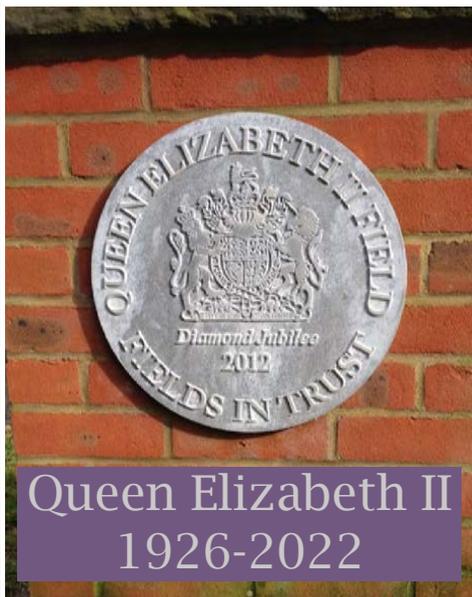


Westcott Village

Magazine

October 2022



Queen Elizabeth II
1926-2022



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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
November issue:

8th October 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



It's been a funny old week as I write this. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sadly passed away on 9th September and it does seem to have

affected many people in a way they may not have expected, given how few of us actually met her. The queue to pay respects at the Queen's lying-in-state is currently 14 hours! It does feel like a momentous occasion, just because Queen Elizabeth is the only monarch most of us have ever known. I wish King Charles III the best of luck in his new role.



Almost all of the articles in this issue were submitted before the Queen died and so make no mention of it, but I am sure that as a village we will remember her as a strong and compassionate woman, who began her reign at a time when it was rare to have a female head of state (or head of anything) but made her voice count in so many ways. I could find no record of Her Majesty ever coming to Westcott

- I know she came to Dorking many years ago as I was there, but we do have Cradhurst as one of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Fields in Trust, meaning that it can't be built on or developed in the future.



This month the 100 Club are still canvassing views on a path round Cradhurst (see p63) and there is an appeal on page 17 for new children's pyjamas to distribute to children who have to spend Christmas in hospital. Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School has its Open Day on 1st November, just to give you plenty of notice, and we have details of a giant pumpkin that will end its days as part of a Halloween display while raising funds for two good causes on page 39.

Our advertising co-ordinator Ellen has sadly stepped down from the role having done a sterling job over the last year or so and we are looking for a new volunteer to take this on. If you can spare a few hours a week to help this magazine get out to every household in the village free of charge thanks to the advertisers, please see page 47 for more details.

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



LOST AND FOUND

By the time you read this I will be Vicar of Holy Trinity Westcott, but as I write I am surrounded by boxes as we sort through our possessions in preparation for our move.

As we organise and pack we are experiencing the dilemma of every house-mover – what do we bring with us and what is it time to get rid of? Do I really need to keep hold of my old school maths books?

The taxi company Uber recently released their annual 'Lost and Found Index' where they list the baffling range of objects which have been left in their cabs over the past year. Apparently, Nike is the most forgotten brand. The three most commonly left behind items are the predictable trilogy of phones,

wallets, and keys. The more obscure left behind items include a 'small rhino sculpture', '10lbs of hamburger meat', 'my grandma's teeth', 'a metal leg', and my personal favourite, '6 pool drains and an Employee of the Month plaque'. It is amazing the things you can leave behind in a taxi.

One of the reasons I have loved belonging to church communities is that the Church is a place where I can bring all my baggage with me. I don't just mean my old maths books or sculptures of large terrestrial mammals, but my faults, my successes, my failures, my hopes, and my hurts. Nothing that I carry with me can exclude me from walking through that door and belonging to a community where it is safe to ask questions, carry doubts, and experience the love of God. This may not have been your experience of the church. The institution and each church community gets things wrong, but church is meant to be a place where all are invited to come.

CHURCH... A PLACE
WHERE ALL ARE
INVITED

It is amazing the things you can leave behind...

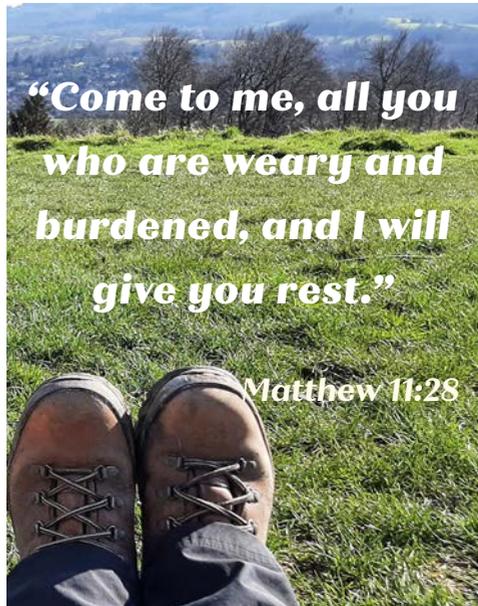


...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Jesus once said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." This has been my experience of trying to follow Jesus and being part of the worldwide church with others who are doing their best to become more like him.

Are you feeling heavily burdened at the moment? Are you in need of rest? Rather than trying to offload in a taxi, why not try coming as you are, burdens and all, and giving church a go. You are most warmly invited.

Rev'd. Tim Armstrong
Vicar



COOKIE CLUB

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

St John's Community Hall, Westcott
Thursday mornings 9-11am, term time

toys
songs
craft

chat
snacks & drinks
fun

An informal and friendly group for parents, grandparents & carers, along with their babies & pre-school children. Enjoy comfy sofas, good coffee, and friendship.
£2 voluntary contribution per family

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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.

