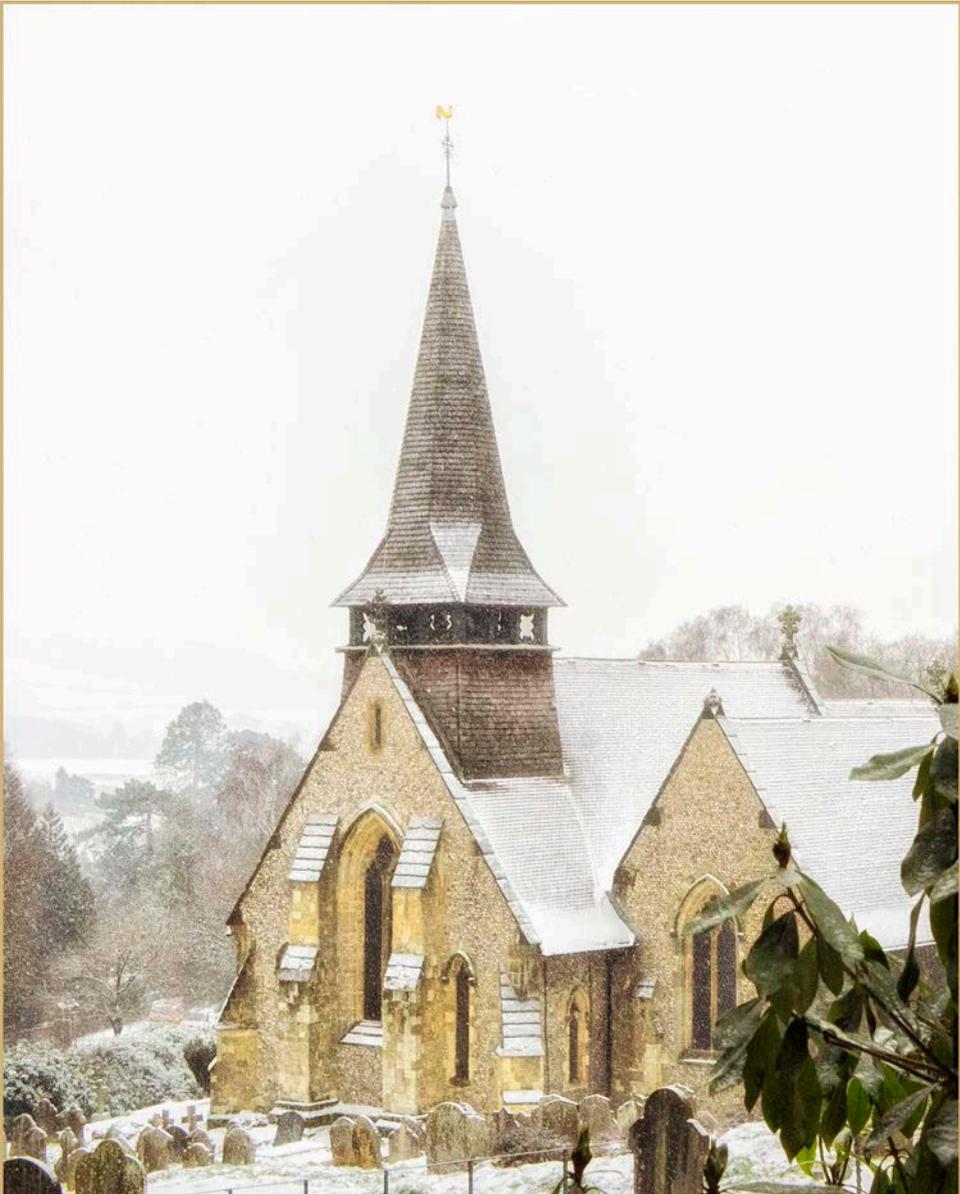


Westcott Village Magazine

January 2020



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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
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8th January 2020

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FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to 2020, I hope you had a relaxing and joyful Christmas, and that you got to do what you wanted at least some of the time.

January can feel like a bit of an anticlimax, with the house looking bare after taking down the decorations, so make sure you keep busy with the activities in your village magazine! There are lots of walks with the Ramblers, so get off the sofa and enjoy the fresh air. There are plenty of musical dates to keep you amused,

and although the First Wednesday coffee morning is not on in January, St John's cafe is open for business on a Monday.

We have another poem by Nadine Parkinson this month, inspired by a chat with her grandson, so if you have had any similar flashes of creative inspiration, please do send them in so that we can all enjoy them.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year,

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

Baby Meals

The Westcott Baby Meals Cooks have kindly catered for Westcott families for over 16 years, buying, cooking and delivering hundreds of meals over the years! It is such a highly valued gift at what is often a chaotic and difficult time as families adjust to their new arrival.

If you are expecting a baby or know a family in the village that is, or if you would like to join the cooks' list, please get in touch.

annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk or 07710 425487



...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



CHRISTMAS IS OVER, HOPE REMAINS

Into the new year, the partying is over, many of the presents have been discarded, the food has gone in ... and gone out ... Thank God that the Hope remains.

As we anticipate the coming months, it can all seem very uncertain. In a world of political and economic insecurity, a Climate Emergency, and simply our human frailty, who knows what personal, national and international upheavals and traumas there are awaiting us? Can we have Hope – confidence, optimism for the future?

Last autumn, Jenny my wife, and I attended the Olafur Eliasson exhibition at Tate Modern, which consisted of a series of installations on the theme of art and nature. One such installation was a corridor of 'thick fog'. It was impossible to see ahead, you simply had to walk one step at a time trusting that it was OK. Unfortunately, on entering the corridor, with the door shut behind her, one poor lady went into a complete panic, tearfully agitating to get out. Jenny was able to comfort her and guide her through. This struck me as

a lovely picture of how we can step into the future - walking together, helping, comforting one another. More than this, though, I am sure that what would have really helped that panicked woman, would have been if someone had been able to come from the end of the corridor shining the way through, assuring her that what was ahead was fine. In Christian faith, this is what we believe God has done.

God steps from beyond time into our world and space, born as a baby in a manger, the Christ, Jesus. He brings Hope for today - telling us that we are made in God's image, we are loved through and through, in Him the Devil/Evil is defeated, God is with us, there is power in

CAN WE HAVE HOPE – CONFIDENCE, OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE?

the Holy Spirit, prayer changes things. And there is Hope for our future: there is no condemnation in Christ, death has been swallowed up in victory, sorrow will end, there will be justice, there will be a new heaven and a new earth.



...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

As ever, the ephemeral things of Christmas pass, quickly forgotten, but the Hope of Christmas can become rooted to the core of our being. The writer of Hebrews, a book of the Bible, saw this so clearly: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19). With the Hope of God, Christ, in our lives, we can approach this year, the rest of our lives in confidence, in anticipation that whatever uncertainties and traumas we face, all will be well.

A very happy, and Hope-filled New Year



SITUATIONS VACANT



We need a couple of people to **join the rota** for running our sound system at the 10.15 am service. Duty is just once a month, full 'training' given, easy to do.

Governor to represent Westcott still needed for Surrey Hills All Saints School.

Contact Alan, Vicar if you can help
644868 alchasjonas@aol.com

JOIN US FOR EPIPHANY SERVICES

Sunday 5th January

8.30 am	BCP Communion
9.30 am	Continental Breakfast
10.15 am	Celebrate
	All-age Communion
4.00 pm	Evensong



SERVICES AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



We run a regular programme of worship services and other activities for young and old.

Everyone is welcome as we build friendships and share life together!

8.30 am - a traditional Communion service with hymns and organ, unless stated.

10.15 am - a 'parish' service, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with organ and music group. Creche and children's activities every week.

