



WEST END VILLAGE SOCIETY
www.wevs.org.uk — Your village, your voice

SPRING 2025

JOURNAL

ISSUE 205

A Note from the Editor

Pete Jones

Happy New Year to all our members, though the weather has not got off to a particularly auspicious start!

Another year, another AGM which is being held in the Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 18th Feb, starting at 19:30. With luck this year we will have a chairman.

Do come and join us. The formal business lasts about half an hour and this will be followed by a short introduction to our 2025 Project of the Year.

Following that there will be a talk by Tony Painter [former MoD map research officer and local historian] on *The History and Mystery of Maps*.

To top it all there will be refreshments afterwards

Also, we are expecting another brilliant display of daffodils this year. Do come and join us for the annual bulb walk. It's quite short, on paved surfaces and flat terrain. Further details can be found in this Newsletter.

In this issue

1	Editor's Note
2	Scouts & Guides
3	History Project; Quiz
4	West End History
5	Tree Wardens; Songs of Praise
6	Gordon's School
7	New Year's Resolution; Pirbright Military Heritage Trail
8	West End Social Club
9	Badminton; Elvis Night
10	Village Fete - 2025
11	Ag & Hort Show Review
12	WEVS Membership

Forthcoming Events - see elsewhere for more details

Date	Time	Event	Where
Friday 14 th February	19:00	Valentines Elvis Night	Tringham Hall
Monday 17 th February*	10:00	Hearing Aid Clinic	Bisley Village Hall
Tuesday 18 th February	19:30	WEVS AGM	Sports Pavilion
Saturday 1 st March*	20:30	Ultimate Elton John (Tribute)	Social Club
Tuesday 11 th March*	14:30	Songs of Praise	Holy Trinity Church
Friday 14 th March		Heathcote's Comedy Club	Gordon's School
Sunday 23 rd March	14:30	WEVS Daffodil Walk	Rosewood Way Car Park
Friday 23 rd May	23:59	WEVS Newsletter deadline	

*and other dates, see articles

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk



We Need Your Help!

As you have likely heard, West End Scouts and Guides have been granted planning permission for a new centre on the existing site in West End. As we move forward with the project, the task of fundraising has begun. The community funding we are applying for is keen to ensure that our new building also meets the needs of the local community and are therefore asking for feedback from local residents and organisations as to potential other uses for the building when it is not in use by our groups.

This research will be used as an evidence gathering exercise at this stage with no commitment required from any groups. We hope it will help support our bids for community funding and it would greatly help if you could complete the form below. The building will, of course, actually be available for community use when not in use by us when it is built.



Please can you complete the form at <https://forms.gle/UeZqAHMPiU1Azs6f9> Or use the QR code below:



WEST END SCOUT GROUP NEWS

Rather unusually, due to a lot of older Cubs moving up to Scouts all at once, and none of the Beavers being old enough to move up to Cubs yet, we have a few Cub vacancies. So, if your child is between 8 and 10½ years old and would like to try Cub Scouts please get in touch. gsl@westendscouts.org.uk

We also have a couple of Beaver spaces in our new Thursday group.

Scouting is run by volunteers so if you would like to join in the fun please contact us as above.

You don't need to be famous to join us!

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk

Most members of WEVS will be familiar with the work of John Smith who founded the West End History Project in 2004. He has amassed an immensely valuable collection of photographs and documents of our village spanning the last hundred years or so. John has mounted fascinating displays of historic photographs in the WEVS marquee at the village fetes and Ag & Hort Shows, in Surrey Heath's Heritage Centre, and in the West End Social Club. He has also written numerous articles in the Parish News magazine and elsewhere. He was deservedly awarded the accolade of Citizen of the Year in 2014 by the Parish Council.

John now plans to retire from the Project and no longer accepts new material. His final work will be cataloguing his 4,000+ photographs in print format.

WEVS will now be taking over the History Project and continuing it into the future. It will be WEVS' Project of the Year 2025, and will be led by Johan Schoeman, Savitri Kegge and myself.

