

# Westcott Village Magazine

April 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](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com)**

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

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**8th April 2019**

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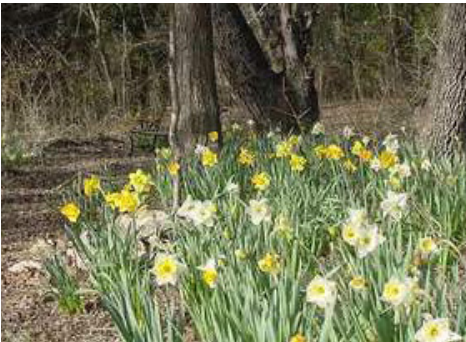
## FROM THE EDITOR

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I hope you haven't been blown away by the time you read this, it's certainly been exceptionally windy lately. Here's hoping that we've seen the last of it, though actually I doubt that!

I have been enjoying the daffodils around the village - I know they're not quite the first flowers out after the winter but they are certainly the most noticeable early in the spring, and definitely brighten the place up.



I'm slightly worried about the enormous bumble bees that have been all over our wisteria, looking confused and wondering why there are no flowers yet, as they're so early that a cold snap will surely finish them off. I'll just have to hope that they manage to survive until the plant actually starts growing again and they can get on with their day buzzing around the flowers!

We have lots to keep you occupied

this month, whether you want to be out in the weather or not. There are many musical choices, too many to list individually, whether you want to participate or just watch and enjoy.

If you're feeling more active Dorking Bowling Club has a free open day on 27th April (see p63 for details) and Mole Valley Ramblers have a walking festival from 24-28th April with a range of family friendly walks (p69-71).

If you're feeling creative Leith Hill Place has a range of activities from scone or wreath making to painting and singing (see p43-45). There is also an Easter Egg hunt at Leith Hill Place over the Easter weekend, and another opportunity at the QRMW on 13th April.

I hope you all have a very Happy Easter and get to be out and about as much as possible, we are so lucky to live somewhere so beautiful, even in the wind and rain!

**Cath**

**[editor@westcottmag.com](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com)**



## ...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



### WAITING FOR THE RESURRECTION...

### ...IT'S HERE NOW

Oh how we miss them ... those we have loved who are no more, those we have shared our lives with, now gone. This year it is Godfrey, Godfrey Parry-Jones, "GPJ", our friend and church minister, who died just two weeks short of his 62nd birthday after seven years of disabling illness. Last year it was my Dad. 19th February 2018 he died. A great, long life – 97 years, still playing golf until he was 90.

Death seems so random. Only the grief is constant. Sometimes the pain can threaten to overwhelm us; I think especially of the staggeringly numerous people in our village who have suffered the death of a child, albeit children that have reached adulthood. Grief comes in waves of

intensity, sometimes in gut-wrenching, uncontrollable sobbing, sometimes in an unconscious giggling, on-going irritability. Different force but the same root anguish – simply, we miss them.

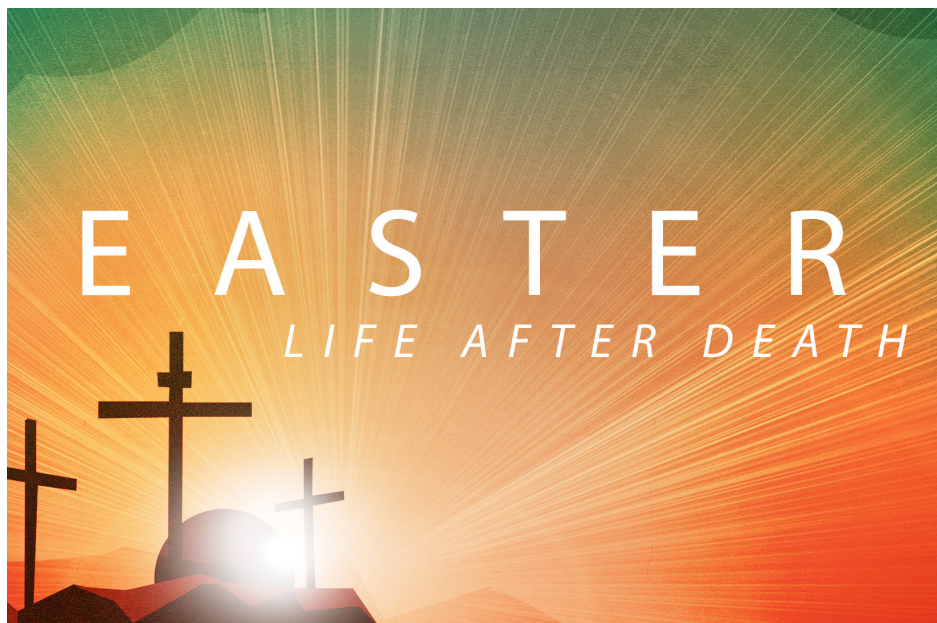
Of course they live on – in the influence they have had. So much of who I am (and my brother and sister) has been shaped by my Dad, and so through the generations – he was delighted to see the arrival of his great-grandchildren, both in his last year. But this is not enough. I miss my

Dad, I miss Godfrey, as we miss all who we have loved, and death seems so final. I need the comfort, hope, that there is Resurrection to come.

I don't need to know exactly what the "next life" will be like, it's simply enough to believe it will be glorious – "no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human mind has conceived, the things God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). Some scoff, claiming "life after death" is a fabrication, formed to make us feel better. Well, let them believe... let them believe that my Dad, Godfrey and all those we have loved, are just mere molecules that are lost into the dust of the universe... that is their faith. My faith tells me that these people are far too precious for that to be the case. My faith tells me that our preciousness is rooted

MY FAITH TELLS ME THAT  
OUR PRECIOUSNESS IS  
ROOTED IN OUR CREATOR,  
WHO SO LOVED US THAT  
HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON...





in our Creator, who “so loved us He gave His only Son that that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16). My faith tells me that there will be a Day of Resurrection, where “God will wipe every tear from our eyes and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain” (Rev 21:4)... and all things will be complete with my Dad, with Godfrey, with all whom we love. Yes, this is faith... waiting for the Resurrection. Faith in Christ. Faith that the events of the first Easter are true. It is faith in historical things... but it is also faith formed in experience; the experience of praying with my Dad as he was dying, the experience of him coming to faith in Christ c. 18 months before he died. It is the faith that shone throughout Godfrey

even in his years of severe disability. In the experience of God now, come multiple “mini-resurrections”, foretelling of the full, glorious Resurrection to come.

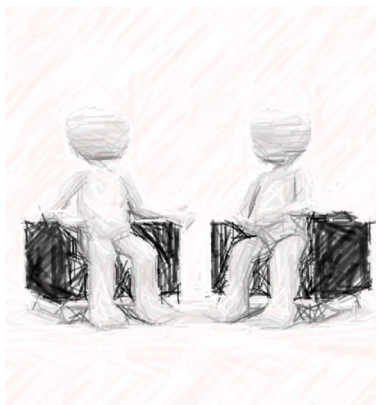
In his recent new found faith, my Dad sang hymns at home, including “Thine be the glory”. In facing grief, in holding to the hope of Resurrection, in the “mini-resurrections” that come in the daily experience of the presence of God, these are apt words to finish....

*Thine be the glory!  
risen, conquering Son:  
Endless is the victory thou o’er death  
hast won.*

*A very Happy Easter to you all*

## ..FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

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### BEREAVEMENT CARE

The grieving process can last a lot longer than people expect. There is no time limit on grief, and if you or someone you care about has been bereaved, you may at some time appreciate a listening ear, practical support, or help with grief and loss through trained bereavement counsellors. ***The Church in Westcott has a team of trained pastoral assistants who can provide a listening ear and provide guidance on practical support.*** Please contact Alan Jonas Vicar on 01306 644868 or email [alchasjonas@aol.com](mailto:alchasjonas@aol.com)

Other organisations which offer support:

**Cruse**

**Care for the Family**

**Bereavement UK**

**Child Death Helpline** – there to listen to and support anyone affected by the death of a child.

**Grief encounter** – supports children who have lost someone they love.



## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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### Marriage:

23rd February Charles John Auton & Rebekah Kate Bradley



## FLOODLIGHTING

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The floodlighting for April has been sponsored Westcott Village Association. If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting, please contact Sarah Massey at [sarah@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:sarah@holytrinitywestcott.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.



