



Ewhurst & Ellens Green News

Keeping our community informed about local issues and events

Issue 01

August 2025



**Memorial Service for
Susan Handley
Sunday 3rd August 2025
St Peter & St Paul's Church at 2pm
followed by a Reception at
Long Copse from 3-7pm
All are welcome**

Susan Handley (1931-2025) grew up in a loving extended family in Long Island. One of many stories she told about her childhood was that she saw the Hindenberg travelling down Long Island Sound. After spells in Washington and Texas following her military father and having graduated from Vassar with a degree in Chemistry in the early 1950s, she travelled from Norway to Italy as part of the nascent 'Experiment in International Living' scheme, falling in love with Europe.

Back in New York, Susie was working as a medical statistician when she met my father Geoff Handley, over on business, and after an extended courtship in both continents, the couple married and moved to the UK in 1961.

After periods in Staffordshire and Scotland, Susie and Geoff moved to Ewhurst in 1974 where my mother, despite also having four children to look after, involved herself in many community activities - helping set up the local branch of the WI, delivering Meals on Wheels, was active in instigating both the Cranleigh Decorative and Fine Arts Society and the Ewhurst Open Gardens scheme, producing the Village Newsletter and supporting the village school as governor and fundraiser. In 1981 my parents moved to Long Copse, where they lived for over forty happy years.

In 2020 Susie was delighted to receive a British Empire Medal, nominated by many in the village for her service to Ewhurst over so many years. She enjoyed using her utility scooter to inspect the gardens of Buckingham Palace during a rather wet garden party. She was never happier than when extending hospitality, right to the end, and appreciated so much the love and support of friends in the village throughout the last few months. A greatly beloved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother and friend to countless others, in Surrey and across the world, she will be deeply missed by all who knew her, yet we are also thankful to have had her in our lives for so many happy years.

Photo & tribute by kind permission of Chris Handley

**If you would like to receive
regular updates from the Parish
Council by emailed newsletter,
please email your details to:
clerk@ewhurstellensgreen-pc.gov.uk**



Ewhurst & Ellens Green Parish Council

This newsletter is firstly a tribute to Sue Handley, that amazing lady who did so much for Ewhurst over so many years, with enduring enthusiasm and energy. She is irreplaceable, but her newsletter is as well, and the greatest tribute we can make to Sue is to continue her legacy.

The Parish Council have taken on the newsletter for now, and we are very grateful to everyone who has been able to give us a contribution to this, our first edition. We would be glad of some help though, going forward, and if you are interested in taking over as **editor**, please email the Clerk. We also need more distributors! It has not been possible to find Sue's list of **distributors**, so if you used to, or would like to, take on a street in the Parish, we would be delighted to hear from you.

What else does a Parish Council do? An enormous variety of things! As the lowest tier of Government, we are responsible for our Parish and for the smooth running of its facilities. We are partly funded by income from our premises, but most of our operating income comes from the Precept we receive from the Borough Council, which is funded by a small percentage of your rates. So, we are accountable to you, our residents, for how we spend, what is in effect, your money.

The Parish Council website: www.ewhurstellensgreen-pc.gov.uk, tells you a great deal about us. You can find details of who our councillors are and how to contact them, information on local affairs, our accounts, our committees, our facilities and how to book them, and much more.

We are consulted by Waverley on local planning applications, we have an active Neighbourhood Plan, we run three premises which are available for hire, allotments, a recreation ground, playground and tennis courts, and a cemetery. We provide and maintain noticeboards, benches and defibrillators, liaise with County Council on traffic calming schemes, street furniture and speed limits, and maintain hedges, verges, ditches and common land.

Over the last two years we have also been responsible for handling Community Infrastructure Levy funds, monies paid by the developers of new housing in our parish to Waverley, which has to be used to compensate for removal of amenity caused by the new housing by adding new amenity or improving what is already in existence. To date, we have been able to help the cricket club with the restoration of their clubhouse, we have resurfaced the recreation ground car park, we are adding a new kitchen to the EYSC and renovating the tennis courts surface.

