



# VILLAGE NEWS

WEST END

Volume 21 Issue 4  
20th Anniversary  
CHRISTMAS EDITION

## ACT OF REMEMBRANCE— ESHER WAR MEMORIAL



Left: The Act of Remembrance was led by Revd Darren McCallig, accompanied by the Crucifer, Will Stevens, Stuart Whatton, Director of Music, the Choir and the Trumpeter, Thomas Doolan. Pupils from the local schools were actively involved in the Service. Representatives from Surrey Police, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, Air Cadets of 1034 (Surbiton & Esher) Sqn, 1st Esher District Brownies and Guides, 1st Esher Scouts, Rangers and Beavers were all in attendance as well as local residents and Councillors. (Below right) L-R: Cllr Simon Waugh (Mayor 2022-23), Cllr Tim Oliver (Leader of Surrey County Council), Cllr Liz Laino (Lib Dem Councillor Long Ditton representing Monica Harding MP), Cllr Richard Williams (Mayor 2023-2024) and Cllr Simon Leifer (Chair of ERA).

A Service followed in Christ Church. More photos inside.



Above left: Thomas Doolan, Trumpeter, playing the Last Post.  
Above: Air Cadet Naomi Lewis  
Left: Air Cadets of 1034 (Surbiton & Esher) Sqn

As ever, the Air Cadets of 1034 (Surbiton & Esher) Sqn were proud to participate in the Act of Remembrance, including the Banner bearer Cpl Reuben Lewis, and the wreath layer, Cadet Naomi Lewis.

Also present were the President, Gp Capt Peter Bedford, accompanied by Naomi Bedford, and Wg Cdr John Machin and Sqn Ldr June Machin, of Surrey Wing. Like many youth organisations, the Air Cadets provides a marvellous grounding for youngsters and helps them to develop their many capabilities, and whilst there is no requirement for them to join the Forces, recent Sqn members include an operational Chinook helicopter pilot, an RAF Medical Officer and an RAF Regiment Officer.

Above right: L-R: Sqn Ldr June Machin, Wg Cdr John Machin, Naomi Bedford, Gp Capt Peter Bedford, Alice Austin, who laid the wreath for the Village News.



**IMPORTANT PLEASE READ.....**

Call 999 for Emergencies only.  
Call 0800 555111 for Crimestoppers.

**Call 101 - Surrey Police for General Enquiries and non-urgent matters.**

This number will also transfer you to Esher Police Station, which is open from 09.00-17.00 hours Monday to Friday.

Sgt 3528 Nick Reynolds is Sgt for Esher and Claygate  
PC 3435 Ian Hallam is the local Esher Officer  
Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email:

Officers can be contacted by dialling 101 or email: **Please note: the email address has changed for the Elmbridge Policing Team to [elmbridge@surrey-police.uk](mailto:elmbridge@surrey-police.uk)**

Contact for Neighbourhood Watch, is now : <http://elmbridgehw.ourwatch.org.uk/>

Please report suspicious incidents via 101, or in an emergency 999. You can also contact Surrey Police online: <https://www.surrey.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/> Or Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/Surrey Police & X](https://www.facebook.com/SurreyPolice&X) (formerly Twitter)

**IN THE KNOW—Surrey & Sussex**

Please report suspicious incidents via 101, or in an emergency 999.

- ◆ Keep all windows securely locked at all times and once again please remove all valuable items from cars when parked. Car thefts continue in the area.
- ◆ Report suspicious emails to SERS (Suspicious Email Reporting Service). Mobile phone providers also offer a service which allows customers to report suspicious text messages by forwarding them to 7726.
- ◆ There have been a number of bicycle thefts reported in the area—please keep yours safely stored and securely padlocked.



**UPDATE ON NITRUS OXIDE CANISTERS**

There is good news and bad news!

I contacted the Police Liaison Officer at Elmbridge Borough Council who was pretty appalled by the photos I sent him. He assured me he would see what he could do and I am delighted to report that I have not found any canisters or the balloons that go with them in the West End area - mostly in the children's' playground opposite the Hospice. I had a collection of 35 collected from January to June this year! However, since then, I have found several on the Portsmouth Road and some more on the road from Esher to the bypass.

I have not found any of the tiny steel capsules that used to be strewn on the pavements, but these are one dose only, whereas the heavy cylinders contain a high amount of doses which tells me that the users have graduated to these, which is very concerning. If you happen to find a canister (weighing approximately 3.5 pounds), it cannot be put in either your recycling or landfill bin as it can still contain the nitrous oxide gases - I have frequently found full containers that have been hidden in undergrowth for future use! Leave any container in a carrier bag beside your bins and mark the bag clearly with a label saying "Hazardous Waste". Hopefully, the bin men will take it to a safe place for disposal.



Wendy Tanqueray



**HOME COOKING**  
by Elizabeth  
EST. 1986

**Bespoke Catering Of  
Formal & Informal Events**

- WEDDINGS
- MEMORIALS
- CELEBRATION PARTIES
- CHRISTENINGS
- CORPORATE EVENTS
- HOUSE WARMING PARTIES
- THEMED PARTIES
- SMALL PRIVATE FUNCTIONS
- DISHES AND PLATTERS

ELIZABETH TRELIVING

**HOME COOKING BY ELIZABETH**  
The Showroom 1 Church Road Great Bookham KT23 3PD

T: 01372 453206 M: 07712 760175 E: ejtreliving@aol.com  
Or visit our website [www.homecookingdirect.co.uk](http://www.homecookingdirect.co.uk)

**WEST END BRIDGE CLUB**

We are a small club which meets every Tuesday afternoon in the Village Hall.

