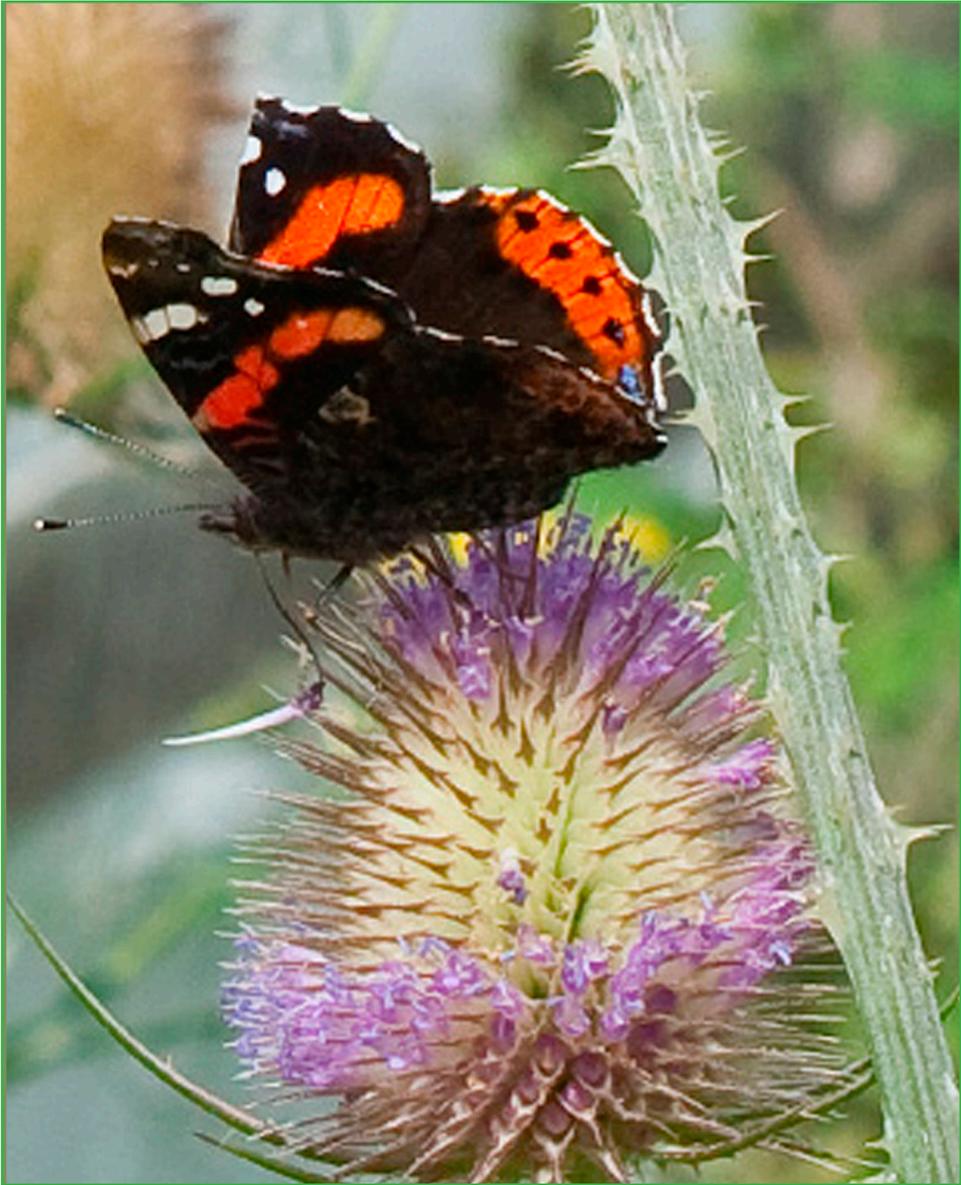


# Westcott Village Magazine

September 2020



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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  
**October 2020** issue:

**8th September 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

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Well, it's been a while! I hope as many of you as possible have kept safe and well and found constructive things to do if you had more spare time than

usual.

This is a slightly shorter issue than usual as many of the village clubs and activities have not yet restarted - here's hoping they will be able to soon. Neither the village coffee morning nor the St John's Chapel cafe are open yet, so plenty of reason to call a friend for a socially distanced coffee in the garden!

Don't miss the information on the surgery survey on page 11 and also in the article on pages 37-39. Please do take the time to do it if you get a text message or form through the post from Dorking Medical practice. If you haven't had one you can pick up a copy at the bakery, Riverbank or the surgery in South Street.

Stay safe and remember to keep in touch with people, just a phone call can make all the difference if someone is struggling.

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

---

## READING ROOM



Greetings to all from the Westcott Reading Room trustees.

We have produced a full risk assessment to share with our users to discuss ways of re-opening the Hall with all Government and health safeguards in place. Once we have consulted with our users then we can judge whether and when there is an appetite to open the Hall in the foreseeable future

In the meantime, we can still offer some central Westcott car parking places in the Reading Room car park at £600 per annum lump-sum payment or £53 per month.

We expect to have more news next month to share with you. Stay safe and well.

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**

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

---



*“The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood” – Revelation 9:20*

We may wish there was a god who would magic away all of our problems. We may wish we could live without restraint, and this god would bless our lives. Of course, such a god does not exist. Instead, Christians believe, there is God who calls us to form our lives in His wisdom and love. This God works in and through our humanity, when we turn to Him, when we *repent*. In this God of Christian belief, there is glorious hope of a “new heaven and a new earth”, but my, what trauma there is and will be until mankind does

*repent*, learning the ways to this harmony of God, (wo)man and nature.

The greatest danger in the current Coronavirus epidemic is that as individuals and as a people together, we will not do it, we will not repent. The danger is that we will go on living as Consumers, worshipping “idols”, giving up our glorious reality as made in the image of God, to love Him and love our neighbour. The greatest tragedy, will be if we learn nothing from the Corona virus epidemic:

We, the world, will go back to living unsustainably, giving our lives over to Consumption .. because we can.

We will continue to buy, and travel, and indulge because “what else do we do with our money ?”

We will ignore the science that tells us crises will become

“normal” because of Climate Change and Environmental Destruction unless we radically change.

We will continue to live and trade in a way that invites further pandemics and the likelihood of antimicrobial resistance

And in our idolatry we will continue to ignore those around the world who live every day in distress.

The brilliant book of Revelation, at the end of the Bible, does not flinch from the realities we face. The book describes plagues, wars and traumas to the end of time as mankind “still did not repent of the work of their hands”. The glorious hope comes in a “marriage” of God – Christ - and mankind.