At WEVS we will build our own digital collection of photographs with the aim of making it freely available online (with permission from those submitting photos) in a new section of WEVS' website.



John Smith

We would be pleased if residents would send us any photographs they have of events or views in West End, from the early years of the 20th century through to the present, and of course into the future as the months go by. They can be in any form: prints or documents, slides or negatives, or digital images. Prints, negatives and slides will be digitised and the originals returned. The information we would like about each image (as far as possible) is title, photographer, date, and description - including identifying any people.

Please send the photos to Johan at historyproject@wevs.org.uk or contact Johan to discuss them.

We will give a brief demonstration online of some images already in our collection at the WEVS AGM on Tuesday 18th February in the Sports Pavilion starting at 19:30.

Did You Know?

For a change, a short quiz about the village, answers on Page 12.

1. What's the missing scheduled bus route through the village: 34,35,??,84?
2. How long is the A322 (to nearest 5 miles)?
3. When was Holy Trinity Church built (to nearest 10 years)?
4. When was WEVS formed?
5. What was the original name of The Inn at West End?
6. How many tennis courts are on the Recreation ground?
7. Name the only Grade II listed animal in the village?
8. Who is chair of the Parish Council?
9. What's the name of the river that the A322 crosses between Bisley and West End?
10. When was the M3 opened (to nearest 3 years)?

No prizes, treat yourself to a chocolate if you get them all right!

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk

Parish Fetes and Garden Parties (from the Parish Magazine)

June 1916

A Garden Fete will be held in the Vicarage Garden on Wednesday June 21st 1916 by kind permission of Lieut E C and Mrs Bruce. To be opened at three o' clock, fruit, refreshments, fancy and other stalls. Military Concert at six o' clock. The band of the Gordon Boy's Home will attend, by kind permission of Col R Wynyard. Admission is sixpence; after 6, threepence, children, twopence. You will notice we have arranged for the Garden Fete to be held on Wednesday 21st [the longest day], when we hope the roses will be in full bloom and the strawberries ripe.

This year we are asking you to help with the Church Maintenance Fund. The Church wardens are asking for £9 towards the Organists salary, and I have advanced the last £6 on the Oak Choir Seats. We are most anxious to have a clean slate before we begin the Churchyard. Will you all do your utmost? If you cannot be present at the Fete, please send something to the Church wardens.

July 1916

Our Third Garden Fete and first Trinity Fair took place on Wednesday June 21st. We were favoured with a beautiful day, and the event being well advertised drew a large number of people. We hope to give more particulars in our next issue.

September 1916

The Committee wishes to thank very heartily those who sent money, fruit, flowers, plants, butter, eggs and vegetables: those who lent grounds, marquee, flags, crockery and conveyances: those who arranged the Baby Show: those who gave their services in entertaining and in providing music, especially the Band of the Gordon Boy's Home: and all who assisted at the Stalls and Competitions, and in the necessary preparing and clearing, which does so much towards making the day a great success. A proof of the interest taken is shown by the fact that over eighty parishioners and children helped in the above work.

July 1918

The Garden Fete has been fixed for Wednesday, August 7th. Colonel Wynyard has kindly promised the band. In fixing the date, we have had the children of the Parish chiefly in our minds, so that they may have a happy day during their summer holidays. Mr J Harrison Dakin has kindly arranged that they shall be admitted free and that every child shall have a war time tea.

July 1920

The Annual Garden Fete and Parish Gathering which was held on the Vicarage Lawns on Wednesday, June 9th, was a great success. We were favoured with a glorious afternoon, the members of the Committee put their hearts into their work and the result is a record. The splendid band of the Gordon Boy's Home played during the afternoon and for the dancing in the evening.

The Committee wish to thank all those who assisted by work or gifts. The accounts have not yet been made up owing to our having to pay the entertainment tax which we are hoping to get refunded. A balance sheet will be published in next month's Magazine.

