

Westcott Village Magazine

April 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

May issue:

8th April 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 - Crocus by Fiona Humphrey

FROM THE EDITOR



This month is all about getting out and about in the (hopefully) warmer weather. See page 25 for information on free guided walks in

Mole Valley, and page 49 for details about the dawn chorus, which is getting more noticeable at this time of year as the birds get ready to nest.

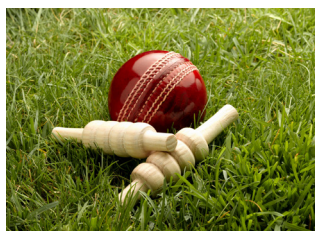
There are lots of musical attractions, either to join in with yourself, or just to go and watch and enjoy, and the cricket club starts its season on 29th April, always a good start to the weekend to pop down on a Friday evening!

If you need a new challenge in your life, both the sports club and the village hall are looking for new trustees, and the village hall is also searching for a bookings co-ordinator. None of these roles are too arduous and you might meet some new people and be able to help a village institution run successfully.

Westfest still has some pitches available, and more people are needed to sign up to help, at the coronation spectacular, a Right Royal Westfest, the more the merrier! Let's make it a day to remember for all the village.

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

Westcott Sports Club Needs You!



Westcott Sports Club, home to our village football and cricket teams, and a whole lot more fun, are looking for up to two new trustees to join the existing dynamic team. There are only four meetings a year and clear roles and responsibilities.

If you are interested please email for an application form to wsctrustees1@gmail.com



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



AS SURE AS EGGS IS EGGS...

If you want a controversial topic of conversation which steers away from politics and sport in the coming weeks, then why not ask a gathered group why we have eggs at Easter.

Opinions will probably include the idea that it is an ancient pagan practice pinched by Christians to the idea that it is primarily a marketing exercise by manufacturers of cocoa-based goods. Other ideas may include that it is something to do with the Trinity, that the egg represents the stone that was rolled away from the tomb, and the fact people didn't eat eggs during Lent and so feasted on them at Easter.

I FIND THE IMAGERY OF AN
EGG IN THIS SEASON TO BE
A POWERFUL ONE...

There is probably some truth in all of these. People have given one another eggs to mark the beginning of the Spring season for millennia – engraved ostrich eggs have been found in Africa which are 60,000 years old! Throughout the ancient Near East eggs were associated with death and rebirth and very early on Christians in the area picked up the significance of this symbolism for the message of Easter and the practice of decorating eggs spread gradually from the church in the East to the church in the West (although they weren't chocolate in the UK until 1873).

Whatever the exact details of eggs becoming associated with the Easter story, I find the imagery of an egg in this season to be a powerful one. Each fertilised egg, while looking stone like and lifeless on the outside, hides within it the awesome potential for new life.



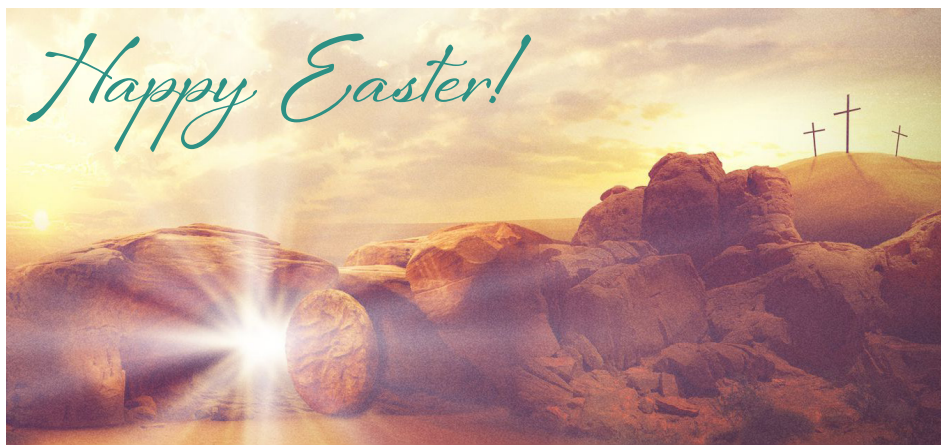
...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Life follows death as Spring follows Winter. The light of hope dwells in the darkest of places.

The Easter story makes the claim that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and that as a direct result everything looks different. It is a claim worth exploring as you tuck into your ovoid chocolate treat on Easter morn.

Do join us as we celebrate the promise of New Life at Holy Trinity this Easter Season – those of all faiths and none are warmly invited to share in these ancient festivities. To share in the promise of new hope and new life.

Rev'd Tim Armstrong
Vicar



Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who helped at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party at the start of Lent.

The team served an amazing 197 pancakes. The church was full of happy children, sticky fingers and smiling faces.



