

Westcott Village

Magazine

November 2021



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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

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

Copy deadline for

December issue:

8th November 2021

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



Winter is nearly upon us, the nights are drawing in but there is a lot that is good about November - the crisp late autumn weather can be a real tonic if you are feeling fed up, and there is always the chance of a late blast of sunshine, so make the most of it when it does appear!

There are lots of musical events this

month, as well as art exhibitions, so no excuses for not getting out and about and amusing the little grey cells. The F@sh Nearly New sale is happening on 13th November, and there are details of a useful app to share any unwanted food on the Green Westcott pages.

Several consultations require your views so get your voice heard! Enjoy the calm before the storm that is Christmas.

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

VOLUNTEER/BABY MEALS

After a several months off, the Westcott Volunteer Cooks were back in action this October catering for three families with new babies - all at once!

Julie & Al Badman welcomed their second daughter Annalise Mabel (proud Mum & baby pictured here), Sophie & David McGuinness were slightly surprised when little Lexi decided to arrive a few weeks early, and Bea and Paul have named their baby boy Lucien in recognition of his French heritage. The families have asked me to pass on their gratitude to all the cooks who buy, cook and deliver the meals - it's such a huge help what is often a chaotic and exhausting time.

Please get in touch if you think you could help out occasionally cooking meals for families with new babies and other Westcott residents in need, or if you know of someone in a time of difficulty, who might benefit from a few home cooked meals. And of course, please also get in touch if you're a Westcott resident expecting a baby, we have over 40 volunteers ready to cook for you in those first few weeks of new-baby chaos!



Annalise Mabel



Lexi



Lucien

Anna Kemkers annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



MY FAVOURITE HYMN

I have lived in Westcott on and off for over fifty years and when my son was born he was baptised in Holy Trinity. When the children were little one of my greatest pleasures was to slip away every Sunday morning to the BCP 8 o'clock communion service where I always encountered such a very real sense of the presence of God and the peace it brought.

...THE WORDS SPEAK

Now I find usually once a month I am the person leading that service now moved to 8.30am and I always pray that it will bring that same wonderful sense of the presence and peace of God to those who attend. Also officiating at this service and some of the Wednesday Holy Communion services has enabled me to come to know better some of those who attend and I do appreciate what a truly friendly greeting I am always given.

When I retired from teaching the call to do more for God became more and more insistent and in 2009 I was ordained deacon. And so, for the last twelve years I have had the immense privilege of officiating at services and

walking alongside people pastorally especially in my role as an honorary hospital chaplain.

The last eighteen months or so since the pandemic began have been incredibly busy one way and another and more than anything else it has been very humbling to be alongside members of the NHS at this time. What they have done and how they have coped is truly amazing and the country's debt to them can never be repaid.

The hymn I have chosen after very careful deliberation may seem almost trite but as I sifted through the hymn book I came to realise that Dear Lord and Father has always been a part of my life and my worship. I love

the tune but most of all it's the words that speak to me of God's abiding presence in our lives; a presence which will never leave us despite our foolish ways and our rash seeking and striving after worldly pleasures. It is a presence that if we allow ourselves

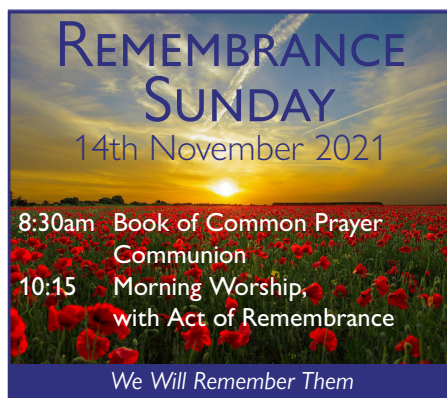


...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

to just stop and let the earthquakes, winds and fires of life that we all experience blow themselves out and place our trust in God, we will without a shadow of doubt hear that still small voice and know the silence of eternity interpreted by love.

Virginia Smith

Virginia will be leading some services with the Church in Westcott during the vacancy.



A poster for Remembrance Sunday. The top half features a sunset over a field of red poppies. The text 'REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY' is in large, bold, blue letters, with '14th November 2021' below it. The bottom half is a dark blue banner with white text listing the services: '8:30am Book of Common Prayer Communion' and '10:15 Morning Worship with Act of Remembrance'. At the very bottom, it says 'We Will Remember Them'.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
14th November 2021

8:30am Book of Common Prayer
Communion

10:15 Morning Worship
with Act of Remembrance

We Will Remember Them

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,

forgive our foolish ways;
reclote us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

HARVEST THANKS!

Leatherhead START were overwhelmed by the Harvest gifts and wanted to thank everyone for their generosity. They could not believe the number of bags we delivered. Thank you to all who generously contributed to this year's Harvest thanksgiving.



FROM ALAN JONAS

THANK YOU FOR OUR LEAVING PARTY....



We are bowled over by the glorious party and "send-off" you gave us in September. It was so very good to see so many of you. With you and the beautiful weather, and setting of Simon and Ali's garden, the afternoon was truly a taste of heaven.

Thank you, Simon and Ali for all your organisation and your hospitality. Thank you to all who served drinks and food, and to all who helped set up and put down, including the marquee. Thank you to Ali for compering and to Simon for a most kind speech. Thanks to our daughter Freya and husband Dave – "Harbottle and Jonas" – for their beautiful song, "I make a nest". Thank you to Jonathan Mayo for his version of "My Way", adapted to reflect our time in Westcott, including digs at Tottenham Hotspur. Thank you to Hannah, Margaret, Robin, and Ges for their performance. Thank you to Malcolm Bradley for organizing the traditional Christmas "Puddings v Crackers" Quiz. Many thanks to you all for all your love and support, and for your wonderful leaving gifts:-

"A country parson" rose bush that will be planted into our front garden in Devon; Vouchers for Dartington Hall, our local arts centre in Devon; A "Maillot Jaune" jersey for cycling the hills of Devon; The truly beautiful bench, engraved with the words "Come unto me and rest". Thank you to John Witt for initiating this and to Libby for seeing through; A hugely generous cheque. Thank you to all the many people who contributed. Thank you to Ellie Ratzke for producing a huge card of Westcott with names of all who gave to the collection.

We are very moved by all of your kindness. Thank you.
Alan & Jenny Jonas

THANKS FOR ALL OUR TIME IN WESTCOTT... AS GIVEN AT THE LEAVING PARTY

Thank you all for the last 23 amazing years in Westcott. This is the longest Jenny and I have lived anywhere...Westcott – you - are our home.

We are experiencing a whole array of emotions now, and undoubtedly will in the weeks and months to come as we retire and leave. Our over-riding sense, though is thankfulness. We are so thankful to you and God for all the life and love shared over these years. Thank you for your support and friendship. A

FROM ALAN JONAS

real Christian community is one that rejoices, laughs, together and weeps together; you have done that with us in bucket-loads.

Thank you for being with us in the challenges that we have experienced in our church life together, and in our family life. Thank you for all the good things we have done together, and for all the joys and laughter we have shared together. Thank you for all your involvement in our wonderful church family. Thank you all you who serve now.

Thank you so much to Simon & Ali, our brilliant churchwardens for all that you have done and will do. It is typical of your love and kindness hosting this party today. I, we, thank all of you we have worked alongside. We want to say a huge thank you to Ellie, for all her work as Children's & Families Worker. It is another tragedy of Covid that Ellie has had to retire from this work. We give, from our Church together, a token of thanks for all that Ellie has done.

