

Westcott Village Magazine

January 2022



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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 issue:

8th January 2022

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



Dear All, I hope you had a happy Christmas and got to share it with a few more people than last year.

If you are feeling the aftereffects of the season, and have resolved to get out more, there are details of different walks which all lead to a coffee van on page 29, which may encourage you! There is also information on what is happening with the Hut and The Reading Room from p17, and details

of an open meeting on p35, put it in your diaries.

We have good news about the success of the pyjama appeal in December's magazine, with over 240 pairs of pjs delivered to the hospital for children over Christmas, so well done for responding so brilliantly.

Here's hoping everyone has a happy and healthy 2022!

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

VOLUNTEER/BABY MEALS

For over 16 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 originally driven by the Church in Westcott, it is a practical and highly valued service, provided by people across the Westcott community. During COVID we expanded our remit to also cater for families and individuals experiencing a range of difficulties.

Please get in touch if you think you could help out occasionally cooking meals for families with new babies and other Westcott residents in need, or if you know of someone in a time of difficulty, who might benefit from a few home cooked meals. And of course, please also get in touch if you're a Westcott resident expecting a baby, we have over 40 volunteers ready

to cook for you in those first few weeks of new-baby chaos!



Anna Kemkers
annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



NEW BEGINNINGS WITH ROOTS

A 70ft beech tree has tumbled. Its branches lie shattered, its once impressive trunk fallen. The storm won. As I step round the debris on the slope of Ranmore, I am reminded that strong roots are vital.

I don't know what 2022 will bring for you or me. But I do know it will be a mixture of joys and storms. And to handle both well we will need healthy roots, solidly anchored.

I wonder what my roots are for life. And how well will they serve me in the year ahead? I wonder what your roots are.

I guess my roots include the support of close family and friends, nurtured

through time together and mutual love and care. Physical fitness, especially outside, brings a sense of balance and vitality. I need to do more on that front! Painting and writing blogs give space for my creative side to grow. I think we're all creative, just in different ways.

Work, with an opportunity to serve and times of silence and stillness are helpful. I'm learning to take a fast from my phone one day per week. All these roots are important and are part of God's provision for us.

I THINK THE
DEEPEST ROOTS I
NEED ARE THOSE
THAT CONNECT ME
WITH GOD...

I think the deepest roots I need are those that connect me with God. The God who loves me, who is unfazed by the storms and is with me in both joys and difficulties. The Bible talks

of God wanting us to be rooted and established in his love (Ephesians 3 v17). But how can we develop and cultivate such roots?



When the
root is deep,
there is
no reason
to fear the wind

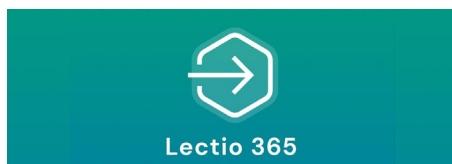
African Proverb

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

One of the best ways that I've found recently is listening to a mobile App called Lectio 365. It's free, easy (you just press play!) and takes a doable 10 minutes. There's a good mix of meditative time, a short reflection on the Bible and some thoughts for applying this to your life and to the ways you serve others.

These times, listening to Lectio 365, calm and encourage me and nurture my roots for all that lies ahead. If you're interested, you can find out more or try out Lectio 365 via your app store or the website <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/lectio-365/>

Pause
and
Pray



I wonder, how might you like to invest in your roots?

Happy New Year!

Richard Lister

Join a **Life Group**

Small groups of people who meet online or in person every 2 weeks to chat and pray about life & faith.

Life groups:

- explore ways we can bring God's love, justice and joy into our relationships with other people and creation, into our leisure and into our work
- give you an opportunity to explore the Bible and consider what it says
- use worship, simple contemplation and prayer to help us encounter God

Contact Richard Lister richardnwlistler@gmail.com for more information

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COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

We are open!

Whether you've never set foot in a church before, have been all your life, or are somewhere in between, you're invited to come and step through the door. Do join us at our Sunday or Wednesday Services, or pause to enjoy the peace and beauty of Holy Trinity during the week.

We're not made to live in isolation, but in community with God and with one another, building friendships and sharing life together. How wonderful then, to be able to meet together as a community once again. We'll be open for Sunday worship, so do join us in person. We know that some people won't be able to do that, so we'll be sharing worship from Holy Trinity at 10:15am via Zoom too. Our doors are open to everyone, so however you step through the door, come on in!



Sundays at Holy Trinity

8:30am Book of Common Prayer Communion

10:15 Worship in Holy Trinity or on Zoom

Wednesdays at St John's

10am Communion

Every day at Holy Trinity

9:00am-4:00pm

Holy Trinity Church is open to visit, for private prayer or reflection.

Come to enjoy the beauty and peace, pray, reflect, breathe, be.

Visit our website to sign up to our emailing list for weekly Zoom invitations and updates.

We ask you to consider taking a covid test before coming, and request that masks are worn



BUILDING
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SHARING
LIFE



The Church in Westcott is 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**.

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants:

Margaret Packham 01306 885915 Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010

Ali Mabley 01306 889641

For help, more information, please contact churchwardens:

churchwardens@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

STAY IN TOUCH

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

Please sign up to receive emails by going our website:

https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/Groups/342308/Join_our_Emailing.aspx

or return this form by post to: Parish Office, St John's Community Hall, Furlong Road, Westcott, RH4 3PP

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

For contact by e-mail, E-mail address:

Please add me to The Church in Westcott emailing list for information about church events and news.

I understand that:

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*any use of my personal data will be governed by Holy Trinity's PCC Privacy Notice which is available on The Church in Westcott website.



MARKING LIFE EVENTS

All who live in Westcott or have a connection here, are very welcome to have christenings, funerals, weddings in Holy Trinity. Contact the churchwardens for more information.
churchwardens@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk,

SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

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

10.15am Friendly, relaxed service, using Common Worship and a range of music styles. **This service is also livestreamed on Zoom.**



For 10:15am Zoom service connection, please scan this QR code, or visit the Online Services page of thechurchinwestcott.org.uk and follow the link.



