

Westcott Village

Magazine July/August 2023



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



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

editor@westcottmag.com

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

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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 - Orchid by Steve Brooks

FROM THE EDITOR



Summer has arrived! I hope you are getting to enjoy the sunshine and managing to keep cool (it's very hot as I write this, it may have changed by the time you read it, obviously).

I have been sent lots of amazing pictures since being editor, and some are just the wrong shape for a cover but too good not to show you, so I have dusted some off and put a few in the centre of this issue, so have a look and see if you recognise any of

them, or where they are taken. If you haven't sent me any yet, why not?

This issue is combined for July and August, and there are concerts throughout, 2 coffee mornings, the school open event on 7th July, cricket and bbq every Friday evening at the sports club, and Wotton Fete on bank holiday Monday! What more could you want? Enjoy the summer whatever you are doing, and send me a picture of you doing it in Westcott!

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com



WOTTON FETE



August 28th Bank Holiday Monday 2 - 5pm

Behind the Wotton Hatch pub, with lots of free parking

Cream Teas, Plants, Gifts, Books, Produce, Bric a Brac,
Tombola, Classic Cars, Raffle with some great prizes,
Bouney Castle, Punch & Judy, Toys,
and Lucky Dip for the children

Contributions to any of these stalls would be
gratefully received, please contact:
James Friend james@10rookery.com
Rosemary Wakeford 01306 730856

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



A WALK AROUND WESTCOTT

It is coming up to a year since we first moved here and I began to get to know Westcott. Time for a walk in the summer sunshine.

As I walk down the hill from Holy Trinity Church, I pass the Village Hall which I have visited for the joyful chaos of children's birthday parties and the equally joyful (but slightly more ordered) monthly Village Coffee Mornings. It is here that I have handed out prizes to the talented members of the Gardeners Club and admired the varied goods on offer at the Christmas fair.

“WE HAVE BEEN GIFTED
AN AMAZING VILLAGE IN A
BEAUTIFUL LOCATION”



I continue past Nirvana Cycles, where Simon and Jakkie have worked wonders on our bikes on more than one occasion, and I pause to eye up the astounding array of antiques in the shop window next door. Crossing over the road, passing Westcott's distinctive bus shelter and dovecot, I

pop into Nisalocal for an emergency bar of chocolate and note how grateful I am to have a well-stocked shop in the village. I consume my comestible somewhat guiltily as I walk past corefitphysio and observe that I should probably be doing Pilates rather than munching on a wispa. I turn left at Westcott Garage – where Nick and the team have calmly kept our old Ford Focus going over the past year - before arriving at St John's Chapel where I have my office.

Before getting to my desk I pop into Jon & Mum Groceries to grab an excellent coffee, pick up an apple to nullify the effect of the chocolate, and see who

I bump into. It is one of those rare occasions when no one is perusing the shelves whilst chatting to Jon, so I enjoy chewing the cud with him instead. I pop back out into the sunshine and head round the back of St John's where the Community Garden Project has been growing all sorts of wonderful things, before heading back to the entrance to



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



find Cookie Club in full swing where parents are enjoying a coffee to the sound of much laughter and joy which is emanating from the little ones. I wave to my two younger boys who are in attendance and debate a quick stroll to Cradhurst Recreation Ground where WestFest took place a few months ago, but time is moving on so I wander back up the road, passing The Prince of Wales where I enjoy the odd pint of London Pride – always in good company.

Crossing at the traffic lights I make my way up School Lane (which seems to get steeper by the week) and arrive at the gate of our wonderful village school where our oldest son has settled in so well thanks to the brilliant staff team, parent volunteers, and endlessly entertaining children. It was so good to hear the Good Shepherd Trust talk at a recent meeting of their long term commitment and vision to have a thriving school at the heart of our village community in the decades to come.

I head back towards Holy Trinity via the back alleys and I am very grateful for this amazing community – and the people who make it what it is. I think of the Village Association, the Local History Group, Baby Meals, the Cricket Club, and the countless other societies, clubs, charities, businesses and projects which can happen because of people just like you. Thank you for all that you do.



Arriving back at the door of church (which is always open during the day) I look over at Ranmore and pray for Westcott. We have been gifted an amazing village in a beautiful location. It will be what we are willing to make it in the years to come. I hope we will pass onto later generations a thriving community where others can walk around and reflect on what a wonderful place Westcott is to be.

