

Westcott Village Magazine

March 2019



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Westcott has a population of over 2,000 and this is the only magazine written specifically for the Westcott area by the people of Westcott. It is hand delivered, free of charge, to every household and further copies are available at the church, local shops, pub and doctor's surgery.



If you have any articles, photos, letters, etc that you think we may like to feature in the next issue, please email the Editor on:

editor@westcottmag.com

But please note, publication will always be subject to space and at the discretion of the Editor.

Copy Deadline for

April 2019 issue:

8th March 2019

This magazine, published by the Church in Westcott, is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited paper from a sustainable source. The views expressed are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Church, Editor or Westcott residents.

FROM THE EDITOR



Well, at last we have some light in the evenings, and life doesn't feel so short! It's much harder to motivate yourself to get up and out again

if it's already dark. There is definitely a mental effect from the shorter days - I don't know anyone who likes it better than the longer days from spring, even if it is cosy by the fire!

We have variety of things to keep you active this month, with the village coffee morning on 6th, lots of musical opportunities on page 59-61, Leith Hill Place opens again on 29th with an art exhibition and there are a range of walks to choose from on p71 with Mole Valley Ramblers. Get out and enjoy the trees in the village!

We have lots of information on village groups, which might inspire you to join up, and an update on the Peace Garden at St John's. There is also an appeal for help from the Village Car Service, which helps residents who might otherwise be unable to attend hospital, dentist, chiropodist appointments, or other similar visits. It is a really important village service, all run by volunteers, but it needs some more people in order to spread the load. Please do see the appeal on p41 and call David if you might be able to help.

Cath

editor@westcottmag.com



Westcott Baby Meals

Westcott welcomes twins Amelia and Alicia, born on 7th Feb to Xin and Scott on Furlong Road. The Westcott "Baby Meals" service swung into immediate action and delivered 2 weeks of meals from when they arrived home.



The Westcott "Baby Meals" service, started 15 years ago by Holy Trinity Church, provides a hot meal for the family of new babies across the village. We have over 30 volunteer cooks within the village community and we're all delighted to help during what can be a time of massive upheaval and adjustment. It's a gift that is welcomed by recipient families.

If you're living in Westcott and expecting a baby or know someone who is, OR if you'd like to join our cooks rota we'd be delighted to hear from you - please get in touch!

Anna Kemkers 07710 425487 annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk

...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



BEING A PART OF YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH

I continue to rejoice in the health of our Village Church. So many people are involved, we are blessed with many resources. But wouldn't it be great to have more?

The following table shows at least three ways for you to be involved in our Church, with the current numbers of people:-

*Join the Church Electoral Roll	Numbers now 208 people
*Volunteer	Well over 100 people
*Come to worship	158 adults & children attend services in Westcott at least monthly

All of this support means we can be involved in many ways in the village and beyond, making a difference (such support is also a key determinant of Westcott having a full-time vicar – i.e. we are not combined with another parish). How about it, then? How about getting involved in one, two or even better all three of these ways:

***Church Electoral Roll.** Being on the Roll means we can know and support you better e.g. I pray extensively for the people of Westcott, but regularly, by name, those on the Roll. To join, you have to be baptised ('christened'), and live in Westcott or come to services regularly in Westcott. This year we have to start the Roll all over again (the Church of England requires this every six years). Please, then, complete and return an 'Electoral Roll' form – copies are available in Holy Trinity and St Johns, or can be obtained from Sarah, Administrator sarah@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk.

***Volunteer.** There are so many ways to be involved in our Church, so many skills are needed. Please see the list of opportunities that follows this article for more information. We all benefit from the work of our volunteers – directly and indirectly by helping to build a better community.

***Worship.** Over a month, we provide a whole range of worship, from traditional prayer book ('BCP') to contemporary (e.g. 'Encounter'). Everyone who wants to should be able to find a service that "fits". If



...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

you are housebound, we are more than happy to come to you for visit/prayer/Communion.

There are many reasons why regular worship is vital for a Christian... or indeed, anyone with an open soul/mind. You may

say, "I don't need to go to Church to be a Christian" but the fact is we need you – all of the life of any church comes out of its foundations in worship. Please see our list of services for March later in this magazine.

I fully understand it can be difficult to just come to Church. Please let me know if you would like support e.g. someone from our Church could accompany you. And do take up our offer for the housebound for

home visit/prayer/Communion.

We are, indeed, very blessed in the Church in Westcott – over 200 people are involved. But, let's aim for more. Be involved yourself – join the electoral roll, volunteer, come to worship.

I CONTINUE TO REJOICE IN THE HEALTH OF OUR VILLAGE CHURCH



The Vicarage telephone number has changed to 01306 644868.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to our churchwardens, **Simon and Ali Mabley**, and **John and Libby Witt** for all they have done in the lighting projects, and decoration, and on-going work to open up the view to Holy Trinity.

Thank you to the **Wotton Estate** for the clearance work already undertaken.

Many **thanks to all who gave to the "Let there be Light" Appeal** – your giving made possible these improvements.

Thanks too, to **Tony Astor** and **Judith Packer** for spearheading the great improvements to the grounds at St Johns.



ASH WEDNESDAY

6th March, 8pm

Communion & Ashing at Holy Trinity

Join us to mark the start of Lent

(No 10am service in St Johns today)

..FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH

Please contact Alan Jonas, Vicar, if you are interested in any of the following opportunities. Alan Jonas, alchasjonas@aol.com, 01306 644868

** Subject to DBS Clearance*

Leading prayers in Church	Children's Work* / Youth Work*	Meals for new parents
Bible readings in Church	Helping at Cookie Club*	Fellowship lunches
Music/Singing in Church services	Project Manager for "one-off projects"	Helping at the Monday Cafe
Sidesman (Steward for Church services)	Buildings maintenance/DIY	Tuesday Art Club
AV – Sound System	Pastoral Assistant*	PCC (Church Council) member
AV - Projection	Home Group Leader*	Winding Holy Trinity Clock
Serving Coffee/Tea in Church	Home Group hosting	Opening/closing the Church
Monthly Breakfast Help	Leading "Marriage Course" / Marriage Preparation*	Banking of Church collections
Flower Arranging	Communications/Publicity	Member of "Eco Church" Team
Supporting services at Westcott House and Bramley House	Magazine Advertising	Support for Papua Partners
School Governor*	Magazine Delivery	Churchyard / grounds maintenance
Administration	Church stalls at Westfest events	Christian Aid Collector

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism:

27th January 2019 Florence Ellen Powell

24th February 2019 Poppy Ormrod

Death:

18th November 2018 Pamela Margaret Moxon (82)

4th December 2018 Geoffrey Askew Woodward (79)

12th December 2018 Catherine Philomena Vahey (88)

FLOODLIGHTING

The floodlighting for March has been sponsored by Ruth Andoh-Baxter in memory of 'Bear' (her Aunt Isabella) who sadly passed away on 21st March 2018. A much loved Auntie and second Mum!

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting, please contact Sarah Massey at sarah@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk or on 01306 887413. (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)

We are very thankful to all the sponsors of the lights - your gift is gratefully received as a contribution to both the electricity bill and our general fund.



Mothering Sunday
We're helping you celebrate:

9:30am	<i>Breakfast</i>
10:15am	<i>Celebrate All Age Service</i> with flowers to be assembled and given to all ladies in the congregation
8:30am & 4pm	<i>Book of Common Prayer Services</i>

31st March

THE CHURCH IN
WESTCOTT
Building Friendships, Sharing Life

WHAT'S ON AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

We are back!!

FUND RAISING
Quiz Night
+ Fish Supper

Friday 29th March 7 – 11pm

£20 per head

Includes;

- Entrance Fee
- Fish & Chips
- + £10 donation

Venue: St Johns Chapel
Reserve Tickets: email grant.smetham@gmail.com

 **PapuaPartners**
with the people for the people



*Events at Holy Trinity in February
(see adverts for details):*

2nd March 7pm 'Songs for Spring' Concert with the Martineau Singers in aid of Papua Partners

3rd March 4pm Harbottle & Jonas perform live

6th March 8pm Ash Wednesday Service

29th March 7pm Fish & Chip Supper & Quiz Night in aid of Papua Partners **(at St John's)**

30th March, 6-8pm Thank you Drinks Party & dedication of new lighting system; **8:30pm** Earth Hour Candlelit vigil

31st March Mothering Sunday Services

Invitation to all

All who care for our Village Church are very warmly invited:-

Thank You Drinks Party

with dedication of the new lighting system

6 – 8 pm Saturday 30th March 2019

Holy Trinity

RSVP by Monday 25th March 2019

Sarah Massey, Administrator sarah@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk



SERVICES AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



We run a regular programme of worship services and other activities for young and old. All services at Holy Trinity unless otherwise stated. Everyone is welcome as we build friendships and share life together!