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
2nd Oct	Trinity 16 - Philippians: Christ is proclaimed	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
9th Oct	Trinity 17 - Philippians: To live is Christ	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Baptism
16th Oct	Trinity 18 - Philippians: The beginning of humility	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
23rd Oct	HARVEST Trinity 19 - Philippians: A Church that shines	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Harvest Communion
30th Oct	Joshua: Inheriting a legacy	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
------------	------	------------------------



BUILDING
FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING
LIFE

Harvest Services

Sunday, 23rd October
Holy Trinity Westcott

8:30am BCP Communion
10:15am Communion



*All are invited to join us in giving thanks for all we have,
and giving to those in need of extra support.
You are invited to bring non-perishable goods and
money for giving to 'LeatherHEAD START' hostel for the
homeless.*

*For a list of preferred items for donation, please see this
magazine, or the church website.*



thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

leatherheadstart.org



THE CHURCH IN
WESTCOTT

Building Friendships. Sharing Life.

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Harvest

LeatherHEAD Start provides emergency, direct access, short-term accommodation for homeless men and women over the age of 18. We can help them by donating food, toiletries and cleaning materials. Please use this list, or the QR code to take a copy when you go shopping. Let's respond with thankfulness and care, by generously giving what is most needed.

Please bring donations to Holy Trinity Church, in the week before Harvest, or to our Harvest Festival Service (Sunday, 23rd October).

LEATHERHEAD START - HARVEST FESTIVAL DONATIONS LIST

FOOD

Tins:

Tuna

Sweetcorn

In moderation:

Spaghetti hoops

Tomatoes

Tinned meat

Baked beans

Chick peas

Kidney beans

Tinned fruit (not grapefruit)

Misc:

Gravy granules

Tomato ketchup

Brown sauce

Mayonnaise

Salad Cream

BBQ Sauce

Marmite*

Peanut butter*

Chocolate spread

Jam

Marmalade

Honey

Squashes and soft drinks

Biscuits/confectionery

Crisps

Olive oil/cooking oil

Long-life semi-skimmed milk*

Salt & Pepper

Malt vinegar

Balsamic vinegar

Mustard

Chocolate

Custard (cartons)

Dry goods:

Rice

Breakfast Cereals*

Granulated Sugar

Tea bags (not leaf tea)

Coffee (not decaffeinated) *

Flour

Noodles

Biscuits

NON-FOOD

Toiletries

Deodorant spray

Shower gel

Shampoo & Conditioner

Handwash

Toilet paper*

Cleaning materials

Anti-bac surface cleaner*

Anti-bac wipes*

Washing-up liquid*

Floor cleaner*

J cloths

Scourers

Dish washer tablets*

Dishwasher rinse aid

Dishwasher salt

Washing machine capsules*

Toilet cleaner*

Greaseproof paper

Tin foil

Cling film

Food bags

Black refuse sacks

Small white bin liners

NOT REQUIRED

Tinned soup

Horlicks

Loose leaf tea

Tinned pies

Tinned vegetables

Tinned pulses, (eg.

kidney beans)

Packet soup

Talcum powder

Solid soap

Body lotion

Pasta

Crackers

*Preferred items



leatherheadstart.org

thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

Thank you!

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for private prayer
or reflection

Every Day 9:00am-4:00pm
Come to enjoy the beauty and peace,
pray, reflect, breathe, be.

All are welcome

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism:

31st July	Rory Nicholas O'Keeffe
6th August	Frederick John Evans

Death:

11th December 2014	Jaqueline Violet Rogers (74)
31st October 2021	Terence Phillip Rogers (79)



FLOODLIGHTING

There has been no sponsorship of the church floodlighting for October.

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.)

WESTFEST PRESENTS

WESTfestivity

*The Westcott Village
Christmas Fair*

*Saturday
November 26th*

10-3

Stalls £20

westfestsurrey@gmail.com

07710425487

Westcott 100 Club

It's been a busy month for the Westcott 100 Club. We have supported the recent pizza night for our Ukrainian guests, their hosts and other volunteer helpers (see photo). We are canvassing village views on a possible path for the Cradhurst recreation ground (share your thoughts at cradhurstpath@gmail.com), and we have supported the recent advertising campaign by our Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School.



We are delighted to be able to provide matched funds to support these local initiatives and are actively looking for other local projects to consider. Get in touch with your ideas – we're keen to explore them!

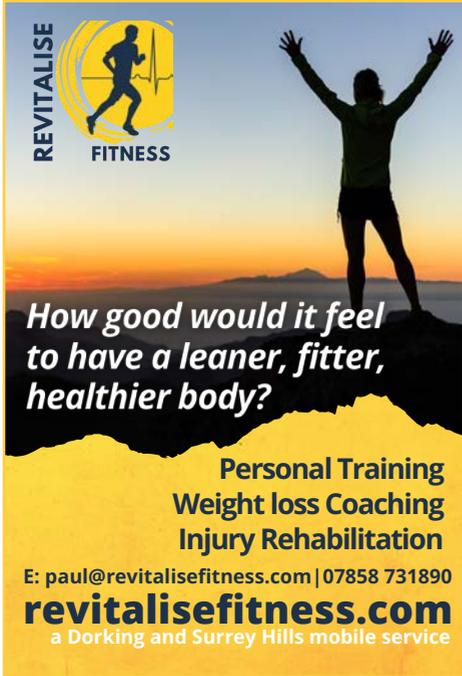
The scheme remains open for new members. Membership costs £25 per ticket per year. Your number(s) will be entered into four quarterly draws (June, September, December and March) and the regular annual draw in December. Prize values are based on the number of eligible tickets – the more tickets, the bigger 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.

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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If you have read the minutes of the last WVA Committee Meeting then you will know that succession-planning has been on the agenda. At the end of this year, I will have been Chairman for 5 years and during that time have initiated a number of changes to move the Association forward and change village perceptions of the organisation.

I have enjoyed the last 5 years and found it very rewarding but the future of the village lies with the younger generation and the changes we will need to make should rest in their hands with a new Chairman who can continue with drive and determination.

