

# Westcott Village

# Magazine

May 2026



**Open Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00pm in Westcott Village Hall**



All the inhabitants living in Westcott and  
the surrounding areas over 18 years of age  
are eligible to vote

Please bring proof of address

Come and vote and support our  
new Village Hall

**for further information use QR code**



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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

**June** issue:

**8th May 2026**

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## FROM THE EDITOR



We are on our way to summer! It's definitely getting warmer and the ads are appearing for all the local fetes and fairs over the next few weeks or so. The Teddy Bears' Picnic at Abinger Hammer is on Friday 15th May closely followed by Coldharbour Fete on Saturday 16th. See page 38 for all details.

Catch the end of the Mole Valley Ramblers' Walking Festival which finishes on 6th May, it's not too late to join the last few walks, see page 39. Dorking Museum has a new exhibition about cycling in Dorking over the years from the 1890s up to today, including items from the Olympics in 2012.

If your magazine has been delivered before the end of April, you'll note the public meeting on 29th about the new village hall, if not, hopefully you read about it in previous magazines! The Village Hall Quiz Night is also on 16th May, with a fish and chip supper included in the ticket price.

Abinger Nursery have Open Day stay and play sessions on 12th and 14th May, see page 37 for more information if you have children needing a place between the ages of 2-4.

I hope you enjoy the better weather and all the activities over the next month or so.

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

### Date for Your Diaries - Abinger Medieval Fair



This year is the 70th year since the revival of the Medieval Fair. As part of our anniversary celebrations on 13th June, we are very pleased and proud to announce that our main arena event this year will feature *Invicta Medieval Combat*, one of the UK's leading medieval armoured combat teams. Their fighters, using armour and weaponry typical of the 14th-16th centuries, come as close as it's possible to get to the way medieval knights battled each other. Then, of course, there is all the usual fun of the Fair! There will be delicious food and drinks to buy, stalls for adults and kids, races, games and prizes to be won!

# ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



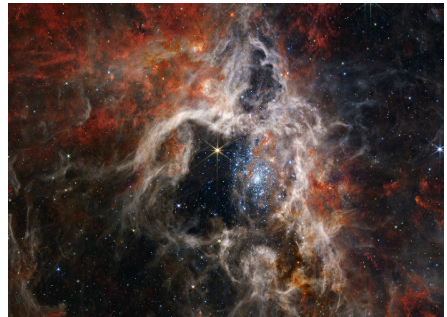
## LIFE THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

From an early age I had a very clear idea about what life, the universe and everything was all about. I grew up surrounded by references to Douglas Adams' Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, so I knew that the answer to everything was, of course, the number 42.

From ancient times humans have pondered what life is all about. What does it mean to lead the good life? An ancient Greek pop song from the 4th century BC ranked the features of a good life in the following order:

The very best thing for a person is health, Second good looks and third honest wealth, The Fourth is to be in the prime of your life with people around you who cause you no strife.

Health, good looks, money, relative youth – how closely does that match up with your list of what comprises the good life? I came across this ditty in Plato's Gorgias (a translation by Robin Waterfield in the Oxford World's Classic series), where the philosopher Socrates is in conversation with Gorgias, a travelling teacher of populist oratory



techniques designed to persuade and manipulate. For Gorgias, the power

that comes from the ability to influence others is the ultimate good. For Socrates

this answer fell short of describing the true "good" of human life.

Aristotle, who developed his philosophical thinking at Plato's Academy in Athens, offered a different answer to the question of

what the good life looks like. In the Nicomachean Ethics, he argues that every human activity or practice aims at some "good" — an end or purpose it seeks to achieve. So what, then, is the highest good for a human being? He firmly rejects the idea that our ultimate purpose could be wealth, status, or pleasure. Instead, he identifies the goal of human life as eudaimonia. This term is frustratingly difficult to translate, but it conveys something like blessedness, flourishing, or purposeful well-being.

"HEALTH, GOOD LOOKS,  
MONEY, RELATIVE YOUTH –  
HOW CLOSELY DOES THAT  
MATCH UP WITH YOUR LIST  
OF WHAT COMPRISES THE  
GOOD LIFE?"

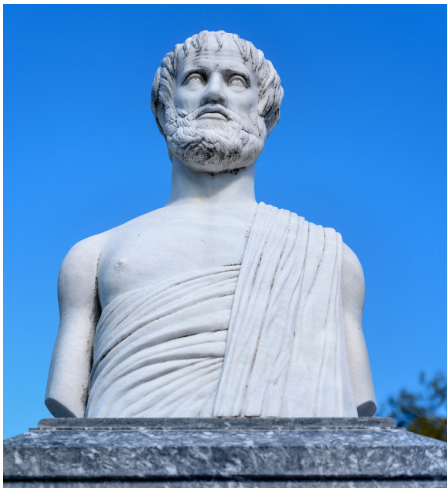
## ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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To reach this kind of meaningful life, Aristotle says we need certain footholds to help us ascend toward eudaimonia. These footholds are the virtues — qualities such as courage, truthfulness, patience, magnanimity, and proper ambition. Virtues are the traits that enable us to move toward our ultimate end. The good life, therefore, is the life in which these virtues are cultivated and in which eudaimonia is realised.