8.30 am: A traditional Communion service with hymns and organ, unless stated.

10.15 am: A 'parish' service, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with organ and music group. Regular creche and children's activities.

4.00 pm: A quiet traditional service, usually 'Evensong'. Communion with prayer for healing monthly.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM	4:00PM
3rd Mar	Lent – in the Wilderness	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Celebrate Breakfast Communion	Evensong
6th Mar	Ash Wednesday 8pm Holy Communion and Ashing			
10th Mar	Lent	Book of Common Prayer Communion No music	Parish Communion	Evensong
17th Mar	Lent	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing
24th Mar	Lent	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship with Baptism followed by Communion	Evensong
31st Mar	Mothering Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Celebrate Breakfast Communion	Evensong



Evening Service at 4 pm for the winter months (to end of March)

I hope you agree this is a more convivial time in the dark winter months. Join us for this lovely time of reflection. Alan J Vicar

MID WEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
Thursdays	8:30am	Morning Prayer at St John's

ECO CHURCH

EARTH HOUR

On Saturday, 30th March at 8.30pm some of the world's biggest landmarks – including Buckingham Palace, the Eiffel Tower and Sydney Opera House - will turn off their lights to mark Earth Hour.



Earth Hour is an annual event, created by the World Wildlife Fund, and is marked by hundreds of millions of people around the world to show their commitment to protecting the planet. The idea is to switch off for an hour – switch off your lights, the television/radio, and from other distractions, and be part of the change you want to see in the world.

The Earth Hour website www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour has more information on how your participation can help to make a difference.

Last year we held our first candlelit gathering to celebrate Earth Hour, in Holy Trinity Church. It was all very simple - people were offered the

A SPECIAL HOUR IN
KINSHIP WITH THOSE
PRESENT AND MANY
OTHERS ALL OVER
THE WORLD

opportunity to bring along something to share and the hour evolved into a richly diverse selection of readings, poems, music, art and beautiful natural objects to reflect on. I left feeling refreshed, inspired to care better for our world and greatly appreciative of having spent a special hour in kinship with those present, and with many others all over the world.

We very much hope that anyone who would like to come together to pray for the Earth, its creatures and its people, will join us for Earth Hour at Holy Trinity this year – **Saturday, 30th March at 8.30pm.**

We'll be turning off the floodlighting for the hour and spend the hour in church by candlelight. It would be lovely



if some of those coming could bring along a reading, prayer or something to share together to help us celebrate and give thanks for our natural world.

Jakki Phillips,
ecochurch@holytrinitywestcott.org

WWF's EARTH HOUR

'We are the first generation to know we are destroying the world. And we could be the last that can do anything about it. We have the solutions, we just need our voices to be heard'.

Climate change is causing one in six species to be at risk of extinction. Our food is responsible for the loss of almost 60% of global biodiversity. Loss of habitats and increased use of pesticides and fertilizers are contributing to species extinction. A huge reported decline in the number of insects threatens

ECO CHURCH

food supply (they pollinate 35% of plant crops) and health (they help to clear rotten wood and carcasses).

Nature provides our life-support system – we all need to look after it better

Join us for Earth Hour at Holy Trinity - 8.30pm on Saturday, 30th March.

ECO TIPS

Keep your garden pesticide free. The widespread use of pesticides has an adverse effect on wildlife and biodiversity. There are alternative ways to keep unwanted visitors under control – use companion planting or encourage natural predators. Search 'organic pest control' on the RSPB website www.rspb.org.uk

Choose palm oil free products. Palm oil production destroys rainforests and biodiversity, as vast areas of land are cleared for planting. Orangutans are now at serious risk of extinction as 80% of their habitat has been destroyed in 20 years. Palm oil is found in around half of supermarket products, due to its useful properties and cheap cost. www.ethicalconsumer.org/palm-oil-free-list

Plant for wildlife in your garden or in a container. Plants like lavender, honeysuckle and verbena attract bees and other pollinators. For other simple ways to help wildlife visit www.surreywildlifetrust.org/actions.



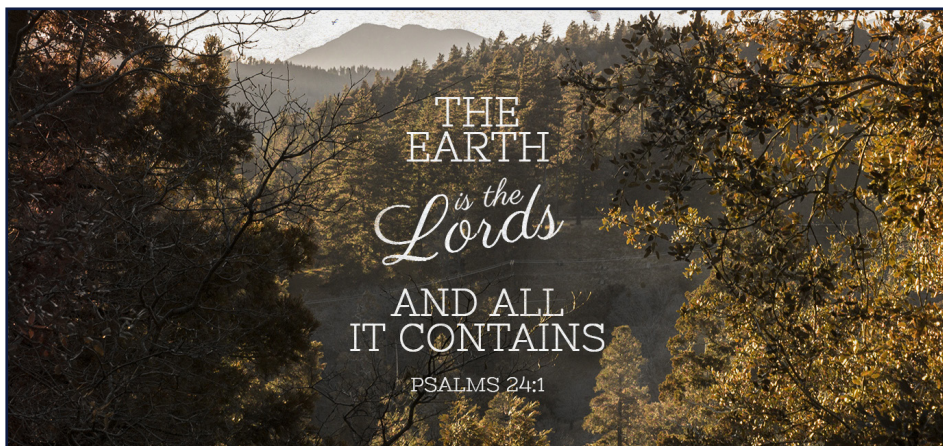
Keeping it simple:

Buy local produce.

Choose foods in season.

Eat less meat and dairy.

ECO  **CHURCH**
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Harbottle & Jonas

'Stunning songwriting and heart-rending arrangements 9/10' - Americana UK

'Disarmingly honest and spine-tingling moments' - R2

Touring with the new album

The Sea is My Brother



Sunday 3rd March, 4pm
Holy Trinity, Westcott

Harbottle & Jonas are a stunning young folk duo based in Totnes, Devon.

Tickets: Retiring Collection (doors at 3.30pm) Bar Available

Martineau Singers

present

Songs for Spring

Conductor – Harry Sever

Saturday, 2nd March, 7pm
Holy Trinity Church, Westcott RH4 3NN

Enjoy an evening with the
Martineau Singers
to raise money for Papua Partners –
transforming lives in Papua through
tackling the causes and effects of
poverty and social injustice.

Tickets £10

Refreshments available



For tickets contact:

Jakki on 01306 883645 or

Email: events@papuapartners.org



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★ TEA & CAKES ★ HOT FOOD ★

facebook.com/WESTfestSurrey



Had any unsuspecting person dropped in on the WWG meeting this month, they would possibly have thought that they had been transported to an eastern harem!



A roomful of erstwhile young ladies recapturing their youth dressed in belly-dancing belts jingled their way through some dance routines led by Kath Glover, whilst swirling their colourful veils around them like wafting clouds. We were none of us as graceful as Kath, but undoubtedly had a lot of

fun, and Kath might even find she has some new recruits for her Saturday morning classes at the Reading Room.

Next month will be a lot more serious but no doubt very interesting as Kath's husband Jim takes the floor and talks to us about his role as High Sheriff of the county.

Our evenings at St John's Chapel start at 7.30pm and are good value for an evening out, to meet up with old friends and make new ones, especially if you are new to the village/area. Teas and coffees and even a glass of wine (donation of £1) for a mere £4 non members, whilst our annual membership of £15 covers the rest of the year.

All enquiries to Jacki Moss,
01306 881481 or email
johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com

Jacki Moss





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Slow Cooked Pomegranate Ox Cheeks

2 ox cheeks, cut in half	2 bay leaves
100g plain flour	1 knob of butter
Freshly ground salt and pepper	1 large glass of red wine
1 onion	1.5 cups pomegranate juice
1 carrot	1 tbsp pomegranate molasses
1 stick of celery	Large glug of extra virgin olive oil

Method (Serves 2)

1. Pat the ox cheeks dry with kitchen paper, then season with freshly ground salt and black pepper.
2. Toss the cheeks in plain flour, then lightly sear in a pan with a glug of oil, on both sides until nicely browned, then remove from the pan.
3. Finely dice the onion, carrot and celery and sauté in a knob of butter on a medium heat for 6-7 minutes.
4. Place the onion, carrot and celery mixture and with the bay leaves into a slow cooker on a medium heat setting, followed by the ox cheeks, pomegranate juice, molasses and red wine.
5. Cook for six hours. (If cooking in an oven, cook at 150 degrees C for 4-5 hours).
6. When ready, remove the ox cheeks from the slow cooker/oven, and loosely cover with foil to keep warm.
7. Discard the bay leaves and transfer the liquid into a saucepan, bring to the boil and allow to reduce until it is syrupy. Stir regularly.
8. Serve the ox cheeks with butternut squash mash and the reduced sauce drizzled on top, finished with some fresh pomegranate seeds.

