

Westcott Village

Magazine

June 2026



**10 varied village gardens. Open 11-4
Tea, cake & BBQ food & stalls
at Westcott Village Hall.
Entry £7 (Children free)**

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Westcott has a population of over 2,000 and this is the only magazine written specifically for the Westcott area by the people of Westcott. It is hand delivered, free of charge, to every household and further copies are available at the church, local shops, pub and doctor's surgery.



If you have any articles, photos, letters, etc that you think we may like to feature in the next issue, please email the Editor on:

editor@westcottmag.com

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

Copy deadline for
July issue:

8th June 2026

This magazine, published by the Church in Westcott, is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited paper from a sustainable source. The views expressed are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Church, Editor or Westcott residents.

FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to the summer. (Hopefully! So far this year April was lovely and May has been much more like April should have been.)

Firstly, an apology, the history group article last month stated that Joyce Kingsley-Jones has recently celebrated her 103rd birthday, but it should have read 102nd. Also following that article Edward Bennett sent in his portrait of Dr Tom Guilder from just before his retirement.



front this month, with Brockham Choral's *Songs of Love* concert on 6th (p21), Ladybirds' *Choir Musical Journeys* on 13th (p32), Rock Choir at Holy Trinity on 19th (p39) and the Whyte Effect's *Summer Choral Concert* at St John's, Wotton on 20th June (p23).

The village coffee morning is on 3rd June, and Milton Way House is open for the NGS Open Gardens scheme on 7th (see p19). Abinger Fair is being held on 13th and the Westcott Open Gardens is on 28th June (p41). Whatever you do this month, I hope you enjoy it.

There is a lot of choice on the music

Cath
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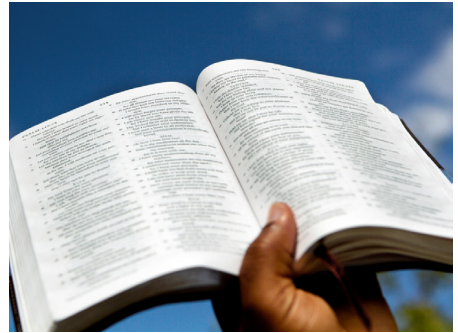
...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



THE STORIES WE TELL

One of the favourite things that I get to do is to be part of a team of volunteers who have the privilege of going into our amazing village school to act out stories from the Bible. These drama-based assemblies are called Open the Book, and each week children from the older classes put on costumes and help the team to act out such familiar tales as Daniel in the lions' den and Jesus walking on water. It is a lot of fun – but it also has a real value. Whether you are Christian, atheist, agnostic, or are part of another faith tradition these stories from the Bible form a part of how we, and countless numbers who have gone before us, see the world. Many of our idioms, phrases and cultural reference points comes from this strange, ancient, complicated and (to me at least) beautiful book. I think familiarity with these stories is an important part of our formation – whatever age you are.

“THE STORIES WE TELL
COME TO SHAPE WHAT
WE BELIEVE AND HOW
WE RELATE TO THOSE WE
ENCOUNTER.”



It seems I am not alone in thinking this old book is worth engaging with. Sales of Bibles increased 134% between 2019 and 2025, and I have had an amazing series of conversations with people who have opened the Scriptures for the first time (or the first time in a long time) and have found there something unexpected and powerful. Of course, more Bibles does not mean more Christians, but it does show that it is not just village vicars who think it might be worth engaging with the contents, claims and stories contained therein.

All human beings tell stories about who we are as we seek to make sense of the world around us in the light of our experience. Westcott as a community has numerous stories told by us, its residents.

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Stories based on the past, where we live in the village, what neighbours and organisations we have contact with, and whether we see it as a location to live or a community to be a part of. The stories we tell come to shape what we believe and how we relate to those we encounter. I think the question of how we are being shaped, or formed, as individuals and a community is important and worth reflection. What is forming you? What is shaping your view of the people you interact with? For me, an intentional choice to try to shape my life around the contents of the Bible has been the most challenging, radical and best decision I ever made.

The stories (and I use the word stories not in the sense of something untrue, but as a shorthand for narratives which describe what God is like and how has been present in history) contained therein, as I dwell on them day after day, have changed and formed and shaped me. Gosh do I have a long way to go – I am so far from being like Jesus – but I am different, better, more patient, less self-obsessed than I would have been without being shaped by its pages. Maybe you could open it up and give it a go. What's the worst that could happen? What is the best?

Every blessing,
Revd Tim



JUNE 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
7th June	Acts	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
14th June	Acts	Book of Common Prayer Communion	20-20-20 with Breakfast
21st June	Acts	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
28th June	Acts	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 for more information.