Revd Tim Armstrong

“What a wonderful place Westcott is to be”



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 July	Ordination at Guildford Cathedral	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Simple All-Age Service
<p><i>The 10:15am service this morning will be a simple all-age service. Alternatively, an ordination service will be livestreamed from Guildford Cathedral (available on the Cathedral YouTube channel: youtube.com/@GuildCath/streams), where Ellie Lister, one of our congregation, is being ordained deacon.</i></p>			
9th July	Malachi 1 The Messenger	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
16th July	Malachi 2 Calling Evil Good	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
23rd July	Malachi 3 Be Careful what you wish for	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
30th July	Malachi 4 The Day of the LORD	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
6th Aug	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
13th Aug	Trinity 10	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
20th Aug	Trinity 11	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
27th Aug	Trinity 12	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
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BUILDING
FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING
LIFE

WORSHIP NIGHTS 2023
REFLECTION & LITURGY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Evenings of reflective worship, based upon traditional evening prayer, or contemporary worship music
Thursday, 6th July, 7:30pm - 8:30pm See website/Facebook for details
Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

CHRISTENINGS

YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING

FUNERALS

MARKING LIFE EVENTS
All who live in Westcott or have a connection here, are very welcome to have christenings, funerals, weddings in Holy Trinity.
Contact Tim Armstrong, Vicar, for more information.
vicar@holytrinitywestcott.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

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 Tim Armstrong, Vicar, vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



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, or more information, please contact

Tim Armstrong, Vicar: vicar@holyltrinitywestcott.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:

23rd April 2023


Anthony William Kensett (81)



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Ann Thomson who has sponsored the church floodlighting for July in memory of Bob Thomson who passed away in June 2022.

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



HOW GOOD WOULD IT FEEL TO HAVE A LEANER, FITTER, HEALTHIER BODY AND NEVER WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO EAT OR HOW TO EXERCISE EVER AGAIN?!

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Our thanks to everyone who came to the WVA Annual General Meeting on the 29th June, it is always good to have an opportunity to meet face to face and update each other on village news. Full meeting notes and copies of the annual report and accounts will be posted on the village website for everyone to view.

Sondes Place Farm

We were pleased to note that Mole Valley District Council have REJECTED the planning application made by Gleeson Land to develop 144 dwellings on Green Belt land at Sondes Place Farm, Westcott Road. The WVA will continue to monitor this situation for any appeals or further applications. Our thanks to all the residents who wrote their own objection letters and signed the petition, all of which helped demonstrate the strength of local opposition to the proposed development.

MVDC Local Plan

You may recall the Local Plan process was delayed at the request of MVDC in December 2022 to the 25th May 2023. The Inspector decided to issue her proposed modifications to the draft Local Plan in any event. The Inspector's modifications kept all

Green Belt Sites which had been proposed for allocation in the Local Plan. The Council has now requested a further unspecified delay <https://futuremolevalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ED61-Councils-Note-33-Requesting-an-Extension-to-the-Pause.pdf> We will continue to monitor the situation and will update again when there is more clarity on the timetable.

Surrey Hills AONB



Natural England's consultation on whether to make changes to the Surrey Hills AONB to extend the areas included and make some other changes to the boundary closed on the 13th June. Following liaison with the Surrey Hills AONB and MVDC Planning Officers the WVA submitted a response to Natural England with respect to the area to the northwest of Dorking. A copy of the WVA's response can be viewed on the village website under planning.

James Croft
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Or email us at: info@southeasttreesurgeons.co.uk

Communications

These magazine articles are just one of the ways we try to keep you up to date with village news. In addition to our various social media platforms, we also email newsletters directly to those who have signed up to our mailing list. The last few months have been our busiest to date with our social media activity reaching over 17,000 people, three times our usual reach. Do look for Westcott Village Association on Facebook and Instagram plus we always share posts to Next Door. If you would like to be added to our mailing

list, please drop a line to contact@westcottvillage.com

As always, please do get in touch more generally 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



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. July's live talk is **100 years of medieval Dorking**: Susannah Horne talks about the original research for her latest book, which explores the development of the town and manor of Dorking between the 1280s and 1380s, providing a snapshot of the people who lived and worked there during these years.

Monday 3rd July at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members. The talks programme takes a break in August. For further details of talks and other activities – or to join DLHG – go to <https://dlhg.org.uk>.





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Wednesday 5th July
Wednesday 2nd August
at
The Village Hall

10.30 - 12.00 midday

Jigsaw and Book exchange
Sandra's delicious cakes

Come and join us



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/)



Westcott Village Hall

The Perfect Venue for any event

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.

About the venue:

- 1 x large hall (100 pax)
- 1 x meeting room (8 pax)
- Drop down projector screen
- Modern audio system
- Wi-Fi
- Male and female cloak rooms
- High capacity gas heating
- Large car park onsite

Hire rates:

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

Mobile: 07967 286636

Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com

www.westcottvillagehall.com

BABY MEALS



Westcott is a village long-renowned for its strong sense of community spirit. The Baby Meals service exemplifies this, as volunteers from around the village come together to support others when they most need it. The service has been providing much-needed support to families with newborns for over 20 years and more recently, has also supported other households in the village who may be facing difficulties. Established originally by Holy Trinity church, Baby Meals remains a cherished institution in the village. We usually help around 5-6 Westcott households every year. Our volunteer cooks generously buy, cook and deliver a hot meal for the whole family, usually for 2 weeks - offering much needed respite for new parents and others in crisis.

