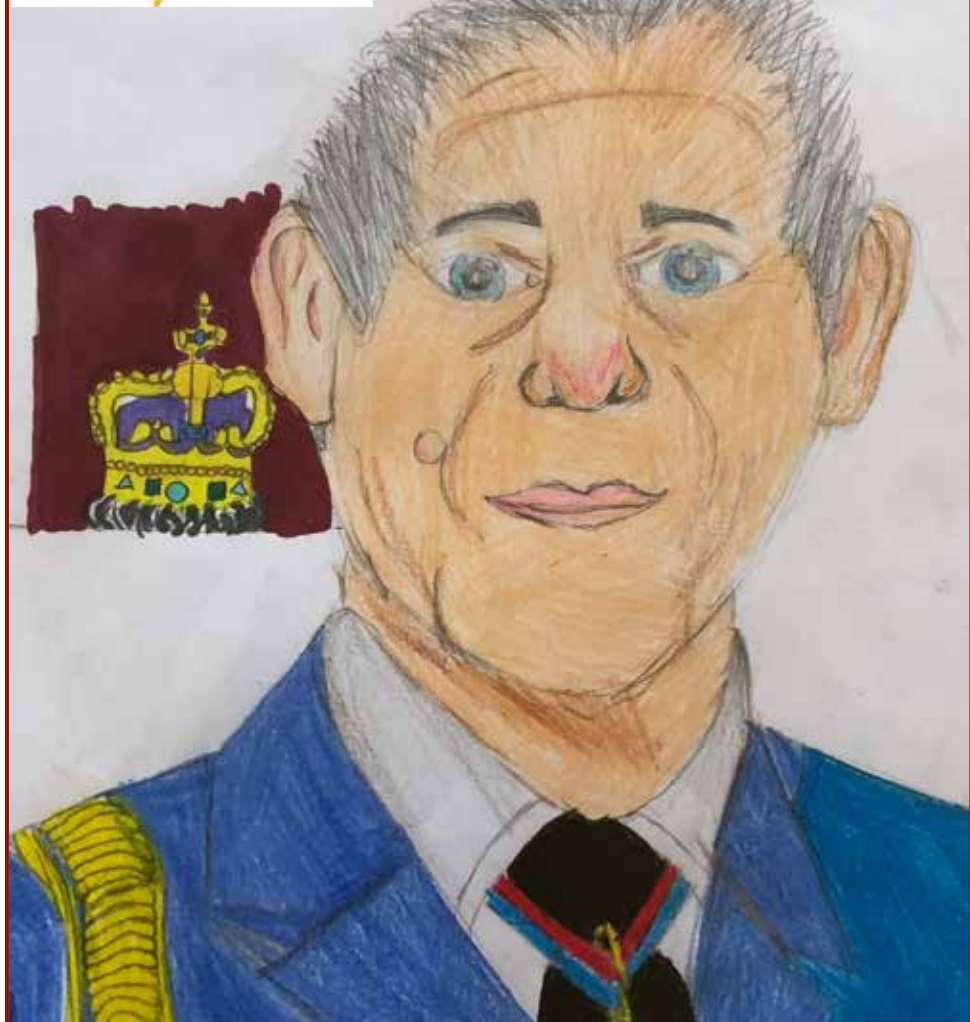


Westcott Village Magazine

May 2023



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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

June issue:

8th May 2023

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 finally feels like Spring has sprung, what with the lighter evenings and more colour popping up in the garden daily!

After 15 years' sterling service being Westcott's district councillor, James Friend is stepping down from the role following the boundary changes and the election at the start of May. He has worked tirelessly on helping both individuals and the village as a whole over that time and I am very proud of him. I would like to wish his successor all the luck in the world with a sometimes challenging but always rewarding role.

The village coffee morning (on 3rd May) has the school choir singing for your entertainment this month, so get along for a listen to brighten up your Wednesday. Also in school news, we celebrate a year 6 group who took it upon themselves to raise money for conservation charities by running a cake sale, see page 23.

Lastly, don't forget Westfest on 8th May as part of the Coronation weekend celebrations, and if you are holding a street party or a similar event, I hope the weather holds and we all have a great neighbourly time as that's what it's all about!

Cath

editor@westcottmag.com

BABY MEALS

In recent weeks the "baby meals" cooks have been busy delivering meals for the family of baby Logan, who was born at home in mid March. Kelly and Alex were very grateful for the support in feeding their family at this busy time.



If you know of anyone expecting a baby in Westcott please encourage them to get in touch - we are very proud of our long running "baby meals" service in Westcott and only too pleased to be asked to help!

Anna Kemkers
07710425487

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



TRADITIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

The month of the coronation of Charles III and Camilla is finally upon us.

Whether you will be paying close attention to every detail of the process or going out of your way to avoid any coverage of the event, the coronation is a strange and fascinating entity. A combination of different historical traditions and ideas fused together in a way which is meant to speak to the nation and Commonwealth that we are today. It is intended to feel somehow both ancient and relevant. What Charles and the committee of privy counsellors planning the event decide is essential to proceedings from the three-hour long coronation of Elizabeth II (or the five-hour long coronation of Queen Victoria for that matter) and what can be scrapped or adapted.

