

Westcott Village

Magazine

November 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.

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December issue:

8th November 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



November already! Time to wrap up warm and dry, and admire the trees turning orange (unless it's been so windy all the leaves have fallen

off before you read this!) As I write this towards the end of October I still have sunflowers out - so not sure what's going on with the seasons!

The Mid Surrey Community Fridge Van is now visiting Westcott on a Monday afternoon at St John's chapel, so make use of it if you need to. All the food would otherwise be disposed of, although there is nothing wrong with it,

so it's great to see it be made available to those who might be struggling with all the increased costs of living.

QRMW have their remembrance service in the woodland on 11th November (p51), and Westfestivity is now going to be the Village Hall Christmas Fair, still on November 26th, now 12-4pm, please see page 24 for details. If you're in need of some artistic inspiration, the Arts Alive Festival is on at Denbies until November 6th (p44) followed by the Dorking Group of Artists' Exhibition also at Denbies from 27th November (p36).

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com



Mushroom pictures by
Jo Smewing - how many
different ones can you find
out on a walk?



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



LOOKING BACKWARDS TO GO FORWARDS

Autumn seems to be a season of remembering.

We have just celebrated All Hallows' Eve – now better known as Halloween. This was historically a day to look back on the lives of those who have gone before. A day to remember flawed human beings who had done their best to serve their fellow humans and their God.

Then comes 'Guy Fawkes Night'. "Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot..." (although, perhaps ironically, I can never recall the next line...). Now typically a chance to set off a few fireworks and to warm up around a bonfire, 'Gunpowder Treason Day' became the predominant English state commemoration in the 17th Century. In a reminder for how collective acts of remembering can be for ill as well as good, it sadly often became a focus of anti-Catholic sentiment.

The eleventh hour of the eleventh

day of the eleventh month marks the Armistice, the agreement to end the horrifying fighting of the First World War. Remembrance Day offers us a chance to pause for two minutes silence to remember those who for our tomorrow, gave their today. Do join us at Holy Trinity for Remembrance Sunday on November 13th as we mark this moment of national reflection together.

The Bible contains many calls for people to remember what has gone before. The good. The bad. The ugly. One regular practice involved putting up large stones (perhaps not dissimilar to our practice of erecting war memorials) to remind people of key events, such as God rescuing his people from slavery in Egypt. This is the same logic at the heart of the

act of communion where Christians the world over consume bread and wine as physical reminders of the presence and love of God as they remember Jesus' death and resurrection.

REFLECTING ON WHAT HAS BEEN ALLOWS US TO MOVE FORWARD...



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Remembering is important, but not for its own sake. As Churchill once observed, "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Or to put a more positive spin on why we need to remember, note the words of the Austro-Bohemian composer Gustav Mahler "Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire."

What is true of music is true of life. Reflecting on what has been allows us to move forward, facing new challenges and seasons whilst holding on to what really matters.

Rev'd. Tim Armstrong
Vicar



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

13th November, 2022

Service of
Remembrance,
10:15am,
Holy Trinity Church,
Westcott

"We will remember them"

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.

Mask wearing is no longer mandatory in church. If you feel unwell, please do not come in person - join us on Zoom at 10:15am.

The church is open every day, 9am-4pm for private prayer & reflection

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM
6th Nov	Joshua: Remembering what God has done	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
13th Nov	Remembrance Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Remembrance
20th Nov	Bible Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
27th Nov	First Sunday in Advent	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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LIFE

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

CHRISTENINGS

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

FUNERALS

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@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

COOKIE CLUB

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

St John's Community Hall, Westcott
Thursday mornings 9-11am, term time



chat
fun

snacks
& drinks

An informal and friendly group for parents, grandparents & carers, along with their babies & pre-school children.

Enjoy comfy sofas, good coffee, and friendship.

£2 voluntary contribution per family



THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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:

Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010 Ali Mabley 01306 889641

For help, more information, please contact churchwardens:

churchwardens@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



Ukrainian Support

Are you hosting, or planning to host, Ukrainian visitors?
are you interested in helping?
or just finding more about what's involved?



Information, and links, can be found in the Resources



section of the Church in Westcott website:

[https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/](https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/Groups/377459/Ukrainian_Support.aspx)

[Groups/377459/Ukrainian_Support.aspx](https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/Groups/377459/Ukrainian_Support.aspx)

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 richardnwlist@gmail.com for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



Holy Trinity Church

A Sacred Place of Peace & Prayer,
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for private prayer
or reflection

Every Day 9:00am-4:00pm

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pray, reflect, breathe, be.

All are welcome

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage:

17th Sept David Harris Watts & Amy Rose Black

29th Sept Matthew Robert Neil Cheesman
& Emma Jane Proudlove



FLOODLIGHTING

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

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




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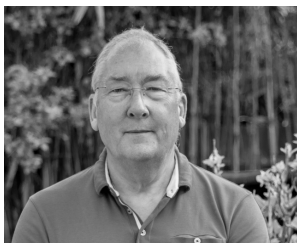


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We are delighted to have welcomed the **Mid Surrey Community Fridge** to Westcott in October. The Fridge aims to stop food waste by distributing excess food from supermarkets, restaurants, cafes and suppliers to local residents so the food is not wasted. Priority is given to those most in need but anyone is welcome, with donations encouraged if you can afford to.

The Mid Surrey Community Fridge is based in Dorking and has four fixed community fridges including two vans who visit local villages which now includes Westcott. You will now find them every Monday outside St John's at 1.30pm. Do spread the word and pop along and visit.



