

# Westcott Village Magazine

April 2020



## Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme

### **Our village response to Covid-19**

Please see the Good Neighbour Scheme leaflet,

WVA website [www.westcottvillage.com](http://www.westcottvillage.com)

or Holy Trinity Website [thechurchinwestcott.org.uk](http://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk)

For details of how to get help and how to support.

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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

**May 2020 issue:**

**8th April 2020**

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



Hopefully by the time you read this the weather will have improved and be a bit dryer and less soggy underfoot.

I hope you are all staying fit and healthy, and helping each other out where necessary. Keeping an eye on neighbours who may need shopping or just a word to see if they're ok, which should be what we're doing anyway, but perhaps that's the silver lining to the current viral scare - that we become a more caring community (I'm hoping that by now the panic

buying of toilet roll may have passed!)

With luck you will be able to get out to at least some of the events during April and over Easter, and enjoy spring in the Surrey Hills. There are musical events and walks with the Mole Valley Ramblers among other things.

It's sad to see that Kam and Meena are selling up at the bakery, but we wish them well in the future and thanks for all the cakes over the years!

Happy Easter!

**Cath**

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

### Baby Meals

In March the Westcott Baby Meals volunteers catered for the family of Olivia-Rose who arrived in January 2020. Mum Bekki sends a big thanks to all who helped out.

The Westcott Baby Meals Cooks have kindly catered for Westcott families for over 16 years, buying, cooking and delivering hundreds of meals over the years! 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 would like to join the cooks' list, please get in touch.

[annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk) or 07710 425487



### EASTER: JESUS THE KING – OF EVERYTHING

Apparently, in the 100 Years War, the English soldiers used to shout "The pope is French, but Jesus Christ is English." Perhaps an apt quote in these days of Brexit. More to the point, the sentiment shows how tempting it is to try to fit Jesus into our own image. We probably don't think today that Jesus Christ is an Englishman, but nonetheless we may want to make Him fit with our perceptions and lifestyle.

We may want to box Jesus into something like being a "Good Moral Teacher" or we may respect Him for His good life and kind deeds - a Jesus that we can admire, and then leave aside to get on with our lives. But, the Jesus of the Bible does not allow us to

do this. The Jesus of the Bible is King – King of everything: "life, art, the universe, justice, death, money.... politics, philosophy, culture..." – in the words of Tom Wright, Bible scholar. We can try to make Jesus less than this, but we will always be conflicted if we ignore the reality that He has established.

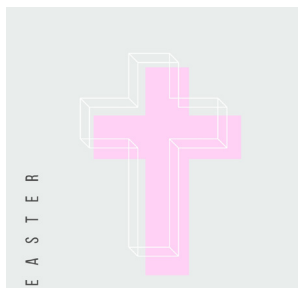
The Christian faith tells us that God's Kingdom comes through God being man. A man who contrary to all the expectations of Jesus' day, was a man of humility, of humble service.

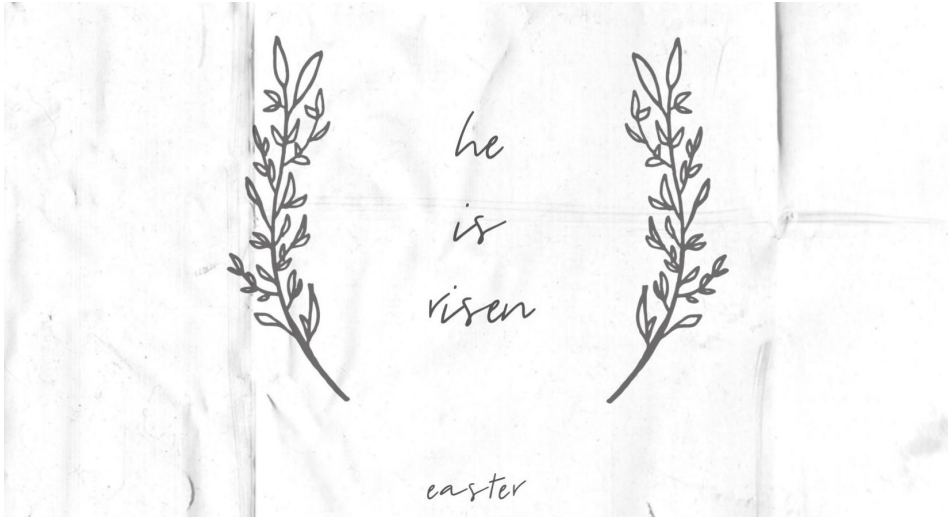
LET GO OF YOUR PRIDE, ANY  
CONCEIT, AND JUST GIVE IN;  
LIVE AS A SUBJECT OF THE  
KINGDOM OF GOD, KNOWING  
JESUS' POWER OVER ALL...

God eschews the ways of domination and power. He shows that to be fully human means to be humble. This is how evil is overcome – by Jesus, fully human, confronting the

bastions of power of Evil.

In the events of Holy Week, Jesus cries out in bitter anguish, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me". But the cup could not be taken. Evil must do its worst. Jesus experiences all of the forces of the Devil ...the forces of anxiety, of being overwhelmed, betrayal, being completely let down, ridicule, torture, false accusation, misunderstanding, rejection, agonizing pain, abandonment, and the final enemy ... death. The Devil arrays Jesus with all the powers of Sin and Death ...and loses. God in Jesus accepts it all, bears the wounds ... and brings Resurrection. This is the





King we worship today ... a King who was fully human, who was humble, who suffered, who loved, who brings the mighty power of Resurrection.

This is a story so beyond imagination, you couldn't make it up, so beyond the Jewish expectations in first century Israel/Palestine; that God should live as man, suffer and die would not, could not have occurred to anyone. And the account confounds all of the societal mores of the Roman Empire or, indeed any Empire/society up to that time - that to be fully human is not about power, force, coercion, wealth, self-indulgence was beyond understanding. The very idea of "humility" would have been anathema. The late American psychiatrist and author M.Scott Peck came to Christian faith in his adult years, being baptised at the age of 43. When he was exploring faith, he first read the Gospels sceptically but he said: "I discovered a man

so incredibly real that no one could have made him up."

Jesus the King, who you couldn't make up. And, as King, Jesus makes demands that only God makes. He tells us to "take up our own cross, and follow Him", giving over our lives that we may find Life. He calls us to be subjects to His Lordship, to Him as King.

I pray that you will know the joy of so doing. Do not try the impossible in reducing Jesus to being "a good moral teacher". Let go of your pride, any conceit, and just give in; live as a subject of the Kingdom of God, knowing Jesus' power over all manifestations of evil, know His love, His forgiveness, acceptance.

**A very blessed Easter to  
you all**

## EASTER AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER IN WESTCOTT @ HOLY TRINITY (UNLESS STATED)

#### **PALM SUNDAY 5th APRIL**



8.30 am	BCP Communion
9.30 am	Breakfast
10.15 am	Celebrate All-Age Communion
6.00 pm	Evensong

#### **HOLY WEEK**

Mon 6th 8.30 am	Prayer
Tues 7th 8.30 am	Prayer
Weds 8th 10.00 am	Holy Communion @ St Johns

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY 9th APRIL**

8.30 am	Prayer @ St Johns
7.30 pm	Communion & "Gethsemane" - stripping of the altar.