We can live in this hope now – repent, live in God, make love for Him and our neighbour, the priorities of our lives, build a better post-Corona world.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Church in Westcott in a time of Corona**

Much of the pre-Covid work of the Church in Westcott has been put on hold but we are still very much active and present in our village. Activities include:

- Holy Trinity is open to all for visits and prayer.  
9.30 am – 4 pm Sundays and Wednesdays.
- Prayer together in Holy Trinity every Wednesday 1.30 – 2.30 pm.
- I will be there. You are very welcome to come for a chat, prayer

- 8.30 – 9.00 am every Sunday, Communion Service in Holy Trinity.
- 10.30 am Zoom service every Sunday – join us by telephone if you do not have internet access. See web-site for details.
- Join us, you are very welcome.
- “Life Groups” are running on Zoom – small groups of people who meet to chat and pray about life, faith.

We are a part of the “Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme” and we are always here for a chat, prayer, pastoral need. **Paul Stacey** paulstacey88@gmail.com, may be able to help with debt advice.

For help, more information, please contact me:-

**Alan Vicar 01306 644868 [alchasjonas@aol.com](mailto:alchasjonas@aol.com)**

or visit our web-site **<https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/>**

## **Thank you....**

Many thanks to you all who are holding together the Church in Westcott at this time by joining our popular Sunday Zoom service. Particular thanks to **Simon Mabley**, Churchwarden, who set this up, and to him, **Grant Smetham, Ian Hughes and Libby Witt** for being our “Zoom Masters”, running the services.

Thanks also to **Simon and Ali, and John and Libby**, churchwardens for all their work in making Holy Trinity safe for worship and visits.

Thank you to all our “TLG” (Transforming Lives for Good) coaches who continue to support children and families at Surrey Hills All Saints School.

Thank you to our magazine team **Cath Friend** (editor), **Judith Packer** (distribution), **Hugh Parry** (advertising) and all the deliverers, for getting this magazine underway again.

Thanks to **Judith**, too, for becoming a foundation (Church) governor at Surrey Hills All Saints School.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Children's & Families Work – Ellie Lister**

Ellie, our Children's and Family Worker, continues to slowly recover after months of being ill with the Coronavirus. Activities are, therefore, on hold. Please pray for Ellie's good recovery.

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 am Zoom Service**

**Jim Glover**, OBE, former High Sheriff of Surrey,

now Chair of the Community Foundation for Surrey,

will be speaking on the work of the Foundation

in highlighting and responding to social need in Surrey.

... Another Sunday with the Church in Westcott not to be missed....

---

## **FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS**

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### **Death:**

18<sup>th</sup> April 2020 Christopher Brian Carr (94)

27<sup>th</sup> April 2020 Les Denman (74)

## Stay in Touch

We would love to stay in touch with you, sending you weekly updates about our services and activities.

Please return this form by e-mail to  
[admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk)

or by post to Alan, Vicar of Westcott The Vicarage Guildford Rd  
Westcott Dorking Surrey RH4 3QB

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For contact by e-mail

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Please add me to The Church in Westcott emailing list for information about church events and news.

I understand that:

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\* I will be able to unsubscribe at any time by contacting  
[admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk)

\* any use of my personal data will be governed by Holy Trinity's PCC Privacy Notice which is available on The Church in Westcott website

## FLOODLIGHTING

---

The church floodlighting for September has been sponsored by Laraine Jewell in loving memory of Michael Player and his grandson, James Watkinson.

The floodlighting for March was sponsored retrospectively by Imogen Barker in memory of her sister Olivia.

Many thanks to all our sponsors!

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

## HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SERVICES

---

DATE	THEME	8:30AM IN CHURCH	10:30AM ON ZOOM
6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Gladness, Generosity ... Giving (1)</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Gladness, Generosity ... Giving (2)</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>  <b>Jim Glover, Chairman of the Surrey Community Foundation will be speaking on the work of the Foundation</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Gladness, Generosity ... Giving (3)</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Songs of Praise &amp; Communion</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Michael &amp; All Angels</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>

**8.30am** - We are delighted to say that, after considerable review and care, we are re-instating the 8.30am Holy Communion Sunday service in Holy Trinity, focusing on the receiving of the sacrament, with no sermon or hymns, and finishing by 9am. There is no need to sign in – please just come along, but please be aware that we will need to manage numbers if we are beyond safe capacity. Further details, including our Risk Assessment are available to view on our website [thechurchinwestcott.org.uk](http://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk).

**10.30am** - Our "parish" **online Zoom service**, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music. Visit our website to sign up to our emailing list for weekly invitations

You will also be very welcome to come to Holy Trinity, for prayer, reflection or just to be back in our Church **on Sundays and/or Wednesdays between 9.30am and 4pm**

# BABY MEALS UPDATE

---

Since the beginning of 2020, the Westcott "Baby Meals" volunteer cooks have bought, created and delivered 115 meals to 10 different households. We've been busier than ever in the history of the Westcott 'Baby Meals' service and due to the Covid-19 outbreak have expanded our remit to cater for other households who have been struggling at this difficult time. I'm also very much aware that across the village many people have been shopping and cooking for neighbours and friends who have struggled to get out or for whom this has been a particularly challenging time for other reasons. What an amazing village we live in!

Joining our volunteer cooks list means you can help support families across the village, when and if you're able - no formal rota just sign up when the request comes through.

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.

Some of our 2020 families receiving 'Baby meals' include;

Olivia-Rose and family, Ashley Road,  
Jesse Fairbrass, Evelyn Cottages,  
Rosie Day, Parsonage Lane  
Perret Family, Balchins Lane  
Athena de Peyrecave, Westcott Street  
Autumn Macdiarmid, Springfield Road



Jesse Fairbrass



Rosie Day

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

**Anna Kemkers**

# The Future of the Doctor's Surgery in Westcott is Uncertain!



**We need  
your  
views!**

Riverbank Surgery is due to close and a replacement surgery is proposed in Furlong Road

If the new surgery doesn't get NHS approval, patients will have to travel out of Westcott for their healthcare

**The NHS needs Dorking Medical Practice patients to  
express their views**

**Please show your support by completing the  
short survey that you receive by text/post**

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WWG has a history of 50 plus years and has been a good point for many people to meet up with other local women each month. Newcomers to the village have been able to take advantage of the opportunity to become part of the village community, but it does take a little bit of organising to keep it going.

I feel that I have done my bit over several years now to lead the group, and as I'm finding more of my time needed by the family, and foresee more commitment starting in the autumn, I am standing down from the routine monthly meetings as organiser. Several members have helped over the last 2 years to "host" these meetings, and I'm sure more suggestions will be forthcoming, but someone is needed to orchestrate the whole.

If the group is to survive, someone is needed to offer their services for the coming year. I am happy to continue to promote our bigger events, Burns Night this year turned out to be very

popular and preferable for a number of people to a Christmas party. Unfortunately we were not able to have our garden party nor our annual BBQ, but perhaps something can be arranged for late autumn, but it needs someone to take the helm.

