

Westcott Village

Magazine

December 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

January issue:

8th December 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



I hope you all keep safe and well this December, and get out to enjoy some of the festive offerings that we couldn't go to last year.

There are lots of musical events, as ever, and the Christmas tree on the Green will be switched on from around 4.30 on 4th December. You can also collect preordered trees from the Green in the morning.

The bridge club and coffee morning are both back up and running, and Santa himself will be visiting the Abinger site at school on 17th.

There are details of provision for Christmas lunch from Westcott House with the Village Association on page 17, and the good neighbour scheme is still running if you need any help.

Merry Christmas one and all!

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

VOLUNTEER/BABY MEALS

As we near the end of another year, we just wanted to thank all the Westcott Cooks who buy, cook and deliver hot meals to families around the village to help out in times of challenge. In alphabetical order our 2021 Cooks to date have been:



Ali M, Andrea G, Andy T, Anna K, Catherine B, Catherine S, Cheryl S, Ekpen C, Ellie L, Emily J, Francesca L, Gaynor M, Hannah M, Hayley M, Jan W, Julie B, Karen R, Kate H, Kathy H, Katy H, Kerry L, Libby W, Lou S, Marina R, Melissa B, Naomi CP, Natalie AS, Nicky G, Sally C and Sally H. Many of the cooks have delivered multiple meals multiple times - THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

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!



Anna Kemkers
annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



STILLE NACHT... REMEMBERING CHILDHOOD CHRISTMAS IN GERMANY

The time leading up to Christmas has always been very special in Germany, particularly during my childhood, when commercialisation had not yet taken part of the mystery away. It was a time of reflection, preparation and anticipation, a gradual build-up to the magic of Christmas Eve. It gathered momentum as the days and weeks passed.

We always had an advent calendar, each little window with a surprise picture behind it, until the 24th revealed what we were waiting for, the nativity.

It all started with the 1st of Advent. We sat together in the long dark evenings, lighting the candles one by one on the advent wreath, (nearly every home had one), and we sang carols and started making small decorations for the windows and to hang on the pine branches that we brought into the houses: straw stars and snowflakes or little animals made of wood and coloured paper.

St. Nicholas, *der Heilige Nikolaus*, proved to be very helpful when he came on the eve of the 6th of

December, because he left not only nuts and sweets in our shoes (which we had polished thoroughly and left by the front door) but also material for decorations and presents for family and friends: strands of cotton and wool to embroider bookmarks or small tablecloths, or to stitch initials into a handkerchief, and coloured paper and card to make a small nativity scene. It never occurred to me then that we would not make our presents.

We also prepared a short programme of poetry and music for Christmas Eve and practised a special piece on the piano or another instrument and learned a Christmas poem by heart. I can still recite quite a number of them today.

As my father was the organist and choirmaster of the local church, we were much involved in the rehearsals for the annual carol concert and the nativity play, a mini Christmas oratorio with bible readings, solo performances, poetry recitals, choir



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

and congregational singing. It was the culmination of all our preparation and rehearsals, very magical and solemn. I remember my mother who had a beautiful alto voice singing '*Drei Kön'ge wandern aus Morgenland*' when the three kings arrived to offer their gifts to the child in the manger and the world was transformed and full of wonder.

But that was not all, the magic continued at home. We were banned from entering the living room all day. It had become the Christmas room. We noticed that the Christmas tree which we had chosen and brought back from my uncle's farm some days before had been taken to the special room and my parents were busy in there while we were playing outside in the snow. We nearly always had snow.

When we returned from church we had a simple meal and then we waited impatiently for the arrival of Opa and Oma and Tante Marie, who were very much part of our celebrations. At last they arrived and we heard a little bell and my father played the Christmas song '*Ihr Kinderlein kommet*' (Come little children). The door opened and there was the Christmas tree with real candles and the presents underneath, not wrapped in paper but covered by an embroidered cloth. The wonderful Christmas ornaments from the Erzgebirge



(Ore Mountains) where my mother came from, were all displayed and lit by real candles. It all looked overwhelming and we entered this special Christmas world. We sang the old traditional carols, recited our poem and played our piece on the piano. My father or Opa read the Christmas story as told in the Luther Bible. When we were older we also read it in the foreign languages we learned at school, English and Russian, but that was later.

After this we had the *Bescherung*, the exchanging of presents. My mother lifted the cloth and there were the precious gifts: always books, perhaps some new furniture for the dolls' house, an extension for my brother's model railway, maybe new skates or skis or a new doll or just some new dolls clothes. There was always a Bunter Teller for each of us, a plate with Christmas goodies: nuts, sweets, gingerbread cookies and fruit, normally apples, but one year there was even an orange; what luxury!

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Then we would present our homemade gifts, the bookmark, embroidered cloth or knitted oven cloth. My brothers were good at drawing and painting and would give a picture. Everything was gratefully received and admired.

Later, my father made Glühwein (mulled wine) and we tasted my mother's stollen, the Christmas cookies and gingerbread. We were allowed to stay up until we fell asleep.

There was no pressure to wake up early on Christmas morning, no stocking as in England, just playing with the new toys or reading the new book until it was time to go to the Christmas Day service. That was festive again with the choir singing

and we had roast goose and red cabbage and dumplings for our Christmas meal. But it was nothing like Christmas Eve!

This is why I choose *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* (Silent Night) as my special Christmas song.

Now that I am in England, I still celebrate Christmas Eve and its magic and mystery with my family and we exchange our gifts. But on Christmas Day the English family takes over and there are stockings and crackers and parlour games and a really jolly 'birthday' party. I have the best of both worlds!

Isolde Trenter

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!*

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth*



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Sunday 19th December	2pm & 5pm
Monday 20th December	11am, 2pm & 5pm

Prices:

16th December	Adult £20, Child £10 and Family £55
18th, 19th, 20th December	Adult £25, Child £12 and Family £65

Each performance lasts approximately 90 minutes.

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SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

We are now back in church for all worship

8.30am Book of Common Prayer Communion

10.15am Friendly, relaxed service, using Common Worship and a range of music styles. **This service is also livestreamed on Zoom.**



For 10:15am Zoom service connection, please scan this QR code, or visit the Online Services page of thechurchinwestcott.org.uk and follow the link.



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

For All Christmas Services, see pull-out in the centre of the magazine.

Please note the change in service times on 19th and 26th December.

