



Chairman's Letter

May I wish you a belated Happy New Year. It hasn't got off to a brilliant start but hopefully will improve steadily as the days go by.

This Newsletter aims to reassure you that the Village Society carries on despite a year when all of our planned events were cancelled.

As we shiver in the winter gloom today we can look forward to the warmer and sunnier days of the Spring and Summer. The Society is planning to resume its schedule of events and activities, which you can read about in this Newsletter, in the expectation that the pandemic restrictions will have been eased as the vaccination programme is rolled out.

We are planning to issue a full printed version of the Newsletter in the Summer but we have postponed the AGM until later in the year instead of holding it in February. We considered that people were getting fed up with yet another Zoom meeting and that it would be nice to socialise again. In the meantime, stay safe, keep well, follow the lockdown rules and wait for your jobs.

Best wishes to all,

Jeff Llewellyn
Chairman.

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A Note From The Editor

Pete Jones

Thanks to all the contributors for their articles, and to Chris Anthony for his help with the layout and formatting. We are aiming to have our summer newsletter in the normal format (printed and delivered to those not receiving an e-mail version). We aim to get this delivered at the end of August. Any articles can be sent to comms@wevs.org.uk, and head the e-mail 'Newsletter Article'.

WEVS Committee—comms@wevs.org.uk

Chairperson: Jeff Llewellyn **Secretary:** Yvette Jones **Treasurer:** Robin Short

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

Other members: Anne Allard, Marc Bedwell, Andrew Hopkins, Savitri Kegge, Dave Norris,

Ravi Raveendran, Ildiko Roth, Jan Smith.

It has been a generally quiet time for development in the Village. However, there have been a few applications which are worth a mention.

1) Land east of Shangri-La, Fairfield Lane (Council reference: 20/1005).

Another application has been made in Fairfield Lane for the erection of four houses. You may recall in 2018/9 an appeal against the Council's earlier refusal of permission for four houses on the same site was dismissed on appeal. The Inspector determining the appeal identified the site as falling outside of the Village in open countryside and within the Green Belt. He disagreed with the appellant's assertion that the development amounted to infilling and resulted in loss of openness. In his conclusion, the Inspector considered that the proposed four houses amounted to inappropriate development in the Green Belt resulting in significant harm to the character and appearance of the area (reference 18/0863).

The current application does not differ from the earlier proposal and WEVS have lodged another objection based on previous concerns raised by the Society, Council and the Inspector which have not been addressed in the current application. To date, the application remains undetermined by the Council, but we will be keeping a close eye on this to see how matters progress.

2) 154 Guildford Road (Reference 20/0919, just south of Kings Road junction).

This site has a lot of history associated with it and has a use both as residential and commercial use. As with Fairfield Lane, the site is located outside of the village settlement boundary and within the Green Belt. The current application seeks the demolition of a residential building and the cessation of the commercial use in order to facilitate the siting of one mobile home for residential occupation. Because the site is located in the Green Belt, the proposal would be considered as inappropriate development by definition and as such very special circumstances would need to be established in order for planning permission to be granted. The application remains undetermined.

3) Traveller Incursion on Land Opposite Brook Place, Bagshot Road (A319).

Surrey Heath Borough Council has been involved in legal proceedings to remove several unauthorised caravans from an open site on the A309, Bagshot Road. A High Court injunction was served on the occupants by the Council for their removal. These legal proceedings have now been appealed to the Courts to determine whether or not the current occupants remain on the land.

4) Fenns Lane. (Reference 19/0154)

An appeal has been lodged against the decision of the Council to refuse outline planning permission for the erection of 74 dwellings (and the retention of Rosedene Farm), provision of accesses, landscaping and play space along with an area of public open space following the demolition of existing buildings at Rosedene Farm and Land to the South of Fenns Lane. The appeal will be heard by way of Hearing at a date to be determined, (See Page 11 for further details).

5) 44 Guildford Road (Ref 20/1090, next to Inn West End)

Being sub-divided into 2 retail units

6) General Planning Matters

Surrey Heath BC have employed 3 more staff to monitor approved developments to ensure compliance as well as investigating breaches of planning control. More involvement of Ward Councillors is also being mooted so that they can bring their local knowledge to the table and also enable improved communication to the community.

The Village Society will continue to monitor these and future developments in the Village and make representations on behalf of our members where necessary.