The Royal Observatory at Abinger.

On Tuesday 8th January Ian Rogers gave us an insight into how the Observatory came to be established in Abinger in 1924, and how it operated there until 1957 when it split up, with the Greenwich Time Service moving to Herstmonceaux in Sussex and the Magnetic Measurements Section moving to Hartland in Devon.

It consisted of a number of small buildings located on a piece of land a short distance North West of Leith Hill Tower, selected because of its average safe distance of about 3 miles from any electrified railway lines. It had been originally established in Greenwich in 1817 by the Royal Astronomer to assist the Royal Navy for their navigational measurements, but by 1920 the advent of electrified railways using DC current in the Greenwich area (the first in England) caused interference in the magnetic measurements and it was necessary to find an alternative location where this would not be a problem. A wooded site of some 8 acres adjoining Sheephouse Lane on the South East corner was selected on land belonging to the Evelyn Estate. By coincidence John Evelyn had been a friend of John Flamsteed, the first Royal Astronomer, when they both lived in Greenwich in the early 1700's.

Numbered boundary stones marked with the Admiralty 'anchor' icon were set up at each corner of the property

and can still be found today beside the paths leading to Leith Hill Tower. Buildings in the centre of the site



completed in August 1924 were specially designed for the temperature control required for the magnetic measurements and the magnetograph recording instruments. These buildings were placed 370 ft from the generator power plant building to avoid magnetic interference.

There were continuing problems with Lady Lugard, the owner of the neighbouring property (Little Parkhurst) and wife of Lord Lugard (Governor of Hong Kong 1907-12 and of Nigeria 1914-19) who complained of the generator noise and vibration. But during exhaustive 'listening tests by a panel' she claimed to be able to hear the generators even when they were not running! Initially there were some seven staff to maintain the site and operate the instruments - who lived on site or lodged in Holmbury St Mary, but by 1948 the staff numbers had risen

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to over 20 and they stayed at a big house called Feldemore, which burnt down in 1990 but is now Belmont School.

The pendulum clocks of the Time Department in this establishment provided British radio time signals up until 1949 when quartz clocks were introduced, after many years of testing.



of The Astronomer Royal, Harold Spencer Jones, in front of the monitoring panel for the group of 12 quartz clocks in 1945 at Abinger

These signals were transmitted to London and Greenwich and provided the familiar BBC 'pips'. The 'Time' transmitted from Greenwich is vital for a ship's navigation to find their longitude at noon when the sun reaches its zenith, and navigators used their quadrants; and later on, sextants; to measure the angle between the horizon and the sun to determine their position in latitude and longitude - every hour of difference between the ship's clock from GMT represents 15 degrees of longitude. Nowadays this method has

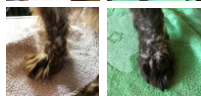
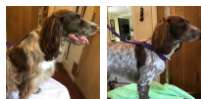
been replaced by 'SatNav' but it was an invaluable technique for mariners when it was introduced in the late 18th century with the invention of a sea-going chronometer (by John Harrison). This department also monitors the time signals from America, Russia and France for comparison.

The purpose of the magnetic observatory was to measure and record changes in the earth's magnetic field in order to know the variation between True North and Magnetic North. The magnetic north tends to drift westwards, caused by physical changes within the earth and sun activity. Every mariners' ocean chart has a compass rose on it which shows the number of degrees of magnetic variation from True North at a certain date, and the annual publication of the navigators' Nautical Almanac provides an updated measurement.

Ian Rogers lives in one of the houses in the vicinity of the old Observatory of Abinger and has taken an interest in its heritage during the years from 1924 when it was built. The brick buildings and the house of the Station Supervisor have all been sold years ago.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th March at the usual time. The lecture will be 'Broadmoor & Lonesome Valley' given by Robin Daly.

Roger Christian



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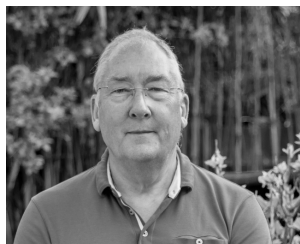
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New website & logo

The new Village Association web site and logo went live on 4th February



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

and by now I hope you are all familiar with it, finding the information you are looking for!

Jo Astor and Andrew Copeland have done a fantastic job in bringing our site into the 21st Century and I would like to thank them both for all the hours of hard work they put into it. I would also like to mention Edward Bennett as some of his amazing photographs of our village are being used on the site and also Simon Day who did some of the early research work with Jo.

Please, please make sure you tell people about the site, and please make use of it if you are planning an event which you need to communicate to the village and beyond; just write to Jo Astor with the details and we'll make sure it appears in the Village diary jo@westcottvillage.com Our Facebook page is also gaining popularity so

please remember to take a look and follow us on-line to get the latest village news straight in to your newsfeed.

You will also see that we have modernised the WVA logo – but tried to tie the new one in with the old by featuring our unique Weathervane atop the Dovecote – which many people do not realise actually points **W**est, **E**ast, **S**outh, and yes **T** instead of **N**.

Dr Tom Guilder

Westcott seems to be a place that once you come to live here it is quite difficult to leave, and there are many in the village who have been here 20, 30, or more years – some their whole lives. This also applies to people who provide services to the village – Tom Guilder being one notable example. He has been many residents' family doctor for over 30 years and, like the Way family, people see him a bit like a family friend.


I am sure there are lots of stories around the village of how Tom has helped people and probably quite literally saved people's lives. But all good things must eventually come to an end and Tom has finally decided that the time for him to retire is now here. On behalf of the Village the WVA will be organising a collection for a retirement gift, a book of messages,

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and an event to mark his retirement – more will be communicated via Facebook, the website, and email during March and April. Although the plans for a new surgery are still being progressed on the Hut site, the village health service will not be quite the same without Tom. We will ensure that he goes with our grateful thanks and best wishes.

Logmore Lane verge by Holy Trinity

You will not have failed to notice the work which has been done on the bank below the church to clear the mat of brambles, ferns, saplings and birch trees which have invaded what once – in the early 1900's – was open common, and which allowed a great view of the church. We are grateful to the Evelyn Estate for the work they have done and which the Church and the Village Association have now agreed to maintain.

However, you will also notice that there is a bit more work which needs

to be done in order to be able to maintain the land easily. More work is planned which Hugh Broom has generously offered to lead, but this will involve digging out the old tree stumps, raking up as much of the bracken and brambles as we can, contouring the land a little more, and reseedling with meadow grass. This means that the bank will probably look a bit battered first before, hopefully as spring arrives, it becomes green and inviting as it once was over 100 years ago.



View of church January 2019



View of church in 1905

Future Mole Valley

At a meeting of Mole Valley Residents' Associations which I attended recently, Guy Davies (who presented to our Open Meeting last Autumn) updated us all on progress on Future Mole Valley and the Modest Additions to Larger Rural Villages project. The Planning team are working through things and have said they will be releasing their proposals for the next

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stage of consultation around 24th June; this will last for 6 weeks.

The WVA has made an early request for Guy Davies to attend an open meeting during July or August which will need to be organised in addition to the scheduled open meetings we have announced. We will keep you informed of progress and any information which is being released by the Planning team. These Mole Valley RA meetings are very interesting to attend because throughout the District we are all facing the same issues, and trying to make difficult and often conflicted decisions, about the future of house building, the lack of new infrastructure, and how this is paid for.

There are no simple answers and, as I have said before, not everyone will like the outcome – but discussing things openly and constructively helps.

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

At another meeting in the village (The Chairperson's Forum which was formed last year to join up our thinking and planning for the future of the village) Jenny Ratcliff, the Head Teacher at Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School, asked for help with marketing the school. This would normally be something the Governing body would pick up, but until the new

body is formed in September this year, there is no-one to support the school in this important aspect of running the school. If you are a marketeer and have the time to give then please drop a note to Jenny at head@surreyhillssurrey.sch.uk offering your help.

WVA Open Meeting

Thank you to all those who attended the Open Meeting on 21st February. We hope that you find these meetings informative and helpful in understanding what is going on in our community. The next is planned for **Thursday 9th May and will again be in Holy Trinity Church starting at 7.30pm.**

WVA Draft New Constitution

Finally, the draft of the new Village Association constitution was released on 4th February. Your opportunity to comment on this expires on 16th March 2019, so please, if you want to make comments or ask questions, do so before then.

As always, you are invited to write to me on issues which concern you, and the WVA will do their best to address them.