We play friendly bridge and new members are very welcome. We are not competitive and members only enjoy a pleasant afternoon with like-minded people.

Anyone interested, requiring more information should contact:

Sandra Elms on 01372 466433



**DEFIBRILLATOR**

**OUTSIDE VILLAGE HALL**

No training required - anyone can use it  
Dial 999 and give the location  
You'll be given a key code to open the box  
Follow written instructions on the portable unit  
Verbal instructions are provided once turned on.

An Outstanding preschool for children 2 to 5 years old set in the beautiful village of West End



# West End Playgroup & Forest School

**Funded & non-funded places**  
 High staff to child ratios  
 Low staff turnover  
 Registered charity  
 Flexible hours

Enquire Today  
**07395 901584**

**Ofsted**  
 Outstanding Provider

Find out more




[www.westendplaygroupandforestschool.com](http://www.westendplaygroupandforestschool.com)

## WEST END PLAYGROUP & FOREST SCHOOL



It feels wonderful to be back in the swing of things at playgroup.

The team are full of warmth and energy with stimulating activities that spark the children's imagination each day. It's heartening to see them so engaged—whether they're creating autumn crafts, learning new songs, or sharing stories with friends. The playgroup embraces the rhythms of the year and has celebrated special events like Remembrance Day, Bonfire Night and Diwali. These occasions not only broaden the children's understanding of the world, but also help them connect to the seasons and the community around them.

Looking to Christmas, all us parents are very much looking forward to the Christmas concert and a festive fundraiser. As an independent charity, the playgroup is always in need of more financial support to ensure its future and the parent committee is committed to supporting the playgroup to ensure it continues to such an exceptional standard and connecting with the wider community. The team are always grateful for donations, monetarily or of equipment/crafts. Please do spread the word about this little gem of a playgroup which has served the community for nearly 50 years. Please do pay them a visit if you are looking for childcare, this place really is very special.



I'm so grateful to see my child grow in such a nurturing, inclusive space that encourages exploration and celebrates the joy of learning.

We hope the whole village will join the team in celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2025!



Lally Moseley (Parent at West End Playgroup)

## GARSONS WILD WEST END TOWN PUMPKIN TRAIL



The staff at Garsons really made an outstanding Pumpkin Trail known as 'Wild West End Town'—including, a Bank, Sheriff's Office and Jail, Saloon Bar, Hotel, General Store, Barbers as well as many spooky Halloween characters, all made and decorated by hand.

Congratulations to all the staff who put the scenery together and installed it in time for Halloween. Everyone who visited was in awe of all the workmanship and enjoyed the fun and games which included Noughts and Crosses, Bootla, Pumpkin Stack—Shoot it, out all of which kept the children (and parents) happily entertained!



The Sheriff's Office and Jail



Thank you to the Garsons Team for all your hard work and making it such fun!

## SPOOKY HALLOWEEN COMPETITION



Left: Melanie, who works in Garsons Customer Services, kindly presented Mary (aged 8) with a prize for her creative artwork in the Spooky Halloween colouring competition.

Mary was so proud and excited to receive her prize of a Hatchimals Pixies, Crystal Flyers Rainbow Glitter Magical Flying Doll!

Mary then tucked into a delicious Garsons Cream Tea and a Banana milkshake as a family treat!

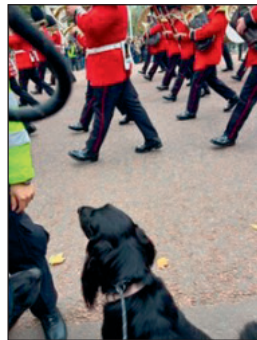
## INDY'S CHRISTMAS DOG BLOG

Christmas! I love Christmas! The smell of turkey cooking, the exciting rustle of wrapping paper, sparkling decorations and, love it or hate it, Christmas music. My girls start dancing, and we all open our advent calendars. I ask Mummy if it's Christmas today and she just keeps saying, no, not yet and points to how many more little windows with dog treats have to be opened. This year is special though, we are having two Christmas's. Can you imagine? Double excitement! You are probably wondering why we are so lucky. Well, my Mummy's brother is coming all the way from a land down under but I'm not allowed to dig in the garden to find him. He's bringing his two girls, who are the same size as my two girls, so there will be five girls celebrating with Mummy, Daddy, Nana and my Uncle. He's taking them skiing for the real Christmas so we won't see them for a long time after that.

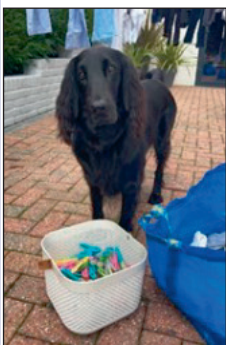


I had a rather exciting week at the beginning of October when my naughty niece, Teasel, came to stay. We had some great walks but, oh dear, she just won't come back to have her lead put on. I'm embarrassed and think it's a pretty paw show. Sometimes, to help, I take her lead and we run together because, as you know, I'm Miss Goody Four Paws and always come when I'm called, so she has no choice but to come back with me.

