



Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the Summer Newsletter for 2023. After the excitement of the Coronation, the local elections and the Eurovision Song Contest all in the space of a few days we have our own cause for festivities and celebrations! This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Village Society by some far sighted Villagers in 1973 including Mr Michael Naughton (Chairman), Mr Ken Wretham (Treasurer), and Mrs Brenda Boulter (Secretary). The Society held its inaugural meeting at 8.00pm on Tuesday 8 May 1973 in the Scout Centre and 47 people attended.

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The purpose of the Society was "to keep West End semi-rural and as well-cared-for as possible". Four sub committees were set up dealing with Traffic, Noise, Village Preservation and Greens and Commons. Annual membership cost just 50p per household and OAPs were free!

The first Newsletter was published in April 1973. It was two sheets of typed A4, 250 copies of which were duplicated at a cost of £2.07. It is testimony to the enthusiasm of many Committee members, street distributors and villagers that 50 years later our membership in 2022 comprised 525 fully paid-up households and the last Newsletter was 16 pages, in colour and on glossy paper. *(continued on Page 2)*

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 7 th June	Soiree for Strings	6:00pm Gordon's Chapel
Saturday 10 th June	West End Fete	1:00pm Recreation Ground
Wednesday 21 st June	WEVS Summer Evening Walk **WEVS 50 th Anniversary event**	7:00pm Hare and Hounds
Sunday 25 th June	WEVS Litter Pick **WEVS 50 th Anniversary event**	11:00am Rosewood Way Car Park
Sunday 25 th June	Social Club Cars and Guitars	Noon Recreation Ground
Monday 26 th June	Summer Arts Evening	4:30pm Gordon's School
Saturday 22 nd July	WEVS Picnic in the Park **WEVS 50 th Anniversary event**	4:00pm Recreation Ground
Sunday 27 th August	Social Club Beer Festival	12:30pm Social Club
Saturday 9 th September	Ag and Hort Show	1:00pm Recreation Ground
Saturday 7 th October	Ag and Hort Ploughing Match	10:00am Grove End Field, GU19 5HY

Chairman's Newsletter (continued)

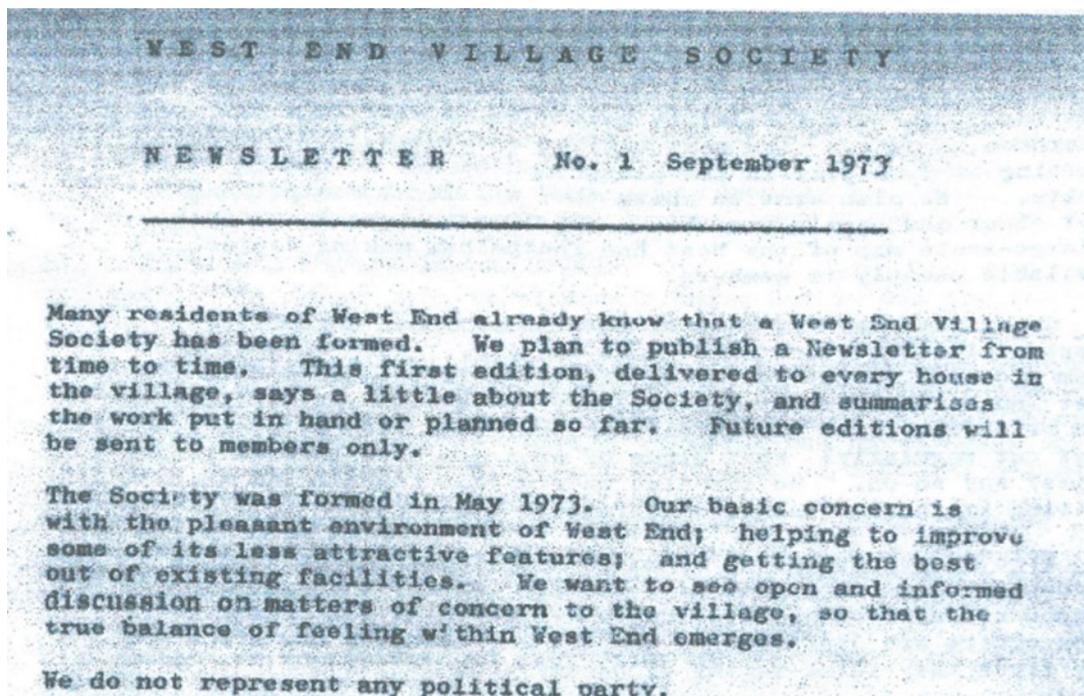
The Society has had many notable achievements over the years, too many to list here. They include: the publication of the Village Design Statement in 2016, two booklets on the History of West End and the recent planting of 130,000 daffodils around the village (which have been quite spectacular this year).