Someone new to the village perhaps who would like to meet more of the residents, make new friends, enjoys a little responsibility but not too much, or someone who has recently retired or is on furlough (after all this can be for as long or as little a period of time as wanted) PLEASE someone come forward to save this village facility, let it not be archived as W.I and The Westcott Players were. Not only does it provide support for people in the village, for many it is a focal point for socializing, but also supports charities with a little fund raising.

We meet the first Wednesday evening of the month, 9 or 10 times a year, at St John's Chapel, from 7.30pm -9pm. If you feel you could take on the responsibility of co-ordinator, please let me know: Jacki Moss

Email: [johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com](mailto:johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com), or phone 01306 881481 (leave a message on the answer phone if necessary)

**Jacki Moss**

Welcome to the first article of the academic year. None of us could have predicted or envisaged what was to come when we started the Autumn term, in September 2019.

When the Government closed all schools in March, our school community rose to the many challenges with real courage and commitment. I was so impressed by the response of our entire school community and was overwhelmed by the work from everyone, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure that the wheels kept turning. We have certainly learnt all about resilience.

Overnight, the school moved to an online learning platform which has changed our school forever. Teachers learnt how to record the learning to share with the children online and with the support of teaching assistants, each child was given regular feedback. At the same time, teachers and teaching assistants were also onsite providing childcare for vulnerable and key worker children, working through the holidays. You can see what school life was like during lockdown by looking at our website, twitter feed or Facebook page.

Our local governing body actively supported the school, attending

virtual meetings and adopting the mountains of paperwork and policies that were required. Our admin team navigated the numerous new online platforms and returns we were required to do for the Department for Education. Government food vouchers were organised for eligible families, food parcels delivered regularly and regular welfare calls made. The staff at Surrey Hills have been simply amazing.

*'I just wanted to extend my thanks to you and all the staff at Surrey Hills School for the huge amount of work you have put in, to continue to engage and educate under such challenging circumstances. The girls miss school desperately which is a tribute to the caring and thriving school environment you have nurtured. They are coping fairly well under lockdown and have proven to be fairly resilient learners too! They have responded well to the online learning and they love the feedback comments and rewards from staff. I am so grateful for all that you do, it is very much appreciated.'* Mrs X

Finally, I would like to thank the local communities and charities for their offers of support during this challenging time.

The staff at Surrey Hills are looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September as we reopen to

## SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

all children.

### School Places for 2020/21

We still have some spaces for September 2020. Please do contact us if you are looking for a school place by emailing the school office at [westcott@surreyhills.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:westcott@surreyhills.surrey.sch.uk) or calling 01306 881136. You can look at the virtual tours of the Abinger and Westcott site on our school website (parent tab – new reception and year 3 information).

### Spotlight on Forest School

We are extremely fortunate to have our own beautiful copse, at the Abinger Site, where weekly Forest School sessions are run all year round by our qualified Forest School Practitioner. At the Westcott site, the children benefit from a Nature Garden and pond area where they experience their outdoor learning.

Forest School offers children the



opportunity to develop an inquisitive and positive relationship with the natural world as well as instilling a love of the great outdoors. We use our woodland setting to bring learning to life with real tools and natural resources which will create an understanding of the balance of nature and the finite resources around us.



Children engage in motivating and achievable tasks and activities, at different times of the year and in almost all weathers! They work with tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation whilst developing an understanding of the natural world.

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# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

## Home Learning

We were so impressed with how brilliantly children engaged with our home learning work and projects during lockdown. It was wonderful to see the children embracing the project work at the end of last term, and seeing all the creative ideas they came up with to present the tasks.

Projects have enabled children to write in a variety of forms; research key geography and history facts; use their Maths skills and be creative. Below are some of the amazing posters, fact sheets etc. they have produced.



## Squidge and Splat – Toddler Group

This year, we have enjoyed hosting 'Squidge and Splat' messy play sessions for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Parents and childminders have enjoyed leaving the tidying up to us whilst the children have explored their senses, been curious and creative! Each week was themed from pancakes and vegetables to fairy tales and farmyards. We hope to be able to invite the children back soon!

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook, here you can see daily life at Surrey Hills All Saints and can share in the amazing learning opportunities the children experience.

Twitter @SurreyAllSaints,  
Facebook Surrey All Saints.



Thank you and well done to everyone for your support during these unprecedented times. Keep safe and well.

**Mrs Ratcliff**  
Headteacher



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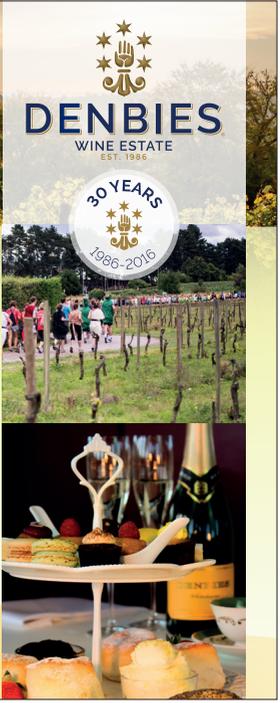
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It is a long time since I last wrote a Village Magazine article, but the WVA has, throughout the lockdown, tried to keep you updated on what has happened in the village over that time. All WVA members receive a copy of this Chairman's newsletter although we have discovered that with bulk mailings your home spam filters have in some cases been sending my emails to your "junk mail" folders on your computer where they have remained unread!!

Please check your spam box to see whether this has happened and simply click the "not junk" button. From then on, these emails should appear in your in-box as they are intended – and where they can be safely read!

If you want to receive these emails, joining the WVA (for a very modest £10 a year) is the way to do it!

## Community spirit

One of the most positive things throughout the pandemic lockdown, has been the way in which the village has acted as a community to support

each other. The "Good Neighbour" Volunteers who stepped forward to support people in need of help with shopping and prescription collections, and the way in which the "baby meals" team has supported both new mums and babies as well as other families needing help, has been absolutely fantastic. Many people have commented how much they appreciate living in such a supportive community. Thank you to everyone who did, and continues to do, their bit!

## Serious Fun

During the lock-down some of the village children enjoyed a bit of fun (with a serious message) in designing posters to remind dog owners to clear up after their pets. Exercising ourselves and our dogs has been one of the ways in which many people have been able to legally escape the pressures of lock-down and the countryside around the village has been a magnet for both locals and visitors. The posters which the children designed have been put up around the footpaths and bridleways as a reminder –





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but it is sad to see that some individuals have taken exception to these by tearing down the signs.