# E A S T E R

*Simply Jesus: His Life, His Kingdom*

**APRIL 14TH**

*Palm Sunday*

**Holy Trinity Church**

8:30am Book of Common Prayer Communion

10:15am Parish Communion

6pm Evensong

**APRIL 18TH**

*Maundy Thursday*

**Holy Trinity Church**

7:30pm Bring & Share Meal, with Communion

**APRIL 19TH**

*Good Friday*

**Holy Trinity Church** 9:30am Prayer and procession through the village, to St John's 10:15am All Age Service of prayer and reflection

**Holy Trinity Church** 2pm Vigil at the Cross

**APRIL 21ST**

*Easter Day*

**Holy Trinity Church**

8:30am Book of Common Prayer Communion

10:15am All Age Easter Celebration, with Communion

6pm Evensong



**All are invited...Come and join in the celebrations!**

# WHAT'S ON AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

---

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH WESTCOTT

**10.15 am**  
**Celebration of the year**  
**Vision 2019-2022**

**11.45 am**  
**Elections**

### **SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2019, Holy Trinity Church**

- a meeting to review the work of Holy Trinity over the last year, receive the Church accounts, elect a council and consider plans for the forthcoming year(s).

ALL ARE WELCOME

Apologies to Debbie Shortland, PCC Secretary [debbie.shortland@law.ac.uk](mailto:debbie.shortland@law.ac.uk)  
01306 899145

Cookie Club end of term Easter Party is on 4th April. All under 5s and carers are invited to join us for some Easter fun!

We re-start for the summer term on 2nd May.



**Parent, Baby and Toddler Group**

St John's Community Hall, Westcott  
Thursday mornings 9:30-12:00 term time



# SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

---



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
7th April	<b>Vision &amp; Review</b>  <b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
14th April	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
21st April	<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>All age Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing</b>
28th April	<b>Easter</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Evensong</b>

*For details of all Services over Easter, including mid week, please see Easter advert.*



**Evening Service is back to 6 pm, April - October**

A lovely, reflective way to end the week-end.

Let's keep an evening service going in Westcott!

Alan J Vicar

## MID WEEK SERVICES

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

# ECO CHURCH

## HAVE FAITH!

We are delighted to announce that we, The Church in Westcott, have attained our Silver Eco-Church Award!

This achievement shows the power of having faith in the ability to change things for the better. Back in January 2017 we took the small step of registering with the Eco Church programme.

This small step put us on the path towards our church operating in a more responsible way towards the earth, wildlife, our community locally and globally.

We are very fortunate that Alan, our vicar, has always been mindful of and spoken about our responsibility as Christians to live with care for God's creation, our environment and our neighbours around the world.

Support, too, from those with responsibility for all areas of our church community has been invaluable and so encouraging: from inspiring children to care for our world through worship and teaching; using Traidcraft and meat-free produce for Church hospitality; choosing eco friendly products for cleaning; managing our churchyards to benefit



wildlife, including bird feeders at St John's; improving the energy efficiency of our

buildings by monitoring of energy usage and with the fantastic new LED lighting system at Holy Trinity.



All these positive achievements spur us on to take bigger steps. This year we are encouraging everyone to see how they might be able to reduce their carbon footprint and live more sustainably (see EcoTips overleaf).

Besides the practical things we can each do, it is vitally important that we also join with others to affect

IT IS VITALLY  
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WE ALSO JOIN WITH  
OTHERS TO AFFECT  
CHANGE

change. This may be by joining a local initiative which is working toward building a more sustainable and resilient local community – there are so many in the area, there's bound to be one

to suit you! If not, start your own!

And don't forget to use your power as a citizen by voting for those who prioritize policies which are consistent with a clean, healthy, live-able environment and promote wellbeing for the majority of people and the planet. Write to elected representatives locally and nationally to make sure that your views and values are heard. Now, more than ever, we need to consider what we truly value and stand up!

*Jakki Phillips*

[ecochurch@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:ecochurch@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk)

**ECO CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



## ECO TIPS

One Planet Living challenge: We would need three planet Earth's to support us if everyone lived as we do in the UK. You can calculate your impact and get an action plan to live more sustainably at:  
[www.calculator.bioregional.com](http://www.calculator.bioregional.com)

Join a local club or initiative working towards building a resilient local community. There are many written about in this magazine or listed on the back pages.



Support local projects and policies which improve community life: public transport; cycling schemes; community cafes; local food projects; renewable energy projects. Join a campaign.

Oppose projects in our area that are inconsistent with cutting carbon emissions and threaten the countryside: ie extraction, transportation and

burning of fossil fuels; airport expansion. [www.frackfreesurrey.com](http://www.frackfreesurrey.com) [www.planewrong.co.uk](http://www.planewrong.co.uk)

## Keeping it simple

**Personal responsibility. Connect with others. Stand up**

## EVENT: SWITCH TO A SUPPLIER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Dorking Solar Group will be running an open session in Westcott, in conjunction with Westcott EcoChurch Group, to help people make an informed choice to switch to a renewable electricity supplier.

Date to be confirmed. If you are interested in coming along, please get in touch by email: [ecochurch@holytrinitywestcott.org](mailto:ecochurch@holytrinitywestcott.org) for more information.



# E A S T E R

*Simply Jesus: His Life, His Kingdom*

*God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.  
1 John 5:11*



# Baby Meals

## Meals for the family of a new baby

The Westcott "Baby Meals" service, started 15 years ago by Holy Trinity Church, provides two weeks of hot meals for the families 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 has been welcomed by many families, over many years.

If you're living in Westcott and expecting a baby or about to adopt a new child into the family;

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](mailto:annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk)



*Free Entry!*

# WEST *fest* *in* Wonderland



THE WESTCOTT VILLAGE FAIR

SUN DAY **7<sup>th</sup>** TWENTY NINETEEN **JULY**

Cradhurst **12 PM - 4 PM**  
Recreation Ground

- ★ GIANT BUBBLE SHOW ★ TEA CUP RIDE ★
- ★ GIANT HELTER SKELTER SLIDE ★
- ★ MAD HATS COMPETITION ★
- ★ GAMES AND STALLS ★ BAR ★
- ★ TEA & CAKES ★ HOT FOOD ★

[facebook.com/WESTfestSurrey](https://facebook.com/WESTfestSurrey)





I wonder how many readers of the Westcott mag know who or what a High Sheriff is? Isn't he that guy in a black velvet coat with lace cuffs, wears a sword and carries a folded tricolor hat? Actually it's a chapeau-bras, or arm hat, and yes, he is, although a female High Sheriff can wear a long velvet dark coloured dress, also with long sleeves and lace cuffs, and she wears exotic ostrich feather plumage. Oh, she doesn't carry a sword, that's carried on a cushion by her pageboy.



More respect please, the High Sheriffs hold the highest offices in the country next to the Queen, and the post is at least 1000 years old. In Saxon times, he was responsible for collecting the taxes, (this could bankrupt the High Sheriff of a poor county as he would still be expected to produce the revenues that the more affluent counties could) nowadays the role is more of that of a mediator; one who supports those people working in upholding law and order, from judges, and police down to probation officers and prison wardens.

He meets with thousands of volunteers

working for various charities, and his prime focus this year has been on the permanent exclusion of pupils from school, whether they have been at primary, secondary or even nursery school, getting to the reasons of why there has been exclusion, and seeking the help needed to prevent this happening.

That is just a scratching of the fascinating and amusing talk from Jim Glover about his year as High Sheriff of Surrey, and he hopes to continue his work in school exclusion when he "retires"! Thank you Jim for coming to talk to us, 36 of our members and friends came away from last evening's meeting a lot more informed than when we went.

Next month, on April 3rd, our local and very popular Jazz musician, Ralph Sutton is coming to entertain us with his anecdotes, and hopefully some accompanying music! You do not have to be a member to come to our meetings, all are welcome.

Our evenings at St John's Chapel start at 7.30pm and are a good evening out, meeting up with old friends and making new ones, especially if you are new to the village. Teas, 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](mailto:johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com)



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**@dorkingbutchery**



## 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.

## **Personalities in Westcott History: Daniel Malthus of 'The Rookery'.**

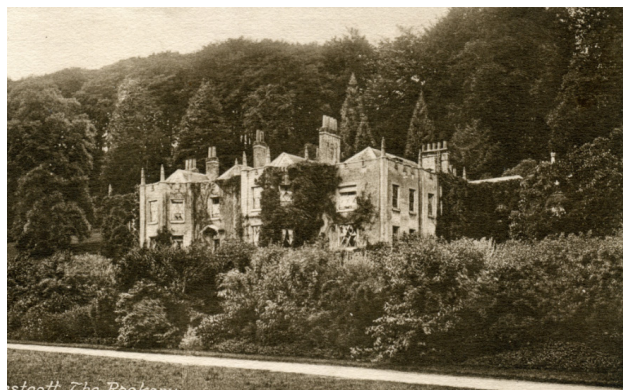
The Rookery Estate has a long history starting in the 17thC when it belonged to the Comber family. They sold it to Abraham Tucker of Betchworth Castle, who in 1759 sold it to Daniel Malthus who named it 'The Rookery' and developed it from its former use as a fishing and game lodge. The Pipp Brook flows through the estate and provides the water for the mill pond. It is said that the trout ova were specially imported from Lake Geneva and it also has roach, tench and perch popular with the angling fraternity. The original Estate was known as Chertgate and comprised some 650 acres including all the land westward of Logmore Lane and Westcott Street up to the edge of the Parish.

