

# Westcott Village

# Magazine

# March 2026



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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](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com)

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

Copy deadline for

**April** issue:

**8th March 2026**

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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Spring officially starts this month, on 20th, although as I write this in February it does feel like it has already sprung, notwithstanding the fact that it has been extremely wet so far this year! Don't forget the clocks go forwards on 29th March so then the evenings will begin to feel much longer quite quickly, which can only be a good thing!

There are several things on this month to keep you busy - the coffee morning is on the 4th, Dorking Museum have various activities at the library (see p47

for all details) and the D&G Choir have their Anniversary Concert on 28th, see p39 for more. If you fancy a trip further afield then Westcott artist Caroline de Peyrecave has an exhibition of her oil portraits of women in public life, *Empowering Her*, exploring visibility and leadership, with proceeds going to UN women UK to support women and girls in the UK and around the world, see page 38.

Don't forget that kids can eat free at the Hub during school holidays, details on p59. Enjoy the longer days and (hopefully) better weather this month.

**Cath**  
**editor@westcottmag.com**



Can you guess where this picture, sent in by Dilly Smewing, was taken?

No prizes except for self satisfaction, but the answer will be in the April issue if you are defeated!

## ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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### THE SHADOW PROVES THE SUNSHINE

Spring is beginning to break through and the evenings are growing lighter – hurrah! It has felt a long time coming to many of us. I love the springtime as colour bursts forth and bulbs bloom... but before I inadvertently break out into some rather poor poetry let me tell you about a recent trip I made to the Tate Britain.

I went to see the exhibition 'Turner & Constable: Rivals & Originals' which is running until 12th April, so you still have time to go.

“THERE IS NO SPRING  
WITHOUT WINTER JUST  
AS THERE IS NO LIGHT  
WITHOUT THE DARK.”

I highly recommend it – unless of course you are not a fan of landscape painting in which case it is probably best avoided. J.M.W. Turner and John Constable were both born 250 years ago and were two of the most creative, unorthodox, and interesting artists of their age. They both developed distinctive techniques which pushed artistic boundaries and yet their styles and approach were radically different. A highlight for me was viewing Turner's 'Caligula's Palace and Bridge' alongside Constable's 'Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows,' displayed

together just as they were during their debut at the Royal Academy in 1831. Critics could not help but observe the dramatic contrast between their styles and distinctive appearance.



J. M. W. TURNER, 1831, OIL ON CANVAS, TATE BRITAIN, LONDON

## ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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JOHN CONSTABLE, 1831, OIL ON CANVAS, TATE BRITAIN, LONDON

'Fire and water ... the one all heat, the other all humidity' wrote the Literary Gazette. As his career continued Turner's blazing skies intensified, whilst Constable often displeased patrons with his overcast skies.

One of the reasons spring brings such joy is the contrast with what has gone before. There is no spring without winter just as there is no light without the dark. As Switchfoot, a favourite band of my teenage years memorably put it, 'The shadow proves the sunshine.' Or as Christina Rossetti expressed it in her poem Spring: 'There is no time like Spring, Like Spring that passes by; There is no life like Spring-life born to die'. Spring needs winter as winter requires spring. Christians around the world are currently journeying through Lent

awaiting the promise of Easter hope which lies around the corner. Christianity holds together the reality of sorrow and pain in a complex universe and the tangibility of hope – both that God is with us in the mess, and that death is not to be the end of our story. Easter's beauty comes not from naïve escapism from a challenging present, but from a God who on Good Friday chooses the terror of the cross as the means by which He would win victory over the forces of death, destruction and our human propensity to muck things up.

There is no spring without winter, no sunshine without shadow, no Easter without Good Friday.

There is always hope.

Every blessing,  
Tim

# 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](http://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
1st March	Lent 2: Vineyards	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
8th March	Lent 3: Vineyards	Book of Common Prayer Communion	20-20-20 Service with Breakfast
15th March	Lent 4: Vineyards Mothering Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
22nd March	Lent 5: Vineyards	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
29th March	Lent 6: Vineyards	Book of Common Prayer Communion	All Age Morning Worship 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@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk) for more information.

# MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

---

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's

## *Easter At Holy Trinity*

Palm Sunday - 29th March

8.30am - Book of Common Prayer Communion

10.15am - Palm Sunday Morning Worship with Breakfast

Maundy Thursday - 2nd April

7.30pm - Bring and Share Meal with Communion

Good Friday - 3rd April

2.00pm - Reflections at the Cross

Easter Sunday - 5th April

8.30am - Book of Common Prayer Easter Communion

10.15am - All-Age Communion Service

Followed by an Egg Hunt!

# *Hope*

# THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



Westcott's baby & toddler group

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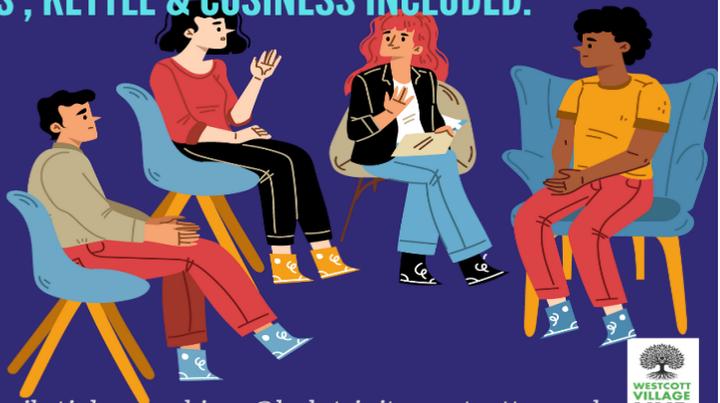
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# THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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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



## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

---

Death:

30th December 2021

7th January 2025

31st July 2025

14th September 2025

Carl Peter Armstrong (52)

Kitty Doreen Armstrong (91)

Alison Clare McMillan (90)

Michael John Rogers (85)

## FLOODLIGHTING

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Many thanks to Doug and Jean for sponsoring the March church floodlighting to celebrate the wedding of Becki Ashby and Paul Shipton.

