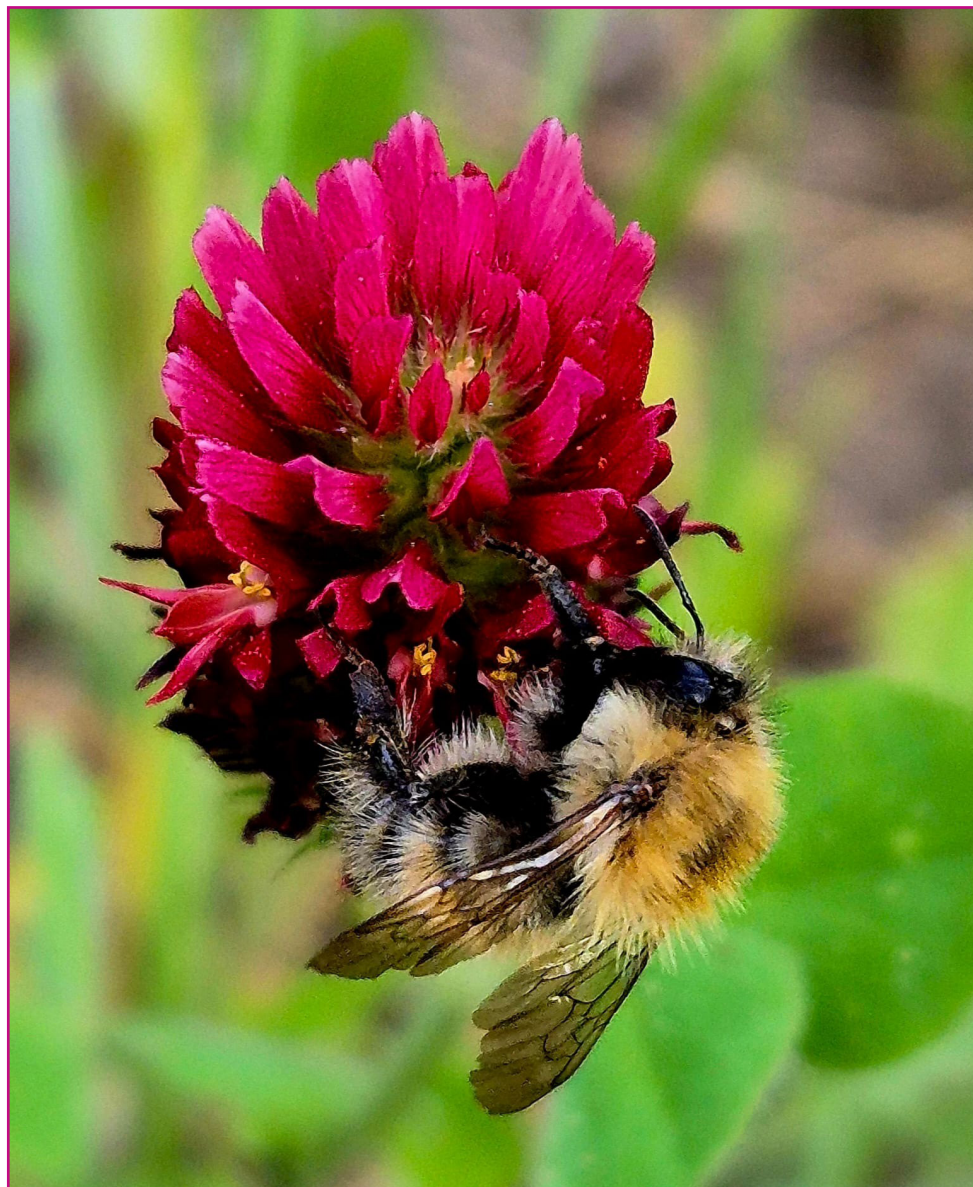


Westcott Village Magazine September 2025



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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

October issue:

8th September 2025

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 now feels like this year is moving on apace! Summer is nearly done (although September often has great weather and still feels like summer), almost all of our garden fruit is picked already and the kids are back at school. Good luck to all those starting new chapters, whether it's big school, sixth form, university, or any other new venture, I hope it is all you are wanting it to be!

There are photos from Westfest on page 21, so if you were there, have a look and see if you can see yourself.

The Gardeners' Club Autumn Show is on 13th September, why not have a go at one of the classes, if you don't have green fingers there are craft and food based options as well.

If you enjoyed (or missed) the Open Gardens in June, Hill Farm is open again on 7th, see p39 for all details, it's definitely worth a visit!

Finally, if you contact one of our lovely advertisers, please can you mention that you saw their ad in the magazine so they will know it's worth advertising with us. Thanks!

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

A top-down photograph of various craft supplies and flowers arranged on a light brown, textured surface. In the top left is a small potted succulent. Next to it is a white paint palette with several colors of paint. To the right of the palette are several colored pencils. Further right is a watercolor palette with many colors. In the bottom left corner are several pink roses. In the bottom right corner are some green leaves and a small yellow container with a red lid. The text is overlaid on this image.

Fancy some crafty competition?

Take on the challenge of being Westcott's Handicrafts or Home Produce master in our Autumn Flower Show (Saturday 13th September). Try your hand at making the best handmade wrapping paper, hat, watercolour or enter for photography!

See full details about the home produce and all other Autumn show classes at www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



As part of Westcott Church for over 20 years, you may have seen me doing things in church, like the Crib Service or the Service of Remembering, leading the choir at the Carol Service, maybe on the Church stall at WestFest, or bellowing out carol numbers at the wonderful annual Carols on the Green!

But for the last 3 years, alongside my paid work, I've been training part-time for ministry in the Church of England, not, as many do, to go off somewhere else and be a vicar, but to serve as an additional ordained priest here in Westcott.

My ordination was at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 29th June, which officially makes me your Curate!

