

# Westcott Village Magazine

December 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.

Copy Deadline for

**January 2020 issue:**

**8th December 2019**

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



## FROM THE EDITOR



Well, we made it through another year, with both ups and downs making up the rich tapestry of life. The downs certainly make you think that

life can be short, so we should do everything we can to make it good. That might be doing things you've never done before, making more time for friends and family, or doing more of the things you enjoy. Whatever you do, love your life!

In the run up to Christmas it's easy to lose sight of what's important and get caught up in rushing round and more shopping, but actually it's the people that make Christmas special, not the things. Be a good neighbour, as it can

be lonely over Christmas for some people, so keep an eye on neighbours who might be on their own and would appreciate a visit. Make time for some of the events in this month's magazine and you'll be sure to see (or even make new) friends while doing it.

There is a huge choice of musical things, as you'd expect at this time of year (I do love a traditional carol concert) and make sure to get out and enjoy our countryside when you can, when you're not tucked up in front of the fire! There are lots of walks with the Mole Valley Ramblers, ranging from easy to more strenuous, so no excuses.

Merry Christmas one and all,

**Cath**

**editor@westcottmag.com**

### *BIG THANKS...*

*... to the Westcott Baby Meals Cooks who have kindly catered for 5 Westcott families during 2019, buying, cooking and delivering 50 meals this year! It is such a highly valued gift at what is often a chaotic and difficult time as families adjust to their new arrival.*

*If you are expecting a baby or know a family in the village that is, or if you want to join the cooks list please get in touch.*

*Please get in touch: [annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk) or 07710 425487*

# ...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



## FINDING HOPE... SIMPLICITY, SILENCE ... GOD

How is it going? Are you de-stressing Christmas? I have to say I am feeling quite relaxed anticipating what I am often told must be "your busiest time of the year". The "secret" lies in simplifying, in seeking silence, and so finding God, and sure Hope that sustains and strengthens.

I have written over the last couple of years how Jenny and I have decluttered Christmas – "less cards, foods, gifts... stuff. Less going with cultural expectation." That is certainly what we are doing again in this season of festivities, and are aiming to do throughout the year. We have been helped, I am sure, by our decision not to fly and so, have enjoyed truly relaxing holidays in our beautiful country. Our recent break in Devon, for example, was glorious, even though the weather was terrible; we enjoyed the cosyness of a cottage, looking out at the howling elements over the sea, and fantastic coastal walks in gale-force winds and driving rain, covered from head to foot in waterproofs. As someone famously said, "There's no

such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes".

Simplicity, Silence is where God is found. The writer Sara Maitland documented in "A Book of Silence", her journey from a life of noise, mega-sociability and activity, to a place where Silence is integral. She speaks of the riches she has found; in the Silence, she says she found "a positive presence", "not a void but a rich space" – she found God. She experienced not just quietness and peace – which are, of course, ephemeral - but "an interior dimension to silence, a sort of stillness of heart and mind".

## BEING CENTRED IN SILENCE, SIMPLICITY... FINDING GOD AND SURE HOPE.

Similarly Thomas Merton, the twentieth century saint, wrote of his own journey in "The Seven Storey Mountain" from hedonistic lifestyle to a sense of "coming home" when he became a monk; he writes of "the Silence that enfolded

## A D V E N T



DECLUTTER SIMPLIFY CELEBRATE

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

---

me, spoke to me, and spoke louder and more eloquently than any voice."

God is in the Silence. "How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given" In the words of "O little town of Bethlehem". I hope and pray you will be able to

know this in this great, glorious season of Christmas – declutter, simplify, come to our Church services to enjoy and celebrate but also as a focus of "centring" your life. Being centred in Silence, Simplicity... finding God and sure Hope.

A very happy Christmas and blessed New Year to  
all in Westcott and all friends of our Church  
Alan & Jenny



## Carol Service Choir

Carol Service 22nd December,  
5pm

Holy Trinity Church

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)





## 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.

9:30am/10.15 am: A 'parish' service, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with organ and/or music group. Creche and children's activities provided.

**No 4pm Evensong Service in December.**

	THEME	8:30AM	9:30AM	10:15AM	5:00PM
1st Dec	<b>Christingle/ Advent</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Celebrate Christingle Communion</b>	
8th Dec	<b>Advent</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>  No music		<b>Parish Communion</b>	
15th Dec	<b>Advent</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>		<b>Morning Worship</b>	
22nd Dec	<b>Advent</b>		<b>Parish Communion</b>		<b>Carol Service</b>
29th Dec	<b>Christmas</b>		<b>Parish Communion &amp; Carols</b>		

## MID WEEK SERVICES

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

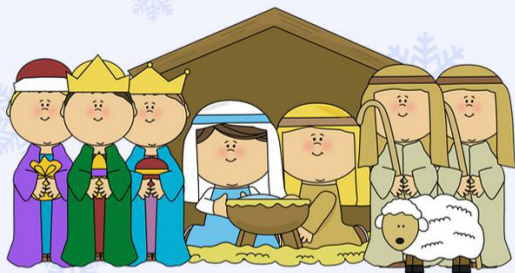
*No mid week services 26th December, 1st & 2nd January.*

## SERVICES AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

JOIN US

# Christmas Eve Crib Service

**3pm, Christmas Eve Holy Trinity, Westcott**



**A lovely retelling of the events of the first Christmas, for all the family**

Children are invited to come dressed as a character from the Nativity scene, and join in the story!



**Christmas continues... Epiphany 5th January**

8:30am BCP Service

9:30am Breakfast, 10:15am All Age service, 4pm Evensong





# Christingle Service

## Sunday, 1st December

*Holy Trinity Church, Westcott*

**Join us for a continental breakfast at 9:30am,  
followed by a Christingle Service at 10:15am.**

We would love for you, your family and friends, to join us at our Christingle Celebration, beginning Advent by helping support vulnerable children.

A lovely service for all the family, with candles, sweets, oranges and prayers, and an opportunity to give to the work of the Children's Society.

*Join us to give & share HOPE  
with a child this Christmas*





## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptism

3rd November

Cassidy Clare Badman



## FLOODLIGHTING

The floodlighting for December has been jointly sponsored by Ann Wickham and Family in loving memory of John Wickham (10th December 1927 – 26th October 2017) and by Peggy and Nicholas Hodges in loving memory of Ben Hodges (17th April 1931 – 12th December 2017) husband, father and grandfather.

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

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



## Fellowship Lunch

St John's Community Hall

8th December

12pm for 12:30

Contact Liz Bradley to join our festive lunch

07971 795880 [lizbradley60@gmail.com](mailto:lizbradley60@gmail.com)

*For all who like good food & company!*



*For full details of what's on at the Church in Westcott this December...*

Please see central pull out pages for all Advent and Christmas events and services at the Church in Westcott.



