

Westcott Village

Magazine

Easter 2021



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Westcott has a population of over 2,000 and this is the only magazine written specifically for the Westcott area by the people of Westcott. It is hand delivered, free of charge, to every household and further copies are available at the church, local shops, pub and doctor's surgery.



If you have any articles, photos, letters, etc that you think we may like to feature in the next issue, please email the Editor on:

editor@westcottmag.com

But please note, publication will always be subject to space and at the discretion of the Editor.

Copy Deadline for

May issue:

8th April 2021

This magazine, published by the Church in Westcott, is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited paper from a sustainable source. The views expressed are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Church, Editor or Westcott residents.

FROM THE EDITOR



Finally it looks like we might be heading in the right direction - as I write this, children are just back at school, and vaccinations are being done apace.

We have a bumper issue this month, with a crossword to tickle your little grey cells, details of WESTfest to put in your diary, information from the Gardeners Club, various choirs, the Reading Room and details of a survey to complete to see how hedgehogs are faring. We also have 5 photos of a daring red hat that gets itself into all sorts of places for you to

spot throughout the magazine - kindly taken and sent in by Jacki Moss, this one is to start you off.

I also have an appeal for anyone who would like to provide cover artwork for the magazine - Edward Bennett has done a sterling job over 4 years but is now very happy to step down. If you have any pictures that would be suitable, please send them in to editor@westcottmag.com and I will keep for the appropriate month.



Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

BABY MEALS

Already since the beginning of January the Westcott Volunteer Cooks have bought, cooked and delivered over 31 meals to three families. In fact, counted individually, we've fed the equivalent of over 200 people... albeit some of those people are toddlers! We've also welcomed seven new Cooks to the list, so welcome Kate, Kathy, Andy, Marina, Melissa, Carla and Kerry. Thank you so much to all our Cooks for their continued support for this valued service.

Please get in touch if you think you could help out occasionally cooking meals for families with new babies, or other Westcott residents experiencing difficulties, especially during COVID, who might benefit from a few home cooked meals.

Anna Kemkers
07710 425487



...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



HOPE IS STIRRING....

After more than a year of Covid constraints, can it be that the end is almost here?

Along with anticipated national lifting of restrictions, April sees the return of in person worship at Holy Trinity. Details are in this magazine for Holy Week and Easter services, and 8.30 am Sunday Communion every week. Our 10.30 am Zoom service will continue as long as social distancing is required (this service has a congregation of c.80 every week – too many to be in Church.)

More generally, we continue to hope that the Government is able to remove all restrictions, for good, by June 21st. What a day of celebration that could be!

Amongst the joy, though, there will continue to be deep sadness; in the grief of 120,000 + dead from Covid in this country, and millions around the world; for the many, many people affected by 'long Covid', including those in our village; for the economic devastation, especially for those who have lost/will lose their livelihoods;

for the accompanying epidemic of mental illness (cases in Britain are, apparently, at their highest since 1940); the fact that inequalities mean that many countries around the world will not be able to vaccinate their populations, meaning further immense trauma for the poorest people of the world, and continuing threat to all of us from virus mutation.

Christian faith is always about sure hope that a better day will come, but also facing the hard realities of today.

CHRISTIAN FAITH IS
ALWAYS ABOUT SURE
HOPE THAT A BETTER
DAY WILL COME, BUT
ALSO FACING THE HARD
REALITIES OF TODAY

We are 'Resurrection people' because we believe in a God of Resurrection. We can face - in fact experience joy - every day whatever is going on, because nothing can take away God's presence with us now,

and we have sure hope that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, brighter tomorrows will come until the utterly glorious day when all of life shines with peace, love, justice in Him.



...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



This combination of living in the hardness of today and sure hope for tomorrow is seen throughout life, in Covid and in all tragedies. Please see on the next page a celebration of the life of Stuart Ryland – utter heartbreak and, yet thanks be to God, sure hope.

*A very Happy Easter
... Alleluia Christ is Risen!*

Holy Trinity Church

A Sacred Place of Peace & Prayer, Open to All

From Easter Sunday onwards, Holy Trinity Church will once again be open for you to visit, for private prayer or reflection

Sundays and Wednesdays 9:30am-4:00pm

Come to enjoy the beauty and peace, pray, reflect, breathe, be.

All are welcome.



..FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

STUART RYLAND 23.4.69 - 19.11.20

The date 19th November 2020 is likely to stay with many of us through our lives – the utterly shocking day when our much-loved friend, neighbour, and member of our Church, Stuart Ryland, died by suicide. The grief is deep and bitter.

Our collective anguish was evidenced in the hundreds of people who gathered in Westcott on the day of Stuart's funeral, as we walked his hearse to Holy Trinity. And, again, in the hundreds who followed his service on Zoom.

Andy, Stuart's brother, and Steph (see message of thanks below) gave beautiful tributes. We heard about Stu's love of sport (especially cricket and Crystal Palace), his great sense of fun, and his utter commitment to young people (in his work as a teacher, our Youth & Community Worker and Chaplain at Priory School for 6 years, and with Surrey Youth Service.) We gave thanks for the lovely, kind, gentle, big-hearted, ready-smiling person that Stuart was, and his impact on our community. We celebrated Stuart's great love for friends and family – for Steph, Hannah, Andy and his family, and John and Sheila, his parents. Stuart

loved and knew that he was loved.

We will always miss Stuart. We will never understand how the depression that had affected him through his life became so overwhelming on 19th November 2020. Part of Stuart's legacy must be our commitment to better funding, understanding and treatment of mental illness.



Without God, that would be the end of the story... just desperate sadness in Stuart's death. But, in Christian faith, we can yet rejoice in hope in Christ Jesus. The God who was so central to Stuart's life, does not, cannot let him go in death. Two people, independently, had marked, clear "visions" of Jesus being with Stuart in his death.

These resonate with glorious verses we have acclaimed throughout these last months, from Romans (Ch 8), particularly that, "nothing .. but nothing .. (not even mental illness or death).. can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus" (verses 38-39).

The grief is immense. I pray you will know sure hope in God for your strength in life and in death ...glorious hope. In the resounding words of St Paul, this time in 1 Corinthians 15: "Where O death is your victory, where O death is your sting. Thanks be to God, He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"

..FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

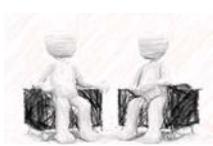
A MESSAGE FROM STEPH & HANNAH RYLAND

We are hugely thankful and deeply humbled by the kindness shown to us both in the weeks since Stu's death. Your support practically, emotionally, financially and spiritually has made and will continue to make a significant difference at a very difficult time. On the day of Stuart's funeral, John, Andy, Hannah and myself received great comfort and strength from seeing those lining the road up to Holy Trinity as well as the numbers who were able to attend via Zoom. Hannah and I feel hugely blessed to be part of such a wonderful church community.

Our prayers are with you all for a deep sense of God's presence in and with you throughout 2021 and onwards.

Many thanks to **Sherlocks Funeral Services** who as ever, with the outstanding **Clive Cappelman**, Funeral Director, gave their exemplary service, with special generosity and kindness, in Stuart's funeral.

SUPPORT IN THIS TIME OF COVID, MENTAL STRAIN



Please keep talking to, supporting one another, looking out for each other. If you would like to talk to someone from the Church you can ring Jenny or me (01306 644868), or any of our Pastoral Assistants below. Contact details are also given for support beyond Westcott. **Alan Vicar**

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants:

Glynis Cranefield 07950 248779 Margaret Packham 01306 885915
Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010 Ali Mabley 01306 889641

Samaritans provide emotional support to anyone who is struggling to cope and needs someone to listen. Local branches can be visited during the day. Helpline: 116 123 Every day, 24 hours
SMS:07725 909090 Email: jo@samaritans.org

Bereavement Care: Cruse supports people after the death of someone close. Their trained volunteers offer confidential face-to-face, telephone, email and website support, with both national and local services. They also have services specifically for children and young people.

Helpline: 0844 477 9400

Monday and Friday 9.30–17.00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 09.30–20.00

Email: helpline@cruse.org.uk



SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT IN A TIME OF CORONA

Much of the pre-Covid work of the Church in Westcott has been put on hold but we are still very much active and present in our village. Activities include:-

- 8.30 – 9.00 am every Sunday, Communion Service in Holy Trinity.
- From Easter Day, Holy Trinity open to all for visits and prayer, 9.30 am – 4 pm Sundays and Wednesdays.
- 10.30 am Zoom service every Sunday – join us by telephone if you do not have internet access. See website for details or contact Alan, Vicar. Do join us, you are very welcome.
- 'Life Groups' are running on Zoom – small groups of people who meet to chat and pray about life, faith.
- Prayer together fortnightly on Wednesdays 7.30 – 8.30 pm.