We ask you to consider taking a covid test before coming & request that masks are worn.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10.15AM
2nd Jan	Epiphany	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
7th Jan	Epiphany 1: Baptism of Christ	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
12th Jan	Epiphany 2	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion and Baptism
19th Jan	Epiphany 3	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
26th Jan	Epiphany 4: Candlemas	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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Every Day 9:00am-4:00pm

Come to enjoy the beauty and peace,
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All are welcome.



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Yasmin and Freddie George, who have sponsored the church floodlighting for January in memory of their son Freddie (Little Freddie) and their Grandpa Freddie Harry George, who passed away in the summer of 2018.

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.)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Nothing to report this month.

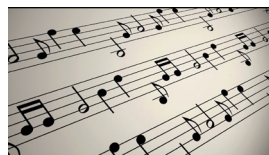
**The
Westcott Children's
Nearly New Sale in
November raised
over £500 for Surrey
Hills All Saints School**

**THANK YOU for your
amazing donations
and for coming along!
T@SH & WESTfest**



BROCKHAM CHORAL

BROCKHAM CHORAL will be celebrating 70 years of singing in 2022 and will be starting rehearsals on Tuesday 11th January, 7.30pm at St. John's school, Dorking, in preparation for their Celebratory Concert Bach's St. Matthew Passion.



Following on from our successful sold out Messiah with the Academy of Ancient Music, Cole Bendall, our Musical Director, with his energy, dynamism and musicality will again be leading us to perform this insightful work on May 21 st, 2022.

If you would like to join us please visit www.brockhamchoral.org
All voices welcome no audition required.

A year in the life of a St John Ambulance volunteer vaccinator



Towards the end of 2020, an unexpected email appeared in my inbox. It was from St John Ambulance (SJA) who were starting one of the

largest recruitment drives in their history to find and train tens of thousands of volunteers to support the imminent mass vaccination programme across the UK. I jumped at the chance to be able to contribute to this process and signed up. Less than 24 hours later I had an online interview with one of the SJA volunteer recruiting team and was accepted on to the scheme.

The next stage of the process was to complete a range of NHS and SJA online learning modules covering subjects ranging from data protection, covid-19, the different types of vaccine available, how to administer the vaccine and key first aid reminders. This was followed in early January 2021 with a face-to-face training and assessment session with SJA. This was a strange experience, being in a room with around twenty other trainees and SJA trainers for the first time since lockdown in March 2020. Spending the entire day in full PPE was a challenge. On completing this assessment, I was able to start work at the mass vaccination centre initially at Epsom Racecourse which then moved to Sandown Park (to make way

for the Derby at Epsom – a welcome sign of “normality” starting to return). Since qualifying I have completed around 50 shifts on six different sites and have administered nearly 1000 doses of vaccine (including flu jabs at one site).

There is a wonderful sense of teamwork and a shared purpose at each site, with volunteers from SJA and similar organisations (including, on occasions, members of the UK armed forces) working closely alongside medical professionals from the NHS and other healthcare providers. Supporting members of the public coming for their jabs is both a privilege and a real pleasure. Everyone's always at least a little bit nervous, that's only natural, and I look to put them at their ease as best I can. On every shift I've had a “lump in the throat” moment ranging from reading the many thank you cards sent to the team at Epsom, to reassuring those people with significant dislike of needles (which includes me!).

It's fascinating working with so many volunteers from different backgrounds and many of us have built long-lasting relationships with our colleagues. The current mass vaccination programme will end one day, but I hope we will be able to find a way to continue to use the enthusiasm and expertise of this army of volunteers for future projects.

For further information on St John Ambulance, visit their website www.sja.org.uk

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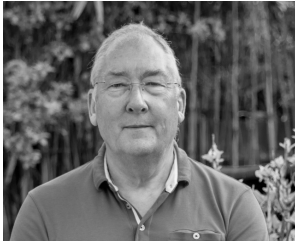


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The Trustees of the Westcott Village Association wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Village Christmas Tree



A big thank you to members of the WVA Committee who spent time on Saturday 4th December putting up the Village Christmas Tree on the Green. A small crowd of 20 or so people gathered to see the lights come on around 4.35pm and to witness the Christmas Draw for the **Westcott 100 Small Society Lottery Scheme** which

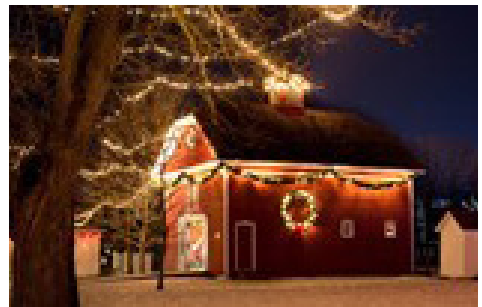
raises money for village projects. If you are not a part of this scheme then please consider taking part; details from Richard Packer at westcott.100.club@gmail.com

Christmas Day Lunch

Thank you to the young people of the Hewetson and Lund families for delivering Christmas Day meals. It was fantastic to see the younger generation in the village getting involved in community activities. Great job!

Christmas Lights

Thank you to the two Westcott Elves who stepped in to do Secret Santa's rounds of the village home lights when Santa went down with Covid and had to isolate until just before Christmas. Congratulations to the winner and runner up of the best lit houses in the village.





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2022 Diary Dates

Please make a note of the WVA meeting schedule for 2022. Please raise issues with the WVA at any time but especially in the run up to meetings. Everyone is encouraged to attend Open Meetings when there is an opportunity to discuss issues in open forum with other members of the community.

13th January

10th March (Open Meeting 19.30 - 21.00)

12th May

30th June (Annual General Meeting 19.45 - 21.30)

8th September

20th October (Open Meeting 19.30 - 21.00)

8th December

Please continue to write to me with your comments and views which

help steer us to do things for the village which are important to you the residents.

An annual standing order with your bank is the quickest and simplest way to pay your annual subscription to the WVA. Our bank details are:

Account Name: Westcott Village Association

Account Sort Code: 82-11-07

Account No.: 20072790

Alternatively, you can now set up an annual payment via PayPal on our website or you may want to write a cheque and send it to The Treasurer, WVA, c/o Queens Court, Westcott Street, Westcott, RH4 3NX.

Tim Way

Chairman, Westcott Village Association

timway.westcott@gmail.com

contact@westcottvillage.com

HAPPY TREE COLLECTION!