4.00 pm - a quiet traditional service, usually 'Evensong', Communion with prayer for healing monthly.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM	4:00PM
5th Jan	EPIPHANY	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Celebrate Breakfast Communion	Evensong
12th Jan	Baptism of Christ	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Parish Communion	Evensong
19th Jan	Preacher's Choice	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing
26th Jan	Be Filled with the Holy Spirit (1)	Book of Common Prayer Communion No music	Parish Communion	Evensong



Sunday Evensong now at 4 pm for the winter months (to end of March)

A lovely, reflective way to end the weekend

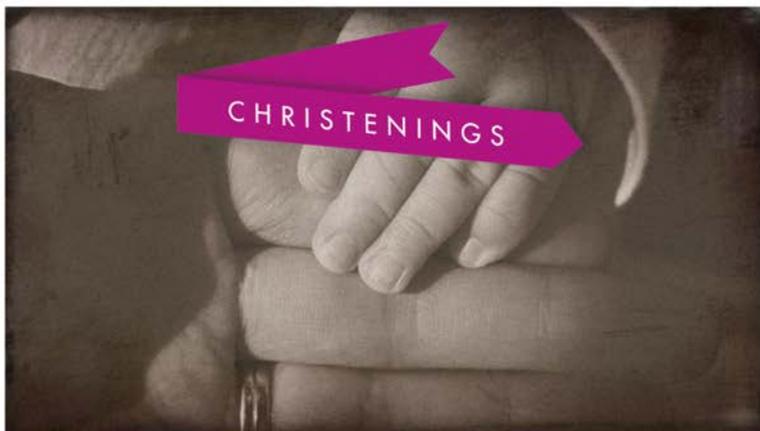
Alan J Vicar

MID WEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
Thursdays	8:30am	Morning Prayer at St John's

No mid week services 1st & 2nd January.

CHRISTENING / THANKSGIVING SERVICES



Thinking about a Christening?

Everyone is welcome to have their children christened in their parish church. During the christening service your child will be baptised and with the support of the church, parents and godparents, your child begins an amazing journey of faith.

All you need to know about planning and going to a Church of England christening can be found on churchofenglandchristenings.org

Thanksgiving Services

A special church service, different from a christening, can be used as a way to say 'Thank you' to God for your child. It is called a Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child. This is a lovely time when you can be with friends and family, ask for God's blessing and pray for your baby. It's possible to have this service instead of a christening if you decide that now isn't the right time to have your child baptised. Or you could even have the Thanksgiving service as well as a christening. You might also choose this service when your baby is just born, or if you have adopted a child into your family and you want to celebrate this with special words said by a vicar in church. You can find out more at churchofenglandchristenings.org/for-parents/thanksgiving-service

If you would like to find out more about a baptism or a service of thanksgiving for the gift of a child, please contact:

Alan Jonas, Holy Trinity Vicar 01306 664868 alchasjonas@aol.com



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Death:

14th March 2017

Alec Smith (70)



FLOODLIGHTING

The floodlighting for January has been sponsored by Yasmin & Freddie George in memory of their son Freddie (Little Freddie) & their Gandpa Freddie Harry George, who passed away in the summer of 2018 aged 98.

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting, please contact Sarah Massey at sarah@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk or on 01306 887413. (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)

COOKIE CLUB
Parent, Baby and Toddler Group
St John's Community Hall, Westcott
Thursday mornings 9:30-12:00pm term time

toys
songs
craft

chat
stories
snacks & drinks

A welcoming and friendly place for parents, grandparents & carers with under 5s. Enjoy comfy sofas, good coffee, friendship and time to have fun with your children as they play, laugh, learn and grow.
£2 per family

Cookie Club's first morning of 2020 is on Thursday, 9th January.

This HOPE in
God's promises is a
strong & trustworthy
ANCHOR
for our souls.

Hebrews 6:19





The Dorking Butchery is an award-winning speciality Butchers based in the heart of Dorking.

With traditional service and a strong passion for high quality British produce as their core values, the team are dedicated to supplying only the best meat Britain and Surrey has to offer.



The Dorking Butchery
48 High Street
Dorking, Surrey RH4 1AY

01306 640517
info@thedorkingbutchery.co.uk
@dorkingbutchery



Slow Cooked Pomegranate Ox Cheeks

2 ox cheeks, cut in half	2 bay leaves
100g plain flour	1 knob of butter
Freshly ground salt and pepper	1 large glass of red wine
1 onion	1.5 cups pomegranate juice
1 carrot	1 tbsp pomegranate molasses
1 stick of celery	Large glug of extra virgin olive oil

Method (Serves 2)

1. Pat the ox cheeks dry with kitchen paper, then season with freshly ground salt and black pepper.
2. Toss the cheeks in plain flour, then lightly sear in a pan with a glug of oil, on both sides until nicely browned, then remove from the pan.
3. Finely dice the onion, carrot and celery and sauté in a knob of butter on a medium heat for 6-7 minutes.
4. Place the onion, carrot and celery mixture and with the bay leaves into a slow cooker on a medium heat setting, followed by the ox cheeks, pomegranate juice, molasses and red wine.
5. Cook for six hours. (If cooking in an oven, cook at 150 degrees C for 4-5 hours).
6. When ready, remove the ox cheeks from the slow cooker/oven, and loosely cover with foil to keep warm.
7. Discard the bay leaves and transfer the liquid into a saucepan, bring to the boil and allow to reduce until it is syrupy. Stir regularly.
8. Serve the ox cheeks with butternut squash mash and the reduced sauce drizzled on top, finished with some fresh pomegranate seeds.

READING ROOM



Wishing everyone a successful 2020. We still have some availability for children's birthday parties in January. It is an ideal space for these parties.

Pilates

As we advised last month the Thursday morning Pilates session will not be continuing from January 2020 as the instructor – Tina – has had to stop for personal reasons. However, Debbie Stafford who runs Surrey Hills Pilates classes in Abinger is looking to start regular Friday classes on 10 January 2020 for an hour starting at 14.30. Debbie uses the Stott Pilates method and more details can be found on her website <https://www.surreyhillspilates.co.uk/> So anyone interested in continuing their Pilates sessions in the Reading Room or starting afresh should contact Debbie on surreyhillspilates@gmail.com or mobile 0777 115 7235



Other news:

- Westcott Brownies continue to thrive. The Reading Room was packed on Friday 6 December to witness their Christmas Pantomime. Huge congratulations to Nicola Brett and her helpers.
- Westcott bridge club in its 25th year The club specialises in attractive competitive and convivial bridge. It regularly attracts over 40 players every Monday evening from a wide range of local villages.
- Martial Arts organiser – Alan Richings – advises that he is adding at least one extra client each month. It's getting very popular.
- The Reading Room portable sound system with 2 mikes HAS bedded down well and has received much positive comment.
- Wi-Fi: we are in the process of upgrading our Wi-Fi to superfast.

More information from the Reading Room website www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk or by phone on 07967 286636.

Alan Reif, Chairman

Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh and The London Silver Vaults

The morning was bright when we set out from Dorking on time at 8:30am with a full coach and arrived at the Saatchi Gallery at 10:30am, well in time for our timed entry of 11:00am. Although there was already a long queue to get in to the exhibition we soon reached the front.

The "Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh" exhibition celebrates the centenary of Howard Carter's discovery in 1922 in an expedition financed by Lord Carnarvon of Highclere Castle near Newbury, Berkshire. The exhibition was spread over three floors of the Saatchi Gallery and did indeed contain "wonderful things".

The exhibits include 150 original artefacts from Tutankhamun's tomb, 60 of which had never left Egypt before. When they return to Egypt to the new Cairo Museum near the Giza Pyramids, after the end of the world tour in 2021, they will never be seen outside of Egypt again. On the 5th Floor of the Gallery there is a virtual reality tour



Gilt disc

of Tutankhamun's tomb.

Suzanne Willis wrote: "The lighting was extremely good, managing to show off each artefact. The captions were easy to read, and the audio guide made it come to life. I loved the Total Reality which the organisers held on the 5th floor. They had not told me about it, as otherwise I would have told everyone. I went as I don't think I will ever get another chance. We were taken down into the tomb, down all the stairs and along the corridors.



Quartzite statue

In the Burial Chamber each sarcophagus lid was lifted, letting us see seven in all, each fitting onto the next and wonderfully painted. Till in the end we got to the golden death mask. Also, all the articles that were buried with him came to life. Fantastic."



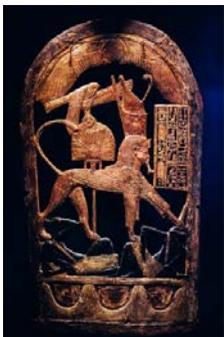
Gold gilt wooden bed

The marvellous exhibits on show were too numerous to mention individually here but some of the highlights were:

- A colossal quartzite statue of Tutankhamun
- A gold gilt statue of Tutankhamun standing on a reed float holding a spear
- A gold gilt wooden bed
- A ceremonial gold gilt wooden shield
- A gilt disc showing a winged scarab with wings spread out in a protective attitude and a statuette of Sokar, a funeral divinity in the form of a falcon below

All the exhibits were displayed in well-lit glass cases, except for the large quartzite statue

(above), in order to protect them.



