

# Westcott Village

Magazine

September 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](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com)

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

Copy deadline for  
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**8th September 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



I hope you all had a good summer, whether you got to go away or stayed at home and made the most of the sunshine.

Many households are now into back to school or uni mode, with new routines and timetables. Hopefully all the transitions will go as smoothly as possible.

There is an ongoing consultation by the 100 club and the Village Association about the possibility of a path round Cradhurst Recreation Ground that would like to hear your views, see page 59, and let them know what you think.

Several local choirs are starting their new season this month and looking for new members, so if you have always wanted to sing but haven't been sure how to start, have a look through this issue and try one of them out. You could find a new hobby and make some new friends!

I often think that September is the most beautiful time of the year, particularly around here with all the trees turning, so make sure you make time to get out in it!

**Cath**

**editor@westcotmag.com**



This gorgeous picture of a local deer was taken by Fiona Humphrey, keep sending them in!

### Sing with Dorking Choral Society

Rehearsals each Wednesday

Starting at 7:30 pm on 7 September 2022



Crossways Community Baptist Church  
Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB

#### Future events

Saturday 19th November 2022, at 7.30pm

#### **Dorking Choral Society Centenary Concert**

Vaughan Williams "The Lark Ascending",  
Handel's Coronation Anthems,  
Haydn's Harmoniemesse.

Saturday 10th December 2022, at 4.00pm

#### **Christmas Concert**

4.00 pm United Reform Church, Dorking

<https://www.dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk>

## ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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### A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

I'm a big fan of the four seasons, not so much Frankie Valli's (good though they are), but more the natural cycle of the year, and how each season is distinctly different from the last.

In my uncharacteristically optimistic view of Autumn, I see it in my mind's eye as the Grand Finale of the summer, with golden sunshine falling on spectacular displays of colour as the trees become orange and red, and children kick their way through dry rustling leaves. The reality may be closer to a lot of grey drizzle, and "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore", but I enjoy the possibility of what Autumn can be all the same.

...BEGINNING  
THINGS WELL TAKES  
TIME...

However I don't automatically think of Autumn as a time for new beginnings, that is reserved for Spring in my mind. But apparently Autumn is the time to plant the plants that last the longest, such as trees and hedges. Nature knows this, which is why acorns fall to the ground in September and October, planting the mighty oaks for years to come. Because in reality the new growth of Spring often starts in Autumn planting. What we forget is that beginnings aren't a moment in time, they take time.

In 1942, three years into the Second World War, when there was a growing optimism that the war was ending, Churchill famously said: "this isn't the end of the war, or the beginning of the end; it is the end of the beginning". Beginnings take time.

And many significant things start in the Autumn. If you are a teacher or



## ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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a student, you know this as you gear up to start the new academic year. Late summer is also the most popular time to move house, and so Autumn is often a time for starting in a new area, or a new job - with optimism for what the future will bring.

The Rev Tim Armstrong and his family are starting on this journey themselves, moving in August, with 11th September being his first Sunday Service in Holy Trinity. Please do join us, to meet Tim, and to encourage him as he starts his "new beginning" - and as we pray for him, for a fruitful time with lasting impact in our village.

The Bible famously starts in Genesis 1 with the three simple words "In the beginning", and goes on to describe how in that beginning, even God took his time in creating the world, including a well-earned rest!

So if this Autumn you are starting something new, be encouraged that it's a great time to start something that will last. And remember beginning things well takes time, and given time, good things will be seen in the "Spring".

*Simon Mabley,  
Churchwarden*



## A Warm Welcome!

A very warm welcome to Rev'd Tim Armstrong, Jenny, Archie and Herbie, as they join us in Westcott this September.

Tim's first Sunday services as Vicar of Westcott will be on Sunday, 11th September.

Do come and join us in church, and give them a warm welcome when you see them around the village!



# 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](http://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk) and follow the link.

*Mask wearing is no longer mandatory in church. If you feel unwell, please do not come in person - join us on Zoom at 10:15am.*

*The church is open every day, 9am-4pm for private prayer & reflection*

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10.15AM
4th Sept	Trinity 12	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
11th Sept	Rev'd Tim's First Service Why Church?	Book of Common Prayer Communion	TBC
18th Sept	Trinity 14: What is the Church?	Book of Common Prayer Communion	TBC
25th Sept	Trinity 15: Philippians: Thanksgiving and Prayer	Book of Common Prayer Communion	TBC

## MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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# THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

## Community Night Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who came to help in the churchyards on 14th July. Some great work tackling our spreading Rhododendrons, and smartening up flowerbeds - always a vital part of our annual maintenance plan which we couldn't do without our lovely volunteers. Look out for adverts for future working parties - all are welcome!



## Congratulations!

Many congratulations to David Packham, ordained Deacon at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, 3rd July.

The sun was shining on David and Margaret as they stepped out of the cathedral and into their new adventure. David and Margaret have moved to begin his curacy, in another parish in the diocese. Join us in praying for them both in this new beginning.