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's

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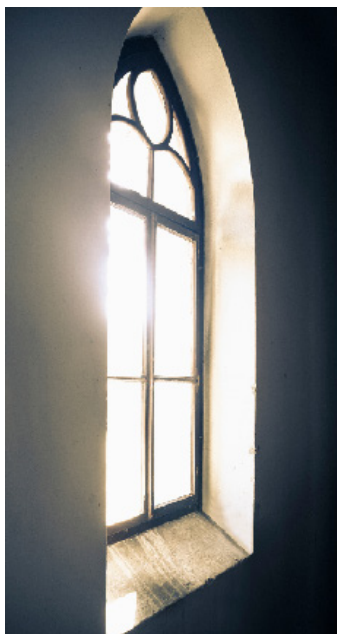
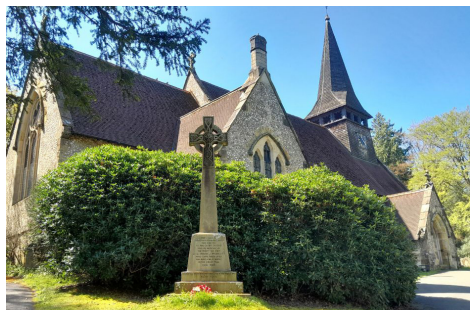
THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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

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

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistant: Mark Shakespeare (01306 888010)

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



Floodlighting

If you'd like to sponsor the church
floodlighting for June
or any other month,
please contact Sarah Massey at
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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am pleased to introduce myself as the recently appointed headteacher at Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School. I have worked in a range of primary church school settings over the last fifteen years and am thrilled to have joined this special community. Over the last few months, I have relished getting to know the children, staff and families to gain a thorough understanding of how best to serve the community. The highlight of my week is inviting a small group of children to have a



hot chocolate with me so I can get to know each individual further; they receive a handwritten, personalised invite capturing something positive I have noticed about each of them.

Here is a flavour of what has been happening in each class:

Bee class: Our Reception children have been learning about minibeasts and have been counting the legs of different creatures during their forest school sessions to consolidate their mathematical skills. They had a visit from the local youth officer within the police service to learn about how to keep safe. Our youngest learners have such a superb disposition to their learning and have settled in brilliantly to school life.



Butterfly class: Our Y1/2 children have been focusing on their handwriting this half-term and the results have been extraordinary! They also explored methods of adhesion to create their own puppets.

Hedgehog class: Our Y3 children have enjoyed golf coaching sessions thanks to Betchworth Park golf club and performed/recorded a poem using a green screen. Together with Otters, they enjoyed an action day on site with Kirsty (Surrey Wildlife Trust) to increase biodiversity at our school.

Offer class: Our Y4/5 children created a Tudor village as part of their learning in design & technology. They also wrote their own poems inspired by 'If' by Rudyard Kipling.



Owl class: Our Y6 children have been working so hard in preparation for their

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

upcoming SATs and we are so proud of how they have applied themselves. They have had bikeability sessions to prepare them to be safe cyclists ahead of their transition to secondary school and they took part in a junior citizenship event where they learnt about giving first aid.



In other news, our new basket swing was installed and the Friends of Surrey Hills kindly purchased playground equipment, a bubble machine

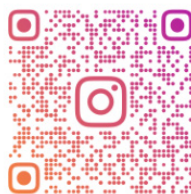
and Bluetooth speaker to enhance our unstructured times. We initiated a weekly running club before school which is attended by nearly half the children. Each individual earns certificates for the



cumulative virtual distance covered incorporating local landmarks. Twenty five children were trained as wellbeing ambassadors and they introduced calm boxes to each classroom.

During collective worship, we have been focusing on the life of Daniel and how parables have hidden meanings. We had an assembly hosted by the NSPCC to empower the children to know how to keep themselves safe.

Please do follow us on Facebook or on Instagram to learn more about all the exciting things happening at our school! I look forward to hopefully meeting you soon and I am so grateful



SURREYHILLSPRIMARY_SCHOOL

for your support of our school. It is such a privilege to join the team.

Kelly Frost
Headteacher

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Jigsaws and Books £1.00 each
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*The Strawberry Moon,
which is the name of
the full moon this month,
will rise on 30th June
this year*

ABINGER HAMMER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY 12 JULY 2026

Party by the Pond

To celebrate the 55th Anniversary of Kingfisher Farm Shop

FROM 12 NOON

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



The major event in the last month was the WVH annual Open Meeting and General Meeting, on 29th April, at which the attendees were invited to vote on their agreement or otherwise to the Trustee Resolution that the land at Furlong Road is no longer required for use as a Village Hall. The Trustees are pleased to share with those in the village who were not at the General Meeting, that the 218 eligible attendees voted on a show of hands and by an overwhelming majority to confirm this resolution.

We are now looking forward to working with the whole Village on the next exciting phase of this project. A number of immediate priorities include finalising the MVDC Planning approval legal documents, engaging a project manager to generate a detailed design - incorporating user requirements - of the proposed new Village Hall, marketing the Furlong Road site in line with the MVDC Planning approval and, importantly, raising the necessary funds to maintain the momentum of the project in the interim.

