

Westcott Village Magazine

October 2020



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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
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8th October 2020

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



Just when it finally feels like we're getting back to some sort of normality - kids are back at school, students off to university (as I write this

our spare room is full of stuff to pack - I thought university rooms were small!) the weather doing what it is supposed to, more regulations on meeting friends appear. Hopefully not for too long, but who knows what will happen in the next few months, so please make the most of the good weather and get out in the countryside when you can.

We don't have much from clubs and societies this month, as they are still unable to meet up, but there are a couple of things to cheer us all up. There are some beautiful sunflower

pics from Jacki Moss taken in Westcott, and a heartwarming story on page 21 about one of our village boys coming to help out someone when he thought she was hurt, proving that community spirit is alive and well even in the very young.

Dorking Halls cinema is offering screenings of musical concerts and operas over October, so if you're missing your live music fix please see their website for details.

Keep safe and well, look out for each other, and enjoy the sunshine as long as you can.

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

Sad to say the St John's Chapel Cafe is not up and running yet, but we will keep you posted as soon as we hear otherwise.



...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



*The most important thing you
can do with your life*

*- Grow your relationship with
God*

Unless you are a fundamentalist atheist – your life is built on the belief that all existence is random and essentially meaningless – you must be open to the possibility that there is a “higher power”, a “life force” behind our being. My guess is most people have this sense that “there must be something” to explain the utterly extraordinary fact of life.

If such a “higher power”/“life force” is the reason for our lives, it would surely be good to know more about it, to be open to having more of it in your life. Christians believe this “it” is actually personal – the “higher power” has character and seeks relationship, so we call the “life force”, “He” and “God”.

It is my experience, as for Christians all through history and throughout the world, that we can grow in relationship with this ground of our being, with God, by simply dedicating time each day. Just 10 set minutes a day will grow your relationship with God, leading to your growth as a person. You will see developing in your life love, strength, wisdom. The “fruits of the Holy Spirit” will grow in you - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5). You will find in God that His grace is sufficient for all your need. You will experience a fullness of life that the material world on its own cannot give. In God you will know that the powers of sin, death and the devil have been vanquished. We have eternal life. You will know deep within yourself sure hope in all circumstances.

...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

In the God of Christian faith, we receive all the benefits that Jesus Christ has won for us, and we become more like Him.

There are only two things that matter in life, are the purpose of our lives - to love God with all that we are, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. The first, growing our relationship with God, empowers the second.

There cannot be anything more important than growing in relationship with the reason for your existence, with God. It is impossible to find fulfilment if you neglect the source behind your being, God. All you need to grow your relationship with God is to ensure you give 10 set minutes a day. What do you do with this time ? Essentially you pray, and you listen, with reading the Bible. I will give more detail next month. If, though, you would like to know more now, please do not hesitate to contact me. There are many things a Church, a vicar does but the most vital is to help one and other do the most important thing you can do with your life – grow your relationship with God.

The Church in Westcott in a time of Corona

Much of the pre-Covid work of the Church in Westcott has been put on hold but we are still very much active and present in our village. Activities include:-

- Holy Trinity is open to all for visits and prayer.
9.30 am – 4 pm Sundays and Wednesdays.
- Prayer together in Holy Trinity every Wednesday 1.30 – 2.30 pm.
I will be there on 7th & 14th October. You are very welcome to come for a chat, prayer
- 8.30 – 9.00 am every Sunday, Communion Service in Holy Trinity.

...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

- 10.30 am Zoom service every Sunday – join us by telephone if you do not have internet access.
See website for details or contact Alan, Vicar

Join us, you are very welcome.

- “Life Groups” are running on Zoom – small groups of people who meet to chat and pray about life, faith.

We are a part of the “Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme” and we are always here for a chat, prayer, pastoral need. **Paul Stacey** paulstacey88@gmail.com, may be able to help with debt advice.

For help, more information, please contact me:-

Alan, Vicar 01306 644868 alchasjonas@aol.com

or visit our web-site <https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/>

Thank you....

Many thanks to you all who are holding together the Church in Westcott at this time by joining our popular Sunday Zoom service and for all our other activities. Thank you to **Tony Astor**, St Johns manager, who has worked very hard to get St Johns open again for events and lettings.

Children's & Families Work – Ellie Lister

Ellie, our Children's and Family Worker, continues to slowly recover after months of being ill with the Coronavirus. Activities are, therefore, on hold. Please pray for Ellie's good recovery.

