



**WEST END VILLAGE SOCIETY**  
[www.wevs.org.uk](http://www.wevs.org.uk) — Your village, your voice

SUMMER 2025

JOURNAL

ISSUE 206

## Chairman's Chat

**Pete Jones**

I've just taken over to do my second term as chairman. To say it was a contested post would be an exaggeration....

Our AGM was a great success. There were some changes to subscriptions. This was followed by a fascinating talk about maps by guest speaker Tony Painter.

We are looking to put on a few events this year. We hope our VE80 display of war photographs at the Social Club saw a lot of you looking at the displays. Maybe it was a first visit to the lovely Social Club which has been significantly improved over the past few years.

Looking forward, we have the Fete on 14 June, with transport as the theme, hence the photo display in our marquee will be 'transport biased'. Also we will have a lot more display boards, and will be updating all the information (clubs, walks, history etc). There will be the buzzer challenge and a Maze-O game.

If you have any 'historic' photos of the village or village events please let us know or bring them along to the fete so we can digitise them and add them to our collection, taking on and expanding the History Project as our Project of the Year.

We are considering an open garden day in late June. If you are in the Donkey Town/New England/The Folly area and would consider opening your garden (it doesn't have to be perfect) for local charities please contact anyone on the WEVS committee (listed below) or email [comms@wevs.org.uk](mailto:comms@wevs.org.uk).

### In this issue

1	Chairman's Chat
2	AGM Report; New/Old Editor
3	Village Fete; A New WEVS Website
4	The History Project
5	Planning Update
6	VE80 Exhibition
7	Benner Lane Speed Restrictions; The Community Orchard
8	Illuminating The Stag; WEVS Spring Walk
9	Membership Subscriptions; The Village Garden Club
10	Scouting & Guiding
11	West End Social Club
12	The 2025 Village Fete

### WEVS Committee - [comms@wevs.org.uk](mailto:comms@wevs.org.uk)

**Chairman:** Pete Jones

**Vice-Chairman:** Jeff Llewellyn

**Secretary:** Jan Smith

**Treasurer:** Yvonne Simpson

**Membership Secretary:** Mary Anthony **Newsletter Editor:** Guy Consterdine

**Other members:** Anne Allard, Andrew Hopkins, Yvette Jones, Savitri Kegge, Johan Schoeman, Pauline Wells

## WEVS AGM Report

At a well-attended AGM in the Sports Pavilion on 18 February, Pete Jones in the Chair reported on WEVS' extensive and varied range of activities during the last twelve months.

Some of the topics are featured elsewhere in this newsletter: the History Project (see page 4), Lucas the stag sculpture (p8), the new WEVS website (p3), the Community Orchard (p7), planning (p5) and modifications to membership subscriptions (p9).

As well as these topics, Yvonne Simpson gave her Treasurer's report, which showed that the bank balance is healthy.

It was unanimously agreed that a donation of £250 be given to the Scout and Guide fund for paying to build their new headquarters (p11).

The WEVS Committee was formally elected for the coming year. A full list of officers and other committee members is on page 1.

After the formal AGM we heard a fascinating lecture by guest speaker Tony Painter on the history of maps and the products of the Ordnance Survey. This was followed by social drinks and nibbles.

Minutes of the AGM may be downloaded from the WEVS website at <https://wevs.org.uk/about/>

## New/Old Newsletter Editor

## Guy Consterdine

With former Newsletter Editor Pete Jones becoming Chairman at the AGM, I took over the editorship. For me this was a return to a previous role, because I had been Editor of the first 60 WEVS newsletters, beginning with the original one circulated to every house in the village announcing a meeting in the Scout & Guide Centre to see if there was enough support to form a residents' association.

In those days the newsletters were a single sheet of foolscap paper printed on both sides. Being pre-internet, I produced them by typing on a waxed stencil; then, spending an evening in my garage, the stencil was positioned on the roller of a so-called 'portable' Gestetner rotary press which I could only just lift.