I like Aristotle. He deeply influenced Christian thought and practice over the centuries, and I do think he gets us part way to the answer of what it means to live a good life. However, I am not content to settle for his final definition of what life, the universe and everything is all about.

Christianity does not deny the value of eudaimonia; rather, it sees it as simply another stepping stone toward a far greater goal. Our purpose as human beings is essentially relational.



We are created to find meaning through our relationships with three things: our fellow humans, the natural world, and—most significantly—God, who brought us into being and desires that we know Him and be known by Him in return.

All our other desires—wealth, comfort, influence, power, sensual pleasure—are merely shadows of a deeper longing placed within us for the three relationships we were created to enjoy. Does that resonate with you at all? It certainly does with me, and increasingly so as the years go by and the things I once pursued as “goods” prove to be dead ends.

But how can we possibly reach this seemingly impossible goal of restored relationships—with other people, with the natural world, and with God? That is precisely what the rest of the Christian message is about. Why not join us on a Sunday to explore it further? We’re a friendly bunch, and you would be very warmly welcome.

Every blessing,  
Rev'd Tim

# MAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



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

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

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM
3rd May	A Letter from Peter: Part 3	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
10th May	A Letter from Peter: Part 4	Book of Common Prayer Communion	20-20-20 with Breakfast
17th May	Ascension (Sunday after)	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
24th May	Pentecost	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship with Sunday Club
31st May	Acts/Trinity	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@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk) for more information.

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10am

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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](http://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk)



## Floodlighting

Many thanks to the Golding family, Annette; Tim & Kathryn; Richard & Cristina & James who are sponsoring the May church floodlighting in memory of Tony's birthday, 17th May, 1930.

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

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# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

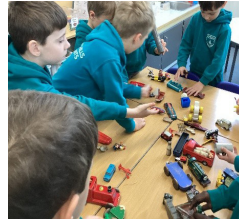
**Bees** have been learning about the four seasons and this half-term, we have been learning all about Spring. Bees were very lucky to have a special four-legged visitor to enhance our learning. Mrs Osbourne kindly brought in a new born lamb who was being bottle fed.



Fun Fact - The practice of naming lambs with different letters each year is a common tradition in sheep farming. This system helps to keep track of the lambs' birth years and this year the letter is 'N'.



**Butterflies Year 1 & 2** have really enjoyed making puppets this half term. We investigated different ways of joining felt, using glue, safety pins or staples. We then designed our puppet, choosing the joining method we thought best. It was great fun adding detail and playing with them, Year 2 even wrote a story with their puppet lost in a toy museum!



They were also lucky enough to have Petra from Horsham Museum visit us to show how toys have changed in the last 150 years. We were surprised at some of the toys from Victorian times; a spoon or peg doll being a child's only toy to the very creepy doll made out of wax!

**Year 3 Hedgehogs** visited Ancient Butser Farm to bring their history learning to life.

We enjoyed experiencing what a Bronze Age house would be like – dark and smoky!



We made our own copper jewellery which used our creativity and concentration. Our archaeological skills were developed through an digging to see what artefacts we could find. Afterwards, we were lucky enough to have a tour of the Roman villa. We were impressed with the real Roman mosaic.



The children enjoyed being able to spot the changes between Stone Age, Bronze Age,

James Croft  
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# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

Iron Age and Romans. Hedgehogs even got to experience what a Roman toilet would look like - they were not so keen on having these at school! Hedgehogs should be proud of themselves as they represented the school brilliantly with their extensive history knowledge and their great behaviour.

As part of our school project with Surrey Wildlife, **Years 3, 4 & 5** have been busy bringing our action plans to life! We planted over 50 trees to create our hedgerow around the outside of the field. Alongside planting, we also used our excellent digging skills to create two wild meadow patches on the field. All the plants have been watered and we are excited to see them flourishing in a few weeks! Hedgehogs and Otters proudly delivered an assembly to the rest of the school about our school plans and what everyone can do to help look after our new plants. They



should be proud of their brilliant team work and enthusiasm to help make Surrey Hills a lovely place for wildlife.

**Year 6 Owls** have been extremely busy. As well as getting ready for the KS2 SATs, which they have undertaken sensibly, they had a workshop with St. John's Ambulance. This session instructed them in basic first aid and gave them the opportunity to practice the skills and techniques. In D.T. the children have been designing their own playgrounds, exploring different materials and techniques with a child-friendly brief. They had fun designing and making their prototypes then evaluating it against the brief. Well done, Owls! You have had a great half term!



The school community came together for our annual Easter bonnet parade. The children were immensely proud of their bonnets and walked around the playground to claps and cheers. As always a big thank you to the parents for helping their children make such beautiful and imaginative creations!






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## SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. We all came to school in our pyjamas and brought in our favourite bedtime stories to share. The book swap was a great success,



all children were keen to start reading their new book as soon as possible! Going to a different class to share a story with the younger children was also really popular and all classes are keen to set this up on a regular rota which will be timetabled going forward.

