

Westcott Village

Magazine December 2024



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CHRISTMAS!**

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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 2024

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



It's December already, how did that happen? It has definitely got colder as I write this, and the trees are looking rather bare now, so it must be true! There are lots of musical events to warm your cockles during the month, even though you might need a scarf and hat to keep the rest of you warm for some of them. (see pages 23, 29, 42, 51 and 57).

The Westcott Christmas tree is going up on the Green on 7th December and the lights will go on around dusk. You can order cut trees again this year

for collection in the morning (p59). There will be carol singing around it on 20th (p23) for which entry is free with warm clothing optional!

The first Wednesday Westcott Coffee Morning crew are after some more volunteers, if you could help occasionally please let them know, for all details see page 53.

Whatever you are doing during December, I wish you a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2025.

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

WEST *festivity*

Thank you!

Thanks so much for supporting your village Christmas Fair on Sat 16 Nov!

As the December Village Mag deadline is before WESTfestivity, you'll have to wait until the January edition for the report and photos!

Facebook: @westfestsurrey

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



ALL TOGETHER NOW.....

It's beginning to look a bit
like Christmas
Everywhere you go
Walking down Furlong Road,
tinsel on each abode
With the village Christmas
tree again aglow.

It's beginning to look
(concerningly) like Christmas
Just so much to do
Christingles now to make,
pay attention to the date
It's happening on the 8th for
me and you.



Some mulled wine, that
sounds quite fine,
On the 15th at the Church
With Carols galore, it won't
be a bore,
But for the sermon bring a
wordsearch...

It's beginning to look a lot
like Christmas
Westcott's now on show,
Lights on Pointers Hill, giving
me a thrill
And wreaths on Westcott
Street all in a row.



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

It's continuing to feel somewhat like Christmas Now, at Christmas Eve The crib service at four, a hundred children through the door All dressed up as batman I perceive.



It's beginning to get quite close to Christmas - The day itself I mean Midnight mass is always great, now my bed it does await Until the children wake me up at 4.15.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas I wish you all the best Whatever this season means to you, I hope that joy and peace ensue Blessings from me – but now I need a rest.

Rev'd Tim

A poster for a Carol Service. The background is a light brown color with musical notation and lyrics. The title "Carol Service" is written in a large, elegant, cursive font. Below the title, the date and time "Sunday 15th December, 5:00pm" are written in a bold, blue font. Below that, the text "Join us for traditional Christmas readings and carols old and new" is written in a bold, blue font. At the bottom, there is a small illustration of a church with a steeple and a Christmas tree. The text "*No 10:15am service on this day - just one morning service at 8:30am" is written in a bold, blue font. At the bottom left, the lyrics "Silent Night, Holy Night! Guiding Star shine ever bright While the Eastern Magi bring Gifts and homage to our King" are written in a small, black font. At the bottom right, the logo for "THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT" is displayed, with the tagline "Building Relationships, Spreading Life." below it.

PIANO

VOICE

Si-lent Night! Ho-ly Night! Where was dark all its night

poco rit.

Carol Service

Sunday 15th December, 5:00pm

Join us for traditional Christmas readings and carols old and new

Angels to the shepherds sing - Glo-ry to our new born King; Peace, goodwill to men - Peace, goodwill to men

poco rit.

***No 10:15am service on this day - just one morning service at 8:30am**

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Guiding Star shine ever bright
While the Eastern Magi bring
Gifts and homage to our King

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT
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DECEMBER 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.

The church is open every day, 9am-4pm for private prayer & reflection

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM	EVENING
1st Dec	Advent Worship	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion	
8th Dec	Christingle	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Christingle	
15th Dec	Advent Worship	Book of Common Prayer Communion	No Service	Carol Service at 5pm
22nd Dec	Advent Worship	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club	
24th Dec (Tues)	Christmas Eve			Crib service at 4pm Midnight communion at 11:30pm
25th Dec (Wed)	Christmas Day	Please join us at 10.15am for Christmas Morning Worship.		
29th Dec	Epiphany	Please join us at 9.30am for a combined service of Morning Worship		

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's



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or reflection

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pray, reflect, breathe, be.

All are welcome

Christingle

Sunday 8th December, 10:15am

Holy Trinity Church, Westcott



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snacks
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friendship
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St John's Hall, Westcott
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Crib Service

Tuesday 24th December, 4pm
Holy Trinity Church, Westcott



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

Debt advice: Paul Stacey (paulstacey88@gmail.com)

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants: Mark Shakespeare (01306 888010), Ali Mabley (alimabley.htw@gmail.com)

For help, or more information, please contact
Tim Armstrong, Vicar: vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk
or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



Floodlighting

Many thanks to Paul & Carol Morris for sponsoring the December floodlighting in loving memory of their parents Jean & Jim and Bobbie & Barry.

To become a sponsor of our floodlighting, which is powered by 100% renewable electricity, please contact admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk.
(Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)



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 vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk for more information.

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception (Bees) have had a wonderful first half-term and settled beautifully into school life. Here is a small selection of activities.



Year 3 (Hedgehogs) have been busy learning all about seasonal fruit and vegetables. We have been looking at what is currently growing in the UK and the benefits of eating seasonal food. We practised our peeling and cutting skills first and then made our own fruit crumbles! The best bit was trying all of the different fruit crumbles once they were cooked!



