

Westcott Village

Magazine

January 2023



*Happy
New
Year*

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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
February issue:

8th January 2023

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



2023 here we come! I hope you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and that you have a happy and healthy New Year.

John's on a Monday afternoon each week.

The Plein Air painters' group have an exhibition at the end of this month at Denbies so see page 26 if you're interested.

If anyone needs any help or can offer help to other residents then please see page 13 for details on the Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme, let's make sure no-one struggles alone this winter with cost of living or loneliness issues. Remember too that the community fridge van is regularly coming to St

Please keep sending in your pictures and copy this year, it makes a much more interesting magazine with lots of different contributors, and it's always nice to see your name in print!

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD



In some South American countries, you might see some people on New Year's Eve walking around with an empty suitcase. Some believe that taking what is called a "suitcase walk" means they will have a year full of adventures ahead.

When the clocks hit midnight in Spain, you'll find people reaching for grapes. This is because it is traditional to eat one grape each time the clock strikes at midnight to bring you 12 lucky months in the year to come.



In Brazil, there is a tradition to eat lentils at New Year, as these represent money - meaning good fortune for the year ahead.

If you were celebrating New Year in Denmark, it would be a good thing if you found smashed plates on your doorstep as it means good luck. So, if you were Danish, you might go and smash a plate on a friend's doorstep to bring good luck over the next 12 months.



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



NEW YEAR, NEW QUESTIONS?

Why is it that the start of a New Year seems to prompt so many of us, amid the fireworks and the enthusiastic renditions of auld lang syne, to strive to 'do better' in the coming year?

This is no new phenomenon. The author Mark Twain wrote the following in a letter on 1 January 1863:

"Yesterday, everybody smoked his last cigar, took his last drink, and swore his last oath. Today, we are a pious and exemplary community. Thirty days from now, we shall have cast our reformation to the winds and gone to cutting our ancient shortcomings considerably shorter than ever."

THIS YEAR... ...WHY NOT SET OUT TO EXAMINE AFRESH SOME OF LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS?

I no longer make New Year's resolutions, but I do use this season to ask myself searching questions. Is there anything about the way I am living that needs to shift if my practice is to fit with my values and beliefs? Do these values and beliefs that define how I seek to live need to shift according to any new evidence?

The biggest questions we can ask as human beings is whether we have been created with a purpose or are simply a happy cosmic accident. Is there a God? Does it even matter?

You will have guessed from my vocation that the evidence I examined led me to conclude that there is a God, and that this matters a great deal. I am often surprised however, not that people draw different conclusions to me, but that many people don't take time to look at the evidence.

Francis Collins has been a leading



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

scientist in the field of genetics for many years, working as the director of the National Human Genome Research Institute and subsequently as the director of the National Institutes of Health. He had concluded that *“all of this stuff about religion and faith was a carryover from an earlier, irrational time.”*

Then, having observed up close the real and tangible difference people’s faith made to them, especially in times of suffering, he had a shocking realisation:

“I had made a decision to reject any faith view of the world without ever really knowing what it was that I had rejected. And that worried me. As a scientist, you’re not supposed to make decisions without the data. It was pretty clear I hadn’t done any data collecting here about what these faiths stood for.”

To his surprise, as he rationally explored the evidence it eventually led him to become a Christian. This year – along with whatever resolutions you may or may not make – why not set out to examine afresh some of life’s big questions? You may be surprised at where it leads you.

Rev. Tim Armstrong
Vicar



The Church in Westcott is part of the Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme

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

Or contact our vicar, Rev. Tim Armstrong

07547602666 vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk

thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



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

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



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

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

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM
1st Jan	Epiphany - Naming of Christ	<i>* One 9:30am service today, to welcome in the New Year with a service of Morning Worship</i>	
8th Jan	Epiphany - Baptism of Christ	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
15th Jan	Philippians 3.1-14	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
22nd Jan	Philippians 3.15-4.3	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
29th Jan	Philippians 4.4-23	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING LIFE

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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 for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



COOKIE CLUB

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

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

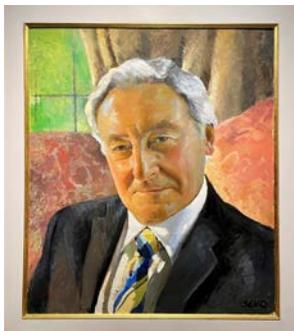


An informal and friendly group for parents, grandparents & carers, along with their babies & pre-school children. Enjoy comfy sofas, good coffee, and friendship.
£2 voluntary contribution per family



St John's Community Hall,
Furlong Road, Westcott RH4 3PP

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



On 2nd December the church was fuller than usual for John's funeral. As a Westcott resident for nearly 35 years, he had lots of village friends who came to say goodbye. In recent years John became good friends with our next-door neighbour Ian Hughes, who led the service.

