



VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END ESHER

**Volume 18 Issue 2
SUMMER 2021
LAST COVID-19
LOCKDOWN EDITION!**

NEW EDITION INCORPORATING THE VILLAGE CLUB SPECIAL

VILLAGE NEWS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Dear Readers

As a consequence of the persistence of the Covid-19 pandemic and in line with Government guidance, once again in the interests of safety, the Spring 2021 newsletter was produced as an on-line edition. A huge 'thank you' to Ben Thompson and James McGill at Garsons for all their help and expertise in achieving this. The newsletter was subsequently posted on the Garsons Community page, the AFC Westend website and West End Facebook. We also thank Keith Harris and Helen Hambleton for their help uploading the newsletter to their websites. We do hope that as many of you as possible were able to access it. If not and you would like an email copy please contact me on the email address on page five.

Looking forward to our 18th year of publication in 2022 discussions have taken place with our Treasurer, Derek Richardson, in conjunction with Village Club members and it was agreed that we should incorporate the Village Club Special within the main newsletter making the printed copy more inclusive and cost effective.

We sympathise with the many individuals who have lost their loved ones and livelihoods, and businesses who face difficult financial decisions because of this devastating virus. This is also having an impact on the funding of the Village News.

If any local individuals feel able and would be happy to make a donation or sponsor the newsletter please contact Derek Richardson at derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk

Angela Stockbridge

CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN (50TH) ANNIVERSARY OF WINTERDOWN WI



Above: Left: Marion Ford, President and right: Ann Tennant, Secretary with Margaret Dane.

Photo: Caroline Thyer

See the full report and photos on page 7.

WEST END PLAYGROUP

See article and photo on page 6.



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

VILLAGE HALL AGM

We normally hold our AGM in May of each year. Last year we were unable to hold the AGM but I did provide a short report to the village via the Village News.

We will be holding our AGM this summer once Covid restrictions allow. The purpose of the AGM is to update the village on our finances and activities over the last year, and to elect 5 village representatives to the committee. All village residents are welcome to attend and vote in the election.

We will post a notice of the AGM date on our website www.wevh.uk.

We will also put a post on the West End Facebook page

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/westendeshercommunity/>

Robin Crane, Chair

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

PCSO 16888 Kat Mey covers Esher

PC 3435 Ian Hallam is the local Esher Officer

Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email: the Elmbridge Policing Team at elmbridge@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Contact for Neighbourhood Watch is now:

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

IN THE KNOW—Surrey & Sussex

- ◆ **KEEP YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS SECURELY LOCKED AT ALL TIMES AND ONCE AGAIN PLEASE REMOVE ALL VALUABLES FROM CARS WHEN PARKED.**

WATCH OUT! BURGLARS AND CAR THIEVES ARE ABOUT!

A very daring burglary took place in a garage in West End on Sunday 13th June between 5 and 5.30pm. A resident's video camera captured the thief entering and leaving the premises in a hurry with his car boot up having been disturbed making off with his 'booty' and causing considerable damage to the garage.

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>



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.

REMEMBERING RICHARD GALE

Richard sadly passed away recently having been in Arbrogue Nursing Home for several years.

Richard lived in West End Lane opposite the pond. Every year he worked hard clearing debris and discarded items thrown into the pond and around the green. He always did a superb job helping to keep our village looking pristine. Even though in his enthusiasm he removed a little too much nesting material at times!



Above: Richard in waders clearing up by the pond in Spring 2016!

Richard was also a generous sponsor on a regular basis of the Village News. He was presented with a Citizen's Award by Esher Residents Association for his voluntary work in West End.

Many of us will remember Richard's sense of humour. He often enjoyed a pint in the Village Club and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Angela Stockbridge

"AROUND THE SHOWS"

Two cuttings from the local newspapers showing West End girls Marianne Tennant, Sheryll Webb and Suzanne Wilson at West End Flower Shows in 1973 and 1975 respectively.



Above left: The captions read: Marianne Tennant (5) and Sheryll Webb (5) try to guess the weight of a giant pumpkin at the West End Autumn Flower Show (Esher News & Advertiser) September 13th 1973).

Above right: Suzanne Wilson and Marianne Tennant looking after the Raffle prize at West End Horticultural Show (News & Mail September 18th 1975).

Ann Tennant

WEST END VILLAGE SHOW

It is with much regret that the committee has taken the decision to cancel our West End Village Show again this year. In these uncertain times, it doesn't seem sensible to put anyone at risk by encouraging a large crowd to gather on the green.

There is, however, the possibility of a scaled down Flower Show taking place in the Village Hall. Watch out for details.

I know I said last year we'd be back bigger and better this year but, hopefully, life will be back to normal in 2022 and we will certainly be trying to put on a Show to remember.

Steve Kelly

Chairman, West End Village Show

Rose: "Joie de Vivre"

Photo: Angela Stockbridge





CLUB CAFÉ

The two new stars at Club Café, George, Front of House supervisor (left) and Lukasz, Head Chef, ready and waiting to serve you with a smile! With Summer finally upon us and now open Tuesday to Sunday, where better to enjoy a snack and a drink in a dog friendly Club Café.