Years 1 and 2 (Butterflies) have been working hard on our Design Technology project to make a chair for Baby Bear. We learnt what shape was the strongest to support a pile of books and had great fun rolling numerous cylinders to create a structure that was strong enough to support a child (and Mrs Dutton!). We then designed and made our chairs out of paper cylinders and masking tape. Although time-consuming and often a little frustrating, we all managed to create a chair.



Years 5 and 6 are investigating the impact of World War II on the people of Britain. They were treated

to a World War II workshop paid for by our Parents' Committee - FASH. The children came dressed appropriately and took part in all sorts of activities! Morse code, rationing, bomb disposal, looking at artefacts and stretcher races to name but a few! We had a great day and learnt a lot!



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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



Surrey Hills have been looking at the painting 'Surprised!' also known as 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm' by Henri Rousseau. Each year group

All of the fantastic artwork was then displayed in our whole school art gallery where both children and parents got to come and observe all of the magnificent masterpieces!



part of the painting and produced some brilliant artwork based on this part of the painting.



both children and parents got to come and observe all of the magnificent masterpieces! All of the children were amazing and should be very proud of their hard work.

Mrs Fyson
Headteacher



Dorking Local History Group

The DLHG continues its popular programme of both live and Zoom talks on a fascinating range of topics. These are free to members, but non-members are welcome. Upcoming dates include:

- **Mary Neal & the Suffragettes who saved Morris Dancing:** Morris dancing is a subject of many jokes, but it has a serious history. Who saved Morris dancing, why & was it worth it? Local favourite Kathy Atherton will explain all. Live talk, Monday 2nd December at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **Charles Dodgson and Christ Church, Oxford** is a Zoom talk by Martin Grossel about Christ Church, which was central to the adult life of Charles Dodgson – better known as Lewis Carroll – who was an undergraduate, a maths tutor and Sub-Librarian there, Monday 9th December, 7.30pm, <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.

For further details of talks and other activities – or to join DLHG – go to <https://dlhg.org.uk>



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GAME SHOOTING - THE OTHER POINT OF VIEW

Game shooting and the Benefits for other Wildlife Conservation and the Economy

In light of the article in the October Westcott magazine on pheasant shooting it is very important for people to see the other point of view. It must be accepted that not everyone would agree with shooting animals in any form, or that they themselves would want to partake in any of those activities that take an animals life and then consume it for food, whether that be shot, culled or processed through an abattoir. It is crucial to address the significant contributions that game shooting, gamekeepers and land managers make to wildlife, countryside protection, and the local economy.

There are three camps when it comes to understanding Game Shooting, those that do know what happens (generally because they partake in it, or know people who do), those that have no understanding and those that think they know what happens, and this is often where any conflicting opinions arise on the subject. Gamekeepers and landowners engage in targeted habitat management and predator control, practices that help restore ecosystems, boost populations of threatened species, and maintain balanced biodiversity.

The Code of Good Shooting Practice

outlines best practices for game conservation, shoot management, and the welfare of game birds. This code promotes sustainable shooting and associated land management, benefiting not only game species but also a wide range of other wildlife. The management of predators is conducted in accordance with General Licences and relevant legislation, which govern the ethical use of both lethal and non-lethal methods. It is important to note that while concerns about the impact of poisons and traps are valid, attributing the loss of non-target species solely to gamekeeping practices is incorrect and overlooks the broader context. Many pest control methods are used commercially and privately, often without the same level of oversight.

Gamekeepers and land managers actively enhance ecosystems through careful habitat management techniques, such as creating beetle banks, planting wildflower margins, and establishing mixed hedgerows. These efforts support not only game birds but also other species, including red-listed birds like the Eurasian curlew and the turtle dove. Research has shown that game crop plots on shooting estates can attract diverse populations of farmland and wood-edge birds during the winter months. For instance, studies of red and amber listed birds are undertaken across the south east (GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count – for



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GAME SHOOTING - THE OTHER POV (cont.)

those interested in taking part, it will run from the 7th - 25th February 2025) and they constantly show managed game populations were associated with higher abundances of ground-nesting birds, suggesting that responsible game management can positively influence local biodiversity. Around the local area vast amounts of goldfinches and skylarks can be seen, as well as some birds that are far less common like nightjars and yellowhammers. We also have very healthy number of bird of prey including buzzards, red kites, kestrels, sparrowhawks, and also tawny owls and barn owls

Furthermore, gamekeeping operates within a framework of strict rules and regulations aimed at protecting vulnerable species from over-predation. This responsible approach is essential in maintaining balanced ecosystems, especially in the context of modern agricultural practices that often disrupt natural habitats. Notably, some conservation organizations, RSPB for instance, also engage in targeted culling of certain species to protect vulnerable wildlife, indicating that such practices are not exclusive to game shooting.

Critics of game shooting should consider the broader economic and ecological contributions of the practice. According to the independent "Value of Shooting 2024" report, shooting activities generate £3.3

billion for the UK economy and support habitat management across 7.6 million hectares of land. With over 620,000 people actively involved in shooting-related activities, this sector plays a vital role in rural economies, creating jobs and sustaining local communities.

Pheasant shooting and conservation management goes hand and hand, whilst steeped in tradition, and also contributes to the preservation of the UK's countryside. Through sustainable practices, gamekeepers not only restore and maintain habitats but also ensure the ecological balance that benefits both game birds and the broader ecosystem.