**The Dorking Butchery is an award-winning speciality Butchers based in the heart of Dorking.**

With traditional service and a strong passion for high quality British produce as their core values, the team are dedicated to supplying only the best meat Britain and Surrey has to offer.



**The Dorking Butchery**  
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.

# READING ROOM



Wishing everyone a great festive season on the way to a happy Christmas. The Hall still has some December weekend availability and is currently available for New Year's Eve. Birthday parties for children are very popular on Sunday afternoons too

Our most recent regular user is The Surrey Academy for Ballet and the Performing Arts ideal for prospective artistes of the next generation. A highly trained tutor takes the class which is split into age groups from just 3 to teenager levels. All necessary exams can be prepared for and taken to progress to such prestigious establishments as The Royal Ballet School in Richmond Park or the Tring Park School of Performing Arts just north of London. Come on Westcott parents - we need to have a future young star join the village celebrity list! Do contact the administrator for more information on 07941 008321

The Martial Arts group that meets on Tuesday evenings and on Saturday and Sunday has growing numbers appeals to the young of all ages and offers whole families special rates. Do give it a go or visit a class in progress by contacting the organiser Alan Richings 2nd Degree Black Belt via [richingsckd@gmail.com](mailto:richingsckd@gmail.com) RichingsCKD on Facebook RichingsCKD on Instagram

We have just learnt that the Thursday morning Pilates session will not be continuing from January 2020 as the instructor – Tina – has had to stop for personal reasons. The class has 13 regular attendees so if anyone knows of a Pilates instructor who would like to continue these sessions please let me know as soon as possible.



We now have available a portable sound system with 2 mikes on site which is easier to manage than the more complex fixed 4 speaker system - more details on request

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**



## Crossness

We were very lucky with the weather on the morning of 10th October when the long-awaited visit to Crossness set off. We were headed for the Thames Marshes, on the outh side of the river near Erith – the point east of London where the true river meets the river estuary.

Our sympathies were with our excellent driver Matt who, having reached the South Bank had to steer his large coach-load through a major traffic snarl-up. The activities of the environmentalists “Extinction Rebellion” had caused this, and environmental matters turned out to be the theme for our day.



Sir Joseph Bazalgette

Most of us were looking forward to seeing the enormous cast iron remains of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's (1819-91) sewage

pumping station.

We'd seen pictures and knew it to be enormous, a flamboyant example of Victorian pomp; grandiose and extravagant, a culmination of the power of the Age of Steam. We would see the pumps preserved and re-painted

by the current volunteer restorers exactly matching the original vibrant reds, greens and blues, a showy and amazing extravaganza of Victorian self-confidence.

Amazingly the trip turned out to be so much more. It took us right through the city's sanitation from medieval times to the present day.

We began with a quick walk around some lanes in the old city area where sanitation before the nineteenth century consisted simply of cess pits from which 'night soil men' carted away solid material to be spread on the surrounding market garden areas, while all liquid flowed by natural drainage down the middle of streets into streams, then tributaries, and so to the Thames. This meant that the roads were effectively the sewers.

One lane we walked along had “urine deflectors” installed along a wall to stop pedestrians peeing on the walls of that property. “Move



along to the next lane!" they seemed to say.

Okay for several centuries but the increasing popularity of flush toilets which had been a highlight of the Great Exhibition of 1851 had had the unfortunate result of overloading the old system, culminating just seven years later in The Great Stink.



The increased quantity of water they generated was too much for the ancient cess pits, their use had to be prohibited and some rudimentary drains were constructed. But in hot weather the smell was intolerable even out of the City away at Westminster, and since at that time people believed that disease was carried by a "miasma" along with foul air Parliament at last took action.

The necessary money was allocated and Bazalgette, as Chief Engineer of London's new Metropolitan Board of Works, designed a completely new drainage system which culminated in very large pipework much of



Victoria under renovation

it hidden under enormous new earthworks on both sides of the river - the Victoria, Albert and Chelsea embankments.

We took a boat from Westminster Pier and could picture the width of the river before these works were undertaken. It was high tide and in the watery October sun the unusual views, from the river, of many generations of city buildings were magnificent. There was little to be seen of the Thames Tideway development, due to open next year, which will at last supersede the Victorian system, but we knew it was in progress and later were shown some information about it.

In the old drainage system, gravity carried all the sewage far away eastward but that brought it so low that it was now below river level. It then had to be raised in order for the twice-daily tides to swirl it a way to sea. Hence the need

downstream for a Pumping Station. Since all his other pipework was underground Bazalgette made sure the Board of Works had something magnificent to show above ground, so he made this building huge and imposing. It stood in what was otherwise an empty landscape making it a landmark for approaching shipping. Thus it became known as the Cathedral of Sewage.



Cathedral of Sewage

The building and engineering remains have been saved for us to enjoy and are now solely dependent upon volunteer efforts for their restoration and maintenance. The pumps are run occasionally on Open Days but we chose to go at a quieter time when we could have the expert attention of the guides, and also the advantage of particularly efficient organisation through 'City and Village Tours' for all the London-

based part of the trip.

The U3A team of course supervised everything perfectly and they are to be congratulated and thanked for a particularly good "day out".

So nowadays? The current processing plant can be seen below a simple steel roofline. It all conforms to modern standards. After a spell in settlement tanks solid material is incinerated through a sand bed at a very high temp and the ash used in the manufacture of commercially viable building blocks, while the liquid part is treated aerobically to remove all bacterial activity and released into the Thames – the quality of which it actually helps to improve.



Entrance at Crossness

**Text Gelhi**  
**Photos Millicent Lake**



The lecture on 12 Nov by Robin Daly about Broadmoor & Lonesome Valley will be reported in the January Mag. There is no meeting in December and details about the New Year's Day Walk on Wednesday 1st January will be circulated to members by email.

Our next meeting will be in St Johns Hall on Tuesday 14th January and is expected to be a talk by Howard Walden who is President of the Wealden Cave & Mine Society. This was established in 1960 by a group of young people interested in exploring the geology of the old caves and disused mines in Surrey.



Waterfall at Broadmoor

**Roger Christian**

## St John's Chapel Café

**Every Monday morning**

**9.15-11.45**

**A warm, friendly welcome, superb cheese scones and homemade cakes with a selection of teas and coffees. All welcome and right on the doorstep! ☺**



# BURNS NIGHT

Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 2020



Hosted by



## Westcott Women's Group

From 7pm

In The Reading Room

Traditional Haggis meal (alternative salmon by request)

Glass of wine on arrival but please bring further drinks

Tickets £25pp from

Jacki Moss tel 881481

Or email: [johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com](mailto:johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com)

Although I say it myself, but based on members' feedback to me, the illustrated presentation about Bonfires and Fireworks celebrations around the world, went like a rocket!