Tim Way
Chairman, Westcott Village Association
timway.westcott@gmail.com



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THE PEACE GARDEN PROJECT @ ST JOHN'S

The Vision of The Peace Garden Project @ St John's was launched in November 2018 at a small Remembrance Service. It has been set up to commemorate and celebrate two major events:-

- 100 years since end of 1st World War
- 60 Years that the Surrey Hills has been an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Over the next 3-5 years, the trees, hedging and vegetation will be trimmed, ground will be tended and together with some additional planting, will be upgraded to make it easier to manage as well as safer and more welcoming for visitors. Some seating and improved access is being planned to make this space a place of peace and reflection for our village community and be more interesting and sustainable for wildlife. (We have already installed a number of well stocked bird feeders!)

Thanks to two grants received end 2018* visitors will notice that initial tree surgery and debris clearance took place thanks to Damien Kidd's team of two village residents from The Tree Associates who braved the December cold just before Christmas.



Plans are already underway to install some bespoke seating by Landbarn Carpenters for the late Spring/early Summer after which we hope to have an 'open day' later in the year. To supplement the funding received, which is a great start but will not cover all we would like to do, we are looking to invite any village

groups to be involved or support in some way and are delighted that the St John's Monday Café have already started a fund!

There are a number of historic graves with locally recognisable names (including a Mr Balchin) located here which would be fascinating to learn more about, not least the Commonwealth War Grave of F.C Barnes whose post war career was in gardening we recently discovered – very appropriate!

There is plenty of scope for experienced gardeners to get involved or for village groups to 'adopt' one of the zones, and more will be shared in the coming months via the village magazine or approaching individual village groups. We will be holding a number of working party days between April and October 2019 so if you are interested, please do contact Judith Packer or Tony Astor in the first instance – contact details on the back of the magazine.

* (a) Mole Valley District Council District Council Small Grants Community Fund – Tree and ground clearance
(b) Mrs Hazel Watson's Members' Community Allocation Fund - Seating and Notice Board

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Shopping Locally

Have you downloaded the LoyalFree app yet? If you have you'll know that it has a range of offers from local traders in Dorking. Whether you are looking for flowers, clothes, TVs, shoes, holidays or food, there are savings to be made all the way up the High Street (and West and South Streets too!).



The Dorking Business Improvement District (BID) is using the app as part of their drive to raise the profile of Dorking and to boost high street footfall. Currently there are nearly 13,000 customers using the app nationwide.

Their Dorking LoyalFree App is an all-in-one destination guide which gives us an easy way to connect with our

town and businesses from our phone. And it gives businesses an easy way to share offers and build customer loyalty. It's a boon to our local economy.

BID levy-paying businesses benefit from advertising in the local area, customer insights and social media support. The My Local Guide also helps visitors with vital tourism information while the Events section showcases activities in the town.

Dog Attacks

If a dog-on-dog attack has occurred or you are concerned by a dog's behaviour, advice may be sought from MVDC's animal warden on 01306 885001, or by emailing env.health@molevalley.gov.uk.



Please be aware that the information obtained regarding the attacking dog may have an impact on how much action can be taken.

Emergency grants for people in crisis

Would you know where to go if you suddenly found yourself with no



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

access to money?

The team at the Surrey Crisis Fund (formerly known as the Surrey Local Assistance Scheme) help people who find themselves in a crisis situation with nowhere else to turn for help. It could be a job loss, unexpected delays or problems with benefits payments, or people fleeing domestic violence – there are lots of reasons why this can happen to people young or old and through no fault of their own.

The Surrey Crisis Fund is an emergency discretionary grant to be used for food, gas and electricity, travel fares for medical appointments or job interviews. The scheme can also provide essential furniture and white goods for those who need to set up a new home and don't have resources of their own.

The award winning scheme was set up five years ago in response to the Welfare Reform Act 2012 to provide support for Surrey's most vulnerable residents. The team work closely with Surrey's Citizens' Advice and the Department for Work and Pensions.

If you find yourself in need and have nowhere else to turn, Surrey County Council's Crisis Fund may be able to help you. Visit the surreycc.gov.uk and find the Surrey Crisis Fund web page for more information.

Protecting your Property

SelectaDNA Grease has been specially designed to protect outdoor materials which are particularly vulnerable to theft.

If a thief handles marked goods, SelectaDNA Grease instantly transfers onto their hands and clothing. The grease can then remain on skin and clothing for weeks (even after washing), and the unique DNA code irrefutably links the perpetrator to the crime scene.

To find out more about this product please take a look at www.selectadna.co.uk

Computer Software Frauds

From bogus 'Computer Software Tech Support' phone calls, e.g. someone from Microsoft or Apple contacting you and telling you there is a problem with your device, to fraudsters asking for credit card information to 'validate your software', e.g. validate your windows software, there are a number of computer software service scams you need to look out for.

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

fix your computer. Fraudsters make these phone calls to try to steal from you and damage your computer with malware. Treat all unsolicited phone calls with scepticism and don't give out any personal information.

Computer firms tend not to send out unsolicited communication about security updates, although they do send security software updates to subscribers of the security communications program. If in doubt, don't open the email.

Microsoft does not request credit card information to validate copies of Windows. Microsoft does validate requests to download software from its website via its 'Genuine Advantage Program', but never asks for any personally identifying information, including credit card details. The 'Microsoft Lottery' does not exist – so it's not true if you're told you've won.

Is Your Heart Older than You?

Circulatory heart disease is the second most common cause of death locally with around 2,500 people in Surrey dying from a heart attack or stroke in the last three years, and many more at high risk.

You can find

out more about your heart health and reduce their risk of heart attack and stroke, by taking a few minutes to complete the Heart Age Test on the healthysurrey.org.uk website.

The test tells you your heart age and is a collaboration between the NHS and the British Heart Foundation. If it's older than your chronological age, you're more likely to have a heart attack or stroke.

You can get a free blood pressure check at Dorking Sports Centre to use in the Test. Staff at the Heart Age locations, such as Dorking Sports Centre, can help with advice on the test and any action to take as a result.

Here are some of the things that can affect your heart age:

- **High blood pressure** – one in four adults have high blood pressure. Reducing your blood pressure can reduce your risk of heart attack or stroke by 20%.
- **Poor diet** – having more than five portions of fruit and vegetables a day can lower your risk of heart attack or stroke by 20%.
- **Not being active enough** – exercising for 150 minutes a week can reduce your risk of heart attack or stroke by up to 35%.
- **Smoking** – after one year of being smoke-free, your risk of heart disease reduces by half.



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Mystery Trees

Very well done to everyone who spotted that last month's trees were on the footpath from Parsonage Lane to Milton Street where it meets School Lane.

The Mystery Trees section each month is here to encourage us all (me included!) to get out and about in our village, walking the areas we might otherwise miss out on.

There is some great advice on just how good walking is for you on the

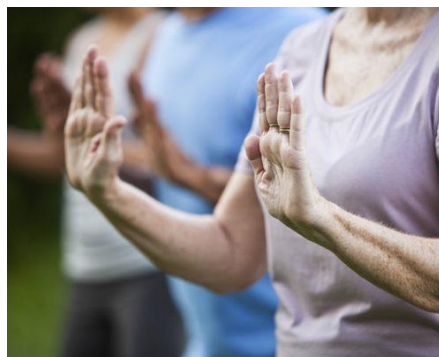
healthysurrey.org.uk and molevalley.gov.uk websites – check them out before you head out to find this month's offering:



If you are over 60 and live in the Mole Valley area, Age Concern offers you the opportunity to do Tai Chi Classes for a small fee. Our qualified instructor will teach you how to combine deep breathing and relaxation with slow and gentle movements. Studies show that Tai Chi can help people reduce stress, improve balance and mobility.

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NEWS FROM THE READING ROOM



We are warm and cosy at the Reading Room this winter! Thanks to recent maintenance activity we have been able to deliver a warmer building in the colder days of this season with more efficient heating and curtain use. A new kettle which boils quicker and more quietly has been added to make tea and coffee breaks an even greater pleasure too.

There is still hall availability in the early mornings (7-10am) for potential users like keep-fit, breakfast clubs, music/revision training etc. These times can be offered at very competitive rates to prospective enquirers on application. We also have good availability in March and April for Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons/evenings for party and fund-raising events

Our newest regular user – Richings CKD - offers Martial Arts training for all

age groups on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Martial Arts is an exciting and fun way to get fit and learn a method of self defense. Alan Richings as Head instructor and school owner has gained a second degree black belt in Choi Kwang Do plus experience of semi and full contact karate.

Classes will consist of fitness training using punching and kicking bags, cardio work outs and of course the technical aspect of developing blocks, punches and kicks. Open to all ages and fitness levels, you don't need to be fit to start, you just need to start, to get fit. Do contact Alan Richings on 07711 954466 for more information on participation and costs.