Daniel Malthus (1730 – 1800) was a man of considerable inherited wealth and had been to Queens College, Oxford. He pursued literary and

scientific interests and was a friend of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the French author. He married Harriet Graham, the daughter of Daniel Graham, apothecary to George II and III. She appears as a young girl in Hogarth's painting *The Graham Children* in the National Gallery, London. They had six children - 2 sons, Sydenham born in Albury and Thomas Robert born in Westcott - and 4 daughters: Henrietta, Charlotte, Elizabeth Maria and Anne Catherine.

His son Thomas Robert Malthus (1766 – 1834) went to Jesus College, Cambridge where he studied political economics for an MA which he achieved in 1791 and was elected a Fellow two years later. In 1798 he published a controversial pamphlet on the 'Principal of Population' which received much public criticism, mainly from the editor of *The Scotsman* newspaper, John Ramsey McCulloch who accused him of criticising fellow economists. In this pamphlet he

asserted that "there was a propensity to utilize abundance (of harvests) for population growth rather than for maintaining a higher standard of living". He published six editions of it between 1798 and 1826 updating his material and responding to his critics, but his idea was never accepted.





A vibrant garden scene featuring a variety of plants in terracotta pots. In the foreground, there are purple lavender stalks and white daisies. Behind them, a stone wall serves as a backdrop for more potted plants, including pink roses and purple flowers. The background is filled with dense green foliage and more flowers.

# PIPP BROOK OPEN GARDENS

Seven varied private  
gardens will be open  
to view at the north end  
of Westcott Street on:  
**9<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**2 - 4.30pm**

Make a note in your diaries  
more details next month....

All proceeds will go to the  
Westcott Peace Garden,  
St Johns, Chapel Lane



## WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



He took holy orders in 1791 aged 25 and became a Curate at Okewood Chapel in Surrey but continued to publish his pamphlets on socio/economic subjects. In 1805 he became Professor of History & Economics at the East India College, Hertfordshire where officers of the East India Company were trained in administration and languages for service in India and the Far East. He was known by the students as 'Pop' from his infamous pamphlet. The college closed in 1858 and later became the school Haileybury & United Service College as nowadays.

In March 1804 Thomas Robert married Harriet Eckershall. They had two daughters, Emily and Lucille and a son named Henry who became

Vicar of Effingham in 1835 moving to Donington in 1837. In December 1834 Thomas Malthus died in Bath aged 67 of heart problems while staying with his in-laws.

The Rookery was sold in 1768 to Richard Fuller (1713-1782) whose family and heirs continued to live there for 126 years until 1894.

There is no lecture meeting in April but there will be the Good Friday Walk as usual.

Arrangements will be sent out by email to all members. In May the talk will be given by Sue James on "A Hidden Treasure, Tales from a Surrey Girls' School, 1884 - 1954."

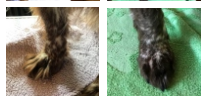
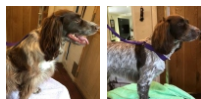
**Roger Christian**

**MIND  
FEST  
2019**

April 1st 2019  
5pm - 9pm

Dorking Minds  
and Ashcombe  
school present...

**A festival of ideas,  
talk and information  
around mental health  
and wellbeing.**



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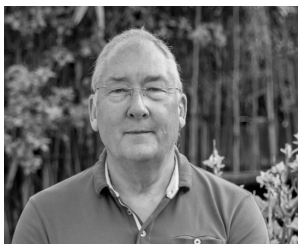


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## **WVA Open Meeting**

In the coming year there are some very important matters, which the WVA wants to involve all residents in. These are best dealt with at the WVA Open meetings – they are your opportunity to shape the future of the village.

Around 50 people attended the last Open Meeting on 21st February – which was perhaps less than we were hoping for, given the importance of the subjects on the agenda. You can read more on this in the minutes of the Open Meeting which you will find on the WVA website. The next Open Meeting is planned for **Thursday 9th May and will again be in Holy Trinity Church starting at 7.30pm** – so please put this in the diary now and make every effort to attend and have your say.



## **WVA Draft New Constitution**

There were some very useful comments and suggestions on the draft Constitution, which were taken into consideration in the final version of the document.

Consultation ended on 16th March



and the document is now in the final stages of approval by the WVA committee before being sent to the Charity Commission for their comments and approval. Once we have this, we will be arranging an Extraordinary General Meeting to put the new constitution to a village vote.

## **Your Village Association needs you**


There are still two vacant seats on the WVA committee and interestingly we have had a number of people approach us about joining the committee – more in fact than there are places to fill. Rather than make appointments, as we did in the past, we would like to hold elections to the committee so that existing members and prospective new appointments all subject themselves to election.

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The time to do this would be at the EGM and thereafter every year at the Annual General Meetings in October. If you are interested in joining the committee then please send me a note explaining who you are, your credentials for sitting on the committee, and the reasons why you feel you can make a difference – a couple of paragraphs is all that is needed, not a full-blown “supporting statement”!

## The Hut Development

There has been a lot happening behind the scenes and it would be fair to say that the scheme, first proposed in early October 2017, has been complicated, fraught with difficulties and changed building configurations. As a result it has taken a long time, despite the strenuous best efforts of the Hut Trustees.

The latest iteration of the plan is to provide on the current Hut site:

- A stand-alone doctor's surgery and dispensing chemist facility of 278sqm servicing up to 4,000 patients – a stipulation by NHS England to futureproof the facility – which includes the current Riverbank Surgery patient list.
- A community centre of 160sqm providing a range of community-

based facilities including café, support services like CAB, Help the Aged etc, a Youth Club, and community internet facilities for those who do not have these at home, as well as an event hire venue.

- Six residential units each with two dedicated parking spaces.
- 16 further parking spaces for the use of the Surgery and Community centre



Once detailed plan drawings have been finalised then the Hut Trustees will hold an AGM (open to every resident in the village) to give the authority to proceed, apply for all the necessary approvals including seeking planning permission, and then move hopefully to start works by the Autumn.

At the AGM the Hut Trustees will be looking for new members to join the committee and help develop the services at the new community

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centre. The Hut Trustees also plan to organise a village residents letter of support, signed by as many people as possible, to send to NHS England thanking them for backing our vital village service by retaining a doctors surgery and dispensing pharmacy in the village.

## A Village Community

On a much lighter note, my wife and I spent a wonderful 2 hours on the (very wet) afternoon of 3rd March at a Folk Concert in Holy Trinity Church. Entertaining us were Jonas and Harbottle a professional folk group – half of whom were home grown here in Westcott – who had just completed a three-week tour in Germany and were about to embark on one in the UK. (Google “Jonas and Harbottle” to listen to their music).

Those readers who attend Holy Trinity will know that the interior of the church has been transformed by some impressive new lighting which creates a whole different atmosphere and which complimented perfectly the sounds of the folk group that day. It was a perfect example of how to create new opportunities for our community facilities and help draw the community together, as well as a plug for the talent that exists or has grown up in Westcott. If you haven't yet seen the new lighting,

or attended an event in the church, either religious or secular, then we recommend you go!

## WestFest - Sunday 7th July 2019

Finally, we are delighted to have given over a dedicated page on the new WVA website to promote our annual village fair, WestFest. You will find all the information you need in the run-up to the event, which this year is being held on Sunday 7th July. Definitely a date for your diaries!



Please continue to comment on or make suggestions to improve the WVA website so that we ensure it is THE place to go for village news, information, and events.

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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## Tom Guilder's Retirement

A retirement book will be available at the Riverbank Surgery until 26th April for people to write messages and reminiscences for Tom who will be retiring after more than 30 years as our village GP.

Also, you will find collection boxes placed in....

