

Westcott Village

Magazine

February 2022



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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
March issue:

8th February 2022

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



As I write this it has turned properly cold for the first time this winter, and I'm hoping this cold snap might help my seriously confused

garden, which had things flowering at Christmas which should have finished in October, and things that I ought to have cut back a couple of months ago that I can't bring myself to do yet because they're still growing! I'm quite enjoying getting to wear all the scarves and hats that it hadn't been quite cold enough for yet, too!

We have had some great photos sent in this month that have been taken on walks round Westcott, please keep sending them in so we can appreciate what beautiful places we are surrounded by.

Don't miss the meeting about the Reading Room and the Hut on 22nd February, and the coffee morning is back after a Christmas break on 2nd, so pop along for some coffee and company.

Next month I'll be adding a page with any village organisations that need volunteers, so if that's you, please send in details of any help needed and I'll put you on the list, and hopefully we can find you your perfect volunteer.

I hope you all stay safe and well during February and manage to get out and enjoy the countryside while wrapped up warm in those hats and gloves and scarves!

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com



WESTfest 2022

Westcott Village Summer Fair
Save the date: Sunday 26 June
Westfestsurrey@gmail.com

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



WEATHERING STORMS, FINDING HOPE

What a time to be a Virologist! At the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic everything changed so fast, it seemed surreal. Suddenly, friends and family were calling me about recipes for hand sanitiser (... does gin work?!) and the latest 'virus' news headline.

Now, nearly two years later, how are you faring? I saw a quote that 'we are all in the same storm, but in different boats'. Life is tough right now, but it's tough in different ways for each of us. We have had to live in isolation or perhaps found ourselves in unexpected household groups. We have depended on the kindness of family, friends and neighbours. We have a new appreciation for NHS and service industry workers. We have had to master technology,

...MAY WE SEE THE
WORLD BECOME A
KINDER PLACE...

even my 80-something Dad (... although there was that video call when he inadvertently activated the Charlie Chaplin filter and couldn't turn it off). We have found new ways of connecting - from Zoom Church to virtual meetings at the kitchen table.

At the beginning of the pandemic, virologists like myself all felt an urgency to step up. I am sure it was similar for health care workers. As a scientist, work was helpful in some ways, in giving me a sense of purpose. But then the impact of

personal circumstances would break through and I thought of people, including my friends and neighbours in Westcott, who faced different kinds

of anxiety about their health, families and livelihoods and the future. We all know the reality of being unable to meet people, illness or the sudden shock of bereavement.

Then came the great news that vaccines and therapies were available. Approval of vaccines for



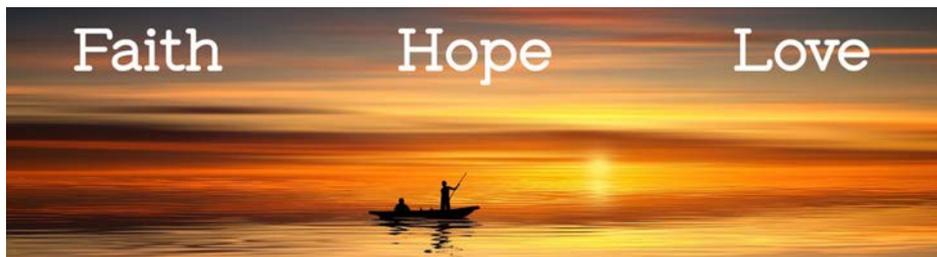
...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

coronavirus was almost miraculous, and the result of an extraordinary collective effort. For me, after many years working on novel vaccine technologies, being vaccinated myself with a newly developed vaccine was a strangely emotional experience. It gives us a new hope for the future.

Sometimes, I find myself grumpily wishing that things would 'get back to normal'. But at the beginning of

a new year, I am instead hoping for a 'new normal' - that we can all have a greater appreciation of what is really important. May we seek to understand the different ways in which others have experienced the storms of the past 2 years. May we see the world become a kinder place and remember that, in the words of St Paul: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love." (1 Corinthians 13:13)

Helen



Join a Life Group

Small groups of people who meet online or in person every 2 weeks to chat and pray about life & faith.

Life groups:

- explore ways we can bring God's love, justice and joy into our relationships with other people and creation, into our leisure and into our work
- give you an opportunity to explore the Bible and consider what it says
- use worship, simple contemplation and prayer to help us encounter God

Contact Richard Lister richardwlister@gmail.com for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

We are open!

Whether you've never set foot in a church before, have been all your life, or are somewhere in between, you're invited to come and step through the door. Do join us at our Sunday or Wednesday Services, or pause to enjoy the peace and beauty of Holy Trinity during the week.

We're not made to live in isolation, but in community with God and with one another, building friendships and sharing life together. How wonderful then, to be able to meet together as a community once again. We'll be open for Sunday worship, so do join us in person. We know that some people won't be able to do that, so we'll be sharing worship from Holy Trinity at 10:15am via Zoom too. Our doors are open to everyone, so however you step through the door, come on in!



Sundays at Holy Trinity

8:30am Book of Common Prayer Communion
10:15 Worship in Holy Trinity or on Zoom

Wednesdays at St John's

10am Communion

Every day at Holy Trinity

9:00am-4:00pm

Holy Trinity Church is open to visit, for private prayer or reflection.

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

*Visit our website to sign up to our emailing list for weekly Zoom invitations and updates.
We ask you to consider taking a covid test before coming, and request that masks are worn*



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LIFE



The Church in Westcott is 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**.