I'll be working with Tim in the parish one day a week (usually Wednesdays), and sharing in leading services on Sundays and at other times.

It's been quite a journey to get to this point.

My late dad was a vicar so I was brought up in a vicarage, and I've had my own faith since my teens, but the thought of actually being a priest myself was never on my radar until about 6 years ago, when someone randomly suggested I should be an Ordained Local Minister. I had no idea what that was but when I checked it out online, I realised the description just made sense: training part time in order to minister part time (alongside work), in your own church and amongst your own community, but with this different identity as first a deacon, and then a priest. It felt like a significant nudge from God, which got louder and more insistent in various ways, and which, in the end, I absolutely couldn't ignore.



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



I found that I was willing to take the next step, and the next, ready all the time for doors to close, but finding, with increasing excitement, nervousness and astonishment, that they opened instead.

Gradually the way became clearer... and here I am!

That's a very short description of quite a long process - if you'd like to hear more, then do just ask - and, as in all our lives, there've been all sorts of twists and turns along the way.

I believe God has called me into this new part of my life, to serve as your curate here in Westcott, and I'm excited about all the ways that call might unfold.

I'm so looking forward to getting to know people in this new role, so do stop me for a chat if you see me around the village.

Revd Hannah Mayo

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.

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

| DATE | THEME | 8:30AM | 10:15AM |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7th Sept | The Cost of Discipleship | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion with Sunday Club |
| 14th Sept | Papua Partners | Book of Common Prayer Communion | 20-20-20 with Breakfast |
| 21st Sept | Being Trusted | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion with Sunday Club |
| 28th Sept | A Parable about Life | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion with Sunday Club |



MARKING LIFE EVENTS

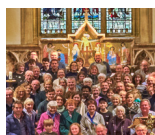
All who live in Westcott or have a connection here are very welcome to have christenings, funerals, weddings in Holy Trinity. Contact vicar@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk for more information.

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's



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fun

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A row of colorful illustrations showing various children playing with toys like blocks, a toy car, and a doll.

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THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage:

26th July 2025 Stephen Robert Love and Nicola Anne Miles



FLOODLIGHTING

The September floodlighting has been sponsored by Laraine in memory of James Watkinson and Michael Player.

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

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception enjoying Cinderella's Ball, with party games, food and dancing. Ella said "I loved dancing with Darcey and learning how to waltz." Fun was had by all!



we enjoyed the calmness of nature! We then chose our favourite plant, looked at it closely and produced our own wax crayon picture focussing on one area of the plant. Where would your favourite place be to spend an afternoon drawing?

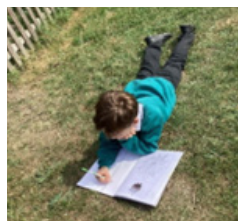
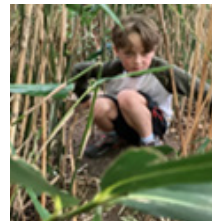


Year 1&2 have enjoyed some fun workshops this half term. For one we spent an energetic 30 minutes in the heat learning and improving our skipping technique. It was incredible to see how many children mastered the skill in such a short time.



Year 3 have been looking at how to draw plants. We enjoyed an afternoon sketching a range of different plants in the nature garden, looking at the unique shapes and colours of each plant. It was a peaceful afternoon where

Year 3 have also been enjoying their forest school sessions this half term. They have loved making fires and eating marshmallows, building impressive dens, finding newts during pond dipping sessions and weaving with wool.



Year 4 went on their residential up to Leith Hill Tower and then spent the night at The Mill. The walk to the tower was absolutely exhausting, but worth it for the views we saw once up there (and

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



the ice lollies!) Once we arrived at The Mill, we set up our beds and played some games. After dinner we had a fire pit session where we toasted (and dropped) marshmallows and drank hot chocolate. Finally, it was bed time.

The Summer Fayre run by Year 5 for the rest of the school was a huge success and enjoyed by all.



activities from team building and archery to kayaking, sailing and raft building/racing!



Sports Day, the first to be held on the school site, was a huge success. Ms Brown from St Johns' helped organise the event and with the support of Miss Roberts ensured the day ran extremely smoothly, even a bit of rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the everyone involved.

Early Years and Key Stage One had a fabulous morning of competition with great running, throwing and balancing skills on display. Box were the winners of the morning but there were strong



Year 6 had a fabulous residential at Thames Young Mariners staying in teepees and experiencing a range of







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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



performances from every house.

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for the love, care and passion you have shown in supporting your children's learning throughout the summer term. Your valued contributions have ensured that your children have flourished in both their academic achievements and the many other wonderful opportunities presented to them here at Surrey Hills this term, from residential to performances, Westfest to skipping and science workshops, not to mention the Abinger Medieval Fayre.

We offer a huge thank you to everyone who volunteers in so many capacities, and to our dedicated staff who work tirelessly to set high expectations and to deliver an inspiring curriculum where children grow in knowledge and wisdom. We are incredibly lucky to have you. As we say goodbye to our Year 6s and to Miss Bene and Mrs Hopkins, who has been a fantastic Senco for two years, we welcome Liz Chambers, who will be taking over this role and we also share our delight that Mrs Phillips will be staying with us as Forest School Lead.

We are extraordinarily proud of our

Year 6 children who have achieved so much this year - from fantastic SATs results, to amazing end of year performances, sports competitions and a hundred other responsibilities. They have made lifelong friendships that we are sure will endure beyond their time here at Surrey Hills All Saints.

As I reflect on my last two years at Surrey Hills, it has been a genuine privilege to get to know every single one of your children and to be welcomed into this extraordinary community full of life and enthusiasm. I feel incredibly proud of our recent achievements: a strong Siams report, achieving the Surrey Healthy Schools award, and succeeding in gaining Gold in the School Sports Award. Every single one of your children contributed to these accomplishments and we owe a huge thank you to all who supported us through this and the recent Ofsted visit.