Many dog owners who I meet despair and comment that leaving dog poo everywhere gives ALL dog owners (wrongly) a bad name, and the non-dog owning population just get incensed particularly when poo is left outside their houses. Dog poo left lying around is a serious health hazard which can cause blindness in humans and is the reason why the WVA takes it seriously, and local councils can impose fines on offending humans.

## Speeding and Noise Campaign

The WVA has continued to explore practical ways in which we can address the speeding problem through



the village, which unfortunately seems to have got worse with less traffic on the road. We are also

progressing actively the use of "Noise cameras" to record the motorbike noise levels which have also become intolerable especially on fine summer weekends.

It is possible that some council funding will be available to tackle the speeding issue but using new technology to tackle noise may be something which we have to look to

fundraise separately for. In the survey we conducted, many of you said you would be prepared to make a separate financial contribution on this. When we identify suitable technology, and after assessing the impact of the RIDE QUIETLY signs, we may decide this is something to pursue.

And some news in brief....

**WVA AGM** - is due to be held on 3rd October, but we will assess nearer the time whether we can do this in Holy Trinity or whether we do it virtually via Zoom.

**Church Bank** – is finally blooming, and further work will be done in the autumn to seed the bare patches, cut back the hazel along the road, remove the unwanted bracken, and attend to the hedge which was planted along Logmore Lane below the church. We will be planning a working party for this to which all help is welcomed.

**Green Spaces** – the Village's green spaces are there for the enjoyment of everyone, but please remember to consider neighbours when using them, and take all your rubbish away with you to dispose of at home.

Thanks to the public-spirited individual who removed the broken window pane in the bus stop and temporarily boarded it up. Can you let the WVA

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know if you are intending to replace the glass and whether you would like us to pay for it?

## **Council Changes**

– for those who take an interest

in these things, it is worth noting that Surrey is in the process of considering changes to the two-tier council system of separate County and District councils. Mole Valley (with all other District Councils) and Surrey County

Council have signalled the start of consultations on this – which will take some time to resolve – but which has important implications for residents. This is not new in England and Wales and many Counties have successfully moved to a “Unitary” structure to simplify the provision of council services.

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)

*Sad to say the St John's Chapel Cafe is not up and running yet, but we will keep you posted as soon as we hear otherwise.*





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# WHO IS THE TALLEST OF THEM ALL?



## Westcott's amazing giant sunflower competition.



Competition has been fierce between our three competitors in the annual Westcott Street Giant Sunflower competition.

Whilst sadly the Summer Show for the Gardeners' Club was cancelled the show did go on in this unofficial, but highly competitive, contest between three enthusiastic gardeners. Seeds were distributed in March and the battle began. There were no holds barred as the giant sunflowers began to reach for the sky. Fertilisers, manure, regular watering: all the tricks of the trade were used.

On the day of judgment - 24 July - it was time for Hugh Parry, Humfrey Malins and Andrew Gordon to measure their golden plants. Tension was high. The tape measure was out. The gardening gloves were off. Who had grown the tallest sunflower of them all?

The initial winner was...Hugh Parry. A spectacular 11' 11" sunflower, in full flower and still growing, with Humfrey a close second and Andrew knocked into third position. However a little over two weeks later on 10 August 2020

Humfrey's sunflower had shot up to 12' 8". So congratulations to Humfrey.

This is the fifth year that the battle of the sunflowers has been fought from both sides of Westcott Street. It has inspired other Westcott residents, who have also planted seeds and the love of sunflowers has been shared by friends, and grandchildren. The competition has certainly added fun and a burst of yellow flowers during lockdown.

Maybe next year we will see sunflowers all over Westcott? Do let us know if you'd like some seeds in 2021.

**Edwina Gordon**



From L to R Humfrey, Andrew and Hugh with the prize winning sunflowers

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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



### **A Little Thank You From Me**

I need to start by thanking everyone from Westcott who sent me get well soon wishes during the summer and my personal COVID-19 experience. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated each one.

Luckily, I did not have the most extreme symptoms suffered by some others locally and the care from my NHS colleagues was invaluable as I slowly regained my fitness over the subsequent four months.

It was such a pleasure to be able to get out and about and see the first cricket match of Westcott's season – albeit in early July. Thank you to everyone who, with appropriate safety measures, started back up our rural village life.



COVID-19 will remain with us in the months to come and it is vital that every resident keeps up their vigilance and their personal infection control habits - such as regularly washing hands for at least 20 seconds.

The response from our community continues to amaze me, hearing how individuals have supported friends and neighbours in so many different ways – everything from making sure that a chat over the garden fence happens every day to doing shopping or fixing IT links. Thank you to everyone that has done little things and done lots.

### **Future Mole Valley**



Although with the prospect of a move to a Unitary Authority combining functions from County and District Councils seems to be on the cards, meaning Mole Valley probably has no future, I wanted to thank everyone that took part in the council's Future Mole Valley consultation around where different types of development should be focused.

Through the consultation, 105 responses were received from Westcott – a higher response rate per person than the average for the District as a whole.

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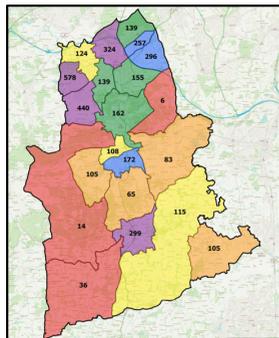
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Here's a puzzle for you, anyone  
remember what year this  
rethatching of the bus stop and  
dovecote was? (No prizes!)

Photos by Phil Cremmen

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

Overall, nearly three quarters of residents rejected building on undeveloped green field sites.



The Council is working on analysing the detail of the responses and expects to set out the way forward in around February next year.

shops, delivery vehicles potentially can have a positive environmental impact through the sharing of vehicle journeys compared to separate trips into town or further afield.

However, this impact can be offset by other environmental impacts, including the speed at which these vehicles have been seen to be driven along some of our residential roads that are often shared spaces – where children play.

### Drive Carefully

In recent months many Westcott residents have changed habits and behaviours, often setting aside routines that have been engrained over years, in response to the challenges of COVID-19 and as we all continue to reduce our Carbon impact responding to the Climate Emergency.

By shopping online, when the item wanted is not available from our village



I have written to Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Asda to specifically ask them to take action with their van drivers to respect appropriate speeds in these areas – especially in Ashley Road, Watson Road, Bailey Road, Furlong Road, St John's Road, The Burrell, Springfield Road and Westcott Street. Let's see what impact it makes.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

Like the vast majority of communities across our country, the summer months often bring about an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour to our village.

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

Sometimes this is a bonfire spoiling a family barbeque (or indeed the other way round) or it can be about loud parties or even threats and violence. If you do experience such behaviour, then most people feel safe to raise it with their neighbour directly – but unfortunately this is not always the case. So, what are your options then?

Firstly, if you think you are under immediate threat obviously call 999. If it is not immediate then call Surrey Police on 101.

