



Chairman's Chat

Greetings

It was great to see so many coming to our stand at the Village Fete in June. This year we invited the Surrey Heath tree wardens (three are from West End) to join us, to supplement our usual displays.

June saw the opening of the extension to the bowls club. Significant monies had been raised by the club in addition to funding by the London Marathon Charitable Trust. There was a very nice ceremony with short talks by some of the significant supporters. The club hopes to put on additional events in the space including short mat bowls and yoga.

July saw the first staging of our Picnic in the Park. About 70 adults and 20 Children attended on a very hot day. We hadn't planned on England getting through to the World Cup 3rd place play off; otherwise we may have had a few more families enjoying the event. Remember to mark your next year diary for the second Saturday in July (13th) for the next one. Many thanks to Ravi for organising this.

Looking forward, we have the West End Show (also known as the Ag and Hort show) on 8 September. As usual we will have our WEVS marquee together with local photos, walking maps and litter pickers for sale. Please come and see us for a chat and pay your subs if you haven't already. Later in the year, the annual Boxing Day walk will be held as usual. Look at our website nearer the time for details.

Crime is again increasing in the village (maybe it's summer and a lot of windows are left open). Please ensure you lock up. There are many Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the village, so if you aren't a member, maybe now is the time to join or create one.

We are starting to work on updating the Village History Book; hopefully this will be available sometime next year. Also, we will be announcing the details of the 2019 project of the year- come and see what it is at the West End Show.

Keep up to date with what's going on by looking at www.wevs.org.uk

Pete Jones
Chairman

In this issue

1	Chairman's Chat
2	West End Tree Group, West End WI
3	Membership, Village People
5	Picnic in the Park, Cubs
6	Gordon's MAD Event, 2018 Project of the Year
7	Bowls Club
8	Community Demographics, Gordon's School
9	Archaeological Presentation
10	Fete and West End Show, 2019 Project of the Year, Worthy Causes



Bowls Club



WEVS Committee: comms@wevs.org.uk.

Chairman: Pete Jones Secretary: Jeff Llewellyn

Membership Secretary: Mary Anthony Treasurer: Robin Short

Communication Team: James Armour, Savitri Kegge, Andrew Hopkins, Ravi Raveendran

Newsletter Editor: Ravi Raveendran

Other members: Dave Norris, Yvette Jones, Ildikó Roth, Marc Bedwell

West End Tree Group

Yvette Jones

West End Tree Group is now part of Surrey Heath Tree Wardens, which has gained charitable status - Charity number 1178478. This has formalised the group and will allow us to hold future events, undertake work with the Borough Green Space Team and have insurance cover for our participants.

The last activity, in June, was clearing Himalayan balsam from the waterway at Chobham Water Meadows. The fast growing 'weed' was becoming a nuisance and would continue to travel along the waterways, rapidly planting itself downstream. It is considered to be an invasive species, even though it is rather pretty when in flower.



Future volunteering events will be announced on the Surrey Heath Tree Wardens Facebook page. Funding will be sought from local companies, councils etc. to allow the purchase of high visibility jackets and basic equipment. The intention is to continue to support the Borough Green Space Team, but to take on wider activities as opportunities present themselves.

At this time of drought don't forget to water your trees. Older specimens, which have been in position for a number of years, should be fine but younger trees, particularly if they have been planted in the last year or two, may be showing signs of stress. A good douse with water (which can be 'grey' water from the bath or non-greasy washing up water) once a week directed to the roots will help them survive until rain comes again.

West End WI

Jean Williams

West End WI is a flourishing group of friendly ladies with joint presidents, Jackie Jenkins and Rosemary Walker, leading an enthusiastic and keen committee. We have a varied programme and meet each second Wednesday of the month in West End Pavilion at 8pm. Our programme includes talks, outings, lunch club, walks, knit and natter or maybe just natter. Our meetings are advertised in the two village newsagents. We offer friendship and a warm welcome to newcomers. Come



along and see for yourself the chance to broaden your interests and extend your social life.

Membership

Mary Anthony, Membership Secretary

If you haven't already paid your subs, it would help us immensely if you could:

- visit the WEVS stand at the West End Show on Saturday 8 September and pay there
- hand to your distributor, or put through their letterbox if you know them (use the form below)
- fill in the form below and leave in an envelope at Shiv Store.

We are working through the membership list and removing the persistent non-payers. Make sure you are paid-up so that you don't miss out on the next newsletter.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email (in glorious colour) or have any other membership queries, please contact us at comms@wevs.org.uk.