Over 23 years there are many people who have gone before who Jenny and I would also like to thank. We "remember before God all those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a greater light". We thank Patrick & Jill, Ali's parents, who were such an encouragement to us. And in the last few years too many friends in our church family have gone. We thank David and Hilary Jones, for all their super friendship and hospitality, which, thankfully, is on-going with Hilary. We thank Stuart Glass, again for super friendship and encouragement. We thank Stuart Ryland for friendship and ministry shared. And we thank John Witt and Libby for all their friendship, support, love and encouragement.

And I, we, thank Godfrey, Godfrey Parry-Jones, GPJ. For me, Godfrey was like that Old Testament reference of holding up Moses' arms so the Israelites could win the battle. I, we, lost something very profound when Godfrey became ill at 55 and died a few years later in 2019.

For all these saints, we give thanks - All "whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one." And we look forward to that day, the glory of heaven when we will be together again. For you - you don't have to wait that long. You can see us in Devon - we would love to see you, meet up.



FROM ALAN JONAS



Jenny and I want to give our huge thanks to our wonderful daughters and families. It is a bizarre thing to be vicarage children. Anna & Freya have lived through these years with great love, forbearance and strength. When we moved here in 1998, Anna was just 12 and Freya was 9, nearly 10. With training and curacy, it was our third move in 6 years. In that time they each went to several different schools. They coped brilliantly then, and in all the years since. We thank you.. we love you ... and Glyn and Dave and Cerys and Arlo.

And almost lastly, I want to thank Jenny. I don't know if you have seen the film, "The Wife"? It's about a man who is awarded the Noble Prize for literature, but spoiler alert, it turns out, it's his wife who has been doing all the writing, and he barely knows what he is supposed to have written! Well, all those sermons, and magazine articles, and papers...it's time for me to confess ...that Jenny wrote them. Well, not literally, but metaphorically, in all of this and all the pastoral ministry and business of Church and all the nonsense I have created, and in all of the sacrifices of ordained ministry, Jenny has been the absolute strength, support. And Jenny has given all this support at the same time as fulfilling her vocation as a brilliant musician, mother and home maker.

When Jenny and I were first together we were very young, we married as students. We used to listen a lot to Gladys Knight and one particular song stuck, "You and me against the world"; it had the amazingly prophetic line for a life in ordained ministry, "Life can be a circus...They underpay and over work us..."

Thank you Jenny for literally being my 'other half' in all these years, in all things. Thank you all, and thanks to our God, for all this blessing and goodness. ... Thank you...

Alan, Vicar of Westcott 1998 - 2021

FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Carol Smetham, who has sponsored the church floodlighting for November: In Loving Memory of Basil Smetham from all the Family.

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

SERVICES AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

We are now back in church for all worship

8.30am Prayer Book Communion with organ music

10.30am Worship that 'Builds Friendships, Shares Life'... friendly, relaxed, range of music styles.

This service is also on Zoom.

Visit our website to sign up to our emailing list for weekly invitations and updates.

We ask you to consider taking a covid test before coming & request that masks are worn.



DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10.15AM
7th Nov	Hebrews 9:24-end Mark 1:14-20	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship / Communion
14th Nov	Remembrance	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
21st Nov	Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
28th Nov	First Sunday in Advent	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Death:

27th August 2021

Audrey Hilda Sawyers (89)

31st August 2021

Howard James (86)





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WESTCOTT GARDENERS' CLUB

Autumn Show - 11th September

Following our successful Summer Show in July we were able to have a normal show providing Tea & Coffee with homemade cakes, Plant Stall and Raffle. The standard of Exhibits was very good considering the unreliable weather this year, with large number of Flower entries. The Flower Arranging also proved very popular, with a number of first time entrants. Overall we have managed to attract several new entrants to the Show, who are providing competition to the 'Old Hands'.

Kay Meldrum won the Club Challenge Cup for the highest number of points. She also won the Banksian Medal for the highest number of points in Horticultural classes in the Summer and Autumn Shows. Kay Meldrum additionally won the Club Dahlia Cup, Garden News Shield (Vegetables), Chance Cup (Cut Flower Classes) & the Robinson Salver (Vegetable Collection).

Andrew Gordon won the Club Challenge Bowl for the best exhibit in the show with his grapes. The Dahlia Cup for the best Dahlia exhibit was awarded to Jennifer Cordeux. Angela Deloford was awarded the F Tupper Cup (Fruit), Box Cup (Pot Plants) and the Meldrum Quaich (Roses).

The Irene Lannon Cup (Flower Arrangements) was awarded to Zilla Nichole. The Club Cup for Home Produce was won by Sue Farman. The Webster Cup for Handicrafts was won by Babs Lowry.

Our next event will be a members talk, 'Problems, Hints and Tips', on **17th November** at St. John's. We will be holding our Summer Show next year on **2nd July 2022**.

If you wish to join the Society contact me on a.meldrum@sky.com

Alistair Meldrum
Chairman



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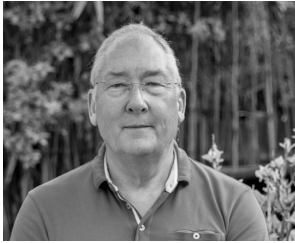


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There are only a few certainties in this life and one of them is that things will change!! This is always a challenge because change brings with it uncertainty.

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School (SHASPS)

Just after the start of the new school term the Good Shepherd Trust (GST) which runs SHASPS, announced a consultation over the proposed closure of the Abinger Common site which accommodates years R, 1 and 2 (ages 4-7) and the transfer of up to 45 children in these year groups to the Westcott site. The GST's primary arguments for proposing this are the dramatic fall in pupil numbers (only part of which can be attributed to falling birth rates in the area), a requirement for significant capital investment in the Abinger Common site, and the costs involved in running a split site.



The WVA is working with Abinger parents, parish council, and church

groups challenging the proposals on the basis that unless the pupil number decline can be significantly reversed there is a longer-term risk to the viability of the Westcott school. The consultation process will have been completed by the time you read this article (although a final decision is unlikely before the new year) but it is imperative that Westcott parents now support the Local Governing Committee and the new Headteacher (Simon Coles) in changing the perceptions of the school and work towards making SHASPS the village school of choice in the area.

MVDC Local Plan (Future Mole Valley)

MVDC has now published its proposed submission draft (Regulation 19) for the Local Plan 2020-2037 which will be passed to the Planning Inspectorate. This includes proposals for future housing development. In Westcott the Westcott House site (44 dwellings proposed) has been removed from the plan, but the Mill Way site (14 dwellings proposed) is still included.

The bigger potential impact for Westcott results from the proposed two sites on the west side of Dorking on which a total of 200 houses are proposed. The development here will have some impact on the Green Belt land which protects the village from merging with Dorking, but the



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greater impact will be on the A25 into Dorking. No new road infrastructure to accommodate the increased traffic is being proposed in the local plan and this is the WVA's primary concern. We are drafting our further representations for the Planning Inspector to consider in his report. We will continue to make appropriate representations when specific planning proposals are made for each site.

The Future of Westcott Village

The WVA are very keen to plan for what this village looks like in 20 years' time. Many things are changing in the village: at the School, the future of The Hut and Reading Room is still uncertain, our Vicar of 24 years has just retired and the Parish Church Council is starting to think about what the village needs from his successor. As a result of the Covid pandemic attitudes to working practices and working life are changing, population changes have already started to move people out of London into this area, and families are starting to change their attitudes to their work/life balances.

We need not just to think about the future, but start to identify what things we need to do for this village to ensure that it continues to meet the aspirations of everyone, especially future generations of young people and families. This needs to be shaped by

everyone who currently lives here and is why seven years ago the Westcott Village Forum published, and residents approved, our Neighbourhood Development Plan. We need to take this work to the next stage so that together as a community we shape our future.

