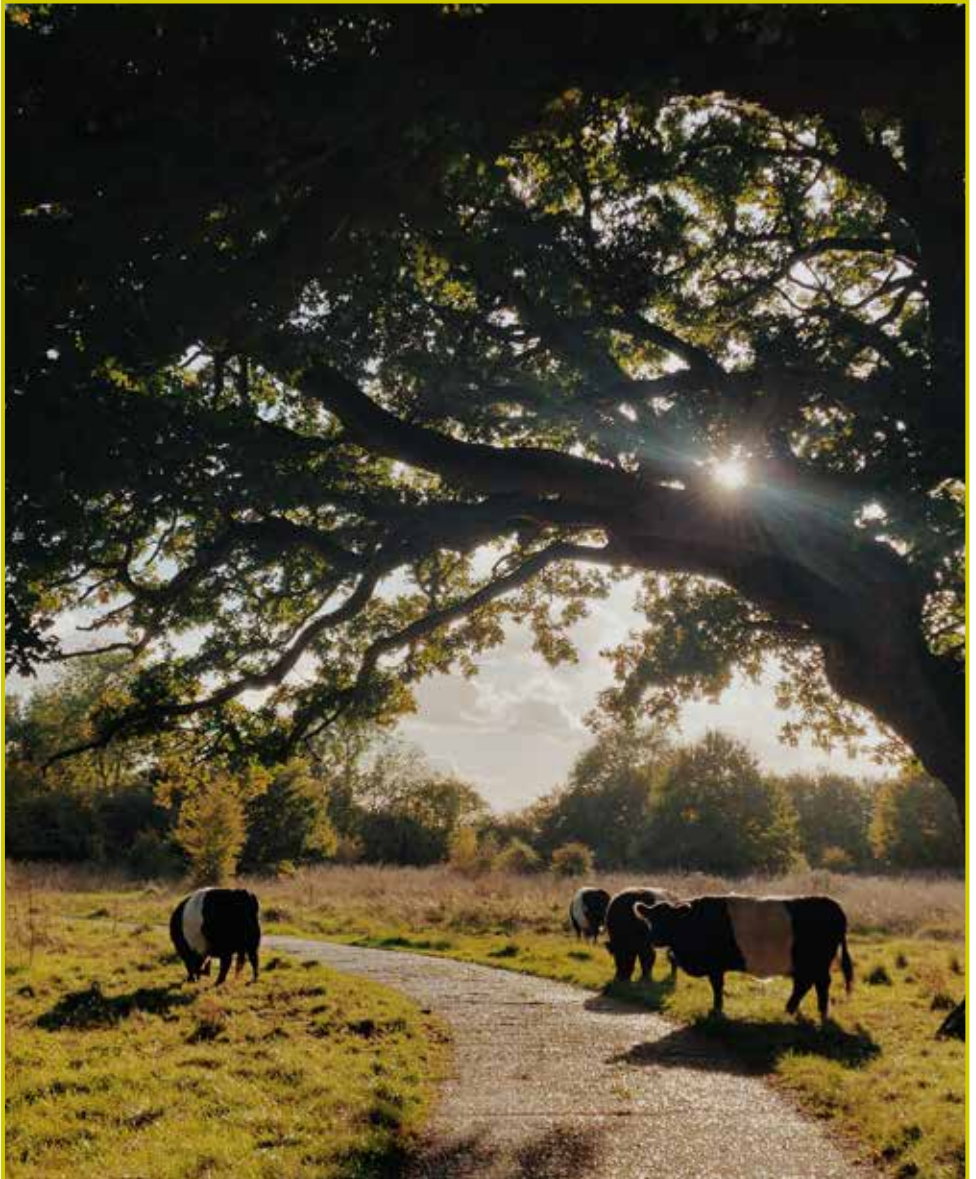


Westcott Village Magazine

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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
July/August issue:
8th June 2023

This magazine, published by the Church in Westcott, is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited paper from a sustainable source. The views expressed are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Church, Editor or Westcott residents.

FROM THE EDITOR



I can't believe we've made it to June already, It feels like spring has only just got going and now we're heading into summer, helped by the good weather we've been having for a while as I write this.

This month there are several concerts to get you in the summer mood along with an Arts Week at St James' Church in Shere (p21) and Abinger Medieval Fair is on 10th June (also p21).

In case you have missed the change of day each week, the Community Fridge Van now comes to St John's on

a Tuesday at 2.45pm, see page 42 for more details.

There are several photos from Westfest in the centre of the magazine, so have a look and see if you've been caught singing or winning the 3-legged race. One of the most popular moments was when the attending fire engine had to be rescued by a vintage tractor, also pictured!

Good luck to anyone who is currently in the middle of GCSEs or A-levels, either as a student or parent/guardian, not long to go before you finish now.

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

VOLUNTEER MEALS

In May the Westcott cooks have been supporting a Dorking family with a meal two nights a week while mum goes through chemotherapy. Carly and her three children have been incredibly grateful for the support the Westcott cooks have been able to provide.



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
07710425487

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY, COOKIE CLUB!

Open the red doors of St John's on a Thursday morning, and the first thing you will encounter is a wonderful smell of fresh coffee, wafting through the hall.

There's a jumble of pushchairs and prams, and a hubbub of voices and sounds of laughter filling the air.

