



WEST END VILLAGE SOCIETY

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Digital-Only Bulletin

March 2026 Bulletin No. 4

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Spring Flowers Stroll - Sunday 22nd March, 2:30pm

WEVS will hold a Spring Flower Stroll on Sunday 22 March, meeting at 2.30pm at the Bowls Club car park, Rosewood Way. The walk will be led by Mary and Chris Anthony and the route will be chosen to visit the principal displays of the Spring flowers

planted by WEVS around the village – about 130,000 bulbs in all, mainly planted over the course of three years.

The photographs on Page 1 and above are of early daffodils in Kerria Way, mid-February 2026.

AGM - Tuesday 10th March, 7:30pm

A reminder that the WEVS AGM will take place on Tuesday 10 March 2026 at 7.30pm in Tringham Hall, Benner Lane, West End, GU24 9JP.

The Minutes of the 2025 AGM are available to view or download on the WEVS website, www.wevs.org.uk under the 'About' tab, along with the Chairman's report, the Accounts for 2024, and

the presentation launching the History Project. The AGM will be followed by a talk about the Basingstoke Canal by Roger Cansdale of the Basingstoke Canal Society – see below.

After the talk there will be drinks and nibbles to which all attendees are invited.

AGM Agenda

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| 1. Welcome; those present, and apologies | 7. Fete and Ag & Hort Show |
| 2. Approval of previous AGM minutes, and Matters Arising | 8. Planning |
| 3. Chairman's report | 9. Tree Group |
| 4. Membership report | 10. West End History Project |
| 5. Treasurer's report | 11. Any other business |
| 6. Communications: Newsletters, digital-only Bulletins, website, Facebook, other | 12. Election of Officers |

Talk on Basingstoke Canal, following AGM

The short AGM will be followed by a talk on the Basingstoke Canal by Roger Cansdale. Roger is one of the leading lights of the Basingstoke Canal Society. He was a Director of the Society for many years, is an author, a former Editor of the Society's quarterly magazine, and an experienced public speaker.

Roger will discuss the history of the canal, its restoration and current situation, and its value as a local amenity.

Everyone is welcome to the talk. Entry will be free

for WEVS members, and £4 (per household) for non-members which will include membership of WEVS.

Another date for your diary is Saturday 18 April when the Basingstoke Canal Society will be celebrating 60 years of their existence. It will be a Gala Day by the canal at Boundary Road recreation field, Woking, and will include the naming ceremony for a new all-electric trip boat, Kitty 2, which will operate trips from Woking's wharf by The Lightbox. Details will soon be on the Basingstoke Canal Society's website.

Parish Council Consultation - Proposal to Borrow £120k to Help Fund Sports Pavilion Extension - Deadline 28 March

West End Parish Council plans to extend and improve the Sports Pavilion; it has most of the money but needs to borrow up to £120,000. Residents' views are being sought.

The Sports Pavilion is now 50 years old, with many facilities no longer meeting modern standards. The changing rooms for sports teams are no longer fit for purpose, the showers and toilets urgently require modernisation, an external public toilet for users of the recreation ground is needed, and a larger main hall is planned.

Most of the cost will be met through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – the funds paid by developers of recent new housing estates. However, CIL alone cannot cover the full amount.

The estimated total cost is £493,191 and CIL funds are £373,191. There is a shortfall of £120,000 (maximum loan amount). The Council notes it would “only borrow the amount needed” and may not draw the full £120,000.

The loan would be paid back through Council Tax. The Council's calculation is that first year repayments would be around £17,500. The implication for a Band D household is that its

Council Tax would rise by £7.07 per year from April 2027, equivalent to 14p per week. Repayments would reduce every six months as the loan balance falls.

Residents are asked whether they:

- Support the pavilion extension and refurbishment
- Support applying for a 10-year Public Works Loan
- Have any concerns or comments for the Council

The consultation closes on Saturday 28 March 2026. There is a consultation form online (westendparishcouncil.gov.uk), and a paper version may be collected from the Parish Council office. The form is quick and simple; I completed the online version in three minutes. Do submit your opinions.

