



VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

Volume 20 Issue 4
CHRISTMAS EDITION
2023

THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AT ESHER WAR MEMORIAL SUNDAY 12th NOVEMBER



The stunning flowers in the nave and round the font of Christ Church were arranged by Carol Calvert.

Photo: Margaret Dane

The new recyclable poppy.



Top: The Act of Remembrance was led by Revd Darren McCallig followed by a Service in Christ Church. Above: L-R: Revd Darren McCallig, Dominic Raab MP, Naomi Bedford, Gp Capt Peter Bedford President of 1034 (Surbiton & Esher) Sqn Air Cadets, Sqn Ldr June Machin, Surrey Wing Air Cadets, Margaret Dane, Donald Elms, Cllr Simon Waugh, ERA, Cllr David Young, ERA.

Below: The 1st Esher District Brownies looking very smart. More photos inside.



THE PRINCE OF WALES OPENING ON 7TH DECEMBER

We look forward to the opening of the Prince of Wales in December following several months of building work and refurbishment. The Orangery below already looks amazing.



Above: The Contract Manager, Dave (right) and Russell the Commercial Manager, gave me permission to go on site briefly to take these images for the newsletter.

Below: The Outside Bar.



The handover to Greene King will take place on 24th November. Residents are invited to 'An Evening of Character & Splendiness' on Monday 4th December from 6.30pm. Complimentary food and drinks will be provided. RSVP: princeofwales@rewiredpr.com The wet weather has delayed the completion of the landscaping and car park. There will be an increase in the number of parking spaces at the rear and to the side of the property. I think you will agree the improvements look fantastic. *Angela Stockbridge*

FESTIVE GREETINGS



The Village News team would like to welcome all new residents who have recently moved into the village. We hope you will enjoy living in this very unique and friendly community.

We wish all our readers and their families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you will all participate in the festivities in the village over the holiday period, including the very popular Carol Concert in St George's Church on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to all our 'Friends' and volunteers whose help and support makes the publication of the Village News possible.

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 3528 Nick Reynolds is Sgt for Esher and Claygate
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://elmbridgehw.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/SurreyPolice> & X (formerly Twitter)

IN THE KNOW—Surrey & Sussex

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

- ◆ Be aware that burglaries are being reported in the area with Christmas coming up it is important to ensure your houses and cars are secure.
- ◆ Keep all windows securely locked at all times and once again please remove all valuable items from cars when parked. Car thefts continue. Number plates were stolen in the Epsom area.
- ◆ Report suspicious emails to SERS (Suspicious Email Reporting Service). Mobile phone providers also offer a service which allows customers to report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to 7726.
- ◆ There have been a number of bicycle thefts reported in the area—please keep yours safely stored and securely padlocked.
- ◆ Theft from ‘hole in the wall’ cash dispensers are occurring in the area. Please stay vigilant when drawing out money.

BYGONE DAYS—WEST END WI 1937

This photo shows West End WI taking part in the 1937 Coronation celebrations in the village. Following the abdication of Edward VIII, his brother George VI (Queen Elizabeth II’s father) was crowned King. Roy Thompson (Peter Thompson’s father and Derek Richardson’s uncle) is in the driver’s seat. Bill Flippance, who is the great grandfather of Jo Flippance, is standing by the horse holding the reins. The cart belonged to Garsons. The photo appears in the book ‘Our Village—A Portrait of West End’ giving a history of the village and written by the late George Thirtle. Cost £4.99. Please contact: angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com if you wish to purchase a copy.



WEST END VILLAGE SHOW AGM

Following another successful Show on August Bank Holiday Saturday, we held our AGM in the Village Hall on Monday 6th November and it was good to see old friends in attendance that evening. As you’ll be aware, all profits from the Show go to local charities and good causes. This year we received requests from three organisations and their representatives made presentations at the meeting. After due consideration, all charitable donations will be decided upon on at our January committee meeting.

For the coming year, there is a changing of the guard on the committee. I am pleased to announce the appointment of a new Chairman and a new Treasurer. Alastair Joel, who many will know from Garsons Farm, will take over my role after six years. Simon Ashwell will take over as Treasurer from Nina Maddows who notched up nine years in the role. Also stepping down is Grant Ferrett, our Vice-Chairman, who has done a superb job organising Sideshows for many years. As ever, we continue to seek new committee members. If you would be interested in joining the committee or know of anyone who would like to learn more about the Show, please get in touch. Our contact details are on the website: www.westendflowershow.co.uk.

It’s been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Chairman and I am ever grateful for all the hard work done by a brilliant team who put together the Show every year. Next year’s Show takes place on Saturday 24th August and we look forward to seeing you there.

*Steve Kelly
West End Village Show*



WEST END VILLAGE HALL

A very Merry Christmas from all the Trustees at the Village Hall to everyone in the Village!

Perhaps you would like to catch up with family and friends over the Christmas break, but the house isn't large enough to host everyone on the same day?