The bible reading and address were based on conversations they'd had about faith, the afterlife, and indeed the probability of God. It was remarkable how many people said afterwards that

these questions never seem to be debated, and how Ian's address had made them think in a different way.

One particular thought that resonated was that every doubt implies faith in a stronger alternative conviction, and that we should be as demanding for evidence for the alternative as for the initial proposition that we doubt.

If you wonder about these questions too, would you be interested in continuing the conversation, maybe at an open exchange early in the New Year?

If you're interested, please email either Ian or Andrea,

at rev.ian.hughes@gmail.com or andrea.gabb@btinternet.com

Holy Trinity Church

A Sacred Place of Peace & Prayer, Open to All

Holy Trinity Church is open for you to visit, 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



THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



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,



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Yasmin & Freddie George, who have sponsored January's floodlighting in memory of their son Freddie (Little Freddie) & their Grandpa Freddie Harry George, who passed away in the summer of 2018 aged 98.

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage:

19th November Peter Yates & Rebecca Woodhams

Death:

26th June 2022 Robert (Bob) Thomson (91)

6th November 2010 Gordon Dowling (89)

17th July 2022 Myra Dowling (97)

10th October 2022 Jean Davey (93)





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Dear Residents,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023, may it bring big new adventures as well as small things for us to be grateful for each day.

Thank you to everyone who attended the WVA Open Meeting on the 7th December. Along with updates on planning, highways and membership from the Committee there was lots of positive debate about the future of retail in the village; the challenges of parking and a useful update from Bernd Ratzke about the Village Hall. Minutes of the meeting and copies of the presentation slides can be found on our website www.westcottvillage.com

The Open Meeting also gave us an opportunity to say a huge thank

you to Tim Way who has now stood down as Chair of the Westcott Village Association after five years in the role. Tim's passion for doing the right thing; determination to see Westcott thrive and continue to be a great place to live and work; along with his good humour and kind spirit have been an incredible asset to the village. Although we will miss his leadership we are delighted he will continue to support the committee in the future.

The position of Chair remains vacant for the time being but with a well-established and active committee the WVA will continue to go from strength to strength. If you would like to put yourself forward to be at the helm of the Committee as its new Chair please do get in touch.

As always please contact us with any ideas or to share your views on village life.

Best wishes

WVA Committee
contact@westcottvillage.com



The WVA Committee saying farewell to Tim

Left to right: Sally Hewetson (Membership); Nick Lund (Highways); Edwin Harland (Treasurer) behind; Jo Astor (Communications); Tim Way (Chair); Jon Mears (General) behind; James Leaver (Planning) and Paul Goddard (Secretary)

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Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme

This winter many individuals and families will struggle with the cost of living.

If you need help, know
someone who needs help
or can offer help then
please email jonandmum@gmail.com
or WhatsApp on 07496
036398.

If you're able to offer a lift, a quick call, food
or just some friendly advice then please
reach out, it all helps.

Alternatively pop in during open hours for a
discreet chat.

Thank you.

Jon



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WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

at
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(formerly The Reading Room)



As we will not be meeting in January,
please come and join us on



Wednesday 1st February 2023
Jigsaw and Book exchange
10.30am - 12.00 midday

We wish everyone a very Happy New Year

BROCKHAM CHORAL



Make your New Year's resolution to sing. Come and join us as Brockham Choral starts this New Year preparing the *Mass in D* composed by Ethel Smyth. This was performed at the Proms last year to great acclaim. No audition is required and the choir would welcome you warmly. Our knowledgeable Music Director Cole Bendall along with our wonderful accompanist Marion Lee make every rehearsal an unfolding musical journey. Rehearsals begin on January 9th, 7.30pm, at St John's School, Dorking RH4 2LR

Many fun activities are organised for this year including a 4 day tour to Northern France. For more information visit www.brockhamchoral.org



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Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com

www.westcottvillagehall.com

WESTCOTT FELLOWSHIP COTTAGE TRUST

As published in the December 2022 Magazine and noted elsewhere, The Westcott Fellowship Cottage Trust now has a house for allocation. Following completion of necessary repairs and maintenance, it is likely that the house will be available for occupation around the end of March or early April 2023, but this date is subject to change. Note that Trust Properties are offered with a 'Licence to Occupy', and not as a lease, on terms set by the Trust. The address of the house is 3 Westcott Mews, Parsonage Lane, Westcott, RH4 3NL. Downstairs there is a living room and separate kitchen, and upstairs three bedrooms and a bathroom. In addition, it has plenty of inside storage space, a single garage and a lovely private garden. Given its size, the house is suitable accommodation for a family or extended family.