WEVS Subscription for 2018 (£3 per household, £1.50 for pensioner)

Family name

Address (number and street)



Village People

Ildikó Roth

John Gosden

It is hard not to have come across sprightly, energetic and cheerful octogenarian John Gosden on his bike somewhere in the village. He has been living in West End for the best part of his life with plants and gardening playing a crucial role. Here he shares some of his memories and thoughts with us.

Q: Since when have you been living in the village?

A: "I was born here in West End in Commonfields, but the *old* Commonfields in 1934 when there were only one or two houses. A neighbour – not even midwife – helped my mother with the birth. It was normal. That was the way it was back then. Everybody knew everybody and people helped each other. I stayed in West End until 1961, when I got married and moved to Ripley, but came back."



Q: How do you stay so fit?

A: "I do 15 minutes of exercise every morning, watch my weight, though I do like a bit of sweet" he says with a mischievous smile. "I still ride my bike everywhere and started at the age of about four, when my father bought me a trike. Then I do dancing and, of course, lots of gardening."

Q: Tell us more about gardening.

A: "It all started in 1949, when I was 14 years old, left school and went to work for F.G. Mizen. It was a family business near Ottershaw growing tomatoes, lettuce, cucumber and cress. As I biked all the time, I biked there too. Those days in West End were the best of my life. We had nothing but patched trousers, but thoroughly enjoyed it. I just like working with plants, it's in my nature. When I retired from working for F.G. Mizen and his successor, I continued to work in the garden of Malthouse Farm, West End, where I had started to help out a little several years earlier, but later regularly with an increased number of hours. I just loved that garden, it was so peaceful and beautiful then. I helped to look after it for almost 46 years..."

Q: Any time spent away from West End?

A: "Yes, I went to the army, the Queen's Regiment, first to Iserlohn, in Germany for about 15 months, then Middlesex and afterwards to Austria, which I enjoyed very much. Whilst abroad with the Queen's Regiment I won a medal for a race. I was not good at spelling or arithmetic, but always good at sports. After the army I went back to F.G. Mizen."

Q: How do you find life in West End?

"We really have a very good village life, also for older people, but some villagers don't bother. West End is still a nice place to be, even with all the building going on. However, there are too many houses and there are likely to be more. Hopefully the village will not be spoilt by getting overpopulated resulting in violence..."

Q: What would you like to say to newcomers to the village?

A: "Go to the Social Club, it is so good and I am friendly with everyone. There is so much going on for example dancing like jive lessons. Once a month there is a rock 'n' roll band, but always a very good one, one that even plays on cruise ships. Also, there are so many other groups and activities in this village, so much on offer like in Tringham Hall and the Sports Pavilion. Then there is the Women's Institute, of course, which has been going on for generations."

John's optimistic outlook on life, paired with a smiley demeanour and twinkle in his eye, makes for a refreshing conversation. Lastly, he says: "If I see something wrong, I say so to do something about it. I would put myself out there."

----- ∞ -----

A reminder
for your diary



Don't forget the Boxing
Day Walk
We meet at 10:15 in
Tringham Hall car park

Picnic in the Park

Ravi Raveendran

Inaugural annual event

Our inaugural midsummer Picnic in the Park got off to a good start on 14 July. It was more than the usual British summer afternoon as we were in the middle of a heatwave. There were about 100 people comprising young families and the older generation but teenagers were noticeably absent. People were spread out near the boules pitch. More pictures of the event will be posted on our website.



We were delighted to see families having a natter with people they have not met before while the young ones played on the playground equipment. One could see garden games, football knockabout, boules, frisby, BBQ, and a lot of laughter and chat which is exactly what WEVS wanted. Shiv was selling wonderful Indian kebabs and bites which was very popular. Nimesh, the owner, said that he will set up the stall again next year. The Parish Council even commented on how clean we left the ground.

So, folks, you know what you have to do: put the second Saturday in July (13th) in your diary for next year. Hope to see more of you next year.

Cubs

Julie Komor



JOIN OUR WORLD CUB TEAM!

No, that is not a spelling mistake! We are talking about joining our world class team of leaders. We have seen in the world cup how new players can inject life and enthusiasm into a team. Some of our leaders have been doing the job for a long while and are starting to move on to more senior positions within the group or District. We need a few scouting Harry Kanes or Jesse Lingards to take up the reins. A Gareth Southgate would be useful too, to organise a new team in order for us to reopen our second cub pack. We have a lot of children who would love to join the scouting experience in West End – could you be their scouting hero?

Talking of new teams, we have half a team for our 2nd Beaver colony to reopen, but we won't do so until we have sufficient leaders and helpers to make it viable. We need a couple more people to make a lot of children's dream of joining West End Beavers come true. No previous experience is necessary as all training is provided. Beavers are currently operating on Wednesdays – 5-6pm and we would like to reopen Thursdays.