Supporting Families: Welcoming a new baby into the family is an exciting and joyous occasion, but it can also be a time of exhaustion and adjustment. We know from the feedback we receive just how wonderful it is when dinner is one less thing to think about during new-baby chaos!

Crisis meals: We can also provide meals if you or someone in the household is going through a serious illness, facing financial hardship, or dealing with other challenges. We know it can be a huge relief to have meals even a few times a week during difficult times.

Get in touch: If you live in Westcott and are expecting a baby or experiencing difficulties and would like to request meals please contact us. It usually takes only few days to create a rota. There is no charge for this service.



If you would like to contribute your culinary skills as a volunteer, we warmly welcome your involvement. By joining the volunteer cooks list, rest assured, it does not obligate you to commit to every meal rota; it simply means that you are willing to lend a hand when available. We look forward to hearing from you!

Anna Kemkers
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Tuesday 11th July 2023 - Agatha Christie

The final Lecture of our 2022/23 year in the Dorking Halls will be delivered after our AGM which will commence at 10:15pm followed by the Lecture from Benedict Morrison entitled **Disorder Restored: The Radical Side of Agatha Christie**. Agatha Christie is often dismissed as a writer of intriguing but lightweight novels which are no more literary than the average cryptic crossword. This talks suggest that, looked at another way, her work can be read as exposing a disorder at the heart of polite society. All will be revealed!

We welcome new members and visitors from 9:30am but please visit our website www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk for more information as seating is limited so we need to know in advance if you will be coming along. We look forward to welcoming you.



the
KING'S MEN
CAMBRIDGE

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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MID SURREY
COMMUNITY FRIDGES

The Mid Surrey Community Fridge van now visits Westcott
every Tuesday opening at 2:45pm

It stays in the village for up to half an hour from opening at
St John's Chapel in Chapel Lane

Many come early to queue and chat –
it's a good catch up!

Please come along and stop this food going to landfill

If you can make a small donation, it would be appreciated
Mid Surrey Community Fridge
relies upon these donations
(£2.50 is suggested)

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



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Discover more nature where you are with an RSPB local group – Dorking & District

With many adult and youth groups across the UK, the RSPB is helping to make a difference in our local communities. For many, these groups are the face and voice of the RSPB and can be an essential force in the fight to save nature.

Local groups for local people

Run exclusively by people like you, the volunteer-led local group network extends from Guernsey to Inverness and from Essex to Fermanagh. There are currently over 130 of these enthusiastic groups flying the flag for the RSPB, bringing people together and making a difference for nature wherever they live.

So, what do local groups actually do?

Here are a few things you may not know about our local groups:

- Since they began in 1969 local groups have raised over £25 million for the RSPB and continue to add to this total every year.
- These groups don't just raise money for the RSPB's vital conservation work – they get on with it themselves too, installing nest boxes, doing surveys and even creating new habitat by managing land in collaboration with local councils and other landowners.
- You certainly don't need to be a bird expert to join a local group. Many groups run special social events for beginners and all are welcome on a variety of group outings, whether exploring the local area or enjoying an organised coach trip to a nature reserve. For many, joining a group is a great way to meet people and make new friends. It's a chance to learn more about birds and nature, but also to share your own knowledge – and have fun!

Connection to nature is proven to improve wellbeing and some local groups run nature-themed walks in conjunction with the NHS social prescribing service while other groups run regular walks for carers, giving them a well-earned break. RSPB Dorking and District local group covers the local area, has regular walks and meetings in person and online to provide the chance to learn more in a friendly way. Check out our activities on Facebook @Dorking RSPB or our website <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict/>.



Jonathan Groves



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You are invited to listen, dance and have fun, to melodic, toe-tapping jazz from **Jaz2**, Ralph Sutton, piano and Cathy Williams, vocals. Bring your picnic, chairs, rugs etc and enjoy a lazy Sunday afternoon with your family and friends – children welcome!

A collection will be taken during the afternoon to support **The Brigitte Trust**

For further information please contact:

Event • Anne/Annie Sutton on annesutton1953@gmail.com • 07711 151917
Jaz2 • Ralph Sutton on ralph@connectusuk.com or visit www.jaz2.com

The
Brigitte
Trust

Helping people live well
beyond diagnosis

The Brigitte Trust is a local charity based in Dorking. Our trained Volunteers, provide emotional, practical and social support to people with life-limiting conditions, across Surrey. They visit the same client, weekly, at home, building a relationship centred on individual needs. Our service is **free**, and we rely on donations to help us provide this much needed service.