I spent many hours trawling the internet to find traditional Guy Fawkes reports, the history thereof and that of gunpowder, then on to weird and bizarre celebrations that last several days, as well as the more peaceful

and deep meaning celebrations such as Diwali and Chinese lantern festivals

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, 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 Jackie Moss, 01306 881481 or email [johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com](mailto:johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com)

**Jacki Moss**



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**[bookings@bodywright.co.uk](mailto:bookings@bodywright.co.uk)**

**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)**



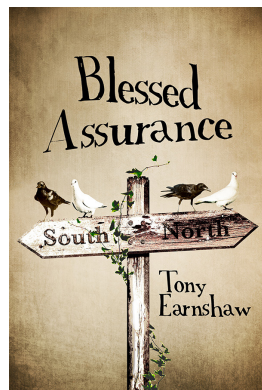
## WESTCOTT WOMEN'S GROUP (cont.)

Local writer, Tony Earnshaw, introduces his new novel, *Blessed Assurance*, and talks about the joys and challenges of writing and the inspirations which have produced award winning plays and anthologised poems along the way. Much of *Blessed Assurance* takes place on the North Downs, but what is it about?

'Four friends, two marriages, and a struggle – the conflict between principles and behaviour. For Tom and Pete, faith is central, but they differ on what that means. Anne & Liza have different priorities. Tom

and investment guru Jonny Nower are both at a crossroads in their lives. Can they help each other? Can the friends survive doubt and betrayal?'

Come and find out more at the Westcott Women's Group meeting on 5th February 2020.



## WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

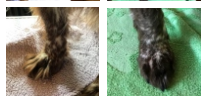
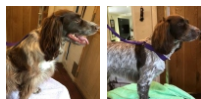


at  
The Reading Room



**Wednesday 4th December**  
**10.30am - 12.00 midday**

*We are delighted once again to welcome  
the Surrey Hills School Choir  
Parents & grandparents are especially welcome*



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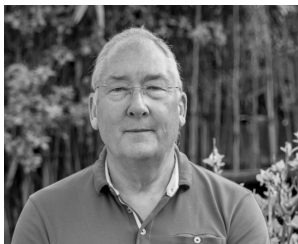
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This month's article has a bit of a safety theme to it after residents raised issues at the AGM in October.

## Emergency Services – access in rural villages

Assistant Group Commander Ian Ray has addressed the specific concern about access for emergency services by assuring residents that the fire service will get to emergency calls whatever the circumstances, moving obstructions - if necessary by force, - but not before attempting to do so with the owners' permission.

The fire service has checked all the roads in Westcott, and, with the exception of Parsonage Lane, has confirmed that their regular Fire Engines can access all roads. Where there are width restrictions (as in the case of Parsonage Lane) smaller tenders are used; Assistant Commander Ray is more than happy to come and talk at an open meeting about this if you as residents would like this to happen.

If you want to learn a bit more about Fire Safety then go to [www.surrey-fire.gov.uk](http://www.surrey-fire.gov.uk) where you will find lots of information. You can also arrange a

free **Safe and Well Visit** from the Fire Service by going online at Request a Safe and Well Visit or by calling free on 0800 085 0767

## Speeding and Noise

After the AGM, Nick Lund (WVA Highways lead) and I set up a small working group to address this issue. This followed my attendance at a number of Surrey County Highways Working Group meetings, which have failed to find any practical solutions in the last 18 months. Our first meeting was held on 11th November where we looked at various pieces of information - and started to identify practical and realistic changes which could be made to address a problem which is shared by all villages along the A25.

Here are three interesting facts which have come from two speed surveys carried out at either end of the village between 8th and 15th June 2018.

- 87% of vehicles leaving Westcott at the brow of the hill opposite Westcott House heading into Dorking were

- travelling in excess of the 30mph limit
- 50% of those vehicles were travelling in excess of 36mph and 15% in excess



# AN EVENING OF WEBBER & WINE

with the D&G choir  
and Vineyard Dorking

Saturday December 7th 2019

7.30pm



St James' Church, Abinger



The choir will perform a collection of medleys from **Andrew Lloyd Webber** musicals, including Phantom, Evita and Jesus Christ Super Star, interspersed with wine and musical insight.

Sample selected Argentine wines whilst being seduced by the rhythms of Buenos Aires.

All profits will be donated to local charity  
Three Cheers for Cheers.

£6 entry on the door, includes a free drink.

Conducted by Martin Hall  
Accompanied by Ed Sutton

Artwork and print produced by Dyson Printers Ltd. [neil@dysonprinters.co.uk](mailto:neil@dysonprinters.co.uk)



of 41mph – but in one case, a vehicle was recorded at over 90mph!!

- Almost 50% of vehicles leaving the village opposite the church, heading toward Guildford, were travelling in excess of the 30mph limit and the highest recorded speed here during the survey was 67mph.



The Highways team and the police both work on the basis of average speeds and as a result have said that the recordings are within their parameters of acceptable speed limits. The WVA's contention is that the average speed figures mask some very dangerous driving by around 5% of drivers – in numerical terms this was around 1500 vehicles during the 8 days of the survey – equivalent to almost 200 vehicles per day.

Casual observations at both locations would confirm these statistics – and it only takes one of those drivers to cause a very serious accident.

If you are concerned about speeding through the village then here are some email addresses to write to voicing those concerns:

[timway.westcott@gmail.com](mailto:timway.westcott@gmail.com)  
Chairman of the Westcott Village

Association

[hva.watson@btinternet.com](mailto:hva.watson@btinternet.com) Surrey  
County Councillor for Surrey Hills

[highways@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:highways@surreycc.gov.uk)  
Department responsible for our roads

[lucy.monie@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.monie@surreycc.gov.uk) Head of  
Highways at Surrey County Council

[ed.ferris@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ed.ferris@surrey.pnn.police.uk)  
Casualty Reduction Officer – Surrey  
Police

## Intruders

Just a note to alert you all that there were reports at the end of October of intruders in outhouses and garages in the Balchins Lane area and to remind you to keep all out-buildings securely locked. Anything suspicious should be reported to the police by calling 101.

## Your Village Association – New Constitution

We are working towards disbanding the “old” Village Association and establishing the “new” WVA as the operating body; both are in existence and there will be a seamless transition from the old to the new.

New standing orders will need to be set up by residents for their subscriptions when the new WVA has its bank account, but we will write to everyone explaining what needs to be done.

# TONY WINCH

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## Open Meeting – 12th December 2019 CANCELLED

It was most inconsiderate of the Government to call a General Election on the date of our next Open Meeting - as a result of which we have decided to cancel our event and let you relax and await the outcome of the polls!!