More information from our website www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk or by phone on 07967 286636

WESTfest Date Change * Sunday 7th July 12-4pm *

Now in its 5th year, WESTfest, Westcott's summer fair, will be back on Sunday 7th July 2019, with a theme of WESTfest in Wonderland. Giant bubbles, a bouncy Helter Skelter, Tea cup ride and many more Wonderland themed attractions this year, plus local traders and crafts, community groups, Surrey Hills All Saints School Maypole, and the Polite Paws Fun Dog Agility course.

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More info: www.facebook.com/Westfestsurrey

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY

As we move towards the end of this half term, we are preparing for next term's events, these include parent lunches, class assemblies and trips to the Junior Citizen Event and Wisley. In March, we will be participating in World Book Day, which will include a visit from Christina Talbot, the author of *The Daring Droplets: World Water Cycle Team*.

Trip to the Natural History Museum

On Wednesday 16th January, years 5 and 6 had a wonderful trip to London. After a relaxing train journey and the excitement of the tube, 77 children (and 18 adults!) arrived safely. During the day we took part in an evolution workshop which included how better evolved animals survived. Lots of time was spent exploring the incredible galleries before our return journey. Many thanks to all the parent volunteers and well done to all the children who behaved brilliantly and were a credit to Surrey Hills.



"We loved seeing all the animals up close and were amazed at the size of the blue whale." (Lucy and Eloise – Moles Class).

"I found it fascinating seeing all the animals' bones and so many fossils." (Daniel – Badgers Class).

"I enjoyed learning about the evolution of the horse. How it used to have four toes and be really tiny!" (Ruby – Foxes Class).

Science Week



We celebrated Science week, from Monday 4th February. KS1 and KS2 participated in lots of hands-on, exciting learning including interactive workshops which really got them thinking, and a visit from a scientist!

We had a great time when we were visited for the Eco



Brockham Choral Society

presents ANTON DVORAK'S 'STABAT MATER' on April 6th at 7.30pm
in St Martin's Church, Dorking, RH4 1UX.

The work was composed due to the personal tragedy of the loss of his then 3 living children. First sketched in 1876 and completed in 1877 it provides an inspiring, though at times painful, personal setting of faith and hope.

The British Sinfonietta Orchestra with soloists, Soprano: Joanna Tomlinson, Mezzo: Frances Gregory, Tenor: Andrew Henley, Bass: Meilir Jones will be directed by our Musical Director Patrick Barrett.

Admission: £12 in advance, £15 on the day,
£5 under 25 in full time education.

Box Office: Tickets from Maria Chadwick c/o Michael Frith,
40 South St, Dorking, 01306-882728 or Alison Robins 07890 663505.
More info: www.brockhamchoral.org/tickets

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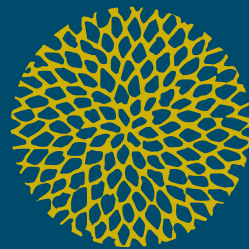


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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY (cont.)

Electricity workshops! It was really creative and hands-on; we found out more ways of making electricity that we didn't know before (Badgers class).



We enjoyed learning about how lemons, potatoes and oranges can actually power different things

(Badgers class).

It was an interesting session full of new discoveries (Badgers class).



KS1 children took part in the Bath Bombs and Bubble Bath workshop. This was a great session, the children enjoyed getting stuck in, getting messy and finding out about the science behind some of their favourite things!

* Village Car Service - Help Needed *



Owing to a shortage of members on the list of available drivers operating the Westcott Car Service we urgently need more assistance to ensure this very important help to the local community can continue.

If you can consider putting your name forward as a Driver, please contact David Johnson on 01306 885300 who will be pleased to provide more details.

D&G CHOIR - DIDO & AENEAS



Saturday 27th April - 7.30 p.m.
St James' Church

The D&G Choir started life in 2006 as a small, ladies only choir. Over the years the choir has expanded to include male singers and now boasts around 45 members and growing. The choir has performed for many charities including the Queen Elizabeth Foundation and Play-In-A- Week, supporting severely disabled teenagers. They have also entertained the elderly in local care homes. The choir's most prestigious engagement to date was supporting the acclaimed Hilliard Ensemble, performing Vivaldi's Gloria, in Romaldkirk, Co. Durham.

Martin Hall, choir master and co-founder of D&G, has a formidable background in Baroque music, and particularly the works of Henry Purcell. Martin received his musical training at the Royal Academy of Music and New College, Oxford. He will be conducting, accompanied by a five piece Baroque Orchestra. The title roles of Dido & Aeneas will be performed by Olympia and Clem Hetherington. Clem trained at King's College London, the Royal Academy and the Guildhall School of Music. Olympia studied opera at the Royal Northern College of Music under the celebrated Susan Roper.


Dido & Aeneas is a dark and tragic opera based on the Roman Mythology of Dido, Queen of Carthage, and

Aeneas, her Trojan Prince. Purcell introduced Witches and Sailors to the plot. The musical narrative is a rollercoaster ride from evil spells to racy sea shanties, whilst the underlying story is one of power, wickedness and vulnerability.

The two lovers fall prey to the merciless manipulation of the gods and their evil spirits. The highly celebrated final aria 'Dido's Lament' is despairingly heart wrenching and guarantees not a dry eye is ever left in the house.

Tickets £12 – Available from JAX Tel: 01306 730279 E-Mail: jc@scorpio8.demon.co.uk

All Proceeds go to Local Charities



Saturday April 27th at 7.30 p.m.
St James' Church - Abinger Common

DIDO & AENEAS

Henry Purcell

Baroque Orchestra - Soloists - The Abinger D&G Choir
Conducted by **Martin Hall**

Tickets £12 – Available from JAX Tel: 01306 730279 E-Mail: jc@scorpio8.demon.co.uk

All Proceeds go to Local Charities

LEITH HILL PLACE

Our theme for this year at Leith Hill Place is Wellbeing and the Outdoors. We hope that by the time the house opens on Friday 29th March, the recent snow will be a thing of the past and Spring will be knocking firmly at the door.



Many of our upcoming events are focused on Wellbeing, including the final workshop of the 'closed' season which is a half day Yoga and Mindfulness Retreat on Sunday 24th March, from 10.30am – 2.30pm. Vinyasa Flow yoga is designed to spring clean both body and mind. The day will consist of a morning's invigorating yoga session, a mindfulness walk through the Rhododendron Wood, lunch and an afternoon restorative yoga session. Tickets are £55 pp and should be booked via email at: info@amymilleryoga.co.uk

From Friday 29th March until Sunday 28th April from 11am-5pm on our open days, artists Karen Pearson and

Reiko Evans will show their latest work in an exhibition at the house called Fired Earth, Sacred Wilderness. The exhibition will reflect Leith Hill as an area of outstanding natural beauty as well as the threats to this beautiful landscape. There will be an organic nature to some of the ceramics and paintings which will celebrate the preservation of the local natural environment. The exhibition is free with admission; normal charges apply to non-members.

During late spring, to tie in with the link to its own Outdoors in the Rhododendron Wood, Leith Hill Place will be showing an exhibition about Joseph Hooker and other notable plant hunters who discovered and collected some of the rhododendron and specimen tree varieties planted in the Wood. Find out more about them and the plants they found. You can then go and see the shrubs and trees (some believed to be from Caroline Darwin's original planting) in the Rhododendron Wood. Free with entry; normal admission charges apply; usual opening days only.

Dates for your diary – more details to come in the April parish magazine:

Monday 8th April 11am – 1pm An Easter floral wreath workshop run by Vickie from The Surrey Hills Florist. All materials included, plus a cream tea to enjoy. Tickets £30; to book call 0344 249 1895

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LEITH HILL PLACE (cont.)

Tuesday 9th April 10am – 12.30pm

Scone-making workshop run by one of our wonderful volunteer bakers. No experience necessary. All materials included and your scones to take home. Tickets £20; to book call 0344 249 1895



Wednesday 10th April 9.30am –

12.30pm Creative painting for kids aged 10 -16 years, led by artist Karen Pearson. All materials included. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets £25pp; to book call 07909 963144

Friday 19th April – Monday 22nd April

from 11am – 4.30pm Easter egg hunt: follow the clues around the garden for a chocolate prize and enjoy simple Easter-themed crafts in the house. £3 per hunt; booking not needed; normal admission applies for non-members.

