



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

26th June 2020

Dear Member

We hope you are keeping well, and, with some relaxation of the rules of what we can and cannot do, finding a way to get back to some semblance of normality. Most of us are very fortunate to be able to get out in the fresh air, but there are many (for a variety of reasons) who still have to be very careful.

The Good Neighbour scheme we introduced back in March is still operating and if there is help you need from either the WVA or the Church then let us know by emailing westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com or phoning 07772 989509.

Many of you have continued to support our local shops, pubs and businesses through the lockdown and as new changes take effect from 4th July please continue to support them to help them get back on their feet – and remember to thank them for seeing us through the last most difficult months.

Future of Riverbank Surgery

The Dorking Medical Practice held a briefing meeting via Zoom on 18th June to outline what they were looking for in expanding their existing Patient Participation Group (PPG) to include a sub-group of Riverbank surgery patients. The objective of the sub-group is very specifically to plan a campaign, consult with patients and wider residents, and lobby both NHS England and the regional Care Commissioning Group in seeking to ensure that we retain a Doctor's Surgery and Dispensary in the Village.



Val Theobald, the Chairperson of the PPG, with her colleagues will now start working with the sub-group in defining its terms of reference, and appointing a Chair and Secretary to push things

forward. You can expect further communication from this group as they seek to involve residents in their plans. We would encourage everyone to engage with this process to ensure that we retain what the majority (Village Survey of 2013) see as a vital community service.

WVA Membership Renewals

At the end of May, every household in the village received a flyer explaining what the Village Association has achieved over the years and ask everyone to renew their membership or join. Your membership subscriptions, which are voluntary, are the primary source of income for the WVA, and without this annual boost to our funds it is difficult for us to plan and budget for the year ahead.

Unfortunately, as I write this newsletter, subscription income is down by about 60% on 2019 – primarily because our hard-working street stewards have been unable to knock on doors this year and ask you face to face to join or renew your membership.

If you have not yet joined or renewed your membership (minimum of £10 per household) then please do it now while it is fresh in your mind.

For those renewing via bank standing orders please check that you have amended your mandate to the new WVA bank details which are:

Westcott Village Association

Sort Code: 82-11-07

Account Number: 20072790

If you are joining for the first time then please set up an annual recurring payment through a Standing Order at your bank. It is the easiest way to pay, and once set up you don't have to think about it again.

You can also pay your subscription by credit or debit card on the WVA Website, or failing this send a cheque to The Treasurer, Westcott Village Association c/o 55 Parsonage Lane, Westcott, RH4 3NL.

Motorbike Noise

With the good weather we are once again being plagued by anti-social motor-bikers roaring through the village. Some of you may have noticed some new signs at either end of the village which we hope will remind most bikers to be courteous in riding through the village **QUIETLY**. As soon as we are able to start the Neighbourhood Speed Watch we will also be using a mobile phone app to record noise levels and pass these on to the Police with registration numbers; they will almost certainly do little with this information but it will add weight to our lobbying for something to be done about this nuisance which, especially for those who live on the main road, is ruining their peaceful village



way of life.

Speeding Campaign

Nick Lund (Trustee and Highways Committee Member) and I met with a representative from the Highways Department to discuss what new measures we could introduce to reduce speeds through the village. We were given a lot of information – but no decisions – on what might be possible and in early July the Committee will discuss and agree next steps. The Neighbourhood Speed Watch plan looks, however, to be the cheapest and most effective way of reducing speeds; we have a good number of people to get involved and once training is completed we can start to actively tackle the problem by being out on the A25 with high viz jackets and speed guns to record speeding motorists.

Weeding

A big thank you must go to the three Trustees and two willing residents, who spent about 20 man-hours clearing weeds from along the main road and outside St John's Community Centre to make the village look a bit more cared for. We have since

made requests to MVDC to send road sweepers down Furlong Road and Parsonage Lane to clear away leaf litter which attracts the weeds. If you feel your street needs a clean then go to the MVDC website to the REPORT IT page and fill in the form. If you have a road front to your property then a half hour clearing of weeds will make all the difference to how the Village feels. We are not entering a Beautiful Britain competition but clean looking streets make everyone feel a bit better!

In the absence of the Village Magazine we have added the following contributions to this newsletter...

Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School

Jenny Ratcliff writes:- Over the last few weeks, it has been a pleasure to welcome back children in Year 6, Year 1 and Reception, in line with Government guidance, as well as the children in the key worker bubbles. Despite school looking very different - for example appropriately spaced out desks, plenty of social distancing signage and even a new one-way system at the Westcott and Abinger sites - the children have been amazing, settled in well and adapted to learning in their 'bubbles'. When the children returned, staff focused on nurturing the school community by supporting everyone's well-being and mental health.

I would like to thank all the staff who have been working extremely hard over the last three months, including half-term, bank holidays and the Easter break, both in school and at home and through such challenging times. In addition, I would also like to thank the Surrey Hills parents/carers for their continued support. During lockdown, the staff at Surrey Hills continued to provide the children with fantastic home learning activities which were available as paper packs or online using Purple Mash. In addition, staff regularly delivered food boxes to families, kept in touch with families by making regular phone calls as well as sign posted families to organisations and websites for tips, advice and support.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook, to see the 'new normal' 'daily life at Surrey Hills All Saints. You can share in the amazing learning opportunities the children experience. Twitter: @SurreyAllSaints, Facebook: Surrey All Saints.

Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

Alan Jonas writes:- I am pleased to say, Holy Trinity is now open on Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9.30 am - 4 pm for private prayer. You are very welcome to come for your own prayer, reflection or just to visit our village church. Funerals can also now take place in Holy Trinity.

We will be exploring if we can safely hold services on Sundays, now the Government is easing lock-down measures.

We continue to run our well-attended 10.30 am Sunday Zoom services. See our web-site <https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/> or contact me for more information.

We continue to work with the Village Association to support people in need in the village. We may be able to help in debt counselling, and are always here for any concerns, prayer, or simply a chat. Please do not hesitate to contact me at alchasjonas@aol.com or on 01306 644868

And finally an apology

Can I apologise to those of you who received a Thank You or Reminder email from me this week about membership renewals. The list of recipients should have been bcc'd and remained hidden but in error was sent as an open email.

PLEASE DELETE THIS EMAIL FROM YOUR RECORDS.

As always, you are invited to write to me on issues which concern you, and the WVA committee will do their best to address them. Stay safe, stay positive, and use your common sense as you go about the emerging "new normal".

With my best regards,

Tim Way

Chairman, Westcott Village Association

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