Looking back over 50 years, traffic has increased hugely on all of the Village's principal roads, there have been some 800 or so new houses built to the west and south east of the Village more than doubling its size, and most of the garden nurseries, which formerly characterised the Village and were to a large extent the reason for its existence, have closed down. So while West End may not be quite so semi-rural as it was, the Village is still well cared for, retains its character and is a very pleasant place in which to live.

We shall be celebrating our 50th Anniversary at a few events during the summer. I hope that you will be able to join us. We will also have our usual stands at the Village Fete on Saturday 10th June and at the Ag & Hort Show on Saturday 9th September when we plan to have more of our history on display. In the meantime, enjoy the summer.

Our First Newsletter

With thanks to John Smith



It was just over 3 sides of A4 and laid out the aims of the society, including the

- Gardens and Project Group
- Village Preservation Group
- Noise and Road Group.

Come and see the original newsletter at our display at the Village Fete on 10th June.

Some other things (discussed at parish meetings) from 1973:

- Should the village be called 'West End' or West End, Chobham?
- Should the postal address be changed from Woking?

The West End Village Fete will be held this year on Saturday 10th June with a procession starting from Fellow Green at 12.30pm and the fete, formally opening at the Recreation Ground, at 1:00pm.

The theme for this year's fete is going to be SUPERHEROES (fete cover picture by Fleur in class 3MH at Holy Trinity School)

All of the usual attractions will be there including BBQ, Licenced Bar, Café, Punch & Judy, Coconut Shy, Crock Smash, Beat the Goalie

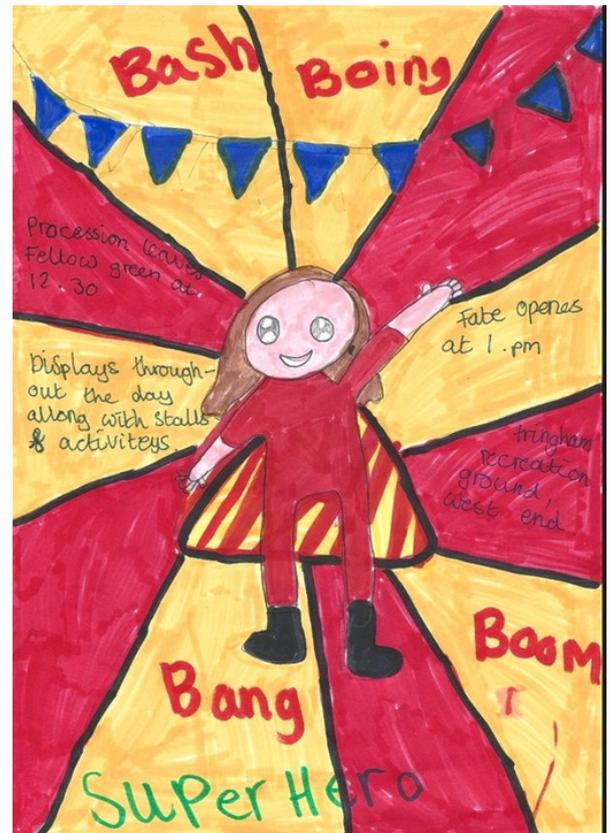
The organisers are looking for volunteers to:

- Help on the committee planning the fete
- Help on the day before (from 09:00), and after to set up and take down the fete-run stalls
- Supply old crockery that you are happy to have smashed up. Please let us know and we can collect it.

If you are able to lend a hand, please contact Jack Kegge at jack.kegge@ntlworld.com

To book a stall at the fete please use the following link: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CCTS>

Also, the WI are running a cake stall and if anyone wishes to donate cakes please bring them along to the fete on the day.