A beautiful setting and well-equipped, whatever your requirements. We also have WiFi available. www.wevh.org

If you think you can spare a couple of hours a month, maybe you would like to join our friendly team! You can reach us at: admin@wevh.org

Jo Flippance, Chair

West End Village Hall



Ideal for children’s parties, meetings, functions and family occasions.
Adult parties strictly for Village Residents only by special arrangement.

TO BOOK

Visit: wevh.org
Mail: hirehall@wevh.org

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.




Making children happy since 1975
Ofsted Outstanding for over a decade
 Tel: 07395 901584
www.westendplaygroup.com
 Registered charity number 1100523



WEST END PLAYGROUP

Hello to you all, Here at West End Playgroup we have been enjoying our time back after the long six week holiday, missing those who have moved on to school, welcoming our lovely new comers and reacquainting with those coming back for further fun. We have been embracing our fun packed schedule with topics such as, 'all about me' and healthy eating, to name a few. We finished the first half of the term with a visit from a dentist, who also happens to be a grandpa to one of the children. This was a huge success, and he very patiently told us how to brush our teeth, how often we should do so and what foods we should eat in order to keep our teeth and gums healthy. He had some creative ideas to demonstrate, such as dressing his granddaughter as a huge tooth with a big brush to use for cleaning her correctly. The children remained fully engaged during this session and put up their hands to ask questions. Needless to say all the staff were very proud of them, we are still talking about this lovely treat, so a hearty thank you to Grandpa for giving his time and making the talk so interesting.



Once our half term holiday had finished, we came back to make poppies for Remembrance Sunday and discuss the huge importance of the day. We also made lamps to take home for Diwali and Shilpa told the children the story of this festival. All our topics incorporate activities that help with the fine motor skills needed for writing in the future.



You may also have seen and heard us outside exercising our gross motor skills on the bikes and scooters, it is lovely for us to have chats with locals that are passing by. It is also a joy for us to be able to watch the seasons change looking over the duck pond or on our jaunts to Forest School, we feel very lucky to be so connected to nature in such a beautiful setting

inspiring a curiosity about the world around us. We have seen a fair few rainbows whilst we have been out and about, not only a learning opportunity for the children but also a truly magical sight. As the end of the year approaches it is time for us to concentrate on all things Christmas.

Have a close listen as you amble by and you may hear our dulcet tones rehearsing our festive Songs, there will be a fair amount of red and green paint being used too, another indication of our antics for the season.

As always, we are spending our precious 'circle time' (our chat time), talking about how we are feeling, what makes us happy or sad, the benefits to our self-esteem from being independent within our safe environment and the importance of being kind to one another, something that we pride ourselves at within our Playgroup family and lessons that will hopefully be a basis to a happy and successful future for our little charges.

I shall sign off here wishing you all health and happiness for the rest of the year and beyond and look forward to those chats over the fence.

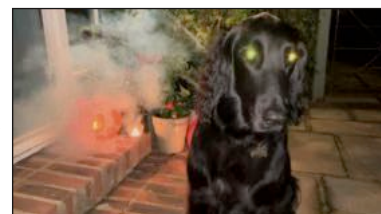
The children and grown-ups of West End Playgroup wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Article and Photos : Jo Weston-Jones

INDY'S WINTER DOG BLOG

Hello again all you lovely dogs and people in West End. My big scoop this time (no, not *that* sort of poop scoop - honestly, have we really resorted to gutter press?) is the Big Drama that took place here in West End the other day when Millie, a fun, fox red labrador from the village went missing in West End woods. We were all beside ourselves with worry and I was particularly sad as she's my neighbour. My family, along with nearly everybody in her road and, I think, perhaps the whole village headed into the woods in a frantic search and rescue mission. (We all love a good sniff in the undergrowth don't we?) Word quickly spread on the hand held telephones that humans use and we dogs barked our distress across the village. Everyone was out looking. Her Daddy was whistling, neighbours were calling and us dogs were howling but to no avail and hope was fading as the busy Portsmouth Road loomed in our minds.

Finally, to everyone's relief a few hours later, the brilliant news came through that Millie had been found safe and well. She had been taken to the vets by a very kind lady and the vet was able to locate Millie's Daddy via the chip in her neck. Phew! Thank goodness for chips. (Mmmn food, yes, love chips, although I shouldn't!) Sorry, I digress. I'm so glad everyone has a chip. I have heard that some humans have theirs on their shoulders.



Trick or Treat went by in a splash but was still good fun. I dressed up as usual although, yet again, there were still no dog treats on offer! Maybe next year?

So, who have I met this time? With the last of the Summer wine at the Social Club, when Mummy and Daddy said they were taking me for a walk, we ended up just having a drink but the good thing, by the warm glow of the heaters, I met a lovely lady called Avril who gave me the best tickle behind the ears. Also on the way back to my house another day I chatted to a very pretty spaniel with a lilting Welsh name, Lolo.