We have co-opted Kevin Foo who has kindly agreed to assist the WVA with this important work. He played an important part in the Westcott Village Forum, leading the survey of residents and the drafting of our Neighbourhood Development Plan prior to its adoption. The result was a plan which was representative of the needs of the whole village. As you can read in his article on pages 37-39 Kevin is encouraging everyone to feedback their priorities and ideas. We will be using this feedback to determine how best to invest our time and financial resources over the next few years.

Speed-watch

We have seven more residents who have volunteered to take part in the speed-watch programme. This is a great addition but more people would be a benefit to spread the load over each month.

If you feel strongly about reducing speeds through the village (several





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WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)



cars having been captured at over 50 mph) then this is your chance to do something about it – nothing happens unless people are prepared to give a small portion of their time to making a difference in the village. If you are interested and might be able to manage just two sessions (1-2 hours each) per month, please contact Nick Lund for a no obligation discussion (nlund74@gmail.com).

Please continue to write to me with your comments and views. These are an important source of feedback for the WVA and help steer us to do things for the village which are important to you the residents.

An annual standing order with your bank is the simplest way to pay your annual subscription to the WVA.

Our bank details are:

Account Name: Westcott Village Association

Account Sort Code: 82-11-07

Account No.: 20072790

Please speak to your Street Steward if you have any questions.

Tim Way

Chairman, Westcott Village Association

timway.westcott@gmail.com

contact@westcottvillage.com

DORKING ARTS SOCIETY

The clocks have changed and our mornings are a little darker and possibly colder. What better way to spend a morning than listening to our Lecturer, Linda Smith, telling us about the ordinary working people in both urban and agricultural environments; throughout the history of western art - they have always been there - but what do we know about them and what can we learn? Our Lecture will be held in the Dorking Halls on **Tuesday 9 November 2021** commencing at 10:30am with coffee available beforehand from 9:30am. Dorking Halls are complying with the latest Government Guidelines to ensure the safety of staff and the audience. To find out more about our Society and how to join us please ensure you visit our membership page at www.theartssocietydorking.org.uk. We look forward to meeting you.



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THE HUT & THE READING ROOM

When I wrote my update last month, the news then was that there will be no new surgery at the Hut but that there remained a chance that we might see a new village hall emerge at either the Hut or the Reading Room site, funded by a partial disposal of land for housing development. The news this month is that the Hut trustees have concluded that they do not have the resources to do anything at all with the Hut. They have therefore determined that the interests of the village are best served by them passing control of the property to the trustees of the Reading Room, who do have funds with which to explore potential redevelopment options. Quite what those options might be remains to be decided. Any redevelopment will need the usual Planning consents and, under Charity Commission rules, requires prior consultation with the village. The Reading Room trustees are not ready to commence this process.

All that is proposed now is an orderly 'hand-over' of the Hut to the Reading Room. To make that happen, the Hut trustees have first to put their affairs in order. The last Annual General Meeting of the Hut was held on 12 April 2016 and so far no reports and accounts for any of the years ending 31 December 2016 to 2020 have been presented to the village. You will find elsewhere in this magazine a formal notice of AGM from the current Hut trustees for a meeting to be held at the Reading Room on Tuesday, 23 November 2021 at which it is proposed:

- (i) to correct these omissions,
- (ii) on the conclusion of the AGM, for all the existing trustees to retire as trustees of the Hut and for Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO (the formal name of the Reading Room as registered with the Charities Commission) to take over as the sole corporate trustee of the Hut.

All residents of Westcott and its surrounding area aged 18 and over are entitled to be present and to vote at the forthcoming AGM. You are welcome to attend, though the business of this meeting will be purely procedural. Copies of the outstanding reports and accounts to be presented at the AGM may be viewed at www.westcottvillagehall.com and may be obtained in hard copy from Glenn Wylie, the current chairman of the Hut by emailing hutwestcott@gmail.com. The website also hosts a copy of the Hut's constitution.

Assuming the Hut AGM proceeds as planned, the Reading Room trustees are planning early in the new year to consult with the village over a further technical reorganisation. I will report in more detail later, but (briefly) that will involve bringing the terms of the trusts on which the land at the Reading Room and the land at the Hut are held onto the same footing and to permit the Hut to be managed on the same terms as apply to the Reading Room, which (as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, or CIO) benefits from a modern form of constitution.

Bernd Ratzke
Chairman, Joint Working Party
8 October 2021

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Stability Pays at Stable Meadow

You'll have seen through this summer that I've tried to use these pages to celebrate the efforts and enjoyment delivered at Westcott Cricket Club. Whether it has been a baking warm Friday evening with the kids learning a new skill or two and the parents remembering the days when they were that young (over a beer or something stronger – although it's not compulsory to bring your own accompanying lemon slices), everyone seems to have appreciated the summer months back together.

The season ended with a few celebratory games including:

- The Scott Brooks Game; probably the most special event of our year
- Westcott vs Coldharbour; sometimes it can be hard to tell the two teams apart
- Beaverbrook Caddies; where eight of the Westcott team had fathers that have also played for the club, would have been nine but for a last minute withdrawal
- Parents & Coaches vs Children; watched by our own intergenerational

Frost Report Sketch.



- Cambridge University Rugby Club; always make sure that you know the rules before you go to the crease
- Gnomes; a visiting side from Derbyshire brought to us by a village resident and past Westcott player for whom it is surely time to make a few more regular appearances

Westcott won a few of those, including the last one which had its own trophy gladly accepted by Jon Hart who captained that day.



In the more formal stuff for the season Westcott reportedly finished second in the Village Cricket League which sees promotion for next year. Here's the league table from the PlayCricket App (it looks good but don't ask me why we are ranked 1 with fewer points, I know very little about data and digital

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

stuff as I am sure my NHS colleagues will tell you):

RANK	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Westcott CC, Surrey	9	120
2	Loxwood CC	8	91
3	Westfield Saints CC, Surrey	9	124
4	Capel CC, Surrey	9	126
5	Dorking CC	8	96
6	Effingham CC	7	66
7	Worplesdon & Burpham CC	8	70
8	Slinfold CC	6	57
9	VCL invitation cc	7	38

The greatest celebration though was saved for a win over Headley Old Freemans which saw us avoid relegation in the Surrey Downs League.



Now the point about all of that is to highlight that no matter how good or bad you might be at something, somewhere in our village is something for you. If you have time on your hands, or have an itch to try something new but have run out of ideas, then do get

in touch – I always have a list of groups of people looking for more Westcott residents to join in their activities.

Council Performance Monitoring

The District Council has released its performance monitoring figures for 2020-21 and for the first four months of this new financial year too. As Leader of the Opposition at Mole Valley, I get to go to Cabinet meetings to talk about the issues that residents are asking me about. This time around it was:

- Car Parking – The Council is projecting a £1.1m shortfall from parking income. It is not tracking how much each car park is being used and tells us that it doesn't know how many car parks have been refurbished so far this year. Without other actions, to make up the cost covering income shortfall might mean a 140% rise in prices to £2.40p an hour.

- Affordable Housing – The Council invested no capital last year in this area and reports that is not expecting any new affordable homes to be delivered for local residents this year.

- Recycling Waste – The Council isn't measuring the combined waste levels sent to landfill from our black bins and from the Community Recycling Centres but is more than 5% above its

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

goal for the amount of residual waste per household from the kerbside collection.

- Planning Applications – The Council says it is currently taking 176 days for planning applications to come to the Development Management Committee against the 13 week government target.

'Tis the season to consult us all

There have been three big consultations running for our village community and beyond.

The Good Shepherd Trust has been consulting on the future of the Abinger Common site for Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School, with their preference being to close that school and bring all children aged 4 to 7 on to the Westcott site.

When the new Westcott building was created, we had Reception and Key Stage 1 children at School Lane and these were transferred to Abinger a

few years ago. In the last two years, there have only been about seven new Reception pupils to the school who don't live in Westcott and so the logic for the change can be understood.