Turning a handle one rotation drew one sheet of paper from the hopper and printed it on one side; the handle was turned again to print the next sheet, and so on till the end of the long print run. To print the reverse side a new typed stencil was positioned on the roller, the same sheets of paper were put into the hopper again but the other way up, and the handle turned again and again. By current standards it was primitive but it worked.

Today's 12 page full-colour newsletters are produced using Word files, JPEGs and Microsoft's Publisher program, resulting in a digital edition for immediate emailing to members for whom we have email addresses, and a pdf to email to the printing company for those members who have printed copies some days later. Members for whom we have email addresses may also have printed copies if they wish.

## The Village Fete - Saturday 14th June

WEVS will have a stand at the fete on 14 June as usual. Come and see our new display of photographs, many on the fete's theme of Transport. This is the year of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825, the world's first passenger railway to use steam locomotives.

The best known steam locomotive of that era is Rocket, which operated on the Manchester to Liverpool line from 1830. Rocket's top speed was 30mph, in contrast to Mallard which in 1938 set and still holds the world's speed record for a steam locomotive of 126mph.

The WEVS stand will also feature the buzzer game we introduced last September at the Ag & Hort Show, where much fun was had in trying to manoeuvre the metal ring from one end of the wavy copper wire to the next without touching the wire and setting off an alarm. We will also have a Maze-O, a fun opportunity to challenge your children/ friends/ spouse on a timed route around a 'Maze' with a map. It's free, so come along and give it a go.

The stand will also provide information displays, and will be selling copies of our history book and maps of local walks. Subscriptions to WEVS may be paid (see page 9 for details). For more about the fete see the back page of this newsletter.



WEVS Marquee - Fete 2024



Rocket - replica



Mallard

## The New WEVS Website

WEVS has a refreshed website, designed by Committee member Johan Schoeman, who demonstrated it online at the AGM. The design is clean, modern and elegant. There are sections describing WEVS and its objectives and activities; membership; West End history; Projects of the Year and causes to which WEVS has donated; village information, and a collection of newsletters and updates from West End Action Group, which merged into WEVS in 2023. The web address is unchanged: [www.wevs.org.uk](http://www.wevs.org.uk)



### Welcome to WEVS

The West End Village Society was originally founded in 1979 as a non-political, volunteer-led village community organisation open to all West End residents. Our wide-ranging brief includes preserving and enhancing our local heritage and natural environment.

WEVS aims to work with residents, organisations and businesses in order to:

- Stimulate interest and involvement in village affairs
- Preserve the history and heritage of the village
- Assist and comment upon planning and related issues
- Participate in the formulation of Local Plans
- Arrange public events, such as lectures and walks
- Establish a major activity each year as Project of the Year
- Forge links with other West End organisations.

We welcome members from in and around the West End area. As a member, you will receive regular newsletters covering news and events in and around West End and updates regarding our activities.



West End Village is in the heart of Surrey Heath, approximately 25 miles southwest of central London.

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit [facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety](https://facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety) or [www.wevs.org.uk](http://www.wevs.org.uk)



## The History Project

Guy Consterdine

The WEVS Project of the Year for 2025, the West End History Project, was launched at the AGM with a presentation by John Smith, Johan Schoeman and myself. It explained that John had founded the Project in 2004. John recounted how he'd started the collection, the co-operation he'd received in building it up, and the impressive list of places and events where he had mounted exhibitions of photographs. Many West Enders would have seen John's photos in the WEVS stall at the Fete and Ag&Hort Shows over the years.

Ten years after its founding his collection and displays of historic photographs of West End people and events led to the Parish Council choosing John as Citizen of the Year 2014.

By 2025 John had decided it was time to retire from this fascinating work, and formally handed over to WEVS.

The WEVS project is led by Johan Schoeman, Savitri Kegge and myself. A significant difference between John's collection and the collection that WEVS is developing is that ours is digital-only, hosted on its own section of the WEVS website, and is accessible for anyone to examine the photographs.



