

Westcott Village Magazine

May 2022



What happens in Westcott is up to you!

Get engaged and join in the discussion

Turn to pages 13-15 for details



www.westcottvillage.com

www.facebook.com/westcottvillageassociation



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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

June issue:

8th May 2022

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've been enjoying the sunny weather we have been having as I write this in April. Of course it's probably raining again by the

time you read it in May!

The Cookie Club has restarted on Thursday mornings at St John's, at the new start and finish time of 9am-11am, so do go along with your babies and preschoolers to meet some new people and get out of the house!

While you are out of the house, there is a great bug hunt on p29 with many butterflies and bugs to tick off during the next couple of months, so keep your magazine and a pen handy in case you spot some of them.

Westfest are looking for helpers to sign up in advance of the big day in June, offering prizes, setting up, selling raffle tickets and so on, so have a look at p39 and see what you can do to help.

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

VOLUNTEER/BABY MEALS

In April the cooks have been helping two Westcott families during difficult times. The Westcott Volunteer Meals (also known as "Baby Meals"), are a welcome gift when times are tough; it is a practical way of caring for people in our village community. Thanks to all the cooks who have bought, cooked and delivered meals during April 2022.

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



THE NEED FOR NUANCE

I recently listened to a radio series called 'The Death of Nuance', presented by the psychologist Oliver Burkeman.

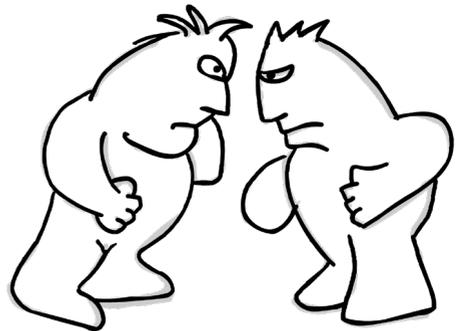
Some time ago, Burkeman realised that he was becoming more entrenched in his views and less willing to consider that those he disagreed with might occasionally have a point – or at least half a point. This troubled him, as did his growing awareness that our society appears to be becoming less able to entertain the possibility that our 'opponents', however we define them, may not be altogether wrong. It's a possibility that requires us to acknowledge that we may not be altogether right, which is rarely easy.

So Burkeman set out to explore this issue of nuance and why small differences and shades of meaning really matter. In one episode, he considers how social media often nudges us into binary or black and white thinking, an 'us and them' mentality in which complex issues are over-simplified, and anyone who thinks the other side might have half a

point is seen as a traitor. At best these exchanges bring us out of our echo chambers; at worst they encourage lazy thinking, unhelpful assumptions and aggressive disagreements. It seems that we are increasingly unable to consider important issues together in a reasonable and civilised way, unwilling to listen and try to understand the viewpoints (and the reasons behind them) of those who see the world differently.

...MAYBE WE NEED TO
LEARN, OR RELEARN,
HOW TO DISAGREE
WELL.

All of this does nothing for our relationships with one another. I recently heard of someone returning a neighbourly Christmas gift to its giver because they voted for a different political party. The message was, "We don't take gifts from people like you." That's extreme, I know, but it reflects the way in which differences can become divisions, barriers between us, damaging relationships and communities.



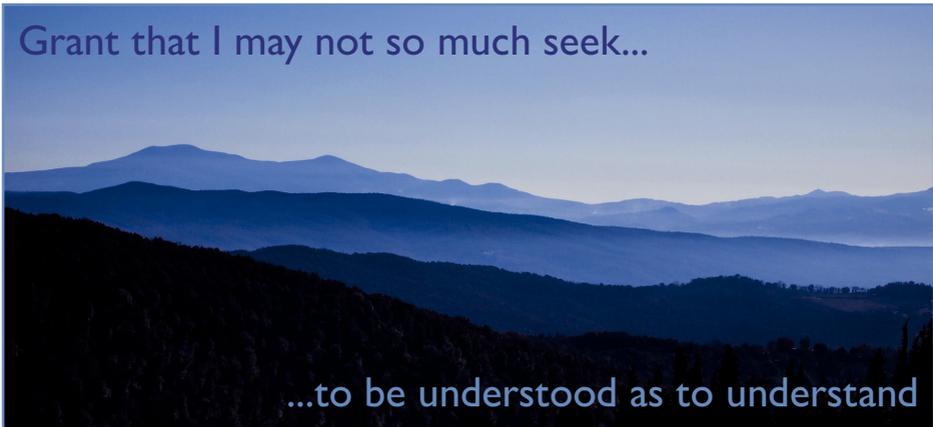
...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



Maybe we need to learn, or relearn, how to disagree well. A series on Premier Radio called 'Unbelievable' provides an excellent model, bringing together two people with apparently opposing worldviews (usually a Christian thinker and someone offering an agnostic or atheistic perspective) to openly discuss their beliefs and experiences. One that springs to mind is an illuminating conversation between Reverend Richard Coles and the illusionist Derren Brown – it's worth a listen. A good conversation on subjects we might previously have been advised to avoid (e.g. religion and politics) can actually help us to learn and grow, as well as revealing what we have in common.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the people who make up our village church don't all think or believe exactly the same thing. We certainly don't all conform to a type. We're a diverse group, and hopefully our services and activities reflect that. Though at times it might be easier if everyone agreed on everything, it might also become very boring! My personal belief is that God has created every person as a unique individual and delights in our diversity. He also calls us to live and work together in love and unity, accepting one another graciously as he, in Jesus Christ, has accepted us. I'm reminded of the line in a prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi: "Grant that I may not so much seek ... to be understood as to understand". I can't help wondering what a difference that prayer could make to our homes, our community, our nation and beyond...