#### **GOOD FRIDAY 10th APRIL**

9.30 am	Prayer @ St Johns
10.00 am	Procession with the Cross from St Johns
10.15 am	All-Age Worship @ Holy Trinity
2.00 pm	Vigil at the Cross

#### **EASTER SUNDAY 12th APRIL**

8.30 am	BCP Communion
10.15 am	Easter All-Age Celebration with Communion
6.00 pm	Evensong

# VOLUNTEERING

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## **Volunteers, Volunteers .. and More Volunteers**

Many thanks to the THIRTEEN people who have volunteered for new roles in our Church already this year:-

Church (Un) Locking: Alan Beckett John Clachan Peter Dunckley

School Governor: Three volunteers – post being filled.

Breakfast Co-ordinator: Louise Scillitoe-Brown

Sidesman 8.30 am: Paul Goddard

Deanery Synod Representatives: Lisa Brady Glynis Cranefield

Sound System: Richard Hampton

Magazine Deliverer Watson Rd: Richard & Janice Jee

**We need a few more volunteers to ensure the work of the Church can fully go on:**

- Westfest – Coordinator(s) for Church presence
- Sidesman for 8.30 am (another needed) – monthly duty
- Breakfast Co-ordinator (to share the responsibility with Louise)
- New PCC (Church Council) members.
- Leaders/helpers for new “Pram Service”

If you can help with any of these roles, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alan Vicar [alchasjonas@aol.com](mailto:alchasjonas@aol.com)



## WHAT'S ON AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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### 2020: MONTHLY EVENING OF PRAYER

7.15 – 9.30 PM ST JOHNS

### FOR THE CLIMATE CRISIS YOUR CHURCH...YOURSELF... OTHERS

7.15 – 7.35 pm	<b>Prayer</b> – the Climate Emergency (Welcome to stay or leave at the end)
7.35 pm	<b>Gather</b> , refreshments
7.50 pm	<b>Prayer</b> – Church, You, Others including the opportunity for Prayer Ministry
9.30 pm	<b>Close</b>

**Dates:** 20th April 18th May 15th June 20th July 17th August 21st September  
19th October 16th November  
21st December

## FLOODLIGHTING

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The floodlighting for April has been sponsored anonymously.

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

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

---

### **Baptism:**

1st March

Charlotte Ella Kay Lowe  
Elijah Noah Alexander

### **Marriage:**

15th February

Adam Paul Ireland & Helena Alice Robinson

### **Death:**

14th January

Mrs Dorothy Marion Miller (83)

## SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

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

8.30 am - a traditional Communion service with hymns and organ, unless stated.

10.15 am - a "parish" service, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with organ and music group. Creche and children's activities every week.

6.00 pm - a quiet traditional service, usually "Evensong", Communion with prayer for healing monthly.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM	6:00PM
5th April	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Celebrate Breakfast Communion</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
12th April	<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Celebrate Breakfast Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing</b>
19th April	<b>Preacher's Choice</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion No music</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
26th April	<b>Vision &amp; Review Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Evensong</b>



### Evening Service

Back to 6 pm for the Summer - April – October (Not August)

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

Let's keep an evening service going in Westcott !

## MID WEEK SERVICES

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Wednesdays	<b>10am</b>	<b>Communion at St John's</b>
Thursdays	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer at St John's</b>

# WANTED



Sunday 28th June ~ 12-4pm

**AND WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE!**

We know it's months away but Summer diaries fill up quickly, so we're hoping we can make sure WESTfest is on your radar!

**Are you able to give an hour to help?**

We are looking for marshals to give out programmes.  
Or perhaps you'd be happy to man the Raffle or cover the cash desk for our fabulous Bucking Bronco and Shooting Gallery.

We'd be happy for children over 10 years to help an adult in these roles, so family pairs are very welcome to join in the fun!  
(please note raffle tickets can't be sold to or by under 16s).

If you think you can spare some time  
please email Anna at [annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk) or  
go to [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) and search for sign-ups created by  
[annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk)



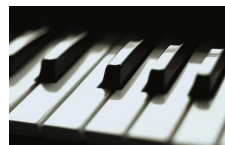
**THANK YOU... and YEE'HA!**

# READING ROOM



As daylight hours at last outnumber the darker ones the Reading Room gears up for warmer and hopefully less wet weather. Thanks go to Frances Robinson from local catering company JRC for kindly donating more glass tumblers for our kitchen so we can all drink more excellent Westcott tap water. Thank you also to Jacki Moss and the Westcott Wives for donating some fun looking tea towels to refresh our inventory there. An ongoing program of plumbing maintenance has fixed a number of leaks and replaced some long overdue culprits in both sets of toilets.

Our lovely donated piano is still very under-used so if anyone would like to offer lessons or make more use of this well-tuned musical instrument do let us know.



If you are thinking of a local fund-raising or celebration event, then do consider using the Reading Room facilities particularly over the weekend when we have above-average availability with plenty of car parking on site. We have enjoyed many more children's parties so far in 2020 and the portable sound system works well for karaoke too, alongside our faster speed broadband for that all-important streaming.

Elsewhere in this magazine you will read of the progress being made by the Joint Working Party (JWP). Like all major plans these take time and much planning to develop and the JWP Chairman Bernd will continue keep the village informed with progress.

To ensure we do our bit to contain the spread of the Coronavirus epidemic we would ask all users of the Reading Room to ensure they wash their hands well and wash up any used kitchen items to a high standard.

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



# OPEN MORNING

## Prep and Senior School

Wednesday 5 February  
& Wednesday 6 May, 9.30am

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A wet, windy night on March 4th saw a good turnout of members despite the weather, and the effort was well worthwhile! Before the main talk of the evening, we had a short introduction by Justine Webber, one of Darcy Bussell's instructors, who is keen to start a Zumba class in the village. This could be at the end of March, probably around 7pm on Tuesday evenings. Please contact me if you are interested (details below) or Elizabeth Bradley.

This was followed by an extremely interesting presentation by Hannah Mayo who covered the subject of climate change, and what we can do to rectify some of the mistakes made since the industrial revolution! Although Hannah leads the ECO Church team, this is something that everyone needs to do, whatever their beliefs. There were some references to the Church and how religion overlaps with the need to make changes, but we need to think about our neighbours, not just here in the Surrey Hills but across the planet, of those who are being devastatingly and disproportionately affected, right now.

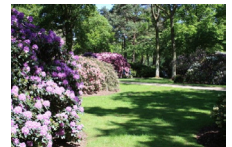
Her presentation was well prepared with statistics, with 2019 being the



second hottest year in earth's recorded history there's a very high chance of ecosystems being threatened, coral die off, arctic ice sheets melting, coastal flooding, and generally more extreme weather events more often. Add to this food insecurity....climate refugees....water scarcity....drought....air pollution and it is obvious that this all needs to be addressed in positive ways. Some of her suggestions were in our everyday lives, from recycling and avoiding single use plastics, to buying fewer clothes and cutting down on car and plane travel.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday April 1st, and whilst there is some doubt about the intended Butterfly conservation, it is hoped that we will have an equally colourful alternative.

In May another afternoon of croquet and other games in Angela Deloford's delightful garden is planned, and for June we are hoping to arrange a visit to Leonardslee to see the rhododendrons which should be in full bloom then.



