



# VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

Volume 22 Issue 4  
CHRISTMAS EDITION  
DECEMBER 2025

## THE ACT OF REMEMBRANCE AT ESHER WAR MEMORIAL SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER



The Clergy and Choir leaving Christ Church led by the Crucifer, Sean Seymour-Cole carrying the Processional Cross, followed by Revd Jonathan Andrews, Churchwarden, Will Stevens, Trumpeter, Thomas Doolan, and the Choir. The Act of Remembrance was led by Revd Jonathan Andrews, who laid the wreath for The Parish of Esher. Thomas Doolan, (above right) played the Last Post perfectly. The Act of Remembrance was live streamed and was followed by a service in Christ Church.

Right:

L-R President, Gp Capt Peter Bedford, of 1034 (Surbiton and Esher) Sqn Air Cadets, Naomi Bedford, Monica Harding MP, Esher Ward Councillors: Simon Waugh, Richard Williams and Simon Leifer, and PC Ian Hallam, Surrey Police, (representing Elmbridge). West End residents included: Alice Austin, Village News, West End, a young Ukrainian girl who also laid a wreath, Richard Jenkins, West End Esher Sports & Social Club (behind), and far right, (in the grey hat), Glenyce Alexander of Winterdown WI.



Also present were officials from many of the local organisations including, Esher Probus, the Ember Manor Lodge, and below right. the 1st Esher District Brownies and Girl Guides, 1st Esher Scouts and 1034 (Surbiton & Esher) Sqn Air Cadets.

Local schools were also represented including: Cranmere Primary School, the Pupils, Parents and Staff of Esher Church School, Pupils from Esher Church of England High School, Claremont Junior School and Esher College as well as other representatives and local residents.

Smartly dressed in school uniform, pupils from Esher Church of England High School proudly laid their wreath.



## THE SCURGE OF LITTER AND NITROUS OXIDE CANISTERS

Following a welcome lull in finding nitrous oxide canisters, due, most probably to the Government making them illegal, I am now beginning to find more again! I had far too many in my bin area so contacted the Council who quickly had them collected and also gave me a new litter picker, twenty heavy duty plastic bags and a special expandable ring with a handle which holds the bags open - a welcome surprise after thirteen years of litter picking! However, the amount of all litter has certainly increased, and roads I have cleared are strewn with litter again after only a week....

Thank you everyone who sent me messages of support for becoming a finalist in the BBC Surrey and Sussex "Making a Difference" competition. Although I did not win, it was heartening to have had my name put forward.

Some canisters were unused and had been hidden in bushes!



A typical batch of litter gathered in two hours



Wendy Tanqueray

## COBHAM MILL



### ODE TO THE COBHAM MILL CREW

At Cobham mill, where the water flows,  
A gang of heroes in wellies arose.  
They bake they bustle; they tent they toil'  
They grease the gears with mysterious oil.

They grind the flour with a mighty roar,  
Whilst sipping tea and making more.  
Scones so fluffy, cakes divine-  
You'll eat three slices and for more will pine.

They guide the guests with charming flair,  
"Mind the ducks!" and "Watch that stair!"  
They quiz the kids and tombola teddy bears,  
And show them where to buy their wares.

They sell the mugs and towels for tea  
With smiles that scream: "Buy two, or three!"  
They clean the mill, they weed the ground,  
They chase rogue leaves that swirl around.

Now drum roll please for the maintenance team  
And "The Three Engineers" who balance the beam.  
They twist the cogs, they tweak the gears,  
They've aged a decade in just two years.

But wait! There's more behind the screen,  
A silent squad, rarely seen.  
They type and click and spreadsheet wrangle,  
While answering emails from every angle.

They print the leaflets, plan the ads,  
Order supplies: -plates cups and Pads.  
They design the mugs; they count the cash;  
They even know where we keep the stash!

*Ann Forrest - for Cobham Mill Preservation Trust*

## 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](http://wevh.org)  
Mail: [hirehall@wevh.org](mailto:hirehall@wevh.org)

## 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



## 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.



## SURREY POLICE 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](mailto: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>  
and X (formerly Twitter).

### **IN THE KNOW—SURREY & SUSSEX**

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

- ◆ Cars continue to be stolen. If you have a modern car it's time to check whether your vehicle is eligible for a security update. Always remember to keep your car keys and fobs out of sight and if you have a keyless car use a signal blocking pouch. A variety of Trackers are available and can be fitted. When purchasing a new vehicle make sure it is legitimate. Check the V5 and service history, the VIN, (Vehicle Identification Number) and carry out an HPI (Higher Purchase Investigation)
- ◆ Please keep yours safely stored and securely padlocked.
- ◆ Burglaries have also been reported in the area. Ensure that windows and doors are securely locked at all times. Even the smallest open window can be an entry point!
- ◆ Doorstep deliveries continue to be stolen. Please arrange for deliveries to be left with neighbours if you are out.
- ◆ Beware of on-line fraud and phone calls—never give your personal details to anyone. on-line



A stunning Autumn view taken at Painshill Park  
Photo: Wendy Tanqueray



## **WISHING ALL OUR READERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR**

We welcome all new residents to our unique village life. We hope you will enjoy the benefits of what the village has to offer. There is always something interesting in which you can become involved, including our Annual Village Show, the Sports and Social Club, events in the Village Hall, the Bridge Club, Winterdown WI, West End Golf Club, AFC Westend, West End Esher Cricket Club, the Motor Club, the Pigeon Club, Garsons Farm and the Prince of Wales, or simply take a walk through the woodlands and along the Ledges by the River Mole.

