

# West End Walks

Heritage Walk: 1 mile  
Nature Walk: 4.2 miles

50p



[www.wevs.org.uk](http://www.wevs.org.uk)

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# Heritage Walk

**6. The Memorial Wheel Cross.** Originally sited at the junction of the High Street with the A322, the memorial was dedicated on 3rd April 1921, having been installed by the Brookwood Necropolis Company. It commemorates the men from West End who were killed in the two World Wars. In December 1972 the Memorial was moved from the High Street to its present site to make way for highway improvements. The annual remembrance services are well attended. Trees were planted in 2012 to commemorate the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Walk to Windlesham Road and turn left.

**5. Holy Trinity Church ...** a daughter Church of Chobham was built with local stone and opened in 1842; the first priest in charge of the Chapel of Ease was the Rev James Jerram, 1842 – 1853. Inside the church is the Roll of Honour listing all the men from West End killed in the two World Wars. More names are on this list than on the Memorial Wheel Cross as many of the men are commemorated on memorials outside the village such as Lightwater and Bisley. In 2000 a Millennium window was added. Walk out of the main entrance onto Church Road, turn left. Walk about 200m and turn right.

**4. Tringham Hall**  
The building cost £158,000 to construct and a plaque inside the hall commemorates its opening on the 31st October 1981. Walk out of the entrance and turn left onto Benner Lane. A few metres past the Scout and Guide Centre turn left up the footpath to the graveyard.

**3. The Recreation Ground ...** is on your left. For at least 150 years the Cricket Green opposite the Hare and Hounds was the recreation area, with the Annual Whitsun Fair held there until the 1960s. Development of the present site began in 1947 when seven acres of wet heath land were turned into a recreation ground. In 1975 it was doubled to today's size to provide extra facilities, and in the same year the Sports Pavilion was completed. Keep following Streets Heath. Turn left at the end onto Benner Lane, then left to go between the village pond and the tennis courts (built 1988). Turn right, past the tennis courts and walk through the car park.

**2. The Social Club ...** was opened in 1886 as The Institute (with the original hall facing Streets Heath and Gordon's School playing field). In 1927 the Workingmen's Club was formed here and it continued to be the Village Hall until the 1950s. The Club has expanded over the years and is now the Social Club. Keep going to Shivs Stores (on the right). Turn right onto Streets Heath.

**1. The Inn @ West End**  
Dating from the 1730s the inn was known as "The Jolly Butcher" in 1841. Later the name changed to "The Wheatsheaf" and more recently to "The Inn @ West End". Cross the A322 at the pedestrian lights, straight through the small car park to the High Street and turn left. On your left is the George VI coronation commemorative tree (1936).

**7. Gordon's School ...** is to your right. The school has its origin in The Gordon Boys' Home, founded in 1885 by Royal Charter of Queen Victoria as the national memorial to General Gordon, "To educate and train in a variety of trades, necessitous boys from 13 to 17 years, in order to fit them for a life of usefulness in civil employment or in a branch of Her Majesty's Service in accordance with Gordon's wishes."\* The school was first established at Portsmouth but in 1887 moved to West End. Within the school grounds is a statue of General Gordon on a camel; originally erected in Khartoum but brought to England in 1959. Over the years the school has had many Royal visits - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is Patron of the school. Continue down Windlesham Road to the cross roads (at Shiv Stores). Turn right then left at the lights to return for a well earned drink at the Inn.

\*Taken from Gordon's School 119th Annual Report



**1. The Hare and Hounds.** The oldest part dates back 300 years but it has been gradually added to over the years with the main front extension completed in the 1920s. Long before the NHS was established the West End Friendly Brothers Society, formed in 1885 used to meet here, members paid a few pence weekly and received a small amount if they fell ill and were unable to work. Any balance remaining was shared between the members at Christmas. This was also the meeting place for the Tichfield Harriers and became known as the Titch Tavern. *Cross Brentmoor Road to the signed footpath opposite, crossing ...*



**2. The Old Village Green.** This area was once used for cricket matches, fairs and carnivals, until the new recreation ground was established on Streets Heath in 1947. The Annual Whitsun Fair was held here until the early 1960s. It is now part of Brentmoor Heath nature reserve, an E.U. Special Protected Area. *Follow the footpath until you reach the end of the fence (on your left), then turn left, go round a small fence, then almost immediately fork right, and follow this slightly uphill for 300m. As you reach another fence keep right up the hill. You eventually reach a track at the top of the hill. Turn left on the main track (NOT the one that drops back down the hill). On your right is a large depression which is a ...*

**3. Sand Pit** (possibly medieval). *Follow the track to houses which form:*

**4. New England Hill.** The tumuli, Cuckoo Hill and Sappers Pond found near here are part of the Colony Bog and Bagshot Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is jointly owned by the Ministry of Defence and Surrey Heath Borough Council. It is also part of the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Special Conservation and the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. The hill has excellent views to the North Downs and Chobham Ridges, some of the houses here date back to 1762. *Keeping the houses on your left continue on access road. At the end of the houses (where there is a gate) turn right up the hill until you reach Red Road, turn left on the path that runs parallel to the road. After 100m take the left fork. After a further 100m you will see ...*



**5. Tumuli** (information board). Four Bronze Age Bowl Barrows are sited here on the course of a Roman Road from the Devils Highway which goes through Broad Street and on to Worplesdon and Farley Heath. *Continue along the path. Take the first left fork (after 200m) then keep straight ahead. Then follow wide path 300m (ignoring crossing tracks) until the land starts to fall away. You are now at:*