DATE	THEME	1ST SERVICE	2ND SERVICE
5th Dec	Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	8.30am Book of Common Prayer Communion	10.15am All Age Communion Service
12th Dec	Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	8.30am Book of Common Prayer Communion	10.15am Communion
19th Dec		8.30am Book of Common Prayer Communion	5pm Carol Service
26th Dec	Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-end	9.30am Informal, reflective service	

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th December	10am	Communion at St John's
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FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Alda and Paul Andreotti, who have sponsored the church floodlighting for December: For our dear friends Sandy and Barry Lillywhite who sadly left us this year.

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.)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism:

31st October 2021

Zachary Anthony Scorr



FUNERALS

MARKING LIFE EVENTS

All who live in Westcott or have a connection here, are very welcome to have christenings, funerals, weddings in Holy Trinity. Contact the churchwardens for more information. churchwardens@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk,





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WESTCOTT CHURCH VACANCY

A new vicar for Westcott - your views matter

Following Alan Jonas's retirement as vicar of Holy Trinity this autumn, our village church is now "in vacancy", which means we're actively looking for someone else to take on this role. Our new vicar will be here for everyone in Westcott, not just those who go to church. They'll have an important part to play in our community, helping us to celebrate significant occasions and life events, as well as offering support when times are hard. And of course they will lead church services, work with our village school and connect with local groups and organisations. What kind of person would you hope to see in this role?

Your input is important to us as we consider this significant decision, so we're inviting you to share your views in a short questionnaire. It should only take a few minutes and anything you say will be confidential. It's also anonymous, but if you'd like to discuss anything with someone from the church, you can opt to add your contact details and we'll get in touch. These won't be shared with anyone else or added to any mailing lists. The questionnaire is open until Christmas. You can respond online at <https://tinyurl.com/362zw9er> or by posting your thoughts on the questions below through the letter box at St John's, Furlong Road.

We will keep you up to date with progress on our quest, both in the Westcott Village Magazine and on the Holy Trinity Westcott website (<https://www.holytrinitywestcott.org.uk/>).

Thank you for your help!

On behalf of the Holy Trinity Westcott Parochial Church Council

A new vicar for Westcott

What qualities, abilities and experience do you consider to be most important in a new vicar?

How would you hope to see them serving our church and village community?

Thank you very much for your time. We'll give careful consideration to all the responses we receive. If you have anything else you'd like to raise with us, please leave us your contact details and we will get in touch with you.

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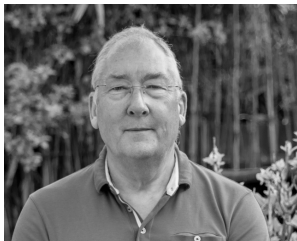


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As we approach the festive season we are planning once again to bring some cheer to the village!

Village Christmas Tree

We will be putting up a Christmas Tree again this year after the positive feedback on last year's inaugural display. The tree will be put up on the Green on 4th



December and will light up around 4.30-4.45pm depending on light levels (the tree lights are solar powered and operate on a light sensor). You are very welcome to come and witness the event.

This year we are delighted to have received additional donations towards the cost of the tree and its decorations from The Westcott 100 Club, and the Westcott Gardening Club.

Please also look out for the advert in

this magazine for you to purchase a range of trees from our supplier Peter Read which will be available to collect and pay for from around 10.00am on 4th December from the Village Green by the dovecote.

Christmas Day Lunch



The chef and management of Westcott House have once again offered to provide Christmas Day lunches for those

older residents who are spending Christmas alone or with an elderly partner. We are happy to deliver this to your door at around 12 noon on Christmas Day. Look out for the details in the magazine on how to nominate someone or request a meal.

Christmas Lights

The village secret Santa will be out again this year to nominate homes for the best illuminated houses in the village – so start thinking about your lighting schemes and check the lights are all working!!

Future Mole Valley – Local Plan Regulation 19

The WVA has submitted its comments on the Local Plan for consideration by the Planning Inspector. The copy of the submission can be found on the [WVA website at www.westcottvillage.com](http://www.westcottvillage.com)



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Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School, Westcott



Thank you to everyone who submitted comments for the consultation on the future of the school and

in particular the proposal to close the Abinger Common site which accommodates years R, 1, and 2.

We await the outcome of the consultation from The Good Shepherd Trust and the Regional Education Commissioner, but in the meantime, it is really important that we all encourage prospective parents to attend the Open Days at the school and accentuate the positives of our village schooling facilities. Parents intending to send their children to the school must indicate their preferences for the September 2022 intake no later than the end of January 2022.

Speed Watch

We are still keen to recruit more volunteers for the Speed-watch team, and have called for volunteers from parents at the school to address speeding vehicles at School start and finish times. If you feel strongly about the safety of children attending the school in Westcott, or your own safety,

please contact Nick Lund at nlund74@gmail.com

Thank you to all those who joined us in person or via Zoom for the Open Meeting held in Holy Trinity church in mid-October; these are important opportunities to give the WVA trustees your direct feedback.

Please continue to write to me with your comments and views. These 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 quickest and 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

Alternatively, you can set up an annual payment via PayPal on our website or you can write a cheque and send it to The Treasurer, WVA, c/o Queens Court, Westcott Street, Westcott, RH4 3NX.

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

Tim Way
Chairman, Westcott Village Association
timway.westcott@gmail.com
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Christmas Dinner



Are you living alone or with an elderly partner and would you like a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings delivered to your door?

Westcott House Care Home in collaboration with the Westcott Village Association will be delivering Christmas dinners, at no charge, to villagers around mid-day on Christmas Day

Do you know someone in the village who would be interested in this - if so please approach them and ask if you can share their details with us? We will contact and confirm arrangements beforehand

Please either call or text 07772 989 509 or 01306 883 941 or email westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com and give your name address, contact details and dietary requirements.

Westcott Good Neighbours

During the very difficult lockdown phases of the pandemic the Westcott Village Association in collaboration with the Church in Westcott ran a community helping hand scheme.

The scheme is still running and if you need help with shopping, prescription pick-up, cooking, or just a friendly face when things are tough – please get in touch by emailing westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com or call 01306 883 941 or text 07772 989 509

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THE READING ROOM



Festive Greetings to everyone!

The Reading Room is enjoying a healthy return of regular users - the Monday morning Art Class and evening Bridge Group; the Wednesday morning Art History Group and monthly Coffee Morning plus the late afternoon Aikido Club and the late Friday afternoon Brownie Group.