Mrs Saunderson, Mr Moody and the team look forward to welcoming you all into school in the Autumn Term on Thursday 4th September, working together to support your children to fulfil their potential next year.

We hope you have all had a lovely summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Jacky Fyson
Executive Headteacher



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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:

- **A History of St Martha's Church:** Live talk by Simon Harrold. St Martha's is perched at the top of a hill almost 600 feet above sea level – but few know why it was built there. Come along and find out. Monday 1st September at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **An Introduction to Medieval Buildings Myths:** Zoom talk by James Wright. In many ancient buildings you'll hear tales of secret passages, cryptic carvings left by stonemasons, repurposed ship timbers on dry land, spiral staircases built to advantage right-handed defenders, and claims of being the oldest pub in the country – author James tells how many of these have any historical basis. Tuesday 23rd September, 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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Look for a nut-stashing Nuthatch

As well as Jays another bird that hoards its food is the Nuthatch. As the name suggests these birds feed on nuts and seeds. Their name is derived from the word 'hack', which reflects their habit of hammering or hacking at seeds and nuts that they wedge into tree bark to access the edible insides. Like Jays, Nuthatches also hoard food for the winter, pushing acorns, hazelnuts and seeds into gaps in the tree bark to save for a later date.



Nuthatch: Image courtesy RSPB images

Look out for a small bird with a pointed peak that looks a little like a mini woodpecker. These dainty woodland-dwellers are blue-grey on top and pale orange underneath, with a bandit-like black swoosh over their eyes. Nuthatches are found in woodlands throughout Wales, much of England and southern Scotland. As the weather turns colder and particularly into late autumn, Nuthatches are more likely to visit gardens.

See more on our activities and photos or if you're interested in joining see Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District, Instagram: @rspb_dorking, Website: <https://group.rspb.org.uk/dorkinganddistrict/>

Jonathan Groves



Summer Photos

Here are a couple of photos to remind you of summer, and to prompt you to send your own in! The top 2 are from James Friend, and the sleeping fawn was taken by Jess Clegg (taken from a distance and zoomed in!)



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Joe & Hayley, with baby Tawny & big sister Autumn ❤️

WESTCOTT BABY MEALS

SUMMER UPDATE

Westcott's volunteer cooks having been buying, cooking and delivering (free) meals for families with new babies in the village for around 25 years! It's a wonderful thing to be able to help out local families when a baby arrives bringing all the joy and chaos that they bring! This summer one of our fabulous cooks, Hayley, had a baby so we swung into action when Dad Joe went back to work.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Are you expecting a baby, or know someone who is? Or are you or someone in the family facing illness or other difficulties. Would a few home cooked meals help?

Or would you like to join our cooks list? There's no commitment - just sign up to rotas as and when you can. It's a great thing to be part of!

Get in touch: Anna 07710425487
annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

A Housing Experiment in Westcott

The first signs of development activity at the Sondes Farm site (134 houses to be built) was noted around 4th August. These houses will go some way to meeting Dorking's housing targets set by the government, for a time at least, and Westcott too will have to find some land to meet its share of the new housing for our increasing population. That the country needs a bigger and better housing stock is hardly a modern phenomenon however, and you don't have to be desperately old not to have been aware of the slums and crowded houses that a significant proportion of the population were occupying in former times, even in Surrey for goodness sake.

This situation was recognised in Westcott 100 years ago, almost to the month, in 1925, when the Westcott Fellowship Cottage Trust was formed. This was noted in the following letter to the editor of *The Times* on the 18th September of that year under the heading; 'A Housing Experiment';

Sir, In the village of Westcott, near Dorking, a new scheme is being tried to prevent overcrowding in the present and the existence of slums in the future. Money is being subscribed to build new cottages, and the donors ask for no return either in rent or interest. The rents are given back to the trust fund, to keep the cottages in good

repair and build more, and to alter slums as the money comes in. The Hon. Secretary, the architect, and the builder are all doing their part to make the scheme successful. The committee of management is selected from the Village Club, and a voluntary collector calls for the rent. Full particulars of the scheme can be sent to any of our readers who may be interested in it.

Yours faithfully,

Alice Brooke, The Rookery, Westcott, near Dorking

Although she did not declare her interest, Mrs Brooke gave the initial £1000 to set up the Trust when the scheme was proposed in 1924 by the then Vicar, the Reverend Salzmann, in conjunction with the flourishing Red Triangle Club - forerunner of the Village Club. She, and other members of the Brooke family also made other generous donations during 1924 and 1925 without which the scheme would never have got off the ground. J B Giffen and L Bamford were also contributors. (Mrs Brooke was at this time the widow of Arthur Brooke of Brooke Bond Tea fame, although it is interesting to add that the Bond bit was pure invention on Arthur's part to make the name run off the tongue better)

The aims of the Trust were:

- to eliminate and abolish as far as practicable all slums in Westcott. (At that time there were several old, dilapidated cottages in the village)

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



- to erect, build and provide improved cottages in Westcott and to let, supervise, repair and keep in repair the same,
- to purchase or otherwise acquire any property which may appear to be necessary or convenient for any object of the said Trust.

The first houses were built in Bailey Road and two more soon followed in Watson Road on land given to the Trust by Colonel Barclay of Bury Hill. This land had originally been acquired by Col. Barclay in 1906 at the request of the Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council as a speculative site for a church hall to replace the Holy Trinity 'mission room', unsatisfactorily sited at the end of St John's Road. In 1945 another two houses were built on land purchased by the Trustees on the east side of Parsonage Lane.