I will continue to involve myself in Village affairs and feel very strongly that we need at least to consider moving to become a Parish Council. How the new Mickleham, Westcott, & Oakwood Ward operates (see below) and what happens if Surrey County Council makes a decision on potentially moving to become a Unitary Authority will have significant implications for the District's Resident

Associations, not just Westcott's, and we should be planning ahead to at least be ready for the possible changes we would need to make.

I will lead a project to look into this and hope that others will join me to gather information and present the pros and cons of the idea to the village, so that you as residents can ultimately decide on the matter in a referendum. As we have seen nationally, making well-informed choices is the key to future success.



Mole Valley
New electoral arrangements

Our independent review means:

- 39 councillors
- Changes to all ward boundaries

Find out more at:
<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/30046>

The Local Government Boundary Commission



Other things to Note

The Boundary Commission has now published its decision on the new ward boundaries and, as expected, has made no changes from its draft proposals other than to re-name the Leith Hill ward *Mickleham*,

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Westcott, and Oakwood Ward. Three Councillors will represent this ward and the renaming at least gives some scope for Councillors to 'adopt' one of the areas to represent. How things operate in practice will be decided after elections are held in May 2023.

The latest news on the Local Plan can be found on the MVDC website under *Future Mole Valley*; the inspector has challenged the necessity to release the Westcott site (Mill Way) and the two sites on the west side of Dorking from the Green Belt. We await her final decisions but you can read the WVA's response on the Westcott Village web site under Planning.



Village litter pick day

Please put **12th November** in your diaries for the next village litter pick. If you are able to spare a couple of hours maximum to help out, meet on the Green at 10.30am. All equipment is provided so you only need to bring yourselves. This is a great opportunity

to network, meet people you wouldn't otherwise talk to, and do something positive for the village.

The next **WVA Open Meeting** will be held on **Thursday 3rd November at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church**, when the Committee and I look forward to hearing your reactions to and questions on the issues we face as a village community.

With my best regards,

Tim Way

Chairman, Westcott Village Association

timway.westcott@gmail.com

contact@westcottvillage.com

Village Projects

We have written to all the senior representatives of the main



organisations in the village to seek their input to putting forward Village Projects which can be initiated using CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies. We are liaising with Mole Valley to ensure that we use the new system of fund allocation to our advantage. We asked for projects to be put forward by the end of September but we are always pleased to consider new projects as they arise.



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The Reading Room*



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10.30 - 12.00 midday*

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PYJAMAS APPEAL

Unfortunately, some children will be spending their Christmas in hospital. I am volunteering for a charity who help to bring a smile to children's faces at the hardest of time. I am collecting PJs for children in East Surrey Hospital.



- Pyjamas **HAVE** to be brand new
- Please do not wrap them as they need to be checked by the individual hospitals.
- Please avoid Christmas themed pj's as excess pj's are given to children in need brought in to the wards throughout the year.
- If at all possible avoid fleecy pj's as hospital wards can be quite warm.
- We need boys and girls, newborn to age 18 (young adult)

We are collecting from **September 1st to October 31st**. You can drop the PJs to Jon&Mum Grocery or email me sallycroftis@gmail.com and I will come and collect.

Thank you, Sally



Westcott Village Hall

The Perfect Venue for any event

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- Mornings - £19 - £32
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- Evenings - £35 - £69
- Kitchen (fully equipped) - £25
- Sale of alcohol licence - £20

Mobile: 07967 286636

Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com

www.westcottvillagehall.com

VOLUNTEER/BABY MEALS

No further babies to report, but a lovely message from recent meal recipient Jen Jordan-Moss...



Hi Anna and wonderful cooks of Westcott. Just wanted to shout out an enormous thank you for all the help following my recent op. Knowing we were going to be fed when mobility was not high on the agenda was such a blessing.

Thanks too for various lifts and shopping supplies. It's amazing the support within our wonderful village.

Do you know that this village meal 'service' has been running now for around 19 years!! In the early days the organisation wasn't so professional and the cooking team and recipients were mainly connected to church. Menu repeats were common and the occasional two meals one day and none the next! As more become involved we were able to offer meals more widely to the whole village when new babies arrived. I wonder how many babies this has now been!?!

A friend of mine, Sarah, a vicar in Redhill, introduced us to the 'Take them a Meal' website which we now use. It revolutionises the whole process, making it easy for the cooking team and now I know, also as a recipient, it was lovely to have your weekly menu available!

*Thanks again,
Jen*

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

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



150 and Out (well almost)

My records might not be completely correct, but I think this is my 150th edition of “District Councillor Writes” – don't worry I haven't concocted a quiz on the previous 149 for you.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has now announced that, subject to review by Parliament, Westcott will merge in with ten other local communities to join up democratic representation from the edge of Leatherhead to the West Sussex border from May next year and so there won't be that many more of these village specific articles to follow.

From May 2023 onwards, village residents will be electing a new councillor every year to the ward of Mickleham, Westcott & Okewood.

The Need For Affordable Housing

Over the last three and a half years, Mole Valley District Council has been able to advertise 13 affordable homes for rent in Westcott.

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Over 55s	1	0	0	0
1 Bed Flat	1	1	2	0
1 Bed Bungalow	0	1	0	0
2 Bed House	0	0	0	1
2 Bed Flat	0	1	0	0
3 Bed House	0	1	2	0
3 Bed Flat	1	1	0	0
Total	3	5	4	1

With 993 dwellings in the village and a further 25 with planning permission, it is clear that the turnover of properties for affordable rent through the council is remarkably low.

This may or may not benchmark well with other village communities or be offset by “affordable” sales but what it does mean is that if you are a young family with a connection to the village that gets you a priority for such homes, then even so you are going to have a long wait for something suitable to come up.

That in turn has a knock on effect on who lives in our village, who uses our services and who supports our community – our GP surgery, our pub, our shops, our school.