To this end we will be running several fundraising events in the next six months. The winning team of our annual Quiz night in May will be known by the time you are reading this, followed by Rock Choir (19th June), Open Gardens (28th June), and a 26.2 mile 'Six Mole Hills' sponsored walk (10th Oct). We are very grateful for the past and future support of the village and will also be making appeals for donations towards the development fund for those who feel able to do so.

The Trustees are delighted to be joined by two new trustees, Sheila Hedges & John Stubbing, and we very much look forward to working with them going forward.

The Westcott Village Hall Trustees.

National Garden Scheme Open Garden



The garden at Milton Way house in Westcott will be open for visitors on June 7th 11am-4:30pm. Walk-in's are welcome during this time as long as you don't require parking. For parking, tickets must be pre-booked on the NGS website. Tea and cake available. Tickets are £5.50 for adults, kids are free and friendly dogs are welcome. All proceeds go to NGS charities. For further details (including location) please go to the NGS website.



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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:

- **Chilworth's Mills:** Live talk by Colin Rumary about the Gunpowder Mills in Chilworth that were operational from the 1620s until 1920, being most extensive and productive in the 17th century and from the 1880s to the end of World War I. Monday 1st June at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **Brookwood Cemetery and The London Necropolis Railway:** Zoom talk by Nick Richmond about the largest cemetery in the UK, built at the height of Victorian cemetery design in 1854, but including tombs dating back to the 11th century. It was so large that it had its own railway line and station, "The London Necropolis Line", to carry thousands of coffins. Monday 15th June 7.30pm, <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.

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

Brockham Choral Society



Brockham Choral's Summer Concert *Songs of Love* is on 6th June at 7.30 in the United Reformed Church Hall, West St, Dorking, RH4 1BS. An evening of joyful music in a relaxed picnic environment. Doors open at 6.30pm. Bring your own food, drinks and friends. Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, Rutter *Sprig of Thyme* and classic popular songs will get you *In the Mood*.

David Swinson and Marion Lea will ensure a good time is had by all. Tickets : £16.00 no concessions <https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral>
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SUMMER SHOW

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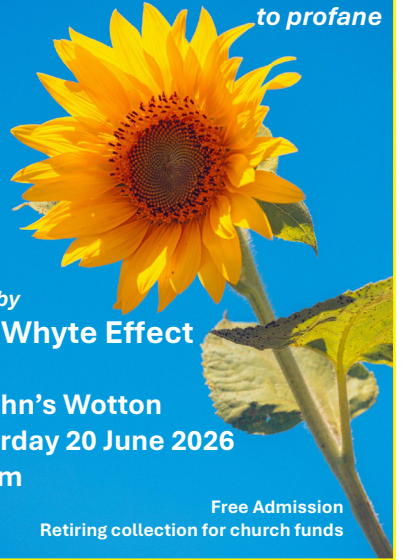
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SUMMER CHORAL CONCERT

*from sacred
to profane*



sung by
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St John's Wotton
Saturday 20 June 2026
6-7pm

Free Admission
Retiring collection for church funds

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

June Update



WESTCOTT BABY MEALS

Westcott "Baby Meals" is a highly valued community initiative; our fabulous volunteer cooks buy, cook and deliver a (free!) hot meal for families living in the village with a new baby, usually for 2 weeks. At a time of chaos as the family adjusts to baby, dinner is one less thing to think about!

We can also help Westcott residents with meals in other times of difficulty - in April we delivered to two residents after hospital stays.

Please get in touch if you're expecting a baby, or if we can help during a challenging time. We're always happy to help!

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Listed Buildings in Westcott

Many Westcott residents live in a 'Listed Building' and most of them will be very happy to do so. A few may well be wishing they lived in something a bit less old and prestigious because there are restrictions to what you can and cannot do to the building you own. So what exactly is a Listed Building in the UK? It is defined as a structure of particular architectural or historical interest deserving of special protection and such buildings are placed on one of the four statutory lists maintained by Historic England in England, Historic Environment Scotland in Scotland, Cadw in Wales, and the Historic Environment Division in Northern Ireland.

A listed building may not be demolished, extended, or altered without permission from the local planning authority, which typically consults the relevant central government agency. In England and Wales, a national amenity society must be notified of any work to be done on a listed building which involves any element of demolition. Exemption is provided for some buildings in current use for worship, but only in cases where the relevant religious organisation operates its own equivalent permissions procedure. Owners of listed buildings are, in some circumstances, compelled to repair and maintain them and can face criminal prosecution if they fail to do so or if they perform unauthorised alterations. When alterations are permitted, or when listed buildings are

repaired or maintained, the owners are often required to use specific materials or techniques.

Although most sites appearing on the lists are buildings, they include other structures such as bridges, monuments, sculptures, war memorials, milestones and mileposts. The Abbey Road zebra crossing made famous by the Beatles is listed. Ancient, military, and uninhabited structures, such as Stonehenge, are sometimes instead classified as *Scheduled Monuments* and are protected by separate legislation. Cultural landscapes such as parks and gardens are currently listed on a non-statutory basis. Not all such buildings or structures are of equal importance and in England they are categorized into Grades 1, 2*, and 2.