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants:

Margaret Packham 01306 885915 Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010

Ali Mabley 01306 889641

For help, more information, please contact churchwardens:

churchwardens@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

STAY IN TOUCH

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

Please sign up to receive emails by going our website:

https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/Groups/342308/Join_our_Emailing.aspx

or return this form by post to: Parish Office, St John's Community Hall, Furlong Road, Westcott, RH4 3PP

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.



CHRISTENINGS **YOUR CHURCH** **WEDDING** **FUNERALS**

MARKING LIFE EVENTS

All who live in Westcott or have a connection here, are very welcome to have christenings, funerals, weddings in Holy Trinity. Contact the churchwardens for more information.
churchwardens@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk,

SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

8.30am Book of Common Prayer Communion, A warm welcome in our beautiful, traditional service.

10.15am Friendly, relaxed service, using Common Worship and a range of music styles. **This service is also livestreamed on Zoom.**



For 10:15am Zoom service connection, please scan this QR code, or visit the Online Services page of thechurchinwestcott.org.uk and follow the link.



We ask you to consider taking a covid test before coming & request that masks are worn.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10.15AM
6th Feb	Fourth Before Lent	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
13th Feb	Third Before Lent	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
20th Feb	Second Before Lent	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
27th Feb	Last Before Lent	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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All are welcome

FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Westcott Village Association for sponsoring the church floodlighting for February.

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.)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Death

6th November 2021

Margo Large (87)

Gwen Bass (94)

22nd November 2021

Norma Cloudsdale (84)



WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

on
Wednesday 2nd February

at
The Reading Room



Come and join us

10.30am - 12.00 midday





Happy New Year to everyone!

New regular user for the new year is the Kickboxing Group meeting every Thursday evening from 6-9pm. Westcott has a strong UK reputation in this activity so do join up. More information from organiser Paul Killick via email to: killick521@gmail.com or call 07503 150163.

The hall is once again starting to be used for all ages children's birthday parties on weekend afternoons and also for occasional society and association evening meetings.

We still have some regular weekly user mid-week space especially on Thursday and Friday in daytime hours.

Do contact us for availability and rates with all the benefits of a large private car park on-site.

More information from the Reading Room website www.westcottreadingroom.org.uk or by phone on 07967 286636 or by email on westcottreadingroom@gmail.com



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Dear Resident,

Thank you

Because of the deadline for magazine articles, I was unable to make mention of the Carols around the Christmas Tree on 17th December. A somewhat belated thank you goes to Madeleine Brooks and Hannah Mayo for organising, and all the members of the Church choir for leading the carol singing around the tree, and to Jan Way and Andrea Gabb for organising the mulled wine.



The event was attended by around 120+ residents and we raised £340 for the two charities – Crisis at Christmas and the Surrey Hills All Saints Primary

school. Thank you all for your generous donations and for supporting the event which we will aim to repeat next Christmas – hopefully better prepared for the numbers attending and with the possibility of having electricity on The Green to supply music and a PA system!!

Village Projects

Over the latter part of 2021, the WVA discussed a number of projects across the village, but we need active support from residents to get these off the ground. If you are willing to give some of your time and talents to make these happen then please step forward. The WVA will lend support and any financing but we need people to do the “doing!”

These are the projects currently on our list:

- Once a month cleaning the Defibrillator “phone box” on the corner of The Burrell and St John’s Road
- Removing the rotten posts from the patch of land opposite Indigo Spice at the bottom of Logmore Lane/Heath Rise. Surrey County Council will replace these in their new financial year.
- Refurbishing of the Dovecote in the village – this involves sourcing a company/individual to do the work and getting quotes, then overseeing the work.
- Installing a drinking fountain



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somewhere in the village.

- Working with the Westcott History Group to research locations of historical interest around the village, design information signs, commission the signs and locate them, with a view to informing visitors to the village as they walk around. As an example - Did you know that Milton Street dates back to the 11th Century and is mentioned in the Domesday Book!



This is your chance to make a contribution to the village and make it a more interesting, and lively place to live and work in.

Communicating with Residents

We are aware that not everyone reads this magazine and we are constantly trying to improve the way in which we let you know what is happening in the village. If we do not have an email address for you, please let us know so that we can add you to our mailing list. Please drop a note to contact@westcottvillage.com and encourage friends and neighbours in the village to

do so. You may also like to know that we use Facebook posts and posts on the Nextdoor app, so make sure you have these on your phone and are signed up to alerts.

Financing the work of the WVA

We have decided to move completely away from collecting donations/subscriptions by knocking on doors to collect money. If you have not already done so....

An annual standing order for £10 – or more if you are happy to do so - with your bank is the quickest and simplest way to pay your subscription to the WVA (preferably on or around 1st June each year).

Our bank details are

Account Name: **Westcott Village Association**

Account Sort Code: **82-11-07**

Account No.: **20072790**

Alternatively, you can now set up an annual payment via PayPal on our website or you may want to write a cheque and send it to The Treasurer, WVA, c/o Queens Court, Westcott Street, Westcott, RH4 3NX.

With my best regards,

Tim Way

Chairman, Westcott Village Association

timway.westcott@gmail.com

contact@westcottvillage.com



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THE HUT & THE READING ROOM

Update on behalf of the Trustees of the Reading Room, and of the Hut

There is not much to report this month, other than to issue a gentle reminder of the Public Open Meeting to be held on 22 February 2022. Notice of such meeting was given in the January edition of this magazine and is repeated in this edition.