In conclusion, while the concerns surrounding gamekeeping deserve attention, it is essential to recognize its multifaceted role in conservation and the economy. By fostering constructive dialogue around the practice, stakeholders can work together to promote sustainable methods that benefit wildlife and rural communities alike.

Ross Moreland

References

1. *The Code of Good Shooting Practice*
2. *GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count, results 2021, 2022 and 2023.*
3. *Sage, R.B., Woodburn, M.I.A., McCready, S., & Coomes, J.R. (2024). Winter game crop plots for gamebirds retain hedgerow breeding songbirds in an improved grassland landscape. Wildlife Biology, 2024*
4. *The Value of Shooting Report 2024*

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Number 11 - November 2024

We would like to start with an enormous thank you to everyone who has supported our charity over the last few months. We are delighted that word is reaching all corners of our wonderful village how serious we are about providing a new community building for Westcott that we and future generations can all enjoy and be proud of. It has been motivating to receive your support which has come to us in so many ways - attending our fundraising and consultation events, your words of encouragement, volunteering to help us, your financial support and letters to the Council backing our planning application.

In the last few weeks:-

- We raised over £1,300 at the Barn Dance, with over 55 people joining the Trustees, for homemade chilli and "co-ordinated" country dancing. It was a good fun evening.
- The Westfest Committee has kindly donated £1,000 from their 2024 summer event. In addition they have kindly agreed to donate the majority of funds raised at Westfestivity to our charity.
- The Westcott Wives Club has also very kindly given our charity £1,270.
- Nearly 40 letters have been written to the Council in support of our planning application. And we are equally grateful to the smaller number of people who have written to share their comments on how our proposals could be improved. All feedback is valuable to us.

The Trustees are so appreciative of the support from these groups and everyone who has attended our events over the last year. By supporting the Quiz Night, Rock Choir and Barn Dance, the village has helped us raise over £5,000 this year and we have had some fun along the way. Please keep an eye open for events next year as we continue with our fundraising to get this project completed.

With the planning application now being considered by the Council we are preparing ourselves for the next stages. Assuming we obtain planning consent, there is still a lot of work to do and we continue to work closely with our advisers. We need to be ready to keep our project moving. Once there is planning consent we will:-

- Review the November 2023 consultation and more recent planning feedback, including some comments on the design of the buildings, and reflect these in our proposed external finishes, use and interior layout options for the new community building.
- Invite the village and our existing users to provide feedback to our design team

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE (cont.)



before we take the building with the broadest possible appeal and flexibility to detailed design and tender.

- Encourage the residential developer partner we select to build the houses to also adopt this same approach.
- Ensure our funding is robust before we appoint a contractor to build the new community building for us. The building will be part funded by the sale of the housing land and we will need to continue with fundraising in the village and from other public funding sources to make up the balance.

If there is anything you wish to ask us in the interim, or if you would like to put yourself forward to join the Trustees to help us with the exciting next leg of our journey, please contact us at info@westcottvillagehall.com The Westcott Village Hall Trustees are Sally Hewetson, Helen Everett, Andy Gray, Debbie Lewis, Tony Winch, Andy Taylor and Jim Brodrick with a development sub-group of Bernd Ratzke and James Leaver.

Trustees

5 November 2024



Tuesday 10th December 10.30am

Bruegel – The Seasons and the World: Gavin Plumley

In 1565, Pieter Bruegel the Elder was commissioned to create a series of paintings for a dining room in Antwerp. The images, charting the course of a year, changed the way we view the world through art. Landscape had previously been a decorative backdrop to dramas both sacred and profane, but here the landscape and our interaction with it became the focus. Looking at the paintings, *The Return of the Herd*, *Hunters in the Snow* and *The Gloomy Day*, this lecture explores how Bruegel pioneered a whole new way of thinking about the environment and our individual places within a shifting cosmos.



The lecture will be held at 10.30 in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls. Coffee is available from 9:30am. Visitors are welcome for a fee of £7.50 but contact Linda Packham on 07960 995707 (email - ljpackman@gmail.com) to book. For more information and details of the forthcoming programme, visit www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk

Image: Hunters in the Snow (Winter) Pieter Bruegel the Elder (Flemish 1525-1569)

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20th December Events

Here are all the details of the events happening on 20th December, to kick off your festive season in village style!

The carols on the Green are free to attend, there will be mulled wine and hot chocolate for sale with all proceeds going to Crisis at Christmas.

See you there!



MUSIC + POEMS **20 DEC 8PM**
Join us for a night of music and poetry open mic! Bring an instrument, or some words or just come and listen. Food is available 5-7pm next door at Jon & Mum
St Johns Chapel, Westcott, RH43PP Tickets £2
Tickets available at Jon & Mum (free for performers)



Westcott Village
CAROLS ON THE GREEN
Friday 20th
December
6pm
Mulled wine & Hot
Chocolate
Song sheets for everyone!
Proceeds to Crisis at
Christmas
Westcott
Village Green



WESTCOTT VILLAGE HUB
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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

A Medieval Westcott Christmas

Most of us know that the Manor of Westcott and its mill gets a mention in the Domesday Book and the ownership history through medieval times is well recorded. But what would Christmas have been like then? Well, very different from now of course for the Church then ensured that Christmas was a true religious holiday. Celebrations were for the birth of Christ as opposed to simply for people to enjoy themselves.

