



**Volume 20 Issue 1
Spring 2023**



**THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III
AND THE QUEEN CONSORT**

WEST END ESHER



Preparations are now well underway for this historic event and the Coronation Weekend. Buckingham Palace has announced the Coronation will take place on the morning of Saturday 6th May at Westminster Abbey. The Coronation is a solemn religious service as well as an occasion for celebration and pageantry. The King and The Queen Consort will arrive at Westminster Abbey in procession from Buckingham Palace, known as 'The King's Procession'. After the Service they will return to Buckingham Palace in a larger ceremonial procession known as 'The Coronation Procession'. They will be joined in this procession by other Members of the Royal Family and will appear on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to conclude the events.

A Coronation Concert will be held at Windsor Castle on Sunday 7th May. The centrepiece of the Concert will be 'Lighting up the Nation' and will see the country join together in celebration as iconic locations across the UK are lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations, and will be produced by the BBC.

The Coronation Big Lunch (an idea from the Eden Project) at which neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together across the country will be held on Monday 8th May. The Queen Consort has been the Patron of The Big Lunch since 2013. We look forward to these wonderfully exciting and special events. As is usual, residents in West End village will be organising various local events and gatherings to celebrate the occasion in style!

We look forward to hearing all about your plans to celebrate and receiving photographs for our Summer Coronation Edition of the Village News.

The new 50p coin and 1st class stamps produced for King Charles III without his Crown.



A WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS WHO HAVE RECENTLY MOVED INTO WEST END.

The village has a long and intriguing history dating back to the Domesbook Book. Many families have lived here all their lives some without even venturing abroad! The village is well known for its unique and friendly community spirit. There are a number activities in which you can be involved at the centre of our village life including St. George's the 'little iron church', the Village Hall, the West End Playgroup, Winterdown WI, West End Sports and Social Club, West End Esher Cricket and AFC Westend Football teams, West End Bridge Club, Esher & District Racing Pigeon Club, West End Motor Club, Darts Club, West End Golf Society, the West End Flower Show and, of course, Garsons Farm, the Prince of Wales pub and much more!

We have both adult and junior football and cricket teams who play regularly on the green. The annual Flower Show is held in August on the Bank Holiday weekend which is hugely popular and well organised by a very hard working Flower Show committee.

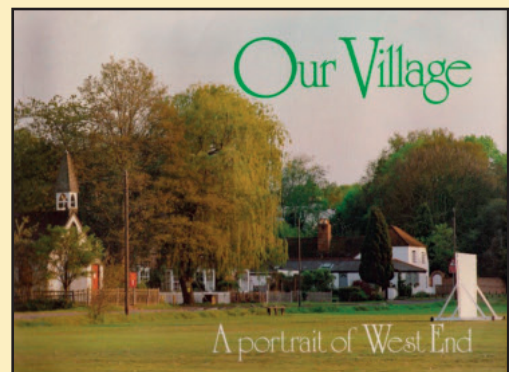
The village pond and green is a magnet for both wildlife and visitors alike. Many happy hours are spent round the pond by children and families watching the wildlife activity or just enjoying a relaxing time, walking through the common and woodlands, taking in the friendly atmosphere.

We do hope you will be happy in the village and would encourage you to join the various activities.
We wish you all a very Happy Easter.

OUR VILLAGE—A PORTRAIT OF WEST END

George Thirtle, who has since sadly passed away, was the oldest resident in West End when he gave a talk in the Village Hall about his memories of living in West End. The book is on sale at £4.99 per copy and can be purchased from Eileen Pocklington on 01372 464061, Ken Berry on 07973 283695 or Angela Stockbridge on 07817 498531.

All proceeds will go to the MacMillan Cancer Support.





Set in the beautiful village hall and surrounding woodland in West End village, Esher, West End Playgroup is a non profit, family feel pre-school. We provide Ofsted outstanding care around the uniqueness of your child, aged 2 to 5 years.

- Highly qualified, caring staff who tune into the needs of your child
- Lots of outdoor opportunities - including forest school and nature walks
- Excellent staff to child ratios of 1:6 ratio for over 3's

Call or email Helen to arrange a viewing: 07395 901584 | westendplaygroup@gmail.com



UP TO 30 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE
PER WEEK INCL. FOREST SCHOOL

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

www.westendplaygroupandforestschool.com

WEST END PLAYGROUP

Hello everyone,
We have had a very busy spring term so far; our theme has been 'Animals Through Time'. This has included weekly topics which started with Dinosaurs and worked through Reptiles, Fish and Sealife, Birds, Wild Animals of the World, Endangered Species and now, in the second half of the term, we are learning about Mini-beasts, British Wildlife, Pets, Farm Animals and ending the term with New Life which will involve learning all about Easter Chicks and Spring Lambs

This week the children have been looking at our tiny baby caterpillars and we will be watching them grow, change and develop until they turn into butterflies, which we will then release in our annual butterfly ceremony.

To enhance this learning experience we are reading various books to the children both factual and fictional, including The Very Hungry Caterpillar and we are painting some beautiful butterfly pictures and making some super caterpillars to take home.



As well as our termly themes and weekly topics we also enjoy celebrating the year. Last week the children had lots of fun dressing up for World Book Day.

The playgroup was filled with so many lovely princesses, Alice in Wonderland, Mog the Cat, The Tiger Who Came to Tea to name but a few.



Dressing up for World Book Day



A Forest School outing

It has been a challenging time for Forest School this term with some severe and unpredictable weather conditions. The children and staff have all coped really well and Garson's Farm has been our safe haven on many occasions. We are very grateful to all the Garson's team for smiling at us when we arrive at their door looking wet, cold and covered in mud! We are also so grateful to Ben and his team for helping us to clear away the damaged and unwanted contents of our rather sorry excuse for a shed.

