

Westcott Village

Magazine

March 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.

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8th March 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.

Cover photo - Cobweb by Jo Smewing

FROM THE EDITOR



Hello and welcome to Spring! Here's hoping that at least some of the daffodils are out and nodding in the sunshine! We have lots on the Westcott

Village Hall this month, the committee are looking for new trustees and there is an update on page 59 as well as details on hall hire.

You have probably noticed the defibrillators by the shop and in the old phone box by the Burrell, but would you be confident enough to use them in an emergency? Page 43 has a list of tips you can cut out and keep and details of free first aid awareness sessions run by St John Ambulance to

be held in St John's Chapel at the end of March. Places are limited for each one, so do apply if you feel you'd be unsure what to do if you came across someone needing help.

There are also details of walks organised by the RSPB to get you out and about in the open air, and more information on Westfest to put in your diary. The Westcott Coffee Morning falls on the 1st this month so I hope you're reading this in time!

Don't forget Mother's Day on 19th March, a cup of tea in bed goes a long way!

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com



Do you have 1-2 hours free a week? Would you like to make a difference to someone's life?

Yes? Then Age Concern Mole Valley has the perfect opportunity for you. We are looking for volunteers to join our Befriender scheme in Dorking.

For more details, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator Andrea Kelley on: 07821 649683 / 01306 899104 or email andrea@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk



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...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

OUR FAVOURITE HYMNS

This month's article comes from the congregation who meet for Communion on Wednesday mornings at St John's.

All are welcome - do come and join our friendly, informal time of worship in the middle of the week.

We've had a wonderful time recalling our favourite hymns, and telling the stories about what they mean to us. So many words and memories come to mind when we hear these beautiful songs. We thought we'd share our stories with you. Perhaps you may enjoy listening to these hymns too? We've included QR codes that link to these hymns being sung (although not by us!).



*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
Thine be the glory...*



'Thine Be The Glory' - Winnie Burns

My favourite hymn is 'Thine Be The Glory', a wonderful Easter hymn. It reminds me of many Easter Sunday mornings at Holy Trinity Church, celebrating Christ's resurrection with joyful singing and balloons.

I particularly love the part of the hymn where it says that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, "Death has lost its sting".

The assurance that Christ has won the victory over death gives me great comfort and gladness. When I hear this hymn, I feel joy and a sense of completeness.



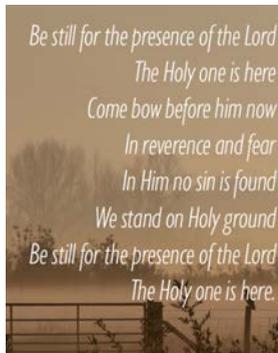
'Be Still' - Brenda Hemus

My favourite hymn is "Be Still". This hymn confirms that our Lord is all around us – wherever we are, and whenever we speak to him.



The words of this hymn remind me of God's glory and God's power, and that God is without sin, completely good. How amazing is that?

*Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here
Come bow before him now
In reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on Holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here.*



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*



'How Great Thou Art' - Audrey Ockenden

My favourite hymn is "How Great Thou Art". I love the second verse, which talks of wandering through woods and forest glades, hearing birds singing sweetly in the trees.

It reminds me of walking in beautiful hills and fields, and of the beauty we have around us here in Westcott.



'Amazing Grace' - Clare McMillan

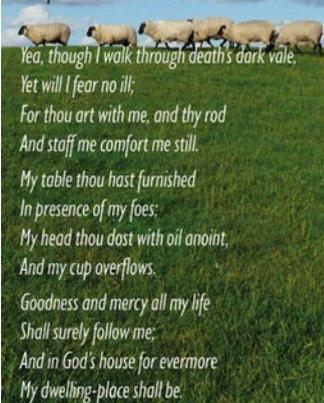
My favourite hymn is "Amazing Grace". The words speak for themselves.

*Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!*



*The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me down to lie, in pastures green;
He leadeth me the quiet waters by:
My soul he doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for his own name's sake.*



'The Lord's My Shepherd'

- Sue Meek & Geoffrey Staves

Sue: My favourite hymn is 'The Lord's My Shepherd'. It was played at my Mum's funeral, and the words "In pastures green he leadeth me" were peaceful and nice to hear. When I hear this hymn, my Mum's memory comes back to me.

Geoffrey: I have a few favourite hymns, so it is hard to pick just one! But I think my most favourite is 'The Lord's My Shepherd'. I have sung this hymn throughout my life, from my schooldays onwards, and the words remind me that God is like a good shepherd to us, comforting and guiding us. In my life there have been times when I have needed God's help, and this hymn reminds me that God holds me and cares for me. He has looked after me in the past and he still does today.



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 Mar	Mark: The Journey 2 - The Mountain	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
12th Mar	Mark: The Journey 3 - In Capernaum	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
19th Mar	Mark: The Journey 4 - Leaving Galilee	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
26th Mar	Mark: The Journey 5 - Onto Jerusalem	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion

MIDWEEK COMMUNION AT ST JOHN'S

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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26th February

5th March

12th March

19th March

26th March

For more information, contact Rev'd Tim Armstrong
vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk

WORSHIP NIGHTS 2023

SESSION 2: REFLECTION & LITURGY

Reflective worship, based upon traditional evening prayer



Thursday, 2nd March

7:30pm - 8:30pm

Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



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



toys
songs
craft



chat
snacks & drinks
fun

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All are welcome



THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

CHRISTENINGS

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

FUNERALS



MARKING LIFE EVENTS

All who live in Westcott or have a connection here, are very welcome to have christenings, funerals, weddings in Holy Trinity.

