

# Westcott Village Magazine

November 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](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com)

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

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**8th November 2020**

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## FROM THE EDITOR



I can't believe I'm writing the November issue already - I expect it's partly because we missed so many issues, but whatever it is, it's quite scary! We have some wonderful pictures taken round Westcott this month, so thank you to those readers who took up the challenge - please send in anything else you have that shows off our village in all it's glory.

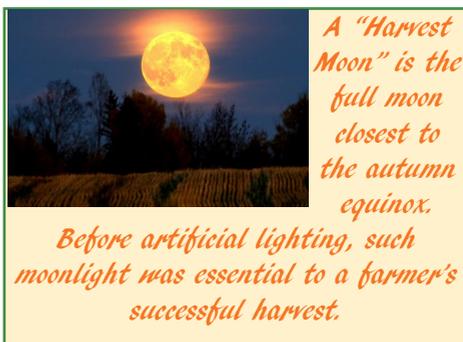
There are a few fun facts about autumn scattered through this month's magazine, like the one opposite, as November is only about halfway through autumn, though sometimes it can feel like the middle of winter.

We also have some reports from groups who have tried to keep going

during the restrictions - using zoom calls for choirs or staggering the times for people to attend at the MacMillan coffee morning so that it could still be held to raise money.

I hope you all keep happy and healthy throughout this month and keep safe.

**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

---



### **Making time to grow your relationship with God**

- Make a set time each day
- Settle yourself
- Pray through the Lord's Prayer/Prayer Book
- Read the Bible
- Be still, self-emptying, silent

So, you are ready to give dedicated time to God to deepen your relationship with Him ? ...excellent. If you are new to this, try 10 minutes to begin with and work towards the 30 minutes – one hour you ideally need every day. Morning is good as a foundation for the day, but the important thing is to find a time that you can make every day. What do you do with this 10, 30+ minutes ? Jesus said, "when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen" (Matt 6:6).

You need to be on your own, then, just you with your Bible and God, in your room. Some may say they can pray better going for a walk or doing the gardening, or some other activity. That's great as an addition. In fact, in relationship with God, you will find you are talking to Him all through the day. The starting point, though, is to be in a room on your own, no distractions.

## ...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

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It can be good to start your prayer with writing in a journal how you are feeling today, what you give thanks for, what you need God's strength in. You may want to write down the people and situations you are concerned about – writing them down before God is your prayer. You do not need lots of words – “do not keep on babbling” Jesus said (Matt 6:7) “for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.” (Matt 6:8).

Jesus goes on in this passage from Matthew to say when you pray, form your prayers around the Lord's Prayer. You may also find a “prayer book” very helpful – set words to follow, rather like the words in a Sunday service. There are various ones available, all good eg the Church of England's, “Common Worship Daily Prayer”.

After you have prayed and settled, read the Bible. You need a Bible that is a modern translation. The NIV (New International Version) is recommended. And you need a “lectionary” – a reading plan for each day. You need a structure that will give you a variety of readings through the Bible. Do not get hung up on bits you do not understand or sound strange ... move on, the answers will come later. There are four questions that are good to ask of a Bible passage:-

- What was the original context, intention of the reading?
- What does the passage say about God ?
- What does this Bible passage mean to you ?
- What will you do in response to reading this passage ?

## ...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

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You do not have to consciously go through these questions, but it's good to bear in mind that these are the things to be thinking about. Again, do not worry about what you are doing – just read. In time you will know that God is speaking to you. And then enjoy stillness, quiet, in the presence of the Holy Spirit, silence ... More next month..

### **Retirement from Westcott**

We have decided we will retire next year, probably in about a year's time in early autumn 2021. This decision was made a year ago, before Covid.

We hope and pray we will all be back in Church before our retirement. In any case, we feel the time will be right for us to move and settle into a new community, and for you, the Church in Westcott, to have a new vicar, a new leader.

We hope and pray the next year will be a fruitful time of preparing for us leaving and for discernment regarding future ministry in Westcott. There will be much work, prayer and commitment needed in working through the best future ministry for Westcott

There will be many more opportunities to say "Thank you" to you all for sharing in what will be over 23 years of living and ministering in Westcott, but for now, thank you very much for your engagement and commitment to the Church in Westcott and our village. You are an extraordinary group of people, with so many gifts.