One of joys of walking in West End is being able to sit, sniff the air and enjoy the views. Do you know that in many places, to remember special people, there are benches in the best locations? I like to think about those people, this time I sat by Melfyn and Joy Lewis's bench. Sometimes in this busy world it's good to just sit and paws for thought.

So, here we go again, slip, sliding away in West End during yet another wet Autumn but the upside is that Christmas is just around the corner. As you all must know by now, Christmas is my favourite time of year. I can't wait! Let's hope I can meet you all in the Prince of Wales when it opens in early December. I wish you all a pawsome Christmas and don't forget, if you see me, do stop and say hello, I'm the flat coated retriever with the pretty pink collar.

Indy 

HALLOWEEN & GARSONS PUMPKIN PARADE



Above: Collecting the Pumpkins! There were hundreds to choose from, all grown on the farm. Once again the talented staff put on very artistic and colourful displays of pumpkins painted as popular characters in all different colours and sizes! Wheelbarrows were at hand in which to collect and transport the chosen pumpkins.

From the start of the parade the word 'BOO', two eyes with the words 'We are watching you!' and a 'graveyard', gave a sense of the fun awaiting you. There were games to play including noughts and crosses with flower pots, places for selfies, a very pink display of Barbie characters to gruesome skeletons, snakes, witches hats and bats hanging from the roof of the poly tunnels. Children also enjoyed Trick or Treat in the village and some gardens were haunted by ghouls, witches and ghosts and were too scary to enter!



Thank you to all the Garsons staff for the time and effort you put into such an amazing parade. We look forward to more creative displays and fun next year!

Photos: Angela Stockbridge

MY SESSION WITH ROBOTUGS

So after my army servo experience and successful years of computer controlled machines and good relations with Cincinnati, things seemed to be going well. Among other projects I had a small job which had to be done after the machines were shut down. This was near Wolverhampton.

After we had fixed our machine we made our way back to the hotel. I rang the bell. No response! Tried again. This time I could hear the bell ringing, so I kept my finger on the button and eventually the door crept ajar! When we pushed it, it opened more until the drunken night porter fell at our feet. We made him comfortable and went and found his key locker. We went up to our rooms and I got into my bed. But to my horror my bed was smashed in the middle. That was when I learned to use an empty drawer to support a broken bed. Believe it or not it works, and you can sleep that way!

Back at our laboratory I found myself designing next a device called a Stacker Crane and when that worked and was saleable our marketing guys found other challenges. These all seemed to require new patents and were part of the fun. Next to our lab was another group of electronic engineers who were involved with driverless vehicles. (Who said driverless vehicles were modern?) To my surprise one morning my boss called me into his office and I learned this story:-

"The next door lads have had a bit of a calamity with their new Robotugs. Although only an embryonic group with this new untried design, they won an order and completed the installation of a 40 tug system in GKN's nut and bolt warehouse at Darlestone.

This new system was launched last night after working hours, when all the big-wigs, (Managing Directors), were invited to see the launch. All went well for a few minutes and then in a distant corner there was a bang. Soon after there was another, then another, and before long the whole warehouse was like a battlefield. The reason for the bangs was that the electronic circuits controlling the tugs only just worked. If the tug was going around a bend it might drift a bit off the line and sometimes leave the track. And the signals which were supposed to tell it where to stop did not always work."



Youngman's Robotug 1963 EMI



Conveyancer's Robotug 1962 EMI

After telling me this background story he, explained the following:-

"X is no longer with the Robotug group." He said, (X had been the group leader of this Robotug laboratory). "We want you to take over!"

So, I became Mr Robotug: my first management job. It took us about six months to correct all the problems. I redesigned most of their original amplifiers by adding feedback. This feedback ensured that the amplifying devices could almost die before they affected the overall performance. We fixed it! All work at Darlington, however, had to be done at night and the return drive by car was down the then newly built M1 with no other traffic at 4am in the morning. It was at that time a dangerous thing to do. One would pull into each service station, have a cup of coffee and then return to the empty motorway and drive into the pitch darkness ahead. Even with all the windows open it was almost impossible to stay awake.

This was all around 1963 and by then we had perfected a reliable Robotug system. I remember we sold one tug to a Japanese company. We would normally expect most sales to be followed by a request for an engineer to follow up for the installation. In this case we never heard another thing except that later another Japanese company started selling a similar product.

Don Tyzack

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WEST END

Autumn brings with it the joy of holding our annual Pet Service. This year was our 15th, and following torrential rain in the early afternoon of the 17th September, the sun broke through for the 4pm Service.



We never know which animals will turn up, but our first early arrival was a beautiful horse, who cropped the grass verge outside the church, overseen by her owner. Both horse and rider enjoyed the Service - standing by the church gate to watch the proceedings through the open church door.