Heather Shakespeare



Grant that I may not so much seek...

...to be understood as to understand

SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



8.30am Book of Common Prayer Communion, A warm welcome in our beautiful, traditional service.

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.

Mask wearing is no longer mandatory in church, but there are designated seating areas for those who prefer to wear masks.

If you feel unwell, please do not come in person - join us on Zoom at 10:15am.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10.15AM
1st May	Easter: Love Pray for Interviews	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
8th May	Easter	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
15th May	Easter: Love APCM	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
22nd May	Easter	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
29th May	Easter: Love	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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BUILDING
FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING
LIFE

COOKIE CLUB PARENT, BABY & TODDLER GROUP

COOKIE CLUB

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group
St John's Community Hall, Westcott
Thursday mornings 9-11am, term time

toys
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songs
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snacks & drinks
fun

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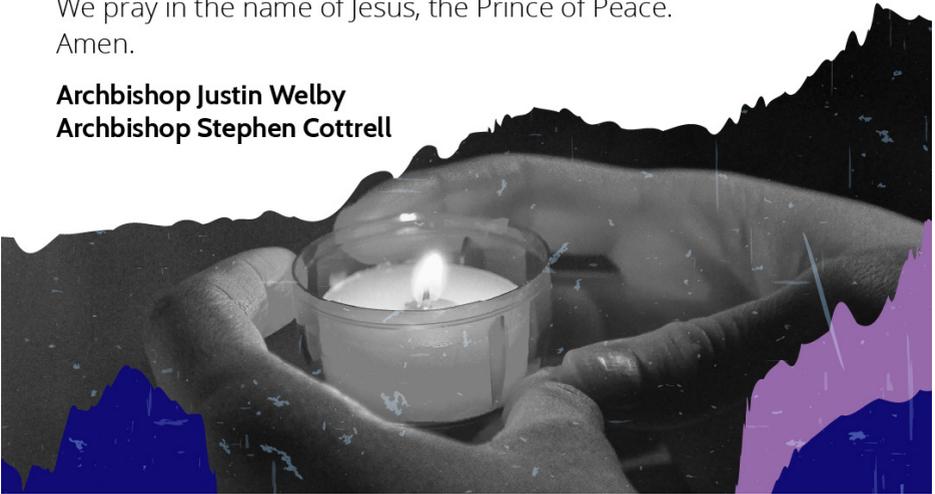
Cookie Club is back! Ali Mabley and a team of helpers are ready to give a warm welcome to all parents, grandparents and carers, together with their babies and pre-school children, on Thursday mornings at St John's. Please note the start and end times: **9am - 11am.**

If you or your little ones feel at all unwell, please wait until you are fully well again before coming along - to look after all those coming on Thursdays.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



The Church in Westcott is part of the Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme and we are always here for a chat, prayer, pastoral need.

Paul Stacey paulstacey88@gmail.com, may be able to help with **debt advice**.

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants:

Margaret Packham 01306 885915 Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010

Ali Mabley 01306 889641

For help, more information, please contact churchwardens:

churchwardens@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, WESTCOTT

11.30 am (following the end of the 10:15am service)
Sunday 15th May 2022

Holy Trinity Church

A meeting to review the work of Holy Trinity over the last year,
receive the Church accounts, elect a council
and consider plans for the forthcoming year(s).

Please send apologies to Jan Way, PCC Secretary: janrway@aol.com.

BUILDING
FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING
LIFE

FLOODLIGHTING

There has been no sponsorship of the floodlighting for May.

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

Death:

1st February 2022	Ann Bravery (75)
11th February 2022	Alan May (84)
14th February 2022	Tony Chitty (90)



Free Entry!

WEST *fest*

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26th JUNE

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- KIDS SOFT PLAY ★ DANCE DISPLAY

[facebook.com/WESTfestSurrey](https://www.facebook.com/WESTfestSurrey)

Please note there is no on site parking

Westcott 100 Club

Our next draw will be held in June – and we are marking the Platinum Jubilee with a one-off special draw in addition to our usual quarterly draw.

This means there will be THREE prizes up for grabs – a 1st and 2nd prize in the quarterly draw (expected to be at least £115.00 and £57.50) and the extra Platinum Jubilee prize (expected to be at least £230.00). All eligible tickets will be entered for both draws.

To qualify for these draws, you need to be a member of the scheme on 01 June. It is open to anyone over 18. Tickets cost £25 each (per year) and you can join by email. Don't delay!

For more information on joining the scheme or for the process for applying for funds from the scheme, please email us at westcott.100.club@gmail.com. To date we have given out over £5000 in prizes and awarded over £9000 to local good causes. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Alda Andreotti (Chair), Edwin Harland (Treasurer),
Richard Packer (Secretary)*

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

The Dorking Group of Artists – Summer Exhibition June 2022

*Betchworth Village Hall, Station Rd, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7DF,
Thursday 2nd June – Saturday 4th June 10.00am – 5.30pm
Sunday 5th June 10.00am – 4.00pm*

As well as visiting our exhibition, buyers will be able to view the exhibition concurrently online on a dedicated website www.dga.gallery which will launch on Wednesday 1st June and remain online until Autumn 2022

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The Westcott Village Association Committee is focused on the future and in particular how to ensure the activities of the WVA remain relevant to all Westcott residents. Westcott has a strong identity; it is an attractive place to live, work and raise a family and the WVA want to ensure a positive legacy is left for future generations.