John Smith



The Old Infants School - Circa 1975

At the AGM Johan gave an online demonstration of progress so far, showing a number of historic photographs, including some 'Then and now' comparisons which illustrate how the village has changed. These can be viewed on the History Project pages of the WEVS website at [wevs.org.uk/history-project](https://wevs.org.uk/history-project).



Malthouse Lane Under Construction - 1965

WEVS encourages all residents and local organisations to send us any photographs they have of events, people or views in West End, from the early years of photography through to the present, and of course into the future as the months go by. They can be in any form: prints, 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.

Please contact Johan Schoeman at: [historyproject@wevs.org.uk](mailto:historyproject@wevs.org.uk) to arrange delivery of photographs or documents.

2007 Ag & Hort Show - Morris Dancers



To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit [facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety](https://facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety) or [www.wevs.org.uk](https://www.wevs.org.uk)

As readers will no doubt be aware, the Labour Government is intent on dramatically increasing the rate of housebuilding, to achieve 1.5 million new homes by 2029. To this end the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was revised in December 2024, setting new and generally higher housing requirements for each local planning authority. December was the very month in which Surrey Heath Borough Council submitted its new Local Plan, covering 2019 to 2038, to the Secretary of State for approval. This Local Plan, completed after a long and complex process starting in 2018, was immediately outdated.

The Local Plan's housing targets were correctly calculated on the then current method - known since December 2024 as the 'old standard methodology', but the new NPPF has created a 'new standard methodology' which results in higher requirements for almost all planning authorities in South East England.

For Surrey Heath the old requirement was an average of 320 new houses a year. The new binding requirement is for 684 new houses a year, more than double – in fact an increase of 114%. This will have profound effects on a revised Local Plan. As an example, it will make the conversion of Fair Oaks Airfield into a mini-town much more likely; this was reviewed but rejected in the submitted Local Plan, yet the Council will find it hard to turn down this opportunity to account for something like 1200 homes on a single site.

Surrey Heath is not alone in having substantially raised requirements. In Surrey alone, four councils have had their housing targets more than doubled: Elmbridge (+139%), Surrey Heath (+114%), Waverley (+109%) and Reigate & Banstead (+103%).

### **Planning application in Fenns Lane**

There is a planning application for five bungalows at Rosedene Farm, Fenns Lane (reference 25/0374). This is a small part of the land on which an application for 74 homes was refused by the Planning Inspector in 2021. However none of the main reasons for the 2021 refusal (Green Belt, harmful visual effect, and harm to the character of the area) apply to the new proposal.

This parcel of land is formally recognised as 'previously developed land' – in the new vocabulary, it is Grey Belt rather than Green Belt. Accordingly, appropriate development may be permitted here. It comprises only five houses (unlike the 74-house application which proposed about 30 homes on this piece of land) and these are bungalows (a previous application for five two-storey houses having been rejected by the Council and withdrawn). Five bungalows will improve the visual appearance of the site compared with the existing haphazard mix of workshops, storage buildings, and coach and lorry parking.

WEVS has considered this application and decided not to object to it.



## VE80 Exhibition

Guy Consterdine

To celebrate the end of the Second World War 80 years ago, WEVS and West End Social Club jointly hosted an exhibition of West End at war. Organised by the WEVS History Project team led by Johan Schoeman, and held in the Social Club, it included a display of more than 200 photographs provided by John Smith, local residents and Gordon's School.

The principal section of photos featured people and events in West End during the Second war. This was complemented by pictures from the First World War, even the Boer War, as well as war memorials, and some post-war effects of the fighting including National Service which was imposed until 1960.

Among the photos were several featuring one of the most dramatic wartime events in West End, the crash of the German bomber plane, a Heinkel He111, on the recreation ground on 24 September 1940. The plane had been badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire, the crew baled out, and the burning pilotless Heinkel lost height and plunged into the ground. Before local contractors could remove the wreckage for the Army, some enterprising local people salvaged and kept a few pieces. One of these, a single strip of metal, was on display at this exhibition.