A huge thank you to all the Village News volunteers for their unwavering support and help throughout the year in collating and delivering the newsletter to every household in the village and the Esher area.

**FROM THE 'FRIENDS' AND VILLAGE NEWS TEAM**

### **THE TOWER OF LONDON POPPIES**

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and the end of the Second World War



Our visit to the Tower of London was a poignant occasion. The awe-inspiring installation of thousands of blood red ceramic poppies flowed from Traitors Gate, a 'drop of blood' falling from the top of the White Tower, a Crown and many artistic displays surrounded the Tower gardens as a symbol of remembrance.

The Poppy has long been the symbol of peace and sacrifice and was famously portrayed in the poem 'The Flanders Fields' by John McCrae who wrote the poem after seeing poppies grow on the battle-scarred fields in France. Almost 30,000 of the original ceramic poppies on loan from the Imperial War Museum's collection (80,000 were displayed in the Moat in 2014 to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WWI), were re-used to create this year's display designed to resemble a wound at the heart of the Tower.

During the war the Tower sustained bomb damage when Beefeater, Samuel Reeves and resident Lily Frances Lunn sadly both died following the direct hit when the bomb fell.

Angela Stockbridge

## ESHER FRENCH CIRCLE

I did it my way – comme d'habitude Talk (in French)  
7pm, Wednesday 10 December 2025  
Village Hall, West End, Esher

Peter Prowse rounds off 2025 for Esher French Circle with a talk about what happens to popular songs when they move from one language – and one culture – to another. There are more examples than you might imagine, and the talk includes a short quiz and plenty of opportunities to sing along.

The French Circle's 2025-26 season so far has included two very different talks:

On 15 October, French history enthusiast Odile Hughson explained the history of the Cashmere Shawl, from its origins in India, through the craze among fashionable ladies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to its modern production in Provence.

On Wednesday 19 November, Brigitte Whiting gave a fascinating illustrated talk about the landscapes, history and architectural masterpieces of her native region of Normandy.

### 2026 programme

Esher French Circle's 2026 programme of talks (all in French), offers a continuing variety of themes and speakers:

- 21 January 2026** *Le rêve brisé des intellectuels de l'après-guerre* by Annie Kean
- 18 February** *Le Panthéon: "Aux grands hommes ... et aux grandes femmes"* by Maryse Wright
- 18 March** *The political situation in France* by Constance Bantman

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 talks take place in West End Village Hall, Esher.

The meetings are on the third Wednesday of most months and the doors open at 7pm. There is ample opportunity to mingle and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits before the main talk starts at 7.30pm. Esher French Circle warmly welcomes anybody with an interest in France and French life, whatever their level of knowledge of the language. More information is available on the club's website:

[www.cerclefrançais-esher.uk](http://www.cerclefrançais-esher.uk)

or from the club's secretary:

**Anne Bell** E [annebell121@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annebell121@yahoo.co.uk) M 07796 698097



*Peter Prowse's talk on 10 December, 'I did it my way, comme d'habitude'.*



*Odile Hughson's talk included illustrations of the craze for Cashmere shawls in 19<sup>th</sup> century France*



*Maryse Wright's talk is on The Panthéon in Paris, a monument containing the remains of many prominent French citizens, including Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas, Marie Curie, and Emile Zola.*

For further information, contact:

**Peter Prowse** M 07973 213039 E [peter.c.prowse@gmail.com](mailto:peter.c.prowse@gmail.com)

Or **Anne Bell** E [annebell121@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annebell121@yahoo.co.uk)

M 07796 698097

*Peter Prowse*

## INDY'S WINTER DOG BLOG

OH MY DOG, can you believe another four months has zoomed by since our last chat? Here we are, sniffing the air and wagging our tails as my absolute favourite time of year approaches—Christmas! If you're wondering why I get so excited, let me tell you a shaggy dog story.

I joined my family at Christmas in 2016, as a four-month-old skinny pup with Bambi legs. They say I'm the best Christmas present ever (and honestly, who am I to argue with that?). My oldest girl was nine and now she's eighteen. The youngest has just celebrated her fifteenth birthday and is the tallest in the family, apart from my Daddy. You can always distinguish me though as I'm the smallest, the furiest, and I've got the longest, floppiest ears in the house.

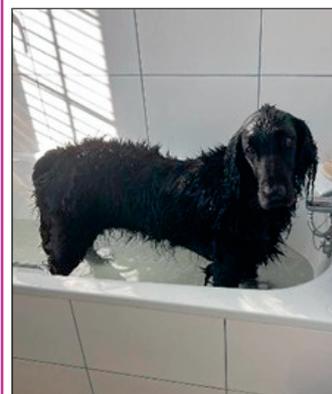


At my tall girl's birthday party, we had a treasure hunt! I helped solve clues and dashed around the garden with all her friends. The final clue was tied to the bow around my neck. I have to say I was rather the star of the show! Everyone cheered and called me clever, though I'm still not sure what I did. But as it involved praise and treats, I was very happy!