There are four key elements to the WVA's focus on the future;

Membership

Currently membership, voting rights and subscriptions are all linked. In future it is proposed that everyone in Westcott over 18 automatically becomes a member of the WVA and is encouraged to attend Open meetings and the AGM, where they would have the right to vote on matters affecting the village.



Subscriptions

For the next 2 years it is proposed to trial **a voluntary annual subscription of £10** so the WVA can continue to provide funds for smaller projects and activities in the village. Street

Stewards will be phased out so in time cash contributions will no longer be collected door to door. Donations can be paid on-line via the Village Website and set up as a standing order, with tax payers encouraged to use Gift Aid to boost donations by 25%. Forms for Gift Aid and the Standing Order follow this article and on the Village Website.

Communications

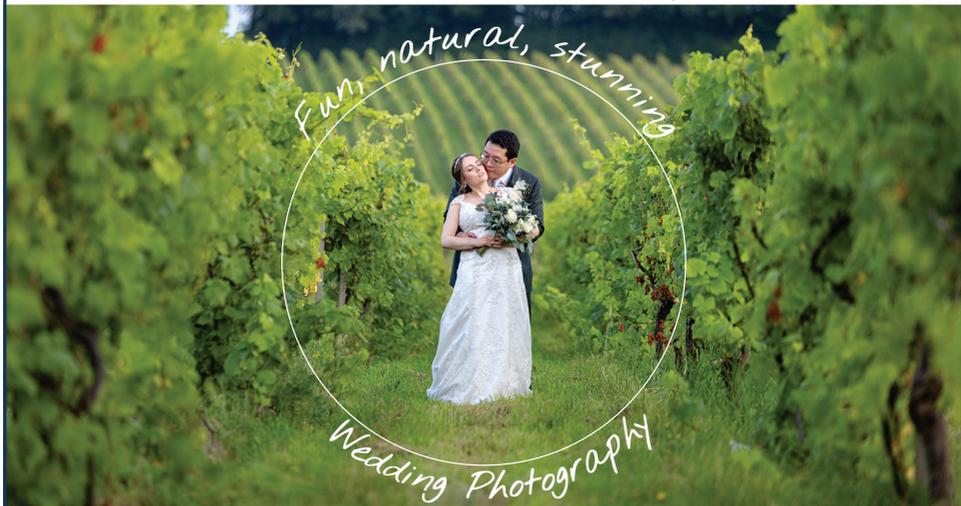
Effective and timely communication is key. In future, as well as regular features in the Village Magazine there will be updates by email and on social media including Facebook, Instagram and Next Door and on the Village Website www.westcottvillage.com To ensure you are included in the WVA Mailing List please send your email to the WVA via contact@westcottvillage.com. Your details will never be passed to a third party and will only be used to communicate village news. You can unsubscribe at any time using the link at the bottom of any email you receive.

Project Funding

One of the benefits of new developments in the village, like the new homes at The Crown, is that the developer has to pay a **Community Infrastructure Levy** (CIL) to MVDC to fund local infrastructure needs to support growth. There are guidelines on what the CIL can be spent on and while not all projects will be eligible, the WVA can bid for money and are encouraging project ideas, large and



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small, to be submitted from across the village. The WVA will sponsor and assist with applications. Further information can be found in the slides presented at the Open Meeting on the 10th March available on the Village Website. A formal motion for the changes will be put to the AGM on the 30th June and if carried will come in to immediate effect.

Looking back the WVA has used its resources to fund smaller projects throughout the village, most of which would not have qualified for CIL funding but nonetheless were deemed important enough to be paid for from WVA funds. In the last two years the WVA has;

- purchased laptops for children at Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School
- installed a second defibrillator in the old Phone Box on the corner of The Burrell and St John's Road
- bought speed watch equipment, trained people, and rolled out regular monitoring teams
- together with other village organisations, for the second year, purchased and erected a Christmas Tree on the Green
- organised the carol singing event on the Green
- supported the Green Westcott group in getting started
- agreed the installation of a proper



football goal on Cradhurst
The ambition is much greater than this and the WVA want to hear from Westcott's residents about projects they would like to see in the village, especially those which would qualify for CIL funding. Get in touch via contact@westcottvillage.com

We need your help...

Those who serve on the WVA Committee do so entirely voluntarily in their own time. Given other commitments this often limits what can be achieved without the help of others in the village getting involved in the practicalities. The WVA can and will advise, support and provide resources but only people can make things happen. We are immensely grateful to those who, when asked, take things on but we also need people to step forward voluntarily as we obviously do not know everyone in the village or what skills they have. Please consider how you can help your community and get in touch to offer your support, no matter how small, via contact@westcottvillage.com

Finally, a date for your diary – please come to the **AGM at 7.45pm on Thursday 30th June 2022** at Holy Trinity Church. Refreshments will be served after the meeting around 9pm. We look forward to seeing you.

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



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Please tear out this page, hand in to the WVA tombola at WESTFest or post to the address below.

Please keep in touch with us – tell us what you want doing in the village and help us keep you updated with what else is being done.