For more information please visit our website www.brigitte-trust.org or contact us on 01306 881816 or admin@brigitte-trust.com



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Gelato in July

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

History of Gomshall Tannery

On 11 Sept 2012 Colin Woolmington gave a talk on his experiences working with Gomshall Tannery. He came from a farming family in Shere and joined the company in 1959 just as it was growing into a large enterprise.

Tanning is an ancient industry and was important in Surrey from about 1500 in Tudor times. There were tanneries in many villages across the county, the main requirements being an ample supply of water and oak trees for the ground bark used in the tanning process.



The tannery in Gomshall had many owners over the centuries and in 1892 was destroyed by a disastrous fire. It was rebuilt on the same site on the south side of the Tillingbourne stream. In 1917 it was acquired by Union International, who became part of the Vestey Group of companies which owned four tanneries and produced a huge range of products from their

cattle ranching interests in Brazil and sheep farms in New Zealand. Hides and skins arrived from abattoirs in the UK and all over the world. The Gomshall tannery itself processed over 25,000 pelts each week. Skins from New Zealand came in barrels each containing 48 dozen skins packed in tight.

Colin, who had been a manager at Gomshall, explained that each skin had its own quirks. The challenge for the tanner was to turn the raw material with all its variations into a product which had the consistent quality required by the customer. It was vitally important to prevent the skins from rotting.

On arrival the skins were scraped clean by men with flensing knives on curved boards to remove remaining fat and hair before being dunked into cement lined pits full of limed water to be cleaned, then washed in fresh water pits. After this they passed through hand operated rollers (like mangles) to remove excess water before being 'tanned' or cured in a tannin solution and sometimes further treated with vegetable or chrome compounds to obtain beautiful colours. New technology was used for some processes but mostly it depended on the skills of the men.

It was a crowded workplace and one could imagine the noise, heat and

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



smells. About 120 people worked in the tannery in its heyday. Most came from Gomshall but others came from nearby villages including Westcott. It was also interesting to note that some of the machinery was manufactured by the nearby Mickle

Laboratory which of course has very strong Westcott connections.

The tannery itself did not make any articles from the leather it produced but once a year on the first Saturday in October the Tannery Shop in the main street of Gomshall held a sale of manufactured items, including a product range of leather used for high fashion and soft furnishings. It seemed scarcely possible that these products had come from humble animal skins.

Colin concluded his talk with a recording of "Rawhide", a hit song which took us back to the 1950s, when the tannery was reaching its peak. Operations ceased in the early 1980s and the tannery was again sadly destroyed by fire in 1988 and an era of industrial and social history came to an end.

Gomshall

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Leather lives at Gomshall

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The advertisement features a woman in a heavy, fur-lined leather coat. The text promotes Gomshall leather goods, highlighting the quality and local craftsmanship of the tannery. It includes contact information for the Goldfield Storey and a logo with a star.



The Tannery today

Roger Christian

Westcott 100 Club

By the time you read this, we will have held the Westcott 100 Club's June draw. Who are the lucky winners? Subject to confirmation, the prizes were expected to be £142.50 and £71.25.

Our next draw is in September. We're actively looking for new members (or indeed for existing members to subscribe to more tickets). If you'd like to know more, you know what to do – email below.

Our grant fund of around £5,000 stands ready and waiting for the next round of applications. It's open to any Westcott club, society or individual – just give us a shout and we'll be happy to have a discussion with you.

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



1st July 12.00, organ duet at St Martin's church

1st July 6.30, Dorking Choral Society at St Paul's church, £18

1st July 8.00, Holmbury St Mary Choral Society at St James's church, Abinger, £20

9th July 5.30, Leatherhead Choral Society at Manor Farm, Little Bookham, £20

15th July 7.30, Bookham Choral Society at St Nicolas's church, Bookham, £15, 01372 375644

July sees some more summer concerts presented by the various choirs in and around Dorking. The Dorking Choral Society will sing Vaughan Williams's *Dona nobis pacem*, a deeply moving work expressing a plea for peace in the world, together with Gerald Finzi's lovely settings of *Seven poems of Robert Bridges* and a selection of other short pieces.

Holmbury St Mary Choral Society has a concert entitled *Blue Zoo* in which the choir and a jazz ensemble will perform Will Todd's exhilarating *Mass in Blue* and Joseph Horowitz's *Captain Noah and his floating zoo*. Leatherhead Choral Society presents a Tudor Concert with Supper, and Bookham Choral Society has a concert entitled *Sun, moon, sea and movie stars*.

An organ duet recital will be given by Martin Hall and Peter Gould at St Martin's church – please note this takes place at midday.