Listed Building Grades (England & Wales)

Grade 1 (top 2.5%): Buildings of exceptional interest, often considered among the finest in the country.

Grade 2:* Particularly important buildings of more than special interest.

Grade 2: Buildings of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them and accounts for over 90% of listed properties.

Key Implications for Owners

Consent Needed: Listed building consent is required for most demolition, extension, or alteration work that impacts its character.

Scope: Listing covers both the exterior



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and interior, as well as any object or structure fixed to the building.

Responsibility: Owners are responsible for maintaining the property's character.

So what do we have in Westcott? For a small village I think the answer is surprisingly large, 44 buildings or structures and I'll bet you will be surprised at some of them. They are all classified as Grade 2. Here is the list in location order.

Balchins Lane: Rookery Farmhouse, Stockmans Farmhouse, Stowe Maries, Taw Cottage & Tawside Cottage, The Old Mill House

Bury Hill: Bury Hill Gardens, Garden Wall of Old Bury Hill Gardens, Old Bury Hill House

Coast Hill Lane: Churtgate House

Guildford Road: Balchin's Stores, Bay Tree Cottage, Heathcote/Skeynes House, Ivy Cottage, No.s 2-6, Sandrock Cottage, The White House, Wallflower Cottage

Logmore Lane: Brook Farm, Brook Farm Barn, Danehurst, Florents Farm, Logmore Farm, Old Cottage

Milton Street: Crooked Acre, Little Waters, Milton Brook Cottage, No.s 3,4, 5, No. 8A, No.s 13 & 14, The Malthouse, Wyvern Cottage, Milton Farmhouse

Parsonage Lane: Holly Cottage

Rookery Drive: Rookery Lodge, Springs

Stones Lane: Robin Cottage

Westcott Heath: Holy Trinity Church, Hill Farm House

Westcott Street: Kingscote, Lower Springfield Farmhouse, The Old Barracks, The Pound, Wintershaw

The Pound in Westcott Street is on the list and it is worth remembering the efforts your History Group put into keeping it in good shape.

The Pound over the years had fallen into some disrepair and was a useful area for some locals to chuck rubbish into. Fortunately, Jeff Davies and Chris Dale, WLHG Committee members, decided to do something about it and after a lot of badgering & negotiation, Wotton Estate agreed to fund its restoration. The repair required the use of lime mortar and work had to be continually postponed until such time as the weather was conducive. The first stage comprised the careful removal of the leaning wall and the stones (local sandstone) were tagged and boxed, and for security reasons, removed from the site for a period of time. Rebuilding then progressed with very little new stone required and the job was completed in 2019. Such an excellent example of careful restoration we felt merited the erection of a plaque which the History Group suitably mounted. Next time you pass have a look.

Westcott Local History Group has a huge resource of information in its archives, take a look at the website on 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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WHAT IS THE WESTCOTT VILLAGE HUB?



If you've walked past the old St. John's Chapel, you've likely seen the buzz of activity. Whether it's

the smell of fresh coffee, the sight of neighbours chatting in the garden, or the quiet activity of the Community Fridge, the Westcott Village Hub has become a fixture of our village. However, we are often asked: "What exactly do you do?" and "How are you different from a regular café?". So here are all the background details. "When I think about the Village Hub, it feels like the Village Hug. Whether I'm meeting friends, popping in for coffee and cake, or a tasty lunch, there's always a warm welcoming hello and friendly smile." Ruth

Our Mission: More Than Just a Café

At its heart, the Hub is a Community Anchor. While we serve locally roasted coffee, the café is the engine that powers our social ambitions. Our objectives are clear:

- **Alleviating Hardship:** Through our Community Fridge and initiatives like the *Wide Awake Club* (our Breakfast & Support Club), we ensure no Westcott resident goes hungry. (Note: The Community Fridge is for everyone to use to help reduce food waste; it is not a food bank.)
- **Fostering Inclusion:** We provide a *Warm Welcome* space to combat rural isolation and loneliness.

- **Environmental Stewardship:** Our refill station and food-waste programs save 200-300 kilos of food from landfill every week, helping Westcott tread more lightly on the planet.
- **Mental Wellbeing:** Our Community Peace Garden offers therapeutic space for those facing anxiety or social isolation. Looking ahead, our future plans include launching a cookery school, a youth club, and a drop-in clothes repair group. "The Westcott Hub is one of the most special places I know. A safe space always filled with every generation - from toddlers to teens to the elders - all mixing and sharing the space together." Serina

The Business of Community: How We Are Funded

It is a common misconception that the Hub is fully funded by coffee sales or, conversely, that it is entirely grant-aided. The reality is a delicate balancing act. Like any local business, we face significant monthly overheads, including:

- **Core Operational Costs:** Salaries for our small professional team, rent, insurance, and ever-rising utility bills.
- **Facilities Management:** Cleaning, essential maintenance of our historic building, and specialised training for staff and volunteers.
- **Professional Services:** Accounting, marketing to ensure residents know what's available, and the complex project management required to run our community initiatives.
- **Direct Costs:** The cost of food for our programs and supplies for our refill shop.