Tree Wardens

Yvette Jones

West End tree wardens (Yvette Jones and Savitri Kegge) joined forces with two other tree enthusiasts from Camberley (Jerry Brownlee and Trefor Hogg) to form Surrey Heath Tree Wardens in 2018. The charity was set up and the original four were joined by other Trustees, committee members and volunteers to create a thriving team dedicated to preserving the green canopy of Surrey Heath. Regular volunteer groups work on a variety of projects in the Borough. These have included making outdoor classrooms for schools, opening up overgrown woodland areas (removing non-native and rampant species) and of course planting many thousands of whips, saplings and trees.

On January 28th a work party will commence removal of laurel and invasive species from the small copse next to West End village pond on the recreation ground. This will probably take a couple of sessions so if you would like to get involved please take a look at Surrey Heath Tree Wardens facebook page [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SurreyHeathTreeWardens/>]. All of our scheduled activities are listed and reported there.

The copse by the pond was dedicated to the late John Straver at its inception. Information in the Parish Council minutes dated 13th February 1980, kindly provided by historian, John Smith, lists the tree species offered as: 3 *Salix tristis*, 5 *Poplar nigra italica*, 5 *Poplar alba*, 5 *Cherry hisakura*, 5 *Sorbus acuparia*, 9 *Acer platanoides*, 7 *Betula pendula*, 7 *Tilia platyphylis rubra* and 10 *Acer ginnala*. It is noted that, "Messrs. Hillings Nurseries be asked to carry out the work in March." It appears Mr. S Kemp had proposed the planting of trees on the south side of the Recreation Ground at a previous meeting in January 1980.

It will be interesting to see if we can identify any of the original trees, now over 45 years of age!

Songs of Praise

If you enjoy singing or listening to hymns you might like to come and join us for Songs of Praise. This event is held on the second Tuesday of every month (not January and February) at **Holy Trinity Church**. It starts at **2.30pm** and we usually sing about 8 hymns which have often been chosen by people who attended the previous Songs of Praise. We hear a little about the origin of each song and its writer and composer before singing or just listening. We are fortunate to have the hymns played on our church organ. After this we have tea and cake in the vestry or outside in the good weather. It's a time to chat and get to know each other and select some hymns for next time. Communion is often available at 4pm after these refreshments.



The church now has new under pew heating and cushions on the seats so do come and try them out and join us for an afternoon of music and friendship!

Dates for the first half of 2025 are:

Tuesday 11th March, Tuesday 8th April, Tuesday 13th May, Tuesday 10th June, Tuesday 8th July.

For further information please contact Alison Clay 01483 481249

or via the Parish office bweparish@gmail.com

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk

Gordon's School

The 140th anniversary of the founding of Gordon's School site as the National Memorial to General Gordon is being celebrated this year with a host of events planned throughout!

This month, as well as making the annual parade along Whitehall to the statue of General Gordon on the Thames Embankment, the 60-strong Pipes and Drums Band began their anniversary tour of places associated with General Gordon. This included visiting memorials to General Gordon at St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey as well as performing there. The tour will also take in the monuments at the Brompton Barracks, Chatham; Gravesend; Southampton and Windsor Castle.

The Band will also lead the student body in walking from Brookwood Station to the school, recreating the march when 100 'necessitous' boys travelled from their temporary base at Fort Wallington near Fareham to take up residence at their new home in West End.



The Pipes and Drums, who performed on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral.

Gordon's was originally built by public subscription at the insistence of Queen Victoria who demanded a fitting memorial to the Victorian war hero General Charles Gordon and who became the first in an unbroken line of sovereign patrons. Originally the home taught children a trade but in 1943 it became the Gordon Boys' School, later admitting girls in 1990 when the school was renamed Gordon's School. Visit the website (www.gordons.school) for more information

Students and staff have voted on three local charities to support for this year. As well as a three year whole school charity *Kids for Kids* supporting communities in Sudan, the *West End Scout Group*, *Treloar's School and College* and *Charlie's Promise* will benefit from fundraising. The first event to raise money for the charities will be Heathcote's Comedy Club at Gordon's on Friday 14th March (open to the public, tickets: www.gordons.school/boxoffice).

