



THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE ESHER WAR MEMORIAL



Above: Part of the large contingent of Air Cadets from 1172 (Esher) Squadron – some of whom earlier this year paraded in London to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps, under its new Patron HRH The Duchess of Cambridge.

A huge crowd gathered at the War Memorial for this year's Remembrance Service. It was beautiful autumn day and many representatives from local organisations laid poppy wreaths.

Those on parade included Esher Army Cadets, Esher Air Cadets, Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows.

The Rector, Dr. Revd. Stefan Collier and the Assistant Curate, Nate Kurz, led the service at Christ Church. The processional cross was carried by Michael Birnie.



Left and below representatives from West End laid wreaths:
Donald Elms (Ember Manor Masonic Lodge),
Bryan Austin (West End Village Club),
Susannah Bramley (West End Residents' Association)

Right:
Pat Baumann laid the wreath for the Village News and Glenyce Alexander for Winterdown WI
Peter Bedford, (top left) President of the Esher Air Cadets, was also in attendance.



The **VILLAGE NEWS** team wishes all its readers

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

A very special 'Thank you' to all those who provide articles and photographs and to the volunteers who support, fund, proof read, collate and distribute the newsletter. Without your generosity we could not produce the newsletter for the benefit of all villagers.



We look forward to bringing you news throughout 2017 from West End and beyond.



ART IN WEST END

Five artists will be exhibiting paintings, ceramics, woodturning, vintage clothing and jewellery on
Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 December
from 10.00—4.00pm

at Rose Cottage Studios, 46 West End Lane,
Esher, KT10 9LA

Entry is free so you can come and browse and enjoy a glass of wine.

WEST END BRIDGE CLUB



She takes to TAKE-OUT DOUBLES
like a duck takes to water





Are you using the take-out double enough? It's such a useful weapon, and the conditions for it come along quite frequently. The take-out double describes a certain type of hand neatly and economically in a way no other bid can do. You can see why it is also called the INFORMATIVE DOUBLE when you look at all the information it imparts to your partner:

First, it tells your partner that you have a distinct shortage in the suit your opponent has just opened the bidding with.

Second, it says you have in your hand the values for an opening bid yourself.

Third, your take-out double reassures your partner that he or she will find you can support whichever of the other three suits they choose to bid. In effect, the Take-Out Double is a forcing bid, asking partner to bid his longest suit, even if there are not many points around.

Let's say that West opens 'One Heart', North doubles, East passes, and you as South hold—

	J x x x x
	x x x
	10 x
	Q x x

Even with a measly 3 points, you would still bid 'One Spade' (particularly since the Take-Out Double of one major suit implies, but does not guarantee, some strength in the other major).

Since you are being practically forced to call, even with a Yarborough, your partner knows you may have nothing. It follows that when you do have some strength, you should let your partner know by jumping the bidding. Here is a generally accepted REPONSE CHART -

0—8 points Respond at lowest level possible

9—12 points Jump a level

13+ points Go straight to game (though you might think about it if it was a minor suit game).

Several clarification points need to be made -

- A) Say West opens One Heart, and North, your partner, doubles, then if East makes any sort of positive bid (including redouble), this lets you as South off the hook. You don't have to bid at all.
- B) What about if West had opened One No Trump, and North, your partner, had doubled, ** with East passing? This is a situation where, with a useful hand, you as South might well wish to 'convert' the Take-Out Double into a Penalty or 'Business' Double, say 'No Bid', and let the Double ride round to the opener. But if you had a long, comparatively strong suit, I would prefer to respond with that.
- C) Now what happens if West opens with One Heart, North says Double, East passes, and you as South are looking at a string of Hearts, say, Ace, King, 10, 9, 3, 2? This could be another case for converting the Take-Out Double into a Penalty Double. I seem to recall reading somewhere that the best lead for your partner to make, if possible, is a Trump.

** The great Charles Goren recommends 'at least' 16 High Card Points (i.e. not distributional points) before doubling One No Trump,



Clive Craigmile

HIGHWAY CODE FOR CYCLISTS



We should all aware that The Highway Code provides rules for both motorists and cyclists and the Overview from Rules 59-82 cover most of the important issues concerning cyclists including: clothing, riding at night, roundabouts, road junctions, turning left or right, cycle routes and tracks, cycle lanes, bus lanes etc.