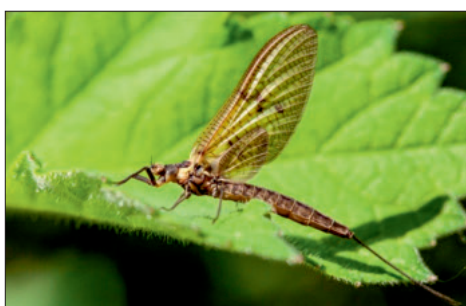
Photo: Eric Strange

NEWS FROM WEST END POND



MAYFLIES DOWN BY THE RIVER MOLE!

The Mayfly is one of 51 species of mayfly in the UK, and is on the wing from April until September (nymphs are present all year-round). Mayflies are common around freshwater wetlands, from fast-flowing rivers to still lakes, where the larvae spend their lives underwater, feeding on algae and plants. In the summer, the adults hatch out - sometimes simultaneously and in their hundreds; they have very short lives (just hours in some cases), during which they display and breed. Many species do not feed as adults as their sole purpose is to reproduce, dying once they have mated. The name 'mayfly' is misleading as many mayflies can be seen all year-round, although one species does emerge in sync with the blooming of Hawthorn (or 'Mayflower').



*Photos:
Angela Stockbridge*

NESTING SWANS

The disappearance overnight on 24th May of our beautiful Pen and her four eggs from the nest is still a complete mystery! Her eggs were within a day or two of hatching and there was no trace of any broken egg shells or feathers in or around the nest. However, large areas of grass and reeds were trodden down to get to the nest. No-one seemed to hear or witness anything unusual. The Cob remained on the pond following her departure calling for her and staying close to the nest. We do hope that she was not harmed in any way. There has been no trace or sign of her returning since. We have been advised that it is most likely that a fox is responsible.

THREE MORE EGYPTIAN GOSLINGS ARRIVE



Photos: Angela Stockbridge

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, WEST END

In our last update we were sad to announce the passing of one of our previous Church Wardens, Betty Whitney.

BETTY WHITNEY

Betty, a long time resident and stalwart of West End, died peacefully in February aged 94. Sadly, due to COVID restrictions, only her immediate family were able to attend her funeral Service, which was conducted by the Rev Darren McCallig on 23rd March. In normal times, St George's would have been overflowing with her many, many friends.

Betty was born, and grew up, in Highgate, North London, and enjoyed a happy childhood with her sister Blanche, who was 15 months her senior. Both of them attended North London Collegiate School and then went to St Gabriel's to undertake teacher training.

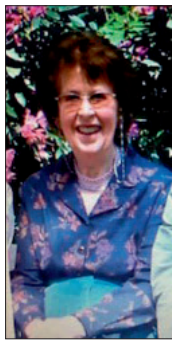
Very adventurously, Betty and Blanche wished to experience teaching in Australia, a brave decision back then. Having relatives in Melbourne they simply went to Australia House in London, said they wished to teach in Australia, and within no time, they were on their way! Betty taught near Melbourne for a year, before returning to England to marry her fiancé Michael.

Betty and Michael initially lived in a house on the Portsmouth Road, before moving into their newly built home at the bottom of Claremont Avenue, where their children Gillian and Michael grew up. There Betty remained until the 2010s before moving briefly to Greenmead in West End and finally to Whiteley Village, where she was very happy.

Many of us remember Betty teaching our children over a number of years at the Church of England School in Milbourne Lane. Being very much a "people person" she continued to take a keen interest in her many pupils long after they had left school and had children of their own. She was also a superb judge of the children's entries at the West End Village Show, being scrupulously fair, full of encouragement and enthusiasm.

Betty was a founder member of the Winterdown W.I and willingly lent her support - baking cakes, serving teas at the Village Hall on the day of the Flower Show and proposing the vote of thanks to the Speaker at the monthly meetings. She was also an avid Bridge player, and a regular participant of the Bridge Club, held monthly in the Village Hall.

St George's Church was a hugely important part of Betty's life, where she was a superb Church Warden for many years and a regular and committed attendee at the 9am Eucharist. She was on all the rotas - arranging flowers, serving coffee, doing the readings and intercessions, greeting visitors and supporting the clergy.



Left: Betty, in the blue jacket, on an outing with the W.I

In between all these roles she somehow found time to be a conscientious and tireless member of the team at the Esher Citizens Advice Bureau.

Right: Betty at one of the Bridge Teas in 2010



Left: July 2006 "Join Winter-down WI Royal Visits" Betty in Centre wearing glasses round her neck!

Some years ago, in recognition of all that Betty contributed to those in West End and the wider community, and the support and friendship she provided to so many over the years, she was voted Woman of the Year for Esher.

What a truly fitting tribute to this kind, generous and caring lady, who is greatly missed by all who knew her.



Services at St George's

We would like to update you on the service schedule at St George's, but as you know the Government and the Church of England will still be making decisions after this has gone to press. However we have every hope that we may soon be able to return to our regular weekly 9am service, but early indications are that this may be delayed for a few weeks. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE (see below) FOR DETAILS AS SEATING RESTRICTIONS MAY STILL APPLY.