Baby's Gas Mask

There were also other physical items dating back to the war. For example there was a mess room hooter from a local airfield which was used to scramble RAF pilots to their planes when air raids were approaching. There were an air raid warden's helmet and the wooden rattle used to sound the All Clear after a German air raid.

There was a baby's gas mask - though mask was hardly the word for the crude bag with transparent window in which the terrified baby was to be completely sealed in the event of a gas attack. Some mothers were known to have cried when given one of these - at the mere thought of precious baby going

into such a contraption. Thank goodness they never needed to be used.

It was heartening to see family groups, including school-children, visiting the exhibition together to successfully find photos of dads, grandparents and even great-grandparents. Among the visitors were Norman Holden, who heads up the Royal British Legion in Knaphill, Bisley and West End; and our local MP, Al Pinkerton, who found the display fascinating and thought the Social Club was a great asset to West End and its community.

(continued on Page 7)



## VE80 Exhibition - Continued

In addition to seeing the exhibits, I found another pleasure was discussing family wartime experiences with other visitors: personal recollections, or memories passed down by parents or grandparents.

I urged my companions to write it all down or record it in some other way, otherwise the fascinating experiences would be lost for ever. Such records could have a place in WEVS' History Project too.

The exhibition was accompanied by nostalgic wartime music, including the comforting soft crooning of Vera Lynn. The event ran from May 6th to 10th, VE Day itself being May 8<sup>th</sup>. WEVS warmly thanks those who contributed photographs or objects for display.

## Benner Lane Speed Restrictions

Many residents will have seen the new speed restrictions in Benner Lane, built in April. The aim is to slow traffic in the vicinity of Holy Trinity School and improve the safety of pupils and parents. There is now a 20mph speed limit from Fairfield Lane to Jenner Drive. Between these points there are seven pairs of speed bumps. Outside the school there is a raised platform with a zebra crossing.

In addition the contractors resurfaced several sections of Streets Heath, eliminating pot holes. When these photographs were taken on 4 May the contractors still had some clearing up to do.



## The Community Orchard Project

Yvette Jones



The 2022 WEVS project to plant a community orchard at Windlemere SANG, previously Windlemere golf course, is progressing well. The trees are now in their third growing season and the beautiful blossom has attracted plenty of pollinators. The small trees will be allowed to bear fruit for the first time now that the roots have established.

It was intended that the grass surrounding the trees would become a wildflower meadow. Unfortunately, this part of the project has failed. Although many seeds have been sown



the ground is too rich for them to survive. The previously fertilised ground (as a golf course) does not yet allow them to thrive. We would like to thank the unidentified person who recently replaced a dead Prunus Accolade with a Cherry 'Hedelfinger'.

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit [facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety](https://facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety) or [www.wevs.org.uk](http://www.wevs.org.uk)



## illuminating The Stag

Pauline Wells

Lucas the stag has been proudly standing on the Fellow Green roundabout for over a year now, an iconic marker of West End. The nearby plaque was unveiled by our Surrey County Councillor Rebecca Jennings-Evans in July 2024. The sculpture by George Hider was commissioned by WEVS and paid for by public subscription. We chose a stag in recognition of the large herd of red deer on the Army land on the west of the village. He was named Lucas as a result of a poll among residents, a name which reflects the fact that the sculpture and the real herd are linked by Lucas Green Road.

We plan to install night time illumination for the stag, but new regulations require an environmental lighting survey to be carried out first. We have found a company willing and able to take on the job. Hopefully this will be successful and we may be able to see Lucas after dark later in the year.



## WEVS Spring Walk

Johan Schoeman

The annual WEVS Spring walk around the village's magnificent bulb patches took place on a very rainy Sunday afternoon, 23rd March. This was slightly later than the previous year, which was just as well as the bulbs came into flower a couple of weeks later this year. There was a lot to see as they were just coming into their own.