The Trust is now open for applications from prospective beneficiaries of the house. Application forms can be requested in writing from the Trustees either by email to applications@westcottfellowship.org.uk or in writing to the Westcott Fellowship Cottage Trust, c/o St. Johns Free Church, Furlong Road, Westcott, RH4 3PP. Please include your full name, contact address and telephone number with your enquiry. Instructions for completing and returning the application form will be provided to Applicants by return. All requests for an application form will remain confidential between Trustees and the Applicant.

Please note that the following criteria will be among those used by Trustees in assessing all applications:

- that Applicants will have a strong association with Westcott and are preferably already living in the village
- the comfort and suitability of the Applicant's present accommodation for them and their household
- the Applicant's current financial situation
- that the best use is made of the accommodation being made available by the Trust

There is no 'waiting list preference' and all applications received by the deadline will be assessed. Applicants then shortlisted will be interviewed by the Trustees - preferably at their current accommodation.

The deadline for submitting a completed written application form is strictly 12noon on 31st January 2023. If you wish to be considered as a potential beneficiary, please contact the Trust without delay.

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Westcott 100 Club

The December draws were held in the Village Hall (the Reading Room in "old money") during the Christmas Fair on 26 November. Thanks to a number of new members joining the scheme we now have 110 eligible tickets. The winning quarterly draw tickets were 121 (1st prize, £137.50) and 47 (2nd prize, £68.75). Ticket number 51 won the annual prize of £275.00.

The Westcott 100 Club is proud once again to have been able to make a contribution towards the village Christmas tree on the Green.

If you do want to join the scheme, we remain open for new members and for existing members to increase their number of tickets. We are limited to a maximum of 200 tickets, and individual members may hold up to 20 each. Membership costs £25 per ticket per year. Your number(s) will be entered into four quarterly draws (March, June, September and December) and the annual draw in December.

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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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Polling Station Review

The District Council team have been consulting on how the pattern of Polling Stations across our new ward of Mickleham, Westcott and Okewood should change. Although there was at one point a suggestion that every one of the 1,838 projected voters in Westcott should go to the Reading Room (Village Hall), I am very pleased to say the common sense prevailed and St John's Chapel will remain as a polling station as well. The other places that people in our expanded ward will be able to cast their vote will be:

- Mickleham Village Hall (363 voters)
- The Stepping Stones (608)
- Forest Green Village Hall (469)
- Okewood Hill Village Hall (569)
- Ockley Village Hall (791)
- Abinger Hammer Village Hall (226)
- Evelyn Hall (394)
- Wotton Village Hall (400)



It's a 32 mile round trip just to cover the ten polling stations – or

about the equivalent of here to Canary Wharf.

Local Job Opportunities

One of the things that I've been proud of in my time as Westcott's District Councillor is the number of village people who work for the council itself. Don't get me wrong, I don't think I've actually had a hand in any of them getting their employment, most were before my time as it were, but people working for the council living in our village gives the council a greater depth of knowledge about our community than would otherwise be the case.



If you are looking for an exciting and dynamic new job opportunity as we head into the new year, then why not check out the council's job vacancies at jobs.molevalley.gov.uk



Litter Pick Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone that came and helped us with the Village Litter Pick before the

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

Christmas season started.

We gathered 15 bags full of rubbish from around the hedgerows, footpaths and public spaces. All this helps make our community tidier. It also serves to help out our local wildlife, by protecting their much loved habitats.



Nature though has started to get its own back on us – this tree is growing directly

through a hub-cap alongside the main road and it wasn't for shifting.

Looking Back Again

Finally, as we near the end of Westcott having its own dedicated District Councillor, it's time to look back again to previous editions of this column. Eight years ago (do the maths, you'll be surprised that eight years ago was only 2015!) our local police team were urging us not to be complacent about the dark nights aiding burglaries. The article bears repeating:

Our local Police team have highlighted to me that the darker evenings tend to see an increase in burglaries.

Burglary is a horrible crime to be a victim of, and it's a priority for us to tackle - which is why Surrey Police recently undertook a regional anti-burglary campaign with Police in Thames Valley, Sussex and Kent. Their work saw a 15% reduction in burglary over a three week period compared to the previous year and across the region 265 burglary suspects were arrested during the campaign while suspects were charged with 104 burglaries.

The campaign stressed that it is easy to take some simple steps to protect yourself against being burgled: Light It, Lock It, List It.