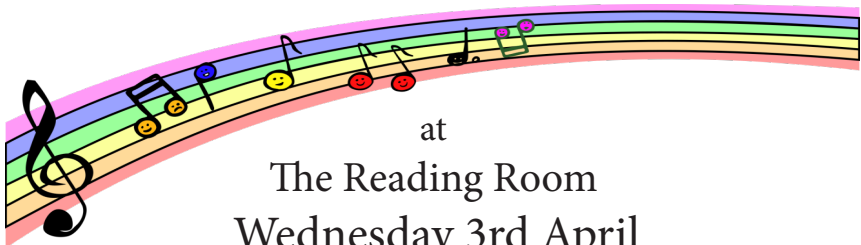
- The Surgery waiting room
  - The Bakery
- The Newsagents

.....to make donations towards a leaving present for Tom which is being organised by The Village Association

*Thank You!*

## WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

We are delighted once again to welcome  
the Surrey Hills School Choir



at

The Reading Room  
Wednesday 3rd April  
10.30 am - 12.00 mid-day

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# THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



## Rural Summit

Mole Valley District Council recently held our first ever Rural Summit and it was a chance for businesses and rural Mole Valley's community organisations to debate current challenges and opportunities.



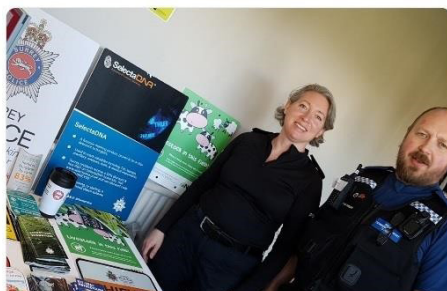
The event was hosted by newsreader Nicholas Owen and brought together businesses and organisations looking at how to (amongst other things):

- Make it easier to attract visitors to the area
- Help rural communities to build their own affordable homes
- Make rural pubs more profitable and sustainable
- Take care of the rural environment
- Speed up broadband access in our local area
- Help reduce rural crime

It was a chance for each organisation to share the successes they have identified and to learn from each other about what works and what doesn't. Many of the groups took to social media to get the message across:

Mole Valley Police @MoleValleyBeat · 1h

@MoleValleyBeat rural team are at #molevalleyruralsummit #ruralcommunity #molevalley



If you want to find out more about the council's Rural Community Strategy, all the details you might want to know are available at [www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=45578](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=45578)

## Helping You To Access Priority Services

The District Council is encouraging residents to be prepared for emergencies. In partnership with the County Council's Be Prepared campaign ([surreycc.gov.uk/surreyprepared](http://surreycc.gov.uk/surreyprepared)) information is available on how to:

- Keep informed
- Keep a record of all your key information
- Prepare your home for an emergency

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February, May and October

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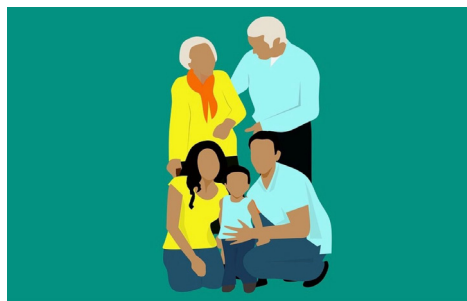
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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

- Keep watercourses clear
- Prepare your business for an emergency

The free "In Case of Emergency document" enables you to have all the key information for your household in one place. Remember to keep it somewhere easily accessible - both on your smartphone and a hard copy.



Could the Priority Services Register help you?  
#SurreyPrepared

Alongside all this, family members or carers, on behalf of older, disabled or vulnerable people, can sign up for the Priority Services Register.

This provides a direct way for people to communicate with utility suppliers in the event of an emergency – making sure vulnerable people don't go cold or without food for example.

### **Dog Attacks and Sheep Worriying**

I'm conscious that last month I included an item on dog-on-dog attacks where advice may be sought

from Mole Valley's animal warden on 01306 885001, or by emailing [env.health@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@molevalley.gov.uk).

At the end of February (a long time after the last article was written), we had reports of an attack by a dog on a sheep. Thankfully, the sheep in question was ok after some care and attention.

In Westcott, we are very fortunate to have as few dog-on-sheep incidents as we do and the vast majority of dog owners are very good with regards to this. Farmers both elsewhere in Mole Valley and further afield have suffered a lot with many sheep killed by rogue dogs. Let's please try to keep it that way.



More concerning is the amount of dog mess around and the number of dogs not on a lead. I have been asked by a couple of different residents to ask dog owners to redouble efforts to be responsible for their own and their dog's action. It really is appreciated.



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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Keeping your dog on a lead, even when there aren't sheep or other animals in the field in question gets them used to it and means that if farm animals are present on another day the dog isn't expecting something different. Finally, of course, in addition to the stress and distress caused to the animals, usually the farmer will expect the dog owner to pay for any vet bills etc that might be incurred.

### Begging

Dorking neighbourhood policing team have noticed an increase in begging in the town. There is evidence to suggest that many of those begging in the town may not be homeless or in need and the begging could link to criminal gang related activity. Surrey police advise us to give to a homeless charity if you do wish to help support those who are genuinely homeless. Please call 101 if you witness any begging in Dorking or Leatherhead or our villages.

### Helping the Homeless

If you are interested in volunteering to help the homeless locally, a new local charity recently formed in memory of former Logmore Lane resident Caroline Kalman, Carrie's Home Foundation, is looking for some help. On a voluntary basis they are looking for a Treasurer and a Fundraising Co-ordinator. I have

details of both positions, if you are interested please let me know.

You can find out more about Carrie's by visiting [carrieshomesfoundation.org](http://carrieshomesfoundation.org)

### Antisocial Behaviour

Our friends at Surrey Police have also asked to help them in their fight against anti-social behaviour.



If anti-social behaviour is affecting your quality of life, or making you fear for your safety or the safety of others, there are people who can help. Visit [www.surrey.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/sf/asb-community-trigger/](http://www.surrey.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/sf/asb-community-trigger/)

There have also been a few reports of eggs being thrown at cars elsewhere in Mole Valley. If this happens to you when you are out and about, please do call 101 and let the police team know.

### Clarion Voice

If you are a resident of the Clarion Housing Association (formerly Mole Valley Housing Association / Circle

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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Housing Association), then they are giving you the opportunity to tell them exactly what you think of their services.



Clarion Voice is your chance to share your views on what matters most to you. You can talk with fellow residents across the country and directly with Clarion themselves. You can sign up at [myclarionvoice.com](http://myclarionvoice.com) and as an incentive you will be entered into a monthly prize draw for a chance to win a £50 Love2Shop gift voucher.

### Respecting The Crossing

I've been asked, once again, to remind Westcott residents to slow down when driving through and around the village. We know that if we stick to speed limits than the cars behind us must too.



The opening up of the vista around the church may be giving the perception to some visiting drivers that the road is wider and straighter than it really is

and may be encouraging folks not to slow down.

I'm told by one resident that they counted eleven vehicles go through the pedestrian crossing before they were able to cross at the village green.

### Mystery Trees

I had very few correct guesses for last month's tree which was at the northern end of Bailey Road. Perhaps it was the autumnal style that confused.

This month's offering wasn't far away but hopefully might have gone through a transformation by the time you read this (that's as much of a clue as I'm giving you!)





## The Prince of Wales

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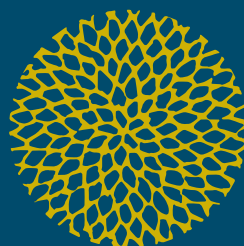
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Roger Christian has retired after serving for a trustee of the Reading Room for over 15 years, much of it as Chairman. I would like to thank him for all the energy, effort and expertise that he brought to this much-loved Village asset and guiding it on a secure path of good care, maintenance and well-being.

There is 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 April and May for Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons/evenings for party and fund-raising events.

The Reading Room recently welcomed another new activity to the Village - Martial Arts - on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. RichingsCKD is a martial art that is a fun and exciting way to keep fit, improve flexibility, co-ordination, balance and concentration in a friendly safe environment. Primarily based around Choi Kwang Do, the techniques developed use the natural bio-mechanics of the body and are suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Cost: fees are £50 per month with access to all training times at weekends; PAYGO is £5 per class; family and bulk savings available on request. Do contact Alan Richings 2nd Degree Black Belt on 07711 954466 or via email: richingsckd@gmail.com; FaceBook and Instagram: RichingsCKD

More information from the Reading Room website  
[www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk](http://www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk) or by phone on 07967 286636.