Bisley & West End Food Bank

Following on from the last lockdown, we have become aware of how some people in the villages of West End & Bisley need support from foodbanks. To ensure local needs are properly catered for, a foodbank is being set up, with the support of the Church, Bisley and West End Parish Councils, WEBcare and local volunteers. Those in need will be referred to the foodbank by key local care professionals such as GPs, Schools, the Church, CAB, Social Services and WEBcare. Food is then delivered to those referred.

For more information, please see the website: www.bisleywestendfoodbank.org

How can you help?

We are very reliant on local support. You can help in one of two ways:

Donate food / supplies (volunteers will then distribute to those in need) – see below for the core items we are looking for and where you can drop them off.

Donate money – please go to :

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bisleyandwestend-foodbank>



Food Parcel Donation List

We welcome donations of the below:

**Cereal
Soup
Pasta
Rice**

Tinned tomatoes/ pasta sauce

Lentils, beans and pulses

Tinned meat

Tinned fish

Tinned vegetables

Tea/coffee

Tinned fruit

Biscuits

UHT milk

Fruit juice

Toiletries – deodorant, toilet paper, shower gel, shaving gel, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, hand wipes

Household items – laundry liquid detergent, laundry powder, washing up liquid

Feminine products – sanitary towels and tampons

Baby supplies – nappies, baby wipes and baby food

Donation Box locations:

Bisley:

**11 Lobelia Road, 121 Arethusa Way, 58 South Road, 8 Orchid Drive,
The Rectory, Clews Lane**

West End:

**25 Streets Heath, 2 Abelia Close, 41 Guildford Road - back of the West
End club Car Park off High Street**

PLEASE NOTE: Donation Boxes are outside, no need to knock on doors.

The West End Social Club has lots of good news to report, in spite of being closed by COVID-19.

We did manage to open for 4 months last year and had a lot of support, even though we couldn't do our usual things. We started a Saturday Night Quiz every two weeks which proved to be popular, something we may keep once we can open again. We managed to feature some great bands which we could watch even if, sadly, we couldn't dance to the music.

The Club has also undertaken a lot of renovations whilst closed - much needed repairs to the roof, as well as renewing windows and doors and decorating throughout. We look amazing, even if I say so myself.

We also have a new bar steward as John Olorenshaw has now retired. Our new bar steward is called Emma Brooks and has 10 years' experience in social clubs, so we feel she will be a great asset. She is looking forward to meeting you all soon.

The most uplifting thing to happen was in January when club membership subscriptions were due. We asked members if they would still pay, and honorary members to make a donation if they were able so we could remain solvent and be ready for when we can re-open. I was overwhelmed by the response to this and it's made me realise how popular and well thought of the Club is with its members.

Many were sent text messages or e-mails (if we had them) and it was posted on our Website www.westendsocialclub.co.uk and our Facebook page. If any members are reading this and don't know how to pay, please E mail me at Westendsocialclub@btconnect.com for details.

Meanwhile the Committee and I wish you all well and stay safe so we can meet again in the Club

Show Day September 11th 2021

Following the AGM it is our intention to plan for this year's show, hoping that it will happen. With that in mind and knowing that you are all wanting to fill your time whilst in lock down, might I suggest you prepare for the event.

With so many folk taking to their gardens last year, it is time to get ready for vegetable sowing and to plan what you can grow this year. Get the seed catalogue out and have a go! There are plenty of vegetable classes to enter. The same goes for flowers and fruit.

For those who wish to stay warm and are not gardeners, the domestic classes may entice you to get busy. Remember all those skills you have: embroidery, knitting, patchwork, as well as the art classes: painting, drawing and photography, as well as crafts.

For the children, age groups apply, but what an opportunity for them to take part. Many of the subjects can be prepared well in advance and they can hone their baking skills in the coming months so they are ready for show week.

Make this year the first time you pluck up courage to take part. We are very lucky to have a real village show here in West End, so do support it. Entries are open to all, whether you are a member or not. The barn dance will take place in the marquee in the evening, another brilliant event.

The updated show schedule will be available online by April. In the meantime, take a look at previous ones to get an idea - www.wewdahs.org

The Village Skate Park & MUGA

The fantastic skatepark is now complete and was open for a while, but proved to be too popular so is closed until the COVID-19 situation improves. Thanks to Oliver Henderson, Jamie Swanepoel and the Parish Council for making this happen.