Light it:

- Install low wattage timed security lighting that stays on throughout the night
- Make sure your house looks occupied even when it isn't. Use an automatic timer switch to turn interior lights on and off

Lock it:

- Keep your front and back doors shut and locked – even when you are at home
- Fit window locks and ensure French windows and patio doors are secure
- Never leave door or car keys or other valuables in reach of a letter box or window
- Secure your garage and shed too – equipment kept in a garage or shed



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

can be just as tempting for a burglar

- If you can, install a burglar alarm and set it every time you leave your home

List it:

- Register your property at [immobilise.com](https://www.immobilise.com) it's free of charge and can increase your chances of being reunited with your property
- Install an app on your phone/tablet so that it can be traced

Surrey Police have also highlighted that, as often happens during the winter months, they are seeing an increase in rogue traders preying on the elderly and vulnerable. Rogue traders know that they can cause alarm by pointing out a leaking gutter or damaged roof tiles and some people will be concerned that the rain (or snow) might get into their homes if they don't have the "work" done.



You can help be alert to these potential crimes by booking a free crime reduction survey for your property – just give Surrey police a call via 101.

Coming bang up to date with this advice, this year we are encouraged to "Think WIDE(N)" to have the best possible protection against burglary.

Research shows that a set combination of security actions provides up to 50 times more protection for your home versus no security. A combination of WIDE actions is the most effective and recommended by police throughout the country. Additionally, Neighbourhood Watch believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is also key to preventing burglary.

WINDOWS: Lock your windows

INTERIOR: Put your interior lights on a timer

DOORS: Double or deadlock your doors

EXTERIOR: Put your exterior lights on a sensor

(N)EIGHBOURS: Keep an eye out for neighbours

For more advice check out www.ourwatch.org.uk/burglary-WIDEN

James Friend

SURREY HILLS PLEIN AIR PAINTERS

“A Fresh View of Surrey” 2023

*Denbies Wine Estate, London Road,
Dorking, Surrey RH5 6AA*

*23rd January 12.00-16.00 and
24th-29th January 10.00-16.00*



The Surrey Hills Plein Air Painters are pleased to announce their first exhibition.

They are a creative band of hardy artists who paint out of doors in all weathers and all year round. What started out in a small way has grown to a membership of over 90, many of whom can be seen in and around Surrey on a Friday morning, painting in all media. We count professionals and amateurs amongst our number, and are excited to welcome you to our very first exhibition in Denbies Gallery.

We will be displaying over 200 pieces of exciting new and original art, all for sale at affordable prices. The paintings should appeal to every taste, featuring different subjects and styles and covering a wide variety of prices. There will be a selection of unframed paintings for sale too - original art makes a unique and thoughtful gift. Entrance to the exhibition is free and Denbies has a good café and restaurant, runs tours of the vineyard and has an excellent shop, so come and make a day of it!

There is plenty of free parking.

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21st at 7.30, Grimethorpe Colliery Band at Dorking Halls, £15-25, 01306 740619

22nd at 7.30, Leatherhead Choral Society at Leatherhead Theatre, £19.50

The Dorking Concertgoers Society is delighted to present the world-famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band at the Dorking Halls. From its foundation over a century ago in a small Yorkshire mining town, the band has achieved the status of Britain's premier brass band. They have won numerous band championships and performed across the UK as well as around the world. They are sure to provide us with a very enjoyable evening of music, including several brass band favourites.

The Leatherhead Choral Society will perform a special Concert for Peace. Their programme contains some particularly beautiful music, by composers including Beethoven and Schubert, John Rutter and Karl Jenkins, all focussed on a celebration of peace. Ian Assersohn will conduct the choir, together with a string orchestra, and the concert will also include one of his own compositions.

There are two screenings at the Dorking Halls this month – Andre Rieu's concert in Dublin is showing on Jan 7th and 8th.



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Secrets, Sex and Scandals of the Royal Court 1660 – 1830



On the 8th November Sarah Slater, wearing a period gown, the fashion for the time, which she had made herself, provided an intriguing talk on the behaviour of personalities at the time when Hampton Court was the Royal Residence. Sarah is the senior curator and guide at Hampton Court Palace. Those who have visited Hampton Court will know that it was built initially by Cardinal Wolsey starting in the early 1500's but was taken over by Henry VIII.

Royal marriages at that time had only one purpose: to provide a legitimate heir and secure the succession. They were arranged between the Royal Houses and often the couple had not

seen each other before the wedding. Love did not play a part. The King was expected to have a mistress or even mistresses to prove his manhood and virility. The resulting illegitimate children were mostly acknowledged and often given titles and positions at court. Quite a few present day aristocratic families can trace their connection back to these affairs. Only if they were the result of a liaison with lower ranks were they denied and given away to be adopted or fostered. When George III and his wife fell passionately in love with each other after their arranged marriage, and he did not want to choose a mistress, the courtiers were dismayed and the aristocratic families who had hoped that one of their daughters would be chosen as mistress were disapproving, as it meant less influence at court and in state affairs.