Contact the churchwardens for more information.
churchwardens@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

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

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

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants:

Mark Shakespeare 01306 888010 Ali Mabley 01306 889641

For help, more information, please contact churchwardens:

churchwardens@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



FLOODLIGHTING

The church floodlighting for March is sponsored by Jo and Chris Smewing to celebrate the 18th birthday of Dilly on the 16th March, and the 21st birthday of Lauren, the day after.

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



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A Right Royal WESTfest

The WVA are delighted to be supporting the WESTfest committee who are already hard at work preparing for another successful village fair. This year's event will be on Monday 8th May which is the extra bank holiday in celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.



1937

Fancy dress also played a part in the 1953 the Village Fete to mark the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II this time with a full Coronation Parade.

Westcott has a long tradition of celebrating Royal Coronations with village fetes and events held in 1911, 1937 and 1953 to mark each of the recent Coronations.



1953



1911

Celebrations for the Coronation of King George V in 1911 included fun sporting activities such as this race with the village ladies doing their best despite their long skirts.

Do come and be part of the next chapter of Westcott's Coronation History and join in the fun at A Right Royal WESTfest, Monday 8th May. Pop the date in your diary and keep an eye on the social media and village website updates <https://westcottvillage.com/westfest>

The 1937 Fete to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI included some fun fancy dress races.

Community Fridge

Visits from the Mid Surrey Community Fridge continue to be very



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popular at St John's every Monday, opening at 1.30pm. The food is perfect and is surplus from local supermarkets and wholesalers who would rather see it used in the community than go to landfill. If you haven't found time to visit do pop down, refreshments are available and there is a warm space to wait should you need to queue before opening time. The food is free but donations of £2.50 are encouraged if you can afford to do so. Bring your shopping bags, bring your friends, pick something up for your neighbours.

Westcott Community Garden



Our congratulations also go to the volunteers behind the Westcott Community Garden initiative who have made great progress in preparing the soil ready

to plant the new garden with edible crops for the community to enjoy. Several working parties have been held so far with more planned. Search Green Westcott on facebook page for further updates and to find out how you can get involved.

Free – First Aid Training

We are lucky to have our own resident

St John Ambulance Community Advocate, Richard Packer, who will be running some FREE first aid courses at St John's in March and April. A great opportunity to learn some potentially life saving skills. The dates are Friday 17th March and Friday 24th March at 7pm and Saturday 1st April at 10.30am. Please send an email to contact@westcottvillage.com to book a place.

WVA Open Meeting Wednesday 15th March

The next WVA Open Meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 15th March, we are considering a slightly different format to encourage more discussion and participation so watch out for further details in the coming days on the village website and via our social media and email newsletters.

In the meantime, 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.

WVA Committee
Paul Goddard, Edwin Harland, James Leaver, Sally Hewetson, Jon Mears, Nick Lund and Jo Astor
contact@westcottvillage.com



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(formerly the Reading Room)

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with
Sandra's delicious cakes

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10.30 - 12.00 midday



Murder & Modernism: Walter Sickert & the Camden Town Group

Tuesday 14th March 2023

We commence at 10:30am in Dorking Halls with coffee available from 9:30am in the foyer. The Camden Town Group were an innovative circle of painters united by the desire to paint works of a modern character. Our Lecturer, Nicola Moorby, introduces us to the core members of the group and tells the story of their brief but significant association, as well as Walter Sickert's infamous series of paintings inspired by the notorious Camden Town murder! We welcome new members and visitors but please visit our website before coming to the Dorking Halls as we are limited to the number of visitors that can attend.

Further information can be found on our website www.theartsocietydorking.co.uk. We are a Society that offers enjoyable opportunities to increase knowledge and appreciation of all aspects of the Arts.





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Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com

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 30 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 14 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

The Dorking Society



The Dorking Society is looking for a Treasurer. Do you have any time spare to work with some fantastic volunteers? If you are a trained accountant who is looking for a community role, and want to join a charity trustee board which is vibrant and forward looking, then do please get in touch. The closing date for applications is 17th March 2023. All enquiries with a CV please to chair@dorkingsociety.org.uk

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Westcott 100 Club

The Westcott 100 Club will hold its 30th draw and 8th Annual General Meeting in March.

To date, the scheme has returned over £6,500 in prizes to its members and has donated nearly £10,000 to good causes in the village. We currently have a grant fund of over £5,000 available for projects around the village, so if you have ideas for suitable projects, no matter how big or small, we'd love to hear from you.

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 (currently membership stands at 110 so there are 90 more tickets available). 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...



Voter Identification

As if there weren't enough changes in line for the coming district elections already, another new issue this year (and every year from now on) is that you will need to bring ID to vote for the next election.