The first recorded use of the word 'Christmas' was in 1038 when a book from Saxon England used the words *Cristes Maesses* in it. Also of note for Medieval England was the fact that William the Conqueror had himself crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066. Those noblemen allowed inside Westminster Abbey cheered so loudly when the crowning ceremony was taking place that the guards outside thought something was happening to their master inside the abbey. They rushed inside to restore order.

Some of the problems experienced at Christmas then have had a knock-on effect for us. For example, carol singers going from house to house is as a result of carol singing being banned within churches in Medieval times. Carol singers took the word 'carol' literally – it means to sing and dance in a circle. Many Christmas services were

spoiled by singers doing just that and the church at the time banned them and ordered the carol singers into the street.

December 28th is a day children may not have enjoyed in medieval times. December 28th is Holy Innocents' Day or Childermass Day. It is the day when King Herod ordered that all children under two years of age be killed, and children might well be reminded of Herod's cruelty by being beaten, whether they deserved it or not. December 28th was also seen by many then as a day of bad luck. Nobody would want to get married on that day; no-one would start a new building on that day and Edward IV refused to be crowned on that day.

What was eaten on Christmas Day? Certainly not turkey. Turkeys are native to America and only arrived



in Europe after the discovery of that continent in the last 15th century. The rich would have eaten goose and, with the King's permission, swan. The medieval cooks would very likely cover the cooking bird with butter and saffron leaves to give the cooked bird a golden colour by the time it was served. If the poor could afford it the Church had a fixed price of 7 pence for a ready cooked goose.

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An uncooked goose would have cost 6 pence – about a day's wage. Venison from deer was in keeping with the spirit of Christmas and a decent lord might let his servants have what was left of the deer. These parts were known as the deer's *umbles* – the heart, liver, tongue, feet, ears and brains. Mixed with whatever else the cook could get, they were made into a pie. Thus the poor would eat umble pie. So nowadays, if you take a tumble in life it might be said that you are having to eat 'humble pie'.

Mince pies are a Christmas tradition now. In Medieval England a large mince pie was always baked for a family. They were filled with all sorts of shredded meat along with spices and fruit. This recipe only changed in Victorian times when the shredded meat was left out. It was believed that if you made a wish with the first bite of your first mince pie, your wish would come true, but if you refused the first mince pie that someone offered you over Christmas you might have bad luck.

Christmas puddings in Medieval England were spicy porridge, known as



'frumenty'. This was considered a real treat. It was made of thick porridge (or boiled wheat). Currants and dried fruit were stirred in and the yolks of eggs were also added with other spices, if available, such as cinnamon and nutmeg. The mixture was left to cool and set before being served with a rich custard.

Christmas Day was also a 'quarter day' which meant that the poor had to pay their rent on this day! Boxing Day has traditionally been associated with the rich giving gifts to the poor in boxes. This is not strictly true. On Boxing Day the poor did receive money from their masters but in hollow clay pots with a slit in the top. These had to be broken open to get the money out. These small pots were known as 'piggies'. As a result we now have 'piggy banks' for collecting money in.

As always the WLHG committee encourages suggestions for talks and relevant articles from the readers. The next event will be on Tuesday 3rd December at the usual time of 8pm in St Johns Hall – a talk by Ian Goodall: "The man who caught a million criminals – Alex Jeffreys and the invention of DNA fingerprinting".

The Committee of the WLHG wish all the readers a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year!

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Brockham Choral



Brockham Choral invite you to their concert of Elgar's *The Music Makers* and *Enigma Variations* on Saturday 7th December at 7.30 in St. Martin's Church, Dorking, RH4 1UX. Cole Bendall conducts the Southern Pro Musica orchestra with soloist Judy Louie Brown, Mezzo Soprano.

Admission £20.00. Children and Students under 25 in full-time education £10.00. Ticket purchase at <https://brockhamchoral.org/tickets>

More information www.brockhamchoral.org

Westcott's "Baby Meals"

When another baby arrived on Parsonage Lane in October (our third Parsonage baby in a row!), the Cooks were called upon again to cater for baby Bronwyn's family.

The family want to pass on their thanks to the Westcott Cooks for delivering the dinners!

"Thank you cooks!"
Baby Bronwyn

Can we help you?

If you're expecting a baby and would like help with (free!) meals for the family while you adjust, or if you could use some meals during a challenging time, please get in touch
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MUSIC IN DORKING



- 7th at 4.00, Ladybirds Choir at United Reformed Church Hall, £8, 01372 878321
7th at 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin's church, £20
9th at 1.30, Andre Rieu Christmas concert screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717
10th at 7.15, Royal Ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717
11th at 7.30, Andre Rieu Christmas concert screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717
15th at 2.00, Royal Ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717
15th at 4.00, Dorking Choral Society at United Reformed Church
17th at 7.15, Royal Ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717
18th at 7.15, Royal Ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

With the arrival of December, thoughts turn to Christmas and to Christmas music. The Ladybirds choir, conducted by Helena Twentyman, will be singing a variety of carols and songs, ranging from *Ding dong merrily on high* to a Huron Indian Carol. After the music, there will be tea and mince pies and the concert will raise money for the Rainbow Trust children's charity. Dorking Choral Society also has its Christmas concert, with some enjoyable seasonal music.