Martial Arts continues every Tuesday evening and Sunday morning. The great fun Mini Athletics which started in September every Saturday morning is looking for more 2-3 and 5 year olds to become future GB Olympians so if of interest do contact Sam.



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Gong Bath and Puja Yoga continues its monthly afternoon and all-night sessions too and Exercise for Health is planning a Tuesday morning restart in January 2022. New for the new year is the Kickboxing Group meeting every Thursday evening 6-8pm. More information from Paul Killick via email to: killick521@gmail.com or call 07503 150163. We have some regular event mid-week space especially on Thursday and Friday daytime hours

The hall is again starting to be used for children's birthday parties on weekend afternoons and for occasional evening events. Do contact us for availability and rates with all the benefits of a large private car park on-site.

More information from the Reading Room website www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk or by phone on 07967 286636.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas celebration.

Westcott Village Hall Trust

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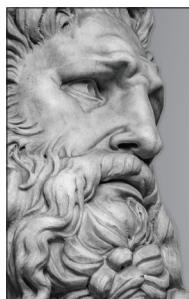
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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



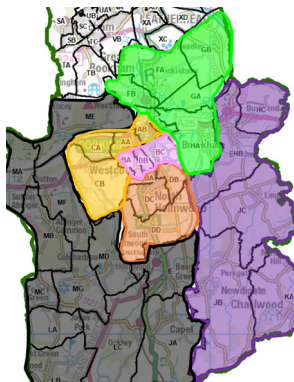
Boundary Commission Review Update

Thank you to anyone who has completed the Boundary Commission Review feedback that I mentioned in the November edition.

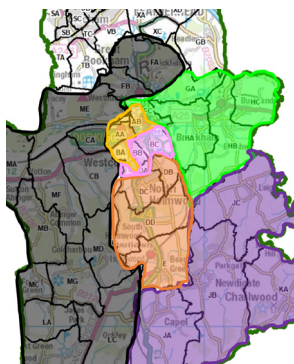
If you haven't followed the review so far, Mole Valley District Council have decided to move to a system of annual elections across the District and as such from 2023 District Council wards will be made up of three members each and cover around 5,900 electors.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has the task of recommending the new wards boundaries and are interested to hear (before 6th December) which roads residents think make up which communities. The consultation can be found here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/30046>

If you have already had a play with the Electoral Forecast tool on their website you will have worked out that there are a number of potential models that could make this new warding pattern work, including:



- Westcott could merge into the north or west of Dorking,



- Westcott could join together with all the villages from Mickleham to Ockley.

The review is your chance to have your say on what makes up our community.

Well Being Walks

If the prospect of being served by a district councillor from Okewood Hill has inspired you to get out and about, then you might be interested to know that the Mole Valley Well Being walks (previously known as Walking for Health) are back up and running after a very stop start year last year.

All eleven walks have resumed and numbers have been steadily growing

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)



– if you want to know the where's and when's, and any

a business has to provide 60% of the required investment to which the Invest4 fund will then 'match-fund' the 40% balance. If you have any questions about the Business Hothouse business support programme please email hothouse@chi.ac.uk

last minute updates before you head out, then please email wellbeing@molevalley.gov.uk

Support for Local Businesses

After the success of the first Business Hothouse held in September, the council are supporting another event this time at Dorking Halls on 15 and 16 January 2022. The sessions take an intensive weekend book camp approach with the aim of providing Mole Valley residents with the knowledge they need to get a business idea up and running, or to grow their existing start-up business.



As part of the support programme business grant funding is available from Invest4 Grant Funding. Established, growing businesses looking to take the next step can be awarded up to £170,000 and awards of up to £5,000 can be made to start-up businesses. The type of grant fund offered is known as 'match-funding', where

Christmas Shop Local Parking

Local residents can support our own local traders by shopping locally for Christmas (although local shops are not just for Christmas as a certain florist will no doubt tell you!). Each year the Council makes this a little easier by offering free parking across all its car parks on the three Saturdays leading up to Christmas. The dates are the 4th, 11th and 18th.

Although none of us really want to encourage more car journeys into Dorking and longer traffic queues, using our local shops matters – without you they won't be there – without them our market town will become like others up and down the country with a series of corporate traders without an interest in the local area. With another bank shutting and the loss of a high profile long standing trader too, Dorking is at a real risk, so please do back our local traders.

MV Hub comes to Dorking

The Leatherhead based Mole Valley Employment and Skills Hub has travelled upstream and started outreach sessions at the Harvest



HOLY TRINITY ADVENT CALENDAR

*Holy Trinity's online advent calendar is back!
From 1st-24th December check out
<https://bit.ly/3nwY6c7> each day*



Holmbury and Dorking Choirs

Holmbury Choral Society

A date for your diaries is Saturday December 4th. Get in the mood for the Festive season at the Glow Event at the Wisley Royal Horticultural Society. The Choir will be singing Carols and other seasonal music between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. Our popular Christmas Concert will be on Thursday December 16th at St Mary's Church, Holmbury St Mary at 8pm. Details to be found on our website www.holmburychoral.org Contact Elizabeth Hamilton on 01306 730382.

Dorking Choral Society

The Carol concert will be on December 10th. Each year Dorking Choral sing a selection of Christmas Carols, usually joined by the Children's Choir of St Joseph's School. We hope you will come along with your family and friends, and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine afterwards. United Reformed Church, West Street, Dorking, commencing at 4.00pm. Ticket enquiries: Ron Billard 07847 477 052

For concerts in the New Year details are on dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk. New members welcome – contact Lyn at lyngroves@talktalk.net or call 01306 898339 or 07587 695254.



THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Community Church, Dorking on Wednesday afternoons. Working with local employers and training providers, the hub connects residents of all ages to training and education opportunities, opening access to new skills and sustainable employment in the community.

The hub is delivered by Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership and funded by the Department of Works and Pensions. It provides online and face-to-face advice, guidance and coaching to residents of all ages from across the district who are looking for work or facing redundancy. Working with local employers and training providers, residents in need of help will have access to training and education opportunities, opening access to new skills and sustainable employment in the community. Support is available to residents on a walk-in or pre-arranged appointment basis and for more information please email mvhub@surreyllp.org.uk

Housing and Homelessness

The Housing team at Mole Valley continue to work hard to prevent homelessness wherever possible.

Currently the team are managing numbers of households bed and breakfast accommodation at low levels, and most recently in single figures, and this is the aim. The use of self-contained units and the

Council's own stock of emergency accommodation are the preferred choices and especially for families with children.