When I was the first Chair of Governors at Surrey Hills, through our Good Ofsted report and marketing we got to more than 300 pupils across the two sites and now the Academy are forecasting around half that number for September 2022. Unless pupil numbers pick up through us all marketing the strengths of the school then the configuration may need to change again.

There is an excess of capacity of around 25% across our local area and to ensure any decisions down the line are made in a planned way with the best interests of Westcott and other rural village families in mind, I have asked the County Council to commence a Dorking Schools Review.

As I flagged last month, via the website futuremolevalley.org, the District Council has published its proposals for where future development – housing and other uses – will be directed for the next fifteen or so years.

Please do take a look at these documents and make your comments on them. People are talking to me about the impact of the additional



A cartoon illustration of a smiling chimney sweep. He is wearing a black top hat, a dark grey double-breasted jacket with white buttons, dark trousers, and brown shoes. He has a large white belt buckle. He is holding a long-handled chimney brush with a black, spiky head. The background is a plain, light grey.

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The North Weald Art Group Annual Exhibition

16th - 28th November 10 - 4 pm

Denbies Art Gallery, London Rd, Dorking, RH5 6AA



The North Weald Art Group, a locally based society that includes both amateur and professional artists, is holding its annual exhibition of paintings, prints and mixed media works at the Denbies Art Gallery. Most works in the exhibition are for sale as well as a selection of unframed works. John Yardley, the renowned watercolour artist and the group's president is one of the exhibitors.

There is ample free parking at Denbies as well as a fine restaurant and cafe. There is also a shop selling wine and gifts as well as a farm shop selling local produce. Well worth a visit.

Website: northwealdartgroup.org.uk

Facebook: North Weald Art Group

Twitter @NorthWealdArtgr



THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

traffic from another 214 homes trying to get into the Westcott Road queues towards Dorking as the plan narrows the greenbelt between the town and our village bring our developed areas ever closer together.

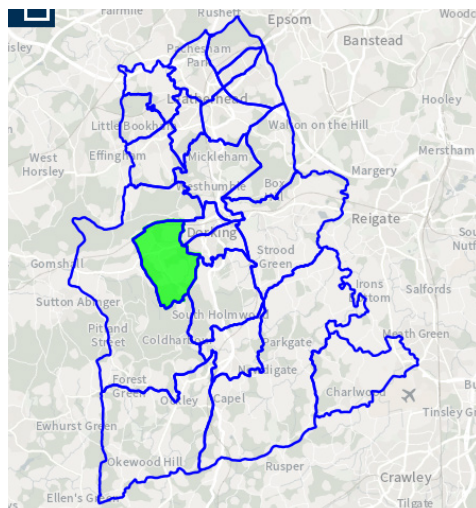
Without infrastructure investment, I'm hearing that these concerns include the impact on air quality from additional queuing cars as well as how the new junctions will actually work and the roadworks impact whilst they are being built. It is certainly going to need some creative thinking and if you have ideas on any of this then please do complete the consultation.

The third consultation that you can contribute to is by the Boundary Commission for England who are looking at how the District Council can be segmented into 13 wards of three members each from 2023.

The consultation runs until 6th December and can be found here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/30046>

Currently there are 21 wards with a mixture of one, two and three members each (Westcott highlighted on map). Although there are several options for Westcott, the emerging choices seem to be between:

- Merging in with Dorking North



- Splitting between Dorking North and whichever ward Leith Hill becomes part of
- Joining with Ockley, Leith Hill and Beare Green
- Joining with Ockley, Leith Hill and Capel
- Joining with Ockley, Leith Hill, Westhumble and Mickleham

It could be that our local councillors are accountable to residents stretching from the borders of Leatherhead to West Sussex.

It is really important that if you have a preference for which communities Westcott merges into that you let the Boundary Commission know what you think – or whether you think that this is too messy to work without our village losing its own representation.

James Friend



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Saturday 13th NOVEMBER 2021 2.30-4.30pm
Westcott Reading Room



F@SH in collaboration with WESTfest are running this event to enable local parents to buy good quality, locally donated clothes at low price, to re-use clothes locally and reduce our environmental impact, and to raise money for F@SH (Surrey Hills All Saints School).

Donate clothes to Surrey Hills All Saints School or contact westfestsurrey@gmail.com to arrange alternative drop off/collection, or bring a bag on the day.

New/slightly used, good quality children's clothes only please.

See you there on 13th NOVEMBER!

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Annual General Meeting and “Hugh Broom and his Farm”

On 14 Sept the WLHG held its 24th Annual Meeting since it was formed in 1998 and it now has 144 paid up members. Chairman Imogen Barker and Secretary John Clachan convened the meeting, held in St Johns and summarized the Annual Report. Treasurer Glen Mardell reported that there was a net surplus of £654 for the past year and there is a healthy bank balance. Three new members were welcomed to the committee, Catherine Stevens and Helen and Iain Grainger, making a new total of nine committee members.

The short AGM was followed by a fascinating illustrated talk by Hugh Broom about the history and development of his family farm. He is the 4th generation of the Broom family to run it. His great grandfather came from a farming family in Devon and brought his dairy herd to Westcott in 1897 by train having milked them in the early morning. He was in time to milk them again in the evening. They disembarked at one of the ‘halts’ on the railway that runs below the Ranmore Common slope. His grandfather died in 1944 and his son continued developing the Sondes Place farm, which originally belonged to Denbies Estate but was bought out in 1921 and extended by adding on

Springfield Farm and Land Barn farm near Westcott.

It was a busy place with 3 horse drawn milk wagons and one little van which Hugh showed in a photo. There were two herds of milking cows, 50 Jerseys at Sondes Place and 60 Friesians kept at Springfield in Westcott. At this time they grew fields of hay and barley and had their own combine for harvesting – a very dusty activity. In the late seventies as a result of the European milk mountain and the introduction of milk quotas, dairy farming gave way to corn and beef and forage for the beef cattle.

In 1988 ‘Vanson Developments’, a Richard Branson company, bought the main Sondes Place buildings to convert into residential properties leaving only the main farm house and the managers’ house. When his grandfather died in the late 90’s the farm started to rear sheep, kept near Springfield on the fields below Ranmore. Currently the farming operation is only with beef cattle and he tries to grow some 60 acres of green forage. Another successful introduction at Sondes Place has been a cultivated field of asparagus, but not on a ‘pick your own basis’.














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Modern developments include more emphasis on the environment, with grants available for new hedging and rewilding along the edges of cropped fields where wood mice, shrews and hedge voles are flourishing together with the raptors that depend on them. Hugh pointed out that a modern farm is expected to produce food, promote diversity and provide amenity. He is very positive in thinking that technology will be able to solve many problems. He showed a photo of a large new open sided barn where black beef cattle were reared.



New silage pit

The farm is diversifying wherever possible to sustain its economy. It has developed a huge concrete lined silage pit that cuts down the need for using plastic to store silage. In a different project the farm makes use of its barn storage capacity to accommodate a battery energy storage facility built and maintained by Grid battery Storage Ltd, which is linked to Dorking electricity sub-station to support the 'time shifting' of generated electricity into periods of high price and demand.



Building housing the battery storage

Hugh explained how the NFU and the government were paying more attention to the country's farming products' self sufficiency and displayed an NFU tabulation that showed details of all the country's farming output by year. In total the country's overall farm self sufficiency is estimated to have dropped from a high of 78% in the mid 80's to a current level of about 60% although the self sufficiency figure for indigenous grown crops still stands at about 75%. according to a recent NFU report. Hugh is an active member of the NFU, and is well versed in the latest politics and developments in British agriculture, and has been a regular contributor to farming broadcasts and publications over the years.