This term will end with our fundraising Easter Bonnet Parade on Thursday 30th March at 11.30am. Spectators usually gather in the café next door and outside the playground railings for this wonderfully cheerful, if brief event. This will be followed on Thursday afternoon by our usual Birth and Beyond session, Please join us from 1.30pm to 3.30pm for a chat and a hot cross bun.

On Friday the 31st we hope to hold our usual Easter Egg hunt on the green next door to playgroup. This is usually quite an exciting event with various volunteer parents redistributing handfuls of collected eggs so that the hunt goes on and on until someone is caught out by an eagle eyed child and the game is up! This is so much fun and not just for the children. Of course, donations of easter eggs are very welcome and will help make this event eggstra special.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter.

Helen Yates, Manager



BECOME A 'FRIEND' OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

As we start the 19th year of publication in 2023, we face a backdrop of ever-increasing publication costs. In order to keep the Village News viable, a number of supporters have suggested that residents should be invited to become a 'Friend of the Village News'.

This would involve making an annual donation of £50, to commence whenever feasible, with the opportunity of having your name published in a list of 'Friends of the Village News', or to remain anonymous if preferred. Alternatively, contributions in units of £10 would also be very welcome.

We are very privileged to be able to advertise on Garson's website Community page, the AFC Westend website and Facebook's West End Community page, which is of great benefit to all those who advertise in the newsletter, as well as giving an insight into our unique Village life.

The Bank details are:

Account Name: Village News (West End)

Account no: 56514794 Sort Code: 60-08-04

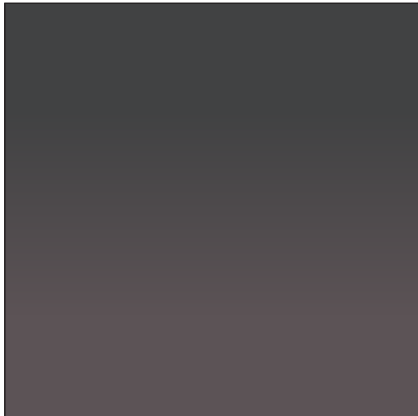
If you have any queries please contact either angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com or Derek Richardson, Treasurer, at derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk

Donors and volunteers names are listed on page 12, however, some donors wish to remain anonymous.

NEWS FROM CHEQUERS POND TOAD PATROL!

We are incredibly privileged to have such wonderful wildlife on our doorstep here in West End. Earlier in February, we had a couple of warmer, damp evenings and some of the newts, toads and frogs attempted the perilous crossing of West End Lane to Chequers Pond.

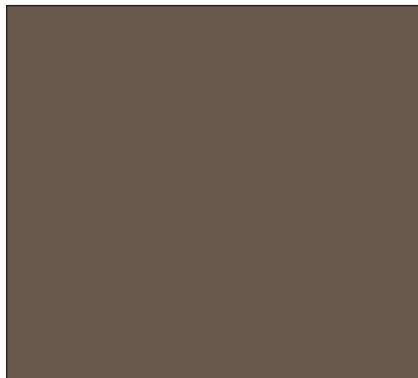
A huge thank you to Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) and all the wonderfully kind motorists and residents who slowed down for these fantastic creatures. We are so grateful to you when you spot our torches, buckets and mad dashes in the rain when we slow you down for a smooth newt or frog! There were, sadly, many casualties, but a huge number made it safely across. Do get in touch if you would like to help and please look out for us (and the amphibians!) over the next few weeks.



With torches and a bucket in hand a male and female toad, and a newt were rescued!



The frog in the grass is a female with a belly full of spawn.



Above: A Great Crested Newt
We are very lucky to have Smooth, Palmate and the rare Great Crested Newt in West End.

CAN YOU TELL A FROG FROM A TOAD?

The skin of these amphibians is the easiest way to tell the difference between them. Frogs have smooth, wet looking skin, greenish brown to yellow in colour; while toads have drier bumpy skin, which is usually brown. Frogs secrete their very own 'moisturiser' from glands in the skin, which keep it moist and supple. Toads do this too, but not as much, so they look drier. This is extremely important as frogs and toads breathe through their skin as well as through their lungs. Frogs are more likely to jump, whereas toads are more likely to travel at a slow waddle. Unfortunately this makes them very susceptible to death on the roads as they try to reach ponds to spawn.

All these amphibians desperately need our help. Their young all rely on things like water fleas to eat. Recent studies by Buglife and the University of Sussex have revealed that flea treatments used on dogs are so toxic that they are poisoning our rivers. Those that contain Fipronil and another nerve agent called imidacloprid were present in 99% of samples from 20 rivers. These chemicals are so potent, one flea treatment of a medium-sized dog with imidacloprid contains enough pesticide to kill 60 million bees. You can help by not letting your dog in ponds or rivers if they use these treatments. As with the UK as a whole, the Surrey population of Common frog is declining.

Jo Flippance
Email: joflip17@gmail.com

WEST END BRIDGE CLUB

We are a small club which meets every Tuesday afternoon in the Village Hall.

We play friendly bridge and new members are very welcome. We are not too competitive and members enjoy a pleasant afternoon with like-minded people.

Anyone interested requiring more information should contact Sandra Elms on 01372 466433



INDY'S DOG BLOG

Christmas long gone, I'd like to say Spring is sprung but that mean chilly wind still ruffles my long black coat and flaps my ears. When the sun does come out I'm quick to get out in the garden and roll, legs in the air, on the shiny, wet grass especially when it's just been cut and it smells so fresh and well, grassy. I also like the pretty paw print pattern I leave on the kitchen floor when I come in and the game of chase with the towel - great fun!!

