

Westcott Village Magazine

February 2023



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



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

editor@westcottmag.com

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

Copy deadline for
March issue:

8th February 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



As I write this it has turned very cold again, and the thermals have come back out! It has led to some beautiful clear crisp mornings though, and looking out the window reminds me how lucky we are to live somewhere so attractive.

This month there is a Gardeners' Club talk on how the flower shows held in the village are for anyone, with

information on how to enter and a free packet of seeds for attendees. Go along and you might end up with a cup later in the year!

If it's just too cold to get outside, we have a wordsearch on p55 to keep the little grey cells ticking over.

Keep safe and warm,

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

Fun February Facts



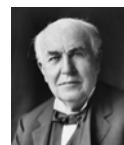
February is the only month that can miss having a full moon. Some months have two (the second one being known as a blue moon), and February can end up with none! However, this year the full moon in February is on the 5th.

Once every six years, February is the only month that has four, full seven-day weeks, it's thought to be a 'perfect month'.



Where did Valentine's Day come from? One theory is that Emperor Claudius II forbade Roman men to marry during wartime, but Bishop Valentine went against his wishes and performed secret weddings.

One of the most famous people born in February was inventor Thomas Edison, who was born on February 11th. He's responsible for the phonograph and the lightbulb, as well as countless other creations!



Charles Darwin, considered the father of the theory of evolution, was also born in February on the 12th.

February-born musicians include Nina Simone. Born on the 21st, she was one of the most iconic female stars of the 1950s and was a famed civil rights activist.



The probability of having a birthday on February 29th is 1 in 1,461.

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



LENT - MAKING SPACE

We've been re-decorating my son's bedroom in the last few weeks, a task that has involved lots of cleaning, taking apart old furniture, removing unwanted stickers and posters, looking through magazines for inspiration for the new room, and an inevitable trip to IKEA for more flatpack furniture.

There's been a clearing out, an imagining what the new room will look like, and choosing furniture and pictures to make it a space he really wants to live in.

The question we've been asking as we've been redecorating our son's room is, "What do you want?" Thinking about it, this question could be not just for a room, but goes to the heart of all human life.

When we ask what we want, we're asking what we love, what has captured our imaginations and what we want to pursue. Whether this is a simple choice in a café or the big questions of life: who is our Valentine? What job? Where to live? the question "What do you want? What do you love?" is central to our

human lives.

I wonder if this clearing out, imagining and re-arranging a room is a good metaphor for the season of Lent? Lent traditionally begins with a 'clearing out' of both the home and the self. A 'clearing out' of the home by using up all dairy and eggs in making delicious pancakes on Pancake Day, and a 'clearing out' of the self by confessing wrongs and seeking forgiveness.

**WHAT DO YOU WANT?
...A QUESTION AT THE
HEART OF HUMAN
LIFE...**

Then the season of Lent, a time of self-reflection and simplicity, begins.



Perhaps this Lent, we could take time to imagine our lives as a room – and consider the different 'items' that are in it. Which have we deliberately chosen, and which are in there by accident? Which do we welcome, and which are not helping us to live well? - What do we want?

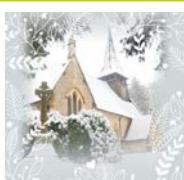
...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Lent is an opportunity for us to pause and picture what living a flourishing life really looks like. An opportunity to re-imagine and deliberately choose what and who we want to make space for, what we want to pursue.

Hundreds of years ago, a Christian called Augustine was thinking about that question "What do you want?" and said of God, "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are

restless until they find their rest in you." In knowing God, he said, we can find what we truly want - real rest, flourishing life. I have found these words to be true in my own life. Perhaps there is wisdom there for each of us, as we choose what to let go of and what to keep, as we ask ourselves "What do you want?"

Ellie Lister



Thank you!

Many thanks to all who contributed to such lovely Christmas celebrations in December! From the delightful Christingle service at the start of Advent, to the beauty of the Christmas carols on the Green and in the Church, to the joy of Christmas morning, so many were involved in preparing, decorating, singing, welcoming and of course, coming along and taking part! Thank you to you all.



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.