The best day ever though was our trip to London. Yes, two Flat Coats in London! We went on a train, a bus and a tube, saw all the sights, smelled all the smells and dodged all the feet. I especially liked Buckingham Palace and the changing of the guards because the horses had black coats like us and the loud band marched past in their bright red coats. I licked the policewoman's hand to show how much I appreciated the spectacle. It made her jump at first but then she fussed my ears and we all like a bit of that, don't we?



I have to report on two rather sad events that have occurred in our road. Plover, David's lovely yellow Labrador, who was an expert gun dog has sadly died. She had a happy, long life and was a good sister to Millie - do you remember Millie, a young yellow Labrador? You must remember her, she went missing a while ago and the whole village went looking for her because that's how kind West End Village people are. And yes, don't worry, she was found, in case you missed that episode. Also, the Williamsons lost their pretty golden retriever a much-loved family member, Sasha. Both dogs were beautiful souls and will be sadly missed but I am sure they will meet in the big dog basket in the sky.



Now, I do like to help whenever I can, so I'm always keen to learn to do new jobs. Mummy needed my help with all the washing she has to do, so my latest achievements are carrying the peg basket, picking up the pegs when asked and unloading the washing machine and tumble drier but if you try that you have to be really gentle, don't pull too hard or drag things on the floor as apparently, that is not helpful. I would like to unload the dishwasher but Mummy says no. However, when no one is looking, I perform a pretty efficient pre-wash.

I was out walking the other day in West End with my Nana and my youngest girl, who is now very tall, by the way. We stopped to chat with a lovely lady, Jackie, who was tending some beautiful pink flowers, she said were called Nerine. You probably know the house. I do love flowers don't you? Bright colours in this particularly grey November.

Well, whatever you get up to in this leaf kicking Autumn and pine scented Christmas, I hope you have a wonderful time. Remember, I love to chat so if you see me do stop and say hello, I'm the Flat Coated Retriever with the pretty, pink collar.

Indy 

## COBHAM WATER MILL BIG CLEAN-UP: A GRAND SUCCESS



The historic Cobham Water Mill underwent a significant transformation during the Big Clean-Up event in September when a team of 15 volunteers gathered at the mill to tackle a wide range of tasks. We totally emptied the building comprising years of accumulated clutter, discarding items of no future use (a whole skip full of rubbish!) and gave away things of use to others. We cleaned and disinfected the building from top to bottom, polished the perspex viewing windows allowing visitors a clearer view of the mill machinery, and undertook minor repairs and some painting. This extended to the grounds where we dug out particularly stubborn shrub roots which proved a real challenge and hardwood found in the loft made 2 new bench seats.

Volunteers enjoyed refreshments to keep their spirits high throughout the day and the collective efforts not only enhanced the mill's appearance but fostered a sense of community spirit and pride.

"This event showcased the incredible dedication of our volunteers," said William, Chairman of the Cobham Mill Preservation Trust "Their hard work and enthusiasm has made a significant impact on the mill which helps preserve this historic site for future generations to enjoy."

As the mill now prepares to hibernate for winter, the Trust looks forward to welcoming visitors again in the spring, starting the second Sunday in April 2025.



If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact us at [info@cobhammill.org.uk](mailto:info@cobhammill.org.uk)

William Forrest, Chairman, Cobham Mill Preservation Trust



**WISHING ALL OUR READERS  
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY FESTIVE SEASON**

We welcome all new residents to our unique village life. We hope you will enjoy the benefits of what the village has to offer! There is always something interesting in which you can become involved, including our Annual Flower Show, the Sports and Social Club, events in the Village Hall, our delightful and friendly Playgroup, the Bridge Club, Winterdown WI, West End Golf Club, AFC Westend, West End Esher Cricket Club, the Motor Club, the Pigeon Club, Garsons Farm and the Prince of Wales, or simply take a walk through the woodlands and along the Ledges by the River Mole.

A huge thank you to all the Village News volunteers for their unwavering support and help throughout the year in delivering the newsletter to every household in the village and beyond.

**FROM THE 'FRIENDS' AND VILLAGE NEWS TEAM**

**POST BOX TOPPERS**



Above: The post box by Prince of Wales

Right: Decorated Pumpkins on the corner of West End Gardens

**Thank you Ann for all your colourful and creative work!**

Post box toppers are very popular these days and thanks to Ann Tennant West End has two more of its very own! During the summer Ann also created a delightful village pond scene with a swan, cygnets and ducklings.



**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE VILLAGE NEWS**

We would like to thank the following 'Friends' of the Village News for their generous donations:

Peter & Naomi Bedford, Ken Berry, Gerry Dowling, Donald & Sandra Elms, Kathy & Richard Goode, Mr & Mrs R.V. King, Rob Lowe, A J and B Maddows, Malcolm & Kay Parsons, Mike Purchase, Derek Richardson, David Rolfe, Denis Roux, J & J Stadius, Angela Stockbridge, Peter and Pat Thompson, Simon & Veronica Whittally, and donors who wish to remain anonymous.

If you would like to become a Friend or simply make a donation, the bank details are:

**A/C name: Village News (West End)  
Account no: 56514794 Sort Code: 60-08-04**

For further information on becoming a Friend, please contact our Treasurer, Derek Richardson at [derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk](mailto:derek.richardson@garsons.co.uk)

**THE BLITZ**

I must have been lucky!

When the war started my father dug a great hole in the garden and there he built an Anderson shelter. There were no windows but one night I was late in getting into the shelter, at the end of the garden, and as I stood there the searchlights caught a large object floating above our neighbour's house. It fascinated me. I stood looking as it came down from high up "Hurry up down here" shouted my father. It turned out to be a parachute land mine.

