



Chairman's Letter

Happy New Year.

It is with some sadness I write that this will be my last letter to you. My term of office comes to an end at the AGM on Tuesday 20th February and after 5 years in the post I will be standing down. I will remain on the Committee though. The time has passed very quickly indeed, and the Society has achieved some notable successes during this period, not least planting daffodils throughout the Village and the establishment of the Community Orchard. Our stand at the Ag and Hort show in September was well supported and our last event of 2023 was the Boxing Day walk which was enjoyed by 65+ walkers and 2 dogs. The weather was dry and it was not too wet underfoot. We followed a slight variant of the traditional route over New England Hill and West End Common.

I am pleased to report excellent progress with the Stag Sculpture. We have received planning permission for it (again) and have approval from Surrey County Council Highways Department. As I write, work has just started to erect it. I very much hope that by the time you read this most of the work will have been done and the Stag will look resplendent on its plinth on Fellow Green roundabout. Thank you to everyone who donated towards it.

I am also delighted to report that the former West End Action Group, which recently did so much to oppose successfully the development of 74 houses on greenbelt land on Fenn's Lane, has now merged with WEVS and its Chairman, Guy Consterdine, has joined the WEVS Committee. Older Society members will recall that Guy was one of the founding members of the Society 50 years ago!

I have already mentioned that the AGM will be held on Tuesday 20 February at 7.30 pm in the Sports Pavilion. Do come along.

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Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 20 th February 19:30	WEVS AGM & Talk	Sports Pavilion
Tuesday 12 th March 14:30	Songs of Praise	Holy Trinity Church
Sunday 17 th March 14:30	WEVS Daffodil Walk	Rosewood Way car park
Tuesday 9 th April 14:30	Songs of Praise	Holy Trinity Church
Sunday 12 th May 09:00	Big Brekkie for Christian Aid	Sports Pavilion
Friday 17 th May	Summer Newsletter article deadline for 1 st June release	

Chairman's Letter - continued

The meeting will be followed by a short talk by Colin Wilson of the Blackwater Valley Trust after which there will be the customary wine and light refreshments for members. The Agenda is included later in this Newsletter.

At present we do not have any candidates for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for next year. If you would like to stand please let either myself or the secretary know. The duties are not arduous.

Finally. You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter details of how to pay your subscriptions through the website in addition to the existing options of paying by online transfer, by card at the Village Fete and Ag and Hort Show and by cash.

Thank you for your interest and support over the past 5 years.

Jeff Llewellyn

Surrey Police - PC Howden



My name is PC Howden, and I am your new Neighbourhood Officer for Bagshot, Windlesham, Lightwater, Bisley, West End, and Chobham. I look forward to meeting lots of you over the coming months and getting to hear about your concerns and how crime is affecting you in the local area.



Over the next quarter we, as a team, will be placing a special focus on aspects of fraud, cyber-crime and drugs. Watch this space for operations and events that we will be putting on in tackling problems in these areas.

Keep an eye on the Surrey Heath Beat Facebook page for updates on upcoming 'Meet the Beat' events where we can sit down and talk in person. Alternatively, please visit the Surrey Police website for details on how to get in touch.

A New Coffee Van

We have a new coffee van (Rosie Lee) parked at the Rec side of the Sports Pavilion, Benner Lane.

It is currently being run to fit in with the owner's school drop off times etc.

We're hopeful that a return of a coffee van will be welcome news to those of us that had frequented the previous one.

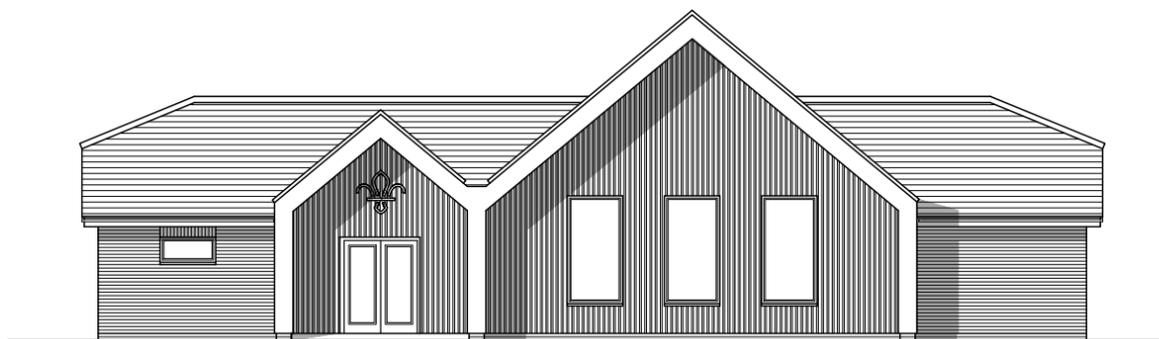
The Parish Council has added a bench on the Pavilion patio too for those wishing to take a load off!