The Royal wives on the other hand were expected to be pure and faithful. Their sole duty was to provide an heir and a spare. Once they had achieved that a blind eye was turned on the occasional affair provided it was discreet. When Princess Sophie Dorothea, wife of Georg Ludwig of Hanover who later became George I, had a passionate affair with Count Königsmarck she threw discretion to the wind, and the resulting scandal meant that Königsmarck was assassinated and she was incarcerated in an out-of-the-way castle in Germany, where

VILLAGE PHOTOS



Jo Smewing and Angela Deloford at the Christmas Fair running the Gardeners' Club stall selling Christmas bulbs in decorated pots.

'Misty morning'
by Tanya O'Carroll



'What's in store?'
by Andrew Lewis

'Steam train through Westcott'
by Jo Smewing



she lived for the last 30 years of her life. She was never allowed to see her children again. It is hard for us today to understand these double standards.

To get it into historical perspective this talk was about the court in the Stuart period after Queen Elizabeth, the last Tudor Queen, who died in 1603 and was succeeded by James VI of Scotland who was James I of England. His son Charles I reigned through a period of strife and civil war (inter regnum 1649-1660) when Cromwell ruled (ref. Parish Mag March 2015 – *Surrey in the Civil War*). The Stuarts believed in the divine right of kings to rule rather than the elected representatives and this was resisted by the Puritan Oliver Cromwell.

After Charles I was executed in 1649 Charles II endeavoured to defeat Cromwell but was defeated himself at the Battle of Worcester and fled to France in 1651. He stayed there until 1660 when he was invited back and reigned until 1685, succeeded by his son James II until 1688. Charles II was known as the Merry Monarch and during his reign occurred the Plague (1636), the Fire of London (Sept 1666) and the Sea Battle of Lowestoft (June 1665) with the Dutch.

From 1688 we had William III and Mary II, the daughter of James II. They were proclaimed joint sovereigns of England in April 1689 and were accepted by Scotland in June 1689 but not by

Ireland who were still loyal to James II. William III led an army to Ireland and James' supporters were defeated at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Mary II died in 1694 and William reigned on his own until his death in 1702. He was succeeded by Queen Anne (sister of Mary II) who was married to Prince George of Denmark, a committed protestant.

The Act of Union in 1707 united the Kingdoms of Scotland and England. Queen Anne reigned until 1714 and was the last



monarch of the Stuarts, as all but one of her 18 children died in infancy. Her son, Prince William, Duke of Gloucester, lived to the age of 11. Then followed the Georges of the House of Hanover and Buckingham Palace became the royal residence for Queen Victoria in 1837.

One wonders whether the NHS midwifery and obstetrics service would have been able to help Queen Anne to save some of her children, and perhaps changed the course of British history!

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We sincerely hope that your Christmas Festivities were warm and bright and joyful. The spirit of giving and thinking of others was at the forefront of many of our minds and actions. In the run up to Christmas at school, we certainly gave thanks for all that we were so lucky to have and share. We also hope you managed to welcome the New Year in with hope, peace and with positivity.

We at Surrey Hills All Saints have started our time back at School filled with aspiration and ambition. Ready and armoured with resilience and faith to work together to build on all the good that has been achieved thus far, but recognise there is much within our reach to change and remake as we enter the warm spring months ahead. I for one find the rebirth of nature a miracle every year and hope springs eternal in the days that are ahead. As ever, there is much to be thankful for and much to celebrate.

Our School community wishes the parish the happiest of new years as we continue to work together. We offer our warmest thanks and thoughts as we engage and collaborate and get to work on the things that are required to progress in 2023.

We look forward to the rest of the Year ahead and wish you all hope and warmth and light.

Bees Class marked Remembrance Day by making their own poppy by weaving wool on a cross of Hornbeam twigs. There was a wonderful variety of poppies!



Bees Class also loved unveiling the new Mud Kitchen at Forest School. The children were so engaged making amazing recipes and

potions and the chatter whilst they were concocting was amazing! A massive thank you for all the FASH fundraising and to Mrs Spear for all the pots, pans and utensils.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Be Be and his Godfather who have provided



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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

appreciate all your support which enriches the children's learning.

We have been finding out all about castles in Butterfly Class and spent a busy afternoon



building castles out of different construction materials. Can you spot the parts of a castle that we have labelled?

Foxes Class are learning about International Trade in their Geography lessons this half term. They experienced the frustrations that face countries which do not have the money or resources to trade.

April: Each group had to pick an envelope. Some envelopes were for rich countries with a lot of resources and some were for poor countries with not a lot. Then we had to make shapes to trade.

Noah S: Our problem was that we didn't have any resources - not even a pair of scissors so we couldn't make anything to trade. People were asking £100 for a pair of scissors!



Maya: We had £200 to start with but with all our trading made £3200.

Nancy: When the Aid Agency came to help us with resources [scissors!] it was better, but they weren't the best, were for left handers and were very hard to use.

