

WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS

September edition

As a welcome change to the Chairman's contribution, this month Edwina Gordon, the WVA Membership Secretary, shares her views on (Edwina pic)

What is the Westcott Village Association?

I first moved to Westcott in 1986 with two young children, working full time, a house that needed updating, and not much spare time. When someone knocked on the door asking for a small subscription for the Village Association I paid up and to be honest didn't really think about it.

Maybe you feel the same. But now my children have their own children, and one lives in another continent, I have the time and the passion to give back to Westcott what has made it a very special place to live in, and bring up my family.

We don't have a Parish Council, (voted on by residents way back in the 1970's) but we do have a committed group of volunteers, led by our very active chairman, Tim Way. We undertake the majority of the functions of a Parish Council...but it costs you nothing on your annual council tax bill. We are apolitical and a registered charity.

So, what *have* we done? In the recent past we have paid for the defibrillator by the bakery, sponsored talented youngsters, monitored planning proposals, and kept an eye on highways issues. We have preserved our iconic thatched dovecote and bus shelter, advised on parking and road issues, arranged litter picks, purchased sports equipment ...and listened to any reasonable request for help. **(Library pic of Dovecote)**

We are sponsors of, and get involved in WestFest, where this year we raised a total of £728 from the Tombola stall and the sale of Sandra Ede's excellent cakes. For the second year running, Carole Clear won one of the most alluring bottles in the WVA tombola! Last year she invested heavily in raffle tickets to win the coveted bottle. this year, however, she purchased 10 tickets and it was the lucky 7th ticket she opened that won this bumper bottle of rose!!! A big thank you to everyone who generously donated bottles to our stall.

(Picture of Westfest bottle stall and Carole already sent)

The current big challenge for the Association, working with the chairs of all other major groups in the village -The Hut, the Reading Room, the Sports Club, the Church, and the School, is to facilitate a way forward for a new doctor's surgery and community centre. This is an issue that will have a major impact on the future of Westcott.

Our dedicated band of Street Stewards have been knocking on many doors, or dropping leaflets about the Village Association. If they've missed you and you want to know more please let me know. You can join via our website **www.westcottvillage.com** or pick up a leaflet from the Bakery. I'm delighted to say that membership, which is purely voluntary and only a minimum of £10.00 a household per year, has significantly increased this year.

(Pic of front page of brochure emailed to you)

But we don't just want your money. We want your views, your input and whatever involvement you have time to give. So, a big thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership and to those who have joined for the first time. We have an **Open Meeting at Holy Trinity Church on Thursday 12th September starting at 19.30**, and you're all invited.

Let's continue to work together to make Westcott a great place to live in.

For more information visit our website **www.westcottvillage.com**

Email me at: membership@westcottvillage.com

Or if you want to talk my phone number is 07767 776737

Thank you to everyone who supports us.