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

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Instagram [@attunereflexologydorking](https://www.instagram.com/attunereflexologydorking)

Tel: 07811526156



# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception were very lucky to have a visit from the Fire Brigade. We learnt all about the importance of a Fire Fighter's uniform. We got to climb into the back of the Fire Engine and we even got to use the hoses!



looking at what we had found under the magnifying lens on the big screen at the end of the day! Both Hedgehogs and Otters displayed brilliant team work skills alongside excellent ideas!



Year 4&5 made book sleeves to fit our favourite books during our DT project. We had to carefully design our templates first out of paper before using pins to attached the paper together to make sure our design worked.

Year 3, 4 and 5 visited Surrey Wildlife Trust at Nower Wood. We spent the day learning about a range of different wildlife, including those we may find in the woodland or in the ponds. First, we went on a leaf hunt to learn how the leaves are different and what clues we can see that help tell us what tree they may be from. We enjoyed



Once we had the final paper copy we were able to cut it out of felt and start assembling once again. We added different designs on the front and finished by sewing all the components together and adding a fastening (button) to make sure it closed to contain our book.



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# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

Throughout the whole school we looked at the picture *A Shipwreck in Stormy Seas* by Claude-Joseph Vernet.



Each year group looked at a different part of the

picture, and we focused on using different skills in each year group to show progression across the school.

We then displayed all the fantastic artwork in the hall for parents to come and experience our whole school gallery. It was amazing to see so many of you, so thank you for coming to experience it with us.

**Kathryn Saunderson**  
Acting Headteacher

## Brockham Choral



Brockham Choral's Concert of *Elijah* by Mendelssohn is on 28th March at 7.30pm in St Martin's Church Dorking RH4 1UX.

Musical Director David Swinson with the British Sinfonietta Orchestra.  
Solists Soprano Katherine Fuge, Mezzo Soprano Natalie Brezinska,  
Tenor Gareth Edmonds, Bass Alex Jones

Admission : Adults £20.Children, Students under 18 in full time education £10

Ticket purchase : <https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral/t-njomlqp>

More information visit : [www.brockhamchoral.org](http://www.brockhamchoral.org)




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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

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*The full moon in March occurs on 3rd, and is known as the Worm Moon, after the fact that the ground softens and earthworms appear at the start of spring.*

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## A Public Call for New Trustees for Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO

In accordance with Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO's constitution and the CIO Administration Rules (dated April 24th 2024), Rule 2, which sets out the appointment of new CIO Trustees, the current trustees are required to refresh the existing group of trustees. Accordingly, each year, we invite applications by inhabitants of Westcott and the surrounding area who are willing to put themselves forward, or, who are nominated by other residents with their consent.

There are currently 6 trustees all of whom are remaining as trustees. They consist of Helen Everett, Deborah Lewis, James Broderick, Andy Gray, Andy Taylor, and Sally Hewetson. We are permitted up to 12 trustees to serve at any one time. A trustee can serve for three years up to a maximum term of 9 continuous years.

Please refer to the CIO's website [www.westcottvillagehall.com](http://www.westcottvillagehall.com) and the Charity Commission's website <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5098773/governance> for further information on this specific charity. The Charity Commission's general website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do> is useful for broader information on the role of a charity trustee in the UK.

Anyone interested in becoming a trustee please apply by submitting an email to [info@westcottvillagehall.com](mailto:info@westcottvillagehall.com) or a letter addressed to Westcott Village Hall, Institute Road, Westcott RH4 3NP. Please set out the reasons why you wish to be appointed giving details of the skills and experience that you will bring to the Trust.

All applications will be considered by the trustees and a meeting with applicants may be requested. The trustees will decide before the end of April on any appointment.

**Save the date for our annual open meeting of the Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO where all residents of the village are invited to observe a trustees' meeting. This will be on Wednesday April 29th at 7:00pm, in the village hall.**



**Westcott Village Hall Trustees**

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## Wonderful Warblers



Chiff Chaff, courtesy RSPB

Sunny mornings are now scored by birds flexing their vocal prowess as March marks the start of the dawn chorus. Over the coming months, birds will sing to stake out territory and attract a mate. Our residents will soon be accompanied by early arriving summer visitors, ready to supplement their song.

Warblers are a group of birds which can often be difficult to distinguish on sight. They're mostly brown or olive colour in their plumage, equipped with sharp, slim beaks to aid their insect-heavy diets. These songbirds are easiest to tell apart by listening out for their springtime tunes.

Due to changing climate, small numbers of warblers are beginning to spend winter in the UK. Most warblers, however, complete a migration from their warmer overwintering grounds in Africa. In preparation for their journey, they feed extensively and can even double in weight!



Blackcap, courtesy RSPB

In March, listen out for the Chiffchaff's onomatopoeic 'chiff-chaff, chiff-chaff' song from the treetops and the Blackcap's scratchy trills from the scrub. Towards the end of the month, the cascading melody of the Willow Warbler will join the symphony.

Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

Instagram: @rspb\_dorking

Website: <https://group.rspb.org.uk/dorkinganddistrict/>

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## 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:

- **Trig Point Charlie!:** Live talk by Alastair Clark. Why do we have concrete blocks on hill tops? Have you come across trig points while walking the Surrey Hills, and are curious to find out more about how they came to be there? Monday, 2nd March at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **The Dorking & Petworth Emigration Schemes in the early 19th century:** Zoom talk by Dr Judy Hill. After the 1832 riots and unrest in the town, Dorking assisted the emigration of almost 100 local poor people to Upper Canada by providing funds, food and clothing for the journey. Tuesday, 17th March, 7.30pm, <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.
- **A Romany Lifestyle in Surrey:** Live talk by David Rose and Geoff Burch about where they made their camps, the work they did on farms and market gardens, hop picking and their ways and traditions. The talk will include vintage pictures and personal family details. Monday, 30th March (details as above).