Anna Trenter

The Dorking Group of Artists – Spring Exhibition May 2019

Betchworth Village Hall

Saturday 4th May – Monday 6th May 10.00am – 6.00pm

(The exhibition closes at 4pm on Monday 6th May)

The Dorking Group of Artists, probably the largest art group in Surrey, will be holding their annual Spring Exhibition at Betchworth Village Hall. Exhibiting members, many professionals among them, will be displaying over 250 pieces of new and original art, all for sale at affordable prices. There will be large selection of unframed paintings for sale too. Entrance to the exhibition is free. The Dorking Group of Artists meets on Tuesday afternoons at Beare Green Village Hall from September through to Easter. Membership is open to all artistic abilities, from beginner to professional and costs just £25 for non exhibiting and £30 for exhibiting members per calendar year.

For more information contact Jane Anderson Wood (Chairman)

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Lots going on at QRMW

We have two exciting events at the Woodland in the first half of 2019. The first of which will be our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 13th April at 12.30. Many ex-servicemen and local residents come with their children and grandchildren for this fun filled event. There is an Easter Egg Hunt imaginatively put together by Paul Cooling (The Hat) our Chairman for the children, egg and spoon races for all, fun games and a BBQ, stalls selling cakes, crafts, merchandise, a very reasonably priced Easter Egg stall plus an Easter Tombola for the children and raffle for the adults. All monies raised go to the Memorial Fund to help ex-servicemen in need. You must register the children for the Easter Egg Hunt because spaces are limited, £5 per child, parents are free! Do email Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk. well in advance to avoid disappointment.

2019 is a very special year for QRMW – it is our 5th Anniversary. This will be celebrated on “The Glorious First” precisely five years to the day that we opened and will include a plethora of things to celebrate. ALL are welcome to join us. The day will commence at 12.30 with 1st Cinque Ports Corp of Drums welcoming the Queen's Walkers escorted by bikers from RBL to the tune of “Soldiers of the Queen”. The walkers will have walked 110 miles

from Shorncliffe Barracks in Kent to raise money for QRMW. An ex-Queensman will entertain with his very popular songs as will The Corp of Drums playing memorable tunes. There will be a BBQ and bar provided by a local publican and stalls will include merchandise and crafts, a raffle and a tombola. A Commemoration Service for the family of an ex-Queensman will take place in the Garden of Remembrance plus a tree planting ceremony by members of The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment in remembrance of the fallen.

The Woodland has gone from strength to strength since it was officially opened by Sir Paul Beresford MP on 1st June 2014. It is a place of reflection, a place to honour and remember those who are no longer with us and a meeting place for like minded people. It is not a sad place though. The Charity named “The Quick Response Memorial Woodland” was awarded Registered Charity status by the Charities Commission on 14th September 2017. We are all volunteers and our promise is monies raised will go into the Memorial Fund to help those ex-servicemen and women in times of need ‘immediately’. The Trustees and I look forward to seeing you on 1st June.

Paul Cooling

Chairman

QRMW

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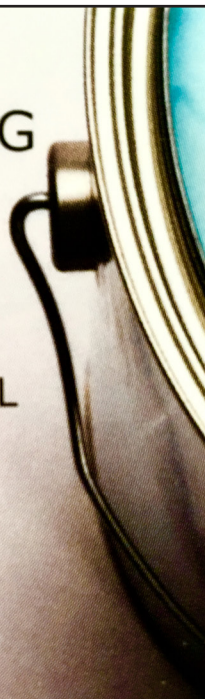
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SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2019

FUN FAMILY TENNIS FESTIVAL

For parents and children in teams of two

Children (7+) just need a parent, grandparent or adult family member to be their partner. Parents with grown-up children welcome too! Suitable for all ages and every standard, including beginners.

Date	Sunday 8th September 2019	
Timings	12 noon 1pm 5pm	Bring Your Own Picnic Start of Play Prize-giving
Place	Balchins Lane, Westcott	
Price for adult/child team	£10 a team, payable in advance please	

Easy warm-up games led by experienced, friendly tennis coach.
Parent and child tournament in simple match format, with prizes galore!

BBQ for players, spectators and other non-playing family & friends, immediately after tournament finishes for £5 a head, including a soft drink, payable in advance please.

This is a fund-raising event with proceeds to Holy Trinity Church.

Please email Karen Ratzke to register your team at ratzkefamily@aol.com with names of team members and age of child or call for further info 07771 740386





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Windsor Castle 22nd January

A beautiful morning with glorious blue skies saw us on our way to Windsor where we met with our expert guide Barbara. After a coffee stop we watched the Changing of the Guard and then headed for the castle. Windsor castle was built by the Normans in the 11th century and is the longest occupied palace in the world.

After going through strict security we took our very informative walk in the castle grounds. There are two building complexes separated by the Round Tower, which is built on an artificial mound and now houses all the castle archives, and was built by Henry II.



The Round Tower - a Bailey on top of a motte (hill)

The upper ward houses the private apartments for the monarch and state visitors. The state apartments include:

1. St. Georges chapel - gothic architecture containing the royal mausoleum of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour and others.
2. Grand reception room

3. Royal library

4. Albert memorial built by Henry VII as a royal Mausoleum

A catastrophic fire in 1992 destroyed the north east corner of this magnificent building but fortunately most paintings, furniture, and treasures were saved. Restoration was completed in 1997 to be as authentic as possible and it is beautifully done.

There was just so much to see and we were provided with audio guides which were very helpful, as there are so many interesting tombs, vaults and chapels. An extra available to see at the time was the display of the wedding dress of the Duchess of Sussex - what a beautiful gown! As we left the chapel we could view the Albert memorial built by Henry VII as a royal Mausoleum.

We rejoined the coach and enjoyed a fascinating drive around the park with lovely views of the castle from the Long Walk. The mausoleum of Victoria and Albert is in this park. From here we drove to the Windsor farm shop and café where some had tea and some bought lovely foodie gifts !

By this time the beautiful blue skies and sunny day had disappeared and it was snowing, so we happily rejoined our warm coach and headed home after a most enjoyable day.

Alwynne Tidy




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DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking Museum would like to thank one recent (anonymous) visitor who left this comment: "This museum, with its fascinating subject-matter and very high standard of display, is one of the best museums I have ever visited. It reveals very successfully the heart and character of Dorking and its place in history."

Perhaps one of the many fascinating items they saw on display was a cross-shaped framework on which are



Image (and the one below)
Dorking Museum

suspended three brightly painted footballs. This recalls the famous Shrove Tuesday football matches which became a fixture of Dorking's year in the 19th century.

Festivities began with a procession through the town led by a 'grotesquely dressed' band and fronted by a man carrying this standard, which carries the inscription, "Kick away both Whig and Tory, Wind and water Dorking's glory". The original football standard displayed (with replica footballs) is probably the only remaining standard in Surrey.



The football game kicked off at 2pm at the gates of St Martin's and continued through the streets of Dorking until 6pm, when festivities continued in 'The Sun' and other public houses. Large numbers participated in the game and thousands more watched – shopkeepers barricaded their premises to limit damage. After complaints from traders, the game was banned by the County Council in 1897, although it continued for a few more years, finally being declared extinct in 1907.

Maybe not football this Shrove Tuesday but this is a good time of year to consider one of the **Museum's programme of Guided Walks and Tours.**



Walkers at the Mausoleum on the Deepdene Trail

Our walks team offers a variety of guided walks taking in the different aspects of the town's history and heritage. Join in a town centre walk showing often unexpected sights of the town's rich heritage or present and 'long lost' town centre pubs. On the edges of the town, our walks follow the Deepdene Trail through the historic Deepdene Estate, taking in the grotto, woodland walks, parterre and temples, spectacular

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

views and exclusive entry to the grade II* listed Hope family mausoleum.

All walks are open for group bookings at a time to suit you, and there are regular Open Days for individual bookings. In March, these will include:

Sunday 10th March, Deepdene Trail Walk, 2pm from the Trail entrance.

Saturday 16th March, Hidden Dorking Historic walk, 3pm from the Museum;

Saturday 23rd March, Town Centre pub walk, 11am from outside the Surrey Yeoman on the High Street.

March also sees the Spring re-opening of our very popular tours of the famous South Street Caves. Take a trip under the streets of Dorking to explore the famous 17th century caves. Discover how they were created, how they evolved over the centuries and check out the 'mystery chamber'. **The first Open Day is on March 30th, with tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm.**

Our current exhibition, 'Lord Ashcombe's Minerals – the gentlemen collectors and the advance of science', showcases the history of and examples from Lord Ashcombe's stunning mineral collection. These were amassed in the



19th century by George Cubitt, the first Lord Ashcombe, and displayed at his Denbies home. The

collection was donated to Dorking Museum in 1948 by the 3rd Baron Ashcombe.

Although Ashcombe's fossil collection is a regular visitor favourite at the Museum, his mineral collection has not been on regular display, so the exhibition provides a rare opportunity to view. The large collection of quartz crystals – some of the pieces up to 20kg in weight – were collected from around the UK and overseas.