It has been a major disappointment for the whole of the village that there will be no flower show for two years running. This event has always been a major fundraiser for us all – but particularly for St George's. Every year we seem to have some major challenge – and this year is no exception. The layers of paint on the outside of the church, which have built up over several years – must now be taken back to the original corrugated iron base, before the building can be completely repainted. We have started to obtain quotes and are horrified by the news that the cost will be in excess of £24,000. While we know that we cannot realistically find the money to pay for this – the work will have to be delayed until we get an opportunity to do some proper fundraising. WATCH THIS SPACE! Meanwhile the front of the church has been washed down- and the gardening team have put all their energy into making the front, the back and the sides of the garden looking gorgeous. We are so grateful for their consistent hard work – please do take a walk around the gardens to admire them and sit for a few moments on one of the benches at the back. It's very peaceful.

Pet Service – We had to give last year's Pet Service a miss – but we are determined to hold our 13th Pet Service this year. Due to Covid restrictions and distanced seating, we plan to re-locate the service to Christ Church on **Sunday 10th October at 4pm**. Christ Church is much bigger, and we can space people and animals at a sensible distance and also use separate doors to enter and exit. There is parking locally and a green opposite – on which to take your doggies for a last minute "comfort break" before the service. Posters and leaflets will be put up nearer the time – but please do also check the website.

For more information about all 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. 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 – have a wonderful summer and thank you as always, for your continued support.

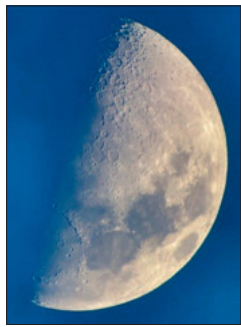
Andrea Lindow (462041) and Bridget Williams (462731)

THE WALTON ASTRONOMY GROUP

The Sun, Moon, a bright Nova and a partial solar eclipse!

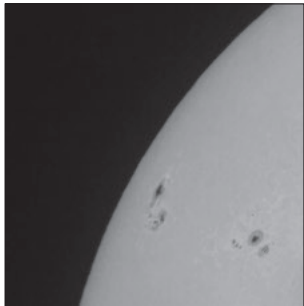
As we approach the longest day, which inevitably means the shortest night, there is no longer any astronomical darkness to help observe those fainter objects. This is when the Sun no longer goes beyond eighteen degrees below the horizon which is required for proper darkness. Many astronomers pack away their kit for the summer months waiting for the return of darker skies in September, but for myself and many in WAG, observing is an all year round activity, we just switch to brighter targets which can be equally rewarding.

The Moon is an obvious candidate, and shows wonderful and constantly varying detail during the early evening as it progresses from a fine crescent just after new Moon, through until past first quarter and on to full Moon. After this it is rising much later, requiring early morning sessions which are too much for this observer on a school night.



Above: April's 8 day old Moon

The Sun is also a wonderful target, provided you have the correct experience and equipment to observe it safely. NEVER observe the sun through binoculars or a telescope unless it is fitted with the correct filters and you know what you are doing, instant blindness is a real possibility. If you want to do this safely and are unsure, then please contact me and I will be happy to advise.



Above: Active regions on the Sun

Essential safety warnings done, the sun is now waking up after what is called Solar Minimum; a period of quietness during which there is little or no activity to view. These cycles occur approximately every eleven years so we now have the promise of a few years of interesting observations as it heads through Solar Maximum.

I often find myself setting up my solar scope in the morning, leaving it tracking the sun so I can observe periodically during the day watching for changes then, come the evening, I switch it to astro mode and repeat the same exercise on the Moon, a combination I really enjoy.

So, to specific events to report on. First off this time, the Nova. What is a Nova I hear you cry? In this case it is not a 1980s Vauxhall (showing my age there), but far more excitingly a white dwarf star which has pulled sufficient gas from a nearby star for it to heat up to the point of rapid, runaway nuclear fusion. The result? Well visually it is quite undramatic, a normally very faint or even invisible star increases in brightness to the point of being easily visible in binoculars or even the naked eye. It still just looks like a star, so to most it is relatively boring, but to us astro geeks it is a relatively infrequent event that is fun to observe over a period of weeks to track the changes.

Observing both the Sun and Moon is generally done at high magnifications of, say, x100 or more on the Sun and sometimes over x300 on the Moon. Being able to do this depends on the stability of the atmosphere. It is only fairly occasionally that the air is very stable and on these nights the views can be stunning, with very fine detail showing through. On 20th April this year, I had put out a small telescope to view the Moon, and could tell it was going to be one of those nights, so out came a larger 8" scope, designed for high power Lunar views. Using over x300, I was able to get clear views of one of my favourite features called Hadley Rille. This is a sinuous valley

believed to have been created by ancient lava flows, and is near the site of the Apollo 15 lunar landing in 1971. To avoid any copyright issues, if you Google 'Hadley Rille images' you will see what I am referring to. This target needs just the right illumination ie the correct lunar phase, and good seeing conditions to see well, and that is just what I had on that night, very rewarding.

My best solar observing so far this year was on 27th May, with a combination of good skies and two major active regions visible on the solar surface to observe. These are regions of disturbance in the Sun's magnetic field which cause cooler areas on the surface, appearing darker than the surroundings. These can be very complex, and quite stunning to view under good conditions. These conditions also allow the tiny granulation cells which cover the whole solar surface to be observed, again quite mesmerising to watch them slowly change over a period of ten to fifteen minutes. The first solar image was taken by me, using a smartphone held to the eyepiece of the scope and gives an idea of the view, although the reality was much sharper and with beautiful fine detail visible. The other highlight was, of course, the partial solar eclipse on 10th June which I was lucky enough to catch through gaps in the cloud.