## 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](mailto:churchwardens@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk),



# THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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:**

Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010    Ali Mabley 01306 889641

For help, more information, please contact churchwardens:

churchwardens@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

or visit [thechurchinwestcott.org.uk](http://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk)



# COOKIE CLUB

**Parent, Baby and Toddler Group**  
St John's Community Hall, Westcott  
Thursday mornings 9-11am, term time

**toys** **songs** **craft**

**New Term starts 8th September**  
We're looking forward to welcoming you!

**chat** **snacks & drinks** **fun**

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## Information for those interested in helping Ukrainians

Please visit [thechurchinwestcott.org.uk](http://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk)

Click Ukrainian Support on homepage or click & select under Resources

### **Useful links and documents on the following:**

Visa Application Process ♦ Related Charities seeking donations ♦ Language Lessons & Translation Services ♦ Safeguarding, Safety Precautions ♦ Accessing the NHS ♦ Social Support ♦ Trauma Help ♦ Special Offers ♦ Local Host Families and Support Networks

*This page will be regularly updated with new information.*

*If you have useful information to share or find any of the links are broken, please email: [WestcottHelpUkraine@gmail.com](mailto:WestcottHelpUkraine@gmail.com)*



# THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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## 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 [richardnwlist@gmail.com](mailto:richardnwlist@gmail.com) for more information

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[thechurchinwestcott.org.uk](http://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk)

## FLOODLIGHTING

---

The church floodlighting for September has been sponsored by Laraine Jewell in loving memory of Michael Player and his grandson, James Watkinson.

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

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

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### Marriage:

4th June 2022                      Paul Bonnefoy-Claudet and Beatrice Chappell

### Death:

25th July 2022                      Trevor Porritt (83)



# WESTCOTT LADIES' CRICKET



As we come to the end of the 2022 Cricket season I'd like to thank all those who have supported us, the Ladies and Juniors, who have continued to do their best despite the resignation of our founder and Captain. Thank you Beck for setting us up, and for giving us the encouragement to realise that at any age unexpected achievements can be made! We hope that you will continue to play on occasion.



Whilst we have had to cancel most of our matches this season, this photo captures the spirit of our team last evening and as we were up against a more experienced and powerful team, coming second was no mean achievement! Well played everyone, I think we all enjoyed it which is the main thing.

It is only 4 years since the first handful of Mums went from watching their offspring at Friday evening training, to actually taking up a bat and facing some rather weird and frenetic bowling! We have come a long way in a short time, and thanks to Jude our coach, our batting and bowling is improving! Good luck with your knee surgery next week Jude, we look forward to your return next year.

Our season will finish with a return match against Effingham on August 26th, here at Westcott cricket club, and if you want to start playing, remember we meet on Friday evenings from 6.30 pm. Any age, juniors, mums, Grans, with or without cricket experience, you are all very welcome. Or just come along and support the bar and BBQ!

PS There is still some Gin left over from our successful Gin evening in May!

**Jacki Moss**

# Westcott 100 Club

The winners of the June quarterly draw were ticket numbers 9 and 124, winning £118.75 and £59.38 respectively. The special Platinum Jubilee prize of £237.50 was won by ticket number 46. Congratulations to all the winners!

What have we been up to recently? The Westcott 100 Club is proud to have supported the recent pizza night for our Ukrainian visitors, their hosts and supporters. You will see elsewhere in this edition of the village magazine that we are working with the Westcott Village Association on an idea for improving access to the Cradhurst recreation ground. Please do let us have your feedback.

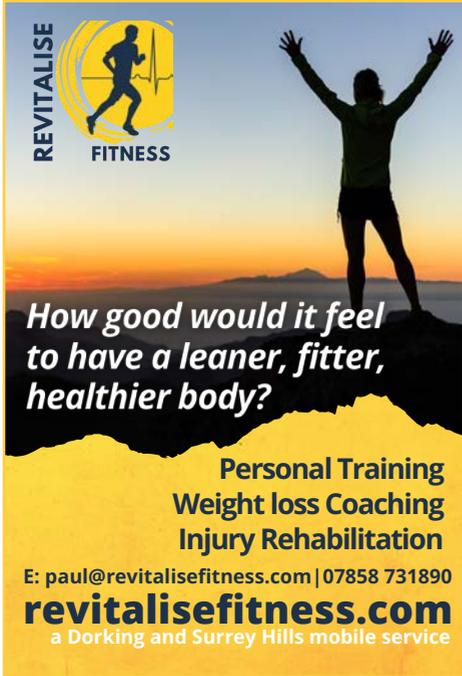
We remain open for new members. Membership costs £25 per ticket per year. Your number(s) will be entered into four quarterly draws (June, September, December and March) and the regular annual draw in December. Prize values are based on the number of eligible tickets – the more tickets, the bigger the prizes. Don't delay!

For more information on joining the scheme or for the process for applying for funds from the scheme, please email us at [westcott.100.club@gmail.com](mailto: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.*



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For those of you who attended the AGM you will recognise the theme of this article.

I have lived in the village for nearly 33 years and been Chairman of the Village Association for almost 5 years. During that time, I have watched the village change in a significant number of ways – and not always for the best. At the AGM I spoke about needing to have bigger ambitions for the village, getting involved – particularly younger residents, and seriously considering the future in terms of how the village is governed.

The Village Association was formed nearly 50 years ago and has tried to ensure that village matters are dealt with effectively, but not always succeeding as far as some are concerned. Local Government at County and District levels is continuing to have to deal with cost pressures, and trying to get things done as a Charity (which is what the WVA is) is more and more difficult because we are not treated the same as a Parish Council. We are all unpaid volunteers who do what we do in what spare

time we have, and have no authority over anyone – we can influence but not direct.

In the current climate, with more changes afoot in local government, it is my strong view that we need



greater authority which will only come from becoming a Parish Council - with the legal status to get things done; hold budgets; employ people; and enter into cost effective contracts to get things done in the village which currently either take forever, or don't get done at all, because working out who is responsible for what between County and District councils is not straightforward - getting something as theoretically simple as a 'No Through Road' sign for Parsonage Lane has involved numerous emails and three different departments.