In 1945 the Rokefield Estate was sold including The Old Barracks and Rose Cottages in Westcott Street. Dr Billings, on behalf of the Trust, bought the four Rose Cottages with a view to adding further cottages to the site. The original cottages were by this time well over 100 years old, however, and the Trust decided to build six new bungalows and to demolish the old sub-standard cottages.

The Westcott Fellowship Cottage Trust continues to thrive, and additional property has been acquired since the new Rose Cottages were completed in 1962.

All of the information in this article can be found in the History Group's pages on the Village Association website www.westcottvillage.com

WLHG Scribe



TAKING A BREAK IN 2026

After 10 years of WESTfest,
the team are taking a much
needed break in 2026.
We'll be back in 2027.

WESTfestivity will run as normal in 2025 & 2026.
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WESTfestivity 2025

Westcott Christmas Fair

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Westcott 100 Club

Our 39th quarterly draw was held at WESTFest on 22nd June. The winning numbers are:

First prize (£ 111.25) 156 – Second prize (£ 55.53) 22

Many thanks to the St John Ambulance first aid team for drawing the numbers in between attending to casualties and delivering hands-on first aid demonstrations. Our next draw will be held in Holy Trinity church on Saturday 20th September after the organ celebration event (see page 17 of the magazine for details).

The Westcott 100 Club is pleased to have been able to work with Surrey County Council's Community Fund to support the purchase of the new coffee machine in the Westcott Village Hub. For more information visit the Hub's website at:

www.westcottvillagehub.co.uk

The Westcott Village Hub is a Community Interest Company (no. 14782517) run for community benefit rather than private profit.

For more information on joining the Westcott 100 Club or the process to apply for funds please email us at:

westcott.100.club@gmail.com



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.

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A huge thank you to everyone who helped out with the Open Garden on June 15th. In particular thank you to our 12 wonderful gardeners all of whom worked so hard to make sure the day was a success. Thank you also to the tea and cake teams and cake donors, you all know who you are, your efforts were greatly appreciated

by everyone. Thank you also to Jo Kelp for her wonderful garden flower bouquet demonstrations which were great to watch and also raised over £150. And finally thank you to all those who bought tickets and walked the garden route, there were over 500 of you and together all this effort raised a whopping £4,000.

As advertised we have given 25% of the sum raised to the Church with the express request that it is spent on the Chapel/Hub building to carry out repairs and maintenance. Tim Armstrong, our vicar, we believe has already put the money to good use. The balance of the money raised will go towards helping the trustees of the Village Hall continue to fund costs of the redevelopment project once planning permission is received.

Westcott Village Hall Trustees



PRIVATE DONALD ROSE, QUEEN'S REGIMENT



Don died on 11th July aged 110 years and 199 days. His role in commemorating VE Day 80 was covered by the BBC, as he was Britain's oldest surviving WWII veteran.

Don was brought up in Westcott, the youngest of 4 brothers (2 of whom had served in the Queen's, the local Regiment, in

the First World War) and 3 sisters. Don enlisted on the 26th July 1940 in Guildford and undertook his training at Stoughton Barracks, Guildford. After this he was posted to 1/7th Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) who together with 1/5th and 1/6th Queen's formed 131 (Queen's) Brigade, undertaking anti Invasion duties in Kent.

In early 1942, having been inspected by HM The King, they sailed to North Africa and joined 7th Armoured Division (The Desert Rats), and took part in the Battles of El Alamein, Medenine, Tripoli and up to Tunis. They then took part in the Salerno landings in September 1943, after which, in October 1943 they returned to England and landed on the Normandy Beaches on June 9th, 3 days after D-Day. Don fought in the Bocage, Operation Goodwood, and then in September, the breakout up through France to St Nicolas and Ghent in Belgium, and South Holland.

By December, the Battalion was spent, and returned to the UK. Don remained a Private throughout the War. At times he was a sniper and in Europe a Bren Gun Carrier Driver. Don was then posted to a Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment and said that he had ended up near Belsen. He married a German girl who, his son claims, prevented him from attending Regimental Reunions after the War.

The photograph above shows Donald after he was presented with his old cap badge on a PWRR beret, by Colonel Tony Ward OBE DL during the VE 80 commemorations.

Alistair Meldrum

WESTCOTT GARDENERS' CLUB

Summer Show 5th July



The club held their annual show in the Reading Room on the Saturday after the prolonged heat wave which reflected the difficult growing conditions this year. The result was a far smaller show, particularly with Vegetables, Roses and Sweet Peas. However what was presented was of a good standard and all participants should be proud of their efforts.

The winner of the Lannon Challenge Bowl, for the highest number of points in the Show, was Angela Deloford, with Kay Meldrum winning the Hapgood Challenge Cup as runner up. The best exhibit was won by Helen Finnis for her Hydrangea.

The winners of the various classes were:

Flower Arranging - Jo Smewing,
Rose Classes - Angela Deloford,
Flower Classes excluding Floral Arrangements and Pot Plants - Kay Meldrum, Sweet Peas - Bob Ellsdale/Angela Deloford, Fuschia Classes - Angela Deloford, Vegetable Classes - Kay Meldrum, Pot Plant Classes - Angela Deloford, Home Produce Classes

- Elizabeth Watson, Children's Classes - William Deloford, Jill Flower Novice Cup - Thomasine Burnap, Fruit Classes - Kay Meldrum, Handicraft Classes - Suellen Peskett



Rosette for Best in Section

Flower Arranging - Jo Smewing, Roses - Angela Deloford, Flowers - Helen Finnis, Sweet Peas - Angela Deloford, Fuschias - Angela Deloford, Vegetables - Kay Meldrum, Pot Plants - Babs Lowry, Home Produce - Elizabeth Watson, Children - William Deloford, Fruit - Kay Meldrum, Handicraft - Evi Ellsdale

If you are interested in joining contact us at info@westcottgardenersclub.org.uk

Alistair Meldrum

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Superheroes at the ready!!! It's the last day of term and the city of Abinger needs our

creative flavours of ice cream. The roads were jam packed with very busy drivers on their way to the beauticians, vets and off to see the stage show.



help! We donned hand painted capes and marvellous masks to swoop through tunnels and rescue everyone that needed saving. We

zoom zoom zoomed through skyscrapers in our fastest of



fast cars and bounced sky high on spacehoppers to save the day. Our parents cheered as the red, blue, green and yellow teams gave it their all to become sports day champions! Once we had finished we thought we'd let them have a go too – cue a fabulous giant sized superhero sack race! What great sports you were!