...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

Harvest 4th October

Our celebrations will be curtailed but please do not let this annual festival of thanks and commitment go unnoticed. Join us for **10.30 am Zoom Service**, We cannot take produce this year, so please send donations direct to our usual recipients:

Dorking Area Food Bank dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk
or to Papua Partners www.papuapartners.org

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

12 noon Sunday 11th October 2020

on Zoom

This important meeting of review and vision, with elections of church officers was postponed from the Spring. Please join us.

Joining details will be on our web-site and sent out in church emails. Let me know if you would like more information/copies of papers.

Alan, Vicar

FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Paul and Carol Morris, who have sponsored the church floodlighting for October in memory of Paul's father Barry and Carol's father Jim.

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

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SERVICES

DATE	THEME	8:30AM IN CHURCH	10:30AM ON ZOOM
4 th Oct	Harvest Gladness, Generosity ... Giving (4)	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Holy Communion
11 th Oct	Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Holy Communion
18 th Oct	Luke the Evangelist	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Songs of Praise & Communion
25 th Oct	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34- end	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Holy Communion

8.30am - We are delighted to say that, after considerable review and care, we have re-instating the 8.30am Holy Communion Sunday service in Holy Trinity, focusing on the receiving of the sacrament, with no sermon or hymns, and finishing by 9am. There is no need to sign in – please just come along, but please be aware that we will need to manage numbers if we are beyond safe capacity and that masks are now compulsory. Further details, including our Risk Assessment are available to view on our website thechurchinwestcott.org.uk.

10.30am - Our "parish" **online Zoom service**, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music. Visit our website to sign up to our emailing list for weekly invitations

You will also be very welcome to come to Holy Trinity, for prayer, reflection or just to be back in our Church **on Sundays and/or Wednesdays between 9.30am and 4pm.**



READING ROOM

Welcome to autumn from the Reading Room

We have over the lockdown period completed building maintenance on the front exterior, electrics, plumbing and heating.

Good news is that we have re-opened our doors and have already welcomed back Gong Bath therapy, Art History group, Surrey Academy of Ballet & Performing Arts and Dorking Aikido Club.

The new bio-fogging cleaning system ensures the safest anti-bacterial cleaning throughout the building after each user. The toilets are all fully accessible and there are 2 well stocked sanitising points.

We are yet to open the kitchen but hope to do so next month subject to Government directions with current continuation on face protection and social distancing.

We are once more accepting casual and regular bookings where numbers are limited to 30 persons in the hall at any one time - we do hope that Sunday afternoon children's parties will be popular through the winter again.



All our published rates are now subject to a £30 full bio-fogging cleaning supplement to ensure we can keep all visitors to the Reading Room as safe from infection as possible.

More information from the Reading Room website www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk or by phone on 07967 286636.

**Alan Reif, Chairman.
Westcott Village Hall Trust**



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Time is flying by in school, I cannot believe we are already in October. The children are now well into the pace of school life and no doubt half term will be upon us before we know it.

Welcome to Reception Children

In September, Surrey Hills All Saints welcomed the reception children to the Abinger Common site. This is such a significant milestone for both the children and parents. The children settled quickly and have enjoyed sharing tales of their day's adventures of bubble making, building, keeping babies (dolls) content in the home corner, trike rides and the most important part of the day of course, lunch! The children have also been working as a team in the natural setting of the school copse during their weekly Forest School sessions.



During lock down the early years team had to think of creative ways to connect with the children before they joined, ensuring they were ready for

the leap into the next chapter of their education. The children received videos of story times that helped them to familiarise themselves with different parts of the school, met their teachers virtually via Microsoft Teams, took safe tours of the site when the elder children weren't there and met their new teachers by the park, instead of the usual home visit. These all helped ensure that each child left school with a beaming smile on their first day!



Autumn Term

Before and during the summer, the staff were incredibly busy developing our school's recovery curriculum. We have chosen an over-arching question to support our curriculum as we welcome all children back to school: What makes a community thrive? The focus of the curriculum is on; rebuilding relationships; understanding the individual and their community; addressing gaps in learning; developing skills for learning

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

and engaging and inspiring the children. Alongside this, a key focus is on ensuring we support and develop the children's mental and physical health and make outdoor learning a priority. As we move through the term, we look forward to sharing our learning with you.

Year 6 Final Week

We had a fabulous time, albeit very emotional, celebrating with our Year 6 children who have now moved on to their next chapter. The children showed such resilience during their time back in school. We will miss them hugely and hope they will come back and see us when they can.



Surrey Hills All Saints Alumni

It has been absolutely wonderful to hear from a number of past students who have achieved brilliant results in both GCSEs and A-Levels this year. Congratulations to you all. You still make us extremely proud and we wish you luck on the next stage of

your learning journey. We are also extremely proud of our past Year 6 children, who have transitioned to secondary school this September. We have heard from a number of parents and teachers, who have told us how well you have settled in.