Tennis, netball and pickle ball courts are now available for hire (www.gordons.school/venue-hire).

The school is also keen to hear from households in the area who would be interested in hosting a Sixth Form rugby student during the term time, weekdays only. The student would need their own bedroom and work table and there would be a financial agreement between the student's family and hosts.

Contact Paul King – pking@gordons.school.



Gordon Monument – Members of the Pipes and Drums together with the Gordon's School Chaplain the Reverend Graham Wright at the Gordon Monument in St Paul's Cathedral.

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk

New Year's Resolutions

Angela Astall

It's that time of year when we start thinking about New Year's resolutions – the time when we make a promise to ourselves to start doing something good or stop doing something bad on the first day of the year.

We all lead such busy lives and many people are afraid to volunteer or commit to doing anything within the community, often because this results in a regular commitment. But WEBcare is the exception – we can make your New Year's resolution decision easy for you!

This is a service that has been provided by volunteers to the community of West End and Bisley for over 30 years and some of our past volunteers are now clients! We are desperate for more people to join our rota, either as volunteer drivers or duty officers to answer the phone (from the comfort of your own home). You can volunteer for either or both roles and commit as little or as much time as you want on an ad hoc basis.

Drivers are needed to take clients, who do not have families or friends who can help them, to hospital and doctor appointments (and we all know how hard it is to get to our local hospitals via public transport). Duty Officers answer the phone between 10:00 and 12:00, log the request and send out a WhatsApp message or phone to find a driver who can help (drivers are reimbursed for their mileage). At the time of writing this article we have fulfilled 795 jobs since 2nd January 2024 and the need is increasing.

Could you do this? We really do need your help. Please ring WEB Care for any further information on 07713 915393. The phone is manned Mon-Fri 10:00-12:00 but leave a message and we will call you back.

Please make volunteering with WEBcare **your** New Year's Resolution.

Pirbright Military Heritage Trail

Pete Jones

Many of you have probably noticed the new waymarked trail that goes through the village. Its been created by the Defense Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) in collaboration with other groups. There are 13 information posts around the 12 mile circuit, and they are marked (in both directions) on finger posts. It is on a 'multiuser path' so you can walk, cycle or ride the route. The nearest information post (#6) is about 200m north of the end of Brentmoor Road on the stony track.



If you plan to walk it, I suggest going clockwise, that way you get to Deepcut Café or The Frog about two thirds of the way round.



To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk



Drop in and try out your local **West End Social Club** which can be found opposite the Inn at West End. The club has its own private car park. Many activities and events take place during the year. The large comfortable lounge and excellent dance floor can be hired for private parties, corporate events and also wakes. A buffet can be supplied if required. There is a separate side room which can be hired for smaller groups, this makes an ideal meeting venue for clubs and societies etc.

Let's Dance.....

The club welcomes a **NEW Line Dancing** event taking place every Thursday evening.

Arizona Line Dancing holds INTERMEDIATE/ IMPROVER lessons. Sessions take place between 8:00 and 10:00pm. For further details contact: **Andy 07816 562228**

Gin & Tonic BEGINNERS Line Dancing Lessons are held at the club on Tuesday mornings 10:00 – 11:00am and Thursday afternoons 14:15 -15:30pm. For further details contact **Ginny 07871 154404**

Jive lessons take place every Wednesday evening. The Jive Club also organises live Rock & Roll Bands on the 2nd Friday of each month. For further details Contact: **Lynn 01252 872225**

Joints a Hoppin is a monthly **Swing Dance** event with a short **Lindy Hop** lesson preceding the dance. The event usually takes place on the last Friday of each month from 7:30- 11:00pm. For more info go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jointsahoppin>



There is a very popular **COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB** held once a month on Sunday evenings 8:00- 10:30pm. Come along to listen and dance to some great Country Music acts. On the 1st Sunday of the month there is also an afternoon session of **Western Partner Dance** 2:30- 4:30pm Newcomer's welcome. For further details contact **Nigel Karney 07783 518771**

Our monthly **Quiz** hosted by Nick Spong on a Saturday is always a popular and fun evening with groups of four/six per team, there is a prize for the winning team. The monthly Friday **Skittles** evening is also popular with teams of four also with a prize for the winning team. The club has many other regular activities during the week including **Snooker, Pool, Short Mat Bowls and Darts**. Enquire with the Bar Staff if you are interested in taking part.