A true highlight of the trip was of course the mini bus to and fro and a good old sing song all the way there and back! (and maybe a little snooze from some).

We are looking forward to welcoming new faces who have come to play and can't wait to show them around! Here's to another year of adventures and lots of new friends!

Just in case you weren't aware we have wraparound options from 7.45am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and until 12.45 Friday. If you have a child looking to start nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to meet you!

Then onto graduation for our schools leavers who we will miss hugely but of whom we are super proud. What a super bunch who are all ready to take the next step to big school. As a send off we spent the afternoon at Little Street where already impressive imaginations came alive. Sales in the supermarket were through the roof and we gorged on pretend pizza, pasta and several

Kate Fairbrass






Dorking Choral Society
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Tickets £18

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AUTUMN SHOW SCHEDULE

Saturday 13th September 2025
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A SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Reclaiming Childhood: Fostering Real-World Connections in The Surrey Hills

In an increasingly digital world, a growing movement is championing the return to a smartphone-free childhood, and the discussions around it are becoming ever more pertinent. Experts like Professor Jonathan Haidt have presented compelling evidence linking the rise of smartphones and social media to the mental and social wellbeing of young people.

This is where the work of smartphonefreechildhood.org becomes so vital. This grassroots movement, gaining significant traction across the UK, advocates for delaying children's access to smartphones, promoting a device-free childhood until at least the age of 14. Their mission is to empower parents to resist the societal pressure to equip their children with these devices at an ever-younger age, recognising the potential harm to development, mental health, and social skills. They provide resources, support networks, and a powerful Parent Pact that you can sign to pledge your commitment to this cause. By signing, you join a growing community of families across the UK who are choosing to wait, helping to shift the social norm and create a more supportive environment for this decision. You can find out more

and sign the pledge directly on their website: smartphonefreechildhood.org.

Here in Westcott, we have a wonderful opportunity to actively contribute to creating an environment where children can thrive without constant digital distraction. The Westcott Village Hub and local public spaces are fantastic areas that are actively seeking enthusiastic villagers to help create interesting and engaging activities for children, encouraging real-world interaction and exploration within nature and our community.

Imagine children building dens, exploring nature, participating in creative arts and crafts, or simply running around and playing in a safe, stimulating environment. These are the kinds of experiences that foster resilience, creativity, social skills, and a deeper connection to their community and the natural world – experiences that are often sidelined in a smartphone-centric childhood.

We are looking for volunteers to help us bring these visions to life. Whether you have a specific skill, a brilliant idea for a project, or simply some time to spare to help supervise or assist, your contribution would be invaluable. This isn't just about providing an alternative to screens; it's about building a stronger, more connected community for our younger



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A SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD (cont.)

generation. If you are passionate about giving children the gift of a truly smartphone-free childhood, or simply want to contribute to enriching activities in our village, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at westcottvillagehub@gmail.com to discuss how you can get involved, lead a project, or share any other thoughts and ideas. Let's work together to cultivate a vibrant, engaging, and genuinely connected

childhood for the children of Westcott.

You can find more information regarding the parliamentary discussions on this topic here:

- Smartphones and Social Media: Children - Hansard - UK Parliament
- Social Media Use: Minimum Age - Hansard - UK Parliament

Jon Mears



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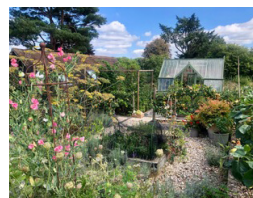


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*All proceeds to go to the NGS charities and to GRACE.
Any donations of cakes and plants for the plant sale are very welcome. Please park on the Heath and use the entrance at the bottom of the garden.*

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Westcott Village Hall

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- 1 x meeting room (8 people)
- Drop down projector screen
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- Full alcohol licence

Hire rates

These depend on when you hire, and discounts are given to regular users. Rates start at £8 per hour (minimum 4 hours' booking), please contact our Booking Secretary Deborah on info@westcottvillagehall.com to discuss.

The current village hall is likely to be redeveloped within the next 1-2 years, replacing it with a modern, flexible, sustainable community facility. We will give our users at least 6 months' notice of the anticipated closure date so that everyone will have enough time to secure a replacement venue during the building period.

Mobile: 07967 286636 Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com
www.westcottvillagehall.com

Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP) – thank you to everyone who completed the recent Community Survey, nearly 300 households from all areas of the village and the immediate surrounds participated. The results will help shape the updated policies in the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan which will run from 2026 to 2036. Please come along to the next meeting of the Westcott Village Forum on *Thursday 4th September* 7.30pm at Holy Trinity to hear the results and discuss what this means for the updated plan.

A zoom link will be available if you wish to attend virtually.



Councils should be created where they do not currently exist, such as in Westcott, or whether existing Parish Councils should be merged or altered in some way. It also considers whether no changes are required and things should be left as they are.

The WVA welcomes this review as we are concerned that if Westcott remains unparished it could be more difficult to ensure our voice is heard on local matters that are important to our community in the future. The WVA is in favour of a new Parish Council being set up to represent Westcott and replace the WVA. A Parish Council has statutory powers and responsibilities that the WVA as a Residents' Association does not.