**Kathryn Saunderson**  
Acting Headteacher

## WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



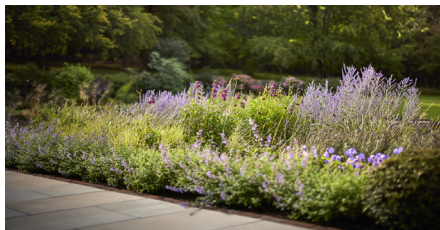
*Wednesday 6th May*  
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*May 2026 will have 2 full moons, one on 1st May, known as the Flower Moon, and one on 31st May. That makes it a Blue Moon because it's the second full moon in the same month, which is where the saying 'once in a blue moon' comes from, as it is such a rare event.*

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Welcome to Spring and all of the activity going on at our Memorial Woodland. The birds making homes, the trees coming into bud, the woodland anemomies covering the woodland floor like a carpet of snow and the many ferns waking up after winter. Such a lovely time of year.

We are now looking forward to our Open Day and Commemoration Service which is taking place at the woodland on Saturday 6th June. We have three local clergy joining in the Commemoration Service when the families of five Veterans will be honouring their loved ones. We would be delighted if local residents would join us too. It is also the Anniversary of D-Day and this will be celebrated with a fantastic set of appropriate songs by a guy with an amazing voice. So many people to thank for their help making this day special and enjoyable including the Headmaster from Leith Hill School who has offered to ferry people who park their cars in the school grounds to and from the woodland. So please come, bring

some cash and enjoy the BBQ, the grand raffle, bottle tombola and other stalls. We have a licensed bar for the day and much more. Please arrive by 12.30 for our Chairman's welcome and prepare for a really enjoyable and welcoming afternoon of remembrance. All monies raised go to assist our Veterans in need. I look forward to seeing you on the day.

**Paul Cooling, Chairman**  
**The Quick Response Memorial Woodland**  
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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



**On April 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a General Meeting for Westcott Village Hall Trust, at which the Trust will be asking the residents of the village to support them in their efforts to provide a new village hall. The information below may assist residents to understand the background:**

1. Over 8,000 visits to Westcott Village Hall in 2025, it is important to many people.
2. Westcott Village Hall Trust is a charity and is required by charity law to provide and maintain a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Westcott. Any funds, assets or resources cannot be used for anything other than this stated purpose.
3. Both the Institute Road site (the Village Hall – formerly the Reading Room) and the Furlong Road site (formerly The Hut) are owned by the Trust. The Hut closed in 2017 and is a derelict building. The current Village Hall building is operational but has exceeded its intended life span and will imminently be beyond economic repair.
4. The Trust has been considering how to continue to provide a village hall for Westcott. In 2022 professional advice was obtained regarding charity law, planning and construction costs, and it became clear that the only feasible solution to provide a new village hall on one of the two sites was to sell the redundant site.
5. The Trust is under a legal obligation to optimise the value of its assets. The clear advice received was that securing a residential planning consent on the redundant site would create maximum value to help fund the new village hall.
6. In 2023, the Trust invited village residents to a public consultation to consider which of the two sites should be redeveloped as either a village hall or as houses. The consultation was widely advertised and there was good participation with 255 responses. Of these, 95% wanted a new village hall, and a clear majority of 65% wanted it to be at Institute Road, and for the Furlong Road site to be sold.
7. Based on this clear mandate from the public consultation with the village residents, the Trust has used the majority of its funds over the last three years to apply for planning consent for residential development on the Furlong Road site and for a new village hall at Institute Road.
8. The grant of a planning consent for residential development at Furlong Road creates a significant uplift in value for the Trust, this supports the Trust in its duty to fulfil the sole purpose for which it was created i.e. to provide a village hall for Westcott.
9. The planning permission for 9 houses on Furlong Road creates a loss of 5 on-street car parking spaces. However, there are significant road improvements with the new design. The road layout, sets the houses and the new 5 on-street car parking spaces back, resulting in allowing two-way traffic where there is currently a single lane because of parked cars. There will also be a new pavement improving pedestrian safety. The WVH Trust are willing to work with others to alleviate the impact of this reduction in car parking.

At the meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> the village will be asked to confirm that the Hut site is no longer required for use as a village hall. Subsequently, the Trust will then market this site for sale.

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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:

- **Scandalous Surrey! Dirty Dorking!:** Live talk by Lorraine Spindler. We may not live in Soho, Pigalle or the Reeperbahn, but a surprising amount of raunchy stuff has gone on in our fine county. Monday 11th May at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **Elizabeth Barton – The Maid of Kent:** Zoom talk by Melanie Gibson-Barton, who'll tell us of a young visionary of Aldington in Kent so dangerous to Henry VIII, Ann Boleyn and Catherine of Aragon that she had to be executed in 1534. Includes the work of artist Lauren McMahan. Wednesday 20th May 7.30pm, <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.
- **A special event: Guided Walk: How Railways Killed a Canal,** at Shalford, Saturday 30th May, 10.30am. Booking essential – details on the website (see below).