No one can dispute the high level of traffic on the Surrey roads! The dark winter nights and low level energy-saving street lighting make it very difficult, if not impossible, to see a cyclist dressed in dark clothes and with low level or even no lights at all! They appear to come from nowhere out of the shadows and darkness, frequently weaving in and out of traffic on poorly or unlit roads, so that motorists cannot see them until it is too late!

It is all too often the motorist who gets the blame for an accident, but the cyclist must take responsibility for his or her own safety too. I am sure you will agree, as a motorist, to encounter an accident with a cyclist would be one's worst nightmare and is to be avoided at all costs.

The number of cyclists on the local roads has risen enormously in the past few years with the 'Ride London', 'Surrey' and other annual cycle events. Regular experienced cyclists who belong to cycle clubs in the area and who use the roads at weekends, early mornings and at night, do wear helmets, high-vis or fluorescent clothing and have excellent front and rear lighting. However, there are many other cyclists who do not!

Many cyclists have black or very dark jackets and very often do not have any front or rear lights on at night at all and worst of all they wear headphones instead of helmets! Headphones in my opinion, should be banned when cycling. They are clearly a hazard if the cyclist is unable to hear traffic around him or her.

I have also witnessed road-rage incidents along the Portsmouth Road and in Esher, where both cyclists and drivers verbally abuse each other at road junctions and traffic lights where frequently cyclists ride in groups two abreast or more, and neither cyclists nor drivers are prepared to give way.

For their own safety and that of others, cyclists should follow the rules of The Highway Code :

- ⇒ wear highly visible reflective clothing at night (shoes, belt, arm or ankle bands)
- ⇒ wear a securely fastened helmet which fits properly and conforms to regulations
- ⇒ You MUST have white lights at front and red at the rear of the cycle as well as a rear reflector and ensure they are not obscured. Flashing lights are permitted but a steady light should be used on unlit roads.
- ⇒ * It is safer not to wear headphones!
- ⇒ *Do not ride more than 2 abreast on main roads.
- ⇒ *Motorists should also familiarise themselves with the Highway Code and the laws for cyclists. Remember: Do not use hand-held mobile phones whilst driving, these are a major cause of accidents. Drive with care!

No driver wants to be involved in an accident with a cyclist any more than the cyclist wants to be knocked off his bike and seriously injured or even killed.

The Highway Code Rules are there for everyone's safety: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/rules-for-cyclists-59-to-82>

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU CAN BE SEEN AT NIGHT SO PLEASE HEED THE HIGHWAY CODE RULES THEY ARE THERE FOR BOTH YOUR OWN AND THE MOTORISTS' SAFETY!

Angela Stockbridge

'BREAST CANCER NOW'

WELL DONE GIRLS



On the 10th September 2016 the three Lynn girls: Anne, Ruth, Sarah and Vicky Jones walked from Putney to Runnymede along the Thames Towpath, 31 miles (50km) for 'Breast Cancer Now' and raised £2,600. Thank you to all those who sponsored them.

Stella Lynn

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



West End Playgroup

& Forest School.

For children from 2 to 5 years

www.westendplaygroup.org.uk

Tel: 01372 469157

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.

Beat Officers: PCSO 13867 Nigel Oates

PCSO 15215 Vicky Holdaway

Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email:

Elmbridge@surrey.co.uk

Crime Reduction Adviser is

Elaine Burtenshaw 14613 Tel: 101 :

email: burtenshaw.14613@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Debbie Smith FIN: 13330

Neighbourhood Team Coordinator, Surrey Police,

Elmbridge Borough : Tel: 101 Extension: 38857

email: elmbridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk

THE SCAM IS BACK ! There has been an increase in trap devices found in Cash (ATM) machines in Esher. Please check for any suspicious fixtures or loose fittings prior to using a machine—don't fall victim to the scam. See article in the Village Club Special for more details.

!!BEWARE!!..... THE BURGLARS ARE ABOUT! KEEP YOUR DOORS, WINDOWS, AND GARAGES SECURELY LOCKED.