WHAT HAVE YOU INHERITED OR FOUND FOR YOURSELF WHICH IS ESSENTIAL TO WHO YOU ARE?

Seeking to balance the traditions and culture we have inherited with the realities of our lives in the present is a tightrope that each of us has to attempt to walk as we journey through life. What have you inherited or found for yourself which is essential to who you are? Do any of these things seem to clash with the times you are currently living in?

Last month Christians around the world celebrated the events of Easter – events that tell of a very different and even more significant coronation – the enthronement of Jesus on the cross



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

as King of the cosmos, and his resurrection showing that evil and death will not have the final word on the world's story.

For me, and for millions of others around the world, this is the most significant moment in history. It is not the traditions and ceremonies of my faith that make the difference (although I value and appreciate

this inheritance) but who Jesus Christ was and is. A living relationship with the King of Kings. This is what I will hold onto, and who I will be held by, no matter what the future holds.

I wish you all every blessing for the Coronation weekend,

Rev'd Tim Armstrong
Vicar

A Prayer for King Charles III, on the Occasion of His Majesty's Coronation



Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity,
righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and
people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



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.

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

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM
7th May	All Age Worship	Book of Common Prayer Communion	All-Age Morning Worship
14th May	We need to talk about sin...	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
21st May	We need to talk about salvation...	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
28th May	Pentecost	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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BUILDING
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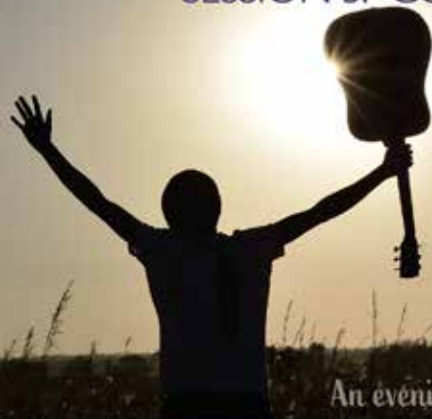


SHARING
LIFE

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

WORSHIP NIGHTS 2023

SESSION 3: CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP



An evening of contemporary worship and prayer



Thursday, 4th May
7:30pm - 8:30pm
Holy Trinity Church, Westcott



Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

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



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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 richardnwlisters@gmail.com for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



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 Rev'd Tim Armstrong, Vicar, for more information.
vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk

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



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for private prayer or reflection
Come to enjoy the beauty and peace,
pray, reflect, breathe, be

All are welcome

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Death:

9th March 2023

Alan Brown (77)



FLOODLIGHTING

The church floodlighting for May is sponsored by Annette Golding and family, in loving and happy memories of our Tony 17.5.30 - 12.10.22.

If you'd like to sponsor the floodlighting, which is powered by 100% renewable electricity, please contact admin@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk.
(Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)



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A Right Royal WESTfest



Westcott has a long history of celebrating Royal Coronations and the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will be no different. In a few days' time the village will come together at WESTfest so be sure to come along and join in the fun with your friends and neighbours.

It's still not too late to donate some bottles to the ever popular WVA Bottle Tombola – please drop off any suitable bottles to Edwin at Queen's Court, Westcott St (just near Bramley House) or Sally at Drydown, The Hildens (at the far end on the left hand side) or drop an email to contact@westcottvillage.com and we will come and collect them from you. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The Big Help Out



To mark His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation, organisations across the country are getting together to encourage us all to volunteer in our local community. The Big Help Out is being officially launched on the 8th May and will be supported by a nationwide database of volunteering opportunities for you to search to find something of interest locally.

In support of this initiative the WVA have also put together a list of local volunteering opportunities in and around Westcott which you will find

on a new dedicated section of our website called The Big Help Out <https://westcottvillage.com/the-big-help-out/> We will continue to keep this list updated so please get in touch if you want to add anything.



WVA Open Meeting

We were delighted to welcome so many people to the Open Meeting back in March. The slightly different format was well received and encouraged more discussion than usual. For those of you who were unable to join us, James Leaver gave an opening address touching upon the controversial Sondes Place Farm Planning Application as well as introducing the committee and mentioning subjects such as EV charging and opportunities for people to get involved in village life. Not only are the WVA still looking for a Chair but Westcott Village Hall are also looking for new trustees. Anna Kemkers spoke about WESTfest and encouraged people to get involved. There was a real hubbub of discussion around the room with a broad range of subjects covered including; speedwatch,

James Croft
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acoustic cameras, a recent spate of vandalism to road signs and how to support our local businesses. While the AGM in June will need to be more structured by its very nature, we will look to repeat this more relaxed discussion style of Open Meeting again later in the year.



