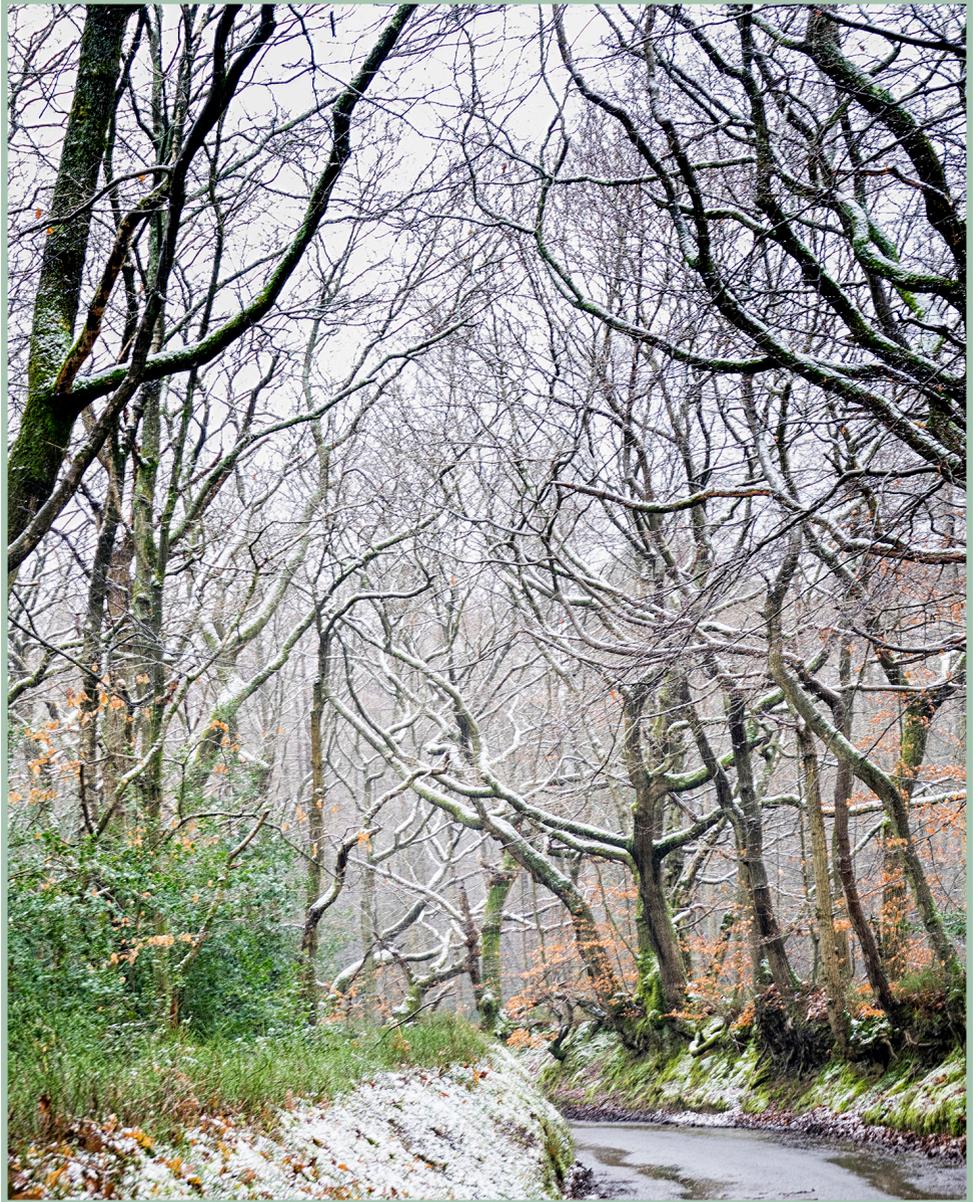


Westcott Village Magazine

January 2019



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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
February 2019 issue:
8th January 2019

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



Well, Happy New Year to all of you out there in Westcott, and I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and that 2019 treats you well, and brings you much happiness.

Now the (slight) madness that is the Christmas season is over, with the decorations packed away for another year (or about to be, depending on how organised you are!) thoughts often turn to new beginnings - new year, new resolutions: to be a better person, to be a fitter person, to be a more organised person, to be a more thoughtful, helpful person etc, and there are lots of items in the magazine that can help you.

There are several groups in need of help, whether as a committee member for the History Group, a trustee for The Brigitte trust, or as a driver for the village car service. There are also lots of things you can do to get you out and about in the village in January if you're bored now you don't have a car full of presents and cards to deliver, and relatives to entertain.

We have several musical choices, and a History Group talk about the Royal Observatory at

Abinger on 8th. There is also a long list of walks on p71, if getting fit or just enjoying the great outdoors is your ambition for the year.

This month we have an excellent short story on page 63. If anyone else has one they have written, please do send it in, and I'm still waiting for all you puzzle lovers to send me in any more puzzles following on from the brilliant wordsearch we had a couple of months ago. This could help you be more creative for the new year, if that's your aim.

The Mole Valley Youth Awards, run by the Youth Voice Councillors, is accepting nominations for young people who have been amazing over the last year in all sorts of ways, details on p61, so get your thinking caps on.

Keep warm and look after yourself,

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com



...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



REASONS TO BE JOYFUL

Perhaps I am getting too old, but has there been an approaching year in the last 60 years filled with such gloom and uncertainty?

I am writing several weeks before the start of the year but it is impossible to see how we will go into 2019

with anything but "Brexit" chaos. This will compound the growing issues of poverty and inequality in this country. In November, Philip Alston, the United Nations' special

rappporteur on extreme poverty and human rights conducted a study of Britain. He found that poverty afflicts a fifth of the population, and one of his "most shocking" discoveries was of "people who live in complete isolation and who are struggling to work out where their next day's bread is going to come from – and I mean bread." Philip Alston concluded that the UK is "heading towards an alienated society, and one which won't look like what Britain thinks it wants to look like."

As if our own home issues are not enough to darken our setting out into

the new year, we have the warnings that we have just two years to tackle climate change, to attempt to curb the temperature rises that threaten to tip our world into chaos. David Attenborough told the December UN Climate Change Summit, "Right now we are facing a manmade disaster of global scale, our greatest threat in thousands of years: climate change. If we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon."

MAY WE GO INTO
THE COMING YEAR
STRENGTHENED BY JOY
FORMED IN FAITH TO
ENGAGE WITH ALL THE
ISSUES THAT FACE US.

Gloom and huge uncertainty indeed. It is incumbent on all of us, to take note, not look away, do what we can to bring change; poor governance, crippling poverty, reckless, suicidal

abuse of the environment are all an affront to God and mankind.

However, I refuse to despair; there are always reasons for the Christian to be joyful:-

- We believe in God

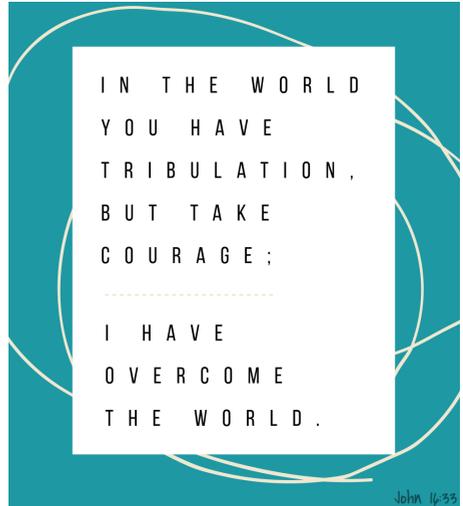


...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

- We believe that He loves us and that in love He gave us His Son to die for us.
- We believe that He has made us His children and looks after us and that He's there for us so that no-one can stand against us.
- He lives in us, banishing loneliness
- He turns the bad things that happen to us into good things.
- His love is greater than the unkindness that we experience in life and He is able to comfort us and to heal us when we are wounded.
- He has prepared an inheritance that we will receive after this life that is more wonderful than anything we could ever imagine.

- From "The Call to Joy & Pain" by Ajith Fernando

May we go into the coming year strengthened by joy formed in faith to engage with all the issues that face us.



The United Nations warned in September that we have just two years to take radical action to tackle climate change, to attempt to curb the temperature rises that threaten to tip our world into chaos. The way we live has a direct impact on the health of the planet. All of us need to play our part. But how? Join us for:-

Lifestyle choices for a sustainable world
Ben Niblett, Tear Fund
Sunday 20th January 8.30 and 10.15 am
Holy Trinity Church, Westcott



tearfund

SERVICES AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



We run a regular programme of worship services and other activities for young and old.

Everyone is welcome as we build friendships and share life together!

8.30 am: A traditional Communion service with hymns and organ, unless stated.

10.15 am: A 'parish' service, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with organ and music group. Regular creche and children's activities.

4.00 pm: A quiet traditional service, usually 'Evensong'. Communion with prayer for healing monthly.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM	6:00PM
6th Jan	EPIPHANY	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Celebrate Breakfast Communion	Evensong
13th Jan	Vision: Discipleship – Matt Prior	Book of Common Prayer Communion No music	Parish Communion	Evensong
20th Jan	Eco Church: Lifestyle	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing
27th Jan	Vision: Discipleship	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Parish Communion	Evensong



Evening Service now at 4 pm for the winter months (to end of March)

I hope you agree this is a more convivial time in the dark winter months.