Surrey Mediation Services ([www.mediationsurrey.org](http://www.mediationsurrey.org)) can offer help to resolve disputes through their Community Mediation service, including issues such as:

- Noise
- Anti-social behaviour
- Abuse or threatening behaviour
- Rubbish
- Parking
- Tall trees or hedges
- Boundary disputes or access problems
- Children's behaviour
- Privacy
- Pets

Its aim is to avoid the need for lengthy and expensive legal proceedings. It is also more flexible as the law does not recognise all the issues arising between neighbours. However, trying mediation does not prevent you from using other procedures later if no agreement is reached.

If the property concerned is a Housing Association one then Clarion encourage residents to maintain a diary of events and to contact them directly in each instance. Where residents want to copy these concerns to me, I am happy to follow them up with the housing association. My focus is always on resolving the root cause of whatever is leading to a perception of anti-social behaviour, including through whatever support the council team can give to either party involved.



Clarion have recently lost a case taken to the Ombudsman where they failed to respond appropriately and in essence allowed some anti-social behaviour to continue – to the detriment of their resident and to others around them. As a result, Clarion should now be more proactive in supporting these situations when they sadly arise.

You can feedback directly to Clarion on how they are doing through their [myclarionvoice.com](http://myclarionvoice.com) website.

### **Space for Nature**

With the warm summer weather, our village regrettably saw the some enterprising intervention to the north of Springfield Road where an area of land was cleared presumably to enable folks to access the Pipp Brook.



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

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No matter how well intentioned this act was, nevertheless the land there is not a public space and is in fact subject to a number of rules.

The space itself was subject to a lot of debate, after much detailed research from village residents, during the discussions and challenges around the creation of Pipp Brook Place and Meadow Close.



As a direct result of that work, the Planning Inspector included a specific condition on the developer to create a 10m buffer alongside the Pipp Brook at the eastern end of the site in order to support the natural diversity and ecosystems.

The Council's planning officers took action to preserve those ecosystems when the land was cleared and wrote to nearby residents to highlight the need for the area to be reinstated.

### **Support for New Business Ventures**

Finally, a quick plug for the Council's Economic Development service. If through COVID-19 or whatever other circumstances, you are thinking of setting up a new business, starting out on your own, then the team can help.

The support and guidance comes locally, regionally and nationally and, amongst other things, includes links to:

- The Dorking Business Breakfast Group who are a group of locally based businesses who meet every Thursday morning at Betchworth Park Golf Club to exchange business information, referrals and news.
- The Dorking Business Improvement District (BID) which delivers projects to promote Dorking and improve the local business prosperity, run by the Dorking Town Partnership.

- Mole Valley Chamber of Commerce who are a networking organisation for Mole Valley businesses and charities, helping businesses grow through networking events and the sharing of best practice.

- Trusted Contacts who are a business networking group which holds fortnightly breakfast meetings at Hartsfield Manor in Betchworth.

**James Friend**

## *The Dorking Group of Artists – October Exhibition 2020*

### *Exciting News!*

*The partial lifting of lockdown and the re-opening of Denbies Wine Estate, albeit with restrictions and safety precautions has meant that the autumn exhibition is now planned to go ahead, but with an intriguing twist – what will be unique and unusual this year is that people will also be able to view and purchase from the exhibition concurrently online on a dedicated website – [www.DGA.gallery](http://www.DGA.gallery) – which will launch on 1st October 2020 whilst visitors to Denbies themselves will be able to view and purchase the actual paintings in the Denbies Gallery from Tuesday 6th – Sunday 11th October 2020, 10.00am – 4.00pm . You will find Denbies Wine Estate at London Road, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA. There is plenty of free parking.*

*Visitors to both the virtual and the physical exhibition will be able to view, browse and choose from 100 original works of art – in addition, purchasing could not be easier with fast and secure online payment. With the focus this year on affordable art, we are also offering free local delivery. If we are unable to exhibit at Denbies because Covid restrictions have changed, our exhibition will still be online to view and purchase.*

*On a note of reassurance, there will be stringent precautions in place at Denbies with hand gel dispensers at various points of entry, including entry to the exhibition, social distancing, clear signage and the requirement to wear a face covering, to ensure everyone's safety.*

*Art takes on a completely new dimension and value in such uncertain and troubled times – it brings happiness and possesses the ability to uplift, intrigue and inspire. We therefore hope you will be able to join us in October, whether in person or online.*

*Many thanks for your support  
Jacky Cowdrey Exhibitions Secretary  
Tel: 01737 813942 Email: [jackycowdrey@hotmail.com](mailto:jackycowdrey@hotmail.com)*

*Jane Anderson Wood Chairman  
Tel: 01372 375123 Email: [j.andersonwood@gmail.com](mailto:j.andersonwood@gmail.com)*

Whilst our nursery was closed and we weren't able to see each other face to face, we managed, like a lot of people, to keep in touch virtually. We were able to see some of our lovely Nursery workers who still kept us entertained by sharing their time with us. They showed us Easter crafts that we could make with our mummies and daddies at home, sung nursery songs with us and for the older children supported us in our learning for our next adventure – moving up to school.

We were delighted when the Evelyn Hall doors opened once again to welcome us back to play together. Some of us returned to enjoy the last few weeks of term as we got ready to go to school. We settled back in immediately and were very grateful to our fantastic nursery workers who continued to keep us safe whilst still creating an amazingly fun atmosphere.

We spent a lot of time outside, hunting for bugs, exploring our story stones, practicing our hockey skills and getting puffed out running many races! We practiced working as a team using building blocks and guttering to create ramps for some balls. We also tried out our hammering skills using real hammers – DIY SOS here we come! Of course it wouldn't have been right to spend so much time outside without building a den, so that's what we did! And that's where we sat reading some of our favourite stories.

Inside we were treated to two different role play areas as we thought about all the people who had been busy looking after our local communities. We started off at the supermarket and moved onto the post office. We then spent some time writing thank you letters to people who had been kind to us.

As we'd spent so much time at home we wanted to share with our nursery workers some of the things we'd learnt and the list couldn't have been be more diverse! From cool dance moves to new cycling skills and even a magic trick involving an ear! Of course some of our friends stayed at home and although we missed them we know they were fully involved with the nursery speaking face to face virtually and showing and telling what they'd been up to.

We really are thrilled to be back and looking forward to the year ahead.

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## THE HUT & THE READING ROOM UPDATE

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



As with every aspect of life, the Covid-19 crisis

has had an impact on the speed with which the Trustees have been able to progress their plans for The Reading Room and for The Hut, not least because the NHS decision making processes have of necessity had to focus on more urgent priorities than the potential relocation of our surgery in Westcott.