Above: The Partial Solar Eclipse

WAG managed our first meet up this year on 20th May for a little lunar and double star observing. Astronomy has flourished during lockdown, but largely as a solitary activity, or within family groups. Hopefully as things open up we shall soon return to more regular meetings on the Green, so we look forward to seeing some of you then.

Stuart Davis, Chair

Email: wag_chair@aol.co.uk

"Remembering a lost relative to Covid -19" The National Covid Memorial Wall by St. Thomas' Hospital, Westminster Bridge



Photo: Angela Stockbridge

VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

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

AUTUMN: Friday September 3rd September by 1pm

WINTER/CHRISTMAS: Friday Friday 19 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 Village 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.AFCWestend.com website and the West End Facebook Group

We thank you all for your continued support.

WEST END PLAYGROUP

Thank you to West End Village Residents from West End Playgroup.



West End Playgroup has been part of village life for nearly 50 years. The playgroup was started by a group of village parents in 1975, as a place where children from the village and beyond could come to play and learn in a safe, loving environment. West End Playgroup has evolved since those early days into an Ofsted Outstanding preschool, whilst retaining its charity status and strong parental links, through the parent committee, who remain directors and trustees of the playgroup.

During the last 46 years in the village, the playgroup has had its up and downs. But we have never faced challenges like we have this past year. As I am sure most of you are aware, the playgroup closed last March and unfortunately, we were not able to open again until September.

Staff morale when we reopened was low. We had very few children attending and we all felt that we were being treated like 'cannon fodder' by the government. We were told that while the rest of the world must keep their distance and wear a face mask, Early Years staff were to continue to have close contact without the protection of a face mask. We were relieved to find that children, if infected with covid, were unlikely to suffer serious consequences, but we were also told that they could be 'super spreaders' of the virus!

With a small staff team, some of whom are the wrong side of 60, and who fall into the vulnerable category, this was a very scary time. However, we did our best to put on a brave face and carry on, but soon the inevitable happened, a staff member caught Covid-19. The playgroup had to close for two weeks in October, only a month after its reopening. We opened again, November and December passed without incident. We all began to feel more upbeat.

Then, in January, we opened our doors only to be immediately struck by another case of Covid. Luckily the staff member had not been at work with the children, but had unfortunately been in a staff meeting with the whole team. Consequently, the whole team had to go into self-isolation, which meant another closure for the playgroup. At this point we started to lose our very loyal working parents, who had no alternative but to find other childcare options.

Fearing that all the remaining staff would be infected, and considering the consequences for those in the vulnerable category, some of whom I have worked with for over 15 years, my priority was to keep them safe and well until they reach their retirement this coming July.

At this point, I felt it was the end for West End Playgroup in the village.

However, the staff team rallied, those younger, fitter staff members (in their 40's and 50's!) created a core 'super team'. We reopened after two weeks with Jo, Sam, Holly and Jess and following a round of phone conversations with our parents we managed to get most of them back, and so although numbers were still low, we were open.

We continued with those low child numbers until the schools reopened on 8th March and then everything changed...

Our phone started ringing off the hook!

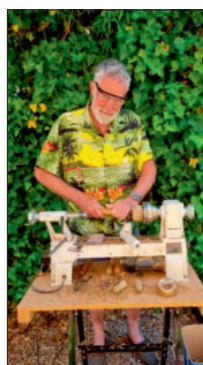
We resumed Covid safe viewings, sometimes squeezing in four viewings in a morning. Parents now wait by the playground fence while their children come in to have a look inside.

Suddenly everything has started looking up. Our numbers have increased and our sessions for September are now looking healthy. The playgroup parent committee are working hard to help us continue our recovery, as are many members of the village.

It appears that the threat to the future of West End Playgroup from Covid 19 is over, and having faced this incredible challenge, we are thankful for the support of our parents and the village community and we look forward to providing outstanding childcare for another 50 years!

*Helen Yates
Manager West End Playgroup*

SURREY ARTISTS OPEN STUDIOS 5th —20th June 2021



Left: Roger Marsden, the wood turner.

Rosalind Moysen together with Keira Graham, Janet Stanley, Dawn Thornhill Beryl Hole, Wendy Hale and Roger Marsden, once again organised an absolutely beautiful display of their artwork, ceramics, woodwork, embroidery, sculptures and metalwork at Rose Cottage Stables with strict Covid-19 safety measures in place.

Ann Hunt held an exhibition at home of her wonderful art collection including painting on glass and local cottages and village scenes.

Also on display were some gorgeous Pet Portraits in Gouache/original water colour painting (some worked on black velvet) by Janet Horne. The detail is stunning!

Right:
DawnThornhill
with an
interested visitor
enjoying her
beautiful
prints inspired
by nature and
animals



Anne Hunt
with a selection
from her
wonderful
collection
showing a
colourful
scenes of
village life.

Right: Rosalind
Moysen, on the
left, explaining to
visitors the
methods used for
the sculpture in
her garden at Rose
Cottage.



*Photos:
Angela Stockbridge*

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WINTERDOWN WI

Sadly we are still not able to have our normal monthly meetings. Marion Ford and Ann Tennant have kept everyone up to date with news from the Surrey and National WI. Two Zoom meetings have been undertaken with varying degrees of success and an informal meeting of six friends was held outside the Village Hall where some WI business was conducted.