Another sustainable initiative being explored by the WVA is the potential



for some public use **Electric Vehicle Charging Points** in Westcott and also whether there is demand for a **Community Car Club** vehicle. These two initiatives are very exciting and could be developed using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. We would welcome your views and ideas on how to develop them further.



Staying with motoring, Surrey County Council have been consulting on proposals to **reduce existing speed limits on rural areas** within Mole Valley and across the County which are currently subject to derestricted speed limits. The proposals include changes to Logmore Lane and Westcott Heath which a number of residents and the WVA have raised concerns about. The worry is the proposed new speed limit of 20mph is mistaken for approval to drive at this speed where in reality "dead slow" is the only safe speed in several sections of these roads. Comments have been submitted as part of the Surrey consultation which closed on the 21st October.



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In last month's magazine you may have seen that the WVA and Westcott 100 Club are jointly exploring the possibility of raising funds for an **all-weather path** around Cradhurst Recreation Ground to provide easy access for buggies, mobility aids and wheelchairs all year round. The idea is to connect the existing entrances with a path made from sustainable and hard-wearing material but we need to know your views so please get in touch at cradhurstpath@gmail.com



As we approach 11th November the WVA will ensure the **Remembrance Day Poppies** go up throughout the Village on lamp posts leading up to Remembrance Day.

Finally, some other dates for your diary;

Saturday 12th November – Annual Westcott Litter Pick, meet at 10.30am on the village green. Please spare a couple of hours on the 12th November to join in the annual village litter pick. All equipment is provided and many



hands make light work. Join with us as we try to cover as many of the communal and open spaces and in the village as we can.

Saturday 26th November – Westcott Village Fair 12pm to 4pm at the Westcott Village Hall (formerly The Reading Room). Come along and support this festive village event. The WVA will be holding a Christmas Hamper themed tombola and would be grateful for any festive donations – mince pies, chocolates, nuts, crackers, wine, sweets, Christmas napkins, table decorations etc. Please drop any donations to either Jon



Mears at Jon & Mum's grocery store at St John's or to Sally Hewetson at Drydown, The Hildens, Westcott RH4 3JX before Monday 21st November.

Wednesday 7th December - WVA Open Meeting 7.30pm at Holy Trinity. The next Open Meeting has been moved to early December which now presents a great excuse for a festive get together and social in addition to the usual updates from the Committee and an opportunity for you to raise and share any views about village life. All are welcome.



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Friday 16th December - Christmas Carols on the Green around the Village Christmas Tree – plans are afoot to gather around the Village Christmas



Tree again this year to sing some Christmas Carols and get everyone in a festive mood. Keep an eye on our social media pages for further details and for the time being please put Friday 16th December in your diary.

As always please do get in touch with any issues or to share your views on village life.

Westcott Village Association Committee
contact@westcottvillage.com

WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



*Wednesday 2nd November
at
The Reading Room*



Jigsaw & Book exchange and Autumn Raffle

10.30 - 12.00 midday

*Advance Notice: 7th December
Return of the Surrey Hills School Choir*

A very warm welcome to all, especially parents & grandparents



Westcott Village Hall

The Perfect Venue for any event

The Westcott Village Hall, previously the Reading Room, is in the heart of the village of Westcott, in the Surrey Hills close to Dorking. It is a flexible space with diverse amenities available for hosting classes, meetings and functions.

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VOLUNTEER/BABY MEALS

The cooks have been kept busy with 3 further babies arriving in recent weeks.

Renáta and her husband who live on The Burrell welcomed baby Adam in early September and were very grateful to all the “amazing team” of cooks!



Sophie & David on Springfield Road were really pleased to receive their first meal on the day Sophie was discharged from hospital with baby Liam.

Within a week or two of starting his new job, Westcott's new Vicar Tim Armstrong and his family, wife Jenny, and their children Archie and Herbie welcomed baby Reginald in mid September. The Cooks swung into action again delivering meals to their temporary address in Dorking.

Thanks again to the brilliant team of Westcott Volunteer cooks!

We would be delighted if any more volunteer cooks want to join our list! 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

CHRISTMAS FAIR

WESTfestivity Westcott Christmas Fair 26 Nov 2022 is now going to be the Westcott Village Hall Christmas Fair, same place, same date, but change of name and slight change in time, now 12-4pm. See page 24 for more details and see you there!



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Centenary Concert

Dorking Choral Society

With
The Bridge Sinfonia

Conductor
Daniel Mahony

Vaughan Williams The Lark Ascending
Joseph Haydn Serenade to Music
Harmoniemesse

Saturday 19 November 2022, 7:30 pm
St Martin's Church, Dorking

Tickets £18.00; Under 16s £5.00
From eventbrite.co.uk or contact: 07847 477 052
www.dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Looking Back

With the days of a district councillor serving just our Westcott community now numbered (208 to go as I write this, not that I'm counting you understand), I thought that it might be interesting to look back ten years to see what I was writing to you about back then.



In November 2012, our village was just preparing to complete the Westcott Village

Forum survey and I was urging you to look out for it when it arrived at your door. More than 700 of us did just that and the survey results went on to form the core of the now adopted Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan that continues to shape our village for the generations to come.