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

| DATE | THEME | 8:30AM | 10:15AM |
|----------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 5th Feb | Dedications All Age Service | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Morning Worship |
| 12th Feb | What does God have to do with Politics? | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion |
| 19th Feb | What does God have to do with Money? | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion |
| 26th Feb | Lent 1 | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion |

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

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



BUILDING
FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING
LIFE

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,

COOKIE CLUB

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

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



chat

fun

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& drinks

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THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

The Church in Westcott is part of the Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme and we are always here for a chat, prayer, pastoral need.

Paul Stacey paulstacey88@gmail.com, may be able to help with **debt advice**.

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants:

Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010 Ali Mabley 01306 889641

For help, more information, please contact churchwardens:

churchwardens@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk,

or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



Ukrainian Support

Are you hosting, or planning to host, Ukrainian visitors?

are you interested in helping?

or just finding more about what's involved?

Information, and links, can be found in the Resources

section of the Church in Westcott website:

 [https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/
Groups/377459/Ukrainian_Support.aspx](https://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk/Groups/377459/Ukrainian_Support.aspx)



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 richardnlwister@gmail.com for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Death:

8th November 2022 Richard Charles Taylor (82)



FLOODLIGHTING

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

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



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Plenty going on as usual so here is a quick round up of local and village news to keep you in the loop.

Future Mole Valley (Local Plan)



In December MVDC surprised people, including the HM Planning Inspector who has spent most of 2022 conducting the public independent examination of the draft Local Plan, by announcing they were 'pausing' the process.

They have subsequently clarified this and explained it is to allow them to take account of any proposed changes by the Government to the National Planning Policy as these changes are currently out for consultation. The result of this consultation may bring about changes to the way Local Plans are developed including housing targets and their significance, as well as the use of Green Belt for development.

The government's public consultation is due to close on the 2nd March 2023, please follow the link for further information and to view the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy in full <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/>

[levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy#scope-of-consultation](#). We will keep an eye on what this means for Westcott and update you as soon as there is more news.

Highways

We spotted a few weeks ago that sadly several road signs had been vandalised on the same night between Dorking and Westcott. Using the on-line Surrey County Council 'Report a Highways Issue' portal we were able to quickly bring these to Surrey Highways attention who have acknowledged the issue and confirmed they will reinstate the signs shortly.

With potholes and other highways issues an increasing problem at this time of year we urge residents to use this on-line portal to report any problems as it ensures the issue is recorded and followed up by the relevant body. A link to the Report a Problem pages can be found on the Westcott Village website and having used it several times we know



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WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)



it works <https://westcottvillage.com/report-a-problem/>

Sticking with road signs for a moment it is worth pointing out that the 20 minute no return parking restriction outside the old village shop and post office is still valid and now Mole Valley have cleaned the sign they may well enforce it.



Following the Open Meeting in December we were delighted to have some more volunteers sign up to take part in the **Community Speed Watch** campaign, it's not too late to put your name in the ring and join some of your fellow residents in helping to slow speeding traffic through the village.

Please get in touch with Nick Lund on the WVA Committee at nlund74@gmail.com. You may have also noticed Surrey Police have been present in the layby opposite the church on few occasions recently which all helps to reinforce the message.

SAVE THE DATE – WESTfest Bank Holiday Monday 8th May 2023

A Right Royal
WESTfest 2023!



Bank Holiday
Monday May 8th
In Celebration of
The King's Coronation

We're delighted that WESTfest this year has been brought forward to coincide with the extra Bank Holiday

on Monday 8th May so we can celebrate His Majesty The King's Coronation alongside the usual fun and entertainment for all the family. WESTfest is such a brilliant event not to be missed – so pop the date in your diary now and look out for more details on the Westcott Village WESTfest page and social media <https://westcottvillage.com/westfest/>



As always please contact us with any ideas or to share your views on village life and if you would like to come and join us on the Committee and help make a difference to the community you live-in, we would especially love to hear from you.

Westcott Village Association Committee
Paul Goddard, Edwin Harland, James Leaver, Sally Hewetson, John Mears,
Nick Lund and Jo Astor
contact@westcottvillage.com



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10.30am - 12.00 midday*



The Kennedy White House

The Arts Society Dorking offers enjoyable opportunities to increase knowledge and appreciation of all aspects of the Arts. Take a trip down memory lane and visit Camelot - The Kennedy White House: Art, Architecture and the Gardens. Andrew Hopkins will talk about the White House's most celebrated twentieth century residents at 10:30am on Tuesday 14th February 2023.

