



# VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

Volume 22 Issue 1  
SPRING 2025  
21ST EDITION  
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## WEST END ESHER CC are celebrating 150 years of Cricket on the Green!



Mr & Mrs Oakley and team—1897

Dear Westenders,

That's right, your club has been chasing a small leather ball around the village green for one hundred and fifty years, which actually makes us one of the longest established clubs in the area. Naturally we want to embrace and celebrate this milestone in style and we would like to invite all of you to join us in doing so.

First thing to tell you is that the annual village party that we organise is changing date and will be on 21<sup>st</sup> June – Midsummer's Day. Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI have a home game that day against Merrow CC so come down and support them in the afternoon, then we will have a live band, DJ food and drinks in a marquee in the evening. We have moved the date for this year as it is a special year for us and we want everyone involved in the club and around the village to be able to attend. More details and pricing to be announced shortly.

Now on to cricket, which is what it is all about. To mark our anniversary we are going on tour to Croatia over the last weekend in April – a full report (on the cricket at least!!!) will be posted to our website [www.weecc.co.uk](http://www.weecc.co.uk) and in the next edition of the news. We are welcoming more new players to the club this season, including our new head coach Will Lucas who will be running training for the seniors on Thursday evenings and the older juniors on our usual Friday nights. Training will start out on the green as soon as conditions allow – work has already begun to bring the square and outfield up to readiness for the season.

Our first full evening of training will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May when we are having an introduction to cricket evening aimed at girls only. Women's cricket has rightly become much more prominent in recent years and we are very keen to re-establish the strength of our girls section. If your daughter would like to try out our brilliant sport then please do bring her down to the green to meet the team and she'd be welcome to bring friends too. No experience of cricket is necessary!

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May will see our first full Junior evening and this is open to both boys and girls. Our younger age groups will train between 5.15 and 6.15 with the older players training from 6.15 to 7.45. As ever the sports and social club bar will be buzzing and our new BBQ will be doing a roaring trade. We now have very limited spaces available with so many new and returning colts so if

you'd like your child to give it a go please contact Ruth Lovering – [Juniorchairman@weecc.co.uk](mailto:Juniorchairman@weecc.co.uk) or you can hit up the website.

The senior action starts on 3<sup>rd</sup> May with a friendly game against Thames Ditton and the season proper starts the following weekend. As ever we will have twenty20 games in the summer and our over 40's side will continue to play their T20 matches too. Our adult Sunday side will play slightly fewer fixtures this year to allow for the larger number of junior matches we need to host as our numbers have increased.

New members at any level are ALWAYS welcome so if you'd like to dust off the cricket whites this year please do get in touch via the website or you can email me directly –

[chairman@weecc.co.uk](mailto:chairman@weecc.co.uk)

Finally we have a number of sponsorship opportunities available this year so if you would like to do something to help grassroots cricket in your local area you know who to contact. I look forward to seeing you over the course of the summer – the players really appreciate your support on match days and it promises to be a very good season ahead.

*Chris Hambleton, Chairman*

## WEST END COMMON NEWS

Elmbridge's Countryside Team maintains the common for wildlife and public amenity. It was a stormy year with many trees blown down, taking up a lot of our time to clear from paths and roads.

In the last year, the steps and boardwalks on the River Mole below the Ledges have been refurbished, and habitat work has taken place on some pond margins and on the old rubbish dump area at the south end of the rifle range path. Our weekly Tuesday and Thursday volunteer groups have really taken off in the last 2 years and have achieved so much around our sites. Come and join us! Email [countryside@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@elmbridge.gov.uk).

### West End Common Drainage and the Flood of 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

As part of my role as Countryside Estates Officer, I have been involved in maintenance of drains and ditches around the commons for many years. Since 2010, I have also been the de facto Drainage Officer for the Borough, dealing with water-course maintenance contracts and liaising with Surrey CC as the Lead Flood Authority and the Environment Agency on strategic catchment matters. West End Common as part of the flood plain has always been a particular focus, starting with researching the drainage with resident David Rolfe back in the 1990s. My sketch map reproduced here shows how much water passes through the Common, and discharges at two points, under Garson Farm to the Mole in the west, and the pipe from Garson Road to the 'Brisson Close' ditch through the Recreation ground to the River Mole in the north. With climate change, heavier and more sustained rain events are more likely and these pipes and ditches with their limited