Voter identification (ID) will be required for the first time in polling stations from May 2023. This means that electors will now be required to show photographic identification at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper. This will affect all electors who vote in person or by proxy, at the next District and Parish Council elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.



Electors or their proxy must bring a suitable form of photographic ID to their polling

station. The most commonly used forms of accepted ID include:

- passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA (European Economic Area) state or a

Commonwealth country

- photographic driver's licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (including provisional)
- European Economic Area photo ID Card
- UK Biometric Residence Permit
- an identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (PASS card)
- a Blue Badge
- Oyster 60+ Card
- a concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government or local authority

Only original documents are accepted; scanned images or copies will not be accepted, however expired documents are accepted if the photo is still a current likeness. You can, of course, avoid having to take identification to the polling station by voting by post. If you want to apply for a postal vote, then the council's website www.molevalley.gov.uk has all the details, together with more about Voter Identification.



If an elector or their proxy does not have an accepted form of ID and wants to vote at the polling station, they will need to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate (VAC). This is a free photographic identification document solely for the purposes of voting. You must be registered to vote or have applied to register to

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

vote before applying for a VAC. The application process is now open, and you can apply for a VAC online via the council website or if you need a paper application form, please contact the Elections Team: electoral.services@molevalley.gov.uk

Voters who do not produce a VAC or valid identification will not be allowed to vote on polling day. Please do not apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you already have an acceptable form of ID such as a passport or driving licence. You cannot use a VAC as proof of identity for any purpose other than for voting.

The deadline for applications for Voter Authority Certificates will be 5pm, 6 working days ahead of a poll. For the elections in May 2023 the Voter Authority Certificate application deadline is 5pm, Tuesday 25 April 2023.

Supporting Local Businesses

One of the roles of the district council, and there, to some extent at least, councillors is to champion our local businesses. In recent weeks, it has been my pleasure to support taxi firms,

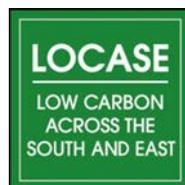


plumbers, t r e e surgeons, car mechanics, decorators, florists, pubs

and restaurants. This, then, is just a little plug for you to flick through the rest of the village magazine and think about whether a local business can meet your needs.



The council supports local businesses through "Mole Valley For Business" and the website molevalleyforbusiness.co.uk and if you run a local business or are thinking about starting one you can go there to sign up for their regular newsletter and for the business networking lunches. There are also details of grants that you can apply for. An example being LoCASE which is a grant funding programme offering SMEs in Mole Valley non-repayable grants between £1,000 and £20,000, covering up to 40% of eligible costs, to help green your business and cut energy costs, along with an environmental training scheme and events.



Grants are calculated on CO₂ equivalent savings, job creation and innovation. The funding is available for companies to implement energy efficiency measures, or for business development for companies providing green products or services.



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

The projects being funded for these Mole Valley based companies vary. A LoCASE grant has enabled managed offices to upgrade all their lighting to LED. A hotel is getting solar panels part funded by LoCASE to become carbon neutral. A carpenter had their application approved for a grant towards machinery to help make products from waste and upgrade their heating. A catering company successfully applied for a LoCASE grant to purchase a second-hand electric van. An IT business is working on upgrading their windows to double glazing thanks to a LoCASE grant. A tennis club is about to upgrade their floodlight to LED with a LoCASE grant. Don't miss out, you could be the next Mole Valley SME to get a LoCASE grant.

Dementia Research

Over 25 million people in the UK have a friend or family member with dementia and the team at Join Dementia Research are recruiting people to help them in their challenge to make a difference through medical research.

By signing up, you will be able to:

- Find the studies that match your information.
- Connect with researchers to show an interest in their studies.
- Discover exciting new studies.
- Help them improve dementia care and treatment.



Dementia research is important. It can help people living with the condition now, as well as helping to prevent people from developing dementia in the future. Everybody diagnosed with a form of dementia should have a chance to discover, get involved and participate in dementia research. Join Dementia Research provides that chance and can connect you to dementia research studies taking place across the UK.

More than 60,000 people have now signed up to Join Dementia Research since the service began in 2015. The largest ever research study to recruit through Join Dementia Research, with almost 10,000 UK participants, recently published its results. The global brain health survey found a massive 91 percent of participants would be willing to take a simple test to learn about their own risk of developing a brain disease like Alzheimer's disease. Important research like this is vital for the development of future diagnostics.

If you sign up to Join Dementia Research, the information you provide is used to match you to studies you may be able to take part in, both online, nationally and in our local area. The



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

service connects registered volunteers with dementia researchers across the UK who are looking for people to join their studies. You can review your study matches once you register and then it's your decision whether to take part. Taking part means you will make a real difference to the future of dementia care, diagnosis and treatment.

Cyberhood Watch



Our friends at Surrey Neighbourhood Watch are keen to remind us of five steps to protect ourselves against online scams:

1. Research companies and websites before buying. No matter how urgent the offer may seem, or how badly you want the item or service, do your research first.
2. Pay with a credit card or trusted payment processor. Compared to debit cards and bank transfers, credit cards are far more secure.
3. Avoid unknown links and downloads. Scammers can use attachments and websites to infect your computer with malware.
4. Keep personal information to yourself. Many websites ask you to answer a series of security questions in case you need to recover your password. Remember which information you've set as security measures, and don't share it.
5. Secure yourself online. If a website offers two-factor authentication, use it. It's not bulletproof, but it's better than nothing. Use strong, unique passwords on the websites you frequent, and store them more securely with a dependable password manager.