School Places for 2021/22

If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 you will need to apply for a school place between 2nd November 2020 and 15th January 2021. Virtual tours of the Abinger and Westcott sites are available on the school website. Please do contact us if you are looking for a school place by emailing the school office at westcott@surreyhill.sch.uk or calling 01306 881136.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook, here you can see daily life at Surrey Hills All Saints and can share in the amazing learning opportunities the children experience. Twitter @SurreyAllSaints, Facebook Surrey All Saints.

Thank you and well done to everyone for your continued support during these unprecedented times. Keep safe and well.

Mrs Ratcliff
Headteacher



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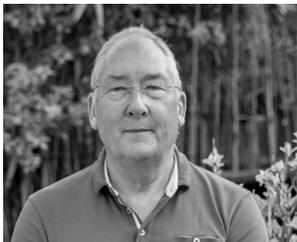
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This month I have only one important issue to draw your attention to but I accept that this is not new news!

Speeding and Noise Campaign



On 4th September the WVA was represented at a Joint Action Group meeting chaired by Hazel Watson

which brought together representatives from villages along the A24 and A25 who are seriously impacted by the problem of anti-social motorbike riders and the noise they create. As I have said before, we are not alone in suffering this problem, and it was heartening to see that the Police and DVSA (formerly known as the DVLA) are taking the matter very seriously.

During the whole of August, police presence in Westcott, especially at weekends, did have an impact on curbing the noise pollution and as a result a significant number of bikers were dealt with under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act including fines and confiscation of vehicles. In addition to

village presence, Ryka's at the Burford Bridge and the Newlands Corner car park were targeted by a co-ordinated Police campaign. Unfortunately, this had been set up with a specific budget allocation for the month of August only, and frustratingly meant that as we entered September the problems returned. The police are also frustrated and are working with us and other Parish Councils and Residents' Associations to find longer term solutions which include:

- Encouraging any resident to report anti-social motorbike noise by calling 101 to report the problem as it happens.
- Encouraging residents to video record speeding and excessively noisy vehicles on their mobile phones; the WVA will be setting up a process for you to send these to us as evidence of the problem. Until we have done this please send any recordings to contact@westcottvillage.com
- Encouraging residents to report anti-social behaviour by reporting it online at <https://bit.ly/3bzkHxb> (this will take you to the Mole Valley website). This is not an overly effective site for reporting anti-social noise problems, but it does at least log every incident to which the council and police are obliged to respond. We need to build up a weight of evidence and formally reporting incidents is vital in getting the attention of the various authorities.



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- Providing Community Speed Watch teams with noise monitoring equipment (to use alongside speed monitoring devices) in the next couple of months.



These are all very helpful measures and we are pushing hard to get our Community Speed Watch team up

and running by training volunteers. Unfortunately, Covid-19 anxiety is preventing the police and Highways making this happen but we will provide an update as soon as one is available. I am very pleased to report that we have seen a good response to our request for volunteers but if you haven't yet done so and would like to be involved in the Speed Watch programme, please email us at contact@westcottvillage.com

Nick Lund has also been very active on the speeding issues and we have now been told that there is money available from County and District Council pots to make some practical changes through the village to address speeding vehicles. These are being finalised and we hope they will be put into effect soon.

However, our continued frustration with this whole campaign is that what

we really need is a way of "designing out crime" – making physical changes to our road environment through the village to force motorists and bikers to stop their anti-social behaviour rather than relying on an overstretched police force to be present when incidents occur. This, of course, is a much bigger challenge and a much more costly one so undoubtedly will take longer to get results. But we will keep pushing for more permanent solutions.

WVA AGM - is due to be held on **Thursday 8th October** (not 3rd October as previously reported in error) **starting at 7.30pm via Zoom**. The Zoom invite will be sent out on 24th September and the AGM paperwork will be available on the Village Association website (www.westcottvillage.com) from the same date.

Council Changes – The white paper on the proposed Unitary authorities will be reviewed by Trustees when it is published and we will review how we respond to this in due course.

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
Chairman, Westcott Village Association
timway.westcott@gmail.com

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BABY MEALS

Since the beginning of 2020, the Westcott "Baby Meals" volunteer cooks have bought, created and delivered 115 meals to 10 different households. We've been busier than ever in the history of the Westcott 'Baby Meals' service and due to the Covid-19 outbreak have expanded our remit to cater for other households who have been struggling at this difficult time. I'm also very much aware that across the village many people have been shopping and cooking for neighbours and friends who have struggled to get out or for whom this has been a particularly challenging time for other reasons. What an amazing village we live in!