A classmate of mine called Speechly had written a piece which the BBC actually used.

"In September 1940 the family started using the public air raid shelter. On the night of 26th September 1940 there was an almighty explosion. A parachute mine, (containing a ton of explosive), had hit the top of a tree, near the shelter. The force of the blast blew off the escape hatch at the end of the shelter. If the trajectory of the mine had been different, it would have killed us all. After this happened, we had to stay there in the dark and the dust until the ARP man said "come out" He said the mine exploded up in the tree. 'Had it exploded on the ground, we would have had it'".

The mine caused extensive damage to our house which was only 150 yards away. The heavy plaster ceiling in the house next door and window frames were blown in. The slates from the roof were blown off.

After this my dad built an underground shelter. On the 29th November 1940 our house took a direct hit from an incendiary bomb and father's bedroom was burnt out. Christmas 1940 father bought a Morrison Shelter. It doubled up as a dining table.

Bombing raids became rarer until V1 flying bombs "doodlebugs" started in June 1944. Occasionally I saw one pass over our garden. We listened for the bang!"

On the 7th December 1944 at 8.08pm there was a great explosion! A V2 rocket had crashed into Hayes End Recreation Ground 200 yards from my home. It devastated some bungalows. Fortunately there were several houses between us and the explosion. It left a big hole in the park. The local lads always used it later for a cycle track. Several incendiaries fell on next door neighbour's doorsteps and father used a stirrup pump to put them out. We had little damage except when one night father put his head out of my bedroom window and suddenly got a shock for all round his neck were pieces of broken glass: evidence of a nearby explosion!



**THE V2**

*Don Tyzack*

**Living with luck!**

*Don also sent in this cute image of a field mouse nibbling on a treat!*



## ST GEORGE'S CHURCH WEST END



Having taken this photo at 6pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – the view will be somewhat different at 6pm now that the clocks have gone back.



The church was beautifully decorated for our Harvest service on 6<sup>th</sup> October and we had a wonderful selection of donations from our congregation. This year, all our gifts (from both Christ Church and St George's) have gone to the Lower Green Community Centre (LGCC), where they have an Emergency Food Store. This runs in addition to the foodbank, which is only available on certain days and from not very nearby locations. This provides immediate emergency items to support local families in the interim. The team at LGCC were so grateful for the amazing amount of goods they received, which will certainly keep them going over the Christmas and New Year period.



Our annual Pet Service (our 16<sup>th</sup>!) took place in mid-September and there was a lovely turnout of lively dogs this year - some of whom attempted to join in with the hymns! It is always such a joyful service that is remarkably relaxed, considering the potential for chaos which never seems to happen. Every year a local animal charity is invited to give us a rundown of how they operate.

This year we were delighted to have Sue Bohane join us, who is currently a puppy minder for the Guide Dogs charity, along with her lovely Labrador pup Enzo. Guide Dogs are always in need of people to look after the puppies for about 9/10 months before they move to 'big school' at a year old. Sue and Enzo are reaching the end of this period and she was able to give the congregation a good insight to what this entails. As well as the day to day experiences that we all have, these puppies have to be taken on buses, trains, escalators, into pubs, shops, hospitals, airports, aeroplanes etc. At the end of the service there was a collection for the charity and £131 was raised.

By the time you read this, our Rector Darren will have returned full-time from his adoption leave.

At our service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, we took the opportunity to thank /Jonathan (Revd Jonathan Andrew) for holding the fort during Darren's absence. Not only has he presided at Sunday services but has conducted baptisms, weddings and funerals ... and still finding time to run the book club!

All this, while he is supposedly "retired". By way of our appreciation, St George's presented him with a mini Olive Tree, a bottle of wine and Garden Centre vouchers. Hopefully he will have time to make use of the vouchers in his retirement!

Thank you, Jonathan.



Presentation to Jonathan (Revd Jonathan Andrew) for holding the fort during Darren's absence.

You may have spotted a team of gardeners on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November when they harvested the leaves and tidied the garden in preparation for winter

The Mystery of the Disappearing Cones at St George's Church. Hardly a Midsomer murder...but ALL six of our "No Parking" cones have disappeared! Now we know that they had been parked on, hit, looked a bit sorry for themselves...but even so! **The cones are needed**; apart from the obvious weddings and funerals, on Sunday mornings we do need the spaces outside for clergy and congregation to park! One has since been spotted (it has "CHURCH" written on it!) amongst the collection of cones alongside Talbot Lodge opposite West End Gardens (we are not sure who put them there or why?). The Thursday Murder Club are engaged in other activities (like filming) at the moment, so we shall have to purchase some more. However, if anyone can shed any light on this theft, please let us know!!

The Church Calendar took us through All Souls and Remembrance, both of which are very deep and meaningful to many people. This now leads us into Advent from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December. This means that there are no flowers in the church in the run up to Christmas, when the church will then be festooned with fresh flowers, the Advent Wreath, our Christmas Tree and candles.

As Christmas approaches fast, we must remind you of the various services that are being held at both St George's and at Christ Church. Please join us at as many or any of the services that you can. You are always very welcome.

