



# WEST END VILLAGE SOCIETY

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— Your village, your voice.

## WEST END VILLAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Held Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 19.30pm in the Sports Pavilion**

### 1. Present.

Committee: Pete Jones (chair) Yvette Jones, Jan Smith (secretary), Jeff Llewellyn, Mary Anthony, Yvonne Simpson, Savitri Kegge, Pauline Wells, Johan Schoeman, Guy Consterdine. 24 other members signed in, 34 in total, not including the speaker.

Apologies: Angela & Tony Astall, Ian & Anne Allard.

### 2. Approval of previous AGM Minutes.

The minutes of 20th February 2024 AGM (copy available on screen) were taken as read and approved by the meeting. Proposed Guy Consterdine, seconded Pete Smith.

### 3. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising and no actions taken.

### 4. Chairman's Report.

Pete Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that there had been a rolling chair this year. There had been six committee meetings, with one new committee member Johan Schoeman.

- A spring walk was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, which proved very successful with about 30 walkers attending.
- The usual stall was held at the Village Fete on 8<sup>th</sup> June, which was well supported.
- There was a talk 'Stay Safe from Online Scams' by the police on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, which was well attended.
- There was a Picnic in the Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, which was not well supported, and it was felt that this would not be held this year.
- There was the Stag 'unveiling' on the 1<sup>st</sup> July by Rebecca Jennings-Evans.
- The Stag Plinth was planted with aubretia and alpines.
- There was the usual stall at the Agricultural & Horticultural Show on the 14<sup>th</sup> September, which again was well supported.
- WEVS laid a wreath on Remembrance Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- The Boxing Day Walk was successful with approximately 70 walkers.
- WEVS had commented on the Surrey Heath draft Local Plan.
- There are sub-groups for Comms, History and Trees.

### 5. Previous Projects of the Year

1. **Bulbs.** The bulbs are still blooming and there should be a good display around the Village shortly.
2. **Seat.** The seat on the Heath is well used.
3. **Orchard.** The orchard should produce fruit for the Village this year.
4. **Footpath.** The footpath is still being used.
5. **Stag.** The stag is looking fantastic but is dark!

### 6. An Enlightened Stag Saga?

- It had been in the original plan to have the stag lit up, and solar lighting had been purchased. Unfortunately Covid 19 meant the planning approval lapsed and new permission was required, which had new rules. It was decided to erect the stag without lights, and we now need an Environmental Lighting Report, which is proving difficult. Surrey County Council suggested approaching Surrey Lighting Services, who were unable to help. It is currently with our County Councillor, Rebecca Jennings-Evans, so we will see if anything proceeds from this. It did however have a red nose for Christmas!

## **7. Membership.**

- Paid up 2024 452 (this will increase)
- Paid up 2023 482
- Paid up 2022 557
- Paid up 202 577

Advanced payments:

- 2025 and later 276

37% of our members are paying the pensioner rate.

- More distributors are needed. Some distributors have extensive rounds and ideally these should be split up.

## **8. Newsletters**

- Three newsletters are published each year. End of January (before the AGM), end of May (before the Fete) and end of August (before the Ag & Hort Show).
- The print run is 475 with 12 colour pages, through Knaphill Print.
- 219 are emailed.
- We would like to encourage more members to receive the newsletter by email, particularly members in less accessible areas. This would reduce both the cost of printing and the number of newsletters to be delivered.

## **9. Facebook**

- Johan Schoeman has done a lot of work setting up the WEVS Facebook Page, which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety/>. Visitors should click on 'like' or 'follow' to get updates on events and activities.
- We use the Facebook page to spread the word about WEVS and other Village events to people on the wider West End/Chobham/Bisley/Lightwater community by posting on various Facebook community groups.

## **10. Website**

- Johan Schoeman has updated and modernised the website, which is now much improved. We have a new provider, which will save money, and the Email and wevs.org.uk is unchanged.

## **11. Other Communications**

- Regularly put items in the Parish magazine
- We have put a couple of articles in the free R&A booklet.
- We are investigating adding an article in the local paper.
- We do not feel it is worth using Heathscene.
- We are not using noticeboards.

## **12. Fete and Show**

- The Fete and Show was very successful, partly due to Johan Schoeman's 'Buzzer Game' which proved a great hit with both young and old. This will be used again in 2025.

## **13. Planning.**

- Nothing further had been heard on the 5G mast.
- WEVS had commented on the Surrey Heath draft Local Plan

## **14. Tree Group**

- The Community Orchard is doing well although we have lost a few trees but overall have a good survival rate.
- West End Copse next to the Village Pond, is also known as John Straver Copse. Surrey Heath Tree Wardens have started to remove the laurel (as toxic invasive plant) and thinned out the overgrown holly. It is hoped this will be completed as far as possible before the bird nesting season. Planting of native species is part of the future plan.
- An oak tree in Fenns Lane was condemned by Surrey Highways and despite protest from WEVS and the Parish Council, it has been felled.