Getting Ready to Bow Out (Gracefully)

My next edition of "District Councillor Writes..." will be my last as I step down from the District Council after 15 years of life at Pippbrook. Some of that has been enjoyable, probably less than at first imagined to be honest, and almost all of it has been rewarding.

Next month's edition will probably be a chance for me to look back once again on all the things have changed in those years, but it will also be firmly in the election period. I appreciate that election day is probably not the most important thing in your life, but every day we see people across the planet fighting for their democratic rights, I am reminded that in Westcott we regularly have one of this country's highest proportion of people taking the opportunity to vote and I want that to continue. Please mark out a time in your diary now to vote on Election Day or apply for a postal vote – your individual and collective voice really does matter.

James Friend

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Raptors on Ranmore



Our lecture for February was about Red Kites which the RSPB claims all have the same DNA, being

descended from a single female bird in Britain.

Red Kites were once Britain's common bird of prey. By the early 1900's they were virtually wiped out in England and Scotland after years of persecution because they were considered a threat to game birds and small cats and dogs. However a number of safe havens have been re-established where they have become a bird watchers' attraction, and approved by the RSPB as they are no longer an endangered species. The better known sites where they are presently found in numbers are in Perthshire, Galloway & Dumfries, mid Wales near Rhayader and in the Chilterns and South Downs. A pair of Kites and a pair of Buzzards have in the past year been commonly seen on Ranmore Common and nest in the woods at the top of the hill.



Common Buzzard

They are now a protected species though they are on the

RSPB Green list meaning there is no critical threat to the population. It is estimated that there are over 1000



Red Kite

pairs breeding in Britain. They weigh about 1kg or more with a wing span of 180cm to 195cm. They are actually scavengers and not raptors like buzzards and hawks or peregrine falcons. They have short legs and when you see them at prepared feeding sites as in Wales and Scotland for instance they swoop down to pick up scraps of meat which they eat in flight whereas buzzards tend to sit and eat their catch close to where they found it.

The WLHG committee welcome suggestions for Talks and articles. Our next Talk is scheduled for Tuesday 9th May.

Roger Christian





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MUSIC IN DORKING



5th at 3.00, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

12th at 7.30, LHMV Verdi Requiem at Dorking Halls, £17-26, 01306 881717

18th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church

22nd at 7.15, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717

The choirs of the Leith Hill Music Festival usually perform a large choral work in March, before the main festival takes place in April. Traditionally these concerts have featured the Bach St Matthew Passion and St John Passion (a tradition inherited from Ralph Vaughan Williams) and more recently Handel's Messiah. This year, the choirs will perform Verdi's great Requiem. This is a huge and highly dramatic piece of music, needing a choir of some 200 singers and a very large orchestra. Verdi was primarily an opera composer and his sense of drama is very evident in his Requiem, not least in the stunning Dies Irae movement with its enormous brass fanfares and rousing choral effects. Anyone who enjoyed January's sell-out concert by the Grimethorpe brass band will surely enjoy this too!

The Dorking Concertgoers continue their string quartet series with the second appearance of the Carducci Quartet. This time they play music by Haydn – his 'Sunrise' quartet, Beethoven – his second 'Rasumovsky' quartet, and Mendelssohn – his last quartet, written in memory of his beloved sister. The third and final concert of the series will follow in April.

The Dorking Philharmonia's concert will include Tchaikovsky's delightful and melodious Serenade for Strings. This proved to be a popular success for the composer, and it is distinguished by a lovely waltz and a very moving elegy among its four movements. The programme will also feature music by Richard Strauss, Delius and Mozart.

The Dorking Halls has a screening of Puccini's opera Turandot on 22nd, live from the Royal Opera House. Will the mysterious Prince Calaf solve the three riddles posed by the icy Princess Turandot and thus save his life and gain her love? The opera features the well-known aria 'Nessun dorma'.



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A RIGHT ROYAL WESTFEST



Bank Holiday Monday May 8th 12-4pm

WESTfest is running earlier than usual this year, as we've been asked by the WVA to create a village celebration for the King's Coronation. We're hoping lots of village residents will join us on Cradhurst Recreation Ground (just off Westcott Street) for what will be the 8th WESTfest, appropriately enough on Monday 8th May, the extra Bank Holiday.

The main aim of WESTfest has always been to bring the village community together, to celebrate and support our school, and our many local clubs, societies and local artists and craftspeople. This year we'll also be celebrating the new King! We'll have live music (hopefully a brass band!), food and drink, fun dog show, dance display, rides and loads of stalls. It's a great opportunity to meet up with other village residents - it's always a fun day!

The Palace has announced that the Coronation bank holiday should be used to promote volunteering in an initiative they are calling the BIG HELP OUT! So if you would like to support that, you might like to volunteer on the day at WESTfest or for the many village projects and initiatives that need volunteers throughout the year. More info to follow on that in future editions of the Magazine.