The MUGA (multi use games facility) construction is well under way and it is hoped the facility will be available from mid-March, COVID-19 permitting. It will provide a floodlit facility for 5 a-side football, basketball and netball, available for public use during the day and for hire in the evening.



Brentmoor Heath

Mary Adler

Recently on Brentmoor Heath there have been drug issues reported to the police and in early February we conducted a site visit with the MOD Range Safety Marshal. We showed him the places in Area D3 (MoD area, western part of the Heath) where illegal camp construction and drug smoking regularly take place. We have established good contacts with Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) and the MOD regarding the misuse of the nature reserve.

A current issue of concern is major illegal excavations near the Gordon's School roundabout for bike jumps. The pits are a potential hazard for walkers and bikers are riding over and very close to a badger sett, thus causing disturbance to a protected species. Horses and bicycles are, legally, only permitted on scheduled bridleways, which are all marked with the standard blue bridleway markers. SHBC is planning to bring in a contractor to fill in the pits and level the jumps. They have removed several shovels that had been left on site.

Photo Competition Surrey Heath Tree Wardens Jerry Brownlee

In conjunction with Blackwater Valley Nature Walks we are helping to promote this excellent FREE Photo Competition in an effort to get people, including children, out and about walking and noticing the trees they pass en route. Entry is open to all residents of Surrey Heath and Blackwater Valley.

We all love trees, there are so many different types in our countryside, woodlands, parks and gardens in various stages of life. Some trees are young, some old, some veteran and some are dead stumps or fallen logs but all add value to our ecosystem. We want your photos of your favourites in a free to enter, prize competition called 'My Favourite Tree'. Get children to enter as well, we have an under 16s section.

Please note, the closing date for entries is 1st March. All the details can be found on the link below. It's easy: find a great tree, take a photo and email it. Up to three entries per person are allowed.

<https://www.blackwatervalleynaturewalks.co.uk/your-favourite-tree-competition>



West End Scout Group During COVID

Julie Komor

Just to let you know that West End Scout Group is still operating.

Obviously, we cannot meet face-to-face at present but we are still having meetings. Zoom have been very helpful in issuing special licenses for Scouting which have extra security to stay in line with our safeguarding protocols.

Our leaders have risen magnificently to the challenge of providing fun and engaging activities for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts online.

So far this term we have covered diverse topics such as environmental conservation, and world faiths, construction with spaghetti & marshmallows, pizza making, and designing and making boats that float, and we are only 3 weeks in!

It's a great chance for the children to meet and chat with their friends and to have some fun. For newcomers they can at least get to know the other children and leaders so that when face-to-face returns they will all be friends. Let's hope it's sooner rather than later!

If your child would like to join us, please contact email Julie at jakswestend@hotmail.com for more information.

WANTED!

We urgently need volunteers to distribute the WEVS Newsletter. It is not an onerous task and you will earn our sincere thanks. So, if you fancy a bit of light exercise a mere three times a year, please contact us at comms@wevs.org.uk

Our Community Count Down To Christmas

An article by Bronwen Hall, Children's & Families minister – Parish of Bisley and West End

The hosting of our parish Christmas tree festival was not possible this year due to Covid, but, inspired by an idea that another church in the Diocese used several years ago, we found a great alternative for community engagement during Advent despite the restrictions.

We built a community Advent calendar!

I asked different groups within our church and wider community (Families, Schools, Scouting and Guiding, Local Businesses) to decorate the inside of a shoe box (very kindly provided by shoe shops in Woking) themed around a Christmas carol or song. I gave everyone involved the song title so that I didn't end up with lots of Away in a Mangers!! These shoe boxes represented our Advent Calendar windows.

A member of our congregation very kindly built us the wooden frame to house the boxes.



We were very generously lent a shop window to display our Advent calendar, so that it was available for all to see during Advent when church access was limited.



Every day we filmed the opening of the window on Facebook Live and often took the boxes out to people in the community to open (outside and from a safe social distance).



It was lovely to connect with people feeling isolated in this way and have them read the Bible verse from the Christmas story they found inside the box.

We had people guessing online what the theme of the "window" was and everyone seemed to be talking about it. Our Facebook page increased its hits averaging 150 each day over the period and we doubled our number of followers. I had people stop me on my dog walks or in the local shop to ask about the windows!