Joining our volunteer cooks list means you can help support families across the village, when and if you're able - no formal rota just sign up when the request comes through.

If you are expecting a baby or know a family in the village that is, or if you would like to join the cooks' list, please get in touch.

annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk or 07710 425487

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MY LITTLE HERO

Occasionally in life someone surprises you with a wonderfully kind gesture - it seems Westcott kids start young.



Adder from Record Pool website

I was out for a run with our dog late afternoon (in Westcott near the Milton Way train crossing) at the beginning of September when my laces came undone. I bent down to fasten them and an adder snaked across the front of my shoe. I, naturally, screamed in shock and froze because the adder was between myself and the dog. At which point a little voice from over

the hedge called "Are you alright?" Moments later Henry Livingstone-Dunn came running round the corner with a friend to check if I was hurt.

I was humbled by their thoughtfulness and thanked them for coming to the rescue. I was able to share with them my Indiana Jones moment and warned them not to go looking for the poisonous snake. Unfortunately in the shock of the moment I was not able to take a photo to prove the tale but I did, however, report its sighting for the purposes of conservation: <https://www.recordpool.org.uk/>

The Record Pool

The Record Pool collects data on herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) in the UK and to makes it available, locally and nationally, for conservation purposes.

Jo Smewing



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Supermarket Deliveries Feedback

Last month I mentioned that, following concerns expressed by Westcott residents, I had written to Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and Asda to specifically ask them to take action with their van drivers to respect appropriate speeds in these areas – especially in Ashley Road, Watson Road, Bailey Road, Furlong Road, St John's Road, The Burrell, Springfield Road and Westcott Street.



It's fair to say that it was a mixed response. We heard nothing back from Asda. Both Waitrose and Sainsbury's were very helpful and their teams contacted the drivers for our area.

I'm sad to say that Tesco replied by saying that "I'm afraid we cannot

help". I can only encourage folks who are Tesco account holders to email online@tesco.com to raise the issue directly with them. That appears to be the only way that they are prepared to think about taking any action to maintain road safety in our rural village.

Westcott GP Surgery

Over the last few years, many of us have been supporting our Doctor's surgery to secure a new future in the village.

This is a somewhat slow process and from the outside probably shows the wheels of the NHS machine in an enlightening way – and I say that having, for a short while, done the local NHS leadership role that ran the process nearly a decade ago.

Whilst we might see the decision making timetable continually going on, I'm delighted to say that the local NHS commissioning team have confirmed to me that having a new surgery in Westcott is their preferred option.

This is really great news for all Westcott residents, whether you use the surgery or not. It secures a vital support service for us and also gives the Dorking Medical Practice team the chance to bring new services out to us here.

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Did you guess right? The bus stop
was thatched in March 2009.
Thanks to Phil Cremen for the
photos and the answer!

THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback to the surgery team through the summer survey of patients. It's not just Westcott residents that will benefit from this as many of the Riverbank surgery patients actually live in the rural communities across Leith Hill.



The next steps are for the GP team to submit their final business case and then hopefully the future will be confirmed.

Keeping Your Home Secure

As the nights start to draw in, Surrey Police are reminding us that the first steps to keeping our homes safe from burglary are to secure our doors and windows.

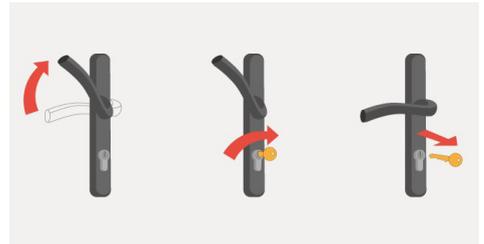
Your home is only as secure as its weakest point of entry. That's why it's so important to have doors and windows that are as secure as possible.

Double secure

Simply shutting the door won't prevent burglaries. Double-lock the door every

single time you leave the house.

Modern multi-locking and uPVC doors use a system of hooks and latches to secure the door but these only work if you lift up the handle and then remember to turn and remove the key. Remember – lift, lock and remove.

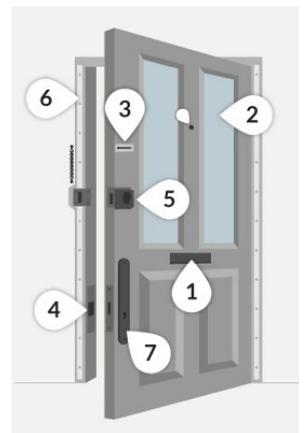


Lift, lock, remove

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Controlling access to your home starts with securing doors and windows. To see how your home compares and to get more advice with our top tips, visit the Surrey Police web pages:

<https://www.surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/control-access-doors/>



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Is it time to get your carers flu jab?