Alan & Jenny

## ...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

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### 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 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.
  - 8.30 – 9.00 am every Sunday, Communion Service in Holy Trinity.
  - 10.30 am Zoom service every Sunday – join us by telephone if you do not have internet access.  
See web-site 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](mailto: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 **Richard Packer**, who has taken on transferring our services on to powerpoint.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Remembrance**

**10.30 am Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

Our service will be on Zoom, we hope from Holy Trinity for wreath laying at our war memorials, and Act of Remembrance. See details on our web-site or through our weekly e-mails (see below to sign up).

### **Children's & Families Work – Ellie Lister**

Ellie, our Children's and Family Worker, continues to slowly recover after months of being ill with the Corona virus. Please pray for Ellie's good recovery.

We hope to run a monthly all-age service on Zoom. Look out for details for a Crib Service that we are working on with the other churches of the Surrey Hills.

## **FLOODLIGHTING**

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Many thanks to Carol Smetham, who has sponsored the church floodlighting for November: In Loving Memory of Basil Smetham from all the Family.

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

## Stay in Touch

We would love to stay in touch with you, sending you weekly updates about our services and activities.

Please return this form by e-mail to  
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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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### Death:

30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Ernetha Doreen Williams (93)



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## HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY SERVICES

DATE	THEME	8:30AM IN CHURCH	10:30AM ON ZOOM
1st Nov	<b>All Saints</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
8th Nov	<b>Remembrance</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
15th Nov	<b>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</b> <b>Matthew 25:14-30</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
22nd Nov	<b>Healing (1)/ Christ the King</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Songs of Praise &amp; Communion</b>
29th Nov	<b>Healing (2)/ Advent (1)</b>	<b>Book of Common Prayer Communion</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>

**8.30am** - We are delighted to say that, after considerable review and care, we are 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](http://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.**

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## BABY MEALS



Hayley and Joe Macdiarmid on Springfield Road welcomed baby Autumn into the world in July and the Westcott baby meals' cooks were delighted to help them out. Hayley and Joe wanted to pass on their grateful thanks to all the volunteers who bought, cooked and delivered a meal to the family.

This is a photo of Jorgiee Moloney who's family received baby meals in September. Mum and Dad, Sammie and Jamie, were very grateful for the support after Jamie had to get back to work a week after Jorgiee's arrival, and with two other young children things have been rather hectic!



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.

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We held our AGM via Zoom in early October. The open element of the meeting is always the most interesting part and generated healthy discussion about issues that matter to those who attended. The minutes will be appearing on the WVA website during November for you all to read. Go to [www.westcottvillage.com](http://www.westcottvillage.com)

We continue to try to persuade Surrey Police to run training for our Neighbourhood Speed Watch volunteers so that we can get going with this initiative. Current restrictions have delayed the training but we will persevere, particularly as we have been assured that we will have access to **noise monitoring equipment** to use alongside the speed radar



guns. This will enable us to address the motorbike noise issue at the same time.

Similarly, the nuisance of dog poo in the village has not dropped off our radar even though, sadly, the children's posters we put up have largely been torn down, and dog mess still appears in the usual places.

Our thoughts this month are turning to a new year when hopefully we can all move our lives on from this most unusual and, for many, unsettling year.

Several years ago, when, as a village, we were asked to tackle the Green Belt Boundary Review for Mole Valley District Council and, at the same time, developing our Neighbourhood Development Plan, I briefly chaired The Westcott Village Forum. A great deal of time and effort was spent on ensuring that this group represented as broad a cross section of village residents as possible. In large part that was very successful and encouraged people to get involved in the projects which were of interest to most people. This is perhaps best demonstrated by over 80% of Westcott households completing a village survey which then shaped the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The WVA now has its place in making representations for the village on all planning applications in accordance



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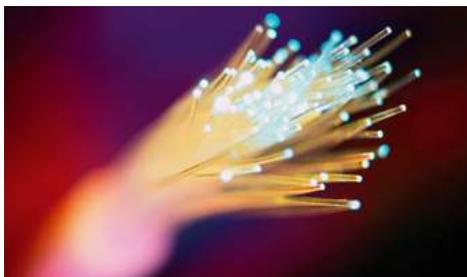
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with our Development Plan, through to dealing with the concerns of our whole community, however mundane they might seem to some.

Being a Charity and having a constitution, the WVA needs to be run in a particular way with a committee, some formal meetings and an Annual General Meeting. However, we know that for most people this level of participation really doesn't enthuse them and, as a result, we have a very loyal following but only among about 15% of Westcott's residents.