New Building

We are very excited to bring you the design concept of what our new building might look like. This would be on our present site in Benner Lane. It is designed to fit in with its surroundings. We are currently working on getting plans ready to submit for planning permission.

Watch this space!



Proposed Front Elevation

Volunteers Needed!

Could you manage a small group of 6-8 year olds? We are looking for volunteers to re-open our Thursday Beaver Colony. We have a lot of young people eager to start their Scouting journey. A team of 3-4 people would be ideal.

No experience necessary, full training provided and experienced leaders to mentor you. Volunteering has a lot of benefits for the adults - to learn new skills, make new friends and feeling proud to be teaching young people skills for life.

We would be happy to have an informal chat and explain how it all works in more detail. Please contact us if you are interested: gsl@westendscouts.org.uk

Public Transport in West End

John Smith

During the early 19th Century, West Chobham had no public transport. If it could be afforded, goods and people were carried by horse-drawn transport along unmade roads, otherwise you walked. It would not have been unusual for WestEnders to walk to Woking, Chobham, Frimley, Bagshot or Ascot for business, work and shopping.

In the 1800s railways were rapidly being developed. The direct railway line from Waterloo to Southampton was opened in 1845 and extended in 1849 to become the main line to Portsmouth. The station at Woking then became a major junction. In 1854 a branch line was opened to Brookwood Cemetery and a station opened at Brookwood in 1864.

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Public Transport in West End - continued

In 1906 the construction of an electrified line from Woking to Bagshot was authorised. The branch line from Woking was to cross Little Wick Road in Horsell, going east of Millbrook, now the RSPCA, then to Chobham [where the Castle Grove Inn had been built in anticipation of the line], through Pennypot running south of Brook Place, roughly along Hookstone Lane, north of The Gordon Boy's Home and through what was Windlemere Golf Club and on to Lightwater and Bagshot. The fare from West End to Woking was to be 6d return [2 ½ p]. By 1910 work had not started and the scheme was forgotten.

By October 1918 the Bisley Camp Railway, built during the war, was being used by WestEnders as it shortened their journey home by a mile and a half. Messer's G. & H. Gosden and Mr. G. Richardson ran motor services from Brookwood and the surrounding stations. The last recorded discussion of a railway line for West End was in the Institute minute book of 1919 when the possibility of a light railway connecting West End to Woking was debated. It was not until 1918 that public transport arrived in West End.

By October 1918 the Woking Auto Car Co had established a Friday bus service from West End school to Woking leaving at 10.30 am, departing Woking at 2.30 pm, for 8d return.



The Darts Team outing from the Woking Men's Club West End Woking Surrey circa 1948

By January 1919 the service had proved to be uneconomic and was cancelled. By May 1922 a regular bus service from Windsor to Woking, established by the Thames Valley Traction Company, passed through Chobham, West End and Horsell 4 times a day. Once established the bus caused unforeseen problems: first, a great deal of dust was created on the unmade roads, and, secondly, the trade in the village shops was reduced. In fact, the vicar appealed for

someone to write an article on "How to Help the Trade in our Village". There was competition as both Jack Eggleton and Mr A. G. Smith also ran a regular service four times a day from West End to Woking. In June 1923 the Thames Valley Traction Company withdrew its Ascot to Woking service.

In 1924 the Thames Valley Traction Service ran a bus service from Bagshot to Woking as did the Aldershot & District Traction Company with its No 34 route. We still have the No 34 today. During the next few years, The Aldershot & District bought out most of the small operators, including Stan Tanners from Chobham and in 1938 bought F. Ansell Direct Bus Service from Lightwater, previously owned by H. T. Lintott of Lightwater. The Aldershot & District Bus Company merged with Thames Valley in 1972 and operated as Thames Valley & Aldershot Bus Company, [Alder Valley]. Later it was taken over by Arriva who operates the current service.

Our local public transport has a history of almost a hundred years, starting from a once a week service in 1918 to the current four times an hour during weekdays and a less frequent service at weekends. We also have a variety of village transports for the elderly and disabled, mostly run by volunteers. Though modern vehicles travel faster, journey times are about the same now as they were in 1918.