Carers play an integral role in our village community, ensuring loved ones are safe and well through all circumstances. It's really important that Carers look after themselves and take advantage of the free flu vaccine available to them through the Surrey carers flu prevention voucher.

This year sees the UK's most comprehensive flu prevention programme in history, in order to help protect the NHS. This will see a marked increase in the number of people in Surrey who can get a free flu vaccination.

Surrey carers continue to be eligible for the free flu jab and it is crucial that they are vaccinated as early as possible. To support this, Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership are launching the Surrey Carers Flu Jab Voucher for the fifth year running.



Getting the jab will not only protect you, it will help reduce transmission of flu to the vulnerable people in your care and stop them becoming ill. This year more than ever, all Surrey Carers are encouraged to get a free flu jab. The flu jab is the best way to protect carers and those they care for from flu.

Flu can have serious consequences and vulnerable people can die of it. By taking up the offer of the flu vaccination, carers may help reduce pressure on the NHS through the coming winter months.

The flu season generally lasts from October to March and this year Surrey Flu Carer Vouchers are available through all Surrey's front-line Carers Support Services.

If you are a carer looking after someone who is elderly or disabled, you can ask for a flu jab at your GP practice or take a Surrey Carers Flu Jab Voucher to your nearest participating community pharmacy. The vouchers provide community pharmacies with the assurance that you are known to carers services here in Surrey and are therefore entitled to a free vaccination.



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Dorking Area Foodbank

October is a time when we traditionally think of harvest and giving thanks for the plentiful supplies that we have, often generated locally from within our own communities.

Through this year, we have had the opportunity to get out and about locally perhaps more than ever. It has been wonderful to see how our local farmers and land owners take care of the green infrastructure of our community too – maintaining hedges, fences, rights of way, as well as seeing how crops are maturing week by week.

It is family tradition that the farmers amongst us never “have a good year” – it follows by definition that some bad years are better than others. (It’s also family tradition that I never sympathise with any of them!). I’m told that this year, hay and cereal crops have particularly struggled and that in turn that will push up food prices through the winter.

That position though, especially when many people are already facing the financial challenges of living in a COVID world, really does matter to people in our local community.

One team doing their very best to help out are Dorking Area Foodbank.



In 2019, they distributed 16.8 tonnes of food through vouchers and additional outreach work, feeding 572 local children and 768 adults.

To keep up this work, they regularly update the items that they are in need of on their website dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk

For example, as I write they are looking for:

- Tinned vegetables
- 500g bags of dried pasta
- Long life fruit juice
- Tinned Vegetarian meals
- Shampoo

The list changes every week, and they are generally grateful for any donations. This harvest time perhaps think how we in Westcott can support our local individuals and families through Dorking Area Foodbank.

James Friend

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What a lovely start to the Autumn term we have had. We were super excited to return from the summer holidays and counted down the days until we could play with our friends again. We're all a little bit taller with a lot more hair!

There have been new faces that have joined us and we've made sure that they felt wonderfully welcome. Everyone has settled really well into a slightly new routine and have readily accepted small changes that will keep us safe. We are all very well versed on hand washing!

The most important thing is that we get to play play play again! And soak up all the enriching experiences and relationships that nursery offers us. We have spent a lot of time in our great big garden, experimenting with many musical instruments and using giant bubble wands that make the biggest bubbles you've ever seen!



Inside we've been making delicious apple and blackberry crumble –

perfectly comforting for this time of year! Blackberries also make a fantastic natural face paint so we have had a lot of fun squishing them and making our own. Our role play area has been transformed into a cosy home from home for us to explore.

We've talked about our families and what we have all been doing over the summer and in lockdown. We then used our discussions to create pictures for us to keep.



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I'm sorry not to have written Music in Dorking for several months now, but of course when the coronavirus pandemic broke out, all concert life stopped abruptly. Concerts and festivals were cancelled, choirs were unable to rehearse, and many professional musicians – especially the younger and less-established ones – have faced real problems. At the time I write this, there is still no real hope of when any of these activities will be able to resume. It is a desperately sad situation.

Many organisations have responded by going online, by making performances available via the internet. So it has been possible to watch operas and listen to concerts and recitals from all around the world. The wonderful BBC Radio 3 has re-broadcast lots of classic Prom concerts and other archive performances. But of course it's not the same as attending a live concert.