Our Community Orchard (Windlemere SANGS) is doing well despite copious rain. Pictured below is a row of ornamental cherry (Prunus 'accolade'), planted at the entrance to the orchard to attract early pollinators and in flower in early April, followed a couple of weeks later by apple and pear blossom.



We were delighted to be able to re-open our Jubilee Cubs pack in September. This meant that the backlog of Beaver Scouts waiting for spaces could become cubs thus freeing up spaces for new Beavers to join us. We still have a few of these spaces available for children aged 6-8 years. Please contact us if you would like a place.



Julie.komor@surreyheathscouts.org.uk

All sections have had a busy year as the whole of the organisation was catching up with all those fantastic camps and outdoor activities that we have been missing for the last few years. A small selection of photos to illustrate these is shown below.

In this year of volunteering, we have plenty of opportunities! If you would like to join our happy band, contact the address above. We would be happy to discuss how volunteering could work for you!



Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch has created Surrey Heath's first "Community Watch Scheme"

The Surrey Heath Neighbourhood Watch (SHNW) Support Group has worked with the church wardens and others from St Peter's Church in Frimley to set up the very first community-based Watch Scheme in the Borough.

Whilst there are more than 300 Watch Schemes active in our Borough, to date these have all covered specific roads or groups of residential properties.

It was recognised that there are areas where Schemes are not operating and/or where residents may be reluctant to join.

Therefore, in conjunction with the Surrey Heath Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, the idea was born where organisations, such as local churches, groups of local stables, farms etc run their own Schemes which would then cover a wider area, rather than the traditional road-based approach, and which can then be open to any of their members, wherever they live or are located within the Borough.

St Peter's Church in Frimley was a group where there were good existing links, and so the SHNW Area Co-ordinator and Surrey Police Community Engagement Volunteer approached them to see if they thought a Watch Scheme would benefit them and their parishioners.

The idea was met with a positive response because the Church had been experiencing some issues of anti-social behaviour in and around the churchyard as well as previous issues with youths gathering and fighting.

The newly formed Frimley Parish Neighbourhood Watch Scheme not only gives members of the Parish congregation the opportunity to belong to a Watch Scheme and access all the information and advisory services available, but also allows the Parish to bring the immediate neighbours of the church and its historic graveyard into the Scheme should they wish.

This new Watch Scheme and partnership is working very well, with the SHNW Area Rep and Community Engagement Volunteer regularly attending the church's monthly coffee mornings to meet with the church wardens and parishioners who really appreciate this way of accessing information they may otherwise not get.

The SHNW Support Group, supported by the Surrey Heath Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, would be pleased to chat to any churches or community organisations who wish to consider setting up a Community Watch Scheme so please do get in touch.

Contact details for each of the SHNW Area Reps can be found on the SHNW website site;

www.surreyheathnw.co.uk

Do You Know?

In 1856 a railway linking Woking to Sunningdale via Chobham was planned but never built, and in 1902 a light railway between Woking and Bagshot was proposed, and given the go-ahead by parliament in 1906 but never built. Ever wondered why Chobham has a 'Station Road'? Now you know.

[Source Iain Wakeford]

We are a members' club you will want to join once you have been inside and seen what we have to offer you. Weekly activities including indoor bowls; 3 x line dance sessions; jive lessons; bingo; quizzes; open mic; country dances and Saturday bands for all to enjoy, and many more, too many to mention here.

Special events coming up

These club promotional events are your opportunity to look around our terrific village club and consider joining (annual membership is only £20 plus a one-off joining fee of £5).

Sunday June 25th 12:00pm till 5.30pm

Cars and Guitars (Live Music and Classic US and UK Cars (50s, 60s and 70s classic gold) plus *The Bootlegs Band* (Rock & Pop Covers, 4 piece), *Hog Wild* (Rock & Roll, 4 piece) and *The Top Heavy Band* (50s/60s Pop/Rock).



Join us for this fun event with three great bands (playing indoors with a dancefloor), a display of classic USA and UK vehicles on the adjacent village green, a BBQ and a Prize Raffle. The club has a full bar with alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Entry to the event is free.