If you think that you know of an opportunity to create more affordable homes for rent or own in our village, then please do let me know. I'd be happy to talk them through.



Secure a Senior School Place Early



NEXT OPEN DAY EVENT

Nursery, Prep & Senior School

Saturday 8 October 2022

www.manorhouseschool.org | 01372 457077 | admissions@manorhouseschool.org

THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Keeping Up Neighbourhood Appearances

I recently had the opportunity to take our new Clarion Housing Neighbourhood Officer around the village and to highlight a number of things that need to be fixed to either tidy up or to help resident safety. Thank you to everyone who had emailed me with their requests leading up to the visit.



The tree adjacent to the village green has now gone and the Council have thankfully repaired the grounds.



Responsible and Safe Riding

Forestry England are keen to get the message out to our bike riding community that it is often unsafe to ride off the approved trackways in our local woods.

Riding on unofficial bike trails may not be safe and could result in serious injury to riders or to other visitors. There may also be nearby foster work or machinery creating further hazards and riding may damage sensitive areas of the forest, harming wildlife or historical features.



You can help protect our forests for everyone by only cycling in stone-surfaced forest roads, formal waymarked cycle trail and bridleways. To find great bike trails local visit forestryengland.uk/cycling

Scams Awareness

Sadly, each year, millions of people in the UK are scammed. People of all ages and backgrounds are victims. However, older people are over-represented as victims of particular frauds, including pension and investment



scams, postal scams, doorstep scams and telephone scams.

Search for a word

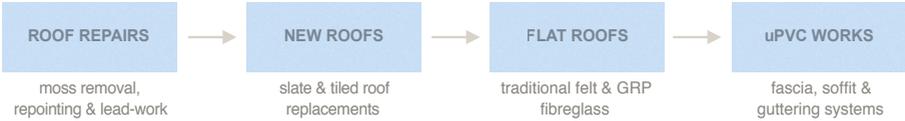


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/rɪ'mi:diəl 'ru:fɪŋ/ adjective

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Some older people are especially at risk, either because scammers target them or because their circumstances make them vulnerable, for example if they are bereaved, lonely or living with dementia. The financial and health impacts can be devastating.

- Almost 5 million older people (65+) believe they have been targeted by scammers.
- People defrauded in their own homes are 2.5 times more likely to go into residential care within a year.
- People have lost an estimated £43 million to pension scammers since April 2014.



Age UK Surrey has been granted funding over two years to prevent hundreds of older people from becoming victims and to support those who have already been scammed so that they feel safer and less likely to be scammed again.

The charity aims to:

- Hold awareness-raising talks across the County in person or online; and
- Provide one-to-one advice sessions with older people in their homes who are vulnerable, at risk of scams or who have already been scammed.

If you know of anyone who could

benefit from these sessions / talks then contact Age UK – Surrey on 01483 503414

Tips for saving energy at home

Following the energy price cap announced by Ofgem, energy bills are set to increase significantly this month. Every household will be offered a £400 energy grant to help this winter, but this won't cover the extra cost. However, the Energy Saving Trust have some ways you can reduce your energy usage:

- Save £105 per year by turning down your thermostat down by 1 degree if it is safe for you to do so



- Save up to £100 a year if you have a water meter by fitting a water efficient shower head (contact your provider as some provide for free)
- Save up to £67 a year if you have a water meter by reducing showers by one minute
- Save £65 a year by draught proofing your chimney when not in use
- Save £60 a year by drying clothes on racks/outside rather than in the tumble dryer
- Save £55 a year by switching off standby

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The advertisement features a collage of three fence types: a wooden fence, a wooden lattice fence, and a white metal fence. In the center is the RBFencing logo, which consists of the letters 'RBF' in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a dark brown oval with a white border, with the word 'FENCING' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Below the logo, the text 'RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL • SCHOOLS • ACOUSTIC HOARDING • GATES • SECURITY' is displayed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the company name 'RICHARDSON & BRADS FENCING LTD' is followed by the phone number 'T: 01306 640 143 - 01483 414 745', the email 'E: INFO@RBFENCINGLTD.CO.UK', the website 'W: WWW.RBFENCINGLTD.CO.UK', and the address 'A: 168 SOUTH STREET, DORKING, SURREY, RH4 2ES UNIT 45 MARTLANDS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, SMARTS HEATH LANE, MAYFORD, GU22 0RQ'.

THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

- Save £55 a year by replacing old bulbs with LEDs
- Save £45 a year by draught proofing windows and doors
- Save £28 a year by washing at 30 degrees and do one less wash a week
- Save £20 a year by turning off lights when not needed.

For advice on how to reduce your energy use and carbon footprint, call Action Surrey on 0800 783 2503 to speak with an energy advisor or email them at info@actionsurrey.org. Go to the Surrey Community Matters Warmth Matters web page for free advice on

saving energy and reducing energy bills or call them on 07521 503 696.

Free funding to heat your home

A new 'Sustainable Warmth' grant of up to £10,000 is now available for families with a household income of less than £30,000. The grant can be used to fund heating and insulation measures. Details are published on the Surrey County Council website.

James Friend



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We are one of the many groups you can join through Dorking and District u3a. For more information, check out our website www.dorkingu3a.org.uk or contact our Membership Secretary John Sinclair on 01306 711542 or johnsinclair@dorkingu3a.org.uk.





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MUSIC IN DORKING



8th at 7.30, English Arts Chorale at Dorking Halls, £19-27, 01306 881717
15th from 9.45am, LHMF Come & Sing at Dorking Halls, £25, 01306 881717
15th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's church
22nd at 7.30, piano trio at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams. He was one of England's finest composers, noted for his many choral works and nine symphonies. He had close connections to Dorking, spending most of his childhood at nearby Leith Hill Place, later living in Dorking itself, and being for nearly fifty years the first conductor of the Leith Hill Music Festival. Fittingly, his statue now stands directly outside the Dorking Halls.