As you can see, the window designers got really creative – one even had working Christmas lights!!

The whole idea created a wonderful buzz within the local community. It was awesome and clearly demonstrates that Covid cannot kill our creativity in connecting with one another!

Words can't really describe the joy I've had from leading this project. I've already had people asking if they could do a box for next year!



A Few Photos Taken This Winter



A 5km (3mi) Walk Around The East Side Of West End

Pete Jones

This walk does cross a couple of main roads, and there are stiles. Can be muddy in places

Start and finish: Hare and Hounds [12], dates from before 1861.

The first bit is along the road. Walk along Brentmoor Road to the traffic lights at A322 [1], cross over to Streets Heath. Walk to the end. Cross over the road and join the footpath that starts off as Fairfield Lane [2]. Along the lane initially passing a gap in the houses on the left where a contentious planning application (on green belt) has been made, then along the footpath close to the new houses on the left in Pankhurst Farm [which used to be a dairy farm with a milk delivery service until the 1960's], coming out on the A319 Bagshot Road [3] at Brook Place (rebuilt 1656, restored 1927 & 2016). Turn right and in 100m cross the road to that is on the right side of the mobile homes [4], (Planning permission for these was refused in August 2020).

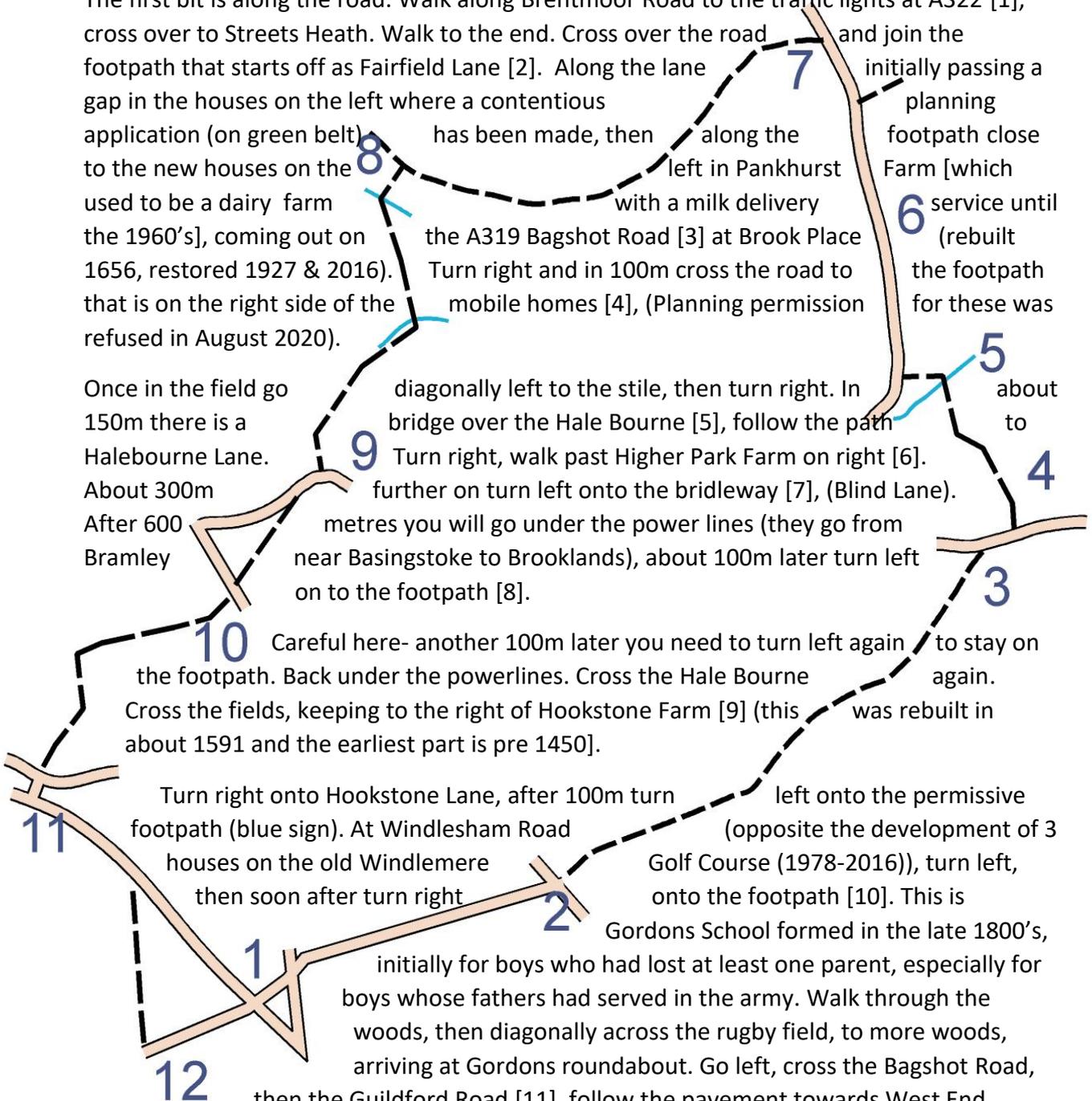
Once in the field go diagonally left to the stile, then turn right. In about 150m there is a bridge over the Hale Bourne [5], follow the path about to Halebourne Lane. Turn right, walk past Higher Park Farm on right [6]. Turn right, walk past Higher Park Farm on right [6]. About 300m further on turn left onto the bridleway [7], (Blind Lane). After 600 metres you will go under the power lines (they go from Bramley near Basingstoke to Brooklands), about 100m later turn left on to the footpath [8].