Ian Codd

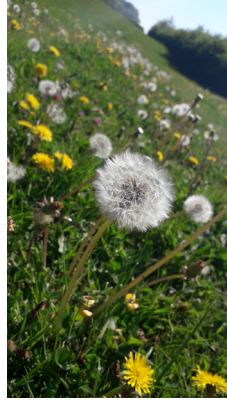
Westcott Village Hall Update



At their meeting on 14th June the trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust approved the appointment of architects, a planning consultant and a valuer. This will enable an options feasibility exercise to begin on the Westcott Village Hall and Hut sites. The outcome of this will lead to a village consultation, to be held later in the year, on potential development options which could be taken forward for a planning application.



Ollie Lister



Ollie Lister



Richard Lister



1-3 Hayley Mcdiarmid





Jo Smewing

Jo Smewing



4-8 Fiona Humphrey





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After a fantastic first summer half term we are delighted with the progress the pupils have made in all aspects of their learning at Surrey Hills All Saints, both in and out of the classrooms, working hard to be the best all can be every single day. It is vital that we recognise they also took part in a whole host of additional activities, challenges, trips and visits. From choir performances in the Village Hall to taking part in a 300 member choir performance in Dorking Halls, to visiting Hampton Court and lots of sports tournaments. On top of this, KS1 and KS2 have completed their SATS. I am incredibly proud of our school and every single adult and child within it.

It is clear that everybody in the community acknowledges the hard work and the dedication by all the staff and that this has been recognised in the recent Ofsted judgement. Our *Outstanding* judgement in early years is something we should all be proud of and this will be seen in our upcoming marketing campaign to attract new children in what is a competitive climate.

The recommendations to ensure there is consistency in the planning, teaching and outcomes for some of our foundation subjects is well underway and all is being rectified both in the immediate term and for September. We are pleased with the progress that is being made and this

has already received Trust validation as we take these crucial steps. It is vital that we ensure we improve our overall attendance. This is critical to success and we will work with parents and children to ensure this improves.

Bees and Butterflies Class



Bees and Butterflies had a fabulous day out at the British Wildlife Centre in Lingfield. The children were amazed to see a variety of wildlife

close up and they were especially excited to see a stoat and some baby badgers. They were able to hold a real deer antler which was as big as most of them! The coach trip was a big event considering it was the first school trip for all of them. Huge thanks to Mrs Spear and Mrs Banyard for accompanying us.



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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

Hedgehogs Class

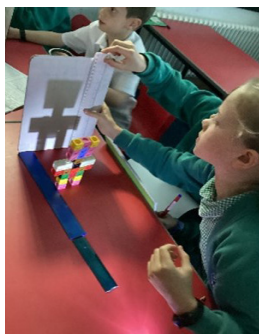


(see previous picture also Hampton Court)

Hedgehogs class absolutely loved their trip to Hampton Court. The children were so incredibly well behaved and they loved seeing the palace and exploring all of the rooms. They asked loads of brilliant questions and loved exploring outside in the gardens too.

Squirrels Class

Squirrels demonstrated some excellent teamwork last half term too. This was evident in their coronation artwork where they created group pictures. They have enjoyed our unit in science all about light and to develop their understanding about light further,



the children carried out a science experiment where they looked at shadows and how they changed over a distance.

Planting trees



You may have noticed a row of hedging that has recently been planted along the side of our playing field. This consists of beech trees donated by carbonfootprint.com and children have been helping Mr Memish plant each tree. Year 6 pupils have also completed a project finding out about how this new hedge will encourage wildlife such as insects, birds and hedgehogs into our grounds. Groups of pupils used this research to enter a Good Shepherds Trust competition: GST Eco-Prize for



Our Year 6 entry to the Eco-Prize



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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

Biodiversity. Our video entry going forward to the trust competition was chosen by Mr Coles and Mrs O'Donnell and was created by: Holly, Saffie, Ruby, Bella and Lois. Well done girls - if we win the prize, we will receive a nature experience day for the whole school!



Badgers Class

Year 6 have completed their SATS. They showed perseverance and self-belief in tackling some very challenging papers. Despite the extra pressure, everyone came in early for a sociable breakfast so they felt relaxed and calm.

"Our preparation was hard, but we were ready for the tests." (Beth)

"Long live the croissants!" (Sam)

"I loved watching Number Jacks after each test!" (Sammy)



Fundraising

On Monday 8th May, our fantastic school choir opened WESTfest. The weather was surprisingly good, and we raised over £740 selling candy floss and second-hand toys.

So far this year we have spent over £2000 on amazing workshops enriching our children's learning in dance, science and art. We have bought new books for the school library, provided fantastic soft furnishings to make the library a relaxing space to enjoy reading and bought forest school equipment to support our children's outdoor learning activities. We have also provided the prizes for each term's reading challenge, run an Easter egg hunt for the children and bought bookmarks to mark the coronation.

Simon Coles

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DORKING MUSEUM

After a frustrating period of closure due to fire, at the time of writing, the necessary repair work to the Museum roof is expected to be carried out shortly so that decorators, cleaners and carpet fitters can get to work reinstalling fittings, paintings and artefacts can be rehung and display cases refilled. There is not currently a firm date for re-opening the main gallery, but please check the website, social media and other local sources for further news.