The explanation which I gave in my last update for the reasons why this meeting needs to be held can be found at www.westcottvillagehall.com, where you will also find further background information and guidance on how to make your views on this matter heard.

Do please get in touch with the trustees if you have any questions or concerns. The only question which has come to my attention so far is why the process proposed to be adopted is called a 'Cy-près' scheme. The term is taken from Norman French, and means 'as close as'. Hence it is used to describe a permission by the Charity Commission granted where the original intentions behind one charity, in this case the charitable trust in which the beneficial title to the Reading Room land is vested, can be better carried out by another charity, here The Hut charity which enjoys more flexibility in how it deals with its land assets.

The trustees look forward to seeing you at the Reading Room at 8pm on 22 February 2022.

Bernd Ratzke
On behalf of the trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO
8 January 2022



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Happy New Year! We hope you all had as lovely a festive period as we did...it turns out we were all on the nice list. Phew! It was probably because we did such an amazing job when we performed our Nativity loudly and proudly for our parents and carers,



in the church. In colourful costumes with dazzling dance moves and super singing, we got Christmas off to a great start. In fact we attracted the interest of a very special person who visited us early from the North Pole to give us each a present to read on Christmas Eve.



We were all so excited to return to nursery to see our friends and get stuck into the many adventurous activities waiting for us. We've started the year immersing ourselves into some of our favourite fairy tales. Three very well

dressed bears set up home in our role play area, cooking their porridge and sitting on their different sized chairs. We decided that Baby Bear's porridge was just right! We then headed off into the real woods and using our bear masks re told the story to each other in our own way.



Whilst we were away the wildlife in our garden decided make the most of their uninterrupted time and the moles created their own playground. The molehills are everywhere! But we say 'hooray!' freshly dug mud for our tractors and diggers and our main ingredient for our moreish messy mud pies.

We are delighted to announce that we are now offering breakfast and afterschool clubs. Full information can be found on our website abingercommonnursery.co.uk. If you have a child looking to start Nursery 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

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VOLUNTEER/BABY MEALS

In December we catered for Jon & Jo of St Johns Road with their first baby Edith-Joy. They wanted to share this grateful message with the Cooks.



“Dearest Chefs! Thank you so much for your support over the last few weeks, everyone had been so kind, and knowing that we would get a warm meal each day was unbelievable. Despite listening attentively to our friends with children and the NCT team nothing prepared us for this first few weeks. Edith-Joy has been an absolute Joy and having that extra time with our baby rather than slapping together a meal has been something that you have given us, and won't be forgotten. Massive thanks, and we look forward to introducing you all to Edie when we can get her out for a walk.”



Please get in touch if you think you could help out occasionally cooking meals for families with new babies and other Westcott residents in need, or if you know of someone in a time of difficulty, who might benefit from a few home cooked meals. And of course, please also get in touch if you're a Westcott resident expecting a baby, we have over 40 volunteers ready to cook for you in those first few weeks of new-baby chaos!

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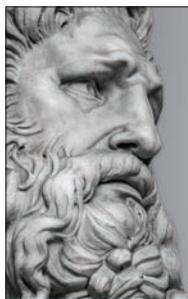
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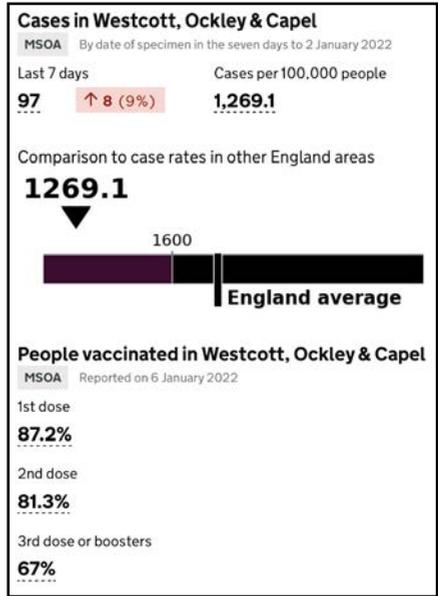
THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



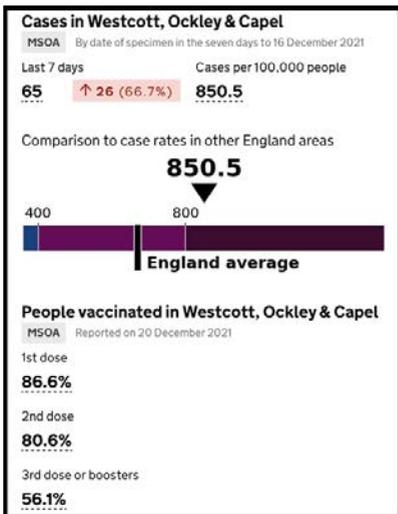
Keep Safe

It's difficult to start this article, written in early January, with anything other than the latest COVID situation – currently rising again in Westcott, Ockley & Capel (the smallest reporting unit for these things) following a small lull across Christmas.