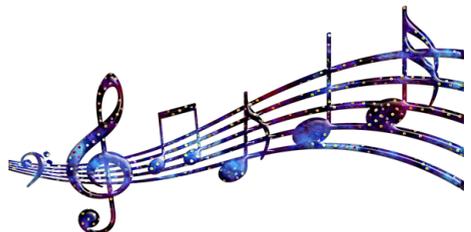
The Dorking Choral Society, which I sing with, is holding rehearsals via Zoom, with no certainty as to when we will next be able to give a concert. The Leith Hill Music Festival was postponed from April to September and then cancelled, and next year's festival will be a reduced affair with just two concerts

and no competitions. The Dorking Concertgoers Society has planned an excellent programme for the season but has delayed taking any ticket bookings until the situation becomes clearer.

One small improvement for us is that the Dorking Halls has now opened its cinema and their 'encore' event screenings include several musical items. September had performances of Carmen, La Boheme and Rigoletto. October's diary includes The three tenors – voices for eternity, a film celebrating the trio of legendary singers; Turandot from the stunning setting of Sydney harbour; and Michael Ball and Alfie Boe performing songs from musical theatre and the pop world.

Do keep an eye on the Halls' website for further screenings of concerts and operas. In the meantime, please keep safe and well!

Ian Codd





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WESTCOTT SUNSHINE



Some sunflowers spotted in the field between Lince Lane and the railway, a touch of sunshine during lockdown.



Photos by Jacki Moss. If you have anything others taken locally that might brighten somebody's day, please send in to editor@westcottmag.com



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WESTCOTT - A POEM

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I sometimes think Jehovah must have smiled
At the hamlet in the hollow of His hand
Before He set it, quiet and gently down
On this tiny bit of lovely fertile land.
And Ranmore, stirring in the dawn,
Its silver veil in curiosity drew,
That through those spectacles of tangled thorn,
It might watch the village as it grew.

A few stone cots, a winding road,
Fair leas of bracken, gorse and cuckoo pint,
A forge, a farm, a cattle pound,
And fields of green and purple peppermint.

Then what sweet sounds from this fair hamlet rose,
Ploughman's scythe in full eared barley corn,
The ring of cooper's axe in Deerleap Woods,
And the winding of the yeastman's horn.
The stamp of patient hooves and spurs a-jingle
From the barracks of a royal retreat,
From milkmaid's song and lowing kine,
The rustic roundelay of Westcott Street.

Set in jewelled acres noble houses rise,
Milton, Rookery, Kingscote, Hawthorndene,
While smaller palaces for smaller folk
Crowd snugly round the brief three-cornered green.
Upon the common heath, with lych-gate, bell and spire,
Westcott now its flinty Church can boast,
While lesser hills, once nameless, have become
Old Bury, Hungry and Coast.
Old Father Time moves on inevitable, but slow.

His consort, suspect change, goes on apace,
While modern modes, and modern innovations
Etch lines upon this Westcott's lovely face,
Where once were few the many now take part,
Yet from the gallant stronghold of her pride,
Time-honoured in her brave tradition,
Westcott does not fear the modern tide.

For still the prideful heron treads his silent way,
And on the reeded lake the moorhen rests serene,
And still in cedars tall, and needled pine,
The rooks their raucous parliaments convene.
This was His plan - the ever changing scene,
As seasons change with each succeeding year,
I lift my eyes to Ranmore's smiling hill
To thank the gracious Hand that led me here.

Grace Cockwell, d. 1965.
Westcott W.I.

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DORKING MUSEUM

DORKING MUSEUM IN OCTOBER

With something of a 'lost summer' for many of us and for many public venues, it seems hardly possible that we are now thinking about autumn and winter activities.



October, of course, is the month of Hallowe'en – scary costumes, 'trick or treat' and carved pumpkins. Whilst these may seem relatively recent (and often

imported) 'traditions', their origins do date back thousands of years. In the 8th century, October 31st became 'All Hallows' Eve', preceding 'All Hallows' Day' ('All Saints' Day'), a day to remember those who had died for their beliefs. But centuries earlier, this was the ancient pagan festival of 'Samhain', marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, when the Celts believed that ghosts of their dead would visit the mortal world.

Previously, Dorking Museum has been able to enter into the 'spirit' of the event with Spooky Halloween Ghost Walks, coming face to face with some of Dorking's spectral historical inhabitants, and Spooky Cave Tours, with added ghosts and special

stories of the legends and mysteries of the Caves. Sadly, conditions this year mean that our spooks will have to remain in hiding, but we hope to welcome them back next year.