Also great fun is my giggle ball, one of my many Christmas presents, Yes, I was a very lucky girl. It makes a cute little noise which sounds so melodious I follow it around pushing it with my paws. I tilt my head to one side so I can appreciate its little chiming notes. It also seems to amuse my family who encourage my antics with it. Anything to keep them amused.

I had a bit of a shock the other day. I mean, it literally was a shock! I was running with my mummy, minding my own business, on our usual walk somewhere around Box Hill when POW! I ran into an electric fence that ran right across the path we usually use. I'm usually a pretty brave girl but I did yelp, put my tail between my legs and run back to mummy for a reassuring hug. Then we had to find a way over it. Well, there was a gap for people to pass but it was whip-pet thin narrow and greyhound lanky leg height. Mummy and I looked at it and at each other measuring our shapes in our minds. My mummy sucked in her tummy and squeezed through. Then it was my turn...I got my front paws through but the tummy just wouldn't squeeze over - I really should cut down on the boneos!! Mummy saw a gap underneath the wire and pulled some grass away. As you may imagine, I was cautiously sceptical. I had to crawl underneath on my tummy (just like my girls had shown me ages ago when we were playing in the garden). I received a well deserved treat - I will give up the boneos.... tomorrow. Phew! Back home recounting the adventure, the girls thought it was very funny that I had to do a commando crawl. I didn't understand why they were laughing so much but I wagged my tail and joined in as I do like to make people laugh. I demonstrated it to Nana when she came and she laughed too.

I feel I should mention my next door chum, Brooke, as she is feeling her age. We used to scamper along together but nowadays she is stiff and totters a bit. But she is still cheerful and there is nothing wrong with her waggy tail.

I do love to play so if you're nice and friendly and enjoy a good run around do come and say hello. I'm the flat coated retriever with the pretty pink collar.

Indy

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WEST END

We hope that you will have all seen and admired our beautifully re-furbished tin tabernacle!

In October we emailed all members of the West End Sports & Social Club, about the fundraising appeal for the renovation of St George's, and in November every home in the village received an appeal letter. This resulted in generous donations from residents and the congregation alike. As a result, our third part of the project – the **interior** repair and redecoration happened in November. Parts 1 and 2 (the roof and exterior painting) having been completed in quick succession some few weeks earlier, facilitated by a generous bequest from a local resident. Although this necessitated the closure of St George's for a month - during which time we worshipped in Christ Church - the finished result was well worth the upheaval. To date, the renovation and redecoration of St George's has already cost just under a staggering £40,000.

We continue to fundraise to enable us to complete the final part of the costly - but necessary - renovation programme by repairing the sloping floor and replacing the damaged 60-year-old tiling. We are also mindful that essential upgrading of the disabled access is required. However, we approach the future with confidence, knowing that St George's is not only important to its congregation, but also to the village residents (and the wider community) who continue to value and support this unique village church.

Also in November, we made a presentation to the West End Village Show AGM. Thus, we were delighted to be informed by Steve Kelly in January that they were very kindly donating £1500 to our renovation fund.

Photo: Naomi Bedford

We are most grateful to Steve and all the team from the Village Show and we were presented with the cheque by Steve on 21 February.

The picture shows Steve Kelly, Peter Bedford, Andrea Lindow and Bridget Williams. There have been many other kind donations including a substantial one from Garsons – and we will acknowledge all our generous benefactors when the fundraising closes. We hope that this will mean the floor can be replaced before the end of this year!

The interior refurbishment was completed in time to hold our Christmas services in the immaculate, renovated and repainted St George's. The church was crowded for the popular Crib Service on Christmas Eve after a two-year absence - the first held there by Darren. The church looked beautiful, it's newly painted walls enhanced by stunning flower arrangements, candles, a Christmas tree and crib. The ever-popular Village Carol Concert followed afterwards, raising even more funds, and the uplifting Christmas Day Eucharist was greatly enjoyed by the large congregation who attended.

The Church calendar now moves us through Lent, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday and into Holy Week and Easter. Services at St George's for this period are as follows:

Sunday 19 th March	9am	MOTHERING SUNDAY
Sunday 2 nd April	9am	PALM SUNDAY
Sunday 9 th April	9am	EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday 23 rd April	9am	ST GEORGE'S DAY

This year we will be closed on any 5th Sunday of the month, allowing our congregation to join up with our Christ Church congregation - and enjoy the bonus of a beautiful choir. For these Sundays we will be putting a notice on the gate to remind people of the closure.

Please do join us at as many or any of the services that you can. You are always very welcome.

For more information about all our services (at both churches) please do visit our website: <http://www.esherparish.org.uk> Here you can find everything you might want to know about the Parish of Esher including Music on The Green. We put topical notices and a monthly events calendar on the fence outside the church – so please do stop and look to see what's going on as you pass by.

Finally – thank you as always for your continued support and we wish you all a very Happy Easter.



*Andrea Lindow and Bridget Williams
Top photo: St. George's in the early morning mist -
Angela Stockbridge*



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.

Sgt 1898 Pat Bauer covers Esher

PC 3435 Ian Hallam is the local Esher Officer

Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email:

Please note the email address has changed for the Elmbridge Policing Team to:
elmbridge@surrey.police.uk

Contact for Neighbourhood Watch is now:

<http://elmbridgenhw.ourwatch.org.uk/>

Please report suspicious incidents via 101,
or in an emergency 999.

You can also contact Surrey Police online:

**<https://www.surrey.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>
Or Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/Surrey Police
& Twitter](https://www.facebook.com/SurreyPolice&Twitter)**

IN THE KNOW—SURREY & SUSSEX

- ◆ **KEEP ALL WINDOWS SECURELY LOCKED AT ALL TIMES AND ONCE AGAIN PLEASE REMOVE ALL VALUABLES CARS WHEN PARKED. CAR THEFTS CONTINUE IN THE AREA!!**
- ◆ **BEWARE OF COURIER AND IMPERSONATOR FRAUD TARGETING VULNERABLE PEOPLE.**
- ◆ **CASH MACHINES IN THE AREA ARE ALSO BEING TARGETED SO PLEASE BE VIGILANT!**
- ◆ **BEWARE OF ON-LINE SHOPPING FRAUD**

We meet on a monthly basis on the first Thursday of the month at 7.45pm to start at 8pm in the West End Village Hall, West End Lane, Esher, Surrey, KT10 8LF.