Join us for this lovely time of reflection. *Alan J Vicar*

MID WEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
Thursdays	8:30am	Morning Prayer at St John's

HOLY TRINITY WOMEN'S GROUP



A BISHOP AT THE DOOR

One bright and chilly day in mid-November, the Women's Group (from our village church and beyond) had an unusual visitor...

The morning began and ended with peals, not of bells but of laughter. And that says something about this amazing group of women who gather in a Westcott home each Tuesday morning to eat cake, share joys, sorrows and questions, explore the Bible and pray, encouraging and supporting one another in things of faith – and life in general. On that particular day, it was as we frivolously experimented over coffee with '101 things to do with an old pair of tights' (we were meant to be making them into stretchy headbands for a school assembly!) that Bishop Jo appeared in the doorway. Perhaps not the sort of welcome she's used to, but it swiftly became clear that this woman prefers to be treated like anyone else: within minutes she too was laughing, plaiting headbands and insisting that we dispense with the "Bishop" title.

Jo Bailey Wells is, however, the tenth female bishop in the Church

of England. She came here to be Suffragan Bishop of Dorking after three years as Chaplain to Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Her leaving gift from the staff at Lambeth Palace was a pair of Doc Martens boots in bishop's purple to replace her plain black ones and match the shirt. Hannah, a member of the group, invited Jo to tell us what had gone before. And we heard how in her youth this "child of privilege" spent a life-changing year doing voluntary service in a South African mission hospital. The experience opened her eyes to the imbalance of the world and, as she put it, "rocked my world". Jo was humbled by the faith of Christian people she met there who, despite living in immense poverty and as victims of apartheid, exuded joy, warmth and staggering generosity. Although uncertain what it would mean in practice, Jo knew at this stage that she wanted to make a difference somehow, and believed that serving God full-time was the way to do it. For her the world simply didn't make sense without God and it was through seeing Him in others that her own faith evolved. After

natural sciences at university, she took her still frustrated idealism across the Atlantic to do a masters degree in Intercultural Communication at the University of Minnesota. It was here that her path to ministry began to take shape. She served as a parish assistant in the episcopal church and found that this role combined all the work strands she had previously felt drawn to: teaching, social work and counselling.

On return to the UK, Jo began training for ordained ministry at a theological college in Durham. "I thought I'd landed", she explained. And while studying she also landed herself a husband – another student and vicar, Sam Wells (now at St Martin-in-the-Fields). Since being ordained as a priest she has had two children and worked in many roles, mainly in colleges of higher education doing pastoral work, chaplaincy, counselling and teaching. Her particular areas of responsibility here in Guildford Diocese are education, including our local church schools, and the recruitment of clergy.

And Jo does indeed see her role of bishop as a great responsibility. She talked of the importance of honesty and authenticity, and of how her title and position can sometimes get in the way if people feel they can't be open and real with her. Recognising the weight her words

carry presents both challenges and opportunities, but above all keeps her dependent on God for what to say. Looking back, she believes that the first female priests and bishops had it hard, and in comparison her path has been easy. Nonetheless, she admits that hers can be a lonely role and the support of those who pray for her is valued immensely.



So that is how we ended the morning – once the raucous laughter arising from several failed attempts at a group photo had subsided. We prayed for Jo as she headed off to St Paul's Church to join a panel speaking on 'God and Suffering' before an audience of 130 Philosophy and Ethics A level students. And we sent her on her way with the assurance that if she was ever passing through Westcott on a Tuesday morning, there would always be cake, prayer and a warm welcome here.*

* And that welcome extends to any women who would like to join us. For details contact Libby Witt on 01306 887985 or sixwitts@btinternet.com

Heather Shakespeare

It's not all over yet... Christmas continues with
Epiphany 6th January

8:30am BCP Service

9:30am Breakfast, 10:15am All Age service, 4pm Evensong



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism:

4th November 2018 Leo Mark Anthony Burse

Death:

23rd January 2018 Jean Clark (92)

25th October 2018 James Edward Miller (82)

11th November 2018 Eric William Smithers (95)

FLOODLIGHTING

The floodlighting for January has been sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick George and family, to remember their son Freddie born on 12th January 1995, and who died shortly after birth.

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting, please contact Sarah Massey at sarah@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk or on 01306 887413. (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)

ENCOUNTER

*Exploring worship, prayer, God's word.
Experiencing the presence of God.*



SPRING 2019

Monthly 7:45pm - 9:30pm
Wednesday, 16th Jan

Further dates to be confirmed

*St John's Community Hall,
Furlong Road RH4 3PP*

*Each evening starts with
drinks and cake, followed
by relaxed, contemporary
worship, a Bible-based talk
and prayer.*



www.thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

ECO CHURCH

CALL TO ACTION!

The need to take action to tackle climate change is urgent. In the words of the much-admired Sir David Attenborough "if we don't take action, the collapse of our civilisations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon."

And that horizon is looming fast. The United Nations Secretary General said last September, "if we do not change course by 2020 we risk missing the point where we can avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us."

This call to action is good news. It means that we still have the chance



to avert the worst impacts of climate change. But we need to act now. This is a great opportunity to build a brighter future. Renewable energy improves energy security, is cleaner and is becoming cheaper, than burning fossil fuels. A future built on renewables will be more equitable and cleaner air will benefit millions – a recent report stated that 90% of the world's children are currently breathing in toxic air.

Reforestation is another way in which carbon emissions can be reduced

rapidly, whilst also creating healthier and happier societies. Trees and plants remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and have many



benefits for community, habitats and wildlife.

WE NEED TO ACT
NOW. THIS IS A GREAT
OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD
A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

The solutions are available now, what is needed is the political will to implement them and, where that is lacking, public pressure

to change their minds.

We need radical societal change to reduce our negative impact on the environment and improve the health and wellbeing of people and the planet. Tackling climate change is crucial step in tackling poverty and injustice too.

To find out further about living more simply and sustainably for a better future, please come along to **Holy Trinity on Sunday, 20th January, when Ben Niblett, from TearFund, will be speaking, at both the 8.30am and 10.15am services**, about how we can all play our part.

Jakki Phillips, Westcott EcoChurch

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

CLIMATE ACTION

1. What is the most important climate action to take?

It is essential to limit the use of fossil fuels – oil, coal and natural gas – in order to reduce carbon emissions that are warming the atmosphere, and replace them with clean, renewable energy. The transition away from fossil fuels includes everyday decisions, such as: driving and flying less; choosing seasonal and local food; using 'green' energy suppliers.

System-wide change are needed too, such as ending fossil fuel subsidies in the form of tax breaks and optimising infrastructure for renewable energy and electric vehicles.

2. Would changing my diet make a difference?

After fossil fuels, the food industry is one of the largest contributors to climate change - meat and dairy, in particular. If cattle were a nation they would have the third largest greenhouse gas emissions, after China and the US! Choosing to eat more meat-free meals and cutting down on dairy products makes a significant difference.



3. How can I affect what businesses and politicians do?

You can exercise your rights as a citizen and as a consumer. Individual choices can help drive wider change, by encouraging others - to walk or cycle more, to use reusable coffee cups, or to buy fewer clothes - and by showing our leaders what is important to us.

Just consider the momentum, generated by the Blue Planet II series, in people shunning single-use plastic, devoting time to clean up beaches and launching petitions for supermarkets and the government to act to reduce plastic pollution.

CLIMATE ACTION NEWS

Have you heard of Extinction Rebellion? This international, grassroots social movement launched last year and aims to drive radical change, through non-violent direct action, in order to curtail species extinction and avert climate breakdown. The movement is backed by over 100 academics, including former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams and supported by environmental activist and writer, George Monbiot.