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

## *Pippbrook Bowls Club*

*Pippbrook Bowls Club is a friendly and sociable Club  
OPEN DAYS 2.30pm 18th, 25th April and 3rd May 2026*

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Tuesday 10th March 2026

### Rome: The 1700s, The Grand Tour - Stuart Harvey

The Grand Tourists of the 1700s changed the art world. Wealthy travellers from Britain and elsewhere flocked to Rome, not only visiting the great works of art but also seeking bargains for their family collections. This lecture will highlight some of Rome's most famous visitors including many artists who travelled to the city to study, and will introduce some of the fascinating characters that catered to them in Rome.

Visitors are welcome for a fee of £10.00 but contact Linda Packman [ljpackman@gmail.com](mailto:ljpackman@gmail.com) to book. For more information and details of the forthcoming programme, visit [www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk)



### Dorking Group of Artists Spring Exhibition 2026: Betchworth Village Hall, Station Rd, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7DF Friday May 1st – Sunday May 3rd 10:00 – 17:00, Monday May 4th 10:00 – 16:00



The Dorking Group of Artists, probably the largest art group in Surrey and known for their artistic merit, return to Betchworth Village Hall for their ever popular Spring Exhibition. Explore the range of affordable, professional quality, original art covering a wide range of subjects and styles. Art is a perfect gift to delight someone special—or to indulge yourself. Entry is free. Why not make a day of it as there are plants, lunch, and cake to enjoy at Knights Garden Centre opposite?

For more information about our activities, exhibitions and how to join the DGA see [www.dorkingartists.com](http://www.dorkingartists.com), look at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/dga4art](http://www.facebook.com/dga4art) or get in touch at [contact@dorkingartists.com](mailto:contact@dorkingartists.com).

Angela Hall, Chair, Dorking Group of Artists



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You'll find full details of upcoming Festival walks on our programme at [www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk](http://www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk)



Rob Tomlinson  
 Mole Valley Ramblers

## History of cycling in Surrey

You don't have to live long in Westcott to learn how popular cycling is today, in both the on and off road varieties. How did it all start? The penny farthing, a very well recognised form of bicycle, was invented in about 1870 and the popularity of cycling grew rapidly with local clubs springing up around the country. Many clubs supported racing and social activities and the Cyclists' Touring Club, founded in 1878, also encouraged people to travel further and explore the countryside or even tour overseas.

By 1885 John Kemp introduced the *Rover Safety Bicycle*, featuring equal-sized wheels and a chain drive, making cycling safer and lead to the penny-farthing's rapid decline. Epsom Cycling Club was founded in 1891, the Charlotteville Cycling Club in Guildford in 1903 and Kingston Wheelers in 1924; all are still going strong today. The Portsmouth Road route out of London, the old A3 road, was hugely popular with cyclists and the Anchor Hotel at Ripley became a mecca for cyclists stopping along the route.

The hotel was run from the mid-1870s by Mrs Harriet Dibble who, with the aid of her 2 unmarried daughters, Harriet and Annie, provided refreshments and accommodation for cyclists.

Books for visitors to sign were kept and those that survive from 1881 to 1895 are a fascinating record of all those who passed through. At its peak the number of entries per year in the books exceeded 6000. The author H G Wells, an enthusiastic cyclist, was one of those who signed the books on 9th June 1887 and the books are also decorated with some sketches of cyclists.

John Dennis (1871-1939) opened his 'little cycle shop', otherwise known as the Universal Athletic Stores, near Guildford Bridge, in 1895. Soon he was joined by his brother Raymond (1878-1939), and the partners progressed from *Speed King* bicycles to motor cars before starting to build fire engines. (The last Dennis fire engine was built in 2007). Many other businesses grew up to support the growing numbers of cyclists and motor vehicles which took to the roads.



Arthur Ryde at the Forge at Westcott was described as 'cycle agent,



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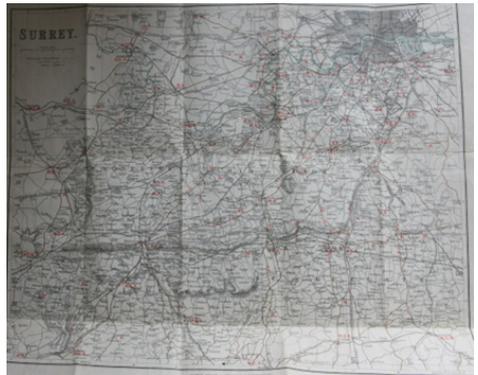
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*vulcanizer, ironmonger, shoeing and general smith*'. Specialist shops also opened to cater for cyclists, such as A Pullinger's motor cycle and cycle shop at Westway, Caterham. Maps were produced for cyclists, such as Bacon's county map of Surrey, circa 1900, which included cycling routes with places and distances between them, and the London sheet of Philips' topographical map of England and Wales, circa 1910, which showed the area of London and surrounding counties and marked main cycling routes with symbols for degrees of safety and mileage.

Surrey has always been a popular destination for cyclists, and interest has increased considerably since iconic Box Hill was used as part of the route of the road race at the 2012 Olympic Games. The Surrey hills section, including Westcott, was considered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for spectators and a key, challenging part of the route for the racers. Thousands of amateur riders took part in the annual RideLondon-Surrey 100, following the Olympic route from 2013 to 2019.

The Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 was an annual 100-mile (160 km) closed-road cycling sportive held from 2013 to 2019 as part of the RideLondon festival, starting at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London, traversing central

London landmarks and the Surrey countryside with notable climbs including Box Hill and Leith Hill, and finishing triumphantly on The Mall near Buckingham Palace. Organized by the London & Surrey Cycling Partnership in collaboration with the Mayor of London and Surrey County Council, it served as a key legacy initiative of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games to inspire mass participation in cycling and promote health benefits.



The event attracted up to 25,000 riders per edition, making it one of the world's largest timed mass-participation cyclosporives, with participants ranging from recreational cyclists to elite amateurs completing the fully traffic-free course in times often between 4.5 and 8 hours.