**Alan Reif, Chairman**

### **Brockham Choral Society**

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

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](http://www.brockhamchoral.org/tickets)

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# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS C of E PRIMARY

This is another very busy term. We have a number of trips planned for the children, including visits to Wisley for KS1 and the Junior Citizen event for Year 6. Preparations are being made for our popular Mothers and Grandmothers activity afternoon and we will be celebrating Easter Pause Day with a number of related activities and church services.

## Choir Performance at the O2 Arena

On Tuesday 5th February, Surrey Hills All Saints choir joined with over 8000 other school children at the O2 to perform in The Young Voices concert. The choir performed a number of popular songs, including tracks from The Greatest Showman, Moana and The Jungle Book. The children even got to sing with Tony Hadley, performing 'Gold'. Miss Lucas was incredibly proud of every member of the choir, who behaved impeccably and sang their hearts out.



'It was very loud and the lights kept changing colours. We all had a brilliant time.' (Sam, Hedgehogs)

'It was really, really big at the O2 and really, really fun.' (Sophie and Florence, Rabbits)

'When we were singing up there, in front of the huge audience, it felt amazing.' (Daisy, Badgers)

## Year 3 and 4 Skateboarding Festival

On Wednesday 13th February, ten



children from Year 3/4 attended a skateboarding workshop at Oakfield School in Leatherhead. In a fun morning of

activity they learnt lots of skateboard skills and some great tricks! They're looking forward to practicing these skills in their spare time.



## Sportshall Athletics

The Surrey Hills Sportshall Athletics team have been training hard at lunchtimes and after school, for the Dorking Schools Sportshall Athletics Competition that took place at The Ashcombe School on Thursday 14th February.



## **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)

Tel: 01372 375123 Email [j.andersonwood@gmail.com](mailto:j.andersonwood@gmail.com)

## **\* 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.**

Thirty children, a girls' and a boys' team, from Year 5 and 6 competed against the eight Dorking schools, in six track and six field events. The girls' team finished 1st, the boys' team 3rd, and we were just beaten by four points to St Martin's for overall winners position, coming a very close 2nd. Well done to everyone who took part.



## Marathon Appeal

I'm John, I live in Westhumble and work in IT. I'm running in the London Marathon and my target is to raise £3000 for the Brigitte Trust in Dorking - a Queen's Award winning charity that has been operating for over 30 years.

When someone is facing a life-threatening illness like cancer, and carers are at full stretch, it is sometimes hard to cope with the routine of hospital treatment and home visits from physiotherapists, district nurses and carers – sometimes different people each time. This is where a Brigitte Trust volunteer can help. A regular visit from the same volunteer on a fixed day and time gives a family or patient on their own some stability back in their lives.

Volunteers are there to listen and support plus provide other practical help like shopping trips and transport, but more than anything the chance to share the feelings and fears that serious illness brings. Volunteers can also offer up to three months of bereavement support to a family member if it is requested. The Trust is NHS funded by less than a third and covers the whole of Surrey. The money I raise will cover the cost of reaching out to more people who desperately need support and care at a critical time of their lives whilst keeping the service free of charge to all who need it.

Thank you for reading, getting involved and sponsoring - your support is both gratefully received and appreciated.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/bt2019>

**John Judge**

## Make The Teddy Bear's Picnic your headline activity for the May Bank Holiday

Before you can say "smash, bang, wallop" it will be 6th May and the annual Teddy Bear's picnic will be opening for its 38th consecutive year. What a cracking good day this is for the whole family down at the stream at Abinger Hammer with plenty of activities and food to keep energetic kids and maybe less feisty grandparents all entertained.



The Teddy Bears Picnic is a charity event run by Surrey Hills All Saints School and Peaslake School and is the most important of all our annual events bringing in much needed funds for the health and well-being of the children in our community schools. Parents from both schools have already been beavering away in preparation for putting on a great event.

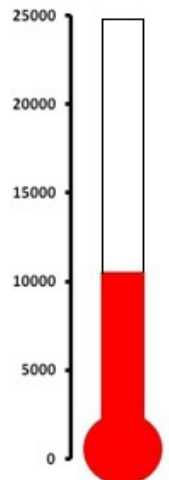
We'll have plenty of teddy related activities and competitions and traditional English fair stalls such as a coconut shy, tombola and jolly jam jars. However, just to keep you on your toes there will be nerf guns, sumo wrestling and the kids' all-time favourite, bouncy castles plus much more which you can discover when you go down to Abinger Hammer for the day.

Running up to the event and on the day look out for our raffle ticket promoters who will be selling tickets for some smashing prizes for both adults and kids. The prize winners will be drawn after the event.

Summer is just around the corner so shake out that picnic blanket and come and tuck into some of our delicious BBQ food, pizza and pimmis. Top it off with a fine piece of cake and a lovely hot cuppa at what promises to be the best tea tent ever.

If you run a business and would like to participate in any advertising opportunities in our event programme, on our Teddy Bears Picnic Abinger Hammer FaceBook page or at the event please get in touch with F@SH (the Surrey Hills School PTA) at [fash@surreyhills.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:fash@surreyhills.surrey.sch.uk).

F@SH is raising money for an all-weather running track at the Westcott site. At March 2019 F@SH is delighted to say that we have now reached £10,600 of the £25,000 target.



Co-Chair Vere Perry

## LEITH HILL PLACE

Leith Hill Place opened on 29th March, just in time for Mothering Sunday, and we are now getting ready for some more family fun for Easter, as well as other springtime activities.

On **Monday 08 April from 11am to 1pm**, come and create a beautiful Easter wreath from hay, straw and fresh seasonal flowers. The workshop will be run by talented local florist Vickie Edwards from the Surrey Hills florist.



All materials are provided and you are welcome to bring along your choice of Easter decorations to make the wreath more personal to you. A cream tea is included. Please bring a pair of scissors/secateurs and wear

warm, comfortable clothing. £30pp  
Booking is essential on 0344 249 1895. Please note that the workshop is not suitable for those with allergies to hay or straw.

Have you ever wondered how our bakers manage to make such delicious scones? Book on to a workshop and learn the secrets for yourself. The first of our very popular scone-making workshops for this season will be on **Tuesday 09 April from 10am to 12.30pm**.

During the workshop you will get the chance to experiment with different ingredients, enjoy a sample of your first batch of scones and take the rest home. The tutor will explain the kitchen science behind the perfect scone and give you tips to ensure success when baking at home. No experience necessary. £20pp  
Booking essential on 0344 249 1895. Please bring along a container for about 8 scones. Wheat flour and dairy will be used.

On **Wednesday 10 April from 9.30am to 12.30pm and Wednesday 17 April from 9.30am to 12.30pm**, bring your child to a creative painting workshop with artist Karen Pearson. Children between the ages of 10 and 16 will be encouraged to experiment with various media and implements such as sticks, brushes and cards while



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## LEITH HILL PLACE (cont.)

gaining inspiration from Leith Hill Place and its surroundings.

By the end of the workshop they will have created a masterpiece to take home. No experience necessary. £25 per child per event. All children must be accompanied by an adult; wearing old clothes and an apron is advised. In fine weather the workshop will take place outside so please bring sun protection if necessary. Booking is directly with the artist on 07909 963144 or email [info@karenpearsonart.com](mailto:info@karenpearsonart.com).

On **Wednesdays 10 April, 8 May, 5 June and 3 July from 6pm to 7.30pm**, come to free singing evenings to learn harmonies and group singing with Morrigan folk singers. During each session you'll learn different songs, including works collected by composer Ralph Vaughan Williams.

At the end of the series of workshops you will have the chance to perform in a concert at the house if you would like to. Children over 12 are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Free event but booking is essential on 0344 249 1895

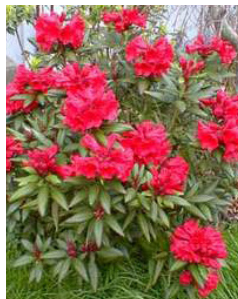
From **Friday 19 April to Monday 22 April 11am to 4.30pm**, Easter at Leith Hill Place offers the Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt. Pick up a garden themed trail from the house and

hunt for clues around the grounds to win a chocolate prize. Children can also join in with simple Easter crafts. Booking is not required. £3 per trail. Normal admission applies for non-members.

**On Tuesday 30 April, 7 May, 21 May and 28 May from 10am to 12.30**, join artist Jane Allison to explore art in the garden. Students will be introduced to various techniques using watercolour and pastel to paint the gardens and landscape around Leith Hill Place, including the Rhododendron Wood.

W e a t h e r permitting the class will take place outside. £80 for all four sessions. Booking is essential, directly with the artist on 07790

476394 or email [janecareyallison@gmail.com](mailto:janecareyallison@gmail.com). Some artists' materials will be required, as well as warm clothes depending on the weather.



