

# Westcott Village Magazine

November 2019



Advent @ Holy Trinity.....	9
Advertisements Index .....	76-77
Bible Book Club.....	8
Cancer Research Quiz Night.....	66
Coffee Morning .....	10
Dance Fit.....	15
District Councillor Writes .....	29-35
Dorking Museum .....	53-57
Eco Challenge Westcott.....	50-51
Floodlighting .....	8
Florence Nightingale Hospice.....	19
From Alan Jonas.....	4-5
Holy Trinity Services .....	6
Host UK Christmas Appeal.....	25
Leith Hill Place.....	71
Mole Valley Ramblers.....	75
Music in Dorking .....	59-61
North Weald Art Group Exhibition....	14
Ode to the Wise - A Poem.....	45
Parish Registers.....	7
Puzzle.....	73
QRMW.....	69
Ranger @ Landbarn Farm.....	63-67
Reading Room.....	13
Restoration of the Pound.....	47-49
Riverbank Surgery.....	77
RNLI Coffee Morning.....	57
St John's Chapel Cafe.....	39
Surrey Hills All Saints Primary.....	41-43
The Past is a Foreign Country.....	27
U3A.....	37
Webber and Wine Evening.....	22
Westcott Baby Meals .....	3
Westcott Bridge Club at 25.....	17
Westcott Clubs Info Request.....	39
Westcott Craft Fair.....	12 & 40
Westcott History Group.....	15
Westcott Village Association .....	21-23
Westcott Village Car Service.....	79
Westcott Women's Group.....	11
What's On @ Holy Trinity.....	7
Who's Who in Westcott .....	78-79

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 November 2019**

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## FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to November, it's really starting to feel more wintry now, and I can hear my pyjamas calling me from late afternoon when it's cold and wet. But don't give in - there are lots of things to be out doing this month.

The Westcott Christmas Craft fair is on 23rd so get down to the Reading Room for all your presents and a piece of cake. There is an art exhibition at Denbies (see p14) and as someone who grew up by the sea, I would recommend the RNLI coffee morning on 8th at Dorking Rugby Club.

I have had several responses to the

responsible dog walking article last month, adding in a request for dog walkers to take heed of someone asking them to put their dog on a lead if it is coming towards them on a footpath or the cycle path. Given that the dogs should be on a lead anyway there, it is not helpful just to shout 'oh he/she is fine, they won't hurt you!' which happens a lot.

As the dog owner you have no idea of the feelings of the other person towards dogs and you also cannot possibly know exactly what your dog will do in any given situation. Please listen to the other person and put your dog on a lead to avoid unnecessary problems.

**Cath**  
**editor@westcottmag.com**

### Baby Meals

The amazing "Westcott Baby Meals" cooks have delivered again! Emily and Chris wanted to pass on their heartfelt thanks to the team for providing meals in the week following Emily's return from hospital. Baby Cecilia, pictured here with big sister Mabel was born on Tuesday 8th October weighing in at a generous 9lb 14oz! Congratulations to Emily and Chris.



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**



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



### THE BOOK OF REVELATION, THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND THE END TIMES

*"Wrath is poured out on the land and ugly and painful sores break out on the people...every living thing in the sea died...the rivers and springs of water became blood...the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat."*

These visions from the Book of Revelation (Chapter 16), sound eerily like the worst predictions of what may happen to our earth this century if Climate Change is not abated. Revelation sees these outcomes as being the result of idolatry – refusing to put God first. Revelation goes on to picture the result of putting other gods first; if Mammon - wealth, money - is the god of your culture, it will eventually collapse. John, the writer of Revelation sees that all are intoxicated in such a society, unable to do the things needed for stability: *"all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."* 18.3.

When collapse comes, it can all seem to happen so fast; *"In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin."* 18.17

I do not know if these prophecies of collapse and ruination are especially relevant today. Are these the end times? There has been speculation about the end of the world throughout history, sometimes speculation based on a misuse of Revelation. However there is something different today about the threat of Climate Change and general ecological ruination. Unlike previous prophecies of 'the end of the world', the predictions of what Climate Change is likely to do are not based on speculation but rather science that has existed for at least 40 years.

#### WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

...IT IS CLEAR,

#### WE HAVE TO CHANGE.

Science that tells us we are heading towards cataclysmic disaster. Furthermore, we have a rapacious economic system that we all seem locked into, apparently unable to escape.

So, what are we to do? What are we to do as we accelerate towards climate and ecological disaster? Firstly, it is clear, we have to change. We have to free ourselves from "the maddening wine of the adulteries" of our economic system. We have to





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

change individually, and we have to work for change politically. We have, in the words of our Archbishop Justin Welby, to "Dethrone Mammon". We have to reconfigure our economic system so that all enjoy the essential benefits, without the excesses that are simply unsustainable. Individually we have to do what our Eco Group tells us - fly less (Jenny and I have decided not to fly at all) and, more generally we have to consume less and we have to be engaged politically to bring the changes that only governments can.

We will be enabled to do all these things by focussing on the second area of what we need to do – be a people who know we cannot serve God and Mammon, a people who know that life can only be found in

Christ. We have to go deeper into Christ who, as Revelation tells us, is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Lamb on whom all depends, the Lamb worshipped by "a great multitude that no-one could count". We have to live in His glory, as citizens of His heaven, empowered by His Spirit, confident that even in great trauma, even in the "End Times", God is ever present and, in Christ, His Kingdom will come.



HOLY TRINITY WESTCOTT

# DO YOU HAVE AN EYE FOR DESIGN?

We're looking for a communications manager to support the Church in Westcott

### WHAT IT INVOLVES:

- Design, format and manage the Church website
- Produce occasional publicity and invitations as well as regular service sheets and posters
- Review and develop social media – e.g. Instagram, Facebook
- 6 hours a week

### INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

For more information please contact the church wardens at:

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



## SERVICES AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

We run a regular programme of worship services and other activities for young and old.



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.

	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM	4:00PM
3rd Nov	<b>The Lord's Prayer: Lead us not into temptation</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Celebrate Breakfast Service with Baptism</b> 9:30am breakfast; 10:15am all age service; 11:30am Communion	<b>Evensong</b>
10th Nov	<b>Remembrance</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b> No music	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
17th Nov	<b>Children &amp; Families church vision: TLG - Transforming Lives for Good</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing</b>
24th Nov	<b>Children in Poverty: The Work of the Children's Society</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Evensong</b>



### SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

**Back to 4pm, Nov-March**

*A lovely reflective way to end the weekend*

### MID WEEK SERVICES

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



# WHAT'S ON AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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## November

**Sun 10th** Remembrance Sunday

**Mon 11th 7-9pm** Village Eco Café St John's

**Tues 12th 7:45-9:30pm** Bible Book Club

**Tues 19th 7:45-9:30pm** Encounter

Refreshments followed by contemporary worship & prayer at St John's

**Mon 25th 7:30-10pm** Safeguarding Training for PCC, Children's Leaders & Helpers

**Tues 26th 7:45-9:30pm** Bible Book Club

## Carol Service Choir

If you would like to join the Carol Service Choir, please come to both rehearsals at Holy Trinity.

15th December 4pm

22nd December 3:30pm

Contact Madeleine Brooks:  
[sm.brooks1@btinternet.com](mailto:sm.brooks1@btinternet.com).