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
2nd April	Palm Sunday: Entering Jerusalem	Book of Common Prayer Communion	All-Age Morning Worship
9th April	Easter Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Communion	All - Age Communion
16th April	Philippians: Pressing on	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
23rd April	Philippians: No other way	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
30th April	Philippians: Rejoice Always	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING LIFE

EASTER

HOLY TRINITY WESTCOTT



New Life for Everyone

Palm Sunday

APRIL 2ND, HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

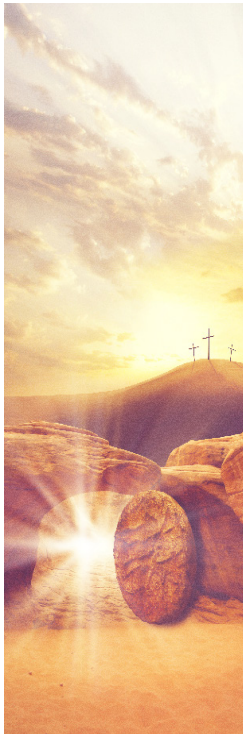
8:30am Book of Common Prayer Communion

10:15am All-Age Morning Worship*

Wednesday

APRIL 5TH, ST JOHN'S

10am Mid Week Communion



Maundy Thursday

APRIL 6TH, HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

7:30pm Bring & Share Meal, with Communion

Sign up at the back of Church to say what you'd like to bring

Good Friday

APRIL 7TH, HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

9am Morning Prayer at the Cross

2pm Reflections at the Cross*

Easter Day

APRIL 9TH, HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

8:30am Book of Common Prayer Communion

10:15am All-Age Communion Service*

* For Zoom service connection, scan the QR code, or visit the Livestream Services page at thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

COOKIE CLUB

Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

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



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



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



YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING



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

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



Holy Trinity Church

A Sacred Place of Peace & Prayer,
Open to All Every Day 9:00am-4:00pm

Holy Trinity Church is open for you to visit,
for private prayer or reflection
Come to enjoy the beauty and peace,
pray, reflect, breathe, be
All are welcome

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Death:


17th February 2023 Marie Jean Waters (89)



FLOODLIGHTING

The church floodlighting for April is sponsored by Hazel Shearing, with grateful thanks to all those who work at Holy Trinity and for the pastoral support in the community.

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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Sondes Place Farm planning application

With the MVDC Local Plan currently paused to allow for a central government consultation on changes to the National Planning Framework which may include removing Green Belt land from development consideration, we were surprised to discover that Gleeson Land have gone ahead regardless and submitted an outline planning application for Sondes Place Farm which is currently green belt farm land adjacent to the A25 in between Westcott and Dorking. The Gleeson Land application, currently with all matters reserved except for access to the highways, is to develop 144 homes, gypsy and traveller pitches and a school drop off.



The WVA **strongly objects** to this application not least because we consider it highly valued green

belt land which helps separate the developments of Westcott and Dorking. We have submitted an objection letter to MVDC Planning and would urge all Westcott residents to do the same. It is important the letters are focused on planning policy as that is the framework MVDC will be reviewing the application against. Our letter has been published on the WVA website and attendees at our last WVA Open Meeting on the 15th March also had an opportunity to sign a petition registering their objection to the application.

WESTfest 2023 – Monday 8th May

Plans are well underway for WESTfest on Monday 8th May which is being held earlier this year in celebration of the King's Coronation. Westcott has a long history of celebrating Royal Coronations and His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation will be no different. The WVA will be holding the ever-popular Bottle Tombola again



WVA bottle tombola at Westfest

James Croft
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this year and as always, we would be grateful for your donations.

This is our biggest fund-raising activity of the year and your support is really appreciated. So please dig out some suitable bottles – wine, beer, soft drinks or anything else that is bottled and likely to be well received. Donations can be dropped off to either – Edwin at Queen's Court, Westcott Street (near Bramley House Care Home) or to Sally at Drydown, The Hildens (at the far end on the left).

Community Fridge – help needed

The Community Fridge which comes to Westcott on Mondays is going from strength to strength and is now looking for an additional van driver. No experience needed just a normal driving licence. There are two drivers currently but a third will help share the load. It involves picking up the van from Old Char Wharf in West Dorking at 1pm, driving it to St John's Chapel and then returning an hour or so later.



If you are interested, please call Sally Hewetson to find out more 07772 989 509.

Spotted a problem with a road, pavement, rubbish bin etc – please report it

A reminder that if you have spotted a problem with street cleaning, fly tipping, overflowing rubbish bin or similar then please use the Mole Valley District Council Report It page to let MVDC know – it's quick and easy to use and is the best way to let MVDC know there is an issue <https://molevalley-self.achieveservice.com/MyServices>

Similarly, if you spot a Highways problem such as potholes, blocked drains, overgrown trees or vegetation or a street lighting problem then please let Surrey County Council know using this link <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem>

As always please do get in touch with any issues or to share your views on village life. If you would like to come and join us on the WVA Committee we would also be delighted to hear from you.

Westcott Village Association Committee
contact@westcottvillage.com



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Wednesday 5th April
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(formerly the Reading Room)

Jigsaw and Book exchange
with
Sandra's delicious cakes

Come and join us 10.30 - 12.00 midday

Next Month: Surrey Hills School Choir on May 3rd



THE ARTS
SOCIETY

That Woman or the Duchess of Style: Time to reassess Wallis Simpson?