Finding issues which are of interest to the whole village is one of our objectives for 2021 which we hope will attract more residents to get involved. In early October I received two emails asking what the WVA could do about taking advantage of the Government's initiative on rolling out fibre optic broadband to areas with low broadband speeds (<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>).



If enough people are interested in progressing this initiative, we will investigate how we might take advantage of it to the benefit of village residents and businesses. Let us know if you are interested at [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com)

Finally, can I take this opportunity to remind everyone (including the 85% who currently don't get involved with the WVA) that you don't have to be a member to seek guidance, assistance, share issues or concerns on any matter which impacts any part of the village. Neither do you need to be a member to receive the newsletter which we publish monthly to update you on what's going on – you just need to let us have your email address. Drop us a line at [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com) and we will add you to the circulation list.

The WVA is here for the whole village. Visit our Website or Facebook page and if you have specific thoughts or opinions then please let us know at [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com) and we will build these ideas into serving our community.

**Tim Way**  
Chairman, Westcott Village Association  
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## DORKING CHORAL SOCIETY

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Dorking Choral Society has kept music alive during the lockdown and in the COVID-19 situation in several ways. Members have kept their vocal chords in trim through regular zoom rehearsals under the virtual baton of their musical Director Timothy Ferguson who has remained in Norway during this extraordinary period.

The Choir has rehearsed Mendelssohn's Elijah which they hope to perform once restrictions have eased. A bonus has been familiarisation with the Norwegian language and the building up of a repertoire of Norwegian songs, which it is hoped to perform in the future.

At the end of October, as part of the Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival, Dorking Choral arranged a workshop of Alexander Lestrangle's Zimbe, under the Composer himself. The work – a rhythmic and vibrant setting of songs of Africa - had been commissioned by the Choir who gave its first world premiere in Dorking in 2008. This zoom workshop attracted many singers from around the world.

On a social level the Choir has maintained contact through regular Zoom quizzes.

The Choir plans a Christmas concert depending on the COVID 19 situation, so keep a lookout for details on our website.

**Javed Kumar**

## WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

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The Committee regrets that the Programme of Talks and Walks for 2020-2021 has been suspended until the pandemic restrictions have been sufficiently relaxed to allow us to meet with confidence in our safety. Members will be kept informed with regular email updates.

**The Committee**

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# THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...

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## COVID Updates

Bearing in mind how far in advance the Editor makes contributors write their articles then this might just serve as a future historical record and be completely out of date before it drops through your door.

To 2nd October there had been 402 cases of Coronavirus in Mole Valley and very sadly 105 Coronavirus related deaths recorded up to 18th September. That is a mortality rate, here where we live, of more than a quarter.

I have started with those numbers this month, because several people had said to me recently that perhaps we would be better to “just get it and get over it”. I cannot stress how much I do not think that is the right way forward. Please do continue to heed the warnings and look after yourselves, your family, your friends and your neighbours. And to everyone doing that already – thank you from all of them to all of you.

A big thank you too, once again, to

everyone who has been wishing me well personally through my “Long-COVID” experience over the last six months. It really is appreciated and apologies to anyone that I have been more than usually grumpy towards.

## Footpath 115

Earlier this year, Network Rail blocked off the pedestrian level crossing over the railway just to the east of Landbarn Farm (accessed by the footpath that leads north from St John's Road).

This was done for safety reasons as the steps leading up to the line had worn out and need replacing. The route is quite steep there.



There have been several extensions to the time it will take Network Rail to complete the works, largely because apparently they are struggling to find a way to access the site with the necessary equipment to make the repairs.

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The term equinox comes from the  
Latin words aequus, meaning equal  
and nox, meaning night*

## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)



Presumably now winter is upon our village if these steps have not been completed by now then possibly spring will need to arrive before this is done. Please feel free to join me in encouraging Network Rail to get this done.

### **Cradhurst Woods**

There appears to be a mixed opinion in the village as to whether the council should be asked to clear away the fallen/felled branches and trees that are in the woods to the east of Cradhurst.



It is a close call, but from those I have been in contact with, the balance is to leave things as they are and allow nature to win out – supporting our local wildlife as they go.



In the meantime, if you happen to be walking past, you can do your bit too please by spotting any litter that might have found its way to these woods and safely placing it in one of the Cradhurst litter bins. Thank you.

