

XIV.A. WESTBERE PEOPLE:

Westbere Parish Council

Georgina Glover (Chairman) Jeanette Dawson (Vice Chairman)
Sylvia Harlow Maria Morcom Mike Prince
Kathy Wilson Margaret Dowley (Parish Clerk)

Westbere Parish Plan Steering Group

Wayne Murray (Chairman) Norman Smith (Vice Chairman)
Eileen Hill Malcolm Marsh Gerald Mason
Tim Mead Frank Rossi Laura Shea
Libby Wingfield

Westbere Parish Plan Peripheral Group

Colin Allen Lyn Allen Cynthia Beresford
Jean Boyce Jenny Bradley Lynda Lawrence
Jean Marsh Maria Morcom Diana Poulter
Bruce Poulter Tiffany Weatherley Kathy Wilson

Westbere Village Preservation Society

Bruce Poulter (Chairman) Goretti Gordon (Vice Chairman)
Alison Grubb (Hon Secretary) John Morcom (Hon Treasurer)
Jean Boyce Freda Miller Diana Poulter
Jim Shea Malindi Tucker Maddi Webber

Westbere Village Hall Committee

Robin Peters (Chairman) Sue Elliott (Vice Chairman/ Treasurer)
Lyn Allen (Hon Secretary) Lyn Peters (Social Secretary/ Bookings)
Anne Mead Jeanette Dawson Georgina Glover
Michelle Heath Freda Miller

Westbere Charities

Ted West (Chairman) Malindi Tucker (Clerk) Geoff Jones
Anne Mead Diana Poulter

Westbere Committees and Communities: The community is well represented on Westbere's committees: the Westbere Village Preservation Society (WVPS) and the Westbere Village Hall Committee (WVHC). For cross-fertilisation the Parish Council is represented at both WVPS and WVHC meetings and, in addition, the church and the playgroup are represented at WVHC meetings.

Westbere Village Preservation Society: The WVPS, a registered charity, was formed in 1969 when a group of villagers met to discuss their concern about the possible granting of local planning applications. The Society is governed by a Constitution, which was last amended in 1997 and is currently interpreted in four ways:

- To **promote** social activities, to raise funds and to develop a village spirit.
- To **sponsor** activities which preserve and improve village facilities.
- To **study** a wide variety of the subjects of local interest, *eg.* village history.
- To **support** the WPC particularly in planning matters and by giving financial support.

Members pay a small annual subscription to belong to the Society. The Committee of the WVPS is currently:

Chairman: Bruce Poulter.

Vice Chairman: Goretta Gordon.

Hon. Secretary: Alison Grubb.

Hon. Treasurer: John Morcom.

Members: Jean Boyce, Freda Miller, Diana Poulter, Jim Shea, Malindi Tucker and Maddie Webber.

WPC Representative: Jeanette Dawson.

Westbere Village Hall Committee: Another registered charity, also with a busy social calendar, this committee is made up as follows:

Chairman: Robin Peters.

Vice Chairman/ Treasurer: Sue Elliot.

Hon. Secretary: Lyn Allen.

Social Secretary/ Bookings: Lyn Peters.

Members: Anne Mead, Mandy Sutton (for playgroup), Jeanette Dawson (for WPC), Freda Miller (for WVPS) and Georgina Glover (for church).

Westbere Charities: Since 1994 Westbere Charity, under the auspices of WPC, has been a combination of two much older village charities. The Bread and Cheese Field Charity (records exist from 1701) owned two fields and two poor houses at the top of Bushy Hill Road. The rent from these was used for an annual village party of bread, cheese and ale and their ancient pewter is currently displayed in the Olde Yew Tree. In 1877 they decided to use the rent for the education of village children instead. The second charity was established in 1866 when Mr Friend Williamson willed two almshouses, Swiss Cottages, on Island Road opposite Westbere Butts (now Spice Master) for use by the poor of Westbere. In the 1960s the fields and all four cottages were sold and the capital invested in Charitable Organisations Investment Fund (COIF) shares.

Today the aims of Westbere Charity remain the same as historically – the relief of hardship and poverty in the ancient Parish of Westbere, via a Christmas voucher scheme, and for education, through student book grants. The present Trustees are:

Chairman: Ted West. **Clerk:** Malindi Tucker.

Diana Poulter, Anne Mead and Geoff Jones.

Westbere Sailing Opportunities: Westbere Sailing Opportunities (**WSO**) is a registered charity and RYA Sailability Centre of Excellence. It was founded by the late David James MBE in 2001, with the sole purpose of giving the experience of sailing to people of all ages with disabilities - people who through some physical disability, learning difficulty, or other condition might not otherwise be able to get on the water and enjoy sailing. **WSO** is hosted by Westbere Frostbite Sailing Association (WFSA) who operate the water under license from Brett & Sons, the owners.

Chairman: Richard Gaskell.

Team: Kent Volunteers.

Westbere Playgroup: The Playgroup is held in the Village Hall, each weekday morning from 9.15 to 12.15. It is currently managed by Michelle Heath (Supervisor) and Viv Archer (Deputy Supervisor) with occasional help from CRB checked volunteers. They teach 12 children on average, aged between two and five years of age, from Westbere and the surrounding villages.

St Anne's Convent and Euphrasie Barbier Residential Care Home: Somewhere around 1881 a French Roman Catholic Nun - Foundress of Our Lady of the Missions – purchased, with more than a little help, a country house named Summer Hill at Westbere. Her name was Euphrasie Barbier and, with the help of eight Sisters from Lyons, she founded the Convent of St Anne. Initially the Sisters attended to the laundry of the Jesuit College at Hales Place but their eventual course of action was to open a school. Euphrasie personally directed the building of the chapel which still stands to her memory and where she was laid to rest in 1893.

Over time the St Anne's Community extended their buildings and opened a Day and Boarding School which served the wider community. In 1928 Brooklyn House came into their possession. Since then this house has undergone many renovations and served many purposes eventually becoming a house of formation for young women interested in becoming Sisters. Today it has been extended to serve as a Residential Care Home for retired and infirm Sisters who have spent their lives in Third World Missions or similar occupations. It can accommodate up to 12 Sisters.

Residential Manager: Elaine Lee.

Newlands Residential Care Home: Although a more recent addition than St Anne's, the Newlands Home is now an integral part of the local community. It provides residential care for up to 21 young adults with complex learning needs and physical disabilities, including those with profound disabilities and, in addition, Day care facilities.

Residential Manager: Lucy Fenton.