We are a part of the **Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme** and we are always here for a chat, prayer, pastoral need. **Paul Stacey** paulstacey88@gmail.com, may be able to help with **debt advice**.

For help, more information, please contact **Alan, Vicar: 01306 644868** **alchasonas@aol.com** or visit **thechurchinwestcott.org.uk**

STAY IN TOUCH

We would love to stay in touch with you, sending you weekly updates about our services and activities.

Please return this form by e-mail to admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk

or by post: Alan, Vicar of Westcott

The Vicarage Guildford Rd Westcott Dorking Surrey RH4 3QB

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

For contact by e-mail, E-mail address:

Please add me to The Church in Westcott emailing list for information about church events and news.

I understand that:

*the emailing list may be administered using MailChimp

* I will be able to unsubscribe at any time by contacting admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk

* any use of my personal data will be governed by Holy Trinity's PCC Privacy Notice which is available on The Church in Westcott website.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

| DATE | THEME | 8:30AM IN CHURCH | 10:30AM ON ZOOM |
|------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4th April | Easter Day...The Manna of the Messiah | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Holy Communion |
| 11th April | Sermon Series: from 1 Corinthians 12 | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Holy Communion |
| 18th April | Sermon Series: from 1 Corinthians 13 | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Songs of Praise & Communion |
| 25th April | Sermon Series: from 1 Corinthians 14 | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Holy Communion |

For details of all Services over Easter, including mid week, please see Easter advert

8.30am - Holy Communion Sunday service in Holy Trinity, focusing on the receiving of the sacrament, with no sermon or hymns, and finishing by 9am. There is no need to sign in – please just come along, but please be aware that we will need to manage numbers if we are beyond safe capacity and that masks are now compulsory. Further details, including our Risk Assessment are available to view on our website thechurchinwestcott.org.uk.

10.30am - Our 'parish' **online Zoom service**, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music. Visit our website to sign up to our emailing list for weekly invitations or contact Alan, Vicar.

You will also be very welcome to come to Holy Trinity, for prayer, reflection or just to be back in our Church **on Sundays and/or Wednesdays between 9:30am and 4pm.**



Our new all-age service, especially for children, teenagers, parents and grandparents. For details of the next 40'Clock Church service, on Palm Sunday, contact Ellie, Children and Families' worker, e.lister.holytrinitywestcott@gmail.com




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FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Death:

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1st October | Philomena Nash (86) |
| 13th November | Rachel Mary Halliburton (74) |
| 19th November 2020 | Stuart Ryland (51) |



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to all our floodlighting sponsors:

February: Shining bright in remembrance of our sister Adele.
Alda and Laura Andreotti

March: In loving memory of Hazel Clear, who passed away on 16th March 2020, from husband John and all her family.

April: Westcott Village Association.

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting, please contact Sarah Massey at sarah@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk. (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)

MAGAZINE DELIVERER(S) NEEDED



Magazine Deliverer(s) Needed for Springfield Road

After many years service, Lois Cremen the current magazine deliverer for Springfield Road has had to retire. Many thanks to Lois for all her work.

Please let Alan Jonas or Judith Packer, Magazine Distribution Co-ordinator if you can help with this vital service to our residents.

Alan, Vicar alchasjonas@aol.com

Judith Packer, Magazine Distribution Co-ordinator judith@rjpacker.org.uk

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MY GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

*One fated Autumn morning, we planted bulbs galore,
for a cousin and a niece had been killed that dismal day.
She lived her life for others, less fortunate than she,
'til a lorry came upon her and took her life away.*

*We thought about the baby boy, a brother and a son;
Beloved of his family, his life was short down here.
We'll never know the reason why he left us all too soon,
Such a bonny babe was he, and oh! so very dear.*

*My mind began to wander, to my best friend's only son;
A talented musician, still only in his prime,
he used his love of music for the handicapped and young,
but there came a car and stopped his life, long before his time.*

*As years go on the garden grows and memories we add,
Of childhood pals, work place friends, of parents now long gone.
Did I ever say "I love you Dad" before you went away?
I wish that we had had more time, we left so much undone.*

*Now as the days grow longer, and a little warmth is felt,
In my Garden of Remembrance, first shoots begin to show;
Once more I am reminded of the frailty of life,
And always I'll remember, the friends who had to go.*

Jacki Moss



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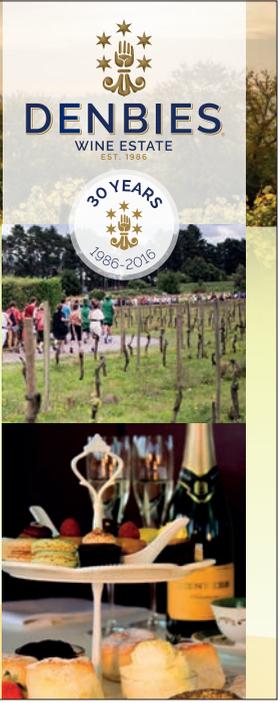
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Dear Resident,

Since the last Magazine was published in November on behalf of the WVA I have emailed Residents with our news updates. The feedback is that these have been both timely and helpful in enabling Residents to keep in touch with what the WVA has been involved in and doing. If you are not on the WVA mailing list and you would like to receive these updates, please send your email address to contact@westcottvillage.com

Here are some important subjects covered in the March email....

Wolvens Lane

Surrey County Council opened a consultation in early March in relation to the status of Wolvens Lane as a bridleway open to all traffic (BOAT) and whether it should continue to be open to motorised vehicles in the future.

The letter from Debbie Jones is on the WVA website setting out details of the consultation in full and the options the SCC is considering. The WVA is liaising with the Wotton and Capel

Parish Councils on this to ensure a co-ordinated approach to ensuring how access to this important bridleway is controlled in future. We will discuss this at our next Committee Meeting and respond to the Consultation in due course. The official channel for registering your feedback and preference is via Debbie Jones at the County Council. Please email Debbie at debbie.jones@surreycc.gov.uk stating which of the four options (listed below) you are in favour of. Please also BCC contact@westcottvillage.com so that we can continue to collate all the comments.

Deadline for any submissions is the 19th April 2021. The subject line for your email to Debbie Jones is:
BOAT 526 Wotton & Capel (Wolvens Lane) Public consultation

The four options to consider are:

1. To promote a permanent Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) to restrict all motorised vehicles with 2 or more wheels and all horse drawn carriages exceeding a width of 1500mm (4'11'') from using the BOAT.
2. To promote a permanent TRO as above for horse drawn carriages but only restrict those motorised vehicles with 4 or more wheels.
3. To promote an Experimental TRO, which would ban all motorised vehicles, except those who had been



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issued with a permit to use the BOAT. Or this could be reduced to just those with 4 or more wheels who would need a permit. Numbers of permits would be restricted. Horse drawn carriages would also be restricted as in option (1).

4. The BOAT has no restrictions.

Fibre broadband speeds

The WVA has investigated fibre broadband speeds in Westcott but believe that they are acceptable for most of the village. This was perhaps reflected in a very low response to our appeal to hear from people in the village experiencing poor service. Nevertheless, the WVA would still be interested to hear from anyone with download speeds routinely less than 24 MBPS to establish where/ whether there is still a case for a Community Fibre Scheme

Second Defibrillator

The second Defibrillator purchased by the WVA has been installed in the old Phone Box on the corner of The Burrell and St John's Road. This, together with the one already outside the new Village Store, now provides two points in the village where emergency help can be accessed. In 2019 there were three incidents where the equipment was used and was much appreciated by the First Responders who attended.



New Defibrillator by The Burrell and St John's Road

New Village Store

The new grocery store in Masters House opened its doors at 7am on Saturday 6th March. The work that has been done is very impressive and it is a very welcome addition to the village's retail facilities. The Owner, Sena Satheeswaran, is keen to understand what his customers want to see on sale, so please chat to him and share your views. We also understand that he has applied for a Post Office counter licence which will bring the service back into the village after a gap of several years.

WVA Accounts and Meeting

The WVA accounts were boosted by a £500 tax rebate from Gift Aid contributions on annual membership

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subscriptions. Traditionally we ask for donations around May or June each year, and we will be sending reminders out again in a couple of months' time seeking voluntary contributions towards the work of the WVA. The proposal this year for the first time (to be approved at the AGM) is that there will be no link between donations and membership of the WVA. Every Resident would automatically become a member of the WVA. It is important to remember however that the WVA relies entirely on voluntary contributions as its primary source of funding.