Speaking of treats, let me tell you about The Prince of Wales. No, not the royal one (though I do have regal taste), but the cozy pub in West End. It has everything a dog needs—crackling fires, tasty dog treats, soft blankets, even dog beer! The staff are always ready with a chin tickle, which is just the best. Isn't it? When it's busy, I weave through the sea of human legs, greeting everyone with a friendly tail wag and a big smile. With the dark winter evenings, it's nice to see so many West Enders joining together in a buzz of conversation enjoying a little tippie.

Halloween was a splash this year—literally! A thunderstorm flooded West End Lane, so instead of trick-or-treating, I spent the evening with my Nana, greeting costumed visitors at her door. I looked pawsitively fetching in orange pumpkin tinsel which contrasted beautifully against my black fur. It was whilst I was at my Nana's I suffered the indignity of a BATH! She said it is because the season of mud is here. A bath is not my idea of a good time.

Just a little line to cheer Darren and his family, who's furry friend,



Lily, joined the dog angels recently and will have a heavenly Christmas this year. Extra cuddles for them, my friends. So, as the air gets chillier and paws dance over the frost, snuggle up, enjoy the festivities, and hopefully you'll get an extra treat (or two). Should you see me about, I am the flat-coated retriever sporting a pink collar and a distinguished limp, stop and say hello. While vigorous play must be avoided, a friendly chat and a good fuss are most welcome.

*Indy*

## HALLOWEEN IN WEST END

Once again the team at Garsons put on an extraordinary Pumpkin Trail, The theme this year was 'Once upon a Time in Fairytale Land'. The trail included hundreds of pumpkins and gourds to choose from, spooky houses and their inhabitants, a troll under the bridge lying in wait for his next victim and many other haunted houses and family games for all to enjoy!

The creative and colourful scenery was brilliantly designed and crafted by the talented staff.



'The Little Mermaid' underwater kingdom, where clouds of bubbles kept billowing out on passers-by much to the children's delight! The inviting 'Hansel and Gretel's House was adorned with colourful and tempting 'candies' and the magnificent Fairyland Pumpkin Coach was popular for photo opportunities!

Congratulations to all the Garsons team for creating such an amazing Pumpkin Trail.

## SPOOKY WEST END GARDENS

Skeletons, (and parts of them), witches, ghosts, spiders, cobwebs, bats and ghouls could all be seen hanging around the village on Halloween.



West End Lane also seemed to be a no-go area with warnings to 'KEEP OUT'!

In Winterdown Road, Trick-or-Treat witches and their black cats shone out from windows tempting unwitting visitors in with their 'treats', skeletons, were strung up round doorways, cobwebs covered shrubs and fences while spooky pumpkins and lanterns guarded garden gate posts! In the darkest corner of Greenmead, cobwebs hung along hedges, the spiders who created them hiding out of sight ready to crawl out and leap onto the next visitor! Sadly the very dark stormy wet and windy weather made the night even more eerie, causing some to retreat to their homes before the ghouls could pounce! Did you dare to venture out that night?

## WEST END FLOWER SHOW AGM CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL YEAR AND LOOKS AHEAD TO 2026



*The Show brings a sense of togetherness for our Village; it unites us over the weekend, something that is definitely needed in today's world. For some there is the annual meeting of friends on the green. The success of the Show goes beyond the day itself and we are proud to facilitate the opportunity for local groups and organisations to raise their profile and much needed funds.*

The West End Village Show Committee held its Annual General Meeting on Monday 3 November in the Village Hall, welcoming prime sponsors, past Chairmen and friends of the Show.

Members looked back on what was widely regarded as a highly successful Show this year. A spell of dry weather helped boost attendance, resulting in a strong increase in profits - funds that will go on to support a range of local charities. Committee members noted that this financial success also helps safeguard the future of the long running Show.

The AGM provided an opportunity to thank the many people involved in bringing the event to life each year, both on the Committee and behind the scenes. Their commitment and hard work were warmly acknowledged.

As supporting local causes remains one of the key aims of the Show, the Committee welcomed representatives from four charities, each of whom offered a compelling insight into their work as part of their bid for funding. The Committee expressed gratitude for their time and will review all donation requests at its January meeting.

The gathering also marked changes within the Committee. Special recognition was given to Rachel Gee, who stepped down after 17 years. During her tenure, she served as joint Subscriptions Secretary, a member of the Flower Show sub-committee and acted as Judge for the Children's classes in the marquee. Her dedication was recognised with sincere thanks and warm wishes.

The Committee is now seeking new volunteers to fill two vacancies. Help is especially needed in managing the Show's social media platforms, with organisers seeking a tech-savvy supporter who can contribute a few hours throughout the year. In addition, a volunteer is needed to run the Children's Sports on Show day; this is always a popular event which we hope to continue.

Those interested are invited to get in touch at:

[thewestendvillageshow@gmail.com](mailto:thewestendvillageshow@gmail.com)

The Village Show Committee expressed their sincere thanks to you all, the residents of West End Village. Without your help and loyal support it wouldn't be possible for us to continue and raise money for local causes.

We look forward to welcoming you back to the next West End Village Show on Saturday 29th August 2026.