At the beginning of May six members attended a craft afternoon in Ann Tennant's garden. There was not much in the way of craft done but everyone enjoyed catching up with all the news.

This year Winterdown WI is 50 years old and Marion had been presented with a Certificate from the NFWI board of Trustees to commemorate this event. The plan was to have a big celebration for the Golden Anniversary on June 3rd. However, those plans were rather ruined by the pandemic. The Committee worked very hard to make arrangements for some sort of festivity and Margaret Dane came to the rescue by offering to have a gathering in her garden.

The weather was kind to us and, although rain threatened, the evening was quite warm. Eighteen members and two visitors came to join the celebration. On arrival we were each greeted with a 'golden' rose and a glass of fruit cup. No WI celebration is complete without cake and there was not just one cake but two as, when it was ordered, Waitrose thought one would not be enough and kindly donated another to ensure everyone had some. The cake was duly cut and served by Sue and Beverley. Marion Ford proposed a toast to Winterdown's 50th birthday and we all drank to the toast with sparkling wine with the very apt name of 'Surrey Gold'. Ann Tennant gave a vote of thanks to Margaret Dane for entertaining us in her beautiful garden and Marion presented her with a 'golden' shrub rose to remind her of the occasion. There was a draw for the four Bursaries presented this year. All four winners donated their bursary to our WI to fund either an outing or speaker that everyone could enjoy.



Left: Margaret Dollimore (in blue) serving fruit cup.

Photo: Margaret Dane

Right: Members enjoying the evening

Photo: Micki Scales



Winterdown WI normally meet on the first Thursday of the month at 8.00pm in West End Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome. Current restrictions mean that any meetings for the time being will be outdoors. If you would like to join us please Contact: Secretary, Ann Tennant on 01372 466725 or visit our website: www.winterdownwi.co.uk



Above Left: View from the Balcony

Above right: The Birthday Cake

Photos: Margaret Dane

Report by Caroline Thyer

A Message from Margaret Dane

In February President Marion reminded us that we would be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in June. My offer of a venue was accepted on a chilly March morning, following an inspection. I was happy to follow the committee's suggestion of inviting members to arrive from 6pm onwards.

Margaret Dollimore arrived promptly with her wonderful fruit cup, and so did member Glenyce Alexander in her gold outfit, with her two guests, and Suzanne Hood, a founder member accompanied by her daughter Fiona, who was happy to sample said fruit cup.

It so happened that in August 1988 there was a party here in the garden to celebrate my mother's 90th birthday. Some guests were from the Rosemary Court Care Home, where my mother lived. The WI members were chiefly bridge players, from our WI classes.

On June 3rd there was a display of photos from this 90th birthday event, and Secretary, Ann Tennant, had brought all the Winterdown archives, which included a large number of photos as well. It was interesting for all to see photos of members sadly no longer with us, especially founder member Betty Whitney, and Chris Burrows.

Members greatly enjoyed meeting and chatting, after all the restrictions, and our guests expressed their appreciation of the warm welcome they received by members.

As hostess I had a wonderful evening, enjoying welcoming and chatting with friends, appreciating the gold garments and jewellery, and in one case a 70's dress, which the member concerned had no problem getting into it again! We all loved Ann's floral offering. I was delighted to be presented with the rose Precious Amber, my first floribunda. I will see it is well looked after!

In addition I was given a fantastic card, headed "A Huge Thank You," signed by all present, who all very kindly expressed their great appreciation of my lockdown project "improve the garden".

Right: Glenyce Alexander, Suzanne Hood and President, Marion Ford, looking at the archives.

Photo: Margaret Dane



NEWS FROM WEST END COMMON JUNE 2021

After a cold spring things are catching up and the Common is looking lush and bursting into flower. The areas thinned in 2018 are looking really good now with a healthy understory of natural regeneration developing, providing homes for all our wildlife. The final stage of the thinning works on West End Common will take place south of the pylon line around The Homewood this autumn and the timber will be extracted to the Portsmouth Road.

We have had a huge increase in visitors and there are paths and boardwalks that have deteriorated. We have scheduled repairs to the revetment on the rifle range path for later in the summer.

The ponds are all in good condition and the heavy rain of the 17-18th June is the signal for thousands of froglets and toadlets to leave the ponds and start their terrestrial lives. By the time you read this they will have dispersed but this annual migration can be quite a sight and make a bit of an obstacle course for walkers!

There has been an increase in Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) reports and activity on many of our sites, and I have seen some large nests on West End Common. The tiny hairs from the caterpillars can cause painful and long lasting rashes and residents are advised to be careful anywhere under oak trees and not to come into contact with the nests. We will continue to assess OPM occurrences and nests that are found in very high risk locations will be assessed for removal. Please consider long sleeved loose fitting clothing, and also that sun cream or other lotions can make the skin more sticky and make reactions worse. On the positive side this species has been followed into the country by species of parasitic flies which I have observed on West End Common laying eggs into the caterpillar's nest. Also our bird species are learning to utilise this new food source.



Right: Oak Processionary Moth (Thaumetopoea processionea) nest on West End Common with a parasitic fly on the right of the caterpillars.

Hopefully this will result in a reduction of this species in the future.

If you have any questions about the wildlife or the management of West End Common please get in touch.