Thirty four village residents set aside a couple of hours of their Sunday afternoon to take the stroll. Starting at the car park on Rosewood Way the wet but determined group marched through part of the Nursery Green Estate, past the doctors' surgery and the Stag roundabout up to the Recreation Ground. The hardy ones made it to Gordon's Roundabout before regrouping with the others in the Hare & Hounds for refreshments in the garden.

It was encouraging to see, through the rain, how well all the different varieties of daffodil bulbs are doing. We look forward to another wonderful but sunny display next Spring.

This fine Spring display was a result of WEVS planting 130,000 bulbs over the course of three years, 2016-2018.





## WEVS Membership Subscriptions

Two fresh proposals were put forward at the AGM regarding subscriptions. One was to end the pensioners' reduced rate, which was only £2 a year. New members joining who are pensioners will be asked to pay the full rate which is only £4 a year. However, existing pensioner members may continue to pay the reduced rate if they wish. There are also savings if paying for three years together.

The second AGM motion was to institute Life Membership, at £75, in response to several calls for it, including members who had moved out of the village but wanted to maintain a connection.

Both motions were carried unanimously.

Subscriptions are only £4 a year per household (or £10 for 3 years). Or £75 for Life.

We encourage members to pay subscriptions and renewals online on the WEVS website at:

<https://wevs.org.uk/membership/>

We ask for members' email addresses solely for communicating with members. Receiving newsletters in digital format means seeing each issue more quickly than in print, and makes a saving on printing costs. It also means that in future we may communicate quickly with members on an ad hoc basis about any short-term news or activities.

## West End Village Garden Club

**Chris Anthony**

This year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of West End Village Garden Club. Way back then, a group of individuals got together to form a club that would appeal to a broad cross section of people interested in gardening. Size of garden was of no importance, which is lucky as most of us have relatively small patches of land, and horticultural expertise was by no means essential.

These principles have been adhered to since the start and the appeal of this is reflected in the steady growth of membership in and outside the immediate locality. The club now runs a full programme of events which includes a couple of social gatherings, one in the summer and one at Christmas, a group visit to places and gardens of interest and ten monthly meetings at which an outside expert is asked to come and speak to members on a wide selection of topics. Not all of these are garden related. We have had talks about beekeeping and visits to exotic places in other parts of the world. In January, for example, we were visited by a volunteer from West Horsley Place (Button House to those of us who enjoyed the recent TV series "Ghosts"), who told us about the on-going restoration of this ancient estate.

Our most recent talk was by a retired horticulturist, Ray Broughton, who addressed the issue of peat-free compost. Ray is a popular speaker with the club and always leaves us with a number of very useful tips. This time he revealed the success of experimentation with sprays to counter black spot on roses. Start spraying roses with "SB Invigorator" as the foliage emerges and again one week later and the results should be very satisfying. Finally, clean your cutting tools (secateurs etc) by soaking the blades in tomato ketchup for about four days - goodness knows what it does to our stomachs!

If you would like more information about the club, contact our membership secretary Fred Wells on email at [wellsfrederick@hotmail.com](mailto:wellsfrederick@hotmail.com)

To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit [facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety](https://facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety) or [www.wevs.org.uk](http://www.wevs.org.uk)

### Fundraising for our new building

We are extremely impressed with all the kind people who have been raising money for this important project. But one person deserves a special mention – our wonderful Rector, Fiona! What an absolutely amazing task she set herself! Walking from Winchester to Canterbury following the Pilgrims Way. That is more than 140 miles – in 7 days!

Being heavily involved with West End Scout group over the last 25 years I thought I ought to show willing. So on Monday 28 April my husband Ian and I joined Fiona at lunchtime in Merstham.



Julie (left) and Fiona

It was quite warm that day and the first stretch, out in the open across fields, was very tiring, but we were soon travelling through beautiful woodlands which provided blissful shade making good progress across the Surrey Hills with stunning views. Over 4 hours and 9.5 miles later, three very weary people began descending into Oxted. Fiona set off to her overnight accommodation and we jumped on a train back to Merstham to pick up the car.