Meetings are at St John's Chapel, from 7.30pm first Wednesday of the month, teas and coffee included in the annual £15 or £4 on the night, with wine available for which we ask donations of £1. Everyone is welcome, and further details can be obtained from Jacki Moss, [johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com](mailto:johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com)

**Jacki Moss**

As always, both sites continue to be a hive of activity. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook, to see daily life at Surrey Hills All Saints. You can share in the amazing learning opportunities the children experience. Twitter: @SurreyAllSaints, Facebook: Surrey All Saints

Here are some of the highlights.

## Quicksticks Hockey at St John's, Dorking

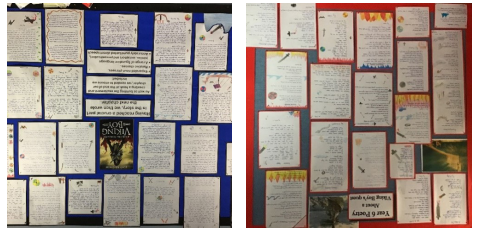
First place! Congratulations to our Quicksticks team who won the Dorking School hockey tournament that took place on 4th March 2020. Thank you St Johns Primary School, Dorking for hosting. Next stop County Finals. Good luck to the team.



## Viking Writing!

An important part of developing our writing at Surrey Hills All Saints, is giving children opportunities to edit, improve and publish their work. Year 6 produced some fantastic work during the last half term. Being on display in classrooms and corridors means those in school can admire but, with social

media, we are able to share more widely – with parents and beyond. Having tweeted the displays, the author of Viking Boy, Tony Bradman, re-tweeted and commented on how impressed he was.



## Viking Longships

As the culmination to our Viking learning, before half-term years 5 and 6 researched, designed and constructed longships. In small groups, they worked collaboratively to solve all sorts of construction problems in their journey to produce a stable ship with mast, sail and oars.



The results were fantastic – the children were very proud of their efforts - and it was lovely to share the models with many parents.



## SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

### Thames Water Talk

As part of Years 5 and 6 introduction to their new learning theme, Greg from Thames Water entertained the children with fascinating facts. During the talk, the children learnt that water is 'alien', precious and ancient. They also learnt how water is cleaned, how to use less and how to help to keep sewers from blocking. Every child received a four minute shower timer and other goodies.

"I now know you can't flush flushable wipes." (Ruby – year 6)



"There could be water in our bodies that a dinosaur could have had in its body". Callum – year 5).

"It was a cool experience" Daisy

"I enjoyed eating the fruit salad, I ate ten bowls" Clarence

"I enjoyed making a meal with my friends" Sascha

I loved cooking especially the fruit salad" Alia

"It was scrumilicious" Florence



### Teddy Bears' Picnic

Our annual Teddy Bears' Picnic joint fundraiser with Peaslake Free School is taking place on Friday 8th May, from 12 to 4pm at Abinger Hammer. The theme for this year is VE Day, there will be a wide variety of stalls and fun activities for all to take part in. All are welcome and we hope you will be able to join us at this amazing event.

### Where does our food go?

Years 3 and 4 had an exciting week, preparing their own healthy lunch, consisting of pasta bake with a side salad and to finish a colourful fresh fruit salad.



### Squidge and Splat

Don't forget every Wednesday in term time, we are welcoming babies and toddlers to a messy play session, at the Abinger site. There is a different theme every week so if you have a baby or toddler, please do drop into the weekly session. More details can be found on our website, Twitter and Facebook pages.



**Mrs Jennie Ratcliff**  
Headteacher

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## JOB VACANCY

We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated Learning Support Assistant to join the Surrey Hills Team.

Our children are looking for a Learning Support Assistant who will work with them for the morning session and support their social and emotional skills during lunchtime. There is also an option for this role to include the supervision of the morning breakfast club, therefore specific working hours to be agreed at interview.

This role is for the school week, Monday through to Friday during term time only. Salary is on the academy pay scale point 3 £16,661 to £18,406 (full time equivalent).

Surrey Hills is an exciting and vibrant place to work. We are committed to high standards and a real sense of community. We will be offering you supportive staff, engaging children and training opportunities appropriate to the role.

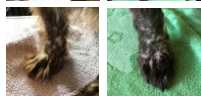
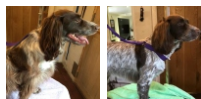
Visits to the school are warmly welcomed prior to application, please contact the school office to arrange a tour. Further details of the Person Specification, Job description and application form can be found on the 'vacancy' page on our school website.

**Closing date:** 20th April 2020

**Interviews:** Week beginning 27th April

**Start date:** To be confirmed

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Posts are subject to enhanced DBS disclosure.



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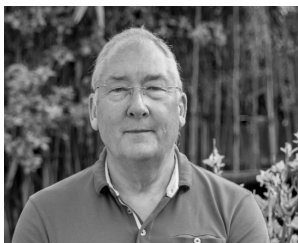
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Surrey Hills School (Westcott site), and St John's Community Centre. The more that are on display the greater the chance other drivers will get the message!!

Thank you to those who completed the questionnaire; we will be providing feedback on the results in April.



## **Future Mole Valley – Village Open Meeting**

Thank you to everyone who braved a filthy night to attend the Open Meeting on 5th March. The discussion and comments were constructive and challenging and I urge everyone to follow this up with personal comments directly to Mole Valley via the web-site - at [www.futuremolevalley.org](http://www.futuremolevalley.org). The WVA will have circulated the minutes of the meeting and published its formal reply to the Council which it was asked to do. Both will be found on the WVA web-site [www.westcottvillage.com](http://www.westcottvillage.com)



**Noise:** Again, if you have not already done so, please go on-line to sign the Surrey-

wide petition to press the Department for Transport and the Highways Authorities to take action on excessive motorbike noise through our villages.

Please sign the petition on line at <https://petitions.surreycc.gov.uk/DAAENS2019/> and encourage others to do so; we need more people to sign up to ensure that this blight on our villages and countryside is stopped.

## **Speeding and Noise Campaign**



**Speed:** If you do not already have one, please display one of our car stickers in your car urging drivers to observe the

30mph through the village; these are available at the Riverbank surgery,

Mickleham village residents have suffered particularly badly as riders avoid the Average Speed Cameras on the Mickleham bends by riding at speed along Old London Road through the village. The Police acknowledge this and recognise that bike riders now find other stretches of road to speed on – the A25 out of Westcott being one of them!

Fancy trying a new summer

# SPORT?



Now is your  
chance to try  
**Stoolball...**

Stoolball is an exciting  
team sport, similar to  
Twenty20 cricket. Two teams  
compete to score the most  
runs. You can find out more at:  
[www.stoolball.org.uk](http://www.stoolball.org.uk)

Still confused?  
Scan this and  
watch a video:



Come and have a go (or look)  
at our 'open to all' training day:

**SUNDAY 19th APRIL**  
**10am til 12.00pm**

**Where:** Holmbury St Mary Cricket Club  
(Holmbury Hill Road, Dorking Surrey RH5 6NR)

**Who:** Females (sorry lads) aged 14+  
(no age limit!)

More Info? Contact Suellen at [Holmbury Stoolball Club](https://www.holmburystoolballclub.co.uk) on 07866 777643

## Prudential Ride London

The WVA is planning to apply in the charity ballot for up to 20 places in the 2021 Prudential Ride London 100 race with the intention of making any it is granted available to Westcott residents at cost. The registration process is expected to open this autumn. By applying as a charity, it is hoped that people who have approached the WVA about places in the past, and who have been unlucky in getting a place in the individual ballot, will be able to take part.