Grant and Nicky Smetham
collecting their
tree from the village green





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THE HUT & THE READING ROOM

Update on behalf of the Trustees of the Reading Room, and of the Hut

At the AGM of the Hut, which was held at the Reading Room on Tuesday, 23 November 2021, a decision was taken that the Reading Room, or to be precise Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO ("the CIO"), should replace the individual retiring trustees of the Hut. That change has now been processed by the Charity Commission. For the first time therefore, the Reading Room and the Hut have come under the control of a single group of trustees, thus creating hope that whatever the village of Westcott ultimately decides it would like out of its key physical assets can be delivered without the historic disagreements and delays in decision-making which created such financial risks that nothing ever happened.



However, the progress just made is only a first step on a long journey and I am now asked by the trustees to help them explain to the village what needs to follow. To start with the very basics, the current trustees of the CIO are Alan Reif, Hugh Parry, Steve Brooks, Janet Phillips and Andrew Lewis. They all live in the village.

Constitutionally, they can make decisions on behalf of the CIO as to how the Reading Room operates; as the CIO is now also the sole trustee of the Hut, they (through the CIO) can also determine how the Hut functions, but...

In all the trustees do or don't do, they have to act in full compliance with the law as it applies to charities and to do so in the interests of the inhabitants of Westcott. We, as villagers, are the ultimate beneficiaries of the bequests by which the Reading Room and the Hut were given to the village. The current trustees all came to their roles in the weird and wonderful ways in which these things happen in any village; at some point or other, someone asked for 'help running the village hall', and they agreed to volunteer their time to look after the buildings, to prepare the accounts, to arrange bookings and cleaning rotas etc. None of them claim deep expertise in merging charities, applying for Planning, running building projects etc and the first thing the current trustees have asked me to say is that if anyone in the village feels they might have a useful contribution to make to such processes, then the trustees would

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THE HUT & THE READING ROOM (cont)

welcome hearing about that.

So what comes next? The answer is that before anything remotely exciting can happen, the trustees have to overcome a number of legal issues rooted in the way both buildings were given to the village. The CIO 'operates' the Reading Room, but it



does not 'own' it. It holds it as trustee of the original charity by which the Reading Room was founded in 1892, a dormant charity known as Westcott Reading Room Trust. The terms of that trust are incredibly restrictive. To be frank, they make it almost impossible to see how the Reading Room will suffer anything other than a slow and painful decline as the physical fabric of the building becomes more difficult to maintain.

Happily, and somewhat ironically, the solution might be provided by the Hut, which of course is already in terrible disrepair. The Hut building is 'owned' by a charity called The Hut Westcott, of which the CIO has just become the sole trustee. The deed which established The Hut Westcott in 1959 contains trust terms which are more flexible. Subject to agreement by the Charity Commission, they might allow dealings with the Hut's land and buildings if the outcome is to provide better and more suitable provision of a village hall somewhere in Westcott, not necessarily on the site where the Hut is now located. However, whilst the Hut's trust terms are more favourable when it comes to dealings with its land and buildings, the Hut's constitution is hopelessly out of date, meaning that it will be difficult for the CIO to run the Hut efficiently.

The trustees have taken specialist legal advice on this issue and have negotiated the outline of a solution to the problem with the Charity Commission. In simple terms, and using an analogy which appeals to me as a classic car owner, it involves taking the good engine from a badly rusted vehicle and putting that into the sound body of a car which has blown its own motor. That way, after many hours covered in grease, you end up with one vehicle that you can actually use.

Therefore, against the background that both charities were established with almost identical purposes, i.e. to provide a village hall for the inhabitants of

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THE HUT & THE READING ROOM (cont)

Westcott, the trustees intend now to consult with the village on a so-called 'Cy-près' scheme whereby with the approval of the Charity Commission:

- the land at the Reading Room would be transferred to the Hut, thereby also becoming subject to the more favourable trust terms which already apply to the land at the Hut; and
- the constitution of the Hut would be updated, so that the CIO is able to exercise its powers as sole trustee of the Hut more akin to its own management rules.

The way this process works, is that the trustees will open a formal consultation period with the village which will run from Wednesday, 22 December 2021 until the conclusion of a public open meeting to be held in the Reading Room on Tuesday, 22 February 2022 at 8pm. A formal notice to such effect appears elsewhere in this magazine. A copy of this update, of the formal notice and of a number of background documents to explain what is proposed in more detail can be viewed at www.westcottvillagehall.com. The website also has a facility to allow you to comment and to ask further questions. The formal notice also sets out other means of commenting for those who prefer not to use the internet.

I would emphasise that the consultation on the 'Cy-près' scheme will not involve consideration of any plans for the redevelopment of either the Reading Room or the Hut sites. To stay with my above classic car analogy, until one road-worthy vehicle rolls out of the shed, there is no point in planning any journeys in it. Only if and when the Charity Commission has agreed that the village is content that the reorganisation should proceed, will the trustees be in the position to determine what redevelopment proposals may be affordable and might secure Planning. All that is for the future, and the Charity Commission will insist on a further consultation exercise with the village if we get that far.

Bernd Ratzke
On behalf of the trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO
8 December 2021

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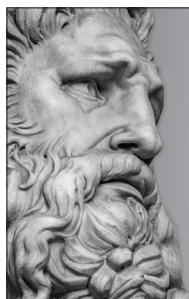
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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Happy New Year

The end of 2021 was an immensely busy time as District Councillor and for the Council as a whole, and 2022 promises to start in an equal manner.

Looking back, the Council made its submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England where for Westcott we stressed:

"The village of Westcott is currently served by one councillor. Whilst geographically it could be joined to Dorking North to create a three-member ward, there was general agreement that joining the village and town would limit community cohesion, given the very different needs and issues of the two communities.

The
**Local Government
Boundary Commission**
for England

For example, the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan specifically seeks to prevent community merger with Dorking. It was felt that Westcott has much

stronger affiliations with the rural wards which surround it to the north, south and west."

We shall wait and see for another month or so quite what the Commission makes of it all and whether we are to be merged in with half a dozen surrounding villages or consumed into Dorking.



Planning Department Update

Planning applications create uncertainty both for the person that has submitted them, in finding out whether they will be able to go ahead with what can sometimes be life changing projects, and also for those surrounding any development site where the impact can be not insignificant.