Our bar offers an extensive range of beers (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), real ales, cocktails, hot drinks and bar snacks at very competitive prices. If you become a club member you will be entitled to discounted drinks and reduced entry to events.

Tribute Act Dates Ticket Only Events

Saturday 1st March	Ultimate Elton John (Elton John Tribute)	8:30 – 11:30pm
Saturday 5 th April	Cliff As If (Cliff Richards Tribute)	8:30 – 11:30pm
Saturday 3 rd May	He Will Rock You (Evening with Freddie Mercury)	8:30 – 11:30pm

A selection of Tribute Acts booked for 2025 Gary Barlow, David Bowie, Rod Stewart

Please see our website or Lemonrock.com select **Venue – West End Social Club** for further details of entertainment and events. **Contact:** westendsocialclub@btconnect.com **Tel:** 01276 858501

www.westendsocialclub.co.uk

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk

Play Badminton in West End

There are two Badminton clubs in West End playing in the evenings at Tringham Hall

The Cameroons Badminton club meets from September through to April, we begin at 8:30pm finishing at 10:30. The club suits players of all abilities, has a social feel – we play doubles but do not compete with other clubs.

Cameroons Badminton West End



Tringham Hall

Adults Fridays 8:30-10:30pm Sept-April

The club is a friendly (non ladder) social playing club with members of all abilities and ages. We meet every Friday between 8:30 and 10:30 during the winter/spring period from September through to April.

For more details contact Pete Smith

pete.smith@ntlworld.com

☎ 01276 855372

☎ 07801 611663



The West End Badminton club is similar but meets all year round on Wednesday evenings between 8:15pm finishing at 9:45.

For information text Badminton to Lenny 07823 778529



Elvis Night

Tringham Hall Presents:

Valentine's Elvis Night

Friday 14th February 2025

Be entertained on **Valentine's Night**

by **Elvis Presley**

(AKA Chris Dyke)

Entry by ticket only:

Adults - £10.00

Children under 10 - £5.00

Licensed Bar

7.00pm until 11.00



At Tringham Hall, Benner Lane, West End GU24 9JP

Tickets available up to Friday 7th February from

Pete Smith 07801 611663

pete.smith@ntlworld.com

Jack Kegge 07711 954344

jack.kegge@ntlworld.com



All proceeds go to the running of Tringham Hall
(West End Village Hall Management Trust - Registered Charity 282968)

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk

West End Village Fete

Last year's West End Village Fete was held on Saturday, 8th June and the money raised by the main fete stalls has been distributed to the following organisations within the village:

West End Scouts and Guides	West End Badminton Clubs
West End Football Club	West End Old Folks Social Club
Tringham Hall	LinkAble
West End & Bisley Food Bank	West End Garden Club
West End Tree Group	Holy Trinity Church

The 2025 fete will be held on Saturday 14 June. The theme is "Transportation – celebrating 200 years of the railway".

UNWANTED CROCKERY

The Croc Smash was so popular last year that we have now totally run out of crockery! If you have any old unwanted crockery (no glass) that you do not mind being smashed, then please let us know at wevfete@gmail.com and we will arrange collection.

STALLS AND ADVERTISING

If you want to place an advertisement in the Fete programme then you can do it online at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EFIH>

To book a stall at the 2025 Fete visit <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EFIL> for full details and to reserve your space.