The next WVA committee meeting will be held on **Thursday 13th May**. Please send your questions or concerns to the Trustees using the email address below. These will be answered directly, or via the WVA monthly update. The next opportunity to meet in person will be at the AGM, which this year is planned to be on **24th June with a BBQ at Westcott Sports Club**

Wild WESTfest

WESTfest

WESTfest is planned for **Sunday 18th July between 12 noon and 4pm**. Please put the date in your diary and make every effort to attend and support this local event which raises money for all sorts of local organisations – it is also great fun.

As always, you are invited to write to me to share opinions and ask questions of the WVA and we will respond to your enquiry.

With my best regards,

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

Sad to say the St John's Chapel Cafe is not up and running yet, but we will keep you posted as soon as we hear otherwise.



It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back following the national lockdown. The children have settled in well and have amazed us all with their resilience and enthusiasm for learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who worked extremely hard providing remote learning as well as teaching the children attending school. In addition, I would also like to thank the Surrey Hills All Saints parents/carers for their continued support through these challenging times.

It is with great sadness, I am writing to say goodbye as I have been appointed Head Teacher at Ashley C of E Primary School. I have greatly enjoyed my time at Surrey Hills and am immensely proud of the school and its wonderful achievements - the hard work, the celebrations, the shared successes and the development of an amazing school for our communities.

At the heart of Surrey Hills is, of course, the children. Their energy, enthusiasm, smiles, humour and achievements have made my time here so rewarding. It has been a pleasure to see the children at Surrey Hills growing and developing into such confident, successful and happy learners. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a really big thank you to the staff for their commitment and hard work to ensure every child has a chance to reach their potential. I must also thank the LGC members

for their support and commitment. In addition, I would like to thank the community for your support, kind words and encouragement – they have been much appreciated.

Although I will be sad to leave, I am looking forward to my new challenge, confident that the Good Shepherd Trust have appointed an excellent Head Teacher, Simon Coles. Mr Coles is greatly looking forward to working within the Surrey Hill All Saints Primary School community in the near future and feels highly privileged and excited to work collaboratively with children, staff, parents and governors alike. "This is a fantastic opportunity to lead and build on the developments and successes already made and continue to deliver the rich educational experience that all at Surrey Hills deserve. I look forward to meeting you all in the Summer Term."

The Good Shepherd Trust is fully committed to providing the best possible education and care for all children, in addition to the continued development and success of the school. All members of the Trust family look forward to working in partnership with Mr Coles and every member of the Surrey Hill All Saints team, to ensure that each child at the school is able to flourish in every respect.

Here are some highlights from the rest of the Spring term.

SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS (cont.)

Share a Wave



As part of Well Being Week, Surrey Hills All Saints participated in the Dorking School Partnership 'Share a Wave' project. This project was a way of sharing some friendship, hope and positivity around the local area, by decorating a wave and displaying this in in a window. We hope you saw lots of friendly waves around the local area.

100 Challenge

As a school we took part in the 100 challenge, in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore. Well done to those



children who participated in a variety of ways, including running 5km for 10 days and reading 10 pages, for 10 days.

World Book Day

We had great fun celebrating reading on World Book Day. Whether the children were in school or learning from home, both the children and staff looked fabulous dressed as characters from their favourite books.



Don't forget to follow us on Twitter and Facebook. Here you can see daily life at Surrey Hills All Saints and can share in the amazing learning opportunities the children experience each day. We wish our local community well and hope everyone is staying safe.

Twitter @SurreyAllSaints,
Facebook @Surrey All Saints.

Mrs Ratcliff
Headteacher



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Keeping Our Village Safe

A big thank you to everyone that continues to change behaviours and make sacrifices to keep people across our village safer from the challenges of COVID-19. Sadly, we are all starting to come to know friends and family that have been directly impacted by the impact and aftermath of the virus.

All we can do is to employ common sense and follow the advice given to us. A powerful message is to assume that the other person has COVID-19 and to behave sensibly in that circumstance. It's vitally important too that we look after each other and do not forget the impact on mental health and wellbeing.

It is clear that as our community emerges out of lockdown it is vital to stay alert. Whether its "Hands Face Space" or "Stay at Home" – please do look after yourself.

By the time you read this, colleagues in NHS Surrey Heartlands tell us that we should be some way through vaccinating people in the 50-60 age bracket.

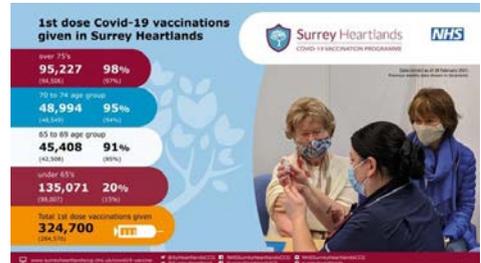


As at the end of February over 320,000 Surrey residents had already had their first vaccine dose and that included 20% of those of us under 65 years old. For the very latest information you can visit their website at www.surreyheartlandscg.nhs.uk – it is full of other interesting things too.

It's okay not to feel okay



If you ever need help then ring NHS 111 or contact your GP – you do not have to fight the impact of COVID-19 alone.



Thank you once again to everyone across the village who is continuing to

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

provide support to those in need – it really is appreciated.

By taking part, you helped make sure you and our community will get the services needed now and in the future.

Census 2021

Last month was the time for the national census. Thank you to everyone for completing this key piece of national and local government planning.



The first census was in 1801 and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) runs it in England and Wales. Collected every ten years, the census is a survey that gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. The census is unique. There is simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in.

All kinds of organisations, from local authorities to charities, use the information to help provide the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare. Without the census, it would be much more difficult to do this.

More numbers

On the topic of numbers that tell us about our village, the most recent electoral role update tells us some interesting things.

A few years ago, we looked at the most frequent surnames in Westcott – for adults these are now:

| Westcott Surname | Number of Adults |
|------------------|------------------|
| Brown | 24 |
| Smith | 14 |
| Lewis | 11 |
| Sawyers | 11 |
| Thompson | 11 |
| White | 10 |
| Cook | 9 |
| Phillips | 9 |

Housing in our community ranges in size, with the highest number being six adults recorded in a single home in four different locations and thirteen different homes having five adults in them. There are 302 homes with only one adult out of the 922 homes with adult occupiers recorded in them.

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That hat gets everywhere!

Pic by Jacki Moss

THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

That 922 figure compares to the council's overall record of 987 total dwellings – which, among other things, might give us an indication of the volume of properties locally that are changing hands at any one time.

Mole Valley Electoral Ward Boundary Review

The national Local Government Boundary Commission for England have recently announced that it is time for the electoral wards across Mole Valley District Council to be reviewed – the last one happening over 23 years ago.

At that time the changes were set out in a handy map:



This gave rise to 21 different wards, six with three councillors elected singularly each year for a four year term (the fallow year being the County Council election year), eight having two councillors and seven wards, like Westcott, having just one councillor elected every four years.

For Westcott, in 1997 there were 1,710 electors compared to the average per councillor at that time of 1,545 – making Westcott the largest single member ward in the district.

With 1,848 voters in Westcott now, it is easy to see how our village has grown over those 23 years.

The first step is for the council to decide how many councillors it needs in the future. There are currently around 1,650 voters per councillor across the District and the national direction of travel seems to be towards 1,900. That would imply moving from the current 41 councillors to probably somewhere between 33 and 39, depending on a range of other things, and it might mean Westcott is about right already.

Another major factor is how many councillors are required to be able to govern the council – enough for the Cabinet and for others to scrutinise decisions, for Development Management and Licencing functions and for being able to fully represent the people of Mole Valley in our delivery

WESTfest is BACK!!!

After a year of COVID-cancellations,
join us for some much needed fun!



Sunday 18th July 2021
12-4pm

WESTfest, the Westcott village summer fair started in 2015. The community comes together on Cradhurst Recreation Ground in the centre of the village for an afternoon of fun, food and shopping; Surrey Hills Wood Fired Pizza, Silent Pool Gin, Bucking Bronco ride and a Shooting gallery, plus live music from 'The Wanted Men' and many more stalls and entertainments already confirmed.

MORE INFO: www.facebook.com/westfestsurrey
www.westcottvillage.com/westfest

GET IN TOUCH: westfestsurrey@gmail.com 07710 425487

THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

partnership and in civic duties.

This time around, the expectations are that Mole Valley could move to:

- having all residents represented by three councillors with each ward electing one councillor annually (hence the top and bottom of the range are numbers that divide by three!) or
- all out elections where all wards elect once every four years.

Either way, the changes will mean that the District has all out elections in 2023 to start the new boundaries.