Hopefully this has been helpful in giving you a snapshot of what your Parish Council does, but please do contact the Clerk with any requests or queries and we will help where we can.

Nigel Clowes – Chairman

Joanna Cadman - Clerk

The Ewhurst Church of England Infant School

Surrey County Council, the Governing Body of Ewhurst Church of England Infant School and the Diocese of Guildford are holding a consultation on the proposed extension of the age range at Ewhurst Church of England Infant School.

You can leave your feedback on the proposed consultation online at www.surreysays.co.uk by searching for the school's consultation (using the school name or postcode).

If you have any questions about this proposal, please email schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk

This stage of the informal consultation will end on **26th September 2025**.



Ellen's Green Memorial Hall

Furzen Lane, Ellen's Green
West Sussex, RH12 3AR

All Booking Enquiries

Katy Rapley

07729 333482

ktrappers@live.co.uk

Please visit our website at www.ellensgreen.co.uk to see the full range of activities & the group leaders contact details.



After the resounding success of our recent production of *Goodnight Mr Tom*, the Ewhurst Players have kept the momentum going and we're hard at work organizing our much-anticipated annual **Garden Party on Saturday 23rd August** when we'll host an exciting indoor & outdoor event at the EYSC Building & Recreation Ground. Ben Aveyard and Barry Harrison Fudge are conjuring up something new and unexpected for this year's festivities ensuring an afternoon to remember for all.

We're thrilled to announce a brand-new venture - a **Summer School** for young performers! Running from **Tuesday 26th August to Friday 29th August** at the EYSC building from 10am to 4pm each day. Junior members aged 7 to 14 are invited and this year we're welcoming non-members as well. It's an excellent introduction to acting, singing, and stagecraft - or a chance to further develop existing talents. The cost is only £25 for members and £50 for non-members.

The sessions will be led by Meg Bray, joined by the talented Karen Holmes (Eponine in the West End's *Les Misérables*) and Jay, a former children's TV and radio presenter who now runs a popular drama school. Please note spaces are limited to just 20 participants, so be sure to act quickly! To register, email bray.meg@googlemail.com.

For those interested in directing, we're also hosting a **Directors Workshop** at the Village Hall on **Sunday 7th September**. For more details or to reserve your spot, contact Meg at the above email address.

And now, an exciting announcement: our upcoming production of **Abigail's Party by Mike Leigh**, to be staged at the Village Hall from **Wednesday 29th October to Saturday 31st October**. Under the direction of Amanda Jones who directed the award-winning production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The Box Office will be opening soon.

Whether you're interested in performing, helping backstage, joining our wardrobe or technical teams, or simply becoming a social member, we would love to welcome you to the Ewhurst Players family. Complete the application form on our website, and you'll find a warm community waiting to greet you.

Meg Bray, Chairman
07719 679328
Website- www.ewhurstplayers.com

Ewhurst Local Environment Action People (LEAP)

Ewhurst LEAP are an inclusive group of friendly volunteers working to improve the surroundings of our beautiful village through conservation, as well as raising awareness of wider environmental issues.

We usually have a working party on the second Saturday of each month for a range of activities. We have not decided on the autumn work yet, but they will include tidying the pond opposite the Village Hall and footpath clearing. Through previous initiatives such as tree planting and sharing wildflower seeds at the Ewhurst Carnival, we have also engaged others in wider issues that concern us all.

On our website (ewhurstleap.org.uk) is our activity calendar, as well as the latest posts, messages, rambles and contact details. Amongst the posts are Richard's wonderfully evocative articles about his wanderings around the parish.

Ewhurst History Society

Ewhurst History Society welcomes anyone with an interest in history, especially local history.

Lecture meetings, presented by local and visiting speakers, are held from September to May, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the EYSC building on the Recreation Ground. In the summer, members have enjoyed outings to local places of interest and also coach trips further afield. We also hold winter and summer social events. Our annual subscription is just £7 – which works out at less than £1 per meeting!

