



**Volume 12 Issue 4  
CHRISTMAS 2014**

## **REMEMBERING THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918 ESHER REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

Below: Claire Craigmile and Daphne Butler representing both Winterdown and West End WI respectively, the 1st Esher Brownies and the Esher Girl Guides. Susannah Bramley laid the wreath for WERA and Pat Baumann for the Village News. Acts of Remembrance took place all over the UK and Commonwealth commemorating 100 years since the outbreak of the Great War.



Malcolm Parsons (centre) laying the wreath on behalf of the Village Club



Richard Gale, Harold Shattock from East Molesey (aged 92) and Peter Bedford all of whom served in the RAF



Col. Sgt. Billy Allan Det. Cmdr. 153 Cadets (centre) with Fusilier Max Lawrie, Lance Corp. Nathan Menke, Fusiliers Liam Snell and Charlie Clements of 152 Detached Cadets Cobham



Above: Rev. Dr. Stefan Collier, Michael Birnie, the Choir and Buglers assembling by the Lych gate.

*Photographs: Angela Stockbridge*

## VISIT SANTA'S REAL REINDEER

Come and visit these  
beautiful creatures between  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Nov' & 24<sup>th</sup> Dec'**  
before they will take off on  
important business!

FREE EVENT

### FESTIVE SEASON HOURS

*1<sup>st</sup> December - 23<sup>rd</sup> December:*

Monday - Saturday..... 9am - 6pm  
Sunday..... 11am - 5pm

Christmas Eve..... 8am - 4pm  
Christmas Day..... **CLOSED**  
Friday 26th..... **CLOSED**  
New Year's Day..... 10am - 5pm

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### WINTER OPENING HOURS

Monday - Saturday..... 9am - 5pm  
Sunday..... 11am - 5pm

**Garsons**  
GARDEN CENTRE  
01372 460181

**FARM SHOP**  
01372 464778

**RESTAURANT**  
01372 470957

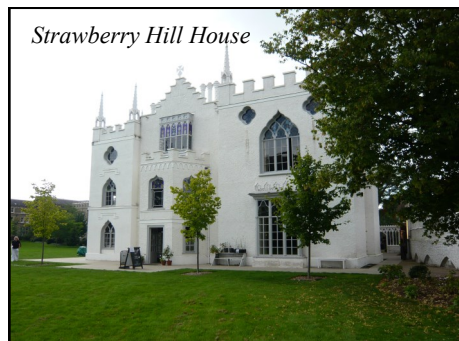
Visit us at  
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for more info



## WINTERDOWN WI

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting was held in November. After 3 years of service our President Jill Aspinall has retired. Members proposed a vote of thanks to Jill for all her hard work over the past three years. A new Committee was voted in and Caroline Thyer takes over as President. Ann Tennant agreed to continue as Secretary and Margaret Dollimore takes over as Treasurer.

Winterdown has enjoyed a successful year and the Committee



*Strawberry Hill House*

has provided members with interesting talks, activities and outings. There were two coach excursions; one to Bucklers Hard in the New Forest and the second to Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire. There have been talks on

'Follies for Fun'; an account of life as a TV extra; a talk about Clondon Park and the Onslows; smuggling and nursing in wild and remote regions. The latest talk about Watts Gallery initiated a visit there by 11 members. Members have also enjoyed monthly walks with lunches.

The June 'garden' meeting was held in the Village Hall this year with a delicious meal prepared by Angie McDiarmid one of our members. A 'Bring and Buy' and a raffle for SFWI fundraiser was held at this meeting. There was also a display of items



*Visiting the Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park*

worked at the craft meetings. Suzanne Hood has organised two Bridge teas which have been our main fundraisers this year.

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](http://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.

*Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire*



Article: Caroline Thyer Photographs: Ann Tennant and Caroline Thyer

## BUTTONS AND BOW CLUB EXTRAVAGANZA

We did it! We raised £610.00 in September for our charity this year "Rainbow Trust". Our thanks go to all who helped and supported us including The Worshipful The Mayor and Mayoress of Elmbridge.

We would also like to thank all the local businesses who supported our Raffle.



*The Rope Making Machine, Chatham Dockyard*

Since then members have spent a day in Worthing and a very interesting day at Chatham Historic Dockyard themed on the 1940's—and famous for its rope making. We even collected ration books at the entrance—for those of us who remember it was going back down memory lane! Even our

young visitors found it very interesting!