West End Village Fete

Jack Kegge

Last year's West End Village Fete was held on Saturday 10th June and money raised by the main fete stalls has been distributed to the following organisations within the Village:

Tringham Pre-School	Cougars Football Club	
West End Holy Trinity Church	West End Badminton Clubs	
West End and Bisley Food Bank	West End Old Folks Social Club	
Scouts and Guides	West End Football Club	Tringham Hall

This year the fete will be held on Saturday 8th June with a theme of "Animal Magic"

The fete committee is now very short of members, and we are looking for new volunteers to join us to help to organise the event. If you are interested, please contact Jack Kegge - jack.kegge@ntlworld.com

UNWANTED CROCKERY

The crock smash event is very popular, but we are now short of old crockery. If you have any old unwanted crockery that you do not mind being smashed, then please let me know and we will arrange collection.

We will be producing a fete programme and if you would like to place an advert in the document this can be done online at:

www.trybooking.com/uk/46886

If you would like to book a stall at the 2024 fete you can book this online at:

www.trybooking.com/uk/CYOV

Boxing Day Walk

Chris Anthony

The weather gods smiled upon us again this Christmas season and Boxing Day was an all too brief interval in the incessant rainy weather that seems to have become a familiar feature of the British winter. It was near perfect conditions for a gentle stroll to work off some of the excesses of the festive season and make room for the next round of feasting.

Around 65 individuals plus two dogs set off from the Tringham Hall car park in mid-morning, heading towards the heights of Brentmoor Heath via New England Hill. The heavy rainfall in the weeks before the walk meant that some of the lower lying paths were under water and restricted the route to the few dry places that were still accessible. The walk followed a figure of eight route, descending from Brentmoor Heath and passing along Priest Lane, where the Boxing Day clay pigeon shoot provided some added entertainment, then back towards the Heath, finishing outside the Hare & Hounds pub just after opening time.



WEVS AGM Agenda

Annual General Meeting to be held in the Sports Pavilion Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7.30 pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

2. Minutes of the last AGM 21st February 2023

3. Matters arising

4. Chairman's Report

Activities

Newsletters

Membership

Planning

5. Treasurer's Report

6. Project of the year update

Stag sculpture

7. Election of Officers

Chair -

Vice Chair-

Treasurer -

8. Election of Committee (The following Committee members are elected for one year. They have all indicated their willingness to stand again):

Mrs Anne Allard

Mrs Mary Anthony (Membership Secretary)

Mr Guy Consterdine

Mr Andrew Hopkins (Website and Communications)

Mrs Savitri Kegge

Mr Peter Jones (Newsletter Editor)

Mrs Yvette Jones (Tree Group)

Dr Jeff Llewellyn

Mr Dave Norris (Planning)

Mrs Yvonne Simpson

Mrs Jan Smith (Secretary)

Mrs Pauline Wells

9. Any Other Business

Followed by a talk by Colin Wilson (Blackwater Valley Trust), 'Enjoying Nature close up - a bird ringers world.'

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

In November, almost a year to the day when the Community Orchard trees were planted, a plaque was presented to Jeff Llewellyn (WEVS Chairman). The plaque was presented by Clare Bevan from the National Garden Scheme (NGS).



NGS supported the WEVS project with a grant of £750 to purchase fruit trees. Money was also donated by Councilor Graham Alleway and West End Garden Club. All work was carried out by volunteers, including mini digger owner, Jason King, who kindly dug all the holes ahead of the other volunteers who formed part of the original planting party.

Surrey Heath Tree Wardens also contributed time to the project, ensuring the correct permissions were in place and

coordinating activities with the Borough Greenspace Team.

We are pleased to report that most of the trees have survived. Deer started to graze on the bark of some of the young trees, but eagle-eyed Fred and Pauline Wells reported this and additional tree guards were placed higher up the trunk. A few small branch ends have been grazed recently but the trees should be fine and eventually a 'grazing' line will be established.



The three liquidambar trees planted on Fellow Green to commemorate our thanks to key workers and the NHS during the Covid pandemic have suffered damage from careless mowing practice. One of the trees is looking rather poorly. We are waiting for spring before deciding whether it is dead. However, we have complained to the Parish Council that the contractors should replace this specimen if it fails to rally.



West End Social Club



Glancing back to December... West End Social Club enjoyed excellent Christmas and New Years Eve celebrations that featured a wide variety of events. These included: an evening session of Bingo with a buffet; a Tabletop sale; a Christmas Quiz with the Big Christmas Raffle Draw and a Pool Tournament. One lucky member won the Coors Brewery-donated holiday voucher which was drawn on Christmas Eve. Two popular live bands filled the dancefloor on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

Looking ahead to 2024: on **Sundays once a month** the club has Country & Western Bands Evening; Open Mic/Jam (Afternoons), and Americana Sessions (Afternoons). On **Saturdays** the club will have Live Bands and once a month there will be a ticketed Tribute Band and a Quiz Night. New this year will be a **once a month** Saturday evening session of Bingo which will alternate with Skittles.