## **15. Future Events Coming up in 2025.**

Sun 23rd March	Spring Walk
Sat 14th June	Village fete
Sat 13th Sept.	Ag & Hort Show
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Remembrance Sunday
Thurs 26th Dec.	Boxing Day Walk.
TBA	Technical Talk.

## **16. Treasurers Report.**

Yvonne Simpson gave the report. The accounts were on screen and paper copies were also placed on chairs for inspection at the beginning of the meeting. Yvonne advised that we were currently running two bank accounts with Barclays and Lloyds, although the funds will be moved completely over to Lloyd shortly. Members were now paying subscriptions into the new account. The balance is healthy, although there is still some expenditure to pay towards the stag.

## **17. Motions:**

- **Change to Membership Subscriptions.**
- **Proposal One: Phase out pensioner rate.**
- Current full subscriptions are £4.00 per household per year, or £10.00 for three years. Pensioner rates are half, £2.00 and £5.00. It was proposed that anyone currently receiving the pensioner rate will continue to benefit, but any new members of pensioner age, or any current members becoming pensioner age in the future will pay the full rate. A discussion ensued, and a show of hands was held, with one against, all others in favour. The motion was carried.
- **Proposal Two: Life membership.**
- It was proposed to offer a Life Membership for £75.00, which at current rates equates to 22 years. Any life member moving away from West End will be required to receive the newsletter by email. A discussion ensued and a show of hands was held, with all in favour. The motion was carried.

## **18. Donations to good causes.**

- The committee is limited on funds this year, however, has decided to recommend a donation of £250.00 towards the new Scout and Guide building. Ian Komor spoke a little about the proposed new building and Giles Lowe also advised that the new building will be for community use. A show of hands was held, with all in favour. It was therefore agreed to donate £250.00 to the project.

## **19. Election of Officers and Committee.**

The following Officers were agreed:

Chairman (2yr)	Pete Jones
Vice Chairman (2yr)	Jeff Llewellyn
Honorary Secretary	Jan Smith
Honorary Treasurer	Yvonne Simpson
Membership Secretary	Mary Anthony
Newsletter Editor	Guy Consterdine

Proposed: Fred Wells, Seconded Pete Smith.

The remainder of the Committee were elected en-block for a further year.

Andrew Hopkins

Savitri Kegge

Yvette Jones

Anne Allard

Pauline Wells

Johan Schoeman

Proposed: Jeff Llewellyn, Seconded Pete Smith.

## **20. Any Other Business.**

- Giles Lowe, Chair of Parish Council, confirmed that the stag will be maintained by the Parish Council, who will also provide any support to the lighting.
- Giles Lowe also thanked the Tree Group for looking after the Copse and it was also proposed to add a new sign.
- Giles Lowe also asked members to let him know of any ideas/proposals for the Parish Council.
- Jeff Llewellyn advised that of the three liquidambar trees planted by Fellow Green, two have since died, but have been replaced by two prunus trees supplied by the Parish Council. Giles Lowe advised that ten trees had been provided in total, two in Rounce Lane, two in Rosewood Way, two in Fellow Green and four on the recreation ground.
- A comment was received about the strimming of the grass too close to the new trees. Giles Lowe advised that he was looking into having metal guards put up around the trees.
- Pete Jones thanked the committee for making the various events happen throughout the year and also thanked the distributors. Thanks was also given to Chris Anthony for his help with the newsletter.

## **21. West End History Project**

- Guy Consterdine introduced John Smith who spoke about the founding of the History Project and outlined how it had been run over the years and the various locations used for the storage of items. He thanked everyone who had provided photographs and documents and offered his support to Guy Consterdine and Johan Schoeman who will be taking over the Project. John was thanked for all hard work and a gift was presented from the Committee.

- WEVS are now taking over the History Project, which will be the Project of the Year for 2025 and will be run by Johan, Guy and Savitri. They have advised that they would like photographs from past and present events, with the title, date, photographer, description of image and people in it. They would also like to ensure WEVS has permission to publish the documents. All photographs will be copied and stored and the originals returned. Johan advised that there are links on the new website or email through to [historyproject@wevs.co.uk](mailto:historyproject@wevs.co.uk). . Gordons School have also sent through photographs from their archives.

After the formal business of the meeting, Tony Painter gave a very informative talk 'The History and Mystery of Maps'.

The meeting closed at 21.22pm

Pete Jones thanked everyone for attending the AGM and invited them to stay for drinks and nibbles.