Yes, we would raise money by having an annual surcharge (called a precept) on the local council tax, but this will be graded according to the rateable value of your house so that those who can afford to pay more, pay a higher amount, but the average per household will still be a very modest amount - little more than some spend on a trip to the cinema or taking the kids swimming.

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- National funding pots available to local Parishes.

There is a lot to do in order to make this change happen including ensuring that the whole village has the opportunity to vote on whether or not we make the change. **We propose therefore that a working group is formed which will work on gathering information and opinions, communicating the facts about the proposed changes and then working to make it happen.** We are particularly keen to engage with the younger generation of villagers, many of whom have recently moved into the village with young families, because it is they who will be the beneficiaries of the changes we make now in the way the village is governed.

This is an opportunity to make a difference to your community, not for those of us who have lived through the last 50-80 good years, but for the younger generation and their children who inherit the future. If you want to make things happen then drop me an

email and we will start the process of making a difference to our village.

## Other things to Note:



**The Boundary Commission** is due to publish its final decision on the Mole Valley Boundary Review on 6th September. We do not expect to see any changes to the proposed Leith Hill ward, or the arrangement whereby three councillors will represent the new ward. Elections will be held in May 2023.

The latest news on the Local Plan can be found on the MVDC website under **Future Mole Valley**; September and October will see the next steps in the process of approving the Plan.

**Village Projects:** Time is running out for us to submit village projects to attract funding from various sources. CIL has been mentioned but there is also money available (a pot of £100m!) under "Your fund Surrey". Please put forward ideas for projects you would like pursued to improve the village.

**Bank Closures:** Barclays and Halifax branches are closing permanently in Dorking from October and November respectively. Handling cash and



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cheques will therefore become more difficult (although not impossible). Please take the opportunity to make any donations to the WVA funds by Standing Order with your bank.

## Village Litter Bins and Street Cleaning



If you notice a litter bin in the village overflowing, or streets that could do with a visit from the kerb cleaning vehicle, please don't wait for the council spot it, or someone else to report it, notify them on their website [Overflowing Litter & Dog Waste Bins](#)

Mole Valley District Council and it will normally be sorted within 24 hours. Similarly, you can report street clearing to the council on *Street Cleaning Request - Before You Begin - Mole Valley* ([achieveservice.com](http://achieveservice.com))

Comments, suggestions, and other feedback are always welcome and helpful in steering the Association's thinking, but getting involved and making things happen that you want is much more effective in improving your community.

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

## WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



*Wednesday 7th September  
at  
The Reading Room*



*Jigsaw and Book exchange*

*Come and join us  
10.30 - 12.00 midday*



## *My Visit to the Cathedral*

*The organist came to practice for a recital.  
He let me sit on the bench in front of the keyboards.  
He pointed to the stops with Dutch odd names,  
The Bazuin and Subbas,  
The Qunitadeen and Octaaf  
The Prestant, Salicionaal and Sexquilter  
And then the glory of it! He let me play  
The sonorously alive enormous thing.  
I found my way about the instrument,  
The mighty space was filled with swells of sound  
Which boomed and swooped and soared  
amongst the timbers  
The stone and glass of the towering House of God*

*Edward Williams*

## VOLUNTEER/BABY MEALS

The services of the Westcott Volunteer Cooks have been called upon multiple times this summer with a flurry of Westcott babies!



Congratulations to...

Magda and Dave with 3 year old Sonny and baby Mylo born in June.

Sarah and Jonny with baby Daisy born in June.

Anna & Jonny with baby Rosa who arrived in July.

Benjamin and Anne with baby Felicity who arrived in July!



In the mean time we've also been asked to support a local family with meals while mum recovers from surgery. I haven't counted up yet but that's A LOT of dinners delivered this summer!! Amazing work Cooks, thank you!!!



Here's an excerpt from one message we've received: "We wanted to say a huge thank you to you all for your exceptionally kind gesture in bringing us dinner during those sleep deprived first few weeks! It was magical to have a food fairy turn up at the door with a delicious meal (and helped avoid any washing up!). We only moved to Westcott in December, and have been blown away by the community feel - everyone has been so friendly..."

We would be delighted if any more volunteer cooks want to join our list! 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!

**Anna Kemkers**  
**[annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk)**

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# NATIONAL TRUST RANGER



Hello!

My name is Tom and I am the new Area Ranger covering North Downs West including Denbies Hillside, Abinger Roughts, Netley Park, Little Kings Wood and Blackheath. Three weeks ago, I moved across to this job from Leith Hill, but I am still involved in a few projects over there whilst we recruit my replacement.



of this area isn't just the trees and woodlands (Abinger Roughts is home to some real beauties), it's the number of butterflies and array of species that call Denbies Hillside home. one short walk from the office and I can see Chalkhill Blues, Marbled Whites, Skippers, Adonis Blues and more. A real treat!



I've been a ranger with the National Trust for 3 years and previously worked for West Sussex County Council as a ranger for around 10 years. I'm mildly obsessed with trees and woodlands which has led me to volunteer in my spare time for the Ancient Tree Forum, organising walks in different parts of Sussex looking at ancient and veteran trees. I also volunteer as a Tree Warden for my local parish council.

It's been great to meet some of the people involved in working the land here too. We work closely with the tenant farmers who are doing a great job with the conservation grazing in the meadows.