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

If you do want to make a contribution, the suggested amount is £10 but it's up to you. There are various ways to pay:

- You can set up a regular annual payment using the WVA bank account details:
 - Account number: 20072790
 - Sort code: 82-11-07

(please use your surname and postcode as your reference)
- Or you can visit the WVA website to pay via PayPal:
www.westcottvillage.com/contact-us
- Cheque – payable to the Westcott Village Association and post to Sally Hewetson at Drydown, The Hildens, Westcott, RH4 3JX.

If you are a UK taxpayer please fill in the form overleaf so that your donation is increased by 25% at no extra cost to you!

Westcott Village Association Gift Aid Declaration

“I declare that I am a United Kingdom taxpayer and that I would like the Westcott Village Association (Registered Charity No: 1185622) to reclaim the tax that I have paid on those of my earnings which enabled me to make the donation hereunder. I would like any future donations which I may make to be treated in the same manner.”

Signed: _____ Date: _____

“The sum I am donating initially in relation to this Gift Aid Declaration is as shown below. I acknowledge that I can ask for this declaration to be cancelled at any time by writing to the Westcott Village Association by email.”

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“My personal details are as shown below and I am happy for you to hold these on file:”

NAME: _____

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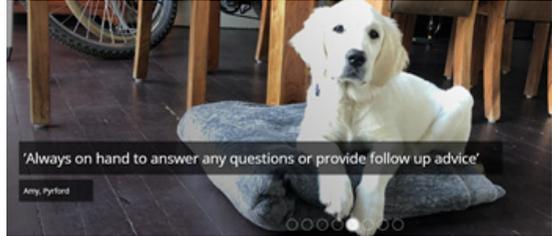




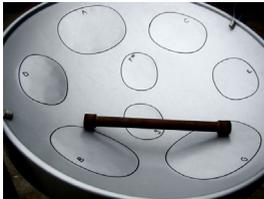
READING ROOM

Welcome to Spring with those longer afternoons back again. The Reading Room is getting busier once more.

Coming back are the regular Tuesday morning's Exercise for Health classes. New to the Reading Room are weekly Saturday morning 9am-midday Dog Training with Claire Murdoch and weekly Sunday early evening 5.30-8.30pm K9 Dog Solutions with Eleanor Hogan. K9



Solutions fun and effective puppy and dog training classes are for all levels with a maximum of 6 animals in one class backed up with step-by-step guides and a WhatsApp support group. More details from Eleanor on 07940 979936 or www.elk9solutions.co.uk



We are delighted to host the Surrey Hills School Steel Band on Friday afternoons for rehearsals and look forward to hearing the joyous sounds from those young musicians.

There are still plenty of Saturday and Sunday afternoon slots available for kids' birthday parties and Saturday evenings for grown-ups' parties, celebrations or fundraising 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, by phone on 07967 286636 or by email on westcottreadingroom@gmail.com.

Our thanks go to all the villagers who attended the meeting on 22 February 2022 to amalgamate the Hut and Reading Room charities. We are awaiting formal confirmation from the Charity Commission which is expected by 30 April 2022.

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



Wednesday 4th May
The Reading Room



Jigsaw and Book exchange

Come and join us
10.30 - 12.00 midday



The Arts Society Dorking

The title of our next Lecture being held on Tuesday 10 May 2022 is *The Borgias, The Most Infamous Family in History?* However were the Borgias really that bad? Truth is more intoxicating than myth. Sarah Dunat has been researching one woman in the family who stood out as a ruler, a patron and art collector and she will share her knowledge about the family. Our Lectures commence at 10:30am in the Dorking Halls on the second Tuesday of the month. Coffee available from 9:30am in the foyer.

Please visit our website to view our programme and find out about our welcoming Society. Further information about our Lectures, Tours and Visits is available on our website www.theartsocietydorking.co.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.



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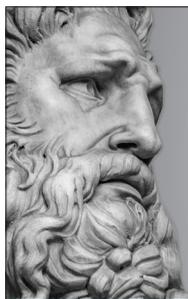
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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Boundary Commission Review Creates New Ward

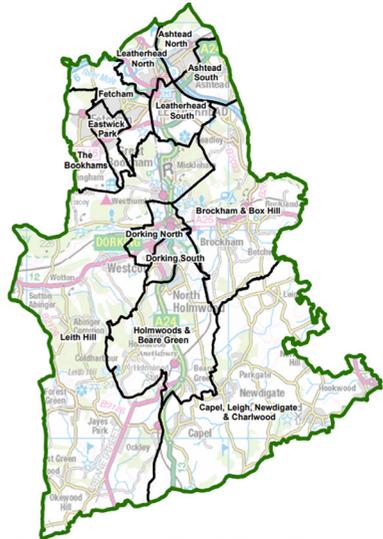
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England ("LGBCE") has now released it's proposals on how the electoral patterns for Mole Valley District Council should change from May 2023.

There are changes to every ward in the district and Westcott sees probably the most significant. As forecast, the Council's approach means that Westcott will merge into a large number of other village communities and share three councillors all of whom might live elsewhere and have no underlying knowledge or experience of our community.

The new ward has provisionally been called Leith Hill and would also include all the villages from the south of Leatherhead to the West Sussex border: Mickleham, Westhumble, Ranmore, Abinger Common, Abinger Hammer, Wotton, Forest Green, Okewood Hill and Ockley

There are a couple of points to clarify though. From the existing Leith Hill

ward Coldharbour disappears off to join Beare Green and Holmwoods. The western part of Milton Court leaves Westcott to become Dorking North.