Sunday 27th August 12.30pm till 6:00pm

Annual Beer and Music Festival Featuring 3 Great Bands (Covers- various) with *Flying Visit* (Covers - various, 3 piece) plus *The Outlaws* (Country/Blues) plus *Southern Bound* (Country Rock, 6 piece)

This is our Annual Beer and Music Festival on August Bank Holiday Sunday. Three bands, BBQ and Big Prize Raffle. Further details to be advised. Join us for our annual event of live music and real ale. The bands are playing 50 min sets between 1.00pm and 6.00pm plus great music during the changeovers. As well as real ale, we have a full bar selling other alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, BBQ food and a prize raffle.



West End Social Club—High Street, West End, Woking, GU24 9PL

Message from The Editor

Pete Jones

It's the th edition of the newsletter. Thanks to all the previous editors, and to Chris Anthony who collates the current editions. Looking forward to the 300th edition in 2056....

The deadline for the next newsletter will be around the end of August so it can be distributed before the Ag and Hort Show on 9th September.

Being old enough to remember Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, I thought it interesting to compare life in West End then and now, seventy years later, at King Charles III's coronation. To start with, much of West End as we know it today was not built in 1953. There was no Sefton Close, Willow Green, Jenner Drive, Barnsford Close, most of Commonfields, Meadow Way, Bolding House Lane, Old Acre or any of the 'Nurse Green' developments to the west of the Village. Tringham Hall and the Sports Pavilion had yet to be built and the new developments to the south east of Benner Lane would have to wait for over 60 years! Holy Trinity School was in buildings at the junction of Church Road, Benner Lane and Bagshot Road, adjacent to the Church. The Recreation Ground was open heathland with gorse and broom. West End was simply a large hamlet on the main roads between Knaphill, Bagshot and Chobham, hardly warranting the name 'Village' in the midst of horticultural nurseries and farms.

Life was very different too. There was still rationing. Few people had cars but travelled by bus, bicycle or walked. Few people had phones let alone smartphones and there were no computers or the internet. So no email, WhatsApp, or Twitter. People wrote letters and posted them. Consequently, communications and the pace of life was much slower. Few if any people had televisions but listened to the radio or the 'wireless' as we called it, on the BBC Home Service, Light Programme and the Third Programme. You got your news from the radio, newspapers, periodicals and news reels at the local cinema (remember Pathé News?). For entertainment people would go to 'the pictures' as there were far more local cinemas then than there are today.

England in 1953 was a very drab place. The predominant colours were camouflage green, brown, dull maroon, cream and grey. Lots of grey. The vast majority of cars were plain black. Many men wore brown tweed sports jackets, grey flannel trousers, cotton shirt (white or cream) with a detachable collar and a tie, both for work and leisure. Or if you didn't have a jacket, a long sleeved knitted woollen pullover. Shoes were invariably black or brown lace ups with toe caps, or boots. Trainers and jeans simply did not exist then although there were black canvas 'plimsols' with rubber soles for both boys and girls. Affluent ladies wore 'twin sets', others wore skirts, blouses and cardigans or in summer, cotton frocks. Shoes were either flat, or 'court shoes' with a medium heel or high heels which were quite chunky and not very high. Stilletos did not arrive for a few years yet. Nor did tights. The main fabrics were wool, cotton, linen, rayon and silk (only well off people could afford silk). Nylon was making its first appearance but apart from that there were no man-made fibres available. Certainly, no stretchy comfortable fabrics or Lycra. Most uncomfortably, there was no soft loo paper! Only stuff which looked and felt like a cross between tracing and greaseproof paper (remember Bronco and Izal?)

Suddenly in May 1953 there was a riot of colour. Red, white and blue flags and bunting were everywhere, on street lights, poles and buildings. As I recall there was much more of it for Queen Elizabeth than for King Charles. Public buildings were floodlit for the first time since the war. In Bristol, where I grew up, there was a huge crown in the city centre which was lit up at night. I had never seen anything like it. It seemed to me that there was a tangible air of excitement for weeks before the coronation itself. I had a cardboard cut-out model of the Coronation coach with cut outs of the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Welsh, Irish, Horse and Lifeguards stretched out along my bedroom mantelpiece. My wife was given a little metal model of the Coronation coach and we each received a blue glass beaker with a gold rim and royal crest (as did most children I believe). Sadly we have both lost them now.

