



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Resident,

We hope that you all had as good a Christmas and New Year as the Covid-19 restrictions allowed and that you are staying well in these turbulent and trying times. The New Year here and across the Atlantic has not started as well as we had all hoped but the roll-out of a Covid-19 Vaccine gives us all hope that things will get better in 2021.

Following the latest lock-down, the publication of the Village Magazine has been temporarily suspended, and so we have reverted to a monthly newsletter to ensure you are kept abreast of Village matters. The planned Open meeting in January (Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>) has been postponed until restrictions are lifted and we can once again hold meetings in the Church – hopefully in March.

### **Village Christmas Tree**

We have received a huge number of positive comments about the Christmas Tree on the Village Green. My thanks go to members of the Committee who organised, put up (and dismantled) the tree, to Westcott Gardeners Club for their contribution towards the cost of the tree, to the children of the Westcott site of Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School for the decorations, and to residents who added to them, to brighten our village. Next year, having invested in the solar lighting, we will plan to repeat the project, but with the possibility (pandemics permitting) of activities around the Christmas tree – carol signing, mulled wine, visiting choirs to name but a few – to make a real community event of it.

### **Future of Riverbank Surgery**

The latest update from the Trustees of The Hut and the Reading Room has been circulated under a separate email and can be found on the WVA website at [www.westcottvillage.com](http://www.westcottvillage.com).

### **Covid – 19 Restrictions and Vaccinations**

With Surrey having one of the highest Covid-19 infection rates in the country, all residents are urged to follow the Government regulations by only going out for essential journeys and daily exercise.

The local GP surgeries have given the following advice regarding **VACCINATIONS**

\* **Do not call** the surgery regarding your vaccination. You will be contacted based on your age and position in the priority listing.

\* If you are not being vaccinated at your own GP surgery please have your NHS number with you when you go for your vaccination. You will find your NHS number on any prescription request forms, or on any NHS correspondence, or, if you log onto your surgery website your NHS number should appear after you enter your name and date of birth.

### **Good Neighbour Scheme**

The Good Neighbour scheme is still in operation and it is great to see people, some of whom have only just arrived in the village, volunteering to help their neighbours. The scheme also meant that, courtesy of Westcott House, 6 households were able to enjoy a hot Christmas Day lunch delivered to their door. A huge thank you to the owners and kitchen staff at Westcott House for this wonderful act of generosity which was hugely appreciated by the recipients, and to my wife and middle daughter for helping to deliver them.

**If you are in need of help or support, or know of neighbours who need help and may be reluctant to ask for it, please phone or email**

Sally Hewetson on **07772 989509** or [westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com](mailto:westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com)

### **Speeding and Motorbike Noise**

We are addressing the last few hurdles to putting our Neighbourhood Watch Speeding Plan in place and will, now we have purchased the monitoring equipment (speed “gun”), be aiming to have this up and running by March - depending on how long the current restrictions last.

### **Community Projects**

Surrey County Council announced before Christmas a £100m pot to fund Community Projects. The Trustees of The Hut/Reading Room have put an initial application forward for consideration but if there are other projects which would benefit the village please let us know – [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com) .

### **National Census**

Every 10 years a **national household census** is carried out and we are due the next one this year. Please look out for the information which will be published locally and nationally for **the census which will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

### **Keeping our Village looking good**

Just a reminder that the Council do not have a formal schedule of street cleaning and street bin clearance and that it is up to residents to notify them when things need attention.

You can do this by going to the Mole Valley District Council “Report it” page on their web-site. <https://molevalley-self.achieveservice.com/MyServices>

Please use this to report a whole host of issues from dead animals on the roadside, to overflowing rubbish and dog poo bins, fly-tipping, and streets which need cleaning. The council is normally very responsive to any requests to help keep our village looking as tidy and attractive as possible.

### **WVA Meetings**

The following dates of WVA meetings should go in your diary. We encourage as many people as possible to attend Open Meetings. If there is no Open Meeting then you can still raise issues with the Committee by writing to Paul Goddard, Honorary Secretary of the WVA, no later than one week before the meeting is held – [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com)

Please note that with the new constitution we have moved the AGM to be held in June in the hope that some fine weather, longer summer evenings, and the offer of a post meeting BBQ will encourage more people to attend.

Dates

14 <sup>th</sup> January	Committee Meeting (Zoom)
<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Possible Open Meeting</b> to be confirmed
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Committee Meeting
<b>24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>AGM – Sports Club, Westcott – details to follow</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Committee Meeting
<b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Open Meeting</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Committee Meeting

### **WVA Membership**

At the Committee Meeting in December 2020, the Trustees discussed the future of membership and subscription rules contained within the new constitution.

The conclusion of the discussion was that the Trustees wanted to work towards ensuring that the WVA was as representative as possible for everyone in Westcott and that any potential barriers to greater involvement from residents were removed. The majority of Trustees voted in favour of a number of proposals, which would be consulted on and put to residents at the Annual General Meeting in June.

The main recommendations are:-

1. That Membership of the Association be open to all residents in the Westcott Ward aged 18 and over, by virtue of their residency only and not on the basis of the payment of an annual household subscription.
2. That voting on all Westcott Village Association matters be open to all residents aged 18 and over irrespective of the payment of any voluntary annual household subscription/donation.
3. That the Westcott Village Association would continue to raise very important funds by voluntary annual donations – normally sought in May/June each year – and through fund-raising events for very specific projects. This would be reviewed in 2023 in the light of the Association's financial position, assessing income and expenditure against past and future needs.

We will put the proposals on the next Open Meeting Agenda (planned for March) and will formally vote on constitutional changes at the AGM in June. Please discuss this openly with friends and neighbours and send your views to the association at [contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com).

As always, you are invited to write to me on issues which concern you, and the WVA committee will do its best to address them.

With my best regards,

**Tim Way**  
**Chairman, Westcott Village Association**  
[timway.westcott@gmail.com](mailto:timway.westcott@gmail.com)  
[contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com)