Careful here- another 100m later you need to turn left again to stay on the footpath. Back under the powerlines. Cross the Hale Bourne again. Cross the fields, keeping to the right of Hookstone Farm [9] (this was rebuilt in about 1591 and the earliest part is pre 1450).

Turn right onto Hookstone Lane, after 100m turn left onto the permissive footpath (blue sign). At Windlesham Road (opposite the development of 3 houses on the old Windlemere Golf Course (1978-2016)), turn left, then soon after turn right onto the footpath [10]. This is

Gordons School formed in the late 1800's, initially for boys who had lost at least one parent, especially for boys whose fathers had served in the army. Walk through the woods, then diagonally across the rugby field, to more woods, arriving at Gordons roundabout. Go left, cross the Bagshot Road, then the Guildford Road [11], follow the pavement towards West End.

Directly after the house on the right take the footpath (diagonally right) back to the Hare and Hounds [12].



A Message From Our Rector



Arriving in a new Parish is always an interesting experience and in these first few months since leaving Brussels and landing in West End & Bisley, it has been intriguing to uncover and unravel some of the history here in order to make plans to move things in the parish forward.

Bisley Old School site is one example of this.

As Rector, I've discovered I am the lead managing trustee of this site. I would love to gather the collective ideas of our community as to how the building & grounds can best be used in the future. The terms of the trust which governs the site relate largely to the work of educating & supporting children and young people, but there could be tremendous scope within that remit.

A public meeting (via zoom) is being organised on Monday 15th February at 7:30pm and is open to anyone who wants to discover more about the potential of this building and share their dreams of how this community asset could be used. Depending on what this brings out, there could be plans set in motion to apply for a substantial grant through the 'Your Fund Surrey' scheme to change our dreams into reality.



Details of how to join the meeting will be released nearer the time on the church website (www.bweparish.org.uk). If you are unable to join but would like to contact me with your thoughts or ideas, please do so by email bwefiona@gmail.com or by calling 01483 473377. Meanwhile, let's be praying that after being dead and somewhat buried for a while, this building will experience resurrection!

Yours Hopefully,
Reverend Fiona.

Picnic In The Park

Ravi Raveendran



In the midst of the nationwide health scare, it may seem foolhardy to plan for our annual Picnic in the Park. But we have to be positive and remain hopeful that by Summer the country will return to some normality to allow us to hold the event. It is usually on the second Saturday of July. Subject to the prevailing health advice in place at that time, the picnic will take place on Saturday 10th July.

More details will be available on the WEVS website and Village Facebook nearer the time.



Appeal against refusal for 74 houses in Fenns Lane

It has arrived, as we expected: the developer has appealed against refusal of their planning application for 74 houses in Fenns Lane.

The application, number 19/0154, was for housing on West End's precious Green Belt, and would expand the western boundary of the Village. The Borough Council refused the application in January 2020.