To get rapidly support to people who find themselves in need, members of the public can help the council team by reporting sightings of rough sleepers through Streetlink which is a website which allows the gathering of information and locations of rough sleepers so that our outreach workers can engage swiftly with them. As the temperatures fall, your action could make all the difference to a rough sleeper this winter.

Going Green

The Council has relaunched the Going Green pages of their website to highlight the things residents can do to lead by example.



Recycling helps to save some of the materials that are thrown away. However, manufacturing products and transporting them to where they are sold uses a significant amount of energy, as does collecting them from residents and recycling them into new products. Reducing the amount of waste produced will make a significant positive environmental impact.

There are simple actions that can be



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

taken to both reduce the amount of waste produced and save money.

- When you are thinking of buying something new, ask yourself if you really genuinely need it.
- For devices which need batteries, switch to rechargeable ones
- Drink tap water from your own bottle rather than buying bottled water (the Refill Mole Valley scheme, which allows you to fill your water bottle up for free within the district).
- Where possible, use your own cup for takeaway coffees rather than a single-use cup
- Take reusable bags when shopping
- Choose products without, or with less packaging
- Shop in Zero-waste stores, such as Eco Be in Dorking
- Buy loose produce where possible, and use reusable fruit & veg bags
- Many products can be bought in small or large packets. Choose the larger ones whenever possible – this is likely to save money as well as producing less packaging waste
- Avoid products with unnecessary 'gift' packaging

You can find out more about what you can do to Go Green locally at <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/goinggreen>

Green Jump Surrey

£6.2 million has been made available to help 600 Surrey households save money on their energy bills. The funding for "Green Jump Surrey" has been

awarded through central Government to local authorities across the county and will provide eligible households up to £10,000 to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.



In addition to the Government's grant, Surrey County Council is contributing £750,000 to the "Green Jump Surrey" project as top-up funding to cover the full cost of works. Eligible owner-occupied households can use the funding to install energy efficiency improvements including loft, solid wall, cavity wall and park home insulation, to keep their home warm. Air source heat pumps and solar hot water systems can also be funded in addition to insulation works, to further help save on energy bills and reduce carbon emissions. Private and social housing landlords can receive up to £5,000 to cover two-thirds the cost of installing solid wall insulation.

If you are living in a hard-to-heat home and either in receipt of a means tested benefit or have a total gross annual household income of less than £30,000, you could be eligible for funding. As funding is time-limited, you are urged to contact the team as soon as possible on 0800 783 2503.

James Friend



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WLHG restarted their Programme of talks in St. Johns in September and by the time you read this will have had a presentation from Mark Harrison, our local metal detectorist on 9th November. Next up will be the New Year's Day walk on Saturday 1st Jan 2022 and a Talk on Tuesday 11th January, details for both to be announced later.

The Motor Cycle Problem in Westcott

If you think we have a problem with noisy motor cycles speeding through the village then read on, there were people complaining about them 115 years ago too! This article from the Parish Mag of 2001 shows that the problem was a little different then when Coast Hill was used for competitive hill climb racing by motorcycles with the encouragement of Mr Brooke of the Rookery Estate who owned the surrounding land.

Mr Canter, the Westcott Representative, complained to the Rural District Council on Thursday 12th April 1906 and asked the Clerk if permission was given to anyone for the Council's highway to be used for motor cycle trials. 'The road at Coast Hill was used for this purpose on Saturday last and a great nuisance was caused by the dust raised by the excessive speed at which the machines travelled. Some of the bicycles must have been driven about 50 miles per hour.'



Reference to *The Motor Cycle* published on 16th April 1906 reveals that the event in question was the Southern Motor Club's annual Hill Climb. This took place in good weather, attracted a record entry and was watched by a large crowd. "The actual start took place on a down grade, which gave the competitors a chance of gathering speed before reaching the incline. Observers provided with red flags to signal "road clear" were situated in sight of one another along the course, but the intervals between the competitors were irregular, and at times wearisome.

We are also aware that other vehicles ascended and descended the hill at the same time. The police gave valuable assistance. The Surrey policeman, as a factor in the advancement of automobilism, appeared in a new role. He certainly had much to put up with, but he behaved like a man, though at times, when some motor cyclist took advantage of his good nature, he

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called out 'Steady, sir! Go steady!'"

The Motor Cycle magazine also described the performance of each of the competitors. For example, "Hulbert was first up the hill, and standing close by the finishing post we had an excellent view of him riding magnificently, and travelling at a good speed. Wells came next on his twin-cylinder Vindec, soaring up the hill as if it were non-existent, and creating a great sensation among the competitors. His machine, contrary to the general Vindec practice, was fitted with accumulator ignition."The



competition was for both 'bicycles' and 'tricar's'. The winner in the bicycle section

was Brice, driving a 3Yz h.p Brown. The fastest rider in the Tricar section was J F Buckingham on a 10 h.p. Lagonda but the overall winner, on handicap, was Hickson on a 4 h.p. C.I.E."

Although the event was adjudged a great success by the organisers, it was not only the villagers who were upset. Mr. C J Tracey of Dorking was unhappy for reasons that he spelled out in letters to the Dorking Advertiser and to Motor Cycling News. He claimed that in practice he had scaled the hill at an average time of 35 seconds for the ½ mile, an excellent time given that the fastest run accomplished on the course at the Southern Motor Club meeting

was 42 seconds. On the day, however, competing on his 5hp Kelecon, geared 3 to 1, he was stopped by a steward after the first bend on account of the traffic. He got by but was understandably 'slow on the gear' and after passing the 1 in 8 bend, he was again stopped by an official. He let his machine 'drift over the line' and was given a pass for another run. On his second attempt he met a large car on the worst and steepest corner raising clouds of dust and was stopped again. Mr. Tracey claimed that he was then authorised to make a third attempt, which he completed without incident, only to be informed that this was not a legitimate run and his time was not ratified.

Other references to this event suggested that it was better organised than Mr Tracey claimed insofar the police were thanked for 'managing the keeping of the road, causing little if any inconvenience to traffic'. This was the last official motor cycle 'hill climb' at Coast Hill. The easing of the gradient and less demanding bends, coupled with rapid advances in the construction of motor cycles, prompted the Southern Motor Club to seek a more challenging site for future events. Coast Hill continued to be used as a test of bicycling proficiency where reliance was made on pedal power alone.