Our Lectures take place in the Dorking Halls on the second Tuesday of the month and we welcome new members as well as guests. Please visit our website to find more information www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you.





Westcott Village Hall

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- Afternoons - £24 - £61
- Evenings - £35 - £69
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- Sale of alcohol licence - £20

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www.westcottvillagehall.com

WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL



Looking for New Trustees

Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO is the charity which runs Westcott Village Hall for the benefit of our community. The charity is governed by up to 12 trustees, some of whom have served for many years. Under our recently revised constitution several trustees are coming up for retirement or reappointment on 30 April 2023, which will create a number of vacancies.

Leaving us on 30th April 2023 are:
Steve Brooks, Hugh Broom, Hugh Parry, Janet Phillips and Alan Reif

The trustees whose terms of appointment continue or who are eligible to stand again are:

Graham Clark, Helen Everett and Sally Hewetson

Our constitutional policy of refreshing and renewing the group of trustees by a series of phased periods of appointment enables us to involve a changing group of established and new residents in the management of Westcott Village Hall. Typically, we hold a trustees' meeting once in every quarter.

Accordingly, we now invite applications by inhabitants of Westcott and the surrounding area who are willing to put themselves

forward (or who are nominated with their consent by other residents) for appointment to become trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO.

If you are interested in helping us shape the future of your village hall, please email info@westcottvillagehall.com by 14th March 2023 with a few words about your background and your reasons for wanting to become involved.

No specialist skills are needed, but an interest in making Westcott Village Hall a vibrant community asset would obviously help. We will then contact you for an informal discussion with the intention that the incoming trustees be appointed at a trustees' meeting to be held during April.

Alan Reif
Chairman, Westcott Village Hall Trust
CIO



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Westcott 100 Club

February is a quiet month for the Westcott 100 Club as we prepare for the Annual General Meeting and next draw in March, so now may be a good time to remind readers of what the Westcott 100 Club is and how it works.

We are a 'Small Society Lottery' where members subscribe to a number of 'tickets' at £25 each per year. These tickets are entered into four quarterly draws (in March, June, September and December) where there are two prizes per draw. There is an additional annual draw each December where there is a single, bigger prize. Overall, the scheme gives back 40% of its subscriptions to members as prizes, with the remaining 60% available for projects around the village. We distributed over £1200 in prizes in 2022 and have accumulated a grant fund of over £5000 ready and waiting to allocate to projects.

The scheme remains open for new members and for existing members to increase their number of tickets. We are limited to a maximum of 200 tickets overall (currently membership stands at 110 so there are 90 more tickets available). Individual members may hold up to 20 each.

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)*

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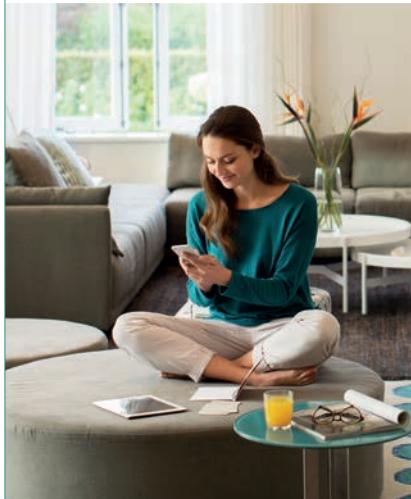


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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



(Image copyright of Flowers by Elaine in Dorking, used entirely without permission but with love).



Valentine's Day Special

In the depths of the end of the Christmas celebrations in which the Editor requires me to write this article I've been thinking how nice it has been to have friends and family around us and how much of that enjoyment has come from the generations that are following us.



Valentine's Day this year would have been my Father's 80th Birthday and his celebrations sometimes overrode the opportunity for romance etc (no excuse this year I guess). However, I wondered about challenging us all collectively to do something special on the 14th to show our love for our community. Obviously it has to be something reasonably straightforward but also meaningful.

Because I really do value my own relationship and the friendship of other couples in the village, I should be clear that I am not suggesting this as a present giving idea, but how about some upcycling to reduce our impact and show our love for our planet?