In October the first group went to Weymouth for the Turkey and Tinsel weekend. Both the company and weather was great. The second group depart for Eastbourne in December. Our Carol Service will be held in St. George's Church on 1st December at 2.00pm conducted by Revd Dr Stefan Collier and afterwards in the West End Sports and Social Club for mince pies and tea. You are all welcome to join us on this happy occasion.

The Christmas Tea will be held on 8th December when Father Christmas is expected to arrive with his Little Helper to present every member with a gift!

Our Christmas lunch has very kindly been paid for by a donation.

The last event before the year end is to visit the pantomime to see "Aladdin" - oh yes it is!

The new season begins on 5th January at 2.00pm. If you would like to know how you can join us please contact Betty Bowpitt on 01372 465937



*Making rope in the Ropery.*



*Dancing the Jitter Bug at Chatham Dockyard  
Photographs: Angela Stockbridge*





## NEWS FROM WEST END ESHER WI

We have enjoyed a successful couple of months including a visit to Polesden Lacey in September. We were very fortunate with the weather that day, so that we were able to stroll round the lovely grounds in warm sunshine as well as visiting the very interesting house.

We also had excellent visiting speakers. At our September meeting Andrea Cameron recounted her experience of becoming a Freeman of the City of London. First she gave us a short history of the Freeman, including the fact that the City of London has had its' own Lord Mayor since 1280. We heard about the lengthy process of becoming a Freeman. After a few years she was allowed to apply to be a Liveryman of the Stationers Company. This she achieved after several interviews and another wait. This was a very enlightening talk opening a window on an unfamiliar world,

In October Mary Forenza's talk was on women who have improved the lives of women in various ways. She commenced with Erin Pizzezy, born in 1939, who opened the first refuge for abused women in Chiswick. She provided a safe place for the women and their children to escape violence. Now there are 500 refuge centres and this abuse has a much higher profile.

Her next subject was Caroline Norton, a Victorian, whose husband was violent. Married women had no rights to any property they owned or to their children. So when she left him, he refused her access to her children and she had no recourse in the law.

She campaigned against this and her courage was instrumental in the passing of the Infant Custody Act & The Marriage & Divorce Act. Mary chose Marie Stopes as the third woman who made our lives easier. She opened the first birth control clinic in Islington. She was reviled by a section of the community and accused of immorality, but her action enabled future generations to plan their families.

Her next choice, Coco Chanel, was a great contrast. She liberated women from the "corseted silhouette" when she opened her first dress shop in Paris and subsequently gave us many iconic fashions such as the little black dress, Rosa Parks, the next woman to make a difference, was an African American in Alabama who spoke out against segregation and its' unfair laws. The eventual result was that segregation was declared illegal. After her death her body was laid out under the dome of the White House.

The last woman was a white South African, Helen Suzman, who worked tirelessly to end apartheid. Some white South Africans did not appreciate this action!

New members will receive a warm welcome. We are a small very friendly W.I. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at West End Village Hall.

*Merry  
Christmas*

Janet Colley

## ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, WEST END

### SERVICES:



<b>Sunday 7 December</b>	<b>9.00am Sung Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 14 December</b>	<b>9.00am Sung Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 21 December</b>	<b>9.00am Sung Communion</b>
<b>Wednesday 24 December</b>	<b>6.00pm Village Carol Concert</b>
<b>Thursday 25 December</b>	<b>9.00am Sung Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 28 December</b>	<b>9.00am Sung Communion</b>

## WEST END BRIDGE CLUB

It has been a very interesting Autumn term this year. Firstly many members attended three Charity Bridge Teas! The first was at Queen Elizabeth Foundation, Leatherhead which was very well attended. Pamela Leigh, who was one our team, won 1st prize for the highest score and was presented with a hamper of Christmas goodies. Stoke d'Abernon WI provided the super tea. The second outing was to Winterdown WI—a most wonderful tea of sandwiches and super cakes was provided. The third visit which was attended by a good number of members was to Cobham Village Hall. Basil Du Mont a fellow member won two prizes for being the highest scorer. He also won a raffle prize.

The Esher Friends of Cancer Research UK also held a wonderful afternoon tea.

The members are now looking forward to our Christmas Party to be held on 16th December, but more of that in the next newsletter!

The club meets every Tuesday at West End Village Hall at 1.30pm. We play Chicago on the first Tuesday of each month. Please do come along you will receive a very warm welcome.

*Pat Baumann*



Poppies at the Tower of London - 888,246 ceramic poppies were planted to commemorate those British soldiers lost in the the First World War. *Photograph: Angela Stockbridge*

**Say a BIG thank-you this Christmas!**



Hold a gathering at your office, home or at a venue.  
Reward your staff and entertain VIP clients or get friends and family together.

