



Volume 11 Issue 1
Spring 2014

The topic of conversation since Christmas Eve has been the extraordinary weather conditions leading to high winds and flooding around the UK including West End! The pictures below show the Green and Garsons farmland under water at the height of the flooding. Even the swans, geese and gulls were seen swimming in deep water in the middle of the green. However, we were luckier than most! Let's hope that Spring continues to be a rather drier period and that we can put the past two months of absolutely atrocious weather behind us. A pair of swans has settled on the pond, the Egyptian geese have three beautiful little goslings and a host of golden daffodils are in bloom on the green.

Has Spring has arrived at last?

Reflections in the flood water on the green



Garsons under water—taken behind Winterhouse Farm and the stables

Photograph: Ben Thompson



A host of golden daffodils



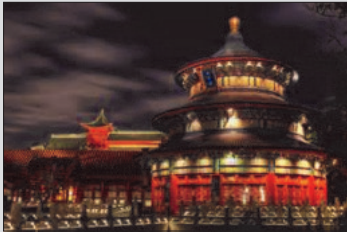
Spring has arrived! *A new pair of Swans and Egyptian geese, with their adorable goslings, at the water's edge about to take the plunge in the Prince of Wales pond.*

Photographs: Angela Stockbridge

WEST END ESHER WI

Towards the end of November several of our members enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch at Brooklands Catering School. At the December meeting members enjoyed a Christmas tea of cakes and mince pies accompanied by a glass of wine or a soft drink, followed by a quiz. It was a good opportunity to chat and share ideas. Everyone went home with a Christmas card and a gift from the bran tub.

We started the New Year with a fascinating talk by our guest speaker, Gillian Harris, entitled "Quilting, patchwork & Headley Court". Gill recounted the history & techniques of this intricate craft. She has been making quilts for more than thirty years and showed us different patterns & designs. The talk was made even more enjoyable by the quilts Gill brought with her. We were encouraged to examine and handle these and so were able to really appreciate the intricacies - many contained layered patterns, tiny buttons and 3-D effects. Usually one only sees these beautiful creations on racks in a museum or exhibition. The Headley Court connection came when Gill was asked to make a quilt to brighten a ward at Headley Court, one of many centres which help recovering servicemen to make new lives. This has now spread and now more than 2000 quilts by different quilt makers brightening wards at centres around the British Isles.



The Temple of Heaven

At our February meeting Mr Moore gave a most interesting talk entitled "20 million bicycles in Beijing" based on a trip he made to China. He showed slides of The Great Wall of China and the Imperial Palace, which has 8700 rooms with frequent high steps to keep spirits out and the lovely grounds surrounding it. We learnt about the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven and the Mins Tomb. Mr Moore also visited a silk factory, a place growing Bonsai trees, a floating teahouse and enjoyed a wonderful trip on the River Yangtze viewing gorges and a varied landscape. He also went to several markets, some with fascinating displays, others selling fruit and vegetables. 2014 began with extremely interesting talks enjoyed by all our members.

Janet Colley

BUTTONS AND BOW CLUB

What a year we have had! There have been several interesting outings, theatre trips and a very successful charity coffee morning in aid of Alzheimers & Dementia raising £600 in just two hours! The Club has enjoyed five holiday breaks and 2014 is already booked up for more get-aways again. Friends join members for the holidays so they don't have to be alone. Other events involving various speakers, entertainers, quizzes and members' participation and suggestions are going ahead this year.

This year the Carol Service was held at St George's Church in West End. Reverend Dr Stefan Collier officiated at the service. The readings on the birth of our Lord were read by four of our members namely: Pamela Busby, Sheila Wilson, Marie Langford and Betty Bowpitt. It was so nice to have friends from West End to come along and join us afterwards for refreshments and mince pies.

The New Year began with a visit to the pantomime to see 'Cinderella' - Oh yes we did!

If you have a free afternoon on a Monday, please do come along between 2.00 and 4.30pm to meet us. There is always a warm welcome, friendship and of course a lovely cup of tea and biscuits.



WEST END BRIDGE CLUB

The Club has had a very successful Spring term with many members. The question asked is "When will it stop raining?" although it does not affect our bridge. Several members attended the Cancer Bridge Tea at Cobham on 19th February. The Chicago Day was held on 4th February when a fellow member's guest won outright gaining the highest number of points and prizes. Chicago is held on the first Tuesday of every month. The Club meets every Tuesday in West End Village Hall at 1.30pm in Winter and 2.00pm in Spring. Please do come along, you will receive a very warm welcome.