### **Village Green Bins**

Over the summer, the council's contractors were not as vigilant as they should have been in ensuring that the bins on and around



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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

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the village green were being emptied regularly.

The agreement is that these are emptied each Monday and Thursday. In the peak times, they have also agreed to keep monitoring the situation and introduce additional collections if these bins get more material than a twice a week approach allows for. Please let me know if you see them overfull at any time.

### **Bring Your Own – Badminton**

A couple of years ago, the Council arranged for a Badminton net to be installed at Cradhurst, following resident requests.



Unfortunately, the net did not survive quite as long as it might have done. Rather than remove the posts or continually replace the net, a compromise has been reached. The council team are suggesting that anyone wishing to play badminton might bring their own net along.

To be more accurate, given the distance between the two poles is some 12m, please bring along your own volleyball net as a standard badminton one will be quite a bit short. Obviously, the upside is that you can play volleyball too if you wish.

I have promised to feedback to the council as to whether this arrangement is satisfactory. Don't forget the table tennis alternative that is already there with a built in "net".

### **To Do List**

Finally, a handy five point to do list for us all before we head into the longest nights:

- Get a flu vaccination
- Test your smoke detectors
- Clear out your gutters
- Check the tread on your car tyres
- Keep an eye out for older or vulnerable neighbours this winter

**James Friend**



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One of our favourite things about our nursery is the outside space, which we are fully embracing even as the days get a little chillier and a little soggy. We truly are an outdoorsy bunch, with our wellies and waterproofs we get to explore the countryside around us and experience the change in season.



Whilst out walking we've recognised the signs of autumn by spotting mushrooms, conkers, acorns, horse chestnuts and sweet chestnuts. We collected leaves, seeds and nuts from various trees and have been learning



their names. We also discovered that the leaves make great pictures if you paint and print them.

Along with the leaf printing we've been crafting away and creating sock puppets and mini moving pictures of ourselves. We've been able to play with the puppets by making them talk and the mini people have been made to dance and sing just like us!



If you are feeling peckish wait until your hear about the really tasty food we've been cooking! Using some wonderful home grown seasonal produce we made a super comforting vegetable soup, healthy and delicious courgette cakes and some terrifically tasty cheese scones. We know our mummies and daddies look forward to cookery day each week!

Inside, we took a trip to our very own hair salon in the role play area

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and discussed our own experiences of visiting the hairdressers. We also talked about our more recent haircuts at home!

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**Kate Fairbrass**

We've been visited by fairies and dinosaurs too and everyday we can't wait to see what new adventure awaits us!

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## THE PAST IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY - THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THERE

Among the books in the Westcott Local History Group's Reading Room library is 'Prunella'; the authorised biography of Prunella Scales. The explanation for its inclusion is to be found on page 11, where Sybil Fawltly (and many other characters in a long and distinguished stage career) recalls that in 1937 her parents paid £600 for a new house in Logmore Lane. The family did not stay long in Westcott. "Having discovered that Broomhills was situated under an enemy flightpath and after a time bomb had landed in the garden in 1940", the house was sold for £400; £200 less than had been paid for it, and the Illingworth family moved on to Abinger.

Prunella Scales, who, as Prunella Margaret Rumney Illingworth, lived for a time in Westcott, at which time she attended Stanway School and was introduced to the stage with the Westcott Players.



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# THE BEAUTY OF WESTCOTT

## Stopping to Notice Nature

When restrictions to go out are in place it's remarkable what you start to realise is on your own doorstep. This summer we've been astonished at the things we've encountered on walks around Westcott that we perhaps would not have seen in our seemingly busy lives before March.

Spending time sitting in a field has allowed us to experience the daily visit of a kingfisher, the growing up of a pair of hatched buzzards, the routes of the herons and kites and the otherwise unnoticed tracks of the foxes, badgers and deer. Walking around the village we've even spotted sightings of an adder and several slow worms which



are protected species which we've recorded for conservational purposes.

We've also been more aware of the change in floral diversity since March, the growth of the new cows and the endless hours our farmers spend out tending to the requirements of their fields. There is even a surprising amount of pink nature which we hadn't noticed before - photos show Pink Seagrass growing at the side of a lake in Westcott and a pink and green grasshopper.

We are grateful, in fact, for the opportunity to have our lives slowed down enough to notice the small beautiful things around us in Westcott and the surrounding villages.