The occasion will be marked in a concert given by the English Arts Chorale and Orchestra, conducted by Leslie Olive, which will feature Vaughan Williams' first two symphonies. These are the Sea symphony, a highly dramatic piece with chorus, and the London symphony, a portrait of a city Vaughan Williams came to know well.

The Leith Hill Festival will also celebrate with a 'Come and Sing' – a day devoted to the music of RVW. Under the direction of the festival's conductor, Jonathan Willcocks, participants will be able to rehearse three of his choral works – the Fantasia on Christmas Carols, Five English Folksongs, and Toward the Unknown Region - finishing with an informal concert performance of the three pieces. This will be an excellent opportunity to explore these works under the inspired leadership of a renowned and enthusiastic choral conductor. The cost of £25 includes copies of the music and the day begins with registration at 9.45am.

The Dorking Concertgoers begin their new concert season with a visit from the Vienna Mozart Trio, a group comprising piano, violin and cello. They are noted especially for their performances of the Viennese classics, and their programme includes two trios by Mozart and one by Mendelssohn. The Concertgoers will pay their own tribute to Vaughan Williams in their next concert, a piano duet recital in November, when two RVW works will be included.

The Dorking Chamber Orchestra's concert will begin with the overture to Mozart's opera Don Giovanni, followed by Haydn's cello concerto no.2 with soloist Filippo Ramaciotti, a young student from the Yehudi Menuhin school. The concert will finish with Gounod's first symphony.

There are also two screenings at the Dorking Halls from the Royal Opera House – these are Verdi's Aida (12th) and Puccini's La bohème (20th).

Ian Codd

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

The Rise and Demise of Attlee's Seed Company in Dorking



Attlee's Seed Company was founded in 1788 by Corn Merchant John Attlee who was the great

grandfather of Clement Attlee. As many people may remember Clement Attlee was a member of the War Cabinet with Winston Churchill during WWII and subsequently became Prime Minister at the election in 1945.

The business was a family affair and the premises were in the High Street until 1839 when Richard Attlee, John's eldest son, leased the Parsonage Mill site in Station Road from Denbies Estate. The business was rebranded as J&W Attlee in 1860 and it began to expand, offering more goods and supply services, including fertilizer with their horse drawn wagons. In 1921 Attlee's purchased the Parsonage Mill for £1250. The firm withstood the



depression years and two world wars and continued to prosper.

In 1973 William Lillico & Son, a similar firm which was established in Kent, purchased the business because there was no Attlee family member to take over, but it continued under the name Attlee's Country Store. For some years the firm has supplied, in addition to agricultural seed, the grain needed to feed horses and other animals and miscellaneous other items for pets and horses.

During the mill's lifetime since 1788 much has happened in the Dorking agricultural scene. The population of Dorking in the early 1800's was about 3000, of which 1800 were on 'poor relief'. The Duke of Norfolk owned most of the surrounding land and rented it to small tenant farmers and sold some estates to wealthy Londoners. Back then about 16 stage and mail coaches passed along the Dorking - Holmwood turnpike every day. The time to London from Horsham was some 3½ hours (38 miles) but subject to many accidents such as broken axles.

At the turn of the century (1800) there was an ongoing war with France who were trying to deny trade with England and Napoleon Bonaparte was at war with other states in Europe. However, Napoleon's fleet was defeated by Admiral Nelson and the British Navy, firstly at the Battle of The Nile in



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



August 1798 and again at the Battle of Trafalgar in October 1805, and this relieved the pressure on English ports in danger of attack. In England, life was very difficult and cold; the Thames froze in winter, and farming suffered poor conditions during the war years leading up to the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 when France was defeated and Napoleon was exiled to St Helena. The English population celebrated with a candle in every window. It was estimated that one sixth of the adult population had served in the war.

The homecoming soldiers and sailors swelled the masses of the unemployed and little was done by the landowners and government to relieve this problem - a rural family earned 9 shillings per week and casual workers earned 7 pennies a day. On 22nd Nov 1830 there was a meeting of agricultural workers in the main street outside the Red Lion (long since demolished) in Dorking, the meeting place for many public functions. The magistrates failed to give promises about wages and riots ensued which



Entrance to the market

were suppressed by the cavalry called by the magistrates. Similar riots took place in Guildford.

The harvest of 1879 was the worst of the century and there was a general movement towards the towns to find work. In Dorking on 1st March 1926 the market stalls were moved from the main street to a site behind the north side shops because congestion in the main street had become intolerable

as the market was getting too crowded and included cattle pens. Attlee's Country Store continues to evolve and keep pace with change and present day needs. Let us wish it well in the 21st century.

There is no meeting planned for October but details for the November meeting will be announced in due course. As always the WLHG committee welcomes ideas for future talks.

Roger Christian



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We are all super thrilled to be back at nursery after a busy summer holiday and can't wait to welcome new children and make new friends. We've heard (and seen) that our school leavers have settled in superbly at their new schools – just as we knew they would. We are ready for another year exploring the world around us inside and out of the Evelyn Hall and will keep you posted along the way!

With a soggy start to the term we donned our wellies and raincoats to take full advantage of the many muddy puddles. Our digging site with our tremendous trucks is truly benefitting from a bit of fresh mud! Wellies aren't supposed to be clean! Our carefully cultivated plants have also made it through the long hot summer and are welcoming now being able to quench their thirst.

Is there any better Great British pudding than a crumble? No, we hear you say! On our first cookery session back we were delighted to use squishy squashy blackberries from our village to create said pudding. We had great fun putting

our fairy fingers back into action as we worked our magic on the crumble topping. Now who's for custard or ice cream?!