I'm sure that the Editor will publish the best upcycled items with a photo and short explanation of what it once was and what it has become. Over to you to see what we can collectively do...

Community Leadership

Counting down the days to the end of our village having a dedicated District Councillor raises the theme of effective community leadership. The huge number of leaders that we have in our community serve us in myriad ways – from running community groups, providing education, entertainment and/or employment and also in helping individuals and families to meet their own needs for example – a home or a meal.

As well as remembering to thank each and every one of these leaders, part of the role of District Councillor is to listen to the emerging and changing themes of what those needs are and to challenge and champion the community to meet those needs. Time and again recently I have heard people tell me that Westcott needs more affordable homes and more

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

parking. The District Council does have a small pot of money that developers provide for creating new affordable homes but often villages like ours miss out because sites are not proposed by the community for such new homes.



If you know of a site in the village that could provide new affordable homes and parking then please raise its profile – I will happily put you in touch with the Council Officer team that look after these opportunities.

Highways and Road Safety



Judging by my records, I seem to average reporting about four highways or countryside

maintenance issues to our councils every month – that's about 700 since I became a councillor. These range from blocked drains to fallen footpath signs, from potholes to overgrown



pavements and are usually inspected and resolved reasonably quickly.

Recently I came across a burnt out vehicle that had been left in the woods west of the village. This obviously causes danger to passing wildlife and to children that might be out with parents. It's more than simple anti-social behaviour. In this instance the Council team and the landowner also have the challenge not to contaminate the land as they recover the vehicle – all at the expense of the taxpayer.



You will have also noticed that across a couple of occasions in the run up to Christmas and New Year about a dozen of the road signs between Westcott and Dorking were vandalised. Many of these signs are hazard warning ones and their absence therefore increases the risks to drivers and pedestrians.

Two things are clear to me though. Firstly, someone in the village, someone reading this article, knows who caused the damage to these signs and/or drove that car into the woods. Secondly, whoever is causing this damage needs some help, at least





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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

to talk over why they thought it was a good idea to carry out these acts.

My request is if you are the one who needs the help then talk to someone about it – anyone to be honest. If you come to me then obviously I would need to link up with the relevant authorities but that's not the case with every option – the Samaritans might be a way forward (Call Sam on 116 123 or text SHOUT to 85258).

SAMARITANS

If you see anti-social behaviour or the results of it, then email ASB@molevalley.gov.uk the team are great, understanding and quick to act.

A Final Thought

Someone in the village recently asked me to be more political in these articles and make clear my views on Council decisions.

I thought that I would end this month's article by explaining why I, and my predecessor, have never done that. The Village Magazine is a resource for everyone in our community – it is not something that should be promoting or attacking any particular viewpoint or stance. Yes – raise issues but do so in a way that helps readers to

connect with them in the way that suits their own position, beliefs and circumstances. District Councillors are here to serve everyone irrespective of how they vote in the democratic process – or indeed if they choose not to vote at all.

This year I have had the pleasure of being the Vice-Chairman of Mole Valley District Council, a position I was elected to on a non-party basis by colleagues from across the Council Chamber. It is a non-political but honoured role and the opportunity to focus my time on championing our communities and businesses has been extremely rewarding (supported by my ever serving Consort I should add).



For example, before Christmas, together we had the chance to support the wonderful work of the Include Choir and to learn at least some of the 12 days of Christmas in Makaton sign language.

These civic roles only function effectively in our society if politicians know when to be political and when not to be. And that is why these articles are written to serve.

James Friend



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MUSIC IN DORKING



12th at 3.00, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

25th at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at St George's church, Ashtead

In February the Carducci string quartet gives the first of three concerts arranged by the Dorking Concertgoers Society. Their programme begins with a quartet by the father of the string quartet, Joseph Haydn, known by its nickname of *The Joke* (you'll find out why!), and it finishes with one of Beethoven's last quartets, the impressive op. 127 in E flat. The centrepiece is a quartet by Fanny Mendelssohn. She, as well as being the sister of Felix Mendelssohn, was a fine musician in her own right and a prolific composer whose music is now being more widely played and heard. Please note this is an afternoon concert starting at 3pm.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashtead, opens with Fauré's exquisite short *Pavane*, and follows this with the first cello concerto of Saint-Saëns, a charming and elegant work, with Leo Popplewell as the soloist. The concert concludes with Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4*, a fine piece that is less often heard than it deserves.