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

10th November 2019



Come and worship because...  
**We Will Remember Them**



## Harbottle & Jonas



Wednesday 27th November  
8.30 pm

Dorking Folk Club

<https://dorkingfolkclub.org.uk/>

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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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### Service of Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child

29th September

Sebastian Thumwood

### Death:

2nd August

Anthony Geoffrey Smith (96)

18th August

Angela Jarvis (76)







# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS 2019

*All are invited to Christmas at the Church in Westcott*



**SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 9:30 -11:15AM**

★ *Breakfast & Christingle Service* ★

**Holy Trinity Church**

**Breakfast together at 9:30am**

**Christingle Service at 10:15am**

Begin the season of Advent with this beautiful and joyful service, giving to the work of the Children's Society and receiving a Christingle to take home

**MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 5:30PM;6:15PM**

*Residential Home Carols*

**Westcott House 5:30pm**

**Bramley House 6:15pm**

Share some Christmas cheer with older members of our village community

**SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER 5PM**

*Carol Service*

**Holy Trinity Church 5pm**

Join together in singing carols old and new as we celebrate the events of the first Christmas  
(please note change to morning worship to one service at 9:30am)

**CHRISTMAS EVE, 24TH DECEMBER**

★ *Crib Service* ★

**Holy Trinity Church 3pm**

Join in the story of the first Nativity  
(come dressed in character if you wish!)

*Midnight Communion*

**Holy Trinity Church 11pm**

A beautiful way to welcome Christmas Day

**CHRISTMAS DAY, 25TH DECEMBER**

*Book of Common Prayer Communion*

**Holy Trinity Church 8:30am**

★ *All Age Christmas Service* ★

**Holy Trinity Church 10:15am**

Celebrate Jesus' birth together!

*Short Holy Communion*

**Holy Trinity Church c.11:15am**

**SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER 9:30AM**

*Communion & Carols*

**Holy Trinity Church 9:30am**

(only church service today)

★ *Great for families and children* ★

# HOPE

FOR ALL

FOREVER



# **WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING**

**Come and join us at  
The Reading Room on  
Wednesday 6th November**



**10.30 – 12.00 midday**



**Bring and Buy Table Top Sale  
and Raffle**



As the guardians of the future for generations to come, there cannot be too much emphasis on the need to save the environment, to help the sustainability of the nature that is all around us, and Simon Ferrar is one of those people who has set such a legacy in motion. The founder of Clandon Wood, he came to tell us its history, with some stories of different burials and even weddings there; one member said how much she had enjoyed a service there, and another said it was wonderful the occasion she attended a burial there.

31 acres of wildflower meadow, 2 lakes, wetland and young woodland, plus a huge variety of butterflies, 363 different species of moths, many other insects, birds, rodents and other animals in abundance is not usually associated with a burial ground; but at Clandon Wood this is the case. 7 years ago it was an area of derelict farmland, marsh and even some fly tipping, now it wins awards for its

outstanding success.

Simon accepted a donation for the Brigitte Trust, and hopes that visitors will go along and enjoy this nature reserve as a place of peace and quiet, where children and dogs are welcome to roam freely, attending a service is not compulsory for a visit!

Our November 6th meeting will be held as usual in St John's Chapel, and as always is likely to be warm and with possibly a few sparks still hanging around!

Further events planned are a musical evening on December 4th with a festive flair, and on January 25th, oh my! It's Burn's Night! So brush the moths off your kilts and pump up the Bagpipes. Tickets will be in the region of £25pp to include traditional haggis (optional meal available) and a disco with Scottish flavour. Please contact me as below for booking.

Do come along and join us. No need to be a member, or even female! All are welcome, our annual membership is £15 or ad hoc visits are £4. Tea and coffees are supplied or a glass or two of wine, for which, this latter, we ask a £1 donation.

For further details contact Jacki Moss, 01306 881481 or email [johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com](mailto:johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com)

**Jacki Moss**



# WESTCOTT CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



This year the Westcott Christmas Craft Fair is even more of a community event. From 10-3pm on Saturday 23rd November Westfest are bringing together local crafters and their handmade offerings along with traditional Christmas stalls from village groups in the Reading Room.



Surrey Hills School, Holy Trinity and Westcott Cricket Club will be providing the bottle tombola, eco stall and jolly jam jars whilst local crafters will be bringing tables laden with homemade jam, hand painted stones, ceramics, Christmas decorations, jewellery and flavoured oils.



Come and browse for your Christmas presents and enjoy some Christmas music, not forgetting the tea and cake.



# READING ROOM



The Reading Room has a wide range of activities throughout the week so we thought that it would be helpful to publish a full list of What's On in November. 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**

Regular users of Westcott Reading Room						
Activity	Day	From	To	Organiser	Phone	Email
Art Class: Friday	Friday	10:00	13:00	Pat Williams		patwilliamsartist@gmail.com
	Monday	10:00	13:00	Chris Forsey		Christopher.Forsey@btinternet.com
Art History Group	Wednesday	10:30	12:30	Brenda Culliford	01483 808924	bwhitaker@uwclub.net
Bridge club	Monday	19:30	22:30	Brian Lynch	01306 880792	blynch@ntlworld.com
				Nicky Pearce	01483 283815	nickpear149@gmail.com
Brownies	Friday	17:30	19:00	Nicola Brett	07500 737375	westcott.brownies@outlook.com
Coffee Morning	Wednesday	10:00	12:00	Jean Mickle	01306 881208	FamilyMickle@googlemail.com
Dorking Aikido Club	Wednesday	17:00	21:00	Nicola Endicott	01306 640389	NicolaEndicott@yahoo.com
Exercise for health (U3A)	Tuesday	10:00	13:00	Elizabeth Crook		G.Crook09@btinternet.com
Gong Bath	Saturday	12:15	14:45	Beata Dzwigol	077316 73759	info@ifeelgoodtherapy.com
	All Night Relaxing Gong Bath: next one 20/21 December 2019					
Martial Arts	Tuesday	20:00	21:00	Alan Richings	07711 954466	alan.richings@gmail.com
	Saturday	16:00	18:00	Alan Richings		
	Sunday	08:00	12:00	Alan Richings		
Pilates (U3A)	Thursday	10:00	11:00	Tina Westwood	0770 243 1224	Tomkins.tina@googlemail.com
Polite Paws Dog Training	Tuesday	12:00	16:00	Angela Doyle	07834 167376	angela@politepawsdogtraining.co.uk
	Thursday	18:00	22:00	Angela Doyle		
	Saturday	08:00	12:00	Angela Doyle		
Surrey Academy of Ballet & Performing Arts	Tuesday	16:00	20:00	Rosemary Walters		rosemary.a.walters@gmail.com
	Thursday	13:00	16:00	Sonia Hubbard	01306 899104	sonia@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk



# *The North Weald Art Group Annual Exhibition*

*12th - 24th November*

*10-5pm (4pm finish on the last day)*



*Denbies Wine Estate Art Gallery,  
London Rd, Dorking, RH5 6AA.*

*The North Weald Art Group whose aims are to foster the work of local artists, is holding its annual exhibition of around 120 framed paintings, prints and mixed media at the Denbies Art Gallery.*



*Most works in the exhibition are for sale as well as a large selection of unframed works and cards. The locally based society includes both amateur and professional artists.*



*John Yardley the renowned watercolour artist and the group's president is one of the exhibitors.*

# WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP



There was no meeting in October to report and the next meeting will be on Tuesday 12th November with a Talk by Robin Daly entitled ' Broadmoor & Lonesome Valley' in the Reading Room at the usual time of 8 pm.

During the past month some of the committee met with Jane le Cluse, Archivist of Dorking Museum, to discuss archiving of our WLHG material. She kindly offered to take the WLHG collection of School Log Books and deposit them at the Surrey History Centre in Woking, where they should be. There were 14 books dating from 23/1/1874 to 31/7/2001 for Abinger Common School and for Westcott which had two schools – Infant and Junior – dating from 2/10/1882 to 24/3/1988 and from 11/7/1863 to 4/4/1941 respectively, relating the activities of the school during those periods.

The Dorking Museum hoped to have an increased capacity in the near future and would be happy to take over any material that did not duplicate their own. We are busy cataloguing in detail the maps held in the Reading Room with a view to storing them in Dorking Museum eventually as the plans for a new Community centre may not cater for the WLHG storage in the future.