### St George's - West End

Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm	Crib Service
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00pm	Village Carol Concert
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9am	Eucharist
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>NO SERVICE – 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN THE MONTH</b>	

### Christ Church - Esher

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	10.30am	Christingle Service
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	1.15pm	Music on the Green & Sing Carols (light lunch from 12.30)
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	6pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00pm	Crib Service
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Eucharist

So please try and join us at any of these wonderful seasonal services – we would love to see you. Always check our website for full details of all services and news:

<http://www.esherparish.org.uk>

Here you can also find everything you might want to know about the Parish of Esher including Music on The Green. We put topical notices on the fence outside the church – so please do stop and look to see what's going on as you pass by.

Finally – thank you as always for your continued support and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Andrea Lindow and Bridget Williams*



From the top: Pupils from Esher Church School waiting patiently for their turn to lay their wreath. The 1st Esher Scouts laid a wreath at the memorial. The Standard Bearers lowering the flags during the service and above, pupils representing Claremont Fan Court School looking very proud. West End residents who laid wreaths (not shown here) included Malcolm Parsons for the West End Sports & Social Club, Alice Austin for the Village News and Glenyce Alexander for Winterdown WI.



Crowds gathered for the Act of Remembrance at the Esher War Memorial

*Photos: Angela Stockbridge*



## WINTERDOWN WI

When we look back over the last year, we have been on some interesting trips which are below. We meet in the beautiful West End Village Hall where we have speakers, tea and cakes, and a chance to chat and enjoy each other's company. So come and join us on our adventures!

Contact us by E-Mail -

[infowinterdown@surreyfedwi.org.uk](mailto:infowinterdown@surreyfedwi.org.uk)

- **Two coach trips-** one to **London** to see the **Christmas lights** last November and a second to **Windsor** for a **Boat Trip** in June which were a great success. So much so that we have organised another Christmas coach trip for this year in December to visit the **Old Royal Naval College Carol Concert in the chapel and London Christmas Lights**
- **Windsor Castle and Festive Lights** -last December
- **Chertsey Museum-1940 Collection**-February
- **KSS Air Ambulance Tour**-March
- **NGS Garden Visit Cobham** - April
- **Turner's Seascapes with a ladle lunch**-May
- **Our Time 2024 at HMP Send**-June
- **Dorking Caves and guided tour around Dorking**-July
- **Richmond Walk and Talk** -July



**Summer party at the Cobham Curve-engaging in the WI Community Liaison Project** - August

**Shinnyo Lantern Floating Festival** - September

**Theatre Royal Windsor Tour** - October

**Fashion Show** - October

*Christine Grove  
Secretary Winterdown WI*



## ESHER FRENCH CIRCLE

**Cycling the Canal du Midi  
Talk (in French)  
Esher French Circle  
7pm, Wednesday 11 December  
Village Hall, West End, Esher**

Peter Prowse's talk about his bike ride from Toulouse to Sète will include stories and music relating to this masterpiece of 17<sup>th</sup> century French engineering. It took Peter Prowse and his friend – another Peter – a week to cover the 260km from the start of the Canal du Midi to its finish at the Mediterranean port of Sète. As well as talking (in French) about the people who built the canal – 350 years ago – Peter will bring his guitar along and sing a few songs linked to towns and people he encountered along his journey.

Peter's talk, on Wednesday 11 December at 7.30pm in West End's village hall, rounds off 2024 for Esher French Circle. The season so far has included two very different talks: On 16 October, French history enthusiast Odile Hughson told the story of the exile of the Orleans family periods in various royal palaces in and around Richmond – including Claremont, where Louis Philippe spent his later years until his death in August 1850.

On Wednesday 20 November, Christian Michel – who describes himself as a 'thinker and entrepreneur' gave a thought-provoking talk entitled 'From Plato to Putin – the dangerous theory of a multi-polar world.'

Esher French Circle's 2025 programme of talks (all in French), offers a continuing variety of themes and speakers:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 15 January 2025 | <i>Ces remarquables Louis</i><br>by Germaine Jones |
| 19 February     | <i>Albert Camus</i><br>by Emilie Capulet           |
| 19 March        | <i>From Tilsit to Bérézina</i><br>by Annie Kean    |

Esher French Circle offers monthly talks – in French – by native or fluent French speakers, for anybody interested in keeping up or improving their French, in a relaxed and convivial setting. The talks take place in West End Village Hall, Esher.

The meetings are on the third Wednesday of most months and the doors open at 7pm. There is ample opportunity to mingle and chat over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits before the main talk starts at 7.30pm.

Esher French Circle warmly welcomes anybody with an interest in France and French life, whatever their level of knowledge of the language. More information is available on the club's website:

[www.cerclefrançais-esher.uk](http://www.cerclefrançais-esher.uk)



*Peter Prowse on his cycling trip from Toulouse to Sète.*



*Peter Prowse and a friend (another Peter) cycled the 262km from Toulouse to Sète.*



*The series of locks near Béziers is an example of the genius of the Canal du Midi's founder, Pierre-Paul Riquet (above).*

*Peter Prowse*

For further information, contact:

**Peter Prowse** M 07973 213039 E [peter.c.prowse@gmail.com](mailto:peter.c.prowse@gmail.com)  
or  
**Brigitte Tiller** M 07 896 233728 E [brigitte@ptiller.com](mailto:brigitte@ptiller.com)

### SPOOKY WEST END GARDENS ON HALLOWEEN



Did you dare to enter any of these spooky gardens on Halloween?

Much fun was had by the children in West End playing trick and treat whilst confronting ghouls, ghosts, skeletons, witches cats and caverns! There were lots of exquisitely carved pumpkins on view around the village like this one resembling a hobbit house!