Cookie Club Parent,
Baby and Toddler

Group was started with the support of Holy Trinity Church back in 2005, so has been meeting in Westcott for 18 years this year! For its coming of age, I thought it was time to celebrate this wonderful group, and the dedicated leaders and helpers who make it all happen.

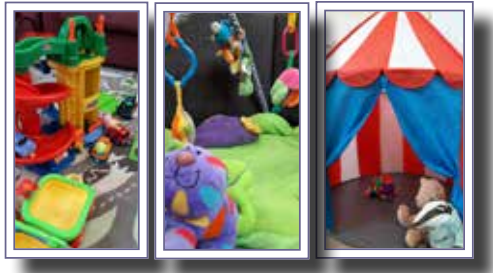
Since it began, hundreds of babies and pre-school children have come through the doors and those first children, toddling around the hall, are now taking their first steps into adult life, getting stuck into the world of work, university, new adventures. Through the years, the purpose of the group has remained the same, to provide a warm, welcoming

home-from-home space for parents, grandparents, carers and the young children in their care. There will always be good coffee, a selection of teas and soft drinks, and, of course, a plentiful supply of cookies (and healthier snacks)!

After covid restrictions put a stop to meeting, the group re-started last summer, under the leadership of Ali Mabley, with help from Audrey, Ian, Jen, Natalie, Libby and Kate. Each week, toys are chosen and put out, kettles and coffee machines switched on and sofas and cushions plumped up, in readiness for Dads, Mums, grandparents, carers and children. There's usually a craft

time for little hands to enjoy making and creating, and the morning ends with a joyful song time, not forgetting to celebrate any birthdays that have happened in the week.

I asked Audrey, a volunteer, how she helps on Thursdays – she told me that she 'just' does the washing up and makes sure that there are enough cups, drinks and snacks available.



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



I'm not sure that 'just' doing the washing up quite covers it – not having to wash up is quite a gift when a busy parent! She also commented that it is really lovely

to be able to sit with parents and grandparents, get to know them and enjoy their company. "What a wonderful selection of toys and activities are available for the babies and little ones to enjoy!" she said.

Natalie, another volunteer, told me the reason she helps is because she had enjoyed coming along each week when her son, now at school, was small. The friendships she and her son made have been really precious, and he used to love snuggling up with a book from the book collection. She said, "It is good to be able to give something back, and Cookie Club is such an important part of our community."

Another parent, Jenny, has been coming here over the years with her own children and children in

her care. She talked to me while we were sitting near the dressing up box, remembering how her daughter Bridie, now all grown up, used to love the princess dresses and twirling around. How lovely it was to come back and see a new generation of little ones delighting in the same dresses and other dressing up clothes!



As I left, the last children and parents were heading out the door, and toys were being packed away for another week. Another generation of young families are enjoying the opportunity to find friendship, a listening ear and a place to play in the heart of our village. If you are a parent, grandparent or carer of babies or pre-school children, a warm welcome is waiting for you on a Thursday morning.

Ellie Lister



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
4th June	All Age Worship Proverbs - The beginning of wisdom	Book of Common Prayer Communion	All-Age Morning Worship
11th June	Proverbs: The call of wisdom	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
18th June	Proverbs: The value of wisdom	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
25th June	Proverbs: The heart of wisdom	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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Thursday, 1st June
7:30pm - 8:30pm
Holy Trinity Church, 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

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Join a Life Group

Small groups of people who meet online or in person every 2 weeks to chat and pray about life & faith.

Life groups:

- explore ways we can bring God's love, justice and joy into our relationships with other people and creation, into our leisure and into our work
- give you an opportunity to explore the Bible and consider what it says
- use worship, simple contemplation and prayer to help us encounter God

Contact Richard Lister richardnwlist@gmail.com for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



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 Rev'd Tim Armstrong, Vicar, for more information.
vicar@holytrinitywestcott.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@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk,

or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



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pray, reflect, breathe, be

All are welcome

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Death:

31st August 2019


Lily Elisabeth Knight (85)



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Ann Carvalho for sponsoring the June church floodlighting for all who have been dependant for the past three years on being at Church through Zoom.

If you'd like to sponsor the floodlighting, which is powered by 100% renewable electricity, please contact admin@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk. (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)



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We must start by offering our sincere and grateful thanks to Anna Kemkers and her amazing organizing committee who laid on another hugely successful WESTfest. It was a wonderful village event with some surprise "Royal" visitors opening the show. The WVA were delighted to have sponsored the Coronation Games, continuing a Westcott tradition which dates back to the 1911 Coronation of King George V.



your generous support.



The egg and spoon races were enjoyed by all ages and the adults really got in to the spirit with their own egg and spoon and three-legged races. All the winners received a limited-edition Westcott Village Association Coronation Rosette.



The WVA Bottle Tombola was as popular as ever and raised over £1k for village funds. Our thanks to all those who donated bottles and bought raffle tickets. We can't do this without

We are fortunate to have Richard Packer as part of our village who is a St John First Aider and Community Advocate. Richard recently ran a First Aid awareness session at St Johns which gave practical information on emergency first aid, including how to use the two defibrillators we have in the village (one by the village shop and the other in the old telephone box by The Burrell).

Both of these defibrillators were funded by the WVA and are looked after by Richard. Everyone who attended came away with some practical advice and a new confidence on how to respond in an emergency. If



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you would like to take part in a future First Aid session, please email contact@westcottvillage.com to put your name on the list. The sessions are free to attend and may help save a life.