As it happens, the open meeting was arranged to coincide with discussions on the Future Mole Valley Planning consultations but these have been deferred until the new year. We also planned to discuss the future of the Prudential Ride London, but again the County Council has committed to a formal consultation on the future of the race after the last one under the present agreement is run next year.



The next Open Meeting will therefore be on **THURSDAY 5th MARCH 2020.**

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

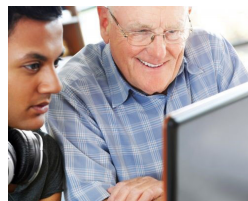
**Tim Way**

**Chairman, Westcott Village Association**

**[timway.westcott@gmail.com](mailto:timway.westcott@gmail.com)**



**Learn how to use your iPad / Tablet Smart Phone / Laptop/ Computer.**



If you are over 55 and live in the Mole Valley area, you can use Age Concern's computer courses based in either Dorking or Leatherhead.

The course runs once a week for 6-8 weeks. Topics covered will include: browsing on the internet, basic keyboard and mouse skills, using an iPad/ Tablet/Smart Phone/Laptop, setting up and using your own email or Skype accounts and how to shop on the internet.

Before coming to the course, you must register your interest by telephoning 01306 899104 / 07442 017169 or by email: [info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk](mailto:info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk)

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## *The Ladybirds Choir Christmas Concert*



*Directed by Helena Twentyman  
Saturday 7th December at 3pm*

*United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS*

*Tickets £7.50, Raising funds for The Concert Club*

*The Ladybirds Choir warmly invites you to their Christmas Concert, as usual there will be a variety of musical styles on offer ranging from traditional carols such as Away In A Manger and the exquisite O Holy Night to more light-hearted songs like It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas.*

*As a special treat the choir will be joined by Fiona Lebby and Alison Hopper, who will both add the dulcet tones of their violins to Elgar's beautiful and evocative song The Snow.*

*Tea and mince pies will be served after the performance. The Concert Club, originally called The Jane Ross Club, was set up over fifty years ago and provides monthly social events on Wednesday evenings for visually impaired adults and the elderly. Members meet in Leatherhead Parish Church Hall for an evening of chat, laughter, home-made cake and live entertainment. For many, this provides much-needed relief from loneliness and isolation.*



*Tickets are available on the door  
or in advance from Jenny on 01737 843662.*

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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...

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### Season's Greetings

At this time of year, people are looking forward to catching up with friends and family over the festive period. But that opportunity isn't always there for everyone and I want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone in the village to try something different this year.

Is there someone in the village that you haven't seen for a while? Maybe someone you used to be in a club or society with? Maybe a previous work colleague or classmate? Or simply someone that you might have seen previously in and around the village?

If you can think of someone then why not take the opportunity of the season to go and knock on their door. Perhaps when out delivering Christmas Cards, rather than just dropping it through the door, take the time to knock and have a chat. It would be a great way to get the village talking to each other and to check that folks are ok.

According to some research, it might be the only conversation that someone has that day or even that week. And it

will cost you just a few minutes in your busy Christmas schedule.

### Stay Well This Winter

The leaves are falling from the trees, the clocks have changed and we are scraping ice off the car in the morning – winter is definitely here. So it is time for my annual plea to look after yourself and those around you.



The arrival of the colder weather means we need to look after our health. Over the next few months we're going to be surrounded by coughs and colds, while some people will succumb to the dreaded flu. So, what can we do to protect ourselves and those around us from the worst of the winter bugs?

- Have a flu vaccination - many children, people over 65, pregnant women and people at risk due to their long term health conditions can still receive a free flu vaccination. I have had mine – have you had yours?
- Get help early - if you feel like you're

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

coming down with something, even if it's just a cough or a cold, don't wait until it gets worse. At the first signs of illness, go and see a pharmacist – the sooner you act on advice the better.

- Call 111 for help – rather than heading to A&E, please try calling 111 – the NHS non-emergency number - if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation. They can also help you get a GP appointment at a time to suit you. Much better than waiting a few hours in an Emergency Department.

- Stay warm – keep your home warm, at a minimum of 18°C, as breathing in cold air can increase the risk of chest infections. The Healthy Surrey website has details of organisations who can help with the cost of heating. You can wrap up too, remembering that several thin layers of clothes is more effective at keeping you warm.

- Take care of yourself, and each other - wear shoes with a good grip, to prevent falls and trips; and pop in to see your neighbours, particularly if they're vulnerable, as they might need your help.

Taking these steps will help protect you from becoming ill, or help you to recover without adding to pressures on GP surgeries and hospitals over the winter months. For more information

on saying safe, warm and well over the winter, visit [www.healthysurrey.org.uk](http://www.healthysurrey.org.uk)

### One tree for every Surrey resident

As part of Surrey's greener future, Surrey County Council launched an exciting new project to plant a new tree for every Surrey resident by 2030.

Trees have a big part to play in the reduction of greenhouse gases. They purify the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, provide a home for wildlife and improve the local environment. Planting these trees are part of our commitment to tackle climate change in Surrey, and the County Council are planning to plant them in all our towns, villages and rural areas over the coming years.



The first of 1.2 million trees were planted at the Surrey Hills Wood Fair in Cranleigh. Tillhill Forestry are working in partnership with Surrey County Council and gave one tree for every family to

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

take home on the day to plant and watch it grow.

If you would like to find out more about how Surrey County Council is tackling climate change and how you can help, visit the Greener Future webpage at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/climate-change](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/climate-change)

Westcott as a community is starting to do more to play our part to tackle climate change.

Over the years of writing for this magazine, a number of mystery trees have been featured from around our

village. So how about bringing these ideas together for 2020?

After the 1987 storm a number of trees were planted in the village and these are now over 30 years old. For 2020, Westcott could start a register of every new tree planted in the village during the year so that when these get to 2050 their 30th birthday can be celebrated together with their contribution to capturing the carbon from our village atmosphere.

If, on average, one in ten households in the village plant a new year in 2020, then 100 would be planted in total. Let's see if Westcott can get that far. Please let me know if you plant a tree for 2020.

### Exercise On Referral

Since it began in 2015, more than 1,500 people with a range of physical and mental health conditions have been referred to Mole Valley District Council's Exercise on Referral scheme. Many participants keep up their exercise habits after



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

completing the scheme, and are enjoying a number of life-changing health benefits.

The scheme allows health professionals to refer patients to a low-cost supervised exercise programme that includes a series of personalised gym sessions, swimming sessions, or a combination of both. Patients can choose when to exercise at a time that suits them at Dorking Sports Centre.



To be eligible, individuals must suffer from at least one of:

- Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes
- Hypertension (<180/100mmHg)
- Hyperlipaemia (>5mmol/l)
- Body Mass Index>30 (BMI<25 if another risk factor is present)
- Chronic respiratory disease
- neurological conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis
- Asthma/COPD
- Peripheral vascular disease
- Stable angina
- Diagnosed coronary heart disease
- Osteoporosis
- Long standing back pain
- Arthritis
- Physical disabilities where

independent physical activity is suitable

- People with mental health conditions e.g. depression and anxiety

You can apply to take part in the scheme by requesting the course from your GP, physiotherapist, mental health practitioner, district nurse or occupational therapist.