## COUNCILLORS' CORNER



News from your local Elmbridge Ward Borough Councillors (EBC):

The Esher Ward has 3 independent Residents' Association (ERA) councillors: Simon Waugh (Mayor 2022-23), Richard Williams (Mayor 2023-24) and Simon Leifer, ERA Chair, elected in May 2024.

The ERA has a postal newsletter but it is published less frequently than Village News. However the web site is up to date ([esher-residents.com](http://esher-residents.com)) and there you can also find our e-newsletters and sign up at [helloesher@esher-residents.com](mailto:helloesher@esher-residents.com) to receive these in your inbox.

### The ERA Charity Quiz and fish and chip supper

This was a great success and showed us all that not only are our residents and friends terribly clever (or maybe the questions were too easy!) they are also very generous raising £1,200 for the Oasis Children's Charity. There were the Quiz regulars and some new faces too.

Many thanks to those who attended and made this a fun evening but also to those who, though were unable to come, generously donated to the charity.

When marking the answers it is noticeable that quite a few teams initially wrote down the correct answer then altered it to an incorrect one so there were many groans when the answers were revealed. It was fun to see everyone (including those who really ought to have known better) counting on their fingers to work out the number of zeros in a Zillion (see below).

Thank you to the donors of raffle prizes: Everyman Cinema, the Prince of Wales, John Lewis and the ever present 'anonymous' for the wonderful wine and food hamper. Further thanks to Sandown Park for the Auction prize and our Chair who once again donated the bottles of wine for all those on the winning table (and yes, it was a jolly good wine as one grateful recipient later reflected. The ERA has very high standards!).

### Elmbridge Borough Council mulls over the future of its Civic Centre.

We all know how much the legacy of Covid has changed the way people work. With the advent of working from home, businesses have been reviewing the space they need to run effectively and Elmbridge Borough Council is no different. The site that the current Civic Centre occupies is approximately 6 acres and the offices are now underutilised, as is the staff car park. It's felt that the Council cannot continue with the current arrangements and a number of options have been explored over the past couple of years.

At September's Cabinet meeting, it was agreed to move to the next stage of identifying the preferred options for the retention or development of the Civic Centre and its site and Consultants have been briefed to present the business cases for three different options:

1. Refurbish and modify the existing building
2. Demolish and rebuild a new, smaller, Civic Centre on the same site.
3. Relocate to a different building in Esher and redevelop the existing site for housing, retail and some civic amenities.

How might this benefit Esher Residents?

Any proposal should reduce the long-term costs of housing the Council through the more efficient use of space. Relocating the Civic Centre would provide an opportunity to build a mixed-use development of much-needed town centre housing of the kind of homes that people want and need, including affordable units. Alongside this would be retail and social space promoting a proper civic presence in Esher.

The Civic Centre's carbon performance is far below that of modern buildings and all new proposals will seek to improve this considerably, as well as improving on site biodiversity.

Q: How many zeros are there in a zillion? Answer: Zero, none, as it's not a real number, it's slang for an awful lot and much beloved by Donald Trump.



If you want to contact us about anything Borough related, please email on

[helloesher@esher-residents.com](mailto:helloesher@esher-residents.com)

*Simon Leifer, Simon Waugh & Richard Williams*

## FLOWER SHOW AGM



We enjoyed a good turnout at our AGM on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. The Village Hall was filled with lively conversation as old and new friends came together to reflect on the past year and plan for the future.

A key highlight of the evening was the opportunity for local charities to present to the committee in a bid to secure donations. As a non-profit event, the Show's primary aim is to raise funds for local causes and this year the committee was pleased to welcome two organisations seeking support. Whilst the weather on Show day had been less than ideal resulting in lower visitor numbers, we remain on track to continue supporting these important causes. All charitable donations will be reviewed at our January committee meeting.

There were some significant changes within the Show's committee. David Ford, a long-term stalwart of the committee, announced he would be stepping down from his Hon Flower Secretary role after 12 years of managing the marquee and overseeing the sub-committee. David has been a key figure in the event's success and the committee expressed deep gratitude for his dedication and tireless work. Taking over as interim Flower Show Secretary will be Lisa Stewart, who will do an excellent job. David has reassured us that he will remain on the main committee as a mentor, offering his valuable experience and guidance. Nicky Dowling has also stepped down from the Flower Show after over a decade of service. Nicky has been a pivotal part of the team and her contribution has been greatly appreciated. The committee is excited to welcome Ruth Brenner, who will join the Flower Show team.

Looking ahead, plans are already under way for the next Village Show, scheduled for Saturday 23rd August 2025 – and we all wish for a dry day!

Alastair Joel, in his first year as Chairman, expressed the committee's heartfelt thanks to the residents of West End and also to friends and family who support the Show year after year. Without this, it wouldn't be possible for us to continue and raise money for local charities and good causes.

Thank you!

*Julia Iveson - Publicity*

**THE WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

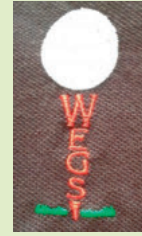
[www.WESSC.org](http://www.WESSC.org)

**WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**

**SPECIAL**



**WEST END GOLF SOCIETY**



Anyone wishing to join the WEGS can call Dave Morgan on 07956 221566

**THE AURORA BOREALIS APPEARS OVER WEST END IN OCTOBER**



Above: This beautiful image of the Northern Lights was captured Terry Huxley from his home in Winterdown Gardens, and Chris Hambleton took the image below as well as several other amazing views from the village green! They were also seen in other parts of the UK following unusually intense solar activity.