Although the main exhibition area has remained closed, the team has been able to continue with restoration of items damaged by fire or water, collection care work, archive queries, school loan boxes and care home memory boxes. The cave tour and guided walks programmes are running as usual. Even the family activity and education team has been taking taught sessions out to schools and hosting a series of very successful family activity sessions at Dorking Library.

Family Activities: The Museum continues free monthly family activities at Dorking Library with a *Pretend Archaeological Dig* at a 'castle' (Saturday 15th July, 10am-noon): carefully uncover an object, clean it, draw and measure it, think about what it is, where it came from and what it tells us about the past. A *Reading Challenge* (Thursday August 24th,

2-4pm): look up facts in non-fiction books and colour a picture linked to the Library challenge. Aimed at 4-11 year olds, materials are provided, and children must be accompanied.



Bug hotel supplies

There are free wildlife craft activities at Dorking Library on Saturday 5th August (10am-2pm), with the help of Dorking Arts Society. *Totally Wild Creations* – create 'jumping mini-beasts', make a luxury hotel for garden bugs and an irresistible bird feeder. Lots of wildlife goodies to take away!

The Walking in Dorking team offer a *Family Treasure Hunt* for young history detectives – with a prize for all children: start at 2pm from the Museum on Sunday 9th and Friday 28th July, Thursday 3rd and Wednesday 30th August (only £4 per family).



Walking in Dorking: The programme offers other opportunities to take a fresh look at the area's rich heritage. Scheduled guided town walks from

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



Saturdays 15th and 29th July and 26th August, with tours 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.

the Museum are the Dorking Historic Pub Walk (Saturdays 8th July and 12th August, 6pm), and Hidden Historic Dorking (Sundays 16th July, 11am, and 6th August, 2pm). On the edge of town, two walks offer exclusive access to features not otherwise open to the public: take a Betchworth Castle tour from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club (Sundays 16th July and 13th August, 2pm), or the Deepdene Trail from the Dorking Golf Club (Sunday, 23rd July, 2pm).

All walks last around an hour and a half and should be booked in advance: details and booking for these or future dates at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. Walks may also be arranged for private groups: 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 tour Open Days are on



Get involved: To prepare for re-opening, we are looking for additional volunteers for the front desk and there are other interesting opportunities in organisational and planning activities for those with the necessary skills who can commit a few hours in the Museum, in the community and/or working from home. Training is provided. Please see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities for an online application form.

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

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Our community has come up trumps all round this month beginning with an exhilarating exploratory day out in one of the local farms. The owners kindly opened up their gates to us and we were able to get a closer look at some lambs and cows. We spent the WHOLE day outside - starting with a trek through the woods to get to our base camp where we climbed tree roots, ran super fast down hill, spotted wildlife, had an al fresco lunch and finally were treated to holding some freshly hatched chicks!

Following that we were donated two huge unusually shaped cardboard boxes. Well you can imagine how much this sparked our imaginations! The first was shaped like a boat – big enough for at least 3 of us to fit in – add a string and hey presto! We could pull each other around the garden! The second was an already made house shape complete with roof. With a carefully cut out door and chimney we were ready to move in. Just for good measure we made sure we painted the outside with fabulously bright

colours. Fanciest house in Abinger!

Last year we grew our own vegetables in the garden of the Abinger Hatch and once again we have been busy prepping the area , weeding, digging and planting. We are so lucky to have this opportunity to nurture a garden and look forward to cooking what we produce. A huge thank you to the Pub and parents for supporting us with the purchase of topsoil, a truly beautiful garden sign made by Paul Medsell and the veg to grow.



We are hoping our garden will also attract some beautiful butterflies as we have been learning all about their life cycle. We cared for some caterpillars and watched them create cosy cocoons before releasing them as fully grown butterflies. We learnt about symmetry by painting pictures of wings and cooking cakes with wings too!

If you have a child looking to start Nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. 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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Naming of Plants in My New Garden in Westcott

Today we have naming of plants. Yesterday
We had daily hoeing. And tomorrow morning
We shall have what to do after sowing. But today,
Today we have naming of plants. Japonica
Glistens like coral in all of the neighbourhood gardens
And today we have naming of plants.

They call it grafting the shoot, it is perfectly easy
If you have any strength in your thumb, like the quince
And the pear and the apricot, and a sharp blade
Which in our case we have not got, and the almond blossom
Silent in all of the gardens and the bees going
backwards and forwards
For today we have naming of plants

Edward Williams

In Isaiah we read of turning swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. I have turned Henry Reed's war poem into something more pastoral.