**Jo Smewing**



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## THE BEAUTY OF WESTCOTT (cont.)



Here's another beautiful shot taken in Westcott, this time sunset from behind Springfield Road, sent in by Zena Oickle.

Keep them coming to [editor@westcottmag.com](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com), we really are very lucky to live somewhere so lovely!

And here's a wildflower meadow we found one day between Westcott and Ranmore - glorious!



*During the autumn, when grey squirrels bury nuts and seeds in hundreds of scattered caches to serve as emergency winter larders, a typical squirrel shows a 15 percent increase in the size of its hippocampus - the memory centre of the brain - compared to the rest of the year*



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## THE BEAUTY OF WESTCOTT (cont.)

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These photos from Jacki Moss show that you can get up close with nature and get some great shots too.



## WESTFEST UPDATE

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We were very disappointed to have to cancel WESTfest 2020 due to the Covid crisis, but we're charging ahead with planning for WESTfest 2021 scheduled for Sunday June 27th! Although at this stage we can't be sure we'll be able to proceed, please put the date in your diary as WILD WESTfest (Westcott village Summer Fair), will be an opportunity to see local friends and neighbours again and celebrate all the good things about our fabulous village.

Get in touch at [westfestsurrey@gmail.com](mailto:westfestsurrey@gmail.com)

**WESTfest Team**



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## DORKING MUSEUM

There is so much to remember in November, most notably Remembrance Sunday, and, of course, remember, remember the fifth of November. Gunpowder treason and plot ... Guy Fawkes Night ... importantly, Firework Night.

How sad that the pandemic will subdue celebrations this year, although this is an event which has seen changing fortunes in the past. Writing in 1876/77, Dorking South Street linen-draper Charles Rose wrote that "The 'Fifth of November' is now a quiet day in Dorking, compared with the Guy Fawkes' days of half a century ago. ...

"At night, the streets of the town were the scene of unrestrainable lawlessness, and in vain the constables and headboroughs tried to prevent the lighting of the bonfire near the site of the Old Market House, the rolling of the lighted tar barrels through the streets, and the letting off of fireworks in an almost unbroken succession. This contest between law and lawlessness, order and disorder, went on from year to year, till at length it was brought to an end by the late Mr. Heathfield Young, who sagaciously drew the bonfire boys from the town, by a liberal gift of faggots and of ale, to the more appropriate region of Cotmandene. Thus ended, it may be hoped, for ever, the 'Battle of Dorking' – a real battle of Dorking on the 'Fifth of November'."

The area's largest annual bonfire is in Brockham, which, sadly, will miss 2020 – a rare absence since the time of Brockham Bonfire Boy Augustus Leonard

Gilliam, photographed by Dorking photographer Samuel Yeo in full 'uniform' in 1888. Only 19 at the time, he went on in business as a monumental mason in Dorking. His great grandson has recently donated a wealth of old photographs and documents to the Museum.



Bonfires remain unbuilt and social distancing is the norm, but do not forget the 48th 'World Hello Day' on November 21st. Anyone can participate simply by greeting ten people. This demonstrates the importance of personal communication for preserving peace and sends a message to world leaders, encouraging them to use communication rather than force to settle conflicts.

During lockdown, Museum volunteers have continued to work on the 'Dorking 1620' exhibition, which was due to take place this autumn to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower, taking William Mullins



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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



and his family to the New World. It has now been postponed until next year. This has given an opportunity to review the event in the current atmosphere of tearing down statues, querying blue plaques and closely examining political correctness.

Exhibitions manager Kathy Atherton says, "I do appreciate the concern about 'celebrating' the Mayflower too much as it does mark the beginning of European exploitation of North America which eventually had devastating consequences for the native peoples. Interestingly, the Plimoth Plantation is renaming itself Plimoth / Patuxet, the name the native people had for it, so that it tells the whole story, not just the white settler story.

"I think it will really help that we are going to run our exhibition next year rather than this, as this represents the anniversary of surviving the first year, Mullins' death and the first 'thanksgiving'. In that context, we can address the fact that it was only because of relations with native people that the colony was able to survive. It was later that the pressure on land came about when more

colonists moved out, leading to wars with the native peoples, and that first thanksgiving was only given significance a century later, when the new nation was looking for founding myths.