We also have a superb team of volunteers who will turn their hand to anything to improve and maintain the countryside, from clearing paths and surveying butterflies, to pulling ragwort and installing gates - they are multiskilled people!



Lastly I'll say that if you see me on the hillside or in the woods, be sure to say hi!

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# THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



## Cost of Living – Help is Available

With the cost of living crisis continuing to escalate, the Mole Valley District Council website has a page which lists the range of support available from the government and other parties, in addition to introducing a discretionary grant scheme available to eligible residents.



If you are on a low income or are experiencing a change

in financial circumstances, the Government offer a range of benefits and help to fulfil individual requirements:

- Jobseekers Allowance
- Universal Credit
- Employment Support Allowance
- Child Benefit
- Advice and Guidance on Housing Benefit

The Safe and Secure Grant from Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) supports older or disabled residents on lower income. It helps you with Handy Person type work done

to your home to improve safety, promote independence and prevent hospitalisation or assist with discharge from hospital.

*£150 Energy Rebate* - MVDC paid over £2million to residents and is now focused on ensuring that the council tax accounts of those who don't pay by direct debit and did not apply for a direct payment can be credited as soon as possible.

The Government has provided Mole Valley with just over £235,000 for use as a discretionary scheme to support residents who were not entitled for the energy rebate payment. Those living in Council Tax bands E - H homes and receiving Council Tax Support will be the priority. Payments will be made directly to people who pay by Direct Debit. Anyone else will need to apply online. Eligible residents can apply through the Council website.

## Surrey Police Open Day

Surrey Police are inviting all residents to join them on Sunday 11 September



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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

for an action-packed day for all the family at the Police HQ at Mount Browne, Guildford, GU3 1HG.

The event, which will run from 11am-4pm, promises to be a fun day for all and they will be showcasing all they have to offer, from the work being doing across the Force, to the fantastic range of job opportunities available. There will be dog trials, live demonstrations, an insight to different departments, and of course there will be lots of vehicles on display!

You can grab a bite to eat at one of their catering vans or bring a picnic along. Tickets are free but you must register and present your ticket, either printed or on your phone, upon entry. Everything you need to know about the day can be found at [www.surrey.police.uk/openday2022](http://www.surrey.police.uk/openday2022). The gates will open for general admission at 11am and last entry will be at 3pm.

### Sleep Out Surrey

The nearby Amber Foundation are asking you to spend one night outside – not to replicate sleeping rough, but to give you an idea into the harsh realities faced by a growing number of young people. You can now sign up for Sleep Out Surrey. Support the Amber Foundation and fundraise collectively for a bed space at their impressive facility at Farm Place,

**Support young homeless people**

**Amber**  **SLEEP OUT**  
transforming lives

**Saturday 1st October 2022**  
**7pm - 8am Ockley Green, RH5 5TB**

The Amber Foundation are asking you to spend one night outside – not to replicate sleeping rough, but to give you an idea into the harsh realities faced by a growing number of young people.

**Sign up today:**  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/sleepoutsurrey](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sleepoutsurrey)

[www.amberweb.org](http://www.amberweb.org) Registered Charity 1051388

Ockley by sleeping out one night on Saturday 1st October on Ockley Green.

Once you have set up your fundraising page, there is a suggested donation of £20 for a registration fee. Suggested fundraising amount per person is £350 to transform a young person's life at Amber. If you have any questions or would like to chat about this then contact their Fundraising Manager Louise through emailing [louise.cheung@amberweb.org](mailto:louise.cheung@amberweb.org) and mention that you saw the opportunity in these pages – Louise will help you do the rest.

### Refugee Tales Come to Dorking

As Vice-Chairman of Mole Valley this year, I have already had the chance to attend a number of events in

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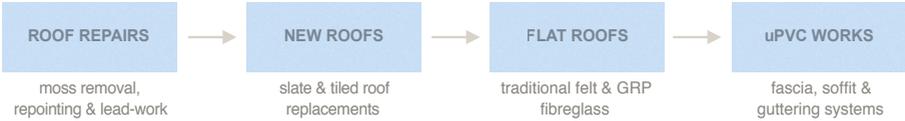


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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

support of charitable activities and raising the profile of causes that are close to home.



One such occasion was the progress of the *Refugee Tales* group at St Martin's Dorking as a group of more than 50 walkers travelled along the Pilgrims Way. On their first night their evening's entertainment included not just inspirational talks from two refugees with different backgrounds but also music and readings.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

When I first started as District Councillor for Westcott my postbag was usually dominated by planning and development management concerns. Then from a few years ago, perhaps helped by the adoption of our own Local Neighbourhood Development Plan, those seem to have calmed a little.

The next most frequent topic seemed to be around housing issues - quality of homes, relationships with Clarion and

homelessness. At the time I was in the process of establishing Carrie's Home Foundation in memory of Westcott resident Caroline Kalmanovic and with my fellow trustees we were able to work on fundraising and other ideas of support.

It strikes me that now my inbox is more often than not concerned with anti-social behaviour and the impact it is having on the lives of fellow Westcott residents. It is fair to say that often when I get to learn more about the particular issue, the triggers are much more complex than perhaps they first appeared to whoever brought it to my attention and I am hugely grateful for the understanding that neighbours bring, and that which comes from the council officers and NHS professionals, particularly those in our mental health teams.

If you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, you are always able to contact the Council's team via [ASB@molevalley.gov.uk](mailto:ASB@molevalley.gov.uk) and they will be on hand with first class advice and action where appropriate.