Tuesday 11th April 2023

Anne Sebba has spent 3 years researching why Wallis was so demonised by the British establishment and explains how we can get to know her through her dress, jewellery and the homes she lived in. Our lecture takes place in the Dorking Halls commencing 10:30am with coffee available from 9:30am. We welcome visitors for a fee of £5 however please contact us via our website <http://www.theartssocietydorking.org.uk>.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month and welcome new members. Further information can be found on our website www.theartssocietydorking.co.uk. We are a Society that offers enjoyable opportunities to increase knowledge and appreciation of all aspects of the Arts.





Westcott Village Hall

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The Westcott Village Hall, previously the Reading Room, is in the heart of the village of Westcott, in the Surrey Hills close to Dorking. It is a flexible space with diverse amenities available for hosting classes, meetings and functions.

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- 1 x meeting room (8 pax)
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Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com

www.westcottvillagehall.com

VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES' OPEN MEETING



Notice of a Meeting of the trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO to be held at the Westcott Village Hall on Sunday 30th April 2023 at 7pm.

Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO is governed by its trustees. With limited exceptions (and reflecting how modern charities are generally run) only the trustees are entitled to attend and vote at meetings. However, in the interest of transparency and good governance, the trustees have adopted a policy to declare their quarterly meeting to be held in April each year as an 'open meeting' which residents may attend as observers.

This year, the trustees' April meeting will be held in Westcott Village Hall at 7pm on Sunday, 30 April 2023 and all residents of Westcott and the neighbourhood are warmly invited to attend as observers.

The business of the meeting will include:

- (i) a review of the CIO's report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are currently in the course of review. These accounts are available in draft form on the About Us page at www.westcottvillagehall.com or by calling the Westcott Village Hall booking telephone number, 07967 286636;
- (ii) the appointment (or, if eligible, re-appointment) of trustees; and
- (iii) such matters concerning the operations of the CIO as may arise and be appropriate for discussion in open forum.

Alan Reif
Chairman, Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO

A promotional poster for a theatrical production. The background is a scenic view of a lake with a blue sky and distant buildings. In the foreground, there are purple wisteria flowers. The text is overlaid on the image in a yellow, serif font.

Dorking Dramatic & Operatic Society presents:

The Enchanted April

by Matthew Barber
from the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim

"A show that leaves you positively glowing..."

26th-29th April 2023 at 7.45pm
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Booking Administrator

For well over a hundred years the Westcott Village Hall has been a successful community center and is at the heart of many village activities. Most of our users hold regular weekly events throughout the year for events such as Bridge, Aikido, Coffee mornings, Art History, Yoga and Kickboxing. It is also available for special events such as birthdays or anniversaries for all ages.

We are looking for a Booking Administrator who would respond to booking enquiries, liaise with users, keep the online calendar up to date, invoice users, attend quarterly trustee meetings and work with the Chairman and Treasurer when necessary.

The role is a voluntary one. It is expected that the role will not be onerous and take no more than two hours a week. The successful applicant will be a good communicator and have appropriate IT skills.

New Trustees

Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO is the charity which runs Westcott Village Hall. The charity is governed by up to 12 trustees, and several trustees are coming up for retirement or reappointment on 30 April 2023. 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.

Accordingly, we now invite applications by residents who are willing to put themselves forward for as new trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO. No specialist skills are needed, but an interest in making Westcott Village Hall a vibrant community asset is required. If you are interested in helping us shape the future of your village hall, please email info@westcottvillagehall.com by 14th March 2023.

Please contact us on info@westcottvillagehall.com if you would like more information on either of these roles.

Alan Reif
Chairman, Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO

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Company number: 01756254. Our registered office is 4 Guildford Road, Westcott, Surrey RH4 3NR.

THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Things Change

I wanted to start this final article, in a series of 156 in case you had lost count, by saying a huge thank you to all those across our rural village community that have supported initiatives over the last 15 years to maintain and improve our village for today and tomorrow.

There simply isn't the space to say thank you personally to everyone, although several folks who are no longer with us spring to mind.



Whether it has been the Westcott in Bloom team achieving the dizzy heights of a Silver Award from the Britain in Bloom folks or the extension to our village school, there have been hundreds of fellow residents at the heart of prioritising and delivering these things.



After all, to me that seems to be the core requirement of a local representative – not to simply champion their personal issues and causes, but to actively listen, to take action and to be prepared to suffer the “slings and arrows” for the greater good.



Only by listening, particularly to those that may be seldom heard, can a councillor be sure they are delivering for everyone.

Our community events have been numerous, street parties, the Olympic Torch Relay and



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

RideLondon festivities.



Villages like ours only thrive with common causes and I look forward to many more to continue to bring us together as one community.



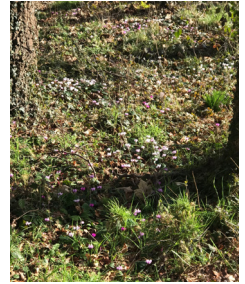
The protection of Cradhurst as a “Field in Trust”, the reuse of buildings like The Crown for new homes, the Westcott to Dorking cycle path and the Westcott

Neighbourhood Development Plan might be things that people in the village will remember from my time as our last village District Councillor.