**Merry Christmas and a very Happy and  
Healthy New Year.**

Julia Iveson - Publicity



**TRIBUTE TO  
ALLEN JAMES PALMER  
'ALGY'  
December 1938 — August 2025**

Our father, Allen Palmer, known to so many throughout West End sadly passed away on 31 August surrounded by his family.



On Friday 3rd October, the village came together in a way we will never forget. Christ Church in Esher was filled with familiar faces, warm smiles, and heartfelt support as we said goodbye to him. It was a send-off he would have loved. The 3rd Molesey Matrovers Scouts proudly displayed their flags, racing pigeons were released after the service, and the iconic Last Post was played by the 3rd Molesey Scout buglers. Afterwards gathering at his beloved West End Sports & Social Club and the Village Hall felt perfectly fitting, with so many villagers joining us. He spent much of his life there, welcoming newcomers, organising events, singing his skiffle songs, and helping build the Club into what it is today.

Our deepest thanks go to Richard Jenkins whose help and organizational skills were extraordinary. We will forever be grateful for the personal attention he gave to Allen's wake, and our whole family, together with Kay Parsons and Anne Battersby, both village residents, who helped immeasurably at the gathering. Thank you also to our neighbours, friends, and the entire West End community for every message, card, memory, hug, and gesture of kindness, all of which lifted our spirit during this time of immense sadness.

We would also like to pay special tribute to our mum, Jackie, who was Allen's soulmate and partner for almost 55 years. The love they shared defined our family. Throughout his stroke and his long battle with dementia, Jackie cared for him with remarkable love, patience, and strength. Her devotion in those final years was exemplary. Allen knew, right to the end, how deeply he was loved.

During his 62 years at Wheatley & Sons, Allen helped countless young men find their start in life; he was cherished by the Esher & District Racing Pigeon Club at West End, and the 3rd Molesey Matrovers Scout Group.

Throughout all, West End was always 'home'. He loved stopping for chats, waving to neighbours, feeding the ducks, and being part of the village community.



Allen was President of the West End Sports & Social Club for many years and following his passing, club members placed his photograph, Panama hat, and a half pint of Guinness beneath the television. The Union flag was flown at half-mast. That meant the world to us, a perfect tribute to a man who loved the Club and everyone in it.



Allen was born in Molesey on 16th December 1938, at 8 Approach Road, West Molesey, a home he still called "home" even in later years. He grew up during wartime, with his father, Bill, called up to the Territorial Army when he was just a year old. His mother, Mary, was doting and kind. She later had three more sons: Michael, Clive, and Andrew. As a small boy, Allen became very ill with Diphtheria, resulting in a tracheotomy and a partially blind eye, but thanks to Mary's tireless care, he made a full recovery.

Allen attended Ray Road School before passing the entrance exam to Raynes Park Grammar School. He excelled in maths earning the nickname "human calculator" for his ability to do sums faster than anyone could type numbers into a machine.

Following a brief spell in National Service, he joined his father in the family greengrocer business before joining Wheatley & Sons as an office boy at 18. Allen remained dedicated to the business, working as Managing Director until 2018. His legacy is continued today by Abi and Andy Simms. His mentorship and care shaped countless lives, from offering apprenticeships to giving out the legendary "Palmer loans." He never judged, always believing in people. His generosity, guidance, and friendship left an indelible mark on all who worked with him.

Music was a lifelong passion for Allen. Inspired by his mother's beautiful singing, he loved performing, forming skiffle groups as a young adult, and singing at the West End Sports & Social Club well into later life. His love of rock 'n' roll, Buddy Holly, and Lonnie Donegan brought joy to all around him. We, his children, inherited his musical talent. Denise's husband Jeremy would later joke that he felt he was marrying into the Von Trapp family.

Allen's devotion to the 3rd Molesey Matrovers Scout Group spanned 78 years; from Cub to Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader, District and later as President, a position he held proudly until his passing. He led legendary campfires, hikes, fundraising initiatives, and events. Jackie was always by his side helping out. He cherished every award, especially the Silver Wolf Award, presented by Bear Grylls in 2019 for his outstanding service. Allen was proud to see his granddaughters, Otilie and Bertie, continuing the Palmer scouting tradition.

Racing pigeons were another passion Allen shared with his family. Holidays revolved around the racing season, and afternoons were spent quietly watching the pigeons return to the loft. Jackie, ever practical, sometimes bore the brunt of pigeon-related chaos, but always with good humour, helping ensure the club evenings and prize-giving's were warm, sociable, and full of laughter.

Allen's friendships were as rich as his family life, from Wheatley & Sons, to the Scouts, the racing pigeon club, and the wider West End community. His ability to bring people together, inspire loyalty, and leave everyone feeling valued was remarkable.

To us — Abi, Denise, and Will — he was our greatest friend, supporter, storyteller, and the heart of our family. We will always miss his humour, kindness, singing, and warmth. Thank you, West End, for giving him the farewell he deserved, and for supporting us when we needed it most. And to Mum, your unwavering love, patience, and devotion made Dad's life and ours so much easier, we could not have asked for a more remarkable partner, mother, and hero.

We will always remember you dad forever smiling.  
James Palmer: the Gentleman, the Legend, Our Father.