I reported in April that the doctors at Dorking Medical Practice had been very clear in their wish to work with the Trustees towards the delivery of new medical premises in the centre of the village and they have certainly not lessened their efforts to press forward. The doctors have now had funding approved in principle by their NHS paymasters to produce the required business case for the retention of a practice in Westcott.

Additionally, the relevant NHS property manager has been in touch with Dorking Medical Practice's

architects to see if they can agree an outline specification for the size of premises which would be appropriate given the number of patients in and around the village and the NHS's own published intention to relocate some services which are currently provided in hospitals into local surgeries. My understanding is that they are close to agreement on the amount of space which would be needed.

The doctors have also commenced detailed work on their business case, which is heavily reliant on data which demonstrates the demand for clinical services in Westcott. All NHS surgeries are required to have a 'Patient Participation Group' ("PPG") to act as a feed-back/suggestions forum by patients to their doctors.

Dorking Medical Practice's existing PPG had only one member resident in Westcott and, at the suggestion of the Trustees, a call for potential members of a 'Westcott sub-PPG' was helpfully put out mid-Covid by Holy Trinity Church and by Westcott Village Association to their respective email lists. That quickly resulted in the successful recruitment by the doctors of a 'Westcott sub-PPG' specifically made up of people living in and



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## THE HUT & THE READING ROOM UPDATE (cont.)

around Westcott.

The 'Westcott sub-PPG' has wasted no time in getting to work. By the time this magazine reaches you in print, all patients living in Westcott who attend any of Dorking Medical Practice's surgeries (including Riverbank), and all patients living outside Westcott who attend Riverbank, will have been asked by post or text message to respond to a survey put together by the doctors with the help of the 'Westcott sub-PPG' to assess the community need for a replacement surgery when Riverbank closes.

If the invitation to participate in the survey has somehow missed you, hard copies are available for collection from South Street surgery, from Riverbank and from Westcott Bakery or can be posted out to you by calling the doctors on 01306 875577 or 01306 881313. Do please respond to this incredibly important means of evidencing to the NHS just how vital the retention of a surgery in Westcott is to the village community and do so by 6th September, which is the cut-off date.

In the meanwhile, the Trustees have now made application through their lawyers to merge the two Charities which form The Reading Room and The Hut. That process has some time



to run, and (importantly) does not yet include any detailed proposals to dispose of the whole or any part of either site.

Once we get to that stage, we will need to go through a consultation exercise with the village and of course such plans as may emerge will be entirely dependent on first having obtained outline planning permission for what is to follow.

And that is really the next phase in the Trustees' endeavours to maximise the community benefit offered by the assets under their control. As, with luck, the NHS approvals start to firm up and as the doctors therefore become able to finance a new surgery, the Trustees will feel more confident in incurring the costs of planning applications and for the design of a new Village Hall. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. It was ever thus.

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

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## A Photo Album – Then & Now of Westcott & Dorking



Chessington Signpost

On 10th March we were treated to an eclectic show of slides derived from our own archives of Westcott

Memories, Dorking Newspapers, Historic Surrey and Britain from Above by John Clachan who had collated some 125 photographs. Wouldn't we all like to have our photos organised on a computer like this?



Steam at Landbarn

It began with a series on people, agriculture and places in the surrounding area followed by a few on relics of war time.

The development of transport by road and rail followed, including Dorking bypass built in 1934 and Mickleham bypass, the old buses and some steam trains at the station and on the railway below Ranmore and finally a few classic cars.



Westcott Bus

A series of aerial photos reminding us of views around Dorking town included Cotmandene, St Martins Church, well known shops in the town and the last market held in the main street of Dorking in 1926, concluding with a view from the Box Hill Lookout over Dorking.

The Rural Westcott series started with a map from 1864 before many of the houses were built, but showed the Church and the village green – with no tree in the middle then – the Cricketers Pub, Broomfield Park, Parsonage Lane and the village postman and some snow covered cottages!



Last Dorking Market 1926

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The show was completed with a round up of local scenes remembering the great storm of 1986, Leith Hill Tower, cattle in the fields, some village characters and some well known houses of long ago.



Our chairman, Imogen Barker, thanked John for a very entertaining and interesting display and his efforts in preparing it.

There was no meeting in April and subsequent months due to the 'lock down' but a meeting has been

tentatively scheduled for Tuesday 8th September with the AGM (if permitted) and is expected to be followed by a Talk by Paul Whittle on 'America's Historic East'. It falls on the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and a mention of Mullins of West Street.

The Film Show: Britain on Film – Rural Life – a historical record of how rural life used to be – originally intended for May will be rebooked for a date in 2021. It has been made by the Independent Cinema Office (ICO) which has begun making historical films about different aspects of life in Britain for use by Community Groups such as ours.

Members are encouraged to keep an eye open for suggestions on future speakers and subjects for talks and to keep the committee informed.

**Roger Christian**



Poppies on Ranmore,  
photo by Jacki Moss.  
If you have any other  
photos of our beautiful  
local landscape, please  
send them in to editor@  
westcottmag.com

## POLICE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID SCAMMING

Some people are receiving fake text messages claiming they've been in contact with someone who's tested positive for COVID-19. Be aware of a fake SMS text that links to a made-up coronavirus contact tracing service. If you follow the link, the site asks for your personal details.

But there's only one official contact tracing service you can trust, and that's the one being run by the NHS. Its web address is <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>.

How to tell if a contact tracing text is real:

NHS Test and Trace might text or call you to warn you if you've recently been in contact with someone who tests positive for the virus.

You can tell if it's genuine if it includes a unique ID number. This ID number should allow you to log into the official Test and Trace website.

Instead of following any links included in the text, go to the website from your web browser and enter the ID number you've been given.

You could also check whether the text came from the only number dedicated to the NHS tracing service, which is 0300 013 5000. However, there are concerns it could be affected by number spoofing. No other messaging services are being used to contact people. If you get a message like this on WhatsApp, Telegram or Facebook, for example, you can be sure it's fake.

Be cautious and report suspicious messages

If you do receive a suspect Test and Trace message, report it to Action Fraud. The National Cyber Security Centre is also encouraging reporting phishing attempts to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

Scammers are taking advantage of the pandemic in any way they can to try and steal information and money.

Be generally suspicious of any unusual or unexpected messages that ask for personal information about you or your friends and family.

# DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking is a focal point for this September's transatlantic commemoration of the 400th anniversary of a significant moment in history – the sailing of the Mayflower for the New World in September 1620 – although another significant event, the coronavirus crisis, may mute celebrations a little.



Six Dorking residents sailed on the Mayflower. The best known of these locally is shoemaker William Mullins,

although his daughter, Priscilla, is perhaps more celebrated in the US, sometimes known as 'the mother of a nation'. Their imposing house in West Street is the only known surviving home of a 'Pilgrim Father', an attraction for Mayflower tourists from both sides of the Atlantic.

