



November 2020
WVA News Update

Dear Resident,

It is a while since I sent out a newsletter to you all – longer than I thought or planned! However, with the Village Magazine back in production we have decided to provide more of an update than a full-blown newsletter which often repeats what you already know.

AGM

Forty-five people attended the virtual AGM on Zoom at the beginning of October and it was good to see both regular attenders and some new faces at the meeting. It is not the way we would choose to run the AGM, but in the circumstances, the meeting went well and residents had the opportunity to comment and ask questions. The minutes have been posted on the Website at www.westcottvillage.com.

Speeding Campaign and Motorbike Noise

Covid-19 restrictions have delayed the plans for Speedwatch training, but Surrey Police have adopted a ‘train the trainer’ approach which means that Nick Lund (the Trustee leading this initiative) is now in a position to work with a small group of volunteers in the use of the equipment to validate and refine the training. Once proven, the training will be rolled out to everyone who volunteered. We are currently exploring the options for acquiring our own equipment (advised and guided by Surrey Police). The intention is to have everyone trained by the end of the year.



Fibre-optic Broadband

At the AGM, two residents asked whether the WVA could help in any way to take advantage of the Government scheme to improve Broadband Speeds in rural areas for domestic and business purposes. Our initial enquiries have determined that the first step is to ascertain interest in the scheme by submitting the post codes and addresses of those who may be interested. At this stage there is no commitment by anyone, and simply gives the prospective supplier an idea of numbers and locations on which to base an estimate of cost. Only when this stage is reached would any form of agreement be entered into by those wanting to progress work to install the fibre optics.

Two things are needed:

1. The WVA is looking for an individual to lead this project – preferably someone who has a technical knowledge or background – and for two or three other residents to support that person. The WVA would provide support with communication and co-ordination. If you are willing to take this on, or wish to discuss the idea, please drop me an email or call me.
2. If you are interested in exploring this scheme further, please write to the WVA by 30th November at contact@westcottvillage.com with “*Fibre-optic broadband*” in the subject heading providing us with your name, address and postcode. We will use the postcode only to provide the prospective supplier with the information they need to give us an estimated cost for the village.

Residents, Members, Subscriptions

At the AGM, the question was also asked about membership of the WVA and the link which this has to the payment of subscriptions.

Currently under the constitution “members” are asked to pay a subscription as determined from time to time by the Trustees (currently a minimum of £10 per annum per household). The payment of the subscription entitles the “member” to vote at meetings, but this is a somewhat incidental benefit of membership. The true value of being a member is surely the feeling of having contributed to making Westcott an even better place to live?

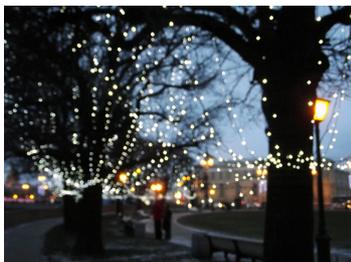
The WVA wants to be as inclusive as possible and encourage the broadest possible involvement of all residents in achieving its aims and objectives.

If you have views on how the Village Association can become more inclusive then please write to me at timway.westcott@gmail.com and we will build your views into the discussions we are planning to hold at our next meeting in early December.

While on this subject, the Treasurer recently emailed all those people who paid a subscription last year but haven’t (yet) this year, possibly because street stewards were unable to call. He also wrote to all members for whom we hold/do not hold gift aid declarations. If you have still to pay this year’s subscription or have paid but not gift aided your subscription (and are eligible to do so) please get in touch with Edwin Harland at edwin.harland@outlook.com. Subs can be paid via Paypal or WVA’s bank account (sort code 82-11-07, account 20072790).

Christmas Lights

With continuing Covid-19 restrictions, traditional Christmas cheer may be in limited supply for many families this year.



The WVA is therefore proposing to put a Christmas tree on the western side of The Village Green and illuminate it with solar powered LED lights. We plan to do this towards the end of November and take it down again early in the New Year. We have sought the views of residents around The Green and will be making a final decision after 15th November. Thus far the response has been very positive.

We will also be inviting all the organisations represented in the village to make decorations for the tree; we will send a separate note out about this.