*L-R: Denise, Allen, Will, Jackie and Abi*

*Article and photos: Abi, Denise & Will Palmer*



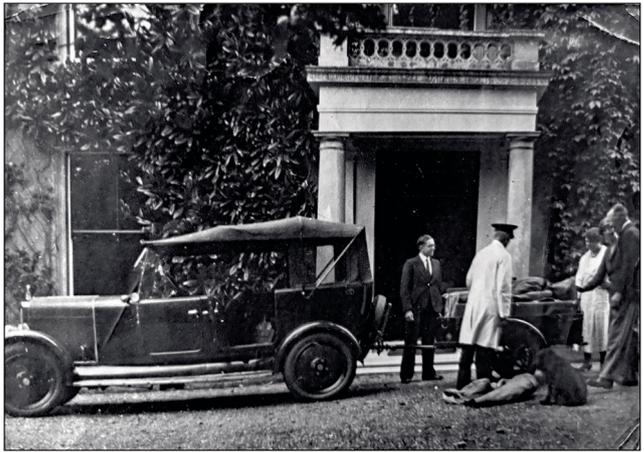
# GENERATIONS ENTWINED WITH WEST END VILLAGE 1933 to 2025

Bridget (aka Bunty) Ashwell (nee Henbest), Simon's mother, died in August this year but her love of West End was no secret. Bunty was born in Hillview, West End Lane (then a private maternity clinic) in 1941, to Cyril Henbest and Bridget Reilly (aka Biddy). On Bunty's passing Simon and Jayne, who live at Waldeck Cottage, West End Lane discovered how deep the connection to the village runs. According to old birth and death certificates and photos, Cyril (Simon's grandfather) was the butler at Glenhurst now the site of Talbot Lodge, the home of Lady Talbot. Bridget Reilly, originally hailing from Ireland and Simon's grandmother, was the parlour maid. In a nod to 'upstairs, down stairs', they met. The rest is history. One can only imagine the conversation to be had with Lady Talbot!

The married couple remained in service at Glenhurst until 1941, living in both the main house and, on the birth of Bunty, in the lodge house on the estate grounds, now the site of nos. 1 and 2 West End Lane. The family became good friends with the Davidson-Houston family and old correspondence and wedding invitations suggests they stayed in touch long after they left the village, with Major Aubrey Davidson-Houston, later painting and exhibiting a portrait of Bunty in her late teens. He was well known in the village and well regarded in portraiture. He also painted the Duke of Edinburgh.

On leaving service Cyril was gifted an engraved silver pocket watch as a gesture of thanks (see image) from Lady Talbot which we discovered recently in its original presentation box along with very old photos of Glenhurst. During the war, Cyril retrained as an aircraft engineer working at Vickers, Brooklands, sadly dying in his late 50s when Simon was only 6 months old.

Bunty often regaled us with stories of working at Garsons Farm as a child and playing with the Thompson children, of turkeys roaming the fields where 26 and 28 West End Lane now stand and mentioning in passing that she's on page 50 of the village book. We wonder who else is in the picture? Do get in touch if any of this nudges an old memory, we'd love to hear about the Henbest family and Bunty in particular. We had no idea the connection to the village ran so deep, but we do know that Bridget loved west end and was quite cross when, by chance, we moved here some 4 years ago.



Cyril (left) on Butler duty at the house



Glenhurst c.1933-1941



Above: The Drawing Room and below Cyril & Bridget's Marriage Certificate



Cyril with Bunty and the Silver Pocket Watch engraved with the words:  
C. Henbest  
Glenhurst  
1933—1941

WA 270859		CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF MARRIAGE	
Pursuant to the Marriage Acts, 1811 to 1934.		SURREY NORTH-WESTERN	
Registration District SURREY NORTH-WESTERN			
Marriage Solemned at St Dunstons Catholic Church White R			
District of SURREY NORTH-WESTERN in the COUNTY of SURREY.			
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age
59	1931	Cyril Henbest	32
		Bridget Mary O'Reilly	31
Residence	Rank or Profession	Residence of the Wife at Marriage	
England	Butler	Glenhurst West End Lane Esher	
April	(Domestic)	Orange Cottage Goslee Road Horsham	
Married in the St Dunstons Catholic Church White R according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Cat			
This Marriage was solemnized between us		in the Presence of us	
Cyril Henbest		Margaret Mary O'Hanlon	
Bridget M. O'Reilly		Daniel J. Halligan	
I, Registrar for the District of SURREY NORTH-WESTERN, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 59 in the Register Book of Marriage			
WITNESS MY HAND this 1 <sup>st</sup> day of April 1931			





## ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WEST END

Despite the Interregnum the life of our churches continues to thrive. We have been very lucky to have had all our usual services covered by The Revd Jonathan (Andrew) and numerous visiting clergy, for which we are extremely thankful. In fact, one of the visiting clergy had to travel from Barnes following an 8am service to be able to preach and take our 9am and 10.30 services at St George's and Christ Church We think this was over and above the call of duty – but we were extremely appreciative.

**Pet Service** - The 17th annual Pet service took place at St George's on Sunday, 28th September. The service has a regular slot in our Parish calendar and is one that many look forward to - never knowing what the afternoon will bring. This year there were four dogs and, the star, Robbie the ginger cat. In typical feline fashion Robbie stole the show as he spent the entire service draped around his owner's shoulder and was not at all phased by the dogs or attention he was getting.