Dorking District Sports events



The Year 5/6 girls Surrey Hills football team played in a tournament at Dorking Football Stadium for Dorking District sports. Well done girls!

Simon Coles
Headteacher

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DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking Museum wishes a very happy new year to all readers and to the supporters and friends of the Museum.

Regrettably, at the time of writing, we are unable to confirm a re-opening date for the Museum. Following a fire in an adjacent building in late October, we are still closed for necessary repair and restoration work, principally to the fabric of the building itself. Fortunately, no serious damage was suffered by the exhibits, and it is hoped that we will be able to open fully and have a normal programme of activities as early as possible in 2023.

Until we re-open, some limited activity may be arranged – for example, we were grateful to Dorking Library for hosting our family event in late October and our pop-up Christmas shop in early December. Please check the Museum's website or social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), other listings sites or posters

for Museum activities and news of future opening.

Although the building might be closed, the Museum's online shop is open for the sale of new and vintage books, postcards, maps and other items relating to Dorking and the surrounding area: see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/dorking-museum-shop/.

In preparation for re-opening, the Museum urgently requires volunteers who can spend a few hours on the desk or in key functional roles in recruitment and HR, events, retail, education and family activities in the Museum, in the community and/or working from home, training is provided. Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities.

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. For an update on

activities, to visit the shop, to become a member or to donate, please visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.



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Happy New Year! We hope you all had a happy and healthy Christmas.



We had a cracking Christmas tree and decorated it very carefully together as a team. It was super shiny and sparkly and stayed put pretty well!

To compliment our big tree we each made a tiny tree out of the pointy peaks hidden within an egg box – these too were covered with just the right amount of shimmer!



Our cooking skills were put to good use when we made some amazing stained glass biscuits with boiled sweets as the glass. We had lots of fun bashing them into pieces with a rolling pin, then placing them into the middle of our biscuits to create a wonderful wintery window. If they weren't gobbled up on the journey home they doubled up as hanging tree decorations.



On the 2nd December the Evelyn Hall was transformed into the cosiest of cinemas where we watched the film 'The Star' to kick start the Christmas period. Thank you to all those who attended and those behind the scenes who kept us well fed and watered!

Another successful Christmassy fundraiser was our Raffle and we'd like to say a huge thank you to the Abinger Hatch for selling lots of tickets, and to all those super supportive local businesses who contributed prizes – The Kingfisher Farm Shop, Bocketts Farm, Seymours Estate Agents, The Dorking Halls, Si Salon, Tiny Talk, Waitrose Dorking, Co-op Shere and White and Sons Estate Agents.

If you have a child looking to start Nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. Spaces are filling up fast but there are still some afternoon sessions left and we are taking applications for all sessions in September. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

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Westcott Village Hall Development Plan : Update 1



Those of you who were at the WVA Open Meeting on 7th December will already know that there is good news and there is bad news. The bad news (as some may think) is that I am back. The good news is that the plan to do something with The Hut and (what was) The Reading Room may now finally be making some progress.

Not much happened since the Charity Commission granted the 'Cy-près' scheme in May 2022 which consolidated the old charities into what has now rebranded as Westcott Village Hall. However, those trustees who were in office at the time of the merger did succeed in recruiting a number of additional volunteers as trustees to broaden the representation across the village.

Irrespective of the intention to create a better village hall facility to replace the two existing structures, continuous renewal of the trustee group is a vital aspect of good governance for community assets. As a heads-up, you will see an invitation in the next magazine calling on those interested in becoming trustees to make

themselves known in time for the next renewal cycle, due to take place in May. More details next month.

So where are we now? You may recall that James Leaver and I were heavily involved in the validation exercise which preceded the merger. That was designed to establish whether, in time and with a bit of luck, the numbers might add up to fund the construction of a new village hall. James is a chartered surveyor; I am a solicitor. Both of us have long experience in working on infra-structure projects for institutional and other clients, but neither of us are seasoned 'Project Managers', i.e. the person who actually runs the team of architects, planners, lawyers, quantity surveyors and transport advisers (to name but a few) who need to be hired and managed to lead a planning application process on which the village has been properly consulted.

The trustees have now decided that (i) to make progress, they really do have to appoint a Project Manager and that (ii) he or she can only be effective if working with a small sub-group of trustees, leaving the majority of trustees to concentrate on the daily running of Westcott Village Hall until and unless key decisions require all-trustees approval. In the light of that sensible conclusion, James and I have agreed to return to work pro-bono as part of a Development

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL (cont.)



Group to which Dr Helen Everett and Sally Hewetson have been seconded as trustee representatives. Helen is a senior Government research scientist and Civil Servant well used to working with delegated reporting structures and Sally worked for many years for Mole Valley District Council's property team as a principal surveyor.

