

Westcott Village Association October Village Magazine Article

Your Village Association

Another year has come and gone and the next **Village Association Annual General Meeting** has come around again. The meeting will take place in **Holy Trinity Church on Wednesday 16th October at 7.45pm**. This is your chance to elect the committee for the coming year, to approve the accounts, and to raise matters of concern across your village. This year, in order to more environmentally considerate, we will not be printing the papers for the AGM; instead we will have emailed all members with a copy of the AGM documents, and posted copies of these on the Web-site, and we will project these onto a screen during the meeting.

We have operated for a year now without an **Honorary Secretary**, which places the administrative burden of the work we do on other members of the committee, (and in the process reinforces what a superb job Tim Gowing did for more than 30 years!).

The role involves:

- Planning agendas with the chairman and committee members, and circulating in advance of the meetings
- Attending Meetings (8 per year)
- Taking and drafting minutes; circulating agreed minutes
- Dealing with correspondence (primarily email) to the Association, liaising as necessary with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and Treasurer
- Monitoring the "Contact Us" website correspondence to the WVA
- Liaising with the Charities Commission on Trustee changes and other statutory requirements
- Keeping the Village Association notice Board (outside Balchins Stores) current

If you feel you have the skills, the time, and a passion for your village to do the job, please drop me an email and I will happily come and talk to you about the role.

Membership of the Association continues to grow slowly. We have made it easy to join on-line on the Web-site we launched last year and we have made paying your annual household subscription (minimum £10 per annum) much, much easier. There are still too many people in the village, however, who do not understand what we do or even know that we exist to support you the residents, so it is really important for you to spread the word. Your subscriptions are used entirely to support improvements to your village.

Hut Development

The WVA has committed to support the Reading Room and The Hut Trustees as they work to find a solution to building a Village Hall and Doctor's surgery in the village. This will not be easy but we are confident that with everyone's support a positive outcome can be achieved.

WVA Draft New Constitution

We are hopeful that the Charity Commission will have worked through the backlog of applications and we will have started the process of approving the new constitution by the time this article is published in October; if we have, we will update you at the AGM.

The Crown and Indigo Spice Properties

A formal Planning Application (in conformance with our Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan) has been submitted by **The Crown Public House** for 7 dwellings (and 14 parking spaces) on the site, which the Village Association has supported.

The **Indigo Spice** planning appeal was turned down, and the Village Association has approached the owner to ask for the appearance of the empty site to be improved so that it is less of an eye-sore on entering the village from the west. Their response has been to put in another planning application (MO/2019/1452) for two dwellings and two parking spaces; this however still does not conform to our Neighbourhood Development plan and we await the outcome of this latest application.

Church Bank

The church has now cleared the bank below Holy Trinity of the bracken and brambles and reseeded the area with environmentally friendly grasses and wild flowers to attract pollinating insects. The rhododendron bushes have been reduced in height to allow sight of the church and by next spring the whole area will have been transformed.

Prudential Ride London

The WVA has approached Prudential Ride London (PRL) about registering with them as a charity and securing places on the Classic 100 Ride for 2020. The aim would be to have a village draw for any places we secured, the successful applicants raising money for the Village Association and their chosen charity. We will know more by the time of the AGM.

A representative of the PRL (actually employed by The London Marathon who manage the event) has been invited to come to our **Open Meeting in December (Wednesday 12th at 7.30pm)** to speak about the race, its organisation and its future, and answer questions from residents. Please make a note in your diaries.

As always, you are invited to write to me on issues which concern you, and the WVA will do their best to address them.

Tim Way

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