Gold gilt wooden shield

We were left to our own devices for lunch and at 2:15pm we departed in the coach to go to The London

Silver Vaults. Nestled in the heart of London, beneath Chancery Lane, The London Silver Vaults is located 5

levels below ground and offers the largest retail selection of fine antique and contemporary silver in the world.

The Vaults originally opened in 1876 as a safe

deposit for the wealthy and was used as a secure storage place for London's silver dealers during World War II. Today, it is the home of silver shopping and a true hidden gem; well-loved by international royalty, film stars and discerning shoppers seeking the world's finest silver. The Vaults boast more than 30 specialist shops within its vaulted walls.

All the vault owners are independent retailers, and many are third generation family businesses, with a fount of expert knowledge and rich history. From silver tableware, cutlery, decorative pieces and gifts, to jewellery and special collectors' items; The Vaults sells the widest variety of silver in the world.



Gold gilt statue

John Sinclair
Suzanne Willis

THE HUT & THE READING ROOM

Update on Developments since the July Statement

You may recall that the two sets of Trustees of The Hut and of The Reading Room have established a Joint Working Party ("the JWP"), which I chair, to explore options which might lead to the construction of a new village hall and of a doctors' surgery on one or other of their two locations in Westcott. There is some urgency behind these thoughts.

The Hut has been out of action for around three years, having fallen into disrepair; The Reading Room continues to function, but was constructed as a temporary building which is now nearing the end of its design life. Both buildings are owned by charitable trusts which are unlikely, independently, to be able to raise construction costs of around £750,000 to replace themselves.



The Reading Room

Riverbank Surgery merged, on Dr Tom Guildler's retirement, with Dorking

Medical Practice in South Street in Dorking; the current surgery by Rokefield at the bottom of Wescott Street is neither ideally located, nor does it meet modern NHS specifications. Moreover, at some point, Dr Guildler will need to realise the value of the surgery building, which was constructed as a private house, to support his retirement.

Dorking Medical Practice is already too small for the number of patients it serves and could not cope with an influx of the entirety of Dr Guildler's Westcott patients. It would therefore suit the merged practice to have a modern facility, purpose-built to NHS standards in the centre of Westcott. I have no doubt that the village would be much the poorer should we lose the community facility of a surgery.

Any redevelopment of the two sites along Furlong Road and Institute Road will need to overcome at least three sets of formal hurdles. In addition, the outcome will need to be acceptable to the inhabitants of Westcott who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the two charitable trusts through which The Hut and The Reading Room were first gifted to the village.

The first hurdle is the obligation to comply with all applicable Planning requirements. As was mentioned

THE HUT & THE READING ROOM (cont)

in the July statement, the JWP proceeded to appoint WYG plc, a very well-reputed planning practice, to prepare a Draft Options Feasibility report on the development options for both sites. Their report looked at various scenarios, including the extent to which either or both of the sites could sustain housing development so as to raise funds for the construction costs of a new village hall.



The Hut

The various options presented were then subjected to further analysis by the Trustees to see which of them, if acceptable from a Planning perspective, might satisfy the second formal hurdle, the need to be financially viable. Not surprisingly, that filter soon disposes of any elaborate schemes and puts the focus firmly on having a good village hall/community centre with reasonable parking, but without much in the way of frills.

The third hurdle is to get agreement from the Charity Commission, which acts as regulator of The Hut and of The Reading Room. Charitable trusts like The Hut and The Reading Room have a very limited ability to operate commercially and face additional restrictions if their intended operations involve the sale of any land which they occupy. There have been no decisions taken in this regard, and none will be taken until the JWP has sought the views of the village, but no matter which option is ultimately taken, there will need to be a sale of some land by The Hut and by The Reading Room for housing and to locate a new surgery. Without that, nothing can happen.

The JWP has worked closely with Dorking Medical Practice in exploring these options. Indeed, the doctors not only contributed to the costs of engaging WYG, but have confirmed to the Trustees their strong interest in opening a new practice in Westcott. As this magazine is going to press, the doctors are talking to their bankers about raising a development loan to cover the very significant costs of site acquisition and construction of the building that they would need.

The next step in this exercise is to refine the work done by WYG so that an option which might stand a realistic chance of being acceptable from

THE HUT & THE READING ROOM (cont)

the Planning, financial and Charities Commission perspectives can be put to the village early next year, when coincidentally Mole Valley District Council will be consulting on a new Local Plan. It is likely that the JWP will work with Westcott Village Association, who also contributed to the WYG study, over the most appropriate means of canvassing views in Westcott as to what is wanted.

Opinions may differ on that, but a village such as ours is not served in the long term by community facilities which are either closed, poorly

located or increasingly difficult to maintain beyond their design life. The Trustees of The Hut and of The Reading Room have clear responsibilities under their respective charters to serve the people of Westcott. I am very pleased to say that both sets of Trustees are firmly focused on grasping an opportunity of working with the doctors at Dorking Medical Practice which would not only maintain the overall number of functioning community assets in Westcott, but do so with buildings which are fit for purpose for many years to come.

Bernd Ratzke
Chairman, JWP

WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

at
The Reading Room

We wish everyone a Happy New Year

**Next coffee morning
Wednesday February 5th 2020**

There will be no coffee morning in January

What a lovely evening WWG members had this month, relaxing and listening to a VERY talented trio called The Bilberries. Patrick, on violin, and Max, on guitar, are both classically trained musicians and met up with Bex, their singer, at a talent competition in Coldharbour and have since been performing publicly and wowing their audiences with a wide and varied folk repertoire.



The Bilberries

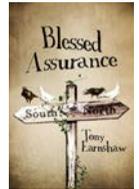
As a child I never liked the squeaky violin, but Patrick played it so cleanly and beautifully that I could have listened all night! As for Max and his guitar, I don't think I have ever enjoyed such magical blending of 2 instruments, and into the mix, Bex brought the fun and atmosphere of Ireland and elsewhere with her lovely voice. Thank you, The Bilberries for bringing our 2019 programme to a really uplifting end.

January 25th, oh my! It's Burn's Night! So brush the moths off your kilts, pump up the Bagpipes. Tickets are £25pp to include traditional haggis (optional salmon meal available) Scottish

dancing and possibly some musical element. Please contact me as below for booking.

February 5th we will meet local writer, Tony Earnshaw who will be talking about his new novel, Blessed Assurance, the joys and challenges of writing and the inspirations which have produced award winning plays and anthologised poems along the way. Much of Blessed Assurance takes place on the North Downs, but what is it about?

'Four friends, two marriages, and a struggle – the conflict between principles and behaviour. For Tom and Pete, faith is central, but they differ on what that means. Anne & Liza have different priorities. Tom and investment guru Jonny Nower are both at a crossroads in their lives. Can they help each other? Can the friends survive doubt and betrayal?'



Do come along and join us. No need to be a member, or even female! All are welcome, our annual membership is £15 or ad hoc visits are £4. Tea and coffees are supplied or a glass or 2 of wine, for which, this latter, we ask a £1 donation.

For further details contact Jackie Moss, 01306 881481 or email johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com

Jackie Moss



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Westcott Street, Westcott, RH4 3NX



Tel: 01306 740003

Email: info@bramleyhouse.net

BURNS NIGHT

Jan 25th 2020



Hosted by



Westcott Women's Group

From 7pm

In The Reading Room

Traditional Haggis meal (alternative salmon by request)

Glass of wine on arrival but please bring further drinks

Tickets £25pp from

Jacki Moss tel 881481

Or email: johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com



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A Happy New year to all our members and to all Westcott's residents.

Speeding – Again!!

After last month's article focussing on speeding vehicles through the village it was good to see the Police out monitoring speeds in early December. The stretch of road below the church bank to the west of the village is a particularly bad stretch with vehicles doing well in excess of 30mph into and out of the village.



I had some interesting emails from local people who, having been caught speeding through Westcott in the past, are now much more aware of their speeds through our and other villages. One tip many were given was to change down into 3rd gear as you enter a village, usually signalled by the presence of street lighting. It really does work in reducing your speed!! I am also much more conscious of my

driving speed through Westcott, and the WVA is drawing up plans to remind both commuters through the village as well as residents to be more aware of the 30mph limit - and to stick to it. If we as residents all travel at 30mph it means that visitors passing through will have to follow us at the same speed!!

..and Noise

I also had emails asking what we were doing about noise from antisocial motorbike riders particularly between Westcott Street and Coast Hill. We haven't forgotten about this problem which, as was discussed by Mole Valley Residents Associations at their regular meeting in November, plagues many of the villages across Mole Valley. We are investigating ways to monitor noise levels and how offenders can be tackled – but this is an area where sanctions lag way behind speeding in terms of the effectiveness of prosecuting the worst offenders.