Although Cubitt displayed these



Image by David Burton

dazzling minerals in glass-fronted cases at Denbies for the enjoyment of his family, friends and visitors, they also had real value for historical and research purposes. The exhibition tells how Lord Ashcombe's collection and those of other gentlemen collectors played an important role in an age of amateur science, in the development of the study of geology and palaeontology and the scientific understanding of the earth's history.

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am-4pm. Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.

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and four smaller incendiary bombs, was shot down and crashed in a Parsonage Lane garden. The story was recounted in the Local History Group's Annual Report 2001, revealing what happened to the plane, its crew and bombload; and the Group's HQ in the Reading Room contains some of the many souvenirs that local people collected from the site.

Terry Wooden

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MUSIC IN DORKING



2nd at 12.00, Music at Midday at St Martin's church, free, 01306 884229
5th, 12th at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, 07415 815784
19th, 26th at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, 07415 815784
6th at 7.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
10th at 7.30, LHMf St John Passion at Dorking Halls, £12-24, 01403 240093
12th at 7.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18, 01306 881717
16th from 9am, LHMf youth choirs competition day, £3
16th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church, £12, 01306 730640
30th at 7.30, violin and piano recital at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 740619
30th at 7.30, Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony at Dorking Halls, £22-25, 01306 881717

March sees the start of the annual Leith Hill Musical Festival, one of the major events in the Dorking music calendar. First comes a performance of Bach's St John Passion, with a large choir, orchestra and soloists, conducted by Jonathan Willcocks. This magnificent work tells of the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion in music of great dramatic intensity. This is followed by the youth choirs competition day, a very popular event, when around twenty school, youth and community choirs will be singing. The three main festival concerts will follow in April.

The Dorking Concertgoers present a violin and piano recital given by Emily Sun and Jennifer Hughes, both highly talented and prize-winning performers. Their programme includes sonatas by Beethoven, Poulenc and Richard Strauss, together with Saint-Saëns' brilliant Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, a showpiece for the violin.

The Dorking Philharmonia's spring concert will include some appropriately-chosen music for the season: Copland's Appalachian Spring, Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances and Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony.

Ralph Vaughan Williams' great choral and orchestral work A Sea Symphony will be performed by the Vivace Chorus and the Brandenburg Sinfonia. Continuing the sea theme, the programme will also include Benjamin Britten's dramatic Four Sea Interludes from his operatic masterpiece Peter Grimes.

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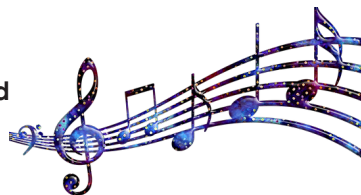
MUSIC IN DORKING (cont.)

There are a couple of screenings at the Dorking Halls this month. From the Metropolitan Opera in New York comes a production of Donizetti's lively comic opera *The daughter of the regiment*, and from the Bolshoi ballet in Moscow there is a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping beauty*.

This month's lunchtime recital at St Martin's church is given by organist Marin Pattziaff from the Kultur Insitut Rossignol, Westerwald, in Germany. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

Watermill Jazz presents a concert every Tuesday evening, and this month marks the club's 25th anniversary. The line-up of performers is: Castle, Edwards, Beckett and Somogyi (5th), the Marc Copland trio with guest Stan Sulzmann (12th), a special 25th anniversary concert with Mark Nightingale's Big Band (19th), and Ann Odell and Friends (26th).

Ian Codd



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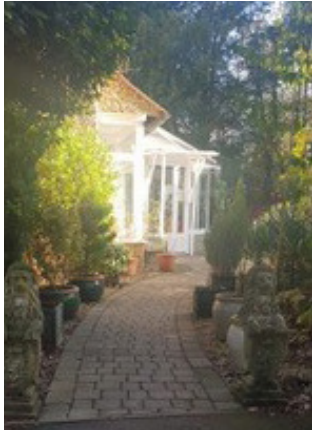


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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Bramley House Residential Home

Bramley House Residential Home is situated right in the middle of the



village, off Westcott Street. For my 9am interview I met with Kelly, the Registered Manager; Lesley, who's in charge of accounts and

activities; and Fiona, the owner of the business who inherited from her much loved mother Rita Stappard, ten years ago. Many of us remember Rita and her partner Chris Barford and the sight of the Bramley House bus careering off on yet another activity, full of cheerful residents.

'It still goes on,' says Lesley, 'we like to get people out in the village and to local places because it's refreshing for them and it adds lots of interest to their lives.' And I know it's true because I've already been told that Lesley has to leave to take the singing group over to Betchworth at 10 o'clock this morning.

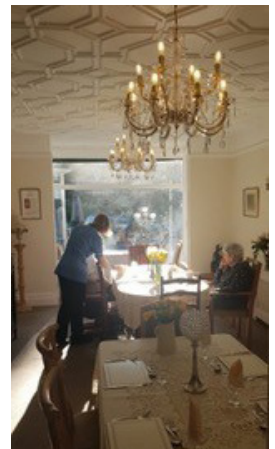
'How many residents do you have?' I asked Kelly. 'We have capacity for sixteen,' she said, 'and at the moment

we have fourteen living here. This works comfortably for us, because we like to keep some room for respite care, which is something which happens at quite short notice.' 'I didn't realise you did that.' I remarked. 'Oh yes, we do. Because we are registered both for physical care and dementia care, we often have people who come to stay for a brief time, either to recover, or perhaps to give a carer a holiday. They stay for a while, and then go home again.'



'We also do day care' added Fiona. 'On Tuesdays and Thursdays people can just book in for lunch, or perhaps a carer needs a day to go shopping or other appointment, and then our guest

stays with us for the day. We have several regulars, and it's nice for our more permanent residents to see people who bring a bit of the outside world with them.' 'And people enjoy





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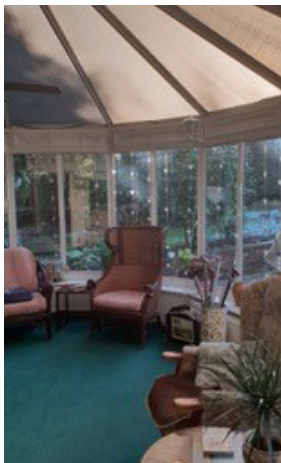
BUSINESS OF THE MONTH (cont.)

it - they keep coming back' said Kelly.

'Where do your residents come from - are they all from the village?' I asked. 'No, not really', said Lesley, 'we have some coming from the village of course, because it means they stay among their friends, and from Dorking, but sometimes they may have come from further away, but their families live nearby, so it's easy for them to visit and we are often full of family visitors.'

'And what about independence - for example can people bring their cars, if they come to live here?'

Kelly responded that each resident is different - they have a guest who arrived bed-ridden and is now walking about and almost ready to go home. They also have someone due to arrive in a couple of weeks who is bringing her car with her. She lives alone and just wants to have with some company in her



life. 'People come here for all sorts of reasons, and sometimes they don't come alone. We have had couples living here very happily who simply found caring for

themselves too much to manage by themselves.'

'So what would you say makes Bramley House different from other residential homes?' I queried. Lesley said, 'We are so small, it's all very personal here. For example, with meals, we know what people really enjoy, and we can literally cater for individual tastes.'

It's quite social if people want to be social, but if they want to spend time on their own, they can, we've plenty of room. It's their home and we want them to love being here.'



Kelly says, 'We have a great connection with Westcott church, and Alan, Winnie, Margaret and Geoff are regular visitors; the children from the school came and sang to us at the December village coffee morning, and we'd like to connect more with them. The children of our families love coming here and playing with our pets, because some of our residents bring their pets, dogs or cats, when they come to live here.'



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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH (cont.)

Why not - they are part of their family and they add so much to our family atmosphere here.'

As I looked around the airy house and the lovely garden setting it really did look like a family home.

There are two occasions coming up later on in the year where Fiona, Kelly and Lesley extend an invitation to us all. One is a special National Dementia Care week, when the girls are hosting an open coffee morning



with a different cake every day of the week. Everyone is welcome, because everyone supports research into dementia. That's the week of 20th to 26th May, so put it in your diaries and find some time for a coffee and cake.

The other date is their Families Open Day, later in the summer, to which we are all invited. Marquees, entertainers, a bouncy castle for the children, some stalls and a great buffet will all be available. The date of that will be announced in a later issue of this magazine - and look out for posters and leaflets in the village shops, and meeting places.

Fiona said 'We love being in Westcott. Bramley House was my mum's pride and joy, and I like to think that her spirit of enthusiasm and genuine care lives on in the house.'