Mullins was not one of the religious separatists who initiated the voyage, but one of the 'Strangers', recruited to fund the crossing. He sailed on the Mayflower with his wife, Alice, daughter Priscilla, son Joseph and servant Robert Carter. The sixth

Dorking voyager was Peter Browne, apprenticed as a weaver in the town and possibly related to the Mullins family.

For their full story, you are encouraged to read the fascinating tale of 'The Weaver, the Shoemaker and the Mother of a Nation: The Story of Dorking's Mayflower Pilgrims' by Kathy Atherton and Susannah Horne, published by The Cockerel Press, available from the Museum online bookshop ([dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk)) and local outlets.

**Exhibition:** With the Museum currently closed, the planned autumn exhibition commemorating the anniversary is being held over until next year. A lot of work has been going on behind closed doors, so it will be well worth the wait. Museum volunteers have been creating replica seventeenth



Photo credit - Lois Leyland

century costumes, local saddle maker Julia Forsyth a display of 17th century shoemaking material and tools, and the Dorking Men's Shed a cross section model of the Mayflower and its contents (as well as the magnificent Mayflower planters seen around the town).



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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



**Mayflower model:** Meanwhile, Robin Cooper and Tom Loftus have devised a template for an original Mayflower model for children to make. This will be available at the exhibition, but why wait?

Download and print it now from [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk/mayflowermodel](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk/mayflowermodel). When completed, model-makers are invited to send a digital photo of their finished model to [admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk) and some of these will be displayed on the website.

**Dorking 'Virtual Voyage':** The Mayflower 400 website ([mayflower400uk.org](http://mayflower400uk.org)) has lots more about the Mayflower history and anniversary events, and about Dorking's role. In the 'Virtual Voyages' section, there is a short film about Mullins, 17th century Dorking and the Mayflower voyage, put together by Dorking Town Partnership and Dorking Museum and narrated by Kathy Atherton.

**Walking in Dorking:** The Museum is pleased to announce the resumption of its programme of guided walks in and around Dorking in September. There are some changes to take account of current conditions: we can only take a maximum of six people per walk, bookable through our website (providing contact details for NHS test and trace), and all walkers must wear masks. Details and Covid-procedures on [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/).



The main programme starts with The Deepdene Trail (including access to the Hope Mausoleum) on 5th and 6th September, 2pm, £5 per head. There will be two Mayflower 400 walks, revealing Dorking in the time of William Mullins, on 23rd September, 6pm, and 27th September, 4.30pm, £4 per head.

There will also be a series of free walks for Heritage Open Days (10th-20th September):

- The Deepdene Trail (including access to the Hope Mausoleum): 12th and 13th, 2pm.

- Mayflower 400 Walk – Dorking in



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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

the time of William Mullins: 12th, 6pm, and 13th, 4.30pm.

- Betchworth Castle Tours (including access to the Castle enclosure): 13th and 20th, 2pm.

- Hidden Dorking Historic Walk: 20th, 11am.

Dorking Museum currently remains

closed and other activities are on hold whilst plans are put in place to allow us to re-open and resume activities safely whilst continuing to offer an appropriate visitor experience.

For an update on resumption of activities, to read our regularly updated blog, to become a member or to donate, please visit the website [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk).

## WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

*Hello to all our loyal supporters.  
We hope that you are keeping well  
and enjoying the summer.  
Due to Covid 19 we are still not certain when  
we will hold the next coffee morning,  
so please watch this space in the magazine.*



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*We'll miss you*

Following the announcement of the closure of Westcott Bakery, and the retirement of Kam and Meena, a book of memories was put together with comments from customers over the years. They received the book and a bouquet of flowers back in May but we thought you would like to see this picture given the lack of magazine since then. We would obviously have liked to do something more, but they appreciated the gesture under the unusual circumstances. They will be sadly missed in the village.



To Kam, Meena and family,  
thank you for 30 years of wonderful  
baked goods in Westcott.

The first page in the memory book.

Kam and Meena receiving  
their memory book  
celebrating 30 years in the  
village bakery.



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## BIKE THEFTS

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I am sorry to have to add to the news that you've read over previous months about thefts from sheds but bike theft is happening again in the village.

It is really helpful if people have a file with their serial numbers, photos of the bikes, receipts, details like that so maybe do it as soon as you get the bike, as people often struggle to find that information and it would help to reunite you with your property if the bikes do get recovered or if someone is trying to sell them on. Also you can get bikes security stamped which may deter a prospective thief if you put up a sign to say this has been done.

Keep gates, sheds and garages locked too, and bikes locked up, as anything that makes it harder to access them will also help.

Luckily, one of the latest thefts has been returned - the owner spotted it for sale online on Facebook Marketplace last week and contacted the seller who gave them the frame reference and his address - as the frame reference matched that of the stolen bike the police were contacted and they have done the rest. They brought it back and are continuing their enquiries with the hope of tracing the original thieves (as the seller had unwittingly purchased it from someone else).





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## QRMW

Despite the unprecedented situation the woodland has flourished and is looking lovely - a new pond liner was installed during May, not without a number of casualties sadly, but with the breeding season upon us we hope to see more fish in the coming months. We could do with a few tench to clear the bottom of the pond though, so if you are clearing out your ponds do please contact Debbie (debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk) we would be delighted to take them. Ewhurst resident John Rapley was a godsend when he arrived on two occasions with bowsers full of water to refill the pond in the very dry spell of weather.

Our Great Tits bred in the Post Box again this year and all eight of them survived and fledged on the 28th May. It was an absolute joy to see them hatch and grow for the third consecutive year.

The Memorial Woodland celebrated its 6th Anniversary since officially being opened on 1st June but of course our annual celebration could not take place at the woodland due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We will recreate it next year in an even bigger and better way with the Tree planting and Commemoration Service for 6 families of ex-servicemen honouring their loved ones and a Gospel Choir singing in the



Woodland. All are welcome so make a note in your diaries for 5th June 2021!

In the meantime we are finding other ways of raising funds, I have been making nesting boxes from wood at the woodland which are selling well (see the photo) the cost is £5 minimum donation for the single boxes and £10 minimum donation for the three tier nesting boxes. Contact Debbie if you would like to order one (debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk)



It is also uncertain due to Covid that we will be able to attend the usual fairs and shows we are booked into this Summer but we have to roll with the punches and keep everyone safe.

The woodland is again open for visitors 24/7 and you are welcome provided social distancing and group numbers are kept to the guidelines. Bring a picnic and sit at one of our new benches provided by The People's Lottery and enjoy the tranquillity and birdsong of our Memorial Woodland. If we are not there, you can park outside the front of the car park, the side gate is open for you to enter the woodland. If we are there a cup of tea is always available.