At our next meeting on **Tuesday 9th Nov** the speaker will be Mark Davison, the local author, journalist and detectorist about "Digging up Westcott's Past" based on his amazing finds over the years. It will be at St Johns Hall at the usual time of 8pm.

Roger Christian

SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

As usual, there has been a lot going on at Surrey Hills over the last few weeks, with our children taking part in challenging and exciting learning activities across both sites. We are proud of the progress they are making and how they have, as a whole school, settled into this academic year. Our celebration assemblies are super positive and recognise the achievements of our children both in and out of school. Fantastic!

Our new library space at Westcott is being developed and positive changes are happening every day... if anybody would like to donate any books suitable for our children in any of our year groups that would be incredibly well received. In addition, we recently held a book fair for the children in support of their reading.

I'd like to thank our catering staff for making our hot dinner taster day such a success! The children really enjoyed the broad range of beautifully cooked food with so many healthy options to choose from. Everything at SHAS is made from freshly prepared ingredients.

We now have our Head Boy, Girl, House Captains and Prefects in place, who support the running of our school and serve as great role models to the children. Shortly we will be selecting our School Council...we have been talking about it with the children

and they are already engaged and excited. We are building our layers of leadership with the children and they are at the very heart of all that we do.

Highlights from the Autumn Term

Forest School

Butterfly class had a great time recently making blackberry jam. The children first collected firewood, making sure it was suitable for burning. To do this, they used the following rhyme, if it's snappy then we're happy, if it's bendy, it's unfriendly!' Some children practised their fire lighting skills using fire steels and all of them remembered how we have to be so careful around the fire circle. The children gathered the juiciest blackberries they could find and put them in our heavy pan before adding the other ingredients.

We brought the jam to the boil on the fire and then let it cool so we could share it. We're pleased to say it tasted absolutely delicious.



Harvest Festival

During October we celebrated our

SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS (cont.)

Harvest festivals. Having missed these for the last few years, it was wonderful to celebrate and give thanks for all we have with the children contributing in word, art and harvest songs with actions which were very lively!



Rev Judith Grundy talked about God in nature and how all our fruit and vegetables grow – complete with mini bucket garden and buried vegetables which the children had to pull out and name. When asked whether the children liked gardening, there was unanimous raising of hands; surely a big legacy of our rural environment and Forest School!

We had special guests Lizzie and Jake from the Abinger Cookery School who brought a huge basket of vegetables and passed them around for the children to explore: coloured mini beetroot, sweetcorn in the cob, Jerusalem artichokes and cauliflower to name but a few.

Thank you to the Abinger Cookery

School and also a big thank you to our parents for the generous food donations which have been passed on to local Food Bank.

Awards

A number of our children participate in activities outside of school, including sporting events, which we love to hear about. It is wonderful to see them performing so well, trying their hardest and being awarded many medals and cups. A huge well done.



Please 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 each day. We wish our local community well and hope everyone is staying safe.

Twitter @SurreyAllSaints

Facebook @Surrey All Saints.

Mr S Coles
Headteacher

Westcott 100 Club

SUPPORTING OUR VILLAGE !

The Westcott 100 Club exists to provide support to Westcott individuals, clubs, and associations – any activity that provides benefit to our village that would not otherwise happen. At present, grants of a few hundred pounds are available on a “matched funding” basis – you find 50% of the funding for your activity and we will provide the other 50%. For more details on how the scheme works, please get in touch. Our contact details are below.

WIN !

Three lucky members of the Westcott 100 Club will win the prizes up for grabs in the December draw. These will be at least £112.50 and £56.25 for the quarterly draw, and £225 for the annual draw. If you are not already a member and want a chance to win these prizes and contribute to the life of the village, there is still time to buy tickets. Joining by December 1st will also automatically enter you for the 2022 draws in March, June and September – five chances to win prizes during the year!

TELL ME MORE !

Joining costs £25 per year per “ticket”. Members must be over 18 and can each hold a maximum of 20 tickets. To be in with a chance of winning the December prizes, we need to receive your subscription by Standing Order on December 1st.

For more information either on joining the scheme or on the grant process, please email us at westcott.100.club@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

From your Committee – Alda Andreotti, Edwin Harland, Richard Packer

The Westcott 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery registered with Mole Valley DC no. 48965.

WESTCOTT - WE NEED YOUR VIEWS



I'm delighted to assist the Westcott Village Association in formulating a plan that defines what we want Westcott to be in 20 years. This plan will need significant input and acceptance from most residents. My job is to find a way to capture and analyse this input and help WVA build a strategic plan that meets our community aspirations. Put another way, how can we make our precious village even better for future generations?

We do have a starting point. In late 2017 over 91% of residents approved the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP). This was heavily based on a comprehensive 2011 questionnaire that had an excellent 75% response from villagers. You can find the Plan and survey on <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/home/building-planning/local-plans/closed-consultations/westcott-neighbourhood-development-plan>



Ten years later, we feel a much wider consultation with the village is needed and perhaps another questionnaire is justified to address not just planning related issues, but big issues facing the village and the entire Westcott community. If we are not the architects of change in Westcott someone else will be!

In the past ten years we have seen a modest increase in housing stock from approximately 880 to 1000 dwellings and a population growth from about 2250 to 2500. The 2012 Olympics and the Annual London to Surrey cycle ride also brought more visitors to the Surrey Hills and Westcott. However, in that period we have seen The Hut, the bakery, two pubs, the Village Club, Little Doves Day Nursery, the Youth Club, Balchins store, and several other businesses close. On the positive side many of our businesses have survived and our doctors surgery is saved. These village assets will require significant financial investment and our continued patronage to remain viable.

I have taken the liberty to put down some of the issues I see, but I believe we all have to dig deeply to define the true issues that concern us and what our vision of a future Westcott is. Some questions that come to mind:

1. What do Westcott residents really want from our village and how can we achieve these aims?

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WESTCOTT - WE NEED YOUR VIEWS (cont.)



2. How do we communicate these aims in a louder and more powerful way?
3. How do we get greater levels of community involvement in the village and its associations from a younger and a more diverse cross section of its residents?
4. What are the big threats to our way of life in Westcott and how can we manage these?
5. How do we maximise the natural and material assets of our village?
6. Spending of CIL funds (i.e. the Community Infrastructure Levy charged on new developments) and prioritising projects in the village.
7. Do we wish to attract new residents to Westcott or not?
8. Should we consider moving towards a Parish Council rather than a Village Association?
9. Is the WVA fit for purpose and how can it be improved?
10. Do residents want more visitors to our village and the surrounding areas or not?
11. The Green Belt and AONB are key elements of life in Westcott - how do we preserve these?
12. The village school and the Church have a big influence on our community - how can these institutions be protected and improved?
13. Our clubs and associations do a great job - how can we help them?
14. How do we optimise our village assets such as St John's, The Hut, The Reading Room, Cradhurst, the Cricket ground, existing and vacant shops?
15. Do we work on the two A25 entrances to Westcott to make them even more welcoming and attractive?
16. What about the threats of fast and noisy traffic?
17. Is the current MVDC Draft Local Plan a concern?
18. Any other questions and issues?



There are many issues that need consideration and discussion and I am appealing to readers to give feedback on whether a digital questionnaire should be a first step. We are also considering a village mail drop that reaches all residents so that we get widest possible input.

Feel free to email me on kevinafuo@gmail.com or call me on 07768 238847 as I would very much like to hear from you.

Kevin Foo

READING ROOM VACANCY



BOOKING SECRETARY REQUIRED

For well over a hundred years the Westcott Reading Room has been a successful community center and is at the heart of many village activities. Most of our users hold regular weekly events throughout the year for activities such as Bridge, Aikido, Coffee mornings, Art History, Art, Martial Arts. Brownies and mini-Athletics. In addition, we encourage villagers to celebrate special events such as birthdays or anniversaries for all ages.