Mole Valley launches a Community Governance Review. In light of the Local Government Reorganisation which changes the way Surrey County Council is organised and sees the abolition of the current District and Borough Councils, Mole Valley has launched its own consultation to consider how local communities across the district are represented and whether changes are needed. They have launched a 12-week consultation and want to hear from residents, community groups, business owners and other neighbourhood groups. This first stage consultation poses a number of questions to draw out views on whether new Parish

Parish Councils are democratically elected and this change will require people within the village to put themselves forward for election as Parish Councillors. As well as being formally consulted on all planning applications, Parish Councils may also take on responsibility for community amenities such as open spaces and street cleaning (currently managed at District level). They are funded through an amount of money which is included in the Council Tax charge. Mole Valley have said that only after considering the ideas and suggestions from this first stage consultation will they be able to identify if there are any financial impacts on Council Tax

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If there is a clear indication from this first stage consultation that the community in Westcott believes the creation of a new Parish Council would be beneficial this could form the basis for the Council's draft recommendations for the area. These draft recommendations would then go out for further consultation in early 2026, at which stage the Council would contact every household which would be impacted by the proposal to give them a final opportunity to share their views.

We are keen for as many Westcott voices to be heard through this consultation. The survey only takes 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Alternatively, you can email your views to Mole Valley cgr@molevalley.gov.uk or write to The Community Governance Review at the MVDC Offices, Pippbrook, Dorking RH4 1SJ.

Please also take a moment to share your views with the WVA, so we can gauge the level of interest and views of the community in this important issue. Share your thoughts with us via email contact@westcottvillage.com

Westcott Village Association Committee

Jo Astor, Jane Betterton, James Croft, Paul Goddard, Nick Lund, Magesh Ramakrishnan contact@westcottvillage.com

This first stage consultation runs until 5pm on *17th October 2025*. To find out more and take part please use this link to the Mole Valley website [https://](https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/cgr)

Brockham Choral



Brockham Choral welcome new singers in all voice parts, no audition required. They meet for 2 hours every Tuesday at 7.30 at St. John's C of E Primary School, Dorking, RH4 2LR. Their 1st rehearsal is on 9th September, where they warmly welcome their new conductor Dan Miller who will prepare them for a Christmas concert on December 6th. It will include *Christus Natus Est* by Cecilia McDowall and other pieces for Choir, organ and audience. The Martineau Brass Quintet will also be contributing to the concert as well as carols from the Children of St John's School. Our outstanding accompanist Marion Lea will be there helping us with the notes.

More information at www.brockhamchoral.org



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DORKING MUSEUM

A Place of Safety:

The Museum's summer exhibition tells the stories of refugees who have found refuge in Dorking and the surrounding villages, and their experiences.



It includes those fleeing the French Revolution, the Kaiser's army, Nazi oppression, the Blitz, and more recent war and persecution in the Middle East. It features the work of the Dorking Refugee Committee and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Exhibits include the Dorking Nursery Scrapbook from the 1940s, and beautifully detailed dolls representing the high-profile French émigrés of the 18th century.

Museum Family Activities:

All free with materials provided, children must be accompanied.



- *Family Brick Frog workshop and town trail: For Heritage Open Days (HOD):* Family

workshop for children and adults to examine the quirks of local bricks with a free town trail. Look at bricks

from local brickworks. Can you identify them by their frogs? Can you recreate local building brick patterns in LEGO? Pick up a Detective Town Trail (45 minute walk) find different building materials used and see how many different brick patterns you can spot. At the Museum, Saturday 13th September, 11am-2pm.

- *Maps Fantastic! (HOD):* Printed historical maps from the Archives and projection of the online 'Side-by-Side' Map Viewer, including the wonders of LiDAR. What was there before your home or school? Dorking mysteries revealed using LiDAR. Create a treasure map - in collaboration with Arts Society Dorking. At Dorking Library, Saturday 20th September, 10am-2pm.



- *A little magic can take you a long way!: Take part in some Roald Dahl inspired crafts:* At Dorking Library, Saturday 27th September, 10am-noon.

Tours of Pippbrook House:

The Grade II* listed Gilbert Scott building has now been reopened for community use. As part of this year's Dorking' Big Community Event, Pippfest, the Dorking Museum team will be offering free tours around the building.

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



Sunday 7th September, 10am-4pm. Please book your slot on arrival.

mausoleum: Wednesday 24th (10am) and Sunday 28th (2pm) September. All walks around 90 minutes, should be booked in advance: meeting and walk details and booking at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. See website for enquiries and private group bookings.

Walking in Dorking:

The Museum's popular programme of guided walks (HOD walks are free):

- Blue Plaques and Statues walk: famous Dorking people: Sunday 7th September, 2pm.
- Dorking as you have never seen it before with Hidden Historic Dorking: Sunday 14th September, 11am.
- Best Face Forward: Architecture along the High Street exploring four centuries of building styles: Sunday 14th September (HOD), 6pm.



- Hostelrys past and present on our Historic Pub Walk: Saturday 20th September (HOD), 6pm.
- Betchworth Castle tour, exclusive access to the Castle enclosure: Sunday 21st September (HOD), 2pm.
- The Deepdene Trail, exclusive access to the 19th century Hope family

South Street Caves tours:

September Open Day is already sold out, but why not arrange a private group tour for your group, organisation, family or friends? See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/.

Get involved:

The Museum is looking for two additional Trustees who can bring their knowledge and enthusiasm to help shape future growth and development. Candidates might offer sector experience, team management skills, strategic vision and good judgement, ability to work effectively as a team member. Meetings early evenings once a quarter. If you could help, contact museum@dorkingmuseum.org.uk by end of October. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities for other current opportunities.

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street. Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. 01306 876591.