### A Time and a Place for Reflection

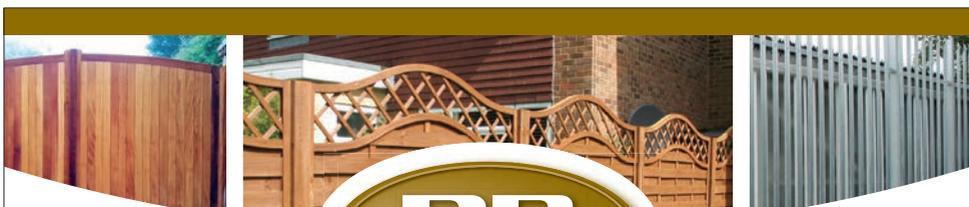
September is the month when the new school year often triggers changes to family routines and provides us all with a good opportunity to take a few moments out to think of our hard

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## THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

working teachers and school staff and all that they do for our communities as the generations grow up.



If you want to find a space to reflect, you can always take a wander up to Holy Trinity Church and rest yourself on the bench dedicated to teacher and youth leader Stuart Ryland. The view into the hills provides a fabulous place to pause a while.

### A Request to Us All

Finally, one of the joys of wandering around our village is seeing folks and observing what's going on. I happened to be walking along one road a few weeks ago and saw that someone had been playing in the road – even with a hopscotch court marked out. Beside it was the following message that I thought rang true for us all:



**James Friend**

### BROCKHAM CHORAL



Brockham Choral start rehearsing their Autumn Term programme meeting on September 13th at St. Johns C of E Primary School, Dorking, RH4 2LR

They will be preparing Haydn's 'Nelson Mass', V Williams '5 Mystical Songs', Mozart 'Laudate Dominum'. The choir, musical director Cole Bendall and their wonderful accompanist Marion Lee look forward to performing this on the 3rd December in St.Martin's Church, Dorking.

They warmly welcome all voices, no audition required, for further information contact our Secretary Ed Criswick 01372 877069 or visit our website [www.brockhamchoral.org](http://www.brockhamchoral.org)



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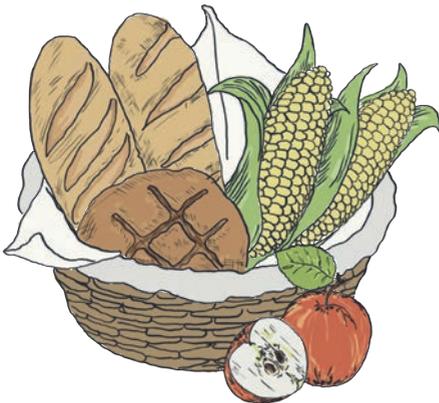
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# MUSIC IN DORKING



15th at 7.00pm Vaughan Williams film at Dorking Halls, free, 01306 881717

Ralph Vaughan Williams, one of this country's greatest composers, was born 150 years ago in October 1872. He is closely connected with Dorking - he spent his childhood at Leith Hill Place, a large house on the slopes of Leith Hill, he later came to live in Dorking, and he conducted the Leith Hill Music Festival (based in Dorking) for nearly fifty years. To mark the occasion, the Dorking Halls is showing Tony Palmer's classic film about the composer, with Tony Palmer himself giving a personal introduction.

The Vaughan Williams' anniversary will also be celebrated in October and November with a concert by the English Arts Chorale featuring his Sea symphony and London symphony, a Come-and-Sing day with the Leith Hill Music Festival, and Dorking Choral Society's concert including one of his best-loved works, The Lark Ascending.



There are screenings at the Dorking Halls this month of Puccini's *La bohème* from Glyndebourne (13th) and also his *Madam Butterfly* from the Royal Opera House (27th).

**Ian Codd**

## HOLMBURY CHORAL SOCIETY



Come and join us in September for an exciting new season under our new musical director, Cole Bendall. We are a choir of 40 singers who meet every Thursday, starting on Thursday September 8th at Abinger Village Hall. We are not auditioned and welcome anyone at every level in a good-humoured quest to improve our technique, knowledge and participate in performing a wide range of music. Singing in the Leith Hill Festival also provides the opportunity to perform major works with full orchestras. More details on our website [www.holmburychoral.org](http://www.holmburychoral.org). Contact: Secretary Liz Hamilton [elizabethjuliehamilton@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethjuliehamilton@gmail.com) 01306 730382

**Javed Kumar**

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# WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

## The Birth, Life & Death of the River Mole

In May 2018 Prof Richard Selley provided a most erudite talk on the River Mole's course in the context of the geological development of the Weald and the North Downs. The river system in the UK has come in for some serious criticism for the pollution that is happening up and down the country.

This was well illustrated by numerous slides and clever movies describing how the North Downs were created in geological time. He showed how the flat plate of Wealden clay underlaid by chalk was uplifted to form the North Downs from which the clay was then eroded leaving the chalk exposed.

We learnt that the North Downs were in fact the southern edge of the last ice age. The map from 1762 was the first to show the course of the River Mole above ground from its source in Baldhorns Copse, south of Rusper, from where it runs south and east gathering water from small tributaries. It runs under a Gatwick runway in a culvert, made in 1985, to Sidlow where it starts to flow north towards Brockham. It collects the Pipp Brook at Pixham and flows through the North Downs Gap between Ranmore and Box Hill continuing up to East Molesey near Hampton Court where it joins the Thames, having run some 80 km in all.