www.rebellion.earth

Harbottle & Jonas

'Definitely one of the best folk acts I've heard in a long while' - Music News

'Disarmingly honest and spine-tingling moments' - R2

'I would stake money on a bright future for Harbottle & Jonas' - Folkwords

'Stunning songwriting and heart-rending arrangements 9/10' - Americana UK

New album

The Sea is My Brother out 22.02.19

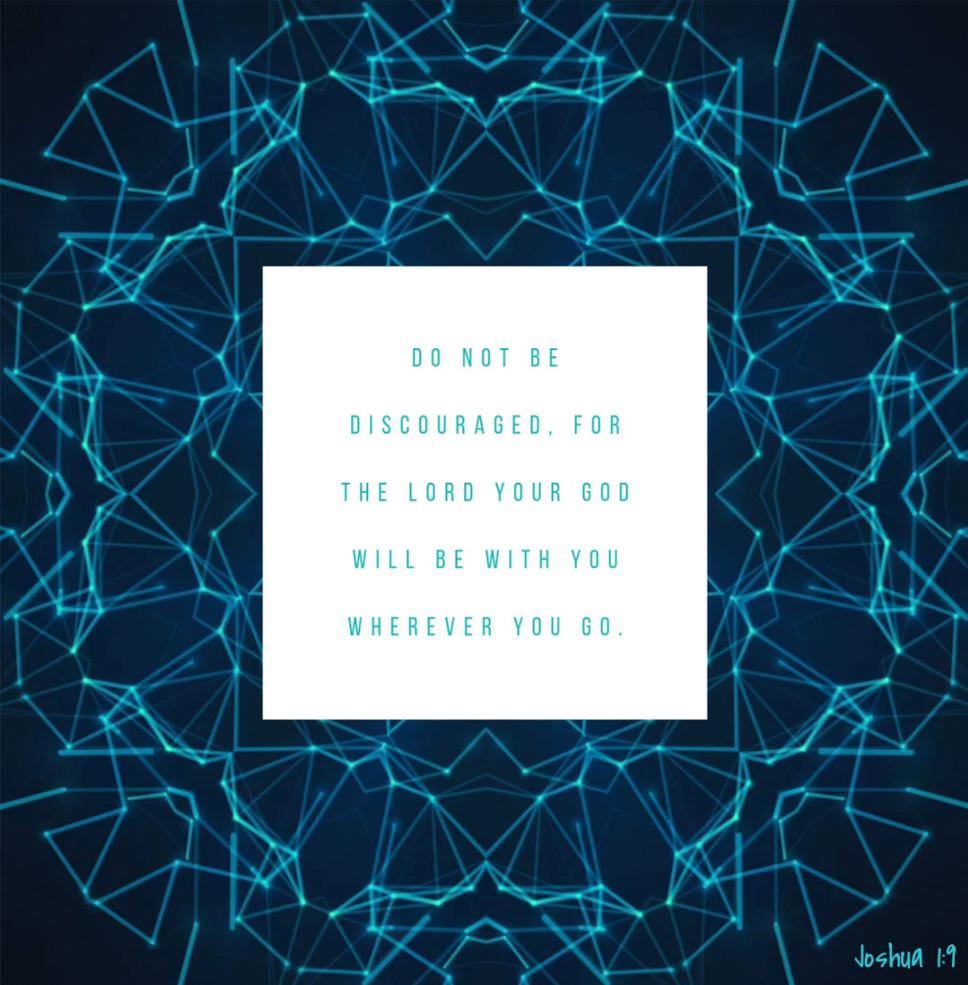


Sunday 3rd March, 4pm
Holy Trinity, Westcott



Harbottle & Jonas are a stunning young folk duo based in Totnes, Devon. Their music is eclectic and always accompanied with a great story. Together the husband and wife duo combine the rich traditions of folk music with original and contemporary interpretations through a mix of closely intertwined vocal harmonies and compelling and authentic musical arrangements.

Tickets by donation Bar available



DO NOT BE
DISCOURAGED, FOR
THE LORD YOUR GOD
WILL BE WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO.

Joshua 1:9

Westcott Baby Meals

For over 14 years, families of new babies in Westcott have been receiving 'Baby Meals', a gift of a hot meal for the whole family, delivered to their door for two weeks. An initiative driven by the Church in Westcott, it is a practical and highly valued service, provided by people across the Westcott community.

Please join our 'Baby Meals' cooks' rota and support this wonderful community gift, OR if you live in Westcott and are expecting a baby, or know someone who is....

Please get in touch: annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk or 07710 425487



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This month the Reading Room rang with the laughter and singing of members, their husbands and friends at our

annual Xmas Party, a joyous occasion to start off the Christmas season.

As always, our caterers from Esher spoil us with canapés and a delicious 3 course meal. One of their team is a dab hand at tinkling the ivories, and we were soon in full voice singing a variety of songs from Elvis, and the Beatles, to the familiar songs of Jerusalem, Land of Hope and Glory, You are my sunshine, and many other well known ditties.



Somewhere during the evening we found time, amongst the convivial chatter to act out some scenarios, vaguely reminiscent of those popular TV shows, "Call my Bluff" and "Would I lie to you". What is a Lasque? Could it be a slice of diamond, an old corset, an island off the coast of Vancouver Island, or even possibly part of a suit of mediaeval armour? Or was PC Plod,

or Fireman Sam or Bruno the dancer the friend who rescued a stranded soul from up a tree? Just a couple of examples to keep you guessing if you weren't there!

January 2nd we will have our usual social evening of fun, probably with a glass of mulled wine to warm up the cold winter evening. Our evenings at St John's Chapel start at 7.30pm and are good value for an evening out, to meet up with old friends and make new ones, especially if you are new to the village/area.

Teas and coffees and even a glass of wine (donation of £1) for a mere £4 non members, whilst our annual membership of £15 covers the rest of the year.

All enquiries to Jacki Moss, 01306 881481 or email johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com

Jacki Moss



Table decoration from the Christmas party



The Dorking Butchery is an award-winning speciality Butchers based in the heart of Dorking.

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Slow Cooked Pomegranate Ox Cheeks

2 ox cheeks, cut in half	2 bay leaves
100g plain flour	1 knob of butter
Freshly ground salt and pepper	1 large glass of red wine
1 onion	1.5 cups pomegranate juice
1 carrot	1 tbsp pomegranate molasses
1 stick of celery	Large glug of extra virgin olive oil

Method (Serves 2)

1. Pat the ox cheeks dry with kitchen paper, then season with freshly ground salt and black pepper.
2. Toss the cheeks in plain flour, then lightly sear in a pan with a glug of oil, on both sides until nicely browned, then remove from the pan.
3. Finely dice the onion, carrot and celery and sauté in a knob of butter on a medium heat for 6-7 minutes.
4. Place the onion, carrot and celery mixture and with the bay leaves into a slow cooker on a medium heat setting, followed by the ox cheeks, pomegranate juice, molasses and red wine.
5. Cook for six hours. (If cooking in an oven, cook at 150 degrees C for 4-5 hours).
6. When ready, remove the ox cheeks from the slow cooker/oven, and loosely cover with foil to keep warm.
7. Discard the bay leaves and transfer the liquid into a saucepan, bring to the boil and allow to reduce until it is syrupy. Stir regularly.
8. Serve the ox cheeks with butternut squash mash and the reduced sauce drizzled on top, finished with some fresh pomegranate seeds.

WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Worms, Ashes & Bones

On Tuesday 13th November Emma Corke entertained us with the revelations uncovered by 142 years of periodic excavation between 1876 and 2018 at Cocks Farm, Abinger where an ancient Roman Villa was located.

On 19th November 1876 Thomas Henry Farrer wrote to his son to tell him that while digging behind his farm house he had found pottery, ceramics and coins from the Antonine Era to the Constantine Era of the Roman presence in England.



Later carbon dating of the relics discovered, showed that this equated to about AD 70 to AD 134. T.H.Farrer invited his friend Henry Darwin to help put together a plan for excavating the area methodically in 1877. At about 4ft down they discovered some very artistic mosaic flooring which they followed up to delineate the layout of this Roman Villa. Darwin had developed a



technique of dating remains by means of the worm casts discovered in the excavations.

Work done over the years has shown that it consisted of 8 rooms with a south facing verandah. The Surrey Archaeological Society members have been able to identify and classify the artefacts that turned up during the excavations.

More recent (late 20th and 21st century) excavations in the area have revealed Iron Age artefacts and traces of the agricultural activity in the Medieval period, such as relics of a vineyard and animal bones with farm dwellings and evidence of a fireplace. The latter have proved useful in Carbon 14 dating the age of the settlement. As a result of this work the area has been declared a 'Scheduled Monument'.

Emma Corke has played an important role in leading much of the recent work and recording it. She displayed

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)

a number of pictures of the discovered Roman artefacts and of the outlines of the archaeological digging.

The New Year's Day Walk is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 1st January and details will be circulated on internet as usual.

The next Talk will be on Tuesday 8th

January about The Royal Observatory at Abinger by Ian Rogers.

Finally please remember that we are still looking for the person with that vital spark to fill the role of 'Programme Organiser' on the committee. You are not on your own – there is always lots of assistance. Perhaps make it a new year's resolution?

Roger Christian

THE READING ROOM



The Reading Room has now added internet access and Wi-Fi for the benefit of all our users.

In January 2019 we are welcoming regular Martial Arts classes at the Reading Room every weekend on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. More details of this exciting new addition to the list of regular activities can be obtained by calling Alan Richings on 07711 954466.

The Committee Room has been cleaned and painted ready for hire at just £5 an hour throughout 2019. Ideas of piano lessons, meetings of up to 6 persons or neutral venue interviews could all be considered. Meanwhile, the Hall is available most mornings from 6am for any early bird activity. Maybe the idea of a Breakfast Club could be organised by some active Westcott resident?

We still have one annual car parking space available in the car park at £600 per year.

Sunday afternoons are often available for those children's parties with the added benefit of parking for those parents coming from further afield.

More information from our website www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk or phone 07967 286636



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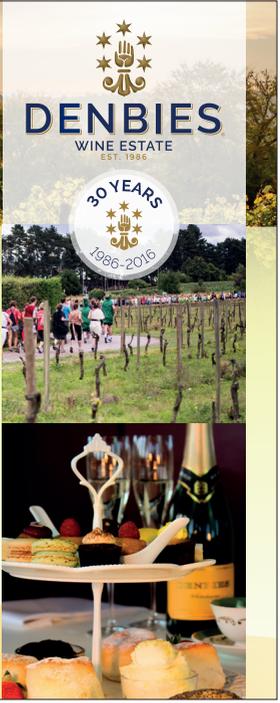


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WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS



It is the time of year when we all try to make resolutions to do something different in the coming year and I have been thinking about what the WVA might do to differently which will have a positive impact on the Village.