Entry was highly competitive via ballot, reflecting surging interest in cycling post-Olympics, and the

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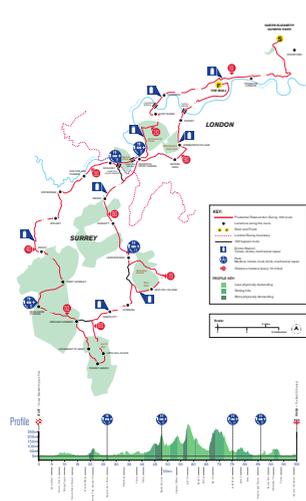
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inaugural 2013 edition saw over 15,000 finishers, setting a record for the largest debut of its kind globally. Beyond the challenge ride, it formed the cornerstone of a broader weekend festival that included professional races like the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey Classic (a men's elite event) and shorter family-friendly routes, drawing over 100,000 total participants and spectators annually.

The route began with an exhilarating urban section through London's historic sites - passing landmarks such as the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, St. James's Palace, Harrods, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and



Hampton Court Palace - before crossing the River Thames at Chiswick Bridge and entering Surrey via Richmond Park and Kingston-upon-Thames. The Surrey leg featured rolling countryside, picturesque villages like Esher, Cobham, Westcott and Dorking, and challenging

ascents totalling around 1,500 meters of elevation gain, with the iconic zig-zag climb of Box Hill (2.5km at 5% gradient) and the steeper Leith Hill (the UK's highest point at 294m) providing testing highlights inspired by the 2012 Olympic Road race course. Riders then looped back toward London, crossing Hampton Court Bridge and re-entering the capital for a ceremonial finish on The Mall, often accompanied by crowds and celebrations.

Over its seven editions, the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 contributed to the RideLondon festival raising more than £85 million for charities through participant fundraising, while fostering a cycling boom in the UK by encouraging fitness, community engagement, and sustainable transport. The event was paused in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and on its resumption, RideLondon moved its course to Essex.

Westcott Local History Group has a huge resource of information in its archives, take a look at the website on [www.westcotthistory.org.uk](http://www.westcotthistory.org.uk). The recently published *History of Westcott* is available in the local shops and in The Hub, priced at £7.

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A community-driven Hub offering both volunteering opportunities and paid positions. Our goal is to foster a safe environment for individuals and groups to connect. We house a community fridge, a café, local crafts, sustainable produce, and a community garden. Additionally, we offer "Advice First Aid" in partnership with Citizens Advice and assist in maintaining the building that serves as our home.

## OPENING HOURS

**MON - WED**  
10:00am - 2:00pm

**THU-FRI**  
8:00am - 4:00pm

**SAT**  
10:00am - 2:00pm

*For upcoming events and activities visit the website, opening hours change during school holidays.*



**SAVE THE DATE**

FRIDAY 15TH MAY 4PM-8PM  
ABINGER HAMMER

**TEDDY BEARS PICNIC 2026**




Westcott Village

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**Opening Hours**

- Tuesday 2.15-2.45pm, St Johns Chapel. Arrive early! Meet your neighbours and have a good chat!
- Westcott Village Hub, We 12-4, Th 10-4, Fr-10-7, Sa-10-2.



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**Westcott**  
- BABY MEALS -

## March Update

Westcott "Baby Meals" is a highly valued community initiative, running for over 25 years. We've diversified over the years and in addition to catering for families with new babies we also provide meals for people in the village experiencing difficult times. During February we've supported a family after a sudden bereavement.

Our wonderful volunteer cooks buy, cook and deliver a (free!) hot meal for the whole family at your usual evening meal-time for a couple of weeks; it can really help during challenging times.

So if you're expecting a baby, or if we can help out with a few home cooked meals for other reasons, please get in touch, we're always happy to help. Or if you'd like to join our cooks list (there's no obligation, just sign up to rotas as and when you can!), please let us know.

Anna: 07710 425487 [annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk)

## Spring Talk & AGM

### 'Growing for Show' A talk by John Trim

How best to grow, prepare and display your fruit, flowers and vegetables for exhibition

Monday April 13th, 8pm,  
St John's Church



John is a former head gardener and horticultural lecturer, a designer and builder of two Chelsea Flower Show Gardens and the author of the best selling book for vegetable exhibitors called *The Root to the Top*. Currently a member of the vegetable trials team at RHS Wisley, he is also a senior judge with the National Vegetable Society and an RHS fruit judge.

He was also a judge on the BBC1 TV programme *The Great British Village Show* (presented by Alan Titchmarsh) which aired on Sunday evenings during 2007. John has also written content for the cookbooks of James Martin, the well known celebrity chef, plus articles for gardening magazines and [allotment.org](http://allotment.org). Join us for an inspiring evening and bring your questions!

Please arrive at 7.45pm for pre-talk tea and biscuits.  
Our AGM will be before the talk.



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# ABINGER NURSERY



Move over Bob the Builder and lay down your tools workmen of

Abinger – we've got this covered. This is our construction site donated by one of our lovely parents, with super spongy bricks, trusty trowels, dynamic drills and of course a good helping of PPE we're pretty much qualified! We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our parents who with their support in all things fundraising, committeeing and donating, we simply could not do without.



One thing that makes our nursery so uniquely special is the never ending support we receive from our community and we'd love to invite you all to the Great Abinger Bake Off on 22nd March at the Evelyn Hall from 2pm-4pm. We'd love you to enter your baked goods to spice up the competition this year! The categories are Biscuits, Traybakes, Cupcakes and the Showstopper - with separate child and adult competitions (Just to give the adults a chance!) Just drop your entries to us at the hall by 2pm on the day (adults £2 per entry, children £1) and let the lovely judges have a nibble. Other highlights include the chocolate tombola, cake stall,

Easter crafts and an egg hunt.

Continuing our building theme we had a brilliant baking session where we made oaty bricks! We were able to chose from a huge variety of yummy ingredients including glace cherries, raisins, apricots and chocolate chips and mixed them all up much like a cement mixer! Super fuel for the journey home from nursery!

If you would like to join our nursery family please don't hesitate to get in touch. Call 07842 978823 or email [abingercommonnursery@gmail.com](mailto:abingercommonnursery@gmail.com) We can't wait to meet you and show you around! We are also on Facebook and now Instagram. Our opening hours are 7.45am - 5pm Monday to Thursday and 7.45am - 12.45pm on Fridays.

