast at Garsons; or getting that last-minute ingredient at the deli shop. Watching the cricket or football on the Green is always entertaining (even if you have little understanding of it). Walking across the Green at night in the dark when it turns into an oasis of peacefulness. The lovely neighbourly feel this village has. The list is endless. Not that I haven't appreciated all this every single day we've lived here.

It's just when you're 'forced' to leave, following the sale of my rented property it becomes even more precious; and nothing else seems to compare.

I do hope that one day me and my dogs can come back. Hoping for that lottery win or crash in the rental / housing market (sorry home owners!). Toby and Ben don't know yet that we're leaving and that is good. Because if they did they might just forget all their good manners and do what they've never done before – throw a tantrum. Thank you for a wonderful two and a half years West End.

Good-Bye for now ... but hopefully not forever.

Kirstin, Toby and Ben

k.gaisbauer@btopenworld.com



SURREY POLICE

IMPORTANT PLEASE READ.....

Call so let's make sure we get there safely.

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.

Beat Officers:

PC Danny Bond, FIN3682 : PCSO Jan Aldogan, FIN11725 :
Tel: 101

email: elmbridgesnt@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Crime Reduction Adviser is Elaine Burtenshaw 14613 : Tel: 101 : Email: burtenshaw14613@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Debbie Smith FIN: 13330

Neighbourhood Team Coordinator, Surrey Police, Elmbridge Borough : Tel: 101 Extension: 38857



POLICE REPORT

PCSO Jan Aldogan FIN11725

The nights are drawing in and the days are getting shorter and I hate to say this but Christmas is only weeks away. At this time we are all busy in some way or another and our guard is down with regard to security. I have said this many times but sadly it is still happening, but as the shops start to get busy keep an eye on your personal belongings. Keep handbags close to you and in sight at all times and never keep wallets in back pockets. If you have a zipped inside pocket to a jacket then keep it there. Don't put handbags in trolleys and then walk away, even if the bag is in a shopping bag it is still a target. As for your home you may like to consider the following:

Invest in some outdoor security lights that come on at dusk and go off at dawn - burglars don't like being in the spotlight.

If you are planning to be away at Christmas, cancel milk and other regular deliveries and ask a neighbour or your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme to keep an eye on your home.

Don't display Christmas presents through a window - its just too tempting for a burglar. Leave them hidden out of view until Christmas morning.

Close curtains as it gets dark so all your belongings are not on display to passers by when you switch on lights

Never post details of your holiday or time away on Social Networking sites like Facebook or Twitter. It can make your home a target for burglars.

Never leave keys near the front door or in sight of the front door.

Keep doors and windows locked even when you are home.

Always use a chain across the door before opening to callers.

Register all valuables with Immobilise.com (ask your local officer for full details)

For more information on the above or to arrange to talk to an officer about security, please contact officers on the numbers listed above.

Finally this will be my last report for the village news as I am moving to pastures new in the new year, namely Walton. I know you will embrace your new PCSO Nigel Oates and make him welcome. Finally I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year, and thank you for your continued support to Surrey Police.



WINTERDOWN WI

The Winterdown WI held its 42nd Annual Meeting in November and Jill Aspinall was elected President for the 3rd year. She expressed her thanks to the committee for their support and help in making the past year so successful. Our second bridge tea of the year, held in October, was enjoyed by all who took part.

Members continue to enjoy meeting for various events which include walks, lunches, discussing books, playing bridge, learning new crafts and reviving old ones.

A varied and interesting programme has been arranged for 2014 which includes talks and presentations from Jo Mabbutt "The power of colour – its impact on our lives" in January; Faith Powell is returning to tell "Confessions of a TV extra!" in February and in April we will learn all about Clondan Park.



September: Members relaxing in Bosham after visiting Hinton Ampner for lunch in the morning.

Photos by

Micki Scales



October: All aboard the Emirates Airline "Gondola" which crosses the river Thames between the Olympic Village and the O2.

Membership has fallen this year and it is hoped to recruit new members in 2014. If you would like to join the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK contact Secretary, Ann Tennant on 01372 466725 or visit our website:

www.winterdownwi.co.uk

Winterdown WI meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8.00 pm in West End Village Hall, West End Lane. Visitors and new members are made very welcome.



**Season's greetings
from Winterdown WI**

FREEMASONRY IN WEST END

The minutes of the meeting of the Ember Manor Lodge for October will read 'Subsequently 16 members dined together in the Village Hall with 16 Masonic and 14 non Masonic guests. The toasts to the Queen, the Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent, the Worshipful Master and the Guests were honoured. During the evening W Bro Bill Brodie presented the result of his Master's List, £2700, to the Treasurer of the Kingston Bereavement Service, Mr John Farmer, who received it with thanks and proceeded to give a brief overview of the comfort the Service provided to the recently bereaved'.

We have minutes going back to the very first meeting in 1925 and I wonder what my successors will think as they read that particular entry. I expect very few will have heard of the Kingston Bereavement Service which we supported this year. I certainly hadn't but its volunteers perform a very worth while role supporting the recently bereaved in the Borough of Kingston and their 'clients' may well include children. You may get the impression that Freemasonry is dedicated to raising money for charity but it isn't, rather we raise money for Charity because it is part of the ethos of being Freemasons.

Once a year at least we invite others to join us at our 'Festive Board' in the Village Hall after our meeting – the term 'Board' is used as it might be in 'Board and Lodging' and refers to the provision of food and as there is wine provided it has a right to be called 'festive'! This October the members invited their wives or partners along and we had a splendid evening – enjoyment is also part of our 'ethos'.

To that end we shall be dining with our families and friends at a Christmas gathering at an Italian restaurant in West Horsley and then in March it's off again to Bournemouth for our annual Ladies' Festival at the Menzies Carlton Hotel for some more high jinks.

If you are interested in learning more about Freemasonry please feel free to ask me – it isn't a secret!

Derek Richardson – Secretary Ember Manor Lodge 4740
Contact email – derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk



WEST END VILLAGE HALL



Whatever your needs, from Wedding Receptions to committee meetings, this is a first class venue for all. The Hall is attracting more bookings since its refurbishment and boasts superb kitchen facilities and pleasant surroundings.

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Christmas opening Hours
30th November - 23rd December:
Monday - Saturday.....9am - 6pm
Sunday.....11am - 5pm
Christmas Eve.....8am - 4pm
Christmas Day.....CLOSED
Boxing Day.....CLOSED
Friday 27th.....9am - 5pm
New Year's Day.....10am - 5pm
Thursday 2nd January.....9am - 5pm

FREE EVENT!

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www.westendplaygroup.org.uk

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WEST END FILMS

Films start at 7:30pm every third Sunday in the Village Hall.
Subscriptions payable from 7:00pm
Subscription for Season 5 is £10 for 6 films

Call Robin or Kasia Crane for details on 01372 470281 or email: westendfilms@btinternet.com

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PLEASE MAKE A DIARY NOTE—THE COPY DATE FOR THE SPRING 2014 EDITION IS FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2014

Anyone wishing to place an article or advertisement in the Village News should contact Angela Stockbridge on 01372 460703 or 07817 498531 - Email: angela.stockbridge4751@o2.co.uk;

To avoid disappointment, please do try and get your articles in on time.

Village News is provided through the generosity of the committees of the West End Village Hall, the Sports and Social Club, The West End Flower Show Committee, the West End (Afternoon) WI, Winterdown WI, advertising and generous donations.

Please look at our new website: www.westendgirl.org and www.AFCWESTEND.org - where you will find the latest copy of the Village News and photographs of events in West End in the Photo Gallery, as well as links to other organisations in the village.