Sondes Place Farm Planning Application

We have submitted letters to MVDC objecting in the strongest terms to the Sondes Place Farm Planning Application and were very pleased to also submit petitions with over 260 signatures from people registering their objection at the same time. These can be viewed on the WVA website <https://westcottvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/MO2023-0188-WVA-Letter-of-Objection-with-petition-22032023-redacted-copy.pdf> To further illustrate the strength of opposition locally there are now over 300 individual objection letters which have also been submitted to MVDC. Surrey County Council Highways department have asked MVDC for more time to make a full technical assessment and transport observations.

Changes to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Natural England is currently consulting on whether to make changes to

the Surrey Hills AONB to extend the areas included and make some other changes to the boundary. The consultation documents can be found using the link below and the closing date for comments is the 13th June 2023. https://consult.defra.gov.uk/ne-landscape-heritage-and-geodiversity-team/surrey-hills-boundary-variation/user_uploads/consultation-report-digital.pdf

The WVA is currently reviewing the consultation with a view to making a representation shortly. Please do let us know your own thoughts once you have read the consultation document.

Community Fridge



Visits from the Mid Surrey Community Fridge have now moved to *Tuesday afternoon at 2.45pm.*

This is to take advantage of a wider range of food which is available on a Tuesday. Remember the food is all perfect and is surplus from local supermarkets and wholesalers



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who would rather see it used in the community than go to landfill. If you haven't found time to visit do pop down. The food is free but donations of £2.50 are encouraged if you can afford to do so. Bring your shopping bags, bring your friends, pick something up for your neighbours.

last remaining pub in the village, The Prince of Wales, do pop in and say hello to Dean the landlord and give his new food offer a try.

As always, please do get in touch with any issues or queries about village life and we will do our best to help or signpost you to those who can.

Other Village News

You may have noticed the ex Cricketers pub has been sold by auction - we have now made contact with the new owner. Talking of pubs, we are also in touch with Fullers to see how we can help and support our

Westcott Village Association Committee
Paul Goddard, Edwin Harland, James Leaver, Sally Hewetson, John Mears, Nick Lund and Jo Astor
contact@westcottvillage.com

WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



Wednesday 3rd May
at
The Village Hall
10.30 - 12.00 midday



Jigsaw and Book exchange
Sandra's delicious cakes
and the

Return of the Surrey Hills School Choir
A very warm welcome to all, especially parents & grandparents



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VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



Westcott Village Hall Development Plan : Update 2

I am pleased to be able to report that the trustees of Westcott Village Hall have decided to invite Stace LLP to take up the role of Project Manager and to provide cost consultancy services for the project to redevelop the sites in Institute Road and Furlong Road.

The appointment follows a selection process from a group of several providers who tendered for these services and a recommendation by the Development Group that Stace be appointed, based on a combination of cost, experience/ reputation and the fact that their lead professional for the project lives in Epsom. Stace's immediate task is to help the Development Group appoint architects and planning consultants to the project who will be producing and advising on such options for the two sites as may enable a new community building to be funded. In due course these will be presented to the village for consultation.

One other 'process' step that is being implemented immediately, and which may generate visible activity in the coming weeks, is that consultants will be undertaking some ecology surveys, i.e. checking for the presence of wildlife on the sites whose habitat may need to be safeguarded.

Bernd Ratzke

On behalf of the Westcott Village Hall Development Group

6th April 2023



This great photo was sent in by Hayley Macdiarmid, and it was too good not to share. Please send in any stunning photos of Westcott that you have and I will include them when I can. You're a talented bunch out there!

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Holy Trinity, Westcott

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Tickets £18, 07590 652490, or margaretj.stephen@gmail.com



Tuesday 9th May 2023 - Indochina

The Arts Society Dorking offers enjoyable opportunities to increase knowledge and appreciation of all aspects of the arts. We have a monthly programme of illustrated talks given by professional speakers, and our next talk will take us to the historic background of Indochina, of ancient Hindu temples, Buddhist pagodas and Chinese styles palaces which were transformed by the addition of French architecture depicted by French artists as paradisaical and romantic.

We meet in the Dorking Halls with the talks starting at 10:30am but with a chance to meet beforehand for coffee from 9:30am. We look welcome visitors as well as new members. Please visit our website to obtain more information and book your visit www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk



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West Horsley Place
- Fri 5 May** **Tenebrae - Sacred Choral Works**
Holy Trinity Church, Guildford
- Sun 7 May** **Julian Bliss Quintet - Jazz in Hollywood**
RHS Hilltop at RHS Garden Wisley
- Tue 9 May** **Guided Walk & Young Artists Concert**
St James' Church, Shere
- Thu 11 May** **Gary Hoffman cello & Wu Qian piano**
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SURREY HILLS SCHOOL YEAR 6 CAKE SALE



On Friday, 17th March, which was also Red Nose Day, some of the year 6 pupils at Surrey Hills school took it upon themselves to raise some money for their favourite save the environment charities with a cake sale. The project was named *POP – Protect our planet*. The two charities that the children are supporting are *We are Antarctica* and *Marine Life*.