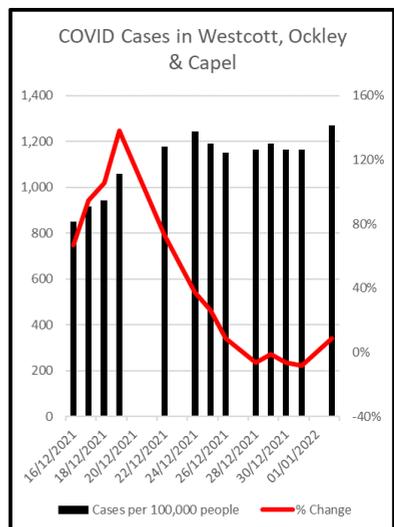
Just before Christmas we were well above the England average (from www.gov.uk):



The reduction in cases, potentially as people mixed (or tested) less during the festive period, has started to reverse giving a challenging start to the new year:



Now the rest of the country has accelerated past us:



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

A huge thank you to all my NHS colleagues, and other key workers, that are keeping us going through all this.

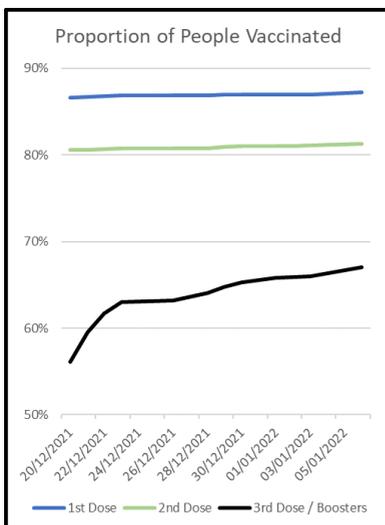
It's impossible to describe how our hospital emergency departments work, how it feels to be working on a ward or intensive care unit, unless you've experienced it first hand. Sometimes it feels like tomorrow will never come, but it does and they are there again for another shift for us and our families.

The main thing we can do to help them, is to get vaccinated. If you are unfortunate enough to require hospital care through covid, if you have been vaccinated you will probably be home within 100 hours without an intensive care stay; if you are not vaccinated you are more

likely to require intensive care with an uncertain outcome.

Needing intensive care usually means that someone who was waiting for urgent surgery, like a cancer or cardiac surgery patient, is less likely to be able to have their planned operation. Sadly, four people from Mole Valley lost their lives to COVID during December.

I'm pleased to say that the last two weeks have seen another one in nine Westcott, Ockley and Capel people get their third vaccine. The service at the Beare Green walk in centre is truly excellent – plenty of parking, well organised and in and out within 15 minutes was our family experience.



Surrey Heartlands
COVID-19 WALK-IN CLINIC PROGRAMME

NHS

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If you are one of the one third of local people who haven't had their third vaccination yet, why not pop

Search for a word

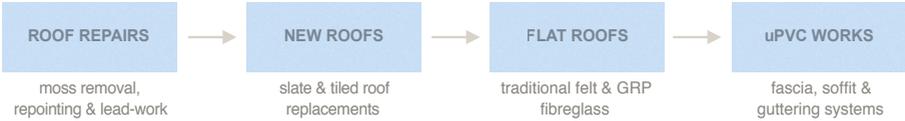


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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

over to Beare Green today? It really will make a difference.

Keeping Your Voice Heard

The District Council Democratic Services team have recently summarised the proportion of properties for which electoral returns have been completed by polling district following the annual canvas update.

Both Westcott areas are in the top half of the sixty polling stations across the District with around 97.5% completeness. That still means though that there are around 25 properties where residents are not on the register currently. If you think that this might be you then please do just email electoral.registration@molevalley.gov.uk and they will help you through the process.

In Other News

There are, of course, still many people needing NHS care for issues that are not COVID related. At the top of the next column is a handy local guide for where to look for help if that applies to you.

Do You Want To Save Some Money?



Did you know that the District Council has a policy of taking Council Tax non-payers to Court?



Latest figures show that one in thirty were taken to court last year. From April 2022, if this applies to you then the charges to cover the court costs are rising too – up to £107.50p.

If you want to save yourself more than £100, the Council team are keen that you contact them if you think you will not be able to pay on time. You can email council.tax@molevalley.gov.uk

James Friend

Westcott 100 Club

February is usually a quiet month for the Westcott 100 Club as we prepare for our next draw and Annual General Meeting in March. Fear not though – it is not too late to join us if you would like a chance of winning the prizes in our five draws each year. We hold draws every quarter in March, June, September and December, with an annual draw – and a bigger prize – in December. Since launching in 2015, club members have won nearly £5,500 in prizes and we have donated over £9,000 to local good causes.

Sounds interesting. Please tell me more.

How can I win a prize? How can I apply for a grant?

We are very glad you asked.

To be entered into the prize draws, simply join us by setting up a Standing Order for £25 per number per year. Your number(s) will be entered into the four quarterly and one annual draw. Prize values are based on the number of numbers in the draw – the more numbers, the bigger the prizes – a genuine win-win! To be eligible for the March draw, we will need to receive your application and subscription by March 1st.

Grant applications are welcomed for any activity that benefits Westcott, from local clubs and societies or from individuals, e.g. to support a Duke of Edinburgh expedition or similar. Our grants will be awarded on a matched-funding basis – you raise some of the money for your activity and the Westcott 100 Club will aim to provide a matched contribution.

For more information either on joining the scheme or on the process for applying for funds from the scheme, please email us at westcott.100.club@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Alda Andreotti (Chair), Edwin Harland (Treasurer), Richard Packer (Secretary)

The Westcott 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery registered with Mole Valley DC no. 48965.