The Planning Inspectorate announced on 28 January 2021 that the appeal is to take the form of a Hearing. Interested parties may make written representations. The Hearing will be 'virtual' via the internet. The date is yet to be decided. Organisations wishing to make similar points to each other are asked to act jointly if possible. WEAG and WEVS, who submitted separate objections to the original application, have agreed to make a joint representation to the Appeal Hearing.

We have quickly set up a small team to progress this. We are studying in detail the new documentation put forward by the developer.

What can individual residents do? All the representations made against the original planning application have been sent to the Planning Inspector, so there is no need to repeat those. The Inspector asks that only new material is sent in now - any points of objection which you did not make in your previous objection; or if you did not write an objection then this is an opportunity to do so. An example of brand new material might be photographs of recent flooding in the area. Another new point is that online shopping and home working have suddenly been dramatically accelerated by Covid, meaning more town centre retail and office space will become redundant than allowed for in the Borough's current assessment of future housing provision. These additional redundant spaces are ideal for converting to apartments, helping revive the town centre – and removing any case for invading the Green Belt.

The reference number for the appeal is APP/D3640/W/20/3251262. Submissions can be sent via the internet at:

www.gov.uk/appeal-planning-inspectorate

but must be received by 4 March.

Guy Consterdine,

Chairman, West End Action Group (WEAG)

The Stag Project

Ravi Raveendran



Thanks to Covid-19, our fundraising activities in 2020 were put on hold. Just to remind ourselves, WEVS secured the planning permission to install a life size model of a stag on the Fellow Green roundabout on the A322. We will be applying to a number of funding sources for grants, one of which is the Members' Community Allocation Fund with Surrey County Council.

When the country reopens, we will be restarting the fund-raising work in earnest. It's easy to donate to this worthy community project online. Please make your payment to **Sort code: 20-97-58; Account no. 50930180**. Remember to put the reference as **2019POTY** followed by your surname.

As if not enough damage had been inflicted upon the Village's bulbs by the grass cutting contractor in Spring 2020, Cadent Gas is now working in Guildford Road renewing a gas pipe between Hollybank and Red Road. In doing so, some of the planted areas of bulbs are being damaged irrevocably. We are in touch with Triio who is carrying out the work on behalf of Cadent. Triio has assured us that it will re-plant the damaged areas in the autumn. We are currently seeking a formal letter of undertaking from Cadent to say that it will underwrite the remediation of the damaged areas with the correct species of bulbs when the planting season returns.

This is in addition to much greater damage caused by the careless grass cutting activities of Sodexo – the grass cutting contractor for Surrey Heath Borough Council. Some of you may be aware that on 31 October 2020, Sodexo's ground maintenance contract was terminated - only one year into its five-year contract - by SHBC due to poor performance. In spring 2020, Sodexo admitted liability for the permanent damage caused by its



premature and careless grass cutting work. In total, 16 areas were jointly marked up in September 2020 for bulb replanting. Despite Sodexo's promise to complete the replanting, having started the work mid-October, it purposely dragged out the work to the end of the contract (31 October) and duly failed to complete the work in full - only an estimated 10% of work was undertaken.

We are in continual dialogue with SHBC who are looking to deduct a substantial sum of money from Sodexo's retention money to cover the cost of bulbs and labour; watch this space for the final outcome. We are working with SHBC to reduce the risk of this happening again. Sadly, the daffodil show in Spring won't be the same as former years but you can rest assured that we are working hard to minimise the damage and ensure that remediation planting work is carried out by the responsible parties or, failing that, compensation is paid to WEVS.

Laptops For Holy Trinity School

If you have a spare laptop or tablet that you are willing to donate to the school please call 01276 858297. The school will arrange for the removal of data/files that may be on the laptop.

Did You Know

There are 29 listed buildings in the Parish: 28 grade II and 1 grade II* (Brook Place). Four are in Gordon's School of which, arguably, the most interesting is the statue of General Gordon.

Surrey Heath Covid Update

Surrey County Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council and Voluntary Support North Surrey have formed a group of “**COVID Champions**” to communicate local information about COVID and the vaccination process, to their contacts/members. Neighbourhood Watch has agreed to help the process by passing on information to you on a regular basis. We can also collect any feedback, pass it on and seek to obtain answers to any questions raised so please pass this information on to your neighbours.