**THE GREAT ABINGER BAKE OFF AND EASTER CRAFT FAIR**

Join us at The Evelyn Hall for an afternoon of Easter crafts and fun, raffle, Easter egg hunt, tea and cakes and of course, to enter The Great Abinger Bake Off!

**SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2PM-4PM**

The categories to be judged, in two age categories (childrens and adults) are:  
**BISCUITS \* TRAY BAKE**  
**CUPCAKES \* SHOW STOPPER**  
*An Easter-themed, 4 inch cake*

Children £1 per entry / Adults £2 per entry

All entries to be brought to the hall by 1.30pm and will be withdrawn if these otherwise specified. All proceeds going to Abinger Common Nursery

For more information email [info.abingercn@gmail.com](mailto:info.abingercn@gmail.com)

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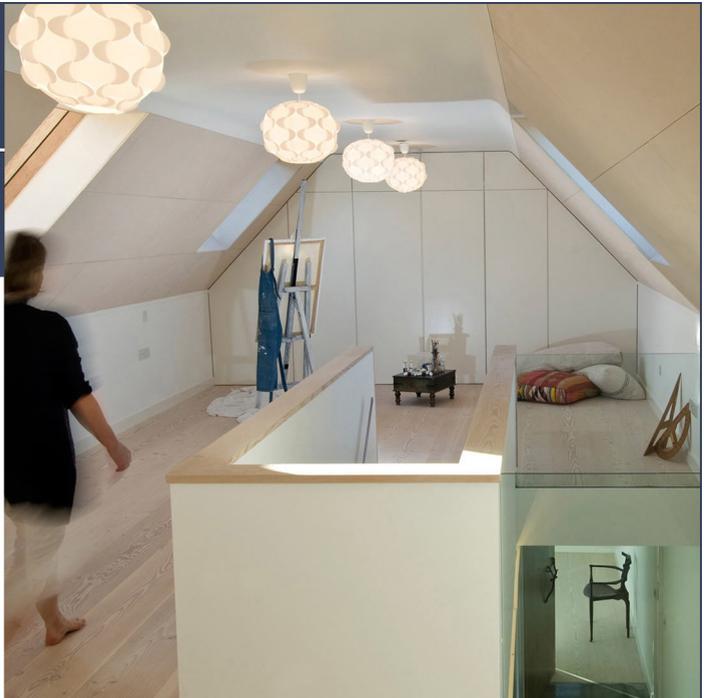
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After possibly one of the wettest periods we have had in recent years during January, many bulbs are up and ready to burst into flower. Its such a lovely time of year when the spring bulbs are in flower, buds on the trees and lots of busy birds chatting to each other as they search for suitable nesting places. Reflecting on the long dry summer of 2026 I can't help but marvel at the way that nature catches up throughout the year.

We have a very busy first half of 2026. The Reverse London Marathon which takes place overnight on 25th April starting at the finishing line of the daytime London Marathon at midnight and finishing at the starting point of the daytime marathon on 26th. It is free of charge and organised by one of our Trustees. Merchandise for the Reverse Marathon participants are for sale with £4 from each item sold being donated to our Charity, The Quick Response Memorial Woodland. It's only right therefore that my fellow Trustees and I assist by coordinating sales, packaging and posting the items and this has kept us busy since 1st February. We are also Marshalls at various points along the route, encouraging and handing out high energy sweets and water. It was good fun last year.

**A Date for your Diaries:** On Saturday 6th June we will be holding our 12th Anniversary of the opening of the woodland which coincides with D-Day. This promises to be a fantastic day with

1940s entertainment, BBQ, bar, bottle tombola and much more. We will also be holding a Commemoration Service for the families of those who are honouring their loved ones plus celebrating 60 years of The Queen's Regiment, Surrey's oldest regiment. It's going to be a great day and we do hope you will join us at the Memorial Woodland at 12.30.

Of course you are welcome to visit our lovely woodland anytime and if I am there the kettle is always on.

**Paul Cooling, Chairman  
The Quick Response Memorial Woodland  
Reg Charity No 1174651**

12th Anniversary of the Opening of  
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Commemoration Service and celebrations to  
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On Saturday 6th June 2026

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Cpl Graham Scott Queens Regt  
Pte Christopher Elson Queens Regt  
SAC Roy Lomax Royal Air Force

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## *'Empowering Her' Exhibition*

*This March, 'Empowering Her' will be shown publicly for the first time at The Gallery at Green & Stone, London, running from 4th-14th March 2026. The exhibition of paintings by Caroline de Peyrecave, a Westcott resident, is presented in support of UN Women UK, with proceeds contributing to programmes that support women and girls in the UK and around the world.*

*The exhibition brings together a new body of large-scale portrait work exploring women's visibility, leadership, and lived experience in Britain today. Through contemporary portraiture, the exhibition asks questions about who is seen, who is recognised, and whose stories are recorded. It offers space for reflection, recognition, and quiet power. 'Empowering Her' reclaims portraiture as a place where women's stories are given time, attention, and dignity.*

*Emma Barnett, broadcaster and journalist; Sally Phillips, actor and comedian; Lady Phyll Opoku-Gyimah, LGBTQ+ activist and co-founder of UK Black Pride; Daryl Fielding, advertising leader and author; Zoe Stratford, England Rugby World Cup winning captain and advocate for women in sport; Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock, space scientist and General Dame Sharon Nesmith, Vice-Chief of the UK Defence Staff have been revealed as sitters for the project, alongside Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, campaigner and former political prisoner.*

# D&G CHOIR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

The D&G Choir who sing at St James' Abinger are celebrating their 20th Anniversary at a concert being held in the church on 28th March at 7:30pm. But the concert will also be a farewell and thank you to Musical Director Martin Hall who founded the choir and it's inspiration for the last 20 years

The choir was originally formed by a group of women from Abinger who asked Martin if he could teach them to sing and they went on to take a number of choral exams which they passed successfully.