Our WI is a place for fun, friendship, laughter, and learning!

As well as the monthly meetings, we usually have a monthly outing.

We also have regular interest groups and activities e.g., a monthly craft group.

You can participate in a much or as little as you wish!

Our next outing is to **Chertsey Museum on 22nd March** where we will get a private guided tour of the costumes and we will have a talk on the history of Chertsey and the clock collection.

We have many other outings throughout the year including-

- Private group visits to many NGS local gardens
- Summer lunch/Winter dinner at a restaurant
- Theatre trips
- Visits to Museums
- Coach trips

We have organised the following speakers for the rest of the year to talk at our monthly meetings-

- 6th April-**History of Morris Dancing**-Steven Archer.
- 6th July- **Running Faulty Towers**- Susan Howe.
- 3rd August- **Grannies can do anything**- Jess Burrows.
- 7th September- **Plants that changed the course of History**-Peter Almond.
- 5th October-**1780 Marriage à la mode** - Grace Evans.
- 7th December- **Xmas Crafts**- Sue Woodward.

So come and join us!

To join our WI just come along to one of our monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month as a visitor, you will be very welcome. Donations requested of £3.

or just contact us by E-Mail at christine.winterdownwi@gmail.com

Christine Grove, Secretary



WEST END VILLAGE HALL

West End Village Hall now has WiFi available to users. Access is free and the password is on the router in the kitchen.

We are planning some painting and maintenance over the summer holidays and expect to be looking spruced up in time for the Summer Show on the August Bank Holiday!

*Jo Flippance
Chair*



WEST END VILLAGE SHOW

The staging of our annual Village Show on the green is very much a team effort and it is hugely gratifying to see everyone enjoying the day but also knowing that any profits will go to local charities and good causes. As a committee we are proud

to make regular donations to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People as our commitment to an animal charity in association with the Dog Show; to the Oxfam shop in Esher and the Princess Alice Hospice for the generous donation of Smash-a-Plate crockery; and, of course, to the Village News. Additionally, this year we were delighted to be able to make two larger donations: one to St George's Church and another to Elmbridge CAN.

As many of you will know, the lovely St George's Church in West End is under a major renovation and refurbishment programme. The 'tin tabernacle' was built in 1879 and is today used for regular worship, weddings, funerals, baptisms and the popular annual Christmas carol concert. A substantial part of the initial work has been covered by a legacy from a local resident but more funds need to be raised to complete the project in order to preserve this special historic feature of the village.



St George's Church: Steve Kelly, Peter Bedford, Andrea Lindow, Bridget Williams



Elmbridge CAN: Melissa Day, Co-Director, Elmbridge CAN, Steve Kelly

Elmbridge CAN is a small charity formed in 2016 to welcome Syrian refugees to Claygate. Activities, donations and educational courses were organised to promote social inclusion and wellbeing. Subsequently, at the Council's request, Elmbridge CAN helped Afghan refugees by organising playgroups and improving computer literacy.

More recently, the charity has been involved in setting up hubs for Ukrainian refugees and their

host families with administrative support, meeting fellow Ukrainians and arranging various activities. West End resident Theo Normanton is one of a team of support volunteers. The charity currently relies predominantly on funding from individual donations.

The generosity of West End residents and visitors to the Show on the day enables us to make these worthwhile donations from the proceeds; and also ensures the continuation of a wonderful tradition. Preparations are under way for this year's Show on Saturday 26th August and we look forward to seeing you there!

Stop press: Our popular Book Stall will be back together with a new addition of a second-hand toy stall! Please save any books or toys you would like to donate. More info in the next Village News.

*Steve Kelly
Chairman, West End Village Show
Photos: Fiona Cameron*

A TRIBUTE TO

CHRIS GRAHAM 1949—2023



Chris was born in South Africa and returned to England in 1952 when his parents purchased a house in Claremont Park in Esher. He attended Milbourne Lodge Prep School and Shrewsbury House School in Esher, finishing his education in Norfolk. He had a long career in shipping, the building industry and security having worked for 40 years both at Heathrow and latterly in Woking before he retired.

Chris moved to West End with his family in the late 1970s and married Sue in 1980 where they have lived in West End Lane ever since.

Chris was a very keen sportsman playing Cricket, Rugby and Football. In his youth he supported the teams who met at the Swan in Claygate. He was a member of Esher Rugby Club, and West End Sports and Social Club where he spent many happy hours with friends enjoying the local cricket and football teams playing on the green and watching sport on the Clubs TV screen. He also took a keen interest in F1 motor racing. He was a regular contributor to the Quiz Nights at the Club where his knowledge of Sport was second to none.

Chris was a true gentleman and very popular in the village. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Chris' funeral will take place on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 11.45 at Randalls Park Crematorium and afterwards at the West End Sports and Social Club. Friends welcome. Family flowers only. Donations to the Royal Marsden Hospital. <https://www.royalmarsden.org> and click on Donations.

Sue Graham



Right: On the 8th March the village was covered in a soft blanket of snow which quickly thawed and disappeared.

Photos: Angela Stockbridge



Chris (centre right) at the 1940s Reunion in 2008. You may recognise some very familiar faces from the past in the group!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Village News Team thank the Chairman, Steve Kelly and the Flower Show Committee for their very generous gift of £600 towards the cost of the production and printing of the newsletter.