Coronations Compared (continued)

To be honest, coronation day was a bit of a non-event. It was on the radio and was shown on TV but as neither of our families had a TV set, nor knew anyone who did, we did not see it. Contrast that to the superb HD television pictures, close ups and extensive coverage of King Charles' day. I remember that there were many street parties in Bristol and many of the main roads were closed for the day, but we did not go to any, mainly because like on May 6th it poured with rain. About a week later, however, my entire infants school was formed into a huge crocodile and marched off for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the local cinema to watch Queen Elizabeth's coronation on film. It was the first time I had ever been to a cinema. The film was in colour but I think in truth most of us 6 year olds found it a bit boring. I am told that Queen Elizabeth's parade was three times longer than King Charles' and the route taken was three times longer. All I recall was masses of soldiers marching and bands playing seemingly for hours on end.

And what of it all? It was a time of immense national pride and celebration after years of rationing and austerity. We were the 'New Elizabethans'. Britain had won the war and conquered Mount Everest. Our aviation industry led the world. Britain still built most of the world's ships. There was full employment. There was a lot of new construction, new housing was being built, soon to come to West End. It must have made a big impression on a six year old city boy as I remember it vividly.

The Stag Sculpture

As you may be aware we have had some setbacks, mainly due to covid and the knock-on effect of increased costs.

******BREAKING NEWS**** the stag should be making an appearance at the Fete**

Currently:

- We have formed a sub-committee to look at how to expedite the resubmission of the planning application. The committee is meeting on 26 May.
- We intend to contact the donors whom we have contact details for, to inform them of the delay in the installation
- We confirm that we have sufficient money left in the budget to complete the installation
- We also reconfirm that the sculpture and light fittings are in safe storage

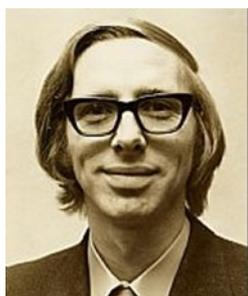
We will be supplying a full update at our stand at the Village Fete. Please come and ask questions then.

Open Gardens

Sorry, but no one in the village wanted to open their garden to visitors this year.

Maybe next year?

Yes, it's half a century since the Village Society was founded.



Guy in 1973

It was born at an inaugural meeting on 8 May 1973 in the Scout & Guide Centre. The meeting had been called following informal conversations about the need for a resident's association. Forty seven people attended, and it was gratifying to find a high degree of enthusiasm for a village amenity society. The outcome was that four caretaker officers would draw up proposals for activities, prepare a draft constitution, and call a full meeting in the autumn.



The caretaker officers were Michael Naughton, Ken Wretham, Brenda Boulter and myself.

The team had a busy summer. There were a series of committee and other meetings, a drive to recruit members for the fledgling society, posters around the village, leaflets, coverage in the local newspapers, and a stand at the village fete on 16 June – establishing a tradition that has continued right up to the present time. In September I wrote the first newsletter, which was distributed to every house in the village, inviting residents to a public meeting in October.

On 23 September Ken Wretham led the first footpath walk, which attracted 40 people and some dogs, and began another of our traditions.

The meeting which set up the Village Society on a formal basis with a written constitution was held on 2 October 1973 in the Scout & Guide Centre. 50 residents took part, and our MP, Michael Grylls, and two reporters from local papers attended. There was a report on the summer's activities, and the constitution was adopted. The meeting agreed the programme of activities, with planning policies and the history of the village among the principal ones.



The first WEVS footpath walk on 23 September 1973, led by Ken Wretham (second from left)

Officers and committee members were elected as follows: Guy Consterdine (Chairman); Brenda Boulter (Secretary); Michael Naughton (Treasurer); and other committee members were Ian Bosbery, Leslie Clough, Bob Field, Jim Henshaw, John Self and Ken Wretham.