#### Special Christmas Offer

Canapé Reception with Unlimited Mulled Wine, Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks. 2 hour occasion @ £16.95 per person and 3 hour occasion @ £21.95 per person.

All prices are subject to VAT

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**hcwhy.co.uk**

**Website:**  
**www.hcwhy.co.uk**





## 50 YEARS—A ‘HERCULEAN’ CAREER IN THE RAF

### PETER BEDFORD

After mentioning casually to Angie that I joined the Royal Air Force fifty years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1964, she persuaded me to jot down a few memories. Having been brought up in a flying environment (we lived at Dunsfold when my father Bill was Chief Test Pilot for Hawkers), my own flying career took off, literally, with the award of a flying scholarship through the school air cadets, enabling me to gain my Private Pilot’s Licence by the age of 17 (before my driving test – which I failed twice!).

Starting out as a Flight Cadet at the RAF College Cranwell was quite an experience, straight from school. You soon learned to get on with others and to knuckle down to the discipline, but two and a half years later we graduated with our “wings”, and moved onto operational flying. In my case, that meant the C-130 Hercules (I used to say to my father, a fast-jet person, that there was no point in flying unless there was someone on board to cook you a good breakfast!). I started on the “Herc” at Fairford, in the late-60s, our role being low-level tactical and airdrop missions, as well as long-range transport flights, and we shared the airfield with Concorde prototype 002. An unexpected bonus was a short-notice 6-week detachment to command the RAF airstrip at Anguilla, in the Caribbean, over Christmas and New Year!

A flying instructor’s course at RAF Little Rissington in the Cotswolds found a group of us obtaining an Ordnance Survey map and visiting every local occurrence of “PH” and “Inn”, which perhaps explained why I was awarded the so-called “Top Hat Trophy”, for the student coming bottom in ground-school! Then followed duty as a flying instructor back at Cranwell (when Prince Charles was going through the course), and on loan to the Singapore Air Force.

A return to the Hercules at RAF Lyneham in the late-70s included events such as flying the Bishop of Salisbury around the 2,000 square miles of his Diocese, operating with special forces in northern Norway, the affiliation of my Squadron (No 47) with Guinness at Park Royal, flying in support of the Red Arrows (once with my father on board), an exchange tour with the French Air Force (steak and red wine at top of climb – yes, really true), pioneering in 1982 the introduction of air-to-air refuelling in the Falklands War, leading the Hercules formation in the Battle of Britain 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary flypast over Buckingham Palace, hosting a discrete visit by the very young Princes William and Harry (the latter sitting on my knee in the flight simulator), and commanding the Air Transport Detachment at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during the First Gulf War in 1991.

All good things must come to an end, and in the early 90s I was moved to Brussels, as a “NATO-crat”, working for the UK Delegation on behalf of the Chief of Defence Staff, dealing with a whole host of force planning and policy issues, whilst at the same time working on my golf handicap! This transitioned later into a civilian “politico-military advisor” post down at SHAPE near Mons, sometimes unkindly described as *Superior Holidays at Public Expense!* Retirement came finally in 2010, although sadly just after my mother Mary died.



*Peter with Hercules at Lyneham*



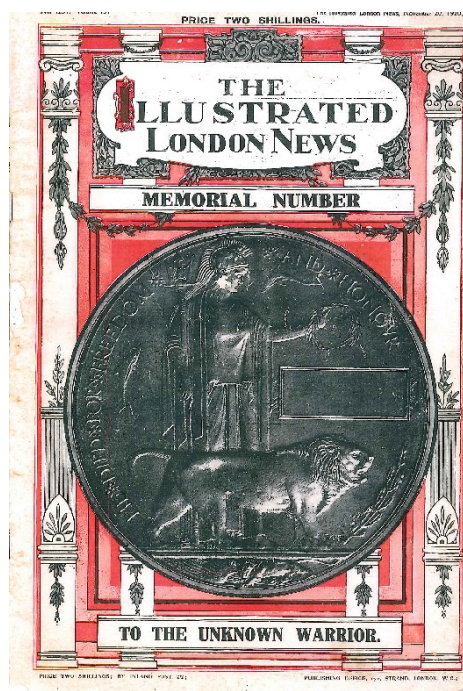
*Peter (2nd right) at Esher Air Cadets*

I had a tremendous 34 years in the RAF, followed by 11 years as a NATO civilian working with the military. The Hercules force saw me into 72 countries and 257 airfields. I have flown my father, mother, wife and two sons – all on different occasions – sometimes even legally! We love living in West End, and I enjoy my role as President of the local Air Cadets at Esher and Surbiton. As ever, it all boils down to people and camaraderie. Lastly, I want to put on record the fantastic support Naomi has given me, both professionally and socially, keeping me on the straight and narrow (by the way, she looks great in a flying suit!).