Depending on the outcome of the current consultation on the future of the race (which should be known by the end of April), the 2021 race may be the last opportunity to ride this classic event and raise money for your chosen charity.

## Change of meeting dates

Next Open Meeting **Thursday 21st May**

– St John's Community Centre (Hall) moved from 28th May.

**AGM Thursday 8th October 2020** – Holy Trinity Church, Westcott moved from 15th October.

## And finally...

Can I remind you please to take a moment to amend your Membership subscription standing order to the new Bank Account.

Account Name: Westcott Village Association

Sort Code: 82-11-07

Account Number: 20072790

You can also go online to [www.westcottvillage.com](http://www.westcottvillage.com) and click on the Pay/Renew button. You can pay with any debit card – you don't have to have a PayPal account to do this.

Please do it now while it is in your mind! The annual subscription is £10 per household, but if you would like to pay a little more, and can afford it, this is always welcome, and all the money is put towards projects which benefit the village.

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)**

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The meeting on 12 March – Photos Past and Present – shown by John Clachan, will be reported on in the May Village Mag. There is no meeting in April. Our next meeting will be in St Johns Hall on Tuesday 12th May at the usual time of 8pm and is expected to be a film show of 'Britain on Film – Rural Life – a historical record of how rural life used to be'. It was made by the Independent Cinema Office, which has begun making historical films about different aspects of life in Britain for use by Community Groups such as ours. If this proves appealing we may be able to use some of their future films.

**Roger Christian**

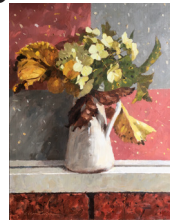


## THE DORKING GROUP OF ARTISTS

**Spring Exhibition**

**Betchworth Village Hall, RH3 7JD**

**1st - 3rd May 10 am - 5 pm  
(open until 4pm on the last day)**



The Dorking Group of Artists, one of the largest art groups in Surrey, will be holding its popular Spring Exhibition at Betchworth Village Hall. Over two hundred paintings, drawings, prints and mixed media works in a variety of different styles are being exhibited by the members, many of whom are professional artists. All artwork exhibited is for sale including a large selection of unframed works and cards.

### About the Dorking Group of Artists

The Dorking Group of Artists meets for a vibrant programme of activities on Tuesday afternoons at Beare Green Village Hall from September to Easter, and there is an exciting programme of outdoor painting during the summer months. There are also a number of Saturday workshops given by professional artists. Membership is open to artists of all abilities, from beginners to professional artists and costs just £25 a year.

[www.dga.org.uk](http://www.dga.org.uk)

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Dorking Group of Artists



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## THE HUT & THE READING ROOM UPDATE

---

### **Statement on behalf of the Trustees of The Hut, the Trustees of the Reading Room and the partners of Dorking Medical Practice.**

I can report further progress in the plans to develop a new village hall and doctors' surgery in Westcott. Dorking Medical Practice, which now operates Riverbank Surgery, has received preliminary confirmation from the relevant NHS authorities that the NHS recognises the need to retain a surgery in Westcott. Formal commitment by the NHS is conditional on a number of further procedural hurdles, such as production by the doctors of a detailed business case and approval of financial parameters by the District Valuer, but nevertheless the concept has taken a significant step forward.

The Trustees of the Hut and of the Reading Room met with the partners of Dorking Medical Practice on Friday, 28 February. At such meeting the doctors unanimously confirmed their personal commitment to owning and operating a modern, purpose-built medical facility on part of the site now occupied by the Hut. As soon as the next step in the NHS decision making process is completed, which it is hoped will occur in mid-March, the doctors will commence discussions with their bankers on raising the necessary finance to cover site-acquisition and

construction costs.

At the same meeting the trustees of the Hut and of the Reading Room committed to commence a legal process intended to bring about a merger of the two charities which own the sites in Furlong Road and Institute Road. A merger will make it easier to push forward with the redevelopment proposals as a single plan. Such a merger will need approval from the residents of Westcott, who are the beneficiaries of the two charities. The merger process will take some time, but in due course the trustees will publish their detailed proposals, invite comments from residents and then hold such meetings as will be needed.

In parallel with the steps I have already outlined, the trustees and the doctors will work with our planning consultants to obtain outline planning permission for these proposals. We wish to ensure that these are widely supported in the village and intend to hold one or more information meetings as soon as we have worked up more detailed plans with the planning consultants and the specialist architects who are advising the doctors on the specific requirements of the new surgery building.

**Bernd Ratzke**  
**Chairman, Joint Working Party**

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# THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



## Future Mole Valley



I wanted to start this month by thanking everyone from Westcott that took part in the council's Future

Mole Valley consultation.

The tremendous volume of responses now need to be fully analysed as it is vital that the council gets the plan right for the local generations to come.

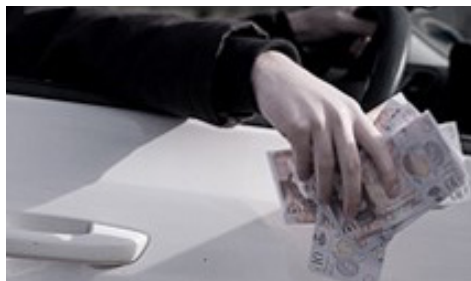
## Littering from Vehicles

Littering from a vehicle is against the law, and an offender faces a penalty notice of up to £100 if caught in the act.

The Council is asking for your help, by reporting littering, to keep our local area clean.

You can report littering from a vehicle using the easy-to-use facility to report littering online at [www.molevalley.gov.uk/littering](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/littering). This allows anyone

who spots an offender to share details about the offence and upload a dashcam photo.



What the council needs from you:

- what was littered
- when and where it took place
- details of who littered from the vehicle for example driver, front passenger, rear offside or nearside passenger
- whether you are aware who did it - for example name and address of the person responsible
- description of the vehicle involved
- vehicle registration
- description of the person who littered (if available)
- visibility and weather conditions at the time it took place
- any other information you have to help us identify the person responsible
- willingness to provide a witness statement if the case goes to prosecution
- You can upload any photos or video footage via the form as supporting evidence.

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### Snowdrops

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spring  
along the  
Greensand  
Way near  
Rookery  
Drive, taken  
by Jacki  
Moss

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

### Housing Assistance Grants



H o u s i n g  
A s s i s t a n c e  
grants relate to  
mandatory and  
discretionary  
grants that are  
provided by  
the council in

accordance with set criteria.

The Disabled Facilities Adaptation and Private Housing Improvement service is open to homeowners or private tenants in Mole Valley who meet any criteria of being aged 70 or more, have a disability, are vulnerable in some other way, or are on a means-tested benefit. The opportunities include:

- The adaptation of disabled peoples' homes to enable them to live independently in their own homes for longer and ensure their homes are suitable for their needs
- Assist for Mole Valley residents to achieve early discharge from hospital back to their homes, to minimise bed blocking and support health outcomes and recovery from illness.
- A subsidised home repair service through a Handy Person Service to enable residents to maintain a safe and secure home environment.

### ***Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant***

The Council has a statutory obligation to administer mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) to provide aids and adaptations to enable disabled residents to live independently in their own homes.