However for me, the real memories will be from when I have been able to help individuals and families to access the services they need.

Added to that, I have been delighted to see how our community has championed our natural environment – particularly rewarding to see in spring with the wild



flowers abundant and the responsible use of our footpaths and bridleways.



These came together in the regular mystery trees feature – thank you to everyone who found and photographed trees.



Our natural world and our future generations combine in so many of the things we stand for as a village. Helping younger community members



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)



to enjoy the outdoors has often brought a smile to me over the years.

It seems fitting, then, to end with a memory of the opening of the new Faurefold Girl Guide facility.



Thank you Westcott.

James Friend

Free Guided Healthy Walks in Mole Valley

Our walks are free, fun, sociable and incredibly good for you.

NEW 'SOCIAL STROLL' - Tuesdays at 10.30am (term time only)
Meet outside Dorking Halls* for a 30 - 45 minute walk around Meadowbank Park
Join us in the Dorking Halls café afterwards for a chat plus get a hot drink and slice of cake for just £4!

molevalley.gov.uk/wellbeing-walks
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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

John Evelyn of Wotton 1620 – 1706 and family life in 17th Century England.



John Evelyn was the fourth child of Richard and Eleanor Evelyn who lived at Wotton. His

siblings were George, Jane, Elizabeth and Richard. They lived through some tumultuous years: Charles I's beheading in 1649, Civil War and Cromwell's protectorate, Charles II's exile until his restoration in 1660, his death in 1685, the recurring Plague and the Fire of London in 1666 and the intermittent war with the Dutch.

The Evelyns were lucky to be in a relatively secure position, being the sole legal producer of gunpowder for the King until 1641. Even after that, their gun powder mills at Wotton and Chilworth on the River Tillingbourne continued to supply the government and the East India Company for many years. Richard Evelyn purchased the Manor of Westcott including Wotton in 1628 and became the High Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex.

John was born at Wotton House on 31st October 1620, and following the custom of using wet nurses, he was put

to be nursed by a tenant's wife for over a year. One of his earliest memories was of learning his letters in Wotton Church porch but at the age of five he was sent to be brought up by his maternal grandfather who lived on the outskirts of Lewes, Sussex to avoid the dangers of the Plague. When his grandfather died two years later, John remained with his grandmother, learning Latin and writing from a Huguenot refugee until he became a pupil at Southover Free school. His mother wanted him to go to Eton but, terrified by reports of the school's severity, he pleaded to remain at Southover.

In 1634 his older sister Jane died after giving birth to her first child. John's mother was so devastated that she died the following autumn. John's belief that her inconsolable grief was largely responsible for her death bred in him a fear of uncontrolled emotion which stayed with him always.

The Evelyn brothers were entered for The Middle Temple to acquire the legal knowledge necessary for a country gentleman. In 1637 John went to Balliol College left in 1640 without taking a degree. Sadly his father died at the end of that year and on 2nd January he was buried by night, as was the family custom. The estate accordingly passed to John's elder brother, George. After witnessing the execution in 1641 of the Earl of Strafford, a Royalist, John had no wish

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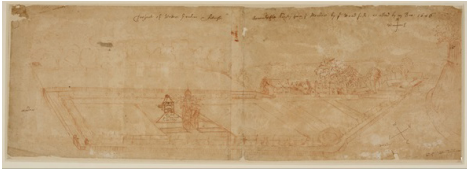
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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



to be involved in politics and decided to travel in Europe, going first to Rome.



In 1641 he returned home briefly to celebrate his 21st birthday with his family and built a fishpond and a study in the garden at Wotton, (see his personal sketch above) but to avoid signing an obligatory Covenant which meant supporting the parliamentary forces he returned to Europe in 1643. After Italy he moved to Paris where he stayed with Richard Browne, the British Ambassador, and met his daughter



Mary Browne whom John married in 1647, though they did not live together for some years as she was considered too young.

After some time spent visiting St Germain and Versailles he returned to England. In 1649 Charles I was executed and John was very disturbed. He spent much of his time at Sayes Court in Deptford, his wife's family home on the south bank of the

Thames. He loved the gardens there but when the house was confiscated by the Parliamentarians he returned to France and his now adult wife Mary. By now 31, he was tired of the nomadic life, so he left Mary in Paris while he returned home to assess the situation.

It was a sad homecoming - his second sister had just died in childbirth, he found the English devoid of courtesy and culture, and the appointment of Puritan ministers to many parishes made Anglican worship difficult. However, he was able to regain possession of Sayes Court when the Act of Oblivion cancelled 'oaths of loyalty' to the new regime and bought an adjoining 100 acres to extend the garden.

Mary and her mother returned to England safely despite the ongoing war with Holland at that time. John and Mary's first son was born at Sayes Court but a month later Lady Browne died of scarlet fever. To divert Mary from her grief John took her for the first time to Wotton and also Albury Park, dining at the Red Lion Inn in Guildford. A second son survived for only 3 months - death in infancy was an accepted event in the 17th century but John and Mary were never reconciled to it.