Earlier maps indicated that 'the river goeth underground'. Much of its route lies on impermeable Wealden clay south of the North Downs and London clay north of the Downs, which is the reason why the river responds rapidly to heavy rainfall.

Nowadays the Mole is reported to have the greatest diversity of fish species of any English river but this was not always the case. Between Brockham and Leatherhead the river bed changes from impermeable Wealden clay to permeable chalk and the increased gradient allows the water table to drop below the river bed. This allows water to escape from the river through swallow holes in the chalk bed and banks, thus reducing the volume of



Map showing the River Mole (dark blue) and part of the River Thames (light blue)



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## WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)

water in the river. Aerial photos show a line of green patches in the fields between Pixham and Mickleham which are the relict swallow holes where the underground water comes to the surface. Water from Mickleham Bends follows a chalky underground course coming up in Fetcham Ponds, which have never been known to dry up. This was described in Brayley's History of Surrey in 1868.



The River Mole at the foot of Box Hill in Surrey

The origin of the name is attributed to the Latin Mola (mill) because there were 20 mills on the river in 1086 according to the Domesday Book. Another possibility is a derivation from Y Melyn – river of mills or the word Molesey (Mul's island). For geologists the alluvial river terraces which have been created as the river passes through the North Downs are

of interest. A clue to the original water table is evident in the Dorking South Street caves where black lines from the limonite deposits indicate possible water levels.

Prof Selley emphasised that in general it was necessary to understand that the west side of the country was gently rising while the East side was subsiding into the North Sea. This is well illustrated by the figures for the Thames Barrier closings to prevent flooding in London and the increased erosion on parts of the East coast. Since the Thames



Barrier was built in 1983 it was closed 4 times in the 1980's, 35 times in the 1990's, 75 times in the 2000's and by 2018, 52 times in the 2010's – in total 166 times to date. This latter statistic is not a good omen for the idea of a grand airport being built in the Thames Estuary land area.

The AGM will be on Tuesday 13th Sept with a talk by Kathy Atherton at the usual time of 8pm at St John's Hall. The Committee welcomes suggestions for talks and speakers from the members.

**Roger Christian**



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What a wonderful end of term we had! Super busy in the sunshine (phew that was hot!), prepping for big school, sports day, our leavers' trip and graduation. Of course by the time you read this some of us will already be enjoying our first week at school! To help give us an idea of what we'd be looking forward to we explored our school office role play area, tried on school uniform, did mark making with chubby chinks and had a lovely visit from a big school teacher.

One of our absolute highlights was a visit from the fire brigade! They visited us one morning with their shiny fire engine and brave crew. The firefighters were impressed with our listening skills as they showed us their safety equipment and tools. We were then treated to a look inside the vehicle and a spray of a hose!! This visit tied in well with our learning theme of awesome occupations.

We have also been talking about what we would like to be when we grow up with some very interesting answers including: Thomas the tank engine, a dragon, a knight, a singer, a ballerina, an astronaut and a dad. We also asked the children what jobs their parents do, interestingly we have a lot of mummies with the same job: cleaning the kitchen!

Recently we had a superb crop of potatoes that we grew in our garden so we cleverly used them to make a delicious potato salad. It was wonderful to dig around in the dirt to find them

and then bring them to the dinner table to enjoy.



It will seem like a long time ago now but we all enjoyed taking part in the Medieval Fair parade and sat patiently watching the school children dance the maypole. We had so much fun decorating bejewelled crowns and dragon and castle biscuits at the children's corner. What a wonderful afternoon.



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](http://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](mailto:abingercommonnursery@gmail.com) We can't wait to show you around!

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I would like to express a huge thanks to everyone in our school community for all the support you give, in so many ways, which filters down to make a real difference for the children in our school. We brought our Summer term to an end with exciting events from F@SH and our school sports day, and preparing the build up to September. We want to make sure 2022-2023 is full of exciting opportunities for all. As part of this we are looking intently at our curriculum offer and expanding our plans to get our children out into the wider world to support their learning and give them the opportunities to grow and develop.

I would like to thank all who supported the Abinger fair and Westfest and particularly our maypole dancers who were brilliant on each occasion! F@SH are an amazing gift to us all as an entity that is super supportive and their tireless work provides the children with amazing opportunities and resources. A huge thank you to them.



Our residential for the year 4 and 6 children were a resounding success and they grew in confidence and resilience overcoming fears and anxieties to return stronger of mind and spirit; we are very proud of you all.

## Year 4 Residential New Barn Dorset



The Year 4s recently enjoyed their residential at New Barn in Dorset. They experienced life as a Roman

on the first day, where they worked hard to produce butter, and then they learnt how to march like a Roman soldier. On the second day the children made secret dens in the coppice in the event that they would have to hide from a Viking invasion! The children all had a really memorable time and did an amazing variety of activities. They finished their stay off with a shindig where they let their hair down for the last night.



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## Year 6 Residential Trip



for winning the 'Best Teepee' award and to each and every child – you all achieved our goals to persevere, build

self-esteem and work together to achieve.



Year 6 had a fabulous time and thankfully the sun shone.



Two days and nights were spent at High Ashurst with challenges such as climbing a 14-metre wall (blindfolded for some!), abseiling, high ropes and trapeze, plus many team-building tasks. It is always a joy to see characters develop and new friendships blossom.