Your generosity is very much appreciated and will ensure that we can continue to print the preferred copy of the newsletter as well being 'on-line'. We feel it is important to keep the local community informed of interesting events and news from our unique village and its surroundings.

WINTER SCENES IN WEST END



The hard frost and mist in January gave an ethereal feeling to early morning walks. The pair of Swans seem to have taken up permanent residence on the pond and we hope that they produce some cygnets this Spring.



B & B IN THE VILLAGE



Bed & Breakfast available. All rooms are double bedrooms, made up of king size, and super king beds. The superking can be divided into 2 single beds. All rooms have en-suites and also tea and coffee making facilities, mini fridge with water/juices provided. Virgin cable TV and WIFI.

A maximum of two adults and 3 children per room.

A warm welcome awaits you. For further information call Edwina Halanen (West End Lane)

on 07721 091184.

REMEMBERING GITHA BACON

We were all very saddened to hear that Githa passed away suddenly in January. Githa was Danish and was married to the late John Bacon. Both were members of the Village Sports Club and lived in Garson Road. Githa had previously worked for Garsons.

Although we have no more information at this stage, Githa will be missed by all her friends in West End.



LOCAL ARTISTS' OPEN STUDIO EXHIBITION 3RD TO 18TH JUNE

Five local artists will be exhibiting their work this year in the Surrey Artists Open Studios event in June and again they will be at Rose Cottage Stables - just round the corner from the Prince of Wales Pub.

Wendy Hale, an embroiderer, loves to incorporate vintage fabrics, buttons, trimming and recycled fabrics into her colourful, creative gifts and artwork.



Roger Marsden is fascinated by the pattern and grain which becomes apparent when he turns a piece of wood. Each bowl, pot or artefact is a unique and beautiful item.

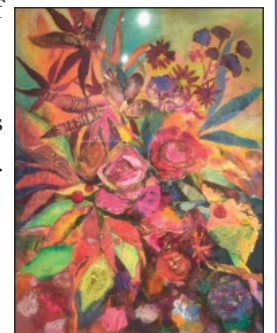


Farida Khan-Evans has recently returned from Malaysia where the landscape is rich, vibrant and bursting with colour and where her paintings and prints have found their inspiration.



Janet Stanley's small sculptures in bronze resin show an infinite variety of human figures (and dogs) reacting with each other, with a slightly impressionistic air and a great sense of movement.

Rosalind Moysen is forever drawn to plants, flowers and gardens and enjoys expressing their magic in paintings using acrylic, collage and a mixture of media based on watercolour.



The exhibition will be held from June 3rd to 18th at Rose Cottage, 46 West End Lane.

Open from 10am to 5pm on
Thursdays, Fridays,
Saturdays and Sundays

*Wendy Hale, Roger Marsden, Farida Khan-Evans,
Janet Stanley and Rosalind Moysen*

GARDEN CENTRE • FARM SHOP • BEVAN'S BUTCHERS
THE ORANGERY TEA HOUSE • PICK YOUR OWN

Garsons

Growing since 1871



www.garsons.co.uk
01372 460181

AWARD-WINNING CHRISTMAS AT GARSONS



Congratulations to Garsons for winning the **Best Christmas Destination Garden Centre** by the Garden Centre Association's Christmas Competition 2022, sponsored by Gisela Graham.

In addition to winning the best in the UK, Garsons Esher and Garsons Titchfield granted both top spots in the regional South Thames area.

Garsons was recognised for its "incredible retail standards" and "superb displays with exquisite detailing".

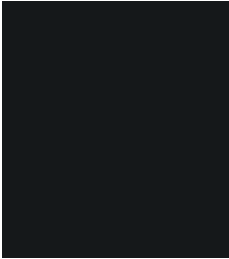
The staff should be proud of their success and very imaginative displays.

WALTON ASTONOMY GROUP


From our Somerset correspondent

A busy Winter of observing


Looking back at my astro photos since the last newsletter, it has been a very busy time with plenty to see.



Too late to catch the last edition, there was an amazing occultation of Mars on 8th December 2022, where it passed behind the Moon and then reappeared about an hour later. This all happened between 5am and 6am, so an early start was needed.




The fantastic constellation of Orion is very prominent during the winter months, and the middle star of his sword is actually a huge nebula, known as the Great Orion Nebula. I was able to capture my best ever shot of it using a smartphone which stacks long exposures automatically, amazing technology.



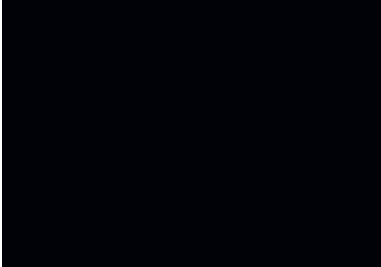
The Sun has been very active recently as it wakes up after its period of quietness and heads towards solar maximum in a few years. On 15th January I observed a large number of active regions on the

Sun using my solar telescope, and on 23rd I captured a close up of some amazing activity.



You may have heard talk of the comet which is visible currently, snappily named as Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF). Whilst not as bright or dramatic as Comet NEOWISE of a few years back, I managed to observe it on a few occasions and capture a faint hint of green in the nucleus.

Finally, the moon. Whether it is presenting as full, or a fine crescent, or in conjunction with the bright planets, there is always something very beautiful about it.



Above: The picture here shows it as a crescent with earthshine showing, and also right Venus and Jupiter on 22nd February 2023.

I hope you manage to have a look upwards when the skies are clear, it's a great way of putting everything into perspective and relaxing away any troubles.

Stuart Davis



ESHER FRENCH CIRCLE gets ready for its 50th birthday with a programme of live events this Spring

Esher French Circle's last two talks of the winter were 'virtual': in January, Maryse Wright gave an interesting and well-illustrated account of how she and her husband took to their bikes to explore the rural and former industrial landscapes between La Creuse and La Moselle.

