



WEST END VILLAGE SOCIETY  
Your village, your voice

Digital-Only Bulletin

September 2025

Bulletin No. 1



## Our Amazing Heathlands: free talk on Monday 22 September.

Discover why heathland is so special, what dangers it faces, and how everyone can help look after it.

Michael Jones, Education Officer of the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership, will give a talk hosted by WEVS on Monday 22 September at 7.30pm in the Sports Pavilion.

Michael writes “Hear about a world of nocturnal birds steeped in folklore, carnivorous plants and super-fast beetles with ferocious jaws. Delve into a habitat that provides a home for secretive reptiles, elusive butterflies that can disappear right in front of your eyes and many more fascinating species. Many of which can be found on our local heathlands. ‘Meet’ some incredible wildlife and hear about the work of the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership.”

These ancient habitats not only offer biodiversity value but also hold cultural and historical significance, with some features dating back to the Bronze and Iron Ages including, at West End, four Bronze Age burial mounds and pottery, and proof of a metal-working Iron Age settlement living in roundhouses.



Drastically, 85% of Surrey's heathland has been lost over the past 200 years, so the remaining areas are now protected and managed for conservation.

# About this digital-only bulletin Guy Consterdine, Editor

This is the first issue of a series of bulletins published online only, exclusively for WEVS members. The aim is to provide updates of information and reminders of forthcoming events. It will also double WEVS' communications with its members – those for whom we have email addresses, that is. The bulletins are only in emailable digital form because it avoids burdening our hardworking volunteer distributors of our printed newsletters with more work to do than we can reasonably ask; and for speed of delivery.

At least one bulletin will appear during the intervals between our long-established 12-page newsletters

which traditionally are published in May (before the village fete), August/September (before the Ag & Hort Show) and January (before the WEVS AGM).

Those members for whom we do not have an email address, or who are not sure if we have it, are encouraged to email us at [comms@wevs.org.uk](mailto:comms@wevs.org.uk) in order to receive the bulletins. As membership is for households, each household member may receive their own copy of the bulletins if we receive the relevant email details.

Email addresses are used solely for communicating with members. They are not used for any other purpose.

## The Boxing Day Walk

Chris Anthony

Weather permitting, WEVS will be holding its traditional Boxing Day walk, an event which began in WEVS' early days of the 1970s and has continued almost unbroken ever since. Participants assemble in the car park of Tringham Hall on 26 December for a 10:30 start or opposite the Hare & Hounds at 10:40, suitably attired with warm clothing and sensible footwear.

The route will very much depend upon the amount of rainfall we have in the weeks before the event. Normally it covers a distance of around three miles. The first half of the route is relatively dry under foot and child buggy friendly. Mid-way there is an exit point where walkers can shorten the route and



return to the village by road. The route takes walkers across Brentmoor Heath and around the back of the village, ending up close to the Hare & Hounds pub about 1½ hours later, just in time to take some well-earned refreshment.

Mary & Chris Anthony have run this popular event for almost ten years and they are looking for volunteers to take over from them in 2026. It's a very simple task, a great way to catch up with old friends, to meet new ramblers and to make a much-appreciated contribution to the community. If you are interested, please contact them via [comms@wevs.org.uk](mailto:comms@wevs.org.uk) or the WEVS website.



## WEVS at the Christmas Tree Festival

The biennial Christmas Tree Festival will be held in Holy Trinity Church this year on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December, and WEVS will be taking part. Up to 38 trees will be decorated by local groups and individuals, and our tree will be attempting to express some of our activities. For example, there may be a stag on it somewhere!

The aim of the Festival is to create a community event that is open to everyone, and to provide an exhibition of local decorative skills. It will also raise funds for Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and for the West End and Bisley churches.

It has always been an uplifting social event to visit.



2023 Christmas Tree Festival

## WEVS at the Ag & Hort Show - September 13th

On a bright and mostly sunny afternoon WEVS participated as usual in the Ag & Hort Show - run by the snappily named West End, Windlesham & District Agricultural & Horticultural Society.

The Show attracted large numbers of residents, and there was a cheerful spirit of enjoying a late summer day. It was an occasion for chance

encounters with friends while visiting the outdoor stalls and viewing the impressive exhibits in Tringham Hall and the giant Show marquee. There were more than 800 entries for the Show competitions, and 188 classes including flowers, vegetables, fruit, cookery, art and crafts.

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## WEVS at the Ag & Hort Show - continued

WEVS' own white marquee contained a photographic exhibition displaying more than 200 photographs of old West End, mostly put together by John Smith, founder of the West End History Project. It was complemented by a selection from WEVS' own new and growing collection of photographs, having taken over the History Project from John this year. The display drew a constant stream of interested visitors.



WEVS marquee before the Show opened

Our village history book, *West End Then and Now*, was on sale (and it can be ordered by emailing [comms@wevs.org.uk](mailto:comms@wevs.org.uk)), together with leaflets on local walks. Posters provided information about WEVS' activities and on a range of other organisations in the village.

When we took down the marquee and its contents at the end of the afternoon we felt it had been a very enjoyable, fulfilling and successful social occasion.



Photographic display in the WEVS marquee



Photograph and craft competition entries in the Show marquee



The Morris Dancers were accompanied by a lively performing Hobby Horse