The eligibility criteria, scope of the works and general requirements governing DFGs are prescribed by the Government and the Council is unable to deviate from these requirements.

The Council is required to administer DFGs to all eligible applicants irrespective of their tenure, with the exception that DFG funding is not available to use on properties owned by councils. The Council aims to work collaboratively with housing associations to fund aids and adaptations within social housing.

In some cases the extent of the aids and adaptation required for a disabled applicant is extensive. The total cost of the work may exceed the amount available under the DFG regime. Where the additional funding cannot be met by Surrey County Council, the housing association (where applicable) or the disabled resident and all other sources have been exhausted, consideration will be given to providing the necessary top-up funds.

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

### **Assistance to Facilitate Hospital Discharge**

This grant is available to fund those essential aids or minor works required to enable a patient to return home from hospital.

Where a Mole Valley resident is awaiting discharge from hospital but is unable to return home because additional aids are required to make the home safe, funding is available for these emergency improvements.

### **Home Improvement Agency & Handyperson Service**

The Council provides a dedicated service for elderly and disabled residents who need extra help to undertake repairs and/or adaptations to their homes. Mole Valley uses a local Home Improvement Agency (HIA), Millbrook Healthcare, to assist with the grant process.



own home to:

- assist with completing application forms

- undertake the financial check to establish the client's eligibility for grant
- meet with the Occupational Therapist (OT) to agree how the adaptation will be done in accordance with the OT assessment.
- prepare schedules of work, detailed drawings and contract documents.
- help in finding suitable and reliable builders/ contractors and in obtaining competitive quotes.
- supervise the works and
- Obtain the required Local Authority Planning and Building Regulations approvals where necessary for more major works

The HIA also provides the Handy Person Service. For more information on any of these grants and services please contact call Mole Valley District Council on 01306 885001 or email [env.health@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@molevalley.gov.uk)

### **Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields**

Back in 2012 the council took part in The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge, which was headed by its patron, the Duke of Cambridge.

Three sites locally were dedicated to become Queen Elizabeth II Playing Fields - Ashted Recreation Ground and Cock Lane Recreation Ground in Fetcham; together with our Cradhurst Recreation Ground.












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



The council worked in partnership with Fields in Trust to support their goal of protecting outdoor recreational spaces as a permanent, tangible legacy from both The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

Fields in Trust is the only independent UK-wide organisation dedicated to protecting and improving outdoor space for sport, play and recreation.

The trust aims to ensure that everyone - young or old, living in an urban or rural area, able or disabled - has free, local facilities for healthy outdoor activities.

As the sun comes out and the summer months approach I know that more and more families will once again make use of Cradhurst. When doing so it is important to look after your, and your children's, skin. One way to do this is to follow the OK Code.

The Outdoor Kids Sun Safety Code is the only sun protection initiative for children's sport and outdoor activity. Fields in Trust joins over 100 national governing bodies of sport and major outdoor organisations in actively supporting the campaign.



With skin cancer the UK's most common and fastest growing cancer, the campaign urges individuals and groups who are outdoors with children to review their sun policies to ensure they create impact.

You can find out all about the code at <https://oksunsafetyscode.com> and you can download their useful free app the UV Widget which will update you on the weather and UV Index and tell you how to sun protect accordingly.

**James Friend**

Droughts are now more frequent and intense due to the climate crisis. In Kenya people like Rose and her family and millions of others are struggling to get enough food and water.

With every gift, we help Rose stop this climate crisis.

In Kenya, the rains haven't come. Again. For villagers who farm the land, that means life is getting even harder. Rivers are bone dry, and crops wither in the fields. The drought is starving people of food, water and the chance to earn a living.



Photo credit: Christian Aid/ Adam Finch

At 67 years of age, Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit. Grandmother Rose shouldn't have to go hungry. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop the climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), the house-to-house collection takes place in Westcott. Please:

- Give generously to help Rose and her community build a water dam, providing fresh water to help families survive the drought.
- Act to call for a New Deal for Climate Justice to help restore creation and build a world where everyone can thrive.
- Pray for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that, as a global community, we will care for people living in poverty.

Join us at **caweek.org**

# ABINGER NURSERY



This half term we have been focusing on springtime, learning about bugs/minibeasts, their life cycles and the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We have been practising number and counting skills, making our own pompom caterpillars as well as experimenting with mark making and colour.



Despite the changing weather, we have been embracing the fact that springtime is here! We had our own role play garden centre, planted seeds in the compost in the tuff tray and made our own Daffodil pictures for St David's Day. We also celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making our own pancakes with Hayley. For World Book Day we dressed up as book characters and enjoyed sharing our favourite books and stories.

At Forest school we have been practising our hammering skills, spotting lots of signs of spring...catkins, daffodils, buds on the trees, snowdrops along with playing in the hammock and having our campfire! We've headed out on



rainy walks to hunt for puddles, visit the cows and much to the children's delight we even spotted a big red tractor on one of our walks!

Cooking with Henny is always our favourite Wednesday morning activity and some of things we have made include colourful mini pizza, jam and scones which were for our Mother's Day tea party!

In March, Waitrose kindly added us to their Community Matters green token scheme. Thank you to those of you who put tokens into our slot towards our Nursery. Abinger Common Nursery is a charity and without kind donations and support from our Community we would struggle like many pre-schools sadly have. The money donated by Waitrose and raised from our Valentine's Day hamper we raffled off in February will be going to buying Forest School equipment, in particular a Rocket Stove for outdoor cooking.

**Emma Powell**

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## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

### VICTORIA'S LITTLE BRA SHOP

I went to meet Vanessa and Victoria at the lingerie emporium at the top of West Street, to find out how such a niche shop can be so successful, when bigger and more diverse retail shops are closing down all over the country.



This mother and daughter team opened in Dorking nearly 6 years ago, and have been working together ever since, though this was the first enterprise they had done together. "What started you off?" I asked.

"We began because we realised that there isn't another shop specialising in lingerie, anywhere close. Victoria's cousin had opened a shop in Yarm, in North Yorkshire, and it was very successful. So we decided to take a leap of faith and try for ourselves here

in Dorking." Mum Vanessa laughed, "We were very grateful for that family knowledge when it came to choosing which brands to stock."

I looked around at this tiny shop, full of pretty things, from silky nighties, to sports underwear, and realised that just choosing what to stock was a key decision. "How do you differentiate yourselves from the big departments stores and the chain stores?" I asked. (Google tells me that M and S sell two pairs of pants every second and forty five bras every minute!)

"It's a completely different experience" explained Vanessa. "First of all we are both properly trained." "Properly trained?" I said, surprised. "Surely it doesn't take much training to sell undies?" "Well, that's the differentiation" she said. "You go into a chain store, usually pull something off the hook, you may try it on, but probably not, because you think you know your size and shape, but actually we all change shape throughout our lives - even if our weight doesn't change much. So it's really important to have a bra that properly fits, and that's what we are trained to do. Lots of customers say they can't believe the difference in comfort that a properly fitted bra makes, and also they get the option of having that really comfortable underwear in all sorts of pretty styles. And what's more"



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## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH (cont)

she added, "each of the brands has a training qualification in fitting, and we've got those qualifications, so we really do know what we are doing."

She showed me the certificates that line the walls, and then I spotted two awards certificates. One was for 2019 when the shop was awarded 'Best lingerie shop in the UK'. "We had to go to the Cafe de Paris, to receive that award - that was a great night," said Victoria. "And then we were delighted to get Dorking's Best Christmas Window award last year for our window display."