**WEST END SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**

**90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!**



Donald Elms (right) invited family and friends to join him in the clubhouse to celebrate his very special birthday. Donald provided a generous buffet and Richard Jenkins, the Bar Manager, presented Don with a delicious home-made decorated fruit cake complete with candles!

Donald thanked the staff and friends for joining him and making the evening an occasion to remember!

Below: Members raising a glass to Donald.



A huge thank you to the bar staff Tanya, Thea and Richard for all their hard work on the night!



Malcolm Parsons laid the wreath for WESSC at the Act of Remembrance — Esher War Memorial

**PRESIDENT'S PARTY**

The President's Party for Members will be held on Saturday 14th December from 7.30pm. Come along and join us at the clubhouse for an evening of live music. A buffet will be available.





## WEST END MOTOR CLUB

The weather is closing in, but the intrepid members of the Motor Club had a ‘boy’s jolly’ to Christchurch in September, mainly because a certain member had a vision and wanted to stay at Milford on Sea. However, we found a ‘boutique’ hotel on the outskirts of Christchurch giving near access to the New Forest and a couple of super pubs. This was a good decision as we managed to visit Beaulieu National Motor Museum, of which one of our number is an original Sponsor leading to FREE ENTRY for all !



L-R: David’s Volvo, Bob’s Austin, Ken’s E-Type and the hotel owner’s electric Citroen.

Sammy Miller’s Motor Cycle Museum and emporium came next, where those not really interested in cycles were allowed to nod off whilst others found an amazing collection of Vintage and Veteran machines with which to educate themselves.



Superb Harley Davidson at Sammy Miller’s Motor Cycle Museum

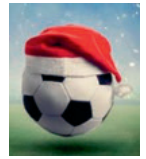
We were fortunate to get sunny and warm days allowing use of the outdoor swimming pool and bar at our lodgings. Two pubs within walking distance and a local curry house completed the picture, where we met the local post man from West End Village, to the great surprise of all.



David Rolfe’s Volvo with admirer!

We have our Christmas Meal in the planning, and our usual Tuesday morning Brooklands breakfast meeting and Thursday noggin night at the Village Club continue.

Report: David Rolfe Photos: Ken Berry



## AFC WESTEND

Hi everyone,

We hope that this finds you are all well and surviving the stresses and strains of our current climate and the recent budget announcement!

We really hope that this latest update from the Westend football section will somewhat brighten up your day and give you an insight into how our Sunday side are faring in their respective league and cup competitions.

### AFC WESTEND SUNDAY – 2024/2025

The Sunday team under the managership of George Nixey and Josh Hughes have had a really good start to the 2024/2025 football season, so far they have played 6 league games and won 4 of them, having lost one league game and drawn another, the team are nicely placed in 3rd position in Division 2 of the Leatherhead & District Sunday Football League, and they currently have games in hand on the top 2 teams.

The team have also progressed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of the Surrey County Cup after beating a team called Camberley Magpies from the Aldershot league last Sunday in a thrilling game, which at full time finished at 3-3, Westend then went on to win the game after a penalty shoot out by 3 goals to 2 to progress into the next round. Our goal keeper Scott Ebbelwhite managed to save 3 penalties from the opposition in this game, so well played Scott.

We are also through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of the Senior Challenge Cup after beating the top team in our league after another thrilling penalty shootout, score after normal time was 2-2 and we went through 5-4 on penalties. So far this season our home pitch at Westend has become somewhat of a fortress and we have won all our home games, the pitch is still looking splendid and touch wood, I can report that we haven’t lost any games as yet, due to the weather, this is indeed a much needed boost to the football club, and long may it continue!

So, there we are, a very quick update on your local football club news. Let’s hope that our team at AFC WESTEND can now continue with their rich vein of form, and will hopefully, bring some success in the second half of the season to our wonderful village.

### POS

		P	W	D	L	GD	
1	Off the Grid	8	7	0	1	22	21
2	Surbiton Town	9	5	2	2	12	17
3	<b>AFC Westend Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>
4	Southwest XI 1st	7	4	1	2	9	13
5	Byfleet Village Men’s	7	4	0	3	-5	12
6	Sutton Knights 1st	8	3	0	5	-11	9
7	Chessington Sports United FC	7	1	2	4	-14	5
8	Hersham Jaguars	6	1	1	4	-10	4
9	Alexandra United Athletics	8	0	1	7	-22	1

**Finally, on behalf of all the Management Team and players may we wish you all a Happy Christmas and all best wishes for the New Year 2025.**

Eric, Keith, Pash, George and Josh.

Cheers everyone.

GARDEN CENTRE • FARM SHOP • BEVAN'S BUTCHERS  
THE ORANGERY TEA HOUSE • PICK YOUR OWN

THE CHRONICLES OF  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*Garsons*

f i X

www.garsons.co.uk  
01372 460181

## West End Village Hall



Ideal for children's parties, meetings, functions and family occasions.  
Adult parties strictly for Village Residents only by special arrangement.

**TO BOOK**


Visit: [wevh.org](http://wevh.org)  
Mail: [hirehall@wevh.org](mailto:hirehall@wevh.org)

## FC Pilates

✦ Hello, Pilates Enthusiasts! ✦  
Unleash the power of your core and join our invigorating mixed ability Pilates class! ✦ Whether you're a seasoned pro or a Pilates newbie, I will guide you through a dynamic and fun workout designed to strengthen, tone, and rejuvenate!