In other news, work continues to reinstate the 20 minute parking bays outside the old village shop and newsagents which will not only help these units to be re-let as retail outlets but also give parents an alternative drop off/pick up area for the school. We are also in touch with the new owner of the former Cricketers Pub who has already started to tidy up the site and we hope this building is now in better hands. A re-launch of the Community Speedwatch Campaign is due to happen shortly too.

We continue to keep abreast of planning applications across the village, offering advice to applicants or their neighbours where needed and in some cases commenting directly to Mole Valley District Council.

As always, please do get in touch with any issues or queries about village life and we will do our best to help or signpost you to those who can.

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



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Holmbury Choral

**Society Summer Concert - Saturday 1st July, 2023
St James Church, Abinger Common, 8pm**



Hot on the heels of their prize-winning performance at the Leith Hill Music Festival, Holmbury St Mary Choral Society returns to its summer home of St James's for a jazzy July concert joined by mezzo-soprano Rosanna Harris and conductor Cole Bendall. A brilliant blend of driving jazz grooves and strong choral writing, Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* is a delightful tapestry of spiritual sensitivity and contemporary edge. Joseph Horowitz's *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo* is a playful and colourful theatrical illustration of the famous Old Testament story; Holmbury Choral celebrates the 50th anniversary of this lively, friendly work in its summer concert. Audiences of all ages welcome!

£20, to include refreshments. 19s and under FREE!

To book tickets: [//holmburychoral.org/concerts/](https://holmburychoral.org/concerts/)



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- Mornings - £19 - £32
- Afternoons - £24 - £61
- Evenings - £35 - £69
- Kitchen (fully equipped) - £25
- Sale of alcohol licence - £20

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Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com

www.westcottvillagehall.com

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The Westcott Village Hall Trust have recently warmly received new volunteers to join the committee. Collectively we believe we represent the village and bring together many different skills. The combination of the current trustees with the public consultation will ensure that everyone who wants to can get involved in this process and will be listened to.

The new village hall or community centre needs to give the village a facility that we are proud of and builds on our village life.

The following people have volunteered as trustees: Freddie George, Andy Taylor, Debbie Lewis, Helen Everett, Justin Lowe, Graham Clark, Andy Johnson, Tony Winch and Sally Hewetson. If you have any questions or want to contact the committee please use the following email – info@westcottvillagehall.com

The latest news on the project progress is that the project manager has started to look for suitable architects, surveyors and planning consultants so that we can invite proposals and retain the best suited parties. The ecological survey started early in May.

Further updates on the progress of the planning application will follow in the coming months.

Sally Hewetson



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Tuesday 13th June 2023 - Sutton Hoo

On Tuesday 13 June 2023 Imogen Corrigan will talk about the Ship Burial at Sutton Hoo. We can learn a great deal from the rich material that was found at Sutton Hoo but what cannot be proven was who was it who was buried within the ship found in the mound? Imogen will also talk about kingship and power in Anglo-Saxon England. Do join us for an fascinating morning at the Dorking Halls.

Our talk will start at 10:30am with coffee available at the Halls from 9:30am. Please go to our website if you wish to attend as a guest. For further information on how to book and read about our Society and the way we welcome new members see www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk.



Holy Trinity, Westcott

Thursday 13th July, 7.30 p.m.

The King's Men Cambridge are returning to Westcott for another concert, bringing their unique blend of musicianship and humour to early church music, spirituals, folk and pop songs.

Tickets £18, 07590 652490, or margaretj.stephen@gmail.com



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

Arts Week 2023 at St James' Church, Shere

19th - 25th June

St James' Church, Shere, is hosting an Arts Week from June 19th - June 25th to include music, film, art and literature. All are welcome to visit this beautiful church in the Surrey Hills and join in the activities and events. Poetry readings, drama, film, organ recitals, jazz, chamber music – there is something for everyone and most events are free.



The art exhibition is open from 10am to 5pm every day and explores how art, words and music can help us with our spirituality or faith. Local artists have contributed their wonderful artworks, many of which are for sale. The festival café will be open for refreshments from 10.30am – 12.30pm each day. The week culminates in a Celebration Concert at 6.30pm on Sunday June 25th featuring Shere Parish Church Choir and associated musicians. It promises to be a wonderful week - do join us!

More details at Instagram: [@sheregathering](https://www.instagram.com/sheregathering)

www.facebook.com/shereparish

www.parishofshere.com



Abinger Medieval Fair

**Saturday 10th June 2023 2pm to 5pm,
Abinger Common, RH5 6JD**

This quintessentially English, wonderful village fair is where villagers and visitors dress up in Medieval costume. Together they raise funds for local amenities and charities. This year sees the return of the amazing Rosie and her team of Mini Ponies. There will be all the usual medieval themed stalls and refreshments. Along with the procession, Maypole dancing, children's races and music in St. James church. We know some people who find it difficult to walk or use a wheelchair at the fair. Everyone is different, so please contact abingerfairsec@gmail.com and we will see how we can help.

Help is still needed at the fair. Can you volunteer an hour? Please contact abingerfairsec@gmail.com if you can. We look forward to welcoming you to celebrate the 2023 Abinger Medieval Fair.

More information: <https://www.abingerfair.com/>.

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Weekend Walks & Events Summer 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.

Saturday 10th June - Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve Lambkin Wall, Stodmarsh, Canterbury. This reserve has the largest reed bed in South East England so be on the lookout for reed bunting, reed & sedge warblers. With luck, we will see a hobby in the summer.