There are a number of things we will be discussing as a WVA Committee – hopefully with some new members who can bring fresh thinking to the discussions.

Here are some things on our agenda for 2019:

- Following on from James Friend's article in last month's magazine I was reflecting on the success of the survey which the Westcott Village Forum ran about 5 years ago and which 87% of households responded to. The feedback informed not only the Neighbourhood Development Plan but a lot of thinking around what the village needed in the coming years; as an example, the Hut Trustees have built some of this into their thinking around what the new community centre might provide

once it is finished. Things change in 5 years and it is perhaps time to run another survey to inform decisions over the coming years.

- In November the Chairpersons of the Reading Room, The Hut, The Sports Club, the Surrey Hills Primary School Governors, and Holy Trinity Church, together with your elected District and County Councillors, met again to discuss how we work together for the good of the whole community. The principle that this is what we all want has been accepted and we agreed to continue to meet; what we now need to do is put ideas into practice. The survey mentioned above may be a good start and we are all committed to sharing ideas, resources, and knowledge to achieve this.

- The Village Association will have a new Website for the new year and we also now have a Facebook page. Our aim is to share information through these mediums and improve communication across the village. Please use this to communicate events and activities in the village. Jo Astor, joastor.westcott@btinternet.com, is the point of contact.

- The first draft of the new Village Association constitution will be discussed at the January meeting of the committee. Interestingly both the Reading Room and the Sports

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)

Club trustees have adopted the Charity Commission's new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) model, and our aim is to follow the same principle. We will publish the draft on the Association website as early as possible in January so that residents can appraise themselves of what the new constitution contains. We will then go through the process to get the new constitution adopted.

- The 2019 WVA Committee meeting schedule includes four open meetings (listed on the village association website) in addition to the AGM which we hold in October. This does not preclude other open meetings being called but it sets out a regular schedule of consultation with village residents. Some feedback from the younger residents suggests that dedicating one of these meetings to what young

people in our community want would be a good thing. Are there other issues which you would like to see as the focus for other open meetings?

These issues, and others which will undoubtedly arise in the year, will keep us busy on your behalf and with some events during the year like WestFest, the Sports Club Bonfire Night, and the Christmas Fair, we will have the opportunity of coming together to enjoy social events which help build a strong community.

We wish you all a very happy, successful and prosperous New Year.

As always, you are invited to write to me on issues which concern you, and the WVA will do their best to address them.

Tim Way

timway.westcott@gmail.com

St John's - STOP PRESS

St John's Chapel and Community Hall now has a dedicated email address for any bookings: bookingstjohns@btinternet.com

Contact Tony Astor – General Manager.

Thanks to two successful external funding applications, we are delighted to announce a programme to upgrade the Graveyard at St John's to make it more accessible. Entitled 'The Peace Garden Project' in recognition of 100 years since the end of the 1st World War and to celebrate 60 years of Surrey Hills designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), we hope that with village and community support it will become a quiet place for reflection with wildlife attracting planting over the coming years. More information in coming months but if you would like to get involved, please contact Judith Packer.

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We wish everyone a Happy New Year

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by the Friday Morning Art Group**

*** There will be no coffee morning in January ***

THANK YOU!

To all at Holy Trinity, thank you for the prayers for the Van Niekerk family. The involvement with the church has guided focus. Thanks also to the Women's Group for all the extra help with meals when I landed in hospital, that was such a blessing. I also have two oven dishes, please let me determine ownership thank you. So many people have been gracious with their time but I would like to mention a special thank you to Jen for all the day to day help, lifts and collections, shops and appointments. I want to say thank you to God for this treasure it is all in his name. Thank you.

Love Stacey



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CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Many and varied local crafts adorned the Reading Room on Saturday 25th November at the Westcott Christmas Craft Fair (supported by WESTfest).



The event raised over £330 for the WESTfest 2019 charities (currently Friends @ Surrey Hills School, Girl Guiding Faurefold and Papua Partners). Plus

the takings of £150 from the teas and coffees provided by Hazel Pilbeam and her team will be donated to Surrey Air Ambulance.



A highlight of the event; the Westcott Guides excelled themselves with a Teddy Grotto and an array of beautiful

handmade crafts. Thanks to Jo Smewing and all the stallholders, volunteers and shoppers for creating a lovely pre-Christmas village event.



Anna Kemkers

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Tackling Homelessness

Mole Valley District Council is part way through delivering the five-year Homelessness Strategy and a key success has been to achieve National Practitioner Support Service (NPSS) Gold Standard for Homelessness. NPSS supports local authorities to deliver early intervention and prevention-focused housing options services.

The council team completed ten evidence-based challenges and achieved a high score of 72% in the peer review. This is a considerable accolade, as only 16 local authorities have achieved the accreditation. It demonstrates the local commitment to prevent homelessness, customer care and best practice.



Such recognition though is only of value if outcomes for individuals

and families are being changed. Last year saw a reduction in the number of families placed in bed and breakfast accommodation with no families have had to stay in this type of accommodation for more than six weeks. Mole Valley has increased its number of emergency accommodation units that temporarily house homeless families. Two new self-contained properties have been acquired to increase the council's stock for homeless households, which now totals 29.

The council has also been enhancing and improving its housing service through Government grants received from implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act. Two new job roles have been created: a Housing Options Officer to enhance the housing advice service, and a Housing Intelligence Officer to detect housing fraud. There is also a proposal to adapt the service to provide money and budgeting advice to those facing homelessness and assist clients affected by Universal Credit.

Since the current strategy took effect in 2015, the council has helped 137 households access accommodation within the private rented sector through the HomeChoice Plus rent deposit bond scheme. Currently there are 150 households living in the private rented sector who have



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

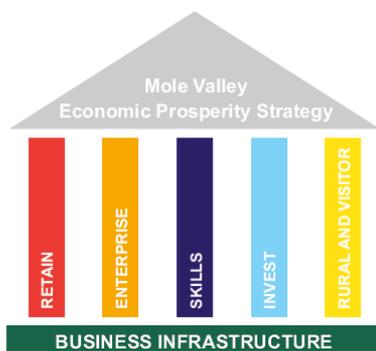
been supported through the scheme and 62 have been since April 2017. Furthermore, 40 new affordable homes were completed in 2017/18.

Although this is good progress, the council team will continue to carry out the actions set out in the strategy as they work to help some of the most vulnerable people in our district. If you know someone at risk of homelessness please do talk to the council team on 01306 885001 or get in touch with me directly.

Our Local Economy

One of the roles of the District Council is to support local businesses and our economy as a whole.

The Council has an Economic Prosperity Strategy which includes delivering support through both specific initiatives (such as the free parking days in the run up to Christmas) and through the council's Economic Development team.



The team tracks the success of our local economy through a series of indicators which include:

- The total number of businesses
- Employment and Unemployment
- Use of Land
- Qualifications
- Earnings
- Benefits

Did you know for example that the latest figures (October 2018) show Dorking and Leatherhead town centres both have very low rates of shop vacancy compared to their peers:

Mole Valley Town / Village		Comparative area by population or by average rent per square foot	
Dorking	4.9%	Reigate	6.4%
Leatherhead	4.4%	Epsom	14.6%
Ashted	7.6%	Cranleigh	5.5%
Bookham	9.8%	Farnham	3.4%
Fetcham	6.6%	Addlestone	19.4%
		Oxted	5.0%

It also fascinates me to know that there are more jobs in the District than there are people to fill them:

Mole Valley total jobs 2016	53,000
Mole Valley 2016	1.02
Mole Valley 2015	1.01
Surrey average 2016	0.92
South East 2016	0.88
Great Britain 2016	0.84

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Burglary Prevention Advice This Winter

During the winter period, we traditionally see an increase in burglaries of homes, garages and outbuildings. In many cases homes remain insecure, with a third of all break-ins involving little to no force from the burglar, allowing them to easily enter a property.



Community Safety represents a key priority for our local police team and they are keen to make sure that all residents

know that there are lots of steps homeowners can take to make their property a less attractive target to burglars.

Top Tips to avoid burglary

- Restrict access to your back garden by making sure you have a solid and secure fence and lockable gate.
- Always lock your doors and windows, even if you're not going out for very long. The use of deadlocks on all outside doors is advisable.
- Do not leave keys in locks or in plain view from outside i.e. near doors or by windows. Also consider investing in a home security alarm.
- Marking your property with Smart Water or SelctaDNA will enable them to be easily identified should your

belongings be stolen. This also acts as a deterrent to thieves.

- Remember to register for free all identifiable property through IMMOBILISE.
- Install low-level, exterior lighting to act as a deterrent
- If your home is going to be unoccupied at any time after dusk, the use of timers to bring on lights in a staggered pattern can convey the impression that someone is at home.

Surrey Police are committed to keeping the communities across the county safe during the darker nights. For more advice around how to keep your property safe, visit our website: <https://www.surrey.police.uk/advice/protect-your-home-and-belongings/burglary/>



If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact them by submitting an online request form, messaging us through your local social media page, or you can call 101. Find out how to contact them by visiting <https://surrey.police.uk/contact-us/>

Healthwatch Surrey Community Cash Fund

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

the return of their Community Cash Fund initiative. 2019 will be their fourth year running and they hope it is the biggest one yet. The aim of this fund is to help small groups start projects which improve health and wellbeing in their local community.



