

Westcott Village Magazine

April 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

May issue:

8th April 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



It looks like Spring has sprung, or at least has started to in my garden, and I am definitely appreciating a bit of colour, thanks to

the daffodils and crocuses. Hopefully you are getting out and enjoying the newly budding village as well. If you need some inspiration for a walk, on pages 28 and 29 there is a list of unexpected things to see in Westcott.

on offer this month, with music, poetry, and plays to enjoy. There is also a call for new players to join the Ladies' and Juniors' cricket teams, and for new players to try stoolball over the summer too. See page 35 for details.

As I write this our hearts go out to all those in Ukraine, and here's hoping that by the time you read it, some sort of end is in sight.

We have lots of artistic endeavours

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



GOD'S REPAIR SHOP

I enjoyed watching 'Jay Blades: Learning to Read at 51' on TV (still available on iPlayer at the time of writing).

The presenter of 'The Repair Shop' had decided that he needed to fix a problem he had had all his adult life - he couldn't read. Rather than disclosing the truth to others, he had learnt ways of hiding it but he had finally decided to face it and fix it for good.

Repairing broken things and liberating a new lease of life is the purpose of The Repair Shop. But what about when it is a personal relationship that is broken?

We all know what it is like when someone we love or trust lets us down. Maybe an unkind word or a thoughtless act that at best makes us disappointed with that person, and at worst leads to the pain of a broken relationship. The trouble is, if we are honest with ourselves, we know that we are just as likely to be the one who speaks that unkind word, or at least thinks it, as the one receiving it.

We are relational creatures. Whether



introvert or extrovert we need other people in our lives. Christians believe that we are relational because we are made in the image of a God who is relational. 'God is love', the Bible

tells us, but love only exists in relationship. In creating us in His own image, God created us for relationship not just with each other,

but also with Himself. We also believe that we have broken that relationship with God by our thoughts, words and actions – perhaps unwittingly simply by ignoring Him.

How do broken relationships get mended? We can't send them to The Repair Shop but rather one side needs to take the initiative in



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

reconciliation and the other has to be willing to respond to that initiative.

Easter is all about God taking the initiative to fix the broken relationship between us and Him. Jesus took upon himself every wrong act or unkind word that humanity ever did or spoke. He absorbed the resulting alienation from His Father and enabled reconciliation for all.

But we need to respond to this initiative. Effectively we need to take our broken relationship to God's Repair Shop and accept the fix He longs to give. Will you take Him up on His repair offer this Easter?

Rev'd Ian Hughes



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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 & recommend that masks are worn.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10.15AM
3rd April	Lent - Hope: Mental Health	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
10th April	Palm Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
17th April	Easter Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
24th April	Easter - Papua Partners	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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BUILDING
FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING
LIFE

EASTER

HOLY TRINITY WESTCOTT



Palm Sunday

APRIL 10TH

8:30am Book of Common Prayer Communion
10:15am Communion*

Maundy Thursday

APRIL 14TH

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service

Good Friday

APRIL 15TH

2:00pm Vigil at the Cross

Easter Day

APRIL 17TH

8:30am Book of Common Prayer
Communion

10:15am Celebrate Easter Communion*

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

* For 10:15am Zoom service
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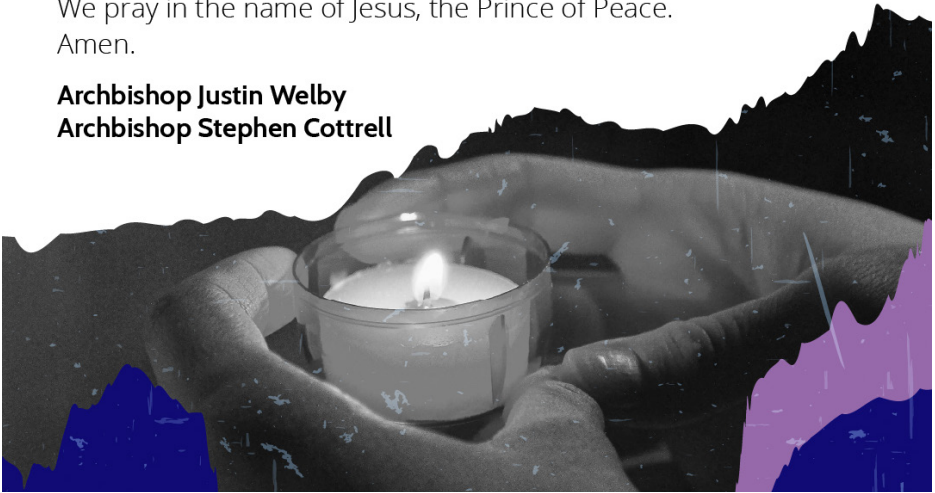
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THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



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



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

FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to the sponsors of the church floodlighting for April:

"In loving memory of our late parents Rupert Arthur Trim & Shelagh Joan Trim.
Loved and missed by Melanie, Nigel & all the family."