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WHAT IS THE WESTCOTT VILLAGE HUB (cont.)?

The Financial Shortfall

Running the Café and Shop covers a portion of these costs, but it cannot cover them all. We are committed to keeping our services accessible and low-cost for everyone in the village, which means we cannot simply “raise prices” to meet rising inflation. To bridge this gap, we rely on a mixed-income model:

1. Trading Income: Every coffee you buy directly supports the Hub.
2. Grant Funding: We work tirelessly to secure grants from organisations like Surrey County Council and the Community Foundation for Surrey to cover specific projects and core staff.
3. Local Support & Events: Our Westcott 100 Club, local donations, and community events provide the vital emergency fund that keeps the lights on.

Powered by People

While we have a small team of paid staff who act as the Hub’s backbone, the soul of the Hub is its volunteers. We are incredibly lucky to have a dedicated team of residents who give their time freely.

“I very much enjoy my time spent at the Hub. I learn many things, and it also helps me to cope with my anxiety. It gives me a purpose and feels very positive for me.” Angel, Volunteer Furthermore, the Hub is led by a Board of Directors who are all volunteers. They contribute hundreds of hours of professional expertise for no financial gain, driven purely by the desire to see Westcott thrive. Our current board includes: Jon Mears (Operations Director), Chris Dale,

Rob Rooke, Rochelle Ferguson, and Margaret Law.

What is a “Not-for-Profit” and Why a CIC?

The Hub is a Not-for-Profit Community Interest Company (CIC). In simple terms, every penny made is reinvested into its social goals rather than being paid out to owners or shareholders. We specifically chose the CIC model for two main reasons:

- The CIC Asset Lock: This legal promise ensures that all the Hub’s assets can only be used for the benefit of Westcott.
- Transparency: We are required by law to file an annual report detailing how we have benefited the village. Our accounts and all documentation are also available publicly on Companies House.

How You Can Help

The Hub belongs to you. There are many ways to get involved: make a donation, shop at the Hub, join a fundraising event, or volunteer an hour of your time. For more details on our opening hours, future plans, or to make a donation, please visit westcottvillagehub.co.uk. Next time you pass by, please pop in. Whether you need help or just want to see what your community is building, our doors are open.

The Westcott Village Hub is a Community Interest Company (No. 14782517) located at St. John’s Chapel, Furlong Road.

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Circular Dorking is planning another Great Big Green Week of celebrations and family-friendly fun. Many exciting events will take place 6th - 14th June, plus ways to celebrate our fantastic community, climate and nature in the lead up too. There is a Picnics and Poems event at the Friends Meeting House and Garden, in Butter Hill, Dorking, on Sunday 31st May. Hello Dorking is organising an event launching its new Dorking Art Trail on Friday 5th June, followed by the flagship "Big Swap, Switch, Share" celebration bringing the whole community together in St Martin's Walk, Dorking on Saturday 6 June, which coincides with the Dorking Day of Dance.

You can find details of all these events and more at www.circulardorking.org.uk, or scan the QR code. Visitors to the Circular Dorking stall in St Martin's Walk on 6th June will learn about plans to create a Wildlife Corridor across Dorking. This project highlights where people are giving space for nature in gardens, schools, balconies or even a planter. Find out more about Great Big Green Week, the Dorking Wildlife Corridor and how you can get involved at hello@circulardorking.org.uk.

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Five...Four...Three...Two...One...BLAST OFF! We have just returned from an amazing mission to find out all about space! Launched from the Evelyn Hall and orbiting Abinger we hurtled through the atmosphere at world (or other worlds!) record speed. Each with our very own space suit and inspired by Artemis we all imagined what life would be like on a real space rocket. We may have even spotted an alien or two!



With the planets whizzing by we decided we wanted to capture the moment so decided to create a gigantic glittery galaxy. Each astronaut worked tirelessly painting a huge piece of cardboard with the deepest of black holed paint, followed by a healthy splash of neon paint and topped off with everything and anything sparkly. Finally we carefully placed our paper plate planets on top and voila – one super swirling galaxy in pride of place for us to keep.

The following week we thought our galaxy was missing something or someone – that's right you guessed it! We were very much in need of some mythical creatures. Who doesn't love a mermaid, dragon or a unicorn? We carefully crafted once more and our artwork was finally complete. (For now anyway!). Heading outside we were treated to a walk across the fields to



the Big woods where we anchored our pirate ship amongst the sea of beautiful bluebells. What a super sight to have just on our doorstep.

Polling day gave us the wonderful opportunity to stay outside for a whole entire day! The Veggie Patch became our home and we were able to do some much needed weeding – almost digging through to Australia! We have already planted strawberries, beans and peas and potatoes in pots and look forward to watching them grow.