Pat Baumann



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Myra Branson originated from the borders of Scotland and settled in West End with her husband, Peter, many years ago, firstly living in Neville Close and eventually moving to Church Cottage. Myra was often seen walking her little dog, Sherry, by the pond. He is now being cared for by Myra's family in Scotland.

Myra had a very interesting life having lived and worked in the British Embassy in Uganda during Idi Amin's era, but we could never persuade her to write about the experience!

Myra worked tirelessly on various West End committees and her local church in Walton.

For many years she managed the local fortnightly bus service between Cobham, Walton and West End persevering to get more people to use the service. She enjoyed cruising holidays with her friend Marion Wrixton.

Myra leaves a son, Peter, and her daughter, Helen who lives in Australia and their families.

A Memorial Service at St George's Church was well attended by family and friends. Myra will be very much missed by her family and friends in west End.

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Beat Officers:

PC Danny Bond, FIN3682

email: elmbidgesnt@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

Debbie Smith FIN: 13330

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

Message to Dog Walkers

Please do not leave valuables in cars when parking either at the end of Winterdown Road or the car park at the top of West End Lane. We would also like help/witnesses in regard to fly tipping in the car park at the end of Winterdown Road. There has been a number of incidents at the location, mostly building waste which we need to put a stop to as this is expensive for the Council to clear away.

PC Danny Bond FIN3682



THE ELMBRIDGE HUNDRED

Saxon Origins

It is a little known but important fact that the Borough's history stretches back over a thousand years. Far from being 'invented' in 1974 with local government reorganisation, the story begins in smoke-filled Saxon times during the sixth or seventh century A.D. The Saxon name for an administrative unit was a 'hundred'. This referred to an area of land enclosing one hundred households, one hundred men who could bear arms, or one hundred hides – historians are still uncertain, but the former is most likely. One of these hundreds was called 'Amelebrige' and covered a strikingly similar area to modern Elmbridge. The only difference was that part of Thames Ditton and Claygate were in the Kingston hundred, not Amelebrige.

Domesday

Amelebrige was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 – the first historic mention of the Elmbridge area. William the Conqueror commissioned the Domesday Book to get to grips with his new kingdom. It was a survey of land, landowners and livestock in England, designed to help with taxation and defence. The holdings of each landowner were listed by manors. The name Amelebrige derives from the original name of the River Mole ('Amele') and the Old English word for a bridge ('brige'). The Mole runs pretty much through the centre of Elmbridge, from north-east to south-west, cutting the Borough in two.

Local historians have enjoyed speculating where this elusive bridge over the River Mole may have been situated, and whether a settlement of some kind lay alongside. *The Victoria History of Surrey* (1911) claims that the bridge must have been located at the juncture where *'the road from London to Chertsey crosses the Mole or Emlyn on its way west, and here probably the hundred court was held'*. By process of elimination, eminent local historian Royston Pike posited that this place must have been on the lower slopes of Esher, at the bottom of what is now Lammas Lane. This would site the bridge where Albany Bridge now stands, just by the Princess Alice Hospice. Pike's other reason for suggesting the site is that *'Albany Bridge ... is almost exactly in the middle of the Hundred, which would make it very convenient for access from all parts.'*

The speculation is a logical one, but no conclusive proof has been forthcoming as yet - *'the 'sullen Mole', as Milton calls it, keeps its secrets'* (Pike, *The Elmbridge Story*, 1977).

Nevertheless, what is certain is that the name 'Elmbridge' has nothing to do with elm trees. Pike writes in no uncertain terms that: *'The inclusion in the new Borough's armorial bearings of a lusty elm growing out of a two-arched bridge is just a piece of heraldic nonsense.'*

Early Modern Elmbridge

Over time language changed and 'Amele' became 'Emley' or some-

times 'Emlyn'. From at least the seventeenth century to the beginning of the twentieth, the hundred was generally known as 'Emley Bridge'. Here it is shown on John Speed's map of Surrey from 1610. Ignoring the early modern spellings (not yet standardised) the names of Emley Bridge's towns and villages are almost identical to to-

day: Waybridg, West Mowlsey, Esher, Cleagate and so on...

From an Article by Elmbridge Borough Council and Alistair Grant 2009)



(Detail Courtesy of the Surrey History Centre 2010)



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Squeak the Otter—The Otter Sanctuary, Newton Abbott



Photograph:
Angela Stockbridge

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WINTERDOWN WI

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

In February, Faith Powell visited to talk about "Confessions of a TV extra!" and regaled every one with tales of her time as an 'extra' in some of the well known 'Soaps' and even persuaded some of the members to take part in a scene from East Enders Esher style!