If you'd like a stall, or would like to help on the day please get in touch at westfestsurrey@gmail.com

Holmbury Choral Society



Our Summer Concert 'Zoo Blue' will be on Sat 1st July. The exciting programme together with jazz musicians includes 'Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo' by Joseph Horowitz, with a libretto by Michael Flanders and Will Todd's popular 'Mass in Blue'.

New singers especially welcome to join us for the new term which starts on April 27th. Contact Liz Hamilton on holmburychoral@btinternet.com. Further details on www.holmburychoral.org



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It is a real privilege to come to work every day to our school. When it is bright and frosty and the ground sparkles with the newly frozen dew, I reflect on how special a place it is.

I have also recently reflected on the fact that the school has been here for the last 180 years and thought deeply about how the school has offered an education for so many thousands of children. Some have stayed in the area; some have moved far away. Some make their way into the world emboldened and full of vigour and excitement for the new day ahead in far off flung places.

I have looked at our records from a hundred years ago and made some links with family names in the local churches, in old records and even on the Dorking Cenotaph. There are intrinsic deep links within our parish, and they resonate down the centuries. The school has sat nestled in the Surrey Hills for such a long time it is part and parcel of the Hills itself with deep roots with the community and church and that is something that is to be so highly valued.

There are of course some changes that come with the times, with the introduction of bright new ideas and

new educational strategies - but the essential offer remains. It is safe. It is peaceful, a place for learning and excitement and an urgency to learn and grow together is palpable. Our staff are committed and even though there are changes we hold true to our course and steer ourselves towards the future full of hope and promise.

Our children are getting out into the community more and our choir is singing once again in Westcott and Dorking Halls. Mr Hall, our Musical director, is leading us on a journey towards musical mastery with keyboards and singing. There is more to come. Our links with the Church are growing too. Tim Armstrong, our new Vicar at Westcott, is fantastically bright and effervescent and he is a godsend for our school and community. He is a father, a local committee member, a bastion of positivity and faith and I am extremely pleased he is with us.

Our Local Committee has new members and is a strong vibrant group of positive supporters and advocates for our school. We are growing in strength and as we look for a new Chair, the members are all that the school needs to support the development and strengthening of support facilitating the school to flourish. I would like to offer a public thank you and tremendous gratitude

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

to James Friend, who has for a significant period been our Chair here at Surrey Hills. He has since moved on to become a Trustee of the Good Shepherd Trust where he will bring all that he possesses to the fore. Thank you James for your diligence and commitment.

All of the people involved with our school bring an enviable wealth of knowledge and skills, tenacity and dedication and for this I am truly grateful. All that everybody does helps us every day, in every way.

I wish you all a bright beautiful start to spring, with hope and faith abounding.

Bees Class



What a wonderful way to learn about the importance of measuring accurately!

Bees enjoying their practical maths lesson measuring ingredients to make delicious cupcakes

Bees Class have also been using magnifiers to look at the amazing heavy frosts we have had recently. The children thought they looked like diamonds and fairy lands. The chilly weather also meant that we needed to feed the birds - and warm ourselves

up with some hot chocolate made over the fire.



Butterflies Class

Butterflies have had an exciting time working out how to use the Bee Bots. By the end of the lesson we were all able to create an algorithm to instruct our Bee Bot to complete a simple set of instructions. We can't wait to carry on and find out more!



Children in Butterflies class recycled the Christmas tree to make pine medals. They learnt to use adult tools such as secateurs, bow saws and palm drills to make their pine discs





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:

- **Dorking & the Mayflower** Live talk by Randal Charlton, who collects artefacts relating to Dorking and the Mayflower, including letters between politicians on both sides of the Atlantic and hundreds of press cuttings on the “Mayflower II” adventure of 1957. Monday 6th March at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **Special Operations Executive at Winterfold in WWII** A Zoom talk by writer Paul McCue about the training of some of WW2's most famous agents at Winterfold, including Violette Szabo (“Carve Her Name with Pride”) and Noor Inyat Khan. Monday 20th March: <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>

Brockham Choral



Brockham Choral invite you to their concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 1st April at St. Martin's Church Dorking, RH4 1UX. With Cole Bendall conducting, come and hear Ethel Smyth's rarely performed Mass in D. Also on the programme is music by Vaughan Williams, 'Toward The Unknown Region, and Benjamin Britten,' A Hymn to the Virgin'. An excellent line-up of soloists and supported by organist William Campbell.

Admission Adults £16 in advance, £20 on the day, children, students under 25 in full time education £10. Tickets By email brockhamcstickets@gmail.com
More information & tickets www.brockhamchoral.org

SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

which they then decorated. The children chose animals from different classes to play the food chain game which was great fun! They also added colourful ribbons to our 'Wishing Tree' with their wishes and resolutions for 2023.

Chicken wired workshop

All of the children from KS2 took part in the Chicken wired workshop. Using just a pair of wire clippers, a pair of bent-nosed pliers and finger-friendly PVC coated chickenwire. The ChickenWired workshops offer pupils a practical, challenging and thoroughly enjoyable art day, creating their own 3D sculpture. The workshops offered are practically



based and encourage each pupil to create their own sculpture, following the process from start to finish.