Saturday 24th June - Brockham Quarry An easy walk around the disused quarry.

Saturday 8th July - Farnham Heath Rural Life Living Museum There are no facilities but the Rural Life Museum has toilets and a good café. We will be looking for resident Dartford warblers, tree pipits and woodlarks.

Sunday 30th July - Milton Court and Landbarn Farm Milton Court Farm, Dorking. John is going to show us around his farmland to look for a great variety of farmland birds.

Saturday 12th August - Knepp Knepp Estate, Swallows Lane, Dial Post. There are no toilets on the estate but the Stork Cafe kiosk should be open and also has a shop selling estate meats. This is the time of year to look for the elusive purple emperor butterflies and white storks should be displaying well.



Saturday 2nd September - Chidham Cobnor Farm Amenity Car Park, Chidham Lane, Chichester. There are no facilities. The Chidham Peninsula Walk covers a variety of habitats and will be good for waders and wildfowl. Osprey will still be in the area and wheatears should be seen.

Sunday 17th September - Oare Marshes, Faversham. Walk is planned to coincide with high tide. Hoping to



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see autumn migrating wetland birds like ruff, little stint & curlew sandpiper. Breeding birds like sand martins and terns should still be around and we may even have skuas passing through Scopes are an advantage at this site.



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

Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

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

Jonathan Groves

Thank You James!



Dear Editor,

I have to say I was very surprised to find that as his wife, you were the only person to pay tribute in last month's magazine to your husband James Friend for the outstanding and dedicated service he has given the village of Westcott over a remarkable fifteen years. Fifteen years in which I know, as I'm sure do so many others, that he has never spared himself in his efforts to serve the interests of the village as a whole and the concerns and needs of a very great number of individuals.

His regular contributions to the Parish Magazine were testament to this; the very fact of their length pointing to James' all embracing concerns for the well-being and prospering of all. It is no wonder that although he stood as a Conservative at each successive Local Council election he would be given the support of so many who in any other circumstances would have pledged their allegiance to a different political party.

James, for all your years of service and for all that you have done on behalf of the village of Westcott I would like to thank you and hope this acknowledgement will help you recognise how valued and admired you have been as our District Councillor.

Virginia Smith



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

The Pilgrims Way Legend

At our meeting in May 2013 Elyot Turner, an erstwhile transport and town planner, gave us the benefit of his research into the bibliography of the popularly termed 'Pilgrims Way' which has traditionally been held to run from Winchester to Canterbury and passes along the side of Ranmore Common. In modern times walkers of this route have overnighted in Westcott at villagers' houses. The question is – did it originate as a medieval Pilgrimage Route or was it a Victorian invention?

Elyot told us that he had found the British Library Map Room very helpful in his researches but no early maps or Christopher Martin's book on the Pilgrim's Way (PW) mentioned a medieval route of this name. A

map of 1769 showed a very short section called the Pilgrim's Way east of Otford in Kent. Major General Sir Henry James, Director of the Ordnance Survey from 1854, who first put places of historical interest on OS maps, inserted the route only in Surrey. In 1871 a pamphlet by the young surveyor Edward James (no relation) discussed the route along the side of the Downs in terms of a Pilgrims Way. Later editions of the OS Maps showed the route as Pilgrim's Way (course of) and even changed its course from time to time! It was perhaps these developments that fired the public imagination.

Two books from the end of the 19th C. by Julia Cartwright and Hilaire Belloc promoted the existence of the Pilgrims Way as a pilgrimage route to the Canterbury shrine of Archbishop



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Thomas Becket (murdered there in 1170). Arguably the most comprehensive book about 'pilgrims' in medieval England by Diana Webb identifies hundreds of shrines between St Swithins at Winchester and Rochester on the Medway, but there is no evidence of groups of people setting out in a consistent way on pilgrimages. It seems to have been a fairly random custom depending upon people's circumstances; after all the population was small and rural folk had little time for leisure.



There was another pilgrimage route from London along Watling Street to Canterbury by the writing of Geoffrey Chaucer in the

Canterbury Tales, which many will recall from their school days.

Despite the fabled link with Winchester, there was no evidence of a Pilgrim's Way in Hampshire though the name was used for many roads and lanes. However there is a 'Harrow Way' between Basingstoke and Andover. The word 'harrow' was derived from 'hargr' or 'hearg' meaning a shrine or temple on a hill and 'weob' meaning a shrine in a

valley. Little medieval evidence in the way of burials or campsites has been found along any of these routes. Some older churches along the routes have signs on their walls made by pilgrims who have visited them. But the word 'pilgrim' means a 'visitor' or 'stranger'.

Many of the books suggest that the route from Kent along the side of the Downs going westwards has been used as a trading route from Europe, possibly as far as Cornwall for tin, for thousands of years. This was borne out by the discovery in 2002 of the Bronze Age grave of the 'Amesbury Archer'. An analysis of his teeth suggests that he came from the Alps!

Elyot's conclusion was that the many so-called 'Pilgrim's Ways' were primarily trading routes which have occasionally been used by pilgrims. The term really derives from the Victorian era when it was a clever Ordnance Survey marketing ploy which helped to sell their maps!

The WLHG committee encourages readers to suggest subjects and lecturers that they feel are of interest, especially concerning Westcott and Surrey in general. There is no lecture currently scheduled.

Roger Christian

Westcott 100 Club

As another well-known lottery puts it – you've got to be in it, to win it!