Movement is Medicine

Keep Fit with Cath at St John's, Westcott
Saturdays 10-11am in the lower hall,
Dance Fitness, it's so much fun, you don't even notice that
you're exercising. If you like dancing, why wouldn't you?

Also Mondays in the chapel 2-3pm,
Stretch and Relax
A fusion of Yoga, Pilates and Tai Chi moves
to calm the mind and body.

Each class £5, proceeds to church funds.
Enquires cathglover2@gmail.com



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· BED & BREAKFAST ·

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Surrey, GU5 9RR

www.hurtwoodhotel.co.uk

tel: 01306 730514

email: hurtwoodhotel@mail.com

Rooms from £85 per night
- breakfast included



Cycling on Footpaths

Just recently I have had residents bring to my attention what appear to be organised night mountain-bike rides through the outskirts of the village making use of Footpaths. They are called footpaths for a reason and cycling on them is not permitted.

If you see or hear of such night rides making use of the numerous footpaths around the village, please let me know. We don't want to spoil people's enjoyment of this sport but being confronted at night by a pack of cyclists while walking your dog on a footpath can be a little disconcerting!



New Westcott Village Association

The new WVA (Charity Number 1185622) has a new bank account. If you pay your annual membership by standing order arranged via online banking you may want to change this

to the new account:-

Account Name: Westcott Village Association

Sort Code: 82-11-07

Account Number: 20072790

Payment dates can remain the same and usually are paid between May and June each year. We will be sending out more detailed information in the new year, but for the computer savvy it is really a very simple thing to do. There is no time like the present – I have already changed my standing order for 2020.

And finally...

The MVDC Planning Committee has now approved the plans for the Crown Public House site to be converted into 7 housing units. The WVA believe this to be the right decision and would like to thank all those who contributed to achieving this.

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
Chairman, Westcott Village Association
timway.westcott@gmail.com

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CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR UPDATE



Thanks to those who came out on a dismal rainy November day to support the Westcott Christmas Craft Fair. Vicar Alan Jonas kindly selected the 12 winning raffle tickets, the Reindeer name pulled out of the hat was Arthur, won by Tyler and the correct number of sweets in the jar was 276, won by Freya!



The crafters and traders enjoyed a steady stream of visitors and Hazel Pilbeam's tea and cakes kept us all going. The takings from the raffle and entry fee (approx £480) go into the WESTfest charity pot which is distributed to local charities after the summer event, and Hazel's teas amounted to £150 for Surrey Air Ambulance.



Thanks to all those who helped to make this community event a success.



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



A Week in the Life of a District Councillor

Some months ago, a couple of Westcott residents asked me what I do all day – or words to that effect at least. In the conversation they suggested that I might explain a little more about what it is like to be a District Councillor; so here goes.

The first thing to say is that, in effect, being a councillor is a hobby – to be fitted in around work and other calls on my time (depending on how keen the editor is to see me).

The week tends to run to a fairly similar pattern. Many Westcott residents will know that I am usually to be found towards the back of the 07.01 Dorking to Waterloo train. I get off at Wimbledon and then walk or



catch the bus to my place of work – St George's Hospital Tooting, where I have the pleasure of being the Chief Transformation Officer. My phone goes on for the journey and it is a chance to respond to the weekend and overnight emails residents have sent me, as well as start to think about the day ahead.

Work days tend to be pretty full on. In between formal Board and Committee meetings and one to ones with my team or specific project meetings, I do try to make time to visit our wards and clinics, as well as the support services areas, to hear how colleagues are feeling, what is working well for them and what they want to see improved.



If you are ever at St George's, and I know many Westcott residents often are, then please let me know – I always appreciate knowing what people think of the service we, and the wider NHS, provide.

This week I also had the pleasure of being the compere for the staff Christmas quiz at our sister hospital –



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Queen Mary's Roehampton, next to Richmond Park (do you know how long the perimeter running track in the park is? No? – not many colleagues did either!).

Occasionally, I get the chance to go through residents' and council emails during what passes for a lunch break (I always try to eat my packed lunch between 11:30am and Noon otherwise I get grumpy!).

The top topics are usually housing related, but thinking about the last week or so questions to me have ranged around:

- Development Management
- Council finances
- Changes of road name
- Community facilities
- Family security matters
- The future of telephone boxes
- Speeding traffic
- Rubbish collection
- Climate emergency

About once a week I will have an evening event at work or be off to London to represent the hospital at something or other. I am delighted to be part of the Board of the NHS's Health Innovation Network for South

London where, amongst other things, we are focusing on helping those most at risk prevent and manage Type 2 diabetes risks and on improving Mental Health services. Technology really is changing every corner of the health service.

Technology isn't always reliable though and again this week on my way home I've seen the crossing traffic lights cycling through all the colours without anyone trying to cross. This has come about after one light was hit by a lorry a couple of weeks ago.



I am very grateful to the out of hours highways team who respond to my late-night telephone calls to their emergency number to get these safety things fixed overnight.

This week's evening meetings at Pippbrook have been:

- a Full Council - with topics ranging from the speed of response to the Climate Emergency through to how to protect local buildings of historical importance that don't merit national listed status.

- Development Management – speaking about an application in the centre of Westcott to make sure that members of committee have a good



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

understanding before they make their decision.

My evening commitments don't seem to stop at work or Pippbrook. One of things about councillors is that they tend to take on the role because they are already interested in serving their local community. So, this week I have also been to Trustees' meeting for Westcott Sportsclub and presented my Friday Night Sportscene programme on Radio Wey – the hospital radio service at St Peter's Chertsey. This week I had organised interviews covering:

- Staines Town
- Dorking Wanderers
- Brentford
- Bracknell Town
- Woking
- Harlequins
- Surrey Scorchers
- Guildford Flames
- Hampton & Richmond Borough

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There was also time to support the most important members of our family by going to the Ashcombe School Carol Concert at St Paul's Dorking. It's an event that has marked the start of the festive period for me for the last seven years and the collective talents of the school team never cease to amaze me. I probably don't take the time to thank their music department as much as I should – although you might get a flavour of it from our mutual Twitter conversations (@friend_james and @AshcombeSchool).

Saturday mornings are neatly filled with addressing all the emails that have fallen into my "To Deal With" email box. Many of these tend to cover my role as Churchwarden of the Grade One listed St John The Evangelist Church in Wotton.

We are a small church family and to say that we are a traditional church that takes things as they come would be an understatement. Two weeks ago, we welcomed a new Rector (shared with St Mary's Holmbury and unpaid) and I am already feeling the benefit of having someone else to lead us again. I am hoping that my choices of hymns don't put him off us too soon.

About twice a month I seem to operate the organ machine and read the lesson, but we share tasks around nicely and the main job is to look after

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)



the fabric of the building – which has its challenges and are over come if you always put on another layer of clothing b e f o r e coming to

us, and if you remember we have no running water and therefore no toilet.

Most St John's attenders come from out of the parish of Wotton, which only has about 200 residents, and therefore we don't see them every week. To keep everyone in touch, Saturdays start with me writing a weekly church email to them all.

This Saturday afternoon, I am back to St Peter's hospital for the main Sportscene programme with full match commentary from Meadowbank as Dorking Wanderers are at home and with reports to fit in on Staines Town, Hampton & Richmond Borough, Hanworth Villa and Woking.



I like to get all the pre-production preparation completed before I leave for the studio

and so any last-minute changes (matches off for example – or reporters unexpectedly out Christmas shopping with their partners!) are ironed out before it is too late.

With everything else that goes on, I do try to treat Sunday as Sunday. Church and no emails and the mobile phone stays switched off. One in every seven weekends, I am on-call for the hospital and I know I miss my Sunday off by the end of twelve consecutive days of work.

So that's a flavour of the last seven days in the life of this District Councillor at least. Away from the diary, in other news...

Meeting Housing Needs in Westcott

During this year we are likely to reach 1,000 homes in Westcott, with nine more homes given planning permission in the last month. The vast majority of these involve the reuse of existing buildings and each will provide somewhere for an individual or a family to call their own.

Bringing disused buildings back into life is a great way to preserve resources for future generations. If you have an idea of an opportunity where this might be achieved, please do let me know.