There are lots of other activities which take place including: Line Dancing, Lindy Hop and Jive Lessons, Snooker, Pool, Short Mat Bowls and afternoon Bingo sessions. During the year the Club will be holding a Beer Festival with live bands; Cars and Guitars with live bands and a display of Classic Vehicles and a new Street Food and Music Festival.

If you are interested in booking our comfortable lounge with a large dance floor or one of our smaller rooms for a club or private event (a Buffet can be supplied), please contact us for further information via the email address below.

Our well-stocked (& newly refurbished) bar offers a wide range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks including cocktails and hot beverages, all at very reasonable prices.

Membership is £20.00 per year plus a one-off joining fee of £5.00. This will entitle you to discounted drinks and reduced-price entry to events.

Please see our website or Lemonrock (the site West End Social Club use to list their music/quiz etc events: lemonrock.com, select *Search - Venue* and then type in *West End Social Club*) for further details of events taking place in the coming months.

Contact: westendsocialclub@btconnect.com Tel: 01276 858501



By the time you receive this newsletter, the Stag will have been standing proudly aloft the shrubs on the Fellow Green roundabout for a short while. If you have yet to see it, you will be awestruck by the amount of detail in it. When you realise the whole thing is made up of scrap metal pieces, kudos goes to the sculptor George Hider.



This project started in 2019. Finally, after two lockdowns, one expired planning consent, several funding applications, numerous technical amendments, a few criticisms and a lot of frustrations, we have achieved our aim. During the past two years, this project even became a personal challenge for me. It has been most satisfying to see it to its end. Sadly the completion of the project didn't quite coincide with WEVS's 50-year anniversary.

Start of excavation (25 Jan)

The second planning application was granted on 20th November 2023. As expected, a few conditions were attached to the consent which meant that, before the construction work could begin, we needed to respond to the conditions. For the past seven weeks, we have been working with Surrey County Council to address all the prerequisites. The last one was the technical approval of the design by the highway authority which came through on 22nd January.



Thanks to Bill Kear, our contractor, the sculpture has been in safe storage for the past nine months. They pulled out all the stops to start the installation work immediately following the receipt of approval "in principle". Fortunately, the weather has been kind to us which helped us stick to the installation programme.

You will be perplexed to learn that SHBC made us take out the low-voltage lighting proposal from the design. They told us that they have concerns that the compound lighting levels will exceed the permissible level on the roundabout. No technical evidence was given but they told us that a lighting impact study would be needed if we wanted the lighting to be considered for planning. For expediency's sake, we decided to accept their guidance and removed the lighting from the planning application. However, we aim to pursue retrofitting the solar lights with a new planning application as soon as possible.

Finally, after more than four years, the project is all but complete.

As per the original objective, a commemorative plaque will be put up on Fellow Green. The committee is in the process of organising the unveiling of the plaque. Watch this space.



31st January, Stag being erected

Gordon's School



Gordon's School

The Pipes and Drums brought traffic to a standstill in Whitehall as they led some 200 students in Years 9 and 11 to the statue of General Gordon on the Victoria Embankment Gardens for the start of the school's Memorial Weekend at the end of January.

This annual Parade, to the statue on the banks of the Thames, has taken place in some form since the school's inception as Gordon Boys' Home for 'necessitous boys' in 1885. The following day, the whole student body attended a memorial service in Guildford Cathedral in memory of General Gordon, in whose honour the school was founded.

Students also took part in sell-out performances of the whole school production of *Sweet Charity*, not only taking the acting roles but providing musical accompaniment, sound and lighting and part of the costume department! A further opportunity for younger years to demonstrate their creative talents, was given in the production of *Oliver Jnr*, that again showed to sell-out audiences!

Chess has enjoyed growing popularity at Gordon's, since the start of the school's partnership with Camberley Chess Club. As well as training and playing opportunities for students, the school has been hosting tournaments, which are free to enter and open to any child in Year 6 and above, whether a student at the school or not. The tournaments are attracting children from across Surrey and Berkshire. For information on the tournaments, contact Jon Lloyd (jilloyd@gordons.school).

For local businesses the school hosts Business Networking Breakfasts on the second Friday of every month. These are held in the Sports Hub from 8am to 10am and are open to anyone in the community, allowing professionals to meet in a relaxed, friendly environment over a delicious breakfast. To book and see information on other events at the school to which all are warmly invited, please keep an eye on the box office on the school website – www.gordons.school/boxoffice.