*With the “Commander-in-Chief”!*

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



This Memorial Number of the Illustrated London News dated 20 November 1920 was dedicated “To The Unknown Warrior”. It follows the story of the British Unknown Warrior’s body to his last rest accompanied by the King and his Princes, Admirals, Arch-Bishops and Ministers of State. He was brought from Ypres to Boulogne and then to London on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Following the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1920 he was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey.

*Angela Stockbridge*



## FREEMASONRY IN WEST END



*The Masons dinner in October*

The recent 100 year anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War reminded us of the significance it had on Freemasonry and many of its members.

The Masonic Million Memorial Fund was set up in 1919 to raise the estimated £1 million required to rebuild Freemasons' Hall, the headquarters of the United Grand Lodge of England and the principal meeting place for Masonic Lodges in Central London. This was then rebuilt between 1927 and 1932 as a memorial to the 3,000 Freemasons who gave their lives serving their country in the 'Great War'. It is a superb example of the Art Deco architecture of that period. The end of the war saw a large rise in the number of freemasons and in the three years after the First World War over 350 new Lodges were consecrated. In many cases the founders were servicemen who wanted

to continue the camaraderie they had built up during their war service, and were looking for a platform to continue and enhance their friendships in a rapidly changing world.

Our own Lodge, Ember Manor which meets in West End Village Hall was consecrated in 1925 so next year we look forward to celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We had an enforced break over the summer recess as we hold our regular Lodge meetings in October, January, March and May. However, we did hold an August summer garden party hosted by our current Master John Parker, which proved very successful and was blessed with fine weather.

At our regular meeting in October we held an 'Open' festive board where non-Masonic guests were invited to join us for dinner and experience something of how 'freemasonry works in the community'. At the festive board two cheques, each for £650 were presented to two local charities East Elmbridge Food Bank and Byfleet Care and at the meeting itself £1,000 was pledged to support local Alzheimer's Support groups in Walton and New Haw.

Freemasonry means different things to each of those who become members but for most, it is essentially an extremely social and enjoyable hobby which provides an opportunity to meet up with like minded individuals. As part of our ritual states 'we have but one aim in view to please each other and to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness'.

For the inquisitive amongst you who are interested in finding out more about freemasonry and what it involves please do not hesitate to e-mail our secretary, Derek Richardson whose address is [derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk](mailto:derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk)

Article and photographs: Phil Lewcock

Assistant Secretary, Ember Manor Lodge No. 4740 E-mail - [Phil@Lewcock.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Phil@Lewcock.freeserve.co.uk)



*Members at the summer garden party*

## VILLAGE NEWS CELEBRATES IT'S 10TH BIRTHDAY

Volunteers who help with the production and distribution of the Village News enjoyed a rather special Cheese and Wine Buffet provided by Elizabeth Treiving and her assistant, Cindy, at an evening held in the Village Hall on 18th October.

The buffet was beautifully presented with some unusual delicacies with wine to compliment the delicious cheeses.

The cake was made by Elizabeth's daughter, Lucinda, and decorated with the masthead of the newsletter, the skyline of the village, which was designed by the late Charles Pocklington.

The cake was cut and sampled with a glass of bubbly followed by tea or coffee in vintage china.



We look forward to another ten years of village news.

A huge thank you to Elizabeth and Cindy for all their hard work which contributed greatly to the success of the evening.

On behalf of the contributors, the production and distribution team and Village News readers Margaret Dane would like to thank and congratulate the editor, Angela OStockbridge without whom the Village News would not exist.



**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

*Photographs: Angela Stockbridge*





## WEST END RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A quick update re parking. There has been a minor development in respect of the parking on West End Lane. Surrey CC has recently put up notices outside both the Hospice and Talbot Lodge advising that a change is imminent. Typically Surrey have not consulted WERA on this issue but from the relevant website it is apparent that their proposal is to merely mark additional double yellow lines on the south side of the Hospice entrance. This change will no doubt be welcomed by residents as it resolves a chicane problem which Surrey created when they installed the existing yellow lines. There is nothing on the website to indicate any change outside Talbot Lodge.