Something that fascinates us all is how amazing our human bodies are. We love to learn through playing doctors or looking at brilliant books so we have an understanding of how we work! To help us consider this we have some lovely new wooden artists hands and models in the nursery and absolutely love twisting all the moving joints into funny positions. What a great new resource for us!



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

HOLMBURY CHORAL SOCIETY



OPEN EVENING INVITATION

**Thursday 20 October 8pm at Abinger Hammer Village Hall
Come and meet us - and sing!**

Conducted by Cole Bendall, Holmbury St Mary Choral Society is a friendly, non-auditioned choir of around 40 singers. We sing works that were written across the last five centuries, with a particular emphasis on 20th century and contemporary composers, including a lighter repertoire from jazz and musicals.

We stage well-supported Christmas and summer concerts at different local venues and in the spring we participate in the Leith Hill Musical Festival at Dorking Halls, where we combine with other choirs to perform a major work (Haydn's Nelson Mass in 2023) with professional soloists and orchestra.

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Rehearsals at Abinger Hammer Village Hall run from 8pm to 9.45pm on Thursday evenings during term-time. New members will have a choir 'buddy' to help them find their feet.

We'd love to meet you! Please email Liz Hamilton to let her know you're coming to the Open Evening on 20th October: elizabethjuliethamilton@gmail.com

Visit our website for more info about the choir and recent programmes: <http://holmburychoral.org/>

Javed Kumar

FUNDRAISING GIANT PUMPKIN



Surrey's biggest ever pumpkin raises funds for good causes

During 2020, residents of Westcott may have spotted a huge pumpkin growing in a front garden in Parsonage Lane. This year, at his allotment in Dorking, Matt Peskett has more than doubled the size of his 'lockdown' pumpkin with a new giant weighing in at approximately 750lbs / 340kg - as much as three baby elephants!



A committee member at Westcott Gardeners' Club and the Chairman of Dorking Allotment Holders' Association, Matt has been growing giant pumpkins for around six years. Whilst most plants struggled with the extreme heat this summer, the very warm nights made for perfect giant pumpkin growing conditions.

All being well, the pumpkin will be taken to RHS Hyde Hall's Heaviest Pumpkin Competition in Essex on October 1st. Thereafter it will appear at the Mole Valley Pumpkin and Squash Show at Dorking Christian Centre on October 15th before ending its days as part of the Tulleys Farm Shocktober Fest in Crawley (for Halloween).

Fundraising

In exchange for the monster pumpkin, Tulleys Farm have agreed to make donations to Dorking's Community Fridge organisation 'Mid Surrey Community Fridges (MSCF)' and to Perennial GRBS. MSCF Surrey exists to reduce food waste and make sure that surplus food is made available to anyone who can use it. As one of the largest Community Fridge organisations in the UK the volunteer-run organisation makes around 7.5 tonnes of surplus food available every week.

Perennial GRBS (formerly the Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society) is the UK's only charity dedicated to helping everyone who works in horticulture. Matt's great grandfather - George Cook, a former Head Gardener on the Tilgate Estate in Crawley, was cared for in his old age by GRBS. He ended his years in 1997 as England's oldest man at the age of 108 - in a GRBS run care home here in Westcott.

Is giant squash growing in the genes?

Rather amusingly Matt's great great grandad made the Dorking newspaper in 1900 with this little horticultural report: *LARGE VEGETABLES. - Mr J G Tickner, of Brook House, Holmwood, has a custard marrow growing in his garden, which measures 37 inches in circumference. He also has a potato grown by Mrs Mills, of The Burrows, Brockham, weighing 2lbs 3ozs*

Matt Peskett

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It has been an historic and emotional start to the new school year, one which has seen much joy and happiness to once again be back together under one roof, with a common purpose in mind.

We have however lived, these last couple of weeks, through an historic moment in time. To transition from being Royal subjects under the longest serving and much beloved Queen, to a King whose reign is just beginning, adds to the strange mixture of change and uncertainty that seems to be at hand.

Difficulties we may not have seen for many years may lie ahead - a world in which war seems so close to home



and potential economic hardship within our parishes, our families, in our school and the wider world experienced.

I remain however, a pragmatic optimist. We are a school whose roots run deep, and we are supplicated and nourished by our common bonds, upholding our values, our strong will to work together, supporting each other and nourished by our faith. We are blessed with the thoughtfulness and kindness of our children on a daily basis. Their smiles and innocence, their willingness to learn, their great fortitude and strength of character brings me such hope for the future.

There is much to celebrate, and I would like to offer a personal welcome to our new Vicar of Westcott and his wife and children. Tim has already started his work in school and is already invested in our family...I know this bond will only grow stronger as time moves on. He is also



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SURREY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL (cont)



he is with us.

We will have an Open Day on the 1st November (see page 21 for more details) and invite all prospective parents who have children that are looking for a school placement in Reception and Yr3 in 2023 to please come through our doors and see first

probably the first Vicar in the UK whose investiture and pledge of allegiance was to King Charles III. There are many new beginnings, and I am thrilled

hand all the fantastic opportunities your child would experience as a pupil of Surrey Hills All Saints.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of those in our community who support us all. It is the daily interactions, the positive word and the friendly smile that make all the difference and our community have a plethora to offer.

With warmth and faith I wish you all the very best start to the Autumn.

Simon Coles
Head Teacher



Faberge: Objects of Desire

The first of our series of Lectures for 2022/23 will take place on Tuesday 11th October 2022 at the Dorking Halls.

Faberge: Objects of Desire, how did a modest jewellery concern become an enduring symbol of Romanov luxury? Cynthia Coleman Sparke will take us beyond the legendary Easter Eggs to consider the design, sources, materials and techniques that distinguished this work.

The Arts Society brings people together through a shared interest in the arts. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the Dorking Halls and welcome new members. Please visit our website for more information theartsocietydorking.org.uk.