This latest stage of the independent LGBCE review of Mole Valley's electoral ward boundaries sees draft recommendations for changes to the existing local electoral wards in Mole Valley being published for public comment. Visit the LGBCE's website www.lgbce.org.uk for further details on the proposals and to comment on the names of wards and their boundaries. Comments can also be sent by email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk or to: Review Officer (Mole Valley), LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth, NE24 9FE.

The Commission is the independent body that sets the boundaries. The review of Mole Valley's boundaries is

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

to ensure that councillors will represent about the same number of electors and that ward arrangements help the council work effectively. There are currently 21 wards in Mole Valley. The LGBCE is proposing this changes to 13, three member wards. In their report the LGBCE say that they are aware that they are proposing a ward which is relatively large geographically. In the Council's report, the working group of which I am a part noted this potential ward as "challenging for councillors to cover", given the geographic size.

The LGBCE visited this area on their tour of Mole Valley, including driving from Ranmore Common to Okewood Hill. They consider that, while not on major roads, there are adequate road links between the significant settlements within this proposed ward to enable councillors to visit and represent these communities. They also note that the main A24, while passing through neighbouring wards, enables relatively rapid travel between the northern and southern sections of this proposed ward.

They went on to note that any proposal to split this ward would still result in relatively large wards. Adding that "the existing ward of Westcott would have good equality as a single-member ward, implying that the remaining areas would have to be split into two single member wards on a relatively arbitrary boundary in order to maintain

good electoral equality." One possibility for two such neighbouring single members wards that Westcott residents might want to consider would be to split along the boundary of the two parish council wards that Abinger Parish Council uses as this would create District Council wards that are closely matched in electoral voter size to Westcott.

As well as further evidence as to potential boundaries, through responses to the consultation the LGBCE would welcome further evidence as to a potential name for this ward. They propose using the name of Leith Hill, as the dominating geographical feature, but would welcome views on any potential names that strike a balance between including as many communities as possible and being short enough for convenient use.



What does the review mean for elsewhere in Mole Valley?

For Westcott residents that have previously lived elsewhere in the district, you might want to look closely at the other suggestions too:

- Bookham has an east/west divide proposed adding some of Fetcham into a ward to be called Eastwick Park.
- The remainder of Fetcham becomes a

Search for a word

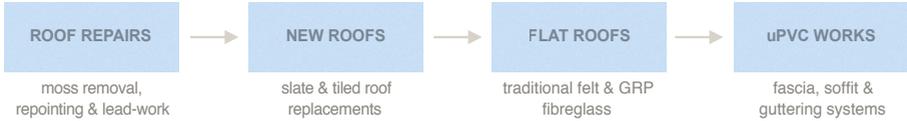


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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

ward merged together from the current east/west split

- Leatherhead South takes in some of Leatherhead North from around the town centre
- Ashtead becomes two wards, North and South, rather than the current three
- Boxhill & Headley join together with Brockham, Betchworth & Buckland
- Charlwood & Hookwood come together with Capel, Leigh & Newdigate
- Pixham merges in with Dorking North which also takes in the area around Priory School to the south west of Dorking
- Dorking South is extended to the A24 to include the Goodwyns Estate
- Holmwoods, Beare Green and Coldharbour come together

As I write this, Westcott Ockley & Capel is coming out of the largest peak of cases our communities have seen. Whilst this might be a little old hat for us all now, the key messages around infection preventing and control do bear repeating:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser **r e g u l a r l y** throughout the day. Make sure to use soap



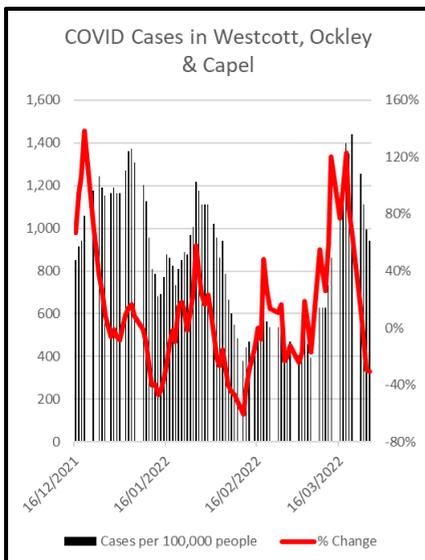
and warm water. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds. Regular hand washing is an effective way to reduce your risk of catching illnesses, including COVID-19. It is particularly important to wash your hands:

- * After coughing, sneezing and blowing your nose
- * Before you eat or handle food
- * After coming into contact with shared areas such as kitchens and bathrooms
- * When you return home

- Coughing and sneezing increases the number of droplets and aerosols released by a person, the distance they travel and the time they stay in the air. Covering coughs and sneezes will help reduce the spread of infections such as COVID-19, colds and flu.

- Remember to dispose of your used tissues in the bin.

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Tickets £18, 07590 652490, or margaretj.stephen@gmail.com



WESTCOTT BUG HUNT



Beautiful Bug Hunt in Westcott

The slopes of Ranmore are home to many wonderful bug and butterfly species (mostly from around May-September). How many can you spot and tick off?

What to look for:



Have you seen one?
Five-spotted Burnet

Adonis Blue

Speckled Wood

Chalkhill Blue (Female)

Cinnabar Moth

Large Skipper

Small Heath

Nettle Weevil

What to look for:



Have you seen one?
Small Tortoiseshell

Holly Blue

Ringlet

Green Hairstreak

European Copper

Cardinal Beetle

Marbled White

Tortoise Bug



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Walter Rose and his Photographs 1857 – 1954 – Talk by Keith Harding



Walter Rose and Chicken

At our meeting on 8 March in the St John's Hall 57 people were treated to an excellent talk and slide show about the life and photographs taken by Walter Rose during his photographic heyday before and after 1900.