Cubs is currently operating on Thursdays – 6.45 to 8.15 pm and we would like to reopen Wednesdays. Please contact us for more information. 01483 480982/07814852142

Gordon's MAD Event

Anna Hutchings



Make a Difference Day (MAD)

On Thursday 12 July over 20 Year Seven and Year Eight students from Gordon's School took to Brentmoor Heath in an attempt to clean the local environment as part of their annual Make a Difference (MAD) Day. The school continues to maintain and develop its link with the West End Village Society by asking how they can support us and help to make a difference to the local community. The students, accompanied by staff, took part in an extensive litter pick on the Heath (as well as the green) and collected 12 large bin bags of rubbish, including plastic bottles, cans and crisp packets. Each July, students at Gordon's School are encouraged to spend a day giving back to the local community. At the end of the litter pick, one young student commented "I will enjoy seeing how surprised they (the locals) will be by the effort we have all put in".

2018 Project of the Year

Ravi Raveendran

This is the third and final year of the spring bulb planting project that we started back in autumn 2016. For the record, so far we have planted 70,000 bulbs in 20 streets! As we reported before, we have secured the funds for 2018 from a local developer. It means that with the carryover money from last year our available budget will be £4,000 which will enable us to buy up to 60,000 bulbs!



All we need now is several willing hands. We hope you can spare a few hours and join your fellow residents to help plant the bulbs. Why not come as a group with friends and families? All you need is a garden trowel; we supply the gloves. There's no minimum commitment, you are free to join and leave the sessions. Please note that in line with Surrey County Council's restriction we cannot have children under 16 years or pets in the group.

Check out our website for the proposed planting location plans.

C'mon West Enders, you can give a couple of hours to your village. It will be worth it.

Come next spring our village will be the talk of Surrey!

Autumn Planting Schedule

Meeting Place: Rosewood Way carpark

First planting date: Sunday 9 September

Subsequent dates: Every weekend till 28 Oct

Time: 10:00 – 13:00

The Bowls Club

Pat Turner

Grand Opening

Thanks to an enormous amount of hard work carried out by members the Bowls Club, the clubhouse extension was fully operational for the start of the playing season. The green has suffered from the lack of rain and some teething problems with the irrigation system, but it is recovering day by day and continues to be at least as reliable as the other greens in the area. Playing in consistently dry weather has been a great bonus for members. So, long may the good weather continue!

At the end of June the newly extended clubhouse was formally opened by Councillor Adrian Page, Chair of the Parish Council. The Parish Council and Adrian, personally, have supported the extension project throughout so it was a great celebratory occasion attended by many members and supporters including representatives from the London Marathon Trust and from Bowls England.



Building being officially opened by Adrian Page

Surrey County Council Bowling Association took the opportunity to award Steve Brierley and Trevor Lofty with the prestigious Leopard Award for services to bowling. Steve is currently President of the Club and Trevor is currently Captain - both have served in various capacities on the committee for many years and their honours are well deserved. This is the first time the Leopard Award has been bestowed on two members of the same club.



Michael Gove MP having a taster session

This season, the club is hosting several prestigious bowls events and we have already enjoyed a visit from Rt Hon Michael Gove, who is a social member. The improved premises means that the club can offer more social activities. We are open on Friday evenings and welcome visitors. So call in if you would like to see inside. It's also an ideal opportunity to book a free taster session without commitment. There is a coffee

morning on the second Monday of each month. This is for everyone - just come along between 10.00 and 12.00.

There will be another session on the use of defibrillator shortly so, if you missed out last time, just register your interest by e-mailing webcmembership@gmail.com.

There have been some issues with parking and we can assure everyone that the extended clubhouse has not increased the number of people using the club at any one time. The difference from previous seasons is that the club is being used more often. The problem has arisen because more people, not using the club or the dog walking and play area, are taking up parking spaces for long periods. One afternoon a very unhappy neighbour complained to the club about inconsiderate parking on the pavement - it later transpired that the cars concerned were nothing to do with the Bowls Club. We urge people using the car park to park close together and so maximise the amount of space available.

Community Demographics

John Smith

In 1790, there were approximately 50 buildings in West End and by 1881 this had increased to 157 households! Donkey Town had 20%. Bagshot Road, The Folly, Brentmoor Road and New England had approximately 10% each and the remainder was scattered round. The total population of 788 persons was made up as follows: 338 people under the age of 16 years, 394 between 16 and 59 years of age and 56 over 59 years of age.