They will be awarding grants of up to £1,500 per successful applicant for community projects that promote Surrey's community vision for wellbeing in one or more of the following ways:

- Everyone lives healthy, active and fulfilling lives, and makes good choices about their wellbeing
- Everyone gets health and social care support and information they need at the right time and place
- Communities are welcoming and supportive, especially of those most in need, and people feel able to contribute to community life.

If you are interested in applying, you can sign up and get an alert when the community cash fund launches this month, by emailing; sarah.browne@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk or you can call Healthwatch Surrey on 0303 303 0023, text 07592 787533.

If you or anyone you know needs funding for a community project then

please spread the word.

Time for a Winter Walk?

If December was a month for celebrating, eating and socialising, you may be in need of a physical and mental health boost, so what better time to explore Surrey's countryside?

Heading outdoors is a great way to burn all those extra calories and also the perfect place to spend time with friends and family over the festive season. You can ring in the New Year with one of these crisp winter walks in Surrey.



Why not try the North Downs Way circular routes which offer picturesque villages and remarkable scenery? This famous trail follows the ancient Pilgrims Way and links all the way from Farnham to, eventually, the white cliffs of Dover. The circular routes go off trail in Surrey and are perfect for those who want to explore different parts of our local area, whilst experiencing all that the North Downs Way has to offer.

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Check out the Explore Surrey website to find the maps and directions for all these walks and more, or download the iFootpath app to get the Explore Surrey collection of walks straight to your phone.

Stay Safe and Well In Your Home

Surrey County Council and Surrey Fire & Rescue Service have joined forces to provide free "Safe and Well" visits to your home.



The visits are carried out by Surrey Fire and Rescue officers and in some instances by local volunteers. They combine home safety checks to reduce the risk of fire in your home and, where appropriate, information to help you improve your wellbeing, allowing you to live safer and more independent lives.

The service is completely free, so if you are interested in a Safe and Well visit please call them on 0800 085 0767 or you can text them on 07527 182861. To

find out more about the free Safe and Well visits go to www.surreycc.gov.uk/firesafeandwellvisit

Mystery Trees

Last month was a bit of a retrospective – you had to walk away from the village and then look back. If you did, you would have seen the group of trees that mark the entrance to St John's Road when coming down from Ranmore.

This time around we have gone back again – back in time to Spring 2018 and promises of the warmer weather to come. You know that you want to get your walking boots on and find these two over the New Year holiday period.



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As we start to head towards the end of term we have been getting ready for our Christmas celebrations. The Christmas trees are up, the choir has done their first Christmas performance, singing wonderfully at the Westcott coffee morning and the nativity rehearsals are well under way. We are looking forward to the New Year.

Spotlight on KS1 on Outdoor Learning

Our learning theme this term is titled 'Over the Hedge' and we have been focusing on the season of Autumn. This week on Tuesday, Ladybirds came over from Westcott for outdoor learning activities. To start off our learning we read the story 'Don't Hog the Hedge' about a hedgehog called Hattie and her new friends trying to find somewhere for their long sleep of hibernation. The children thought there might be animals around our school that would also be getting



ready for winter. We headed down to the copse where we used anything we could find to build a home for the animals and thought about how we could give them shelter and what would keep them warm. Following on from this, the children used sticks and leaves from the copse to make their own clay hedgehogs. It was lovely to have Ladybirds with us at Abinger and for the children to work together to have the chance to use all of their Learning from this half term so far.

Nativity Figures at Guildford Cathedral

Mrs Baker, Mrs Nyman, Mrs Hill and some of the children, have done a brilliant job creating nativity figures for the display at Guildford Cathedral. The display is on from Tuesday 4th December 2018 to Monday 7th January 2019. If you are in Guildford over the Christmas period, please pop in to see the display.



SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY (cont.)



The Good Shepherd Trust Welcome

As CEO of the Good Shepherd Trust, I am delighted to welcome Surrey Hills All Saints Primary to Good Shepherd Trust. The strength of the Trust's schools is their Christian distinctiveness making them open, inclusive and stronger for being well connected with the local Christian community. To express the idea that Surrey Hills is both local and connected to Christian community, we will be known as 'Surrey Hills All Saints C of E Primary School'.

The GST have already had very positive and pro-active links with the school, and look forward to sharing their many strengths, skills, practice and experience across our family of schools. Mrs Ratcliff is an experienced and successful Headteacher and this is additional good news for the Trust.

I would like to congratulate the school on a very successful Ofsted monitoring review... 'Pupils unanimously state that they feel safe and well cared for in the school. Pupils and staff have very strong working relationships which create a harmonious learning atmosphere. One pupil in Year 2 commented that the school was perfect, and this was echoed by many other pupils.' Well done to everyone!

Tony Billings
CEO, Good Shepherd Trust

OFSTED MONITORING REVIEW

Serious weaknesses first monitoring inspection of Surrey Hills Church of England Primary School

Following my visit to your school on 7 and 8 November 2018, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to confirm the outcome and inspection findings. Thank you for the help that you gave during the inspection and for the time that you made available to discuss the actions that have been taken since the school's most recent section 5 inspection.

The inspection was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to have serious weaknesses in November 2017. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During this inspection, meetings were held with the Headteacher, other senior and middle leaders, members of the interim executive board (IEB) and a representative of the local authority. The local authority's statement of action and the school's action plans were evaluated. I scrutinised safeguarding documentation with you and your assistant Headteachers and inclusion leader. Together with you, your assistant Headteacher and inclusion leader, I visited lessons to observe pupils at work. I also scrutinised work in pupils' books. I observed pupils' conduct at break time and lunchtime.

Context

This was the first monitoring visit since the school's section 5 inspection in November 2017. The school's senior leadership structure has remained stable, with the addition of a third assistant Headteacher. The governing body was replaced with an IEB in January 2018. The school is situated on two separate sites in the villages of Westcott and Abinger Common. The school roll has fallen. Currently there are fewer pupils registered at the school than in 2017. This is attributed to the school's decision to decrease the published admission number at key stage 1 from 45 to 30 and a local drop in the birth rate.

The quality of leadership and management at the school

This monitoring inspection report confirms your and other senior leaders' views as well as that of the governing body that much work has been done to address the inspection findings fully. Senior leaders and governors have addressed with urgency the issues raised in the inspection report, resulting in sharpened safeguarding practices.

The school's action plan for improvement focuses with precision on the weaknesses identified during the November 2017 inspection. Suitable actions are identified alongside success measures, timescales and responsibilities to ensure swift and effective improvement. For example, an independent safeguarding review conducted by the local authority made a series of recommendations both for the school and the local authority. These recommendations have been successfully implemented in the school's safeguarding arrangements. Safeguarding leads have attended enhanced safeguarding training to ensure that all areas of the school's safeguarding procedures are fit for purpose. In collaboration with the local authority safeguarding lead, the school has

SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY (cont.)



completely revised the procedure for assessing the risk of adults who work at the school when facing allegations. The procedure is checked and monitored effectively by governors and where necessary by the local authority. The school has implemented this very successfully. This procedure has been issued to all schools in the local authority. Leaders have a strong understanding of the statutory early year's framework and changes to safeguarding procedures have been implemented since the last inspection report. To ensure the safety of pupils, leaders have also introduced a ban on the use of mobile phones in the school. This has been implemented very successfully and staff and adults appreciate the vigilance of leaders in keeping pupils safe.

Leaders and staff are highly alert to changes in pupils' behaviour and ensure that pupils receive the support that they require. Safeguarding leaders are tenacious in referring cases where pupils are identified as being at risk of harm. Safeguarding documentation is securely maintained and reviewed frequently to ensure that every single child at the school is safe. The single central record of checks on staff and adults meets statutory requirements and is regularly reviewed by the safeguarding governor. Staff files are well maintained. All staff receive regular safeguarding training. Consequently, staff are acutely aware of how to protect the pupils in their care.

As identified in the previous report, leaders have developed a very strong curriculum in Reception that is both stimulating and enriching. Throughout the curriculum, children develop knowledge, skills and understanding about how to keep safe in school and beyond. For example, through skilful questioning, teachers enable children to articulate their feelings during circle time. To strengthen children's ability to voice their experiences, leaders have embedded a focus on philosophy in the early years curriculum. Consequently, children discuss their feelings about various concepts. It is too early, however, to judge the impact of this approach. Drawing on external agencies such as the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, leaders ensure that children learn about how to keep safe at school and beyond.

Pupils unanimously state that they feel safe and well cared for in the school. Pupils and staff have very strong working relationships which create a harmonious learning atmosphere. One pupil in Year 2 commented that the school was perfect, and this was echoed by many other pupils. To enable pupils to keep safe, leaders have introduced a system whereby pupils can leave a teardrop shaped note on their teacher's desk if they have a concern. Many pupils stated

SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY (cont.)

very clearly that they had used this system and that staff had responded swiftly and sensitively to help them. Leaders have also appointed pupils as 'sports crew' to support and help other pupils at break and lunchtime if they encounter friendship difficulties. Many pupils stated that this was highly effective. As stated in the previous report, pupils say that bullying is very rare and if it does happen, staff resolve issues quickly and effectively. The school's focus on ensuring that pupils are safe when using the internet is also very effective. Pupils understand the importance of keeping safe and know what to do. The school also monitors pupils' use of technology very well.

