



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

16<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Resident,

There is light at the end of the tunnel as the two Medical Practices supporting village residents push ahead with the vaccinations against Covid-19. As I write this note the next group of 65-70 year-olds is being called up to join the estimated 8,000 over 70's already vaccinated at the two surgeries. This, together with anticipated easing of restrictions gives us all hope of a brighter spring. I know that both practices have been very grateful to all those who have volunteered to support the vaccination days; without them the medical staff could not have delivered the number of vaccinations they have been able to achieve.

We hope the following briefing is useful in keeping you updated on what is happening in our community. We also try to use other social media platforms like Facebook (not for everyone!) and Nextdoor for alerts and snippets of information which may be helpful.

This month....

### Report It

Both Mole Valley District Council, and Surrey County Council have "Report it" pages on their websites. Although both do keep an eye on issues, they are now largely dependent on residents reporting matters to which they will respond rather than having a regular schedule of actions, which historically have not always been the most efficient in the use of council employees' time.

If you want to report

**Potholes, street light and road sign lighting failures, faulty traffic lights, overhanging trees/hedges/ grass/weeds on public highways or footpaths, fly-tipping or abandoned vehicles** then go to [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) home page.

If you want to report

**Overflowing rubbish and dog poo bins, dog fouling, littering (from cars or by pedestrians), noise, bonfires, or a number of street cleaning issues** then go to <https://molevalley-self.achieveservice.com/MyServices>

### Grit Bins

In the snowy weather of the last few weeks, we have had a number of enquiries about public grit bins. There are 9 County Council maintained grit bins around the village:

St John's Road j/w Furlong Road  
Broomfield Park j/w Guildford Road

Broomfield Park j/w Pointers Hill  
Pointers Hill (after Stones Lane access)  
Parsonage Lane (by Parsonage Court)  
Westcott Green (west side) j/w Guildford Road  
Opposite The Cricketers / Indigo Spice on The Heath  
Logmore Lane j/w The Hildens  
Coast Hill

The grit in these bins may be used on the public highway, but NOT for gritting private roads or driveways. Some private roads (like Heath Rise) have purchased their own bins and maintain the grit supplies for them. If the grit in one of the County maintained bins is running low then please report it to the highways team at Surrey County Council.

### **School Laptops**

The WVA was made aware that Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School had made an application to supply laptops so that all the children in the school had access to one. They requested 8 but were allocated 2 only, leaving some children at a disadvantage to their classmates.

The WVA has agreed to fund the shortfall of 6 laptops from its budget with the aim of having these delivered from the government supplier as soon as possible to ensure that school teaching and home learning can be as productive as possible for everyone irrespective of family income levels.

### **On-line donations to charitable organisations.**

We were recently contacted by Amazon, asking if we wished the WVA to be added to their list of eligible charities for **Amazon Smile** shopping. For those not familiar with it, this is a part of Amazon which donates a percentage of each customer's spending to their chosen charity. It costs the customer nothing, and all other aspects such as products and prices are identical to the main Amazon site. So, if you use Amazon, and haven't already done so, please consider logging on to your Amazon account and choosing your favourite charity (either via "Settings" then "Amazon Smile" on the menu bars, or by logging onto [www.amazon.smile.co.uk](http://www.amazon.smile.co.uk)). There are many thousands to choose from including the WVA, and the Friends at Surrey Hills School within the village.

These and one or two other Westcott organisations are also eligible causes on the **easyfundraising.org.uk** website and app. Thanks to this organisation, your purchases at thousands of well-known retailers (such as John Lewis, Wickes, Waterstones, Majestic, Vodafone, Uswitch) can generate donations to your chosen charity at no cost to yourself.

If you need help with setting up either of these, please contact the treasurer by email at [edwin.harland@outlook.com](mailto:edwin.harland@outlook.com) or, better still, you could ask a teenager or a grandchild!!.

### **New Residents to the village**

If you have new neighbours who have just moved to the village, let us know so that we can make contact with them and provide help and advice on what the village has to offer. Last month I was contacted by a family intending to move to the village, asking me what it was like as a place to live. That was a difficult question to answer,

but as a resident of 31 years, I was at least able to signpost them to lots of things the village and surrounding area has to offer. Often people move to somewhere where they know no one, and that makes settling in that much more difficult, so if you find you have a new neighbour make sure they know there is help and information available from within the community – the WVA being just one of those sources. The last year has demonstrated that with the Good Neighbour scheme we can do that really well.

### **New Village Store**

The WVA has made contact with the new owner of the former Bakery owned for so many years by Kam and Meena.

Work on refitting the shop is going well, and the new owner is working hard to open the new store as soon as possible within the constraints of the lockdown restrictions. When we have more definite news, we will let you know.

### **Good Neighbour Scheme**

Just a brief reminder that the Good Neighbour is still operating within the village. Our volunteer good neighbours are still ready and willing to help whilst the continued restrictions make life more challenging for some, by offering things like help with shopping, picking up prescriptions, or having a meal dropped off. Please let Sally Hewetson know if help is needed by contacting her on 07772 989509 or emailing her at [westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com](mailto:westcottgoodneighbour@gmail.com)

### **News for Walkers**



And finally....the rail crossing on Footpath 115 between Landbarn Farm and Milton Court reopened on Saturday morning 13<sup>th</sup> February. Happy rambling!!

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**

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