**Roger Christian**

## **Dance Fit**

### **Stretch and Relax to classical music**

Monday's 2-3pm in the chapel at St. John's  
Lengthen and Strengthen for Function Fitness and learn breathing  
and meditation techniques to cope with stress.

Pay as you go £5 , all proceeds to church funds.  
Just turn up and give it a try.

**Please contact Cath Glover**  
**07712595458 or cathglover2@gmail.com**



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48 High Street  
Dorking, Surrey RH4 1AY

01306 640517  
info@thedorkingbutchery.co.uk  
**@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.

# WESTCOTT BRIDGE CLUB AT 25



Did you know that we have a friendly duplicate bridge club in Westcott?

Perhaps you are wondering if playing at a club is for you. Why not come along? We meet every Monday evening in the Reading Room. If you don't have a partner let us know and we'll try to find you one.

This season, the club is celebrating 25 years since its formation back in 1995. It began with a group of friends led by Nora Hillson playing once a fortnight in an annexe of Garden Cottage in Stones Lane, Westcott.

As the club became more popular, more space was needed and so in 2005 the club moved to the Reading Rooms and began a weekly meeting of its members. Today, the club exceeds 70 members, mostly from Westcott, Dorking and Westhumble.

We play an average of 21 hands each Monday evening, beginning at 19:30 sharp and finishing around 22:15 including a refreshment break of 15 minutes with a wide selection of beverages and some say, the best biscuits of any bridge club in the district!

We like to describe ourselves as competitive but friendly and invite

new members to come along for three sessions before committing to membership.

Naturally, we play duplicate bridge each evening although at Christmas we let our hair down and play a rotating Chicago, which given the free-flowing alcohol and canapes is probably sensible! During the Christmas session we organise a raffle and give the proceeds to a local charity.

We end the season in July with a prize-giving evening where there are cups to be won and some token prizes for those pairs who during the season managed to both bid and make a slam which no other pair achieved on a given hand.

Annual Membership is £10 a season (September-July) with a joining fee of a further £15. Table money is £3 a session per person.

Should you wish to come along – ideally with a partner – (although we have a system which helps members make arrangements to play together if their regular partner is unavailable) then please email our membership secretary Nicky Pearce ([nickpear149@gmail.com](mailto:nickpear149@gmail.com)) or phone the tournament Director Brian Lynch on 07768686896.

**Brian Lynch**  
**Tournament Director**





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**The Old Nurseries, Kiln Lane, Brockham, RH3 7LX**

## **Bramley House Residential Home**

**Westcott Street, Westcott, RH4 3NX**



**Tel: 01306 740003**

**Email: [info@bramleyhouse.net](mailto:info@bramleyhouse.net)**

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity recognises Christmas can be a very emotional occasion and hosts two Tree of Light events which are open to all, regardless of religion or spirituality, and whether or not your loved one was cared for at the Hospice or elsewhere.

"The Tree of Light events are designed to give people a space where a part of the season is set aside to remember and reflect on loved ones," says Ann Kenny, the Bereavement Support Team Lead at the Hospice. "Christmas can often be a time of conflicting emotions, or it can be so busy that those who are grieving can't find a time to process feelings of sadness which may come to the fore at this time of year."

This year's Aylesbury Tree of Light event has moved indoors for 2019 and will take place at Aylesbury High School on Walton Road on Sunday 1st December at 5pm. It will also have a change of format, with more secular readings and music, rather than carols and prayers.

"We are aware that many of our families are not Christians and may prefer something less religious but still thoughtful and meditative," says Vicky James, Events and Community Manager. "There are lots of other poems and readings which bring comfort, and beautiful music apart

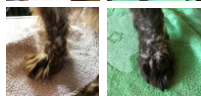
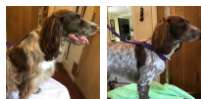
from carols, so we are trying something new to see what people think."

The Buckingham Tree of Light event will take place on Saturday 14th December from 5pm at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Castle Street and will retain its more traditional feel, with prayers, readings and carols, so the Charity hopes that there is something for everyone in the two events.

As well as attending the Tree of Light events, you can also sponsor a light in memory of loved ones and write a dedication which will appear in the Books of Honour which can be viewed at the Hospice in December and early January, and at the two Tree of Light events.

To sponsor a light in memory of someone go to [fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light](http://fnhospice.org.uk/tree-of-light) or call the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Fundraising Team on 01296 429 975.





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For more information visit [www.denbies.co.uk](http://www.denbies.co.uk)



**Denbies Wine Estate Ltd.** London Road, Dorking Surrey RH5 6AA

T: 01306 876616 [www.denbies.co.uk](http://www.denbies.co.uk)

Email: [events@denbiesvineyard.co.uk](mailto:events@denbiesvineyard.co.uk)

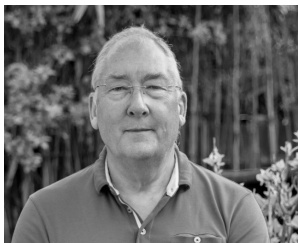
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## **Your Village Association – New Constitution**

At the AGM in October we were able to share with everyone the new Constitution approved by the Charity Commission.

There had been some disagreement on the wording of Clause 3 (the Association's Objectives) which we were able to resolve by assuring the Charity Commission that the Association would conduct its business exclusively for the public benefit and for charitable purposes in accordance with the laws of England and Wales.

The wording of Clause 3 has therefore been changed from that published after the consultation in the autumn of last year. Nothing other than Clause 3 has been changed. A copy of the new Constitution can be found on the WVA website. Our Charity Number is now 1185622

## **Membership and Subscriptions**

We have worked hard this year on increasing our membership and encouraging as many of you as possible to pay your household subscription by standing order with your bank. Unfortunately, the new Charity will require a new bank account and we will be writing to members asking them to change the bank details on their Standing Orders for the coming year. We apologise profusely for having to do this, and will be sending out a separate letter explaining what needs to be done.

## **Indigo Spice**

We await the outcome of the planning application (MO/2019/1452) for two dwellings and two parking spaces on the site of the former restaurant.

## **Church Bank**

The church bank has now been landscaped and sown with grasses



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and wild flowers; hopefully by next spring the bank will be transformed! The Wotton Estate has also agreed to plant a mixed species hedge along the length of the parking area to try to screen cars parked here from the road. We would remind residents however, that this is private land and that parking is only permitted when the church is being used on a Sunday or for other services/meetings.

## **Box Hill to Leith Hill Off-Road Cycling Route**

Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Surrey Hills AONB, has put in a bid for the development of a 15k off-road multi-user route between Box Hill and Leith Hill via Denbies Wine Estate, Dorking, Westcott, and Coast Hill Farm at Wotton.



The proposed plans will include a Cycle Hub with café, toilets and

showers, a cycle repair shop, and parking for up to 70 vehicles all contained within existing buildings on the existing site of the Business Park.

If the bid and development plans are approved this will undoubtedly provide parking for visitors to the area who have in the past been minded to park their cars for long periods of the day in the village.

If you are a resident who is, or has been, impacted by visitor parking outside your house, I am sure that you will want to follow developments closely. When the Planning Application for the Coast Hill Farm Cycle Hub is made, we will publish the details on the WVA web-site.

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

Thank you to all of you who attended our Open Meetings and the AGM which are an important way for the WVA to stay connected to what you as residents want for your village.

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to be known 'invasion literature'; an influential precursor of science fiction.

The author was a Captain in the Royal Engineers who was concerned about the state of Britain's armed forces. He used fiction as a device to promulgate his views after letters and journalism on the issue had failed to impact on the public consciousness.

In the story, the enemy advanced towards London whilst a disorganised army struggled to mount an effective defence. Westcott does not get a specific mention but much of the action takes place in the vicinity, including the confrontation close by Box Hill that gives the book its title.