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive effective support to ensure that they can access the curriculum equitably and successfully. The social and emotional well-being of these pupils is supported very well by the school. Additional support such as the home-school link worker and the emotional literacy support assistants ensure that pupils feel safe and well cared for. Pupils' physical health is supported extremely well by the school. Leadership of physical education is a strength of the school. Pupils have a wide range of sporting opportunities to strengthen their physical health and well-being. Pupils' social and emotional well-being is considered throughout the well-structured curriculum. For example, pupils experience the process of democracy through campaigning and elections to the school council.

As identified in the previous inspection report, the quality of teaching, learning and assessment is strong. Through well-structured sequences of lessons, pupils, including the most able pupils, make good progress across the curriculum in all year groups. Through additional staff training, teachers and teaching assistants consistently ensure that pupils with SEND are able to access the curriculum successfully.

Following the monitoring inspection, the following judgements were made:

Leaders and managers are taking effective actions towards the removal of the serious weaknesses designation.

The school's action plan is fit for purpose.

This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

Susan Aykin

Her Majesty's Inspector

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A MONTHLY BUSINESS

Not Business of the Month but a Monthly Business!

As a change from our normal article about local businesses, I thought you might like to know about something else, a Business which happens monthly, in Westcott. It's the Village Coffee Morning. You will all have seen the adverts which appear here in the magazine, and you will all know that it happens on the morning of the first Wednesday of the month (not January) in the Reading Room off the Guildford Road.



But why does it happen, who's it for, and how did it start? To begin at the end, it was started in 1966 as part of a village community project, and it happened every Monday morning, then it moved to Wednesday, became bi-monthly, and finally moved to monthly on the first Wednesday. It's a venerable institution, 52 years old and was started by Ann Monie, who still lives in Westcott Street. It's become a village tradition and is now organised by Jean Mickle, who with a

band of volunteers provides delicious filter coffee and excellent biscuits for the princely sum of 50p. (Tea is also available of course.)

'How many people do you get?' I asked Jean at the last meeting early in December. 'Probably anything up to twenty each month, but not everyone can come every time,' she said. 'So in fact, there are probably forty or so people who you might meet if you come over a period of time.' She smiled and said 'it does become a habit though, and people look forward to their time to meet up and talk.' 'I enjoy it' said Sue Bax, 'we are all so busy these days and it's just time out to relax and chat.'

So, man or woman, if you work from home, or you work part time, or you are retired or perhaps you are staying at home with small children (do bring them), then the coffee morning could become part of your life too. In this busy world where we all seem to be connected by email, WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook, there's something really lovely about sneaking a half hour or so to see people face to face, with no other purpose than to catch up on their news and pass the time of day.

'A couple of times a year we have a table sale' says Jean, 'which adds a bit of extra interest and raises some money which we donate to the village

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A MONTHLY BUSINESS (cont.)

school. Then the next time we meet, at the beginning of February, we are having a Pop Up Art Exhibition, with local artists bringing their work. In April we look forward to welcoming back Surrey Hills All Saints C of E Primary School, who we hope will come to sing some of the songs they are practising for the Leith Hill Music Festival'. As she spoke, the door opened and in walked pupils from the School choir to sing us festive songs and Christmas



Carols. So as you can see, there's usually something going on.

Janet Dawkins, who often pops in says 'it's nice to catch up with people



who may have moved away from the village, but who like to keep in touch - and its also a good way for people who haven't lived here very long to get to know a few people other than their neighbours. It's very friendly.' 'I went to the very first meeting in 1966' says Celia Harcombe who often helps with the lovely coffee 'and I think the secret of its success is that it's always relaxed and welcoming to whoever comes through the door.'

Here are some photos of us having a good time at the December gathering. Come and join us in February. You're all welcome.

Andrea Gabb

Car Service - Help Needed

Owing to a shortage of members from the list of available drivers operating the Westcott Car Service we urgently need more assistance to ensure this help to the local community can continue.

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Father Christmas comes to The Quick Response Memorial Woodland

We had an amazing day on Saturday 8th December when we held our "Christmas at the Woodland" charity event. Despite heavy rain during the week before it stayed dry and calm on the day and was attended by 60 children, their parents and grandparents.

The children enjoyed the treasure hunt, having been given a number of clues they had to collect certain items to receive their bags of treasure. The parents emptied their pockets buying the wonderful home made cakes and amazing Christmas crafts all hand made by our supporters of the Charity. The raffle, which included some lovely prizes donated by local supermarkets and shops, was an absolute winner.

Then the excitement came when Father Christmas arrived at the woodland with

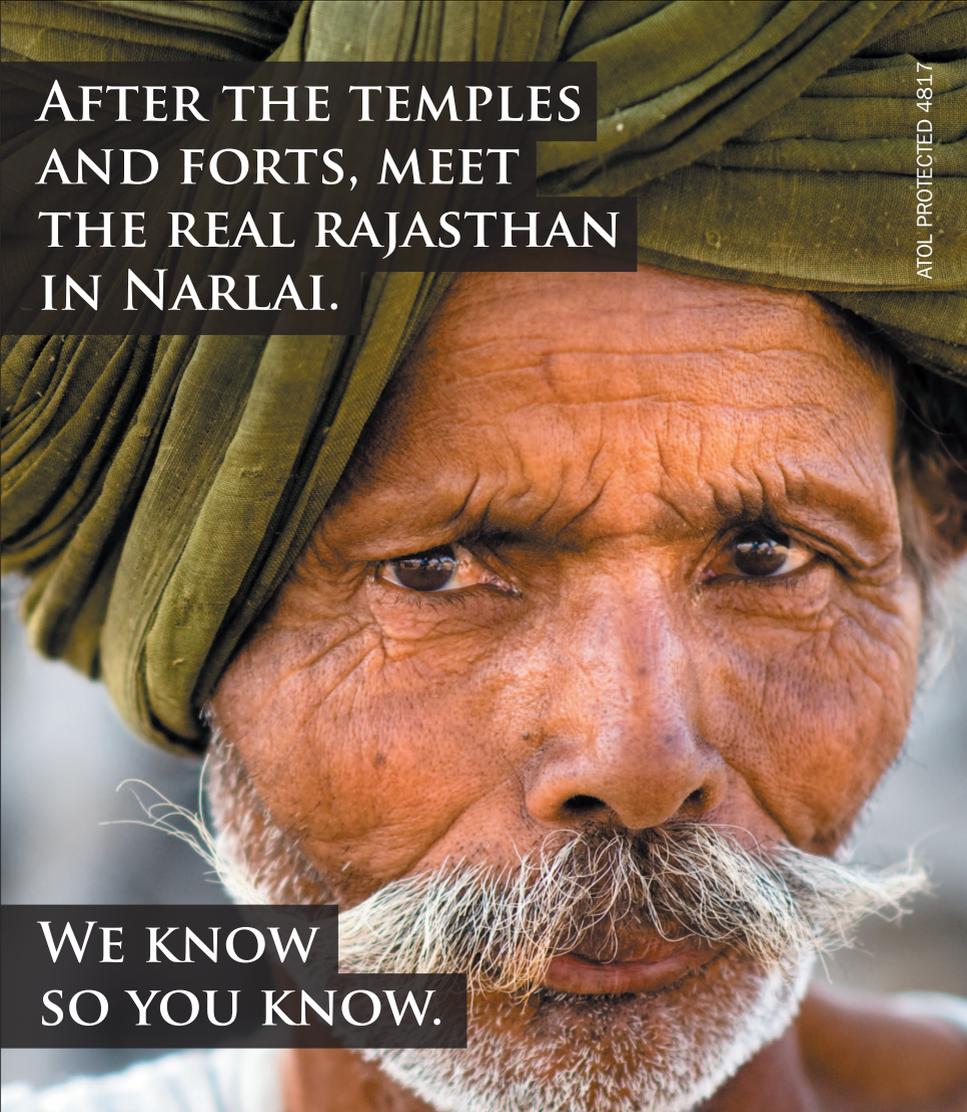


a large sack and accompanied by two helpers. Each child received a gift, all donated to us by various shops and individuals. Hot dogs and drinks were provided to keep everyone warm and full of energy and the day was wound up with a few carols. This is the first time we have had Christmas at the Woodland and so successful it was we think it will become an annual event. The total raised was an amazing £900 which we are very proud to say all goes into the Memorial Fund to help those ex-servicemen in times of difficulty.

The Charity is going from strength to strength and as we look forward to 2019 we will be holding a very special event on Saturday 1st June when we will be celebrating our 5th Anniversary. But before that we will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 13th April which has become a very popular event. So register early as numbers are limited to 60 children. Contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk.

As for the woodland the spring bulbs are popping up everywhere which is a very pleasing sight and promise of a colourful time to come. Remember the woodland is open to all 24/7 and even if we are not present there is sufficient room to park 3 or 4 cars in front of the car park. We look forward to seeing you throughout 2019. Happy New Year.

Paul Cooling, Chairman, QRMW



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U3A

Visit to Whitchurch Silk Mill and Bombay Gin Distillery on Thursday 8th November.