There are some key messages to pass on and these are as follows:

Surrey Heath COVID infection rates are steadily improving but are still high

Our GPs, hospitals and social care system are all under high pressure

Please do not call your GP to ask about a COVID vaccine as their phone systems are getting overwhelmed

You will get a phone call, text or e-mail from your GP when you are selected for a vaccine. Some people may also get a letter direct from the NHS

Our local mass vaccination centre is at Lakeside in Frimley Green

Most of the over 80's in Surrey Heath have now been vaccinated

Invites for a vaccine depend upon where you are registered with a GP rather than where you live.

This will determine where you are invited to go for a vaccine

Please do not arrive early for your vaccination as there is often limited waiting space

You cannot choose which vaccine you receive – both of the currently available and authorised vaccines are safe and effective

Once you have had one or both vaccines you must still follow all of the lockdown restrictions, maintain social distancing, wear a mask in shops, regularly wash your hands etc.

A Surrey Heath Support Line is being developed and more details will be provided when this is available.

Workplace testing to identify asymptomatic people is due to start in February

Unfortunately, some criminals are using the current situation to try to con people out of money. Fake texts and emails are being sent to people asking them to click on a link which takes them to a website where they ask for personal and/or financial details to make payment for the vaccination. The vaccination is **FREE** to all so if you come across anything asking for payment or financial information then you can be sure that it is a scam and you should delete the email or text.

Covid cases in Surrey Heath



Late February marks the anniversary of the Village Garden Club's last meeting in the Sports Pavilion and, unfortunately, it will probably be some time before we are able to get together again. Still, we live in hope and maybe enough progress will have been made in the battle against Covid for us to resume our popular monthly gatherings before the summer.



Last February's meeting featured a return of a very popular charity – "Send A Cow". Two speakers came along to update us on the progress they are making to support individual farmers in a number of East African countries. The aim of the Charity is to educate and instruct on matters agricultural and, perhaps more important than this, build individual self-esteem and hope for the future. The results over the past few years have been impressive and we are very pleased to support the Charity in our own small way. One recent development has been the start of a new project in conjunction with another charity – TUSK. The venture has been called "Living with Wildlife". Here, the aim is to train people who live adjacent to the Murchison National Park in Uganda to utilise their land productively: to feed themselves and eliminate the need to poach game for food. We wish them every success!

Our Club secretary has managed to rebook a number of the talks that we had lined up last year. These include ones on wasps and bumblebees, the cultivation of vines and the production of wine in the UK (including wine tasting) and flower arranging demonstrations. Something to satisfy everyone's taste. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Judy Douch by email at judithdouch@gmail.com or by phone 01483 475 133. You don't have to be passionate about gardening, there is plenty of interest for everyone. Annual membership costs a mere £5 for singles and £8 for couples and you will be most welcome.



The privations of Covid resulted in many gardens receiving a great deal more attention than normal last year. Activity in most has probably tailed off in recent months, not least because of the cold, damp weather. However, with Spring around the corner (evidenced by the welcome emergence of the first snowdrops – take a look at the ones alongside Fellow Green Road), there is plenty to be getting on with when conditions permit. The relatively warm conditions until late November were ideal for the germination of weed seeds and now is the perfect time to do a spot of weeding. The damp soil and underdeveloped root systems means that the small plants (grass, chickweed, cleavers and the like) can be removed easily by hand. A bucket load of weeds at this stage could well translate to a barrow load in late spring!



February is also the time when the pruning of fruit trees, vines, herbaceous perennials and shrubs should be completed. In addition, a scattering of general fertiliser around their roots will be well rewarded later in the year. Don't forget to give tools a good clean, sort out seed trays and pots for spring sowings and have your lawnmower serviced if necessary.

Winter is a dreary time of the year and a cursory glance around the garden would suggest there is not much of interest. But that is very far from the truth. As the accompanying pictures show, there are plenty of shrubs flowering at this time of the year as well as irises, hellebores, cyclamen and winter aconites. And the scent of some, notably witch hazel, wintersweet and mahonia, is fantastic.

And, of course, we won't have to wait too long before West End is blessed with a magnificent display of crocus and daffodil blooms, courtesy of WEVS, Ravi and his intrepid band of helpers.