Roger Christian



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We've had so much fun getting into the Halloween spirit, exploring our spooky dressing up den, searching for bugs in slimy spaghetti, singing the funny bones song at the top of our vampire voices and last but not least creating many many pumpkins.



Our pumpkin making was extremely creative this year and we made both beautiful and scary delights. We melted old wax crayons above some of the smaller pumpkins and watched as the wax trickled down the sides. We used real hammers, nails, screws and screwdrivers to attach colourful buttons to two of our pumpkins. These were a favourite of some of the parents' as they looked simply stunning! Of course we were traditional too and hollowed out the largest ones. We loved exploring the seeds and mush inside.

What a treat we've had with our cooking this month. Crisp candied apples were on the menu followed by amazing apple and plum crumble – a winter warmer! And what could be more warming than a delicious vegetable pasta soup?

Bonfire night is another favourite theme which gives us the opportunity to experiment with paint and glitter, making an explosion of colour in some firework pictures. It also gives us the opportunity to discuss fire safety and who to call in an emergency. We had a fantastic fire station set up with an authentic fireman's jacket and were able to extinguish chalk 'flames' with a water squirter!

On the 11th November we took a walk across to the church to deliver our handprint poppy that we made after talking about Remembrance day.

We hope you all have a very merry Christmas and wish you a happy new year too! We look forward to telling you all about our Nativity and will let you know if perhaps we saw the big man himself!

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!

Kate Fairbrass

Westcott 100 Club

December 2021 update

If it's December, it must be time for the next draw of the Westcott 100 Club. Thanks to some new members joining the scheme, prizes will be £115.00 and £57.50 for the quarterly draw, and £230 for the annual draw.

The Westcott 100 Club, sharing the cost with the Gardeners' Club, is proud to have been able to support the purchase of this year's Christmas tree on the village green.

If you have missed the December draw and would like to join for the next draw (in March) please get in touch. Joining costs £25 per year per "ticket". Members must be over 18 at the time of joining and can hold a maximum of 20 tickets.

For more information either on joining the scheme or on the process for applying for funds from the scheme, please email us at westcott.100.club@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you soon.

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



Dorking Flutes

Please join Dorking Flutes and harpist, Heather Wrighton, at Holy Trinity Church, for a short, informal, concert with a splash of Christmas. Pieces to include Pachelbel's Canon, Fauré's Sicilienne, Troika and Carol of the Bells.

3pm with light refreshments straight afterwards. Free to get in but a retiring collection, split between the church and Dorking Flutes, will be thankfully received.



At the heart of Christmas



All are invited to Christmas at the Church in Westcott

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER

✧ *All-Age Communion Service for Advent* ✧

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 10:15am

All are invited to a family-friendly service for Advent

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

Carol Service

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 5pm

Join together for traditional readings and carols
as we celebrate the events of the 1st Christmas

(please note change to morning worship on this day - just one service at 8:30am)

CHRISTMAS EVE, 24TH DECEMBER

Christmas Eve Communion

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 5pm

Gather at dusk on this holy night, to celebrate the gift
at the heart of Christmas

For **Zoom** service connection, please scan the QR code to the right

We ask you to consider taking a covid test before coming

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**At the heart
of Christmas**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021

CHRISTMAS DAY, 25TH DECEMBER

Book of Common Prayer Communion

Holy Trinity Church 8:30am

✧ *All Age Christmas Service* ✧

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 10:15am

Celebrate Jesus' birth together!

SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER 9:30AM

Parish Service

Holy Trinity Church

A simple, informal service of reflection

(this is the only church service today)

✧ *Good for families & children* ✧

, or go to the online services page of our website and follow the link
coming, and request that masks are worn to services

estcott.org.uk



Heart
mas



Christmas!
A time for celebration and joy,
carols and laughter,
giving, receiving, remembering and feasting.

You're invited to enter into the joyful mystery
that lies at the heart of Christmas,
as we celebrate Jesus, God's Son,
born among us,
showing God's heart of love
for each and everyone of us.

At the heart of Christmas



*“But Mary treasured all these words
and pondered them in her heart.”*

Luke 2:19

SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Life at Surrey Hills continues to be very busy! In November, it was wonderful to be able to welcome prospective parents back into school for our annual Open Days, for the September 2022 intake. If you are still looking for a Reception or Year 3 school place from September 2022, please book an appointment via the school office on 01306 881136 and we will be happy to show you around.

Below are some of the highlights from the Autumn Term:

Badgers Class

Badgers Class are incredibly proud of the fabulous artwork they have produced this term. Learning about space, they were inspired by the work of British artist, Peter Thorpe. After exploring mark making with chalks and pastels, they then learnt how to create spheres. This was then applied to a 'space scape'.



Our final piece was created over two weeks. Firstly, a variety of tools such

as sponges and combs, were used to create the background. Planets were added and then, finally, rockets created (with use of complementary colours to create a 3D affect).

"We are all so proud of our work and the displays look amazing."

"The effect of mixing paints and pastels was really incredible."

"I loved learning techniques to make my planets look round."

Year 3 and 4 Wow Day

Year 3 and 4 have been busy learning about the Mayans. They discovered that the Mayan civilisation was incredibly advanced in many ways. Did you know that they created their own calendar and built 60 cities!



The half term's learning on this ancient civilisation culminated in a fantastic 'Wow' Day' which included painting Mayan masks and replica Mayan tiles.

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS (cont.)

Sporting Events

We have participated in a number of sporting events this term, including two cross country competitions and three football tournaments. It has been amazing to be back taking part, with Dorking schools. We look forward to further competitions in the New Year.



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

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Mr S Coles
Headteacher**



The Arts Society Dorking

Our Lecture on the 14th December 2021 at the Dorking Halls is entitled 'From Biscuits to Blouses: Garibaldi and the British'. Giuseppe Garibaldi was one of the leading figures in the fight for the unification of Italy during the 19th century. How did this attract almost fanatical devotion by the British? Starting at 10:30 am in the Dorking Halls our Lecturer will look at his life and how it influenced everything from fashion to Staffordshire figurines, biscuits and blouses.

If you would like to know more about our Society please visit our website www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk. We welcome new members and further information about becoming a member or attending as a visitor can be obtained by contacting our membership secretary membershipsas@gmail.com



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VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREES



Peter Read, the local supplier of the Westcott Village Green tree is once again offering cut to order trees for collection from the Village Green between 10 and 11 am on Saturday 4th December.