Responses will be reviewed and summarised, a final decision will be made at the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 14 April 2026, and the outcome will be published on the Council website.

The day before that Council meeting the Annual Parish Meeting will be held – on Monday 13 April at 7.30pm in the Sports Pavilion

Small Change to Parish Boundary. Not many affected.

In view of the reorganisation of Surrey's local government from 2027 (reviewed in detail in our Digital Bulletin 2, November 2025), Surrey Heath Borough Council has been reviewing the parish boundaries in the Borough (also reviewed in Digital Bulletin 2). The first-stage public consultation last year recommended no changes to West End's boundary. However, the second-stage of public consultation led to a proposal for a minor change,

namely to alter the western boundary of West End parish by removing Minorca Avenue, Deepcut from our parish, “thereby correcting a historic anomaly”. This seems eminently sensible; Minorca Avenue, high up on Chobham Ridges, has no logical administrative local connection with West End and is very much part of Deepcut.

The public consultation on this ends on 20 March. One can respond on the Borough's website.

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For updates on WEVS events visit facebook.com/WestEndVillageSociety or wevs.org.uk

The History Project: Streets Heath

The exceptional rain we've had since the beginning of the year, with rain falling almost every day, has filled ditches and at times partially flooded roads.

Unadopted roads such as Fairfield Lane have become wet and muddy with fresh potholes developing more quickly than they can be filled in. This is similar to the pre-1982 state of the road now known as Streets Heath (the section between the High Street and Benner Lane).

According to local historian Richard Lucock Wilson, before 1982 Street's Heath's cinder and stoney surface was sometimes "so soft and wet in winter it was frequently impassable".

Wilson, who lived at Dyckmore on Streets Heath (where Greenview Hall care home now stands), wrote a series of booklets on the history of particular areas of West End. His 11-page booklet *High Street, Church and School*, published in 1977, related that West End's vicar from 1898 to 1924, the Revd Mills Robbins ("the Boxing Vicar"), levelled part of the Street's Heath common land next to the churchyard to make a children's playground, assisted by volunteers. He then turned his attention to the track known at that time as Sandy Road. With volunteers, he improved it into a well-built cinder track, "flanked by ditches, along the whole length of the present Street's Heath road." Probably this was the moment at which Sandy Road, no longer sandy, was renamed.

Prior to 1890, Sandy Road was known as Chapel Row after the Baptist Chapel towards the High Street end of the track.

Until the cinder track was given a tarmac surface in 1982, "it had to be made up by the few unfortunate residents facing it" wrote Wilson. "When part of the roof of what was then the Gordon Boys' School had

We want to continue adding to our collection of West End images and documents. We encourage residents and local organisations to get in touch about any photographs or relevant memoirs/documents they have of events, people or views in West End, from the earliest times onwards. Please contact us at historyproject@wevs.org.uk to arrange delivery/collection. All material will be returned when copied. By giving us these items donors are acknowledging that they may be used in public on our website or in displays, newsletters or other media.

to be repaired in the 1930s Horace Medhurst (who was featured in the recent WEVS Newsletter, February 2026, and whose farm faced onto Street's Heath) "obtained the broken tiles and put thousands of them onto the wettest places. Herbert Gosden and his sons Ben and 'Gee Gee' put down cartloads of clinker from the Woking gas works. Different occupiers of Dyckmore used anything that came to hand including old railway sleepers."

All the hard material put onto the surface soon sank down, requiring fresh bricks and aggregates etc to resurface the road on top of generations of sunk material. Fortunately the tarmac machines arrived in 1982, constructing sound foundations and a smooth surface.

The section of Streets Heath which runs south-to-north from Benner Lane to the A319 remains an unadopted road.

Unfortunately Richard Wilson's booklets are out of print. However copies of WEVS' own history book, 'West End, Then and Now' are available via comms@wevs.org.uk

The name Street's Heath originally applied to what is now the recreation field, which in 1871 (date of the map) was heath, with footpaths through the heather. The two ponds at the south-east corner are shown.