Elsewhere my article covered another attempt to solve the traffic flow problems from Westcott to Dorking and a plug for the efforts of Transition Dorking. This was set in the context of my postbag dealing with consumer debt and the cost of living: *Debt is also a frequent postbag topic and so in a week when the cost of winter fuel has*

gone up again, you might like to know that Dorking Energy Group is looking for volunteers to form a Draught-Busting Hit Squad. Full training will be provided to help a team draught-proof houses for people with cold homes in Dorking. If you'd like to help them please contact transitiondorking@gmail.com



That's probably a good reminder to us all, where possible and safe, to think about how we can more efficiently use our natural resources this winter and make the most of the money in our pockets. There are more ideas at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/health-and-welfare/support> and <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/goinggreen>

But an overriding factor as we approach the depths of winter is that we must take care of each other as well. Please don't turn down or switch off your heating to a level where it puts your health at any risk. If you are worried about the cost of the fuel bills to that extent, then please speak to folks at the District Council (01306 885001) and they will signpost you to the most appropriate help for you personally.

Community Solar

Some of you may know that there has

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

been a planning application recently for a small array of solar panels to support a domestic property in the village. This got me thinking, and picking the brains of local folks who know this stuff better than I do, about how many solar panels there might be in our village already – and how many more we might need.



The average panel seems to max out at around 250-300W with the average domestic delivery through the year perhaps being closer to 100W, and Westcott's demand appears to be in the region of approaching 0.8-0.9MW. I am told, although the maths here seems to come in a number of flavours, that might mean that to power the village (or at least the equivalent of the village, with the appropriate battery storage facilities too) we might want around 3,000 modern panels in an four acre array.

This though could change significantly as we switch to electric vehicles – given that transport currently makes up nearly 90% of Westcott's direct carbon consumption.

If you are interested in seeing whether

there is more we could do collectively, as a community, to provide power for ourselves, then let me know or get in touch directly with the team at Green Westcott.

Supporting Local Businesses

Regular readers will know that this year I have the honour of being the Vice-Chairman of the Council. One of the responsibilities that comes with that role is to champion our district, its charities and businesses. A few weeks ago, my Consort and I were delighted to mark the first anniversary of the opening of TikkaNation, an Indian street food restaurant in Dorking High Street.



Like many local businesses, their story is one of a couple working more than one job to get the business going and employing local people, returning money to our rural economy. I am sure that this story is repeated up and down the streets of our town and its villages, including Westcott. It seemed an appropriate moment to remind us all to shop local and to support our local traders as they seek to support us all.



Westcott Village Hall Christmas Fair

Saturday 26 November – midday to 4pm

*Plenty of Xmas goodies and seasonal
food on sale*

Raffle and Tombola

Unique arts and crafts

Non-stop Café

Parking outside

Free entry

*Table pitches available at £20 to book from
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or call 07967 286636

Institute Road (Old Reading Room)



**Westcott
Village Hall**

THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Energy Bill Scams

Action Fraud has received hundreds of crime reports relating to fake text messages purporting to be from the UK government. The texts state that the recipient is "owed" or "eligible" for an energy bill discount as part of the Energy Bill Support Scheme. The links in the emails lead to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal your personal and financial information.



There is no need to apply for the Government's cost of living energy bill support and these texts are fake. But be aware that if you have an older prepayment meter you will get energy bill discount vouchers sent to you in the first week of each month from October, via SMS text, email or post, that you will then need to redeem at

your usual top-up point. In all cases, no household should be asked for bank details at any point.

How to protect yourself:

- Energy Bill Discount : £400 off energy bills for households in Great Britain from October 2022. You do not need to apply for the scheme and you will not be asked for your bank details.



- Spotted a suspicious text message? Forward it to 7726 (it's free of charge). If you forward a text to 7726, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and arrange to block or ban the sender, if it's found to be malicious.

For more information on how to stay secure online, please visit www.cyberaware.gov.uk

James Friend

MACBETH

The Peaslake Memorial Hall are pleased to present Macbeth by the Guildford Shakespeare Company. Macbeth's ruthless ambition, fuelled by his wife's thirst for power, begins a chain of events that will destroy everyone that stands in their way. For the first time the award-winning Guildford Shakespeare Company brings this super-charged thriller to your doorstep, in this especially adapted touring production for our village hall.

Saturday 26th November at 7.30pm
Tickets can be booked at www.peaslakeplayers.co.uk



Westcott 100 Club

The September draw was held in the Prince of Wales on 21 September (many thanks to our new interim landlord Malcolm for doing the honours). The winning tickets were 32 (1st prize £113.75) and 15 (2nd prize £56.88).

A number of new members have joined the scheme recently, so this means that the prizes for the December draw provisionally will be £131.25 and £65.63 for the quarterly draw and £262.50 for the annual draw.

We are proposing to hold the December draw at the Village Hall Christmas Fair on 26th November. Results will be provisional until we have confirmed receipt of subscriptions on 01 December. If you do want to enter, then there is still time to apply. Membership costs £25 per ticket per year. Your number(s) will be entered into four quarterly draws (June, September, December and March) and the regular annual draw in December. **If you want to take part in the December draws, please contact us by 13 November at the latest to give us time to process your application.**

For more information on joining the scheme or for 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.

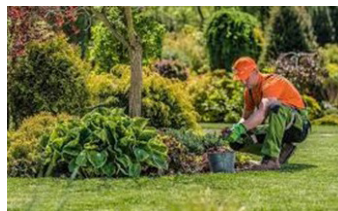
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The Westcott 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery registered with Mole Valley DC no. 48965.

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WESTCOTT BROWNIES UNDER THREAT



Westcott Brownies approaches its 100th Birthday; but risks closure.