We then welcomed seven dogs, of varying sizes and ages, who were all impeccably behaved, and we were amused to see that when the congregation was invited to stand, an elderly golden retriever did so too!



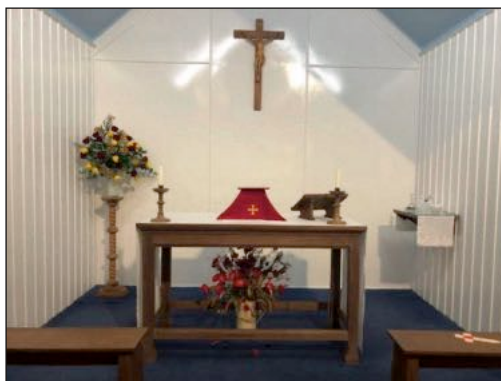
We also had two cats - one of whom spent the entire service on his owner's shoulder, (below) and Patch the Christ Church cat who has been very unwell, but thankfully is on the mend.



As always, the Service was heart warming, and thanks must go to Darren and Jonathan for taking the Service, Stuart and Theo for the music, the animals for coming and the 28 humans for sharing this special event.



Following Harvest Festival - when the church displayed beautiful autumnal flower arrangements - we held our All Souls Service, which was followed a week later by Remembrance Sunday.



Altar and flowers at St George's Remembrance Service

As we now approach the period of Advent leading up to Christmas, we wish to advise you when our various Services will be held.

St George's West End

Sunday 24th December - No 9am Eucharist
 Sunday 24th December. 10.30am Norwegian Service
 Sunday 24th December. 6pm Village Carol Concert

Christ Church Esher

Sunday 24th December. 10.30 Eucharist
 Sunday 24th December. 4pm Crib Service
 Sunday 24th December. 11.30pm Midnight Mass

St George's West End

Monday 25th December. 9am Eucharist

Christ Church Esher

Monday 25th December. 10.30 Eucharist

St George's West End

Sunday 31st December - No Service (fifth Sunday)

Christ Church

Sunday 31st December - 10.30 Eucharist

Website details : <https://www.esherparish.org.uk>

Rector: Revd. Darren McCallig

Parish Secretary: office@esherparish.org.uk

Do please come and join us for any of our services - you will be warmly welcomed. Finally, we wish to thank you for your continued support throughout the year and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Report: Andrea Lindow and Bridget Williams

Photos: Stephanie Parcell

VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

*Please make a diary note of dates for the
 Spring Edition 2024: Friday 1st March by 1pm and
 Summer Edition 2024 Friday 21st June by 1pm*

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

We thank you all for your continued support.

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 competitive and members only enjoy a pleasant afternoon with like-minded people.

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



THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE—ESHER WAR MEMORIAL



Above: L-R Stuart Whatton, Director of Music, members of the choir Brian Elliott, Alison Bownes, Jan Sayer, Jane Tyrrell, Daphne Doolan, Belinda Doolan, Helen Coulson and the trumpeter, Thomas Doolan who played the Last Post so beautifully.

Three West End residents laid wreaths: Malcolm Parsons for the West End Esher Sports and Social Club, below: Margaret Dane for West End Village News and Donald Elms (see below).



Above: Glenyce Alexander (left) laid the wreath for Winterdown WI, and Donald Elms laid wreaths for both Ember Manor Lodge and Claremont Probuss Club.

Below: Three proud young pupils laid the wreath for Esher Church School.



The Standard Bearers lowering the standards



As The Act of Remembrance drew to a close, the Standard Bearers marched to Christ Church for the Service. *Photo: Margaret Dane*



Above: Cadet Theo Edwards represented 1034 (Surbiton & Esher) Sqn Air Cadets. The Rector, Choir, Standard Bearers and Brownies lined the Church Path following the Service in Christ Church.



Photos: Angela Stockbridge

FC Pilates

✦ Hello, Pilates Enthusiasts! ✦

Unleash the power of your core and join our invigorating mixed ability Pilates classes! ✦ Whether you're a seasoned pro or a Pilates newbie, our expert instructor will guide you through a dynamic and fun workout designed to strengthen, tone, and rejuvenate!

✦ **Equipment is Provided!** I believe in keeping things exciting! Enjoy the benefits of variation in your workouts with the use of various small equipment, all provided. From resistance bands to magic circles, from spiky balls to foam rollers! All classes are 1 hour.

📅 Class Schedule:

➡ Monday at Home Studio on West End Lane

- 10 am

➡ Tuesday Night at West End Village Hall: "New Class"

- 6 pm
- 7.30 pm ✦ BYOM (Bring Your Own Mat for WEVH)

Wednesday at Home studio on West End Lane

- 10 am

💎 Pricing: just £10 per class! 💎

✦ Why Choose FC Pilates?

- Expert instruction for all fitness levels!
- Transformative workouts that focus on strength and flexibility.
- Feel the burn, have fun, and leave energized!