All these activities can also be booked online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place/whats-on](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place/whats-on). If you have any queries, please ring 01306 711685.

**Anna Trenter**

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# REFLECTIONS FROM STUART RYLAND

## Turning 50



Later this month on St George's Day I will reach my 9th half century, the others being made with bat in hand. As I head towards the midway point to

receiving a telegram from the Queen (will probably be a King by then) and as a lover of lists, I've been looking back and coming up with a few Top 5's. Maybe you would like to join me in thinking about your own Top 5's and emailing them to me at [stuart.ryland@phonecoop.coop](mailto:stuart.ryland@phonecoop.coop).

For example, the **Top 5 films** that I've seen are Dead Poet's Society, Shawshank Redemption, Dr. No, (as due to its success came the rest of the Bond series which I am hopelessly addicted to watching) Patch Adams, and Love Actually.

**Top 5 sporting memories:** Palace beating Liverpool 4-3 in the 1990 FA Cup Semi Final (I was there), England regaining the Ashes at the Oval in 2005, (I wasn't there unfortunately) England beating the West Indies in 2 days at Headingley in 2000 (I was there for both days...incredible stuff), Andy Murray's first Wimbledon title

and Jonny Wilkinson's Drop Goal when we beat the Aussies in the 2003 Rugby World Cup final.

**Top 5 places I have visited:** Great Barrier Reef (scuba diving), Whitecliff



Bay on the Isle of Wight, Yellowstone Park, Rome and skiing in Cervinia in the Alps on the Italian/Swiss border.

**Top 5 fiction books:** The Firm by John Grisham, The Confession by John Grisham, Turning 30 by Mike Gayle, Man and Boy by Tony Parsons, One Day by David Nicholls.

**Top 5 pop songs:** Your Song by Elton John (which was played on the radio the morning after my daughter was born), Sunshine in my Window by Gabrielle (played at our Wedding during signing of the registers), Soul Limbo by Booker T and the MG's (the BBC cricket theme tune – also played at my Wedding as we walked down the aisle after the service), The Only One I Know by The Charlatans (a 90s Indie Classic) and Car Wash by Rose Royce (70s Disco Anthem).



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## REFLECTIONS FROM STUART RYLAND (cont.)

**Top 5 Sitcoms:** Blackadder, Vicar of Dibley, Gavin and Stacey, Only Fools and Horses, Fawlty Towers.

All of the above have given me great pleasure down the years and make me wonder what I will add to the list over the (hopefully) next 50. Then of course there is the Bucket List of things to do before I meet my maker: Abseil down The Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth or the Broadgate Tower in London, watch a Test Match in Jamaica, travel to Paris on the

Eurostar, write a book about youth work, and see England win the football World Cup. Or Palace win the FA Cup (would settle for either). At time of writing the latter is a possibility. By the time you are reading this of course, Watford may have spoilt things.



Life has had its fair share of ups and downs as is the case for all and with life being uncertain, we really have no idea what is round the corner. I was fortunate enough to be brought

up in a loving Christian family and attended the many children's and youth groups at Emmanuel Church in South Croydon from Crèche through to Youth Club, which I also went on to help lead in 1993-4. This gave me many lifelong friends and great experiences when I was growing up, weekends away at Halls Green near Sevenoaks (including the low ropes course in the mud) being a particular highlight.

Mainly though, what I am most grateful for was that Emmanuel gave me an excellent grounding in the Christian faith, which has enabled me to walk through those highs and lows knowing that I am loved, valued and held by a loving God. Without my faith I have no idea how I would have dealt with the tougher times. Illness of self or a loved one, bereavement and work stress being the major low points in the journey. But these situations have enabled me to develop resilience and a stronger faith which can testify to a God who is real and who is a rock in times of trouble. We just have to reach out to Him and place everything in His Hands.

Neil has taken my favourite musical decade as his subject for his latest poem on the following page. Thanks Neil.

**Stuart Ryland**

## LOVE THE 70s - A POEM

---

*Mick and Bianca, Glastonbury, T Rex,  
Rocket man, giant boots, multi coloured specs,  
Bay City Rollers, Tartan Army,  
Glam rock and punk, fans going barmy,  
Thank you for the music, Abbatastic,  
Blondie, Heart of Glass, Pans People, fantastic,  
Spiders from Mars, Aladdin Sane,  
Bowie, The Eagles, Life in the Fast Lane,  
Saturday Night Fever, Disco and Star Wars,  
Bee Gees, Grease and packed dance floors,  
Flying Pigs, power stations and Queen,  
Sid and Johnny Rotten, snarling and mean,  
Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, Ozzy biting a bat,  
Kraftwerk, Steeleye Span, All Around my Hat,  
Led Zeppelin, The Boss, groupies rolled in jelly,  
Come on Feel the Noise, Hotel rooms, throwing out the telly.*



Neil Rowe

## VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

---

Those of you who recall the old style parish magazine will remember there used to be a section for things people wanted to sell or giveaway in the village. Well I think it's time we resurrected this but expanded the scope too. So anybody with things to sell or giveaway / looking for local expertise or home helps etc can post free to the village noticeboard. The only condition is that you must be Westcott based, and there is a 25 word limit. I will not accept anything that looks like a business advert, and the editor's decision on inclusion is final.

Please send any items for the noticeboard to [editor@westcottmag.com](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com) by the 8th of the month before you want it to be included.

A beautiful sunny day boded well for our trip to Canterbury. We met our guides at Christ Church Gate where we divided into small groups of seven for the tour of the cathedral. The first point of interest was in the magnificent medieval glass of the Great West Window with Adam delving after his banishment. The glass was all stored in the crypt during the war and was magnificently preserved.



Next the Great Cloister with a beautiful fan vaulted ceiling around the peaceful and quiet green space, followed by the Chapter House with a magnificent ceiling of Irish Bog Oak.

Down into St Gabriel's Chapel in the Crypt containing the oldest Christian murals in the country. The Chapel was walled in to provide support for the tower above, but the wall was demolished in 1950 to reveal these beautiful 12thC paintings in a remarkable state of preservation.

Then to the magnificent Gothic Quire. Its French architect, William of Sens, fell from scaffolding when inspecting the blue central roof boss. Health

and Safety were not so rigorous in the twelfth century, but it was finished by his young assistant who was known as William the Englishman.

Thomas Becket's tomb was destroyed on the orders of King Henry VIII in 1538 as 'he had been a traitor to his king and defied his honour'. The site of the tomb is marked by a candle in the Trinity Chapel.

After lunch we reassembled in the Stonemasons' Workshop where we were shown around by the highly skilled and enthusiastic craftsmen, then with high viz jackets and hard hats we ascended the outside of the building in a scary wire cage up to the height of the fan vaulting of the main nave. What a view over the Quire and the beautiful eastern windows.



To sum up the day, we ended up with an idea of what is being done to restore this beautiful building with such enthusiasm. We all had a most interesting and enjoyable day, thanks to the U3A's Days Out Committee.

**Text Sue Olive**  
**Photos Robert Edmondson**





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# DORKING MUSEUM

## Gallery Talk and book signing,

### April 4th:

After last year's talks on the fight for the vote for women, local historian and author Kathy Atherton takes the story on. Her Gallery Talk will be "A place of planning and plotting – What Dorking's suffragettes did next". By 1919 Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence was marching on Parliament once again, accompanied by a guard of ex-servicemen. Her husband was fighting Winston Churchill for a seat in Parliament, assisted by the model for Kind Hearts and Coronets' Agatha D'Ascoyne. This talk will examine their campaigning lives – from atrocities in Ireland, to Gandhi in Peaslake and the Emperor Haile Selassie in the Isle of Wight.



Fred Pethick-Lawrence with Gandhi

Kathy will also be signing copies of her new book, "Suffragette Planners and Plotters: The Pankhurst/Pethick-

Lawrence Story", which sheds new light on the campaign for votes for women and the part played by the Pethick-Lawrences, "an extraordinary



couple with an extraordinary political and personal story". Talk and book-signing at the Museum on April 4th, 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. Admission, £5,

booked on the website or entry on the door, includes a glass of Prosecco.

## Easter Bunnies Rock!

### Family Activity, April 11th-13th and 18th-20th:

We have a fantastic display of minerals at the Museum right now. Come and wonder at their beauty and find out how they have helped scientists to better understand our world. Hunt for hidden bunnies to find out more about the minerals AND challenge your family to find the tasty final item in our Easter Hunt with a twist.