The story caught the public imagination and was translated into a score of languages. There was no immediate military response but in the 1880 forts were erected on Box Hill and Ranmore.

**Terry Wooden**





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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



### Walking for Health

These pages are often an opportunity for a quick plug for the District Council's Walking for Health events. Part of the Mole Valley package of services that help local residents and business owners to improve and maintain our personal wellbeing.



the most of our wonderful local environment. One of the big benefits of the Walking for Health scheme is that you are accompanied by other likeminded folks.

I have recently learnt a personal lesson about this – walking in the hills on my own, I lost my footing and somehow managed to chip a bone in my ankle and one in my foot. I then had to get myself back to

This month though, there is a need to stress how to safely make



somewhere I could get picked up.

One of the up sides of the hills where we live is the ability to use them to improve our own mental health, to get a bit of solitary space to think and unwind. If you are going out on your own, take a phone and tell someone roughly where you are going and when you expect to be back. If you can find someone to go with you then that's probably the best option.

Your councillor has learnt his lesson.

### Preparing for EU Exit

Mole Valley District Council have asked all councillors to explain to residents how best to prepare for EU Exit. Obviously, just like preparing for heavy winter weather or a heatwave, what follows is precautionary and nothing more than contingency planning.

By the time you read this, you'll know whether the UK is leaving on 31st October, with or without a deal. Either way, at the October Full Council meeting, officials were keen to stress the level of preparation that has gone in towards keeping local services running whatever the eventuality. Mole Valley is working in partnership with Surrey County Council, the NHS and other local authorities so that the response is completely joined up.

# Open Mornings

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

There is information available online that will be useful for Westcott residents who are EU Citizens (or from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland), to enable them to continue living in the UK after the UK leaves the European Union.

It is important that everyone who needs to, applies for EU Settled Status, as their application will give them the immigration status they need to continue to work, live and study in the UK. Applicants will then be eligible for public services such as healthcare and schools, public funds and pensions and be able to apply for British Citizenship (if eligible).



It is free to apply and can be completed online at EU settlement scheme. If residents are unable to go online themselves they can call 03333 445 675 for assistance with their application.

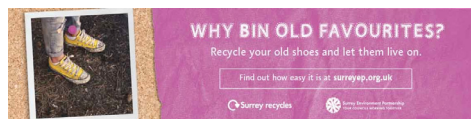
For more information on this and other Brexit related queries see [www.gov.uk/get-ready-brexit-check](http://www.gov.uk/get-ready-brexit-check). Safe and Well Visits can help to keep you, your loved ones and those you care for, safe from fire in the home. These free visits combine safety checks and advice to help people live safer, more

independent lives.

### Local Recycling

Although run by Surrey County Council rather than Mole Valley, readers will be pleased to know that the County have removed the threat to the future of the Dorking Community Recycling Centre and what's more the centre will return to taking the wider range of items it used to cater for and the fee changes will be reversed.

Recycling locally is much more than the kerbside collections for paper, glass, plastics, food, electricals and textiles and the continued running of the Community Recycling Centre. If Mole Valley is to be better than Carbon Neutral, our recycling needs to include much more of a focus on stripping items back to their component parts and seeing what can be safely put to other uses in our homes.



Old chairs and tables can make great bookcases, with a little imagination. A bed in our house has recently become a storage system to tidy up our garage. This sort of recycling is “no-lose” – there is no downside to giving it a go.



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

The upside is that it gives a chance to practice new or old skills and for new generations to have a go at domestic engineering. Next time something breaks or reaches the end of its life in your home, why not see if you can recycle it into something useful?

### **Rough Sleeping**

Mole Valley District Council provides support and advice for people who are sleeping rough, or whose home is very insecure or temporary, so that they can find a suitable place to live.

If you are sleeping rough and have nowhere to stay, our Housing Options team will be able to advise you on finding somewhere to sleep for the night; assisting you to look for longer term accommodation and connecting you with local support services, if needed.



Please call the Council on 01306 885001 and ask to speak to a Housing Options Officer. If you need to come and see someone, they can make an

appointment for you. If you know of someone sleeping rough, get in touch so that the Council team can connect them to local support and services they need. You can report sightings of rough sleepers using StreetLink [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk)

East Surrey Outreach Support Service (e.S.O.S.) provides help and support to those rough sleeping and those at risk of rough sleeping. They can offer one-to-one support to help you find a suitable place to live and assist you in connecting with other support agencies. They will also seek to reconnect people with the areas where they have a local connection.

If you think that you would benefit from working with e.S.O.S. you can be referred by any services you are already working with or contact them directly on 07436 273614 or email [esos@thamesreach.org.uk](mailto:esos@thamesreach.org.uk)

### **Countryside Respect**

Slightly, finishing up where this month started. In the last few weeks, a number of Westcott residents have contacted me to complain about the behaviour of others using our footpaths and bridleways.

Bridleways are defined as being for horse riding, but clearly there is no practical way to stop other very

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

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determined users accessing them. Across the village we occasionally see gates being removed so that others can access them.

This is really one complicated case of Paper – Scissors – Stone. Dog walkers are supposed to keep their charges on a lead but complain when their free roaming pets are frightened by cyclists. Young children on their bikes on the cycle path complain when dogs are overly interested in them.

The only conclusion seems to be that everyone using our countryside access paths should respect others doing the same. Where you see this level of respect not being shown, please do report it by calling 101, or if folks are getting aggressive and you think someone is in danger then call 999.

Respect is the first part of the Countryside Code:



Respect other people: consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors, leave gates

and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available.

Protect the natural environment: leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home.

Keep dogs under effective control.

Enjoy the outdoors: plan ahead and be prepared, follow advice and local signs.

The Code tells Countryside users to remember their actions can affect people's lives and livelihoods. Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.

Respect the needs of local people and visitors alike – for example, don't block gateways, driveways or other paths with your vehicle. When riding a bike or driving a vehicle, slow down or stop for horses, walkers and farm animals and give them plenty of room. By law, cyclists must give way to walkers and horse-riders on bridleways.

Co-operate with people at work in the countryside. For example, keep out of the way when farm animals are being gathered or moved and follow directions from the farmer.

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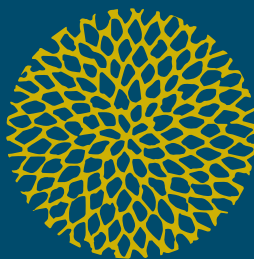
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## Lullingstone Castle

On a rather unsettled Thursday, we set off on our trip to Kent, to enjoy a full and varied day at Lullingstone. We were met at the Castle by our guide and after coffee we visited the historic church on the estate, intriguing details there, very old stained glass windows (put in by Flemish glaziers) and a wooden and marble font. There were impressive tombs and memorials of the Hart-Dyke family who still own the estate; also a modern tapestry woven locally for the millennium, with wool from their own sheep.



The Castle is really a magnificent manor house, but has a homely, family feel about it, as the Hart-Dyke family are still in residence.

We admired the beautiful dining room, the glass and the porcelain, the cosy library with comfy settees and of course, books (I would have liked time to browse in there!). Our guide told us about the portraits, and amusing anecdotes about the family, their friendship with Queen Anne (the difficulties of having her staying with them) and the part that the house

played during the war, with the RAF much involved. We were also told about the former silk-worm farm.

Then, with pride and enthusiasm from Tom Hart-Dyke, we were guided around the world in the gardens. Starting with a trio of huge old Cedar trees, we visited many countries, merging into each other, often, with trees flying flags to orientate us. We did have one short downpour in this time but fortunately we were under cover in the polytunnel gazing at the most amazing collection of cacti I have ever seen!