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This might be a tricky one for today's health and safety monitors, but towards the end of the nineteenth century, when this picture was captured by Walter Rose, local photographer and bee keeper, the Westcott School curriculum focussed on practical roles that pupils might take up on leaving.

At that time most boys would find work locally in an agricultural or horticultural environment; hence the presence of beehives on the school allotment.



Terry Wooden

Photograph provided from the Westcott Local History Group archives.

Reigate Beekeepers



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Advertising Co-ordinator for the Westcott Village Magazine.

Background

Westcott Village Magazine was relaunched in 2017 as a Full Colour 64-page Magazine free of charge to almost 1000 households in Westcott. Additional copies are made available in the church and other local outlets. It is published every month except August which is combined with July. Advertising pays for print costs and a team of 40 voluntary distributors deliver the magazine each month throughout the village. The next renewal is on 1 November 2023.

Reports To:

The project manager of the Westcott Village Magazine.

Job Overview:

Responsible for coordinating the advertising of the Westcott Village Magazine. Currently the magazine has 64 advertisers who renew on an annual basis. Each year there are a number of advertisers who do not renew, and the key is to secure new advertisers. The magazine's advertiser database is kept on a google sheet document which is accessible to the rest of the magazine team.

Responsibilities and Duties:

1. At least three months prior to renewal date, agree with the magazine team comprising the Editor, Distribution Manager and the Project Manager the renewal rates which will be determined by economic confidence and print costs.
2. Prepare renewal invoice for each advertiser.
3. Email existing advertisers with renewal details and invoice.
4. Respond to any advertiser queries.
5. Monitor the magazine's bank account to keep track of who has paid.
6. Keep the advertiser database updated with acceptances and declines.
7. Source new advertisers by cold calling and encouraging others within the community to source advertisers.
8. Send chaser emails to advertisers.
9. Ensure that any new artwork is acceptable to the editor and it is received from in a timely basis
10. Throughout the year respond to inquiries from potential advertisers by email and invoicing where appropriate.

Skills and requirements

1. Communication skills – verbal and email - are important
2. Good knowledge of MS-Excel and Google sheets
3. Ability to email accurately and responsively
4. Must have a personal computer
5. In the renewal period of three months approximately 3 days a month; outside renewal approximately an hour a month

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Watering the plants and saplings plus making sure our pond was topped up had to be a priority during the hot dry weeks of Summer, so we were relieved to have some rain in the latter part of August. Despite the hot weather the Memorial Woodland was as always a very welcoming place where the temperature under the canopy of the trees meant our visitors were comfortably able to enjoy a walk or picnic at one of the many picnic benches around the woodland.

The Charity, run by 5 volunteers, raises funds to assist Veterans who are in need and to do this worked hard throughout the Summer by attending a number of events in July and August: Capel Military Vehicle Show, WestFest at Westcott, Albury Produce Show and Peaselake Village Fair. But as well as raising funds, attending these events gives us an opportunity to talk to people about the Memorial Woodland and the work that we do for Veterans as a Charity.

We also held a very successful dinner/cabaret at Brooklands Technical College excellent banqueting venue. 100 people attended, professional artists donated their time to entertain us and a delicious three course meal was provided by Whisk, a local catering company. All proceeds raised at these events goes into the Memorial Fund to help our Veterans in times of need.

As we move into autumn the woodland will take on a totally different but beautiful scene; the leaves on the trees will turn golden brown and a variety of fungi pop up all over the place. Maintenance of the woodland is an ongoing job, we welcome help from anyone, so if you could spare a couple of hours a week or month we would be very grateful. Do contact us on the QRMW Charity phone 07444094700 or email qrmwcharity@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

We will be holding two events at the Memorial Woodland prior to Christmas. The first of which will be our Annual Remembrance Service at the Woodland on Friday 11th November to which everyone is invited. As usual the children from St Johns CofE School, Dorking will attend and participate in the service. Please do join us, we gather around the Monument in the Woodland at 10.40am for a traditional Remembrance Service and prayers lead by Revered David Grundy from St Mary's Church in Holmbury St Mary. Hot drinks will be served after the service and an opportunity to purchase some unique 'Poppy Day' items.

Then we look forward to our annual Christmas



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QRMW (cont)

at the Woodland event which is a fun afternoon for all the family. A treasure hunt for children and adults plus a visit by Father Christmas with gifts for the children. A Christmas raffle, tombola, lucky dip and other stalls will be there to get us into the Christmas spirit and raise some funds for our Veterans who are in need at this time of year. Please register your children as Father Christmas needs to organise what gifts the Elves should make for his sack of goodies. Price is £7 per child to enter the treasure hunt and get a goody bag and a visit to Father Christmas to receive a gift. Contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk giving child's name, gender and age early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited.

In the meantime please come and visit us the woodland is open 24/7. Please write in the Visitors book located at the entrance to the woodland. You can park at the front at anytime and walk in

or if I am there the main car park and visitors centre/museum is open and the kettle is always on. I look forward to seeing you.

Paul Cooling
Chairman
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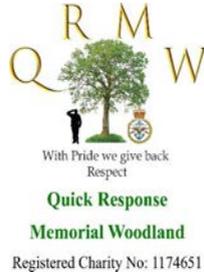
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Dorking Local History Group

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. Upcoming dates include:

- **Droughts, Deluges and Dust-devils: 350 years of weather in SE UK:** A talk by popular Surrey Weatherman Ian Currie about extreme weather events of the past. 3rd October, live talk at Crossways, Community Baptist Church, 7.15 for 7.30pm (£2 at the door for non-members).
- **Railways of Surrey:** A Zoom talk by local journalist David Rose. 17th October: <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.
- **Quex Park as a VAD hospital in WW1:** Quex archivist Hazel Basford tells the story of this Kent country house made available as an auxiliary military hospital. 31st October, Zoom talk (as above).