Then we moved on to Thames Young Mariners and enjoyed days of water sports (a relief from the

heat!). Activities included kayaking and sailing and culminated in a raft race. Well done to The Great Gals

## Abinger medieval Fair 2022

It was wonderful to see the pomp and ceremony returning to Abinger Common Green earlier this month. The children looked fantastic in their costumes and processed beautifully to open the fair. The maypole dancers were absolutely brilliant – their plait was perfect and they all kept full concentration throughout (even when the incorrect music was played!). A huge thank you to Becky Smith for giving up much of



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her time and offering her expertise to teach the children the dances. Thank you to all parents who supported this amazing event and to members of F@SH for running the teas - reportedly the best ever! Incredibly, over £20,000 was taken during the 3 hours.

Some of the proceeds will be donated to F@SH, and will therefore benefit all of the children at Surrey Hills.



## **Guildford Cathedral Service – Year 6 Leavers**

On a hot June morning, our Year 6 took part in the Leavers' Service at Guildford Cathedral. Prior to the service, the children reflected on aspects on their time at Surrey Hills – considering their 'wow' moments, any regrets and also what they are looking forward to as they journey onwards.

After 2 years away, it was very moving to be back there, celebrating with many other schools within the diocese.

**Mr Simon Coles**  
**Headteacher**

**AGE** Mole Valley  
*Concern*

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# WESTFEST PICTURES



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# WESTfest CHARITIES

2022

WESTfest is run by volunteers, with the aim of bringing the Westcott village community together for a fun afternoon.

We enable local groups, charities, traders and businesses to fundraise, sell products or just raise awareness. WESTfest also raises money for five local charities, through our fabulous Silent Auction and CASH PRIZE RAFFLE – all auction lots and cash prize fund are donated.

- 1 **DORKING MINDS** A volunteer group helping local people support mental health in the community.
- 2 **PAPUA PARTNERS** Established in Westcott in 2006, working in West Papua to enable people to overcome poverty.
- 3 **GIRL GUIDING UK** Faurefold Holiday Home Westcott is a fantastic resource for various organisations accommodating children under 16.
- 4 **F@SH** Friends at Surrey Hills All Saints School – raising vital funds for our local school.
- 5 Dorking based **BRIGITTE TRUST** offers emotional and practical support to people facing life-limiting illness.
- 6 **UKRAINE CRISIS NEW FOR 2022**  
A donation to support the humanitarian relief effort.



## WESTFEST RAFFLE WINNERS

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# DORKING MUSEUM

It has been quite a summer – record temperatures, lots of sporting events, and maybe holidays too. We have been busy at the Museum, with guided walks, cave tours, five weeks of family activities and a successful family book launch. But September already and the start of autumn. We hope that we will be able to welcome you to the Museum or (at least) one of our events.

**Last chance to see:** Our summer exhibition, 'Rewildings', comes to an end on 17th September, featuring an exclusive collection of paintings by local artist Daisy McMullan, inspired by walking the local paths of the Mole Trail between Leatherhead and Dorking.

**Hedgerow Heritage:** Retaining a rural theme, this autumn the Museum is hosting an exhibition in conjunction with the Surrey Wildlife Trust's Hedgerow Heritage Project, an ambitious 4-year project aiming to restore and protect hedgerows



Hedgerow  
**Heritage**  
A Surrey Wildlife Trust Project

theme, this autumn the Museum is



across the North Downs Biodiversity Opportunity Area. Hedgerows are an essential part of our natural heritage and support a variety of plant and animal species. Since 1945, there has been a serious decline in the number and condition of these essential habitats with their cultural, environmental and historic value. The exhibition explores the history and heritage of the area's hedgerows, their importance to the environment and community, and how they might be restored and renewed for the future. The exhibition opens on 22nd September.

**Book launch:** *A Hundred Years on a Medieval Manor* explores the development of the town and manor of Dorking between the 1280s and 1380s,

*A Hundred Years on a  
Medieval Manor*  
Susannah Horne



providing a snapshot of the people who lived and worked there during these years. After extensive research, author Susannah Horne describes the manor of this period, how tenants made their living and the property market flourished, as the emphasis shifted from the land to the urban centre. She follows families through deteriorating weather, crop failures, the Black Death and political unrest. Thursday 15th September, 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. Tickets £5 bookable in advance online or on the door subject to capacity, includes a glass

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## Dorking Local History Group

The DLHG continues its popular programme of talks on a fascinating range of topics, some of which are live and some accessible via Zoom. Talks are free to members, but non-members are welcome. The September dates include:

- The String of Pearls – Villages from Nutfield to Westerham: Talk by Bob Evans about the villages, hamlets and features along the sandstone ridge from Nutfield to Westerham. 5th September at Crossways, Community Baptist Church, 7.15 for 7.30pm (£2 at the door for non-members).
- The Black Historical Presence in Surrey: A Zoom talk by historian Angelina Osborne, author of "100 Great Black Britons". 19th September, <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.

For further details of these talks and other activities – or to join DLHG – go to <https://dlhg.org.uk>.

## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

of prosecco. Book available from the Museum's online shop (The Cockerel Press, £9).

Following the successful launch event in July for the Museum's new interactive family book, the *Box of Extraordinary Delights*, a further event in the town is being planned: look out for details.

**Walking in Dorking:** September's popular guided walks feature Hidden Historic Dorking (Sunday 25th, 11am); Dorking as you have never seen it before, revealing the hidden treasures you may have walked past; and a Family History Detective walk (Sunday 25th, 2pm): an hour's walk suitable for children aged 4-10 which asks, 'Can you be a history detective to find the things shown in the photos?' Both leave from the Museum.