BUTTONS AND BOW CLUB

(For the Over 60s)

Buttons and Bow members recently held a very successful charity afternoon in aid of the "Starlight Children's Foundation". During the afternoon we raised the staggering amount of £730.00. This was raised with the help of members participating. We held a 'Guess the Weight of the Cake' competition, 'Find the Egg and get the Bacon' a 'Bric-a-Brac' and 'Cake Stall'. There were refreshments as well as the 'Grand Raffle' for which many of the prizes were donated by local businesses including, Waitrose, Squires, Wheatsheaf pub, Red Peppers, Sainsburys and Garsons to name a few. There were a total of 45 prizes. We thank everyone who came along and supported this great charity.

Since then we have been on our first Turkey and Tinsel break to Eastbourne and our second trip is in a few weeks to Weymouth.

During the Summer we enjoyed a day in Brighton and Hastings and visited the potteries at Grayshott.

A theatre trip to see 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' was recently arranged and we are looking forward to the Pantomime in January.

Our Carol Service will be held on Monday 5th December in St George's Church, West End at 2.00pm followed by tea or mulled wine and a mince pie in the Village Club afterwards. All are invited.

Santa and his little helper will be visiting us in the Village Club on 12th December at 2.00pm for the Christmas Party bearing gifts for all our 42 members.

What are you doing on Monday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.30pm? Nothing? Then why not pop in for a cuppa to meet us? I can guarantee you will find friendship and company. Please don't be lonely! If you need to know more please call me, Betty Bowpitt, on 01372 465937.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.





WEST END RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

In September we attended a meeting at the Princess Alice Hospice to discuss the issue of cars parking along West End Lane. At the meeting, as well as representatives from the Hospice were Peter Heaney, David Archer and other council representatives. As you may be aware a number of years ago we put forward a proposal to the Hospice and Council to provide extra car parking spaces adjacent to the existing car park on the Recreation Ground opposite the Hospice. It is estimated that this proposal could create 40 extra spaces which would ease considerably the parking and congestion problems at this end of West End Lane. The hospice had agreed that they would be willing to assist to fund, in part, the proposal.

Previous discussions with Elmbridge have failed to find a way forward both from a funding and a practical point of view. However, discussions this year with our new ERA Ward Councillor, Peter Heaney, have led to a great deal of research into demonstrating the benefits of this proposal. At our latest meeting the Hospice has agreed to develop a plan and submit it Elmbridge for planning approval. In addition, they have also agreed to meet all the associated costs of such an enquiry. Clearly, this is just the start of a very long process but it is a start that has eluded us for many years so it is a very positive move.

On another note, we have contacted Surrey County Council regarding the road markings at the junction of West End Lane and Winterdown road as they are not adequate at present and this poses a real danger. We have been told that these will be remarked before Christmas.

Unfortunately the Council are not so keen to assist with the 20mph markings on Winterdown Road, further work will definitely be required on this. We have also been researching the cost of the Village signs discussed at the AGM in which we can incorporate a message dealing with speeding. Unfortunately the cost of three signs, as favoured by the residents at that meeting, is prohibitive. Therefore, we have moved forward on the basis of having one sign initially, with a suggested siting next to the pond on the corner of West End Lane and Winterdown Road. The sign would be in timber with the legend "West End Village—Please Drive Slowly" and we are currently discussing this proposal with our Ward Councillors. Any other suggestions would be gratefully received.

In addition to the above we have been making enquiries about the possibility of having a village Christmas tree. The idea was to put it at the same junction as the suggested site of the sign. This is an idea that has been very popular amongst the residents that we have managed to speak to so we were very keen to try to facilitate it this year. Unfortunately the installation of a Christmas tree attracts a surprising amount of paperwork, rules and regulations, which we simply cannot comply with in time for a tree this year. However if residents continue to express support for this idea we will endeavour to have completed all paperwork in time for next year!

Lastly can I remind you that we have finally managed to create a database of resident's emails through which we will communicate news including Neighbourhood Watch items. If you are not on it and would like to be please let me know using the email address below.