## Guided Walks and Tours:

Our walks team offers a variety of guided walks taking in the different aspects of the town's history and heritage - see website for details. All walks are open for group bookings by appointment, and there are regular Open Days for individual bookings. In

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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

April, these include a Hidden Dorking Historic walk, Sunday 7th April, 11am from the Museum, or book early for our Family walk on Saturday May 4th, 3pm or Deepdene Trail walk on Sunday May 5th, 2pm.

The normal monthly Open Day for tours of the famous South Street Caves has been moved to May 4th, designated "Surrey Day" – but book early as these sell out quickly. Tours start 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm. See website for details and advance booking of walks and cave tours, and for other dates.

### **Lest We Forget:**

#### **First World War Digital Memories Project, May 4th:**

Do you have any items related to the First World War? Would you like to share and preserve these objects and stories for future generations?



Lest We Forget is a nationwide initiative, led by the University of Oxford and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which aims to recognise

and record those stories, objects, and memories from the First World War that survive – not in museum collections or history books – but in the hearts and homes of the very people and families affected. Start looking out your diaries, letters, photographs, memoirs, objects or stories about your family's experience in the war to bring to the Museum on Surrey Day, Saturday 4th May, 12pm-4pm to be recorded and added to the freely-available, online archive.

Subject experts from the Western Front Association will be on hand to help identify objects and shed light on family stories. If you have a large collection, please mail us at [admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk) and we can arrange to see you on a day of your choice.

### **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, amassed in the 19th century by George Cubitt, the first Lord Ashcombe, and displayed at his Denbies home. The collection has not been on regular display, so the exhibition provides a rare opportunity to view selected examples of the quartz crystals he collected from around the UK and overseas. The exhibition tells how Lord Ashcombe's collection and those of other gentlemen collectors played an important role in an age of amateur



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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

science, in the development of the study of geology and palaeontology and the scientific understanding of the earth's history.

### **Souvenir of a memorable occasion:**

Dorking turned out in force – and attracted many visitors from far and wide – for last October's Rob Walker Centenary Festival. A parade of historic racing cars associated with Rob Walker,

who based his private racing team in Dorking, did several laps of the town centre. The parade included some of the Formula One cars that brought the team nine Grand Prix victories in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as other classic cars associated with the great man.

The Cockerel Press has published a superb souvenir of the occasion, a 32-page booklet by Tom Loftus containing full colour professional photos of the participating vehicles on the streets of Dorking. The book is available from the Museum and online.



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

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2nd at 6.15, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
2nd 9th 16th 23rd at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, £19-24, 07415 815784  
4th at 7.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
6th at 12.00, Music at Midday at St Martin's church, free, 01306 884229  
6th at 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin's church, £15, 01306 882728  
7th at 5.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18, 01306 881717  
8th at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
11th 12th 13th at 7.30, Leith Hill Musical Festival at Dorking Halls, £12-24, 01403 240093  
30th at 6.45, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717

The big event in the Dorking music calendar for April is the annual Leith Hill Musical Festival, a great feast of choral music that extends over three days. Choirs take part in competitions in the morning and then join together in the evening to give a concert under the baton of the festival conductor Jonathan Willcocks. Anyone is welcome to drop in during the morning competitions and hear some beautiful singing. The main works in the evening concerts are Hummel's Mass in B flat and the Requiem by William Godfree (11th), Travelling Tales by Alan Bullard and Carl Orff's Carmina Burana (12th), and Bach's Magnificat and Haydn's Creation (13th). There is an excellent mixture of music, both familiar and new, and all the concerts will be well worth hearing. Anyone who has never experienced the sheer excitement of hearing Carmina Burana performed live should certainly come to that one!

Continuing with the choral theme, Brockham choral society will sing Dvorak's Stabat mater. This beautiful piece was written by Dvorak after the death of three of his children. It offers an inspiring, though at times painful, expression of the composer's faith and hope. The choir, directed by Patrick Barrett, will be joined by four soloists and the British Sinfonietta orchestra.

There are several screenings at the Dorking Halls this month. From the Royal Opera House you can see Verdi's highly dramatic Force of Destiny (2nd and 8th) and Gounod's Faust (30th). Wagner's Valkyrie is broadcast from the New York Metropolitan Opera on 4th. And ballet lovers can see The Golden Age from the Bolshoi in Moscow on 7th.

Opera lovers should also note that the wonderful Grange Park Opera is performing at the delightful country-house setting of West Horsley Place in June and July. You can hear Hansel and Gretel, Porgy and Bess, and Don Carlo in



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## MUSIC IN DORKING (cont.)

the magnificent new Theatre in the Woods, and also indulge in a champagne picnic during the long interval! Full details are on the website.

This month's lunchtime concert at St Martin's church will be given by Lance Mok, a pianist from the Royal College of Music. Watermill Jazz has these performers in April: Henry Lowther's Still Waters quintet (2nd), Zoe Rahman trio (9th), Nat Steele quintet (16th) and Pete Long's Jazz Planets (23rd). Please note there is no concert on 30th as the venue is unavailable.



Ian Codd

### Pot and Paint - Surrey Artists Open Studios

Terry O'Brien and Jacky Cowdrey will be participating in Surrey Artists Open Studios in June. On show will be a range of of thrown and hand-built pots with light effects and organic themes, including his signature 'tree pots' by Terry O'Brien; Jacky Cowdrey will be exhibiting paintings and drawings on a wide range of subjects, including dancers and landscapes in a variety of media ([www.jackycowdreyart.co.uk](http://www.jackycowdreyart.co.uk)). All items will be for sale.



The Open Studios, at Corner Cottage, Abinger Lane, Abinger Common, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6JH will be open: Each Saturday & Sunday day from June 1st to June 16th 11.00am-5.00pm, plus Thursday June 6th & 13th 11.00am-5.00pm and evening 6.00pm-8.30pm.

Teas, coffees and cakes will be served, proceeds in aid of The Royal Marsden Hospital.

For further details see Pot and Paint in the Surrey Artists Open Studios brochure or look up at <https://surreyopenstudios.org.uk/>

Contact: [jackycowdrey@hotmail.com](mailto:jackycowdrey@hotmail.com) for details





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# DORKING BOWLING CLUB

## The gentle way to keeping fit and happy

I don't know about you but the January avalanche of urgent advice from the media to get extra fit, lose even more weight, buy that new book on 101 Delicious Kale Recipes, can make you feel quite ill. The cold weather of the new year is bad enough without the stern puritanism that shouts out at you from almost every magazine or newspaper.

I'm no spring chicken and my jogging and extreme cycling days are long gone (clapped out knees) but I like to feel that I'm still a fairly active person. I'm certainly not ready for Scrabble afternoons or ticking off the birds on the garden feeder on the next RSPB Big Bird Watch. I do love playing Scrabble and bird watching, but not all the time – I need to get up and get going.

And so that brings me to lawn bowls. The perfect compromise and one that ought to be near the top of GPs' lists for "social prescribing". Although the game has been around for centuries, the NHS has now cottoned on to its benefits: gentle exercise, fun, company, brainwork, laughter, cunning, rediscovering your get-up-and-go, fresh air, sunshine (hopefully). And those

benefits go on: confidence building (improving your game); a sense of purpose (turning up regularly for matches); allaying anxiety levels (being amongst others who help you) and so on.

If you feel like getting in touch with your inner sportsperson in an unscary way or feel that now is the time to hang up the bicycle clips or jogging shoes (you can see how my terminology is woefully out of date), and slide effortlessly into the World of Lawn Bowls, then Dorking Bowling Club would be delighted to see you at its Open Day:

When: Saturday 27th April from 10.30am

Where: Drill Hall Road, Dorking RH4 1GL

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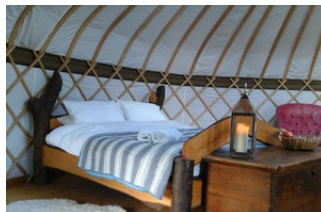
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Surrey Hills Yurts welcomes cyclists, walkers, corporate events, hen parties, couples, friends and families looking for sustainable accommodation in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Surrey Hills Yurts is set on a 15 acre working farm where they breed Sussex Cows, Gloucester Old Spot pigs and chickens. Free Range meat is also available to purchase from the farm.



### Corporate Days at Surrey Hills Yurts



Surrey Hills Yurts offers corporate events with difference, perfect for team building days and easily accessible. Unlike any corporate event venue you might find in London, Surrey Hills Yurts is off-grid and the perfect place for the team to relax and bond. They provide a bespoke experience, whether it's foraging & wild cocktails, willow weaving, mountain biking, outdoor cooking experiences, heavy horse & cart rides, fire walking, archery & axe throwing, art and yoga classes, local cheese & wine tasting, Surrey Hills Yurts crafts the experience around you.