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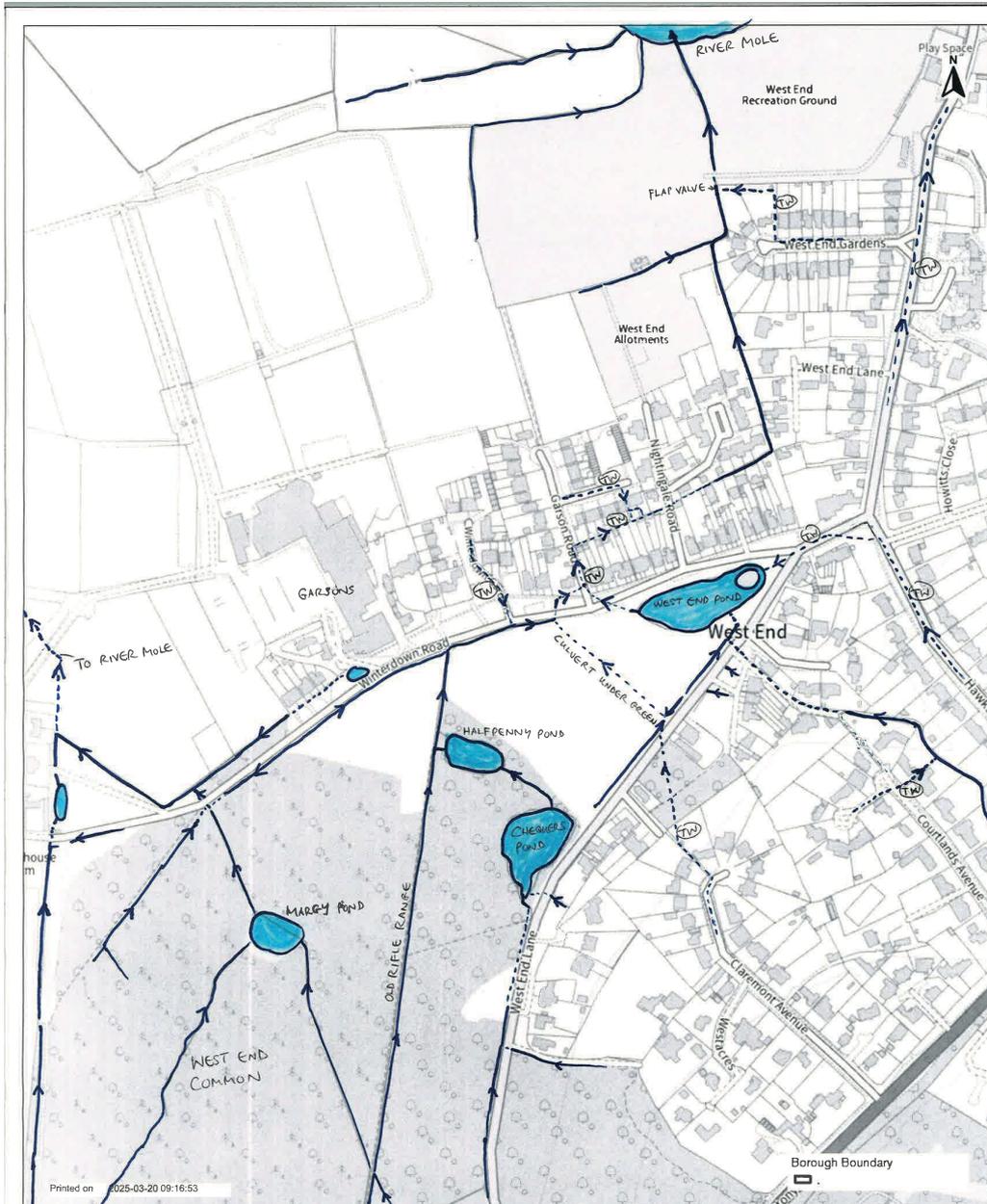
capacity are going to be put under greater pressure and their correct maintenance becomes more important. Property owners adjacent to a watercourse have a duty to keep it clear under riparian law. I have flagged this area up with Surrey CC as a potential risk worthy of further research to see if flood resilience can be improved in the future. There is limited scope in holding back water on the common by blocking ditches etc. as this would seriously affect access.

So when the water main on the Portsmouth Road burst on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, all of the discharge ended up on West End Common via Hawkshill Way and flooded the green to the highest level I have seen in all my years. The photos taken on the 2<sup>nd</sup> show the depth of water still on the green 24 hours later. Luckily it wasn't raining heavily at the time as this would have made the situation far worse. I reported this flood to Surrey CC as further evidence of my concerns about the capacity of the ageing infrastructure.

And that is where we are today. In other news, I have made the decision to retire from my role this summer after 33 years at EBC, first as Senior Ranger, then Countryside Estates Officer. I have got to know and work with so many West End Residents over the years and it's always been a special place and community. Thank you for all your help and encouragement. I'll still be around in the near future, just spending more time enjoying the commons that have been such a happy working place for me maintaining the habitats and shaping the landscape for all to enjoy. Thank you.

Dave Page MCIEEM, MSc Env. Man. Countryside Estates Officer Elmbridge BC [dpage@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:dpage@elmbridge.gov.uk)

Dave's images of the flooded green following the burst water main.



West End Common and Surrounds Drainage Map

Scale 1:3000