From the number of planning applications waiting to be determined within Westcott just now, it can be appreciated that this level of uncertainty is collectively rising. A recent meeting of the Council's cabinet acknowledged that the timescales for responding to applications are still not good enough and reported that:

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

"The Council has targets to determine planning applications within certain timescales; within 13 weeks for major applications, and within 8 weeks for minor and 'other' applications, unless in circumstances beneficial to the application, an extension of time is agreed with an applicant. Whilst performance continues to be below target for both minor and 'other' applications, the speed of validating applications is improving as is the speed of determining applications. However, it will take some time for performance to return to normal levels due to previous resourcing issue."

In the long term though (once it's built, it is built), it is important that decisions are made correctly and appropriately and the officer team remain focused on just that.

Alongside reviewing applications, the planning team can also help out when things do not go according to plan. A number of residents have contacted me recently about the former Cricketers Pub in the village.

The planning team have visited the site and written to the owners asking them to make repairs to the building. If a satisfactory response is not received then the planners will look to use formally a Section 215 Notice which they feel would be justified in the event of insufficient voluntary action.

Council Budget 2022-23

This time around, Westcott's District Councillor is the chairman of the council's Standing Budget Panel which looks to see if due process has been undertaken in creating the budget for next year. The Panel is not there to determine how your money gets prioritised but to report on whether a proper process has been completed.



As it stands whilst writing this, following on from previous spending decisions, next year the council needs to grow income and/or make savings of between £400,000 and £900,000 or between 4% and 9% of the council's overall spending.

Much of what the council spends your money on covers statutory items and so there are only a limited range of decisions that they can actually make including cutting services and charging you more for the services that they provide.

Christmas Tree Recycling

From 1st to 17th January, Christmas trees can be taken to the following car parks to be recycled:

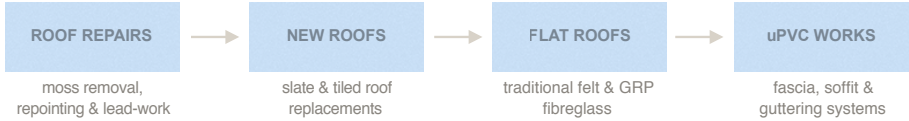


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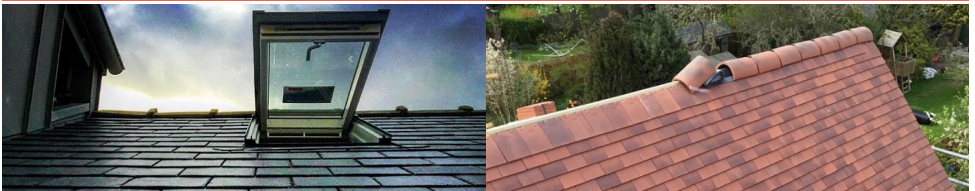


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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

- Ashted Peace Memorial Hall
- Lower Road, Bookham
- Reigate Road, Dorking
- Ockley Village Hall



You can also go to the Community Recycling Centre sites in Dorking (Ranmore Road) and Leatherhead (Randalls Road).

'Tis still the season to get protected

It is quite challenging to write this part a few weeks ahead, so perhaps the national graphic is best:



James Friend



PYJAMA APPEAL - SUCCESS!

As a result of the generosity of the local residents I was able to deliver 242 pairs of Childrens PJs ages ranging from 0 to 18 for both boys and girls. Huge thanks to the incredibly generous people of Westcott.



As a new resident of the village I am so grateful, and these generous donations will help make Christmas a little bit better for many children in hospital this year.



Sally Croft

BOOKING SECRETARY REQUIRED

For well over a hundred years the Westcott Reading Room has been a successful community center and is at the heart of many village activities. Most of our users hold regular weekly events throughout the year for activities such as Bridge, Aikido, Coffee mornings, Art History, Art, Martial Arts. Brownies and mini-Athletics. In addition, we encourage villagers to celebrate special events such as birthdays or anniversaries for all ages.

Organising these events over the past few years has been carried out by the Chairman. Now is an appropriate time for these duties to be passed on. The duties of a Booking Secretary include:

- Responding to booking enquiries from either the website or the Reading Room mobile phone.
- Liaising with users where necessary to ensure their sessions are run on a timely basis.
- Keeping the online calendar up to date.
- Invoicing users (regulars - quarterly in advance).
- Attending quarterly trustee meetings.
- Liaising with the Chairman and Treasurer when necessary.



The successful applicant will be a good communicator together with appropriate IT skills. The role is a voluntary one.

It is expected that the role will not be onerous and take no more than two hours a week.

Please contact us via accounts@westcottreadingroom.org.uk if you would like to give it a go.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE



The red hat and I have been busy continuing to explore the less trodden trails in the Surrey Hills, whilst walking my stepson's dog, twice

or even 3 times a week. Sometimes accompanied by a brave friend who is prepared to venture into the unknown with me, at other times on my own. Part of the attraction is that we often do not know where we are(!) but with each passing week, landmarks are beginning to become recognised. The following area has become a particular favourite, and it has been a pleasure to introduce family and friends to it.

Although many readers may be familiar with Norbury Park, I wonder how many have found the "Wild Coffee" van right in the heart of the woods? I came across it quite by accident, at a junction of 5 trails, near the wood yard and boundary fence of the big house. 4 days a week, (Thursday - Sunday, 9am-3pm) a lovely couple, Phil and Pam, run this coffee stop. A large, welcoming, wood fire and logs and picnic tables to sit at dominate the clearing. Marshmallows on sticks for children to roast, and even dog treats for our 4 footed friends! At busy times you may have to wait, but with each coffee or hot chocolate (with marshmallows, of course!) individually prepared, and so much choice of cuppa, this is no hardship.

It's not actually difficult to find the site when you know where it is. The easiest access trails are from either the Norbury Park car park off the A246, as though going to Bocketts Farm, or from the NP car park on Crabtree Lane in Westhumble. At the top of each of these car parks there is a map and an easy to follow path that brings you after about a mile to the clearing. Of course, if you want a longer walk to earn your coffee, there is no shortage of trails. An 8Km circular walk will take in the grounds of Polesden Lacey, or Ranmore, or Denbies, or within this distance are a great choice of shorter trails, or you could even make your way to Boxhill, the choice is yours! Hubby John settles for the easy trail from the car park, which is also ideal for small children, usually timed to meet me after my longer dog walk.