Organising these events over the past few years has been carried out by the Chairman. Now is an appropriate time for these duties to be passed on. The duties of a Booking Secretary include:

- Responding to booking enquiries from either the website or the Reading Room mobile phone.
- Liaising with users where necessary to ensure their sessions are run on a timely basis.
- Keeping the online calendar up to date.
- Invoicing users (regulars - quarterly in advance).
- Attending quarterly trustee meetings.
- Liaising with the Chairman and Treasurer when necessary.



The successful applicant will be a good communicator together with appropriate IT skills. The role is a voluntary one and it is expected that the role will not be onerous and take no more than two hours a week. Please contact us via accounts@westcottreadingroom.org.uk if you would like to give it a go.

BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY



Brockham Choral will perform Handel's Messiah with the Academy of Ancient Music conducted by Cole Bendall on the **4th December 2021** at 7.30pm in St Martin's Church, Dorking, RH4 1UX. Admission Adults £15 in advance £20 on the day, Children, Students under 25 in full-time education £10

Tickets by email: brockhamcstickets@gmail.com

More information & Tickets: www.brockhamchoral.org

Ooooh Arrrr me hearties! Did you know that there is a national speak like a pirate day? No? It's true! Luckily our wonderful nursery teachers don't let things like this pass us by. We've sailed the Seven Abinger Seas in our Pretty Polly Pirate Ship, made treasure maps, pirate hats and telescopes and learnt some sea shanties to boot. We've splish splashed around and experimented whether different objects sink or float and even had the opportunity to practice fishing skills.

Another thing that's hearty is our cooking. With the turn of the weather it's important to embrace a little bit of stodge! We've made some perfect pizzas – choosing our own toppings, delicious rocky road treasure chests that didn't hang around for long and amazing apple cakes with apples donated by one of our lovely families.

The nature around us at the moment is inspiring many of our activities as we collect copious conkers, acorns and an array of colourful leaves. We are now seasoned tree spotters as we identify them on our woodland outings.



Our most favourite of outside fun is squishing up blackberries and using them to paint with!



We are super proud of the donation we were able to make to the Harvest Service and we all helped deliver a huge box of produce to St James' Church. Thank you so much to all those who donated.



We are delighted to announce that we are now offering breakfast and afterschool clubs. Full information can be found on our website abingercommonnursery.co.uk.

If you have a child looking to start Nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

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THE HUT AGM

Notice of an Annual General Meeting of The Hut Westcott to be held at the Reading Room on **Tuesday 23 November 2021 at 8pm**

All inhabitants of Westcott and the neighbourhood are eligible to attend and vote on the business itemised below and are warmly encouraged by the trustees of The Hut Westcott to attend.

1. To approve the minutes of the annual general meeting held on 12 April 2016.
2. To note that an annual general meeting has not been held since 12 April 2016 and to ratify actions taken by the trustees since the date of the last annual general meeting in connection with the administration and management of The Hut Westcott, including the closure of the Hut building to the public on 27 July 2017.
3. To receive and approve financial statements of The Hut Westcott for the years ended 31 December 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively, summaries of which have been filed with The Charity Commission.
4. To receive and approve financial statements of The Hut Westcott for the year ended 31 December 2020.
5. Subject to completion of the business described in paragraphs 1 to 4, to note the appointment by The Charity Commission of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO as from the end of the meeting to be the sole trustee of The Hut Westcott in place of the individual trustees who will be discharged.

Copies of the financial statements may be obtained in advance on application to the trustees of The Hut Westcott at hutwestcott@gmail.com and may be viewed online at www.westcottvillagehall.com.



Glenn Wylie
Chairman
By order of the trustees of The Hut Westcott
22 October 2021



**Do you have 1-2 hours free a week?
Would you like to make a difference
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6th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church, £15, 01306 730640

14th at 3.00, Jubilee string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

20th at 7.30, Dorking Choral Society at St Martin's church, £18, 01306 879919

There are three excellent concerts in Dorking this month, covering a range from chamber music to orchestral music and a full choral-orchestral concert.

The Dorking Philharmonia, conducted by Paul Newbold, begin their programme with Haydn's last symphony, no.104 in D, written for his second and final visit to London. This will be followed by Saint-Saens' first cello concerto, with soloist Jenny Janse, and the concert will finish with Beethoven's second symphony.

The Dorking Concertgoers present the first of three recitals by the Jubilee string quartet. They open their programme with a Haydn quartet, one of the last he wrote, and follow this with a quartet movement by Schubert, one of his many incomplete compositions, but a fine work nevertheless. They finish with Beethoven's quartet in A minor, op.132, one of his so-called late quartets. It is an inward-looking piece with an intense slow movement, written as a thanks offering after the composer had recovered from a bout of illness.

The Dorking Choral Society has a special concert linked to Dorking's celebration of William Mullins, a Dorking resident who sailed with the other Pilgrim Fathers on the 'Mayflower' to America 400 years ago. (The voyage actually took place in 1620 but the celebrations were unavoidably delayed from last year.) The concert's theme is the sea, and it includes the first performance, in a newly-orchestrated version, of a set of sea shanties by local composer Ian Assersohn. The concert also features extracts from Stanford's lively Songs of the Fleet, Elgar's beautifully evocative Sea Pictures, and two movements from Vaughan Williams' grand and majestic Sea Symphony.



Ian Codd

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September arrived and with it some lovely late summer weather and all was calm in the woodland. After the busy period in August spreading barrow loads of woodchips on the pathways it was wonderful to be able to sit on the veranda of the Visitors Centre and just listen to the birds and watch Henry, our resident pheasant, and his two females feeding and making very appreciative noises at our feeding station. September always brings another dimension to the woodland with an enormous variety of fungi which never cease to amaze me how they pop up overnight.

I was also delighted to welcome a group of visitors to the woodland early September from Shere, Peaslake and Gomshall Villages Group, we had a very pleasant evening. I enjoyed showing them around the woodland and giving a short presentation, explaining my reasons for creating our Memorial Woodland, how the Charity was born out of the woodland and how we fulfil our Charity Purpose

assisting those Veterans who are down on their luck. If you would like to bring a group to the woodland and to have a short presentation from me plus a cup of tea afterwards please do contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk. We will be very happy to arrange a group visit for you.

As I write this I am thinking about all of those who we will be remembering when we hold our annual Remembrance Service at the woodland on 11th November. As I read out the names of those who are on The Roll of Honour in my own Regiment, the leaves on the trees fall around us, and it occurs to me they are just like the poppies falling at the Remembrance Service at the Albert Hall reminding us of the number of brave servicemen who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we could be free today. If you read this article before 11th November please come and join us at the woodland for our Service of Remembrance to those brave men and women.



As the leaves fall we also start to think about what lies ahead and Christmas is just around the corner. Now that Covid restrictions are lifted we are so pleased to be able to hold the very popular Christmas at the Woodland Charity Event on Sunday 5th December. For the children there is a treasure hunt and each child will

DORKING & HOLMBURY CHOIRS



Holmbury Choral Society

The Choir is now back in rehearsal at Holmbury St Mary Village Hall on Thursdays at 7.45pm. New singers do come and join us, or contact Elizabeth Hamilton on 01306 730382. A date for your diaries is **December 4th**. As part of the Glow Event at the Wisley Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, the Choir will be singing an array of carols and other seasonal music between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. Our popular Christmas Concert will be on **Thursday December 16th**. We are also preparing an exciting programme to be sung at the Leith Hill Music Festival next April, and will be premiering Amy Bebbington's new composition Adelstrop, based on the poem by Edward Thomas. Details to be found on our website www.holmburychoral.org

Dorking Choral Society

Rehearsals are now in full sail for our Autumn Concert on **Saturday November 20th** at St Martin's, themed on 'Songs of the Sea', including parts of Vaughan Williams' Sea Symphony, Songs of the Fleet by Stanford and Shanties by Ian Assersohn. So find your sea legs! Tickets (£18) available through Ron Billard (ronbillard@btinternet.com or 01306 879919) or at the door. The Carol concert will be on **Saturday December 11th**. Details are on dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk. New members are welcome to our rehearsals at Crossways, Dorking on Wednesdays at 7.15. Please contact Lyn at lyngroves@talktalk.net or call 01306 898339 or 07587 695254.