Susannah Bramley Chairman—Susannahbramley@googlemail.com



This painting of the pond, cottages, former Post Office and Gallery in Winterdown Road was painted in 1981 by Wendy E. Clouse MA

This beautiful watercolour was donated to the Flower Show for auction by John and Jill Syrad. John and Jill have been associated with the village for many years. They owned the Post Office in Winterdown Road from 1968—1977 and employed Val Mullen who was well known in the village. The painting was sold for the reserve price, which John and Jill very kindly donated to the Village News.

The artist, Wendy E Clouse, was brought up in a little village south east of Leicestershire. Her formal education began with four years at the Art Academy in El Paso, Texas. On her return to England she completed a two year portrait diploma course at Hatherley's in Chelsea after which she completed a Masters course at Canterbury Christchurch University. She has exhibited with many London Societies and as a member of the National Association of Painters in Acrylic. She has published various books and runs the Wendy Clouse Painting School in Shepperton. We thank John and Jill for their very generous donation.



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WEST END



Once again we opened our doors for our 9th annual Pet Service which thankfully was a dry but cloudy Sunday afternoon. By 4 pm we had welcomed through the doors 15 dogs and a cat, along with their owners...and lots of children. People often ask if it's bedlam with so many dogs.....but strangely they all seem to behave beautifully and after an initial inspection of each other, most of them sit quietly or lie on the floor, presumably exhausted after a walk! Every year we have a speaker, and this year we invited Gemma Nelson from the Swan Sanctuary based in Walton to tell us more about what they do. They have a team who will respond quickly to emergency calls 24 hours and 365 days a year. If needed birds are taken to the sanctuary where they have full veterinary support with its own operating theatre. Birds are treated or operated on, spend time in intensive care and then when fully recovered are rehabilitated. We were interested to know why our swans didn't nest every year at West End; apparently, they will only do so if they feel that there is a safe and sheltered area that is suitable. Maybe they will be back next year. Our collection for the charity from the congregation raised £77.20 for which Gemma was most grateful. Do look at their website if you would like to find out more:

www.theswansanctuary.org.uk. Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a success and for the encouragement you gave us to continue what seems to be a popular annual event.

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we planned to use the money raised from the bread/cake stall at the Flower Show to go towards repairing and repainting the front of the outside of the church. As planned this happened at the end of September. Hopefully you have noticed the sparkly new paint, but you may not know that the bell-tower has also been painted and repaired and once again the bell is ready to welcome you all to our regular 9am Sunday service as well as our forthcoming Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24th December

3pm Crib Service

6pm Village Carol Concert (organised by the Sports & Social Club)

Christmas Morning – Sunday 25th December

9am Eucharist

For more information about all our Churches and our services please do visit our website: <http://www.esherparish.org.uk> where you can find everything you might want to know about the Parish of Esher including Music on The Green. Do also look at the notices on the fence around St George's which includes our monthly calendar and announcements of the monthly concerts and any other special events that we are running.

Lastly, if any of you, or someone you know, would appreciate a home visit or would like to receive home communion, please contact the Parish Office on 01372 462282 or Peter Lindow on 01372 462041.

We all wish you a Happy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year.



*Andrea Lindow and
Bridget Williams*

THE SWAN SANCTUARY, SHEPPERTON

DOT BEESON MBE, BEM



Dot Beeson (seen here with Chloe Bezan holding the MBE medal) has devoted 38 years of her life to the care of injured swans and other wild life at Swan Sanctuary in Shepperton (previously located at Egham).

Dot was awarded the MBE this year for her work. She attended the investiture at Windsor Castle on 14 April and was presented to the Queen. She also holds the British Empire Medal. During our visit we had a tour of the operating theatre, intensive care unit and recovery pens. Dot and her team deal with hundreds of injured birds (including abandoned or injured pet budgies, parrots, love birds, owls and many other species) every year which are brought to the Sanctuary from all parts of the country.

Their terrible injuries are absolutely heart breaking to see. The more seriously injured birds are rushed to intensive care at the Sanctuary. Each bird is examined and x-rayed if necessary before going into the operating theatre. It is then transferred to the intensive care ward and its condition is monitored closely.

Once a bird regains fitness it is placed in one of the outdoor rehabilitation pens. Each swan is placed among those from the area close to its home territory. Finally after a lot of care, attention and highly nutritious food the swan is ready for the most satisfying part of the sanctuary's work, the return to its natural habitat.