With Richard Cromwell (Oliver had died in 1658) as Lord Protector, landowners such as the Evelyns prospered. At Sayes Court John planted a garden

Westcott 100 Club

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 still have a grant fund of over £5,000 available for further projects. 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)*

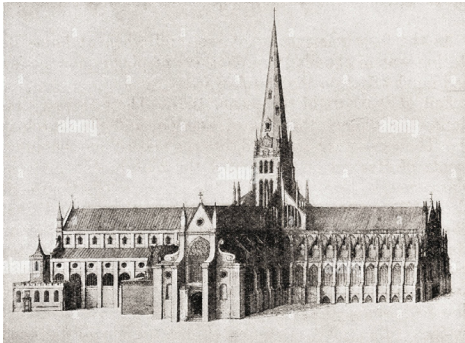
The Westcott 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery registered with Mole Valley DC no. 48965.

WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)

famous for its flowers, trees and shrubs, fruit and hothouses and advised his brother, George, on laying out the garden at Wotton in the Italian style with parterres and terraces. John was now considered an expert and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for which he wrote a book *Sylva – or a Discourse of Forest Trees* on planting and preservation of timber for the Navy. Having lost yet another child he turned again to literature, writing *The Gardener's Almanack*.

In 1660 the Generals had brought King Charles II back to England and John went to London to watch the King's parade on his return. The next year brought further war with the Dutch and John was involved as a Commissioner with the care of the sick, wounded and prisoners of war. When the plague arrived in London in 1665, John took his wife, Mary and her only surviving son to Wotton and returned to Sayes Court.

The King asked John and Sir Christopher



Wren to join a commission to oversee repairs to St Pauls Cathedral, but on 2nd Sept 1666 the Great Fire of London started and John could see the flames burning day and night from Sayes Court. The fire was visible from 10 miles away and the Cathedral and much of London were reduced to smoking ruins.

In 1672, the Dutch fleet entered the Thames estuary for the third time and John again found himself responsible for organising the 'sick and wounded'. Finally the war ended and the King's niece married William of Orange. John and Christopher Wren were next given the job of building the Greenwich Royal Hospital. When the Czar of Russia, Peter the Great, came to visit to see how the English Navy built their ships John let him and his entourage live in his house at Sayes Court, but the Czar ruined it. John was compensated by the English government.

John's brother George died in 1700 and John, by now 80, and Mary returned to live at Wotton, where John wrote his book *Memories for my Garden*. By now their son and daughter had died but their grandson survived. John Evelyn died in 1706 aged 86 and his wife, Mary died 3 years later at 80 years old.

Roger Christian

The Westcott Village Fair

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Bank Holiday Monday 8th May 12-4pm

A Right Royal WESTfest 2023 is shaping up to be a really stonKING one!

We're delighted Surrey Hills School choir will open the show at 12 noon singing the national anthem - we may even have a visit from "King Charles" himself riding in Dan Brown's horse drawn carriage!



In the arena we've got the Dorking Rock Choir, the Cobham Brass Band, D2D Dancers, DJ G-man and his Ibiza ANTHEMS! Plus our ever popular fun dog show hosted by Westcott's resident dog expert, John Venn.

Food from Surrey Hills Wood Fired Pizza, Cripes it's Crepes!, Jon&Mum, and Surrey Hills Hog Roast, plus beers on tap provided by Dean from the Prince of Wales, Silent Pool Gin and Delights from the Dub with Pimms and Prosecco, plus Faurefold Guides with tea and cakes.



All the family will be entertained with our tea-cup carousel, horse and carriage rides, bouncy castle, candy floss, coconut shy, silly races and our free games area. The famous WESTfest Silent Auction, and ever popular WVA bottle tombola will also be back!

Pitches are still available - please get in touch!
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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bees Class

Bees Class celebrated 100 days of attending school.



Foxes Class



Foxes Class have been looking at local maps and aerial photos. They have been comparing current Ordnance Survey

Maps with historical maps from the 1890s.

It was like a game of 'Spot the difference' and the children enjoyed seeing how Land Use had changed over this period. They also enjoyed finding where they lived on the current map and seeing what was



there before their houses were built.

Badgers Class

Our new learning theme 'Humankind – Past, Present and Future ...?' has begun with the children being fascinated by Greta Thunberg's passionate speeches on climate change. It has made us consider how we can all do our part to reduce global warming.

Their fantastic work from last term has been celebrated in the school corridors. Below is a display of some of their non-chronological reports on Darwin's discoveries and their beautiful artwork.



Last week, we celebrated more achievements. Rob Clack, from Cranleigh Lions, attended our assembly and announced the winners of last term's ROAR Project. Year 6, in groups, had come up with innovative ideas that could positively change people's lives and even change the world. Our winning team received medals, and they and the runners-up

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

received book tokens (all generously donated by The Lions).



Congratulations to Saffie, Ruby, Holly and Lois for their winning idea of STF (Stop It, Talk It, Figure It Out): an app to support victims of bullying

Cross-Country

KS2 children took part in the latest cross-country at The Weald. Everyone

did amazingly well in the freezing cold! Some great results with Leo coming 5th in the 3/4 boys and Maddie (6th 3/4 girls) + great success in the 5/6 girls with 3 in the top 10 – Well done Holly, Lois and Evie! Overall, Surrey Hills were 2nd in the 5/6 girls and 3rd in the 3/4 boys.