✦ How to Join:

- 1 Visit our website: www.fcpilates.co.uk
- 2 Book on GymCatch: <https://gymcatch.com/app/provider/66SS>
- 3 Email us at admin@fcpilates.co.uk for a direct link!

Stay Connected:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/fcpilatesonline

WEST END'S FAMOUS STAR FRUIT RETURNS!

Following the EBC Countryside Team's work at Chequers and Halfpenny Pond last year, when the thick layer of invasive New Zealand Water Stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*) was scraped off, Countryside Estates Officer (and long-time friend of West End) Dave Page has been surveying the two ponds for any sign of rare plants germinating in the bare pond margins.

Encouragingly, several local and rare species have been seen this year, but the crowning glory was a single magnificent specimen of one of the UK's rarest plants, *Damasonium alisma*, The Starfruit. This year, West End Common was one of only 2 UK sites where this annual plant occurred and it is classified as critically endangered. It last flowered on West End Common in 2019. The plant gets its common name from the distinctive 6 pointed star-shaped seed heads



Easily the biggest specimen Dave has ever seen on West End Common in all his 30 years, he estimates that at least 2000 seeds have been produced, to replenish the seed bank in the pond. This will greatly improve the chances of future generations being able to see our most famous plant still existing on West End Common.

If you have any questions about West End Common, please email Dave: dpag@elmbridge.gov.uk

Dave Page, Elmbridge BC Countryside Estates Officer

ASTONISHING AMOUNT OF LAUGHING GAS CAPSULES AND RUBBISH COLLECTED AROUND WEST END

Many of you might have seen me around West End, litter picker in hand, gathering the ever increasing rubbish that is dropped on a daily basis.



However, I am also finding far too many silver capsules of laughing gas, and, more recently very large canisters weighing over three pounds each, plus the balloons etc. used to inhale the gas.

Last week I found five of the larger canisters in the children's' playground opposite the Hospice!

Last year I found a plastic bag full of the small silver capsules 52 in all....which tells me that the users are increasing their addiction. In all I have found 18 large canisters and over 200 of the small ones on my walks and I am sure the parents of these users have absolutely no idea what their offspring are up to.



Where do they buy them? I am also finding the flavoured and illegal vapes everywhere plus numerous half-size whisky and gin bottles plus too many beer bottles and cans to number. I have been to the Police and shown them my photos and suggested a plain clothes officer should go down to the playground but, I was told "we don't have bobbies on the beat any more...", and when I asked if there was anything they would do, I was told my photos would be sent to the car crews - two high-viz officers driving a high-viz police car are NOT going to catch anyone. I sent photos to Elmbridge Council ages ago with a minimal response. I have mentioned this to several school governors who I feel sure will take it up with their



schools. However, this problem will only increase if nothing is done to stop it. I am relieved that the Government, at long last, has made laughing gas illegal, but there is still a long long way to go.



Wendy Tanqueray

Thank you Wendy for all you do to keep West End and the surrounding areas in Esher free from litter. You do a sterling job making the village such a pleasant place in which to live, and for us all to enjoy.

Anyone visiting the village should remember to take their litter home or dispose of it properly in the bins provided.



Le Cercle Français d'Esher launches 2024 programme

Esher French Circle offers monthly talks – in French – by native or fluent French speakers, for anybody interested in keeping up or improving their French, in a relaxed and convivial setting.

The meetings are on the third Wednesday of most months and the doors open at 7pm. There is ample opportunity to mingle and chat before the main talk starts at 7.30pm.

The French Circle's 2023-2024 season continues to offer a variety of topics and speakers:

13 December

Paris et ses chansons by Peter Prowse

2024

Wednesday 17 January

Les épouses françaises des rois d'Angleterre, by Odile Hughson

Wednesday 21 February

Annie Ernaux – voyage à travers 5 décennies de la société française, by Maryse Wright

Wednesday 20 March

Jean Ferrat et Louis Aragon by Vincent Raymond-Barker

Wednesday 17 April

La Renaissance de Lille by Brigitte Thibaut

Wednesday 15 May

Berthe Morisot, by Christine Nivet

Wednesday 19 June

Le petit train des mineurs de La Mure, by Thierry Viennois

Local resident Annie Kean launched the Circle's autumn season on 18 October with her talk (in French) 'Le curieux destin du Chevalier d'Eon'

Peter Prowse rounds off 2023 on 13 December with his evening of songs about Paris – 'La Ville de l'Amour'

There will be prizes to be won...

Esher French Circle warmly welcomes anybody with an interest in France and French life, whatever their level of knowledge of the language.