Brockham Choral Society will be singing Elgar's *The Music Makers*, a lovely piece that nostalgically evokes several of Elgar's earlier well-loved works, including the *Enigma Variations* – which will also be played by the evening's orchestra, the Southern Pro Musica. The choir, directed by Cole Bendall, will also sing some Elgar part-songs.

Good news - the Dorking Halls will re-open in December! As well as the Christmas pantomime, you can see screenings from the Royal Ballet of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and Prokofiev's *Cinderella*, as well as Andre Rieu's special Christmas concert. Happy Christmas!

Ian Codd



ADVENT & CH

Festive Services with t

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Christingle Service ✨

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 10:15am

Gather with us for a lovely, family-friendly service as we celebrate Advent and receive a Christingle to take home

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Carol Service

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 5pm

Traditional Christmas readings, and carols old and new

* No 10:15am service on this day - just one service at 8:30am

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Carols on the Green ✨

Westcott Green 6pm

Gather around the village Christmas tree on the Green, and spread some Christmas cheer with friends, neighbours and The Westcott Village Association



For Zoom service connection, please scan the QR code or go to the online services page on our website
thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

CHRISTMAS 2024

The Church in Westcott

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER

Crib Service ✨

Holy Trinity Church 4pm

Join in the story of the first Nativity (and come dressed in character if you wish!)

Midnight Communion

Holy Trinity Church 11:30pm

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

WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER

Christmas Morning Worship

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 10:15am

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus together!

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

Joint Morning Worship

Holy Trinity Church & Zoom 9:30am

Join us in this service of hope and joyful revelation

* No 8:30 or 10:15am service on this day

✨ *Great for families and children!*

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We have had a super fun spooky month spending as much time outside as we possibly could! In the garden we went on a super mammoth bug hunt and found lots of creepy crawlies, slow snails and wriggly worms. We measured how long some of the worms were and chalked out some slimy snail trails! We sat at our pretend fire circle and had a cheerful chinwag whilst 'roasting' our 'marshmallows' on sticks.



A woodland walk took us through a carpet of crunchy leaves - a perfect opportunity for lovely leaf Angels! Whilst out we collected only the best sticks for our spiky hedgehog craft - once back we squidged and squashed clay into a hedgehoggy nose and body then painstakingly placed our sticks to create the prickliest pets in town.

The fun continued inside with our cookery Wednesdays – with an awesome autumnal vibe to the menu. The scrummiest scary soup bursting with vegetables and a few ghosts and spiders and gooey green goblin

cookies. Who doesn't love a green tasty snack?



Inspired by one of our mummies we hatched a plan to create our own forest school treasure bags – perfect for stashing leaves, conkers and acorns. Cue Coral with her sewing machine and a touch of paint and voila! We each have an us-sized bag to take on our adventures.



We hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

If you have a child looking to start nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch – we still have a few spaces available and the government have now introduced 15 hours of free childcare for working parents of 2 year olds. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

Kate Fairbrass



Jon and Mum Groceries: A Thriving Not-For-Profit Community Hub

Established in 2019 at the start of the COVID pandemic, Jon and Mum Groceries began as a simple veg box delivery service for locals in need. Since then, it has blossomed into a beloved refill store and cafe, playing a vital role in fostering connections within the community.

What Jon and Mum Groceries Offers:

- Refill Store:** Reduce waste and shop sustainably for your groceries.
- Cafe:** Enjoy a relaxing atmosphere and delicious food and drinks.
- Local Crafts:** Support local artisans by purchasing their unique creations.
- Community Garden:** Spend time in nature and learn about gardening. Help out on Saturday lunchtimes and enjoy a cup of tea and cake.
- Friday BBQs:** Join the fun from 5-7pm.
- Friday Lunch:** Grab a locally-made hot sausage roll or bacon sandwich.
- Saturday/Sunday Breakfasts:** Indulge in a full English breakfast or a pastry in the garden.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Shop/Cafe Closed	Open 12-4pm	Open 10-4pm	Open 10-7pm	Open 10-2pm	Open 10-2pm
Community Fridge 2.15pm			Curry Night 5-7pm	Community Garden 11-2pm	
		Fresh Bread & Cakes	Sourdough & Sausage Rolls		
		Light Meals	Lunches	Breakfasts	Light Meals
		Secretts Farm Delivery	Fresh Market Delivery		



Jon and Mum Groceries is more than just a store - it's a place to connect, support local businesses, and make a positive impact on the environment. Come visit us and experience the warm and welcoming atmosphere!

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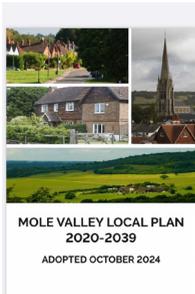


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Plenty to update you on this month.

MVDC Local Plan 2020 to 2039



It has now been widely reported by the Council that the new Local Plan has been adopted and we are now familiarising ourselves with this important

development framework for our area. Despite well-reasoned representations from WVA and a significant number of Westcott residents, we were unsuccessful in persuading the Council and the Local Plan Inspector to remove Sondes Place Farm and Milton Court Lane, both green belt sites, from the Local Plan. In addition, Westcott will be required to contribute 123 new dwellings in the plan period which includes an allocated site on the west side of Westcott for 15 dwellings. This is another reason why it is important for us to renew our Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan. A copy of the MVDC Local Plan 2020-2039 can be viewed at [Mole-Valley-Local-Plan-2020-2039.pdf](#)

Sondes Place Farm planning application

Following planning approval for 144 dwellings and vehicular access onto the Westcott Road (A25) last year the developer, Taylor Wimpey, has

submitted what is called a reserved matters application. MO/2024/1703. Recognising that the arguments for loss of green belt and separation between Dorking and Westcott have already been lost, WVA has written



to object to this application in the strongest possible terms, principally on highways grounds. Our representation can be seen at [MO-2024-1703-Sondes-Place-Farm-Objection-31102024-copy.pdf](#) and we are also lobbying our elected Councillors and Surrey County highways.