Dave Page
Countryside Estates Officer
dpag@elmbbridge.gov.uk

BUTTONS & BOW Over 60s (The Busy Bees)

"Here we go again, all good friends but missing the company" as the song goes!

I can't believe we are still unable to meet up on our Monday afternoons BUT it will happen soon, so chins up! The main thing is we need to be Safe and Keep to the rules whatever they may be.

The speakers and entertainers that we had booked before lockdown are still going to be able to come along when the time arrives.

If when reading this report you would like to know more about us, this is what we offer:

Friendship, Entertainment, Speakers, Bingo, Raffle, Quizzes and a Lottery, not forgetting a coffee or tea with biscuits.

We will also hopefully resume outings, lunches and holidays in due course. Want to know more?

Then please give me, Betty Bowpitt, a call on 01372 465937.

I should love to hear from you,

STAY SAFE and KEEP SMILING!

Betty Bowpitt



THE CERCLE FRANCAIS d'ESHER



Year 2021-2022 will start on October 20th, 2021 either in the Village Hall or on Zoom depending on the Covid situation.

In the meantime, the Cercle Français d'Esher, the Cercle d'Eastbourne and the Cercle of Nottingham have joined forces to offer on Zoom, on the 14th of July, a splendid celebration: there will be the history of the 14th of July, songs and fireworks. All this to financially support a young couple with two children who have not had much work during the pandemic. I realise that it is not a local event but it is something very worthwhile. Do you think anyone would be interested to know about it? As it will be on Zoom, we ask for a contribution of £5 per person.

Please note the change to the meetings' time, we start at 8 pm not 8:15pm. This applies for when we meet at the West End Village Hall.

Anyone interested in joining should contact
Mrs Brigitte Tiller: brigitte@ptiller.com
or visit our website :

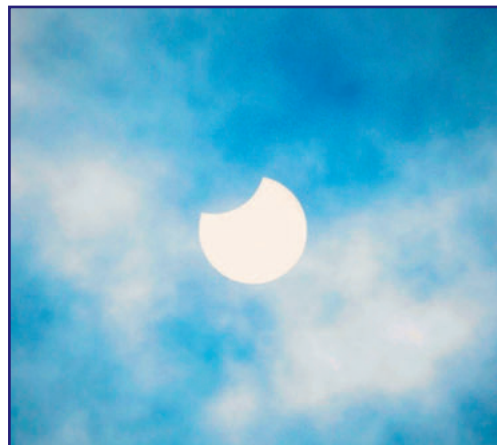
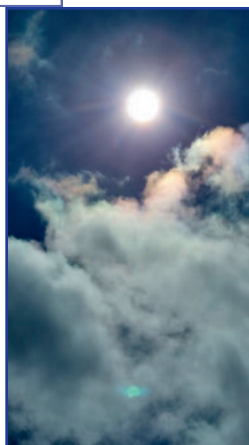
www.dontyzack.care4free.net/cercle.html



An Annular Eclipse occurred on **June 10, 2021**, when the Moon passed between Earth and the Sun, thereby partly obscuring the image of the Sun for a viewer on Earth. During the eclipse, the Moon's apparent diameter was smaller than the Sun's, so it caused the Sun to look like an annulus (ring of fire).

These images were taken on 10th June at 11.45am from my back garden of the partial eclipse. Completely unprepared because of the thick cloud cover, I rushed indoors to get my camera and managed capture this on the spur of the moment when there was a break in the clouds! I know they are not masterpieces like the WAG's fabulous images, but at least I tried!!

Angela Stock-bridge



COVID-19 UPDATE

The persistence of the dreadful Covid-19 pandemic and latest Indian (Delta) variant has caused an increase in infections and prevented the proposed final easing of the 3rd lockdown in England on 21st June. As a result the Government has extended this date to 19th July.

Despite the extremely successful vaccine rollout and the reduction in hospital cases, numbers are once again on the rise and up to 17th June 42,460, 632 people have received the first dose and 30,988,467 the second dose.

Although we are all looking forward to a holiday in the sun trips abroad are still on a traffic light system with only a few countries on the green list, but in some cases even these are not accepting tourists from the UK! Travelling to countries on the amber or red lists is banned unless considered essential. Many countries have strict quarantine and testing rules in place, not to mention the cost of Covid tests required before and after travelling and the requirement to isolate on return to the UK in Government listed hotels at huge expense. There are several types of COVID-19 tests: molecular (PCR) test, antigen ("rapid") or lateral flow test, and an antibody (blood) test. All 18-20 year olds are now being vaccinated in droves! However, vaccines have not yet been approved for children under the age of 12. The Government is planning a booster campaign in the Autumn and is awaiting results of various trials.

If you must travel abroad remember it is important to check the testing and quarantine requirements in both the destination country and on return before travelling!

Let's hope that the surge in testing and vaccinating individuals allows the Government to relax the lockdown rules on 19th July once and for all! *Angela Stockbridge*

PHOTOGRAPHIC CORNER

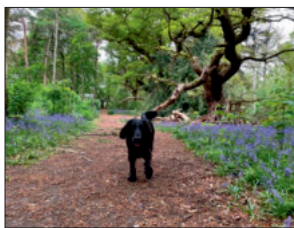


Above: The first baby Robin



Above: Blue Tit fledglings. They flew on 2nd June. These lovely images were sent in by Don Tyzack.