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

## Holmbury St Mary Choral Society



We always welcome new singers so why not come and sing with us at our summer concert in St James' Church, Abinger on July 4th?  
Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 8pm in Abinger Hammer Village Hall. No auditions. The programme will be music by modern day American composers.

For more details see our website <https://holmburychoral.org/> or contact Liz Hamilton on 07825 411654.

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## SUMMER SHOW

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026**  
**Westcott Village Hall**

An exhibition of flowers, fruit, vegetables,  
home produce and handicrafts

[www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk](http://www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk)



**JOIN US AT**  
**Westcott Flower Show**  
**Autumn Exhibition**  
**Saturday 5th September**  
**Reading Room, Westcott**



**Fruit, Flowers, Vegetables, Handicrafts, Flower  
arranging, Home produce, Children's classes**

### Timetable of Show:

8.30am - 11.00am Receipt and staging of exhibits  
11.15am - 1.30pm Judging  
2.30pm Doors open to public  
4.00pm Prize Giving and Raffle

Entry Forms must be returned by 1pm on the Thursday before  
the show and placed in the box at Nisalocal, Guildford Road,  
Westcott.

No late entries will be accepted.

Exhibitors Free • Adults 50p • Children under 16 Free

### CONTACT :

[info@westcottgardenersclub.org.uk](mailto:info@westcottgardenersclub.org.uk)

## Calling all Bake-Off fans

Step right up and tackle the village's baking showdown for the title of Westcott's Best Baker at our Summer Flower Show on Saturday, July 4th! Roll up your sleeves and whip up the finest Rhubarb & Ginger Jam, Gazpacho, Malt Loaf, Cheese Scones, or even Mary Berry's Tottenham Cake!

See full details about the home produce and all other Summer show classes at [www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk](http://www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk)



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All proceeds will go towards the Westcott Village Hall redevelopment



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## **Westcott's Medical Facilities, Past and Present**

With the new *History of Westcott* now in wide circulation I get regularly stopped by residents to ask about various things they have read. In particular they want to know more about the medical provision for villagers in the 19th century. The short answer is that we are not very sure what that amounted to. You have to reflect on what Westcott was in that period – essentially a sundry collection of dwellings, housing workers in employ to the local large houses and estates.

The families in these houses would very likely have recourse to qualified doctors in Dorking or London as general practitioners (GPs) did exist in 19th century Surrey, though they were often termed 'surgeon-apothecaries'. These doctors grew in prominence, particularly after the 1815 Apothecaries Act and the 1858 Medical Act, which regulated the profession, helping to distinguish trained doctors from unlicensed ones. Many GPs were private, self-employed practitioners. One long-standing partnership in Surrey was founded in 1861 by Dr. Edward Shirtliff in Kingston-upon-Thames.

Dorking's medical history transitioned from single-handed, rural practitioners in the early 20th century to integrated modern teams, heavily influenced by

the expansion of the Dorking Cottage Hospital (established 1863-1871) and the Poor Law Institution. 1934 records show the town had 10 doctors, 8 dentists, and specialized infirmary care. Dorking Cottage Hospital was opened between 1863 and 1871 for the rural poor, initially with only six beds. It was rebuilt in 1899 to hold seventeen beds and following the formation of the National Health Service in 1948 the hospital was merged with the former Poor Law Infirmary and became Dorking General Hospital.

The Dorking Joint Isolation Hospital was founded after a petition from Dorking Rural District Council was accepted by Surrey County Council in February 1897, despite opposition from Dorking Urban District Council. There were 22 beds initially and the hospital cared for people suffering from notifiable infectious diseases such as smallpox, diphtheria, cholera, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet typhus, typhoid fever, enteric fever, relapsing fever and puerperal fever – scarlet fever and diphtheria were the most common admissions. The hospital suffered serious damage from a German doodlebug in 1944 and was finally closed and converted into houses in 1954.

The very poorest section of the community might have consulted the Poor Law doctor but the majority would depend on personal savings,



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voluntary organisations, friendly societies or the benevolence of their employers. We know that there was no resident doctor in Westcott until just before WW1 when Dr Henry Maw took up residence in the Old House, but we are unsure what services he provided within the village as his main business was that of a surgical appliance manufacturer. The first full time GP was a Dr Gould who had his surgery in Heath Cottage, now called Barrington House, probably at the same time as it was the Post Office. By the time of WWII a Dr Billings was the village GP. He had his surgery in Springfield Cottage, at the corner of The Paddock.

His successor was Dr. Kingsley-Jones, also based at Springfield Cottage with his doctor wife Joyce, and assisted by Joyce's father Dr Faulkner.



You will know that only a few months ago we celebrated the 103rd birthday of Joyce Kingsley-Jones who still lives in the village, a stone's throw from her husband's former surgery. When Joyce

read the chapter on doctors in the new History booklet she wanted to correct and add to it and we are happy to do so here. Her husband, Dr Richard Kingsley-Jones arrived in Westcott on January 1950, after military service in Cyprus. He joined Dr Billings, who came to Westcott sometime after WW1 to set up a medical practice in his home, Springfield Cottage. This was usual before the advent of the NHS. Most of his early patients had worked on the big estates, notably Bury Hills, The Rookery, and Rokefield. He often made visits on his motorbike. Even in 1950, many properties in Westcott had outside privies and no running water in the house. Before the discovery of antibiotics, medical remedies were limited.