WINTER PICTURES FROM WESTCOTT



1



2

3



4



5



6



7



8



Some fabulous frosty winter pictures. 1,2,4,5,6 and 8 taken by Jo Smewing



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

New Year's Day Walk and a Look Back at Westcott Personalities

The Walk on New Year's Day this year attracted an enthusiastic group of 40 odd people and dogs led by Chris Dale over familiar territory ending at The Barn on Westcott Heath where John & Maureen Clachan dispensed mulled wine and mince pies for all.

Arthur Brooke of the Brooke Bond Tea Company

In 1894 The Rookery changed hands again when it was bought by Arthur Brooke (1845-1918) of the Brooke Bond Tea Company. The son of a tea trader in Ashton under Lyme in Lancashire he was the eldest of 4 sons and 4 daughters of Charles and Jane Brooke who were in the business of wholesaling tea in shops in northern towns.

At the age of 19 his father put him into the cotton importing trade in London but this trade faded with the American civil war so he was taken into a Liverpool branch of Peek Bros & Winch, tea wholesalers. He was so successful at selling Brooke Bond Tea that his father sent him back to London to manage the company branch. However in 1869 his mother, Jane, died and his father was having difficulties so Arthur returned to Manchester and

set up on his own.

He opened his first tea shop in Manchester in 1869 selling tea, coffee and sugar, and by age 30 he was making £5000 per year with shops in many large towns and a warehouse in London. He proclaimed that Brooke Bond was a high quality pure product unlike the blended teas offered by other traders. Arthur was good at advertising and had learnt a few things on a trip to America.

His slogan was "Good tea unites good company, exhilarates the spirit, opens the heart and banishes restraint from conversation and provokes the happiest purposes of social intercourse".



At age 30 Arthur suffered an illness from overworking. By way of recuperation he took a sea voyage to Egypt and on his return he married a sea captain's daughter called Alice Catherine Young and they bought a house in Willesden. In the late 1870's there was a severe

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trade depression but he survived by changing his business model and selling wholesale direct to retail grocers. He was a model employer; he pioneered the 8 hour working day, paid higher wages than his competitors and introduced profit sharing in 1891. He later bought a house in Kensington and an estate near Dorking called The Rookery.

In 1892 Brooke Bond became a limited company with a share capital of £150,000 with Arthur as Chairman and Managing Director. In 1899 his eldest son Gerald (1881-1969) joined the management having served time behind the counter in Leeds. The company prospered and Arthur was known as a benevolent entrepreneur. In 1899 he endeared himself to his customers by marking Queen Victoria's 80th birthday by giving a free pound of tea to every customer over 80.

The company was now selling tea in many countries including India and Canada. In 1902 Brooke Bond won the contract to supply tea for the Delhi Durbar. Arthur retired in 1904 and son Gerald took over as MD and sons Rupert and Justin joined the management of the company with Gerald succeeding his father as Chairman in 1910. Arthur enjoyed his later years at his home in The Rookery and died in 1918 aged 73.

The company prospered and

established the tea plantations in Kenya in 1924 and overtook Lyons in 1956 as the largest tea company in the world with one third of the British and Indian market. It diversified into other food brands in 1968 but was taken

over in 1984 by Unilever who owned Liptons Tea. The PG Tips brand had a 23% share of the market and continued with its chimpanzee adverts until 2002. Brooke Bond remains a major brand in India and Pakistan.

The talk about Walter Rose Photos by Keith Harding which was scheduled for 11 Jan had to be postponed because of the Covid epidemic. Hopefully we will be able to resume talks in the near future and this will be advised.

Roger Christian





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THE HUT AND THE READING ROOM OPEN MEETING

Notice of a Public Open Meeting (i) to discuss a proposed application by Westcott Reading Room Trust CIO for the making of a Cy-près scheme by the Charity Commission to transfer the land at the Reading Room to The Hut Westcott and (ii) to discuss and to vote on a further scheme to modernise the rules governing the administration of The Hut Westcott, to be held at the Reading Room on Tuesday, 22 February 2022 at 8pm.

All inhabitants of Westcott and the neighbourhood are eligible to attend and to air their views on the matters itemised below and, in their capacity as automatic members of The Hut Westcott, to vote on item 3 below. All residents are warmly encouraged to attend. The business of the meeting will be:

1. for the trustees of the CIO to explain why they believe (and have been so advised) that it is in the best interests of the village for the land at the Reading Room to be transferred to The Hut Westcott by way of a Cy-près scheme to be made by the Charity Commission;
2. for the trustees of the CIO to note any views expressed at the meeting and during the consultation period and to inform the Charity Commission thereof;
3. for the CIO, in its capacity as the sole trustee of The Hut Westcott, to request approval by way of a vote from the membership of The Hut Westcott to the modernisation of the rules governing the administration of The Hut Westcott; and
4. for the CIO as sole trustee of The Hut Westcott to inform the Charity Commission of the outcome of the voting thereon.

Your attention is directed to the information and documents, and opportunities to comment, to be found at www.westcottvillagehall.com which include:

- a. a document entitled 'The Reading Room, The Hut and the reasons for the proposed Cy-près scheme';
- b. the present and proposed constitutions of The Hut Westcott; and
- c. details of how views, comments and objections may be sent to the CIO trustees, as all residents are entitled and encouraged to do.

Anyone unable to access the internet and requiring to view copies of the above should please telephone the Reading Room booking telephone number, 07967 286636.

Please note that the business of the meeting will not be to discuss any planning or redevelopment proposals at either the Reading Room or at the Hut, which (in due course) will be the subject of separate consultations and public meetings.