Please book walks in advance. See [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/](https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/) for these and other scheduled dates, details and bookings. Private group bookings can also be made to suit your requirements for timing and itinerary (other themed walks are available).

**Heritage Open Days:** This year's theme is 'Outstanding Inventions'. No inventions, but maybe one of our free out-of-town guided walks will give you the inspiration to come up with one!

The Deepdene Trail includes exclusive access to the grade 2\* listed Hope family Mausoleum (from Dorking Golf Club

clubhouse, Sunday 11th, 2pm); and two Betchworth Castle tours, with exclusive access to the castle enclosure (from Betchworth Park Golf Club entrance, Sunday 11th and 18th, 2pm). Please book in advance on [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/heritage-open-days-2022/](https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/heritage-open-days-2022/).

**Volunteer opportunities:** The Museum is run entirely by volunteers and we are still looking to fill some interesting and varied roles, whether 'front of house', helping to make visitors' experience a good one, or 'behind the scenes', working from home, the community or the Museum. See [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities/](https://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities/) for details and application.

Dorking 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](https://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk). Enquiries to [admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk) or phone 01306 876591.



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# GREEN WESTCOTT

## Being the change

The planet is in crisis. We have seen the parched landscape this summer and felt the heat of our warming climate – the warmest seven years on record have all been since 2015 (*Copernicus-EU Earth Observation programme*). We have witnessed a severe decline in nature during our lifetimes. Again and again those impacted the hardest by intersecting crises – the climate crisis, pollution, the cost of living crisis – are the most marginalized and vulnerable in our societies.



We have come to a landmark point where humanity needs to decide which path we will choose. A path of continued globalization and economic growth, favouring large corporations, big technology and industrialised agriculture, heavily reliant on continued fossil fuel use, the exploitation of natural resources and cheap human labour, with poor working terms and conditions. Or a path towards a more human-scale future promoting locally-based economies, justice and equality, celebrating diversity, relationship and collaboration, in which we all take

responsibility to care for our families, our communities and the land.



Are we content to play the role of consumers, pawns in a game of power and profiteering for a few, at the expense of the natural world and the wider population? Or will we choose to stand up for our humanity, in solidarity with those who are most impacted, and unite around the things we have in common – the desire to love and be loved, a deep, innate need for connection and the right to a healthy environment?

There are solutions within our reach. Wherever you look things are happening – local food initiatives, repair cafes, zero-waste shops, renewable energy projects, campaign action groups, cycling schemes and other community projects. Initiatives are springing up at a local level, diverse and vibrant, aimed at bringing cleaner air, healthier food, more local work, active travel and building community. Thinking globally, acting locally. The future is not set. Can we take this opportunity to use our collective power to co-create a brighter, more equitable future?



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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

### Keep it simple

We all have the power to choose where to focus our attention to help create future scenarios that centre hope, compassion and cooperation, through individual and collective action. Hold a vision of a better world. Take positive action where you can. Support those bringing changes that you want to see. Taking action is easier when we take small steps to improve things that are part of our daily lives, or that we love and enjoy.



Like walking? Join a march in solidarity with those campaigning for a cause that you empathise with; walk to raise awareness of an issue, ie new local oil drilling Shale Trail on October 1st or Walk with West Papua in solidarity with those bearing the brunt of extractive industries in their lands\*.

Like writing? Write a letter of support to someone doing something you admire; write a magazine article, blog or social media post on an issue important to you or write to your MP; write a poem or letter to the Earth ([www.letterstotheearth.com](http://www.letterstotheearth.com)) – and do

share it with us!

Love cooking? Try out new plant-based recipes for friends/family; host a community meal; bake produce to sell locally.

Like gardening or growing food? Grow plants to encourage birds and pollinators; get involved with Westcott Community Garden; share your knowledge with others; join Westcott Gardening Club.

If you have a particular skill or interest, eg crafting, renewable energy, finance, birdwatching, baking bread, consider running a workshop, hosting a talk or hosting an interest group.

Real change comes from the grassroots. We can consciously choose which narrative to feed each day. Saying no to fear, denial and division and yes to love, courage and humility. When we support each other and work together towards shared values we are powerful!



**Jakki Phillips**

\*for more information or to be involved in Westcott Community

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This unique event aims to reflect the cultural diversity of our communities in an area of outstanding natural beauty in which we all share and benefit. Musical director Anna Tabbush is creating a special song for the event for all to join in alongside choirs from around the county.



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The Westcott Village Association in conjunction with the Westcott 100 Club have started thinking about the challenge of improving access through the Cradhurst rec in all weathers particularly for users of wheelchairs and buggies.



This sketch shows a possible path layout – the exact route needs to be determined. The idea is to connect the existing entrances with a path (made from sustainable but hard-wearing materials) going around the main playing area.

Any work would be paid for by a combination of funds from the WVA, the Westcott 100 Club and other grant sources.

To be able to access these funding sources we need to demonstrate that there is a local need for this work, so this is where you come in.

We need YOUR input. How can we improve all-weather accessibility? Where could a path go? What materials would work best? What other solutions should be considered?

Email your comments to us at [cradhurstpath@gmail.com](mailto:cradhurstpath@gmail.com),

contact us via the WVA Facebook page or drop a note (marked "Cradhurst path") in the letter box at St John's.

## Thank you for your support!

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The surgery is closed and the phones are diverted from 1.00-2.00pm.



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