The Dorking Halls presents a live screening from the Royal Opera House of Rossini's hilarious comic opera *The Barber of Seville* on Feb 15th.



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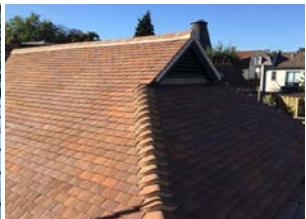
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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP



Monument to Bishop Samuel Wilberforce on Abinger Roughs



Many people who walk their dogs on Abinger Roughs will have seen this monument to Bishop Samuel Wilberforce (1803-1873)

who fell off his horse on 19th July 1873 while riding with Lord Granville to visit Gladstone at Holmbury St Mary.

He was born at Clapham Common, the 5th child of William Wilberforce and Barbara Spooner, the major campaigner against slavery and the slave trade. He was known as 'Soapy Sam' due to his characteristic handwashing when he was giving speeches. He was one of the great speakers of his day and is remembered for his speech in opposition to Charles Darwin's Theory at a debate in 1860.

He had an Anglican education outside of English public schools, as chosen by his father William. In 1823 Samuel entered Oriel College, Oxford where he met William Gladstone and graduated in 1826, aged 23, taking a 1st in Mathematics and a 2nd in Classics. In 1827 he toured the continent and married Emily Sargent,

daughter of the Rector of East Lavington in West Sussex in 1828.

He was ordained as a deacon in the Church of England and became a curate at Checkenden near Henley on Thames. Thence followed rapid progress to Archdeacon of

Surrey, Chaplain to Prince Albert and Queen Victoria and appointment as Dean of Westminster. Robert Peel appointed him Bishop of Oxford and he was elected to the FRS (Fellow of Royal Society).

After 24 years at Oxford he was translated by Gladstone, the PM, to be the Bishop of Winchester in 1869. He was a 'high Tory' and a supporter of Catholic emancipation. Although he was very successful, he had his detractors. Benjamin Disraeli commented that he was *unctuous, oleaginous and saponaceous!*



Samuel Wilberforce 1870





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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



Although Samuel was certainly a supporter of the campaign against slavery in the British Empire it was his father, William, who had done the work to get the legislation passed in Parliament. Samuel's friend Gladstone's father was one of the biggest slave owners. William was born in Hull into a prosperous Yorkshire merchant family.



William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce (August 1754 - 29th July 1833) became an Independent MP for Yorkshire (1784-1812) during

the reign of George III. In 1787 he and his friend Thomas Clarkson became the leading British abolitionists in the parliamentary campaign against the British participation in slave trading for some 20 years until the Slave Trade Act of 1807 became law – it was actually passed in 1804 but the pace of administration took so long.

William and Thomas Clarkson were convinced of the importance of religion, morality and education. He supported British Missionary work in India and the creation of the free colony of Sierra Leone. He founded the CMS (Church Missionary Society)

and the SPCA (Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) among others, including the RSPCA in 1824 and the RNLI, earlier known as the National Institution for Preservation of Life from Shipwreck.

He was very generous with his time and his money, giving away thousands of pounds. He was a somewhat deferential character and despite strong opposition continued the campaign against slavery and in the process wore himself out and became much poorer. News of slave unrest in Jamaica and the French islands was reaching Britain from 1827, culminating in the Jamaican Slave Rebellion in 1831 and this probably convinced those opposing MP's that the time for arguing was up. The Slavery Abolition Act was passed in 1833 by the Whig government (283 votes to 16) and abolished slavery in the British Empire. William died three days after the Act was passed.

The Act affected 800,000 slaves and included £20 million in compensation to the plantation owners, full emancipation for those under 6 and apprenticeship schemes for others, to be run by the plantations. William Wilberforce and his friends won a long battle for the cause of abolition.

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

All of our children, staff and parents would like to offer a belated Happy new year to you all in what seems to be an already eventful 2023.

As the evenings begin to get lighter and there are those small signs of another change in the seasons, we look towards spring and all that it promises. We are super busy in school learning from and with each other, building up an armoury of knowledge, skills and experience to take us forward into the year ahead.