The Society has published five local history books. Our latest book, *Ewhurst 1910 - 1960*, published in 2021, covers both the First and Second World Wars, but is also a celebration of everyday village life in the early and mid 20th century.

We also publish an on-line Journal, with articles by members on a wide variety of subjects relating to local and social history.

For more information –
Email ewhursthistory@gmail.com
Telephone 01483 277342
Website – www.ewhursthistory.com

St Peter and St Paul Church The Parish Church

As of 1st July 2025, Ewhurst Church of St Peter and St Paul once again became the parish church of this Village. We are now under the umbrella of Cranleigh Church. The Reverend Rosemary Mason carries out all the priestly duties required with love and devotion, with members of the congregation continuing to help where needed. The Infant School, Rainbows End and the Toddler Group all have services in church for end of term and special events like Christmas, Easter and Harvest, always joined by the parents. There is also a monthly Forest Church which is generally held outside, with a focus on nature and to which parents of all ages are welcome!

We have our Parish Profile ready to submit for publication with the hope of recruiting a new rector to live in our lovely Rectory. This is all overseen by the Guildford Diocese.

In order to keep the building in reasonable repair we have employed a surveyor and stone mason, both of whom are approved by the diocese to survey the building and carry out vital works. Of course, renovation and protection of ancient walls and roofs is extremely expensive. Luckily, the Friends of St Peter and St Paul raise money to fund this important work ensuring our ancient church remains open for use.



Friends of St Peter & St Paul
Restoring our Church
Promoting its History

Many thanks for all your continued support. The Easter Market was a success raising almost £2000 and Janet Balchin did two excellent summer village walks raising £95.

Our fundraising continues, so come and visit our stall at **Ewfest** to guess the weight of a roof slab and donate towards the ongoing restoration of the church. We will also be at the **Rectory Fete** with a Tombola stall. Volunteers and donations always welcome for both events!

For more information, visit our website www.friendsofewhurstchurch.com or phone 01483 268694

The Henry Smith Charity – Ewhurst

For four centuries The Henry Smith Charity has financed care and compassion to those in difficulty or poverty. The Parish of Ewhurst and Ellens Green is very fortunate to have been chosen to receive an annual grant from the Charity.

So who was Henry Smith?

For nearly all those years all that was known of this "Elusive Philanthropist" Henry Smith was that he had bequeathed money to be spent on the poor or disadvantaged in parishes of his choice. The few facts there are have given rise to a variety of colourful myths. One was that he was the strange character known as "Dog Smith", a man dressed as a tramp, who wandered around rural Surrey and Sussex every summer. The villages which treated him and his dog with respect were to be remembered in his will.

What we do know is that Henry Smith could be described as a very shrewd business man, a money lender and a property speculator – A man of the City. His remarkable legacy has lasted through the centuries.

Henry wanted his fortune to be put to the very best use - to relieve poverty and to promote a charity that touched people in the most practical of ways. And so it has done. Following WWI there was special care to help families who had lost both home and wage earner, even providing dresses and personal care for women and children. Later the charity also provided boots for the men.

Over the years the Charity has offered help to those in most need sometimes in the most practical of ways - providing cots and prams for babies and other everyday equipment for families. The Charity has paid for children to attend nurseries and pre-schools as well as funding school trips and holiday camps.

Here in Ewhurst, in the 1920s, the Charity provided coats and shoes for young people when they started work. It also provided small pensions for elderly residents with no support.

Henry Smith has been there to help many in the parish of Ewhurst. Beside personal help the Charity has supported the community - the Village School, Rainbows End, The Glebe Centre, warm lunches for the elderly and Sayers Croft Trust.

If you or anyone you know is in need of help please do get in touch with a member of our Committee. Every request is treated with complete confidentiality be it personal or a community project. That is what Henry Smith wanted.

Victoria Helstrip
Trasna Palmer
Jillie Miller
Julia Heathcote