God bless and keep safe.

**Paul Cooling**  
**Chairman**  
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## LEARNING TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

At the time of writing this article the measures that have been necessary to curb the spread of the coronavirus, that have impacted our lives over the past months, are continuing to ease. By the time of publishing the majority of children should be about to return to school, but a rise in the number of Covid-19 cases could mean we need to take action to protect each other again – so much is uncertain.

The lockdown has affected us all in vastly different ways but has largely brought us together, united in the focusing on the health and wellbeing of family, friends and neighbours.



What can we learn from this that will help us face an uncertain future?

Covid-19 is just the latest in a series of infectious diseases to jump species from animal to human. Our disrespect of animals and nature - the destruction of habitats and

biodiversity through deforestation, mistreatment of animals in intensive factory farms, selling wildlife in wet markets - creates the conditions for new viruses to arise. We are part of nature and in harming nature we harm ourselves.



During lockdown many have connected with nature in a renewed way, appreciating the opportunity to get outside and see trees swaying in the breeze, feeling the sunshine on your face and hearing birdsong. We need to hold on to this appreciation of the natural world and grow in our understanding that the health of the natural world directly affects our own wellbeing.

The pandemic has focused our attention on the value of human relationships and highlighted the value of the work done by those we have relied upon for our health and turned to for our wellbeing in this time of crisis – doctors, nurses, carers, refuse

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Covid-19 has demonstrated how globally interconnected our lives are. We are reliant upon people taking collective individual action, all over the world, by isolating and behaving thoughtfully, to tackle Covid-19.

We have witnessed incredible mutual support and collaboration between individuals and communities to help each other out, to try to ensure that everyone has the essential supplies they need. The initial panic buying has given way to more considerate buying - just enough for our immediate needs so that there is enough for

everyone. This has demonstrated how we all have a role to play and can decide to be part of the solution. The pandemic has helped us open our eyes to see that we have become addicted to many 'normal' activities that are harmful for ourselves, other people and the planet. We have the opportunity to learn from this and transform our way of being to create a fairer, more inclusive, sustainable and resilient society, that allows all life to thrive.

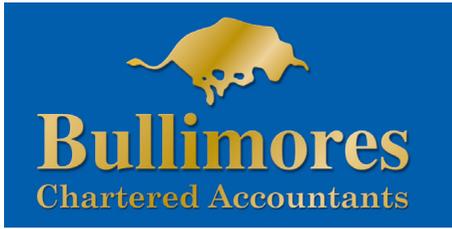
However, this will not happen unless we all play an active role. The time is now. We each have a responsibility to live in a way that allows all others, the world over, to live well.

**Jakki Phillips**

*'Look at life less selfishly, be nice to everyone, help people if you can'*

Russell Brand 'Recovery'

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## **NO TIME TO LOSE – a personal perspective**

I have lived around the Dorking area all my life and have always felt a deep love for nature, undoubtedly strengthened by childhood walks in the beautiful Surrey Hills, my grandparents' home-grown fruit and vegetables and outdoorsy family holidays in the everchanging British weather.

Until October 2018, when I sat down in the middle of the road outside Parliament, as part of Extinction Rebellion's Declaration of Rebellion, I had always been a law-abiding citizen. I have been fortunate to have a loving family and never had to struggle for the things I need. I have always tried to live in a responsible way but never imagined that one day this would lead me to feel I had no other option but to engage in non-violent civil disobedience. Yet this is the position I have found myself in over the past two years.

Why? Because I have always been told to treat other people as I would like to be treated. Our society is engaged in activities that are causing terrible harm to human, and non-human, life on earth. We are fully aware that these activities are destructive, yet we continue to engage in them. It has become 'normal'. But that does not mean it is right.

The climate and ecological emergency is not 'just another issue' on the news. The science is unequivocal. Our planet is in crisis. This is not just about the environment, this affects everything. Extinction of species is happening now at an alarming rate. Rising temperatures and extreme weather events are causing devastation, hunger and conflict in many parts of the world. Human activity is the cause. The people who are currently suffering the most – disproportionately people of colour and those affected by poverty - are the ones who are the least responsible. It is unjust.

We need to act now to make radical changes to our society and urgently cut fossil fuel use to reduce carbon emissions. I am human, I am part of nature and I act out of love for all that I hold dear. I am privileged, as a result of an unjust system. I feel there is no other rational option for me but to take part in non-violent civil disobedience - in a similar vein to Gandhi, Martin Luther King, the Civil Rights Movement and the suffragettes - to disrupt the status quo and to try to hasten the change we urgently need.

**Jakki Phillips**

I will be hosting an online talk/discussion on Extinction Rebellion later this month. For more information please email: [iamjakki@gmail.com](mailto:iamjakki@gmail.com)

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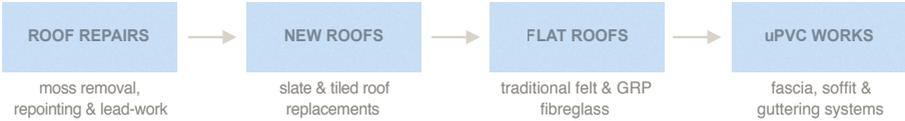


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Dorking Climate Emergency was formed last year with the objectives of firstly keeping everyone informed of matters relating to climate change and secondly to pressure all councils to declare a meaningful emergency. To this end we are a strictly non-party political. Both Surrey County Council and Mole Valley District Council declared a climate emergency last year and we now need to hold them to their promises.

Surrey's declaration promised to make the whole County carbon neutral by 2050. Their recently published document 'Surrey's Greener Future' states how they will do this and Dorking Climate Emergency has studied it carefully. There is much to welcome – for example reducing carbon emissions across the county by 46% in 5 years – but other aspects require serious further consideration.

Read it for yourself on the Surrey County Council website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) and search for "Surrey's climate change strategy". You'll find our response on our website: [dorking-climate-emergency.net](http://dorking-climate-emergency.net). Click on the text "Response to Surrey County Council's Climate Change Strategy" near the top of the page. We have sent this to all stakeholders and involved Councillors and welcome your comments.

Meanwhile, we are looking forward to the time when lock-down restrictions are lifted sufficiently so we can get together with the Parish Council and various community groups to discuss the consequences of climate change here in rural Surrey. We need a plan to mitigate the problems we, as a community, will be experiencing and some actions will need to be taken very soon.

If you would like to get involved, please send an email to [contact@dorking-climate-emergency.net](mailto:contact@dorking-climate-emergency.net) or call us on 01306 889278. We'd be delighted to hear from you.

**Roger Abbott**  
**Dorking Climate Emergency**  
**web: [dorking-climate-emergency.net](http://dorking-climate-emergency.net)**

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