After an excellent lunch, we visited nearby Lullingstone Roman Villa. The first indication of this important site was some 80 years ago and it has been worked on ever since that time. I am not good with dates, but apparently, the villa was lived in from 100AD (changed and altered) until 400AD. The whole detailed ground floor plan was there, with some of the floors tessellated, and a wonderful complete mosaic. There were many artefacts to see, such as jewellery and tools, looking very similar to the ones we have today. The bones and human remains, especially of a tiny baby, I found very poignant.

Our journey home was smooth with our excellent driver. Many thanks to our organisers and planners, for a full and interesting day.

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Do you paint, craft, sing, draw or create something lovely? Do you participate in an activity we could publicise?



We are trying to get together a directory of all the clubs in the village which will feature in the magazine as a 4 page pull out section and maybe attract more people to your activity. We haven't had enough replies yet for a pull out, so those who have responded can be found in this month's magazine, but we really do need everyone!



Please email [editor@westcottmag.com](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com) with any details as we can't possibly know about them all otherwise.




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We have had an exciting start to the 2019/20 academic year. Years 5/6 have visited the Winchester Science Centre, Years 3/4 went to Brooklands Museum and all the school have participated in our first charity fundraiser of the year, Little Legs, a sponsored run for Cancer Research.

Several elections have taken place for roles within school, including Head Boy/Girl, Prefects, Sports Crew and House Captains. Congratulations to all those children who have been selected for a role.

Below are some of our highlights from 2019/20 so far:

## Years 5 and 6 Trip – Winchester Science Centre

On Wednesday 25th September we had a spectacular day out at



Winchester Science Centre, below are some quotes from the children regarding the day.  
'The planetarium was really cool



because it felt like you were actually in space.' (Zoe, Badgers)

'I found out so many new facts – it was an amazing experience.' (Kyla-May, Moles)

'I can't believe there are over 2 trillion galaxies out there, yet to explore!' (Zac, Moles)

'I never knew that the rings around Saturn were made of ice.' (Rico, Moles)

'I learnt that Uranus used to be called George!' (George, Badgers)

'The trip was fascinating and fun.' (Jess, Badgers)



## Years 3 and 4 Trip – Brooklands Museum

On Thursday 26th September, the children from Years 3 and 4 were accompanied to Brooklands Transport Museum to step back in history and look at cars, buses and airplanes through the ages. I was very impressed by the questions they asked our knowledgeable guides, which reflected their interest and curiosity.

We saw one of the first vehicles - a converted wooden cart that used to be drawn by horses, and were able to take a turn on Concorde, unfortunately grounded permanently in Brooklands. No New York for us on this visit!



Last Friday, we followed up our learning by looking at our carbon foot print as well as working in small groups to think of forms of

transport for the future. A whole host of designs, and the ideas that inspired them, are now sitting on Mrs. Ratcliff's desk waiting to be sorted and a winning design chosen. A big thank you to all our parent volunteers without whom these trips would be impossible.

## Governance

On the 1st September 2019 the IAB was dissolved and replaced by a Local Governing Committee. This is very much like a governing body in a maintained school but is actually a sub-committee of the Good Shepherd Trust. It has many of the same responsibilities for monitoring the quality of education at the school and for setting the vision and values.

Our role is strategic not operational, and we work as a team with corporate responsibility; no one is personally responsible or liable for anything. There are vacancies for foundation members on our school's LGC. The term of office for LGC foundation members is four years.

Foundation members play an important role as members of the LGC helping to ensure that all children in our school have the best opportunities to learn and achieve. The LGC has a vital role to play in



driving up standards in our school and ensuring that our Christian distinctiveness is upheld in all aspects of the school.

LGC parent members and all other members of the LGC build productive relationships with the Headteacher and senior leaders while holding them to account for school performance. They work strategically by developing the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school and ensuring sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

LGC members are expected to attend meetings, usually held from 9.30am to 11.30am, be able to visit the school during the day, at least one half day each term and undertake training

which is free. All new LGC parent members will be asked to attend induction training.

If you are interested, please contact the school office on 01306 881136, to make an appointment with Mrs Ratcliff.

### **Little Legs Sponsored Run for Cancer Research**

In spite of the rain on Friday 4th October, it was all smiles at Surrey Hills All Saints for our Little Legs for Life event. All children took to the playing field for a sponsored run to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. It was a fabulous afternoon!





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## ODE TO THE WISE - A POEM

*It's getting to that time of life,  
When changes are a happening,  
The years of fun and stress 'n' strife,  
Leave their tracks outside and in.*

*But not for me, I've set a trend,  
I'll not be going round the bend.  
No saggy bits or memory loss,  
I'll outline my mantra at no cost.*

*Eat all additives, great and small,  
With copious amounts of alcohol.  
Damsons do well when pickled in gin,  
I've found it to be just the thing.*

*Pickled walnuts, pickled eggs,  
Substitute for any veg.  
Long walks, fresh fruit and strictly, 'no fat'  
Sod that my friends, ignore all that!*

*Walk to the pub for food 'n' fun,  
Gossip loudly and when you're done,  
Wash it down with chocolate too,  
(This helps those visits to the loo.)*

*Wear all unco-ordinated clothes,  
Then sing opera walking around Waitrose.  
Heckle joggers on their runs,  
They'll soon have saggy boobs and bums.*

*Laugh at all the things you shouldn't,  
And feel sad for those who feel they couldn't.  
But most important of all, I've observed,  
Share all with friends, to be BEST preserved.*



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# RESTORATION OF THE POUND

## Village Pound Restoration

After many months of delay, I am pleased to report that work on the repair and restoration of the north wall of the village pound is now complete. In my previous article in the June magazine you may recall that the wall was in a very poor condition due to many years of neglect, and was in serious danger of total collapse. The wall had developed an alarming lean and was also bowing outwards, so it was decided that it was necessary to dismantle the wall completely and then to rebuild it. This was not as straightforward as it sounds.

The pound is part of Wotton Estate owned by Lord Evelyn, and is a grade two listed structure, dating from the late medieval period around the 16th or 17th century, although the exact date of construction is not known. Any work to the pound has to be done in strict accordance with the rules and conditions regarding any restoration of a listed historic building.

The wall was coated in a special adhesive, similar to wallpaper paste, and then each brick and stone had an individual numbered label attached to identify its



original position in the wall. They even marked the labels with arrows showing which was the top or bottom, such was the attention to detail. The wall was extensively photographed so it was possible to know where every stone went when re-construction began. As you can imagine, this was a painstaking and laborious job in itself.

Once the work began of carefully removing the material they were stored until the foundations were reached. This was when the cause of the lean was revealed – there were no foundations! The wall had been built on compacted soil and the situation was compounded by the fact that it was not tied-in to the adjacent east wall, as this was where the entrance gate was, so the north wall was unsupported. It was necessary to provide a solid foundation and when this was done work begun on reconstruction.

I was extremely privileged to be granted access to see the project develop from start to finish, and am grateful to the two craftsmen, Will and Aldis, who kept me informed as work progressed and explained to me the various stages in detail. I was impressed by the skills of these two artisans, using





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## RESTORATION OF THE POUND (cont.)

techniques and methods unchanged for centuries; (apart from a cement mixer) even the colour of the lime mortar was much debated and after experimenting with various colours and textures, the right mortar mix was agreed.

The laborious work of rebuilding the wall began using the photos to position the bricks and stones back in their original position. The whole project took 6 weeks to complete and fortunately the weather conditions were perfect. During the rebuild, the original gate bolt receiver was found, a hollow metal tube that the bolt slid into, and this was reinstated, what was fascinating was the discovery of two coins. One was a Victorian penny dated 1899 and even more exciting was a George III Britannia coin dated 1799.

I have spoken to George Chapman who is acting agent and responsible for historic buildings on the Wotton estate

about the possibility of installing a gate to the pound to deter any possible vandalism and anti-social behaviour occurring, and he has agreed to look into this. He has also had a membrane installed covering the inside to suppress any weeds and brambles from causing damage to the structure and to finally cover it with a layer of gravel.