Photos: Stephanie Parcell

Jonathan led the service with his usual light touch and reduced us all to laughter with his instruction to "Sit" for the prayers in the manner of Barbara Woodhouse - the humans responded even if the dogs didn't! All the animals were blessed as well as the images of those who could not be or were no longer with us. As usual (thankfully!) all the pets were



extremely well behaved the humans' hymn singing was not accompanied by a chorus of dogs howling along.

**The Memorial Stone** - The idea for erecting a Memorial inscribed with the names of those connected with St George's Church was first conceived during lockdown in 2020. Clare Craigmile and Andrea Lindow kindly offered to donate the stone and its cost of installation, and the relatives of the deceased would be invited to pay for their loved ones inscriptions. Over many months Andrea and Mair Molteno traced relatives of deceased parishioners which resulted in 25 names being inscribed on the stone. Some of you will recognise many of these names as they were long-term residents of West End Village.



A special Service for the blessing of the Memorial Stone was held on Saturday 8th November. Eighty relatives, who came from far and wide including Scotland, attended the Service, which was beautifully conducted by the Rev. Jonathan Andrew. Mair read the prayers, Stuart Whatton played the organ and Natalia Mechelewska and Alexandra Sweeny, sang a moving duet. The Orders of Service, provided by Mair Molteno, featured photos of the church and the garden, taken by Stephanie Parcell.



Photos: James Lindow

Following the Service inside the Church, everyone moved outside to the garden where the Memorial was blessed by Jonathan and the inscribed names were read by Peter Bedford. After the Blessing by Jonathan, people gravitated to the Memorial where many happy reunions took place. The atmosphere was very special and all those present appreciated being part of the unique occasion. We hope you will take time to view the Memorial in its peaceful setting.

## Remembrance

We held a 9am Remembrance Eucharist Service at George's. This was followed at 10.50am by the usual Commemoration, two minute silence and Poppy Wreath laying at the War Memorial on the Green at Esher. This was followed by a celebration in Christ Church of lives lost during the wars. We will remember them.

The Church Calendar now leads us into Advent from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November. This means that there are no flowers in the church in the run up to Christmas, when the church will then be festooned with fresh flowers, the Advent Wreath, our Christmas Tree and candles. As Christmas approaches fast, we must remind you of the various services that are being held at both St George's and at Christ Church.

## St George's - West End

There will be no crib service this year at St George's on Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	Village Carol Concert
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9am	Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	9am	Combined service with members of Christ Church and a Baptism

## Christ Church - Esher

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Christingle Service
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	1.15pm	Music on the Green
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm	Come & Sing Carols (light lunch from 12.30)
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm	Crib Service
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Midnight Mass
		Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December		NO SERVICE AT CC – combined service with Baptism at St George's West End

**Carol Singing at the Prince of Wales** – Our wonderful Choir from Christ Church will be at the Prince of Wales on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 7.45pm to sing a selection of all our favourite carols. Please come along to join us and bring the family. Please try and join us at any of these wonderful seasonal services – we would love to see you. Always check our website for full details of all services and news:

<http://www.esherparish.org.uk>

Here you can also find everything you might want to know about the Parish of Esher including Music on The Green. We put topical notices on the fence outside the church – so please do stop and look to see what's going on as you pass by. Finally – thank you as always for your continued support and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Andrea Lindow and Bridget Williams*

## BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VILLAGE NEWS



As we look forward to our 22nd year of publication in 2026, we face a backdrop of ever increasing costs, In order to keep the Village News viable, a number of supporters have made donations to become a 'Friend of the Village News'.

This would involve making an annual donation of £50.00 to commence whenever feasible, with the opportunity of having your name published in a list of 'Friends of the Village News' or to remain anonymous if preferred.

Alternatively, contributions in units of £10 would also be very welcome.

If you would like to become a Friend or simply make a donation, the bank details are:

**A/C name: Village News (West End)**  
**Account no: 56514794 Sort Code: 60-08-04**  
 For further information on becoming a Friend, please contact our Treasurer,  
 Derek Richardson at [derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk](mailto:derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk)

## THE WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
[www.WESSC.org](http://www.WESSC.org)

## WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB SPECIAL



Esher & District  
RPC



## WEST END GOLF SOCIETY



Anyone wishing to join the WEGS can call Dave Morgan on 07956 221566

### NEWS FROM THE BAR

#### ROBIN NEWMAN CELEBRATES A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY!

Celebrating 80 years in the WEESC recently, no other than our own Robin Newman shown here with his lovely wife Ainsley! Also celebrating, of course, children Mike, David and Nick and grandchildren Sam and Ella and David's wife Anne Marie. Nearly equally loved as me, Robin is a firm favourite at the Club and no surprise, therefore, that the whole Club sang Happy Birthday and enjoyed some very delicious birthday cake! On this rare occasion I outsourced the preparation of the birthday cake!!

Bravo Robin, Congratulations.

Thank you for being an amazing ambassador and supporter of our Village Bar.

*Richard Jenkins, Bar Manager*



### ACT OF REMEMBRANCE



Richard Jenkins laid the West End Sports & Social Club's wreath during the Act of Remembrance at Esher War Memorial.

Richard's father, Hedley, served in the Grenadier Guards for 2 years National Service.