Except for the longer trails through the woods, walking boots are not necessary, trainers are fine but I wouldn't recommend high heels! I hope some of you will set forth and find this unique spot for yourselves, it is too good a "find" to keep to myself!

Wishing you all a successful and above all, healthy, 2022.

Jacki Moss



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Detecting history under our feet - Mark Davison

On Tuesday, November 9, Mark Davison gave us an enthralling illustrated talk about the interesting objects he had found using his metal detector here in the fields and byways of Westcott and its surrounds.



He has been a keen detectorist since his younger days but 12 years ago he took up metal detecting seriously and he is the only person allowed to be a detectorist on Hugh Broom's farmland at Milton Court and Sondes Place. The soil is particularly good – easy to dig and not at all clay-ey like elsewhere south of Dorking.

He began hunting on Reigate Heath in 1985-86 where there had been a racecourse in the 1850s and early 1860s. One of his earliest finds on the heath was a Charles II (1660-85) farthing dated 1672. These earlier finds were mostly buckles and buttons as well as threepenny pieces, florins,

shillings, sixpences and occasional halfcrowns. Some finds of historical interest from Surrey included a King Charles II horse bridle badge thought to have been detached from the royal entourage as it arrived at Epsom Downs in September 1662 en-route to Earl Berkeley's home at The Durdans, Chalk Lane. Other notable finds included two ancient coins – one from the time of Antoninus Pius in the 1st Century AD, which was detected at Capel in 2009; and an Edward II (1307-27) silver penny unearthed at Leigh more recently.

Most of Mark's success has been near Westcott beside and in the Broom farm fields where he has found most of his collection. A few valuable historical coins have turned up among a mass of buttons and buckles and some livery badges and horse brasses. The important coins and artefacts have been reported to the Surrey Archaeology organisation which identifies them and then records them with the Portable Antiquities Scheme run by the British Museum.



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Outstanding items of interest include a silver denarius coin of Mark Anthony and Octavian dated circa 41 BC. Discoveries from Sondes Place Farm include a silver halfpenny of Richard II (1377-99) and a Henry II penny (1154-1189). Livery badges of the Barclay family of Bury Hill including Arthur Kett Barclay were of particular interest locally. Mark showed pictures of many Roman coins from the time of the emperor Constantine 341 – 340 AD.



Mark's best finds include a Roman 22 carat gold coin marked REX on one side and a warrior on horseback on the other dating back to the time of King Verica in 30AD. Another remarkable coin was a silver denarius coin minted in Sicily in 42 BC and issued during the reign of Sextus Pompey, son of Pompey the Great. Some ancient bronze potin coins dating to 75 BC to 50BC have also been found.

half or quarters to provide half pennies as well as farthings was in fact approved as it was easier than making impossibly small silver coins in mediaeval times. The slides of his finds cleverly depicted the clean coin mounted on a background of the stubble field where he had found it.



During excavations on the farm for the new silage works this year, Mark found several Roman coins. One, from circa 141 AD, was issued by the Roman empress Faustina Senior. Some of Mark's favourites include a Magnentius coin of about 350 AD, a gold 1889 sovereign, and a Henry VIII groat (1509-1547). Curious artefacts included a silver Cornish Pixie charm.

As he said in conclusion: "If only these coins could talk they would reveal an amazing piece of history".

Roger Christian

The practice of cutting silver pennies in



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THE HUT AND THE READING ROOM OPEN MEETING

Notice of a Public Open Meeting (i) to discuss a proposed application by Westcott Reading Room Trust CIO for the making of a Cy-près scheme by the Charity Commission to transfer the land at the Reading Room to The Hut Westcott and (ii) to discuss and to vote on a further scheme to modernise the rules governing the administration of The Hut Westcott, to be held at the Reading Room on Tuesday, 22 February 2022 at 8pm.

All inhabitants of Westcott and the neighbourhood are eligible to attend and to air their views on the matters itemised below and, in their capacity as automatic members of The Hut Westcott, to vote on item 3 below. All residents are warmly encouraged to attend. The business of the meeting will be:

1. for the trustees of the CIO to explain why they believe (and have been so advised) that it is in the best interests of the village for the land at the Reading Room to be transferred to The Hut Westcott by way of a Cy-près scheme to be made by the Charity Commission;
2. for the trustees of the CIO to note any views expressed at the meeting and during the consultation period and to inform the Charity Commission thereof;
3. for the CIO, in its capacity as the sole trustee of The Hut Westcott, to request approval by way of a vote from the membership of The Hut Westcott to the modernisation of the rules governing the administration of The Hut Westcott; and
4. for the CIO as sole trustee of The Hut Westcott to inform the Charity Commission of the outcome of the voting thereon.

Your attention is directed to the information and documents, and opportunities to comment, to be found at www.westcottvillagehall.com which include:

- a. a document entitled 'The Reading Room, The Hut and the reasons for the proposed Cy-près scheme';
- b. the present and proposed constitutions of The Hut Westcott; and
- c. details of how views, comments and objections may be sent to the CIO trustees, as all residents are entitled and encouraged to do.

Anyone unable to access the internet and requiring to view copies of the above should please telephone the Reading Room booking telephone number, 07967 286636.

Please note that the business of the meeting will not be to discuss any planning or redevelopment proposals at either the Reading Room or at the Hut, which (in due course) will be the subject of separate consultations and public meetings.

Alan Reif, Chairman

By order of the trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO and for The Hut Westcott

12 December 2021

Westcott 100 Club

January 2022 update

The December draws were held on the village green by the Christmas tree which was jointly funded by the Westcott Gardeners' Club and the Westcott 100 Club.

The winning tickets are:

- 25th Quarterly draw – 1st prize (£115) no. 31
 - 2nd prize (£57.50) no. 13
- 7th Annual draw (£230) no. 63

The AGM and next Quarterly draw will be held in March.

For more information either on joining the scheme or on the process for applying for funds from the scheme, please email us at westcott.100.club@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you soon.