However, many cannot be returned to their natural surroundings because they are disfigured with leg injuries, and even blinded by shotgun pellets as well as injuries caused by fishing hooks, being tangled in fishing lines and road accidents.

These birds are cared for in a large area within the sanctuary with their own pond and woodlands where their food is provided in a familiar area of safety.

As you know we have lost several of our beautiful swans in West End. They suffered the most horrific injuries from both dog attacks and road traffic accidents and who were also cared for at the Sanctuary.

You can Sponsor a Swan or donations would be welcome to assist Dot with this very important work.



Injured swans in the recovery pens

Congratulations on your well deserved honour.

Angela Stockbridge

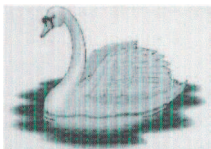
Merry
Christmas

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO OUR WEST END SWANS?

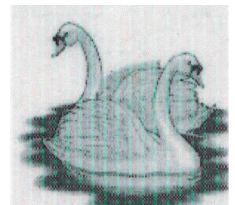
For several years West End was the home of a pair of swans who produced beautiful cygnets. Back in 1993 the Pen (female) was named Carolyn and the Cob, Danny. They were named after Carolyn and Danny Glasner who used to live in Hawkshill Way. Danny was the Chairman of the Residents' Association at that time and the swans had their own CVs! Like many of the recent West End Swans Carolyn and Danny suffered serious injuries and were treated at the Swan Sanctuary. Over the past few years we have lost swans to dog attacks and road traffic accidents, leading to an absence of cygnets for several years. Let's hope a new pair arrive in West End in 2017 and present us with some beautiful cygnets once again!

Angela Stockbridge

CVs OF THE WEST END SWANS



- *In 1993 Carolyn and Danny produced four fine cygnets on West End Pond near the Prince of Wales pub.
- *In April 1994 they nested again on the same pond producing six beautiful cygnets which hatched from 20-22 May. One month later they waddled to the Chequers Pond in a long line astern, parents at either end!
- *In mid-March 1995 they moved their nesting site to Chequers Pond and on 12 May produced eight superb cygnets.
- *Early in March 1996 they nested again on Chequers Pond producing a brood from which seven cygnets reached adulthood.
- *13th May 1997 another family of eight beautiful cygnets on Chequers Pond.
- *9th May 1998—A record! Nine cygnets hatch on Chequers Pond!



The Female (Pen) - Carolyn

Ring No. ZCN

Hatched in 1990 and was ringed at Hampton on Thames on 23 January 1991.

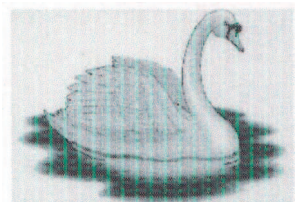
- ◆ On 20 July 1991 she was taken to Egham Swan Sanctuary for the treatment of lead poisoning from discarded fishing weights. Released two weeks later.
- ◆ 3 August 1991 caught for removal of fish hook from bill and immediately returned to water.
- ◆ 11 August 1991 crash landed in a small garden in Sunbury on Thames. Rescued, treated for superficial injuries and returned to the river.
- ◆ After spending most of her time in the flock at Hampton/Molesey, Carolyn left early in 1993 and paired up with Danny and moved to West End!
- ◆ On 25th October 1994 was discovered at Cobham with a fish hook embedded in her throat. After an operation she was released at Hampton on 8th November 1994 and rejoined her mate.

The Male (Cob) Danny

Ring No. SJN (originally 57A)

Hatched in 1990 but not ringed at Hampton and so, unfortunately, not much is known about him.

- ◆ During 1992 and early 1993 he was often seen in the flock at Hampton and in a reservoir near Sunbury on Thames. He then paired up with Carolyn taking an aggressive dislike to Canada geese and dogs!
- ◆ Early in 1996 the 57A marker ring broke and was replaced by SJN.



OBITUARY

DARE "JIM" TYLER 1927-2016

Jim was born on 19th October 1927 in the Royal Northern Hospital.

As a child he lived in Molesey and was joined by his younger sister Olga two years later. The family lived in a caravan near the river and although the family did not have too much money living by the river was a big attraction for Dare who "messed" about in boats and on the river.