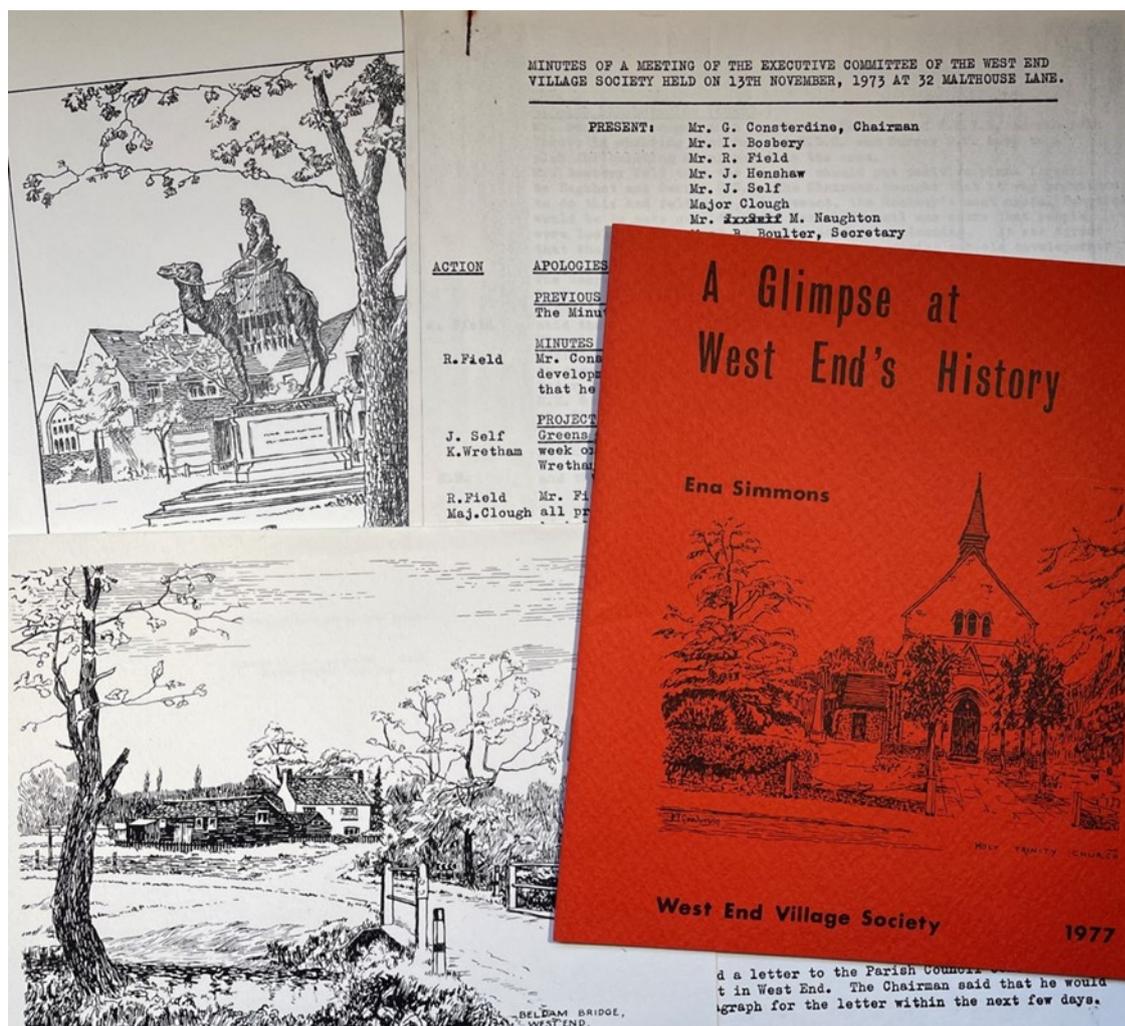
Michael Grylls, MP, gave a short speech, stressing the importance of the work we were about to undertake. He said he thoroughly supported us and wanted to be kept in touch with our activities.

Fifty Years of WEVS(continued)

The main significance of Grylls's visit was simply that he came: it accorded some wider recognition and status to our new organisation, and attracted attention beyond West End as the presence of the reporters testified.

Michael Naughton and Brenda Boulter left West End after a few years. Ken Wretham served on the Committee till 1981. I served as Chairman for two years, then remained on the Committee into the 1980s as newsletter editor, writing the first 60 newsletters at the rate of four or five a year.

We see today that the foundations laid down in 1973 have proved remarkably successful and lasting, with the Society still very much alive and active half a century later.



A collage of four early WEVS documents: minutes of a committee meeting on 13 November 1973; the first WEVS booklet on the history of West End; two WEVS Christmas cards, in 1974 and 1975. (The 1973 Christmas card featured the church, a drawing which we also used on the history booklet)

Red, white and blue bunting has festooned Gordon's as the school celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III with the rest of the nation. Along with the bunting was a "Coronation Colour Run" – involving red and blue power paint thrown on the students' white t-shirts as they sped past.