Parents and teachers very much took a back seat on this as the kids ran with their own initiative and drive to make it all happen. They baked all the cakes, confectionary and biscuits themselves, took the idea to Mr Coles who supported the project, created posters and marketing material and then ran the stalls. All up they have raised close to £200 in this one event, and enabled lots of parents, children and teachers to have a cup of tea and a sweet snack as they ended the school week.

Huge congratulations to them all.

Andy Taylor





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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

80 years ago – an extract from the Dorking Advertiser in 1943

"The Rookery Estate at Westcott, including the cottages, market garden, etc., has been bought by Universal Estates Ltd.

The new owners intend to develop the estate when circumstances permit but they have declared their intention of maintaining as far as possible the beauties of the Rookery district - beauties which have been admired by many thousands of hikers who, in happier days, have walked through the Rookery to the Tillingbourne Valley and on to Leith Hill country."

Early in the 18th century the Rookery was an obscure farmhouse called Chert Gate. The estate was bought in 1750 by Daniel Malthus who, says John Timbs in his *Picturesque Promenade round Dorking* (1824) "took advantage of the beauties of the hill, dale, woods

and water in this estate and converted it into an elegant seat to which he gave the present appellation."

In 1768 Malthus sold it to Richard Fuller (the Fuller family were bankers from whom NatWest Bank eventually emerged) and considerably enlarged by them. After passing through several generations of Fullers it was sold in 1894 to Mr Brooke of Brooke Bond tea fame, who owned and lived at the nearby estate of Leylands in Sheephouse Lane. The actual transaction was to Landowners Ltd., a development company, of which Arthur Brooke was the Managing Director. In subsequent years various properties were disposed of and former farmland was neatly parcelled up for sale as desirable building sites. Coast Hill Lane and Deerleap Road were developed in this way.

The house was requisitioned by the Army during WW2 and after its release, in poor condition, the new owners subdivided it into eleven let apartments, as a temporary measure. It was eventually demolished in 1962 and replaced by the present terrace of houses.

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pleasing feature of The Rookery has been the footpath that throughout the existence of the great house provided public access across the lawns that



swept from the mansion down to the lake. The path survives, it is part of the Greensand Way, and now forms the eastern boundary of the Rookery Terrace. The Rookery Lakes, which were both ornamental and practical, insofar as they provided the water for the Rookery's two mills and later were stocked with freshwater oysters, are fenced off and hidden away behind a row of trees.

John Clachan

Sofa Poet



Mole Valley Poets invite you to join us and meet Ann Pelletier-Topping as our guest poet on Monday 5th June from 7.30pm to 10pm in the Narnia Room, The Old House, West Street, Dorking RH4 1BY

Placed second in the 2019 National Poetry Competition Anne will join us as our poet on the sofa when she will read and discuss her own work and inspirations, and encourage, motivate and inspire participation in writing on the night. Born in French-speaking Montreal, Ann Pelletier-Topping lives in Devon. She has been writing since 2012 but her interest in poetry began in 2015 while doing a Creative Writing module at the Open University. Writing and reading poetry have since become a little haven of happiness. She won second prize in the National Poetry Competition (2019) and her poems have been published in Moor Poets' Isolation Diaries (2020) as well as in their Fourth Anthology. She belongs to a Poetry Seminar Group, led by Greta Stoddart of the Poetry School, and to Black Ven Stanza (Exeter), led by Sarah Acton. When she's not writing, she teaches French in Totnes.

For all poetry lovers Admission: £10. Tickets from TicketSource on <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mole-valley-poets/t-gajqojk>

More details of Mole Valley Poets activity on www.molevalleypoets.co.uk

Westcott 100 Club

As we enter our 9th year, we celebrate passing the £7,000 mark in prizes to our members and £10,000 given to good causes and projects in the village (from the Christmas tree to supporting the school). We still have a fund of around £5,000 ready and waiting for the next round of grants. These funds are open for applications from any Westcott club, society or individual – just give us a shout and we'll be happy to have a discussion with you.

We held the AGM and March draw in the Prince of Wales (thank you to Dean for doing the honours) – the winning numbers are 117 (£137.50) and 62 (£68.75). Our next draw will be held in June. We have room for more members, and the more members we have, the bigger the prizes get and the more money we raise for the village.

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.

*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.

WESTFEST COVER COMPETITION ENTRIES



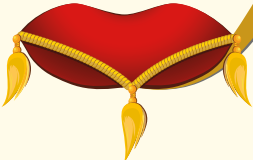
We had so many brilliant entries for our WESTfest programme cover competition it was really hard for the team to choose a winner! Thank you to all who entered.



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WESTfest



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Free entry. Please note there is no on site parking.

A RIGHT ROYAL WESTFEST



Monday May 8th 2023 is the 8th annual WESTfest, this time heralding the coronation of our new King and celebrating our village community in majestic style! A coronation parade and celebration took place in Westcott in 1953, complete with 'Queen Elizabeth II'

in full fancy dress regalia, so we're delighted that 70 years on, 'King Charles and Queen Camilla' are coming to WESTfest to open the show (arriving with Dan Brown's horses and carriage), accompanied by the wonderful Surrey Hills All Saints school choir singing the National Anthem!