Getting Out and About

Some readers will know that, as part of my continuing Long COVID therapy recovery plan, I am taking the chance to walk (always socially responsibly accompanied) around our local area and to explore places that I've been meaning to get to over the last 25 years of living in our village.



It has been fabulous to explore our heritage, including the World War II pill boxes and the wider National Trust estate and the North Downs Way – including watching Spring arrive such as the Catkins which I'm told are very bee friendly.



Helping aid my route choices is the now refurbished Landbarn Farm pedestrian railway crossing. Thank you to everyone that contacted National rail with me to help encourage them to get this completed – it really was appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you out and about around our village. In the meantime, if you ever need to contact me, then please do feel free to email james@10rookery.com or to call or text me on 07710 433793. Although I am still minimising my screen time as I recover, I will get back to you as soon as I can.

James Friend

KIDS' CORNER

Here are a list of some of the street names you can see around Westcott. When you are out and about on your daily walks, you could see how many you can find.

PARSONAGE LANE

INSTITUTE

WESTCOTT STREET

PADDOCK

HEATH RISE

THE BURRELL

STJOHNS

ASHLEY

WATSON

FURLONG

BAILEY

DAIRY

CHAPEL

PIPPBROOK

HOLE

BALCHINS

COAST

HEATH

POINTERS

MILTON

SCHOOL

LOGMORE

STONES



Road search provided by Betsy and Gaynor Morrison

BIG PAWS



Over the years there have been many reported sightings of big cats in Surrey, and in the past I even thought I saw one in the distance myself, although that time I put it down to needing a trip to the opticians. I never imagined I'd ever see anything close enough to be sure.

Last summer though, the story cropped up relatively close to home with SurreyLive's "Surrey Puma legend reignited as deer carcass found stripped to the bone", pointing at the possibility of a big cat hunting in the Hurtwood. Later a friend said she'd seen a big black cat on Ranmore, then this autumn, the reported sightings drew closer still, with a neighbour saying he'd recently seen a puma up on Leith Hill.

I was still amazed though, when cresting a short rise out running with my dog on a cold but sunny snow day in the middle of February, to see what I initially assumed must be a big dog sitting in the middle of the path about 50m away with its back to us, quite likely warming itself in the sun. I stopped, looking for an owner, hoping they would call it, but there was no one in sight and although the animal had a profile from behind much like a seated Great Dane, with a long back and relatively narrow rib cage, when it rose and made its way casually across the few meters separating it from the dense undergrowth to the side of the

path, it was most definitely a large dark coloured cat with a long low body shape and a splendid tail.

After giving it time to leave the scene, I rather cautiously went looking for paw prints in the snow. I don't know what you think, but it certainly leaves big prints, with no sign of claws. Since then I've kept an eye out for similar paw prints, and I've spotted a few more in the mud.



Why not keep an eye out whilst you're in the woods, and see if you can find evidence of the "Surrey Puma" yourself? Perhaps you might even catch a glimpse of it too.



GARDENERS' CLUB

2020 is the year we've really enjoyed our gardens. We are lucky enough to live in Westcott, a delightful rural community surrounded by an outstanding area of natural beauty. During lockdown many of us have made our gardens truly immaculate and planted vegetables, maybe for the first time.

In normal years the Gardeners' Club would have been there in the background to help and provide a bit of fun with two shows to present your

potentially prize-winning blooms or giant marrows.

Sadly in 2020, like so many organisations, we had to curtail our activities. No Gardening shows, no talks ...but also no subscriptions. A decision we made, as we were effectively closed. We did however, as a committee, continue to maintain the triangle of land near the old Indigo Spice as a wild flower area and provide an advantageously priced bulb supply. We also gave a generous donation to light up the Christmas tree on the village green.

Let's hope 2021 will eventually allow some return to normality. We're thinking positively (and hopefully). If you are an existing, or maybe an enthusiastic new member, full details of how to join the Westcott Gardeners' Club will appear in the next village magazine.

We are planning two shows, the Summer show on 10th July and the Autumn Show on 11th September. We would love more people to enter. It's fun and a friendly competition. This year unfortunately our lovely array of cups for both adults and children have remained in the cupboard. Such a



GARDENERS' CLUB (cont.)

shame. However, we did feel one of our committee deserved a special acknowledgement. The Banksian medal is our top trophy, normally awarded to the member who has notched up most points in our two shows. This year no one could qualify so the committee have unanimously, and virtually, awarded it to Sheena Salmon. Sheena is our wonderful secretary and the award is made in recognition of her hard work and achievement in keeping the society running after the sad death of our former chairman, Jeremy Deloford.



We do hope to meet new and old members at our talks and lectures in 2021. But meanwhile we plan to try and keep your interest in gardening and nature alive in 2021. So, watch out for our mystery wild flower photo in the magazine.

Our AGM will be held by Zoom, courtesy of the the Village Association,

on Wednesday 24th March. We also plan to have a Zoom lecture by Katherine Crouch, a BBC gardener of the year, on "New tricks for old gardeners". This will be on 21st April at 7.30 pm. Non-members are welcome to attend this talk, and if you wish to do so please contact me for the Zoom link. To express an interest in joining us and receive our email updates do contact me.

In the past we have collected the subscriptions in cash when the street steward delivered the membership card, but this year we are hoping that members will pay electronically. The Benefits of membership are:

- Entry to both shows for Exhibits
- 10% off at Buckland Nurseries
- 10% off servicing garden machinery at MPS
- Discounted bulb sales
- Discounted Compost
- Free Raffle for Hampton Court tickets at the Spring Talk

All of these benefits for just £5.00 per household per year. Our membership year starts on 1st April.

Full details will be in the Village Magazine and emailed to you. If you're not on our email list do contact me.

Alistair Meldrum
Chairman
a.meldrum@sky.com

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DORKING CHORAL SOCIETY

Dorking Choral continues to enjoy weekly Zoom rehearsals. The format is light-hearted with time for an informal chat as well as exploration of the choral repertoire, singing along with well-loved choirs selected by our DJ/Chorus Director, Tim Ferguson who is still holed up in Norway. Members are revealing their musical favourites during weekly "Desert Island Discs". Thanks to the miracle of modern technology we are joined from time to time by well known guests who give us the benefit of their experience. Amongst those in February was Robert Hollingworth, Director of I Fagiolini, whose entertaining concerts can be seen at Home (ifagiolini.com), Anyone interested in joining our sessions please call Sarah on 07940 710198.

Over the weekend of 1st and 2nd May, we are sponsoring a "Song Surgery" morphed to cope with the current performance climate and are offering personalised mini-recitals – 30 minutes, in parties of two households or up to 6 people from different households – as a socially distanced dose of live culture in a private garden setting. Bibi Heal will be accompanied by piano on one day and accordion on the other. Please visit our website for further information. dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk



HOLMBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

Sadly, the second lockdown arrived just as the choir was beginning to get into the swing of socially distanced rehearsals at St Mary's Church, Holmbury St Mary. Members are keeping their voices in trim through Musical Evenings organized by their conductor, Amy Bebbington, looking back with nostalgia at works performed in previous concerts. These involve singing along with recordings and videos of our concerts. Reliving much loved works by composers such as Lauridsen, Whitaker, Vaughan Williams and many others only serves to whet our appetites for the day when real singing returns. Regular Quiz Nights are keeping us in social contact. Keep up with developments on future activities and concerts at our website (www.holmburychoral.org)



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Sprung!

Spring that is, reptiles have come out of hibernation, some species of butterflies are out and birds are at their most vocal – what a pleasure it is to hear the dawn chorus after months of relative dreary silence.

Springing into song

From March to July, those feathered alarm clocks are at it again, as they defend their territories and sing to attract a mate. Our songbirds time their breeding season to the warmest part of the year, when there is plenty of food and lots of daylight in which to find it. As winter turns to spring, the lengthening daylight switches male songbirds into breeding mode.



The first songsters of the season are residents such as robins and great tits, joined later on by migrants like

chiffchaffs and blackcaps to make May and June the peak time to enjoy the dawn chorus.

The early bird gets the worm

The first birds begin to sing about an hour before sunrise. If you listen carefully, you may notice that there is a regular sequence, with some species habitually starting before others. Among the earliest to rise are skylarks, song thrushes, robins and blackbirds, and as they do eat worms there may be some truth to the old saying!

A more relaxed approach is taken by wrens and warblers that typically appear later. These smaller birds, who are perhaps more sensitive to the coldness of dawn, feed on insects that themselves appear later in the morning.

He who sings last...