### Rural Crafts

Surrey Hills Yurts runs various workshops throughout the year including hedgerow foraging, wild cocktails, mushroom foraging, archery and axe throwing, outdoor cooking on fire experiences including Indian food, Supper Clubs, local cheese and local wine tasting. They also cater for private parties.

## St John's Hall

The St John's Hall team invites all to an 'open summer' to help us continue to celebrate Surrey Hills' 60 yrs as an AONB. We would love to hear of any community groups, initiatives or individuals who would value using the space on a complimentary basis during the summer holiday period. Booking still required. Please contact Tony Astor or Judith Packer for more info or share your ideas





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## Spring Walks Festival 24th to 28th April

It is time to 'Get Inspired' about walking, there will be a warm welcome from Mole Valley Ramblers who are organising five days of especially led walks for anyone who wants to have fun, meet new people, exercise for healthy living and enjoy the lovely Surrey countryside. This is a great opportunity to do what you have always wanted to do, but never got around to doing, just turn up and take part.

Whether you're a regular walker or an outdoor enthusiast, there will be the opportunity to select from 16 walks to suit your taste: ranging between 3 to 12 miles, including shorter walks in conjunction with Mole Valley District Council – Walking for Health. For those with youngsters who would like to try walking with a group for the first time – there will be a family style walk day with a selection of walks for all ages, led by experienced Mole Valley walk leaders.

All-day walks will include Pub and/or Picnic lunch breaks, and hopefully most walks finishing near places serving beverages, cream teas, etc. to enable individuals to socialise and pass on their views of the walk. For those that would like an adventure, there will be a late evening walk in the 'Nightlight' with views of the Lower Weald and South Downs.

It's well known that walking is great for your health and well-being and it's the best way to view the countryside and make new friends. That's why Mole Valley Ramblers are launching a walking festival to help everyone discover more of what their local rambling group has to offer.

The Walks Festival aims to get more people walking and helping to build happier,





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healthier communities across the County. This is a great opportunity to introduce new people to the joys and benefits of walking, encourage new members to join the Ramblers and raise awareness of its current campaigns.

Go to the Mole Valley Ramblers website to find out more about each walk, with the contact details of the leader, who you can telephone, if you have any questions. Each walk description will give the start and finish location, type of walk, length and level of difficulty, plus any other specific information.

For full details of the walks go to <http://www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk/festival>



## Christian Aid Week: 'All mums should live'

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.



### Stand with mums

This Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May, Holy Trinity is organising a house to house collection for Christian Aid in Westcott. Would you consider being a volunteer collector for Christian Aid this year? Will you help by making a donation in the red envelope that will be delivered to your home during Christian Aid week in May?

Contact Helen Chappell  
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## All change on the Downs

We have now stopped winter work to allow birds to get on with nesting; they certainly have been getting busy, setting up territories and pairing up.

The main focus for April is getting the hillside ready for cattle coming onto site in May. My volunteers and I will be busy checking the miles and miles of fencing we have and making sure all the gates work properly.



We will have a lot of work to do as there will be a number of fallen trees from storms and gates to repair as a result of illegal off-roaders. It's a hard task, in places it's so steep it's difficult to even walk up let alone carry a chainsaw and fencing equipment – my volunteers are tough!

Once cattle are on we will be busy with presentation work, with new notice boards to install, potholes to

repair and steps to check and mend – a Ranger's role is varied!

April also sees the start of wildlife surveys such as butterfly transects. Each week, for 26 weeks starting in April, volunteers and staff walk a set route counting what butterflies they see. It is a really important task as the data gathered enables us to see what effect our management has on the hill. Butterflies are an indicator species – if they are doing well, then it means other insects and plants are doing well too.

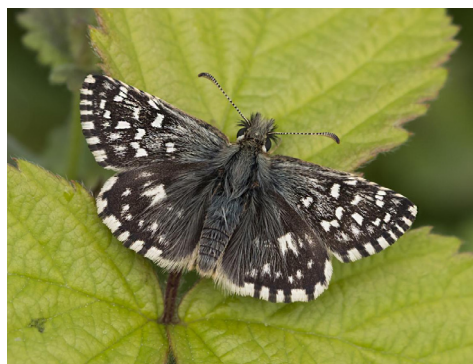
## Butterflies

Butterflies emerging are mainly the ones that over-winter as adults, typically Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral. The Red Admiral was in the past a migratory butterfly not surviving the winter but a recent increase in numbers indicates that they are now over-wintering in the south of England.

One tough little butterfly that emerges early is the Grizzled Skipper, though small and moth like it is indeed an attractive little butterfly. Unlike the butterflies that over-winter as adults, this butterfly over-winters as a chrysalis. It's best seen on a hot spring day, when males basking in the sun wait for rival males to



enter their domain. The aerial dog fights that follow are remarkable for their ferocity! The males circle and dive and soar, each trying to outmanoeuvre the other and few butterflies can match these spectacular aeronautics.



Grizzled Skipper

### Dancing Adders

In April, the male adder actively seeks out a potential mate. This mate searching activity can be frantic, with male adders patrolling at speed, searching for pheromone trails. When they find a female the male flicks his tongue along her back and sides, both snakes vibrate their tails and the male moves along her back and follows her movements. After mating the male will sometimes remain coiled around the female.

Males are very territorial and if another male tries to move in there may be a 'dance of the adders'.

Obviously, they're not really dancing; it's more a duel, a way of establishing who's superior without being injured. The snakes never attempt to bite each other.

The two snakes raise half their bodies off the ground in an attempt to push their rival down. This may be done belly to belly or back to back or they may become entwined together. The pair topple to the ground and then rise again several times. They continue wrestling coiled around each other and moving from side to side. Should you be lucky enough to witness this graceful spectacle, it is an event you will never forget. I've only ever seen it once in the 10 years I've been at Landbarn but it was indeed unforgettable.

The winner of the fight is almost always the larger and stronger snake. Sometimes the winning male will stay with the female for several days and mate with her several times.

### Dogs and Adders

Dogs are occasionally bitten by adders; although the bites are painful they are very rarely fatal.

Adders are quite timid in nature and will not usually bite unless they feel threatened or cornered. They prefer to move on if given the chance to

## RANGER @ LANDBARN FARM (cont.)



do so. Due to their inquisitive nature, dogs can sometimes disturb adders whilst exploring undergrowth making them susceptible to being bitten.



Adders

inflammation around the muzzle, where bites usually occur. Vets in our area where adders occur, are generally experienced in treating pets that have received bites.

### Events

The National Trust Surrey Hills group of properties run lots of different events throughout the year. Please have a look at our website for more information. There are also some downloadable walks.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/surrey-hills>

Our advice is to keep to paths, have your dog under close control, avoid scrub edges and long grass between March and October.

If your pet is bitten by an adder (or you suspect that it may have been), you should keep your dog calm and seek prompt veterinary attention. Most adder bites result in pain and

You can also follow us on Facebook where I like to post about what wildlife I've seen and what my volunteers have been doing. Search for National Trust – Surrey Hills.

**Amanda,**  
**National Trust Area Ranger**  
**[amanda.barnicoat@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:amanda.barnicoat@nationaltrust.org.uk)**  
**Office: 01306 887485**

## Ornithology

I have placed an article which I hope will be of interest in St Johns church; further articles will follow if this one is of interest. It was sent to me by a nephew who is a world authority on ornithology and travels all over the world in the pursuit of his hobby.

**Patrick Mathews**



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**For information on advertising please contact [advertising@westcottmag.com](mailto:advertising@westcottmag.com)**

#### **RIVERBANK SURGERY - Dr. Tom F. Guilder**

Westcott Street, Westcott, Surrey RH4 3PA **Tel: 875577**

		<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
OPENING	Monday	8:00 - 12:30	1:30 - 6:30
TIMES:	Tuesday	8:00 - 12:30	1:30 - 6:30
	Wednesday	8:00 - 12:30	Closed
	Thursday	8:00 - 12:30	1:30 - 6:30
	Friday	8:00 - 12:30	1:30 - 6:30

The surgery phones are diverted from 12.30-2.30. There is a mobile number which can be used if there is a medical emergency that cannot wait during the 2 hours . 07966 749372.

In the event of any future power failures, should you need to contact the surgery in an emergency during normal surgery hours, then please call this mobile number 07966 749372.



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