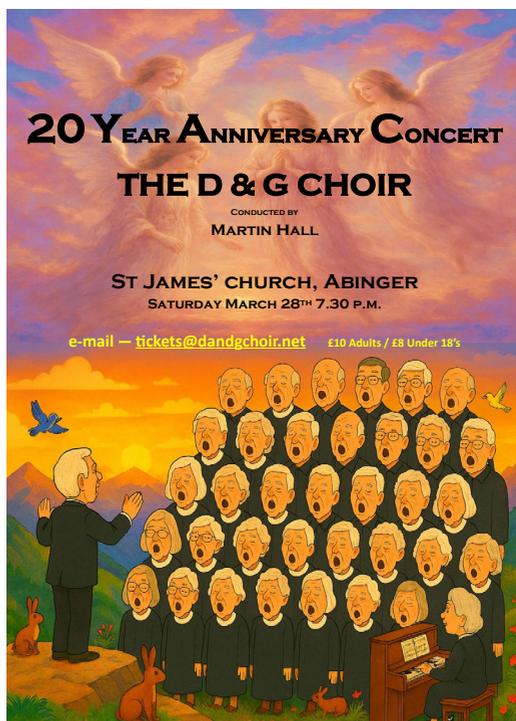
In 2016 the choir then asked husbands and partners to join and it has grown into a 40 member strong choir that has performed significant works including singing the *Chorus* in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and performed Faure's *Requiem* in both Abinger and Romalduke North Yorkshire.

To celebrate 20 fantastic years the choir will be performing a selection of their favourite pieces ranging from excerpts from *Dido* and Faure's *Requiem* to melodies from *South Pacific* and the Beatles. With some new pieces as well.

Chair of the administration committee Martin Perry said: '*This will be a wonderful concert to celebrate an amazing milestone of singing together for 20 years but also to say farewell and thank you to Martin for creating the choir and leaving us with a huge legacy which we will take forward into a new exciting era for the choir.*'

We are so grateful to St James' for allowing us to sing there and we hope that as many local people as possible will join us for this very special event.

Tickets are £10 each for adults and £8 for U18's and can be obtained via the D&G ticket website: [tickets@dandg.net](mailto:tickets@dandg.net)





# Westcott Village Hall

## The Perfect Venue for any event

The Westcott Village Hall, previously the Reading Room, is in the heart of the village of Westcott, in the Surrey Hills. It is a flexible space with diverse amenities available for hosting classes, parties, meetings and functions.

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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](mailto: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.

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[www.westcottvillagehall.com](http://www.westcottvillagehall.com)

# WESTCOTT MUSIC MINGLE

Join us for our first ever 'Westcott Music Mingle' at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 11th April. Inspiration arose out of last September's Organ Celebration. There was a realisation that music and the arts took a big hit during lockdown, yet these are things which bring people together and are a catalyst to much more. We want to bring more live music to the village that is affordable and accessible to all.

We are massively grateful to Holy Trinity Church for letting us host the event at our lovely village venue and to the team at The Hub who will make sure we provide a proper village welcome. Young families and people living on their own are especially welcome! Match-funded contributions from the 100 Club and Westcott Village Association together with our musicians' own contributions, means this event will be free to attend so book now if you plan to join us!

Retiring cash and card donations together with your feedback will help create future musical events in the village. Thank you.

**Judith Packer, Project Director**

**Valerie Seager, Cellist and Musical Director**

## WESTCOTT MUSIC MINGLE

**Dvorak Grainger Marcello**  
*Oboe Strings Piano*

Performed by local musicians  
from Dorking Chamber Orchestra



**Saturday 11 April 2026 • 4.30pm to 6.00pm**

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## A new Parish Council for Westcott?

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The results of the recent ballot and consultation on the proposal to create a new Parish Council in Westcott are currently being reviewed by MVDC and will be put to the Devolution Working Group and the Mole Valley Full Council for consideration and approval in March. We await the outcome of this important vote which will shape the future of how Westcott is represented locally in the future. You can find out more online at [www.molevalley.gov.uk/cgr](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/cgr)

## Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan

The WNDP and all the supporting documents have now been submitted by MVDC to an independent examiner for review. They will ensure the Plan has been properly prepared and meets all the requirements set out in the legislation and advise whether it requires any modifications before it is ready to proceed to a Referendum vote. It is hoped the Referendum will take place in May 2026 when the Polling Stations are open for the local elections.



## Surrey Highways

Thank you to everyone who continues to report pot hole and other highways issues to Surrey County Council online <https://tellus.surreycc.gov.uk/>. Although resurfacing of the A25 through Westcott continues to be deferred there have been a couple of wins of late;

1) The kerb is finally being raised near the Prince of Wales pub on the A25 which is at least part of the works needed to help prevent future flooding of the private properties nearby in periods of heavy rain. Drainage in this area remains an issue and we are supporting the residents and communicating with Surrey Highways to press for more to be done.

2) Subject to funds being committed from the Surrey County Council Strategic CIL pot the cycle path N22 between Westcott and Dorking should be resurfaced this summer.

## Westcott Village Association Committee

**Jo Astor, Jane Betterton, James Croft,  
Paul Goddard, Nick Lund, Magesh  
Ramakrishnan**

General enquiries [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com)  
Highways queries Nick Lund [highways@westcottvillage.com](mailto:highways@westcottvillage.com)  
Planning queries Paul Goddard [planning@westcottvillage.com](mailto:planning@westcottvillage.com)  
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JACKSON-STOPS 

# DORKING MUSEUM

**Spring is here!** March sees the beginning of Spring and the opportunity once again to welcome visitors to the Museum's popular programmes of walks and tours in the area – start planning now!

**Walking in Dorking:** Guided walks in the town centre and at Betchworth Castle and The Deepdene Trail resume this month. In the town centre,



the Blue Plaques and Statues walk tells of some of the famous people who lived or were active in Dorking, revealing a diverse range of interests and activities:

Sunday 1st March, 2pm, from the Cubitt statue opposite Dorking Halls. On the



edge of town, a Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure, the romantic ruin of the only remaining fortified medieval manor house in Surrey: Sunday 29th March, 2pm, from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club. Please see [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/) for scheduled walks and private group bookings

**South Street Caves tours:** One of

Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets, where a series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level. Tickets are on sale from 1st March with the first Open Day of the season on Easter Saturday 4th April. Tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each lasting about 45 minutes and led by a trained guide. For details and open day bookings (which sell out fast!) see [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/). Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail [caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk) to arrange a date.