Our first job as a Development Group will be to recommend a Project Manager for appointment by decision of all trustees.

I hope that in time the Project Manager will take over production of these updates.

James and I will support the Project Manager and help Helen and Sally fulfil their reporting obligations to the full group of trustees, and to the village as the Charity Commission will require.

Bernd Ratzke
On behalf of the Westcott Village Hall
Development Group
8 December 2022



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:

- The British Alms House: Surrey-based historian Dr Judith Hill talks about these often-forgotten philanthropic institutions. Monday 9th January at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- The History of the Bursledon Brickworks Museum: A Zoom talk from the UK's only surviving steam-driven brickworks by museum manager Richard Newman. A piece of British industrial history. Monday 23rd January: <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>.

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First and foremost Happy New Year. I do hope your Christmas celebrations were enjoyable and everyone is well. We ended the year at the Memorial Woodland with our family Christmas at the Woodland event on 4th December which is always popular with local families and the children get the opportunity to explore the woodland when doing a treasure hunt.



Our very own Veteran Father Christmas arrived with his helper Sharon and each child visited him in his grotto in the woodland and was given a present. This is of course a family day as well as a fund raising event when monies from the treasure hunt, grand raffle, Christmas tombola, craft stall and lucky dip all go into the Memorial Fund to assist those Veterans who are in need.

The weather was cold but thankfully dry so we were able to have a BBQ and hot drinks to keep everyone warm. Our thanks go to Veteran singer Rodney Dell who entertains at nearly all of our events and never

disappoints, he sang Christmas songs all afternoon. Of course we would not be able to put on any of these events without the volunteers and Trustees who help prepare and man the stalls and sell raffle tickets, we are very grateful to each and every one of those who help us in anyway at all.

Fund raising is of course paramount to the success of QRMW's charitable 'Purpose' which is to help those Veterans who find themselves in difficulty. We are a non-profit organisation, all of us volunteers receiving no benefit from the Charity but neither do we have any sponsors or regular income so the help that all of you so kindly give to us is so important, and The Chairman and Trustees are very grateful but even more so are those who we are able to help.

We have lots planned for 2023 including a couple of dates which we would like you to put firmly in your diaries, the first in the year is The Annual Easter Egg Hunt which will take place on Sunday 2nd April, please do register the children well in advance as spaces are limited. The second, which is our biggest and probably the most important event in our calendar, is our 9th Anniversary of the opening of the Memorial Woodland and Commemoration Service which is taking place on Saturday 10th June 2023.



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Madrid and Toledo

Our Lecture on Tuesday 10th January 2023 presented by Gail Turner will bring some Spanish sunshine to our morning as she will talk to us about Madrid and Toledo, two very different cities which are rich in buildings, paintings history and personality.

The Arts Society brings people together who have a shared interest in the arts. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in Dorking Halls with our Lectures commencing at 10:30am and the opportunity to have coffee and meet prior to this. We welcome visitors but please visit our website to find more information on how to do this along with lots of information about our Society www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.



QRMW (cont.)

We welcome all to these events, but everyone is welcome to visit our Woodland at anytime. It is open 24/7 and if The Hat or one of the Trustees is there, which we do try to be most days, the Visitors Centre is open and the kettle is on. If not you are very welcome to park at the front of the car park and have a walk around the woodland.

Just before Christmas quite a few of our young female pheasants and one of our males returned to the woodland having disappeared for the summer months. So we look forward to being greeted by them every time we arrive

just like last year. Our smaller birds are in abundance and obviously grateful for the feed we leave out for them during the cold winter months. But we get rewarded in the Spring when they nest with us and bring their young to the feeding stations for us to watch. Already some of the bulbs are popping up which during these long dark days gives us the promise of things to come.

We look forward to seeing you all at the woodland in 2023.

Paul Cooling
Chairman, QRMW



MID SURREY
COMMUNITY FRIDGES

COMMUNITY FRIDGE VAN

The Mid Surrey Community Fridge van is visiting Westcott every Monday at 1:30pm

It will stay in the village for around an hour parked at the front door of St John's Chapel in Chapel Lane. They will be giving away surplus food that is heading for land fill, it is perfect food, the supermarkets for many reasons allocate it as surplus

If you can afford a small donation, it would be appreciated ~ they rely upon donations (£2.50 is the suggested minimum amount)

Bring your shopping bags, bring your friends,
pick up for your neighbour

If you want to volunteer to help
(just 1½ hours every couple of weeks),
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Joanna Lumley to double your donations for children!



Kids For Kids has announced a Doubling Campaign to help the forgotten children of Darfur backed by Dame Joanna Lumley DBE FRGS and special friends who have pledged to match all donations up to £27,500 – a whopping £55,000 to help children facing starvation right now. Can you help?