This year our eclectic mix of live music includes the stately 20-piece Cobham brass band, then upping the ante, the Dorking Rock Choir will belt out familiar rock sing-a-longs, so make sure you've had a beer from Prince of Wales, or G&T from Silent Pool and are ready to join in! We're hugely grateful again to Westcott's resident dog expert John Venn from Surrey Hills Dog Training, back to judge the Fun Dog Show. To round off the afternoon in rollickING style our brilliant compere and DJ, G-Man Baker will blast out his favourite dance ANTHEMS... You can't say that's not a crackING line-up!

WESTfest has become a key part of Westcott's village identity (it's like the annual whole village street party!) so come on down to Cradhurst Recreation Ground, via Cradhurst Close, Chapel Lane or Springfield Road and join in the fun. Don't forget to bring the dog on a lead, some CASH and your royal fancy dress – but please leave your car at home as we have no event parking.

12.00 SHOW OPENING - Surrey Hills All Saints Choir

12.15 D2D Academy Dancers

1.00 The Cobham Band

1.45 Rock Choir

2.30 Fun Dog Show

3.00 DJ G-Man's Dance ANTHEMS

3.50 Raffle draw

4pm Close

PS THANK YOU SO MUCH for all the brilliant entries for our Programme Cover Competition! Hopefully you'll see your entry printed on the previous page!



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We had a great Easter build up in school. The children really enjoyed our Easter Bonnet Parade and looked forward to an Easter Egg Hunt and the BIG Easter breakfast. Our visit to the church was fantastic and I'd like to extend my thanks to Tim and the whole Church team for being so fantastically involved and supportive. We are so lucky to have you.

I would again like to thank F@SH for their continuing hard work on behalf of us all. They have helped the whole school in so many ways and the library crew have completed absolute sterling work - I'm thinking there is a business opportunity here! Huge thank you. After the Easter break, F@SH will be surging ahead with next projects including supporting new PE uniform ideas and of course the upcoming Teddy Bears picnic and a whole host of other events.

Our Friday celebration assemblies are certainly exciting places to be, and you are all very welcome to join whether you have been alerted to your child being a star of the week or not. We celebrate attendance, house points, sporting fixtures involvement, outside of school achievements and we always have a class of the week. Don't forget to look at the School Website regularly. There is much to celebrate and be thankful for at our amazing school. It is only so great because of the brilliant

children, hardworking dedicated staff, amazing F@SH and volunteers, Mr Hall our musical director and a whole host of people from the Trust and the wider community.

Easter story



Bees have been learning all about the Easter Story. During Forest School they celebrated the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Forest school

Hedgehogs class have been enjoying our science topic of Conservation, Living things and their Habitats. As well as some three little pigs work, linking to our English writing this half term too.



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Flight story



Squirrels Class made their own paper planes and enjoyed flying them outside. This was to inspire them to write an adventure story involving a child and a paper aeroplane. Consequently, the children have written about paper planes descending into the sea, being stuck in trees and being taken by a group of bullies! Thankfully each problem was resolved and so the stories all have happy endings.

during their 5 matches, scored an incredible 21 goals (only conceding 5). They won 3 matches, drew 1 and narrowly lost 1. They finished 2nd and will be shortly receiving their silver medals. They also won the Small School's Trophy.



Netball Tournaments

Year 5 and 6 girls took part in the Dorking Schools' Netball Tournaments with great success! The year 6 girls,

Year 5 had their tournament the following day and also played brilliantly. They won 4 of their 5 matches and drew one. They were triumphant and won the tournament! Gold medals will shortly be rewarded. All the girls showed fantastic team spirit and I am incredibly proud of them all!



Dorking Local History Group

The DLHG continues its popular programme of both live and Zoom talks on a fascinating range of topics. These are free to members, but non-members are welcome.

There is one live talk in May, **Way House: Brockham's Pioneering Orphanage:** Local historian Tony Hines talks about the orphanage founded in 1859 by the Honourable Mrs Emmeline Way, a Victorian philanthropist passionate about improving the lives of poor children.

Monday 15th May at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members

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Teas, Beer, Pimms, BBQ,

Fun Dog Show

Kids' Coronation Fancy Dress Competition



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World Book Day

All the children dressed up as their favourite book character for World Book Day. There were lots of fantastic characters and costumes!

Titanic Wow Day

As part of your child's learning about the Titanic within their 'What made the unsinkable sink?' topic, we



planned a 'first class afternoon tea' experience. The children dressed up as a first-class passenger and enjoyed an afternoon with tea of sandwiches and

scones with their classmates.

It was fun way of exploring how first-class passengers would have travelled on the Titanic in 1912.

Simon Coles
Headteacher



Ladybirds Choir



THAT'S SHOW BUSINESS!

The Ladybirds Choir presents a selection of songs from the world of entertainment.

Saturday 10 June at 4pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Dorking.