To add to the feeling of Christmas it would be wonderful if residents who live around the Green could enter into the spirit by placing any lights they have at home in their windows.

Finally, we thought it would be fun to have a light-hearted competition to find the best Christmas decorated house in the village. Last year a Secret Santa posted anonymous cards through letter boxes complimenting owners of houses who had made an effort to tastefully light up their homes. We thought that taking this one step further would be good to add to the festive cheer in the village. More details to follow nearer Christmas.

Future of Riverbank Surgery

The Dorking Medical Practice has now confirmed that the NHS has agreed in principle that a surgery is needed in the village. The Hut and The Reading Room Trustees are progressing creating a new Joint Organisation and working with the Charity Commission to determine how that will be formed as well as the future of both buildings; the next stage will be to present proposals to the village residents, hopefully sometime in the Spring of next year.

Good Neighbour Scheme

Volunteers: With the latest restrictions, and the disruption to daily life, jobs, and livelihoods, we are again calling for anyone who is willing to volunteer to support neighbours with shopping, collecting prescriptions, or just a friendly (distanced) face to talk to. Since our first call for Volunteers people's lives may have changed and therefore some of the initial responders may no longer be available.

If you are willing to volunteer – or continue to volunteer- then please drop a note to contact@westcottvillage.com with your name, address / postcode and a brief description of what you can volunteer to do.

Christmas Food and Meals: For some in our Community, providing themselves with a Christmas Day meal may prove difficult.

Westcott House has made the very generous offer of providing a cooked Christmas Day lunch for anyone who is elderly and/or alone. Please write to me at timway.westcott@gmail.com with the name and address of anyone who would welcome this offer on Christmas Day.

Also, if you know of someone who will be on their own on Christmas Day, and you would not be breaking rules on numbers or quarantining/shielding, then, if you also feel comfortable doing so, why not invite them round to share a Christmas Day meal with you.

Contact: If you do need help to shop, pick up prescriptions, or need other support please contact the Good Neighbour Scheme. There are neighbours and friends who will want to help you. Telephone 07772 989509 or email westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com and talk to Sally Hewetson who co-ordinates the volunteers.

Church Bank

Members of the committee are individually arranging to support the Church in maintaining the bank by clearing the weeds from around the hedge along the parking area on Logmore Lane, take out the dead plants, and replant mixed species hedge

plants to create a more rural appearance as the hedge grows. Hopefully by the spring we will again see the fruits of our labour!

Local History – “Hidden Treasures and Hidden Nature (Mole Valley through the photographer’s lens)”

Now we are all confined to our homes for the month of November, here is a wonderful opportunity to listen to Roger Mendham’s richly illustrated talk (courtesy of the East Surrey Area Arts Society) which takes us to some of the lesser known and forgotten buildings and hidden places of beauty of the area in which we live.

It can be viewed on **zoom at 7pm on Friday 20th November.**

Ctrl & Click on this link to register:

<https://theartssociety-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUlcOupqDgjE9NgtbXtHjHkAmFQcfp96YvQ>

The talk is free but a donation of £2.50 towards the cost would be gratefully accepted. Please make online payments where possible to Westcott Church Funds: Sort Code 20-23-97: Account Number 10060658; Payee Reference TASESA
Or make cheques payable to Westcott Church Funds and posted to The Assistant Treasurer, 55, Parsonage Lane, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3NL

Cycling Survey – Help for A Level Geography Student

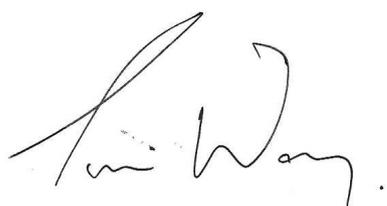
The Covid restrictions are causing some problems for young people studying for A Levels and I have received a request from a young man at The Priory School who needs help to complete a Geography project survey.

If you are happy to help him please go to <https://forms.gle/nv4LaqqmdUCMJviA9> to complete the short survey on cycling journeys

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 autumn and the run-up to Christmas!

With my best regards,



Tim Way
Chairman, Westcott Village Association

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