In February, Odile Hughson's talk explained how the eminent novelist Emile Zola spent his time in exile in England.

From March onwards, the Circle will be back to meeting in person, in West End Village Hall. The monthly talks – in French – are given by native or fluent French speakers, in a relaxed and convivial setting. Refreshments are provided and there is ample time to socialise and practise your spoken French.

The meetings are on the third Wednesday of most months. The doors open at 7pm and the main talk starts at 7.30pm.

For its 50th anniversary celebration on 17 May, Esher French Circle members and their guests will enjoy an authentic French dinner at Côte restaurant in Esher. The evening's entertainment will include live music and an audio-visual presentation. Places are limited so early booking is recommended.

Esher French Circle's spring 2023 programme:

15 March

Moliere's comedy-ballets

Emilie Capulet

19 April

Eugène Boudin, peintre

Christine Nivet

17 May Club's 50th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner and Music

14 June

A la conquête du Mont Blanc

Thierry Viennois

More information is available from the club's website:

www.cerclefrancais-esher.uk

or the club's secretary;

Brigitte Tiller E brigitte@ptiller.com

M 07896 233728

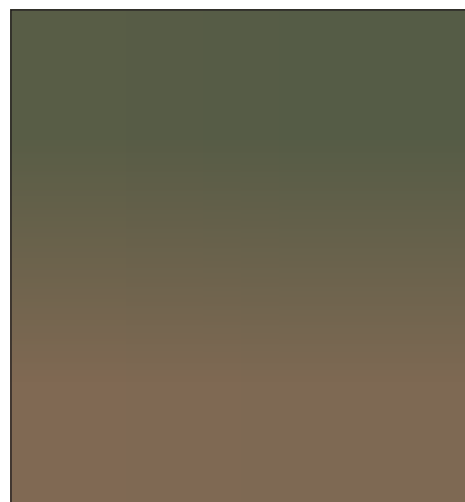


Peter Prowse

PHOTOGRAPHIC CORNER

'I'm nearly out!'

A fledgling Blue Tit captured by Don Tyzack in his garden.



CHARITY GALA

IN AID OF SAVE THE CHILDREN

The opera based gala evening in the marquee on the green is planned again for Bank Holiday Monday evening 28th August with four soloists and a musical director booked.

Full details will be available later but advance reservations may be made by email to stcesher@gmail.com.

DEFIBRILLATOR

OUTSIDE VILLAGE HALL

No training required - anyone can use it

Dial 999 and give the location
You'll be given a key code to open the box

Follow written instructions on the portable unit

Verbal instructions are provided once turned on.

ALTERATIONS TO M25 J10 THE A3/WISLEY INTERCHANGE & ROADWORKS ON THE PORTSMOUTH ROAD, COBHAM

National Highways is undertaking a scheme to improve road links at the M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange which started in November 2022 as can be seen by the removal of vast swathes of trees along the A3, J10 roundabout and Byfleet Road altering the landscape completely.

New controlled average speed cameras have also been installed. The work will include upgrading of the existing M25 Junction 10 roundabout, including: elongation and widening of the circulatory carriageway to increase capacity for right-turning traffic; realignment, lengthening and widening of the junction entry and exit slip roads; and demolition of redundant bridge structures.

The scheme is scheduled to complete in summer 2025. More information about the scheme and why it is happening can be found at the National Highways website.

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east...>

PORTSMOUTH ROAD COBHAM

Please note signs have been erected along the Portsmouth Road towards Cobham warning drivers that roadworks are starting this month, lasting for **30 weeks!**

This is bound to cause further traffic congestion and disruption so make sure you allow more time for your journeys.

THE FALSE WOLF SPIDER (*Zoropsis Spinimana*)

WARNING: Look away now if you don't like Spiders!!

My son spotted this spider resting on our Kitchen wall recently. It was quite intimidating and rather large!

Having looked it up and realised it was not just a house spider, we thought it might be a Hobo spider or similar, as we couldn't find an exact match, we consulted with our Commons Estates Manager, Dave Page, to help with identification.

Together with Mike Waite from the Surrey Wildlife Trust they confirmed it was a non-gravid False Wolf Spider. The spider's body measured about 1" (or 2.5cm) in length plus its long leg span. False Wolf spiders originated in the Mediterranean area and were introduced fairly recently to the UK and are increasing their range across the country. They prefer a milder climate so would rather be indoors in the UK!

They hunt on the ground during the day; it chases down its prey and leaps on it, just like a wolf. It frequents gardens and grasslands, as well as a variety of other habitats, and can often be seen sunbathing or running across the ground. The female carries her eggs in a unique way in an egg-sac a 'round silken Globe' attached to the 'spinarets', which produce silk, at the end of the abdomen. They are the only known spider to carry their spiderlings on their backs and the female will carry the young on her back for a few days after they hatch.

The Wolf Spider shows various patterns of dark grey, brown and black, is quite hairy and has 8 eyes. It does not spin a web or use silk to subdue its prey. The female's silk is primarily used to cover her egg sac. Its diet is primarily insects, however, there is very little information available about the biology of the spider. There are several species of wolf spider, which are very difficult to tell apart. Their body length varies and wolf spider young disperse by using silk 'parachutes' to float away on the wind.

It looks intimidating and is one of the very few spiders in Europe that can penetrate the human skin with its chelicerae (fangs) and produce a painful bite, but it is harmless and bites are unlikely. Not known to be aggressive but scarily large, we released it in a woodland area.

<http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/portal.php/p/>

[Zoropsis+spinimana+established+indoors+in+Britain](#) and

<https://www.whatsthatbug.com/2014/12/23/introduced-false-wolf-spider/>.