Simon Coles

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



**DORKING
LOCAL
HISTORY
GROUP**

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:

- The Restoration of the Wey and Arun Canal: Live talk by Richard Shenton, a volunteer on the restoration of the 23-mile canal, creating the missing link between Britain's inland waterways and the English Channel. Monday 3rd April at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.



- Surrey Villages, Then & Now: A chance to wallow in nostalgia with the ever-popular David Rose returning on a Zoom talk to show and explain some of his vast collection of material about Surrey's past. Monday 17th April: <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>

WESTCOTT GARDENERS CLUB

St John's Chapel
Thursday 20th April - 8pm

WESTCOTT GARDENERS CLUB TALK

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TALK BY BEN POPE

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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. We cannot fully reopen until necessary repairs to the roof are completed, but please check our website or social media pages, listings or posters for Museum activities and news of future opening.

The Museum team are still dealing with archives, enquiries, talks, loan boxes and school and youth visits. The new season of cave tours and guided walks begins in April and some other outside activities are being arranged. The Museum's website also features a growing range of online material and resources as well as the online shop.

A Family Coronation Activity:

We are pleased to be able to work with Dorking Library on some events while the museum is closed. Our next family activity will be on Saturday 29th April, 10am-2pm, again in



collaboration with Dorking Library. It will take place on the weekend prior to the Coronation of King Charles III and will be a Coronation

crafts event where children will be invited to create their own celebratory 'fascinators', bow ties, Union Jack flags and other Coronation souvenirs. There will also be a display of photos and souvenirs from previous coronations, which we hope will continue to be displayed after this event.

South Street Caves tours:



One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets, complete with graffiti carved into the walls, the oldest dating back to 1666. A series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level.

Guided tours resume on Easter Saturday, 8th April and then on the last Saturday of each



Mystery Chamber



COMMUNITY FRIDGE VAN

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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



DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

month of the season, beginning on 29th April. Tours start at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, each lasting about 45 minutes and led by a trained guide. For details and open day bookings see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk to arrange a date.

Walking in Dorking:

The Museum's popular programme of guided walks also starts a new season in April. These include two on the edge of town.



A Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure on Sunday 16th April, 2pm, leaving from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club. The walk on the Deepdene Trail includes exclusive access to the grade 2* Hope Mausoleum on Sunday 23rd April, 2pm, leaving from the Dorking Golf Club clubhouse.

In the town centre, new this season, the *Family Treasure Hunt* for young

history detectives (£4 per family) offers a prize for all participating children on Sunday 23rd April, 2pm, from the Museum. See Dorking as you have never seen it before on the guided walk of *Hidden Historic Dorking* on Sunday 30th April, 11am, from the Museum. And our ever-popular *Dorking Historic Pub Walks* revealing stories of hostleries, pubs and inns both past and present will begin next month (see website).

All walks last around an hour and a half and should be booked in advance: details and booking at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. Walks may also be arranged for private groups on these or other itineraries: see website for details, enquiries and group booking.

Get involved:

To strengthen and build on existing activities and develop new community initiatives, volunteers are urgently required. Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities, where a range of opportunities are detailed and/or an online application form is available.

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www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.

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Today we were surprised upon awakening, peeking out the curtains and low and behold seeing a beautiful white blanket of snow. Most of us slowly managed to make it into nursery where we worked together with the fresh snow to build a solid snowman - which we then painted! The fun continued (after a hot chocolate for good measure) into the afternoon on a wintry woodland walk. We were able to track some animal footprints and have a sizeable snowball fight!

'Who's that trip trapping over my bridge?' We've been constructing many bridges out of lollipop sticks, toilet rolls, cups and egg boxes and ceremoniously named them - among

the names - Fridge Bridge and 'Maggie'! We placed an elephant (yes an elephant) and a monster truck on top to see how well they held. The architecture was superb! We then took it in turns to be goats and trolls whilst acting out the 3 Billy Goats Gruff. What a lot of terrifying trolls!

In the garden we have been enjoying riding our new balance bikes (thank you so much for the donation!) with considerable expertise (any keen biker parents out there?!). We have had many super sports sessions - practicing our ball skills and team activities. Alongside our active play we have been making mud pies in the mud kitchen and digging and loading up our trucks.

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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MUSIC IN DORKING



1st at 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at St Martin's church, £16/20
2nd at 7.30, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619
14th & 15th at 7.30, Leith Hill Music Festival at Dorking Halls, £17-26, 01306 881717
22nd at 7.30, Philharmonia Orchestra at Dorking Halls, £15-30, 01306 740619
27th at 6.45, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717

The big event of April is the Leith Hill Music Festival, with two days of competitions and concerts. The participating choirs, from towns and villages around Dorking, compete in the morning sessions from 9am and you are very welcome to attend these. Following an afternoon rehearsal with Jonathan Willcocks, the festival conductor, they join forces for an evening concert with full orchestra and soloists. This year the music for the concerts celebrates Elgar, with his *Sea pictures* and *The music makers*, and Vaughan Williams, with *The Lark Ascending* and *Toward the unknown region*. There is also music by Handel, Haydn and Cecelia McDowall.