During the second world war, Dr Billings acquired shrapnel in his head, the result of a bomb falling in Guildford Road while he was driving. His companion dog died. The start of the NHS preceded the arrival of her husband Richard. He set about updating the pharmacy stock and continued the personal service inherited from Dr Billings. He took part in many village organizations, particularly Westcott Players, run by the formidable Lady Touche of Broomfield Park. As Chairman of the Hut, he brought together the Conservatives, who tended to support Holy Trinity and the Reading Room, with the mostly Labour voters

# GREENWAY HOMECARE



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who frequented St John's Church and the Hut.

Dr Kingsley Jones could well be described as the perfect village doctor, known and respected by everyone. He died aged 45, in 1969, still working within a week of his death. Grateful villagers collected funds for a bronze plaque erected in the hut, and a sports pavilion, designed by local architect Bev Greenfield, was erected in Cradhurst grounds. Unfortunately, it was severely vandalized by drug users, and was by common consent demolished.

Richard, a very popular man, died tragically young and was followed in the early 1980s by Dr MacDonald-Watson. He had his surgery at Hawthorne Dene and was very unlike his predecessor in the popularity stakes. He left the village after being found to

be issuing illegal drugs, followed by the much respected Dr Tom Guildler in 1988, who built a new surgery and dispensary at Riverbank and after over 30 years retired just before the Covid epidemic. The Riverbank surgery remains (2026) as a branch of the Dorking Medical Practice and whilst I have no complaints on the service I have received from them, I have never seen the same GP twice nor do I know their names. Changed times indeed.

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.

**WLHG Scribe**

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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE HUB

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### WESTCOTTVILLAGEHUB.CO.UK

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.*

# WIDE AWAKE CLUB

7.30-8.30



Free Breakfast for the kids  
Free Coffee for the parents/carers

St Johns Chapel Hall  
Furlong Road  
Westcott

[www.westcottvillagehub.co.uk](http://www.westcottvillagehub.co.uk)

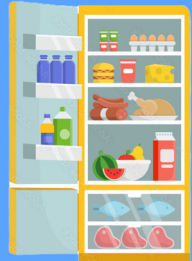
Westcott Village

# Community Fridge

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- 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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Written by Andrew Bovell, this fascinating and deeply moving story explores powerful messages about love, identity and resilience. Directed by Ted Horton and brought to life by a talented cast and crew from the Peaslake Players. *Things I Know to be True* plays at Peaslake Memorial Hall from **May 7th – May 9th** at 7.30pm.

Box Office: [www.peaslakeplayers.co.uk](http://www.peaslakeplayers.co.uk)

WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL



MAY 16TH



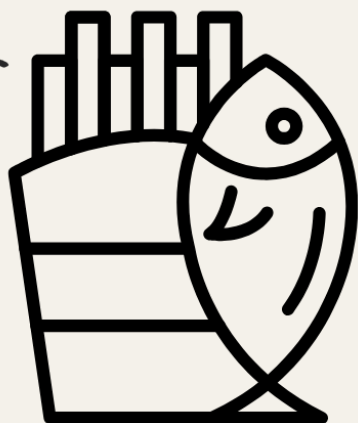
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# ABINGER NURSERY



It was once again a lovely day and we raised an incredible £352 for the nursery! Now pass us another Easter Egg...



One Wednesday afternoon a very fluffy visitor trotted in very confidently behind his farmer friend and we were all extremely excited to be able to say hello! We were delighted to be nudged and nuzzled by Nobby the lamb! There were smiles all round as we had a little play together and gave him some milk from a bottle. What a treat!

Where we are in Abinger means there are lots of places for us to explore when we go for a forest school wander. When the weather has been kind we like to take a mosey through the gates at the back of the church along the winding path, past the motte and bailey

We'd like to start by saying a big thank you to all of you who supported our wonderful bake off by baking, buying or just being there!

mound (that's right an old castle) and then into the freedom of the field. And in that field is the BIG STONE! This is no ordinary stone. This is big enough for us to climb on and then safely launch ourselves off. We could do this all day! (Just for clarity – we don't!).

There is a rather lovely book called *The world came to my place today* which we read and learnt where different types of foods come from and how they get to us. In the summer term we will be heading back to our veggie patch at the hatch where our carbon footprint is miniscule and the digging opportunities endless! We did however also travel further afield (just as our food does) as we created our own passports with very strict drawings to identify us (!) and then hopped aboard our self-built plane in the nursery garden. Piloted by many.

If you would like to join our nursery family please don't hesitate to get in touch. – we still have spaces for an immediate start or September. We are holding two open days in May – 12th & 14th from 1pm to 2pm so you can see just what nursery life is like. We will also be at the Teddy Bears Picnic if you'd like to have a chat! For more information call 07842 978823 or email [abingercommonnursery@gmail.com](mailto:abingercommonnursery@gmail.com) We can't wait to meet you and show you around!