Naturally, having a first name - "Dare" - resulted in his being teased by his school friends so he changed it to Jim before he started working.

He started working for an electrician in Molesey using a push bike to get to the jobs. On one occasion he cycled all the way to Claygate only then realising he had left some critical tools back in Molesey and so had to repeat the journey.

1947 saw Jim being called for National Service in the Army where he served in Egypt - although he was regularly absent without leave and caught trying to get home to see his mother and, on one occasion, getting as far as Liverpool Street station before being caught by the military police - the "Red Caps".

Returning to civilian work Jim gained employment in a furniture shop in Portsmouth Road Thames Ditton, as a sales assistant before in 1962 he started a career with the Water Board in Molesey, earning 15 shillings a week. Jim worked in the filter beds before taking an opportunity as a shift worker with better money. Due to health reasons Jim took early retirement after 25 year's service.

Meeting Kay, when he was living in a bedsit in Molesey, they married in 1975 and moved to a council flat in Field Common before moving to Garson Road.

Having no children, sadly, Jim lost Kay in 2010. In his youth Jim had a love of motor cycles but following a bad accident breaking a leg he moved onto cars owning a number of classic cars in his time.

Jim had a love of many animals, especially dogs including a King Charles called "Royal" and two Chihuahua's called "Shadow" and "Star" and was a big supporter of animal charities.

Jim sadly passed away on 18th September 2016 aged 88.

Jim had many friends in West End and will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Melanie Carroll



EMBER MANOR MASONIC LODGE



Left: Don Elms presenting Alice Austin with a cheque for £2,000 for 'Meningitis Now'.

Right: John Lake also being presented with a cheque for £2,000 for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.



On October 17th after a successful regular Lodge meeting in The Village Hall, the members of Ember Manor Lodge entertained their friends, wives and other guests to dinner.

After dinner, last year's Master, Don Elms, presented a cheque to Alice Austin. Alice is The Surrey Ambassador for the charity 'Meningitis Now'. Meningitis is an acute inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. In 2013 meningitis occurred in about 16 million people worldwide, resulting in 303,000 deaths. Ember Manor Lodge donated £2,000 to this extremely worthwhile cause.

Don also presented a cheque to John Lake representing the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI). The RMBI has 20 care homes across the UK two of which are in Surrey and they provide residential and nursing care, specialist dementia support, short stay breaks and day services. These care homes and facilities are available to both masons and non masons. They also received a donation of £2,000.

It is part of our ethos to promote, integrity, tolerance, kindness, honesty and fairness and we have a great deal of fun whilst giving something back to the community. For those who may be interested in knowing more about freemasonry and what it involves please contact our Secretary, Phil Lewcock who will be happy to provide you with any information you require. E-mail address -

Phil@Lewcock.freeserve.co.uk

Article: Phil Lewcock

Photos: Angela Stockbridge

A QUOTE TO MAKE YOU SMILE!

**From an hotel in Zurich
Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedrooms. It is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose.**

Doug Fryer

PHOTOGRAPHIC CORNER

Our regular reader Don Tyzack has once again sent in an amazing shot, this time of a fox eating a pear!





Festive Opening Hours
2nd - 23rd December
MONDAY TO SATURDAY
9am - 6pm
SUNDAY
11am - 5pm
CHRISTMAS EVE
8am - 4pm
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY & 26TH DECEMBER
NEW YEAR'S DAY
11am - 5pm



26th November - 24th December 2016
For more info visit www.garsons.co.uk

Winterdown Road,
West End,
Esher,
KT10 8LS





01372 460181



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN FRENCH LANGUAGE, LIFE AND CULTURE?

If so, do come to West End Village Hall to listen to carefully selected speakers talking in French on a variety of topics.

Talks take place monthly from October to June on the third Wednesday of the month except December when it is the second Wednesday. 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.