Alan Reif, Chairman

By order of the trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO and for The Hut Westcott

12 December 2021



The Arts Society Dorking

Tuesday 8th February 10:30am

As part of the arts music will be the theme of our Lecture in the Dorking Halls on the 8 February. Entitled '*Opera-Melting Pot of Culture*' Sarah Lenton. will guide us through a glittering and dangerous period of history. Her talk will tell us of the close connections of the society who were paying for the musical extravaganza. Sarah has lectured for the BBC and the Royal Opera House.



We welcome new members and if you would like to know more about the society please visit www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk where you can also find out about attending our monthly lectures.

If you would like to join us as a visitor email membershiptasd@gmail.com.



SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

After the long, dark winter months all the children and staff at Surrey Hills All Saints Primary school welcome the return of Spring and all the hope and light that it brings.

As the days start to get longer and they begin to stretch out before us a little longer each day, we look forward to sunshine and warmth, to flowers and buds and the eventual return of the swishing trees in warm spring winds.



In the meantime, here in school, we are all working hard to make improvements. Our children delight and amaze us on a daily basis, with their newfound skills and achievements, with their development of character, their deep resilience and their ability to see through to the end, the most difficult of challenges.

They continue to sing and act, read, write, perform poetry and create wonderful art and music. They run play, smile and laugh and in these times of uncertainty and fear, the children in

our school bring hope and warmth to the next phase of life in Surrey Hills.



Our doors are open to prospective parents, and we invite all to arrange visits to our school to see the developments we are making; the positive changes being wrought and consider Surrey Hills All Saints as the school for their child in 2022.

We look forward to meeting you as the year progresses, when hopefully and with God's good grace, the world will open up again. We wish you all the very best for you and your families.

Simon Coles
Headteacher



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THE BENEFITS OF REIKI



Reiki (pronounced "ray-key") is a Japanese complementary therapy that focuses on healing energy. Introduced to the western world by Dr Mikao Usui, its earliest origins derive from ancient Chinese Taoism and it draws on the teachings of Buddhism and Indian philosophy. It is based on the principle of harnessing 'universal energy' – the fundamental energy that permeates the universe and is the cause of all creation.

The technique involves transferring this universal energy via the palms of the practitioner to the client, thus encouraging emotional and physical balance by promoting the recipient's self-healing abilities. The practitioner, or 'Reiki Master', moves their hands just above the client's head, shoulders, stomach, and feet in order to stimulate the healthy flow of energy that courses through their body. Treatments generally last between thirty and sixty minutes.

Studies conducted by Harvard University academics William Rand et al. and published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine demonstrate that Reiki provides the

following health benefits:

- better sleep
- boosted immune system
- improved mood
- enhanced detoxification
- pain relief
- reduction in the side-effects of medication
- mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual healing
- post-surgery recovery
- lower blood pressure
- reduced anxiety

This treatment, practiced widely in the UK, is one that anybody can benefit from. Those who have experienced Reiki report a diverse range of effects, these include: seeing vivid colours, experience of heat or coldness, undergoing feelings of deep relaxation and feelings of intense emotion – these emotions can manifest as joy or sadness, depending on the spiritual and physical needs of the client.

If you would like to know more about reiki please don't hesitate to contact Sue Evans at Snavebar@fiscali.co.uk



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DOMINIC BATCHELOR ART



I'm Dominic, a landscape and fantasy painter who recently moved into the charming picturesque village of Westcott. Our

village has its own unique character and I found most people I met to be very welcoming and down to earth.

My passion for painting began about 3 years ago as a way of relaxing from the stress of caring for my late mother who had dementia.

Added to which it is an enjoyable distraction from the uncertain world we live in today.



My main ambition is to create new kinds of art that do not appear in most of today's contemporary and pop art.

Last year I thought "you know what, I can make a go at this as a way of living" and started my own business. Most of my paintings are a mix of natural landscapes, fantasy, spiritual, environmentally themed paintings and a few abstract portraits.

Some of my most recent pictures are based on locations in Mole Valley and the Surrey Hills (including Westcott)

My paintings are made in my office studio based in Leatherhead which is not too far away.

My paintings can be found online at <https://www.dominicgordonbatchelor.com>

Dominic Batchelor



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MUSIC IN DORKING



5th at 12.00, lunchtime recital at St Martin's church, free, 01306 884229

5th at 7.30, Ashtead Choral Society at Dorking Halls, £18, 01306 881717

6th at 3.00, Jubilee string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

12th at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at St John's School, Leatherhead, £15, 01372 275907

A special lunchtime recital will be held at St Martin's church in memory of the former director of music, Martin Ellis, who died in 2020, and of Michael Kent who also died recently – he was for many years the treasurer of the William Cole Trust which supports the young choristers at St Martin's. The recital will be an extended one and there will be refreshments afterwards in the Christian Centre.

Ashtead Choral Society is celebrating its 70th anniversary with a performance of Mendelssohn's great oratorio *Elijah*, which depicts events in the life of the Old Testament prophet through music of great dramatic power. The choir, together with vocal soloists and the Kent Sinfonia, will be conducted by Andrew Storey.