✦ Equipment is Provided! I believe in keeping things exciting! Enjoy the benefits of variation in your workouts with the use of various small equipment, all provided. From resistance bands to magic circles, from spiky balls to foam rollers!

Private one to one Reformer Pilates also available, please email for details.

 Mat Pilates Class Schedule:  
Wednesday at Home studio on West End Lane  
• 10 am

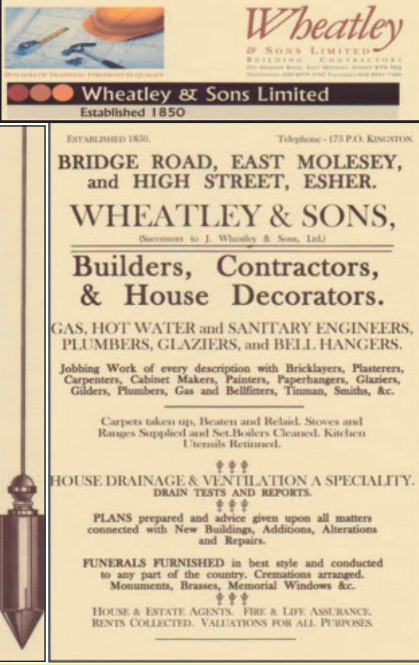
Pricing: Just £10 per class! 💰  
How to Join:  
Visit our website: [www.fcpilates.co.uk](http://www.fcpilates.co.uk)  
Email us at [admin@fcpilates.co.uk](mailto:admin@fcpilates.co.uk) for a direct link!

Stay Connected:  
• Facebook: [www.facebook.com/fcpilatesonline](http://www.facebook.com/fcpilatesonline)

## THE VILLAGE NEWS TEAM

Sheila Apicella  
Alice Austin  
Aidan Baker  
Peter & Naomi Bedford  
Lynn Bezant  
David Bramley  
Don Elms  
David Ford  
Tricia Fox  
Doug & Sue Fryer  
Di Gibson  
Andrea Lindow  
Rob Lowe  
Roger Marsden  
Rosie Master  
Margaret Mazzina  
Donald Mungall  
Avril Poat  
Nik & Judy Wilkinson  
Bridget Williams

Treasurer: Derek Richardson  
Auditor: Peter Heath  
Editor: Angela Stockbridge



**Wheatley & Sons Limited**  
Established 1850

ESTABLISHED 1850 Telephone: 020 8979 5762

**BRIDGE ROAD, EAST MOLESEY, and HIGH STREET, ESHER.**

**WHEATLEY & SONS,**  
(Successors to J. Wheatley & Sons, Ltd)

**Builders, Contractors, & House Decorators.**

GAS, HOT WATER and SANITARY ENGINEERS, PLUMBERS, GLAZIERS, and BELL HANGERS.

Jobbing Work of every description with Bricklayers, Plasterers, Carpenters, Cabinet Makers, Painters, Paperhangers, Glaziers, Gilders, Plumbers, Gas and Bellfitters, Tinsmen, Smiths, &c.

Carpets taken up, Beaten and Relaid. Stoves and Ranges Supplied and Set. Boilers Cleaned. Kitchen Utensils Retinned.

HOUSE DRAINAGE & VENTILATION A SPECIALITY. DRAIN TESTS AND REPORTS.


PLANS prepared and advice given upon all matters connected with New Buildings, Additions, Alterations and Repairs.

FUNERALS FURNISHED in best style and conducted to any part of the country. Creations arranged. Monuments, Brasses, Memorial Windows &c.

HOUSE & ESTATE AGENTS. FIRE & LIFE ASSURANCE. RENTS COLLECTED. VALUATIONS FOR ALL PURPOSES.

**NO JOB TOO SMALL**  
Telephone 020 8979 5762  
Fax: 020 8941 7388  
Email: [wheatley\\_sons@btconnect.com](mailto:wheatley_sons@btconnect.com)

## B & B IN THE VILLAGE



Bed and Breakfast available. All rooms are double bedrooms, made up of king size, and super king beds. The super king can be divided into 2 single beds. All rooms have en-suites and also tea and coffee making facilities, mini fridge and water/juices provided.  
Virgin cable TV and WIFI  
A maximum of 2 adults and 3 children per room,

A warm welcome awaits you. For further information call Edwina Halanen (West End Lane)  
On 07721 091184

## VILLAGE NEWS WEST END

*Please make a diary note:*  
**Spring 2025 Friday 28th March by 1pm**  
**Summer: Friday 20th June by 1pm**

Please contact Angela Stockbridge Email: [angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com](mailto:angelastockbridge1115@gmail.com) 07817 498531 or 01372 460703  
The Village News is supported by local organisations including: the West End Village Club, West End Motor Club, The West End Village Show Committee, Garsons, Winterdown WI, the late Richard Gale, West End Village Hall Committee, The former West End Residents' Association, Advertisers and personal donations. The newsletter is printed by Impress Print Services of Hersham and Garsons. Please note the newsletter can also be found on the Garsons website on [www.garsons.com](http://www.garsons.com) Community Page, [www.AFCWestend.com](http://www.AFCWestend.com) website and West End Facebook Page

**We thank you all for your continued support.**