We remain very concerned about the impact that this scheme and Milton Court Lane will have on A25 congestion into Dorking and there being NO PLAN to improve walking, cycling and bus infrastructure between Westcott and Dorking. Given what we have said



above about Milton Court Lane, which is now an

allocated residential site in the newly adopted Local Plan, the WVA has also been addressing a variety of similar concerns in response to MO/2024/1228.



Westcott Village Hall

The Perfect Venue for any event

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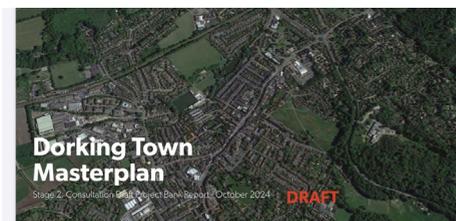
Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com

www.westcottvillagehall.com

Our two representations can be found at [MO-2024-1228-Land-at-Milton-Court-Lane-02102024-copy.pdf](#) and [MO-2024-1228-Land-at-Milton-Court-Lane-Letter-2-21102024-copy.pdf](#). The image on page 39 is the site plan for Milton Court Lane from the developer Thakeham.

separate newsletter update dedicated to this topic providing a summary of the 45-page document. We will provide key observations which we believe are most relevant to Westcott residents to help ensure that the feelings of our community are well communicated. In the meantime, we encourage you to take a look at the document [DorkingStage2ProjectBankReport_CONSULTATIONVERSION.pdf](#)

Dorking Masterplan consultation



Mole Valley District Council launched a consultation on a draft masterplan for Dorking last month with a deadline for responses by 5 December 2024. WVA attended the consultation launch event and the committee are currently reviewing the document from the perspective of Westcott residents. There are many aspects of the draft masterplan which we believe would improve our market town but we also have some concerns.

Our most significant concern relates to a potential option to pedestrianise West Street and close it to all vehicles except buses and access. The recent road closure for the West Street sink hole gives an accurate impression of what this might feel like. WVA will send a

The **Westcott Christmas Tree** on the village green is once again being sponsored by the WVA, the Westcott 100 Club and the Westcott Gardeners Club. It is being provided by Peter Read our local tree supplier and installed with the help of equipment from Burt Broom. If you can spare some time to help with the installation and decoration on Saturday 7th December please let us know by dropping a note to contact@westcottvillage.com. We will be meeting on the green at 10am.

You can also buy your own Christmas Tree from Peter Read and collect it that same morning. To order your tree please send a text message to Peter before the 5th 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. For the full list of prices see the advert on page 59.

Feliz Navidad!

Wesołych świąt

Joyeux Noël!

Buon Natale!

З РІЗДВОМ ХРИСТОВИМ!

Frohe Weihnachten!

Feliz Natal

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Another date for your diary – Friday 20th December

Come and join us for Christmas Carols on the Green on Friday 20th December at 6pm. Free to attend with mulled wine and hot chocolate for sale with all proceeds going to Crisis at Christmas. Carols will be led by the Westcott Church choir.

Following on from Carols on the Green there is an evening of Music & Poems starting at 8pm at St Johns, bring an instrument or some words to join in or just come and listen - tickets £2 from

Jon & Mum's (free for performers) or head to the Prince of Wales who are taking bookings for their Christmas menu, 2 courses for £26.95 or 3 courses for £33.95 with 10% off for OAPs.

As always do get in touch with us if there is anything you wish to discuss about village life.

WVA Committee

**Jo Astor, Paul Goddard, James Leaver,
Nick Lund, Magesh Ramakrishnan**
contact@westcottvillage.com

DORKING AND DISTRICT RSPB



Keep an eye out for early nesters

Yes, you read that right! Some birds can start nesting as early as December. While most birds wait until the weather warms to set about raising the next generation, for some it makes sense to get the ball (egg!) rolling a little bit earlier. One such bird is the Rook. These are members of the crow family that nest communally in rookeries, typically in a somewhat noisy and messy fashion.

Rooks can be told apart from Crows by the bare patch at the base of their beaks. It also gives a Rook's beak an overall greyer look than a Crow's. Rooks feed their chicks primarily on worms and grubs found in soil. By starting nesting earlier, in December and January, they avoid their chicks

Image
courtesy of
RSPB



hatching during the hotter months when the soil is dry and worms harder to come by.

Take a look at our group photos, walks schedule and information. £5 charge for non RSPB members joining the walks.

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DORKING MUSEUM

The team at Dorking Museum offers warmest 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. This year, we have added several new items and displays as well as continuing improvements to the approach area. Please note that the Museum will be closed over the main Christmas/New Year period (please check website for dates), reopening on 2nd January 2025.