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

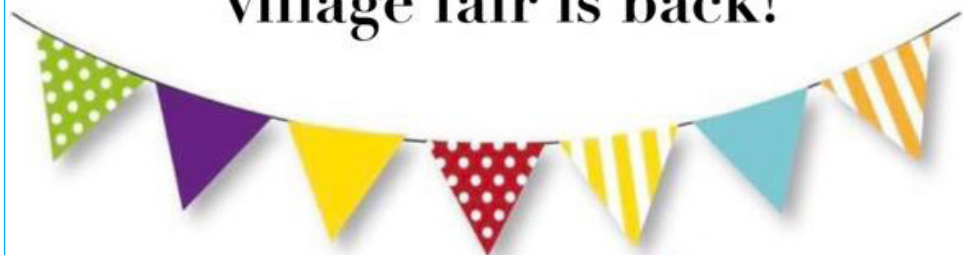
Death:

6th January 2022 Richard Peregrine Bax (76)

8th January 2022 Aline Mary Bennett (82)



**WESTfest - the Westcott
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THE READING ROOM AND THE HUT

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

I am delighted to be able to say that the Public Open Meeting held in the Reading Room on 22 February 2022 was very well-attended. The meeting of residents endorsed the trustees' plans to apply to the Charity Commission for approval to harmonise the terms on which the land at the Reading Room is held with those which already apply at the Hut (the 'Cy-près' scheme) and voted unanimously to modernise the Hut's constitution. The minutes of that meeting can be found at www.westcottvillagehall.com.

Subject to the Charity Commission giving its blessing, this represents significant progress in the project intended eventually to provide Westcott with a much better village hall than is currently available to us.

The trustees now await the Charity Commission's decision, which is unlikely much before the end of April. The trustees' lawyers are seeking to negotiate as much flexibility as the Charity Commission will allow to enable them to deal with the ever-declining condition of the Hut. The outcome of these negotiations may involve a further period of publicity in the village for the terms of the 'scheme' which the Charity Commission is minded to grant.

In the meanwhile, the trustees will now begin to think about assembling a team of professional advisers to project-manage the next phases of the process. An enterprise of this scale and nature, involving seeing through a redevelopment project potentially on two sites from design, through planning, construction and all the financial risk-management will need very careful steering over an extended period. It would be ambitious to think that the trustees will find all the necessary expertise on a voluntary basis from within the village.

The trustees will report further once the Charity Commission has made its decision, and (as they have said throughout the phases which are now being completed) will certainly revert to the village for further consultation once more concrete proposals emerge. That may take several months.

Bernd Ratzke
On behalf of the trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO
3 March 2022

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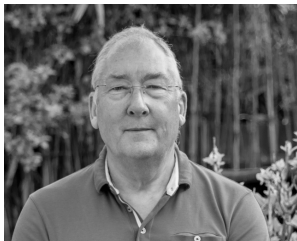


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Speed Watch

We now have around 14 volunteers who have started to go back out along the A25 to monitor traffic speeds. Two things are evident:

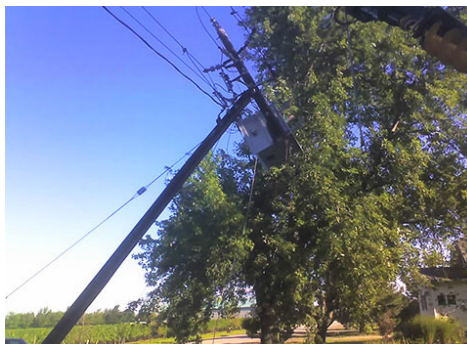
1. That just our presence has an immediate effect on traffic speeds; the primary aim is awareness and not catching as many speeding vehicles as possible. Getting warning letters from the Police is of course helpful, especially to those who are travelling way in excess of the 30mph limit, but this is not why we are doing it. Reducing speeds is the goal.

2. That when the weather is fine at the weekend, the motor bikers are out in force making unnecessary noise along the A25. We need more volunteers who are willing and able to do just 1 hour sessions on Saturday and Sunday mornings to discourage this antisocial behaviour.

Trees and Storms

The storm that hit the village in February caused a fair bit of damage

and meant that the north part of the village was without power for about 2 days. Many of the trees which came down were in some way damaged or diseased and speaking to UK Power Networks they urged everyone who has trees on their properties to regularly check for signs of decay and get a qualified tree surgeon to carry out remedial work every couple of years. In this way risking damage to your own, or other's properties, is minimised.



Surrey Hills (All Saints) Primary School (SHASPS)

The Good Shepherd Trust which runs the school has confirmed that the Abinger site will close at the end of this term and the pupils in years R, 1, and 2 will transfer to the Westcott site with effect from the start of the summer term. This is a very sad loss, and one which many people fought hard to prevent, but means that as a village we now need to put all our energies behind supporting the school



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to ensure that it remains an important village education facility within the Surrey Hills.

Forest School

As a consequence of the closure of the Abinger site, the SHASPS has lost its Forest School facility. This is a very sad loss for the younger pupils who, having worked with them at Forest School, I know really enjoyed the learning experience which this gave them.

If there is anyone in the village who has a suitable piece of land which they would be prepared to let the school use to re-establish the Forest School in Westcott, then please make contact with me (in confidence) to discuss things.

WVA Committee Members

The WVA is looking for new members to join the Committee in their work for the village. If you feel you have the time, talents, and enthusiasm which would help us then please get in touch at contact@westcottvillage.com or by calling Tim Way on 07872 185820.

At the Open Meeting we said thank you to Sandra Ede who has retired from the committee after 15 years' service. Her forthright manner in raising village issues was guaranteed to get people's attention, and she

made sure, with only one exception, she attended every meeting during this time. We wish her a very happy retirement!



Communication with the Village

In the coming months we will be experimenting with more direct and immediate communication with residents via Facebook posts and NextDoor. If you use these social media platforms – and we know many of you do – then please look out for posts on things happening in the village; if you're not already signed up then please do so – it's very easy and means you will always get important alerts.