If you are going to head to the Abinger Fair do come and see us at the Children's corner where we will be making crowns, decorating biscuits and selling second hand toys. If you have any nearly new toys that you'd like to donate for us to sell please do drop them off at the nursery .

If you would like to join our nursery family please don't hesitate to get in touch. – we still have spaces for September. For more information or to book a show around call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to meet you!

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70th ABINGER MEDIEVAL FAIR



Saturday 13th June will be here before you know it! We would love it if you could join us this year to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the revival of The Abinger Medieval Fair. There will be all the usual stalls, giving you the opportunity to sip a drink, purchase some jewellery, eat a delicious cake, stock up on jams or buy a plant for your garden. Then there are all the stalls offering you the chance to show off your prowess by splatting a rat, enduring the stocks and tossing the sheaf! There is always lots to do for the children as well including Punch and Judy shows and children's races. The raffle is always a big attraction, offering some amazing prizes. This year we have a £300 voucher to be spent at The Abinger Hatch, a Land Rover driving experience, bed and breakfast at Wotton House, £260 for a full service at Meadvale Garage, a year's family membership for one of our great local amenities, Abinger Tennis Club, and much, much more. We haven't even mentioned the entertainment in the main arena yet, which this year will feature Invicta Medieval Combat, one of the UK's leading medieval armoured combat teams. We are delighted that they are taking time out from their busy schedule to take part in this year's 70th Abinger Medieval Fair.

On top of all this, there is the opportunity to buy your very own Abinger Fair polo shirt, which can be ordered at <https://forms.gle/ip282q9U1t921A5RR9>. The embroidered polo shirts are £15 each and all profits will go to the fair. You can pay by card, bank transfer or pay cash on collection, all details on the form.





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“ Hayley and her team are truly amazing and create a warm nurturing environment where every child feels supported and valued. The children spend so much time exploring nature building confidence and learning in a hands on and engaging way. There is also a real sense of community. ”



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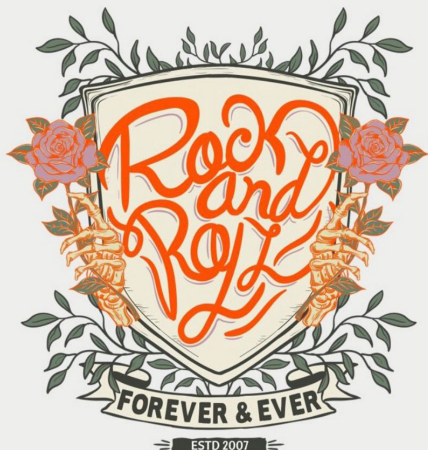


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ALBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL SAVE THE DATE 19TH JULY 2026



New start time for the Festival this year - 1pm

The Albury Music Festival committee have decided to bring forward the start time for the Festival to 1pm this year, which takes place on Sunday 19th July, meaning that it will finish around 7pm, an hour earlier.

The main reason for this is that we want to make sure that our audience could stay until the very end for our last band and still get home in time for the World Cup Final at 8pm!

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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.

Mobile: 07967 286636 Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com

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Open Gardens

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Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP)

Back in February the updated WNDP was formally submitted by Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) for Independent Examination. The purpose of the examination was to determine whether the neighbourhood plan had been properly prepared, met all legal and planning requirements or needed any modifications before proceeding to a referendum. Since then, the examiner has visited the area, reviewed all the documentation, asked questions and received answers from both the Westcott Village Forum and MVDC. Copies of all the documentation and correspondence can be viewed on the WNDP pages of the Westcott Village website <https://westcottvillage.com/westcott-neighbourhood-development-plan/> or the MVDC website <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/planning-building/neighbourhood-planning/westcott-neighbourhood-plan-examination/>

At the time of writing, the Examiner's final report is expected to be issued during May. MVDC will then publish its formal Decision Statement, which is expected to accept the Examiner's recommendations. Both the Examiner's Report and the MVDC Decision Statement will be available online through the MVDC and Westcott Village websites. Paper copies will also be available at Dorking Library, Pippbrook

Offices reception and various locations around the village, as before. The next important stage will be a village-wide referendum, which is currently expected to take place in July 2026 in the village. The exact date will be confirmed and publicised nearer the time.

All registered electors within the Neighbourhood Area will receive voting information from MVDC and will be invited to vote on whether the Council should use the WNDP to help it decide planning applications in the area. It is important that all registered electors take the opportunity to vote. A successful referendum, voting yes, means that the policies and priorities set out in the Neighbourhood Plan will become part of the statutory planning framework used by the Council when considering future planning applications in Westcott.

Voting no will mean the updated WNDP is not adopted, the current one will lapse and future planning decisions in the village will rely solely on policies in the wider Mole Valley Local Plan, which do not reflect Westcott's specific community priorities. Reaching this stage with the Neighbourhood Plan is the culmination of many months of work by volunteers from across the village, and we now encourage everyone to take the final step in the process by voting in the referendum.