In January the school welcomed Royalty when the then HRH the Earl of Wessex, now the Duke of Edinburgh, visited the new sports hub which serves both the students and staff of Gordon's and the local community. Completed in 2020, the sports hub incorporates a sports hall, all-weather pitch, changing rooms and café, and complements the already-extensive sporting facilities. During his visit, The Earl met students who were using the equipment in the newly-built Fitness Suite, indoor rowing centre and sports hall as well as those playing rugby and football on the sports pitches.



The Earl of Wessex, who last visited the school in October 2014 for the unveiling of the restored statue of General Gordon on a camel, also spent time with the school's student Wellbeing Prefects and mental health first aiders and learned about how pastoral staff care for boarding students, particularly those whose families are in the Armed Forces.

Half of those boarding at Gordon's are from military families. The Earl also heard how Houseparents Sam and Daisy Cooper help the 11-year-olds from these families as they start their boarding journey, and about the package of support for their mental wellbeing that is in place.

Sport is a vital part of the school's commitment to supporting students' mental wellbeing as well as their physical and emotional development. Every student has the opportunity to take part in some form of sport or activity daily, with a choice of over 50. Thanks to the new sports hall, further sports have been added to the list such as badminton, futsal, table tennis and indoor cricket and Year 7 boarders enthusiastically demonstrated one of their favourite weekend activities, dodgeball.

With public exams now well underway, work is also in progress for the many forthcoming events being held at Gordon's this summer, to which all in the community are warmly invited.

The school's string players will be performing in the Chapel on Wednesday 7th June at 6:00pm in a Soiree for Strings. Tickets are free and available through the box office on the school website (below)

For family fun and entertainment, there's the Summer Arts Evening on Monday 26th June from 4.30pm to 7.30pm - just bring a picnic and a blanket, sit back on the Front Field and enjoy! Also, the monthly Business Breakfasts continue in the Sports Hub Café. The next one will be held on Friday 9th June. This is a networking event, open to anyone in the area who would like to meet and discuss topical business themes in a relaxed environment over a delicious cooked breakfast!

Website: www.gordons.school/boxoffice.



WEVS Chair & Vice Chair of the Society

Those of you who were unable to attend The Society's AGM in February may wish to know that Jeff Llewellyn and Dave Norris were re-elected by a Special Resolution to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of the Society respectively for a fifth year. The Society's Constitution states that the Chair and Vice Chair should serve for no more than four years consecutively. Both were elected in 2019 and re-elected in 2021 so should have stood down at the February 2023 AGM. However, in the absence of any candidates for either post and recognising that during the lockdown of 2020 the Society was effectively dormant and that no subscriptions were collected for that year, 2020 was deemed to be null and void. It could therefore be considered that Jeff and Dave had only served actively for three of their four years. Both were willing to serve for another year and stand down at the AGM in 2024.

WEVS 50th Anniversary Events

Summer Evening Walk

Come and join us on a mid-Summer ramble. Meet outside the Hare and Hounds on **Wednesday 21st June at 7:00pm** to celebrate the longest day with a walk around the village through Brentmoor Heath and Windlemere SANGS to the community orchard, before returning for a well-earned pint.

Litter Pick

Meet at Rosewood Way Car Park on **Sunday 25th June at 11am** for a 1.5-hour litter pick. We will be working along Lucas Green Road, plenty of litter there! Bring gloves and (if you have one) a litter picker. Also if you have a high-vis jacket please wear it. Make a day of it and go to the West End Social Club's 'Cars and Guitars' event afterwards (at the Recreation Ground).

Picnic in the Park

Join us for our annual get-together on the recreation ground on **Saturday 22nd July, from 4:00pm**. Just turn up with your picnic and chairs. Why not try a game of boules while you are there, or get the dusty skateboard out and try out the skatepark?

WEVS Committee—comms@wevs.org.uk

Chair: Jeff Llewellyn **Vice Chair:** Dave Norris **Secretary:** Yvette Jones **Treasurer:** Anne Allard
Membership Secretary: Mary Anthony **Newsletter Editor:** Pete Jones

Other members: Ranjit Bhamra, Andrew Hopkins, Savitri Kegge, Yvonne Simpson,
Jan Smith, Pauline Wells