"The issue of slavery is slightly more remote – the early colonists did not have slaves, but it would not have been long afterwards that they began trading with slave owning settlements to the south. Slavery was clearly going on in the area before they even arrived as their native American aide knew English because he had been enslaved by the French and sold in Spain and ended up in England. So I think that we can give a balanced rather than a triumphalist view of events."

The Museum Archive is currently opening on Saturdays for visitors separately from the main Museum under carefully controlled conditions. Please see the website [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk) for further details. Otherwise, Dorking Museum's main exhibition space 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](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk).

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## WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

*Hello to all our loyal supporters.  
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we will hold the next coffee morning,  
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# READING ROOM



Back to shorter days and longer nights at the Westcott Reading Room.

Maintenance on the main entrance hall side of the property has been completed to freshen up the front and repainted with a new canopy above the front door.

We have welcomed back the Monday's Art Class, Tuesday's Surrey Academy of Ballet & Performing Arts, Wednesday's Art History and Aikido Club plus Saturday and Sunday's Martial Arts Group. Recently the Reading Room hosted a film crew interviewing a local VIP for a TV program and the Gong Bath therapy activity continues on the third Saturday lunchtime of each month.



The Reading Room is currently able to have up to a maximum of 30 persons in the Hall following a sporting activity or keep-fit classes provided social distancing is observed along with other current Government directives. A strict cleaning program is being observed to ensure the Hall is as safe as it can be to combat any pandemic spread.

As a result of Government rules currently in place the Reading Room has decided to keep the kitchen out of action for the time being. There is still availability for regular group activities on Monday afternoon, Thursday morning plus Friday morning and afternoon. Some evenings can be available for casual and regular Hall use if required too.

We are provisionally prepared to reserve dates for traditional children's party bookings after the new year in the hope that some of the tougher restrictions will be lifted as we move into 2021.

More information from the Reading Room website [www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk](http://www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk) or by phone on 07967 286636.



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As we move into Autumn the woodland is changing colour from green to gold, the fungi which pop up overnight have amazed us again this year, so many different varieties, sizes and colours and the stream is flowing once more.



We have missed not being able to attend or hold our usual events this summer due to the continuing C o v i d - 1 9 pandemic and pray that all of our friends have kept safe and well during this difficult period. We know from the work that we do as a Charity the pandemic has affected many both financially and mentally.

At the woodland we are fortunate in that social distancing is not an issue and therefore whilst we have had to cancel events such as our Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas at the Woodland for families and children we are able and WILL be holding our usual **Remembrance Service at the Woodland on 11th November**. Social distancing will be observed and we will Remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and, we pray, future generations'.

On **11th November** the children from Year 6, St John's C of E School Dorking

will also be attending as they have in previous years to sing and read their Remembrance poems and lay their own made poppy wreaths at the Monument. This is always a very special day in our calendar to which ALL of you are welcome. Please arrive in time to gather in the Monument area by 10.45 for our Service of thanksgiving and Remembrance for those brave servicemen - Lest We Forget.

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## LEARNING TO LIVE DIFFERENTLY

Energy production and use is one of the primary drivers of climate change and accounts for two-thirds of emissions, so it is vitally important that we reduce our energy usage where we can and think about alternatives.

With many of us spending more time than usual at home this winter, finding ways to keep our homes warm and comfortable without increasing our bills, and our energy usage, is especially relevant.

How much you feel the cold is quite a personal thing and also depends on whether you are mainly sitting working, relaxing or moving around doing things. Levels of warmth can vary in different types of home and depending on how many people are in it.



The Energy Savings Trust advises that a household could save around £80 a year by turning your thermostats down by one degree.

Wearing the appropriate clothing for the time of year, blocking up any draughts and drawing curtains when it gets dark outside can all help to keep you feeling warm.

It is also good to check that radiators have space to let warm air circulate by making sure they are not blocked with furniture or clothing. Sticking foil between the wall and radiator also helps to reflect the heat back into the room.

Turning lights and appliances off when they are not in use is simple to do and could save you around £15 and £35 a year respectively! (Energy Saving Trust)

Hang laundry outside to dry, rather than use a tumble dryer. Even a short spell outside in the breeze can help them to dry quicker if you have to bring them back inside, to dry completely. These are all things that are simple to do and can add up to make a considerable difference!