**Hidden in Stone: Dorking's Dinosaur Discovery:** The Museum's current special exhibition celebrates Dorking's contribution to the developing understanding of the wild life that roamed the area 125 million years ago when the area was part of a vast tropical river delta with swamps, sand flats and lagoons. Extreme seasons and changing conditions resulted in the evolution of amazing species and



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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



the Wealden clay has yielded much evidence of the dinosaurs that evolved.

The discovery of a giant claw by fossil enthusiast Bill Walker in a quarry near Ockley in 1983 led to the excavation of an almost complete skeleton which resembled a crocodile that stood up on its hind legs, provided evidence of a previously unknown dinosaur species and led to the recognition of a new group of specialised fish-eating dinosaurs. The creature was given the scientific name *Baryonyx walkeri* in honour of its finder and provided the key to understanding more fragmentary remains of similar dinosaurs which became known as Spinosaurids because some had elongated neural spines and a semi-aquatic lifestyle based on hunting fish and scavenging whatever they could find.



The exhibition explores Dorking's dinosaur connections with displays including lifelike replica models on loan from the University of Southampton. Takeaway model templates of

Dorking's most famous dinosaur are available to go with the exhibition.

### **Family Activities at Dorking Library:**

The Museum is pleased to continue its collaboration with Dorking Library. *World Book Day:* Come and see some old books that your grandparents or great grandparents might have used at school and make a bookmark: Saturday 14th March, 10am-noon. *Create a Blue Plaque for yourself:* What are your hopes and dreams? How would you like to be remembered in the future? Create a blue plaque to commemorate the life you hope to lead: Saturday 21st March, 10am-2pm. Free, materials provided and children must be accompanied.

**Get involved:** The Museum depends on its enthusiastic team of volunteers to maintain this valuable community resource. Maybe you could spare a few hours a month, with opportunities in an interesting range of key roles with flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home. See [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities) for further details.

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street. Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk). Visit [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/). 01306 876591.

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## MUSIC IN DORKING



- 1st at 3.00, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls, £25, 01306 740619  
1st at 3.00, Vaughan Williams Singers at Mickleham Village Hall, £18  
6th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717  
7th at 12.00, lunchtime recital at St Martin's church, free  
7th at 2.30, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717  
8th at 7.00, LHMF Haydn Creation at Dorking Halls, £20-25, 01306 881717  
14th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Paul's church  
15th at 3.00, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls, £25, 01306 740619  
15th at 2.30, Big Band concert at Dorking Halls, £32, 01306 881717  
31st at 5.15, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

There is a great variety of music to enjoy in March! The Dorking Concertgoers present two concerts by the excellent Carducci string quartet. Their first concert includes Mozart's *Dissonance* quartet, together with a short *Poeme* by Rebecca Clarke and Shostakovich's second quartet. The second concert features one of Beethoven's *Rasumovsky* quartets, a piece by Philip Glass, and a quartet by Mendelssohn.

The Leith Hill Music Festival has a performance of Haydn's great oratorio *The Creation*. This popular choral work will be sung by a large choir, drawn from the individual choirs that belong to the Festival, accompanied by a period-instrument orchestra, with three excellent vocal soloists, conducted by the festival conductor Neil Ferris. The two days of festival competitions and concerts will follow in April.

The Dorking Philharmonia's concert begins with Mozart's *Paris* symphony and then continues with French music – by Fauré, Debussy and finally the second symphony of Saint-Saëns. The Vaughan Williams Singers, a local chamber choir directed by Ian Assersohn, present an afternoon cream tea concert in Mickleham. The music will include some choral favourites, like Stanford's *The Blue Bird*, and some new songs, including pieces by Eric Whitacre and Ian Assersohn himself. The lunchtime recital at St Martin's church will be given by local pianist Mike Stewart. Mike will be performing a selection of Chopin's studies and the concert is free with a retiring collection.

The era of the Big Bands will be celebrated in a concert by the LP Swing Orchestra, playing the music of Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, and many others. The Dorking Halls has a screening of Wagner's *Siegfried*, one of the operas forming his great *Ring Cycle*, live from the Royal Opera House. There are also two opportunities to see the Royal Ballet in *Giselle* with both a live and an encore screening.

Ian Codd



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Finding ways to reduce energy bills is a hot topic, as is reducing emissions. Making sure your home is as energy efficient as possible is easier than you think, thanks to having a Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT) on your doorstep!

Last May a community consortium led by Zero Carbon Guildford with Circular Dorking, Energy Action Redhill & Reigate and Surrey Climate Commission won a two-year funding bid from the Energy Saving Trust's Energy Redress Scheme to provide local residents with free home energy surveys, energy advice, infrared heat loss surveys and guidance on securing grants.



The HEAT energy surveys are completely free and totally impartial. There is no cold calling or pressure to buy expensive equipment or services. Trained Volunteer Energy Champions carry out a 60 minute thermal imaging survey and provide residents with a written report with recommendations and

bespoke referrals to further support if relevant.

Paul Street, co-founder of Circular Dorking, said: "We are delighted to play our part in directly benefiting homeowners and renters in our local towns and villages. We've been carrying out Home Energy Advice Team surveys for two years and consistently receive extremely high customer feedback scores. We've helped hundreds of local residents save money and make their homes more energy efficient."

The HEAT surveys are a great example of members of the community delivering positive action and building resilience by creating a more circular sustainable local economy. Not only do the surveys help residents reduce their energy bills and their carbon emissions, there can be health benefits too - HEAT reports include advice on making homes more comfortable, reducing draughts and the risk of health impacting mould, as well as providing help and guidance on accessing grants.

You can meet HEAT's Energy Champions at Circular Dorking's Home Energy Showcase (10am - 4pm Sunday 8th March, Pippbrook House, Dorking) where you'll also find trusted suppliers and energy saving solutions on hand to help you save money, energy and time.