The Westcott 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery registered with Mole Valley DC no. 48965.

Dear All in our Community,

We sincerely hope that your Christmas Festivities were warm and bright and beautiful, thinking about loves ones lost and helping, wherever it was possible, those less fortunate than ourselves. At school we certainly gave thanks for all that we were so lucky to have and share.

We also hope you managed to welcome the New Year in fully rested and at peace. Filled with aspiration and ambition. Ready and armoured with resilience and faith to work together to see us through the challenges our community will undoubtedly be faced with.

There is much to be thankful for. There is much to celebrate. There is much within our reach to change and make anew as we enter the warm spring months ahead...however far they may seem to be away in the bleak midwinter.

Our School community wish to reach out to you all and offer our warmest wishes as we look to work with you all in so many different ways to engage and collaborate and get to work on the things that are hard...because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we

are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend to succeed in. We look forward to the New Year and wish you all hope and warmth and light.

Please see below some recent highlights of life in school:

School Choir

In December, the School Christmas Choir entertained a large audience at the Wescott Reading Rooms. They sang a collection of Christmas carols with great enthusiasm, including their own arrangement of Away in a Manger, with a solo and keyboard performance. This was followed by yummy cake. Thank you for the invitation.



Butterflies Class

Butterfly class have been learning all about the Great Fire of London this half term. We made Tudor houses for homework and then built a London street scene. There was

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS (cont.)

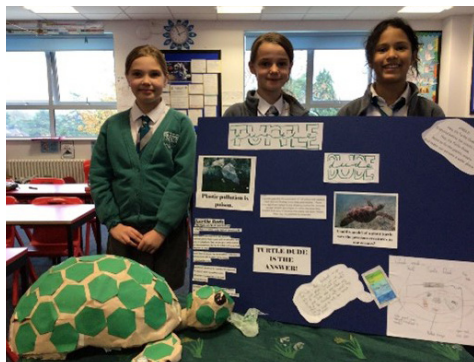
great excitement when we actually recreated the Great Fire and burnt the whole street down!



We were also lucky enough to have a visit from the Fire Brigade to teach us about fire safety.

ROAR Project

Recently, our children in Year 6 have been taking part in a programme for Primary Schools designed to give a platform to young people to 'think big and positively change the world'. Over several weeks, in groups, they created a life changing concept: producing a poster, model and jingle to promote their product.



The Lions Club have supported Surrey Hills over many years and they helped to choose the entry that will be representing the school in the virtual final on 8th December. This was a very difficult decision as there were many fantastic innovations, such as an app to alleviate loneliness 'Match Me Happy' and 'Holo-Nav' where arrows are projected onto the road (thereby keeping a driver's eyes on the road ahead at all times.

Our winning team's idea was a robotic 'toy' turtle 'Turtle Dude' that could help to rid our shores of plastic waste. We wish them the best of luck for the final!

Please 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 each day. We wish our local community well and hope everyone is staying safe.

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16th at 3.00, Jubilee string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

Happy New Year! January has just one concert to mention – the second appearance of the Jubilee string quartet in their series of three concerts presented by the Dorking Concertgoers. They will begin with Beethoven's very first quartet, from his op.18 set of six, and end with a quartet by the young Mendelssohn – very dramatic, full of energy and passion. In between they play a short piece by Webern, inspired by a walk in the forest, and three numbers from Dvorak's Cypresses – delightful pieces which he based on some of his own songs. This concert should be a very pleasant way to spend a winter Sunday afternoon! The third and final concert of the series follows at the beginning of February.

There are also screenings at the Dorking Halls of three operas, Massenet's Cinderella (1st), Puccini's Tosca (19th) and Verdi's Rigoletto (31st), and a ballet, Jewels (24th).

Ian Codd

RIVERBANK SURGERY PLANNING APPLICATION

Dear Patient,

We would like to make you aware that a planning application has been submitted for Riverbank Surgery to convert it into a residential unit. The practice is naturally disappointed that the site has not been offered to us and we will be objecting to this proposal until such time that we have relocated to a new premises in Westcott. The NHS are fully supportive of our position, and we continue to work together on our proposed plans within the village.

Further information can be found on the following link:

<https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/WPHAPPDETAIL.DisplayUrl?theApnlID=MO/2021/2158&theTabNo=3> There is an option for anyone to comment on this proposal under the 'Application Details' tab 'comment on this application'.

We will keep you apprised of our progress and thank you all for your patience in this matter.

Kind regards

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As we draw close to the end of 2021 its time to take stock of the last 12 months in the life of QRMW:

2021 started off with another lockdown which meant our first fund raising event at the Memorial Woodland had to be cancelled for the second year, which was a shame for all. As we went into summer it became apparent that we would also have to postpone our annual Anniversary event which is always the first weekend in June. But with restrictions slowly lifting we put into place a strict Risk Assessment and were able to hold a somewhat lesser anniversary celebration than had been planned but we were able to hold the Commemoration Service which took place for 11 Ex-Queensmen whose families came and planted trees and scattered the ashes of their loved ones on 3rd July. It truly was a memorable occasion and we were honoured to have the presence of the Chief of Surrey Fire and Rescue who planted a tree in honour of all those brave men and women who served for their country. Throughout the rest of summer we saw many visitors to the woodland, some from many miles away, old friends and new acquaintances, it was a joy to meet up with them all.

Our plants, trees and shrubs, most of which have now been at the woodland for over seven years are looking wonderful. The Buddleias

encouraged even more butterflies this summer and Henry our resident pheasant brought with him his two females at the beginning of the year but to our great enjoyment very recently came with 6 females, we are not sure if the four additional ones are his offspring. They all now wait for our arrival in the mornings and follow us up into the woodland to be fed. It's delightful.

November seemed to be upon us before we knew it and with it our annual Remembrance Service which is always held on 11th of November. This year we were so pleased to have a fantastic turn out of Queensmen, some representatives from other services and local residents plus the children from Year 6 of St John's C of E Primary School who sang their hearts out and read remembrance poems with confidence and clarity.