Walking in Dorking: The Museum was pleased to be able to resume its programme of guided walks in and around Dorking last month.

There are changes to take account of current conditions: we can only take a maximum of six people per walk, bookable through our website, and all walkers must wear masks. Details and Covid-procedures on www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/.



October's programme includes a Betchworth Castle Tour (including exclusive access to the Castle enclosure) on 4th October, 2pm, and Mayflower 400 walks, revealing Dorking in the time of William Mullins, on 11th October, 2pm, and 18th October, 4.30pm, all at £4 per head. The programme is regularly updated, so please check the website for other walks and dates.





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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

World War Two in Westcott

Dorking Museum's Oral History Team has been recording local residents' memories of their life during World War Two. Reg Rose was born in 1932 and lived in Westcott



* V.J. Day camp

during the war. He was very forthcoming with his memories of that time and the Museum has now presented these, together with extracts from



* First Camp when Reg (front left) joined the Scouts, Logmore Lane

<https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/reg-rose-world-war-two-oral-history/>.

* Both photos courtesy of Reg Rose

Museum Archives: After careful review and consultation, this important and valued resource is now opening separately from the main Museum under carefully controlled conditions. It provides an outstanding archive collection of local books and maps,

photographs, postcards and prints, and other documents covering the Dorking area.

It is regularly consulted by biographers, historians and journalists from around the world, but is also a valuable resource for those who may wish to research the history of their family or their house or explore other facets of local life. There is much on local sport, politics, music, churches and their choirs, schools, trades and tradesmen and much more.

Initially, the Archives are open for visitors on Saturdays only, as space is limited. Visitors who wish to use the Archives should email archivesjane@gmail.com with their name and contact details, together with the topic they wish to research, and the preferred Saturday date and time of arrival. The team will check that the archives have relevant material and will get back in touch to confirm details. Advance booking and payment of a £5 fee is required.



Museum archives

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

Additional measures have been put in place to ensure a safe environment for volunteers and visitors. Visitors should bring their own face masks, but hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance and gloves will be provided. Pencils only should be used in the Archive and photos (no flash) can be taken with permission (there is a small charge for this payable by contactless card on departure). Please see the website www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk for further details.

Dorking Museum's main exhibition space currently remains closed whilst plans are put in place to allow us to re-open safely whilst continuing to offer an appropriate visitor experience. For an update on resumption of activities, to read our regularly updated blog, to become a member or to donate, please visit the website www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.

David Burton
Dorking Museum

WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

*Hello to all our loyal supporters.
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and enjoying the summer.
Due to Covid 19 we are still not certain when
we will hold the next coffee morning,
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The North Weald Art Group, a locally based society that includes both amateur and professional artists, is holding its annual exhibition of paintings, prints and mixed media works at the Denbies Art Gallery.



Most works in the exhibition are for sale as well as a selection of unframed works.

John Yardley, the renowned watercolour artist and the group's president is one of the exhibitors.

There is ample free parking at Denbies as well as a fine restaurant and cafe. There is also a shop selling wine and gifts as well as a farm shop selling local produce. Well worth a visit.

For everyone's safety there will be stringent precautions in place at Denbies with hand gel dispensers at various points of entry to the exhibition, social distancing, clear signage and the requirement to wear a face covering.

Website: northwealdartgroup.org.uk

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We are delighted to announce that the Memorial Woodland is now open again and we look forward to seeing many visitors over the coming months. Our sponsors The Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund are to be thanked for their help with providing the new Visitors Centre. We still have lots of work to do on the inside of the hut and are looking for any tradesmen that could help with carpentry and guttering. If you are one that could spare a few hours to help us it certainly would be appreciated. Please email Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk.

We also have to thank The People's Post Code Lottery for their sponsorship which has enabled us to purchase new eco picnic benches and to erect stock fencing around the perimeter of the woodland to keep the little ones that visit safe and our young saplings from being nibbled by the deer.

The new pond is settling down, the fish are content, the water plants are thriving and the ornamental grasses which our trustee John and his wife Sharon have planted around the pond are really looking great.



We have been donated flags by all Services which are

now flying with pride at the top of the car park. So we are feeling very pleased with



our progression this year despite the setback from the Covid-19 pandemic. We have not been able to hold our usual fundraising events which of course is disappointing but the situation has been unprecedented and we have taken the decision not to hold the annual Christmas at the Woodland event this year BUT we will aim not to disappoint in 2021 with the first event being our Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 28th March 2022 followed by our 7th Anniversary on 5th June all of which of course ALL are invited to attend.