Javed Kumar

WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Come and join us at
The Reading Room on
Wednesday 3rd November



10.30am – 12.00 midday

QRMW (cont.)

receive a goody bag when they have completed the hunt and a visit by Father Christmas who will have a sack load of presents. There will be a lucky dip for the children, a bottle tombola for the adults and a Grand Raffle plus a fantastic Christmas Craft stall and Jewellery stall.

Children must be registered so that we can tell Father Christmas what gifts he should bring with him - so please contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk

to register - the charge is only £6 per child to enter the treasure hunt and visit Father Christmas. Numbers are limited. The fun will commence at 12 noon and ALL are welcome.

All proceeds from our events go to the Memorial Woodland Fund to assist those Veterans who are less fortunate than ourselves. I really look forward to seeing you all at

our woodland for a fun afternoon for all the family.

Paul Cooling
Chairman

The Quick Response Memorial Woodland
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DORKING MUSEUM

The Museum's current special exhibition, **'Darking 1620'**, was originally planned for last year to mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of The Mayflower, carrying William Mullins and his family to the New World. Like other events in Dorking, however, it was a victim of the lockdown – but, equally well, it is perhaps appropriate this month to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first 'Thanksgiving' feast in the colony.



A depiction of the 'First Thanksgiving' at Plymouth by Jennie Brownscombe, Pixnio

The three-day feast held by the 'Pilgrims' (with Native Americans) at the Plymouth settlement in November 1621 did give thanks for the survival of (some of) the settlers and celebrated their first harvest but has romantically (but erroneously) passed into American popular culture as the 'First Thanksgiving'. The Museum's impressive exhibition, 'Darking 1620', weaves the story of the six pilgrims from Dorking who undertook that perilous voyage to the New World with an examination of 17th century life in the town they left behind.

One exhibit attracting a lot of attention is a magnificent cross section model of the Mayflower, created as a real labour of love by the team from Dorking Men's Shed. The plans for the model entailed extensive research and a degree of creativity, as information on the ship itself is limited. The main frame had been prepared just as lockdown put a stop to teamwork in the Shed but work began again in earnest after re-opening, by which time the exhibition had been rescheduled and the team, led by Tony Chaplin, had a real deadline to work to.



The Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux, admires the Mayflower model – and is saluted by William Mullins! (Image: Robert Edmondson)

working lights, although extra features are being added. The Museum



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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

plans to have the model on permanent display in the Mayflower section.

Gallery Talk: November's Gallery Talk at the Museum explores the issues behind the exhibition's theme. Kathy Atherton asks 'Why do we mark the anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower?'. This talk will tell the story of the background to the voyage, and the stories of those from Dorking who sailed, but it will also look behind the myths of the Mayflower, examining why it is still so culturally significant today. The Plymouth Colony was not the first English colony to be established so why is it the one we all know about? And why is the feast of Thanksgiving so significant an event in the US calendar when large swathes of the population did not come from England, or even from Europe? Should we be 'celebrating' the arrival of the Mayflower at all? **Wednesday, 24th November, 7.00pm**, doors open 6.30pm. Tickets on the door or in advance online, £7, includes a glass of prosecco.

Book Launch: Dorking Foundry was



Foundry Staff at work c. 1918 (Dorking Museum)

at the heart of Dorking's industrial activity 150 years ago – the site is now occupied by Dorking Museum. Julian Womersley's new book, *'A Dorking Foundry Scrapbook: Celebrating a lost part of the town's industrial heritage'* is published by The Cockerel Press. Here is a chance to 'Meet the Author': Julian discusses the inspiration behind his book, its general themes and some fascinating findings, before considering the role and legacy of the foundry in Dorking's rich heritage. **Thursday, 18th November, 7.00pm**, doors open 6.30pm. Tickets on the door or in advance online, £5, includes a glass of prosecco.

Museum entry: Dorking Museum continues to offer free entry to visitors, although, since we do not receive any local authority or grant funding for running costs, donations are welcome. The Museum is run entirely by volunteers and new members are urgently needed to join the team as Visitor Assistants to meet, greet and assist visitors. Pending further recruitment, it has been necessary to suspend Thursday morning opening.

Can you help? Apart from Visitor Assistants (above), there are specific openings for people who can bring special skills and experience to a range of other roles that will assist in the management, development and smooth running of the museum. The roles are voluntary, part-time and full

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



training is given. Current requirements are for a Visitor Assistant Manager and an Events Co-ordinator (see website), and for a Curator of Archives and archivists (e-mail admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk).

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. **Thursday 1pm-4pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-4pm.** Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.

The Dorking Group of Artists – November Exhibition 2021

The Dorking Group of Artists, one of the largest art groups in Surrey, is delighted to welcome you to an actual, real life exhibition at Denbies Wine Estate in November, in both the Gallery and the Denbies Suite. Work will be sold 'off the wall', buy work and take it straight away. Our brand new exhibition screens have been finished and we are looking forward to showcasing our members' work using them. Exhibiting members, many professionals among them, will be displaying over 200 pieces of exciting new and original art, all for sale at affordable prices. The paintings should appeal to every taste, featuring different subjects and styles and covering a wide variety of prices and media. There will be large selection of unframed paintings for sale too. Entrance to the exhibition is free and Denbies has a good café and restaurant, runs tours of the vineyard and has an excellent shop, so come and make a day of it! There is plenty of free parking.

Denbies Wine Estate

London Road, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA

Monday 1st November – Saturday 6th November 10.00am – 5.00pm

The exhibition closes at 4pm on Saturday 6th November

The Dorking Group of Artists meets on Tuesday mornings at Beare Green Village Hall from September through to Easter. Membership is open to artists of all abilities, and costs just £25 per calendar year. The activities programme is varied and includes workshops and demonstrations. www.dga.org.uk (Outdoor painting and sketching during the summer months).

For more information contact Jane Anderson Wood (Chairman)
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Hate throwing away good food?

Sadly, it is not an exaggeration to say that food waste is one of the biggest problems facing mankind today. Between 33-50% of all food produced globally is never eaten, and the value of this wasted food is worth over \$1 trillion.



Food waste is really, really bad for the environment. It takes a land mass larger than China

to grow the food each year that is ultimately never eaten – land that has been deforested, species that have been driven to extinction, indigenous populations that have been moved, soil that has been degraded – all to produce food that we then just throw away. In addition, food that is never eaten accounts for 25% of all fresh water consumption globally. Gulp.

Not only are all of the resources that went into creating the uneaten food wasted (land, water, labour, energy, manufacturing, packaging, etc), but when food waste goes to landfill, which is where the vast majority of it ends up, it decomposes without access to oxygen and creates methane, which is 23x more deadly than carbon dioxide.

Every which way you look at it food waste is a major culprit in destroying our planet, and in fact if food waste were a country, it would be the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the USA.