Clearing out the Brownie cupboards some years ago, we came across the original registration certificate for 1st Westcott Brownies from Girlguiding Headquarters. It was dated 23rd November 1922, so, it with some confidence that we are able to celebrate the Pack's 100th birthday this month. So much has changed in 100 years, but our values remain, and we continue to promise to do our best, be true to ourselves and our beliefs, think of others before ourselves and serve our monarch, our country and our community.



Over the 15 years that I have been privileged to lead "The Best Brownie Pack in the World", we have also had LOADS of fun! From learning to cook over a campfire, planting

hanging baskets for the village, meeting World Record holders, dressing up as mummies, growing our own butterflies, making badges at WestFest, being 'pirates' on the River Thames, playing 'live' Hungry Hippos, being virtual Alice in Wonderland, to knocking on the door of 10 Downing Street (and running away!), sleepovers at Sealife and on HMS Belfast, and even waking up next to the lions at London Zoo! Everyone has their favourite moment of being a

Westcott Brownie, and mine was being introduced to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey in 2014. Three Westcott Brownies were chosen to escort the Commonwealth flag during the procession, and we were honoured to meet Her Majesty after the service.

But, although I promised to take this amazing Brownie unit to it's centenary, it is time for me to move on. This term will end on 16th December, and it will be tragic if this is the end of it. We are looking for the next team of enthusiastic adults to take this amazing group into the next 100 years (or so!). If you would like to know more about how you can help, or if you are raring to go, please let me know. It would be GREAT to get a team up and running before the end of term (so that you can learn 'on the job') so, if you're keen, please get in touch sooner rather than later. We have an amazing support network of local leaders, but, sadly, without a new team, the unit faces closure.

Please also spread the word if you know of anyone who might be interested - especially if they have daughters who are approaching Brownie age.

Twist me and turn me, and show me the elf, I looked in the water and there saw...

Nicola Brett (Barn Owl)





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MUSIC IN DORKING



12th at 7.30, piano duo at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

12th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church

19th at 6.30, Dorking Choral Society at St Martin's church, £18, 07847 477052

19th at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at St George's church, Ashted, £15, 01372 275907

An intriguing programme will be presented by the unusually-named blz'art piano duo when they appear in a Dorking Concertgoers concert. The two Belgian pianists chose their name to reflect their unconventional approach and they enjoy exploring a wide variety of music, including some special arrangements for piano duet. Their programme includes music to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams in October, together with music by Grieg, Grainger and Copland, and also Ravel's delightful Mother Goose Suite.

Dorking Philharmonia will also mark the Vaughan Williams anniversary by playing his fifth symphony, a beautiful and largely serene work that appeared in the middle of the second world war and was seen by many as providing solace in troubled times. Also on the programme is Beethoven's mighty fifth symphony.

Dorking Choral Society's concert will include one of Haydn's finest settings of the mass, written towards the end of his long life. The tickets are £18 in advance and will be £20 on the door.

Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashted, will perform Vaughan Williams's tuba concerto. This piece for a rather neglected instrument is now a standard of the tuba repertory, but is only rarely heard. The programme also includes Elgar's overture Froissart and Brahms's first symphony, seen as a clear successor to Beethoven when it was first performed.

December is of course the occasion for Christmas concerts. Coming up right at the beginning of the month are the Ladybirds choir, conducted by Helena Twentyman, on Dec 3rd at 3pm at the United Reformed church hall; and the Brockham choral society, also on Dec 3rd at 7.30 in St Martin's church. More details next time!

Ian Codd



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Home Front Dorking in The First World War 1914-18 by Kathy Atherton

On 13 September we had an illustrated talk by Kathy Atherton (Chairman of Dorking Museum) about the 'Home Front Dorking in WW1 1914-18'. In 1914 Dorking was a quiet market town of some 8000 people, King George V had been on the throne since 1910 and the Prime Minister was the Liberal Herbert Asquith. On 28 June 1914 Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by some Serbs and the European powers became very tense.

Kathy showed with her slides that life went on in the country side as it always had done - the Wotton Flower Show took place and the Dorking horse drawn Fire Brigade was in action, children were at school and men were in the fields. On 26 July the Dorking Territorials marched to the station, accompanied by the town band, to set off for training on Salisbury Plain. The summer fair on Cotmandene took place. But Germany declared war on France on 4 Aug and invaded Belgium, so reluctantly Britain was at war with Germany and volunteers for the army were called up.

The owner of the popular haberdashery shop in Dorking called Degenhardt issued a notice to say he was not a German! The Abinger Relief Committee and the Dorking Relief Committee started relief funds to aid

families facing hardship as their men had gone to the war. More Dorking men set off to march to Guildford to join the county regiment - the Queens Regiment. Young men joined the army because they thought it was an adventure and they would be home by Christmas. Dorking Football Club cancelled its match fixtures for the next season and Norbury Park issued an advert for men and boys rejected by the local recruitment offices.

There was much controversy about whether conscription should be imposed but it was rejected. A variety of troops were billeted in Dorking including the Surrey Yeomanry (Queen Mary's Regiment). On 16 August the Government decided to form the BEF led by Field Marshall Sir John French to lead the defence of Belgium. Prime Minister Asquith appointed Field Marshall Lord Herbert Kitchener Secretary of State for War with the task of raising 100,000 troops and all the

equipment for the BEF. The famous recruiting advert – *Your country needs you* – with Kitchener's outstretched arm appeared all over the country.





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Kitchener had ordered 2 million rifles and large amounts of other armaments and shells from America, but by mid 1915 a Ministry of Munitions was formed to organise munitions in Britain. After the heavy losses in the battle of Loos in Sept-Oct 1915, Field Marshall French was replaced by Sir Douglas Haig (1861-1928) who was supported by Kitchener.