Building between the vines – the story of the Denbies Lego house: The



Museum's new temporary exhibition opens on 5th December. Some of you may remember, back in 2009, James May built a full-size Lego house between the vines of the Denbies Wine Estate. The house was part of a BBC television series entitled James

May Toy Stories, in which he took some of the country's best-loved children's toys and built large scale models from them. These also included Plasticine flowers at the Chelsea Flower Show, a Meccano bridge, a full-size Airfix Spitfire kit, recreating a branch line in Devon with Hornby model trains and a Scalextric track around the Brooklands motor racing circuit.

Tom Loftus, one of the Museum team, was among the army of volunteers that helped to build the house at Denbies with around 3.5 million bricks and has now assembled an exhibition that tells the story of how and why it was built. A collection of specially designed Lego models of buildings and objects with a Dorking connection are on display, and there will be a treasure hunt and other activities for children.



Family Activities at Dorking Library:

Free activities, materials provided. Saturday 7th December, 10am-2pm: Even more Christmassy Creations: Craft activity in collaboration with the Arts Society Dorking – including the children's contribution to the Museum's Christmas



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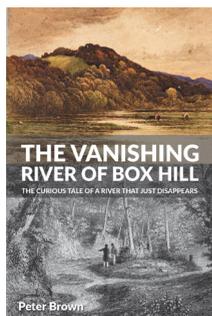
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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

window display! Saturday 14th December, 10am-noon: Winter mini challenge (aimed at (accompanied) 4-11-year-olds): Can you make a bookmark? Both activities held at Dorking Library, St. Martin's Walk.

Local books: The Museum's publishing arm, The Cockerel Press, continues to produce publications of particular local interest. The book that was prepared in conjunction with our summer exhibition, *Sweeping through history – 100 years of municipal vehicle manufacturing in Dorking*, will finally be available. It celebrates the 100th anniversary of Johnston Brothers moving to Dorking and the role that they have played in the town's industrial history. From its Dorking base, Johnston Sweepers (now Bucher Municipal) went on to become a world-leading designer and manufacturer of truck mounted road sweepers, employing many from the local community.



Two other books of local interest have been updated and reprinted. There is a new edition of *The Vanishing River of Box Hill* in time for Christmas. Originally printed in 2019, it sold out

quickly and has now been revised by author Peter Brown to cover the 'disappearings' of recent years,

bringing the book right up to date, with additional illustrations by Liam Ruiz. The Dorking pub book, *Time Gentlemen, Please: the Story of Dorking Pubs*, by David Langford and Jim Docking, one of our biggest sellers, is also being reprinted, with some minor amendments, and should be available in time for Christmas.

Get involved: The Museum is looking for new volunteers who can spare a few hours a month at the front desk or in a variety of other roles with flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home. The Family Activities and Education team has a range of activities in both formal and informal educational settings. The team is looking for additional volunteers with experience of teaching and learning, or who are familiar with working with young people, to help maintain and develop this important programme. Other opportunities are available in events management, digital communications, website editing and volunteer recruitment and training. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities for further details.

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. 01306 876591. Visit dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/.

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early Roman calendar,
and the name comes
from the Latin word
decem, meaning ten.*

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After a very wet October we were fortunate that things dried out for our Remembrance Service at the Memorial Woodland which as always took place on Monday 11th November attended by local residents and Veterans plus children from St Johns C of E School and Surrey Hills School. Always a lovely and moving service with the participation of local Clergy and the children.

As I write this we are preparing for our Annual Christmas at the Woodland Event which is taking place on Saturday 7th December. Lots of local families have registered to come along with their children to join in the treasure hunt and a visit to Father Christmas. We are praying for a dry day especially for the treasure hunt but we know it will be a very enjoyable event to kick off the Christmas celebrations.

It has been a wonderful year for QRMW having celebrated 10 years since the Memorial Woodland was officially opened on 1st June. My Trustees and I are very grateful for the support we have received raising funds to assist our Veterans who are struggling. That situation has sadly increased over the last 12 months, for example we have had to assist a number of Veterans who have been homeless and when they have eventually been housed we have provided the essentials to enable them to get on with their lives. But without the support we receive from people we would not be able to do what we need to do.

It leaves me now to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Successful and Healthy New Year. Remember the Memorial Woodland is open to all 24/7 and I look forward to seeing you during 2025. God Bless you all.

Paul Cooling, Chairman
The Quick Response Memorial Woodland
Registered Charity No: 1174651

Surrey Hills Chamber Choir and Surrey Hills Singers

Surrey Hills Candlelit Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday 8th December, 7pm, at St Nicolas Church, Bury Street, Guildford.

This beautiful church lit by candlelight creates a very seasonal setting for traditional carols, atmospheric songs and upbeat spirituals. The concert is followed by wine and nibbles, all included in the ticket price - £14 for Adults and £5 for under 16s. Available to book online from Friday 22nd November at www.singsurreyhills.com



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WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



The Village Hall

Wednesday 4th December 10.30am - 12.00 midday

*Tea or Cafetiere Coffee and Mince Pie £1.50
Jigsaws and Books £1.00 each and Sandra's delicious cakes*

*We are delighted once again to welcome the
Surrey Hills School Choir
A very warm welcome to all, especially parents & grandparents*

Please note that there will be No Coffee Morning in January

Coffee Morning Volunteers Needed

Dear Everyone,

There has been a Coffee Morning held in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of every month (except January.) It has remained an unbroken tradition since 1964, apart from the Covid lockdown.