Le Cercle Français d'Esher meets in West End Village Hall.
For information see:

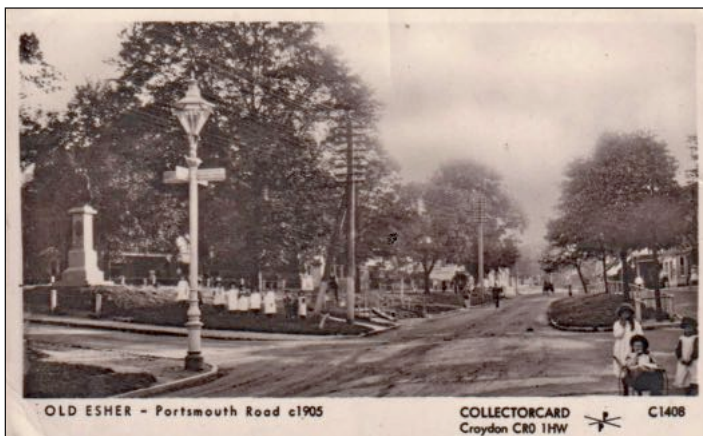
<http://www.cerclefrancais-esher.uk> or

from the Circle's secretary:

Brigitte Tiller brigitte@ptiller.com 07896 233728

Peter Prowse (publicity) peter.prowse@waylines.co.uk
07973 213039

OLD ESHER Portsmouth Road c.1905

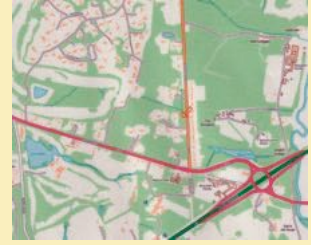


I found this postcard of Old Esher amongst my collection. The photo, taken almost 100 years ago, shows the view looking towards Cobham from the junction of Church Street by the old NatWest bank. A horse and cart can be seen in the distance and children playing in the road (unthinkable now!). Note there are no cars!

Angela Stockbridge

RIGHT TURN AT THE BOTTOM OF SEVEN HILLS ROAD WITH BYFLEET ROAD, COBHAM

We have learned there is an on-going ePetition in connection with the above closure of the right turn at the junction at the bottom of Seven Hills Road (B365) and Byfleet Road (A245) once the M25/J10 roadworks are completed. The Highways scheme did not include this closure. It is understood that it was requested by Surrey CC without consultation or even advising local residents.



Drivers will be directed to turn left at the junction and proceed to the already busy A3 roundabout and then back along Byfleet Road towards West Byfleet.

It is felt that Surrey CC should reverse their decision and keep both right and left turns at the end of 7 Hills Road.

The ePetition, has been extended to 1st March 2024 and now has 769 signatories (up from 557), but we need the magic 1000+ signatures to fight the cause. If you wish to add your name to the ePetition go to:

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgepetitiondisplay.aspx?id=534>

The ePetition was started by: Julia Lindon-Travers

CHRISTMAS AT GARSONS

The wonderful characters from Wind in the Willows - Toad of Toad Hall and his friends Badger, Mole and Ratty wish all the young children in West End a Merry Christmas!

Photo: Angela Stockbridge



Don Tyzack sent in this lovely photo of his great grandchildren enjoying watching Santa. They are wondering what surprises he might have in his sack!

THE WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB



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

WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

SPECIAL



WEST END GOLF SOCIETY



Anyone wishing to join the WEGS can call Dave Morgan on

WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

KATIE FERNANDES' LAST NIGHT BEFORE DEPARTING FOR AUSTRALIA



Katie left for Australia mid-September to join her husband Paul in Sydney. She has been a member of the Club and a very competent joint Social Secretary with Ruth Loveridge for many years. Becca Trower wrote a very humorous poem to Katie which captured her personality well and caused much laughter. A beautifully decorated cake was presented by Ruth and made by her niece Verity Lynn.

Katie with the cake and friends Megan and Dani. We will all miss Katie's vibrant and friendly personality and wish her every success in her new home in Sydney.



We look forward to hearing more news from Katie and Paul very soon!

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!



Assistant Bar Manager, Dan Snell, recently reached an important milestone, his 50th birthday. Dan was joined by his family and friends to celebrate the occasion at the Club!

Dan would like to thank everyone for their many cards and gifts.

Two delicious chocolate cakes were made by Janet, Dan's mother.

Right: Janet cutting the cakes.



THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 7.30PM

I have pleasure in inviting members of the West End Sports & Social Club to my first President's Party to be held in the Club on

Saturday 9th December from 7.30pm.

I am delighted that Paul Gibson and his group

"Care in the Community"

will be performing for us that evening so put on your dancing shoes! A buffet will be provided and drinks will be available at the bar. I hope to see many of you there on the night.

Angela Stockbridge, President

West End Sports & Social Club

SCOTTISH BAGPIPES PLAYED FOR THE WORLD CUP RUGBY TOURNAMENT



During the World Cup Rugby Tournament we were entertained twice at the Sports and Social Club by Patrick Donnelly and his bagpipes. Highlights of the evenings included rendition of Flower of Scotland for the Scotland Ireland fixture and the singing of traditional Irish folk music for the Ireland v South Africa quarter final game.