A visit to Gatton Park to see the snowdrops and a theatre outing to Woking to see 'West Side story' were some of the highlights of the month.

In March we will learn all about Clandon Park and the Onslow family.

Other events to look forward to:

March: A quiz night with the Emlyn Vale group.

April: A Bridge Drive on 9th April in the Village Hall at 2.00pm and a Talk about Smuggling given by David Fulford on Thursday 3rd April 8pm



December:

Some members enjoyed an evening out in London to see the Lights.



Above: Pot Belly Pigs at Fanny's Farm near Gatton Park.

Photograph: Suzanne Hood



February:

Some members at Gatton Park to see the snowdrops

Photographs: Ann Tennant, Micki Scales and Caroline Thyer.

Membership has fallen over the past 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.

WEST END RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



As always parking has dominated the WERA agenda for the past couple of months. In January Elmbridge council started a consultation exercise in respect of parking throughout the borough. This included a proposal to introduce a three hour limit for parking in the West End Lane Recreation ground. It is possible that this change may include the provision of permits for Hospice staff.

Having considered the proposals, there were concerns that they would inevitably increase the current parking problems in the village particularly on West End Lane, where parking can at times cause hazardous situations. We therefore asked Elmbridge to consider the possibility of extending the existing car park to provide adequate parking facilities for both the Hospice and the Mole River Playgroup together with other users of the Recreation Ground, a proposal we have discussed previously. A few weeks later we met with two of our Ward Councillors to enlist their support. They agreed that our concerns were reasonable and accepted our proposal. They undertook to raise the issue with the Chair of Recreation Services. In addition they agreed to look at the redesign of the existing layout for parking to ensure that it makes the best possible use of the space that is available. We understand that this item is to be determined at cabinet level by Elmbridge on the 19th March. I am very grateful to Doug Fryer who has spent a good deal of time and trouble trying to deal with this issue on our behalf.

We were very sorry to hear of a recent burglary in the village. It happened in the middle of the day whilst the residents were out. As a result a number of residents have raised the issue of collating email addresses in order that any relevant information could be quickly disseminated throughout the village. As mentioned previously WERA would be very happy to organise such a scheme. All those interested should send their addresses to Edwina at littlemummy@virginmedia.com

There has been considerable interest in the village re a proposed dog cleaning parlour at No. 6 Winterdown Road. There will be an inspectors visit to the site on 17th March at 1.00pm.

The next AGM will be held at the village hall on **9th May 2014 at 7.30pm** it would be lovely to see a good turn out this year! Any contributions to the agenda would be gratefully received, please send them to me at susannahbramley@googlegmail.com

Susannah Bramley, Chairman WERA

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE & PRINCE LEOPOLD

Extracts from "The Story of Claremont"
by kind permission of Pat Baumann

On May 2nd 1816, within a year of the Battle of Waterloo, and after many vicissitudes the Prince Regent's daughter, Charlotte, was allowed to marry Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. Charlotte was the daughter of George IV and heir to the throne. Even as the young couple left for their honeymoon, her grandmother, Queen Charlotte, tried to arrange for a lady-in-waiting to sit between them as it was improper for them to be in the carriage alone. Their honeymoon was spent at the Duke of York's House, Oatland's Park, Weybridge. Just two days after their marriage they drove to Claremont. A Bill was passed in Parliament for the purchase of Claremont, together with a park and 200 acres, as a gift from the nation to the couple.

Charlotte was well educated in Classics and read widely. She was musical, played the piano and composed. She was also very fond of poetry.



Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld

A great occasion for Esher was Charlotte's birthday, on February 11 1817 the village was decorated, a band played and the royal couple gave £100 to "the surrounding poor". Claremont itself was illuminated and among the distinguished company invited to the dinner and musical evening were the Duchess of York, the Duke of Cumberland, the Russian Ambassador and Countess Lieven. Prince Leopold sang as Charlotte accompanied him on her Broadwood piano, one of a pair, the other of which was made for Beethoven. On another occasion they entertained the Duke of Sussex, Duke of Wellington and the Grand Duke Nicholas Czar of Russia, who insisted on sleeping on a sack of hay in the stables! The Duke and Duchess of Orleans (later King and Queen of the French) travelled over from Twickenham where they lived in exile. Apart from a few festivities, functions and occasional visits to opera and theatre, they lived quietly and with as little ceremony as possible. Leopold insisted on preserving their privacy. Charlotte and Leopold spent time in the grounds improving the gardens. They planned a Gothic summerhouse on the terrace overlooking the lake, close to the Camelia house, where Leopold's monogram can still be seen on the surrounding balustrade. This house was originally intended for geraniums and orange and lemon trees, a refectory and library, but later became a mausoleum to Charlotte.