The next day I had an emerging blister on a big toe and stiff and aching limbs – I cannot imagine how Fiona managed to do this day after day, mile after mile. I can only say that she deserves complete admiration from us all. We hope the amount of sponsorship raised reflects the incredible effort. Still a way to go though! Our immediate target is £30,000 to proceed through the next stage.

We will be at the West End fete – come and see us. You can make smores (biscuits with a melted marshmallow squeezed between them), try the coconut shy, have a go at crossbows, buy badges and much more! We are also running the refreshments in the Pavilion so please come and have a drink and sample the delicious cakes.

We have another big fund raiser coming up on 4<sup>th</sup> July – **THE BIG QUIZ!** At West End Social Club. Tickets will be £15, to include a fish and chip supper.

### West End Scout Group news

Our previously mentioned Cub vacancies are filling up fast! So hurry if you want to join in the fun in time for our Group Centenary Camp in July! Beaver spaces were in high demand, so we have increased capacity for both colonies. All enquiries to [gsl@westendscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@westendscouts.org.uk)



To receive regular updates on WEVS events visit [facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety](https://facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety) or [www.wevs.org.uk](http://www.wevs.org.uk)



West End Social Club would like to welcome you, your family and friends to come along and enjoy a wide range of social activities. We hold live music, country music and Americana sessions, several styles of dance lessons (various levels of ability including beginners), snooker, darts, pool, skittles, short mat bowls, bingo (evening and afternoon sessions) and if you want to share your musical talents there is a monthly Open Mic Session on a Sunday afternoon which is free to members and also the musicians taking part. Our monthly Quiz for teams of up to 6 on a Saturday evening is always very popular and great fun, and at half time there is a break for a raffle (and cake), with a prize for the winning team.

The club has several hall and room hire options available:

Large Hall for 120-150 people; this also has a large dance floor and stage

Smaller Hall for approx 50 people with a smaller dance floor, and the option of its own dedicated bar

Small Meeting Room for approx 20 people with network access for media devices

An excellent buffet service can be supplied if required

During the summer there are three Festivals taking place:

Cars & Guitars (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June) with live bands, an American & UK Car/Motorbike Display and a BBQ

Sausage & Cider Festival (Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July) with live bands and a BBQ

The Annual Beer Festival (Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Aug) with live band, a big raffle and a BBQ

We also have regular Tribute Events. These are ticket-only. The next four are:

Saturday June 7 Gary Barlow

Saturday July 5 David Bowie

Saturday July 19 Utter Madness

Saturday Aug 2 Rod Stewart

Our very competitively priced bar offers a wide range of beers, real ales, ciders, cocktails, non-alcoholic drinks, hot drinks and snacks. There is an enclosed garden area with seating. Non-Members are welcome. The club has disabled access.

Become a member! Club Members enjoy discounted drinks and discounted entry to our entertainment events.

For further information on hall and room hire, club events or club membership please contact us via 01276 858501 or email [westendsocialclub@btconnect.com](mailto:westendsocialclub@btconnect.com) or call in and speak to the bar staff who will be happy to help.



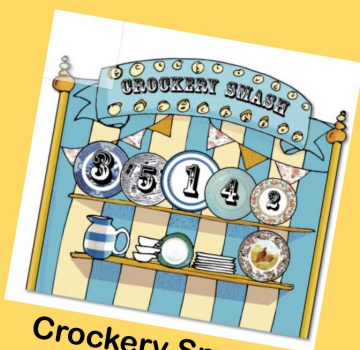


# WEST END VILLAGE FETE 2025

## Saturday 14 June

**Tringham Recreation Ground**  
**Benner Lane, West End**

**Parade Starts at 12.30      Fete opening at 13.00**



Crockery Smash

**Fun Dog Show**



BEAT THE GOALIE



Children's Roundabouts

**Tombola's**

**Arena Displays**

**Plant Sale**

**Local Stalls**

**Licensed bar**

**BBQ**



Punch & Judy

**Café**

**Ice Creams**



Bouncy Castle