Badgers Class

Also, in art, they have been exploring sketching techniques and the use of watercolours. The artwork produced of leaves have been delightful.



We will be moving on to sketching and painting birds – linked to our learning about Evolution and Inheritance.

Simon Coles
Head Teacher

Dorking Choral Society



Do come and hear some amazing music at the Leith Hill Music Festival on Saturday 15th April, in which we are participating in singing Elgar's 'The Music Makers' and the rarely performed 'Towards the Unknown Region' by Vaughan Williams. Tickets available from Dorking Halls. Join us for our Summer concert on July 1st. Rehearsals start on April 19th. New singers always welcome. Details on our website dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk

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DORKING MUSEUM

At the time of writing, there is still 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.



Activity continues

The Museum team are still dealing with archives, enquiries, talks, loan boxes and school and youth visits, as well as planning the new season of highly popular cave tours, family treasure hunts and guided walks of Dorking, the Deepdene Trail and Betchworth Castle, all of which resume in April (see website for dates and booking). The Museum's website also features a



growing range of online material and resources as well as the online shop.

Until full re-opening, some other limited outside activities are being arranged. Please check our website or social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), other listings sites and magazines or posters for Museum activities and news of future opening.

Get involved

The Museum's vibrant team provides an important community resource and a real opportunity to get involved in its delivery and development. To strengthen and build on existing activities and develop several exciting new community initiatives, volunteers are urgently required who can bring their skills to key functional roles in recruitment and HR, events, retail, education and family activities (a few hours in the Museum, in the community and/or working from home), training is provided. Additional volunteers are also urgently required for the front desk and delivering the visitor experience. Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities, where some of the opportunities are detailed and/or an online application form is available.

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.



MID SURREY COMMUNITY FRIDGES

COMMUNITY FRIDGE VAN

You may be aware that the Mid Surrey Community Fridge van visits the village, St John's Chapel, Chapel Lane every Monday from 1:30 to approximately 1:45pm.

If the van arrives early, we will wait till 1:30pm before opening. You are more than welcome to queue and hot drinks will be provided with a place to sit.

The "fridge" is usually open for around 15 minutes, until all food has gone, but the quantity and quality of the food available depends on the surplus that day, so the offer can vary.

The food is perfect, the supermarkets for many reasons have simply allocated it as surplus.

The food is free but if you can afford a small donation, it would be appreciated as donations pay the bills (£2.50 is the suggested 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), please speak to Jon at JonandMum 07496 036398 or Sally from WVA 07772 989 509



LIFESAVERS NEEDED!

Each year about 30,000 people receive attempted resuscitation for an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the UK. There are four key steps to take, known as the Chain of Survival.



Link 1 – Early Recognition and Call If the casualty is unresponsive and not breathing call 999 and start resuscitation immediately. If you have someone with you, send them to fetch the nearest AED (Automated External Defibrillator) from outside the shop or the old phone box in The Burrell. If not, just start CPR – do not leave the casualty.

Link 2 – Early CPR CPR keeps oxygenated blood flowing to the casualty's brain. Without oxygen, the brain starts to suffer irreversible damage after 4 minutes. CPR consists of giving 30 chest compressions alternating with 2 rescue breaths. If you are unwilling/unable to give rescue breaths, then stick with the compressions.

Link 3 – Early Defibrillation CPR on its own probably won't restart the heart. An AED gives a controlled electric shock to "reboot" it into a normal rhythm. Public Access AEDs are designed to be used by untrained members of the public. You attach the pads to the casualty's bare chest (using the guide diagrams) and then follow the verbal prompts. When the shock button lights up, check that no-one's touching the casualty and press the button. Once the shock's delivered, follow the instructions and carry on until the ambulance arrives.

Link 4 – Early Advanced Care The casualty will need a transfer to hospital by ambulance for further treatment. But if the first rescuer on scene manages to recognise the cardiac arrest early, calls for help, delivers prompt CPR and defibrillation, the chances of a successful outcome are significantly raised and you may just have saved a life.

Further online resources:

- www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/heart-conditions/cardiac-arrest/ - how to recognise cardiac arrest, perform CPR and use an AED
- www.lifesaver.org.uk – interactive video scenarios to test your knowledge

The Westcott Village Association, supported by St John Ambulance, is organising **free First Aid awareness sessions** at St John's Chapel on **17 and 24 March from 1900-2100** and **01 April from 1030-1230**.

Please email contact@westcottvillage.com if you are interested.

Places are limited to 12 per session.

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Creating windows of opportunity

What is the biggest event in March? The Great Abinger Bake Off of course!! If you've not participated before dust off your aprons and get baking! And if you'd rather feast on Easter delights then you must come too! With crafting fun galore this is a whole community event not to be missed.

Come down to the Evelyn Hall on the 26th March from 2-4pm. The categories to be judged, in two age groups (children and adults) are: BISCUITS, TRAY BAKE, CUPCAKES, SHOW STOPPER. Children £1 per entry / Adults £2 per entry. All cakes to be brought to the hall by 1.30pm and will be auctioned off unless otherwise specified.



Getting stuck into cooking was given a new meaning when we created some of Paddington's favourite sticky delicacy! We each came home with a lovely pot of marmalade – and were able to give a big jar to the grown ups in SJ's Café too.