**6. Cuckoo Hill** (viewpoint). A site of natural beauty with views to the south across the heath to Donkey Town and the North Downs. To the east, Chobham Ridges can be seen with Deepcut Barracks just out of sight. During the 2nd World war an Anti Aircraft Battery was stationed here. Nearby are possible medieval plough markings and barrow. *Turn around and retrace your route, at the 2nd marker post fork slightly right, at the next marker post go straight across. You will reach a wide grassy ride. Look out for the pylon slightly to your right, and take the path (through heather) that goes towards it. Just before Red Road, turn left onto the path that runs parallel. After you have crossed under the pylon lines fork left and after 200m turn right onto a small path (just before the trees) to ...*



**7. Sapper Pond** (information board). Created in 1998 by the Royal Engineers, this small pond provides a valuable site for the resident wildlife. *Retrace steps to the main path, turn right and in 50m you reach the main track. Turn left up the hill. On your right behind the fence is:*

**8. Pirbright Ranges.** Used by the army since 1879. Fenced off in 1972/3. The last major fire was in 2010. These are constantly used by the army for firing. Greyspot Ranges (entrance at top of hill) are used for firing grenades. *Follow the track over the hill and down the other side, through the gate. Just after, on your right (at the trees marking the edge of private property) you will see two small numbered (928 and 929) granite blocks which are ...*

# Nature Walk



**9. Boundary Markers.** When the Common was enclosed in 1879 by the Army the boundaries were marked with these large numbered stones to ensure that no one encroached upon it. Many of the stones have disappeared but a few have survived. The enclosure of the Common resulted in great hardship for Westenders as many relied on the Common for their livelihood. *Continue to Brentmoor Road, turn right, and keep going straight (ignoring an unmade road on the left).*

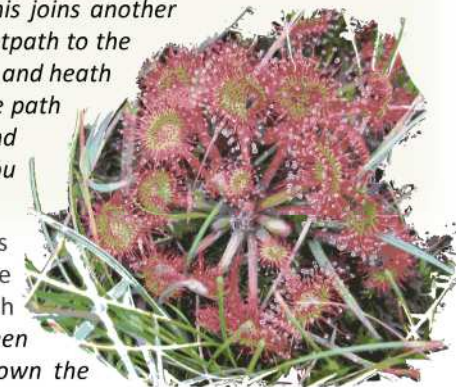


**10. Hook Lane.** Brentmoor Road turns into a track (Hook Lane). In 1879 when the War Department enclosed much of West End Common a new road from Priests Lane to Hooklane Farm was cut. The new boundaries cut off Colony Bog and the tracks to Chobham Ridges and Frimley. *Keep on main track. Eventually your way is blocked by a large gate. Turn left and follow the fence (path may get a bit overgrown at some times of year). Keep a look out (on your right) for:*

**11. Wildlife on Pirbright Ranges.** A number of red deer were released here in 2010. Most of the ranges are part of the Parish of West End. The small path eventually joins a larger one. To your right you may see the flags at the end of the firing butts in the:

**12. National Rifle Association** (now National Shooting Centre), Bisley. Laid out in 1890/91 when the NRA moved from Wimbledon. It used to have a branch railway line from Brookwood which was closed in 1953. *After crossing a small stream the path forks, take the left path that goes away from the fence and further on fork left again. At the end (Priest Lane) with a brick bridge on the left, turn right and after about 500m when you cross Trulley Brook the track becomes a road with houses on your left. Pass the compost centre (interesting smells) and at 30mph sign you will see a track and public footpath sign to your right where the road bends left. Follow that footpath (adjacent to the range fence on your right). You are now on:*

**13. West End Common** (once part of the Royal Forest of Windsor). *Keep following the path that runs next to the fence. Past the point where the path takes a temporary route away from the fence (a yellow way marker indicates the route), to the second yellow public footpath way-marker. Here fork left and follow the path as it bends away from the fence. At the metalled road turn left. Where this joins another metalled road you will see a gate and public footpath to the right. Take this path which has trees on your left, and heath on your right. Keep left when there is a fork. The path eventually goes into woodland and runs behind some houses. It joins another footpath where you bear left. Eventually you will meet:*



**14. Ford Road.** This roughly follows the route of the Roman Road from the Devils Highway at Bagshot to Farley Heath near Guildford. *Turn left and at Lucas Green Road turn left. After 100m turn right down the track/public footpath. Go through 2 gates to go along a footpath with an electric fence on the right. At the end cross the Trulley Brook (path is not so obvious here, it goes past the small lone tree about 100m in front). Be careful it can be boggy here. Go through the kissing gate, then slightly right to a stile by a gate. Follow wooded path. To your right you may see:*

**15. Pigs, goats and other animals** which form part of Brentmoor Farm (information board). The closely planted trees used to be part of the many nurseries that were in West End. The housing estate (built from 1985) is known locally as the Nursery Estate because it was built on the site of an old nursery. The path you are walking along and Broad Street (opposite) was part of the:

**16. Roman Road to Farley Heath.** *At Brentmoor Road turn right. You are now in:*

**17. Donkey Town.** Development here started in 1815 following the signing of an agreement by the Lord of the Manor the Right Honourable Earl Onslow who offered half acre "parcels of waste land" at what became known as Donkey Town to any demobilised soldier or sailor. Many took up the offer increasing the population of West End. When the map makers arrived in the late 1800s they asked the locals what the place was called: "Donkey Town" was the response because most of the early residents used donkeys for transport and work. A map from 1897 shows 40 plots in Donkey Town and at New England. *Keep going down Brentmoor Road. You will pass (on your right):*

**18. Martins Tyres** (originally a coach company, hence the large garage and fuel pump). *Keep going and have a well earned drink in "the Hare."*