By way of an example, when we opened St John's Community Centre after the storm damage, when many villagers had no power and needed somewhere to charge phones, get a hot drink, or just to commiserate with



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neighbours, our Facebook page was shared 1300 times in the space of less than 24 hours, and as a result around 20 families took advantage of the St John's facility. Community cohesion at its best!!!

Email addresses

If we don't have an email address for you on record then you may be missing out on getting important information concerning the village. Please make sure we have this so we can add you to our mailing list. We will only use this information for communicating directly with you and we will never share the information with anyone else or any other organisation. Drop us an email at contact@westcottvillage.com and we will add you to our mailing list.

Dates

Thanks to everyone who attended the Open meeting on 10th March. The next important date for your diary is the AGM on **30th June at 7.45pm at Holy Trinity Church Westcott**. Comments, suggestions, and other feedback are always welcome and helpful in steering the Association's thinking and actions.

Financing the work of the WVA

We have decided to move completely

away from collecting donations/subscriptions by knocking on doors to collect money. If you have not already done so, an annual standing order* for £10 (or more if you are happy to do so) with your bank is the quickest and simplest way to pay your subscription to the WVA (preferably on or around 1st June each year).

Our bank details are

Account Name: Westcott Village Association

Account Sort Code: 82-11-07

Account No.: 20072790

*Please note that the Clydesdale Bank has not implemented the account checking software which all the major banks have done. This means that you may get a message saying that the account to which you are making payment cannot be verified; do not be put off by this – simply check that our bank details are correct and proceed with the setting up of the standing order.

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

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There is a new shop that's opened up in our nursery, the ACN Farm Shop with fresh produce from all four corners of our hall. We've been buying plenty of beautiful flowers and generous amounts of groceries from each other with the tills going ker-ching! And our shop was also taking phone calls for deliveries to our friends in the home corner! We've been rushed off our feet!

It's been wonderful to enjoy some sunnier days and we've been out and about in the churchyard looking for signs of spring. Luckily there are plentiful primroses, crocuses, and snowdrops popping up all over the place for us to spot. We have even been growing our own magic beans after reading Jack and the Beanstalk. They have come home with us so we can watch them get bigger everyday. Some of them are already rivaling Jack's!



One of our lovely mummies very kindly bought us a gift of some play sinks that actually run water! You can imagine how much fun we have using them and they are also proving extremely useful in washing up our packets from our lunches in readiness to recycle

them. What a great donation, thank you so much!



There's nothing more magical in this world than seeing a rainbow in the sky so we've been learning a song about them (I think you can probably guess which one!) and creating rainbow collages from torn up magazines. We are all absolutely fluent in recognising colours and know a little bit more about the weather too.

To celebrate Valentine's Day we all shared our stories of the special people in our lives and made them some super keepsakes. They received love heart handprints, pasta necklaces and stained glass love heart biscuits. Yummy!

We are delighted to announce that we are now offering breakfast and after school clubs. Full information can be found on our website abingercommonnursery.co.uk. If you have a child looking to start Nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



Wednesday 6th April
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Jigsaw and Book exchange

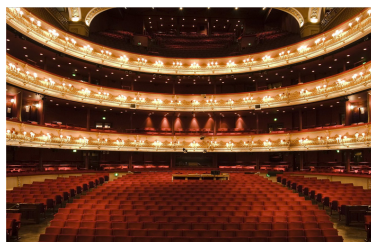
Come and join us
10.30 – 12.00 midday



**TANTRUMS AND TIARAS -
BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**
by Nigel Bates - Tuesday 12th April

Nigel will give us an insight on backstage life at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and the pressures faced by performers, be they the singer, dancer, conductor or musician. Nigel's Lecture will be fully illustrated and will include audio and video clips. Our Lecture commences at 10:30am in the Dorking Halls. Coffee available from 9:30am in the foyer. Please visit our website before coming to the Dorking Halls as we are limited to the number of visitors that can attend.

We welcome new members and again more information is on our website www.theartsocietydorking.co.uk.



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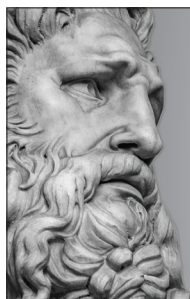
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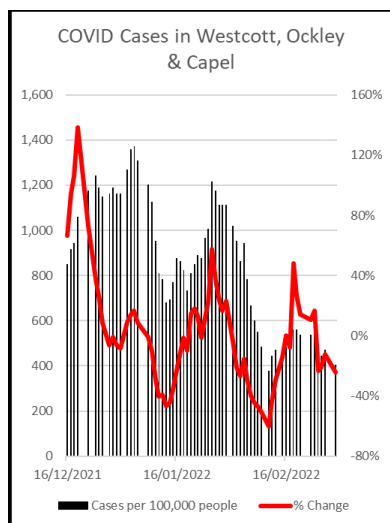
THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



What's the Data Telling Us?

Regular readers will know that the smallest unit of local COVID data that is published is for the footprint of Westcott, Ockley & Capel.

Continuing to track this might be starting to show us a regular rhythm of change in the growth and decline of case numbers. Currently it looks like there might be a three week cycle going on, but changes to testing, social distancing and isolation requirements, as well as fire breaks such as wintery weather and school holidays might be present in the chart too:



Folks in the village (at time of writing) are telling me that they seem to know more friends and neighbours who are testing positive. This seems to be a reflection of the cycle. In years to come, there are sure to be many academic studies on the spread (and impact) of the virus, in particular the comparison with other virus including influenza. It will be interesting to see if Westcott (and Capel and Ockley) are demonstrating the wider picture too.