Meanwhile imagine our surprise upon entering the hall one Monday morning to find a swirly, sloshy, swamp (yes that's right swamp!) in the middle of our play tray. Well the dinosaurs had gathered to



make the most of this glorious green goo and then the next day it was pink!!!

From dinosaurs to babies!! We cleverly had a nursery within a nursery when our role play area gave us the chance to do some responsible parenting! We really enjoyed giving the babies their baths, feeding them, changing their nappies and taking them for walks in their buggies. They were surprisingly co-operative!



To celebrate the Chinese New Year we went on a magical dragon ride across the Bohai

Sea. What an adventure! On the way we stopped off at a Chinese restaurant to practice our chopstick skills and make some playdoh sushi. We drew Chinese symbols in the sand and even had time to make paper lanterns and paper dragons.



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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VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES OPEN MEETING



Sunday 30th April

The second quarterly meeting in 2023 of the Westcott Village Hall Trust trustees will take place at the Village Hall (formerly known as The Reading Room) on *Sunday 30th April at 7pm*. This meeting will be attended by some retiring and some newly appointed trustees and will include the formal presentation of the 2022 annual report and accounts. It was decided that all Village residents would be welcome to attend as observers to listen to the discussions of the trustees in fulfilling their obligations and to their comments on various aspects of administering the Trust's responsibilities in connection with the Furlong Road and Institute Road sites.

If any Village residents would like to join the team of trustees for the Westcott Village Hall Trust, could they please make contact with the current trustees via email at info@westcottvillagehall.com attaching a brief life resumé and skill set list. Applicants will be invited to an interview in March for consideration of being officially appointed on 30th April for initial periods of up to a maximum of 3 years. The trustees meet four times a year and some trustees will also be able to participate on the Operations Committee and/or Development Group as well.

We look forward to seeing Westcott Villagers on the evening. No RSVP is required. The meeting should end no later than 8.30pm

Westcott Village Hall Trust

Gomshall Village Club



Upcoming Events

Saturday 11th March - Damo and the Dynamites 8.30pm

Saturday 25th March - Quiz Night 8 pm - One of Will Babb's wonderful quizzes

Sunday April 8th - Easter Children's Party 12-2pm followed by Grand Easter Draw

New Members are always welcome. Come in and see if you would like to join. Our prices are marginally cheaper than pubs.

*Follow us on Facebook Gomshall Village Sports & Social Club
email us at gomshallvillageclub@gmail.com to find out about events that are taking place.*

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Walks & Events Spring 2023

We are part of the RSPB charity. Do come and join us! Our group covers an area of mid-Surrey centred on Dorking and includes Leatherhead, Bookham, Epsom and Ewell. We aim to help anyone interested to enjoy nature and are a friendly and inclusive group of enthusiasts. New members are always welcome and a particular effort is made for those who are beginning to explore nature or bird watching.

Wednesday 8th March Walk at Papercourt

Saturday 11th March Walk at Thorney Island

Friday March 17th Talk at Dorking Christian Centre: Joan Bingley will tell us about her wonderful holiday of a lifetime in Ecuador and Galapagos

Wednesday 22nd March Walk, Spynes Mere to Holmethorpe

Wednesday 5th April Walk at Tice's Meadow (Aldershot Park)

Tuesday 11th April Walk at Arundel WWT

Sunday 16th April Walk at RSPB Dungeness

Wednesday 19th April Walk at London Wetlands Centre, Barnes

For more details on the events above please visit the website below or Facebook page. If you would like to speak to someone then call Glenn Carmichael on 07483 848837 or email us at rspbdorking@gmail.com

Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

Website: <https://group.rspb.org.uk/dorkinganddistrict/>



Jonathan Groves

Word of Warning

A wildlife camera picked up some unauthorised intruders in a garden in Westcott on Saturday 4th February at around 7pm. Don't leave anything lying around outside, keep your sheds locked up, your eyes open and your cameras and warning lights operational.



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January was certainly a long month with dark days and icy cold weather. During January my daily visits to the woodland have helped enormously having lost my brother early in the month after a very long battle with Cancer. Our woodland is indeed a therapeutic place to sit and reflect.



Throughout January we were pleased to have a number of new visitors to the woodland, who brought friends to Surrey Hills with them. I have to say the Memorial Woodland looked quite spectacular at times when the frost was really biting and Debbie took some fabulous pictures. Now we are looking towards the Spring with bulbs popping up all over the place and some have buds almost ready to burst.



The many birds at the woodland are immensely busy building nests and singing their heads off in an attempt to attract a partner and create a warm home for a new clutch of eggs to be laid, hatch and thrive. Our male and female pheasants are back and eagerly wait for us to arrive in the morning to feed them. I did check our post box this week which has been home to Great Tits for the past three years, no sign yet but I will keep an eager eye out for one of these lovely

little birds to pop out as I arrive in the car, it's a delight to see.