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DORKING MUSEUM

At the time of writing, the Museum team – and our many friends, supporters and visitors – remain frustrated that roof repairs necessitated by the fire in the adjacent building are still incomplete so we are unable to confirm a re-opening date for the main building. Please check our website or social media pages, listings or posters for further news. The team are still dealing with archives, enquiries, talks, loan boxes, school and youth visits, and, of course, the activities that do not depend on museum access or can be relocated.

Coronation Activity: We are pleased



Coronation of George V, 1911

to be working with Dorking Library during the Museum's closure and our family activity there at the

end of April was a Coronation crafts event. This was accompanied by a display of souvenirs and slideshow of photos showing how the people of Dorking celebrated previous coronations. This will remain on display at the Library until after the coronation.

Activities at Dorking Library: Following the success of recent cooperation, the Museum team will be offering a family

activity every month at Dorking Library, tied in to Surrey County Council's monthly theme for libraries. All activities are aimed at 4–11-year-olds, are free and materials are provided. Children must be accompanied. The session on **Wednesday May 31st, 10am-12 noon**, follows the SCC's theme of Local History. Come and explore some artefacts from the Museum. What can they tell us about Dorking's past? Can you draw them? Can you sort the objects from oldest to newest?

Walking in Dorking: The Museum's programme of guided walks offers a variety of opportunities to take a fresh look at the area's rich heritage. In the town centre, a highly popular Dorking Historic Pub Walk reveals stories of hostelries, pubs and inns both past and present – and of the behaviour and misbehaviour of their landlords and customers. The first of the season takes place on **Saturday 13th May at 6pm**. See Dorking as you have never seen it before on the guided walk of Hidden Historic Dorking, pointing out the hidden treasures you may walk past every day: **Sunday 14th May, 11am**. New this season, the Family Treasure Hunt for young history detectives (£4 per family) offers a prize for all participating children: **Tuesday 30th May, 2pm**. All town walks leave from the Museum.

On the edge of town, a Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive access

CHANGE OF DAY AND TIME



Starting on Tuesday 11th April the Mid Surrey Community Fridge van will be visiting Westcott every **Tuesday** opening at **2:45pm**

It will stay in the village for around half an hour from opening at St John's Chapel in Chapel Lane

These changes will hopefully enable the food offer to improve (there are collections on Monday from various sources)
Once the new day and time has operated throughout April we will review the situation to assess its success or not

Please come along and stop this food going to landfill
If you can make a small donation, it would be appreciated - we rely upon these donations (£2.50 is suggested)

Bring your shopping bags, bring your friends, pick up for your neighbour

DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



to Betchworth Park Golf Club. The walk on the Deepdene Trail takes in the grotto, woodland walks, parterre and temple, and offers exclusive access to the grade 2* listed Hope family Mausoleum: **Sunday 21st May, 2pm**, from the Dorking Golf Club.

All walks last around an hour and a half and should be booked in advance: details and booking at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. Walks may also be arranged for private groups on these or other itineraries: see website for details, enquiries and group booking.

South Street Caves tours: One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets, complete with graffiti carved into the



to the Castle enclosure: **Sunday 14th May, 2 p m**, from the entrance

walls, the oldest dating back to 1666. A series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level. Guided tours are on **27th May and the last Saturday of each month**. Tours start at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each lasting about 45 minutes and led by a trained guide. For details and open day bookings see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk to arrange a date.

Get involved: To strengthen and build on existing activities and develop new community initiatives, volunteers are urgently required who can commit a few hours in the Museum, in the community and/or working from home and can bring their skills to key functional roles in events, children's and youth activities, guided walks and social media. Training is provided. Additional volunteers are also urgently required for the front desk and delivering the visitor experience. Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities, where some of the opportunities are detailed and/or an online application form is available.

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.

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Spotting the first signs of spring has always been a favourite pastime at the nursery and we are so lucky so be able to take trips into the beautiful countryside around us to see what crops up. Conkers have been conquering (!) children's hearts forever so we are itching for them to grow! So Henny showed us the big conker tree and the buds that will grow into wonderful oners and terrific twoers (for the older generation among us!). We also found lots of daffodils brightening up the village and plenty of blossom decorating the trees.

Many of us are avid dog lovers and this is no different at the Evelyn Hall. We have been having a super time taking it in turns to be the nursery puppy! So much so that we decided to hold our own pretend puppy agility class. We split up into pairs and one of us was the puppy and the other the owner. The owners took their puppies around the course and encouraged them to balance along the beam, jump over the hurdles and crawl through the tunnel! Watch out Crufts!

We really enjoy being part of this lovely community that is often so rare in this day and age. We have strong links with St James' Church and look forward to Kia visiting us. This month one of our siblings was getting christened and in honour of this Kia taught us all about what

would happen. We all had a turn at pouring some water onto our baby doll's heads!



Our Bake Off was a huge success with copious cakes and crafts enjoyed by many. Thank you to all those who came and

supported us - we hope you had as much fun (and chocolate) as we did!