For the semi final matches the club provided sandwiches and sausage rolls / followed up by chips and battered sausages for the final....

All home nation and knock out matches were very well supported and the good news is that the Six nations is only around the corner ,,,

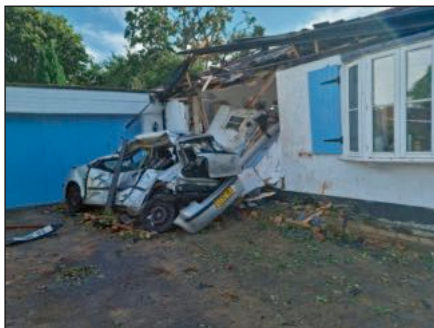
Photo: L-R Malcolm Parsons, Jim Dallas, Patrick and Phil Ames

Article and photo: Richard Jenkins, Bar Manager

HALFPENNY COTTAGE



On the afternoon of 20th September the driver of a BMW lost control and drove onto the verge just past St George's Church, destroying fences, and crashed through the brickwall by the drive of Halfpenny Cottage. The vehicle was launched airborne, and landed on top of Veronica Whittall's car, destroying it and a large part of the cottage. The driver was trapped inside the BMW (above) until released by the firefighters. Very luckily Veronica had just moved out of the crash area, and was unhurt, and the driver and his passenger were saved by their airbags.



Photographs: Peter Bedford

Veronica writes:

Thank you to all in West End for your help and support since the accident. We love living in West End village and can't wait to move back!

Photo courtesy: Veronica and Simon Whittall (right)



CHEQUERS POND IN THE AUTUMN SUNLIGHT

Photo: Peter Bedford



AFC WESTEND

Hi everyone,

I hope that this finds you are all well and surviving the stresses and strains of our current climate. Here is a quick update from the Westend football section to let you know how our Sunday sides are doing in their respective leagues.

AFC WESTEND SUNDAY

The Sunday team under the managership of George Nixey and Josh Hughes have had a really good start to their season, having played 6 games, Won 3, Drawn 1 and Lost 2 and are currently playing in Division 2 of the Leatherhead & District Sunday Football League. Team Manager George said that although this is a very strong league to be in, the boys are playing some nice football, and the team are very confident that they can compete and do very well in this division for the rest of the season!

AFC WESTEND JAGUARS

Our other Sunday side, known as AFC Westend Jaguars under the guidance of Raff Federico and Alex Federico are in Division 3 of the Leatherhead & District Sunday League. They are currently sitting in 6th place in their respective league and so far, have had a mixed start to their season, in the league, they have played 6 games, Won 2, Drawn 1 and Lost 3. At the time of writing, Raff has said that although the boys are playing very well at the moment, they are currently looking for some new players to add additional strength to their squad. Hopefully, they can then push further on and compete with the other teams above them in the league. We would like to take the opportunity of thanking Hersham Service Station for their continued support and sponsorship throughout the season.

So, there we are, a very quick update on your local football club news. Let's hope that all our teams at AFC WESTEND can now push on further and bring some much needed success in the second half of the season to our wonderful club.

Keith Harris

Finally, on behalf of all the Management Team and players of AFC WESTEND may we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all best wishes for the New Year 2024.

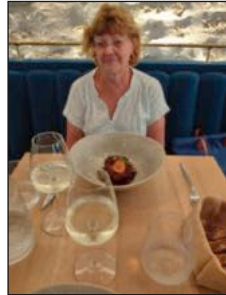
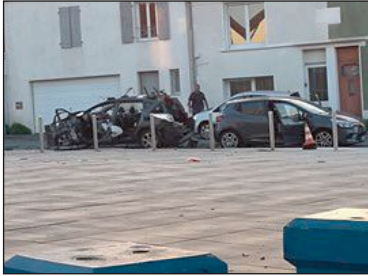
Eric, Keith, George, Josh, Raff and Alex,

MERRY CHRISTMAS



EXPLOSIVE RUGBY WORLD CUP

So, somehow or other, I was persuaded to be the “token” English woman on a 6 week Welsh rugby tour. Let me say at the start the weeks were fabulous, just the two of us and we saw so much of southern France, the weekends less so as there was so much rugby 5 Welsh supporters and I even ended up going to 4 games. I saw England win once to go onto the next round (they lost there) and Wales win twice before being knocked out!!



The explosive bit came in La Rochelle where the owner of the car behind us (outside a police station) decided to try and blow it up. You can see the result above! French police don't offer a cup of tea to calm the nerves, but just want you to fill in a complaint form (statement) and state where you were born – Caerphilly is a good one!! We weren't meant to be there – Saint Nazaire was actually the choice but a slip of the finger got us to La Rochelle instead! You'll be pleased to hear that it got better there and we had a good time exploring the old town, the port and finding a lovely restaurant attached to a hotel and spa. We were the only customers but were still served beautifully.