On behalf of the village of Westcott, I would like to thank Mr Evelyn, George Chapman, Will and Aldis for their efforts in restoring a much loved feature of our village.

### Did you Know?

During WW2, The local children would collect waste paper, scrap metal and anything that could be recycled for the war effort and place it in the pound which had been given a temporary corrugated iron roof to cover it.

The Westcott road sweeper, Abe Wright, would store his handcart, broom and shovel in the pound. He kept the Westcott roads spotlessly clean, and woe betide anyone who he saw drop any litter, not that anyone did then, How I wish it was like that today.



**Jeff Davies**

**Photos by Heather Woods**

At this time of year our thoughts are beginning to turn towards the Christmas season.

Thinking about ways of reducing, reusing and recycling is particularly important as the environmental footprint of Christmas time is enormous. It has been estimated that, in the UK, we throw away 30% more rubbish during the festive season, including 227,000 miles of Christmas paper and enough card packaging to cover Big Ben nearly 260,000 times! And in 2014, we collectively wasted £64 million worth of food.



The relentless commercialisation of Christmas leads us to spend money we don't necessarily have, on gifts some people won't want, creating stress and waste.

It doesn't need to be this way, with a bit more thought and creativity we can reduce the negative aspects and increase the enjoyment! This year why not take a step back and consider what is really important about Christmas for you. Let's reclaim Christmas as a time to celebrate the things we value, in a simpler way.

At our monthly Eco Café on November 11th, we are inviting people to share and discover Christmas tips: for handmade or eco Christmas gifts; tasty recipes for leftovers; and simpler ways to celebrate. So please come along, 7-9pm, for inspiration or with your ideas – we will share them in next month's magazine too!

**Jakki Phillips**

## Eco Calendar November

**Sat 2nd** – Dorking Repair Café at the Christian Centre 10.30am-1pm

**Sun 3rd** – Dorking Artisan Market, West Street car park 11am-4pm

**Fri 8th** – 'Heading for Extinction & What to do About It', Dorking Christian Centre, 7.30pm

**Sat 23rd** – Westcott Christmas Craft Fair at the Reading Room 10am-3pm

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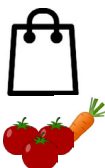
## TO USE LESS PLASTIC



Carry a reusable water bottle and coffee cup.



Keep a reusable cutlery set in your bag and car



Go shopping with reusable bags and containers. Buy loose fruit and vegetables



Re-use glass jars for storing food, rather than plastic containers



Minimise bathroom and cleaning products or make your own!



Use cloth covers or bees wax wraps, rather than cling film.

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## DORKING MUSEUM

### Half-term Family Fun – 'Welcome to Dorking!':

What if we wanted to welcome new friends to our town? How could we show off Dorking's best bits? And could we make things even better? Families are invited to come and create a fun, pop-up 'Welcome Card' that might show special places, or favourite things to do, or beautiful gardens, or some things to make Dorking even better! **Thursday 31st October, Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November, drop in 10am-3.30pm**, free with regular Museum entry, materials provided.



Our current exhibition, 'You, Me and Those Who Came Before',

presented in conjunction with art psychotherapist Sophia Cowx, explores Dorking's response to past refugee crises, from the French Huguenots in the 16th century and émigrés escaping the French Revolution in 1792, through the foreign evacuees and those fleeing London bombings in two world wars to the support offered to refugees in this decade.

Sophia offers an artistic exploration of the emergence of the poppy symbol 100 years ago as a creative response to the trauma of the First World War, and examines the poppy's connections with healing over the centuries.

In conjunction with the exhibition, there will be two community events in November, in conjunction with the Poppy Collective and Dorking Refugee Support Group:



**Saturday, 9th November, 10am-2pm, Museum courtyard: Refugees and Remembrance:** Help to create a Community Garden of Remembrance in the heart of Dorking. Led by Sophia Cowx, the installation will change and grow throughout the day as creative contributions are shared. And through the Portable Studio, experience a taste of art therapy on the frontline. Come and feel inspired, act inspired and inspire others in a creative process of poppy-making and poetry.

**Thursday, 14th November, 7pm: Playing with Words** – an evening of shared reflection, led by Sophia Cowx: questions, answers and poetry. The evening will look at creativity as a means of expressing feelings of love and loss in the aftermath of war past and present. Members of Dorking Refugee Support Group will join us to share their work and answer questions about pathways to

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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

getting involved and local people with memories of the refugees of 80 years ago will recount their experiences. Tickets £7 (members £5) through website or on the door.

**Walking in Dorking:** See the Museum website for details of our guided walks and to book for open days or group walks by appointment.

**Sunday 17th November, 2pm: a guided tour of Betchworth Castle** offers stunning views across to Box Hill and towards Brockham and enables visitors to enter what was the castle's great hall and walk down into the cellars, not normally open to the public.



**Sunday 17th November, 2pm: The Mayflower 400 Walk – Dorking in the Time of William Mullins** showcases buildings that were in existence during that time and which survive today: 16th/17th century cottages, the sites of the market hall, the communal washing

place and compulsory Sunday morning archery practice and the inns that our local travellers would have known.



**Gallery Talk and book launch, 21st November: 'The Weaver, the Shoemaker and the Mother of a Nation: The Story of Dorking's Mayflower Pilgrims'** by Kathy Atherton and Susannah Horne. The authors tell the story of the Dorking Mayflower Pilgrims of 1620 who risked everything to start a new life in the New World and give an insight into day to day life in the town they left behind. At the Museum, 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. Tickets on the door or book in advance on the website, £7 inc. a glass of Prosecco.

**Do you have local paintings you would like to exhibit?**

The Museum's curator of paintings, Sandra Wedgwood, is currently planning an art exhibition, to open in January, **'Dorking: the Town and its Landscapes from 1900 to the Present Day'**. The Museum already has many paintings and drawings of the area,

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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



from conventional views to interesting interpretations of the local townscape and landscape. Sandra wants to show as many relevant pictures as possible to document how the topography that we all know has been interpreted over this period so would be most interested to learn of any others illustrating this subject that belong to companies or individuals. If you have any pictures that you would be willing to loan to the exhibition,

please contact Sandra at [sandra.wedgwood@ntlworld.com](mailto:sandra.wedgwood@ntlworld.com) or via the Museum at [admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk) or 01306 876591.

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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## MUSIC IN DORKING



2nd at 12.00, Music at Midday at St Martin's church, free, 01306 884229  
5th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
5th 12th 19th 26th at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, 07415 815784  
9th at 5.55, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
10th at 1.00, 42nd Street screening at Dorking Halls, £16, 01306 881717  
11th at 1.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
12th at 7.30, 42nd Street screening at Dorking Halls, £16, 01306 881717  
13th at 1.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
13th-16th at 7.30, The Merry Widow at Betchworth Village Hall, 01737 844632  
18th at 7.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
23rd at 7.30, Dorking Choral Society at St Martin's church, £16, 07847 477052  
23rd at 7.30, Barbican string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619  
25th at 7.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
30th at 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin's church

Dorking Choral Society presents a major concert to commemorate 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The main work on the programme will be the beautiful and uplifting German Requiem by Brahms. Using texts from the bible, it focusses not on prayers for the dead but on providing spiritual consolation for the living. The choir will be led by its new conductor Timothy Ferguson and joined by the New London Chamber Orchestra plus soloists.

Brockham Choral Society will feature in its concert the Sunrise Mass by the Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo, along with Haydn's Little organ mass, Albinoni's ever-pouplar Adagio, and a Bach cantata. Betchworth Operatic and Dramatic Society will perform Lehar's light-hearted operetta The Merry Widow, a delightful piece with brilliant sparkling music.