After two years of not being able to hold our very popular Christmas at the Woodland we were thrilled to go ahead with it this year on 5th December. The event was opened by a short speech from The Hat followed by the children's treasure hunt and enjoyed by 46 children. Rodney Dell got us all into the spirit of Christmas with an



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QRMW (cont)

excellent selection of songs and Father Christmas (Aka Mickie Bennett Ex-soldier) arrived on time and met all of the children in his Grotto. The Christmas stalls were manned by Martin our Treasurer's whole family! Plus Trudy, Sharon, Lynn and Lynn's two daughters and the Grand Raffle was drawn by our Trustee Monty.



We must of course never forget those who help us raise funds in various different ways throughout the year for instance Stu our marathon man, who has run his socks off this year so far, 5 Marathons in 7 weeks and despite getting Covid himself and quite ill during November will be completing his mammoth marathon challenge to raise funds for QRMW in the early part of 2022. Dawn Lockwood (daughter of Ex-Queensman Eric Lockwood) did her first sponsored walk ever and for QRMW which was a great achievement for her, and an amazing lady, Elizabeth Sands, who is a tremendous supporter of QRMW donated many unique items during 2021 which we have auctioned throughout the year to raise funds for our Veterans, plus she has donated some excellent items for our museum.

We have also had some incredible donations from those who would prefer

to remain anonymous and without the support from these wonderful people QRMW could not fulfil our Charity Purpose to help our Veterans when they really need it, so our grateful thanks to ALL OF YOU.

We also had a host of help with the maintenance of the woodland which is very important. These wonderful people came to the woodland throughout the year; Roy who cuts the grass, Martin who is an expert bonfire builder, Sharon who works hard planting and weeding, Rob, Colin and Peter who have done numerous DIY jobs, and not forgetting Treasurer Martin and his mate Peter and colleagues from Amex who have spent hours spreading wood chips. Lyn Blanchett for her donations and her family who have spent hours tidying up the woodland and so it goes on, far too many to mention all by name, we are GRATEFUL to ALL OF YOU.

God Bless and we sincerely thank you all for your support. All of us at QRMW Wish you a Very Happy and Healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you at the woodland in 2022.

The Hat (Chairman) Martin (Treasurer), Debbie (Charity Secretary), Keith (Trustee), Kriss (Trustee) and John (Trustee) – The Quick Response Memorial Woodland

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DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking Museum wishes a happy new year to all readers and to our supporters and friends. The Museum re-opens after the festive break on 6th January and we look forward to opening our doors again to welcome you back, subject to any change in covid restrictions.

How do you celebrate New Year?

Has much changed since, writing in 1876, South Street linen-drafter Charles Rose recorded his memories of Dorking in the 1820s, 200 years ago? "The Ringers rung 'the old year out and the new year in'," he wrote, commending the skill of the Dorking 'ringers'. "Some in the olden period," he added, "danced 'the old year out and the new year in,' others thought it more becoming to spend the last moments of the old and the earliest of the new year in meditation and prayer, while of course the majority of the population passed the boundary line of time in unconscious repose."

It seems that more celebratory effort in those days went into "Old Christmas, or Twelfth Day" (January 5th or 6th), a remnant of the switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1752. Some families refused to acknowledge the 'loss' of twelve days in the changeover and saved their best Christmas fare for this day, when "the last Christmas pudding was eaten, the last Christmas game was played, and after then the holly disappeared till the arrival

of another Christmas season." In the 1870s, Queen Victoria banned rowdy Twelfth Night festivities as they were becoming a threat to Civil Peace!

The Museum's current special exhibition, '**Darking 1620**', was originally planned for 2020 to mark the 400th anniversary of the sailing of The Mayflower, carrying William Mullins and his family to the New World. Like other events in Dorking, however, it was a victim of the Lockdown – but all good things are worth waiting for and, in the last few months of last year, it proved a particularly popular attraction with visitors and is being retained for early 2022.



The model Mayflower admired by the Lord-Lieutenant

The postponement perhaps gave it a new significance with November representing the 400th anniversary of the first 'Thanksgiving' feast in the colony. In fact, it was only in the latter part of the 19th century that the Mayflower pilgrims and Thanksgiving

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

became inextricably linked. An appealing story of the Mayflower and the 'first' Thanksgiving was effectively 'conjured up' in the Victorian era and was one that the whole nation could celebrate – native Americans welcomed starving Europeans, helped them survive and joined them in a celebratory feast – a wholesome founding myth that all Americans could sign up to without the stigma of slavery, massacre or exploitation.

Come along to the Museum and enjoy a view of life in 'Dorking' in 1620 and the story of William Mullins and the Mayflower travellers, including period apparel, the tools of Mullins' trade as a shoemaker and a magnificent cross section model of the Mayflower, created as a real labour of love by the Dorking Men's Shed team and providing endless fascination for visitors.

Walking in Dorking:



The Museum walks team's programme of scheduled walks will resume in spring, but they can take private group bookings, subject to availability, for a

range of walk itineraries in the town as well as The Deepdene Trail and Betchworth Castle. Suitable for family, friends, organisations, or events: please

see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/

Can you help?

Maybe something new for the new year if you can spare a few hours a week? The Museum is run entirely by volunteers and new members are urgently needed to join the team of Visitor Assistants to meet, greet and assist visitors. There are also more specialised roles in the management and development of the Museum, most of which would suit working from home, currently including a Visitor Assistant Manager, Events Co-ordinator, Schools liaison and Education work with schools and other youth groups. The Museum is also restructuring the Archive team and looking to recruit an archivist / archive manager, and someone to look after customer service in the archive. All roles are voluntary, part-time and full training is given. For more information, please visit dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities/

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

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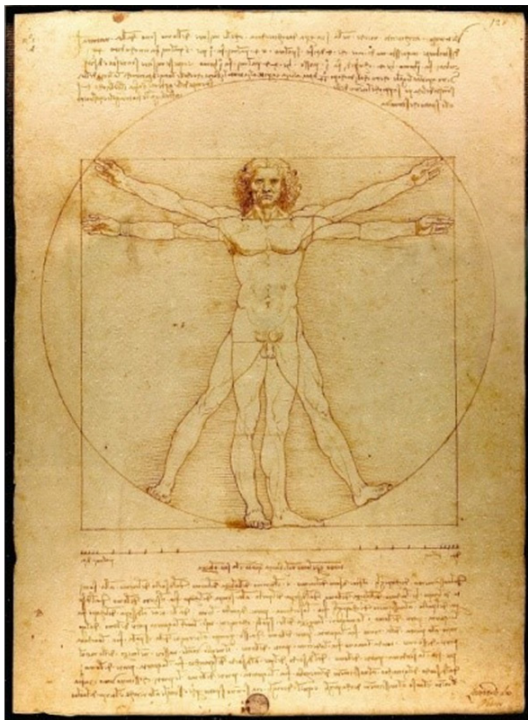


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If you would like to know more about our Society please visit our website www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk.