On a glorious Autumn day 45 U3A members made the coach trip to Whitchurch Silk Mill in Hampshire. It is a working silk mill using historic machinery and is in a lovely setting on the banks of the river Test. The river also helps to operate the mill wheel.



There were two students being taught how to operate a loom,

obviously hoping to keep the old traditions alive.

After a light sandwich and quiche lunch, we continued on to Laverstoke Mill. Originally a paper mill acquired by the Bombay Sapphire Company, it now houses a state-of-the-art award winning Gin Distillery since 2014.

After an introductory talk we toured the Distillery ourselves with a handy map. At the end of a very interesting tour we were able to select a complimentary gin based cocktail. Mine was delicious.

We all agreed on the coach going home it had been a very enjoyable day.

Sue Woodward






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DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking Museum wishes a happy new year to all readers and to the supporters and friends of the Museum. The Museum re-opens after the festive break on 10th January.

If things have gone a little flat after the festive season, here are a few additional dates that you might want to celebrate. In 'Recollections of Old Dorking', written about life in the town nearly two centuries ago, Charles Rose recalls that many of the town's residents still had trouble accepting the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1752 which resulted in 11 'lost' days. They "adhered to the Old Style", and so January 5th or 6th became "Old Christmas, or Twelfth Day", when they "regaled themselves and their households with Christmas fare".



Twelfth night confectioner's shop

Twelfth Night then was also "the lottery night for twelfth cakes". Elaborate "iced and otherwise

ornamented cakes" were displayed in the window of the "well-known establishment of Mr. Uwins, in High Street". The appearance of the "head cake" heralded the lottery, and with it, "a flutter of excitement which attained its highest pitch when the joyful cry of "prize!" or the depressing one of "blank!" was uttered." In the 1870s, Queen Victoria banned rowdy Twelfth Night festivities as they were becoming a threat to Civil Peace! (But, celebration-lovers, note that 'Old Twelfth Night' may still be celebrated on January 17th.)

Our current exhibition: The Rob Walker Racing Team:

One of the most successful privateer motor racing teams, the Rob Walker Racing Team were based in London Road, Dorking, and here the cars were developed, built and tested. Between 1958 and 1968 they beat the mighty works teams in nine Grand Prix, including three wins around the streets of Monaco. The most successful of their drivers was Stirling Moss, who had seven of the team's Grand Prix victories, including the three in Monaco.

There is a last chance to see this very popular exhibition, which remains open until January 26th and focuses on the life of Rob Walker, his Pippbrook Garage and workshops in Dorking, and the team's triumphs and tragedies over 30 years. Exhibits

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

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Walker and Siffert, British Grand Prix 1968

Exhibition researcher Tom Loftus' new book, 'The Rob Walker Racing Team – Dorking's Part in Motor Racing History', tells the story from a Dorking perspective. The book, available from the Museum, features many un-published photographs and a touching foreword by Rob's son, Robbie Walker.

Opening on 31st January: 'Lord Ashcombe's Minerals – the gentlemen collectors and the advance of science'.

The Museum's first new exhibition of 2019 showcases the history of and examples from Lord Ashcombe's stunning mineral collection. In the

19th century, George Cubitt, the first Lord Ashcombe, amassed an extensive and impressive collection of fossils and minerals, which



were displayed at his Denbies home. His collection and those of other gentlemen collectors played an important role in an age of amateur science, in the development of the study of geology and palaeontology and the scientific understanding of the earth's history. The collections were donated to the Museum in 1948 by his grandson, the third Lord Ashcombe.

'Local Heroes':

A short film telling the story of the prominent local suffrage and peace campaigners, Emmeline and Fred Pethick-Lawrence, filmed in Dorking, Holmwood and Leith Hill, is still available to view in the Museum to mark the centenary of the vote for women (any time during opening hours). Kathy Atherton's book on the fight for the vote in the Surrey Hills is also on sale.

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am-4pm. Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.

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He was wearing a light blue collar with a nametag and bell at the time he went missing, but this may well have come off. He is also microchipped.

“Stitch” is one and a half years old, quite slim, has white paws and a white tummy

Please continue to check outhouses, garages and sheds. If you should see him please bring him into your home – he should respond to his name or “supper” or if you tap a dish with a fork and call him. **He is very friendly.**



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MUSIC IN DORKING



5th at 12.00, Music at Midday at St Martin's church, free, 01306 884229
5th at 7.00, André Rieu concert screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
6th at 3.00, André Rieu concert screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
8th 15th at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, £19-25, 07415 815784
12th at 5.55, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
12th at 7.30, Dante string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619
22nd at 6.45, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
22nd 29th at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, £19-25, 07415 815784
23rd at 7.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18, 01306 881717
27th at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
30th at 6.45, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717

Happy New Year! January offers just a few concerts, together with lots of screenings of opera, ballet and concerts at the Dorking Halls.

The Dante string quartet will give the first of a series of three concerts, arranged by the Dorking Concertgoers. These four young players appeared in Dorking just a few years ago, when they gave some excellent performances, and we are privileged to have them back again. Each concert will feature one of Beethoven's three powerful 'Razumovsky' quartets and this concert includes the first of them. The Dante quartet will also play an autobiographical quartet by Smetana and a quartet by Haydn. Two further concerts will follow in February.

January's lunchtime concert at St Martin's church will be given by Oliver and Sam Hancock and is based around the music of Flanders and Swann. Watermill Jazz begin their 25th year with a concert by the acclaimed singer, pianist and songwriter Joe Stilgoe. The programme continues with the Scott Hamilton Quartet (15th), the Alina Bzhezhska Quartet (22nd), and the Karen Sharp Quartet (29th).

At the Dorking Halls you can see Tchaikovsky's Queen of Spades from the Royal Opera House – live on 22nd and then in a recording on 27th. Less often seen than Eugene Onegin, this is a dark and brooding opera filled with some gorgeous and deeply emotional music. Also from the Royal Opera there is Verdi's tragic La Traviata on 30th. From the Metropolitan Opera in New York comes something of a rarity – Adriana Lecouvreur by the Italian composer Francesco Cilea. André Rieu's New Year concert from Sydney is screened live on 5th and repeated the next day. Finally there is a recording from the Bolshoi Ballet in Moscow of La Bayadere.

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MOLE VALLEY YOUTH AWARDS

Do you know someone aged 11–18 who has Achieved Great Things?



Nominations are now open for Mole Valley's glittery and very glamorous Youth Awards.

The event, now in its fifteenth year, shines a colourful spotlight on the achievements of young people in Mole Valley, and will feature a variety of performances by talented young local performers.

This year's ceremony, organised by Mole Valley District Council and Youth Voice, Mole Valley's Youth Council, will take place on the evening of Friday 22 March at Dorking Halls.

The award categories are Young Volunteer Award, Sporting Achievement Award, Young Artist Award, Young Chef Award, Young Musician Award, Young Dancer Award, Drama Award, Young Team Award and Outstanding Achievement Award.

Councillor David Hawksworth CBE, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, said: "This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever, with more local young performers set to take to the stage and the introduction of new awards including Young Chef and Young Dancer. I can't wait to meet the nominees and learn of their achievements."

Nominate at www.molevalley.gov.uk/youthvoice or pick up a nomination form at Mole Valley District Council's Pippbrook office, Dorking Halls, libraries or youth clubs, email YouthVoice@molevalley.gov.uk or call 01306 879366.

The closing date for nominations is Monday 4 February 2019. Successful nominees will be informed by the end of February.

Tickets to the event are free, and will be bookable through Dorking Halls' Box Office.





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QE - A SHORT STORY

Once upon a time there was a village a bit like Westcott, which had a shop or two, a pub or two, several businesses, a school, a church, and quite a lot going on. But people in the village in the story were worried. Times were hard, and money was tight, and people were beginning to wonder how they were going to manage.

One day a visitor came to the pub and asked to look at the rooms. 'I need a place for two or three nights in the locality, but I've got to go and pick up my wife at Gatwick first' said the visitor.

'That's no problem', said the lady who owned the pub. 'I can reserve you a room if you leave me a deposit.' So the visitor left £50 and went away. The publican looked at the £50, which was the first bit of cash in the till for the day. She made a sudden decision, snatched up the £50 note and shot across the road to the butcher. 'Here's the £50 I owe you for last week's meat order' she said. 'Thanks so much' said the butcher and put it in the till.

After a few minutes, he took it out again, and went down the road to the farmer who supplied his lamb. 'Here's your 50 quid, mate' he said. 'Oh great', said the farmer. 'I was getting a bit worried about when you were going to be able to pay me.



Thanks a lot'. The farmer looked at the £50 note, got in his car and popped into his friend the solicitor. 'Here's a bit towards my dad's probate costs that I still owe you,' he said.

The solicitor sat at his desk and thought for a while. Then as lunch time came, he walked round to the pub and said to the landlady. 'That bill you sent me for my son's 21st drinks. I thought I'd pay it straight away. Here's £50'. 'Oh thank you' said the landlady. 'It must be my lucky day'.

At that moment, the visitor arrived back from Gatwick with his wife. She went upstairs, but they decided not to stay in the village. The landlady returned the £50 deposit with a smile, and hoped they would return some other time.

