



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

31st July 2020

Dear Member,

We hope you are keeping well, and feel more comfortable in getting out and about and being able to get back to some semblance of (new) normal!

Future of Riverbank Surgery

The Riverbank Surgery PPG has now been set up and has started to look at how they support the Dorking Medical Practice in pushing the campaign to retain the Surgery and Dispensary in the village. Sally Hewetson has taken on the



Chairmanship of the Group and Westcott residents who are patients at both the South Street and Riverbank Surgeries will be contacted shortly to seek their views on the services that are needed now and in the future from the practice. Please support them by responding to the questionnaire which will be coming to the practice's Westcott patients shortly.

Good Neighbour Scheme

During July the WVA had a request to consider setting up a Food Bank in Westcott to help those in the community who have been making use of the facility in Dorking. The consensus, having asked around, was that we could make use of the Volunteers in the community to meet the needs in the village by collecting from Dorking, rather than setting up our own scheme. Our volunteers have responded to this request, but if you are aware of problems which are being unmet, then please let Sally Hewetson, who co-ordinates the Good Neighbour Scheme, know -westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com or 07772 989509.

Baby Meals

For some time now, Anna Kemkers has co-ordinated a scheme to help families with new-born babies by providing a meal service to help when mum and baby first arrive home. Since March the service has been extended to include families struggling during lock-down and 34 volunteers have bought, created and delivered 105 meals to 9 different households in Westcott to date in 2020.

The response from families has been wonderful and summed up by this message from Simon and Katie Day on Parsonage Lane that encapsulates the sentiment of our recipient families:

"We wanted to say a massive thank you to you for organising our baby meals and to everyone who so generously cooked for us! It was fun to see what arrived each day, lovely to briefly meet most of the cooks as they dropped their meals off, a welcome respite not to cook and a joy to sit round the table (not always at the same time!) and

toast our food heroes each evening! Often we had leftovers to enjoy the next day as well!

"It's a brilliant scheme that really made us feel cared for and supported at a somewhat frantic time.

Thanks again :) Simon, Katie, Jamie and Rosie x"

WVA Membership Renewals

We are very grateful to all those who responded to the request to renew your membership of the WVA.

One issue has emerged in that in trying to set up Standing Orders, quite a few of you have reported a problem which results from the new "confirmation of payee" or "CoP"



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system which all banks are gradually introducing to combat on-line financial fraud. When you make a payment or set up a standing order to the WVA, it automatically checks that the account number to which the money is going really is in the name of the intended payee. Our Clydesdale Bank has not fully implemented the scheme and as a result some residents are getting the message "*We cannot confirm that the account to which you are trying to transfer money is in the name of the Westcott Village Association. Are you sure you want to continue?*" Faced with this disconcerting message many of you have aborted the process.

The solution is that if it is a WVA payment, please do not be fazed by these messages and carry on with the WVA payment or standing order set-up anyway. Ideally you would have got the WVA bank details from one of our leaflets, which of course cannot be hacked, but even if you've received the details from the WVA website or from an email like this one, it's extremely unlikely that a fraudster would go to so much trouble for such a relatively small amount.

So please continue to set up the standing orders, ignoring any messages about the payee name not being match-able, - you could do one now for next year if you have already paid in another way for this year, and then you can forget about it forever! If everyone did this it would really save the committee and street stewards a huge amount of time which could then be spent on other more worthwhile village activities.

Once again, the details are:

Account Name: **Westcott Village Association**
Sort Code: **82-11-07**
Account Number: **20072790**

Motorbike Noise

Following initial feedback on the first signs we put up, we have now erected four new, larger signs over the WESTCOTT village gateways. The more courteous bike riders appear to be taking some notice of these, but probably of more impact is the presence of the police stopping and checking bikes. We will continue to lobby the

County Highways department, Surrey County Council, the Police and other organisations to try to get this nuisance eradicated from the area. We are also liaising with other villages who suffer the same problems, and will work to put some more permanent, practical solutions in place. Please help the WVA in its campaign by writing to our MP Paul Beresford (paul.beresford.mp@parliament.uk), and to Hazel Watson (h.watson@surreycc.gov.uk) our County Councillor to express your frustration at a lack of effective action in addressing the problem. Last week we had an approach from a Parish Council asking



where our signs came from – so you may see more of them on the approaches to other villages in the Surrey Hills.

Speeding Campaign

We are making very slow progress on this, largely because of the bureaucracy with which the County Highways Department treat any request for change. Over the last 18 months we have been consistently told what we cannot do – but with no attempt to identify what IS possible to address the unacceptable speeds of drivers coming through the village.



Environmental Improvement Projects

The WVA, with the support of Cllr. Hazel Watson, has identified a small pot of money which is available to the village to spend on environmental improvement projects. We will investigate whether this money can be used to support the noise and speeding campaign and will update you on progress.

Village Magazine

You will be delighted to know that the Village Magazine will be back in September with all the usual contributions which help to keep you informed about what is going on in the village. Please take the time to read the contributions from people who spend their personal time in providing relevant and helpful information and who work at ensuring this is a lively and well-informed community.

And finally

Just a reminder about the Mole Valley District Council “Report it” page on their website. <https://molevalley-self.achieveservice.com/MyServices> - click on **Street Cleaning** Please use this to report a whole host of issues from dead animals on the roadside, to overflowing rubbish and dog poo bins, and streets which need cleaning. The council have been very responsive to any requests the WVA has made on your behalf – but anyone can make a request to help keep our village looking as tidy and attractive as possible.

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 and enjoy the summer months!

With my best regards,

Tim Way
Chairman, Westcott Village Association
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contact@westcottvillage.com