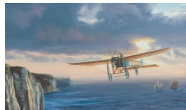
FUN FACTS ABOUT JULY & AUGUST



The month of July was named after Julius Caesar by the Roman Senate in 44BCE as July was the month of his birth. Before that, it had been known as Quintilis (fifth) as it was the fifth month in the old calendar. The month of August was named after the emperor Augustus Caesar, the first of the Roman Empire. Before 8BCE the Romans called it Sextilis, it being the sixth month in their calendar. The Anglo-Saxons, though, called August *weod-monath* (weed month). They were both given 31 days by the Roman senate as a mark of respect.

Although six months have passed, July 1st is not the mid-point of the year. The exact halfway point comes at 1pm BST on July 3rd in a non-leap year.

Sunday 2nd July is Thank You Day, and Friday 7th July is World Chocolate Day, while August 1st is celebrated as both Yorkshire Day and World Scout Scarf Day.



On July 25th 1909, Louis Bleriot became the first man to fly an aircraft from one country to another successfully. He took off from the coast of France and landed across the channel near Dover.



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Wotton Village Hall

Aug 4th, 11th, 18th
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 10.15am-11.00am
 6-10yrs
 11.30am-12.15pm

SHP, The Barn, Denbies
 July 31st / August 7th, 14th, 21st
 Parent and child 3-5yrs
 2.30pm-3.15pm
 6-10yrs
 3.45pm-4.30pm

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In August 1762 the sandwich, as we know it, was created when the Earl of Sandwich requested meat between two pieces of bread. The story goes he requested it as he was in the middle of a gambling game and didn't want to interrupt it.



It was on August 28th, 1963, that Martin Luther King Jr gave his famous "I have a dream" speech to 250,000 people on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.





WESTCOTT CRICKET CLUB

Whilst the men's and junior team matches are frequently played at home and away, the ladies have less opportunity but enjoy the light hearted Friday evening practices and on June 1st even played a friendly match against a much more experienced team from Effingham. Coming second did not mar the enjoyment, after all we are a "developing" team, i.e. have players of all ages and some who playing for the first time, so Ladies, if you want to have a go, then come down any Friday evening at 6.30 and join us (or just meet us over a drink at the bar!)

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Our village has a long-standing association with Papua Partners, an impactful international organisation which has been working alongside indigenous people in West Papua, since it was founded here in Westcott in 2006.

West Papua, the Western half of the island of New Guinea, has been subjected to colonization by the Republic of Indonesia since the 1960s and is currently in the grip of a humanitarian crisis. The decades-long conflict between the

Indonesian military and armed rebels has escalated in recent weeks and indigenous West Papuans are caught in between, leading to horrific human rights abuses. Every day there are more reports from the partners of torture, intimidation and murder of innocent civilians. Villagers face restrictions in carrying out day to day activities, as Indonesian state forces continue to act with impunity in what they attempt to legitimise as a war against terror.

The land of West Papua forms part of the third largest tropical rainforest area in the world and is home to incredible biodiversity. It is also rich in mineral resources. This means that the region has become a hotspot for extractive industries, to feed the global demand for palm oil, gold and other resources. This poses an acute threat to the





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PAPUA PARTNERS (cont.)



forests and indigenous people. Many fear that the ongoing conflict is being used as an excuse to make way for ongoing resource extraction.

At the end of April the military set fire to 16 villages in the Intan Jaya region, causing villagers to flee in terror. This is part of an ongoing pattern of intimidation and forced displacement by the state military. There are currently more than 60,000 internally displaced people who've fled to safety into the jungle, where they are eking out an existence, without access to education or health care. Visits from human rights monitors and humanitarian groups are prohibited by the Indonesian government and many of our partners' only hope lies in the possibility of international intervention.

Papua Partners are therefore conducting an urgent fundraising appeal to build a campaign that can raise awareness and "open the eyes of the world" to the fate of Indigenous Papuans - a request that has been made by all partners in the region,



and something they believe will play a critical role in their struggle for peace and justice. Any donations that you are able to make will be incredibly helpful in supporting our partners to document the situation, amplify their voices, broaden and significantly increase their audience, including through social media campaigns, updating the website, and a new audio interview series.

Many thanks to Revd Tim who, at the time of writing, is planning an incredible one-day 88-mile run from Canterbury to Westcott in June, to raise money for the campaign! Donations can be made at www.papuapartners.org or by scanning the QR code.



Kieran Murphy is kindly arranging a fundraising collection of old UK and foreign coins and currency, so if you have any unwanted currency - from any country - please bring it along to donate. There will be collection bottles at Holy Trinity Church and in Jon & Mum's shop at St John's Chapel.