W o m e n began to take over the jobs normally carried

out by men both in agriculture and in industry particularly in armament factories. Women harvested the hay to feed the horses at Remount Depots in Redhill and in Europe. At this stage refugees were arriving from Belgium and wounded soldiers were returning. People were suffering from shortages of food - life was getting very serious.

In June 1915 an anti-aircraft warning system was installed in Dorking to warn against the arrival of Zeppelins bound for London. In August a mock exercise for the defence of London took place to prepare for the possibility of invasion, many aspects of which happened around Dorking and the North Downs. A PoW camp was established in Holmbury. In January 1916 the Dorking Military Tribunal was established and conscription was introduced.

The Prime Minister's son, Raymond Asquith was killed on 15 Sept 1916 at the Battle of Fleurs Courcellette and his headstone is one of many often visited by the Battlefield Tour Groups. In June 1916 Kitchener set off in the cruiser HMS Hampshire to Archangel in northern Russia with a government delegation to negotiate supplies for the Russians with the Tsar, Nicholas 2, on the eastern front. But the ship was sunk by a stray German mine just west of Orkney and almost everyone on board was drowned.

The war became bogged down in attrition on both sides and ground to a halt with the armistice in November 1918. A notable result in Britain was the progress in women's suffrage with the Representation of People's Act in 1918 giving women over 30 the right to vote. The War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church has 36 names on it and the Dorking South Street Memorial has 365 names. The Westcott names are included in the Anniversary Book made by Peter Bennet and they can be found on the History Group website www.westcotthistory.org.uk.

There is no meeting in October and the next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th Nov at 8pm in St John's Hall. The lecture will be given by Sarah Slater - Secrets, Sex, Scandals and Salacious Gossip at the Royal Court in 1660-1830.

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We'd like to start off this month by saying a huge, huge thank you to those people from the village who have generously donated to help keep our lovely nursery on track. We feel super supported within our community and are forever grateful for those that can and do help us. Thank you so much.



With the recent weather being all over the place and not knowing whether it's coming or going we have been lucky enough to spot many beautifully clear rainbows. This has coincided wonderfully with our theme of colours and we have all made our own rainbows by carefully tearing up coloured paper and sticking it onto paper plates. We also learnt the rainbow song and some of us performed it at SJ's café – we think there were a number of people singing along!

It is a wonderful time of year to be outside as the seasons change and we can search for all kinds of treasure that autumn has to offer. Who doesn't love a finding a shiny conker or a perfectly formed acorn with a hat? The multi coloured leaves are perfect to get creative with – one such project was to make some wonderful hanging wreaths



to take home.

Each week we enjoy a sports session designed to put us through our paces!! These are fun packed afternoons filled with awesome activities. So far this month we've had a mini tug of war, played elephant trunk games with a swimming noodle and balanced quoits on our heads!

We have been learning all about our senses with a sensory tea party using real crockery. Our tuff tray was filled with all kinds of fruit which we swirled around, squished and smelt whilst making our own kind of special fruity tea!

We are delighted to announce that we are now offering breakfast and afterschool 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!

Kate Fairbrass

The Dorking Group of Artists November Exhibition 2022

Denbies Wine Estate, London Road, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA
Sunday 27th November to Saturday 3rd December
10.00 – 16.00 and Sunday 4th December 10.00 – 14.00



The Dorking Group of Artists, is delighted to welcome you to our next exhibition which will be at Denbies Wine Estate in November. Exhibiting members will be displaying over 200 pieces of exciting new and original art, all for sale at affordable prices, featuring different subjects and styles and covering a wide variety media. There will be large selection of unframed paintings for sale too. Come and buy your Christmas presents! Entrance to the exhibition is free and there is plenty of free parking.

The Dorking Group of Artists meets on Tuesday mornings at Beare Green Village Hall. Membership is open to artists of all abilities, and costs just £25 per calendar year. The activities programme is varied and includes workshops and demonstrations.

For more information contact Jane Anderson Wood
(Chairman) Tel: 01372 375123
Email: dgacommittee@gmail.com



BROCKHAM CHORAL

Invite you to their concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 3rd December at St. Martin's Church Dorking, RH4 1UX. Their performance, supported by the British Sinfonietta under the baton of Cole Bendall, will comprise Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, Vaughn Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, and Mozart's *Laudate Dominum* and *Eine Kleine Nachmusik*



Admission Adults £16 in advance, £20 on the day, children, students under 25 in full time education £10.

Tickets By email brockhamcstickets@gmail.com
More information & tickets www.brockhamchoral.org

COMMUNITY FRIDGE



Starting on Monday 3rd October
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JonandMum tel 07496 036398
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THE LADYBIRDS CONCERT

A Date For Your Diary

This year the Ladybirds Christmas Concert will be at 3pm on 3rd December at The United Reformed Church Hall in West Street, Dorking. We will publish further details nearer the time.

*Further information from Jenny Abbott on
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Our Autumn term is moving on apace and we are looking forward to celebrating harvest. As a whole school we will be making our way to Westcott Church to sing, read, explore what harvest means in different parts of the world, consider those who are less fortunate than ourselves and come together to be joyful and appreciative of all we are blessed with.

As a school we are deepening our offer, ensuring all of our children are given an educational experience to be envied. We have spent time as a school community considering and re-establishing our Vision, Aims and Values. These changes are now on our website and we will be rolling this out over the course of this year to embed and ensure all within (and beyond) our community are familiar with our core ethos. We would like to share our vision, aims and values with you all.