The June draw for the Westcott 100 Club is around the corner. Who will the lucky winners be? The June prizes are expected to be £142.50 and £71.25 (subject to confirmation). We have room for more members – so get in touch if you'd like to participate in future draws (there are four quarterly and one annual draws per year – March, June, September and December).

Our grant fund of around £5,000 is ready and waiting for the next round of applications. It's open to any Westcott club, society or individual. Grants are typically awarded on a "matched-funding" basis – you raise half the money and we provide the other half (terms and conditions apply – but we are happy to discuss further).

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.

MUSIC IN DORKING



3rd at 7.30, Brockham Choral Society at United Reformed Church Hall, £16
10th at 4.00, Ladybirds Choir at United Reformed Church Hall, £7.50, 01306 877256
13th at 7.15, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717
17th at 6.00, Mickleham Choral Society at Mickleham village hall, £15
17th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church
17th - Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society at Betchworth church

This is the time of year when many of our local choral societies present a summer concert, often with a lighter end-of-season feel, and sometimes with the added attraction of tea and cake or picnics and wine! Brockham Choral Society offers a programme of uplifting songs for a summer evening, including John Rutter's *Feel the spirit*, Harold Arlen's *Over the rainbow* and Kate Rusby's *Underneath the stars*. You are invited to bring your friends and a picnic. Tables and chairs will be provided and so it is essential to book tickets in advance.

The Ladybirds Choir, directed by Helena Twentyman, presents 'That's show business!', a selection of songs from the world of entertainment. There will be songs by Burt Bacharach and Irving Berlin, music from Disney and James Bond, and celebrations of Paul O'Grady and King Charles III. The concert is raising funds for The Meeting Room, a charity which supports homeless and vulnerable people. There will be tea and cake to enjoy afterwards!

Mickleham Choral Society's concert is entitled 'Hot Summer Swing'. Together with the 19-piece Milestones Big Band, they will present toe-tapping music for a summer evening. The bar opens at 5pm and the music starts at 6! Buckland & Betchworth Choral Society will present a concert of Madrigals for a Summer's Day. The music will include pieces by Morley, Finzi, Elgar and Rutter, and there will also be tea, cakes and fizz to enjoy!

The Dorking Philharmonia will play a programme of Scandinavian music: Neilsen's *Helios overture*, Grieg's *Symphonic Dances*, and Sibelius's powerful second symphony.

And finally, there is a screening at the Dorking Halls of Verdi's opera *Il Trovatore*, live from the Royal Opera House in London. Antonio Pappano conducts a first-rate cast in Verdi's dramatic music.



**VINTAGE TRACTOR
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A highlight for many this year was the visiting fire crew getting stuck in the mud! Huge thanks to Balchins Lane resident Giles for rescuing them with his tractor!



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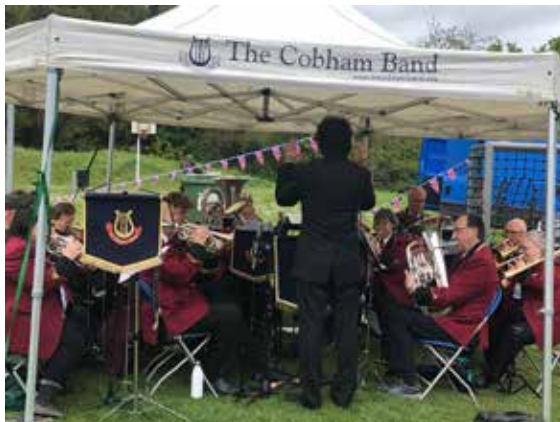
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- 1 DORKING MINDS** A volunteer group helping local people support mental health in the community.
- 2 PAPUA PARTNERS** Established in Westcott in 2006, working in West Papua to enable people to overcome poverty.
- 3 GIRL GUIDING UK** Farefield Holiday Home Westcott is a fantastic resource for various organisations accommodating children under 16.
- 4 @SH Friends at Surrey Hills All Saints School** – raising vital funds for our local school.
- 5 Dorking based BRIGITTE TRUST** offers emotional and practical support to people facing life-limiting illness.





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After a really great spring term we are delighted with the progress the pupils have made in so many aspects of their learning at Surrey Hills All Saints and this is clearly showing in the summer term. From sports tournaments, to great assemblies, preparation for SATS and working hard together to be the best all of us can be, every single day. I am incredibly proud of our school and every single child within it.

Bees

Bees spent a lovely morning planting their sunflower seeds. We are really looking forward to watching them grow!



Butterflies

Butterflies have been reading the book *The Tunnel* by Anthony Browne. To build on our learning we decided to make a long, dark tunnel in Forest School, using any materials we could find. We had to work together as a team to make sure it would be safe to crawl through. The fun part was finally being able to go all the way through on our bellies - hard work but really exciting!



Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs have been enjoying our new History topic about the Tudors and learning facts about Henry VIII. We are very much looking forward to our trip!



We have been enjoying learning new skills in cricket and athletics during PE. We have also been doing some drama recently in our English lessons, based on poor Victorian children and what life was like for them back then.

Squirrels

Squirrels have been enjoying their weekly visit to our school library. Every Friday the class visits after lunch to relax for half an hour with a good book. A lovely way to begin the weekend!

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



Badgers

During Badgers class English lessons, we have been exploring narrative poetry. The book *Moth* by Isabel Thomas has inspired us to find out more about the story of the Peppered Moth and its evolution journey. Recently, we researched information about the Industrial Revolution using the many books in our library.