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in its name as the number of
the month.*

*The next full Moon in 2025 is
the Corn Moon, the ninth full
Moon of the year, rising on 7th
September accompanied by a
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6th at 12.00, lunchtime recital at St Martin's church

The main concert season resumes in October, but St Martin's church is restarting its Saturday lunchtime recitals this month. The first concert will be given by the duo of Sylvia Akagi (singer and flautist) and Peter Golden (singer and guitarist).

There is lots to look forward to in the coming months. The Dorking Concertgoers have their usual enterprising series of concerts planned, beginning with a visit from the group Chamber Music Box in October. There will also be three visits from the Carducci string quartet and an appearance in December from the Grimethorpe Colliery Band. The Dorking choral society will be singing Haydn's Nelson mass in November, and next year's Leith Hill Festival will include Haydn's glorious *Creation*, music by Vaughan Williams, and a concert of baroque music.

Ian Codd

Holmbury St Mary Choral Society



Come and join us in our centenary year! Holmbury St Mary Choral Society (holmburychoral.org) is a group of friendly singers with a shared ethos: a good humoured quest for musical excellence. The choir was founded in 1925 drawing its members from the Surrey Hills and further afield, and continues to flourish today under the excellent musical direction of Cole Bendall, ably assisted by accompanist Suzy Ruffles.

The choir joined the Leith Hill Musical Festival (lhmf.org.uk) in 1925 and the Festival remains a highlight of Holmbury's choral calendar, alongside the annual summer and Christmas concerts. It is a non-auditioned choir. Our Autumn Term begins on Thursday 4th September when rehearsals start for our Centenary Concert to be held in St Mary's Church, Holmbury on Thursday 4th December. This will feature Poulenc's *Gloria* and music by Handel, Tippett and Bernstein. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 8.00pm until 9.45 pm in Abinger Hammer Village Hall.

To give us a try, contact the choir secretary, Liz Hamilton:
elizabethjuliethamilton@gmail.com



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Webern Five Movements for String Quartet, Op. 5

Mendelssohn String Quartet in A Minor, Op. 13

Florence Cooke - violin

Isabell Karlsson - violin

Jackson Kou - viola

Andrew O'Reilly - cello



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11th Anniversary and Commemoration Service

We were blessed with some welcome sunshine on Sunday 8th June when we held our 11th Anniversary attended by approximately 150 Veterans, families and friends. The loved ones of Four Veterans were honoured during the Service at which Reverend Virginia Smith and Deacon James Snyder joined our prayers and celebration of life. We are extremely grateful to both of them for their special contribution to this annual service.



One of our patrons, Lt Col Michael Rowney, re-dedicated those who are remembered at the woodland for their service during Operation Banner. A beautiful bench was donated to the woodland by Veteran Blue Cooper in memory of his beloved wife Maureen. It was an emotional day but also a celebration of life with so many happy memories and stories told by the Veterans who had served together. The Reigate Corp of Drums and Band turned out in full force and the voice of Harry



Nicol resounded throughout the woodland. Mike and Donna (Capel Military Vehicle Show organisers) brought a Stalwart military vehicle and Austin Landrover for display in our car park, much to the delight of many!

My thanks go to the new Leith Hill School who allowed our visitors to park there. Plus huge thanks to my Trustees and all helpers who manned the stalls and BBQ, which raised £1800 for our Veterans in need. Next year's event will take place on Saturday 6th June 2026 with D Day as the theme and a celebration for 60 years since Surrey's Queen's Regiment was formed. So if you know any standard bearers, cadets and Veterans who could attend please let them know we would love them to join us. There is lots going on at the woodland before then of course to which you are all invited, including 11th November Remembrance Service and 6th December Family Christmas at the Woodland.

We are open 24/7 so please come and enjoy the wildlife and peace at the woodland any time you wish. If we are there the visitors' centre is also open and the kettle on.



Paul Cooling, Chairman
 The Quick Response Memorial Woodland
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GREEN WESTCOTT

From the Community Garden to....?

When Green Westcott started back in 2021 it was an amalgamation of people from Ecochurch and others who also have a passion for sustainability. We held our stall at WestFest in 2021 with a drive to find out what the community wanted from our eco group to make Westcott more sustainable. The community said they wanted a community garden and so followed a few years of finding some land and setting up what we now enjoy as - the Westcott Community Garden!

With the garden in full swing this year we went back to the community to ask them what they now wanted from our eco group...the votes are in! From our poll, on our WestFest stall in June, people voted for *Wildlife Habitat Workshops*. So, just as we did with the community garden, we will, over the course of the next year or so, try to set up and run some wildlife habitat workshops! The votes were pretty close to be honest - with people wanting to vote for more than one option - which just shows that there is a hunger in the village for more local sustainable projects!

If anyone has skills or knowledge to share and could help running a wildlife habitat workshop or, indeed, if you have a burning desire to set up another green initiative to make Westcott more sustainable please feel free to talk to us at info@greenwestcott.org

Nancy Lund

Westcott Community Garden

We've been very busy at the Community Garden again this year, and not just with gardening! Bird boxes that were made by members of the group at the end of last year were already being used this Spring - we think by great tits. We enjoyed showing visitors around as part of Westcott Open Gardens in June (although obviously Westcott Community Garden is always open to all anyway!) and took the opportunity to promote Buglife's B-Lines project, to encourage people in the village and beyond to grow plants to help pollinators thrive.



We secured 2nd place in the Scarecrow Competition at Westfest with our scarecrow 'Melody', who has caused much enjoyment and laughter amongst the group and wider public! Two exciting projects have been underway this year; the start of a wildflower meadow, which will continue around the graveyard, and a dedicated bed for cut flowers. Both have provided colourful joy to the garden and a feast for our pollinating friends.



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

Despite the challenging heat and dry weather we have been enjoying our spring and summer crops and, looking ahead to cooler months, we've planted Brussels sprouts and leeks, alongside sowings of winter salads. We've continued to welcome plenty of new faces this year to our cheerful team.