I tell the children, that it is every day, in every way, we have the chance to build ourselves up in incremental steps to become the best versions of who we can be and be the best for all those who are around us.

Every year I am impressed anew by our children's capacity to demonstrate all they can do. From our incredible Reception children developing at lightning speed. To seeing our Year 6 children grow

and getting ready to embark on their next steps towards secondary school and their young adult lives shortly to come. They impress me with their thoughtfulness, consideration, maturity and resilience.

Of course, this mostly comes from within and their amazing caring parents and significant adults in their lives, but the privilege we have of supporting them as educators is something that re-energises me daily.

Our wider community play such an important role in the wider context of experience and can offer so much support in so many ways. We have community members who are regular wonderful volunteers in the school and ask anybody who thinks they could contribute in some small way pleased do consider us.

Whether you are a keen gardener, artist, musician or have led an enormously interesting life and would like to share some of your life experience and inspire our children, we would love to hear from you. Please do get in touch.

I wish all, on behalf of the school, much warmth, light and hope for the Spring months ahead and look forward to all the community events to come.

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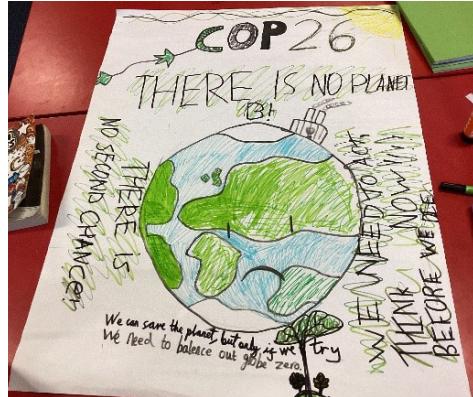
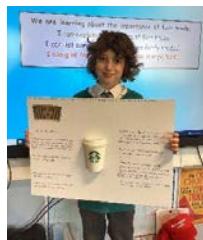
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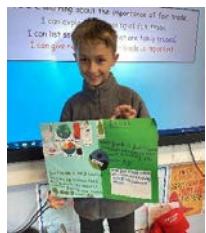
SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

Foxes class



Children in Foxes Class have been working hard on their Fair Trade topic. We have been learning about the impacts of International Trade,

globalisation and Multinational Companies on different countries with El Salvador as a Case Study.



This week they looked at 2021 COP 26 and created presentations outlining the main issues that were discussed.

100% Attendance

22 of our amazing children achieved 100% attendance last term. They received a Certificate of Attendance at one of our Celebration assemblies. We would like to congratulate them all

Badgers Class

Year 6 have been studying climate change as part of their 'How can we make the world a better place?' topic.



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DORKING MUSEUM

Regrettably, at the time of writing, there is no firm timetable for the Museum's re-opening following the fire in an adjacent building in late October. The Museum cannot fully reopen until necessary repairs are carried out to the roof. 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.

Dorking dinosaur 40th anniversary event:

The show must go on! We are grateful to Dorking Library for hosting our half-term family event on **Tuesday 14th February, 2pm-5pm**. 2023 marks 40 years since the discovery of Dorking's most famous dinosaur, the Baryonyx. When its giant claw was unearthed by sharp-eyed fossil hunter Bill Walker in 1983, it created a worldwide sensation because the dinosaur was completely unknown to science.



Today, the original skeleton is in the Natural History Museum and Baryonyx

(meaning 'heavy claw') even featured in a Jurassic World movie. Sadly, Bill died over the summer, though he was given scientific immortality when the dinosaur was named Baryonyx walkeri in his honour.

Come to the Library to see the story of the discovery of the Baryonyx, a



life-size replica of the giant claw, models to show what the dinosaur would have looked like as it prowled

the dinosaur swamp and items on loan from Bill's family including the original rock hammer that prised it out of the ground. Meet our young fossil enthusiast, Charlie, with some of his amazing collection of fossils and dino-bones. There will also be dinosaur art and craft activities and children will be invited to take part in the creation of a large Baryonyx artwork for the library wall!



Can you help? 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.