Please send your order to Peter by text by the evening of 2 December to 07802 332843 quoting "Westcott", your surname and the size and type of tree you want. Trees will be netted or baled and payment will be cash on collection.

Norway Spruce

5-6ft £20
6-7ft £25
7-8ft £30
8-9ft £40
9-10ft £50
10-11ft £60



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6-7ft £42.50
7-8ft £50
8-9ft £65
10-11ft £85



Noble

10ft £85
11ft £95
12ft £105
13ft £115
14ft £125

WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



**Come and join us at the Reading Room
on Wednesday 1st December**



10.30am - 12.00 midday

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especially parents & grandparents*



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4th at 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin's church, £15-20

11th at 4.00, Dorking Choral Society at United Reformed Church, 07847 477052

18th at 3.00, Ladybirds Choir at United Reformed Church hall, £7.50, 01737 843662

As December arrives, we enter the Christmas season and with it, some suitably festive music. Brockham Choral Society begins the season with a performance of Handel's great oratorio, *The Messiah*, always a favourite for Christmas. The choir will be joined by four soloists, with the orchestra of the Academy of Ancient Music, and the concert will be conducted by Cole Bendall.

Dorking Choral Society follows with its Christmas concert. There will be a selection of Christmas carols to be enjoyed by all the family, and the choir will be joined by children from St Joseph's School. Plus there will be mulled wine and mince pies afterwards!

The Ladybirds choir, directed by Helena Twentyman, is holding its Christmas concert to raise funds for the Friends of Dorking Community Hospital – a volunteer group dedicated to providing equipment and services for the hospital. After the disappointment of having to cancel all their concerts last year, the emphasis will be on music of fun and beauty, with a wide variety of musical styles. The programme will include the lovely Welsh lullaby *All Through the Night*, *Walking in the Air* from *The Snowman*, and *Sleigh Ride*. Tea and mince pies will be available afterwards!

There are also screenings at the Dorking Halls this month of two operas, Matthew Aucoin's *Eurydice* (6th) and Puccini's *Tosca* (15th), and a ballet, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* (13th and 19th). Happy Christmas!



Ian Codd

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It's hard to believe that we are into November already and looking ahead to Christmas and the end of another year. It's been a difficult year with Covid-19 affecting so many people but we are looking towards 2022 and a brighter year for everyone.

We held our Remembrance Service at the Woodland on 11th November



at which we were pleased to be joined by the children of St John's

C of E School as well as Veterans and local residents. I was also honoured to be invited to do a reading at St Mary's Church, Holmbury St Mary for the Remembrance Service at the church on 14th November.

Our Memorial Woodland is looking great with newly woodchipped pathways and although the trees have lost their leaves a totally different light is created without the Summer canopy and the colourful and fascinating fungi pop up throughout the woodland floor. Every season is wonderful.

Before the year ends, QRMW are pleased to be able to invite all of you to come and join us for our 'Christmas at the Woodland' family event which will take place on Sunday 5th December from midday at the Woodland, there is plenty of parking space. There will be

a treasure hunt for the children and a visit by Father Christmas. The cost is only £6 per child for which each child will receive a goody bag at the end of the treasure hunt and a gift from Father Christmas. Numbers are limited so please register the children as soon as possible. We need to know their gender and ages so that Father Christmas knows what presents to bring with him! Please contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07778873806 to register. There will also be lots of other things for both adults and children - a Grand Christmas Raffle, a Bottle Tombola, a children's Lucky Dip, a Soft Toy Tombola, a Christmas Craft Stall and a Cake Stall, something for everyone. Our Veteran singer Rodney Dell will create a great Christmas atmosphere singing popular Christmas tunes for us all to enjoy and hot dogs as well as hot drinks will be on sale. So please come along and enjoy some Christmas spirit with us at the woodland and help us raise a few bob for our Veterans who are suffering and in need over the Christmas period.

I look forward to seeing you all on 5th December to rejoice and give thanks for another successful year for QRMW when we have been able to help those when they have needed it most.

Paul Cooling
Chairman

The Quick Response Memorial Woodland
Registered Charity No: 1174651

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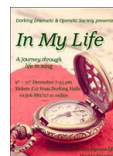
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TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW at Dorking Halls Box Office: 01306 881717
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Mobile: 079587 12522

DORKING MUSEUM

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

Please note that the Museum will be closed over the main Christmas/ New Year period, during the weeks commencing 20th and 27th December, reopening on 6th January 2022.



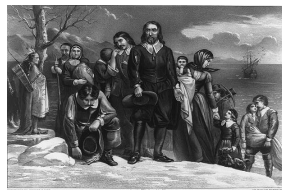
The Museum's current special exhibition, **'Dorking 1620'**, marks the 400th anniversary

of the sailing of The Mayflower and 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.

How different Christmas must have seemed to those who arrived in the New World on the Mayflower. Back in England, the Christmas season was marked by 12 days of merriment, with churchgoing, festive decorations and the giving of presents intermingled with widespread revelry, heavy feasting, excessive drinking, licentiousness and other excesses. However, the Puritans

believed that the Catholic celebration was a sinful extravagance fuelled by immorality, leading some to conclude that England was no longer a country where the 'godly' could consent to live.

For the Mayflower passengers, there was little celebration of Christmas



THE LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS AT PLYMOUTH, MASS. DEC. 22ND 1620.

in 1620. After searching the coast for a suitable place to settle, they landed at what became Plymouth Harbor on December 22nd. Although conditions on the Mayflower were cramped and squalid and its passengers weakened and in poor health, it was too late in the year to establish dwellings on land, so most of the settlers remained on board. The advance party reportedly spent Christmas Day building their village common house, which was to house many of the Pilgrims.

Although the settlement was better established the following year, the puritan ethic remained strong. Returning from the forest with a work party, Governor William Bradford of Plymouth Colony found some of those who chose to take Christmas Day off rather than work 'gaming and revelling' in the streets, which went against their strict religious beliefs, and they were severely reprimanded.

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

Come along to the Museum and enjoy a fuller view of life in 'Dorking' in 1620 and the story of William Mullins and the Mayflower travellers, including period apparel and a magnificent cross section model of the Mayflower, created as a real labour of love by the Dorking Men's Shed team.



see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/.

Can you help? The Museum is run entirely by volunteers and new members are urgently needed to join the team of Visitor Assistants to meet, greet and assist visitors. There are also more specialised roles in the management and development of the Museum, currently including a Visitor Assistant Manager, Events Co-ordinator and in the Education team, working with schools and other youth groups to develop and deliver our education programme. All roles are voluntary, part-time and full training is given. For these vacancies, please visit dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities/.