Since January this year, there have been more than 300 referrals to the scheme with the most common reasons for referral being joint replacement rehabilitation, followed by obesity and then mental health conditions.

Patients will receive 20 supervised sessions to be completed within a 12 week period. The first, middle and final sessions will be on a one-to-one basis with the Referral Instructor. The scheme costs £45 up front to give the maximum discount equating to only £2.25 per session. To encourage continued use after the course, discounts for membership are available.

For more information, please contact your GP, Health Professional or a member of the Exercise on Referral team at Dorking Sports Centre, Reigate Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SN, call 01306 870180 or email [enquiries@dorkingsportscentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dorkingsportscentre.co.uk)

**James Friend**

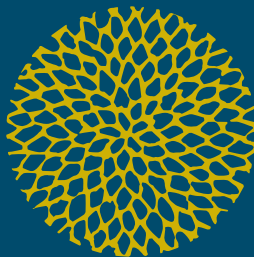
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(Humorous advertisement in the Sarum Gazette)



### Counsel of Hope 2

Now, don't forget, wait until the tenors reach "the Gates of Hell" and then you all come in

Provided by Jacki Moss  
from her childhood Parish mag from January 1959



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# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS S

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

★ *Breakfast & Christingle Service* ★

**Holy Trinity Church**

**Breakfast together at 9:30am Christingle Service at 10:15am**

Give to the work of the Children's Society as they help vulnerable children and receive 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**

Join together in singing carols old and new as we celebrate the events of the 1st Christmas

*(please note change to morning worship on this day - just one service at 9:30am)*



# SERVICES & EVENTS 2019

## 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**

(this is the only church service today)

★ *Great for families and children* ★

Amongst all the uncertainties of life, unshakeable hope can be found  
in the events celebrated at Christmas.  
Emmanuel - God is with us in Jesus Christ.

Come and celebrate the birth of the one who offers the gift of hope  
to each and every one in Westcott, and the whole world.

*Jesus*  
UNSHAKEABLE  
HOPE  
FOR ALL      FOREVER



*Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.  
He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.  
A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice  
through to victory.*

*In his name the nations will put their hope.*

*Matthew 12:18-21*

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"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

- John Steinbeck

## Winter on the Hill

The Downs in Winter seem bleak and the glory of the flowery, butterfly filled summer seem like a distant memory. But without Winter how could we ever appreciate that first taste of warmth in the Spring sun?

Winter does provide us with some spectacular feasts for the eyes, from beautiful clear frosty mornings, bright scarlet Rose Hips to huge clumps of Mistletoe hanging in naked trees.

## Rose Hips

In early Winter the fruits of our native Dog Rose are commonly to be seen spilling their rich scarlet colour upon barren hedgerows. Hips are an important food source for many birds during the winter, especially when the ground is too frozen to hunt worms or snails, and when there are few insects about.

They are eaten by fruit-eating birds such as Thrushes, Blackbirds, Redwing, Fieldfare and Waxwings, which then disperse the seeds in their droppings. Some birds, particularly finches, also eat the seeds.

Humans like them too! Rose Hips are a valuable source of vitamin C, containing as much as 20 times more vitamin C than oranges. They are also an excellent antioxidant. Rose hip has long been used as an ingredient for herbal tea and enjoyed in syrups, jellies, and even wine.



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### Mistletoe

High above, in branches of oak, hawthorn, poplar and apple trees, mistletoe may be found. It never grows on the ground and is semi-parasitic. Like many plants, it produces its own food using photosynthesis, but it also extracts minerals and water from a host tree. Delightfully, mistletoe is commonly spread by birds.

The seeds inside are coated in a sticky substance which sticks to the beaks of birds feeding on the fruit. They either wipe the substance off on a branch or eat it and excrete it on trees in their droppings. The gluey pulp around the seed hardens and fastens the seed in place. As the new mistletoe plant grows, the roots penetrate the bark and start to take water and nutrients from the tree.

In the UK, the tradition of kissing underneath the mistletoe dates back to the 1700s but the Victorians continued the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe as it was thought to symbolise fertility and romance.

The scientific name of this white berry can translate as "white goo". Local names include Churchman's Greeting, Kiss-and-go, Masslin, Misle and Mislin-Bush.

The ancient Greeks used mistletoe for medicine as a pain reliever and for conditions such as ulcers.

It contains a poisonous protein called phoratoxin, which if consumed can cause drowsiness, blurred vision, diarrhoea, vomiting and seizures. It is also poisonous to animals so make sure your pets don't consume it. Despite this, mistletoe is a good food source for wildlife, with birds eating the berries and bees, butterflies and other insects consuming the nectar.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Landbarn Farm.



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As the Autumn term draws to a close we look back on a number of inspiring workshops and celebrations. These included a Victorian Workshop, Harvest Services, Indian Workshop, Nativities, Christmas church services and our first class assembly of the year.

It has been lovely to welcome so many prospective parents to our open mornings. Remember the closing date is the 15th January 2020, for primary school applications.

Below are some of our highlights from the remainder of the Autumn term:

## **Introduction from our Head boy and girl.**

Our names are Xander and Natalia and we are the new Head Boy and Girl. We were chosen by the members of staff based on our time in this school. We were overjoyed from the moment that the decision was made. This year, we would like to achieve being more environmentally friendly in our school. We are very proud to take part in school events such as, football for boys and girls and cross country. Upcoming events consist of a netball tournament and the creative Roar project, where year 6 present their own inventions to members of Cranleigh Lions in

the hope to win the competition. At both Surrey Hills All Saints sites, Westcott and Abinger, we take part in our annual sports day and both experience exciting school trips. Throughout many years this school has been supporting many local and worldwide charities such as the Royal British Legion, David Shepherd wildlife foundation and Sight for Surrey. We plan to continue this charity work this year.

## **Years 1 and 2 Trip Victorian Workshop**



On Monday 7th October we had a wonderful time participating in a Victorian workshop, below are some quotes from the

children regarding the session.

- "We made Victorian drop biscuits, they were nice and I loved the raisins." - Noah J





## SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL (cont.)

- "Our classroom was turned into a Victorian classroom where the teacher was called Ma'am." - Zach W

- "We spent time being Victorian. We played games with hoops and skipping ropes." - April

- "It was funny when Bethany had the back straighter." - Violet D

- "In Victorian times children were caned by a strict teacher." - Flo

### Indian Workshop Phase 3 and 4

On Thursday 7th November, children in Squirrels, Hedgehogs and Rabbits class had a fabulous introduction to the new learning theme 'What is it like to live there?' During the half term, leading up to Christmas, we explored habitats in science, created classification keys for both animals and habitats and understood how

and why habitats change.