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## The Cost of Energy

Trees and forests play a crucial role in creating and maintaining healthy environments around the world. They provide clean air and water, food and shelter for wildlife, they help to manage storm water and to prevent soil erosion. They take in carbon through photosynthesis and store it in their trunks, branches, roots and the soil, reducing the impact of human carbon emissions and helping to mitigate climate change.



For centuries humans have benefitted from the material resources that trees supply. Through practices such as coppicing and pollarding humans have sustainably managed woodland to provide valuable resources for human life – for building and keeping warm, whilst maintaining the integrity of the woodland. These days trees are felled by machines on an unimaginable scale - with scant consideration for local communities or any wildlife that depend upon them -

not just for building or warmth but also for single-use products that will be discarded before long. Toilet paper for one. ‘Have you been flushing logs down the loo?’ asks Chris Packham in an advert which popped up on my social media feed.

## Does your toilet roll contribute to deforestation?

Many of the popular brands of toilet paper are made, in varying ratios, of virgin wood pulp (paper pulp made from newly harvested wood). A conservative estimate suggests that every day one million trees are cut down to make traditional toilet paper (Toilet Paper Environmental Sustainability Report, 2022).



The pulp and paper industry is a major contributor to deforestation and thereby to biodiversity loss, soil erosion, species extinction, and ecosystem disruptions. Manufacturing processes also require a lot of energy and significant amounts of water



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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

– particularly for bleaching. While many of the big brands' packaging might lead you to think that they are a sustainable choice, claims often relate to the packaging, rather than the actual roll of paper!

All the supermarket and big-brand toilet papers I found in Dorking supermarkets carry the FSC Mix label which mean that they will contain virgin wood pulp. FSC Mix means that products are made using a mixture of materials from FSC-certified forests, recycled materials, and/or FSC controlled wood. Controlled wood is not from certified forests and its production hasn't been audited. The FSC MIX label wording changed in 2020 from 'from responsible sources' to 'supporting responsible forestry' precisely because 'controlled materials are not FSC certified'.



### There are alternatives

It was only very recently that people widely started using toilet paper for toilet hygiene. The first toilet roll was introduced by the Scott Paper Company in 1890, and as late as 1935 the Northern Tissue Company proudly promoted their toilet paper as "splinter free"! Nowadays the big toilet paper brands market their products using images of fluffy puppies, koala bears and words like 'super soft', 'air pockets', 'cashmere feel' and 'ultimate quilts' - conflating this everyday functional product with luxury and self-indulgence.

Given the urgent need to halt biodiversity loss and to capture and store as much carbon as possible, felling trees to flush down the loo seems at best ridiculous, if not downright insane. Although humankind has made do without toilet rolls for most of its history, it is highly unlikely that we will be ditching them altogether anytime soon, but there are alternatives. *If for one day only, everyone in the United Kingdom decided to switch over to using bamboo or recycled toilet paper instead of toilet paper made from virgin wood pulp, we could save 33,330 trees from being cut down.* (Toilet Paper Environmental Sustainability Report, 2022)

The best alternative toilet rolls are

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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

those made from recycled paper - preferably made with post-consumer waste, ie paper used by consumers and then recycled. This helps to conserve forests and uses less energy and water than virgin pulp to produce. Bamboo is also a more sustainable option - if it comes from a responsible source. Bamboo is fast-growing and needs less water to grow than trees. It is a renewable resource that can be repeatedly harvested, as it regrows once harvested. Look for the FSC Certified 100% label for reassurance that no land has been cleared specifically to grow the bamboo and that it has been farmed in a more sustainable way.

As of 2025 sustainable and recycled toilet paper represented 18% of the market share. If you don't already use recycled or bamboo toilet paper, will you help this trend grow and make the switch?\* Let's treat trees as the precious and vital living wonders that they are.

**Jakki Phillips**

\*Supermarkets often sell own-brand recycled paper, some other suppliers recommended by Ethical Consumer are: *Naked Paper*, *Cheeky Panda*, *Who Gives A Crap* and *Ecoleaf*

### *Happy Birthday Joyce Kingsley Jones!*

*Joyce Kingsley Jones came to Westcott in the 1950s with her late husband who was the local GP, Richard Kingsley Jones. Joyce has been here ever since working as a doctor in the Westcott community for many years.*

*Joyce got herself involved in the community and also became a big part of Age Concern UK. She has recently celebrated her 102nd birthday, along with family from as far away as Australia and many local friends, and we'd like to take this opportunity to say a very very happy birthday to you, Joyce on your 102nd birthday!*





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OPENING TIMES:		<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
	Monday	8.00-1.00	2.00-6.00
	Tuesday	8.00-1.00	2.00-6.30
	Wednesday	8.00-12.30	Closed
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	Friday	8.00-1.00	2.00-6.30

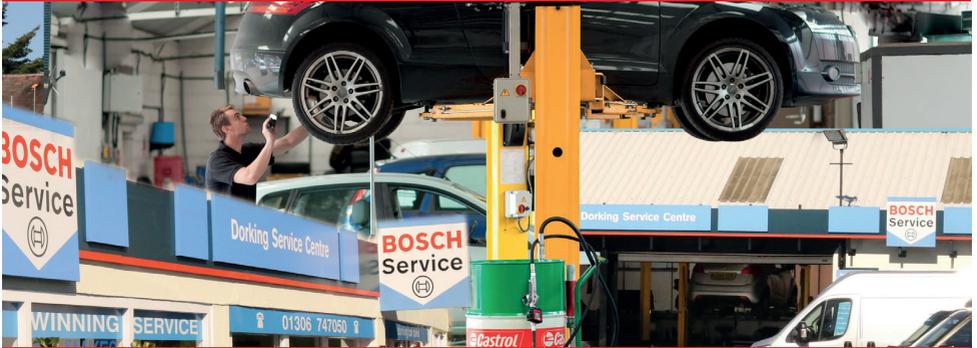
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# Dorking Service Centre Ltd

EST. 2004



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