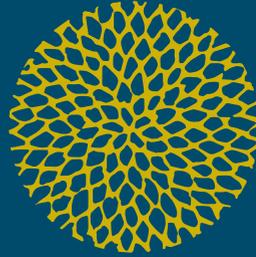
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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

2020 Trees

Thank you for all the wonderful feedback about the 2020 Trees idea that I mentioned in my last parish magazine article. For anyone who missed it, I'd like to keep a record of any trees planted in the village this year to firstly see how many we really can plant if we try but also as part of live history so that in 2050 we can collectively celebrate their birthday and see how they are doing one generation on.

If you would like to take part, please email me a photo of your newly

planted tree, telling me where it is in the village, and I (or a local volunteer who has come forward!) will add it to the list.



James Friend



We need help setting up and packing down the Nursery at the following times weekly:

- **Sundays (if the hall is available) from midday or Monday morning from 7.15-8.30am**
- **Wednesdays 11.30-12.30**

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Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to a busy Spring term, with a number of exciting events, including Parent Lunches, Class Assemblies, Bikeability, Mothers/Grandmothers Activity Afternoon, O2 Young Voices and Mole Valley Junior Citizen. Here are some highlights from a very busy December:

Social Media Launch

We are excited to announce we launched our Social Media campaign in December. You'll see more of us in the community and online - and we hope you like what you see! Some of our projects include sharing our great news in our newsletter, featuring Staff and Teacher biographies on our Facebook and website, and sharing feel-good success stories from former 'alumni'.

https://www.facebook.com/Surrey-All-Saints-106894434119750/?modal=admin_todo_tour

<https://twitter.com/SurreyAllSaints>

Roar 2019

Roar 2019 is a schools idea competition created by Lions Clubs International



and the ideas company 7billionideas. It aims to unlock the creative spirit in every child by giving them the time to imagine and develop ideas that could change the world!

Year 6 worked in teams to each come up with their own invention and creative idea that would change the world. It was a very difficult decision for Mrs Ratcliff, who had to choose between many amazing ideas. Deaf Talk was chosen as the winner, who then went on to compete against 19 other schools at Wakehurst Place.



We are so proud to announce that our entry won! Emilie, Beth and Anna designed an

SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont)

app called Deaf Talk, which translates sign language into text and voice messages. A huge congratulations to the Year 6 girls and Mrs Kong.

Dorking Fire Brigade visit to Abinger

The reception children had some great 'wow' moments, learning about 'People who help us'; with not one but two visits to school.

We were very fortunate that Jack's mum was able to bring an ambulance up to school to show the children and answer questions about the role of a paramedic.



And then Dorking Fire Service visited with their fire engine showing us all their



kit, letting the children climb through the cab and even squirting the hose!

Thank you to both for

providing such great learning experiences.

Kalell: 'I didn't know the water would go so high, it was very strong!'



Maddi: 'The best bit was climbing into the fire engine and coming out the other side'

NSEA Grassroots Regional Championships

Congratulations to the Surrey Hills All Saints team horse riding team who recently competed in the NSEA Grassroots Regional Championships, held at Sands Farm. Schools from all around the South East qualified throughout the year for the



SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont)

Championship. The Surrey Hills team came 3rd in the assisted Team section at 40cm. Arthur came 2nd and 3rd individually and Maddie came 5th individually. Great fun was had by all!

As well as participating in engaging activities, the children enjoyed working with different people and discovering a little bit about their surroundings, the beautiful Cathedral!

Guildford Cathedral - Butterfly and Dragonfly Classes

On Tuesday 19th November, the children in Butterfly and Dragonfly classes were already getting into the festive spirit with a visit to Guildford Cathedral to learn about Advent. During the workshop, the children learnt about Advent being the Christian season of waiting for the Son of God.



In addition, they were encouraged to make links between Advent and Christmas, discovering the meaning

behind each of the candles lit on the Advent Crown; hope, peace, love and joy. They also explored how the different people in the Christmas story felt during this miraculous event. Lastly, the children invented Christmas recipes by stirring, mixing and sprinkling characters into the mixing bowl or, in this case, the stable!

Open mornings

It was lovely to welcome prospective parents to the school in November and December. Parents visited the school to see how we work and were encouraged to take part in some Autumn activities. Year 6 prefects confidently showed prospective parents around the school and answered any questions which visitors had. The pupils were a credit to us and shone undertaking this role. We received many compliments about the school and pupils.

Reminder that the closing date for primary school applications is the 15th January 2020.

Mrs Jennie Ratcliff
Headteacher

The Story of Broadmoor in Surrey on 12th November by Robin Daly

Robin Daly is Chairman of a Charity called 'YestoLife' and he explained how it helps people and families in various ways when they are enduring the rigours of cancer. They have an understanding of the different types of cancer and have experience in how it affects people. It seems that this style of 'help' is well developed in America and YestoLife are pursuing similar objectives. They seek to encourage the orthodox, alternative and complementary branches of medicine to work together. Further details are provided at the end of this report.

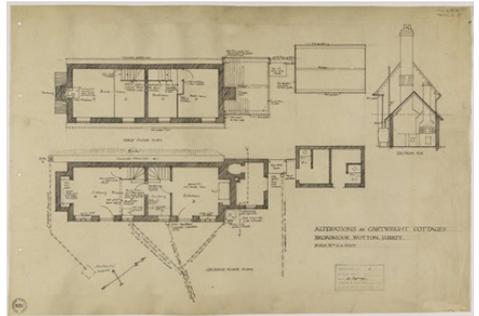
Robin Daley's talk was a technical masterclass in lecturing on the subject of the development of the hamlet of Broadmoor in the Tillingbourne valley nearby. Controlled from the smart phone in his hand, the story literally unfolded on the screen through a series of vintage maps dating back to

1762 on which the life of the hamlet portrayed by the cottages and houses and their gardens was revealed through his collection of old and modern pictures.

He started with a picture from 1906 showing a bucolic scene of sheep grazing in the fields beside ponds and the Tillingbourne stream and a few cottages which were already on the 1762 map. The oldest probably dated from circa 1600 called Tillingbourne Cottage with about 8 altogether on the map. Robin was able to show pictures of each cottage close up, often with interiors, with anecdotes about earlier occupants and the alterations made in recent times.



Tilling Springs at Broadmoor



Design for alterations to Cartwrights, 1911

There was Simon's Cottage, Pond Cottage (Pheasantries), Home Farm, Old Cottage – updated in Victorian times, Cartwrights – became 2 dwellings each having a brick with initials dated 1819, and Whiteberry

Cottage which had been the old workhouse. In 1973 a property developer bought it and made a row of 5 separate cottages, one of which is now occupied by Robin Daly.

In the mid 1700's a rich German or Dutch trader named Jacobsen, living in London, took a fancy to the valley and obtained agreement with the Evelyn family to build a mansion called Lonesome Lodge (later Filbrook Lodge) surrounded by landscaped lawns, a fountain and decorative obelisks at the south end of the hamlet. The fountain was fed from a catchment pond excavated higher up the adjoining hill that he had negotiated with Evelyn.

The event changed the valley enormously – it was a grand scheme and some features remain, but the house no longer exists. It became an asset that could not be sustained. As time went by another gentleman – Mr Harding – knocked it down in the mid 1800's and built Tillingbourne House in the same place in the already landscaped grounds.

This was knocked down in 1968 and replaced by a pretty three gabled house called Garden Cottage which at one point was used as a Youth Hostel until it was replaced by a more modern building but many features of the garden remain.

Broadmoor Tower was built by Jacobsen in circa 1760 about the same time that Leith Hill Tower was built by Richard Hull in 1765.



Broadmoor Tower

A picture of it featured in the Dorking Gazetteer in 1900 and Robin Daly had found this photo in the Surrey History Centre, from where much of his research had emanated. This tower still exists in slightly ruinous condition in the woods above Broadmoor and was described in a letter to the Dorking Advertiser in 1939. It has since been listed as a Grade 2 monument.

In 1910 'Broadmoor Cottages' was built as a philanthropic venture by the Arthur Brooke family who lived



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at The Rookery in Westcott. This little row of buildings, shown in a photo in the early 1930's included a 'Reading Room', sic and a Mission Room called The Institute indicated by a finial on the eave of the roof above it.

In the 1930s people used to visit the area on charabanc excursions and also came down by train from London to walk in this beautiful countryside valley – an activity that the 'local inhabitants' found very irritating – but they lived in an attractive 'area of natural beauty'.

Robin received a very enthusiastic applause for his outstanding presentation and interesting lecture. He has written and illustrated a book about Broadmoor and The Lonesome Valley which was available for purchase during the evening.