### AFC WESTEND WINTER NEWS

We hope that this finds everyone is well and surviving the stresses and strains of our current climate and the recent spell of very cold British weather. We also hope that you are looking forward to Rachel's budget announcement on the 26<sup>th</sup> November (or maybe not) and hope that this quick update from the Westend football section will somewhat brighten up your day, and give you an insight into how our Sunday side are faring in their respective league so far this season.

#### AFC WESTEND SUNDAY – 2025/2026

The Sunday team under the managership of Eddie Williams and Dale Waters have had a really good start to the 2025/2026 football season. So far they have played 6 league games and won 3 them, having lost 2 league games, drawn 1 of them and are nicely placed in 5<sup>th</sup> position in Division 1 after gaining promotion from Division 2 of the Leatherhead & District Sunday Football League last season. As far as the current table goes we have 2 games in hand, over the next 2 teams that are sitting just above them.

This is a very tough league to be in and a real step up for us, and the lads are coping well, having lost quite a few players from our squad at the end of last season. The new players that have come in are doing remarkably well to try and steady the ship for us.

The Westend pitch so far this season is holding up well and considering some of the heavy rainfalls we've had, the pitch is still looking splendid. I can report that we haven't lost any games as yet, due to the weather, this is indeed a much needed boost to the football club, and long may it continue!

So, there we are, a very quick update on your local football club news, let's hope that our team at AFC WESTEND can now continue with their rich vein of form in this tough division, and will hopefully, bring some success in the second half of the season to our wonderful village. *Cheers everyone.*

**Finally, on behalf of all the Management Team and players of AFC WESTEND may we wish you all a Happy Christmas and all best wishes for the New Year 2026,**

*Eric, Keith, Pash, George, Eddie & Dale.*





# WEST END MOTOR CLUB

Weekly breakfast meetings on Tuesday mornings continue at Brooklands Museum which is an historic place where we are privileged for now at least to be allowed to drive in and park. Occasionally we also seek breakfast elsewhere when Museum events make it inconvenient for them. Everyone is still welcome to join us on Thursday evenings at the West End Club for car talk and a jar.

This year our Tuesday meeting coincided with Armistice Day and we were pleased to share a short ceremony at the Museum's memorial to 88 Vickers employees who were killed (more than 400 injured) when the factory was bombed on 4th September 1940, also the day I was born. Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of the Museum placed a wreath at the Memorial and we observed two minutes silence beginning and ended with an air raid siren.

The memorial is located on the Finishing Straight at the side of Test Hill, outside the air raid shelter dug into the hillside. The shelter has a display and is one of many interesting things to see if you visit, recommended whether your interest is cars, planes or buses.



About a thousand convertible Super Minxes were made between June 1962 and June 1964, about 60 still survive. In common with many 1960s British cars the Super Minx can be seen as a pale imitation of American cars, with rear 'winglets' echoing the tail fins and wings to be seen in America. Performance was typical of British family cars: 22 seconds to 60mph from standing, maximum 80mph, achieved by a small 1592cc engine.

*Text: David Dickinson, Roger - Photos: David, Ken, Roger*



Our numbers at breakfast are if anything increasing as word spreads and we often now have multiple cars of a particular make or model, such as Morgan, Jaguar and Porsche. But not to let moderns have it all their own way, this time no less than four varied Austin 7s lined up, a number previously matched by some of the above, but with a bit of planning we should be able to get to 5 Austin 7s.



We think you are probably tired by now of reading about my and Ken's old cars, so we hope to get some of our regulars to donate a paragraph and picture of their cars, and here is Dave's contribution:

In the mid-20th century, Hillmans were Rootes Group base model cars, with more luxurious Singers, sportier Sunbeams and executive Humbers above them. Hillmans were Imps, Minxes, and Super Minxes. My car was built in 1963, superseded by the Hunter which was produced until 1979. Minx and Super Minx were built as saloons and convertibles.

**Members of West End Motor Club wish all our readers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

## West End Esher Cricket Club

**Girls & Boys Indoor Cricket**

**WINTER NETS ARE BACK**

**COME AND JOIN OUR WINTER NETS**

**Monday Evenings**

6:30-7:30pm  
Girls U8 +  
Boys U12 +  
Starting 19 January  
£10 per session

**Felton Fleet**

**Wednesday Evenings**

6:30-7:30pm  
Boys U8-U11  
Starting 21 January  
£10 per session

**CONTACT**

Ruth Lovering- 07385395405  
juniorchairman@weecc.co.uk

**Shrewsbury House**

These sessions are designed to be fun, engaging, and focused on improving key skills. Players will work on batting technique, bowling accuracy, fielding drills, and match awareness, all under the guidance of experienced coaches. It's the perfect opportunity to prepare for an exciting cricket season ahead!

Get in touch if you would like to join us for a taster session

## B & B IN THE VILLAGE



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

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Text to 07971 691898 with your name, contact number, post code, your primary concern, such as smoke alarms, a disability or safety concern.

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## VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

*Please make a diary note of copy dates:*  
**Spring 2026 : Friday 14th March by 1pm**  
**(N.B. Easter Sunday 5th April)**  
**Summer: Friday 26th June**

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

The Village News is supported by local organisations including: the 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. The newsletter is printed by Impress Print Services of Hersham and Garsons. Please note the newsletter can also be found on the Garsons website on [www.garsons/CommunityPage](http://www.garsons/CommunityPage), [www.AFCWestendwebsiteandWestEndEsherFacebookPage](http://www.AFCWestendwebsiteandWestEndEsherFacebookPage).