We travelled across France from Nantes to Bordeaux Nice Lyon and finally Marseilles. Through Aurillac – the inventors of umbrellas - Avignon – where the bridge only goes halfway across the Rhone river since the 15th century – and over the Millau Viaduct.



In Cluny we went around the remains (lots) of the abbey which was originally the largest church in Christendom, and also up the Frommage tower! We tasted cognac at Fany's in Burie – cognac is limited to an area like champagne – and several wineries although we'd just missed the harvesting. Vichy spa water wasn't high on our agenda. In Grenoble we had a Michelin one starred meal at La Fantin Latour, yummy and then at the other extreme found a vending machine in Sisteron selling pizzas in 4 minutes which actually weren't too bad.

Along the way we went down caves with amazing drawings, saw many châteaux with varying amounts of walls still standing including Francis 1's Chambard -fabulous- and one in a field that had signs all over not to climb it!! We visited a Troglodyte village, only vacated in the the 20th century and piled stone built houses near Borries used by farm labourers. In Nantes we saw the giant puppets and an Ostrich puppet came to the game Wales versus Georgia tapping his long feet.

Throughout the weather was great, although apparently you still had it good at home, the food was wonderful and there was lots of wine – Provençe uses at least 90% of its grapes to make rosé. Its just every weekend there were 4 games not finishing until 11pm. And it was depressing to sit amongst defeated Welsh supporters. Also it appears that nobody supports England apart from the English. Can you image sitting watching England versus Fiji and everyone around you— Welsh French and Spanish are shouting “Fiji! Fiji!”? I think next world cup I'll leave them to it!!

Tricia Fox



WEST END MOTOR CLUB

AUTUMN DRAWS ON

This is an attempt to explain to our long suffering wives, partners and fellow villagers what we old crocks do during winter in our dotage. Following our motor club appearance at the

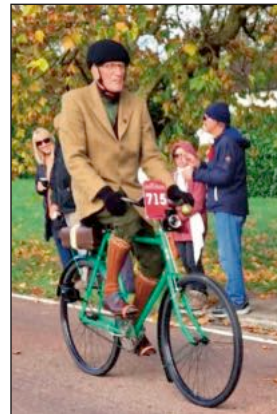


Village Show in August we continue to meet every Tuesday morning at Brooklands Museum for coffee and bacon rolls.

Brooklands Museum

However, on 3rd October when Brooklands was unavailable, we visited the Hand & Spear pub in Weybridge. A full English breakfast worthy of feeding an army was eagerly devoured by the hungry motorists.

On 5th November Tony, Richard and Ken watched the London to Brighton veteran car run, cheering on the brave souls driving their pre-1905 cars, yes incredibly all cars are over 118 years old! This annual event is to commemorate the raising of the speed limit on 5th November in 1905 from 5 mph to 12 mph without having a man walking ahead with a red flag to warn pedestrians and frighten horses.



But the star in our view was one of our club members. You may remember MikeD was present at the Village Show in August with an impressive display of his cycles. He rode his 1903 Premier pedal bicycle all the way to Brighton, arriving at 2pm, about 10 mph - phew...! Other petrolfriends watched from nearby Staplefield, some having previously taken part.

1903 Premier Road Bicycle

1906 De Dion Bouton

This is RogerH two years ago driving his De Dion Bouton 6 HP, Debbie (Brooklands Museum motoring volunteers) in front, JaneH lounging in the back.



That looks like a cold trip!

For many years some of our motor club enthusiasts have enjoyed a weekend away in our classic cars, the ‘Pocklington Classic Rally’, but with the years creeping up on us, and our cars, we had a break this year, instead enjoying individual days out and around. However, still wanting to explore the countryside, discussion has already started for a re-launch in 2024.

We are also now waiting for the re-launch of the Prince of Wales pub and the possibility of bringing our Tuesday breakfast gatherings back to West End. In the meantime we continue with our Thursday evening noggin and natters in the West End Social Club, thirsts suitably satisfied with the perfect pint (or two!). Honours and thanks here go to our bar manager Richard and his friendly staff.

Photos: Ken, Mike and RogerH– Text: Ken and Roger



WEST END ESHER CRICKET CLUB

The cricket AGM was attended by over 30 members, and after nearly 20 years as Chairman I have decided now is a good time to stand down.

I will still be around to help, coach, umpire and play the odd game and I am pleased to say I leave the club in great shape financially, and with a healthy playing membership in both junior and senior sections, along with a very strong management team. Chris Hambleton takes over the Chairmanship of the club with Colette Macintosh remaining as the Junior Chairperson.

Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of the cricket club and wish Chris every success for the future!

Best wishes for Christmas and a VERY HEALTHY New Year
Mike Bacon



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We would like to thank the following 'Friends' of the Village News for their generous donations:
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If you would like to become a Friend
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THE VILLAGE NEWS TEAM

We also thank our 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 the surrounding areas. Your help is much appreciated.

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