The website for the charity is <http://www.yestolife.org.uk> Donations can be sent by cheque to YestoLife, 7 Paynes Park, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EH.



The committee provided a glass of wine for the members present to mark this occasion as the last lecture to be held in the present Reading Room before our lecture venue moves to St John's Hall for our next lecture on 14th January. This will be about the Wealden Cave & Mines Society by their President Howard Walden at the usual time of 7.45 for 8 pm.

Roger Christian



Jacki Moss has sent in this beautiful photo of Priors rising from the mist, a perfect example of how beautiful winter can be! If you have any fantastic local pictures, please send them in to editor@westcottmag.com so we can all admire them.

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"We take it for granted today, but it was not so very long ago that radio came into people's homes", writes Cyril Webb.



"My first introduction to the wireless was in the early twenties.

After the Great War, a large hut was built in Furlong Road by the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Local functions and a club made this a welcome addition to village life. It was also used to demonstrate the wireless. I can remember the erection of a large mast with wires leading in and the villagers were invited along to sample the wonder of the new service.

I was about eight at the time. Joining the queue I eventually reached the

table with a small contraption, wires and headphones. I was given half a headphone and instructed how to fix it on my best ear and then I heard my first radio. This voice and noise did not mean much to me and I wondered what all the fuss was about. Later on boys at school were building their own crystal sets - 'cats whiskers'. Within a few years everyone had a mast and wires leading into the house. Wires everywhere- so much for wireless!"

Cyril Webb was born in 1914 and lived in St John's and Furlong Roads for much of his life before retiring to Norfolk. He died there, just short of his 100th birthday, but not before providing the Westcott Local History Group with his childhood memories (published in the Group's 2012 Annual Report) - from which this note has been drafted. It is a reminder that local history is an ongoing



subject: if you grew up in Westcott why not jot down your memories and forward them to John Clachan at westcotthistory.org.uk who will ensure that they are recorded for posterity.

Terry Wooden

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Work, Rest and Play



For readers of a certain age, this phrase will no doubt bring back memories of a Mars Bar advert in the 1960s and 70s. Supposedly, eating this 270 calories

of sugar and fat once a day would energise you to do all three things! But this was also the theme of a series of writing workshops held in St John's over the autumn which, I'd suggest, were equally energising but a good deal better for the health.

Over the course of three workshops – held once a month on Wednesdays and Saturdays – a group of people from the village and beyond explored, through writing and conversation, these three elements which together make up our days. We considered what we mean by each of the words, what associations they have for us and how we might find a balance between them. One of the insights that emerged is just how difficult it is to define work, rest and play, or to categorise activities neatly under one heading or another. And we discovered, as always, that individual experiences and perspectives vary, and that the sharing of these generates a rich mix of ideas and wisdom.

The prompts for the autumn workshops included writing lists, capturing a personal memory (written from an observer's point of view), flow writing, responding to an image, poem or piece of music, and reframing a task we dislike through a structured writing activity. The exercises vary in length and people engage with them in whichever way suits them. Importantly though, there's never any pressure to share, or even to write for that matter.

Those who take part come for a variety of reasons: to have time and space to unwind and reflect; to revisit a neglected or difficult relationship with writing; to explore life issues and find greater clarity and understanding. And some come just to enjoy the creative, supportive and confidential nature of the group, or to find inspiration for their own writing outside the sessions. The focus is always on the process of writing rather than the end product and, unlike traditional creative writing groups, we are not trying to hone our writing skills. This means that there's never any sense of judgement or competition, which can be hugely liberating.

So here's a taster of the kind of words which emerge – all used with permission of course. Firstly, a couple of limericks – inspired by the inimitable nonsense poet Edward Lear – which raised a smile in the session on 'play':

WESTCOTT WRITING WORKSHOP (cont)



There was a wild cat of the glen
Who loved to hide out in his den
But when he saw mice
He became less than nice
And gobbled them up as and when

Amanda Muckalt

There was a young man from St. Ives,
Who'd sharpen all the neighbours' knives,
Though once he did trip,
On his knives he did slip,
And now he is in their meat pies

Trisha Heritage

Another poem was inspired by the workshop themes, but written at home:

Work, Rest and Play

Work pays the bills
gets up and comes home
in the dark in winter
tries to ignore the weather
in summer, keeps a low
profile at weekends

Rest moves like a bee
through lavender
gently ruffles leaves
in the lightest breeze
warms like sunrise
early morning in spring

Play laughs like a child
runs and skips across
fields of long grass
swings high and spins
fast in the playground
does not want to go home

©Sue Beckwith

Our next series of workshops begins this month with the theme of Head, Heart and Hands, and all are welcome. If you'd like to join us or if you want to know more about writing for wellbeing, do get in touch at heathershakes60@gmail.com.

WESTCOTT WRITING WORKSHOPS

Dates: Wednesday 15 and/or Saturday 25 January (Head)
Saturday 15 and/or Wednesday 19 February (Heart)
Saturday 14 and/or Wednesday 18 March (Hands)

Venue: St John's Community Centre, Furlong Road, Westcott

Time: Wednesdays 11.15 – 1.15 Saturdays 11.00 – 1.00

Cost: £10 for one workshop or £25 for all three (paid in advance)



Heather Shakespeare

Illustrations: Eleanor Shakespeare

DORKING MUSEUM

May all of us at Dorking Museum wish a very happy New Year to all of our visitors, supporters, volunteers and members – and, of course, those who plan to engage in 2020.

It is thanks to you that 2019 has been another amazing year for the Museum. Every year our reach gets wider, and more people within our community are able to benefit from our services and facilities. Dorking Museum is a real jewel in the crown for both the town and district. We reach far and wide, our activities not confined by the Museum's walls, celebrating our shared heritage.

The Museum re-opens after the break on January 4th, so there is a last chance to see our exhibition **'You, Me and Those Who Came Before'**, which closes on January 18th.

It explores Dorking's response to past refugee crises, covering more than two eventful centuries, right up to the support offered to refugees in this decade. Art psychotherapist Sophia Cowx offers an artistic exploration of the emergence of the poppy as a symbol for remembrance and examines the poppy's connections with healing over the centuries.

The family-friendly exhibition has developed over the few months that it has been on with interactive

contributions and response from visitors and poems contributed by African refugee children now calling South Africa home. This was supplemented at two associated events run in November in conjunction with The Dorking Refugee Support Group and The Poppy Collective.

One, an evening event, welcomed as a guest speaker the well-known entrepreneur and philanthropist Sir Erich Reich, who arrived in London from Poland on the last Kindertransport in 1939 and was brought down to a refugee home in Dorking by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Sitting beneath his image on the exhibition's refugee timeline, he was pleased to share his happy memories of growing up in the town.



Sir Erich Reich

Our Spring exhibition, **'Dorking: the Town and its Landscapes from 1900 to the Present Day'**, opens on January 23rd. The Museum's curator of paintings, Sandra Wedgwood, has been gathering together paintings and drawings of the area, from



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DORKING MUSEUM (cont)

conventional views to interesting interpretations of the local townscape and landscape.



Church Street by A C Fare

The exhibition documents how the topography that we all know has been interpreted over this period, including works by prominent

local artists like Charles Collins and those who visited and captured local views like Arthur C Fare as well as more contemporary interpretations such as that by Harvey and Ackroyd and even views from a drone. As Sandra says, "I want people to look closely at the images on the wall rather than to read words about them. I hope that they will find them fascinating."

The Museum's publishing arm, The Cockerel Press, had a particularly active and successful year in 2019. It was only founded in 2013 to produce high quality books of local interest that would not find a national publisher, but, having expected only occasional publications, it has regularly come across stories and writers with great material.

Six new books were produced during the year covering a wide range of local themes as diverse as The Rob Walker Centenary Festival, the re-discoveries of 'Lonesome Lodge' and The Deepdene, Dorking's Mayflower Pilgrims, the town's underground features and the vanishing River Mole. These books and many more can be found in the Museum shop and on the website.

The **Walking in Dorking** team has been developing its programme of guided walks with a number of new themed walks developed during the year. These are available for group bookings as well as a schedule of walks for individual bookings. See Dorking in a new light with a Museum guide!



The Spring programme of scheduled walks will be kicking off in February, with itineraries including The Deepdene Trail, Hidden Dorking, Historic Pubs, Dorking in the time of the Mayflower and Betchworth Castle. Details and bookings on the website.