Andrea Gabb

Bluebells Cancer Support Centre

*at Harry Edwards Healing Sanctuary
Burrows Lea, Hook Lane, Shere, GU5 9AL*



*Bluebells is a friendly, sharing group for anyone affected by cancer. We laugh a lot, cry a little, share experiences and support each other. Do come along one Thursday to see for yourself!
We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 11am-1pm
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*Please feel free to contact Carolyn Low on 01483 203540
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FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE HOSPICE FUN RUN



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is launching a new fundraising event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Hospice. They are inviting people to go back to the days before iPods, Bluetooth headphones and Fitbits, when shorts were short and Walkmans and Nike Airs were new, and join them on Saturday 6th April at their 1980s Family Fun Run. The event is expected to be a feast of colour with participants encouraged to don day-glo outfits, leg-warmers and deeley boppers.

"We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to another fantastic, colourful and fun-filled day – this time with a new 80s twist to coincide with our 30th Anniversary," says Vicky James, events fundraising manager at the Charity.

The Family Fun Run offers two distances, 2km for littler legs and 5km for more of a challenge – both alongside the beautiful Watermead Lake in Aylesbury.



Places can be booked online at £10 for adults and £6 for children at fnhospice.org.uk/80sfamilyfunrun.



Christian Aid Week 2019 is 12th – 18th May.

Can we beat last year's record amount of money collected?

Last year in Westcott we collected £2,305.62 for Christian Aid.

This money helped the people of Haiti build safe and secure homes after their lives had been devastated by Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

The picture shows some of the volunteer collectors from Holy Trinity. The volunteers will be delivering a red envelope to as many homes as possible in Westcott and then collecting the envelope later in the week.

Please help Christian Aid to support some of the poorest people around the globe. It would be wonderful to break last year's record of money collected. Would you consider being a volunteer collector for Christian Aid's House to House Collection this year?

For information see the Christian Aid website or contact me.

Helen Chappell

h_j_chappell@yahoo.co.uk

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As we move into March, the first signs of spring are beginning to appear and the days are getting noticeably longer. Soon Mole Valley will be bursting forth in all its glory. What better time to get out to explore the countryside with a group of friendly locals covering the whole area and, in some instances, beyond. So do join us. This month, there is even one walk around Westcott. Part of the Ramblers Association, Mole Valley Ramblers organises group walks across the heart of Surrey and further afield, on weekdays and at weekends, with a range of distances from 3.5 to 12 miles and difficulties from leisurely to strenuous, as detailed below in the list of walks organised for March. Visit www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk for full information.



Saturday 2nd: One Way Ticket. 9.30am, 12 miles, moderate.

Saturday 2nd: Greensand Way west from Dorking. 10am, 4 miles, leisurely.

Wednesday 6th: Sheepleas to Lovelace Bridges and Towers. 10am, 5.5 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 6th: Early signs of spring around Winterfold Hill. 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Thursday 7th: Wandering around Westcott. 2pm, 3.5 miles, leisurely.

Saturday 9th: An early spring walk on Banstead Heath. 10am, 5.5 miles, moderate

Sunday 10th: Wildlife west of Standen. 9.30am, 8.5 miles, moderate.

Monday 11th: Leith Hill Tower and views. 2pm, 4 miles, moderate

Wednesday 13th: Subway to the hills. 10am, 7 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 13th: The R&B in the North Downs. 10am, 11 miles, moderate

Saturday 16th: Greensand Way east from Dorking. 10am, 4 miles, leisurely.

Sunday 17th: Tour of Abingers. 10am, 12 miles, strenuous.

Sunday 17th: Polesden and Effingham Wander. 9.30am, 8 miles, moderate

Wednesday 20th: Chipstead Valley and more. 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 20th: Hatchlands in the spring. 10am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Saturday 23rd: Wisborough Green. 10am, 10.5 miles, moderate.

Sunday 24th: A Wonersh Whirl. 9.30am, 10 miles, moderate.

Monday 25th: Over the Heath from Walton. 2pm, 3 miles, leisurely.

Wednesday 27th: Enjoy Norbury and Polesden with free parking. 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 27th: Tillingbourne-St Martha's-Newlands Corner. 10am, 8 miles, moderate.

Sunday 31st: What's between Milton and Tanners? 9.30am, 7 miles, moderate.

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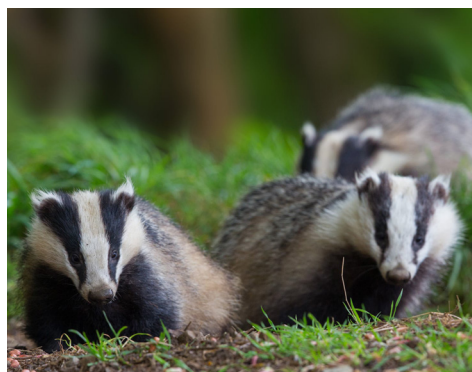
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Badger in the Wood

The wooded parts of the downs are a haven for badgers and we have a number of setts on our property. Setts are the underground homes where badgers live. The larger setts can extend from 20 to 100 metres or more, with some of the largest having more than 50 entrances!

Such elaborate setts can take many years to create and are passed down through generations – some setts can be more than 100 years old. These are the family homes, used, maintained and enlarged at will by generations of the same social group.



Badger cubs will only be around 2-3 weeks old, but later on in May cubs will be starting to emerge cautiously from their underground homes. From being pink, blind and helpless at birth

with thin coats of silver hair and faint black stripes on the face, they grow to be active, playful little badgers by the time they emerge so the layout and scents of their home become firmly fixed in their senses.

A badger's sense of smell is a particularly important sense as it plays a vital role in communication. Badgers have several scent glands which produce a variety of odours, used for distributing information like warning signals and mating status.

Scents produced are also used to tighten bonds between social groups, with studies suggesting that clan members have similar scents. Badgers also deposit scents in their faeces and will typically defecate in shallow dug pits known as latrines, which are found on territorial boundaries.

Badgers distribute their scent information through techniques known as squat marking (dipping their rear and lifting their tails) and allo-marking (marking each other).

Other Badger Facts

Badgers are protected in Britain by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. The purpose of this Act is to protect the animals from deliberate cruelty and from the incidental effects of



lawful activities which could cause them harm.

Badgers are closely related to otters, stoats, weasels, polecats and pine martens; they are all in the Mustelid family.

An adult can grow up to 36" long and usually weighs from 22 to 27 lbs.

Badger prints are broader than they are long, with five toes and five long, non-retractable powerful claws that they use for digging.



Badger prints in the snow

Badgers are omnivorous and will eat a wide variety of foods, although their main diet consists of earthworms, up to 200 per day.

Badgers are less active during winter months but they do not hibernate.

The mating process involves "delayed

implantation". Although females are able to mate any time after the cubs are born the fertilised egg does not implant in the uterus until December.

Badgers have been living side by side with hedgehogs for centuries but will occasionally prey on them if their main food sources of worms and grubs are not abundant. Hedgehogs are currently undergoing a sharp decline in rural habitats and unfairly, badgers are often blamed. A recent report on hedgehog declines, owed the reduction of rural hedgehogs to mainly habitat loss, through the intensification of agriculture and fewer hedgerows.

Spring is a Marching

I just love this time of year. After a long winter, spring is finally on its way. Warmth can be felt in the sun and life is returning to the hillside.

I cycle to work regularly, using the Sustrans route 22 from Dorking to Westcott. It's so nice to be able to ride through the countryside and not on the traffic laden main roads. When daylight fills my commute and the dawn chorus is ramping up in volume, I relish in the knowledge that spring is coming.

On my way through the farm near Milton Court, it's a joy to see the first



lambs merrily bouncing and bleating away. Hibernating butterflies such as the beautiful butter-yellow Brimstone have woken up and can be seen basking in the warm sun. Snowdrops brighten up our woods with their delicate nodding white flowers, soon to be followed by the explosion of blue from our iconic woodland flower, the bluebell.

March is the turning point between winter and spring; the sap will be rising and the first of the buds will be bursting, flowers will be shining and frogs will be spawning.

Coming soon! Lady's Smock

During the spring, water meadows and swampy or damp places are bathed in the lilac shade of lady's smock (or cuckoo flower). I get great joy in seeing these delightful little plants appearing around the pond at Landbarn Farm. At night and during damp weather the flowers hang down to prevent rain water from diluting their rich nectar supplies.

The plant is propagated by seed dispersal; an eruption caused by the splitting of its ripe pods scatters seeds several feet away from the roots of the parental plant.

The common name 'Lady's-smock' arises from the cupped shape of the flowers. However, 'smock' was once a slang term for a woman and the name may have alluded to certain springtime activities in the meadows!

Amanda
National Trust Area Ranger
amanda.barnicoat@nationaltrust.org.uk
Office: 01306 887485



Lady's smock

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