It's easy for many people to dismiss food waste as someone else's problem ("I don't waste any food") or to focus solely on the more visibly shocking examples of waste (unharvested fields of produce ploughed back into the earth, supermarket skip waste). However the reality is that in the 'developed' world, more than 50% of food waste takes place in our homes. In contrast, less than 2% of food waste takes place at the retail store level (though supermarket practices are directly responsible for much food waste elsewhere in the supply chain.)

In the UK the average family throws away 22% of their weekly shop, which is worth £730 per year.



The Solution:

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be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away.

The OLIO app is super easy! To make an item available, simply open the app, add a photo, description, and when and where the item is available for pick-up. To access items, simply browse the listings available near you, request whatever takes your fancy and arrange a pick-up via private messaging.



Small actions can lead to big change. Collectively – one rescued cupcake, carrot or bottle of milk at a time – we can build a more sustainable future where our most precious resources are shared, not thrown away. Join today and Westcott can start sharing!

Jo Smewing

COP26 CLIMATE CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 2021

COP26 is the global United Nations summit on climate change taking place in Glasgow between 31st October and 12th November.



The decisions made at COP will shape how governments respond to the climate crisis and will impact our future. Pledges and actions from countries to reduce carbon emissions need to be significantly increased. At the current trajectory there is a less than 1% chance of limiting global temperature rise to the +1.5°C target of the 2015 Paris Agreement. (www.chathamhouse.org Climate Change Risk Assessment 2021).

The concept of Climate Justice is key – those who have done the least to cause climate change are the ones suffering its impacts the most. COP26 must address historical injustices, with richer nations helping to finance emission cuts and adaptation for poorer countries and make reparations for loss and damage in the Global South. The COP26 Coalition website (www.cop26coalition.org) has more information on this and is calling for



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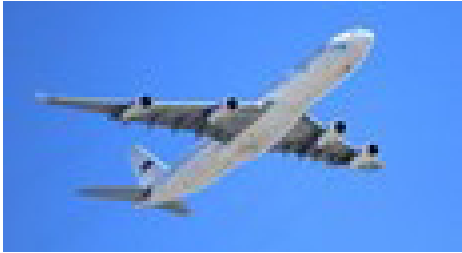


GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



everyone to join in a Global Day of Action on Saturday, 6th November.

Gatwick Airport – Consultation on Second Runway



Gatwick Airport have plans to reconfigure their emergency runway so that it can be routinely used to expand their flight capacity, accommodating around 70 million passengers annually by 2030 and an additional 100,000 flights per year. Gatwick say that this plan

will boost the local economy and generate £1.5 billion for the region by 2038. However, the resulting increase in carbon emissions – estimated to be 1 million tonnes per year – is of great concern in this time of climate emergency, when the UK has committed to cut carbon emissions by 78% of 1990 levels by 2035.

CAGNE (Communities Against Gatwick Noise Emissions) have more information on the implications of airport expansion at Gatwick on their website www.cagne.org. You can read Gatwick's proposal and respond to their consultation at www.gatwickairport.com

Jakki Phillips

green  WESTCOTT 

Things I love about November - crisp autumn leaves, warm colours in the trees, wearing woolly hats, hot chocolate (with marshmallows!), bonfires, snuggling up on the sofa with a book while hearing the rain on the roof. Walks in late autumn sunshine, always thinking it may be the last of the year, pjs on early in front of the fire, homegrown apples in crumbles and crunchy pears.

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COFFEE MORNING REPORT



Wednesday October 6th marked the first post Covid Westcott Village Coffee Morning at the Reading Room.



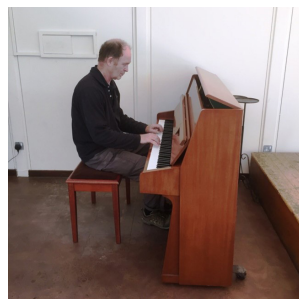
It was very well attended and a big 'Thank you' to everyone who supported the morning, making it such a success. It would be lovely to see you all again on the 3rd November and please bring your friends as well! Also a special 'Thank you' to our wonderful team of volunteer helpers.



The October Helpers, Veronica Lawton, Carolyn Smith, Jean Mickle

In addition to the coffee and biscuits, the nearly new books and jigsaw puzzles sale was a popular feature of this month's meeting and will hopefully be repeated next month.

Jean Mickle



Our regular pianist, John McDonald

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OUR WORLD TODAY, THEIR TOMORROW!

After a lifetime in education Brenda Ainsley, Trust u3a Eco Group Leader, regularly makes presentations to u3a groups about the Climate Crisis and some of the solutions. She recently gave a national presentation on COP26 – its aims and the problems it needs to address.



For nearly three decades the United Nations have

brought together almost every country on earth for global climate summits – 'Conference of the Parties' or COPS for short. In that time climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority. This November, leaders from 190 countries, business representatives and citizens will converge in Scotland for twelve days of talks to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change.

Most experts believe COP26 talks need to be decisive – 'our last best chance' as currently we have reached a 1.2°C rise in global temperature. The Zero Carbon Commitment is Dream, Calculate, When, Act! There are three main points to be addressed:

- **Must we change?** The time for talk is over. The ever-increasing release of



carbon dioxide into our atmosphere, starting with the industrial revolution, has led to a human-influenced rise in global temperatures which result in extreme weather, loss of biodiversity and reduced food supplies and health conditions. If we don't limit the global temperature rise, then large parts of our planet near the equator will become inhospitable leading to possibly some 1 billion climate migrants.



- **Can we change?** We have the technology and the commitment. Society is well equipped for transformation today. So now is the best time to aim to reach net zero carbon emissions.

- **Will we change?** In the UK 496 councils to date have declared a 'Climate Emergency'. Surrey County Council declared in July 2019, with a target date of 2050. This will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of COP26.

We have the technology to reach net zero carbon by taking action to:

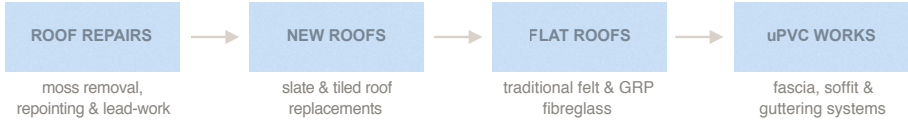


remedial roofing

/rɪ'mɪdiəl 'ruːfɪŋ/ adjective

- provided or intended for people with roof issues and deficiencies.
"remedial roofing"

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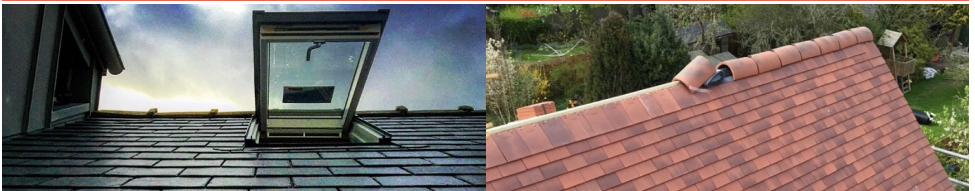


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* Reduce energy demand by building insulation and more efficient energy-consuming products, including the automotive and airline industries.

* Power-up renewables. There already is a large expansion in wind and solar energy, but this must continue to expand massively, so that fossil fuel power generation is replaced with renewables. The current UK electricity generation mix is: 41% Fossil Fuel, 42% Renewables and 17% Nuclear. Enough solar energy reaches the earth every hour to fill all the world's energy needs for a whole year.

* Offset the rest of our carbon emissions

by planting more trees - they absorb carbon dioxide - and other carbon capture technologies.

What do you think about active travel in Surrey?

The University of Surrey and the Surrey Climate Commission are collaborating on a project to understand what stops or encourages people to walk and cycle in Surrey. You can take part in an anonymous survey on https://surreyfahs.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3D8Ota4zmllLqse

John Sinclair

Membership Secretary

Dorking & District u3a

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