Everyone in the village slept just a little bit better that night. Things seemed to have got a bit easier - quantitatively.

Andrea Gabb



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HOSPICE MIDNIGHT WALK

Celebrate the 10th year of the Florence Nightingale Hospice Midnight Walk this year

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's Midnight Walk began in 2010 with 550 ladies walking up to 12 miles and raised £65,000.



By 2018 the event had opened up to include men and has become their largest fundraising event. Over the past nine years the walk has raised over £500,000 towards running Florence Nightingale Hospice – providing much needed support to patients and their families across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire.

This year, they are inviting everyone to join them for the 10th anniversary of the walk on Saturday 22nd June to celebrate the lives of loved ones and the work that the Hospice does to provide comfort to those in need.

“The Midnight Walk is such an inspiring event to take part in and plays a huge role in our fundraising for the Hospice,” explains Lee Lloyd, Head of Fundraising at the charity. “We hope that this 10th Anniversary walk will be a record-breaker with the highest number of walkers ever.”

Walkers can choose from the 5 mile or 10 miles circular routes – both starting from Aylesbury College at midnight with entertainment along the way.

Anyone registering before 28th February can take advantage of the Early Bird Offer at just £17 per entry (from 1st March it's £20). Walkers receive a free souvenir Midnight Walk 2019 T-shirt, as well as a medal and complimentary breakfast at the end of the Walk.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk or call 01296 429975





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HISTORY OF SHERE POOL

Now my research on WW1 soldiers is complete, I thought I would turn my research to Shere Swimming Pool, which Lady Russell had built in 1875, so that her six children could learn to swim. In 1899, the pool was handed over to the Parish Council, which continues to be responsible for it to the present day.

In 1989 Shere Swimming Pool club was formed and they have a lease with Shere Parish Council. Today, Shere Swimming Pool Club runs and maintains the pool for us all to enjoy, charging a reasonable subscription, so as to remain accessible to all, in keeping with Lady Russell's intentions.

My aim is to write a short history about the Pool, as next year the pool will have been in existence for 144 years! Therefore, I need your help, do you have any stories, photos or details of events like Galas, about the pool that you are willing to share?

Please contact me:- Diann Arnfield Tel. 01483 203464
or email dianmary@f2s.com



BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Brockham Choral Society is a sociable, friendly, and go-ahead choir with 70 plus members. Patrick Barrett our inspiring Musical Director with our outstanding Accompanist Marion Lea ensures every rehearsal is lively and fun. Come and join us, we do not audition, all voices most welcome. The FIRST TERM is FREE.

Starting on January 8th we rehearse on Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm at St. John's school, Dorking. We shall be preparing DVORAK's STABAT MATER for a performance on the 6th April accompanied by the British Sinfonietta Orchestra.

We have an exciting year ahead with a Summer Concert in June entitled 'Music of the World', followed in October with a workshop and Concert with Voces 8.

For further information contact our Secretary Ed Criswick 01372 877069 or visit our website www.brockhamchoral.org



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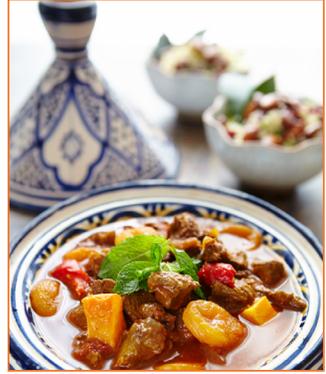
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MOLE VALLEY RAMBLERS



Feeling a bit overfed and under exercised? Thinking about your New Year's resolutions? Looking for some inspiration? We are very lucky to have some of the best and most beautiful walking countryside in the whole country right on our doorstep and walking in winter brings its own wonderful surprises – with no leaves on the trees, the views are more frequent and even clearer. Part of the Ramblers Association, Mole Valley Ramblers organises friendly group walks across

the heart of Surrey and further afield, on weekdays and at weekends, with a range of distances and difficulties, as detailed below in the list of January walks. Visit www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk for full information. Do come and give us a try and start off the New Year on the right foot.

Tuesday 1st: 360 degrees of Reigate: New Year's Day walk. 10am, 10 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 2nd: Winter wander with windmill. 10am, 5.5 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 2nd: East of Polesden. 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Thursday 3rd: Holmwood Common Trail. 10am, 4.5 miles, leisurely.

Friday 4th: Horsing and Coursing. 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Saturday 5th: Shake up from Shackleford. 10am, 8.5 miles, moderate.

Sunday 6th: New Year on Box Hill. 9.30am, 6 miles, moderate.

Monday 7th: Ambling around Albury Heath. 10.30am, 4 miles, leisurely.

Wednesday 9th: The Downs and around. 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 9th: Two villages, a park and a Dene. 10am, 8 miles, strenuous.

Saturday 12th: Pitch up from the Holmbury end. 9.30am, 8 miles, moderate.

Sunday 13th: Denbies and the magic of Druids Grove. 9.30am, 7 miles, moderate.

Monday 14th: Polesden Lacey to Tanners Hatch. 10.30am, 4.5 miles, leisurely.

Wednesday 16th: Midwinter Mix. 10am, 5.5 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 16th: Sheepleas – rolling hills and beech woods. 10am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Saturday 19th: Dem boots, dem boots, dem dry boots. 10am, 12 miles, moderate.

Sunday 20th: The Far Side of Farley. 9.30am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 23rd: The Rise and Fall of Deepdene. 10am, 5 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 23rd: Avoid golf balls and enjoy the view. 10am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Saturday 26th: Winter lunch walk from Walton. 10am, 4 miles, leisurely.

Saturday 26th: North Downs views from Ranmore. 10am, 10.5 miles, strenuous.

Sunday 27th: The Rough and Tumble of the NDW. 9.30am, 7 miles, moderate.

Monday 28th: Visit the Emporium. 10.30am, 4 miles, leisurely.

Wednesday 30th: Denbies to Polesden Lacey. 10am, 7 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 30th: Bridges around Hatchford. 10am, 8 miles, strenuous.

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BRIGITTE TRUST APPEAL

The Brigitte Trust is seeking more Trustees. We are particularly looking for people with skills and experience in accounting, palliative care or the hospice movement, and marketing. The Dorking based Trust is an independent registered charity offering emotional support and practical help at home to people and their families living with life threatening illness across Surrey. A small professional team supports 90-100 volunteers who provide front-line service free to over 350 clients a year referred by health professionals, hospices, who self-refer or are introduced by friends or family. The Trust's volunteers help in many ways, providing:

- Emotional support and a listening ear
- Respite for carers
- Transport to hospital appointments, shopping and trips out
- Bereavement support



The Brigitte Trust has been based in Dorking for over 30 years and has developed to cover the whole of Surrey. The Trust is part funded by Surrey Downs CCG. Income is also raised through fundraising activities, donations and charitable trusts. All our clients are living with a life threatening illness. Approximately 80% have a cancer diagnosis, and 70% are supported until end of life.

Our volunteers can transform lives by providing a regular weekly visit of up to three hours at a time, offering emotional support and companionship. For many of our clients this helps to lessen social isolation and reduce feelings of loneliness. In addition, volunteers can offer practical help such as making a cup of tea, preparing a light meal or helping clients with paperwork.

Our service also affords an opportunity for respite for the client's carers and family members. This enables them to leave the house, meet a friend for coffee, do a grocery shop or simply take some time out for themselves. All our volunteers undergo a rigorous initial training programme and attend bi-monthly support groups.

If you would like to support our work by becoming a Trustee or in any other capacity - fundraising, as a client facing volunteer, or perhaps giving a few hours to help with office work, admin or IT, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Ingrid Walker at brigitteadmin@btconnect.com.

THE PAST IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY; THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THERE

This article recalls an event that took place in the Reading Room on 25th January 1888. Mrs Fuller, of the Rookery, and the Misses Barclay from Bury Hill, invited over 100 working men of the parish to a dinner in the Reading Room.

The reason for the invitation became clear after the meal when the Revd A G Joyce, Rector of Winnal, near Winchester, introduced himself as a member of the Central Emigration Society. After alluding to the great number of unemployed in the country, he showed the diners, by means of a map of the world, what vast regions belonging to Britain were waiting

to be peopled, and what facilities were offered by various



organisations to enable emigrants to reach these distant places, and also to help them on when there. He went on to give instances of emigrants who had left this country in very reduced circumstances, but after a short residence in one of our colonies were raised to a position of comparative affluence, and soon were able to pay for their friends to go from England to join them.

The lecturer confined his remarks primarily to the colony of Queensland and the dominion of Canada as affording facilities to the potential emigrant, and illustrated his talk with photographs of the various places mentioned; shown by means of the magic lantern. An associated scheme was the Petworth Emigration Society with which Charles Barclay of Bury Hill was closely associated, so if you have relatives in Canada it might be interesting to establish when and how they left the UK.

[This article is based on 'Go West Young Man', published in the Westcott Local History Group Annual Report – June 2002.]

Terry Wooden

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Sat 12/Wed 16 January – Becoming

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Sat 16/Wed 20 February – Beholding

Our hectic pace of life affords little time to simply stand and stare. In this workshop we press the pause button and look.

Sat 16/Wed 20 March – Belonging

A chance to consider our habitats and networks as we explore what it means to belong. And a look at what belongs to us.

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