Foxes

Foxes Class have been making Automata on the theme of Stone Age animals. They learnt about the effect of different shaped cams, the role of the camshaft and follower and how to construct a working model



'It was really difficult at first, but when you started to understand the workings, it got easier and easier! Eventually after a lot of trial and error, it worked!'

'It was quite tricky, especially the animal on top - I struggled to make it look realistic! I was really proud of my automata in the end though.'

Simon Coles



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.

There is one live talk in June, **Surrey Friendly Societies:** Friendly Societies were a major force for good in past centuries, and influenced both the rise of Trades Unions and the welfare state. Local historian Sean Creighton has discovered much about their history in Surrey.

Monday 5th June at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members. For further details of talks and other activities – or to join DLHG – go to <https://dlhg.org.uk>.



This seasonal photo was sent in by Tanya O'Carroll, reminding us we are lucky enough to live in a rural area and need to support our farmers. You never know what action shots you might get when you are out on a walk so keep your cameras at the ready!



This fabulous daisy picture by Fiona Humphrey just shows that sometimes we need to see life from a different angle to make the best of something!

Ladybirds Choir



THAT'S SHOW BUSINESS!

**The Ladybirds Choir directed by Helena Twentyman
Saturday 10th June at 4pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Dorking
Supporting the Meeting Room**

The Ladybirds Choir will present a selection of songs from the world of entertainment at their summer concert on Saturday 10th June in Dorking. *There's no business like show business* will kick the afternoon off, and there will be other favourites by Irving Berlin including *Cheek to cheek*, as well as songs from James Bond and Disney films.

Another important focus for the concert will be the music of Burt Bacharach, the American songwriter, record producer and pianist who was one of the most influential figures of twentieth century popular music and who sadly died earlier this year. *Do you know the way to San Jose* and *Raindrops keep fallin' on my head* are among the numbers you will recognise.

A couple of tongue in cheek songs will also mark the coronation of King Charles III.

This year the choir is delighted to be raising funds for The Meeting Room, a charity which supports homeless, socially isolated and vulnerable people in the Mole Valley and Epsom areas. It runs daytime drop-in centres in Leatherhead, Ashted and Epsom which offer a hot meal and friendship to those with a wide variety of needs caused by, for example, homelessness, physical or mental health difficulties and issues with alcohol or drugs. Highly skilled and experienced staff can provide advice in many areas such as finance or health issues. As well as the drop-in centres The Meeting Room runs a comprehensive programme of activities including day trips and residential outings to build confidence and self-esteem.

Please do join the Ladybirds Choir at 4pm (not our usual start time!) on Saturday 10th June at the United Reformed Church Hall in Dorking and enjoy tea and cake after the concert. Tickets are priced at £7.50 and are available on the door or in advance from Sue Scarrott on 01306 877256 (cash or cheques).

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DORKING MUSEUM

At the time of writing, the Museum's main exhibition space remains closed, awaiting completion of necessary building repair – please check the website or social media for further news. Meanwhile, the Museum is grateful to Dorking Library for its cooperation in hosting some activities.



Refugee Week: The theme of this year's nationwide Refugee Week is Compassion. Our free exhibition, *Sunflowers: Growing the Seeds of Sunshine*, will be at Dorking Library from 17th – 24th June. Sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine, and the Dorking community has welcomed Ukrainian refugees over the past year to share in this beautiful place we call home.

Sunflower artworks created by refugee children from across the African diaspora, and their newfound classmates of their host country, will



be on display throughout the week, emphasising global connection and inspirational hope. There will also be literature and poetry to connect further

with these refugee children's stories, and their voices. The exhibition is in collaboration with 'The Poppy Collective' (a local umbrella group of Art Psychotherapists, artists and friends) and 'Three2'Six' (a refugee children's education project in South Africa).

Family Activities at Dorking Library: On Saturday 17th and 24th June, families are invited to 'grow' the *Sunflowers* exhibition at the Library by creating their own sunflower collage art. Art materials and assistance will be provided free throughout these days. Collage work can be taken home or added to the exhibition for all to see, bringing the colours of blue skies and sunshine to Dorking.

On Saturday 24th June, 2pm-4pm, the Museum's additional free family activity at Dorking Library, tied in to Surrey County Council's monthly theme, is *Transport in Dorking*. Look at old photos of transport in Dorking and try to put them in order of age. How did people get around? Make a moving drawing of a car, gypsy caravan or train. Aimed at 4-11-year-olds, materials are provided.

Book award:
Dorking
Museum's
Susannah Horne





The Mid Surrey Community Fridge van now visits Westcott
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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



has been awarded Runner Up in the Alan Ball Award for Best Hard Copy Local History Publication for 2022 for *A Hundred Years on a Medieval Manor*. The book, published by The Cockerel Press, explores the development of Dorking between the 1280s and 1380s and is available from the museum's online bookshop.

Walking in Dorking: The Museum's programme of guided walks offers a variety of opportunities to take a fresh look at the area's rich heritage. In the town centre, scheduled walks in June are the Dorking Historic Pub Walk (Thursday 15th June, 6pm), Hidden Historic Dorking (Sunday 18th June, 2pm), and Family Treasure Hunt for young history detectives (Sunday 25th June, 2pm). All town walks leave from the Museum. On the edge of town, take a Betchworth Castle tour from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club, or the Deepdene Trail from the Dorking Golf Club. Both offer exclusive access to features not otherwise open to the public and take place on Sunday 11th June, 2pm.