COMMUNITY FRIDGE VAN

MID SURREY COMMUNITY FRIDGES

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

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Winter Thrushes

Blackbirds (both black males and dark brown females) hop across our lawns and song thrushes feed close to the shelter of the shrubs and hedges throughout the year. In winter, three further thrush species that breed in the northern regions of Europe and come south around October add to the variety of local wildlife.



Redwing

Redwings love to forage in flocks. This is our smallest thrush, with rich brown backs, red under their wings (seen as they fly) and an eye stripe. Often seen along hedgerows, especially those with fruit, they venture further into open ground than the slightly larger song thrush.

Fieldfares arrive a little later than the redwings, in flocks that move across the countryside like an invading army. A party has stripped the holly bushes in my garden of all their berries in a single day. These are large birds with

grey backs. Their flight pattern looks remarkably uncoordinated for a species that migrates long distances. When disturbed, they often fly up into the nearest treetops.

Mistle thrushes may be resident or winter migrants, but never appear in large numbers. Large birds, they are greyer than song thrushes with a different pattern of spots on the breast. They prefer quieter areas with open spaces as well as shrubbery. Each establishes a territory with a food supply (holly bushes are favourites) which is strenuously defended from others. They sing from the very tops of trees, chimney pots or TV aerials. The old name 'stormcock' was given as they often continue to sing in wind and rain.



Next time you see "thrushes" in garden or field, look carefully at colour and behaviour to work out which of these family members you are enjoying.

To learn more about birds and wildlife locally, get in touch with Dorking and District RSPB local group via its website <https://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict/> or by Facebook (RSPB Dorking).

Jonathan Groves



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Choo Choo!! All aboard the Nursery train to anywhere you like!! We started back to a very popular topic of transport. Imagine all the cardboard box vehicles that you can think of well that's what we'll be travelling in comfort in, on land, sea and air. You might just see us whizzing past!

Our tummies were nicely filled up on cookery day when we made our very own style of super noodles. Brimming with plenty of different vegetables and tastiness we were full up until tea time!



For our first forest school adventure of the year we sauntered out for an exploratory wander and talked about how to keep ourselves warm in the

colder weather. We all had our own super cosy ideas.

When you think of painting you probably think of paint pots – well not here! We had so much fun making insanely cool ice cube paints! The messier things are the better!



With Valentine's day around the corner we will be putting together a lovely Hamper which could be yours for the taking! Raffle tickets will go on sale in the Abinger Hatch from 1st February. Pop in for a drink and a chance to win!

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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Dorking Local History Group

The DLHG continues its popular programme of both live and Zoom talks on a fascinating range of topics.

These are free to members, but non-members are welcome. Upcoming dates include:

- Brewing along the Wandle: Live talk by Alison Cousins of the Wandle Industrial Museum about the many 19th century breweries on the Wandle (including Young's). Monday 6th February at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- Dutch Raids on the Medway: A Zoom talk by author Toni Mount about the 17th-19th century wars with the Dutch, including the serious damage inflicted on the English Navy down the Medway in 1867. Monday 20th February. <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.

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

An interest in researching local history and heritage?

Maybe there is a particular aspect of the history of Dorking, the surrounding Surrey Hills and villages or its people that has aroused your interest to investigate it further. The Dorking Local History Group's annual journal, Dorking History, includes contributions from both members and non-members on a range of local topics. The most recent subjects, for example, included Mickleham Almshouses, Betchworth Lime Works, the Rose Hill estate and Dr. Ralph Vaughan Williams. New contributors are encouraged and items from 100 words up to 3000 words are welcome (with images where possible). Advice can be given on access to archives at Dorking Museum and Surrey History Centre or other local sources.

Expressions of interest, drafts or completed contributions should be sent to Gwen Wood at gwen215@btinternet.com, including e-mail address and phone number.

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I do hope everyone has kept well and safe during January which is always a difficult month for many especially the elderly. Very little seems to happen at the woodland in January although we are there most days to feed the birds and wildlife and greet any visitors that might like a cuppa. February however always brings a glimmer of hope of better things to come and we can start looking forward to what the Spring might bring.

We already have many Spring bulbs shooting up and the birds are making plenty of noise so all the signs are there that things are waking up and the birds are looking for places to make homes and bring new families into the world. Our pheasants are back we are delighted to see, they

come running towards us as soon as they hear the car pull into the car park.