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

DORKING MUSEUM

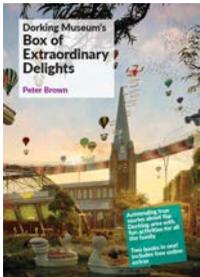
Hedgerow Heritage:



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 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.

Half-Term Family Activity at Dorking Library:

Don't just sit there, do something! Following the successful summer launch of the fabulous new get-up-and-go action book, Dorking Museum's Box of Extraordinary Delights, you can join its creators at Dorking Library on Thursday 27th October between



10am and 2pm for a range of exciting creative activities. Have a go at Dorking's most complicated jigsaw puzzle! Handle fossils from the dinosaur swamp. See your home, as you've never seen it before – with Maps Fantastic. Help architects design the perfect Dorking for the year 2075. Collect free model kits of Dorking's weirdest locomotive, a Rob Walker racing car and the Mayflower ship. A collaboration between Dorking Museum and Dorking Library, this is about getting out and doing things. Book your free entry for this unmissable event at the library desk, by e-mailing dorking.library@surreycc.gov.uk, or by messaging on Twitter or Facebook (@DorkingLibrary) or Instagram (@dorkinglibrary).

Walking in Dorking:

Our regular programme of guided walks winds down for the season in October, so here is your opportunity. On Sunday 2nd October at 2pm, The Deepdene Trail includes exclusive access to the grade 2* listed Hope family Mausoleum (starting from Dorking Golf Club clubhouse). There is a choice of three walks on Sunday 16th October.

At 11am, Hidden Historic Dorking reveals Dorking as you have never seen it



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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

before and the hidden treasures you may have walked past, and, at 2pm, a Family History Detective walk – 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. Also at 2pm, a Betchworth Castle tour, with exclusive access to the castle enclosure (leaving from Betchworth Park Golf Club entrance). Please book walks in advance. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/ for details and bookings. Private group bookings can also be made to suit your requirements.

South Street Cave Tours: The Caves close for the season at the end of October. Regular public Open Day dates are now sold out, but we end with a flurry: three Spooky Halloween Tours on 30th October – check website



for availability dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. We can also run private tours for any group or organisation any day or time to the end of October. These are great fun for friends and families. Please just email caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk

with your requirements.

Museum group visits and private viewings: Dorking Museum welcomes groups of all ages and our volunteers will be happy to help you make the most of your visit. We offer group bookings or private viewings at times when the Museum is closed to the public (subject to volunteer availability). Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/group-visits/.

Balloon Debate: The Dorking Society, in conjunction with Dorking Museum and Dorking Local History Group, is holding a Balloon Debate on Wednesday 19th October.

Four famous people in a hot-air balloon plummeting to earth.



Who will survive? You decide! Held at Betchworth Park Golf Club, 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets just £15 each, including an excellent buffet supper. Further information and tickets from Simon Edmands on 07753 821964 or simon.edmands@markallengroup.com.

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. Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.



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UK households are the worst hit by rising energy costs in Western Europe due to the UK's heavy reliance on gas to produce electricity and to heat buildings. (The Guardian 01.09.22) A situation exacerbated by the lack of sufficient insulation in homes, meaning higher energy use and bigger costs. This dependence upon fossil fuels is driving up bills and accelerating climate impacts worldwide.

Energy solutions

Drilling for new oil and gas in the North Sea will do little to help reduce our energy bills in the short term, as oil and gas fields take several years to develop. Besides, it is not guaranteed that North Sea oil and gas will end

up in the UK, much is exported by producers to sell on the global market. Fracking, similarly, could take years to significantly increase gas production and is unproven in the UK. The process of fracking requires huge amounts of water and has long been linked with serious environmental concerns - methane leaks; potential groundwater contamination; and earth tremors – as well as negatively impacting local communities.

Increasing emissions from burning more fossil fuels will only serve to worsen the climate crisis, and thus increase risks to those most vulnerable and marginalised in our societies. This year we have experienced temperatures topping 40oC in the UK, with the three-day heatwave in July causing around 948 excess deaths. Countries of the global South are increasingly impacted by drought, famine and





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flooding, most recently Pakistan where 'monster monsoon' floods have washed away 45% of cropland and affected 33 million people.

"Pakistan and other developing countries are paying a horrific price for the intransigence of big emitters that continue to bet on fossil fuels...I am issuing a global appeal. Stop the madness. Invest in renewable energy now. End the war with nature." (Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General, September 2022)



Renewables take a shorter time to build, are now up to nine times cheaper than gas¹ and are more stable in price, as they are not exposed to the volatility of global markets. *"There is no sliver of a cigarette paper between the fact that if you want to deal with climate change and you want to deal with the cost-of-living crisis and oil and gas prices you have to do the same things - renewable energy and energy efficiency - they are the answers."* (Lord Deben, Chairman, Climate

Change Committee on Today Radio 4, 7th September 2022)

A new study by Stanford University² has found that the world can switch to 100% renewable energy and the upfront costs could be repaid by savings within six years. Given the economic, environmental and health benefits of clean renewable energy – wind, wave/tidal and solar – it is not surprising that it enjoys widespread British public support (78%+) too!

For help and advice with energy bills visit www.ofgem.gov.uk and for energy saving measures visit www.actionsurrey.org

Westcott Community Garden

Please join us on Thursday, 27th October at 7pm to discuss the latest developments and share your ideas for our community garden project! Venue to be confirmed (please look out for posters around the village)

Jakki Phillips

References

1 Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit and 'Empirically grounded technology forecasts and the energy transition' (Oxford University 13.09.22)

2 'Low-cost solutions to global warming, air pollution, and energy insecurity for 145 countries' Energy Environ. Sci., 2022, 15, 3343



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We need your views

With July's heatwaves a distant memory, and England's weather reverting to 'normal' (rain, rain, rain...), some parts of the Cradhurst recreation ground are beginning to get soggy again. Is there something we could do about this?

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

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