We have set our eyes on India, and the children were invited to come to school dressed in traditional Indian clothing or clothes inspired by Indian colours, textiles and fabrics.

During the day, we painted Diya bowls which are small bowls to hold candles used in the celebration of Divali.



We enjoyed listening to traditional Indian tales including that of Rama and Sita and in the afternoon learned



some Bollywood dancing moves.

The children had an immensely enjoyable time and raised questions based on the learning theme.

## Harvest Festival

In October we celebrated Harvest with church services at both Abinger and Westcott. The services allowed us to celebrate God's goodness in creation, be thankful for all we have and to remember those in less fortunate situations.



We collected food donations, kindly provided by our parents, which have gone to Dorking Area Foodbank. Thank you.

## Sporting Events

We have participated in a number of sporting events this term, including two cross country competitions and



three football tournaments. We are delighted to be having great success in the Cross Country events and due to many excellent individual performances are currently in first place overall. The competition will continue in the New Year.

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## DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking Museum offers seasonal greetings to all readers and to the supporters and friends of the Museum. If you are in the town, why not drop into our shop for some Dorking themed cards, books or gifts? Or get away from the season's rushing around and take a leisurely browse around the Museum – there is always plenty to see and to find out about the heritage of our beautiful area.

Please note that the Museum will be closed over the main Christmas/New Year period, closing on December 21st and re-opening on January 4th.

**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, covering more than two eventful centuries, right up 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.



**Age of the dinosaurs:** The Museum's 'prehistoric' section, with its dinosaur fossils, has always been a particular visitor favourite and has now been supplemented with a new animated display that demonstrates how a pliosaur would have propelled itself through the water in the Cretaceous period between 100 million and 65 million years ago when these were early residents of the Dorking area! 'Ava' the pliosaur is shown courtesy of the "Prince of Paleo-fiction", Max Hawthorne.



The Museum welcomes the two latest books published by the Museum's publishing arm, The Cockerel Press, on sale in the Museum shop:

- **'The Vanishing River of Box Hill':** At the foot of Box Hill lies the extraordinary River Mole, which according to local folklore, occasionally vanishes without trace, only to reappear further downstream. Former BBC film maker Peter Brown explores the facts behind the folklore of this much-loved river and tells the fascinating tale of a curious scientist and his attempts to crack the mysteries of the Mole.
- **'Dorking, a Town Underground':**



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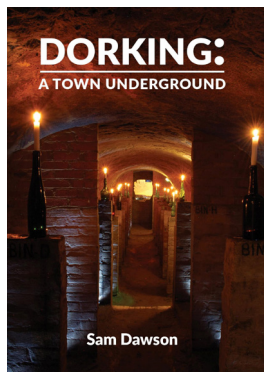
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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



For centuries Dorking's growth above ground has been mirrored by excavations below it, leaving a unique legacy of historical sites that live on in the darkness

readers may have of any pubs in the areas of Westcott, or maybe Abinger, Betchworth, Brockham, Buckland, Capel, Charlwood, Headley, Holmwood, Leigh, Mickleham, Newdigate, Ockley and Wotton – especially pubs that have closed now – and any personal memories that go with the pictures.

below. This new book by journalist and Dorking Museum cave guide Sam Dawson tells their story, from a huge World War Two bunker at Deepdene, to a Roman well in the crypts of St Martin's – and a hundred virtually lost and forgotten cellars, follies and caves.

**Book launch:** The authors of both new books will talk about their subjects and their research at a gallery talk and book signing at the Museum on Thursday 5th December, 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. Tickets in advance on the website or on the door, £7 (includes a glass of Prosecco).

**Seeking village pub photos:** David Langford and Jim Docking who researched and created the hugely popular Museum exhibition and book 'Time Gentlemen, Please: The Story of Dorking Pubs' are now embarking on a follow-up book, expanding their research to the surrounding villages. They are looking for old pictures



Bricklayers Arms in Westcott

They are looking for old pictures, with date or approximate date if possible. If you have anything suitable, please mail to [admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk), or drop into the Museum, with information about photo credits.

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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This month at the nursery we've been making the most of the crisp, sunny autumn weather (and the wet days too!) and we always find time to venture outside to play and walk through the big woods in Abinger. At Forest School we have had fun watching and eating popcorn popping and marshmallows melting on our very own campfire. We've built mini dens for the fairies and created magical potions using mud, twigs, leaves and other natural resources we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep!



We love to make things to play with at nursery or take home to keep and have been busy moulding hedgehogs out of clay and creating sweet smelling lavender bags filled with freshly picked lavender from a local garden. We are so lucky to be supported by our wonderful community as two well-loved members have very kindly made some beautiful doll's clothes for us. Thank you once again!

When we want to feel cosy and warm we come inside to play and find ourselves making space rockets at the Space Station or taking a trip to the Farm Shop in our imaginatively themed

role play areas. Cooking is also a big part of our Nursery life and this month we have made some yummy butternut squash soup and delicious jam tarts. No shop bought pastry in sight! We got stuck in and made our own using our fairy fingers, kneading and rolling as much as we could.

We celebrated this wonderful time of year by holding a Harvest Tea Party at the Evelyn Hall and welcomed grandparents, parents and members of the wider community to watch us singing some of our favourite autumn songs. It was enjoyed by all who came and everyone was treated to a cake or a scone baked and decorated by us.



This term we are looking into setting up a Toddler group at St. James' Church on a Monday morning for families in our community. We have compiled a questionnaire for our community members to help us gain some information to make this a successful venture. If you could take the time to complete the survey, we would be very grateful: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2XMQWYM>

**Emma Powell**





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10th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
13th at 1.00, Christmas concert at Leith Hill Place, £20, 0344 249 1895  
14th at 4.00, Dorking Choral Society at United Reformed Church, £7, 07847 477052  
15th at 1.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
16th at 1.30, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
17th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717

During December the focus is naturally on Christmas music. The Dorking Choral Society will be joined by children from St Joseph's school for its Christmas concert. There will be music and carols for all the family to enjoy, with mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. The Ladybirds choir, conducted by Helena Twentyman, will present a variety of music, from traditional carols such as Away in a manger and O holy night, to light-hearted Christmas songs. The choir will be joined by two violinists for Elgar's beautiful and evocative The snow. There will be tea and mince pies after the performance, and the concert is held in aid of The Concert Club, a charity which provides social events for visually-impaired adults and the elderly.

At Leith Hill Place (the childhood home of Ralph Vaughan Williams) the National Trust is presenting a Christmas concert with the virtuoso trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins. Alongside some festive music there will also be an interesting exploration of historical brass instruments. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the interval.