"We really like being in Dorking" she said, "there are independent shops and the town is also busy because we have supermarkets in the centre of town, so we are convenient for people to call in when they are doing their normal shopping."

These two obviously work hard at making their shop a success, and I was made most welcome, perched on a stool, having this conversation as women came in and out of the shop trying on different undies in the private cubicles, until they found what they liked. "It all looks very discreet," I said. "Yes, of course," smiled Vanessa. "This is supposed to be a good experience, and having a bra fitted might be a bit off putting to some women. So of course, we are discreet, we don't

invade people's personal privacy, and we wait till we are called in, before we help the customer."

"Where do your customers come from?" I enquired. "Mostly from Dorking of course, but we have customers from Guildford, Cobham, Leatherhead and Horsham," they told me. So the girls are drawing a lot of business into Dorking that wouldn't be there otherwise. That's why independent shops work so well in a town and are so good at creating footfall.



Although the shop is busy all the time, as I could see, it wasn't crowded. It's like a little Tardis with stock and fitting rooms on each floor. "We call the upstairs floor the Boudoir" said Vanessa. "Sometimes we get friends coming together to treat each other to special undies, sometimes men bring

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## BUSINESS OF THE MONTH (cont)

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their wives to buy a Christmas present or a Valentine's day or birthday present and we have been known to do Prosecco evenings to groups of women about the importance of properly fitting bras for comfort and health reasons. It really is a different experience when you are wearing the brand that fits you, and the size that's right, with the straps adjusted correctly. It makes a difference to the way you stand, the way you walk, and can really change your whole posture."

I was pretty impressed, both by Vanessa and Victoria's obvious knowledge and enthusiasm, but also by their friendliness and willingness to show me round. Not only do they stock their wide range of undies, but also some very elegant swimwear, both one piece and bikinis, but also some really pretty and sometimes very luxurious night wear. Those silk nighties were just gorgeous. "Hand-washed, they last a lifetime." Said Victoria. (OK, I noted - my birthday's in July!)

But not everything was top of the range. I realised that some of the prices compared very well with department store stock, and there was plenty of what you might call everyday underpinnings as well as the more luxurious items.

"Most people have far too many bras

and panties" said Vanessa "and they only wear a small proportion of them. It's much better to have a few things that are comfortable and good to wear and properly treated they will have a long lifetime of use." "How do you recommend you wash them?" I asked. "Either on the gentle cycle in the washing machine, or a hand wash. Most of these items would dry on a towel rail overnight" said Victoria, "then you don't need so many. It's a good idea to have a good sort through every now and again, to throw out or recycle the things you don't wear. We operate a recycle scheme here with the charity Against Breast Cancer, where unwanted bras get sent to third world countries and £700 per ton gets donated to the charity."



So that's a good thought. We should have a look through our underwear drawer, take what we don't wear to Victoria's Little Bra Shop, and maybe have a little treat for ourselves.

**Andrea Gabb**

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# DORKING MUSEUM

**Easter Family Activity:** The Museum will be holding the latest of its popular family activities on April 9-11 and 16-18. The Dorking Cockerel is a very special bird! Join us at the Museum for an Easter hunt that reveals the name of a famous person who was very fond of Dorking Cockerels. Looking high and looking low, finding chicks and unscrambling letters – it's all part of the fun! Families are invited to drop in on those dates any time between 10am and 3.30pm. This is free with regular Museum entry. Children must be accompanied.

Our current Spring exhibition is **'How do we look at Dorking? The Town and its Landscapes over 150 years'**, a collection of paintings and drawings of the area, from conventional views to interesting modern interpretations of the local townscape and landscape. It features works by prominent local artists like Charles Collins (1880-1967) and those who visited and captured local views like Arthur C Fare (1876-1958) as well as more contemporary interpretations in paintings, photos and even views from a drone.



The White Horse, Dorking High Street, Charles Collins

Outside the Museum, one of the exhibition's special images is displayed in the external bay window. 'Leith Hill' by Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey captures the subtle tones and hues of a temporary living artwork created by the artists for the 2018 Surrey Hills Arts programme. An aerial image of Leith Hill was imprinted into seedling grass through photographic photosynthesis pioneered by British visual artists Ackroyd & Harvey.

Meanwhile, all over Dorking, needles and chisels are already hard at work preparing the Museum's Autumn exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. There will be displays of locally found 17th century shoes and replicas made by a local saddler and the kinds of tools that Dorking shoemaker William Mullins would have used in his trade. Museum volunteers are recreating 17th century costumes, including adult garments and dressing up clothes for children. The great team from the Dorking Men's Shed are also working with the exhibition team to make a cross section model of the Mayflower and its contents. It is fantastic working with them!

**Walking in Dorking:** The Museum's walks team's Spring programme of guided walks continues with:

- **Hidden Dorking Historic Walk, 4th April, 2pm** from the Museum. Journey into Dorking's history with a guided



*March, 2020*

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*The decision of retiring hasn't come lightly but we feel the time is right in 2020. Through the ups and downs, we have tried our best to put smiles on faces our consumers, even though sometimes things have gone wrong, we still strive to ensure we offer a great service to all generations of customers, from small children, right through the older and more mature generation – we aim to give back what you invest and put into our business.*

*In terms of the future, we are still in progress in terms of handing over and selling the business, I have chosen a supplier who I have supplied for many years to take over the shop. Unfortunately, this does mean that the Bakery will not be running and will be converted to a large convenience store for the local community. I think this is something that the Westcott Village has been craving for quite some time. Hopefully you might see me passing by in Westcott but for now its time to kick back, relax and watch Liverpool win the premier league (even though my sons won't be happy about it).*

*Thanks again for your support for over the last 30 years.*

*Cheers,*

*Kam, Meena, Kunal and Francis.*

## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

walk of the town to see hidden Dorking.

- **Betchworth Castle Tour, 5th April, 2pm** from entrance to Betchworth Park golf club. Includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure.

- **Dorking Historic Pub Walk, 19th April, 11am** from outside the Halifax on High Street. Former and current pub sites within Dorking town centre, relating their history and pointing out some of their features.



- **Mayflower 400 Walk, 26th April, 2pm** from the Museum. See buildings that were in existence during the time of the Pilgrim Fathers and which survive today.

**Dorking South Street Caves:** The new season of the highly popular cave tours begins on Easter Saturday 11th April. Take a trip under the streets of Dorking to explore the famous 17th century caves. Discover how they were created and how they evolved over the centuries. Check out the 'mystery chamber' and guess what it was used for. These tours sell out very quickly, so book early through the Museum



website. Subsequent dates will be on Surrey Day, 2nd May, and then every last Saturday of the month until 31st October. Tours last 45 minutes and sensible shoes are needed!

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am-4pm. [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk). Enquiries: [admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk), 01306 876591.

### STOP PRESS

In the light of the developing epidemic, Dorking Museum Committee has taken the decision not to re-open the Museum this week or for the immediate future.

Talks due to take place within the Museum, including this week's talk by Tessa Boase, will be postponed and ticket monies refunded. The start of the cave tour season in April will also be postponed and the guided walks schedule will be suspended. The oral history team has already cancelled all home visits. The situation will be monitored on a weekly basis.