Boundary Commission Review Update

As the April Village Magazine reaches doorsteps, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will be releasing their ideas of how the electoral patterns for Mole Valley District Council should change from May 2023. If you want to see what they are proposing for where Westcott will merge into then check out www.lgbce.org.uk

Mole Valley Youth Forum

Over the years Westcott has consistently provided a number of members of Mole Valley Youth Voice and Junior Youth Voice – the council meetings for secondary and primary school children.

Now Mole Valley District Council has launched its new Youth Forum to not only better engage with young people aged 8 to 18, but also provide an avenue for them to get involved in local democracy decision-making.

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Replacing the previous incarnation, the newly-established 'Mole Valley Youth Forum' will be predominantly based online and run through Instagram and Facebook pages.

Youth Forum

Young people who live or go to school/college in Mole Valley are being invited to get involved by following the Youth Forum Instagram and Facebook pages. While those social media channels are not available to anyone under 13, MVDC will be engaging with this younger age range through alternative avenues, via schools, student councils and youth groups in the district.

MVDC will be promoting identified projects and consultations via the Youth Forum social media pages, providing young people the opportunity to actively get involved and give them a voice in future decision-making. MVDC's Climate Change agenda and work being carried out to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 is the first campaign.

Report It Online

Did you know that there are a range of things that you can report online through the www.molevalley.gov.uk website? This includes:

- Overflowing litter and dog waste bins
- Missed bin collections
- Fly tipping

- Food hygiene complaint
- Anti-social behaviour
- Graffiti
- Medical waste collection requests

What Happens to your Recycling?

With a few exceptions, all recyclables collected in Westcott are processed at the Grundon Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at Leatherhead. The others are sold on directly by the companies that collect them.



Grundon's MRF segregates dry mixed recycling waste, following which the materials are baled and sent on to specialist reprocessors and manufacturers, where they are used to create new products. More information regarding these end destinations can be found on the Surrey Environment Partnership website. Through the use of state-of-the-art sorting technology, Grundon's MRF's typically recover over 90% of the materials passing through them for subsequent recycling. The remaining non-recyclable residual waste is sent on to Energy from Waste facilities where it is used a fuel source to generate renewable electricity.

The recycled waste materials collected and recovered through the MRF's includes:

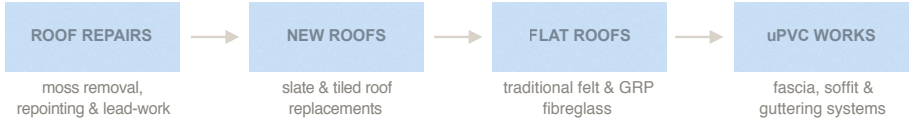


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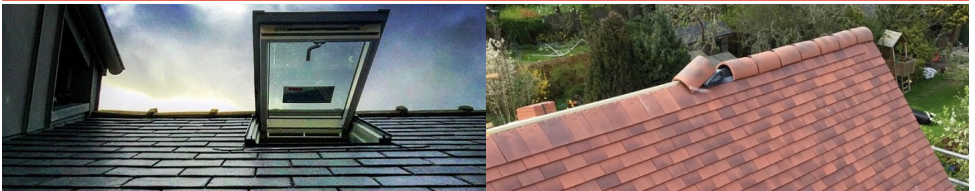


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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

- Paper (including newspapers, magazines, catalogues and envelopes)
- Card (including packaging)
- Cardboard
- Steel and aluminium drinks cans
- HDPE (high-density polyethylene) plastics
- PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastics
- Glass (all colours)

Following collections from households, mixed recycling materials are transported to the MRF site, and fed through the MRF, where they are sorted both by a combination of hand and mechanical processes:

1. Sorting and screening - Hand sorting and screening of paper, card, and cardboard removes these materials
2. Ferrous metals sorting - The stream of materials passes through a series of overband magnets where ferrous metals, such as steel cans, are recovered
3. Non-ferrous sorting - Eddy current separators are used to recover non-ferrous metals, such as aluminium cans
4. Infra-red spectroscopy - A series of automated sorters separate out the different types of plastic materials, such as plastic bottles and packaging
5. Glass screening - Glass is sent from the stream of waste materials through an air-classifier to remove any paper. The glass is then sent on to be recycled
6. High-density baling - The various segregated materials are high-density baled and stored until a sufficient

quantity has been collected. They can then be transported to specialist reprocessors where they can be recycled into new products



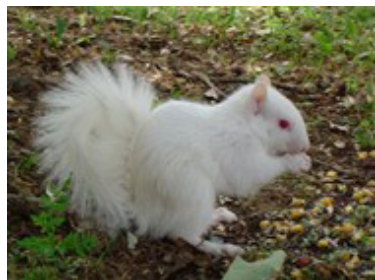
Recycling streams that are not processed at the Grundons MRF:

- Batteries: Collected by Amey and passed direct to the buyer.
- Garden Waste: Delivered by Amey direct to the processing facility: KPS Composting Services Ltd, East Sussex.
- Textiles: Collected by Amey and passed direct to the buyer: Green World Recycling Ltd, West Midlands. Textiles are also collected from Recycling bring sites at Mole Valley District Council car parks by Green World Recycling.
- Tetrapak: Collected from Recycling bring sites at MVDC car parks throughout the district and at Dorking and Leatherhead CRC's and then sent to Ace UK, Gadbrook Park, Northwich
- Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE): Domestic appliances are collected kerbside by Amey and passed direct to the buyers. For small appliances MDJ Light Bros (SP) Ltd, Lewes, East Sussex and for fridges and freezers it is Suez Surrey Ltd, Leatherhead. WEEE is also collected from Recycling bring sites at Mole Valley District Council car parks by DHL Envirosolutions.