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.

South Street Caves tours: One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets. Guided tours are on 24th June and the last Saturday of each month. 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.



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Creating windows of opportunity

The sun did us a huge favour this week and tried really hard to stay in the sky just long enough for us to take a walk to the top of Leith Hill. Armed with cake and hot chocolate we excitedly explored every interesting fallen tree, beastly bug, tree root and stick covered in moss as we trekked. You wouldn't have missed us in our red, white and blue finery with our flags waving along the route



to gently ease us into the spirit of the coronation. It was lovely for many of our parents to walk with us and join in the fun too.

At the end of a full on term we can sometimes be rather tired so we ended last term in a lovely calm manner talking about our feelings. Now this can be difficult for anyone to do so we used colours to help us figure it out. We explored the coloured rice in the tuff tray while looking at the excellent 'Colour Monster' book. We discussed what could make us feel happy, sad, angry etc and what we could do to change the mood we are in or to help others feel happy.

Our comfiest week ever was 'wear your pyjamas and onesies to nursery week'. We (and the grown ups!) donned our cosiest sleepwear to while away the hours in and donated money to a super cause –



Crackerjacks Children's Trust – who support families with children with a disability. We raised a phenomenal £120 – thank you so much to everyone who took part and donated - with special thanks to those at SJs café who gave so generously.

Bugs have been an important part of our learning recently as we love to discover all things tiny and tickly. We've been singing Incy Wincy Spider and perfecting our climb



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ABINGER NURSERY (cont.)



up the water spout, listening our favourite spider story 'Ahhhhh Spider' and learning the 'There was an old lady who swallowed a fly!' song. We collectively thought of different ways to create our own spider webs and liked feeling the stickiness that we couldn't get off our fingers!!

We are very much an outdoorsy lot so we were keen to spend some time in the garden planting our potatoes and getting the growing area ready for more planting. We were also very

surprised to find some dinky dinosaur bones hiding in our digging area!!

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!

Kate Fairbrass

Brockham Choral



Saturday June 3rd at 7.30pm
United Reform Church Hall, Dorking RH4 1BS

Brockham choral present a programme of uplifting songs for a Summer Evening, including Rutter *Feel the Spirit*, Arlen, *Over the Rainbow*, Kate Rusby *Underneath the Stars*. Come and enjoy the music, bring a picnic, bring friends, table and chairs provided. Music Director is Cole Bendall with accompanist Marion Lea and mezzo-soprano Ellen Smith.

All tickets Must be Booked in advance.

Admission Adults £16.

Children, Students under 25 in full time education £10

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More information & Tickets www.brockhamchoral.org



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WESTCOTT CRICKET CLUB



Friday evenings at Westcott Cricket Club are back in full swing, having started on April 29th with a good turnout of youngsters and Ladies coming for training, not to mention all those bystanders socialising and supporting the bar!

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Time seems to be marching on this year and our Annual Anniversary event which is taking place on Saturday 10th June is high on our Agenda at present. But I must thank everyone who supported our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 2nd April. It was great to see so many local residents. Thanks to the generosity of a number of supermarkets and some very kind individuals there were lots of Easter Eggs to give away as prizes. All of the stalls were a great success and the games that I had made for the children were a real hit! The amount of money raised for our Veterans amounted to a very satisfactory £500. Funds raised go into the Memorial Fund to assist Veterans who are going through a difficult time.

Saturday 10th June is our annual Anniversary and Commemoration Service at the Woodland. It is a day of thanksgiving, reflection and rejoicing with some old comrades and some new friends and neighbours. It is a very special day in our calendar and we welcome everyone. Reverend David Grundy will say prayers for those who are being honoured by their families. The Redhill Corp of Drums and Band will be playing for us from 12 - 2.30pm;



some popular music for everyone to enjoy plus during the Service more

traditional tunes and The Last Post. Thereafter our own Veteran singer and well known crooner, Rodney Dell will be singing some popular tunes which always gets the visitors feet tapping. A licenced bar will be available and hot and cold soft drinks. We will also have a Grand Raffle plus a Craft Stall and a home-made cake stall. The Cadets from Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corp will be joining us – they are the only Cadet Corp in the UK that are allowed to wear the Queen’s Regiment Cap Badge and we expect to have one or two military vehicles on display in our car park.

The event commences at 12.30 when I will make a short welcoming speech and the afternoon’s activities will flow from there. Plenty of parking is available at Belmont School for which we are very grateful. As in previous years we are providing a shuttle service too and from the woodland so that you do not have to walk down or up the hill from the School/Woodland. Do come and join us for this enjoyable event, bring some cash with you as card machines do not work in the woodland!

My Trustees and I really look forward to seeing you at the Memorial Woodland on Saturday 10th June.

Paul Cooling
Chairman

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GREEN WESTCOTT

Bee Thoughtful This Summer

Summer is well under way and hopefully you have heard the sound of bees busy in the bushes and flowers around the village. I say hopefully, because bees are in trouble, not just here in the UK but there is a decline in bees and pollinators across the world.

Bee Facts

There are over 20,000 known species of bee globally, and there are around 270 bee species recorded in the UK. Different characteristics make them suited to different plants. The small and agile Early Bumblebee's (often seen as early as February), make them perfect to enter plants with drooping flowers like comfrey, while the slightly bigger garden bumblebees, are much better at pollinating the deep flowers of honeysuckle and foxgloves. Solitary nonstinging, Red Mason Bees are 120 times more efficient at pollinating apple blossoms than honeybees.