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Deepdene Trail Walk

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. **Open from January 4th on Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am-4pm.** Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.

2020 Trees

We have had one tree planted ahead of the 2020 plant a tree plan, but I thought I'd include it here in order to get the ball rolling.

Sarah Massey has planted a plum tree at her allotment, and not only that but has repurposed some old tights for tying the tree to the stake - even more eco friendly!

So get planting and don't forget to let us know what and where you've put in, and we'll add them to the register. Send me a picture and you might also get a mention in the magazine.



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October and November were very busy with both Halloween and Bonfire night taking place. We embraced Halloween by getting crafty, making seriously spooky spiders and weaving them their own colourful woollen webs.



we created some nature inspired potions.

We welcomed a very special guest to our nursery in the form of a visiting Bearded Dragon named Belle! (Kindly brought in by a member of staff). We loved meeting her, getting to hold and her and even watching her feed.

On the 8th November our lovely neighbours at the Abinger Hatch held a fireworks evening and very kindly chose us as their charity. We'd like to say a huge thank you to them for the amazing amount of money they raised for us and to our fabulous nursery staff who stood out in the cold selling sweets and glowsticks. The fireworks were brilliant to watch and inspired us to paint our own brightly coloured lights in the sky.

For Remembrance Day we all helped make a poppy handprint wreath and

talked about the soldiers who fought in the war and what this day means.



We had a wonderful time in the lead up to Christmas. We made Christmassy hand and footprints to give to our friends and families to treasure, magical reindeer food and also helped to decorate our Nursery tree with our own creations. We sung and acted our hearts out for our Nativity at St James' Church and then enjoyed a party to celebrate the end of term. Of course Father Christmas put in an appearance! He had read every one of the letters that we'd written to him!



We hope you've all enjoyed a very merry Christmas and look forward to telling you everything we get up to in the New Year.

Kate Fairbrass

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MUSIC IN DORKING



4th at 12.00, Music at Midday at St Martin's church, free, 01306 884229
7th 14th 21st 28th at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, 07415 815784
7th at 7.30, Andre Rieu concert screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
11th at 5.55, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
12th at 3.00, Barbican string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619
16th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
19th at 2.00, Andre Rieu concert screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
20th at 1.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
26th at 3.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
29th at 7.45, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717

Happy New Year! The Barbican string quartet will give the second of their series of three concerts this month, beginning with a quartet that Haydn wrote for the King of Prussia who was a keen cellist. Then comes Berg's string quartet, a short two-movement work, lyrical in style. The concert finishes with Schubert's 'Death and the Maiden' quartet, named after the song that provided the theme for the second movement.

There are several screenings at the Dorking Halls in January. Andre Rieu is celebrating his 70th birthday with a concert featuring highlights from his career, with music chosen from several concert locations including Vienna, New York and Amsterdam. Opera lovers can see Berg's tragic tale of a downtrodden soldier Wozzeck from the New York Met (11th) and Puccini's poignant story of young lovers in Paris, La Boheme, from the Royal Opera (29th). Fans of ballet can see Tchaikovsky's Sleeping beauty from the Royal Ballet in London (16th & 20th) and also Giselle from the Bolshoi Ballet (26th).

The lunchtime concert at St Martin's church will be given by the Hancock family, featuring music from Flanders & Swann and from Gilbert & Sullivan.

Watermill Jazz resumes its weekly concerts after its December break. This month's performers are: Kansas Smitty's House Band (7th), the Big Screen Trio (14th), the Xhosa Cole quartet (21st – Xhosa was the BBC Young Jazz Musician in 2018), and the Sara Colman band (28th).

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UPDATE TO SCOTT BROOKS MATCH

Update to 25th Scott Brooks Match

A Presentation was held at Westcott Sports Club on Saturday 23rd November.

It took place in front of Scott's Tree, which is a Scots Pine planted to mark the spot where Scott landed most of his many boundaries. Anyone who now hits a six there during the annual match receives a fiver, but it has to be said that very few players have managed it!

The final amount raised from the Match and Just Giving, including Gift aid where applicable, was £2,327.25. This sum is a contribution towards the

cost of refurbishing The Club Room, and also for the purchase of a Trophy Cabinet.

Particular thanks go to James Friend for organising the post-match BBQ and to the Ted Wilde Foundation for its generous support, as well as to players, family and friends who made the day such a success.

The photo shows Sports Club Chairman Richard Green, together with James Friend, a Trustee of the Club, receiving the donation from the Brooks Family.

Madeleine Brooks





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LIBRARY OF THE MIND - A POEM

*My mind is like a library and wondrous to behold,
And over time has slowly filled with knowledge new and old.
Its shelves are filled books and scripts and files of every kind,
A vast array of information collected in my mind.*

*As the years go by the cases fill and rows are added there,
Volumes about parenting, cooking and garden care.
Philosophy and music, comedy and rhyme,
History and art, a favourite of mine.*

*But I have found, as time goes by,
The recall is getting slow.
Finding the right book and shelf,
Takes a while you know.*



*I often think some paperback has been pushed off the shelf,
For I can't find it anywhere, even with prompts of help.
Or maybe its gets superseded by a newer edition,
But I quite like the old version and that's my admission.*

*Take care of your library, use it well and often,
Share it with your loved ones, in case it gets forgotten.
Remember it is vast by now and you need time to recall,
The corridor and shelf you need or possibly, the floor!*

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With the festive season over, January is a time to think ahead to the year to come and to make new year's resolutions – to set intentions for how we might do things differently.



At the international climate conference, COP 25, in December the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, said: ‘...we need to get on the right path today, not tomorrow.... What we need is not an incremental approach, but a transformational one.... If we don't urgently change our way of life, we jeopardise life itself.’

Every year that our governments delay in taking action to reduce carbon emissions, the harder effectively tackling the climate and ecological emergency becomes. Transforming the way we live requires us to challenge ourselves by looking at the impact of the things we do and making appropriate changes.

The airline industry is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions, at a time when we urgently need to reduce them. This is largely driven by

leisure travel – 64% of flights taken in 2017 were for holidays.

Flying off for a holiday, or a weekend break, has become normalised but needs to be recognised as a choice. Refraining from flying is a powerful way to reduce individual carbon emissions, whilst sending a clear signal to politicians, and other people, that we are willing to change our lifestyles to save life on earth.

‘Cheap’ flights, partly enabled by state supported tax breaks, come at an environmental cost, born by those who live near to airports, who are exposed to their noise and pollution, and people around the world who are suffering negative impacts of climate change on their lives right now.

This doesn't mean we have to forgo holidays - growing numbers are choosing to travel by ferry and train to European destinations or holidaying in the UK amidst our incredible countryside and picturesque beaches.





The Climate & Ecological Crisis - Local issues

Airport Expansion

In 2018 MPs voted to approve airport expansion via a third runway at London's Heathrow airport. Those in favour say this will serve to secure its status as an international aviation hub and enhance economic growth in the UK.

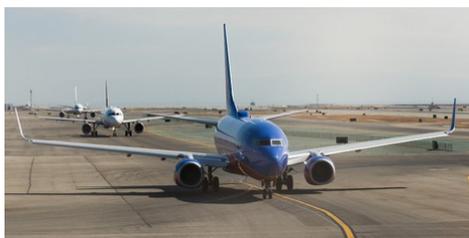


However, airport expansion is clearly incompatible with the urgent action required to tackle the climate emergency. A third runway at Heathrow would account for more carbon emissions per year than the whole Kenyan economy, with the business plan for Heathrow expansion projecting a 15% increase in aviation emissions by 2050 – the UK's net zero target date (Committee on Climate Change). Any new runway at Heathrow would further increase air pollution, which is already exceeding

legal limits and already causes around 10,000 deaths in London each year.

Other negative impacts will be felt at a local level, as plans to increase flights in advance of the third runway being built will result in more flights being routed over Surrey, leading to further noise pollution. Additionally, there is the continuing threat of an increase of flights out of Gatwick, as the airport presses ahead with proposals to use its emergency runway to increase flights. It aims to serve 70 million passengers, nearly doubling the present amount. For more information visit www.cagnepcforum.org.uk

While 119 MPs chose to vote against Heathrow airport expansion, 415 MPs voted to prioritize economic growth and private profit for the aviation industry over action for a safer, healthier future for UK citizens. Lobbying and donations, from airports, airlines and aircraft manufacturers, to individual politicians and political parties are also an issue, with surges in giving coinciding with key government decisions on aviation.