Another major event is a visit by the London-based Philharmonia Orchestra, arranged by the Dorking Concertgoers. Their programme includes Dvořák's gorgeously melodic cello concerto and Brahms's monumental first symphony. It opens with Vaughan Williams's *Five variants of Dives and Lazarus*, showing the composer's love of English folk tunes. If you were expecting this concert in May, please note that the date has been changed owing to a clash with a certain royal coronation!

Also for the Dorking Concertgoers, the Carducci string quartet will give the last in its series of three concerts. The concert begins with Mozart's 'Hunt' quartet and ends with Dvořák's delightful 'American' quartet. The centrepiece is Shostakovich's eighth quartet, a deeply personal work in which he mourns the devastation of the second world war.

The Brockham Choral Society, conducted by Cole Bendall, will be singing Ethel Smyth's rarely-heard *Mass in D*. There will also be music by Vaughan Williams – *Toward the unknown region* – and Britten's *A hymn to the virgin*. Tickets are £20 on the day but only £16 if bought in advance.

Mozart's opera *The Marriage of Figaro* will be screened live at the Dorking Halls, in a production from the Royal Opera House. This comic masterpiece relates the events of a day in the household of Count Almaviva as his servants Figaro and Susanna prepare for their wedding.

Ian Codd

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Many forms of wildlife watching involve a degree of discomfort – Arctic cold, tropical humidity, windswept headlands or small boats in choppy seas. At this season, however, we can enjoy one of the world's best wildlife experiences while still in bed, without even opening our eyelids. Even in cities, but certainly in our area rich in mature gardens with shrubs and trees, the dawn chorus reaches its peak in May. Lie back and enjoy the outpouring of music from many different species as the curtains slowly brighten with the increasing light.

As the breeding season hots up, male birdsong reaches its zenith because the territory for food-gathering must be protected. For many species, strong musical performance also offers the opportunity for liaisons with willing females. Almost all birds sing as the day gets light. This proclaims "I've survived the night and this is still my patch." For many migrants such as the warblers, the males arrive first to set up territories, so the dawn chorus provides the first point of contact for prospective pairs. It is worth getting up in the dark (around 4am) at least once in May to enjoy the full benefit of the experience outdoors. Wear a fleece, take a plastic bag and a cushion to sit on, settle quietly and wait.



The tawny owl hoots as it retires to its daytime roost in a large tree after a night of hunting. Not long after, a robin begins to sing. Then every robin within earshot competes. Blackbirds soon join in with their melodies. Robins and blackbirds have large pupils and so see more at dawn and dusk than most garden birds. The chaffinches, the pigeons and doves are heard next. Then the others join the chorus in rapid succession. The dawn chorus is an experience, not a tutorial, so don't expect to learn to identify birdsong during the dawn chorus. Lots of individuals of every species are all singing at once in a glorious cacophony.

RSPB Dorking & District are holding a dawn chorus walk for International Dawn Chorus Day on Sunday 7th May at Bookham Commons. Meet at 4:30am at Bookham Tunnel Car Park, Commonside, Great Bookham KT23 3ES Leader: Glenn Tel: 07483 848837 Car Park run by NT, free to members or £5 to non members, no toilets. to listen to the sounds of spring awakening & learn about the birdsong of our resident songbirds and the migrants that arrive each spring. More information can be found at Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District Website: <https://group.rspb.org.uk/dorkinganddistrict/> Email: rspborking@gmail.com

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Its so lovely to see the Spring flowers in bloom throughout the woodland and the buds on the trees and George who is now the dominant pheasant in the woodland is making lots of noise to ward off the other males!

By the time you read this article it will be April and we may have had our Easter Egg Hunt which is taking place on 2nd April. I will update you all on how it went next month. At the time I am writing this we are all busy preparing for the event, collecting Easter Eggs and items for the raffle, tombola and craft stall plus I am wracking my brain working out another different and fun Easter Egg Hunt for the children!

With April upon us we are already planning our annual Anniversary event and Commemoration Service which will take place at the Woodland on Saturday 10th June. This is always a very special day and this year will be no exception. We have the Redhill



Corp of Drums and Band who are excellent and will play some lively tunes for us plus of course suitable music and The Last Post for the Commemoration Service when three families will be honouring their loved ones by planting saplings in their memory. We will have a BBQ and bar plus a fabulous raffle and other stalls with something for everyone. One

of our Veterans who is a professional singer will be performing as well. The day commences at 12.30 and Belmont School have again very kindly offered their parking facilities so there will be plenty of parking available. Do put this date in your diaries I know you will enjoy it and EVERYONE is welcome.

It does mean a considerable amount of work tidying up the woodland in readiness for the 10th June especially when the growing season is in full swing. So if anyone is available to help for an hour or two towards the end of May we would really appreciate it. Do contact Debbie and she can let you know when we are there (Email: debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk or Tel: 07778873806). Many hands make light work!