Kate Ramponi

Walk With West Papua



If you like walking, why not join this year's local Walk With West Papua? Taking place on Saturday 13th September, this will be an approximately 20km circular route to Leith Hill Tower, starting and finishing at Holy Trinity Church in Westcott. There will also be an option to join for a shorter walk and all participants are invited to share a simple supper when we finish! The walk will be a chance to spend time together to chat and enjoy the beautiful countryside surrounding us in the Surrey Hills, whilst learning more about and supporting the work of Papua Partners - a charity that was started by a couple married in Westcott. By partnering with indigenous groups and communities in West Papua, Indonesia, this impactful

organization is helping to build peace and environmental justice in the region, and to bring sustained, transformational change to the lives and livelihoods of Indigenous West Papuan.

Ongoing conflict, human rights abuses, and widespread exploitation of its natural resources, means that West Papua is one of the most politically sensitive regions in Indonesia. The Indonesian government has granted access to vast areas of West Papua for mining, logging, and monocrop plantations by multinational and state-owned corporations. There is often little meaningful consultation or compensation for customary indigenous landowners. This environmental destruction, in one of the most biodiverse regions left on earth, has led to the displacement of local communities and contributed to significant social and economic inequalities.

Papua Partners is helping to protect ancestral forests in West Papua by working to secure recognition



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of customary forest status, equip communities to defend their rights, and document exploitation. Together with their partners, they aim to combat deforestation, empower Indigenous communities, and drive policy change to protect the forest for generations

to come. You can register to join the walk on Eventbrite - search 'Walk With West Papua 2025' - or contact events@papuapartners.org for more information. Find out more about the work of Papua Partners at <https://papuapartners.org>

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ABINGER MEDIEVAL FAIR



We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day on June 14th and Reverend Kia Pakenham opened the fair with a brief history of how the church was a stop along the pilgrimage way. Originally villagers gave food and drink and entertainment to the Pilgrims. Now the visitors pay for food, drink and games to help support local charities and amenities.

For the first time we had Come Bye sheepdogs herding ducks. The skill was then tried out by 3 people from the crowd much to everyone's amusement! Jonathan McCann and his Punch and Judy show was hailed as the best ever seen! The large crowd that filled the green by the church seemed to reflect that. Music in the church from the Timeline choir, David Hansell & Philip Drew was appreciated by all, along with the cool of the church.

The stalls around the field were enjoyed by the visitors as we broke last year's record takings! The 700+ bottles on the bottle stall were all won and all the raffle tickets were sold thanks to the great raffle prizes that were donated.

Food and drink stalls had queues, with the ice creams especially popular. At 5pm there were still queues to have a go at Splat the Rat and Toss the Sheaf. As I went around the fair, many proud winners of coconuts showed me their prizes and an atmosphere of contentment and happiness was almost palpable.

A huge amount of work is put in by everyone on the stalls and



helping to run the logistics of the fair. So we would like to thank EVERYONE who helped make the day so wonderful, the organisers, stallholders, arena crew, raffle and bottle prize donators, performers, villagers who made and donated goods, car park attendants, advertisers and of course ALL of you who joined us to make it such a wonderful afternoon.

The good news is we will be back on Saturday June 13th 2026 for the 70th anniversary Abinger medieval fair. And we may even have knights demonstrating sword fighting from the Medieval era. More information to follow as events are confirmed.

**Debbie Skeil, on behalf of the
Abinger Fair committee**

WHO'S WHO IN WESTCOTT

Please send in any comments, articles or amendments required to Cath Friend at editor@westcottmag.com

All contributions need to be sent by the 8th of the preceding month.

CHURCH

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Holy Trinity Vicar | Rev'd Tim Armstrong vicar@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk | 07547 602666 |
| Parish Administrator | Sarah Massey admin@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk | |
| Pastoral Assistants | Ali Mabley Mark Shakespeare | alimabley.htw@gmail.com 888010 |
| Safeguarding Officer | Jan Way | 07710 608952 |
| Debt Counselling | Paul Stacey | 07710 854040 |
| Churchwardens | Mark Shakespeare Grant & Nicky Smetham churchwardens@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk | 07883 394277 |
| Treasurer | Kay Meldrum | 885482 |
| Flower Co-ordinator | Andrea Gabb | 885534 |
| Stewardship (Church giving) | Bernd Ratzke htstewardship@aol.com | 879855 |

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| Cricket Club | Alan Pickering | westcottcc@gmail.com |
| Ladies' Cricket | Jackie Moss | 881481 |
| 1st Wed Coffee Morning | Jean Mickle | 881208 |
| Westcott 1935 Football Club | paul.mckeown@vanderbilthomes.co.uk | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------|
| Gardeners Club | Jo Smewing | 881483 |
| Phoenix Creative Arts | Gail Lowe | 07814 998212 |
| Westcott History Group | John Clachan westcотthistory.org.uk | 887858 |

COMMUNITY

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|--|---|------------------------|
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| County Councillor (SCC) | Hazel Watson | 880120 |
| Westcott Village Hall | Booking Administrator info@westcottvillagehall.com | 07967 286636 |
| St John's Bookings | stjohnsbookings@holylrinitywestcott.org.uk | |
| Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School | Mrs Jacky Fyson | 881136 |
| Village Association General | contact@westcottvillage.com | |
| Village Association Highways | Nick Lund nlund74@gmail.com | |
| Village Association Planning | James Leaver jamesandfrancesca@hotmail.co.uk | |
| Village Association Treasurer | Magesh Ramakrishnan mageshramakrishnan@yahoo.com | |
| Westcott Community Garden | info@greenwestcott.org | |
| Westcott Volunteer (Baby) Meals | Anna Kemkers | 07710 425487 |
| WESTfest | westfestsurrey@gmail.com | 07710 425487 |

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