Our Vision: To aspire, grow and succeed together

Our Aims: To create a purposeful, aspirational, nurturing and safe environment within which our children build self-confidence and resilience. Provide an educational experience that enriches all within the school community engendering social, emotional, spiritual and cultural diversity.

Deliver an inspirational and engaging curriculum, enabling every child to achieve and develop a lifelong love of Learning.

Our Values:

Love: Show love for ourselves and each other

Believe: Have confidence in ourselves and in those around us

Respect: Demonstrate respect for everybody and everything

Aspire: To challenge ourselves, do our very best and work hard

Achieve: To reach our full potential

Hope: To make everyday a better one and envision the future

Open Day

We are already busy providing tours, showing prospective parents and children around our school; this is the mark of new beginnings and a growing interest in our school based on word of mouth and the power of our stakeholders' advocacy.



We will have an Open day on the 1st of November and invite all prospective parents who have children that are looking for a school placement in Reception and Yr3 in 2023 to please come through our doors and see first-hand all the fantastic opportunities your child would experience as a pupil of Surrey Hills All Saints. Please

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Keep an eye out for the new Open day banners and the Dorking High street banner that will appear in November! We will also be visiting nurseries and feeder schools and can't wait to meet our new pupils and parents for next academic year.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of our children to this Autumn term and can think of no better way than introducing you to some of the children in our classes.

Bees Reception

Welcome to our new Bees Class.



Butterflies Class -Year 1 & 2

Butterflies have settled into the new school year well with the Year One's making a smooth transition from



Reception. Here are Pink Group practicing their speedy reading during our RWI session.

Hedgehogs Class -Year 3



Members of Hedgehog class have been enjoying the first session of Art Club

with Mrs Squires. The children had fun printing skyscrapers with Numicon and were superstars at cleaning up!

Squirrels -Year 4 & 5

Squirrels have been learning about World War 2 this term. They attended a workshop where they could dress up as characters from the war.



Foxes Class -Year 5

Foxes class have been investigating electrical circuits. They have been working out how voltage can affect components, fixing broken circuits and considering electrical safety.

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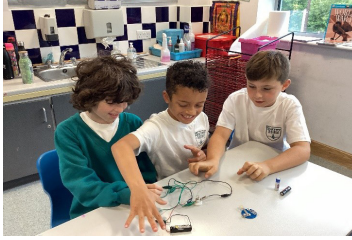
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Badgers Class – Year 6

So much has happened in the first few weeks of term. Year 6 have already shown their commitment to learning and desire to explore and achieve. Our English texts (Rose Blanche and Goodbye Mr Tom), history focus and art lessons (inspired by Henry Moore) are linked to our learning theme of



World War II. In science we have been exploring electricity – building

and testing circuits, experimenting with generating static energy and measuring voltage. We are looking forward to our World War II Day.

Job Opportunity

We currently have a fulltime Higher-Level Teaching Assistant Job role vacancy. We are hoping that with the networks at your disposal you can spread the word and help us find

that special person who will fit the bill for Surrey Hills. Just direct them towards our website and email info@surreyhills.surrey.sch.uk

I wish you all the very best as we enter the Autumn period and look forward to the beauty and splendour of the Surrey Hills as the trees change colour and the passing of the seasons makes it mark on this land.

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WESTCOTT BRIDGE CLUB

Westcott Bridge Club offers a warm and friendly welcome to existing members and new players.

We play on a Monday night from 7pm to 10 pm in the Westcott Village Hall, in the centre of Westcott near Dorking. Free parking is available. We play 20 or 21 boards of duplicate bridge, with a break for tea, coffee and biscuits. Table fee is £3 per person per night and we aim to play friendly and inclusive bridge.



We always welcome new members and are also seeking to help people who are new to the game or have not played in a club environment to get started on their bridge 'journey'. Help with finding a bridge partner is available.



If you would like to come along, or find out more about WBC, please phone the Chairman, David Royle on 01306 880102 or Jill Attfield on 01306 882040 for further details, or you can go to our website www.bridgewebs.com/westcott

Hugh Parry



The Art of Visual Deception

'Now you see it, now you don't; the art of virtual deception' is the title of our next Lecture on Tuesday 8th November 2022. Bertie Pearce will take us through this fascinating aspect of the arts. There is an eternal fascination with the unfathomable - the weird state of seeing things that are not there - yet are there. Since Roman times illusions have been used in art. It should be a fascinating morning!

The Arts Society Dorking meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dorking Halls with Lectures commencing at 10:30am. We welcome visitors with prior booking. Please visit our website for more information www.theartsocietydorking.co.uk



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September saw the onset of Autumn in the woodland with many different colourful and interesting fungi, berries and fruits as well as the beautiful canopy of trees turning from green, red, golden and rusty brown. We had a number of visitors to the woodland during September, some who visit regularly to enjoy the changes in the season and others who visited us for the first time.

Early in September I was made extremely welcome by Mayford Village Community Group when Debbie and I were invited to their monthly coffee morning to give a presentation about the Memorial Woodland and the Purpose of our Charity. Since then many of those who attended have made visits to the woodland which is extremely pleasing. If ever your Village Community would be interested in learning more about us please contact debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk we can arrange either a group visit to the woodland or we can come to your meeting place and talk.