Singing is hard work, and uses hard won food reserves, so it is the fittest, best-fed males who produce the strongest, most impressive song. Females therefore choose a mate who sings best, because such a male is more likely to be good at raising chicks, to have a good territory, or to pass successful genes to their young. In many species, once the female has been attracted, the male will sing less



often. A bird that sings on and on, late into the season, is probably a lonely bachelor who has failed to attract a mate.

Toady shenanigans

The annual event of toads mating is well under way and never has the phrase 'hanging on for dear life' been more apt. The male toad gripping his partner with all his might speaks volumes about the biological imperative to pass on your genes. So powerful is the urge, he might have grabbed any suitable object in range, were no female available. Male toads have been known to seize other male toads, frogs, small fish, tennis balls floating in the water, even the hands of volunteers running toad crossings on busy roads! Sometimes several males will all pile on, forming waddling scrums.



The no-nonsense mating position is known as amplexus, from the Latin for

'embrace', and is used by toads and frogs worldwide. In many species, the mature male has special adaptations to strengthen his grip; the male common toad, for instance, has a spiny 'nuptial pad' on each thumb. This looks like a dark extension to the three inner fingers, and can be used to determine a toad's sex. The other clue, perhaps more obvious, is size – female toads are much bigger, especially in spring when their bellies bulge with unfertilised eggs.

When spawning does occur, female toads produce long strings of eggs, rather than the clusters of spawn laid by frogs. The tadpoles behave differently to those of frogs too – swimming in shoals rather than individually. Toad tadpoles are also unpalatable to fish, unlike their froggy relatives.

Butterflies with attitude at altitude

Butterflies emerging are mainly the ones that over winter as adults, typically Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral. The Red Admiral was in the past a migratory butterfly not surviving the winter but a recent increase in numbers indicates that they are now overwintering in the south of England.

One tough little butterfly that emerges early is the Grizzled Skipper, though small and moth-like it is indeed an



attractive little butterfly. Unlike the butterflies that overwinter as adults, this butterfly overwinters as a chrysalis. It's best seen on a hot spring day, when males basking in the sun wait for rival males to enter their domain. The aerial dog fights that follow are remarkable for their ferocity! The males circle and dive and soar, each trying to outmanoeuvre the other and. Few butterflies can match these spectacular aeronautics.

Inquisitive dogs and Adders

Just a little note of caution for dog walkers. It's about this time of year that Adders will be coming out of winter hibernation. Dogs are occasionally bitten by adders; although the bites are painful they are very rarely fatal. Adders are quite timid in nature and will not usually bite unless they feel threatened or cornered. They prefer to move on if given the chance to do so. Due to their inquisitive nature, dogs

can sometimes disturb adders whilst exploring undergrowth making them susceptible to being bitten.

Our advice is to keep to paths, have your dog under close control and avoid scrub edges and long grass between April and October.

If your pet is bitten by an adder (or you suspect that it may have been), you should keep your dog calm and seek prompt veterinary attention. Most adder bites result in pain and inflammation around the muzzle, where bites usually occur. Vets in our area where adders occur, are generally experienced in treating pets that have received bites.

I hope you are all enjoying the warmer, sunnier weather and get a chance to go for a stroll on the downs to see the wonderful wildlife delights it has to offer.

Amanda
National Trust Area Ranger
amanda.barnicoat@nationaltrust.org.uk
Office: 01306 640062



Red hat among the catkins



E A S T E R —

Services at Holy Trinity Church

Holy Week and Easter Services in Holy Trinity Please book in.

We are delighted to let you know that we will be holding services in Church from Palm Sunday, through Holy Week to Easter. We anticipate then ongoing, with 8.30am Communion every Sunday.

Holy Trinity will be open for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays, 9:30am-4pm from Easter Sunday.

As always, we are very mindful of ensuring that we can hold our services in a safe manner. Therefore, we will be running a service booking system at Easter as we did at Christmas to ensure we can accommodate the congregation with social distancing. Unfortunately there will be no singing due to the restrictions, but there will be music.

If you would like to attend any of the services below, please email churchwardens@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk and we will reserve your space. Unless you state otherwise we will assume all members of your party are in a 'bubble' and can sit together.

Palm Sunday

Sunday 28th March 8:30am Communion

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 1st April 7:00pm Communion

Good Friday

Friday 2nd April 9:30am Prayer (no need to book)
2:00pm Service of the Last Hour

Easter Sunday

Sunday 3rd April 8:30am BCP Communion
5:00pm Easter Day Communion

Services on Zoom

These 'parish' online Zoom services have been held weekly since March 2020 and reflect the people of the Church in Westcott, with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music.

Palm Sunday

Sunday 28th March 4:00pm 4 O'Clock Church
An all-age service for Palm Sunday. For joining details please email Ellie, Children and Families' worker e.lister.holytrinitywestcott@gmail.com.

Easter Sunday

Sunday 3rd April 10:30am Easter Day Zoom Service
For joining details please visit our website to sign up to our emailing list or email Sarah, administrator sarah@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk or Alan, Vicar 01306 644868

This service can also be joined by telephone for those who prefer this

*We look forward
to celebrating with you*





BRITAIN'S BEST LOVED STAR TO HELP FORGOTTEN CHILDREN!

Britain's best loved star, **Joanna Lumley OBE**, will be taking time out next Monday, 8th March, to talk about how a British charity has been helping children in a region where conflict continues to be a frightening reality.



Kids for Kids, founded in 2001 by Patricia Parker MBE, when she had a chance encounter with a small nine year old boy in the deserts of Darfur, has been quietly adopting village after village in the remote region of Darfur, Sudan, where children live in arguably the most deprived conditions in the world. "Not even the geography teacher at Wycombe Abbey had heard of Darfur back then" said Patricia. "Who would believe that someone as wonderful as Joanna would become our Patron? Now, on Monday she is going to interview me live on Zoom at our virtual 20th Birthday Party. It's a miracle that Kids for Kids has continued without a break to adopt villages year after year, despite conflict which has destroyed countless lives and homes - and it's a miracle to have Joanna's support. One day I hope she will meet the little boy whose lonely walk for water across the desert was the inspiration behind the charity."

With the help of Patrons which include **Julie Etchingam, Timothy West, Eamon Holmes and Miriam Margolyes** and nearly **4,000 supporters across the world**, Kids for Kids has transformed the lives of over half a million people living out of sight in the remote villages of Darfur.

If you would like to join in the celebrations, tickets are minimum donation £10 from <https://www.kidsforkids.org.uk/event/20th-birthday-celebratory-evening/>

Please bring a glass (or two)!

www.kidsforkids.org.uk

for further details: Anna@kidsforkids.org.uk 07957206440

Note to Editor:

Kids for Kids adopts a village, introducing an integrated package of grass roots projects identified by the villagers themselves as things they are in need of most – and which will help them out of poverty long term. The 'lend a goat' scheme is the key focus of Kids for Kids, we provide goats for milk to strengthen people's immune systems. The training of midwives and first aid workers, planting sustainable forests and fruit trees, installing water pumps in villages so they have clean, fresh water and building kindergartens are all part of the charity's work towards creating a sustainable and lasting change.

www.kidsforkids.org.uk contact@kidsforkids.org.uk
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DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING REVIEW

Are you a survivor or victim of church related abuse?

Could you help the Diocese of Guildford to learn from the past and protect the future?

The Diocese of Guildford is currently reviewing all its records, across all 162 parishes, to ensure that all safeguarding concerns and allegations have been identified, reported, and appropriately actioned. Critical to this, is the voice of survivors and victims. The Diocese of Guildford wants to listen to and to learn from your experiences and ensure that your voices are heard throughout this review process.

Coming forward

Anybody who would like to give information or make disclosures about church-related abuse is asked to contact Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Jackie Broadfoot on jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk or 07918 559387.

Support is available

The Diocese recognises that coming

forward may be extremely difficult and dedicated support has been set up for you. Two confidential listening services have been set up, for those people who have experienced church related abuse but who might want to talk through their experiences and feelings before taking any next step.

To find out more about the support available please check out this website address. [www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/safeguarding/past-cases-review-2-\(pcr2\)](http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about/safeguarding/past-cases-review-2-(pcr2))

Building the safest community we can

Bishop Andrew, Diocesan Bishop for the Diocese of Guildford explains why we are doing this: "It is important we do everything we can to make our churches the safest places they can be. Safe means different things to different people but this review will help us to ensure that the concerns reported to our churches have been dealt with properly, and the care taken and the support given is of the high quality that people rightly deserve. We have learnt from a previous review that that survivors and victims' voices are critical, and I would urge you to come forward."



DORKING GROUP of ARTISTS



SPRING 2021
ONLINE EXHIBITION
www.dga.gallery



Although for most of the world, normal life has been put on hold we are incredibly thankful that we've been allowed to remain open, continuing the fun we had together last year and experiencing many new things as we leapt forward into 2021.