The Dorking Concertgoers present the Barbican string quartet in the first concert of a series of three. They begin their programme with an early Haydn quartet, followed by Janáček's first quartet, entitled The Kreutzer Sonata and based on a short story by Tolstoy, and finish with an exuberant quartet by Mendelssohn. Further concerts by the Barbican quartet will follow in January and February.

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## MUSIC IN DORKING (cont.)



There are lots of screenings at the Dorking Halls this month. Opera lovers can see Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* and Philip Glass' *Akhnaten*, while ballet lovers have a choice of a Royal Ballet triple bill (*Concerto*, *Enigma variations*, *Raymonda*) and *Le corsaire* from the Bolshoi. There are also two opportunities to see *42nd Street*, filmed live at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

The Music at Midday concert at St Martin's church will be given by the international USA concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky. Watermill Jazz has the following line-up of performers: the Laura Jurd trio (5th), the Jazz Scurriers (12th), Steve Swallow and Christian Muthspiel (19th), and the Back to Basie Orchestra (26th).

**Ian Codd**

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## Hatching grass snakes!

A couple of months ago I became the responsible parent of 15 grass snake eggs that had unfortunately been disturbed from a compost heap where they had been laid.



Grass snake eggs

The eggs, which I must confess I have never seen before were strange indeed - not like an egg as I knew it. They were quite soft, had a leather-like feel to them and some were stuck together in a small cluster. Not able to return them I took on the task of 'Hatcher of Eggs'.

I did some research but there wasn't really much information out there and tended towards complicated and expensive incubators. In the end I found a suitable plastic container that I used to rear some baby mice a while back (that's another story!!) and filled it with some composting material and buried the eggs.

Our office (an old farm) is a constant

temperature in the summer – not too warm or too hot, so I decided to leave them there and wait. To be honest I wasn't hopeful!

A week went by but no sign of life – I checked them every day and made sure the compost remained damp and then one day when I was away from the office I got a text from a colleague 'one of your grass snakes has hatched!', I instantly felt like a proud mummy.

I released the perfectly formed little grass snake near our pond - grass snakes are immediately independent from birth. The pond (due to our management) is a perfect place for them, compost heaps, dead wood piles, lots of cover and a plentiful supply of food.



Baby grass snake

But I still had 14 left and I worried why the others hadn't hatched? However, my fears were put rest as over the next couple of weeks my babies hatched one by one. Happy 'Hatcher of Eggs' was I.



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### Fascinating Fungi

Having recently been working in the woods it's hard to miss all the amazing fungi that is fruiting.

Fungi are not plants, and neither are they animals. Unlike plants, which convert the sun's energy into food, fungi feed on other plant and animal material and do not need sunlight; they use enzymes to dissolve their food before they absorb it.

The fungi that we commonly identify as mushrooms or toadstools are in fact the short-lived fruiting bodies of fungi preparing to release their spores. The rest of the fungus is made up of a mycelium, or web, of fine threads in the soil, tree or dead leaves.

All mushrooms are fungi but not all fungi are mushrooms. The kingdom of Fungi also includes yeasts, slime molds, rusts and several other types of related organisms.

The mycelium of a single fungus can be huge – a honey fungus found in America, which infects trees, was thought to be between 2,400 and 8,500 years old and covered about 10 square kilometres of the forest.

The top of a mushroom is called the cap – inside are gills, where it produces spores, instead of seeds.



Stinkhorn

Some mushrooms can release 2.7 billion spores a day. Other mushrooms, like the stinkhorns, smell of rotting meat – this attracts flies, which then carry the spores away.

Many people are fascinated by mushrooms because some are edible but beware some are deadly poisonous, and some have hallucinogenic properties.

The edible mushroom is very nutritious. Differing species can be a good source of vitamin B along with essential minerals such as copper and potassium. While the fat, carbohydrates and salt content is very low. A single Portabella

Dorking Friends of Cancer Research UK



# Quiz Night



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7.30pm for 7.45pm start

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mushroom can contain more potassium than a banana!

There are plenty of books on how to identify edible mushrooms, but only ever eat a mushroom if you are certain of its identity and that it is safe.

One of our deadliest fungi is the death cap. This fungus has a plain appearance and looks very similar to many edible mushrooms, but it hides a nasty secret. It contains a high concentration of poisonous amatoxin, which breaks down the enzymes responsible for your cell metabolism. That can be fatal, so best all round to avoid this one!

Fungi also have many other uses. The razor-strop is a common bracket fungus and when dried out, can be used to sharpen blades and was once used by watchmakers to polish moving components. It also has antibacterial properties.

Before the invention of synthetic dyes, mushrooms were widely used for dyeing wool and other natural fibres. Mushroom dyes are organic compounds and produce strong, vivid colours.

**Amanda**  
**National Trust Area Ranger**  
**[amanda.barnicoat@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:amanda.barnicoat@nationaltrust.org.uk)**  
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Razor-strop





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After a tremendously busy summer with our 5th Anniversary, a Wedding at the Woodland and our Charity Dinner/Cabaret, it was quite pleasant to take a big breath and enjoy doing some maintenance at the woodland during September. We had an enormous amount of help from a local tree surgeon and gardener who lives in Albury, Mr Chris Holmes and Clive who came along to the woodland recently and worked very hard strimming and tidying up the areas that had become overgrown with brambles and weeds during the summer months. It is now looking lovely again.

As we go into Autumn we are now thinking about our Remembrance Service which we always hold at the



woodland on the 11th day of the 11th month and this year that will be on a Monday.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our service to remember those who fell whilst serving during the World Wars and in more recent conflicts which took them away from our villages and families never to return. We will gather around the Monument at the Woodland at 10.40am. Do come along to QRMW, Pasturewood Road, Holmbury St Mary RH5 6LG, there is plenty of parking.

Plans are also underway for our very

popular **Christmas at the Woodland** event which this year will be on Saturday 7th December starting at 11am. Fun for all the family, with a treasure hunt for the children who will receive a bag of Christmas goodies, and a treasure hunt for the Adults with goody bags of Christmas Spirit! There will be stalls selling Christmas crafts, cakes, a Christmas tombola for the children, a toy stall (new toys) a bottle tombola for the adults and a Grand Christmas Raffle.

The highlight of the day is when Father Christmas arrives at the woodland with his helpers and all the children can visit him in his grotto to receive a gift. Tickets are £7.50 per child, parents are free of charge to come and just £3 to enter the adults' treasure hunt. All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. If the weather is kind to us we will have Christmas Carols around the Monument before going home. Numbers are limited so please contact [Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk) to register the children, Father Christmas needs to know how many presents to bring with him! All proceeds go to the Memorial Fund to help those ex-servicemen in times of difficulty.

We look forward to seeing you at these events to finish off what has been another momentous year for The Quick Response Memorial Woodland.

**Paul Cooling**  
Chairman  
QRMW



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Art and craft workshops are becoming a favourite at Leith Hill Place. Our scone-making workshops have been sold out through the summer, but luckily we still have exciting workshops to come.



By the end of November our thoughts turn to Christmas. **On Tuesday 26th November, 10am – 12.30pm**, you can learn how to make elegant willow stars and trees for festive decorations, led by popular willow weaver and artist Nicki Rowling. All the materials are included plus mulled wine or a hot drink and a selection of sweet festive treats. £40

We also have a range of exhibitions through the seasons. Artist Blaze Cyan

is exhibiting a display of detailed etchings depicting the majesty and mystery of trees, while 'The Fading of the Light', inspired by autumn at Leith Hill Place, features the work of over 20 artists. Both exhibitions are free with admission.

Aside from the exhibitions, all workshops and concerts advertised must be booked in advance on 0344 249 1895 or on-line at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place).



For more information please call 01306 711685.

**Anna Trenter**



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# PUZZLE

## Part One

A Professor gives her team of three PhD students many calculations to perform. The first student is the most experienced and can complete the job on her own in 7 hours, the next would take 14 hours on his own, and the last would take 28 hours working single handed to complete the task. How long would the task take if they all worked together?