During Charlotte's pregnancy she continued to support various noble charities within the local vicinity of Claremont; especially the little village school which was the object of her walks and where she herself examined the progress of the little ones, distributing awards of merit with her own hands, conversing with them in the most affable way.

At last the expected moment arrived and at 3.00am on November 4th. The servants were sent off on horses to inform the Prince Regent and to fetch the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor and all the ministers whose duty it was to be present on such occasions. Much has been written of the details of Princess Charlotte's long-drawn and tragic confinement from which it can be gathered that the loss of her stillborn son on November 6th 1817 and of her own death in the early hours of the next morning, must in great part, be attributed to the medical practices of the time and to the pride and obstinacy of her doctor, Sir Richard Croft, who refused to call the other doctors into consultation, until it was too late.

The heartbroken Leopold never recovered from the blow and at the age of almost seventy he wrote "November 1817 saw the ruin of this happy home and the destruction, at one blow, of every hope and happiness. Never has this feeling of happiness, which blessed my short married life, returned".

A beautiful memorial to Charlotte by F J Williamson can be seen in the Parish Church of St George in Esher. Built in the sixteenth century it has particular historical connections with Princess Charlotte, daughter of George IV and heir to the throne, her husband Leopold, first king of the Belgians, his niece the young Princess Victoria, her youngest son Leopold, and Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone.

LE CERCLE FRANCAIS D'ESHER!

Are you interested in French language, life and culture?

If so, why not come to the village hall to hear talks in French by carefully selected speakers? The talks take place at 8.15 pm on the third Wednesday of every month from October to June (the second Wednesday in December) and the cost is only £5 per talk. Normally between 50 and 70 people attend each talk. Ability in the French language varies from the fairly basic to the completely fluent. We ask all our speakers to talk clearly, not too quickly and to speak for not more than an hour. Cars may be parked in the car park of the village hall and on the road outside it but not on the pavement. The subjects of the remaining talks of our current season are:

*Wednesday 19th March – QUAND LES GABARES ANIMAIENT LES QUAIS DE NOS FLEUVES ET RIVIERES ET LE FLOTTAGE.

*Wednesday 16th April – LONDRES ET LES FRANCAIS DU MOYEN AGE A AUJOURD'HUI.

*Wednesday 21st May – ALEXANDRE DUMAS, UN GEANT MAL CONNU.

*Wednesday 18th June – LES RESTAURANTS FRANCAIS EN ANGLETERRE DU 18eme SIECLE A NOS JOURS.

For further information please contact Cavan Taylor 01932 864258 or cavan.taylor@btopenworld.com or Brigitte Tiller 01932 860842 or <mailto:brigitte@ptiller.com>



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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

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.

Season 14 will restart in September, and details will be posted on our website over the summer. For more information please send a message via the website or email us on westendfilms@btinternet.com



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ROADWORKS AT JUNCTION OF WEST END LANE/HERSHAM BY PASS CAUSE CHAOS



Princess Alice Hospice takes the brunt of a collapsed Victorian sewer at Esher Place and after three weeks of Thames Water searching for a solution the tankers are still pumping out 24/7 to keep things flowing smoothly. Thames Water came and dug a hole to repair pipes, then the Gas Board came and dug a hole because water had got into their pipes.

In the meantime BT had big problems with Talk Talk which affected their West End customers. Now work has started on the other side of the bridge over the Mole with at least a further three months disruption.

However, we have to be thankful that no-one has had their house flooded and we have managed to get away without having any power-cuts, and, the daffodils are out and Spring is on its way!

Article and Photographs: Ann Tennant



A children's playground flooded by the Thames in Sunbury—the swings, just out of the picture, were completely submerged too!

*Photograph:
Angela Stockbridge*

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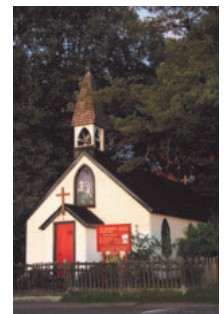
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by 14 June 2014

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PLEASE MAKE A DIARY NOTE—THE COPY DATE FOR THE SUMMER 2014 EDITION IS SATURDAY 14 JUNE 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.

Village News can also be viewed on: www.westendgirl.org and www.AFCWESTEND.org - where you will find the latest edition of the Village News, as well as links to other organisations in the village.