The Jubilee string quartet make their third and final appearance in the series of three quartet concerts presented by the Dorking Concertgoers. They will play an early string quartet by the young Schubert, written to be played together with his father and two brothers in their very musical family home. The concert opens with Haydn's final string quartet, written at the end of his life when he had the energy to complete only two movements, and it closes with Schubert's last quartet, a powerful masterpiece despite the composer's sadly weakened state of health.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Leatherhead, will open their programme with Beethoven's overture to *Fidelio*, his one and only opera. This will be followed by Brahms' monumental first piano concerto with soloist Dominic Degavino and the concert will close with Schubert's fourth symphony, known as the 'Tragic' – it was written when he was only nineteen yet is full of deep personal feeling.

There is also a ballet screening at the Dorking Halls of *Romeo and Juliet* on Feb 14th.

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2022 started unusually mild for the time of year which got the birds looking into the nesting boxes very early at the woodland and the bulbs popping up everywhere. The greatest delight I had during the dull days after Christmas is the resident male pheasant Henry who has been bringing his females and offspring to the woodland to be fed as soon as I arrive. When the sun shines at this time of year it is always lovely deep in the woodland because the canopy which covers the area in the summer months has not yet woken up and the bright light shines through the branches bringing a totally different perspective on our woodland.

But now we must start planning. We are looking forward to a busy year for the Charity starting with our Easter Egg Hunt at the woodland to which all are invited whether you come with children or not. This event will take place on Sunday 10th April commencing at 12.30. The charge is only £6 per child (parents are free) which includes entrance to the hunt, an Easter goodie bag and entrance in the egg and spoon races. Children do need to be registered in advance, so parents please contact debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk (Tel: 07778873806). There will be stalls selling Easter Eggs, cakes, crafts, an Easter soft toy tombola and a bottle tombola. This is a very popular event so do register the children now to

avoid disappointment as places are limited.

On June 11th we will have our annual Anniversary event at the Woodland which will be attended by our Guest of Honour Chelsea Pensioner David Hinds and include The Redhill Military Band, a London Gospel Choir and the Camberley Cadets Corp of Drums plus our own Ex-Queensman Rodney Dell who will sing for us.

In the second half of the year there's more so watch this space and join our Facebook QRMW Registered Charity No 1174651 for more information as the weeks go by.

In the meantime I would just remind you that I make bird boxes, bird tables and squirrel benches to go into your gardens.



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QRMW (cont)

The picture is one of the squirrel benches someone purchased one afternoon and took home and fixed to his fence, and within an hour two squirrels had their lunch on it!

and more beautiful to see and enjoy. If I am there the Visitors Centre will be open and the kettle is always on. I look forward to seeing you throughout 2022.

Contact debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested in

purchasing any of the items which are on display at the woodland. All proceeds go to help our Veterans who are in difficulty.

The Memorial Woodland is open to all 24/7 so come and walk, sit, talk and listen to the birds, whatever time of year it is there is always something different

Paul Cooling
Chairman

The Quick Response Memorial Woodland

The poster has a textured, light-brown background. At the top, it says 'COME AND JOIN US AT' in blue, followed by 'THE QUICK RESPONSE MEMORIAL WOODLAND' in black. Below that, in smaller text, is 'Registered Charity No: 1174651' and 'Pasturewood Road, Holmbury St Mary RH5 6LG'. The main title 'CHARITY EASTER EGG HUNT AND FUN DAY' is in large, bold, red letters. The date 'On SUNDAY 10th April' and time 'At 12.30pm' are also in red. A list of activities follows in blue: 'Fun for all the Family:', 'Easter Egg Hunt', 'Egg and Spoon Races for all ages', 'Easter Egg Stall', 'Easter Soft Toy Tombola', 'Bottle Tombola stall', 'Raffle', 'Cakes stall', and 'BBQ and Drinks for sale'. At the bottom, it says 'Children £6 each' in black, 'Please Register Children ASAP to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited' in bold black, 'Email: Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk', and 'Tel: 07778873806'. The right side of the poster is decorated with green, stylized floral and leaf patterns. At the bottom, there are four colorful Easter eggs: blue with white stars, pink with white stars, green with white stars, and yellow with purple and blue stripes.

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DORKING MUSEUM



'Never start with an apology' is established guidance but perhaps we might start this month with one. At relatively short notice, Dorking Museum's re-opening after the seasonal break had to be delayed to allow for essential building maintenance work. The Museum's re-opening date had to be quickly rescheduled for 3rd February, without time to amend the date shown in some publications.

Museum Chairman Kathy Atherton explains, "The delay was regrettable, but this work was deemed necessary to protect the fabric of what is an old building. There is a danger that some of the exhibits or artefacts and material stored might otherwise deteriorate over time, but they are important to the area's rich heritage and to keep safe for future generations. Given the added uncertainty of the covid restrictions, it seemed that this was an appropriate time to carry out the work so that we can re-open fully and safely and welcome visitors back in February."

This comes after another 'challenging year' in which the Museum was not permitted to open until the second half

of May. Nevertheless, the 'closed' time was used as productively as could be within the restrictions in place at the time. Extra work went into preparing the special exhibitions for 2021, permanent exhibition areas were revamped, the teams caught up with basic repair and maintenance, restoration, accessioning and cataloguing, extending and upgrading the Museum's online presence, and much more besides. We were able to provide support to school and university students during lockdown, as well as continuing family activities with special home activity packs.

All of the Museum's regular activities were relaunched in May, although with minor limitations imposed by covid restrictions. We were able to welcome more than 2,000 visitors to the Museum, took 450 people out on guided walks of Dorking, the Deepdene Trail and Betchworth Castle, and 300 people underground on tours of the South Street Caves.