Walter Rose and his wife Ellen had no children but adopted a niece, Dolly, whose mother had died in childbirth. They lived at No.1 Westcott Street and he took his photographs for local business and land owners,



Dolly Rose

also venturing to Cornwall, Wales and Derbyshire as well. His photos reflected the people, their activities and buildings of that era. Dolly never married and lived with Uncle Walter and Auntie Ellen until he died in 1954.

She inherited his collection of about 900 glass plate 'negatives' which had been stored for many years in his wooden shed which also served as his 'dark room'. Local historian and friend David Knight, and subsequently Kevin Knight, was asked by Dolly to store the precious plates in his attic and there they remained until 1986 when Keith Harding undertook the task of proof printing the entire collection – many of which had not been seen for 90 years. The collection has been catalogued and wherever possible the photos identified in his 'Goodness Gracious Collection'. Keith has made them available on his website www.goodnessgracious.co.uk from which they can be purchased.

Keith Harding started his photographic career in 1965 and opened for business as 'Goodness Gracious'. He commenced his talk by demonstrating how a camera on tripod as used by Walter Rose actually worked. Typically, he carried 6 plates in his leather satchel case and after each treated glass was exposed



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



it was transferred to a smaller metal container to keep it clean. Then he would take this back to his shed/darkroom in Westcott Street for processing. The fact that they were stored in his dark shed for some 40 years helped preserve them.

Keith spent some six months digitizing all the photos which are now on his website. This amazing collection records many aspects of Westcott life around 1900. There are views of Westcott Street and the Green, St Johns church and Holy Trinity church and the school also feature. There are many of groups of people at work, at parties and events. The men invariably wore flat hat hats and waistcoats and the women wore long dresses and hats.

We see the old shops such as Balchins, the butcher, and Johnsons as well as well known houses - Bury Hill, before it had the fire, and Rokefield and Milton Court. There are photos of rural life – harvesting grain crops by hand and



youngsters collecting potatoes in buckets as well as children with sheep and farm horses at work.

Imogen Barker, our Chairman, thanked Keith for his interesting talk and congratulated him on all his work in assembling this notable collection of historical photos.

the date of next talk at St Johns is Tuesday May 10th. As usual the committee reminds members that ideas and proposals for our talks are very welcome.

Roger Christian



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Mother's day is of course a special time for us as we all love our mummies! We invited them in to sing for them – we'd practiced our singing everyday and even sang a well known rainbow song in another language!! Then we were all able to enjoy tea and homemade cake and games in the garden on a gloriously sunny day.



Our Easter fundraising event 'The Great Abinger Bake Off' was a huge success and we welcomed so many children and parents from within the village and

surrounding villages. The cakes in both the children's and adult's categories were expertly crafted and there were many worthy winners. Thank you to everybody who baked, judged, helped and came to enjoy the day.



We have been going on mini adventures on our forest school

afternoons, walking through our beautiful countryside, across fields and through the woods. Our bug boxes came too and we spotted lots of lovely bugs and an abundance of ants. Oh how we wished they could have come home with us!

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Set up help on site - assembly of marquee & gazebos, arena etc. 9am-12 (or as long as you can!)

Raffle help - one hour stints from 11am-4pm (16yrs+)

Clear down & tidy up on site - from 4-6pm

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If you have been walking recently across Landbarn Farm you may have noticed the wildlife notice board and cast iron bench next

to it have both had a revamp. This has been done in memory of the late Ann Monie who had lived for many years on Westcott Street and passed away peacefully at home in September 2020 age 96.

Ann used to love walking in the hills around Westcott. One of her favourite places was on Ranmore Common, and with her husband Neil, she used to enjoy bird watching and the beautiful scenery. Neil sadly passed away in 1971, "too soon," as Ann would say. Ann continued to walk in the hills though around Ranmore for many more years with her much loved dogs. Even towards the end of her life when she spent a lot of her time in her wheelchair Ann got out into the beautiful countryside that surrounds Westcott. She often said to her friend Paul, "If you are willing to push, I'm willing to be pushed." And off they would go, often over to Landbarn Farm to enjoy the views up to Ranmore on c e more.

Ann also loved birds, and many



types would visit her garden daily to collect the food she'd have put out for them. So, in memory of this, if you now go over to Abinger Roughs, walk through a few of the



National Trust's new gates they've put in, take a left through the woods and towards the open fields near to where the manor house is you may spot two large owl boxes. They have been sponsored in Ann and Neil Monie's name; one has a plaque saying: Ann, while the other has a plaque saying: Neil. There are known owls in the field, and hopefully, they'll eventually discover the boxes and set up home in them.



Ann's family and friends hope Westcott residents as well as walkers passing through enjoy these new restorations and additions. Enjoy sitting on the restored bench, reading the wildlife notice board to find out what is about on Ranmore and then venture over to Abinger Roughs to see if they can spot an Owl or two in the fields there. Ann was loved and is very much missed.