Angela Stockbridge

Don's delightful garden in shades of soft whites after the recent snowfall!

*Photo:
Don Tyzack*

WEST END SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB



PLEASE VISIT THE
WESSC
WEBSITE FOR THE
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
www.WESSC.org

THE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB SPECIAL



Esher & District
RPC



WEST END GOLF SOCIETY



Anyone wishing to join the
WEGS can call

Dave Morgan on
07956 129987

or
Allistar Goff on
07958 221566



WEST END MOTOR CLUB

Following temporary closure of the Club Cafe, the regular Tuesday morning coffee and brekkers meetings of the Motor Club relocated to the Prince of Wales. Our grateful thanks go to Anna and her staff for making us so welcome. Up to sixteen hungry enthusiasts enjoy hearty breakfasts, bacon rolls and frothy coffees, with some arriving in classic cars every Tuesday from 10am. All followed by trips for routine prescription collections and 'doctors' appointments, not forgetting helpful shopping pp the distaff side and the odd MoT inspection.

The latter is no longer mandatory for 'our' age of classic cars and at around £48 is highly recommended as a wise precaution as evidence should anything happen, bearing in mind it is the responsibility of the car's keeper to ensure road-worthiness. And alas whilst our cars are exempt, sadly we are still subject to personal taxation.

Some of us now subscribe to a 'green' scheme set up by the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs (FBHVC), whereby membership ensures the planting of the ubiquitous tree to offset the minuscule proportion of outpourings of our immaculately prepared vehicles, in support of the impossible efforts being made to avert the changing climate.

In addition, a new idea for social interaction has emerged. This has the arguably added advantage of being open to WAGS and animals. It is the proposed first Friday of the month visit to cafes new and far ranging, depending on weather and mobility. Our first excellent and successful such event took place on 3rd March under the baton of Ken, and was a visit with reserved tables to the East Molesey Cricket Club café in Hurst Park. A splendid venue even on a very cold day with the river to one side, a first class pitch to the other, an adequate car park and most acceptable menu. Lovely walks to work off the food being also available.

We'll be back to sample the bounty and the friendly staff. All ideas for similar Friday venues welcome. Meanwhile our regular Thursday noggins and natters continue from 7.30pm at the Village Club, where all are welcome.



Peter (1929 Cambridge Special), Ian, Mike, Tony, another Mike (1960 Carlton Flyer)



Classic Granada and three Historic Austin 7s



Mike's London to Brighton bike (1903 Premier)

WEST END SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB NEWS



A very successful bingo and sports memorabilia auction night was held on 4th February with proceeds going to refurbish the Bar. Plans are taking shape and we hope to have matters underway in a few weeks.

Responsibility for the Management of the club still rests with the Interim Management Committee whose work is scheduled to conclude in May when a new, elected committee of members will take over responsibility.

There are a number of vacancies on the committee that need to be filled, not least the role of Club Chairperson as Roger Newman our current Chair, who has wanted to retire for the last year but agreed to continue until a replacement was in place would really finally like to step down! We are also specifically seeking a Treasurer and Secretary.

All volunteers gratefully received and particularly those with backgrounds in commerce, finance, secretarial, PR and welfare. Official notifications will be sent to Club members in due course but if anyone is interested in having an initial chat, please pop an email to chair@weessc.org

Adam Brenner

THE CLUB CAFÉ

Opening Hours:

**Saturday and Sunday mornings
10.00am - 1.00pm
for coffee and a muffin or flapjack.**



WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB

As I look out the window and the odd snowflake falls, and it is hard to believe that the cricket season is only 6 weeks away!

Exciting times at West End CC with the appointment of Colette Mackintosh (local resident) as our new Junior Chairwomen, Jon Carter as our 1st X1 Captain and James Townsend as 2nd team captain.

Friday April 21st is our introduction day for the junior section where everyone is welcome to register, meet the team, enjoy some fun cricket followed by a BBQ and drinks!



It had to happen someday, our very old roller eventually gave up on us and we have had to invest in a very good reconditioned one. This hopefully will sort the square and outfield out once for all! I hope you like the West End CC colours and in sympathy with Ukraine.

So the club is running 2 senior Saturday sides, and a Sunday friendly team plus 20x20 league cricket on weekdays, Junior cricket from the ages of 5 and upwards on a Friday evening, with matches on weekends for them from the ages of 8 years and upward. Please visit our website www.weecc.co.uk for all latest news and developments.

As always we are looking for umpires, scorers and help with the teas and BBQs so please don't be shy and contact me direct on my email chairman@weecc.co.uk.

Look forward to seeing you all and fingers crossed for a wonderful spring and summer.

Mike Bacon (Chairman WEECC)

FILM EVENING AT THE SOCIAL CLUB

007's 'NO TIME TO DIE'

A huge thank you to the social committee members Katie Fernandes and Ruth Loveridge for arranging a superb film evening on 11th March of Daniel Craig's last film as James Bond in 'No Time to Die'.

The clubhouse bar was buzzing with activity. Popcorn, and mouth watering Vodka jellies made by Ruth, were provided during the evening. Everyone enjoyed the film in a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere.



ESHER & DISTRICT RACING PIGEON CLUB

Unfortunately we don't have Pigeon Report this time, but we look forward to hearing all the news from the club in our next edition.



AFC WESTEND

Hi everyone,

Here is a quick update from the Westend football section to let you know how our Sunday sides are doing in their respective leagues during season 2022/2023.



AFC WESTEND SUNDAY

The Sunday team under the managership of George Nixey are doing really well and are currently sitting in 4th place in Division 4 of the Leatherhead & District Sunday League. George has said that the ultimate aim for the team is to finish in the top 4 and this has been highlighted in their recent run of games where they have had some excellent results. They have taken points off the top teams and in their latest fixture, which was a double header game against Old Wimbledonians, they finished taking all 6 points. This Sunday 12th March they have a cup game against Chessington United Sports.