The Museum will continue to be active online and on social media so please keep following us on Facebook and Twitter, in the press and via the website, where details on events and activities will be updated as this situation evolves.



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## LEITH HILL PLACE



By the time you read this the clocks will have gone forward and the evenings will be lighter. The Rhododendron Wood will be beginning to display its glorious blooms, and the wet and very long winter should be a memory.

We now have an open call out for artists with all levels of experience to submit their work for an exhibition entitled 'Science & Nature' in the autumn. Details and submission forms can be found on the website. The closing date is 30 April.

Our House of Science theme at Leith Hill Place continues. On 10 – 13 April families can have fun with a science and nature interactive trail and earn a chocolate prize. The trails will be running from 11am – 4pm and cost £3 each.

On Monday 20 April from 10am – 2pm, popular silversmith Hattie Hyder returns to the house for another workshop. You will work with sterling silver and create a bangle with a stamped or textured design to take home. £110, hot drinks included. Please book directly with the artist on 07735 542488 or [hattiehyder@gmail.com](mailto:hattiehyder@gmail.com).

Have you ever wondered how our volunteer bakers make such delicious scones? Find out in our scone-making

workshop on Tuesday 21st April 10am - 12.30pm. You will experiment with different ingredients and bake some flavoured scones to take home along with a host of hints and tips. All ingredients supplied; £25. Please book on 0344 249 1895.



Writer, broadcaster and historian Andrew Green will consider the evolution of recording techniques and their impact on Ralph Vaughan Williams and his contemporaries in his 'Evolution of Sound talks series: The Incredible Talking Machine' on Thursday 30 April 2 - 3.45pm. Afternoon tea is included. £16.50 Please call 0344 249 1895 to book.



On 2 May 6 – 7.45pm Rob Burton and Paul Turner present 'The Classical Saxophone', including works by Piazzola, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Marcello. £20 including an interval drink. Please call 0344 2491895

For more information about events, please visit our website on [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leith-hill-place) or phone the house on 01306 711 685.

**Anna Trenter**

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Waitrose car park last week...

An articulate and charming young woman approached a lady (in her 70s) in Waitrose car park as she was loading shopping into the car. The young woman said she had severe toothache and asked for directions to a nearby dentist. The lady returned to her car to find her purse removed from her bag and later learnt money had been spent on her bank cards.

In February a similar thing happened to my mother in law (also in her 70s) in a Surrey Sainsbury's. My mum in law had put her handbag in her trolley, and was approached by a charming young woman in the bread aisle, who gave a convincing back story and asked for help looking for "dairy free bread". My mum in law duly obliged

and they both spent a few minutes studying the various loaves together - the young woman was very grateful for her help.

When she later got to the check-out, my mum in law found 3 cards had been taken from her purse (her purse and bag were not taken). She acted swiftly in contacting her bank but found money had been spent (contactless) on one card.



In both cases it would appear the young woman causes a distraction while an (unseen) accomplice takes cards/purse.

Please take care - keep your bag close to you at all times. If asked for help in a supermarket - keep your wits about you.



**Anna Kemkers**

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## The True Story of August

Nobody is quite sure when August was born but he had such a sunny disposition it was felt that it must have been in the summertime and hence he was named August. He was a First Nation child which previously was referred to as Indian. Very little is known about his parents but sadly one thing was certain: his mother drank during pregnancy and August had Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). He wasn't badly afflicted but there was no doubt about the diagnosis. One aspect of this condition is that children take orders literally and on one occasion at school when August was told to stand in the corner, he remained there all day. Fortunately this form of discipline is no longer used.

When August was about 6 it was announced that it was time for the children to learn baseball. Although similar to rounders which tends to be played at girls' schools, this sport is a national summer pastime in USA, Canada, Cuba and Japan. The children were taught the basic rules about having to run around points on the ground called bases to reach the home plate when a run is scored. Hitting the ball "for six" also scored a run and if there were other players on the bases who make it home, they also scored runs. Thus the winning team has the most runs but the game is very different from cricket. If the batsman misses the ball three times (strikes), he's out.



Finally the big day arrived. They were going to play another school and August was on the team. He could hardly contain his excitement. They scored a fair number of runs but slowly August's team caught them up until the scores were level. There was only one batsman left on August's team and that was August. There was no one on the bases so August had to hit a home run or somehow run around all the bases to home plate.

First pitch: miss! Strike one. Second pitch: miss! Strike two. Third pitch: good hit, along the ground. August runs for first base. Outfielder fumbles. August runs for second base. Wild overthrow. August runs for third base. Another fumble. August is running for the home plate and a chance to win the game. The crowd are on their feet cheering: "Go for home August, Go for home!" Little August ran right past the home plate, out the gate and all the way home. His team lost.



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7th 14th 21st at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, £20-25, 07415 815784  
8th at 7.00, The Dying of the Light at St Barnabas' church, Ranmore, free  
11th at 5.55, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
16th 17th 18th at 7.30, Leith Hill Musical Festival at Dorking Halls, £15-24, 01403 240093  
20th at 7.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
21st at 7.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
23rd at 1.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717  
27th at 1.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717

The big event in April is the annual Leith Hill Musical Festival, when a dozen local choirs take part in competitions and concerts. This year sees some changes to the structure of the festival, meaning that the choirs have greater scope to select and perform their own choice of music. On each of the three festival days there are competitions in the morning (audience welcome anytime) and then the choirs combine to present an evening concert under the baton of the festival conductor, Jonathan Willcocks, together with the orchestra of Southern Pro Musica and vocal soloists. This is a great chance to hear some big choral works performed by large choirs. The main works in this year's concerts are Vaughan Williams' grand and visionary Sea Symphony (16th), Mozart's great Mass in C minor (17th), and a contemporary work, Mirror of Perfection, composed by Richard Blackford and based on writings by St Francis of Assisi (18th). This is a lovely piece, predominantly calm and serene but also with some very dramatic sections. Together with short pieces from each of the competing choirs, every one of the three concerts looks like a very attractive programme.

The Dying of the Light at St Barnabas' church is a Tenebrae sequence of music and readings on the theme of loneliness, centred around the story of Holy Week. It is woven around a 16th-century choral masterpiece, the Lamentations by Robert White. There will also be additional music, poems and readings. The music will be sung by The Whyte Effect with the addition of a brass quartet. The performance will be followed by a drinks reception; entry is free with a retiring collection.



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## MUSIC IN DORKING (cont.)



This month's performers for Watermill Jazz are as follows: Linda May Han Oh (7th), the Pete Oxley and Nic Meier quartet (14th), and What's New with Ian Shaw, Iain Ballamy and Jamie Safr (21st). Please note there is no concert on 28th as the venue is unavailable. The lunchtime recital at St Martin's church is given by Ingrid Kvale, playing the accordion.

There are several screenings at the Dorking Halls this month, with events both live and recorded. Opera-lovers can see Puccini's *Tosca* from the Met (7th & 23rd) and the popular double-bill of *Cavaleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* from the Royal Opera (21st & 27th). Fans of the ballet can enjoy Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* from the Royal Ballet (1st & 7th) and *Jewels* from the Bolshoi (20th).

Ian Codd

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## THE CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL CRISIS Legal Challenges



In February the Court of Appeal ruled that plans for a third runway at Heathrow were unlawful, as they fail to take into account the need to reduce carbon emissions, in line with the UK's commitment to tackle the climate crisis, as per the Paris Agreement.