Soon after re-opening, the Museum's team was notified that it had been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, with a special recognition for our support for the community during



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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

the covid lockdowns. The official presentation was conducted by the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey, Michael More-Molyneux in September.

Two special exhibitions originally planned for 2020 were mounted in 2021. **'Forster@50'** commemorated the 50th anniversary of the death of famed local author E.M. Forster and was accompanied by a sAAhort film and book. The 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* in 2020 attracted much attention, and, although the special exhibition was held over until 2021, the Museum team had already been involved in interviews, Zoom presentations, short films, co-operation with special groups in the UK and the US, and a book which generated sales in the US as well as locally.

The Museum's special exhibition, **'Darking 1620'**, opened in September and had an added significance with November representing the 400th anniversary of the first 'Thanksgiving' feast in the colony. It has proved a particularly popular attraction with visitors and has now been extended until May. So there is still plenty of time to come along to the Museum and enjoy a view of life in 'Darking' in 1620 and the story of William Mullins and the *Mayflower* travellers. The exhibition also features period apparel – including authenticated 17th century shoes found locally – and the tools of Mullins'



trade as a shoemaker. A magnificent cross section model of the *Mayflower*, created as a real labour of love by the Dorking Men's Shed team, is providing endless fascination for visitors and is being retained for permanent display in the Museum.

Can you help? The Museum is run entirely by volunteers. If you would like to support our activities and can spare a few hours a week, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for Visitor Assistants to meet, greet and assist visitors and there are also more specialised roles in the operations of the Museum, most of which would suit working from home. All roles are voluntary, part-time and full training is given. For more information, please visit dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities/.

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Thursday 1pm-4pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-4pm. Free entry, but donations welcome. Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.

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Is it always in the past?*

*Post Brexit, post covid we look ahead.
Captain Tom, when interviewed, said
“Remember tomorrow is a good day,
Tomorrow you will find maybe
Everything will be better than today.
Tomorrow, remember, is a good day.”*

Edward Williams



Captain Sir Thomas Moore
(30 April 1920 – 2 February 2021)

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GREEN WESTCOTT

Reconnecting with life

Adopting an attitude of gratitude and forming deeper connections with the land and within the communities where we live can both enrich our lives and help build local resilience to help adapt to our changing world.



These are themes that run through 'Braiding Sweetgrass' by Robin Wall Kimmerer – which was, without doubt, the most beautiful book that I read last year. At a time when the problems we are facing seem ever more complex, this book offers down-to-earth insights into how we might restore our relationship with nature, informed by indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and a love of plants.

'I wonder if much that ails our society stems from the fact that we have allowed ourselves to be cut off from that love of, and from, the land. It is medicine for broken land and empty hearts.'

Human activity has disrupted almost 75 per cent of the earth's surface and put one million animal and plant species at risk of extinction (United Nations Environment Programme). In stark contrast, despite making up only around 5% of the global population, indigenous people are the protectors of a staggering 80% of Earth's biodiversity.

The lives of indigenous people are rooted in their relationship with the land. Having lived in the same territories for thousands of years, knowledge has been passed down through generations to form a deep understanding of how to live in balance with the living world – taking just enough for needs while always ensuring that something is given back to the land in return.

Braiding Sweetgrass is filled with insight into practices that can help bring us into a more harmonious relationship with nature. The Earth is our life support system. Recognising





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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



that we are part of nature, a gift that we can all choose to give is that of expressing gratitude for our living planet that freely provides us with all that we need to thrive.

'Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy.'

Adopting an attitude of gratitude calls us to notice and pay more attention to the things that are freely available to us, cultivating a feeling of value that is beyond monetary worth.

'...while expressing gratitude seems innocent enough, it is a revolutionary idea. In a consumer society, contentment is a radical proposition. Recognising abundance rather than scarcity undermines an economy that thrives by creating unmet desires...'

The impacts of the climate and ecological crisis are becoming ever more evident throughout the world and it is clear that we must turn away from unsustainable consumption of natural resources. We would surely be wise to learn from indigenous perspectives and live in a way that enables life to thrive.

'The Earth gives away for free the power of wind and sun and water'

Harnessing renewable energy and growing food locally are key to creating resilient communities for the future. Planting a garden, says Kimmerer, is one of the best ways to restore our relationship with the land.

'It's a place where if you can't say 'I love you' out loud, you can say it with seeds. And the land will reciprocate, in beans.'

Gratitude not only encourages us to appreciate gifts, but to repay them, thereby helping to grow and strengthen our relationships within the communities where we live.

'Braiding Sweetgrass' by Robin Wall Kimmerer is available from www.hive.co.uk and other bookshops.

Get involved!

Westcott Community Garden
Green Westcott are currently in





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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



the process of creating Westcott Community Garden – a place to enable the community to come together to collaborate, share knowledge of and grow food and herbs. All are welcome to get involved - we need many people to help make this happen!

Community Energy

On the energy front, Surrey County Council has partnered with Community Energy South to support community-led renewable energy projects in Surrey.

Organised and managed by local people these can be a great way to tackle the climate emergency as a community, providing green energy and reducing bills for residents. A community energy project could be anything from installing solar panels on a local school to creating a wind farm. If you have an idea for an energy project, or might be interested in getting involved in setting one up, please do get in touch, so that we can connect you with like-minded people.

If you'd like to find out more, or get involved in any way, please get in touch with the Green Westcott team via email: info@greenwestcott.org



Jakki Phillips

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