So for the time being our only event this year will be our annual Remembrance Service which will take place on Wednesday 11th November 2020. The service will take place around the Monument where social distancing is of no issue. All are invited to attend at 10.45 around the Monument.

We look forward to seeing you all back at the woodland whenever you wish to either walk around, sit and have a picnic or come and talk.

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LEARNING TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

Last month the Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill was introduced to Parliament as a Private Members Bill. Guided by the current science, this Bill has been written by an alliance of scientists, lawyers academics and campaigners, in the hope of securing a sound strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and restore the natural world, to try to prevent catastrophic climate change.



Nature is our life support system – it provides food, water, medicine, pollination, helps regulate the climate and flood prevention, and boosts our mental health. It is essential for our wellbeing. But we have been living beyond the means of our planet and eroded natural resources, to such an extent that habitats have been destroyed or polluted and wildlife is struggling to survive. Scientists fear that the sixth mass extinction is underway.

In the UK alone:

- 41% of all UK's species have declined

since the 70s (hedgehogs have declined by 95%)

- 26% of the UK's mammals are at a very real risk of becoming extinct



- A third of the wild bees and hoverfly species have sustained losses, likely due to pesticides, habitat loss and climate change
- 97% of the UK's wildflower meadows have been lost (State of Nature report 2019)

The CEE Bill requires urgent action to reduce the negative impacts that human activities have had on the health of soil and biodiversity and restore and enhance nature, so that it wildlife and ecosystems can thrive.

When they are healthy, living systems such as forests, peat bogs, saltmarshes and the sea bed, support life and absorb carbon from the atmosphere, which can help tackle the climate emergency too. The Bill also outlines new targets for the UK to reduce its real fair share of carbon emissions, in line

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with the spirit of the Paris Agreement. For the Bill to succeed it will require cross-party support and all MPs to unite behind it. We need to all come together, to act for the common good. The future of our children, their children and countless species is in the balance.



Jakki Phillips

What can I do?

Support the bill:

You can find out more about the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill at www.ceebill.uk

You could also meet with, or write to, your MP to ask them to support the Bill.

Support hedgehogs:

The British Hedgehog is now officially classified as vulnerable to extinction. Numbers are declining in rural areas. Intensive farming reduces the quantity and quality of hedgehog habitat. Fewer insect larvae, earthworms and slugs, that make up much of a hedgehog's diet, are found in agricultural soils. Hedgehogs are faring a little better in more urban areas. Try these helpful tips from www.hedgehogstreet.org

Top 10 tips to make your garden hedgehog-friendly

1. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways
2. Make your pond safe with a ramp
3. Create a wild corner
4. Deal with netting and litter
5. Put out food and water
6. Stop using chemicals
7. Check before strimming
8. Be careful with bonfires
9. Make a home for hedgehogs
10. Become a Hedgehog Champion





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POPPY APPEAL UPDATE



The 2019 Poppy Appeal finished a long time ago but due to the strange times that have befallen us I still have not had the total we raised in Westcott confirmed by the Royal British Legion but my calculations show we raised £1591. My thanks as ever go to the small, but hardy, team of collectors who do their bit in the village regardless of the weather.

Sadly, there will not be a Poppy Collection in Westcott this year. Due to Covid19 door to door collections are not allowed nor are tabletop sales so I am unable to have my usual table outside the newsagents. I have also been told that I am not to give Poppy boxes to the local shops. It is likely that both Sainsbury's and Waitrose in Dorking will have boxes within their stores and these will be our most local collection points. There is also the Royal

British Legion website if you wish to purchase things or just to make a donation.

This would have been my last Poppy Collection anyway as we are moving from the village so may I add a plea for someone to take over from me in organising the annual collection. It is not an arduous job, just a busy few weeks once a year and that is it. If anyone is interested and would like to speak to me about it please ring me on 01306 880908.

Many thanks

Christine Metcalfe



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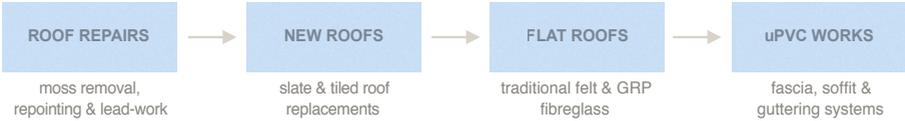


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WESTCOTT FUNGI

During the last month I have noticed a whole crop of mushrooms on our lawn - far more than usual, and apparently it's not just us! I have been sent these fabulous photos of fungi taken in the woods around Westcott. Ours are more the traditional mushroom, but these are a range of forms and weirdly beautiful!



Photos by Iain Grainger

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