This is the first major court ruling to be based on the Paris agreement. It sets a precedent for carbon reduction targets to be considered in determining whether other high-carbon infrastructure projects should go ahead. The adverse impact that this human activity would have on the planet was judged to be more important than any potential economic gain from expanding Heathrow. Hopefully this should signal the beginning of the end for the 'business as usual' approach, which is projected to see Earth warming by around 4.3oC by the end of the century, with devastating consequences for humanity and the natural world.

Following the ruling, naturalist, Chris Packham launched a legal challenge to the HS2 rail project, arguing that its construction will impact 700 wildlife sites and around 100 ancient woodlands and that the full environmental impacts have not been properly assessed.

The principle of putting planet over profit, is something that the late lawyer, Polly Higgins, devoted her life to, in advocating for a law against ecocide.



Establishing ecocide – defined as serious damage or destruction of the natural world - as an international crime, would mean that people who commission projects causing such damage, eg chief executives or government ministers, would be legally responsible for the harm caused to others. It would be akin to other atrocities, such as genocide and war crimes. This would create one simple law that would have the power to protect the Earth.

**Jakki Phillips**

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## What can I do?



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to be an Earth

Protector and read more about the  
campaign to make ecocide law at  
[www.stopecocide.earth](http://www.stopecocide.earth)

## Support Legal Action

The Heathrow challenge was brought  
to court by the legal charity Plan B,  
in conjunction with others including  
Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace  
and the Mayor of London. Plan B  
combines mobilisation and litigation  
to hold power to account for climate  
breakdown, fighting for the future  
for all life on earth. Crowdfunder is  
a fundraising platform to help those  
taking legal action on a variety of  
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world for the better. You can call 0161  
226 2929 for more information or visit  
their website [www.ethicalconsumer.org](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org)



## April diary

No EcoCafe this month, due to Easter.

Future dates: **7.30-9pm May 11th; June 8th; July 13th.**

**Sat 4th 10.30am-1pm** Dorking Repair Café at Dorking Christian Centre

**Mon 20th 7.15-7.35pm** Prayer for the Climate Crisis at Holy Trinity

**Wed 22nd** Earth Day [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)



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We're introducing a new piece to the magazine this month. An opportunity for the children (or adults!) of Westcott to tell us all about their fabulous four-legged friends. What is their story? Why are they special? Do you know a dog in Westcott who is especially brilliant or has a very important role in their owner's life? We want to hear all about them at [editor@westcottmag.com](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com)



Ran more,  
looking over  
Westcott  
and Abinger,  
where I can  
run and run  
and run.  
Or around

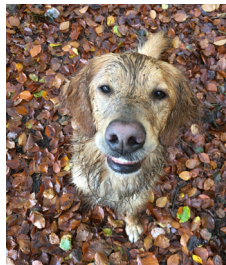
Coldharbour Common and Leith Hill.  
I often find lots of friends to play with there.



Hello, my name is Milo! I am three years old and I am a Golden Retriever. Both my parents were working dogs,

which is why I am a dark gold colour and I have a slightly smaller body shape than other Retrievers. I am not a working dog but I do have very important jobs at home, like making sure all the plates & dishes are licked clean before they go in the dishwasher and keeping the sofa cushions warm!

My very most favourite things in the world (apart from cheese) are running, sniffing, getting muddy and playing with other dogs. My favourite walks take me up high onto the slopes of



I live with five humans, two cats and three guinea pigs. It is a busy house! My family brought me home when I

was 8 weeks old; look how small I was! I like snoozing with my fur-brother. And I love to wake my human brother and sisters up in the morning by sneaking into their bedrooms to lick their sleeping faces when they are not expecting it! It works every time!



I think when I grow up I would like to be a racing driver because then I can rush around even more quickly than I do now!



**Sarah Medcraft**



The Quick Response Memorial Woodland

Charity No: 1174651

## **CHARITY EASTER EGG HUNT**

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I hope you all survived the storms of February. As I drove to the Memorial Woodland over the days after the storms I was hoping everyone was safe when I saw the number of trees that had fallen and the flooded roads and fields in our local villages.

We suffered a bit of damage with a couple of our favourite trees uprooted and many branches strewn all around the woodland. But the spring is with us, the bulbs are in full bloom, the buds are bursting on the trees and bushes and the birds are very busy house hunting.



The Trustees and I are busy planning our annual Easter Egg Hunt which will take place on Saturday 4th April. All are welcome to join us for this hugely popular fund raising event. The cost for children is £5.50 each to include the egg hunt and egg and spoon races. But please register your children ASAP as



numbers are limited for safety reasons. Mums and Dads can also have some fun in their own egg and spoon races and there is a fabulous Easter Raffle, Soft Toy Tombola, lucky dip and Easter Egg sale. Refreshments and Hot Dogs for sale.

Please contact [debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk) to register. Do come and support us to help our ex-servicemen in times of difficulty. We look forward to welcoming you all at the woodland for a day of fun all for a good cause.



**Paul Cooling**  
**Chairman**  
**The Quick Response Memorial Woodland**  
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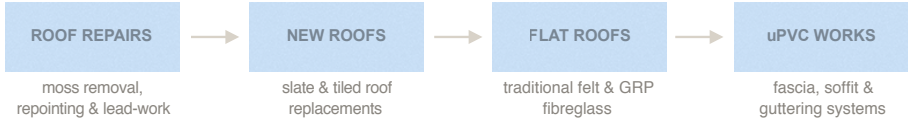


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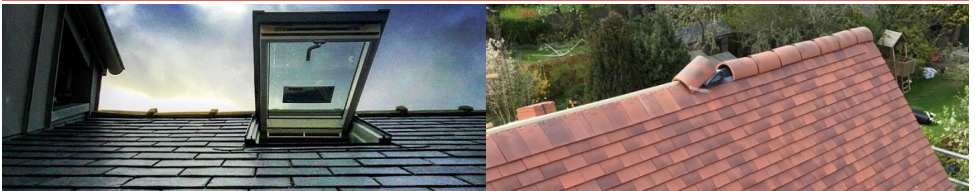


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## **Spring Walks Festival 2020** **Friday 24th April – Sunday 3rd May**

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Recapture your passion for adventure and fun by accompanying this welcoming and sociable group on one of their free guided walks. This agreeable, friendly and healthy leisure pursuit is open to anyone and with just a few basic items like sensible clothing, footwear plus a snack and some water you can get started. The walks are graded as leisurely, moderate or strenuous so you are guaranteed to find a walk to suit you.



We have created an exciting 10 day programme of 35 walks and on each day there is to be a selection of 3 or 4 different routes differing in length between 3 and 15 miles. The walks also vary in difficulty so there should be something to satisfy everyone from the most experienced walker to the complete novice. There is no need to pre-book, just check the website to establish the starting time and location and turn up. On arrival, one of our team of experienced and knowledgeable volunteer walk leaders will greet you and take your details before introducing you to the rest of the walkers.

A few of the walks will include a stop at a pub or a café and even a music venue; others will simply have a drink and/or a picnic break. We are planning a walk/rail combination, a night time hike, a nature trail, a 'follow the mole' trail, a riverside walk and much more. There is even a 100 mile challenge for the more energetic amongst us.

Please visit the Mole Valley Ramblers Association website for details.  
<http://www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk/festival>

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