**We thank you all for your continued support.**

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## EMBER MANOR LODGE CELEBRATES ITS CENTENARY

Just as children look forward to their birthdays, so the members of Ember Manor Lodge were looking forward to their Centenary Celebration – and just as is for the little people, it was a long time coming but soon gone! It was a wonderful celebratory meeting on Monday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the 56 participants had an enjoyable Masonic meeting followed by a special meal of Smoked Salmon and Fillet Steak – accompanied by a ‘better than usual Chablis and Claret.



*The Members of Ember Manor Lodge - Centenary Meeting with the Provincial Grand Master*



*A better than usual wine selection*

I have likened the event to the special occasions we enjoyed as children but, for most of us, childhood was a distant memory – three of our members are over 90 years old and seven have been Freemasons for over 50 years. Some of those long serving members began their Masonic journey in other Lodges but John Owen, Ian Gray and I were initiated into Ember Manor, following in our fathers’ footsteps, all of us are sons of former members.

I was privileged to be presented with my 60 Year Certificate by our Guest of Honour, the Provincial Grand Master for Surrey, the Rt Worshipful Brother Nicholas Burger – one gets to hear one’s eulogy while they are still here! When I was initiated into Ember Manor Lodge, we still had two Founder Members who were there in 1925, and one, Herbie Edwards was still a regular attendee – now I enjoy the company of our newest member, Bro Steele Prentis, who joined the band of younger members in May – a span of 100 years.

I think the one thing that would amaze our Founders would be that these photographs were taken on a mobile phone – not that they would understand mobile phones, indeed in 1925 many of them would not have had a land line in their homes; where would we be without mobile phones now – talking to each other face to face, I suppose and here we are in the West End Sports & Social Club practising the art of conversation between meeting and meal!

*In the WES&SC between meeting and meal - not a mobile in sight!*

*Derek Richardson, Worshipful Master, Ember Manor Lodge*

\*\*PTO for the Councillors’ Corner





## COUNCILLORS' CORNER

News from your local Elmbridge Borough councillors (EBC) ([www.esher-residents.com](http://www.esher-residents.com)):

West End is part of the Esher Ward for EBC and has elected 3 independent Esher Residents' Association (ERA) councillors: Simon Waugh, Richard Williams and Simon Leifer, ERA Chair. They receive no salary and only minimal allowances.

### Park Close footpath (still) Closed

Despite the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, telling Surrey County Council to make a determination on this application by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025, this has not happened as Surrey claim to be overwhelmed. We are pressing them to do as they were told by Westminster and, with West End residents, we are liaising with the Planning Inspectorate to push Surrey into action. Our MP, Monica Harding, is as frustrated as residents and has also written a very strong message to Surrey. Simon Leifer recently enjoyed a lovely walk along the Moore Place golf course footpaths, chatting to several ramblers and dog walkers who regularly go there, to then discover the ugly prison style gate still locked in place.



*Simon L cannot pass!  
Not only ugly gates but also very unwanted.*

## The Unitaries are imminent! – Elmbridge Borough Council will be abolished

As we highlighted in the previous newsletter, the decision to have two, not three, Unitary Authorities has now been approved by central government and Elmbridge is being subsumed into a 'super council' to be known as East Surrey.

East Surrey will comprise the Borough/District Councils of Elmbridge, Epsom and Ewell, Mole Valley, Reigate and Banstead and Tandridge. Where East Surrey's administration centre will be based we do not know. We do however know that the timing of an election for a Mayor (of all Surrey? Area still undetermined) and the creation of the Strategic Authority that we believe will sit over both of the new West and East Surrey Councils is unknown.

It is alarming at the speed this is all being pushed through as there are too many unanswered questions with elections to the new East Surrey Council to take place in under 6 months. Elections to the new 'shadow' unitary councils will be held in May 2026 with the new unitaries 'going live' on 1 April 2027. There will now be no further Elmbridge Borough or Surrey County Council elections (unless there is a by-election before May 2026). After that (again bar by-elections) the next local elections will be in 2031 for East Surrey. Of course, there may be a Mayoral Election before then but ...!

On the plus side, we are not going to be lumped in with the Borough Councils of Woking, Spelthorne and Runnymede and the three other authorities in West Surrey who between them have combined debts of £4.5 billion. East Surrey's total debt by comparison will be in the order of £285 million – seemingly large, but actually economically very manageable. We will therefore have achieved our goal of being in with other financially stable boroughs in two not three administrative areas.

West End and Esher will be joined as a district with Claygate and North Oxshott and from 1 April 2027 will be represented by just 2 elected East Surrey councillors. There will be a total of 72 councillors in the 36 districts representing East Surrey. Currently there are over 240 councillors (including current Surrey County Councillors) representing the same area so this is a reduction by over two thirds. There is going to be a lot more work for the new (unpaid) councillors!

For further information please see the Surrey County Council website: [surreycc.gov.uk](http://surreycc.gov.uk) If you want to contact us please email on:

[helloesher@esher-residents.com](mailto:helloesher@esher-residents.com)