Songs of Praise

[Come and sing some of your favourite hymns and learn about them too!](#)

Listen to music played on our church organ.

Every second Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm.

At Holy Trinity Church, West End.

Followed by tea and cake and a chance to chat.



Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 9th April

Tuesday 14th May



All Welcome

WEBCare are able to help with lifts if required.

Further details please contact

Alison Clay 01483 481249 or Pauleene Hammett 01483 487912

or the Parish office bweparish@gmail.com

West End Parish Council Job Vacancy

Part time Assistant to PARISH CLERK/RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER



The Parish Council is seeking an assistant to help the Clerk undertake a varied and rewarding role at the heart of the village community. The role includes working with the 7 Councillors in delivering the Parish Council's services. You will be involved in several community projects which the Council is undertaking.

The ideal candidate will have good organisational, numeracy and computer skills as well as being an excellent communicator and be able to demonstrate enthusiasm for working with residents and local organisations. In return for your 20-hour week you will have a salary of £15,000 a year and membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Working hours to be agreed with the Clerk between 9:00 and 16:00, Monday to Friday, with two evening meetings a month.

The successful candidate will work with the Clerk and will have access to CiLCA qualification or be willing to undertake the relevant training.

For more information, please contact the present Parish Clerk on 01276 855361 or email clerk@westendparishcouncil.org.uk

Closing date 16th February 2024

WEVS Subscriptions

Mary Anthony

2024 subscriptions are now due. Annual subscriptions are £4 per household / £2 per pensioner household (over 65). Three-year membership subscriptions are £10 / £5.

We are trying to make it easy for you to pay your subscriptions and there are several ways you can do this. Our preferred method is **bank transfer** and if you would like to pay this way, please email membershipwevs@gmail.com with your name and address. We will email you the bank details along with a unique payment reference code. **Please do use the code otherwise we may not be able to allocate the payment to you.** If you have paid your subscription into our bank account in the past, the account details and reference will be the same, as long as you have not moved (the reference is unique to your address). So, if we are still set up as a payee, you can make the transfer and send an email to: membershipwevs@gmail.com to say you have done so.

You can also:

- Hand your subscription to our distributor when they call.
- Pay by cash or card at our stall at the Fete in June or the WE Show in September
- Use the new payment links on our website www.wevs.org.uk

We are always looking for help with distribution of the newsletters around the village. If you can help, please get in touch.

Mary Anthony, WEVS Membership Secretary membershipwevs@gmail.com

At the end of 2023 West End Action Group (WEAG) was merged into WEVS.

WEAG was formed in 2014 to assess the increasing planning applications being made in and around West End which threatened to harm the character of the village. West End is surrounded by Green Belt whose aim is to protect the open countryside which preserves the village's individual identity.

WEAG's principal successes were its opposition to a proposed development of 74 houses on Green Belt land at Fenns Lane, and a smaller proposed development on Fairfield Lane's Green Belt. As well as submitting detailed planning-based arguments in writing, WEAG played a significant active role in the public Planning Inquiries when the Borough's refusals went to appeal. Both appeals were rejected by the Planning Inspectors.

Since then WEAG has been inactive for several years, with no planning applications being published for large-scale inappropriate Green Belt projects. Given WEVS' own interest in the same objectives, WEAG decided to merge.

WEAG's limited funds have been transferred to WEVS. The main contents of WEAG's website have been incorporated into the WEVS website under a WEAG tab. And I, as Chairman of WEAG, have joined the WEVS Committee. Actually it's re-joining, since I served for many years on WEVS' Committee from the Society's foundation. It's good to be back!

WEVS Daffodil Walk

Sunday 17th March, 14:30 meet at Rosewood Way car park for a 2 mile walk around the daffodils in the village.

Did You Know?

In the 1841 Census, what is now the 'Inn West End' was called 'The Jolly Butcher'

Big Brekkie for Christian Aid

This year The Big Brekkie will take place on Sunday 12th May and will be in the West End Sports Pavilion from 9:00am until 12.30pm.

This is a chance to come and enjoy a cooked/continental breakfast and a hot drink and donate to the work of Christian Aid. The 12th is the beginning of Christian Aid Week.

WEVS Committee - comms@wevs.org.uk

Chairperson: Jeff Llewellyn **Secretary:** Jan Smith **Treasurer:** Anne Allard

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

Other members: Guy Consterdine, Andrew Hopkins, Yvette Jones,

Savitri Kegge, Dave Norris, Yvonne Simpson, Pauline Wells