Family Activity: At the Museum on Saturday, December 4th, come along to the Elves Holiday Crafting Workshop. Elves are very busy at this time of the year. You can help them out by using your creativity and crafting your very own elf to add to the holiday fun. All materials supplied. Children must be accompanied. Come along any time between 10am and 3.30pm (we close at 4pm). Free entry. The Museum's family activities are supported by The Arts Society Dorking.



Walking in Dorking: The Museum walks team has finished its programme of scheduled walks until spring, but can take private group bookings, subject to availability, for a range of walk itineraries in the town as well as The Deepdene Trail and Betchworth Castle. Suitable for family, friends, organisations, or events: please



Archives: The Museum is also restructuring the Archive team and looking to recruit an archivist/archive manager, and someone to look after customer service in the archive, making sure that material is available to researchers, online and queries are answered by the team. For archive roles, please e-mail admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk.

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

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Raising funds for The Friends of Dorking Community Hospital

After the disappointment of having to cancel all their concerts last year, the Ladybirds Choir is really looking forward to seeing you at their Christmas Concert, which will be held on Saturday 18 December at 3pm in the United Reformed Church Hall in Dorking. This year the emphasis will be on music of fun and beauty, with the usual variety of musical styles on offer. Songs you will hear include the lovely Welsh lullaby All through the night, walking in the Air from The Snowman – always a delight – and Sleigh Ride for something a bit more lively! On a slightly different tack, the choir will also sing Lionel Bart's song Fings ain't wot they used t'be, which was memorably performed by Max Bygraves in 1960. Although the lyrics were written over sixty years ago, they seem to be remarkably relevant to our situation today.

The profits from the concert will go to The Friends of Dorking Community Hospital, which supports the whole hospital including Ranmore Ward, the Outpatients and Physiotherapy departments by fund raising for specialist equipment and social activities and runs a small shop and café. One thing the Friends are currently focussing on is making improvements to the hospital garden.

Tea and mince pies will be served after the performance. Tickets are priced at £7.50 and are available on the door or in advance from Jenny Abbott on 01737 843662.



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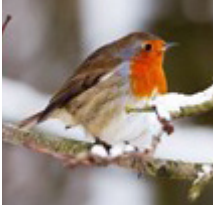
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GREEN WESTCOTT

Merry Christmas!



With Christmas fast approaching it would be easy to get caught up in the consumerism that seems to have completely

overtaken the true meaning of this time of year. This year more than any other, with the UK having just hosted COP26, maybe it's time for us to think a little harder about how we can reduce our impact on the environment over the Christmas period.

Research released by Ziffit.com found that almost two-fifths (38%) of British households are expected to roll-up their sleeves for a pre-Christmas clear out, with a third (33%) of Brits confessing this is purely to create space for new gifts. The sad truth is that there will be a large number of gifts which will end up being unwanted - 81 million to be precise - and although many people will take these to charity shops after the Christmas break, one in ten people in the UK will simply throw these unwanted gifts in the bin! (<https://www.recyclingwasteworld.co.uk/news/one-in-10-unwanted-christmas-gifts-ends-up-in-landfill-says-survey/148784/>)

Then there's the wrapping. Did you know that each household will use an average of 4 rolls of wrapping paper. This equates to a staggering 227,000

miles of wrapping paper which DEFRA estimates is enough to wrap the island of Guernsey! But the amount thrown straight in the bin alone is enough to reach to the moon! (<https://www.gwp.co.uk/guides/christmas-packaging-facts/>)



So, what about the food? Most of us enjoy and look forward to our Christmas dinner and why not. It's as great time to spend with family and friends, a time of relaxation and catching up. So what how much of our Christmas food gets thrown away? Well, a report by Unilever said that each year in the UK the equivalent of 4 million Christmas dinners are wasted – the equivalent to 2 million turkeys, 74 million mince pies and 5 million Christmas puddings. This figure doesn't even take into account the buffets, teas and food from other social gatherings around this time.

So what can we do to help reduce the glut of unwanted gifts, wrapping and food?

Below are a few tips on how we can reduce our waste this Christmas.



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Gifts

- Tell people exactly what you want
- If you don't want anything at all it can be better to say something small that you will use (such as a pair of socks) as people often find it hard not to buy something!
- If people ask what you might like – suggest they make a donation to a chosen charity instead
- Invest in buying activities instead of 'things' such as day at a local distillery or National Trust activities for children. Or perhaps a membership to the Woodland Trust or other organisation.
- If you still need to buy some people presents – try to buy local and sustainable. There are many local businesses which produce high quality goods that are also sustainably sourced.

Wrapping



- If you find you still end up with presents to wrap – then buy wrapping which is recyclable. Most wrapping with a shiny or glittery surface will not be able to be recycled.
- Buy a roll of brown paper and decorate it yourself with your children in the run up to Christmas as a fun activity.

Food

- Only buy what you need, resist bogof (buy-one-get-one-free) offers for things you won't use
- Compost vegetable peelings at home, or with other raw/cooked food scraps in your food waste bin
- Be creative – transform leftovers into new meals – turkey pie, bubble & squeak or curry perhaps. For top tips visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com
- Use the Olio app (written about in November's magazine) to share surplus food locally (<https://theconversation.com/five-ways-to-cut-down-your-food-waste-this-christmas-108105>)



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WESTCOTT BRIDGE CLUB



New Players Welcome

After months of lockdown and restrictions, Westcott Bridge Club has opened up again for existing members and new players.

We play on a Monday night from 7pm to 10 pm in the Westcott Reading Room. We usually play 20 or 21 boards of duplicate bridge, with a break for tea and coffee. Table fee is £3 per person per night and we aim to play friendly and inclusive bridge.



Many members have returned but we always welcome new members to our group. We offer a buddy scheme to ensure players new to a club environment are supported. The Club is planning open evenings early in 2022 on the last Monday in the month, i.e. 31 January, 28 February and 30 March, where new people will be particularly

welcomed, and can find out more about bridge at Westcott.

If you would like to come along, please phone David Royle on 01306 880102 or Jill Attfield on 01306 882040 for further details.

Brockham Choral

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 at St. Martin's Church, Dorking, RH4 1UX

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The perfect gifts this Christmas? Goats and Trees of course!