WERA are still awaiting proposals from Elmbridge Council which would help to improve the West End Lane parking situation by increasing the parking space on the Recreation Ground site.

Susannah Bramley, Chairman  
[susannahbramley@googlemail.com](mailto:susannahbramley@googlemail.com)

*Merry  
Christmas*

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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

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Beat Officers:

**PC Danny Bond, FIN3682**

email: [elmbridgesnt@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:elmbridgesnt@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

**Our new PCSO 13867 Nigel Oates** has joined the team from Thames Ditton.  
 Crime Reduction Adviser is

**Elaine Burtenshaw 14613** Tel: 101 :

email: [burtenshaw14613@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:burtenshaw14613@surrey.pnn.police.uk)

**Debbie Smith FIN: 13330**

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

### Important Police Report:

**At this time of year we normally see an increase in the amount of burglaries. This is due to a combination of the onset of dark evenings coupled with forthcoming festivities. Thefts from motor vehicles and garages have been an issue in this area. The most recent examples have taken place in Esher and West End. We ask that residents ensure that their homes and vehicles are kept secure at all times. Do not have valuables on show in vehicles and don't let prospective thieves see items bought as Christmas gifts on display, wrapped or unwrapped, through your ground floor windows. After the festivities try not to leave empty boxes from gifts on display outside your house. A burglar would be happy to see that someone in your home has just received a new games console, laptop or a tablet!**

*PC Danny Bond FIN3682*



"The Waterfall" Poppies at the  
 Tower of London  
*Angela Stockbridge*

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## LE CERCLE FRANCAIS D'ESHER!

COME AND LISTEN TO TALKS IN FRENCH IN THE VILLAGE HALL!

If you have an interest in French language, life and culture and would like to listen to carefully selected speakers talking in French for an hour on a variety of topics do come and join us.

The talks, which are arranged by Le Cercle Français D'Esher, take place once a month from October to June. They start at 8.15pm, last for an hour and are usually attended by 60/70 members of the Cercle and visitors whose ability in the French language varies from the fairly basic to the completely fluent. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. There is also an opportunity for members to brush up their French at the monthly language workshops.

The dates and subjects of this year's talks are:

\*8.15pm on Wednesday 10 December-  
MAYOTTE, UN DÉPARTEMENT D'OUTRE MER DANS LES COMORES

\*8.15pm on Wednesday 21 January-  
LA CHARTREUSE, PAS SEULEMENT UNE LIQUEUR

\*8.15pm on Wednesday 18 February-  
CHURCHIL LET DE GAULLE

\*8.15pm on Wednesday 18 March-  
RAVEL ET SES SOURCES D'INSPIRATION LITTÉ-  
RAIRES

\*8.15 on Wednesday 15 April-  
ÉDOUARD MANET, ENTRE CLASSICISME ET  
MODERNITÉ

\*8.15 on Wednesday 20 May-  
LUANG PRABANG, CITÉ ROYALE DU LAOS,  
L'INDOCHINE FRANCAISE

\*8.15 on Wednesday 17 June-  
LE TOUR DE FRANCE EN CHANSONS

DO COME AND JOIN US. The price is only £5 per talk or £30 for the whole season.

For further information please contact Cavan Taylor on 01932 864258 or [cavan.taylor@btopenworld.com](mailto:cavan.taylor@btopenworld.com) or Brigitte Tiller on 01932 860842 or [brigitte@ptiller.com](mailto:brigitte@ptiller.com) or visit our website.



## 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.

To avoid disappointment we suggest early booking with

**Kay Moulton on 01372 464775**



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### WEST END FILMS

We are now in our thirteenth season of films, and are always pleased to welcome new members. We screen a mixture of classic, foreign language, indie and art house films.

We have recently set up our website to give programme times and dates, and more information about each film. The website also includes an archive listing many of our previous films - please see [www.westendfilms.co.uk](http://www.westendfilms.co.uk)

West End Films meets at West End Village Hall at 7:30pm every third Sunday - please see the website for more details of films and dates.

For more information please send a message via the website or email us on [westendfilms@btinternet.com](mailto:westendfilms@btinternet.com)

Robin Crane



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PLEASE MAKE A DIARY NOTE—THE COPY DATE FOR THE SPRING 2015 EDITION IS FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2015

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](mailto: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 websites: [www.AFCWESTEND.org](http://www.AFCWESTEND.org) and [www.westendgirl.org](http://www.westendgirl.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.