I try to be at the woodland every day, hospital visits allowing and if I am there the kettle is always on, so do call in for a chat and a cuppa if you are passing and see my car in the car park. But the woodland is open 24/7 so if I am not there you can park at the front and walk in through the side gate. As the temperatures get warmer bring a picnic and enjoy the tranquility and the birds in our little piece of heaven in the Surrey Hills. God Bless and I look forward to seeing you all this Summer.

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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 Horovitz, 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

BABY MEALS



Our first request this year came in early March from a Springfield Road family, and we're anticipating a call from another family expecting a baby later this month. As always, the families are hugely appreciative of the meals - the recipients often say it is somehow quite magical that someone just arrives with hot food for the family amid their new baby chaos!



If you know of anyone expecting a baby in Westcott please encourage them to get in touch - we are very proud of our long running "baby meals" service in Westcott and only too pleased to be asked to help!

Anna Kemkers
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GREEN WESTCOTT

Calling for clean water!



Last month I joined 'March The Mole' – a series of walks which brought together people from the local area united in concern over the poor state of our local river. Rivers are the lifeblood of our country. Freshwater ecosystems are an important habitat and when rivers are healthy they are host to an incredible range of biodiversity, including water voles, mayflies, brown trout and kingfishers. Yet there are no longer any rivers in England that are in a good overall state of health.



The River Mole is no exception. A 2022 report from Planet Patrol found that the River Mole was amongst the worst for water quality. Weak

government policy and regulatory neglect has led to the widespread pollution. Water companies' failure to invest in updating critical sewage infrastructure and run off from agriculture, containing pesticides and fertilisers, are the major sources of contamination. In 2021 alone, the sewer storm overflow in Dorking spilled 64 times into the Mole for a total of 613 hours (The Rivers Trust). These storm overflows were intended to only operate in "exceptional situations" only, but the number of incidents suggest this mechanism is being used more generally. After a sprinkling of snow at the beginning of March, Thames Water's Dorking treatment plant's storm overflow released raw sewage into the River Mole for over 5 hours.



Along the route from Leatherhead to the Stepping Stones, we met many people who visit the river regularly and expressed their concerns over poor water quality and the impact on wildlife. One fisherman had been fishing the River Mole since childhood and observed first hand the decline in fish and water levels over the years.

On the walk I had many interesting conversations with people from various groups calling for action on this issue and undertaking projects,



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

including water testing and rewilding areas of the riverbank. From learning more about this issue, it has become clear that it is up to concerned people to put pressure on our MPs and water companies to call for the restoration of healthy waterways.

Here are some ideas:

The Rivers Trust has a website with a wealth of information on how to help rivers thrive and also an interactive 'sewage map' showing problem areas.

Write to your MP highlighting local pollution issues and asking them to speak up to #EndSewagePollution in Parliament.

Thames Water has a live map which indicates when storm overflows are discharging. Contact them at: customer.feedback@thameswater.co.uk

Connect with Friends of the River Mole Leatherhead via Facebook to help with water monitoring/testing

What's On in April

RHS Big Seed Sow – March 27th to April 2nd

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Community Garden to sow seeds – date tba

Earth Day – April 22nd 2023

The issue of water pollution is just one of many issues resulting from economic policies which enable corporate interests to trump the common good. Private corporations make enormous profits for the benefit of their shareholders, while the needs of people and nature are neglected. Have you heard about The Big One, 21st-24th April?

For Earth Day, I'm joining thousands of people gathering peacefully at Parliament to call on the government to act to protect people and nature. Everyone is needed! If you are concerned about the climate and nature crisis and want to find out more, please get in touch jakki@wearenature.uk

Fashion Revolution Week – 24th April

For all those who love fashion but don't want clothes to exploit people or destroy our planet. Find out more at fashionrevolution.org

Stop Food Waste Day – 27th April

Visit the local Community Fridge every Monday at 1.30pm at St Johns Community Hall, to collect food that would otherwise go to waste. Mid Surrey Community Fridges save 6.5 tonnes of supermarket and large producers' food from landfill every week.

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HOMES FOR UKRAINE



Mole Valley has opened its arms with huge generosity over the last year and welcomed over 160 Ukrainian families, over 250 individuals, to the District under the *Homes for Ukraine* scheme. None of this would have been possible without the hospitality of a large number of hosts who have provided homes and safe havens for those fleeing the conflict.

Single people and families are being hosted across the District from north to south and everywhere in between, children have been welcomed into schools and colleges and families into our communities. Westcott has welcomed a number of these guests and provided a wealth of networks and opportunities for supporting their integration into the village.

We do need more hosts however.

Many guests have been in the UK and with Mole Valley families for almost a year and there are naturally changes in circumstances where guests and hosts need to make alternative arrangements. Could you consider opening your home to guest who are already in the UK, or support new ones wishing to travel? If you have a spare room or rooms and could offer support for 6 months or more, please record your interest through the gov.uk website and Mole Valley District Council would be very grateful to hear from you. Hosts are given tax-free 'Thank You' payments of £600 per month whilst they provide rent free accommodation to their guests.

If you are interested, Mole Valley District Council will provide the support you need to support your guests.

Unsure?

Please contact homesforukraine@molevalley.gov.uk and speak to an MVDC officer about what hosting would mean for you.



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