We are now planning our first fund raising family event in 2023, the 'Woodland Easter Egg Hunt and Family Fun Day'. This will take place on Sunday 2nd April commencing at 12.30 with the children's Easter Egg Hunt followed by egg and spoon races for all ages and some other fun activities. As well as the activities we will have an Easter Raffle, craft stall and soft toy stall plus if the

Supermarkets are kind to us we will have an Easter Egg stall. If anyone would like to donate some Easter Eggs we would be very grateful. Contact Debbie (debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk) who will be happy to come and collect them from you. We will also have drinks on sale and a BBQ on the go.

This is a very popular event so children need to be registered to avoid disappointment, numbers do have to be limited. The cost is £6 per child. Please contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk to register. Please support this event if you can, all monies raised go to assist our Veterans who are going through a difficult time.

All year round there is always plenty to do at the woodland and we welcome anyone who might like to volunteer to help with maintenance, leaf clearing, twig picking and cleaning the benches or maybe help run one of the stalls at the Easter Egg Hunt on 2nd April, that would really be helpful – we welcome all; please contact Debbie for a chat about how you can help us help our Veterans. Or you are very welcome to pop into the woodland for a chat if you are passing and see our vehicle in the car park.

**Paul Cooling, Chairman
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In a dominant culture where the interests of the individual have been promoted above that of the common good and the mainstream media continuously feeds judgement and division, the power of caring, to bring much-needed change, should not be underestimated. Care can be a radical act. It can challenge the status quo.



Compassion calls us to treat other people in the way that we would wish to be treated ourselves. Whereas judgement can bring separation and condemnation, practicing compassion can bring recognition of our interconnectedness - our dependence upon one another - and healing.

Liz Grant, Professor of Global Health and Development at Usher Institute, describes compassion as a four-part process: '*noticing pain and suffering, interpreting the suffering, feeling*

empathic concern or sadness, and acting to alleviate this suffering in some way.'

Importantly, compassion is innate in all of us and its heart is in acting. Practicing compassion helps bring change and is essential for creating a more just and equitable society. '*Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive*' – Dalai Lama

Robust action is urgently needed to tackle the climate crisis. Can considering the impact of global warming on those worst affected bring about a change in the hearts and minds of individuals and bring us all to stand together to protect life?

Westcott Community Garden

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GREEN WESTCOTT

Community Garden, at St Johns Community Hall.

There is an area of the churchyard which plans show is without any graves, which, following our first working party in January, is marked out and being prepared for planting. The first task is to suppress the grass and any weeds by laying down cardboard and covering this with manure - to keep the cardboard in place and to help create beds for planting.

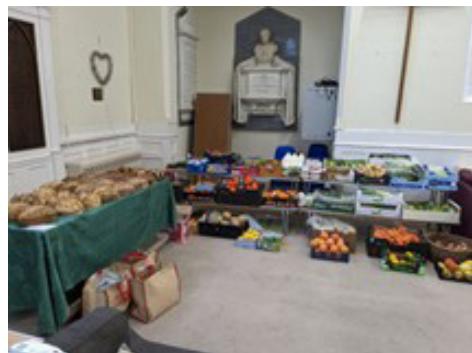
We hope that the community garden will be a project to grow friendship and connections, as well as fruit, vegetables and flowers, to learn, share knowledge and celebrate the wonder of growing things!

Plans are constantly evolving, so please come along if you'd like to get involved - get in touch at info@greenwestcott.org or add your name to the volunteers' list at Jon & Mum Groceries.

Christmas Larder

On Friday, 30th December the doors at St Johns' Community Hall were thrown open for the first Green Westcott Christmas Larder. Following a pre-Christmas fundraiser, the invitation was open for everyone

to come along to collect some free fresh fruit and veg and enjoy the company of fellow villagers over a cup of tea and mince pie or bowl of delicious homemade pumpkin or broccoli soup (many thanks to Chris and Susie!).



There was a fantastic turnout and a real feeling of community. We will definitely repeat this again next year, if not before.

A great deal of the food was distributed on the day, with any remaining fruit and veg given to the Mid Surrey Community Fridge and donations put towards the next event.

Jakki Phillips

greenWESTCOTT



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This word search only uses words with the letters from the word February, so get your glasses on and away you go!

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