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# Westcott Village Hall

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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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## WESTCOTT MUSIC MINGLE

Holy Trinity Church hosted a packed house of over 130 guests of all ages from 1 to 90 to welcome visiting musicians from Dorking Chamber Orchestra (<https://www.thedco.co.uk/>) who played a wonderful hour-long repertoire of 4 varied pieces for oboe, piano, cello, violin and viola.

Each piece was introduced by one of the musicians who also shared their story of how they had come to start playing when they were young and how music had woven its way through their life since.

Thanks to sponsorship by Westcott 100 Club and Westcott Village Association, we were able to offer complimentary refreshments served by volunteers from the Village Hall team and also highlight upcoming events in the village and the various initiatives being run by The Hub. Artwork by Surrey Hills Primary School was on display and music-themed craft for sale by local artist. We were delighted with all who came and supported and the generosity of those who were able to donate to help us host future musical events. Thank You!

**Judith Packer Project Director**  
**Valerie Seager Cellist/Musical Director**



Photo: Left to right  
Julia Philpott – oboe  
Valerie Seager – cello  
William Corke – piano  
Jo Anderson – violin  
Richard Barron – violin  
Elizabeth Gee – viola  
Judith Packer - presenter



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## Resurfacing N22

We can make you aware of some good news. Following on from several interventions by the WVA Committee in the last couple of years, in late March 2026, Surrey County Council approved a bid from their Countryside Access Team, supported enthusiastically by MVDC Councillors, for funds to resurface the NCR22 cycle track/bridleway between Westcott and Dorking. In addition, SCC will extend the track as a bridleway to Pippbrook Place. The improvement works are not expected to start until later this year but once completed will enable safer and faster non-car movement between Westcott and Dorking. Further updates will be published as plans are firmed up.

## Mickleham PSPO

Some of you might be aware that MVDC Councillors have recently voted to impose a Public Space Protection Order to be in place for three years covering motorbike and vehicle activity from Givons Grove roundabout to Denbies roundabout, the Old London Road through Mickleham and the Zig Zag up to Box Hill. This follows an extensive public consultation and several years of complaints from many local residents. The objective of the PSPO is to target and reduce incidences of public nuisance so as noted in the MVDC newsletter it will be an offence to perform any of the following activities so as to cause a

public nuisance:

- Revving of engine
- Engine Idling (stationary vehicle)
- Speeding
- Performing stunts with motor vehicles
- Driving in convoy
- Vehicle exhaust popping or backfiring
- Racing
- Sudden/Rapid acceleration

The Police & the MVDC Joint Enforcement Team (JET) will be able to issue penalty notices to those they deem to be transgressing on any of the above. The Police approach will be 'Engage, Educate and Enforce' with their efforts concentrated on Wednesday afternoon/evening and Saturday & Sunday when activity is high, and public nuisance the worst. They confirmed they are conscious that concentrating efforts around Mickleham might move the problem elsewhere and Westcott was mentioned as a village that it might affect adversely.

The Police have undertaken to record action taken and their findings, and to publish regular reports on progress. In addition, they are currently working on a questionnaire for all local residents to complete regularly to track their perception of improvements or otherwise. Further updates will be published as they are available.

## Litter Picks in Westcott

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some 'Litter Pick Activity' in Westcott over the next six months or so. Please look out for published dates and please support them. It makes such a difference to live in and move around a 'litter free' village - so please do anything you can to achieve this.

Do get in touch if you want to get involved in supporting our village. If you have any questions or queries, or can help in any way please [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com)

## Westcott Village Association Committee

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

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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## DORKING MUSEUM

### Hidden in Stone: Dorking's Dinosaur

**Discovery:** This exhibition has proved very popular with visitors, so this is your last chance to catch it as it will close on



Saturday 9th May. The discovery of a giant claw by Bill Walker in a local quarry in 1983 led to the excavation of an almost complete skeleton of a previously unknown dinosaur species that was given the scientific name *Baryonyx walkeri* in honour of its finder. 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.

### New exhibition: 'Dorking: Cycling Capital of England':

Opens on Thursday 14th May. Dorking Museum's spring exhibition traces the contribution that Dorking has made, and continues to make, to the development of cycling nationally. Dorking has been at the forefront of both leisure and competitive cycling from its earliest days. As early as the 1890s, The Daily Telegraph commented that the town '*could not be surpassed as a centre for excursions, for its beautiful setting and excellent roads*'.

Cycling clubs provided not just companionship for touring but also competition.

From 1887, Dorking Cycling Club held twice weekly club



runs throughout the summer and members took part in early track and road races. In the 1920s, road racing was illegal, so a 5am start enabled competitors to avoid not only congestion but also the local police. Competitors wore black to evade detection by watching officers.