The Dorking Halls has two screenings of that favourite Christmas ballet, Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker, from the Bolshoi ballet in Moscow, and also two screenings of Delibes' Coppelia from the Royal Ballet in London. Have a very happy Christmas!

**Ian Codd**

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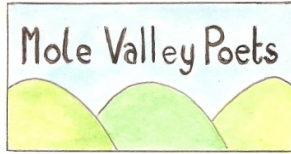
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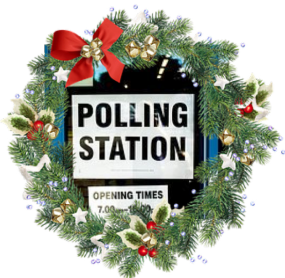
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This year's early December is set to be rather dominated by the upcoming General Election.



In a recent poll commissioned by environmental lawyers, Client Earth, seven out of ten people felt that swifter action is needed to address the climate emergency, with over half (54%) saying the climate crisis would influence their vote on December 12th.

Last month 11,000 scientists, from 153 nations, issued a statement warning of 'untold human suffering' due to the climate crisis without urgent radical transformations to our global society. These include leaving fossil fuels in the ground, halting the destruction of forests, reducing meat consumption, ending population growth and shifting economic goals away from focusing on GDP growth.

The good news is that transformative change, emphasising social, environmental and economic justice for all, promises much better human wellbeing and equality. This surely highlights the importance of finding

out what measures our election candidates and parties propose for acting now on the climate crisis, before we cast our vote.

Whatever the result of the election, it is clear that we all need to take responsibility for doing whatever we are each able to do, to be the change we would like to see in the world. At our Eco Café in November people provided plenty of ideas and inspiration on how to have a 'green' Christmas, which we've shared on the following pages. If you have other eco tips or pictures of your eco crafts and gifts you'd like to share, please send them via email to [ecochallengewestcott@gmail.com](mailto:ecochallengewestcott@gmail.com)

Wishing everyone a peaceful and happy Christmas from the Eco Challenge Westcott Team



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## Tips for a 'green' Christmas

There were plenty of ideas shared at November's Eco Café for reducing, reusing, repurposing and recycling at Christmas:



**Christmas cards** Avoid glittery cards which cannot be recycled and look for cards made from recycled paper. Reduce the number you send by creating a communal Christmas card displayed in your workplace/meeting place for everyone to share their Christmas messages.

**Gift wrap** Plain brown paper can be decorated using prints or re-use newspaper/old magazines decorated with fabric ribbon. Furoshiki is a traditional Japanese way of wrapping presents in fabric (look on Youtube for guidance).

**Decorations** Simple paper chains made from scrap paper; pine cones; dried orange slices; greenery gathered from outdoors; baubles made from decorated walnuts!

**Crackers** Make crackers from reused gift wrap or reusable crackers that come apart at the middle (you can buy cracker snaps).

**Christmas trees** Choose a locally grown tree. Living trees should be displayed in a cool room and should not be kept inside for more than 12 days. These can be grown on in pots, moving to a bigger pot annually, until they reach the maximum size that can comfortably be moved.

**Food** Home-cooked treats cut down on packaging, for Christmas leftover recipes try BBC Good Food website; if making pavlova, ensure egg yolks are not wasted by making a trifle too! Jo and Lauren kindly shared advice on how to make bees wax wraps, to use for covering leftovers or to wrap edible Christmas gifts in! Although simple to make, it can be hot and messy work – if you visited the Westcott Christmas Craft Fair you may have been lucky enough to buy one ready-made from their stall!



Thanks, too, to Hannah, Ian, Libby, Martha, Judith, James, Debbie and Yvonne for sharing all these ideas.

## The Climate & Ecological Crisis - Local issues

The recent government announcement of a 'moratorium' on fracking is a great victory for those who have undertaken years of campaigning and frontline resistance from communities in places such as Preston New Road in Lancashire. However, this does not directly affect plans for drilling for oil at Horse Hill, Horley near Gatwick.

The process likely to be used to extract the oil in Surrey is 'acidisation' – a 'stimulation technique' which uses high concentrations of chemicals to dissolve channels through limestone or sandstone, to release the oil trapped in rock pores. Quite aside from concerns surrounding the incidence of earthquakes, the risks of contamination of surface and ground water from hazardous chemicals, and the industrialisation of the area, the simple fact is that to tackle the climate crisis fossil fuels need to be kept in the ground.

Despite having declared a Climate Emergency on 9th July this year, in September councillors, on Surrey County Councils planning committee, voted to allow a further four oil

production wells and 20 years of oil production at Horse Hill.

In October, groups including the Weald Action Group and Extinction Rebellion groups from Dorking, Guildford and all over Surrey, came together as the Horse Hill Rebel Alliance to hold a peaceful protest at Horse Hill. The event included speeches from local councillors and Dr Emily Grossman, one of 1,500 scientists who have signed a declaration supporting civil disobedience protests that urge government action on the climate crisis.



Dr Grossman said: "The overwhelming scientific consensus is that we urgently need to move away from the use of fossil fuels and rapidly bring down greenhouse emissions if we are to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Allowing 20 years' worth of oil extraction here in Surrey flies in the face of both local and national climate targets, and will cause not only a direct threat to our financial stability but also criminal damage towards our planet."

## ECO CHALLENGE WESTCOTT (cont.)



### **The Climate & Ecological Crisis - Local issues**

#### **What can I do?**

**Find out more** about drilling at Horse Hill and other areas in Surrey, visit the Weald Action Group website [www.wealdactiongroup.org.uk](http://www.wealdactiongroup.org.uk)

**Join a local group**, such as Weald Action Group (above) or Extinction Rebellion Dorking (email: [xrdorking@gmail.com](mailto:xrdorking@gmail.com))

**Support the legal challenge** by a local campaigner to raise funds for a judicial review of Surrey County Council's decision to allow the expansion of oil drilling at Horse Hill (see Weald Action Group website)

**Write to Surrey County Council** to express your views at: County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2DW. Our county councillor is Hazel Watson: email [h.watson@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:h.watson@surreycc.gov.uk)

#### **Help reduce reliance on fossil fuels:**

Switch to a provider of 100% renewable energy: try Bulb, Ecotricity, Good Energy, Octopus, People's Energy

Switch to a bank which doesn't invest heavily in fossil fuels: try Cooperative, Metro, Nationwide, Triodos

#### **Reduce your energy consumption:**

for help take a look at Action Surrey's website [www.actionsurrey.org](http://www.actionsurrey.org)

When possible walk, cycle, use public transport or car share.