James Friend



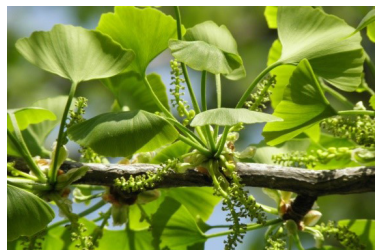
There are several items in Westcott that are welcome newcomers or should not ordinarily be found. Here are a few – perhaps you know of more?



White Squirrel

White squirrels are caused by a naturally occurring trait of the eastern grey squirrels that is very, very rare. There are two types of genetic irregularity that cause the white coats. The first is albinism (the squirrel has red eyes), caused by a mutation on a gene that codes for pigmentation. The other is a white morph, caused by a different gene.

It's somewhat rare to see a white squirrel because predators to squirrels such as hawks really like it when their prey is highlighted white! Other white squirrels (not the same one as territories are quite small) have been found in North Holmwood and Dorking.

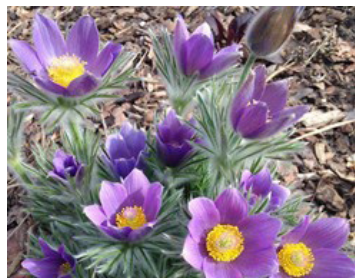


Ginkgo Biloba Tree

The Ginkgo biloba is one of the oldest living tree species in the world (according to Kew) but the end of Rookery Drive has one!

It's special because it's the sole survivor of an ancient group of trees that date back to before dinosaurs roamed the Earth – creatures that lived between 245 and 66 million years

ago. It's so ancient, the species is known as a 'living fossil'. Ginkgo biloba is rated as Endangered and has been given a high priority conservation status.



Pasque Flower

The Pasque flower blooms in April, around Eastertime; for this reason, it is known as the anemone of 'Passiontide' and its common name 'pasque' derives from the word 'paschal' which means 'of Easter'. The striking, purple flower is now a very rare plant in the UK, restricted to just a few chalk and limestone

WESTCOTT SURPRISES (cont.)



grasslands and found on only a handful of nature reserves in the Chilterns, Cotswolds, East Anglia and Lincolnshire.

This flower can be found in one spot at the top of Ranmore and is believed to have been planted there by a family in remembrance of their daughter.



Cedar of Lebanon

Cedrus libani, the cedar of Lebanon is a species of tree in the pine family, native to the elevated mountains of the Eastern Mediterranean basin but can be found here in the grounds of Westcott House. It is a large evergreen conifer that has great religious and historical significance in the cultures of the Middle East, and is referenced

many times in the bible. Hebrew priests were ordered by Moses to use the bark of the Lebanon cedar in the treatment of leprosy. It is the national emblem of Lebanon.



White Egret

The little egret is a recent colonist, and is most common along the south and east coasts of England and in Wales. The estuaries of Devon and Cornwall, Poole Harbour and Chichester Harbour hold some of the largest concentrations and they are also common in East Anglia. They are an increasingly common sight in inland areas too and are gradually increasing their range

northwards here to Westcott where they have been frequently sighted in the last 2 years.

Jo Smewing



Less unusual, but a local sight/landmark nonetheless, are the Westcott alpacas who live in a field off Balchins Lane, pictured here by Ian Dunsford.



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Life of a Steeplejack - Talk by Peter Harknett

The current TV series on Fred Dibnah's exploits in industrial Britain prompted the repeat of this talk by Peter Harknett in March 2012 about his steeplejack career including the repair of Westcott's Holy Trinity Church shingle covered spire. We were richly entertained by the anecdotes and folklore of a man who spent his life working at the top of chimneys, steeples and tall buildings.

Peter was the oldest working steeplejack, having started in 1949 at the age of 14 as an apprentice. He could remember repairing the shingles on Westcott Church over 40 years previously. At one time the work on spires was done by touring acrobats who would sleep on the site.

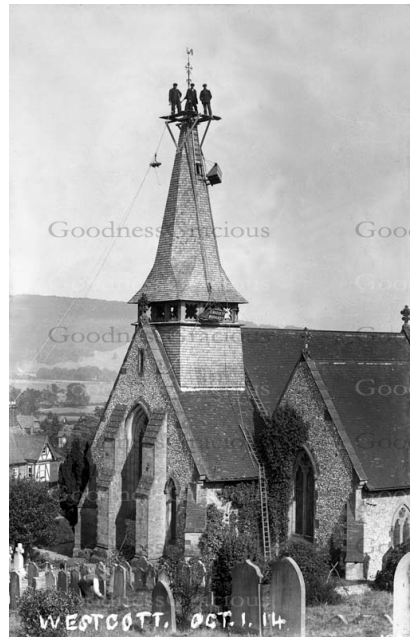
Spires since the 15th century usually had a 'lookout' door high up in the spire, accessible from inside, which could be used to hang out a flag. It was also used by steeplejacks to hang out ropes and ladders to do their work. He recalled repairing nine spires on the old Charterhouse School buildings in London and a number of buildings in West London.

A job frequently given to steeplejacks was to clean out the pigeon guano

from parapets and towers, and also to recover ladies' undergarments put up by pranksters.