In January the frosty weather gave us the opportunity to investigate what happens to water when it freezes and then melts. We don't mind being chilly if it means we get to paint with ice, chip away at it, move it around with our dumper trucks and best of all build igloos for the penguins! We were lucky enough to find the last of the small amount of snow that fell in the park, when we ventured out on an Arctic expedition.



Alongside our wintery theme, we learnt all about transport and enjoyed building our own garages, making racetracks and learning some different road signs. We discussed road safety and the various things we can do to

protect ourselves if riding our bikes on the road. Our crossing the road song helps us remember these things in a fun way!

Our culinary skills continued to develop and delight! We created chewy chocolate biscuits and tasty traffic light pizzas, with green, red and orange toppings. Everything we make is entirely from scratch and we produced our own (secret recipe) dough for perfect pizzas! We've also been keeping the birds of Abinger well fed by making bird feeder hoops to hang in the trees.

Although we're not really going anywhere at the moment our imaginations allow us to explore the rest of the world from the safety of the Evelyn Hall, where we went to the Airport, boarded a plane and made our way to Africa - all with the help of our homemade passports. There's simply no stopping us!

What a lot of lovely snow February brought us! We were extremely excited to crunch across the thick, magically untouched white carpet, laid for us in our nursery garden. It was, for everyone a break from the norm and a chance to get properly playful with friendly snowball fights, snow castle building and snow angel creating. It was also the perfect excuse to warm up with a hot chocolate!

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We learnt about the rest of the world by celebrating some international events. On Australia day we chose to make delicious Anzac biscuits and for Chinese New Year we opened up a Chinese restaurant, which we decorated with homemade lanterns. We are all now experts with chopsticks!!



One day we decided we wanted to dance, so we pulled out our best ever dance moves and listened to a wide variety of music to see which suited our moves most. Classical, jazz, rock, swing, you name it, we boogied to it. So much so we had our very own dance off!! Later, we made music shakers to continue the musical theme and shook them within our mini orchestra.

Of course February also gave us an opportunity to think about love and we talked about all the people that are special to us. We made some beautiful cards and salt dough heart decorations for them to enjoy. We

embraced all things pink with pink rice, love hearts and pom poms to play with! What a way to celebrate Valentines!

And so to March with the promise of Spring, World Book Day, Mother's Day and then Easter! The sunnier days are getting longer and we have been learning all about things that grow. One of our parents kindly made us a fantastic planter which gave us the opportunity to choose what we would like to grow. We are looking forward to watching the process and being able to eat the end products! Alongside our fruit and veg we are each growing individual sunflowers. Watch this space for a picture of the tallest of them all!

If you have a child looking to start Nursery in the Summer Term or in September please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!



Kate Fairbrass

Snowman ready for anything

ANN MORRISON MONIE 1923 - 2020



Ann was born Ann Morrison Grindlay in 1923 on the 29th September, Michaelmas Day, and she used to refer to herself as a Michaelmas goose.

She grew up happily in London and eventually boarded at Wycombe Abbey. Then when World War II broke out, she quickly signed up to join the women's army. She trained in Guildford and was posted to Southern Command HQ at Wilton House just outside of Salisbury. She worked there as a secretary organising comforts for the troops. She also felt one of her duties was to dance with the troops especially the Norwegians, as "Dancing with them was the least we could do as they'd lost everything!" Ann was later posted to Whitby, North Yorkshire, where she met her husband-to-be, Neil Monie, who was stationed there in the 1940s. "He took me under his wing," she once reminisced.

Neil and Ann married in 1947 and bought a house in Westcott in the early 1950s to be nearer Neil's parents in West Horsley. They had many shared interests such as walking in the hills and birdwatching. Ann enjoyed village life and founded the Coffee Mornings at the Reading Room in 1966 which - until the recent pandemic - was still going strong. Neil and Ann regularly holidayed in St David's, Wales, where they tried

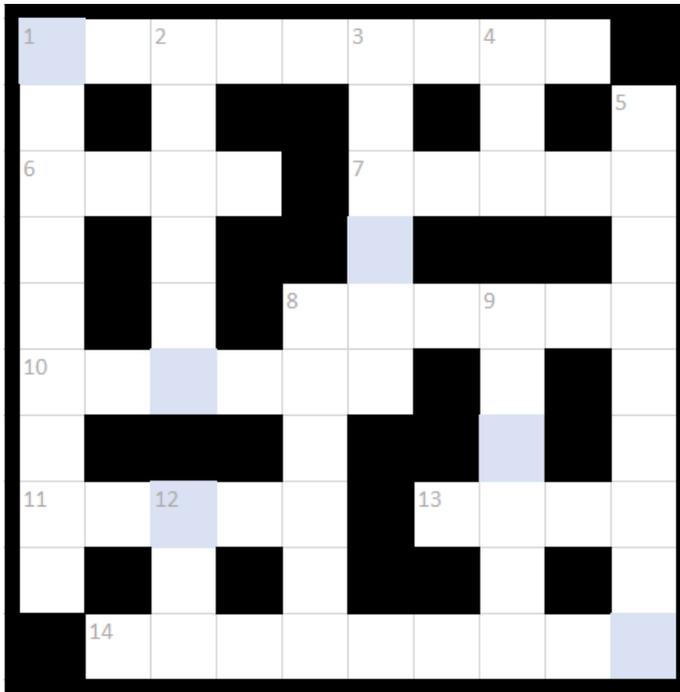
their hand at surfing. Very sadly, in 1971 Ann's husband Neil died at the age of just 51 leaving Ann a widow. Ann got involved in many local activities and good causes, including helping to found the Westcott History Group in 1999. She also took up Scottish Dancing with her friend Pauline Huxtable as well as taking a keen interest in historic building restoration and preservation. She was also well known for her love of dogs whom she regularly walked up into the Surrey Hills.

In 2017 a friend of Ann's, seeing that she needed help in the garden, recommended someone who had lived in the village for many years. He and Ann became very good friends and she asked him to help in the house, and then with her failing health to organise additional carers for her too. He managed this with Ann's best interests at heart and helped give Ann a final new lease of life. He took Ann on a holiday to Salisbury to revisit where she was based in the war; along with another carer they had a lovely time taking a trip down memory lane. On the 8th September 2020, Ann died peacefully at home after a spell in a hospital due to a seizure. She was much loved by many and will be very much missed by the Westcott community.



Ann playing an extra in a period drama shot in Shere

APRIL PUZZLE



This month we have a crossword, supplied by a puzzle setter who said he'll provide a prize for the first person to solve the puzzle and work out the Easter related word using the letters in the grey boxes. Email your answers to editor@westcottmag.com and the winner will be announced next month.

Across Clues

1. Large scale military exercise (9)
6. Steak and kidney is a type of these (4)
7. A holiday representative, famous for his beard and outfit (5)
8. Used in music notation, the Italian term for "tied together" (6)
10. Name for a young feline (6)
11. Bitterly regretting (5)
13. Greetings, from a country shaped like a boot (4)
14. Collection of literary works (9)

Down Clues

1. Cartographers (9)
2. Author of Five Children and It, E. ____ (6)
3. Invisible (6)
4. Kanga's child (3)
8. Measure from end to end (6)
9. Legs ____, anagram of Kombai (6)
12. What is the relationship of Tiny Tim to Bob Cratchit? (3)

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READING ROOM



Welcome to spring from all of us at the Reading Room. We are planning to reopen the Hall for all activities on Monday 17th May 2021 in line with Government plans. That means that all regular users can return and we can also start to accept casual bookings for children's parties, fundraising events etc. in a COVID safe environment.

There are a number of weekly slots available to weekly users so please do contact us via the website or phone number to see what good value the Reading Room represents for social, artistic, creative and healthy activities.



We still have a car parking space available for annual contract to allow those with limited/poor parking options to have a secure place with easy access 24/7.

The Reading Room offers a large hall with stage, tables and chairs to seat 96. fast Wi-Fi, variable lighting, a mobile speaker system, piano, full kitchen, large storage lockers, small meeting room with separate access and ample car parking.

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Westcott Village Hall Trust



Westcott from the North Downs Way - photo by James Friend

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February ended with Spring well and truly in the air, the sun shone and the spring flowers burst into bloom and the beginning of March saw the birds singing loudly and nest building with earnest.

As a consequence of Mr Johnson's 'road map' the Trustees of QRMW made the decision to postpone our annual Anniversary celebration for a month and it will now take place on Saturday 3rd July. This year our Guest of Honour will be one of our wonderful Chelsea Pensioners and they will be joining us at the woodland.