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## Other things you can do:

### Improve Home Energy Efficiency

Action Surrey helps residents and businesses to save money on their energy bills and reduce their environmental impact. They can help you access a network of trusted, local installers who can help you with a variety of solutions to make your home warmer. You may also be able to get grant funding for cavity wall and loft insulation. [www.actionsurrey.org](http://www.actionsurrey.org) Or call them on: 0800 783 2503

For some great inspiration on energy saving retrofits for your home take a look at the SuperHomes website: [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)

### Fit LED lightbulbs

LED lightbulbs use 90% less energy than traditional bulbs, so can really help bring down your electricity bill.

LED bulbs do cost more to buy but they last much longer. Work out which lights are on the most, usually the ones



in the kitchen or living room, and replace those first. And don't forget to turn off lights when no one is using the room!

### Choose renewable energy

Changing your energy supplier to one that supplies only 100% renewable electricity is simple and can save you money.

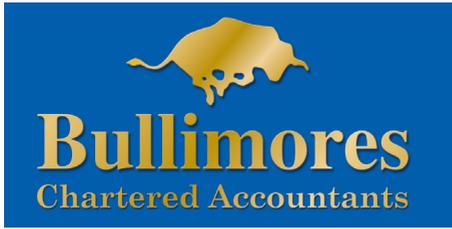


You can compare green energy rates at the Big Clean Switch website: <https://bigcleanswitch.org/>

Energy produced from renewables sources, sun, wind and water, produces little or no global warming emissions and improves public health as it is clean and unpolluting.

You could also make more of the sun's power by lighting outside areas for free, using solar-powered lights!

**Jakki Phillips**



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Due to the ongoing restrictions, WWG has been unable to meet, but Hazel did manage to hold her MacMillan coffee morning by staging the times for people to attend, and made a staggering £1186, the best result she has ever had!



confirmation before the November edition goes to press!!

All enquiries can still come to me, Jacki Moss

Email: [johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com](mailto:johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com), or phone 01306 881481 (leave a message on the answer phone if necessary)

Well done Hazel and thank you to everyone who was able to support her efforts. It took a lot of extra work for her and husband Colin to organise, but a worthwhile result.

**Jacki Moss**

We are looking at a possible date for a social get-together in November or December, in the Reading Room, and I might even have a last minute



Search for a word

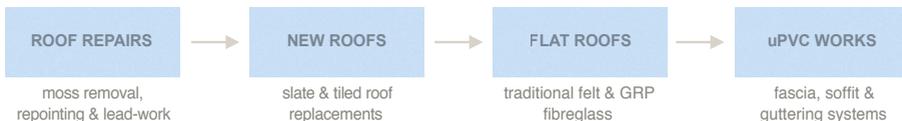


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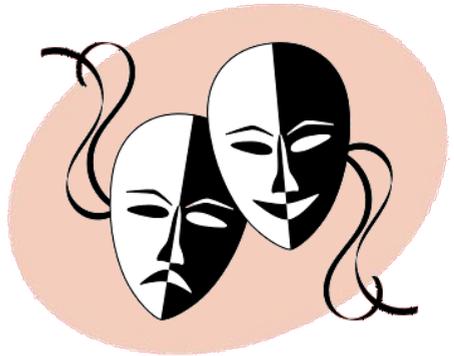
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## Dorking Dramatic and Operatic Society In the time of the Pandemic

Very sadly, DDOS had to postpone their schedule of productions, one of which was only days away from performance. Due to the pandemic, it is likely to be many months before we will be able to bring live theatre back to Dorking. However, the Board of Directors remain determined to keep the DDOS flag flying. Already we have started successful play readings for groups of six in our Green Room Theatre. Plans for online revues and plays are being finalised and will take into account the current restrictions.

To mark DDOS's determination to keep going, we have a beautiful new DDOS sign over our much loved Green Room Theatre. There is now no excuse for people to say "we had no idea you existed"! In addition, during lock down, dedicated members have been extensively renovating and redecorating the premises.

**DDOS Green Room Theatre,  
rear of the Dorking Halls,  
Reigate Road,  
Dorking, RH4 15G  
Website [www.ddos.org.uk](http://www.ddos.org.uk)**



*Autumn begins when the centre of the sun crosses Earth's equator.  
As Earth continues its path around the sun, days become shorter  
and nights become longer.*



*The first day of autumn 2020 in the Northern Hemisphere was Tuesday, September 22nd. The last day of autumn 2020 will be on Monday, December 21st.*

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