To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk

The Ag & Hort Show - 2024

Mandy Byes

The Committee is delighted to reflect on our 2024 Show, where we celebrated the 120th anniversary of the West End, Windlesham & District Agricultural & Horticulture Society. With cooler weather in comparison to the previous year of sweltering heat, we were thrilled to welcome back all our beloved furry friends, including the return of the hugely popular dog show and agility competition. I'm particularly proud that our family dog, Mikey, won "Best Pair of Legs". I'm not sure whether the judge was admiring Mikey's or Kierans, who was handling him at the time!

Our annual ploughing match, held at Windlesham Golf Club, was a great success and lots of fun. Special thanks to Michelle and Helen for making delicious bacon butties and tea for the ploughmen and spectators.

We held our AGM and first Committee meeting of the year on Tuesday, 21st January, as we began planning for the 121st Show, scheduled for Saturday 13th September. Event details, including timings, will be available on our website, and entry forms can be downloaded later this year

at www.wewdahs.org. Our schedules will be on sale and distributed to members in May. If you'd like to become a member, please contact Mandy Bye or download a membership form to send to David Pearce. For just £3, you'll gain entry to the marquee, receive a schedule, and enjoy reduced entry fees for certain classes.



While we change some classes each year keeping abreast with current trends and technology, we always keep a few favourites. For example, the "Jar of Marmalade" in the preserves section is sure to see a boost after the release of *Paddington in Peru*. Don't forget the "Jar of Pickle" too - both can be found in last year's schedule on our website.

Our next committee meeting will be on Tuesday 4th March, at 8:00 pm at the West End Social Club (side room). If you're interested in joining the committee or volunteering on the day of the event, we'd be happy to have you join us!

We look forward to seeing you at the 121st Show!



Hearing Aid Clinic

FEBRUARY 17

MARCH 17

APRIL 14

MAY 19

JUNE 16

JULY 21

FREE WALK-IN CLINICS
SERVICING & ADVICE **NHS**
FOR NHS HEARING AIDS

Hear Here

BISLEY VILLAGE HALL 10 AM - 12 NOON

For more information:
email: hearhere@bweparish.org.uk or telephone: 01483 473377

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk

WEVS Membership

Mary Anthony

The most important thing to tell you is that WEVS has a new bank account. If you have previously paid your subscription by bank transfer, and wish to do so again, please email me for the new bank details at membershipwevs@gmail.com.

We will be proposing some changes to the subscriptions at the AGM which is being held on Tuesday 18th February at 7.30 pm in the Sports Pavilion. Come along and find out what they are. You may pay your subscription on the night by cash or card.

We are looking for Newsletter distributors. It is not an onerous task and you get free membership of the Society by way of a thanks. Please contact me at the above email address if you are interested in helping.

Mary Anthony
WEVS Membership Secretary

WEVS Annual General Meeting

Sports Pavilion Tuesday 18th February 2025 7.30 pm

After the AGM there will be a talk by Tony Painter entitled 'The History and Mystery of Maps'.

The talk will be followed by drinks and light refreshments for Members.

WEVS Daffodil Walk Around West End

Sunday 23rd March, starting at 14:30. Meet at Rosewood Way Car Park for a walk of approximately two miles around the daffodils in the village. Ending at the Hare and Hounds

Did You Know? - Answers

1. 47	6. 3 Tennis Courts
2. 16 Miles (11 - 21)	7. Camel, with General Gordon on top
3. 1842 (1832 - 1852)	8. Giles Lowe
4. 1973	9. The Bourne
5. The Wheatsheaf	10. 1971 (1968 - 1974)

WEVS Committee - comms@wevs.org.uk

Chairperson: Vacant **Secretary:** Jan Smith **Treasurer:** Yvonne Simpson

Membership Secretary: Mary Anthony **Newsletter Editor:** Pete Jones

Other members: Anne Allard, Guy Consterdine, Andrew Hopkins, Yvette Jones, Savitri Kegge, Jeff Llewellyn, Johan Schoeman, Pauline Wells

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or www.wevs.org.uk