*Relaxed and friendly atmosphere *Free coffee and biscuits from 7.15pm *Only £5 per talk or £30 for the whole season. Opportunities to improve your French at language workshops. For further information or our complete programme, please contact:

*Brigitte Tiller on 01932 860842 or brigitte@ptiller.com or

*Cavan Taylor on 01932 864258 or cavan.taylor@btopenworld.com or

*Visit our website:

www.dontyack.care4free.net/cercle.html



With the support of

Alliance Française
de Londres

WINTERDOWN WI

The 45th Annual meeting was held in November. Caroline Thyer was elected President for a third year. In her Address she thanked the Committee for their hard work throughout the past year providing members with interesting talks, activities, outings and organising our fund raising which was instrumental in making it another successful year for Winterdown WI.

Members celebrated Ann Tennant's 'Special' birthday at this meeting with a cake, made by Glenyce Alexander, and thanked her for her hard work, spanning 45 years, and her commitment in making our WI so successful.



Ann Tennant's special birthday

Photo: Caroline Thyer

In October our second Bridge Tea of the year proved to be very successful in spite of competition from other charity bridge teas on the day.

This year members have enjoyed talks ranging from, 'Queen Victoria', 'Miscarriages of Justice', 'The Titanic', 'The Mary Rose' to 'life in Moscow in the 60's', a sponsored walk up Mount Kilimanjaro and a demonstration by florist Fleurs Amanda Weybridge with "Xmas Themed" arrangements.

There have been walks and visits to Historic places which were much appreciated. A visit to Frogmore pleased everyone as did a visit to Wimbledon Village and quirky Southside House. Standen House an arts and crafts house was interesting. Some members went to Hatchlands in the spring to see the bluebells they also enjoyed a guided tour of Whiteley Village. Some went to Wisley in the autumn to see the wonderful colours.

Several members have had the opportunity to pursue Adult Education courses or visit Denman College thanks to bursaries given by Winterdown and Emlyn Vale group.

Members supported West End Flower show again this year and won a total of 15 prizes between them.



Wisley 'autumn colours'
Photo: Caroline Thyer

Winterdown WI took part in the Remembrance Sunday ceremony; Glenyce Alexander laid a wreath on member's behalf and Ann Tennant;

Margaret Dollimore; Pat Chapple and Caroline Thyer were part of the band ringing the bells in the tower at Christ Church. We have welcomed several new members this year and are looking forward to another year of enjoyable activities and friendship. Winterdown WI meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8.00pm in West End Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome.

Contact: Secretary, Ann Tennant on 01372 466725 or visit our website:

www.winterdownwi.co.uk Caroline Thyer

THE SAD DECLINE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES

Living close to the Prince of Wales for over 20 years, it is very sad to see the deterioration of the building and its surroundings. The Spirit Group took over from Chef and Brewer the new owners this year are Green King. Under their management the pub has deteriorated very quickly. We have sent a number of emails to the brewery about the poor state of affairs but, although acknowledged, very little has been done to improve matters.



In the last few years for some reason there has been a constant turn-a-round of staff which has led to the lack of care and attention towards its patrons and the pub itself. As close observers it has become evident that the Prince seems to be in a state of decline, the service and quality of the food has definitely deteriorated. The parking area is neglected and glasses often left overnight on outside tables, making the general appearance of the pub shabby and less inviting to the public. From the exterior the upper living area could be mistaken for a student squat! The choice of paint colour of the building is not to everyone's taste! Those who eat in the garden must have, like us, been appalled at the state of the dirty table tops and overflowing ash trays!

When we first came to live in West End the village was considered "The Jewel in the Crown of Esher". Outside The Prince of Wales you would often see patrons taking photos obviously to show their friends and family what a delightful place West End and The Prince of Wales was. The building was in good shape and the hanging baskets were always beautifully kept and colourful.

A further observation: Why would the invalid slot be the wrong end of the wheelchairs access slope??

We really hope that the brewery will take steps to improve the standard of care the village and its residents deserves.

Footnote : We heard recently from a member of staff that a new manager will be installed in the next few weeks.....let's keep our fingers crossed that things will change for the better. Alice and Bryan Austin

VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

Please make a diary note of the Spring 2017 Edition Copy Date: Friday 10th March 2017

If you wish to advertise, send in an article or photographs for the Spring 2017 Edition please contact
Angela Stockbridge Email: angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com
Tel: 07817 498531 or 01372 460703

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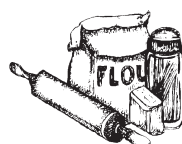


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