**Jakki Phillips**





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*Saturday 7th December*

*Starting 11am*

---

*Treasure hunts for children and adults*

---

*Santa's Grotto with a present for every child*

---

*Toy stall*

---

*Bottle Tombola*

---

*Children's Tombola*

---

*Grand Christmas Raffle*

---

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*Children - £7.50 each (must be accompanied by an adult)*

*Adults - Free entrance, £3 for treasure hunt*

*Children must be registered - Contact Debbie to register:*

*Email: [Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk)*

*Telephone: 07778873806*



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RALPH SUTTON: 01306 886826 OR 07836 275102  
EMAIL AT RALPH@JAZZ2.COM

Christmas is coming! Do you buy festive wreaths or would you like to make your own? On **Monday 2nd December from 10am – 12pm**, learn how to make a beautiful wreath with natural greenery and a metal hoop base stuffed with moss. Bring your own decorations for a personal twist. Price includes materials, mulled wine or a hot drink and festive treats. £35



Create your own Christmas decorations and tealights in clay at our Festive Ceramics workshops on **Wednesday 27th November** or **Tuesday 3rd December from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. All materials are included. £60. For more information and to book, please call the artist Shelley Bock on 07527 908065 or email [potterywithshelley@gmail.com](mailto:potterywithshelley@gmail.com)

Last year's Christmas flower arranging

was very popular and Vickie Edwards is making a return visit on **Monday 9th December, 11am – 1pm** to give tips for a fantastic Christmas table display. All materials are included, plus a festive morning tea. £30

Do you make a Christmas cake but aren't sure about icing and decorating it? Bring along your un-iced cake to our decorating workshop on **Wednesday 11th December from 10am – 4pm** and make your cake look beautifully festive with molded, shaped and piped icing. You will need to bring a 20cm deep rich fruit cake and a 30cm round cake drum. All icing materials and marzipan included, plus soup and a roll for lunch and hot drinks. £28

Join us for Winter Wonderland on **Thursday 5th December from 1.45pm – 4pm**. Talented local performers will put you in the festive mood with a seasonal selection of readings and songs. A glass of mulled wine or apple juice is included. £16.50

Leith Hill Place will open for two weekends to celebrate Christmas: **7th & 8th and 14th & 15th December from 11am – 4pm**. Come and see the house dressed up in its winter finery. Volunteers in the kitchen will provide delicious seasonal treats and mulled wine or spiced apple juice.



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We have Christmas crafts stalls for you to do some Christmas shopping, plus the Leith Hill Place Choir singing Christmas songs and carols on both Saturdays. On **Sunday 8th December** the Cobham Brass Band will play seasonal tunes and on

**Sunday 15th December** popular local musician Bill Cuthbert will get us into the Christmas spirit. Free entry to members, £6 entry for non-members, plus donations for food and drinks.

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), apart from Festive Ceramics, which is booked directly with the artist as indicated. For more information about all the events, please visit our website (above) or phone the house on 01306 711 685.

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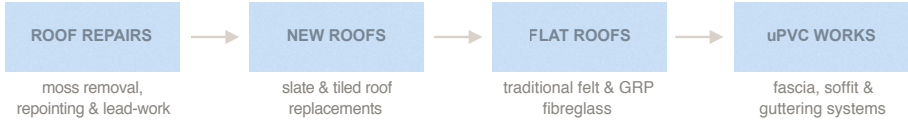


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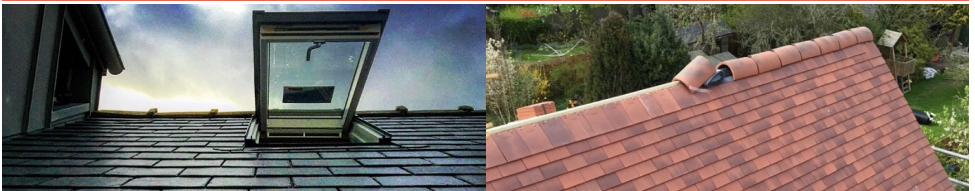


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# MOLE VALLEY RAMBLERS



With the Christmas countdown well underway, why not try the perfect way to de-stress and take your mind off all the preparations with a walk around our beautiful countryside. This month, we can also offer you our special Festival of Winter Walks Programme as part of the national Ramblers Association promotion of sociable walking over the festive season with walks every day from Christmas Day to January 5th to help blow the cobwebs away. Mole Valley Ramblers organises group walks across the heart of Surrey and further afield, on weekdays and at weekends, with a range of distances from 3.5 to 10.5 miles and levels from leisurely to strenuous, as shown below in the list of walks organised for December and early January. Visit [www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk](http://www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk) for full information, including where to meet.



## **Leisurely – 3.5-4.5 miles**

Sunday 1st: Ambling around Albury Heath. 10.30am, 4.5 miles.  
Thursday 26th: Beating the blues on Boxing Day. 10.30am, 3.5 miles.  
Friday 27th: A Bookham Common surprise. 2pm, 3 miles.  
Saturday 28th: Post-Christmas amble. 10am, 4 miles.  
Thursday 2nd: Winter woodland wander to Holmbury St Mary. 10am, 4 miles.

## **Moderate – 5-8 miles**

Sunday 1st: Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink. 10am, 6.5 miles.  
Wednesday 4th: Pilgrims to Pixham for Advent treats. 10am, 6 miles.  
Wednesday 4th: The Surrey Weald below Leith Hill. 10am, 6 miles.  
Wednesday 11th: Shere Millennium Trail (north). 10am, 6 miles.  
Wednesday 11th: Ups and Downs of Epsom Downs. 10am, 7 miles.  
Sunday 15th: Newdigate to Charlwood. 9.30am, 7.5 miles.  
Wednesday 18th: Box Hill circuit. 10am, 5 miles.  
Wednesday 18th: Denbies to Polesden Lacey. 10am, 7 miles.  
Sunday 22nd: Albury Carol Service. 2pm, 5 miles.  
Wednesday 25th: Stepping up on Christmas morn. 10am, 5 miles.  
Thursday 26th: Boxing Day on top of the world (in Surrey). 10am, 6 miles.  
Sunday 29th: Hill views and heritage - from Dorking to Brockham. 10am, 6 miles.  
Monday 30th: The House on the Hill. 10am, 5.5 miles.  
Tuesday 31st: Last walk of the year. 9.30am, 7.5 miles.  
Wednesday 1st: West from Reigate. 10am, 5.5 miles.  
Friday 3rd: Stepping away from Headley. 10am, 6 miles.  
Saturday 4th: Horsing and coursing. 10am, 6 miles.  
Sunday 5th: A rock and a pretty place. 9.30am, 8 miles.

## **Strenuous – 10-10.5 miles**

Saturday 7th: Pitch perfect. 10am, 10 miles.  
Saturday 14th: Abinger Roughs with a pub. 9.45am, 10.5 miles.  
Wednesday 1st: New year leg stretch roundabout Ranmore. 10am, 11 miles.

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