**Help us celebrate our 20th Birthday with gifts
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In Darfur, entire families have very little food to eat, sleep on the ground in small overcrowded huts, with water miles away across the desert. Children have no shoes, there is no transport to reach market, and the hot desert sun brings scorching temperatures each day, and the desert can be bitterly cold at night. This year we want to help you give your loved ones gifts that make a real difference – Goats *and* Trees!

Please will you give the gift of hope this Christmas?

Why goats?

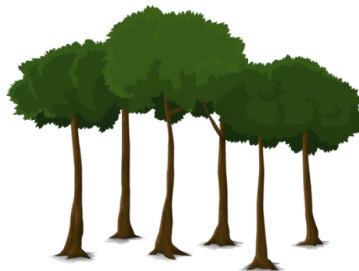
Children in Darfur lack essential nutrients due to poor diets, which leads to malnutrition – their hair turns from dark to light because of the absence of protein, and with no intervention, children face suffering physical and cognitive impairment their whole lives. By gifting a



family a goat, children have milk to drink, and mothers can earn an income by selling excess milk and yoghurt. Kids for Kids lends mothers five nanny goats. A billy goat is shared between three families. After two years five kid goats are passed to another poor family: the key to the sustainability of our help. Just one cup of Goat's milk a day will stop a child from being malnourished after just three months. **Please will you give a goat this Christmas? The best microfinance scheme ever!**

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Goats can survive in the harshest conditions, but even they need shade! For 15 years, Kids for Kids has been planting trees to hold back the desert since Darfur is at the forefront of global warming. Our first Baobabs are huge now! We plant over 14 different varieties of trees including Neem, Moringa, Baobab, Nabuk, Citrus Fruit Trees, and Acacia Senegal. Trees provide shade from the hot desert sun, fruit to eat, and, most important of all, help to fight climate change. **Please will you help us plant trees for three community forests, and outside huts and Kindergartens in our 105 villages?**



"Thank you so much to all the wonderful Westcott residents for your continued support and especially your donations to the Kids for Kids collecting tins! Would you believe they are the best in the whole area?!! You really amaze me with your generosity, and I am so grateful to you for thinking of the children in Darfur. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year." – Patricia Parker OBE, Founder and CEO

Christmas Gift Certificates



It costs just **£15 to plant 10 tree seedlings** in a community forest
£45 plants 20 fruit trees outside straw huts in our villages
£50 for one goat to provide life-saving milk to a malnourished child
And for the children - if you're feeling extra generous.... £316 provides five nanny goats and a billy goat!

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To give a tree: <https://www.kidsforkids.org.uk/product/trees-for-climate-change/>

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Surrey, it's Christmas!

With Christmas just around the corner, preparations for a festive and indulgent holiday shared with family and friends are well underway but do we know where some of our traditions come from?



Christmas at Polesden Lacey copyright Beryl Sinclair

In the Middle Ages Christmas was one of the greatest feasts of the year – because it was expensive to feed livestock during winter months, most were killed to be eaten or preserved. When Charles I and the Royalists were defeated in 1646, Parliament ordered that the feasts of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun be abolished; it wasn't until Charles II was restored to the throne that he reversed the legislation that

prohibited religious festivals.

Not so long ago, Christmas was just a working day. Shops remained open in the morning and people tended to celebrate in the afternoon and evening. It was not uncommon for couples to marry on Christmas Day in the 1800s because they didn't get paid when they didn't work which most could ill afford.

Christmas shopping is hardly a modern phenomenon - Prince Albert's enthusiastic importation of German Christmas traditions meant that shops would vie with each other to put on a magnificent show of their Christmas fare. In his book *Surrey Christmas*, John Hudson describes how Christmas was heralded by large displays of meat and poultry in shops and piles of pudding and dessert fruit in grocery windows. Dinner traditionally consisted of roast beef and plum pudding, and it was not unusual for a vacant chair to be left at table in memory of departed parents.

Surrey historian Matthew Alexander describes how the poor of the parish were not forgotten and would receive ingredients to make pancakes and pudding, and even clothing.

Young Victoria enjoyed many Christmases at Kensington Palace; in her journal she describes how the Dining Room was prepared for Christmas Day: "There were two large round tables

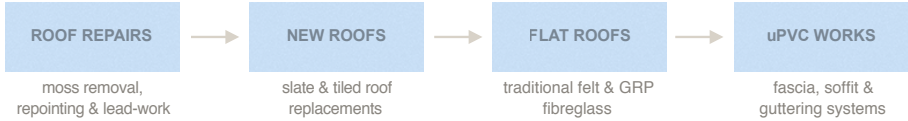


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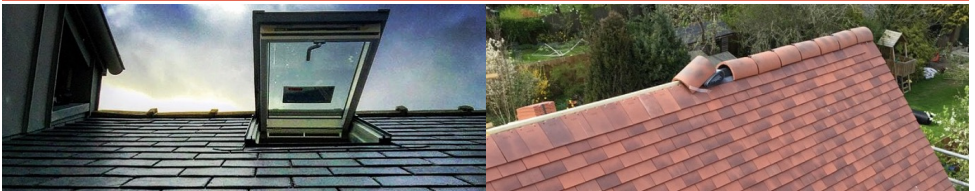


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on which were placed two trees hung with baubles and sugar ornaments. All the presents being placed around the tree". According to historic documents, the food and drink served to Queen Victoria and her family on Christmas Day in 1899 included soup, fish courses, poultry, roast beef and pork, and a dessert of mince pies, plum pudding and orange marmalade.



Now, plastic lawn decorations and flashing electric lights adorn many modern homes, but Surrey has a long history of Christmas decorations. In the early 1800s, Reigate's Christmas lights decorations were already being displayed in mansions and cottages. Dorking Town band and carol singers heralded the season by playing and singing in front of the homes of principal inhabitants.



Christmas at Polesden Lacey - copyright Beryl Sinclair

Queen Charlotte first introduced the Christmas Tree to Britain in the 18th century but the fir tree that we know today can be traced back to Prince Albert in the 1840s. Images of Queen Victoria and her family gathered around the Christmas tree became so popular with the public, decorated trees appeared in many homes.

The Dorking u3a speaker for December, Siobhan Clarke, has worked for the Historic Royal Palaces and authored many historical books. In *A Royal Christmas*, she explores Christmas at court from the middle ages to the present day and describes how royals have influenced our own celebrations.

For more information about Dorking u3a events and meetings, please visit www.dorkingu3a.co.uk or telephone John Sinclair on 01306 711542.

Beryl Sinclair

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