WEBCare (West End and Bisley Care & Good Neighbour Group) has been in existence for over 25 years. Its aim is to be Good Neighbours to all ages and especially now to the vulnerable and lonely. During the pandemic we have been manning the telephone for people in need of help but, because many of our volunteers are over 70 or vulnerable themselves, they were unable to transport clients to appointments.

During the first lockdown the “West End & Bisley Community Team” was set up by Surrey Heath Prepared. They enrolled a “street coordinator” for each road, or groups of roads, to help those people who were self-isolating. That organisation was disbanded on 30th June but many of them are now volunteering with WEBCare.

We have 40 volunteers, all DBS checked, some of whom are willing to drive for essential hospital visits etc. Meanwhile, there are others who are willing to collect prescriptions or shopping. The Duty Officer mans the telephone from 10.00 to 12.00 every weekday morning, they then log the client’s request and telephone round for a volunteer. In order to keep the volunteer and client safe it is imperative that we comply with the government guidelines for COVID-19.

The WEBCare telephone number is: - 07713 915393.

Too Much Kale? Here’s An Idea**Chris Anthony**

With the restrictions of Covid, many of us had approached the cultivation of vegetables with increased enthusiasm. There have been some failures along the way but these have been eclipsed by some very satisfying results. However, success does generate its own problems, one of which is what to do with an overabundance of produce.

At this time of year, brassica crops are in full swing and gardeners are always searching for new and interesting ideas on how to cook them. Two such vegetable are the so-called “super-foods”, curly kale and cavolo nero. One idea, and apparently a favourite of Monty Don, is to create a simple sauce to add to pasta. As an added bonus, many children love pasta and this may be one way to get them to eat their greens – provided, of course, they will eat food that is green!

Ingredients:

- 450g Cavolo Nero or curly kale
- 8 cloves garlic
- 300ml crème fraiche, double cream or full-fat greek yoghurt
- 1tbs olive oil
- 50g parmesan cheese, grated
- 400g pasta shapes (penne or farfalle)
- Salt & freshly ground black pepper to taste

Method:

- Strip midribs out of the greens & discard them. Wash the fleshy leaves well.
- Bring a large pan of water to the boil, add some salt & then blanch the leaves and the garlic for 8 to 10 minutes, until tender.
- Drain well & place the leaves & garlic in a food processor along with the crème fraiche or cream. Pulse quickly to blend
- Return the mixture to the pan, add the oil & parmesan, season well & warm through thoroughly.
- Cook the pasta while the sauce is simmering. Drain, add to the sauce & mix.
- Serve immediately & sprinkle more grated parmesan on top.

The Census Comes To Surrey

Households across England and Wales will soon be asked to take part in the Census on the 21st March 2021.

The Census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

A successful Census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed, this could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes.

census 2021

A purple rectangular graphic with white and light blue text. At the top left is the 'census 2021' logo. Below it is the headline 'Be a part of Census 2021'. Underneath is the text 'Census day is 21 March 2021.' followed by a paragraph: 'By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.' Below this is a colorful illustration of a town with houses, a school, a bus, and a factory. At the bottom, it says 'Find out more at www.census.gov.uk' and 'Follow @Census2021' with social media icons. The footer includes 'Office for National Statistics', 'www.census.gov.uk', and 'ASGP1'.

It's easy to take part, but if you need a little extra help there are a wide range of support services.

There's language support and accessible census guidance and lots of helpful documents on our website. You can also get help from census staff in the contact centre over the phone, in a web chat or on social media.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will send you a letter in the post with an access code and instructions. You can fill your census questionnaire in online as soon as you get yours. Paper questionnaires will be available for those who need them.

If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let the ONS know.

Remember, if you, or anyone you know, needs help, there's plenty available.

For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk

WEVS Membership Subscriptions

Mary Anthony

We all hope that it won't be too many months before life returns to a more normal footing and our distributors are able to deliver printed copies of the Newsletter to members who have not signed up for the e-mail version.

Distributors will be knocking on members' doors in the Autumn to collect subscriptions due. The amount owed will be adjusted for the waiving of the 2020 fee, so quite a few of you may owe nothing.

Of course, life would be a whole lot simpler for all if members were to opt to pay via bank transfer. This is a very simple process and does mean that you won't be bothered at what could be an inconvenient time. If you would like to pay through BACS, send an email with your surname and address to membershipwevs@gmail.com and we will supply you with bank details and a unique reference code to use on your payment.