AFC WESTEND JAGUARS

Our other Sunday side, AFC Westend Jaguars under the managership of Raff Federico are currently sitting at the top of the league in Division 6 of the Leatherhead & District Sunday League. At the time of writing, they are currently 3 points ahead of their nearest rival and are 6 points ahead of the 3rd placed team, so far in the league.

They have Won 9 games, Drawn 2 and Lost 0 and are also still involved in several cup competitions. Let's hope this rich run of form will continue for the lads who are enjoying playing their football for Westend and will bring some much needed success to the club.

1		AFC Westend Jaguars	11	9	2	0	22	4	18	29
2		Overtonians FC	11	8	2	1	31	12	19	26
3		Worcester Park Sunday	12	7	2	3	38	20	18	23

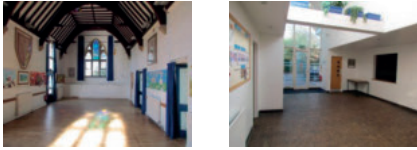
Well there we are with the latest football club news and on behalf of AFC WESTEND. We wish all the members all the very best, also, don't forget, if you want to keep up to speed with all the latest news, fixtures and tables etc, then you can find out all this info on our website at www.afcwestend.co.uk.

If you don't already know, there is even a page where you can read up on all the latest editions of the Village News.

Cheers!

*Keith Harris – AFC WESTEND
Secretary*

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 or wevh.uk
Mail: hirehall@wevh.uk

FRIENDS OF THE VILLAGE NEWS

We would like to thank the following 'Friends' of the Village News for their generous donations:

Peter & Naomi Bedford
Ken Berry
Margaret Dane
Gerry Dowling
Donald Elms
A J & B Maddows
Eileen Pocklington
Mike Purchase
Derek Richardson
David Rolfe
Denis Roux
J&J Stadius
Angela Stockbridge
and also donors
who wish to remain anonymous.

THE VILLAGE NEWS TEAM

We also thank our Village News team of volunteers who regularly help to collate, proof read and distribute the 850 copies of the newsletter to every household in West End and Esher. Your help is very much appreciated.

Sheila Apicella
Alice Austin
Aidan Baker
Peter & Naomi Bedford
Lynn Bezant
David Bramley
Margaret Dane,
Don Elms
David Ford
Tricia Fox,
Doug & Sue Fryer
Di Gibson,
Sue Graham
Andrea Lindow
Rob Lowe
Roger Marsden
Rosie Master
Rosalind Moysen
Donald Mungall
Avril Poat
Nik & Judi Wilkinson
Bridget Williams



VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

Please make a diary note of the copy dates for the next three editions

SUMMER 2023: FRIDAY 30th June by 1pm

AUTUMN: Friday 1st September by 1pm

WINTER (CHRISTMAS): Friday 17th November by 1pm

Please contact Angela Stockbridge
Email: angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com
07817 498531 or 01372 460703

The Village News is supported by local organisations including: West End Sports & Social Club, West End Motor Club, the West End Village Show Committee, Garsons, Winterdown WI, the late Richard Gale, West End Village Hall Committee, the former West End Residents' Association, Advertisers and personal donations. Please note the newsletter can also be found on Garsons website www.garsons/Community Page, www.AFC Westend website and the West End Facebook Group.

Printed by Impress Print Services, Hershham.

We thank you all for your continued support.



Wheatley & Sons Limited
ESTABLISHED 1850

ESTABLISHED 1850. Telephone - 173 P.O. KINGSTON.

BRIDGE ROAD, EAST MOLESEY, and HIGH STREET, ESHER.

WHEATLEY & SONS,
(SUCCESSORS TO J. WHEATLEY & SONS, LTD.)

Builders, Contractors, & House Decorators.

GAS, HOT WATER and SANITARY ENGINEERS, PLUMBERS, GLAZIERS, and BELL HANGERS.

Jobbing Work of every description with Bricklayers, Plasterers, Carpenters, Cabinet Makers, Painters, Paperhangers, Glaziers, Gilders, Plumbers, Gas and Bellfitters, Tinman, Smiths, &c.

Carpets taken up, Beaten and Relaid. Stoves and Ranges Supplied and Set. Boilers Cleaned. Kitchen Utensils Retimed.

HOUSE DRAINAGE & VENTILATION A SPECIALITY. DRAIN TESTS AND REPORTS.

PLANS prepared and advice given upon all matters connected with New Buildings, Additions, Alterations and Repairs.

FUNERALS FURNISHED in best style and conducted to any part of the country. Cremations arranged. Monuments, Brasses, Memorial Windows &c.

HOUSE & ESTATE AGENTS. FIRE & LIFE ASSURANCE. RENTS COLLECTED. VALUATIONS FOR ALL PURPOSES.

NO JOB TOO SMALL
Telephone 020 8979 5762
Fax: 020 8941 7388
Email: wheatley_sons@btconnect.com

HOME COOKING
by Elizabeth
est. 1986

Bespoke Catering Of Formal & Informal Events

- WEDDINGS
- MEMORIALS
- CELEBRATION PARTIES
- CHRISTENINGS
- CORPORATE EVENTS
- HOUSE WARMING PARTIES
- THEMED PARTIES
- SMALL PRIVATE FUNCTIONS
- DISHES AND PLATTERS

ELIZABETH TRELIVING
HOME COOKING BY ELIZABETH
The Showroom 1 Church Road Great Bookham KT23 3PD
T: 01372 453206 M: 07712 760175 E: ejtreliving@aol.com
Or visit our website www.homecookingdirect.co.uk



View from my garden: Gulls following the Plough at Garsons - Angela Stockbridge