For more details of how Papua Partners are working alongside indigenous West Papuans visit www.papuapartners.org With gratitude,

Jakki Phillips
Friend of Papua Partners

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GREEN WESTCOTT

Sunflower Secrets

At our stall at Westfest this year we invited children to plant sunflower seeds, which they watched sprout at home before bringing them along to the Community Garden at half term. At our 'Sunflower session', children decorated a larger pot for their seedling to grow in at the Community Garden, to attract pollinators and to see which one will grow the tallest! They'll hopefully be in bloom by the time this article reaches you, so do come by the garden, in the churchyard at St John's, Furlong Road, to see them.



Sunflowers are beneficial to nature and people in many ways, not least because their bright yellow cheery appearance is attractive to bees and other pollinators and can help to brighten our mood and bring happiness. They make a great natural source of food in a wildlife-friendly garden for bees and birds, particularly greenfinches and gold-

finches who love the seeds from dried sunflower heads.

Sunflowers provide food for us too, sunflower oil is a good source of Vitamin E and sunflower seeds are a good plant-based source of protein and contain nutrients which boost immune system health, bone strength, and brain function. In fact, the whole sunflower plant is edible – from the root to the petals. It is even possible to make flour from the pith inside the stalk!

However, you need to be careful where you grow sunflowers in a vegetable garden. While they make good companion plants for tomatoes and squash, they can have a negative effect on crops such as potatoes. Sunflowers can have allelopathic effect, which means they excrete chemicals which can inhibit seed germination and stunt the growth of certain other crops grown close by.

One of the sunflower's hidden talents is that they are able to naturally decontaminate soil, by soaking up hazardous materials in the ground, including lead and uranium. Sunflowers are hyperaccumulators, which means that they are able to take up high concentrations of toxic materials via their roots, which are then stored in their stems and leaves, leaving the soil cleaner and healthier.



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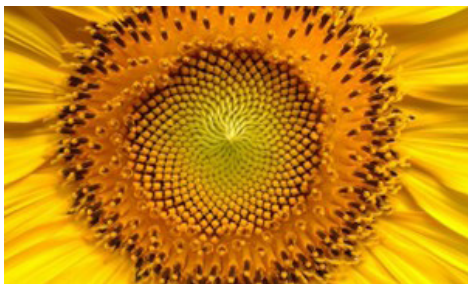
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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

One of the most fascinating things about sunflowers is the way their seed spirals beautifully display hidden mathematical rules shaping many patterns of life. The Fibonacci sequence, in which each number is the sum of the previous two (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89...) can be found plentifully in nature from a nautilus shell to a romanesque cauliflower and sunflowers. Count the clockwise and counter-clockwise seed spirals that reach the outer edge, and you'll usually find a pair of numbers from the sequence: 34 and 55, or 55 and 89. The seeds of a sunflower are arranged in a way that makes the most efficient use of the available space to allow the seed to flourish.



The golden angle, 137.5° , plays an important role in this optimal self-organising pattern. The golden angle is formed by dividing the 360 degrees of a circle by the golden ratio – 1.618. The Golden Ratio, known as the Greek letter Phi, is seen in the ratio between two successive numbers above 5 in the Fibonacci sequence, which gets closer to 1.618 as the

numbers get larger. It is often referred to as the 'divine proportion' as shapes based upon this ratio are particularly aesthetically pleasing. A slight deviation of the arrangement of seeds from the golden angle would cause a sunflower face to look completely different, as illustrated in this graphic:



Source: www.asknature.org

As they grow, sunflowers turn their face to track the sun – always looking for the light. In this way they inspire optimism and with their ability to survive in a vast range of conditions, sunflowers are a symbol of strength and resilience to overcome challenges and to find hope in the face of adversity.

To finish on a practical note - at the end of the season when the sunflower has wilted and all the seeds have been harvested, or eaten by birds, a dried sunflower head apparently makes a good natural scrubbing brush, though I've yet to put this to the test!

Jakki Phillips



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MOLE VALLEY POETS

Open Events

Mole Valley Poets and Friends regularly host Open Events inviting guests to join us and focussing on a topic or theme. Why not join us sometime and ignite your imagination for writing? These provide lots of different ways in which to stimulate our own writing, engage with nature and reflect on different topics. The next events are listed below and tickets will be available via the MVP Website. Our Virtual Summer School will be led by published poet and retreat leader Helen Overell (front left in the picture below). The session will be held on Zoom so wherever you are, you can participate. We look forward to new people joining us.

12th August

Helen Overell

Summer School: Consider the Stars

23rd September

Elizabeth Barton

Ecopoetry workshop: Rewilding the Imagination

2nd October

Mole Valley Poets

Poetry Pub



Our next Wild Poets' walk will be in the Autumn – let us know if you are interested.

More details of Mole Valley Poets' activities on www.molevalleypoets.co.uk

Photo taken on the Wild Poets Walk in April 2023.

Walking for Inspiration from Denbies Hillside and enjoying the magic of Bluebells. Inspiration for a new Anthology 'Down to Earth' to be published Autumn 2023.

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