Paul Meek

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21st at 7.00, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin's church, £16/18

21st at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted, £15, 01372 275907

This month the Dorking Concertgoers Society presents its final concert of the season, a programme of music for violin and piano. It will include sonatas by Brahms and Poulenc, music by both the Schumanns – Robert and his wife Clara – and a Romance by another female composer now being more widely heard, the American Amy Beach. Next season's concerts are already planned, with the exciting news that we shall once again have a full orchestral concert with a visit from the Philharmonia Orchestra next May.

Brockham Choral Society will mark their 70th anniversary with a celebratory concert of Bach's great masterpiece, the Saint Matthew Passion. The performance will be conducted by Cole Bendall and the choir will be joined by the Covent Garden Sinfonia, the Reid Consort and the Surrey Youth Choir. Tickets are £16 if bought in advance and £18 on the door.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashted, will feature local violinist Oscar Perks in Sibelius' ever-popular violin concerto. The concert will open with Sullivan's lively overture to The Yeomen of the Guard and will finish with Dvořák's dark and powerful seventh symphony.

There are also screenings at the Dorking Halls of two operas - Puccini's Turandot (11th) and Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor (25th) – and two opportunities to see Tchaikovsky's ballet Swan Lake (19th & 22nd).





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Well after some lovely sunshine late March/early April it went back to winter with freezing temperatures and even flurries of snow. But that hasn't stopped the woodland coming well and truly alive with fresh shoots, beautiful spring flowers and the birds having filled every bird box in the woodland even our post box again for the fourth year in a row is home to the great tits.



It will be the 8th Anniversary on 1st June since our Memorial Woodland was formally opened. This year we will be holding our annual celebration and Commemoration Service on Saturday 11th June (so as to avoid our Queen's Jubilee celebrations). ALL are welcome to come to the woodland on 11th to join in our celebration. The event will commence with the arrival of Chelsea Pensioners at 12.30. So come prior to that, parking is at Bulmer Farm just a couple of hundred yards from the woodland and we have a shuttle service to and from the woodland after you have dropped off your passengers at the woodland. The Redhill Corp of Drums and Band will be playing for us and we are hoping the Gospel Choir will be able to come this year. There will be plenty to eat and a bar. Stalls will include a bottle tombola, crafts, Grand Raffle and Auction. So put it into your diaries.

We look forward to welcoming you on 11th June and indeed anytime you fancy bringing a picnic and enjoying our woodland in the Surrey Hills.

Paul Cooling
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HOLMBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Musical Director Cole Bendall, who will be taking over from Amy Bebbington in the Autumn. Cole brings to the choir vast experience in vocal technique as well as working with choral societies. Recent performances and master classes have included collaboration with instrumental groups and orchestras both in the UK and abroad. We are really looking forward to working with him.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Amy Bebbington after more than a decade of high levels of achievement both at the Leith Hill Musical Festival and in our Christmas and Summer Concerts.

A 'must' date for your diaries is July 2nd. This will be Amy's final concert with us and is sure to be a spectacular one, featuring much loved favourites from Stage and Screen. So come along and sing with us. Tickets available from jlberry@btinternet.com Details on our website www.holmburychoral.org



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DORKING MUSEUM

Last chance to see: Our current exhibition – the very popular ‘**Darking 1620**’ – closes on May 21st. It presents a view of life in the ‘Darking’ of 1620 and the story of William Mullins and the Mayflower travellers.

New exhibition: A magnificent display of new paintings, created especially for this exhibition by the local artist Daisy McMullan, provides the Museum’s summer exhibition, ‘Rewildings’, opening on May 26th. The artist describes the exhibition’s theme: “Inspired by the landscape between Leatherhead and Dorking, this series of paintings depicts various forms of rewildings: ecological, as well as offering a poetic meditation on emotional and mental forms of rewilding the interior self. Walking through the forests, parks and riverbanks of the Mole Trail over the course of a year, they document the human interventions that create seemingly wild areas: the scattering of wildflowers, preservation of rare plants on the riverbanks, and the maintenance of



Daisy McMullan



This is for Everyone by Daisy McMullan

areas of outstanding natural beauty. Using colour, tone and gestural line to create a sense of flowing movement, this exhibition is a celebration of the beauty to be found upon close observation. It is a reminder to preserve the beauty and ecology of the natural world, and to go outside and find ourselves in the wildness of the landscape.”

Walking in Dorking: May’s guided walks in the town, leaving from the Museum, feature **Hidden Historic Dorking (Sunday 8th May, 2pm):** Dorking as you have never seen it before, revealing the hidden treasures you may have walked past; **Family History Detective walk (Sunday 15th May, 2pm):** a new itinerary this season, suitable for children aged 4-10, which asks, ‘Can you be a history detective to find the things shown in the photos?’; and **the first Historic Pubs walk of the season (Saturday 21st May, 6pm):** historic hostelryes of Dorking, past and present, with tales of the buildings, landlords, customers and some notable incidents.



May’s out-of-town walks feature a Betchworth Castle tour, with exclusive access to the castle enclosure, leaving from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club (Sunday 15th May, 2pm); and

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



the Deepdene Trail, taking in the grotto, woodland walks, parterre and temple, spectacular

views and exclusive access to the grade 2* listed Hope family Mausoleum, leaving from Dorking Golf Club clubhouse (Sunday 22nd May, 2pm).

All walks last around 90 minutes (60+ minutes for the family walk) – please book in advance. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for these and other scheduled dates, details and bookings. Private group bookings can also be made to suit your requirements for timing and itinerary (other themed walks are available).