If anyone would like to join our teams of volunteers it would be lovely to hear from you. This would involve helping once a year, possibly twice, depending on the number of volunteers. A team of two people would need to make and serve the coffee and biscuits for a couple of hours and leave the kitchen tidy.

We also would like volunteers who would be willing to help set up the tables and chairs beforehand, and to put them away again afterwards.

*Thank you to our loyal supporters and wishing you
a very "Happy Christmas"*

Jean Mickle

Telephone: 01306 881208 Email: familymickle@gmail.com

Christmas Facts you may not already know!

The first string of Christmas tree lights was invented by Edward Johnson in 1882

The red, gold and green colours of Christmas represent the blood of Christ, the present from the Wise Man and everlasting life

'A Christmas Carol' is the most adapted story in film history with approximately 135 versions

George V's first Christmas Day speech was written by Rudyard Kipling

Coal was given to naughty children for two reasons - to stop them being so naughty and also because it was useful for heating or cooking

The highest grossing Christmas film is 'The Grinch', which beat 'Home Alone' into second place

The oldest and largest Christmas market in Europe in Christkindlesmarkt in Nuremberg Germany

Snails don't like Christmas, it is too cold and there isn't much to eat so they go into hibernation after the first frost

(Feel free to use these to astound people over the festive period!)



GREEN WESTCOTT

Christmas

Mid-winter has long been a special time set aside for rejoicing and feasting. The customs of many of our Christmas celebrations today are rooted in the ancient past and are deeply connected with the rhythms of nature.

Light

In Germany, during medieval times, a Yule log was burned during the short, dark days of winter to help bring light into the home. Early Europeans celebrated light and birth in the darkest days of winter, with a time of feasting, to celebrate the year's harvest and to give thanks for nature's generosity. The winter solstice, which in the Northern hemisphere falls on or around December 21st, marks a turning point in the year, when the days begin to lengthen. Rejoicing and feasting at this time celebrated the connection between the sun and the growing of crops, both crucial for living, surviving, and thriving on Earth.



Hope - Light in the darkness

While the specifics may vary, many different cultures share similar beliefs



that lights symbolize life, energy and hope, and act as a way

to ward off sadness during the darkest times. Firelight, candles and fairy lights, that feature as part of our festivities today, bring positivity, warmth, and invite people to gather together, fostering community and reminding us of the things we have in common. In dark times of suffering in our world, we can still experience the wonder of light. Even the tiniest amount of light is visible in a sea of darkness and the more we nurture and tend the light, the larger it grows. The more the light grows, the more energy it gives and the more hope it radiates. The returning sunlight and promise of spring after the darkness of winter, reminds us of the constancy of nature's cycles of birth, life, death and rebirth.



The mid-winter solstice/Christmas is a magical time of year from many perspectives, to celebrate the joy of the return of light and rebirth back into the world. Gathering together to share food and drink during this festive season is fundamental to human solidarity and good for our wellbeing. It's an opportunity to count our blessings, celebrate life and appreciate each other.

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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



We wish you all a very happy Christmas!

Some tips for simplifying things this Christmas:

C – community – take, or make, the opportunity where you can to gather together to celebrate

H – hope – bring hope to others around you by sharing 'light', whether that's by displaying Christmas lights or something simple like smiling at a stranger

R – reduce unnecessary buying and food waste; re-use cards and wrapping paper; recycle

I – identify the things that you love to do and the things that make you stressed at Christmas and try to do more or less of them!

S – shop locally for gifts and fresh vegetables

T – try a new recipe for a meat-free or dairy-free Christmas meal

M – make sure your gifts don't cost the earth – ie, preloved items; locally-made gifts; homemade goodies; gift your time; etc

A – avoid plastic where you can – brown paper tape, loose fruit and veg, refill shop, simple crackers

S – spend some time outdoors – wrap up warm and sit outside, or go for a walk in the rare winter sunshine, or after dark to enjoy the stars and Christmas lights



Jakki Phillips

*The Ladybirds Choir Christmas Concert - Directed by Helena Twentyman
Saturday 7 December at 4pm
United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS*

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Ladybirds Choir's summer concert – together we raised £500 for Rainbow Trust, a charity which provides emotional and practical support for families who have a child with a life-threatening or terminal illness. We are delighted to be supporting their work again at our Christmas concert.

The concert will be held on Saturday 7th December at 4pm in the United Reformed Church Hall in West Street, Dorking, and the choir will present a variety of carols and songs both well-known and less familiar. Numbers you will hear include 'Ding dong merrily on high', the exquisite 'O holy night' and 'Huron Indian Carol' with its beautiful, haunting melody. There will also be songs in a more light-hearted vein such as 'Santa Claus is coming to town' and 'I wish it could be Christmas every day'.

Tea and mince pies will be served after the performance. Tickets are priced at £8 and are available on the door (cash or cheque) or in advance from Sue Scarrott on 01372 878321.



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8-9ft @ £42.50		8-9ft @ £75		4ft coppiced in log @ £16	
10ft @ £65		10ft @ £95		10ft @ £95	
12ft @ £85		12ft @ £110		12ft @ £115	
		14ft @ £150		14ft @ £150	
		16ft @ £185.00		16ft @ £185	
				18ft @ £225	

Thank You

A big thank you to Polly Wheeler and her family for organising my 80th birthday party earlier this year.

Thanks also to all the friends and neighbours who helped, to everyone who came, and for all the lovely gifts and cards which made it so special.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and new year.

Sandra Ede x

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