INDY'S SUMMER DOG BLOG



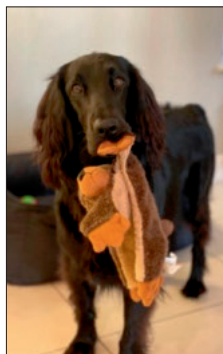
West End in Summer is Best End. I just love it don't you? The whole world and their dog are out on the green. Birds sing, the sun finally shines and no mud! I roll on the freshly cut grass and kick my legs in the air.

Now, I know it's hot and running naked in this warm weather is fun but you should always wear your collar or harness with your address but not your name because of all the dog thefts being reported across the UK at the moment. You can't be too careful so make sure you brush up on your recall, always keep your family in sight and don't talk to strangers or take treats from them. Being chipped is a great way to be identified if you get lost so make sure your family keeps the chip updated through your Vet. Some of my friends even wear trackers. (That is a GPS device attached to your collar).

Also watch out for those long training leads as my Nana and I were walking in Stoke Park when a beefy black Labrador puppy ran towards me catching the lead around his owner's leg and broke her ankle. What a catastrophe that was! Nana said it wasn't my fault as I was just running back to her on command. I felt bad though and sat very still whilst Nana helped the poor lady to a seat and called for help.

The other day when it was as hot and sunny Mummy washed all my toys and hung them out to dry. They took ages, but I was very patient and now I'm a bit worried that Mummy will hang me up by my ears next time I get washed.

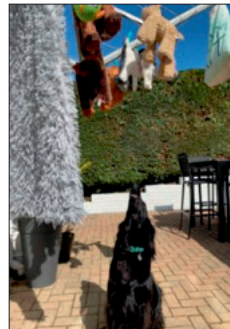
As a special treat one Sunday evening my family and I strolled to the West End Sports and Social Club where we eat pizza from the Dough Shack, drank and watched the cricket.



I enjoyed wandering around greeting people as they arrived (I think people appreciate a welcoming wag as it usually achieves a stroke and some kind words). After a busy time as maitre d (maitre dog of course) I stretched out under the table and waited for pizza to drop from above. Ahh Summer Sunday's are the best!

Remember, if you see me out and about in West End don't forget to stop and say hello.

Indy



THE GREAT WEST END PICNIC

The picnic was organised by members of the Cricket Club and took place on Sunday 30 May. It was well attended and included a softplay and games for children, a Raffle, the Club Bar and Gin Bar, a BBQ and the Dough Shack. Cricketers and residents alike enjoyed the afternoon relaxing on the green in glorious sunshine!

Photo: Angela Stockbridge



THE VILLAGE CLUB



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

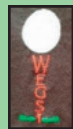
THE VILLAGE CLUB SPECIAL



Esher & District
RPC



WEST END GOLF SOCIETY



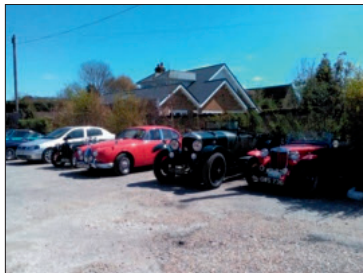
Anyone wishing to join the
WEGS can call

Dave Morgan on
07956 129987
or
Allistar Goff on
07958 221566

WEST END MOTOR CLUB



Tuesday morning coffee meetings



FBHVC Drive it Day

Having spent the best part of a year under lock down, as rules relaxed it was time to use our classic cars again. The regular Tuesday morning outings for drivers and cars are proving very popular. As written before, we have been meeting at local cafes for morning coffee and a chat about progress or otherwise of maintenance work on our cars.

Recent meetings have been at Ryka's Café, Denbies Vineyard and the Hogs Back Café. Now that opening times have been extended to 6 days a week, we meet nowhere else than our own Village Social Club. Our first meeting there attracted 12 classic cars and owners tempted by the best bacon rolls we have so far encountered in the course of our extensive survey. We also went to the Saddlers Arms at Send on the last Sunday in April for the FBHVC Drive It Day.



Mike's MGA



WESSC coffee meet



Tony's Jaguar 3.8

Pocklington Memorial Rally

Each year motor club members remember our dear friend Charles Pocklington by spending a few days away together and raising a glass to all our lost friends. Last year's rally was postponed due to covid, so we have carried forward our plan to visit and explore all things motoring around Wiltshire, no doubt sampling the local brew at our hostelry. We intend visiting a car museum, testing our karting skills and re-enacting a historic hill climb. We hope to provide a full report for the next edition of Village News.



Austin 7 Update

In the last edition you may have seen my 1929 Fabric bodied saloon pictured on the back of a trailer on its way to a specialist in Kent for more than running repairs. Well, all repairs have been completed and it has been trailed back to West End. I'm glad to report that it is running well and is pictured here at Denbies Vineyard at a coffee morning meeting with its 84 year young friend. High speed isn't a consideration with this old car which is at its happiest pottering around Surrey lanes rather than run the gauntlet of the A3 and other race tracks.

Social Evenings A few of us meet at the village social club for a pint and natter every Thursday at about 8pm. No need to be a classic car owner, or come in one, all enthusiasts welcome.