There is even evidence, to suggest that natural pollination by the right type of bee, improves the quality of the crops in terms of their nutritional

value and shelf life. The study showed that bumblebees and solitary bees feed from different parts of strawberry flowers. In combination with each other, they produced bigger, juicier and more evenly-shaped strawberries. How amazing is that!

Of course, we all know that pollinators are important, but I wonder how many of us have actually stopped to think how important they might be. Almost 90% of wild plants and 75% of leading global crops depend on animal/insect pollination. One in three mouthfuls of every spoonful of the food we eat depends on pollinators. Even plants grown to feed livestock for meat production, such as clover and alfalfa, depend on bee pollination.

Why are pollinators under threat?

Three bumblebee species have become extinct in recent decades. The recent European Red List for Bees reports that almost one in ten species of wild bee face extinction, and over the past 50 years, half the bee, butterfly and moth species studied in the 2013 State of Nature Report have declined. We can directly link these declines to changes in the way we farm. The intensification of agriculture has led to the destruction of habitat, and what is left is becoming increasingly fragmented. Further habitat loss is driven by urbanisation, and insect pollinators are also affected by the heavy use of pesticides and herbicides,



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

the effects of climate change, and disease. Thirty-five species of our UK bees are currently under threat of extinction.

Changing Landscapes

Maintaining our native flora depends on healthy pollinator populations. This includes wildflowers such as poppies, cornflowers and bluebells, as well as trees and shrubs. The close relationship between pollinators and the plants they pollinate is evident in the parallel declines seen across the UK and Europe: 76% of plants preferred by bumblebees have declined in recent decades.



Some bees have a particular affinity to certain plants, meaning they need a specific habitat. In the UK the scabious bee, our largest mining bee, relies on the pollen of scabious flowers for its survival. These plants grow on sandy or chalky open grassland, an important habitat for a variety of bees and pollinators. Unfortunately, these habitats are now under increasing threat from changing land use. The

loss of particular habitats like this, is one of the main drivers of bee and pollinator decline.

Insensitive urban development and intensive farming have caused significant losses and fragmentation of pollinator-friendly habitats. The loss of these key habitats on farmland in particular, has meant that wildlife, including pollinators, have become more dependent on protected wildlife sites. Unfortunately, according to government figures, only 6% of habitats protected under law are in a 'favourable condition'. Since the Second World War, we've lost 97% of our wildflower meadows, leaving our bees and pollinators with little natural habitat.

What can we do to help?

With so much of the habitat loss occurring across the country, some pollinator populations have been cut off from one another. One thing we can do to help is to try to support the infrastructure to enable our pollinators to get from one place to another. Imagine trying to travel around Britain without our road and rail networks. Or imagine if nine out of every ten miles of road just didn't exist – life would be very difficult. B-Lines are an imaginative and beautiful solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators. B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through our countryside and towns. They link existing wildlife areas



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

together, creating a network, like a railway, that will weave across the British landscape.

Westcott could become a part of this network assisting pollinators to migrate from one area to another. This would increase their opportunity to mate and find other food sources which might at the moment, be beyond their little wings reach. If you would like to help our pollinators this summer or next, then please think about the flowers you grow in your garden. Or perhaps, if you don't have green fingers, you might create a habitat for bees, you don't need a hive. Solitary bees including Mining bees, nest in the ground, or Mason bees and Leafcutter bees nest in holes in dead wood, banks and walls.

More than ever, we need to protect the natural spaces we still have. To lose them would result in loss of further species which rely on them for their food. Without pollinators in our world our very existence would undoubtedly become more difficult. We are all intricately connected to nature – if we lose our natural spaces we lose not only the insects that support those spaces but we lose the biodiversity needed for a healthy world.

Whats On in June:

Great Big Green Week – 10-18th

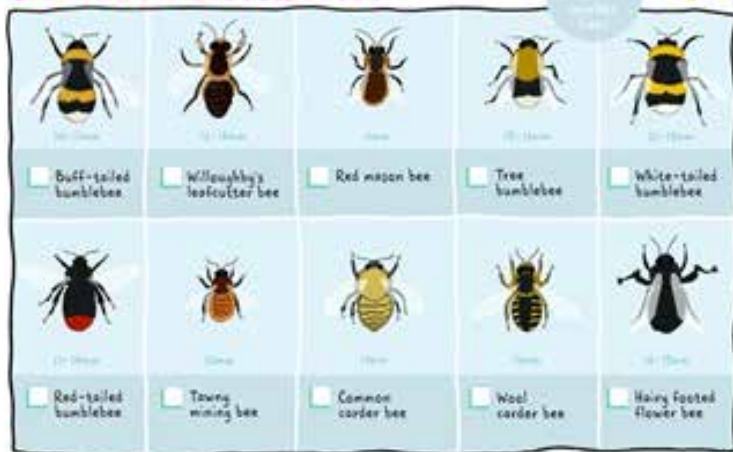
Look out for local events on tackling climate change & protecting nature

Clean Air Day – 15th

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Nancy Lund

Bee identification



www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

These are just a few of the 200+ species of bee in the UK!

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines>

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/nature/why-do-we-need-bees>

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/savingbees>

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts>

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