The most dangerous job was demolition, usually of chimneys. This was done in his early days by installing a long bamboo pole in the chimney, the top of which could be guyed in the preferred direction of fall. A row of bricks would then be removed from the base of the chimney and it would fall over in the direction required.

He recalled one incident where it was necessary to avoid a bowling green but the chimney was twisted and the



c. Keith Harding

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inevitable happened - it fell on the grass. Another job was taking down a large bell that was cracked and the rehanging had to be repeated several times until the church was satisfied with the sound of the bell.

He had worked on the 700 foot high cooling towers at the Ferrybridge Power Station in Yorkshire. The steeplejacks would go up the inside and then work on the wooden parapet around the top which had a net slung 20 feet below to catch those who fell off.



He said he could only remember falling once in his career. He recalled going up the outside of one cooling tower where the ladder was 6' too short. He had to stand on the top rung and haul himself up over the parapet before lowering a rope to assist his mates!

He recounted experiences of various

incidents at churches from Hampshire across to Kent – one involving a Vicar who fell over and broke his leg looking up at the steeplejacks working – another, featuring a large lady architect who became stuck up the inside of a steeple. He had worked on copper sheathed and oak shingle and slated steeples.

To conclude, he showed a series of slides showing himself at dizzy heights on tall buildings. This included working on the 400 foot spires of the Houses of Parliament repairing the gold painted crowns at the top, high above the Big Ben clock and a job on the Post Office Tower in London.

His most memorable job seemed to be replacing the gold painted Angel Gabriel on a church in Guildford. This was a man who had enjoyed a long career having fun scaling the tallest structures in the land and keeping a wry sense of humour.

The next WLHG meeting will be on Tuesday 10th May – all being well. As always the committee is happy welcome suggestions for talks and even better, introductions to potential speakers.

Roger Christian



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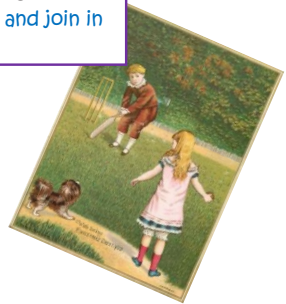
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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

As the Spring term progresses there are lots of changes being made at both the Abinger and Westcott site to prepare for the infant children's move to one site after Easter. This week Hedgehog class moved upstairs to their newly painted classroom and very soon, Rabbits will also be on the move! Alongside physical changes within the school, our children have been busy attending a number of sporting events. Mr Guest is doing a fantastic job of co-ordinating much of these.

World Book Day was celebrated with enthusiasm yesterday. Mrs Conyers worked throughout the week with the KS2 classes to explore some of our most beloved books through drama. The Twits by Roald Dahl proved to be a firm favourite!

As Easter approaches we look forward to marking it here at Surrey Hills with our Easter Pause Day, not forgetting the much anticipated Easter Bonnett Parade! We hope you all get to enjoy the Easter period with loved ones.



New iPads and Internet Safety

The new iPads have seen a lot of use over the past few weeks. Badgers were one of the first classes to utilise them. Stephen Welding, a local committee member and safeguarding expert, visited the Y5/6 children to talk to them about internet safety. Many thanks to Stephen for giving up his time .

Milestones

On 23rd February our fabulous Reception children celebrated 100 days of schooling. What an achievement!



World Book Day!

A huge well done to all the children (and parents) for the effort you made in celebrating World Book Day. You all looked amazing! As did many of the staff.

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SURREY HILLS SCHOOL (cont)



Sporting Success

Surrey Hills have been achieving sporting successes recently. We achieved Bronze in the hockey tournament this week and our Y5/6 team came first out of the local schools competing in the cross country recently. Well done all!

Mr Coles
Headteacher

Gilbert & Sullivan - Masterclass by Richard Suart **Saturday 9th April 2022 at St James Church**

Richard Suart specialises in the comic roles of Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Generally considered the leading patter man of his generation, Richard will be lecturing on the unique methodology of performing G&S and demonstrating how to sing in the classic D'Oyly Carte style.

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BEAU'S HAIRCUT FOR THE LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST



Beau Moreland is cutting her hair for The Little Princess Trust on the 26th March. Beau set her target on JustGiving at £500 and is already at £1315. Well done Beau!

When a child loses their hair to cancer or another condition, The Little Princess Trust will be there with a free, real hair wig to help restore their confidence and identity. We won't stop until the research that we fund ends childhood cancer forever. Please visit us at www.littleprincesses.org.uk to find out how you can help us give young people back what cancer takes away. The Trust relies solely on the efforts of enthusiastic community fundraisers. We receive no formal funding. Please help to raise money for us so that we can help more families.

Singing the World - Workshop on Zoom



Online Saturday 2nd April 2022 2:00 - 4.00pm

Mole Valley Poets warmly invites you to this Ecopoetry workshop, run by Elizabeth Barton, in which we will explore the more-than-human world of birds, insects and plants. We will draw inspiration from poetry celebrating flora and fauna from John Clare's Northamptonshire to the Australian Bush and there will be creative writing exercises to help reawaken our senses.