How different that all was to the cycling events that

now seem a regular part of Dorking life. This exhibition traces the story from the earlier history of cycling in Dorking to the 2012 Olympics, the Tour of Britain and the worldwide reputation of the Zig Zag. The Museum's 'penny-farthing' bicycle, always a popular attraction, is now joined by an original 'boneshaker', the first type of true bicycle with pedals, which was called velocipede by its manufacturers. The exhibition features a wealth of information, photos and exhibits, including cycling medals and a banner from the Olympics.

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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

**Walking in Dorking:** Make the most of the (hopefully) better weather, enjoy one (or more) of our popular guided walks in the town centre and at Betchworth Castle and The Deepdene Trail.

- Hidden Dorking: Features of Dorking that you may have missed before: Saturday 9th May, 11am.



- Betchworth Castle with exclusive access to the Castle enclosure:

Sunday 10th May, 2pm.

- The Deepdene Trail with exclusive access to the Hope family mausoleum, Architecture on Dorking's main streets and Blue plaques and statues walk: all on Sunday 17th May, 2pm.

- Family walk with free kids' worksheet – Explore Building Materials in Dorking: Wed. 27th May, 2pm.

Please see [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/) for details and booking of 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. This month's open day is on Saturday 9th May, tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each lasting about 45 minutes and led by a trained guide. For details and monthly 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.

**Family Activities at Dorking Library:**

**Local Community History Month:** Can you put the objects from the museum in age order? Can you guess what the mystery items were used for? Sat 16th May 10am-noon.

**Dorking Vintage Day:** Family activity: One day, every home will have one of these! Retro technology in the home from slide rules and mechanical adding machines to wind-up gramophones and iPods. A chance to handle items from the Dorking Museum collection. At Dorking Museum, Saturday 9th May, 10.30am-3.30pm.

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



2nd at 12.00, organ recital at St Martin's church, free

16th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's church

23rd at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall, £16, 01372 275907

There are two orchestral concerts to enjoy in May. The Dorking Chamber Orchestra has a concert built around a pastoral theme. Under their conductor Marc Dooley they will play Beethoven's *Pastoral symphony* and Aaron Copland's *Down a Country Lane*, along with Charles Ives' third symphony. Their leader Guy Button will be the soloist in Beethoven's *Romance in F* for violin and orchestra.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashtead, has a concert beginning with Schubert's lively *Overture in D*, in the Italian style and closing with Mendelssohn's equally lively *Italian symphony*. Also on the programme are Glazunov's *concerto for saxophone* and Tartini's *concertino for clarinet*, with soloist Nicola Baigent.

This month's lunchtime concert at St Martin's will be an organ recital given by Andrew Harrap. As well as being busy as a church organist, Andrew is also the rehearsal pianist for Godalming Operatic Society. The concert is free with a retiring collection.

Ian Codd

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## Food for Thought



All life on our planet depends upon food for energy. Our lives are reliant upon the food we eat and the more healthily we can eat the better. Our immune systems, our hearts and indeed our whole physical and mental wellbeing is affected by the quality of the food that we eat. With the ease of shopping at supermarkets we have lost a lot of connection to the food we consume – where it comes from, who produces it and how – and to the land from which it grows. So how might we reforge those connections to give the best chance for everyone to have the ability to feed their families with healthy food at reasonable prices?

The key issue is that the industrialised agriculture system that we heavily rely upon to feed us is also causing many of the problems we face - climate disruption, biodiversity loss and water stress - undermining the foundations that we depend upon for reliable harvests. The UK has been described as 'woefully unprepared' to deal with shocks to the food system – which could come from restricted access to chemical fertilisers due to conflict (as seen in the blocking of the Strait of Hormuz), declining soil health or extreme weather driven by the increasingly chaotic climate.

Through lived experience – harvest failures, cost of food, health issues - people are recognising that we need to feed ourselves differently and are coming together, in diverse projects all over the country, with a growing interest in working out ways to support more sustainable ways of providing and producing food in their local areas. I recently listened to a podcast about Fordhall Organic Farm, an inspiring example of the power of ordinary people to secure a long-term sustainable thriving farm at the heart of the local community.

The Hollins family faced the threat of



eviction from the farm where they had been tenant

farmers for generations. Their landlord saw the potential monetary gain they could make from selling the farm to a commercial interested party. Desperate not to allow over 50 years of their late father's pioneering chemical-free farming to go to waste, nor be forced to leave their family home, the brother and sister, both in their early 20s, negotiated a deadline with the landlord and set about the monumental task of raising enough money to be able to buy the farm.



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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

They began by selling sausages to the public, then opened up the farm to the public and held a volunteer weekend to demonstrate what an asset the farm was to the local community. Through sharing their struggle and asking local people for help and suggestions, the idea of a community-owned farm was born. Against the odds, through collaboration, making connections (getting more people involved meant more people wanted them to succeed) and hard work the siblings managed, by selling shares to the local community, and far beyond, to raise the £800,000 needed to secure the farm. This year the 8,000 landlords and one tenant farmer are celebrating 20 years of shared ownership, and the family can continue to raise pasture-fed organic cattle and sheep, whilst the community enjoys free access to the farm for leisure, education and wellbeing.