If you have a child looking to start Nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. Spaces are



filling up fast but there are still some afternoon sessions left and we are taking applications for all sessions in September. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

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MUSIC IN DORKING



20th at 7.30, Surrey Phil. Orchestra at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, £15, 01372 275907
24th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717

May seems to be rather quiet for concerts in Dorking. The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashted, has a programme of Viennese classics by Mozart and Beethoven. Under guest conductor Claudio di Meo they will play Mozart's dramatic overture to his opera Don Giovanni and his Linz symphony, a fine work written in that little Austrian town. Then the violinist Joshua Hugo von Bohlen will be the soloist in Beethoven's lyrical violin concerto, a work showing the composer in a consistently bright and cheerful mood.

The Dorking Halls has a screening of Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty, live from the Royal Ballet in London. As well as the beautiful music, this production will feature Oliver Messel's sumptuous fairytale set designs.

Ian Codd

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Individuals, couples and groups of all standards welcome to the tea party

The club may be starting beginner and improver classes later in the year

Parking is available on site or in surrounding roads

No big raffle (as this is not a charity event) but there may be a couple of mini prizes for Bridge winners

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Cuckoo

Identifying birds by their songs can be tricky; but you know at least one – the male cuckoo, which calls its name across our local commons in early summer. The female voice is an excited trilling also described as bubbling.

As April arrives with a distinctive call “Cuck – Koo” and the habit of conning other smaller birds into rearing its chicks, the cuckoo has a major place in our folklore. From letters to The Times, music by Delius and the old country saying ‘The hawk never strikes when the cuckoo calls’, it is known even to those with little interest in wildlife.



A slim, grey, long-tailed bird with a small head, its general appearance can be confused with a hawk. it perches almost horizontally and flies

with very rapid shallow wingbeats, often low and far. Many mornings on Bookham Common I've hopefully watched a fly past only to have the bird disappear in the distance before landing. On Thursley Common, a more obliging bird has been encouraged by photographers who feed him and over the past eleven years has become known as Colin. At the time of writing, whether he will come a twelfth time for this summer is not known.

Cuckoo are in trouble, almost certainly from changing climate and habitats on their long migrations to tropical Africa. The availability of satellite tracking kit small enough to attach to birds has told us a lot more about the journeys these birds make. You can follow the journeys and discover a lot more about cuckoos at <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/cuckoo-tracking-project>

If you want to learn more about birds locally, get in touch with Dorking and District RSPB local group via its website <https://www2.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict/> or by Facebook (RSPB Dorking).

Jonathan Groves
Dorking and District RSPB Local Group

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On 2nd April we had a very successful Easter Egg Hunt which was enjoyed by many local children and families. It was great fun, the rain stopped, and we raised some much appreciated funds which have gone into the Memorial Fund. All monies raised by QRMW are used for the upkeep of the Memorial Woodland and to assist those Veterans who are going through a difficult time, all of us who work for the Charity are volunteers.

The woodland is looking beautiful now that Spring is fully with us and the longer days are encouraging the plants, shrubs and trees to come alive and the birds are incredibly busy making their nest some are already feeding young. Spring is such a lovely time of the year and full of promise.

Our next important event is on June 10th; it is our 9th Anniversary of officially opening and a Commemoration Service will take place at the woodland. Four families who have lost loved ones will be honouring them and planting saplings. This is a very special event, a day of remembrance

plus celebration, at which we will have the Redhill Band and Corp of Drums, Veteran singer Rodney Dell, BBQ, Bar and a number of stalls including some lovely crafts, merchandise, bottle tombola and grand raffle. EVERYONE is welcome so do put it in your diaries to come and join us at 12.30 on Saturday 10th June. Belmont School are allowing visitors to park in their car parks and we will be running a shuttle service which means our car park is free for the vintage military vehicles which will be on display.

We are thrilled to have been informed by the CEO that his young Cadets from Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corp will be joining us as usual, these young people are the only cadets who are allowed to wear the Queen's Regiment Cap Badge in the UK.

Visitors to the woodland are always welcome, bring a picnic and enjoy the peace and tranquility of our lovely woodland. We are open 24/7, if we are not present you can park at the front of the main car park and walk in the side gate. If we are there then the Visitors' Centre will be open and you can enjoy the collection of military memorabilia that the families of those Veterans who are honoured at the woodland have donated to us for all to enjoy.

Paul Cooling
Chairman, QRMW



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Abinger Medieval Fair

The spectacular Abinger Medieval Fair will take place on Saturday 10th June 2023 from 2pm to 5pm, Abinger Common, RH5 6JD

This quintessentially English, wonderful village fair is where villagers and visitors dress up in Medieval costume. Together they raise funds for local amenities and charities. This year sees the return of the amazing Rosie and her team of Mini Ponies. There will be all the usual medieval themed stalls and refreshments. Along with the procession, Maypole dancing, children's races and music in St. James church. We know some people who find it difficult to walk or use a wheelchair at the fair. Everyone is different, so please contact abingerfairsec@gmail.com and we will see how we can help.

Help is still needed at the fair. Can you volunteer an hour? Please contact abingerfairsec@gmail.com if you can.