By 1901 there were 160 families in West End, making a total population of 1000. In 1914, 298 persons were registered to vote but by 1930 this had increased to 867. West End became a separate electoral parish in 1968 and by 1975 there were approximately 1200 households in the village, by 2001 this had increased to 1636 with a population of 4272 and by 2011 had increased to 1700 households with a population of 4693.

In 2001 approximately 49 properties were let as Social Housing, fewer than 3% of the total. Following the recent building within the village, by 2019 the number of dwellings is predicted to go up to 2043 with a population of 6000. This breaks down to 95 one-bedroomed, 369 two-bedroomed, 663 three-bedroomed, 702 four-bedroomed and 105 five or more bedroomed properties. We also have a Care Home with 60 rooms.

It does raise a few questions; Have we a balanced housing stock? And will improvements to the infrastructure keep pace with increases in the population?

Gordon's School

Sarah Griffin
Communications Officer, Gordon's School

Some might be forgiven for thinking that Gordon's School is offering a new type of boarding. But the 31 students sleeping on the Parade Square in cardboard boxes were experiencing first-hand what it is like to be homeless. The event was part of Gordon's School Enrichment Week - three days where three year-groups take part in a range of activities locally, nationally and in Europe - and 'Make a Difference' (MAD) Day in which

students took part in 15 different activities designed to make a difference to their community.

One such group set themselves the task of making over 700 poppies. Each poppy, inscribed with the name of a Gordonian killed in the First World War, will be 'planted' next to the statue of General Charles Gordon at the school on our Remembrance Parade in November.

Other memorable events in the lead up to the end of term included Inter-House athletics; GCSE and A2 Level Art exhibitions; Summer Arts Evening and the Annual Parade and Prizegiving. Students and staff visited Khartoum in the Easter holidays and Gordon's is determined to strengthen the links made: Osama Latif and his wife Samia Omar; Dr Ronnie Shaul and Fadil Banayoti from the Khartoum International Community School (KICS) and Mr Michael Tibbs, one of the few still alive of the elite Sudan Political Service disbanded with Sudan's independence, who remembers the camel statue in its original Khartoum home.



We also welcomed Year 6 students from Holy Trinity School in West End for their moving up day where they enjoyed drama workshops, sports activities, team building exercises and, of course, a tour of the school!

Archaeological Presentation

Ravi Raveendran

4000 years heritage

On 4th June the level of interest expressed by our residents on archaeological findings was evident to see. There was standing room only in the Sports Pavilion where Sam Wilson of Cotswold Archaeology gave a presentation of the finding of their months long exploratory digs during 2017. This event was hosted by the Parish and chaired by our own enthusiast Guy Consterdine.



It was an engaging talk where Simon explained how archaeologists go about their detective work. It seems we are definitely living in the vicinity of an ancient iron age settlement! There were remains of two round houses, a granary store, and an iron smelting place. The evening ended with a social where people asked more inquisitive questions.

Fete & West End Show

Ravi Raveendran

Fete

It was a sunny, warm day on 2nd June 2018. One could not have asked for better weather. As usual, our committee members were busy from 09:00 with the setting up of the stand to manning it until the Show finished around 16:30. This year, for the first time, we were joined by the Village Tree Group. There was a regular flow of visitors interested in the various displays: proposed Esso pipeline, historical photos, project of the year and local clubs to name a few.

West End Show (Ag & Hort Show)

WEVS will be having their marquee, as usual, at the forthcoming West End Show on 8 September. You will be able to pay your subs and take a look around what is on display. We will be collecting volunteer names for help with the planting of the spring bulbs. Please drop in and put down your name.

2019 Project of the Year

Ravi Raveendran

Nominations for suggestions

Nominations for the next Project of the Year have now closed. Following the publicity in the spring, WEVS received a dozen or so imaginative ideas for adoption. Currently, we are busy evaluating them to pick the best one based on a number of selection criteria such as budget, legalities, complexity, time frame, etc. Look out for the announcement at the West End Show and on our website for the 2019 project of the year and its details.

Worthy Causes

Ravi Raveendran

Nominations are invited for the Worthy Causes grant. WEVS makes a total of up to £600 available for up to three worthy causes, using its discretion to donate a maximum of £200 per applicant. These grants are considered and voted on by Members attending the WEVS AGM. The application period is now open and there are three simple steps to apply:

- Complete a form available from http://www.wevs.org.uk/index.php?p=1_36_Worthy-causes
- return it to comms@wevs.org.uk before the 31st December 2018
- Attend the WEVS meeting on 14 January 2019 at 19:30 at the West End Social Club to give a 5-10 minute verbal presentation, **and if successful** be available at our AGM on 12 February 2019 at 19:30 at the Sports Pavilion to briefly present your case to the members.