## Part Two



If the Professor has more helpers, but which follow the same pattern of numbers to complete the task, what is the absolute minimum time the task can take?

(For the answer see bottom of the page)

**Professor Colin Turner**  
**Professor of Engineering Education**  
**School of Engineering**

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One way to tackle this is to consider how much work they can do together in one hour. The first person does  $1/7$  of the job, the second  $1/14$ , and the last  $1/28$ . Added these together gives  $1/4$ . In other words, together they can do  $1/4$  of the job in one hour, so the whole job takes 4 hours.

The second part is a little more tricky. Note that  $1/7 + 1/14 + 1/28 + 1/56 + \dots$  is the same as  $1/7 (1 + 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8 + \dots)$

it can be shown, or intuition shows, that the numbers in the bracket add to 2 (at most). In other words, even with infinitely many people to count they do  $2/7$  of the job in one hour, so they will do the whole job in  $7/2$  hours. That's three hours and thirty minutes.

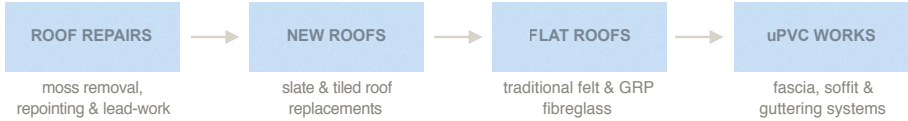


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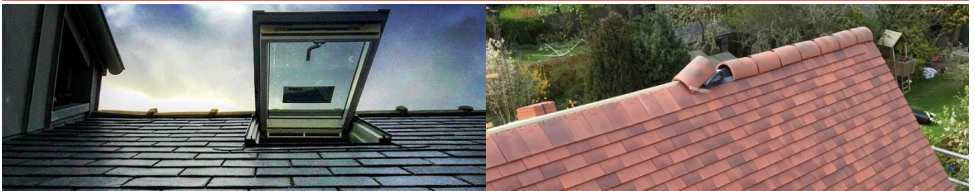


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The autumn colours are glorious now but the trees will soon be losing their leaves so do take this opportunity to try a walk with us and, if you like it, there are plenty more that you can do! Part of the Ramblers Association, Mole Valley Ramblers organises group walks across the heart of Surrey and further afield, on weekdays and at weekends, with a range of distances from 4 to 10 miles and levels from leisurely to strenuous, as shown below in the list of walks organised for November. Visit [www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk](http://www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk) for full information, including where to meet.



## **Leisurely – 4-4.5 miles**

Monday 4th: A path to the sacred gothic fountain. 10.30am, 4 miles.  
Monday 11th: Ranmore Common and Polesden Lacey. 10am, 4 miles.  
Monday 18th: Gentle rambling on Ranmore. 10.30pm, 4.5 miles.  
Sunday 24th: Denbies hillside and Ashcombe woods. 10am, 4 miles.

## **Moderate – 6-11 miles**

Sunday 3rd: The big country. 9.30am, 6 miles.  
Wednesday 6th: Heath and Hill – Albury to St Martha's. 10am, 6.5 miles.  
Saturday 9th: Leith Hill unbridled. 10am, 10 miles.  
Sunday 10th: Around Newdigate on Remembrance Sunday. 9.30am, 7 miles.  
Wednesday 13th: Bookham and Dorking Woods. 10am, 6.5 miles.  
Saturday 16th October: Wildlife west of Standen. 10.15am, 9.5 miles.  
Sunday 17th: What's between Milton and Tanners? 9.30am, 7 miles.  
Wednesday 20th: Assault of the Hillfort. 10am, 6 miles.  
Sunday 24th: You may have been here before? 9.30am, 7 miles.  
Wednesday 27th: Shere millennium trail (south). 10am, 6 miles.  
Wednesday 27th: Tillingbourne-St Martha's-Newlands Corner. 10am, 8 miles.  
Saturday 30th: Gunpowder and deep silence. 10am, 11 miles.

## **Strenuous – 7-10 miles**

Saturday 2nd: The Punch Bowl in its autumn glory. 10am, 9 miles.  
Wednesday 6th: Stepping out from Shere. 10am, 8.5 miles.  
Wednesday 13th: Holmbury hostelryes. 10am, 7.5 miles.  
Wednesday 20th: Headley Heath and Mickleham Downs. 10am, 7 miles.  
Saturday 23rd: Pitch perfect. 10am, 10 miles

## ADVERTISERS' INDEX

ABINGER COMMON NURSERY	58	FAITH'S GARDENS	36
ACQUIS Chartered accountants	64	FBR Abinger & Dorking taxis & private hire	34
ALFA Chimney sweeps	73	FLOWERS BY ELAINE	46
ANTHONY WAKEFIELD Insurance broker	38	FORBES & SCHUSTER Dog walking & grooming	20
AVON	72	FRED EVANS Brickwork, Patios, Fencing, Groundwork	24
BECKY's professional dog grooming	64	GB FENCING AND TREE SURGERY	60
BELMONT Preparatory school	24	HILLS QUALITY COALS	38
BODYWRIGHT Osteopathy	18	HOME COUNTIES CARERS	28
BRAMLEY HOUSE Residential home	18	Live in care	
BRAY ESTATES Property consultants	56	HOMEWORKS Decorating	60
BROWN'S TREE CARE	62	J A JOINERY Traditional carpentry	68
BULLIMORES Chartered accountants	68	J CASEY Decorating & building services	48
BURY HILL LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES	56	JAZZ Sophisticated jazz	70
Topsoil and turf		JENNIFER MARGRAVE Solicitors LLP	60
CANADA MARK exterior and internal painting	62	JIM'S MOWING	32
CHALK HILL SYSTEMS IT repair and maintenance	54	JRC EVENTS Event catering	70
COLIN CAMPBELL Electrician	34	JS PAINTING & BUILDING SERVICES	68
DAVE FORD TREE CARE	56	JULIE WATTS FAMILY LAW	68
DAVID SEALL Fencing & landscaping	58	KEVIN ALDRIDGE Interior & Exterior decorating	58
DENBIES Wine Estate	20	KINGFISHER FARM & FLOWER SHOP	26
DMH STALLARD Solicitors	52	LHP Groundwork & drainage engineers	26
DORKING BUTCHERY	16	MANOR FARM Beef	36
DORKING DECORATORS	46	MANOR HOUSE SCHOOL	30
DORKING PEST CONTROL SERVICES	60	MEABY & CO	44
DORKING SERVICE CENTRE	80	MICHAEL BRAY Chartered surveyor	56
ECO LOGS Firewood	68	MICHAEL LLOYD Building plans for home improvements	24
EDE BROS Removals and storage	64		
EMWOOD Pest Control	64		

NICK ROAKE Plumbing & Heating	54	SOFT INTERIORS BY JOSEPHINE	26
OVENU Oven cleaning	48	SOUTH EAST TREE SURGEONS	32
PAS Financial and Mortgage Solutions	32	SPRING REACH NURSERY	62
PGH Pest Control & Prevention	72	SUBURBAN TURBAN Stylish headwear	46
PREMIER GARDENS Garden maintenance	54	SURREY DOWNS TREE CARE	48
PRINCE OF WALES Public house	36	SURREY HILLS HEATING LTD	62
RB FENCING	28	SWEPT AWAY Cleaning service	64
REFLEXOLOGY by EMMA CATHRO	52	TOENAIL CUTTING SERVICE	34
REMEDIAL ROOFING	74	THE TREE ASSOCIATES	36
SEYMOURS Estate agents	58	TONY WINCH Carpenter	24
SHERLOCK FUNERAL SERVICE	38	WESTCOTT GARAGE	46
SHIERS DÉCOR Painting & decorating	34		

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