This is just one example of people who've come together to build something that works well for the land, the farmer and the whole community. This local action in Shropshire is part of a bigger picture of people collaborating to find different ways to create healthier, more sustainable and equitable access to land and food from the ground up - from community fridges, Affordable Food Clubs, 'grow your own' projects, food stalls, farm shops and community gardens to Community Supported Agriculture and community-owned

farms. Want to join in? Below are some local projects and ideas from other areas that could be replicated or supported.



### **Here are some food-related projects happening locally:**

*Dorking Food Float* – Stall selling locally grown food in Dorking Fridays & Saturdays

*Westcott Community Garden* at St John's - all are welcome to share the work, then share the harvest. Volunteer sessions Saturday 11am-2pm

*Westcott Village Hub* – providing free kids breakfasts in term time & free kids meals in the holidays, as well as a community fridge to redistribute food that would otherwise go to waste. Plus fresh sourdough loaves, pastries, cakes & deli savouries.

*Patchworking Garden Project* – Dorking charity focussed on wellbeing, combining purposeful activity with benefits of friendship in a supportive environment. Get in touch to become a Support Volunteer.

### **And for inspiration:**

*Incredible Edible* – creating kind, confident & connected communities through the power of food <https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk/>

*Food for Life* - Plant & Share campaign

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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

to bring people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds together to learn about growing, food and connection.

<https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/>

Fordhall Farm – empowering community-owned farm models inspired by the Fordhall Community Land Initiative <https://www.fordhallfarm.com/>

**Event: The People’s Emergency Briefing – Dorking, Green Room Theatre, Friday, 15th May – doors open 6.45pm, film shows at 7.30pm**

An eye-opening film featuring nine leading UK scientists and experts updating us on the latest in the climate and nature crisis and its impacts on everyday national life, including

food security. Based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster,

as covered by ITV, C4 and The Times. Followed by a short open



discussion about what we can do and what it means locally. All welcome, age 16+. Free entry – please scan QR code to book as places are limited.

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

**Jakki Phillips**

*\*A fully referenced and linked version of this article is available at: <https://greenwestcott.org/>*



**Tuesday 12th May 2026**

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The lecture will be held at Denbies in the Denbies Suite. Refreshments will be available from the Conservatory Restaurant. For more information and details of the forthcoming programme, please visit [www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk)





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## International Dawn Chorus Day - 3rd May

Many forms of wildlife watching involve a degree of discomfort – Arctic cold, tropical humidity, windswept headlands or small boats in choppy seas. At this season, however, we can enjoy one of the world's best wildlife experiences while still in bed, without even the effort of opening our eyelids.



Even in cities, but certainly in our area rich in mature gardens with shrubs and trees, the dawn chorus reaches its peak in May. Open a window, lie back and enjoy the outpouring of music from many different species as the curtains slowly brighten with the increasing light. As the breeding season heats up, male birdsong reaches its peak because the territory for food-gathering must be protected. For many species, strong musical performance also offers the opportunity for liaisons with willing females.

Almost all birds sing as the day gets light. This proclaims "I've survived the night and this is still my patch." It also makes good use of the time between waking and having enough light and warmth for insects to take wing and the serious business of food gathering for a hungry brood to start. It really is worth getting up in the dark (around 4 am) at least once in May to enjoy the full benefit of the experience outdoors. Wear a fleece, take a plastic bag and a cushion to sit on, settle quietly and wait.

**RSPB Dorking and District are holding a Dawn Chorus Walk on Sunday 3rd May at Bookham Commons.** Meet at 5:00am at Bookham Commons Tunnel Car Park, Commonside, Great Bookham KT23 3ES what3words:///barn.lift.buddy  
Leader: Glenn Tel: 07483 848837 Car Park run by NT, walk is free to RSPB members or £5 to non members, no toilets. For more information:

Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

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

Instagram: @rspb\_dorking

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

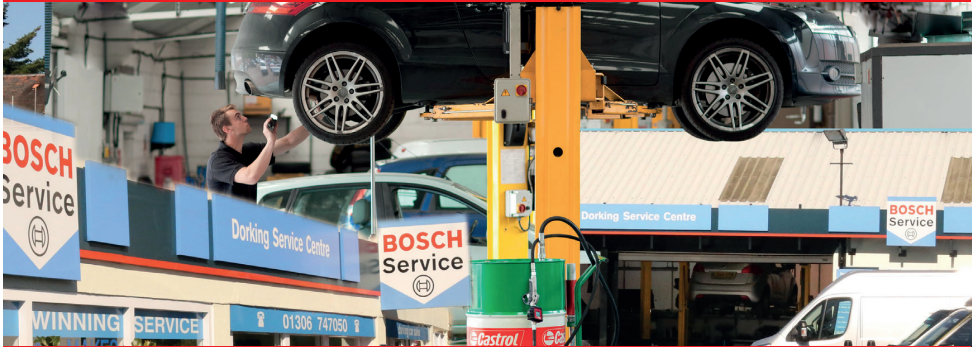
The emergency out of hours mobile number is **07501 655200**

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