Westcott Village Forum
forum@westcottvillage.com

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Everyone
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planning applications in the area?**

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Westcott community are used by the Council.**

**If you vote No the current Neighbourhood Plan will lapse and future
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wider Mole Valley Local Plan, which do not reflect Westcott's specific
community priorities and village-focused concerns.**



***date for the referendum will be confirmed by MVDC**

For further information scan the QR code or type
<https://westcottvillage.com/westcott-neighbourhood-development-plan/>
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MVDC will be sending all registered electors voting information

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DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking: Cycling capital of England:



Dorking Museum's summer 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. 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. Cycling also gave women independence – one campaigner described it as *'nothing short of a social revolution'*. It also had a long-term influence on their dress – although in 1898 a Dorking landlord made the national papers by refusing to admit a female cyclist in 'bloomers'.

How different that all was to the cycling events that now seem a regular part of Dorking life. The 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.



Walking in Dorking: Enjoy one (or more) of our popular guided walks this month featuring:

- Dorking's Historic Pubs: In the 18th century there were 46 licensed premises in the town. The walk includes former and current pub sites, with tales of their services, owners and customers. Saturday 6th June, 6pm.
- Hidden Dorking: Features of Dorking that you may have missed before: Sunday 14th June, 2pm.
- Betchworth Castle with exclusive access to the Castle enclosure: Sunday 14th June, 2pm.
- Blue plaques and statues walk featuring many



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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

of the famous people living in or associated with the town: Sunday 14th June, 2pm.

- The Deepdene Trail with exclusive access to the Hope family mausoleum Sunday 21st June, 2pm.

Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for details and booking of scheduled walks (please book in advance). Private group bookings are also available.

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 6th June, 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/. Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk

to 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? Saturday 13th June, 10am-noon.

The World Cup is here! The Library has invited a football author to give a talk to families at 1030 on Saturday 20th June, followed by the Museum's family activity with a 'blow football' game and display about the historic Shrove Tuesday football games that took place in Dorking High Street at 1130am-2pm. At Dorking Library, St. Martin's Walk. 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 for further details.

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



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MUSIC IN DORKING



- 6th 12.00, lunchtime concert at St Martin's church, free
13th 4.00pm, Ladybirds choir at United Reformed Church Hall, £8, 01372 878321
20th 10am-4pm, Capel Choral Soc workshop at Capel Memorial Hall, £25, 07866 399231
27th 7.30pm, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church
27th 7.30pm, VW Singers at Pippbrook House, £20, 01306 881717
28th 3.00pm, Beare Green & Newdigate Choral Society at Beare Green village hall, £10

This month the emphasis is on choirs and vocal music. The Ladybirds choir, directed by Helena Twentyman, has its summer concert with a theme this year of 'Transport'. Among the many appropriate songs included in the programme, you can hear the *Chattanooga choo choo*, *Fly me to the moon*, *Take me home country road*, and *A bicycle made for two*. With Helena leading the way, you will hopefully be transported by the beautiful singing! The concert will be raising funds for SERV, a charity which supports the NHS by transporting blood, samples and medical supplies.

Capel choral society has a full-day singing workshop led by Amy Bebbington. An inspiring and uplifting day will include music by Britten, Finzi and others. Tea and coffee will be provided, but bring your own lunch! Also, Beare Green & Newdigate choral society is holding its summer concert. A ticket includes tea and cake.

While the Dorking Halls is closed for essential refurbishment and upgrades, there is a great programme of events taking place at the lovely (and newly restored) Pippbrook House, just across the road. The Vaughan Williams Singers, an excellent small local choir directed by Ian Assersohn, will be performing a concert of British choral gems. Alongside music by Hubert Parry, Charles Stanford, John Ireland and others, you will also be able to hear Ralph Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending* in a choral arrangement, with violinist Emma Purslow.

The Dorking Philharmonia's concert will include Max Bruch's lovely *violin concerto no. 1*, played by soloist Joshua Hugo von Bohlen. The programme also includes Beethoven's first Leonore overture and music by Dvorak. And finally, the lunchtime concert at St Martin's church will be a programme of music given by Elizabeth Dobson and Friends.

Ian Codd

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GREEN WESTCOTT

'Over-Screened and Under-Greened'



The title of this article came from the foreword to the National Garden Scheme's 2026 Little Yellow Book of Gardens and Health, which explores the ways in which a 'side-effect free' proscription of gardening is beneficial to our health. As well as being good for our physical health, there are many reasons that spending time in gardens can lift our mood – the light, the colours, observing the intricate details of a plant, the sound of the breeze gently rustling leaves and grasses, the scent from a myriad of blossom and flowers. All are a feast for the senses and can help ground us and bring us into appreciation of the present moment.

To spend time in a garden is a means of escape from the constant call for our attention from screened devices. As well as helping to reduce anxiety and depression, being surrounded by living plants, trees, birds and insects and gardening alongside others fosters a greater sense of connection and belonging.