Joining this event will be easy, with Zoom invitations sent to your email address. Tickets are £8 and available on TicketSource link on <https://www.molevalleypoets.co.uk/>



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8th & 9th at 7.30, Leith Hill Music Festival at Dorking Halls, £17-24, 01306 881717
23rd at 7.30, Martineau Musicians at St Paul's church, £12-15, 07916 140612

The big musical event for April is the Leith Hill Music Festival, being held at the Dorking Halls. After two years of being unable to hold a festival due to covid, the choirs and all their singers are greatly looking forward to making music together again. Most choirs resumed their rehearsals in the autumn, albeit under covid precautions, and are now once again enjoying singing. The combined rehearsals with Jonathan Willcocks have gone well and we can look forward to two excellent concerts. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams, the festival's first (and very long-serving) conductor, and the concerts will celebrate the occasion by including some of his short choral pieces. The main works in the concerts are Beethoven's *Mass in C* and *The Song of Mary* by Jonathan Willcocks (Friday 8th), and *A Little Jazz Mass* by Bob Chilcott, music from *Porgy and Bess* by Gershwin, and John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit*, an uplifting setting of seven spirituals (Saturday 9th). This year, the festival will conclude with a performance of Handel's *Messiah* in June (postponed from its usual date in March).

The Martineau Musicians will give a concert of reflective music for Easter. Conducted by Juliet Hornby, they will perform music exploring a range of moods and emotions, from pensive and ethereal to hopeful and joyful. Alongside Philip Ledger's beautifully expressive *Requiem: A Thanksgiving for Life*, scored for choir, organ, flute and soprano, other featured composers include Bruckner, Elgar, Stanford and Leonard Cohen. Tickets are only £12 if purchased in advance, £15 on the door, and refreshments will be available.

There is a screening at the Dorking Halls on 13th April of Verdi's tragic opera *La Traviata* from the Royal Opera House.





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The end of February and beginning of March was very wet and Storm Eunice did bring down one very large tree at the Woodland. One of our Veterans who is an expert at tree felling was quick to come to our aid and cleared the tree and mended the fence to keep out the deer who love our young saplings.

During March we planted several saplings which will give them time to establish before our Anniversary and Commemoration Service on 11th June when we have several families scattering their loved ones' ashes.

Not long now to our Easter Egg Hunt at the Woodland. This is taking place on Sunday 10th April so if you have not registered your children or grandchildren yet contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk asap to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Paul Cooling
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REFLECTIONS: Music for Eastertide

Saturday 23 April 2022 at 7.30pm
St Paul's Church, Dorking, RH4 2HT

Martineau Musicians will be presenting a varied concert of reflective music for the Easter Season under the direction of Juliet Hornby.

The programme will explore a wide range of moods and emotions, being at times solemn, pensive and intense, but also containing elegant and ethereal moments and evoking feelings of confidence, joy and hope.

Works by Bruckner, Pearsall, Elgar, Stanford, Ola Gjeilo and Leonard Cohen will be featured, as well as Philip Ledger's beautifully expressive Requiem: A Thanksgiving for Life, for choir, organ, flute and soprano soloist.

Refreshments will be available at the concert.

Tickets are available from Stephen Williams (07916 140612 or stephenacwilliams@gmail.com) at £12.00 in advance or £15.00 on the door.

BROCKHAM CHORAL



Brockham Choral are celebrating their 70th Anniversary
performing J. S. BACH'S ST. MATTHEW PASSION
on Saturday 21st May 2022
at 7pm in St Martin's Church, Dorking, RH4 1UX.

Music Director Cole Bendall will conduct The Covent Garden Sinfonia
with The Reid Consort and the Surrey Youth Choir.

Soloists include EVANGELIST David Walsh and CHRISTUS James Kennedy

Adults £16 in advance, £18 on the day
Students under 25 in full-time education £10

Tickets available by email : brockhamcstickets@gmail.com
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DORKING MUSEUM

Spring is always a time of optimism and hope, so much to look forward to as the year unfolds. A time of year to get out there and explore the wonders of our local area. So it is that the Museum teams are looking forward to revealing to visitors the special delights of the Dorking area, whether above or below ground: it is stout shoes on from April once again.

Walking in Dorking:



Our popular programme of guided walks gets underway on 3rd April. In the town centre, the first of this season is **Hidden Historic Dorking (3rd April, 11am)**: Dorking as you have never seen it before, revealing the hidden treasures you may have walked past. The first of our **Family History Detective walks is on 24th April, 2pm** – new this season, it is an hour's walk suitable for children aged 4-10 which asks, 'Can you be a history detective to find the things shown in the photos?' Our ever-popular **Historic Pub Walks resume on 21st May**.

On the edge of town are the **Deepdene Trail**, taking in the grotto, woodland walks, parterre and temple, spectacular views and exclusive

access to the grade 2* listed Hope family Mausoleum, and the **Betchworth Castle tour**, with exclusive access to the castle enclosure. Both start the season on 10th



April, 2pm. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for scheduled dates, details and bookings. Private group bookings can also be made to suit your requirements for timing and itinerary (other themed walks are available).

South Street Caves:

Or maybe take an unforgettable trip under Dorking's busy streets to see the 17th century South Street Caves complete with graffiti carved into the walls – the oldest dating back to 1666 – and extensive wine vaults capable of storing hundreds of bottles. A series of staircases, galleries and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level and



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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

possibly used in the late 17th century for political, criminal or religious gatherings.

Our cave tours resume on **16th April**, and thereafter on the last Saturday of each month until October. On each open day, there are tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, but these do sell out quickly. Private tours can be arranged for special groups or occasions – recent events have included birthdays, engagement, reunions and family get-togethers. One group at the end of last season come from all over the UK, had met on holiday in Machu Picchu some years ago and now meet at various other locations – recently on the Camino de Santiago and Dorking! Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/ for details and booking.

Museum Family Easter Hunt:



The Dorking Cockerel is a very special bird! Join us at the Museum for an Easter hunt that reveals the name of a famous person who was very fond of Dorking Cockerels.