Debbie, our Charity Secretary, is very busy this month preparing for our annual Easter Egg Hunt which will take place on Sunday 2nd April. This is a hugely popular event so please do contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk to register the children. For £6 the children can enter the Easter Egg Hunt and receive a goodie bag then enter one of the Egg and Spoon races with prizes for the winners. We also have egg and spoon races for parents which can be quite competitive! It's an excellent family fun day with something for all ages. A raffle with great prizes, an Easter Egg Stall at exceptionally cheap prices, a craft stall and Easter bunny soft toy stall plus the BBQ and hot and cold drinks for sale. So do come with some Cash (the card machine doesn't work in the Woodland due to the lack of internet signal). All monies raised go towards assisting our Veterans who are down on their luck.

We really look forward to seeing you on 2nd April, plenty of parking and hopefully warmer weather. Of course if you wish to visit before then everyone is welcome, the woodland is open 24/7 if we are not there you can park at the front and walk through the gate but if we are there then the Visitors Centre is open and the kettle is always on!

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GREEN WESTCOTT

The Community Garden is Here!!

At Westfest in 2021, you, the community of our village, asked for a community garden. We at Green Westcott, listened and have been beavering away over the past 18 months to make this happen. We have had several false starts and gone down many rabbit holes (not literally!) but we have finally secured a plot to bring this venture to life.

Where is the community garden?

Having liaised with Holy Trinity, and after reviewing the historical documents associated with the disused graveyard, we established a section without any graves. It is this patch of land which has been allocated to the Community Garden. Those of you in the village who go past St John's may have seen the signs and in the last few weeks some additions to the graveyard.



So far, we have had just a couple of working parties to set out the plot and

cover with cardboard and manure to suppress the grass and weeds. Just to err on the side of caution, we have also adopted the "no dig" method of starting the garden, in case there are any undocumented older burials in the graveyard.

We have plans for some seating which we will be developing over the next few months. This will be on the artificial grass area that was established when there was a nursery at St John's. We may introduce some planters into this area along with tables and chairs for people to sit and chat. There are other small areas within the graveyard that don't have any burials and we hope to utilize these spaces too for other garden projects, such as planting fruit trees and composting etc.

We are so excited to have started this project and have been really happy to see some new faces getting involved with it all already. This is a community project and as such our invitation is for everyone in the village to feel a part of it.

When do we meet?

Currently we meet on Saturdays every other week between 12 and 3 pm, to get things in place so we can be a fully functioning community garden. We aim to have space for fruits, vegetables and flowers for anyone living in the village who



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

would like to come and grow some. Community gardens are not just about gardening. They are places to meet, to interact and to commune with others. It is our hope that even if gardening is not your thing you will still pop along and come see us and what we are doing. Cake is always welcome for those who have been working in the community garden, so, if you are handier in the kitchen rather than the garden, we would never turn a cake away!



Why Have a Community Garden?

Community Gardens are good for you!

There are now numerous studies which show the benefits of community gardens. One study notes that gardening with others in a community garden can “give you a sense of purpose and drive to achieve an end goal.” It also creates a sense of belonging and acceptance for those who may be feeling isolated. Apart from the obvious gains of being out in the fresh air and getting a bit of exercise, there are other

benefits to community gardening. It is a great way to connect with others in your local community and improve your mental health.

Studies dating back to the 19th century have advocated for the therapeutic advantages of gardening for people with mental health issues. There are also studies which suggest that children with ADHA have improved attention when involved in gardening activities.

Support for those in need

With the cost-of-living crisis hitting people hard at the moment, we are hopeful that once up and running, the community garden may go some way to alleviating some of that burden on families in the village.

Greener Spaces

Greener spaces create healthier environments, and although much of Westcott is pretty green already, there is no doubt that those busy little pollinators – bees, butterflies and the like, are needing a helping hand. With their numbers in massive decline over recent years, the community garden would like to set aside a patch for pollinators.

Attracting wildlife with plants is a simple way to help





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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

improve biodiversity and the insects we rely on. Not only will growing and eating our own produce go some way to lowering our carbon footprint, there is something wonderful about being able to produce something from scratch and know the route that it has taken in the process.

If you would like to get involved in your community garden, don't be shy, do pop along to see us to say

hello. If anyone has any tools they would like to donate to this project please do get in touch at info@greenwestcott.org and please like and follow us on Instagram([greenwestcott](https://www.instagram.com/greenwestcott)) and on our Green Westcott Facebook page.

There are more updates and information on our website: www.greenwestcott.org

Nancy Lund

WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



Westcott Village Hall Development Plan : Update 2

In our January village magazine update we confirmed that we would be running a selection process for a professional Project Manager. We have met three suitable candidates and have written proposals in from all of them. We will be providing a recommendation to the trustees for them to make a decision and hope an appointment will be made during March.

More immediately, the Development Group recommended some pretty extensive vegetation clearance and trimming of the boundaries to tidy up the former Hut and bowling green site. A quote from David Ford Tree Care has been accepted by the trustees. Close neighbours should expect a day with the sound of machinery on Wednesday, 1st March, but we hope the end result will provide a more satisfactory outlook for all near neighbours. Out of neighbourly courtesy and to prevent further deterioration, the trustees have also agreed to carry out some minor repairs to the left-hand side of the wall separating Westcott Village Hall from Institute Road.

Bernd Ratzke

On behalf of the Westcott Village Hall Development Group

8 February 2023

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