

# Living life in the country



In the small village of West End just outside of Esher in the Surrey countryside, there is an annual show every August Bank Holiday Saturday. There are stalls, entertainment and also a chance to catch up on some of the village's gossip and fun on a high spirited occasion. The show has lots of people visiting all afternoon to enjoy the results of other people's efforts along with the traditional sideshows such as Dunk the Damsel and homemade sweets that all the children and some of the adults will set their taste buds tingling for!

There are also entries for those of you who have been pruning your perfectly scented roses all year and even for the men who have been trying to get the recipes for their favourite cake. This year's second place male winner is the twelve year old boy who made a perfect Battenberg Cake and beat his father a 48 year old man (well done!!!!!!). For those of you who have a steady hand and like crafting a wooden bowl or, for the feminine side, who like to knit woollens or dresses or more, there are lots of categories you can enter as well.



The fair is all about meeting up with people and enjoying being there. The WI do lovely cakes for sale on the grass and inside the church hall. The village itself is a typical country village as it has a pond on the green, a cricket clubhouse and a little church in heart of it all. If you would like to live there then you can expect not to be woken by cars racing in the streets at night but to hear the wildlife that roam the forest at night and during the day, the chatter of friendly neighbours or the fair committee planning next year's show.

There is a salsa band all ready to attract visitors and get a party mood going whilst raising money and Kingston Hospital Radio doing the same. There are so many things to do but one of the main ones for dog lovers is the dog show which includes pedigree classes and novelty classes. The charity that rescues dogs is always present and here is a picture of one of the dogs bathing in the village pond.





The West End Show is fun for all the family offering sport activities to the children of all ages and even a cup for the best girl and boy. There are proud parents waiting at the finish line ready to congratulate their children for their efforts. Volunteers make the whole event possible and all the committee are part of helping prepare for every aspect of the day and the West End Show would not be possible without them. All profits go to charities.



Judging in the marquee brings excitement and controversy as locals try to win in the different classes open to them. The judges' decisions are not always agreed with and create interest and varying opinions amongst those visiting the West End Show. Cups for special winners and also prize money are handed out at the end of the show to first, second and third place winners.



Whether you are young or old, if you like vintage cars or candy floss, a drink in the cricket club or a nice cup of tea in the village hall the West End Show is guaranteed to make your day! It is wonderful that there is still a traditional summer fair to go to in West End, Esher on August Bank Holiday Saturdays. I've been going since I was a little boy and still enjoy it now and will do when I take my family in years to come  
Photographs from August 25<sup>th</sup> 2007 show  
© Tomás Sullivan. 12 year old Battenburg Winner & long term show participant and exhibitor

For more details visit [www.westendflowershow.co.uk](http://www.westendflowershow.co.uk)