Text by Ken, Photos by Ken and Roger

Esher & District
RPC



The club, like other sections, had a very disappointing autumn and winter due to lockdown. However, with the easing of lockdown and DEFRA restoring the general licence for pigeon racing, the season eventually started. Our first race was on May 1st and since then we have been able to race our birds every weekend.

Our Secretary of long standing Allen Palmer, ably assisted these days by his daughter Abigail, has continued to race his birds regularly, gaining a good Federation position in a race from Honiton. We are all pleased that Allen is still competing regularly.

We are now approaching the part of the season when the races get longer. Racing from France is still not possible so our long races are from Cornwall, culminating in a race from Sennen Cove which is a 250 mile fly that will test the birds stamina.

Michael Charlton (Chairman)



AFC West End Celebrate Football Pitch Funding Success

£10,000 awarded to AFC WEST END to improve the quality of the football pitches on West End Common.

AFC West End which has teams in the Guildford and Woking Alliance and Leatherhead Sunday Football Leagues has been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation, to radically improve the pitches on West End Common, Esher.

The six-year tapered grant, part of the Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund, will be used to improve drainage, remove the weeds and top dress the playing surface.

The investment was provided following the completion of a pitch inspection using the Football Foundation's specially developed app, PitchPower, which is a mobile tool used for assessing the quality of grass football pitches.

These grants are key to the Foundation's aim to help create 5,000 more quality pitches before the end of 2024, in line with the FA's Grassroots Strategy. Alongside its PitchPower assessment tool, the Football Foundation has also created an online groundskeeping community called The Hive to provide expert support and advice to clubs. Anyone in Surrey can find out more and sign up at <https://footballfoundation.org.uk/grass-pitch-improvement>

Eric Strange, Chairman and Keith Harris, Secretary who negotiated the grant are thrilled at the award. "We will be much better prepared to get through any wet winters which have always been a challenge for us. We are used to losing so many games due to flooding and that also seems to encourage weeds and restrict the grass growing! We are really looking forward to seeing the playing surface improve over the coming years" commented Keith.

Robert Sullivan, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: "This grant award to AFC West End towards improving the soccer pitches on the common is vital for the local community. Our Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund is supporting clubs across the country, helping them enhance and sustain their pitches to improve access to good quality facilities for grassroots players."

"This is part of our wider ambition to get more people involved in football, regardless of their background, age or ability. By unlocking the power of pitches, we can help transform the lives of players and strengthen communities through the nation's favourite game."

The Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund provides eligible clubs and leagues with a tapered six-year grant to help them sustain pitches already at a 'good' level or higher and enhance pitches that are either considered 'poor' or 'basic'.

The grant comes as part of an investment of more than £16m that has been made available to help clubs prepare for the restart of grassroots football following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Football Foundation is the UK's largest sports charity and exists to improve the experience of playing football for everyone, by championing fair access to quality facilities.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Eric Strange at e.strange@sky.com or on 07831117755

Notes to editors

About the Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund

Opened on 15 March as part of the Football Foundation's 'Game On' campaign, this fund provides eligible leagues and organisations six-year tapered grants to improve the quality of grass pitches. These grants form a key part in the Foundation's delivery of the FA's Grassroots Strategy and its commitment to add at least 5000 quality pitches to the current number by 2024.

The Football Foundation

The Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation is the largest sports charity in the UK. It champions and supports fair access to quality football facilities for everyone, regardless of gender, race, disability or place.

The Foundation receives money from the Premier League, The FA and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, through Sport England. This is matched with partnership funding and awarded as grants to create outstanding grassroots facilities that enable better games and attract more players, helping to transform communities.

Since 2000, it has awarded more than 17,600 grants to improve facilities worth more than £710m – including 942 artificial grass pitches, 6,426 natural grass pitches and 1,200 changing facilities. This has attracted an additional £940m of partnership funding – totalling over £1.6bn investment in grassroots football so far.

Through the Foundation, the Premier League, The FA, DCMS and Sport England have come together to create the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) that will guide work over the next 10 years to transform many more local facilities. Local Football Facility Plans (LFFP) are being created to identify priority projects where demand is greatest, and the impact will be strongest and help stimulate the action required to deliver them.

Visit footballfoundation.org.uk for more information on the Foundation.

Eric Strange



WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB

Well, the sun shone brightly on our first ever West End Picnic event which proved very popular with the village and club membersmy thanks to the organisers Sinead and Gareth Bint, Helen Hambleton, Helen Whincup and all the other members that helped on the day .

The Colts cricket on Friday evenings is proving more popular than ever with over 120 children participating from the ages of 5 years to 15 year olds. Our colts chairman Chris Hambleton has appointed a new head coach Imran Khan who has had a very positive affect on the way we organise and run our sessions along with encouraging more juniors down to join our club from Claremont school where he teaches.

We are running 2 senior sides on a Saturday and a strong Sunday XI every weekend with capacity to look to run another XI on the weekend as more and more players take up cricket once again and the clubs reputation carries on receiving good reviews!

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we are unable to run the traditional Party By The Pond event on the 29th August this year, but we are planning a six aside tournament on the day followed by a small food and music festival in the eveningkeep the date free please with more news to follow!

Mike Bacon (Chairman WEECC) www.weecc.co.uk



A club and league record 2nd wicket partnership against Ewell CCplayers are Michael Macintosh and Gareth Hunter... Individual scores were 157 not out and 153 not... unbelievable cricket and put West End on the cricket map around the UK...

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