Flying Facts

Less than 10% of the world's population has ever been on a plane. Here in the West, where we fly a lot, flights make up the largest part of our carbon footprints.

Government data shows that even within the UK 70 percent of all flights are taken by just 15 percent of Brits.



While some reasons for flying are unavoidable or necessary to visit family abroad, 64% of UK flights taken in 2017 were for holidays.

Heathrow Airport is the UK's single biggest emitter of carbon dioxide.

There is no tax on aviation fuel – this is due to an international agreement, made in 1944 to boost the fledgling aviation industry.

UK carbon budgets do not include emissions from international aviation.

In 2018 Brits took more international flights than any other nationality, despite making up less than 1% of the global population.

What can I do?

Choose to travel by train or coach instead



Sign the European Citizens' Initiative petition for a tax on aviation fuel <https://eci.ec.europa.eu/008/public/#/>

Write to your MP about airport expansion and unfair tax breaks for aviation

Pledge to be flight free in 2020 - www.flightfree.co.uk

Talk to friends and family and start a conversation about the high cost of cheap flights

Cut down on business flying by connecting via online meeting tools

Keep up to date at www.airportwatch.org.uk & join a campaign group

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Another couple of very busy months at the Memorial Woodland to take us to the end of 2019.



On 11th November we held our annual Remembrance Service at the woodland attended by ex-servicemen,

local residents and the children of St John's C of E Primary School, Dorking.

The children from the school laid poppy wreaths made by each class at the school, read prayers and sang the infamous Flanders Fields "We are the Dead". The children's participation is always greatly appreciated by those who join our Remembrance Service each year.



To end another successful year for the Charity we held our Christmas at the Woodland fund raising event in December with treasure hunts for both children and adults. The bottle tombola, cake stall and Grand Raffle were very popular as were the hot dogs and hot drinks. A visit by Father Christmas completed an immensely enjoyable day.

The bonus for the Charity was a sum of £700 raised on the day for the charity's Memorial Fund. We are all volunteers so a £1 given is a £1 for the ex-serviceman in times of difficulty.

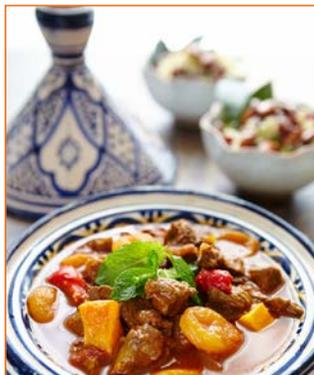


We have lots going on as we go into 2020 so keep an eye on our Facebook QRMW Registered Charity 1174651 to find out what we are doing and please come and join us. All are welcome.

Paul Cooling
Chairman
QRMW



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JANUARY FACTS

Unlike other months in the calendar, January was not named after a number, but instead after the Latin word for door - ianua. And unsurprisingly so; January marks the end of the old year and the beginning of the new one, so ancient Romans saw it as the bridge between the past and the future. This is also why the patron of the month is the ancient Roman god Janus, the double-headed god of doors, beginnings, endings, and transitions.



The birthstone for January is the garnet, and the flower is the carnation

The Anglo-Saxons came up with the informative and slightly terrifying Wulfmonath, or the month of wolves, to mark the time of the year when starving wolves would scavenge towns and villages in Britain for food (and a peasant or two)



The first recorded reference to a "January sale" in the UK was in 1865

According to the International Standard Organisation's ISO 8601, week 1 of any year is the week including January 4

Charles the Great imaginatively designated January as Wintarmanoth, meaning winter or cold month

There is a variety of cold-tolerant winter cabbage grown in England known as January King



January is National:



Baking month, Hot tea month, Blood donor month, Slow cooking month, Thank you month and Soup month, among others!

The only Shakespeare plays that mention January are *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Winter's Tale*



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PUZZLE PAGE

1. Christmas stamps are sold with the following values 16p, 17p, 23p, 24p, 39p and 40p. You want to send a present which has a postage cost £1.00. How many stamps do you need to buy to make the exact amount?



2. There are three boxes of eggs. In each box there is either a set of big eggs, small eggs or big and small eggs mixed. The boxes are labelled LARGE, SMALL and MIXED but each box is labelled incorrectly. What is the least number of boxes you can open to know which eggs are in which box and why?

3. Ahead of a Strictly performance, judge Bruno invited Craig, Motsi and Shirley to a party where they each picked different music styles. Bruno's party was 1 hour 40 minutes long. Motsi chose samba music, which was danced to for twice as long as Craig's jive music. And they danced jive three times as much as Shirley's choice of quickstep music. Assuming no dance overlapped, how long did they spend dancing to jive music?



3. Jive is 30 minutes.
One method is to set this up algebraically. Samba: jive: quickstep, if x is quickstep, then jive is 3x and samba is 6x. The party is 100 minutes = 10x, so x = 10 minutes. So, jive is 30 minutes.
Puzzles from Radio 4 Today programme and coburgbanks.co.uk

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2. Just one box! First, it's important to note that ALL of the boxes are marked incorrectly. You open the box marked BIG and it's filled with the small eggs. You know that the other two boxes must contain the big and mixed egg groups. Those two boxes are marked SMALL and MIXED. Now the box labelled MIXED must hold the big eggs because all boxes are labelled incorrectly. Which leaves the SMALL box holding the big eggs....and all you had to do was open one box of eggs!

$$1. 16 + 16 + 16 + 17 + 17 + 17 + 17 = 100$$

Search for a word

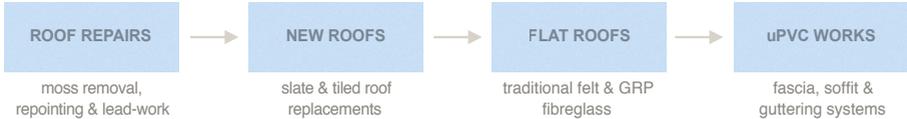


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MOLE VALLEY RAMBLERS



January 2020 sees the start of a year-long round of celebrations for the Mole Valley Ramblers 40th anniversary. They kick off this month on January 29th with the first of our Beating the Bounds walks around Mole Valley, a centuries-old tradition, aimed at reminding everyone of boundaries that were important in their lives at a time when maps were rare. But there is no need to wait until then to get out and about in our lovely countryside – we have a whole host of walks arranged for January! Mole Valley Ramblers organises group walks across the heart of Surrey and further afield, on weekdays and at weekends, with a range of distances from 3.5 to 10.5 miles and levels from leisurely to strenuous Visit www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk for full information, including where to meet.



Leisurely – 3.5-4.5 miles

Thursday 2nd: Winter woodland wander to Holmbury St Mary. 10am, 4 miles.

Thursday 9th: A path from Polesden through the Park. 10.30am, 4.5 miles.

Monday 13th: Lunch at Tanhouse. 11am, 3.5 miles.

Saturday 25th: Pre-Winter lunch walk. 10am, 5 miles.

Sunday 26th: St James London. 10.30am, 4 miles.

Moderate – 5-11 miles

Wednesday 1st: West from Reigate. 10am, 5.5 miles

Friday 3rd: Stepping away from Headley. 10am, 6 miles

Saturday 4th: Horsing and coursing. 10am, 6 miles

Sunday 5th: A rock and a pretty place. 9.30am, 8 miles

Wednesday 8th: Views of the North Downs. 10am, 5 miles

Wednesday 8th: Milton Heath, Pilgrims Way, Wotton. 10am, 7 miles

Sunday 12th: Sheepleas and North Downs Way. 10am, 6.5 miles

Wednesday 15th: Cobham and the Diggers. 10am, 6 miles

Wednesday 15th: Two Commons Walk. 10am, 6 miles

Saturday 18th: Dem Boots, Dem Boots Dem Dry (?) Boots. 10am, 11 miles

Sunday 19th: Ascent to an abandoned settlement, now trading coffee. 9.30am, 7 miles

Wednesday 22nd: Wotton Estate Circuit. 10am, 6.5 miles

Wednesday 22nd: There's no Tilling where we might go. 10am, 7.5 miles

Wednesday 29th: Frosty Friday Street. 10am, 6 miles

Wednesday 29th: Beating the Bounds 1: Headley Heath to Ashted Common
10am, 7.5 miles.

Strenuous – 8-11 miles

Wednesday 1st: New year leg stretch roundabout Ranmore. 10am, 11 miles

Saturday 11th: Singleton, Goodwood & the Trundle. 10am, 10.5 miles

Saturday 26th: Big Martha beckons and Little London calls. 9.30am, 8 miles

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