South Street Caves: Take an unforgettable trip under Dorking's busy streets to see the 17th century South Street Caves complete with graffiti carved into the walls – the oldest dating back to 1666 – and extensive wine vaults capable of storing hundreds of



A series of staircases, galleries and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level and possibly used in the late 17th

century for political, criminal or religious gatherings.

Our open day for cave tours is on **Saturday 28th May**, and these continue on the last Saturday of each month until October. On open days, there are tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, but these do sell out quickly. At the time of writing, the May tours are already sold out, but check the website for future dates, or why not arrange a private tour for a special group or occasion? Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/ for details and booking.

Dorking Local History Group: Our colleagues at the DLHG are continuing their popular programme of talks on a fascinating range of topics, some of which are live and some accessible via Zoom. The programme in May includes a live talk by author Ros Black on "Amazing Women of the Temperance Movement" and a Zoom talk by William Aers on "Anglo-Saxon Surrey". For further details of these talks and other activities – or to join DLHG – go to <https://dlhg.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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Pictured are Mr and Mrs Patel from the village shop, with flowers from Ted and Babs Lawry just before they retired in March.



Their last day of trading was Sunday 13th March, after over 30 years of supplying the village with newspapers. They are staying in the village, remaining in the accommodation above the shop. We wish them a Happy Retirement.

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Is the Swift our modern-day canary in the coalmine?



As the middle of summer approaches there are some familiar sounds that confirm its

arrival such as the sound of the swifts as they perform their acrobatics across the sky. These extraordinary little birds spend their life on the wing and migrate huge distances across the globe clocking up a staggering 4 million miles as they move between the UK and Africa. Almost everything they do is performed on the wing – mating, feeding and even sleeping.

When the summer arrives now, you might count yourself lucky to catch just four or five instead of 20, 30 or even 40 swifts diving and soaring, twisting and turning above our heads. There has been such a sharp decline in the numbers of swifts, with their numbers down by 53% between 1995 and 2016. Any decline in migrating animals is always a concern, as it indicates problems worldwide. Other notable birds also in decline are the nightingale, the cuckoo and swallows to name but a few. Many of the problems affecting these birds numbers, is due in some part, to habitat loss. Conversion of old buildings has not helped, even

if do they manage to make it to the UK in the first place. Not only are the nesting sites being eradicated and new build houses rarely making provision for these birds to nest, but climatic factors can also not be ignored as a contributing factor to



the decline in numbers, with extreme weather events increasing, these migrating birds have even more to deal with.

But one of the biggest causes of decline in any animal population is always food supply. So what is it that these birds are eating? Insects. Specifically where the swift is concerned they eat flying insects.

When the insect populations diminish it is not rocket science to work out that the species that rely on them for their food, will also begin to decline. More than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are now considered endangered. The rate of extinction is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles. One study suggested that the mass of insects is falling by 2.5% a year and go as far as to suggest that they could



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



to be protected if we are to help nature recover from the damage that has already been done. David Attenborough has been quoted as saying, " Every space in Britain must be used to help wildlife". If we take him at his word we can all do some thing to help.

all vanish within a century! In Britain, three-quarters of butterfly species have declined over the past 40 years, while moth populations have also fallen by more than 40% in the southern half of the country.

A recent study by the South West Wildlife Trust suggests that the decline in insect numbers is almost certainly due to habitat loss, chronic exposure to mixtures of pesticides, and climate change. They go on to assert that if insect declines are not halted, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems will collapse, with profound consequences for human wellbeing. Their solution is clear and simple, stop all routine and unnecessary use of pesticides and start to build a nature recovery network by creating more and better connected, insect friendly habitats in our gardens, towns, cities and countryside.

Although we in Westcott may feel we are surrounded by countryside and we don't need to do anything, this could not be further from the truth. Every little bit of countryside needs

In 2018 the World Wildlife Fund and Zoological Society of London's Living Planet Report [WWF 2018], estimated that the total population of the world's wild vertebrates (fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds) fell by 60% between 1970 and 2014. Within living memory, more than half of our vertebrate wildlife has been lost. 23 bee and flower-visiting wasp species have gone extinct since 1850 [Ollerton et al. 2014]. These shocking numbers are not only alarming for the species that immediately rely on them for food but they will have an impact on us too.

We rely on nature systems working for our own survival. Three quarters of our human food crops need pollinators to grow, and yet we continue to damage the countryside and the environment around us with the use of pesticides. Whilst the tonnage of pesticides used has gone down over the last 25 years in the UK, the trend is to up the number of applications on an area of land treated and the toxicity of many of these products



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has increased [Goulson et al. 2018]. A survey into honey from around the world showed that 75% of those sampled, contained neonicotinoids. Since 1950 it is estimated that in the UK we have lost 150,000 miles of hedgerow, 50% of downland, 98% of wildflower meadows and 50% of ancient woodlands. This will undoubtedly have had an impact on insect populations in the UK. But this is a global issue, deforestation of the Amazon, Congo or South East Asian rain forests will massively have resulted in huge decline in insect species in those areas too.

But you don't need me to tell you that insects are in decline, anyone over the age of 50 will tell you when they were young, how a trip out in the car resulted in constant windscreen washing with all the insect spatter across the glass. Nowadays this is rarely the case. And this is the same the world over. Is it any wonder then, that the likes of our summer swifts are in decline when their food source has been diminishing with such alacrity.



Just as the canary in the coal mine was an early warning system for the miners we might view the swift as our own canary – and if we continue to allow the decline of the insects on our planet we are in danger of dying ourselves.

Nancy Lund

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