A Commemoration Service in the Garden of Remembrance will take place when we will plant a tree in honour of all Chelsea Pensioners and some veterans' families will be planting saplings in memory of their loved ones. There will be entertainment by one of our own Veterans and I personally can't wait for the performance in the woodland by The Gospel Choir from The Willesden Church of The New Testament!

There will be a BBQ and a bar plus some exciting stalls selling beautiful crafts, a Grand Raffle, a Bottle Tombola and a cake stall. We are also lucky to have The Vipers Military Band and a number of vintage vehicles on display, all making 3rd July a day of honour and celebration to which ALL are welcome, so do make a note in your diaries.

In the meantime I have been busy in lockdown making bird boxes. Some ready for hanging in various sizes and shapes and some in plain wood for you or children to decorate. Please contact debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk for prices and to order.



All monies raised by QRMW go into the memorial fund to assist those Veterans who need immediate assistance as well as improving the woodland, a safe place where Veterans can come to reflect, walk and talk with like minded individuals.

The woodland has been recognised for its therapeutic qualities by various organisations who help Veterans suffering the effects of active service. But the woodland is there for ALL to enjoy the flora and fauna of an English ancient woodland so I look forward to meeting you and making you a cup of tea as we go into the warmer weather and better times to come.

Paul Cooling
Chairman

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DORKING MUSEUM

At the time of writing, Boris' 'lockdown roadmap' is promising the gradual opening-up of the country over the coming months to a mass sigh of relief. Some aspects of life will be returning to something resembling a new normality.

In his "Recollections of Old Dorking" (1878), South Street linen-draper Charles Rose wrote of life in the town of his childhood in the early 19th century. He recalls that Easter was 'a great Church festival', but that 'Good Friday was not then regarded, either as a holy-day or a holiday, as it is at present'



and that shops were 'open throughout the day till dusk. "Hot-cross" buns were as plentiful and as generally partaken of then as now, and in the early part

of the morning the youngsters were as active in carrying out the buns, and selling them, as of Good Fridays of the present time.'

However, it does appear that museums will not be able to reopen until May, so we will not be able to hold our regular Easter family activity in the Museum this year. But do not despair ...

Family Easter Activity Packs: Unleash your children's springtime creativity with an Easter Activity Pack, compliments of Dorking Museum.

Inside each pack will be everything you need to make an egg-citing Easter or Spring greeting card. Just add felt pens and a bit of glue.



The Easter Activity Packs will be available to collect starting Friday 2nd through to 17th April.



Hop on over to our friends at Head for the Hills on West Street to collect yours. An adult needs to accompany a child, and there is a limit of two packs per family, please. Details will be included in the pack for sharing photos of your incredible creations on the Museum website. Activity packs are free for the

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

asking, but supplies are limited, so do not miss out.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service: The Museum is excited to be one of 10 Surrey organisations nominated for the 2021 awards. The QAVS is the



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

highest national honour presented to local volunteer groups across the UK, awarded to exceptional groups of volunteers who regularly contribute their own time to enhance and improve the lives of others, and whose level of initiative and impact are truly outstanding. It is the MBE for volunteer groups and is awarded for the lifetime of the organisation. We would like to thank those who nominated, supported and recommended the Museum. Winners will be announced on 2nd June.

LGBTQ+ community: The preparation of our E M Forster exhibition last year (currently on hold) reminded us that the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements are topics on which history has frequently remained relatively silent, often because of the

social mores, conventions or legal framework of the time.

Museum Chairman Kathy Atherton says, "As life for LGBT people has changed so much in the last 30 years, and none of it tends to be documented (except in the newspapers), this seems to be an area of history that we may have neglected. Even people growing up in the 1970s and 1980s will have stories that are very different from life today. And LGBT history tends to be focussed on the big cities – we don't know what life was like in a small town, even relatively recently.

"We would like to be able to reflect this perspective as part of our oral history project, ideally led and shaped by the LGBT community in recording their experiences. Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved or if you know anyone else who might be willing to be involved. This could be anyone in the LGBT community – even people growing up relatively recently are going to have experiences worth recording for posterity." If so, please contact admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk in strict confidence.

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Please check the website for re-opening, www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk.



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Old Man's Beard/*Clematis vitalba* (or Traveller's Joy)

This wild plant actually is a Wild Clematis and belongs to the Buttercup family. It is commonly seen growing in hedgerows where it stands out in the autumn and winter when it's covered in fluffy white seed heads or grey tufted balls which have a slight almond scent. The many fruits formed have long silky appendages which, seen together, give the characteristic appearance of an old man's beard. Many children may think that this plant was the inspiration for the trees in the Dr Zeuss film 'The Lorax'. These silky structures



are important in the dispersal of the seeds.

Invasiveness

In the UK and many parts of Europe, it may be seen in a variety of habitats such as the edges of woodlands, hedgerows, or within woods where a gap in the canopy has formed; though it does tend to like chalky soils – which is probably why it is seen so widely around Westcott. Due to its climbing behaviour, it is an invasive plant in most places, including many in which it is native. In New Zealand it is declared an “unwanted organism” and cannot be sold, propagated or distributed as it is a potential threat to native plants since it grows vigorously and forms a canopy which smothers all other plants.

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Historical Uses

Clematis vitalba was used to make rope during the Stone Age in Switzerland. In Slovenia, the stems of the plant were used for weaving baskets for onions and also for binding crops. It was particularly useful for binding sheaves of grain because mice do not gnaw on it. In Italy, the sprouts are harvested to make omelettes called "vitalbini" in Tuscany, "visoni" in Venice). It is also widely considered in the medical community to be an effective cure for stress and nerves.

Interesting Facts

The French name for Old Man's Beard is 'Herbe aux Gueux' – the beggar's or rascal's herb. This is a reference to its use by beggars; they used its acrid sap to irritate the skin to give it a sore and ulcerated look – in order to induce sympathy in, and perhaps a donation from, passers by!

**Jo Smewing
Westcott Gardening Club**

WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



To all our loyal volunteers and supporters.



**Hopefully by now you all have had at least your first vaccine,
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**However due to the ongoing uncertainty we are still not certain
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Stay safe, Jean

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The theme for this year's Earth Day (April 22nd) is 'Restore Our Earth' and, with this in mind, this month we're looking at ways to encourage wildlife.

Local expert Gail Jeffcoate - a volunteer with the charity Butterfly Conservation and author of 'The Box Hill Book of Butterflies' – says ' what is becoming known as Ecological Tidiness Disorder is a huge problem. Over-cutting of vegetation and mowing of verges is resulting in over tidy gardens, parks, cemeteries etc that no longer support butterflies, moths and other insects that are crucial in the food chain. We are seeing 'trophic collapse' of ecosystems

because of loss of vegetation structure and resources needed by insects and, as Buglife puts it 'the small things that run the world.' With so much farmed land now ecological desert we need to look after these other spaces.

Please don't overtidy! Please don't overmow!



This is really important for moths too! For every kind of butterfly in Britain, there are 40 kinds of moth (only two eat clothes!) Moth numbers have declined dramatically, especially in southern England, and as their caterpillars feed many of our birds, moth losses are driving bird declines. Moths need plant debris and fallen leaves to provide shelter in the winter and feed on many native plants that we consider weeds.

So let's take it easy in the garden and elsewhere and not worry about a bit of natural untidiness, knowing that this allows nature to thrive!



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PLANTS TO BENEFIT BUTTERFLIES

Adult butterflies mostly feed on nectar, which they will take from cultivated and wildflowers. To attract butterflies, grow plants to provide nectar all through from spring to autumn, including: aubretia, Buddleia, candytuft, hebe, sedum, lavender, Michaelmas daisy, marjoram, perennial wallflower, red valerian, verbena bonariensis.



Red Admiral

years ago, and other bees, hoverflies, wasps etc. The Brimstone breeds on Buckthorn. It will use Alder Buckthorn and also Purging Buckthorn. These two are not related! Purging grows on chalky soils. One of the best things to do for butterflies in the garden is to grow a buckthorn.



Brimstones

Nectar-rich plants will feed adult butterflies, but won't increase their numbers. For butterflies to breed they need the specific plants their caterpillars feed on. Not many breed in gardens. Holly Blue will, if you have flowering Holly, ie female Holly that produces berries, and flowering Ivy. The spring brood of Holly Blue lays eggs on Holly buds, the late summer brood lays on Ivy flower buds.