We look forward to welcoming you to celebrate the 2023 Abinger Medieval Fair. More information: <https://www.abingerfair.com/>.



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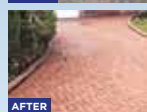
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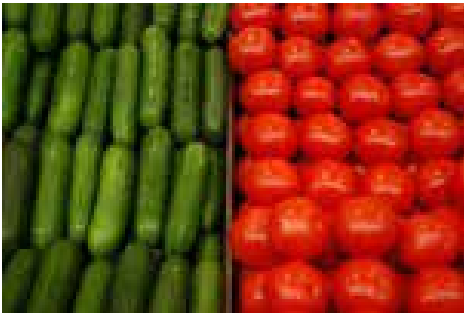
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GREEN WESTCOTT

Food For Thought

Many of us are trying to reduce our carbon footprint. Reducing our flights and car travel, turning the heating down, insulating our homes better. Yet, we are often thwarted, with the very basics of what we do on a weekly basis. Yes, I'm talking food. Food is one of the things in life we literally cannot do without and yet so much of what we consume week in week out, comes not from the UK but from places further afield adding to our carbon footprint.



The recent salad shortage, which had many of us wondering how to replace our tomatoes in our cheese and tomato sandwich of a lunch time, got me thinking a little bit more about the food systems that are in place and how they just don't make sense in terms of reducing our carbon output. In the winter months, Britain relies on Spain, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt for the bulk of salad imports. However, this year these crops were affected by unusually cold weather in January, including intense night frosts

meaning a shortage in the salad department. Meanwhile, farmers in the UK and places across Europe that might ordinarily heat green houses to grow salad stuff, were reluctant to put the heating on due to the high energy prices, leaving reliance on the other suppliers which were hit by the weather! So, you can see this was a perfect storm.

So, what is happening? President of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), Minette Batters, criticised government policy, pointing out that botanical gardens with large glasshouses had received support with their energy bills through the energy relief scheme, while food producers with greenhouses, did not.

British farms, particularly those in the production of salad, cucumbers and tomatoes are now producing the lowest amounts since 1985. Most British farmers cite the reason for the lower supplies as being increased costs for growers, mostly as a result of having to pay higher wages to workers amid labour shortages following Brexit. Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium, said: *"Difficult weather conditions in the south of Europe and Northern Africa have disrupted harvest for some fruit and vegetables, including tomatoes."* Jack Ward, CEO of the British Growers Association, said: *"The industry is beginning to see*



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

the negative impact of last summer's extreme temperatures and drought on UK crops."

So, it seems clear that the problem is fundamentally one of climate change. With this being the case, further global warming is inevitable unless drastic changes are made to the way we all live. In 2019 the UK committed to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Since then it has increased this ambition to align with long term targets aiming to reduce emissions to 68% below those in 1990 by 2030.

However, there is a shortage of credible policy for the UK to achieve its 2030 target. The UK government was recently found in breach of the Climate Change Act by the High Court, for failing to transparently calculate and communicate the expected impact of its climate policies. In terms of the UK's domestic emissions strategy, if all countries followed the UK's current approach, global warming would reach up to 3 degrees C which is 1.5 degrees above the maximum recommended level of global warming.

With governments clearly not taking seriously the threat of global warming and the impacts this will undoubtedly have on food systems we have to make ourselves more self-sufficient and resilient. One way of doing this



is to grow your own and to eat more seasonally. Do we really need salad in winter? Another option is to shop and buy locally sourced foods. We are lucky enough to live in an area where there are local suppliers. The more we support these small suppliers the better for the local community and the environment.

In Westcott we have started a community garden in which we hope to grow and cultivate food for those in our community to eat. Please do come and join us if you want to get involved, we are there most Saturdays and everyone is most welcome.

Whats On in May:

Meat-Free May

An excellent way to cut carbon emissions and benefit your health is to eat less meat. There are lots of recipes and tips on [nomeatmay.org](https://www.nomeatmay.org)

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to allow plants like clover, selfheal, dandelions and daisies a chance to flower, and benefit pollinating insects too. Meadows are one of the rarest habitats in the UK, with 97% of this habitat lost in Britain since World War II.

Every Flower Counts – 31st May Take part in this citizen science project to help build a picture of which flowers are most abundant in our lawns and to understand how many bees your lawn can support. Get involved at <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

International Compost Awareness Week – 7th to 13th May

Healthy soil is vital to produce healthy food. By recycling vegetable peelings and garden prunings into compost, we create healthy soils that produce healthier food and higher yields. It

also reduces the need for fertilizer and pesticides, improves water quality and conserves water, as well as stores carbon in soil - helping to reduce climate change.



The photo shows our newly-made compost bays at Westcott Community Garden!

(Cooked foods, meat and fish can be recycled via our green food waste bins, which are collected by the local council to produce biogas via anaerobic digestion.)

World Bee Day – 20th May

Bees and other pollinators play a vital role in keeping people and the planet healthy. Take time to find out more about the many challenges bees face today.

Nancy Lund

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