In an artificially sanitised world getting your hands dirty in the soil can boost your gut health

and immune response. In a culture of 24-hour entertainment and year-round supply of soft fruits from the supermarket, gardens connect us to the seasons and natural rhythms of life – time to sow seed, time to nurture, time to harvest and time to rest.

For we are part of the natural world. Could mainstream culture and narratives, based on a worldview of human supremacy, which allows the destruction of the natural world for profit and which pushes the illusion of separation, be as harmful for us as they are to the health of our living planet? Maybe spending time simply being in a garden, paying attention to what we find there, can be considered a radical act and can help us to remember the awe and wonder we felt as a child.

'What we too often forget is that children are not born estranged from the green world – they are born into it, sensuous and curious. Our



task is not to teach them nature, but to keep them from unlearning it.' Andrew Jackson (New Build Manifesto) Gardening can be an active act of hope, fostering a culture of nurture and care: looking after the soil by disturbing it as little as possible and adding compost or a mulch; growing your own food without the use of pesticides;



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



planting trees, shrubs and flowers to feed birds and pollinator.

These all help to build resilience and help life thrive. There are estimated to be 2.5million acres of gardens across Britain – a significant area for biodiversity to flourish if we all play our part.

Westcott Community Garden

Westcott community garden is now well established, and into our fourth growing season. The rhubarb beds have produced a good harvest and the broad beans that were sown in the autumn are beginning to set pods. Pinching out the tops of broad beans once the first pods are set, helps to deter black bean aphids that are attracted to that soft fleshy part of the plant. In June we will continue sowing and planting up our summer crops and flowers and are looking forward to harvesting the first early potatoes. The wild harvest hedge is continuing to grow well and volunteers have been busy planting out wildflower plugs, nurtured and grown at home, in the meadow area. We are hoping that the yellow rattle seed, carefully sown in this area in the winter, will emerge to help weaken the grass to give these wildflowers the chance to thrive.

faces to share the work in the garden, the harvests and the joy of growing and learning together. It was lovely to have the buzz of the Westcott Gardeners' Club plant sale in the garden last month and we are looking forward to being on the trail for the Westcott Open Gardens event on 28th June – do come along and say hello!

Reveal the hidden wildlife in your garden in the Big British Garden Survey This collaboration between National Garden Scheme and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology *'brings together information about gardens*



with wildlife observations to celebrate and better understand the role that gardens play in providing space and resources for wildlife'. Anyone can register to take part in the survey, which runs from April to September. Firstly you'll need to complete a short survey on your garden – outlining the boundaries on a map and answering a few questions about wildlife-friendly features in your garden. Then send in a record of butterflies and other insects that you see in your garden, via an app on your phone.

<https://ngs.org.uk/the-big-british-garden-survey/>

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





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Rare Swallowtails and other summer butterflies

If you visit East Anglia in early June, you might be treated to a rare sighting of the UK's largest butterfly. Swallowtails in the UK are restricted to the Norfolk Broads (with occasional migrants sometimes turning up further south) where these wet fenlands specialists lay their eggs on Milk Parsley.

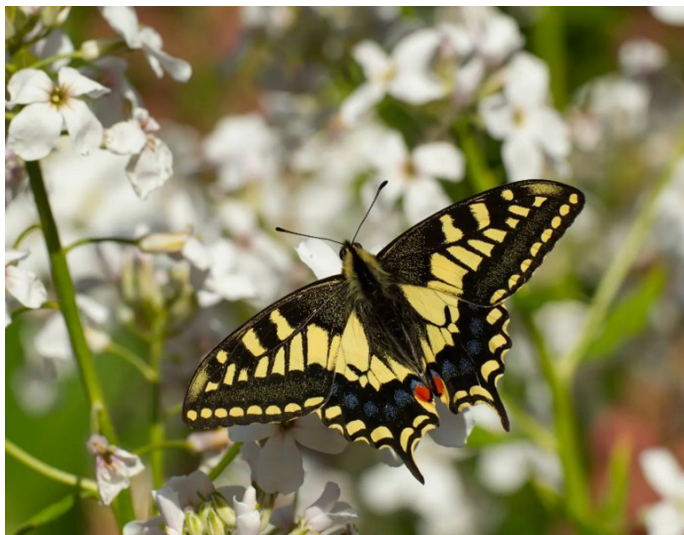


Image courtesy RSPB images

They overwinter in a chrysalis which can withstand the low temperatures. However, these chrysalises cannot survive prolonged periods of flooding throughout winter, and so populations may be impacted as the climate changes and extreme weather events increase. The butterflies take flight for only a fleeting time, generally three to four weeks, with peak sightings occurring in late May through to June. If you'd like a chance to see one of the UK's rarest butterflies, then RSPB Strumpshaw Fen, one of the few remaining breeding sites, is open for visitors.

If you can't make it to Norfolk, then fear not! Keep your eyes out in your garden or local green space for some summer specialities like Painted Lady, Holly Blue, Small Copper and Marbled White.

See more on our activities and photos or if you're interested in joining on Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

Instagram: @rspb_dorking

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

Jonathan Groves

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