Flowering Ivy is a really important plant. As well as Holly Blues the flowers attract Red Admirals in autumn, to feed but not breed. It also attracts a big range of other insects, eg Ivy Bee, a cute furry bee that only arrived in Britain a few



Peacock butterfly

Orange-tips breed on Garlic Mustard and Honesty and will use gardens. Nettles are used by Peacocks, Commas, Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshells - related butterflies, known as 'vanessids'. So, nettles are good in a garden but must be in full sun! Remember butterflies are cold blooded and need as much sun and warmth as possible.



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Nasturtiums will be used by the Large White and Small White (the two 'Cabbage Whites') for breeding. Grow them to attract the butterflies away from your cabbages! Hedges - with native plants such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn - are really important. Let them flower and produce fruit. Don't cut back hard every year. Brown Hairstreak, a fabulous butterfly that is common in this area but nationally scarce, lays its eggs on young Blackthorn in September and the eggs stay on the bushes through the winter. Many are lost when the hedges are cut back.



Brown
Hairstreak

A wildflower meadow with Common Sorrel will attract Small Copper; Birdsfoot Trefoil will attract Common Blue; the grasses attract 'browns' including Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Heath, Speckled Wood to lay eggs.



Small Copper

Don't cut all the meadow at once. Leave some patches uncut

over the winter. Many thanks to Gail Jeffcoate for providing all this invaluable information. 'The Boxhill Book of Butterflies' by Gail Jeffcoate is available from www.friendsofboxhill.org.uk

Gail has also been involved in the successful Surrey Small Blue Stepping Stones Project. This saw the creation of habitat stepping-stones to permanently link up the colonies of the Small Blue butterfly - a scarce and declining butterfly nationally - on the North Downs between Guildford and Box Hill. For more information on this please visit the Butterfly Conservation website.

RESTORE THE EARTH: WHAT CAN I DO?

Don't overtidy: Mow less often and leave plant debris overwinter, set aside space for nature.

Plant for wildlife: Plant a buckthorn, or one of the other plants mentioned above. It is wise to buy plants from an organic nursery to ensure that plants you are buying to benefit wildlife have not been treated with or grown using harmful chemicals.

Go chemical free: Pesticides are harmful to species that they are not intended to target, such as bees and other pollinators and humans. Find out more about alternatives to pesticides in the garden on the Pesticide Action Network website: www.pan-uk.org

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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



Al's Chimney Sweeps

When did you last get your chimney swept?



Alex Rapley of Al's Chimney Sweeps - Westcott's resident chimney sweep - explains why it's so important to get your chimney swept annually...

– that way you can be sure you've cleared everything.



“Ash build up occurs with all open fires and stoves, and there are two main dangers with leaving your chimneys un-swept;

1. Without proper ventilation using your fire may cause breathing difficulties, and in the worst cases, carbon monoxide poisoning

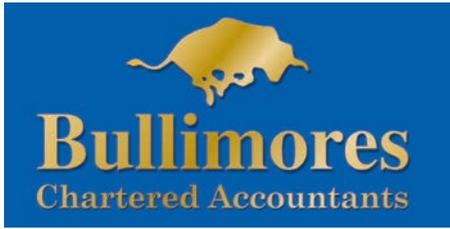
2. Creosote (a highly flammable tar-like by-product of burning wood) builds up all the time in your chimney and if left unchecked can cause a chimney fire. “

Sometimes birds build nests or roost inside chimneys which can also cause blockages and fire hazards. Alex says that's why it's so important to sweep the chimney right to the top, so the brush literally pokes out of the chimney

Alex has swept many chimneys over the years, and can share some horror stories: in one case he had to use a breaker and chisels to remove a long standing bird's nest that was so rock hard with flammable creosote resin, it was remarkable that it hadn't caused a major fire.

The residue that comes out of regularly swept chimneys is relatively small and





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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH (cont.)



easy to contain. Alex uses dust sheets to protect your carpets and furniture, and brings his Henry Hoover to make sure he clears up all the dust and debris.

It's advisable to have a properly lined chimney, Alex says this helps prevent smoke and gases escaping into the house, and protects the chimney masonry structure from heat and smoke damage. If you're not sure

whether your chimney is lined – Alex can tell you.

Any time is good to get your chimneys swept, particularly if you use your fire year round. Don't delay – give Alex a call today and book in your chimney sweep! **Al's Chimney Sweeps 07415 746276 (Fully insured).**

Anna Kemkers

BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Brockham Choral Society has just had their 1st rehearsal of 2021 which was a ZOOMING success.

Preparation for new music was gathered not only by the Music Selection Committee but by our enthusiastic Music Director Cole Bendall, supported with recordings of piano accompaniments distributed to the choir by our accompanist Marion Lea.

We are hoping that our voices will be heard in a live performance on May 22nd, featuring Dvorak 'Mass in D' and excerpts from Carl Jenkins the 'Armed Man' amongst other musical treats. The choir will be accompanied by the Covent Garden Sinfonia Wind Quintet with Cello.

When the current Covid situation allows us, we are ready to rehearse live at St. Joseph's Church as all the necessary Covid security checks are in place.

If you would like to join us you will receive a very warm welcome.

Please visit our website www.brockhamchoral.org for up-to-date information.





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HEDGEHOG SURVEY



A spike in appreciation for our English Country gardens!

A blessing many of us have been reminded of during this time is our awe and love of nature. The warm winter sun and the crisp, brisk air reminds us of who we are and the small priceless joys in life. Now that the race of cars have fallen silent the birds flock in the trees, their song carries on the morning breeze, a cup of tea in hand and the dappled light pouring through the canopy kissing your face... reassuring you that today will be a better day.

We cannot take any of this for granted anymore; we need to protect one another and our home, earth. If we want to make any positive impact, we can always think BIG, but we need to start local. An ideal place to start is quite literally right on your doorstep. Many of us here in the Surrey Hills are fortunate enough to have our own little pockets of nature. How we utilise these to create biodiversity can have a profound positive impact on conserving our native species.

An example of Britain's species in need of care is, in fact, our surveyed favourite. The hedgehog! The Western European hedgehog is the only species found across the UK, sadly declining at an alarming rate, with a 50% decrease in the last 20 years. They are our only spined animal pal in the

country. So, we need to do everything we can to look after these little guys!



Currently, there is a lack of scientific data because they are nocturnal creatures and usually solitary. The only way we can accurately measure the rate of their decline or any potential future improvement in population growth is by everyone working together, logging your hedgehog sightings to websites such as bighedgehogmap.org, so we can share where they were last spotted. This way, we can help create a stronger case to fight for their conservation.

If you would like to contribute and help conserve hedgehogs, you can do something to help:

1. Take part in a short but sweet survey aiding hedgehog research in our local area. Please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/hedgehogsurrey> (even if you have not seen a hedgehog, it's valuable to know where they are absent). Closing date: 30th April 2021

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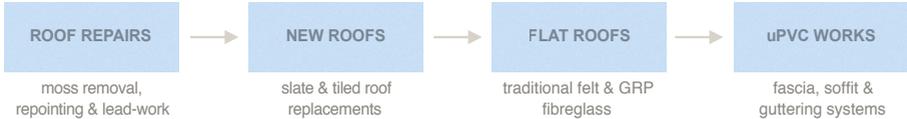


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HEDGEHOG SURVEY (cont.)



2. Invite your local hogs to your humble abode and create garden features they will LOVE!

3. A DIY hedgehog house; a fun little lockdown project for yourself or the family.



The most beneficial impact for your local hedgehogs is to create a small hole (13cm-13cm) at

the bottom of your property boundary. It is easy enough if you have a fence but a tad trickier with a wall. If it is not too shocking - consider taking a brick out at the bottom of your wall or check along the bottom of your boundary to see if there are any promising gaps that could be suitable for a small hedgehog.



Once making your hole, you can proudly mount a hedgehog highway

sign, so that will help others understand why there is a new hole in your wall and raise awareness. Hedgehogs shop around and like to visit several gardens in one night! So, the more of us who help create a network of gardens linked by boundary hog holes, the more we can provide what the hedgehogs and their hoglets need to survive.

Having an area of wildflowers in your garden, big or small, will encourage all hedgehog's favourite snacks! Such as beetles, earwigs, centipedes, and worms. They love slugs and snails, and what gardener would not be pleased to have a little helper around the place, remember NEVER use slug pellets or pesticides as this can cause serious harm to much of our British wildlife. The government has announced a UK-wide ban on Metaldehyde slug pellets from March 2022, if you do own any, rather than throwing away at home your local authority waste facilities will safely dispose of them.

Let us be stewards of our local nature; in turn, our ecosystem will flourish along with our happiness and awe of the natural beauty on our very doorsteps. If you would like to learn more and lead hedgehog conservation in your area visit - www.hedgehogstreet.org From one villager to another

Elaria Rich

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