May I remind you that our Annual Remembrance Service will take place at the Woodland on Friday 11th November. Everyone is welcome. We are delighted to welcome for the 5th time, the children from St Johns C of E School, Dorking and again this year our local Reverend David Grundy. We meet in the woodland at about 10.30, the service takes place around

the monument at 10.50. Hot drinks will be served after the service and an opportunity to purchase some unique 'Poppy Day' items.



Our Annual Christmas at the Woodland event is on Sunday 4th December, fun for all the family, a treasure hunt for the children and a visit by Father Christmas with gifts for the children. There is a fabulous Christmas raffle, tombola, lucky dip and other stalls to get us into the Christmas spirit. VERY IMPORTANT - please register your children ASAP. Father Christmas needs to organise what gifts the Elves should make for his sack of goodies. Price is £7 per child to enter the treasure hunt and get a goody bag plus a visit to Father Christmas to receive a gift. Contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk giving child's name, gender and age early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited.

That's our events to year end, please do support them, all monies raised goes to the Veterans, many of whom especially need our help at this time of year.

A personal invitation from me - I would like to invite anyone who is interested to help with maintenance at the woodland be it for the odd hour when time allows or maybe for longer

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QRMW (cont)

on a regular basis. All help would be greatly appreciated. Contact: qrmwcharity@gmail.com or telephone 07444094700 (leave your name and contact details if no reply because when we are at the woodland there is no communication signal). Or if you are passing the woodland and see our Charity car do pop in and see us.

Some of you who have passed by the woodland in recent weeks may have noticed we have a new banner at the entrance to the woodland. This we hope will save any confusion when looking up directions to the woodland online (nearest post code being RH5 6LG). The woodland is named and listed on Google Earth as "The Queen's Regiment Memorial Woodland" which I named in honour of my former regiment. The Registered Charity No:1174651 is named "The Quick Response Memorial Woodland" and if you look on line for that name you will get the registered

address of the Charity which is where I live so don't put that post code in your Sat Nav! I look forward to seeing you all at the woodland over the next few months.

Paul Cooling
Chairman

The Quick Response Memorial Woodland
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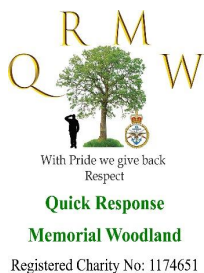
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HARVEST

The annual *Harvest* event at Box Hill was held on Saturday 17 September. *Harvest* aims to bring communities together in the landscape through the arts in an inclusive and diverse environment. It included music from a Ukrainian band, art installations and poetry, including Simon Armitage's *Floral Bouquet*, recited by MVDC Councillor, Claire Malcomson, to mark Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's passing.



The event is a partnership between Surrey Hills Arts, the National Trust and Mole Valley District Council, and was the first event of Landscapes for Life week, an opportunity for us to celebrate our protected landscapes across the UK.

The 10-mile hike with Active Inclusion was led by National Trust guides, connecting over 100 Muslim hikers to the Surrey countryside.



Images by Martin Bamford and Surrey Hills National Landscape.



**DORKING
LOCAL
HISTORY
GROUP**

Dorking Local History Group

The DLHG continues its popular programme of talks on a fascinating range of topics, some of which are live and some accessible via Zoom. Talks are free to members, but non-members are welcome. Upcoming dates include:

- **Finding Sapper Clay:** a local WW1 Mystery: How did John Griffiths-Colby come to dig up the medal of a WW1 Royal Engineer from Nuneaton 100 years later in his Surrey garden? 7th November, live talk at Crossways, Community Baptist Church, 7.15 for 7.30pm (£2 at the door for non-members).
- **1216 and all that:** the real story of Magna Carta: A Zoom talk by popular TV presenter Nick Barratt separates the myths about the Magna Carta from the real story. 21st November: <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.

For further details of these talks and other activities – or to join DLHG – go to <https://dlhg.org.uk>.

DORKING MUSEUM

The team at Dorking Museum was greatly saddened by the news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Some fondly recall her last visit to Dorking in 2004.

In the light of some discussion about why the Royal Train was not used to convey the late Queen back to London, our team did note that, in 1901, Queen Victoria's funeral train did pass through Holmwood, Capel and Dorking. It was of added local interest that the train did stop at Holmwood and the new King, Edward VII, together with the Emperor of Germany and Duke of York, alighted in order to send a telegram.

Hedgerow Heritage: This autumn the Museum is hosting an exhibition in conjunction with the Surrey Wildlife Trust's Hedgerow Heritage Project, an ambitious 4-year project aiming to restore and protect hedgerows across the North Downs Biodiversity Opportunity Area and to inspire and train a new generation of practical conservationists. Hedgerows are an essential part of our natural heritage and support a variety of plant and



animal species including dormice, hedgehogs, bats, birds and butterflies. Since 1945, there has been a serious

decline in the number and condition of these essential habitats with their cultural, environmental and historic value. The exhibition explores the history and heritage of the area's hedgerows, their importance to the environment and community, and how they might be restored and renewed for the future.

This is a subject that would have been very close to the heart of one of the area's most notable residents. Last month saw the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great British composer **Ralph Vaughan Williams**, whose pageant 'England's Pleasant Land' focused on the threats to the countryside and who later became Chairman and then President of the Dorking & Leith Hill Preservation Society (now the Dorking Society). The Museum was pleased to welcome Stephen Connock, Vice-President of The Ralph Vaughan Williams Society, initially researching RVW's activities in World War Two, but returning to present the Museum with a collection of signed and annotated original manuscripts and photographs. These will be prepared for a new display in the Museum.