We welcome new members and further information about becoming a member or attending as a visitor can be obtained by contacting our membership secretary membershiptasd@gmail.com



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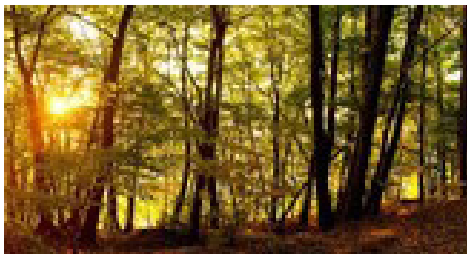


GREEN WESTCOTT

New year, new...?

Well it's a new year and as the last of the Christmas turkey has been made into its final curry we turn our thoughts to the year ahead – and, of course, the obligatory new year's resolutions. With only 25% of new year's resolutions being carried out to completion, with most being dropped altogether within two months, one has to wonder why we repeatedly make them at all?

Is it that we want something to aim for? Or perhaps our intentions are good but our hearts are not really in it? So what if we only made resolutions about things we really had a passion for?



Forget - I'm going to go to the gym more or I'm going to lose weight, I'm going to drink less. Whatever the resolutions, often we fall short of following through. Psychologist Jonathan Alpert suggests there are 3 main reasons why we fail to fulfil our resolutions.

1. We are not specific enough - it's easy to drop out or walk away if you have not been specific about the

goal. When it's really detailed and specific, it's harder to walk away from it.

2. Framing them with negative language. If our goal is to stop eating junk foods this carries negative connotations every time we mention what we're aiming for, therefore drawing attention to the very thing we are trying to avoid. If we put a positive spin on it - Eat more healthy foods for example - this reinforces the positive and what we're aiming for.

3. The other thing people do is to make new year's resolutions that don't actually reflect what they really want. People are easily influenced by family, friends and societal pressures and will often tag along just to fit in. This results in promises being made that are bound to be broken.

Whilst I reflected on all this it made me wonder about the promises made by our leaders at COP 26 and how many of these promises may have already fallen foul of the trap of the new year's resolution?

Behaviour change is tricky and any world leader would need to be a brave soul to attempt to bring about the massive changes needed to avert the climate catastrophe that we are heading for unless our governments do just that - change.



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Most of us are stuck in deeply engrained patterns of behaviour that we have developed over the course of a lifetime. When we are stuck this makes us blind to new possibilities which can bring about transformative change. How many of our world leaders are also stuck in their own worldly patterns and ways of doing things which is making them blind to the raft of fresh possibilities which are out there, if only they would allow the scales to fall from their eyes.

Nancy Lund

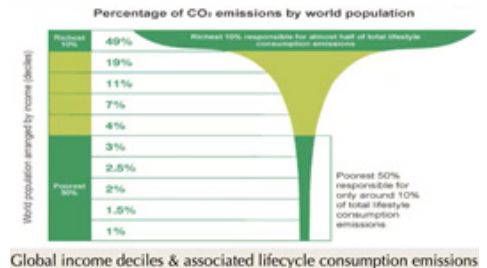
Reflections on COP26

I was in Glasgow for the second week of COP26, to witness this conference of global leaders and to join the huge march attended by a coalition of organisations, activists and indigenous leaders calling for Climate Justice - to agree to act swiftly to reduce emissions and protect the natural world, to provide adequate finance to help vulnerable countries adapt to climate change and agree reparations for loss and damage already happening in the Global South.

We may or may not recognise it, but our futures, and those of our children and grandchildren, are inextricably interconnected with the futures of those living and caring for their

children and grandchildren, in the Global South (and with all other forms of life of our living planet). Our comfort and convenience is entangled with suffering and destruction elsewhere in the world.

Injustice is a root cause of the climate crisis, with the richest 10% of people being responsible for almost 50% of carbon emissions, whilst marginalised communities, those bearing the least responsibility, are currently facing the brunt of the impacts.



So it felt important to listen to and amplify the voices of the youth representing the most affected peoples and areas (MAPA), who are now experiencing increasing drought, famine and flooding, and who came to Glasgow to bear witness to the issues they face. As COP26 neared the final days, with emission reduction commitments still off track to limit warming to 1.5 and little action on loss and damage, their understandable anger was palpable.



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



'I have missed school to be here. What am I going to go back and say to my people?...We are victims of the crisis we never created. We are fed up with your pledges and your targets for 2030, 2050. We need climate action now because we are suffering the effects of the crisis now.'
Patience Nabukalu from Uganda

This speech delivered by Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, in the opening days of the conference eloquently sums it up:



Mia Mottley at COP 26

'Failure to provide the critical finance, and that of loss and damage, is measured, my friends, in lives and livelihoods in our communities. This is immoral. And it is unjust, what must we say to our people living on the frontline, in the Caribbean, in Africa, in Latin America, in the Pacific. What

excuse should we give for the failure?

Are we so blinded and hardened that we can no longer appreciate the cries of humanity? Do some leaders in this world believe that they can survive and thrive on their own? Have they not learnt from the pandemic? Can there be peace and prosperity if one third of the world literally prospers and the other two thirds of the world live under siege and face calamitous threats to our wellbeing?

We must act in the interest of all our people who are dependent on us and if we don't, we will allow the path of greed and selfishness to sow the seeds of our common destruction. For those who have eyes to see, for those who have ears to listen and for those who have a heart to feel - 1.5 is what we need to survive. Two degrees ... is a death sentence for the people of Antigua and Barbuda, for the people of the Maldives, for the people of Dominica and Fiji, for the people of Kenya and Mozambique and yes, for the people of Samoa and Barbados. We do not want that dreaded death sentence.'

Jakki Phillips



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