Kids for Kids has announced immediate availability of £27,500 matched funding for all donations to help children who are facing starvation. Darfur is out of sight – and conditions are the worst ever, worse even than in Somalia. Mothers are begging for help to feed their children. Starvation is a serious threat. At the same time the worst outbreak of malaria has swept across the region because of the vast areas of standing water following floods after months of drought. Kids for Kids will be providing goats, seeds and mosquito nets - enabling the children of Darfur to survive one of their toughest years yet.

“Do you want to give a gift to a child this Christmas that will save their life?”

This is what Patricia Parker OBE, who founded Kids for Kids 21 years ago, is asking. If donating to a charity this year, your money can go twice as far this Christmas when donating to Kids for Kids and potentially save twice as many lives.

“No matter how grim times may be here this Christmas,” says Dame Joanna Lumley DBE, FRGS, who is a Patron of Kids for Kids, “no matter how straitened our circumstances or how tight our belts, we can be sure that in Darfur things are immeasurably more dreadful. Please will you open your hearts and wallets this Christmas and make a donation to those so far away and in such desperate need. Thank you very much... and Happy Christmas.”

To donate: www.kidsforkids.org.uk Go to Donate. Choose your gifts.

Thank you!



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GREEN WESTCOTT

How Big is Your Dog's Carbon Paw Print?



In Westcott I think it is fair to say that we are (mostly) a village of dog lovers!

This got me to thinking about the 'carbon paw print' of our pooches. Of course, there is the obvious and immediate environmental impact made by irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs, but let's just think about the impact of all those who do?

There is a staggering 1,000 tonnes of faecal waste produced by dogs every day in the U.K. Most of us, I'm pleased to say, scoop this up in a bag before popping it in the many bins provided. Unfortunately, this does mean a lot of plastic going into landfill. It's not just the issue of the plastic being around for decades to come but there is also the issue of noxious fumes created and released into the air from the plastic when incinerated.

This means we need to think carefully about what bags we use to dispose of the mess. One easy thing we can do, is to buy biodegradable or compostable poo bags. There are now many on the market, some completely plastic free and even compostable.

Changing the biodiversity

There is another problem with dog waste if not picked up. If you have flea, tic and worm treated your dog, the waste left behind has a detrimental impact on the immediate environment where it is left. Topical tic and flea treatments are, in fact, insecticides which is how they end up killing the bugs and fleas that land on your dog. It stands to reason then, that the waste the dogs leave behind is also toxic to the natural environment and any bugs that might come into contact with it.

Certain dung beetles, native to the U.K are particularly at risk, not only from toxic dog faeces but also from the sheep, cow and other livestock worming treatments which are excreted in their waste. Dog faeces can also cause serious disease in domestic livestock if left in fields. Neosporosis can cause abortion in cattle, while Sarcocystosis can cause neurological disease and death in sheep.

Wildflowers and plants need low nutrient soil to thrive. Soils enriched with dog faeces encourage the growth of coarser plants such as nettles and thistles, which





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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

compete with and outgrow many wildflowers. The biodiversity of our local landscape needs to be protected in order to maintain a healthy and diverse environment in which wildlife can thrive.

Pet Food Problems

We all know by now that a higher plant-based diet is not only good for us but is also better for the environment. So, how much of an impact does the food our dogs eat, have on the environment?

Pet food is estimated to be responsible for a quarter of the environmental impacts of meat production, including the release of greenhouse gases, phosphates and pesticides. The annual greenhouse gas emissions associated with just dry dog and cat food, equates to 106 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. So how can we, as responsible pet owners, reduce the carbon pawprint of our pet's food?

Well as luck would have it, there are now a number of environmentally friendly dog food products on the market which aim to reduce the impact on the environment. There are even vegan

dog foods which, in a recent study of 2,500 dogs, maintained that "dogs fed a completely vegan diet had fewer vet visits and required less medication than those fed a traditional dog food diet". Of course, each of us has to consider all the facts before making any changes to our dogs' diet, but there is a growing body of evidence to suggest that dogs, like us, are able to thrive on a plant-based diet.

Wildlife Impacts

There is nothing more pleasing than heading up on to Ranmore or the surrounding countryside with your dog and letting them off the lead for a good sniff about. But, what about the impact our dogs have on the local flora and fauna? It may well look like they are having a marvellous time running up and down the Surrey Hills but the impact on local wildlife can be devastating. Several Nature Reserves have recently changed their policies to limit bringing dogs to their sites in view of the negative impacts that dogs have had on their wildlife.

One study showed that hares exposed to still images of dogs were more likely to abort their young, so imagine the impact when they are confronted by a live dog! So, next time you're out for a walk with your dog – be sure to consider not just your own carbon footprint but those of your dog's paws!



Nancy Lund

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