Other recent additions: The Museum was presented by the Rotary Club of Dorking with a Presidents' Chain of Office that carries many well-known names from the Dorking business world

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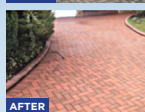
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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



since the Club's foundation over 90 years ago. This will be displayed in the Museum beside the Presidents' Chains of Dorking Round Table and of the Rotary Club of Dorking Deepdene.

Plans for a bandstand in Meadowbank Park, Dorking were recently approved by MVDC, and, in keeping with the town's heritage, the new structure will be a copy of the original Dorking bandstand which stood in South Street from 1922 to 1962. The golden Cockerel



that topped that is all that remains of the original and has recently been installed in the Museum.

The exquisite carefully researched cross-section model of the Mayflower and its contents, constructed by Dorking Men's Shed, was a popular centrepiece of the Museum's recent Dorking 1620 exhibition and was retained on display. Better still, it now has sound! The Dorking Men's Shed have installed a motion sensor activated sound box to the model so that visitors will be able to hear the sounds of the sea and on board the ship as they view the model.

Oral histories: The past is about more than objects - it is about the human

experience. The Museum's oral history team was set up in 2017 to record personal memories and experiences of major events or of everyday life to keep them alive for us to understand better what life was like in this area in past times. Post covid, the team is now ready to begin interviewing again. We are looking to record memories of work and business, life in the area during WW2, or sports and pastimes, as well as looking for a volunteer who might lead an LGBTQI+ project. If you would like to share your memories or know someone suitable, please contact the team through admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk.

Volunteer opportunities: The Museum is run entirely by volunteers and, if you can spare a regular few hours, we are still looking to fill some interesting and varied roles, whether 'front of house', helping to make visitors' experience a good one, or 'behind the scenes' assisting in team management, retail activity, events or education, working from home, the community or the Museum. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities/ for details and application.

Dorking 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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How much thought have you given to the impact your death will have on the environment?

It seems a little futile to spend a lifetime trying to reduce your carbon footprint, only to undo all the good you've done at the very last hurdle. There is no avoiding it so we might as well have a look at the options.

Cemeteries

In 2013, a BBC study found that a quarter of England's local authorities' cemeteries are expected to be full by 2023! (*FT online 2019*). Now that is frightening, so clearly something needs to be done. The main alternative to burial in this country is cremation with 75% of us choosing this way of departure.

How do the green credentials stack up? A straight-forward burial in a cemetery can often leave rather more in the ground than you may have bargained for. Metal hips and knees and silicon breast implants, everything goes into the ground contaminating the soil and filling it with foreign objects that will take millennia to decompose. Embalming is another harmful environmental element associated with burial.

What about natural burials?

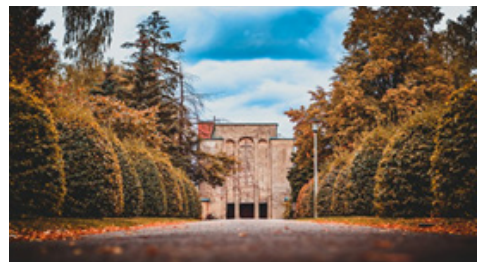
Natural burials are definitely a better option but with land at a premium and Natural Burial grounds few and far between, this is not a cheap option. Truly green burial sites should insist that all 'unnatural' body parts (as mentioned above) are removed and that no embalming has taken place. They should also state that only decomposable and sustainably sourced coffins & liners are used (*Natural Death Centre*).

Coffins and Shrouds

Finding an environmentally friendly coffin is getting easier and there are now a number of green coffin makers on the market. Ranging from cardboard coffins, to those made of bamboo, reeds or even recycled wood. There are now a number of shroud makers creating beautiful and sometimes bespoke shrouds to be buried in. As with most bespoke items, these also come at an added cost that may not suit everyone's pocket.

So what about cremation?

The vast majority of people are now





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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

using cremation as the go-to option for the end of their life, with a staggering 472,302 cremations in the UK in 2019. The cremation process is not without its unsustainable issues. The amount of CO2 released into the atmosphere during just one cremation, is the same as taking a flight from London to Rome! Obviously with the amount taking place on a daily basis this is not great, so what's the alternative? There are a couple, so read on.

Resomation

Resomation is basically a water cremation. I know it sounds a bit mad but that's pretty much what it is. Resomation founder Sandy Sullivan, states that "It [Resomation] has six times less carbon footprint and uses seven times less energy than traditional burial.

Human composting anyone?

One other option – although not currently available in the UK (come on UK pull your finger out!) is human composting! Recompose, an American company, were granted permission to begin human composting just

a few years ago. Natural Organic Reduction (NOR) is the process they use to turn bodies into compost. NOR uses an eighth of the energy needed compared to conventional burial and cremation, suggesting that this method, *'strengthens the environment rather than depleting it'*. The body is rotated in a thin bed of beneficial microbes, which enables the transformation of the body, from solid matter into useful compost, in just 30 days.

The Resomation concept could most definitely be the way forward, providing both a low carbon footprint and offering nutrient-rich soil to replenish our earths' much depleted supply. If only we could get over ourselves and start to think differently about our own personal disposal, we might begin to entertain ideas that do some good for the Earth, not only while we are alive but even after our death. Now that really would be some legacy to leave behind!

If you would like to know more about greener options for after your death or someone else's please get in touch at info@greenwestcott.org



Nancy Lund

References

<https://www.ft.com/content/88bdc01c-29a0-11e9-a5ab-ff8ef2b976c7>
<http://www.naturaldeath.org.uk/>
<https://resomation.com/>

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