Looking high and looking low, finding chicks and unscrambling letters – it's all part of the fun! When you have discovered the famous name there will be a special Easter treat for you.

Friday 1st-Saturday 2nd, Thursday 7th-Saturday 9th April, 10am-4pm

(Thursday 1pm-4pm).

The Museum's current special exhibition, '**Darking 1620**', will remain until May 21st. Presenting a view of life in the 'Darking' of 1620 and the story of William Mullins and the Mayflower travellers, it also features period apparel – including authenticated 17th century shoes found locally – the tools of Mullins' trade as a shoemaker and a magnificent cross section model of the Mayflower, created for the exhibition by the Dorking Men's Shed team.

Can you help? The Museum is run entirely by volunteers. If you would like to support our activities and can spare a few hours a week, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for Visitor Assistants to meet, greet and assist visitors and there are also more specialised roles in the operations of the Museum, most of which would suit working from home. All roles are voluntary, part-time and full training is given. For more information on current opportunities, 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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Following a successful audition evening we are delighted to have a talented cast in our forthcoming production of George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Rehearsals are now in full swing for this exciting, thought provoking play. Please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Wednesday 27th – Saturday 30th April at 7.45pm, Saturday Matinee 2.30pm
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Microgreens are the seedlings of vegetables and herbs. They offer a healthy and

natural way to incorporate nutritious veggies into your diet, plus they're fun to grow and perfect for beginner gardeners!

Making sure you're eating well and getting your essential doses of vitamins and nutrients can often be difficult. Microgreens are healthy because they are nutrient-dense with concentrated sources of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Compared to their adult counterparts, they contain up to 40 times the vitamins and antioxidants.

Microgreens are relatively easy to grow on a small scale and can thrive indoors if sunlight is available. People wishing to grow their own microgreens can follow these steps:

1. Scatter seeds over an inch of potting soil in a planter dish or tray and cover with another thin layer of soil.
2. Mist the soil with water and place near a source of sunlight or a grow light.
3. Continue to mist the seeds daily to keep the soil moist.

harvest in 2–3 weeks. Take care to cut the greens above the soil line and rinse them well before using them. They are suitable to eat raw which helps them retain their nutrients, as high heat in cooking can destroy enzymes, vitamins, and phytonutrients.

Add microgreens to meals in the following ways:

- a garnish for salads, soups, flatbreads, or pizzas
- add nutritional value to a juice or smoothie
- as a side salad to any main dish
- add flavour and colour to an omelette or frittata
- an alternative to lettuce in tacos or a burger or sandwich



Herb microgreens can also add flavour to sweet dishes. Sprinkle a pinch of mint, for example, on a fruit based mousse or on strawberries with yogurt.

Not all microgreens are edible especially ones in the nightshade family like tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants, and peppers. For a full list of microgreens that can be grown at home visit microveggie.com.

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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

Energy Crisis/Climate Crisis

The final sentence of the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which was released at the end of February this year, clearly states the threat we are facing: *"The scientific evidence is unequivocal: climate change is a threat to human well-being and the health of the planet. Any further delay in concerted global action will miss a brief and rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future."*

Scientists are clear. Svitlana Krakovska the climate scientist who heads the Ukraine delegation to IPCC said, as Russia invaded Ukraine: *"..we hope the world will not surrender in building a climate-resilient future... Human-induced climate change and the war on Ukraine have the same roots - fossil fuels - and our dependence on them"*

Fossil fuels power the worst crises facing our planet. The International Energy Agency (IEA) asserts that the exploitation and development of new oil and gas fields must stop and no new coal-fired power stations built: *"If governments are serious about the climate crisis, there can be no new investments in oil, gas and coal, from now – from this year."* (Faith Birol, executive director IEA, The Guardian May 2021)

We know what we need to do:
"Now is the time to accelerate the

energy transition to a renewable energy future. Fossil fuels are a dead end - for our planet, for humanity, and yes, for economies. A prompt, well-managed transition to renewables is the only pathway to energy security, universal access and the green jobs our world needs." (Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations, February 2022.)



We must reduce our energy use by trying to make our homes as energy efficient as possible, by insulating and draught-proofing.

We will be holding an Eco Café evening at St John's Community Hall in May to share information and ideas for reducing energy use in your home. Please get in touch at info@greenwestcott.org if you have expertise in this area to share and please do watch out for the date in next month's magazine and come along.

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Westcott 100 Club

By the time this report arrives through your letterboxes, we will have held the Westcott 100 Club's Annual General Meeting and the March draw. We'll bring you news of that next month. Subject to agreement at the AGM, in addition to the scheduled quarterly draw in June, we are hoping we will be able to bring members an extra one-off draw (with a bigger prize) to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.

The scheme currently has just under £5000 of funds available for local clubs, societies, associations or individuals to support any project that has some wider benefit to the village. We are open to discussion with you on any ideas you might have – get in touch with us by email and let's have a chat.

Our next scheduled quarterly draw will be in June. To be eligible for this draw (and the additional one-off special draw we are hoping to hold) then we will need to receive your application and subscriptions on 01 June. We estimate the June prizes will be around £115 and £57.50 for the quarterly draw and £230 for the special draw (subject to confirmation at the AGM). Membership costs £25 per ticket per year, for which your number(s) will be entered into one annual draw (December) and four quarterly draws (March, June, September, December). Membership is open to all; you just have to be over 18.

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 look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Alda Andreotti (Chair), Edwin Harland (Treasurer),
Richard Packer (Secretary)*

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

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