

Westcott Village

Magazine November 2023



Westcott Village Hall

You are invited to a public consultation event for various redevelopment options for the Westcott Village Hall and Hut sites to provide a new Community Centre for Westcott

1st November 3pm - 9pm

At the Westcott Village Hall (the former Reading Room)

It's your village hall and it's time to get involved!

More details on page 33

WESTfestivity 2023
Saturday 18th November 10-3pm
Westcott Village Hall and
Holy Trinity Church



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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

December issue:

8th November 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



It's finally turning colder as I write this, but I still have flowers out in the garden that really shouldn't be, but I won't tell them, I'll just enjoy it!

The consultation on the future of the Village Hall is taking place on 1st November, so get along to it and see what the options are.

Westfestivity is our local Christmas fair on 18th November, held simultaneously in the Village Hall and at Holy Trinity church, including crafts, tea and cake, gifts, food, music and even socks, apparently. So don't miss the chance to stock up for Christmas

here in the village - the epitome of shopping locally!

We welcome a new Executive Head, Jacky Fyson, to Surrey Hills School and wish Simon Coles all the best for the future. Find out what makes Jacky tick on p37.

The village coffee morning is also on the 1st this month, so don't miss it as there will be the usual tea/coffee/cakes with books and jigsaws, but with the added attraction of a jewellery sale so you can get some more early Christmas presents sorted.

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com



C of E Primary School

Thursday December 7th 2023



Surrey Hills All Saints Choir will be putting on a performance of Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo in Holy Trinity Church at 6.30p.m.

They will be joined by the D and G choir who will be singing the St Nicolas Mass, supported by the children.

Tickets will be £5 and available in November by emailing Jan Way on Janrway@aol.com.

Monies raised will go to FASH, the school/parent group. Do put the date in your diary.

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



INTERGENERATIONAL LIVING

In a previous role, I got to observe the development of an Intergenerational Community Centre in Southwest London. The idea is simple – local older residents are invited to a day centre where they can dip in and out of intergenerational sessions with preschoolers from the onsite nursery and visiting children from the local primary school. There are different activities every week including singing, games, gardening, reading and exercise classes which are facilitated by a trained team of volunteers.

The beauty and simplicity of the arrangement is that everyone has something to give – and everyone has something to receive. It is a rare example of an absolute win-win. It can improve the health and well-being of the older participants, and the confidence and communication skills of the young.

We have created a society where the interactions between different age groups outside of the immediate family are limited. Many of the reasons for this were side effects of well-intentioned and important attempts to protect the vulnerable, or indeed of technological innovations, but the result has been an increasing divide and lack of connection between those at different stages of life. One of the many wonderful

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things about living in a small community like Westcott is that it provides more opportunities for meaningful intergenerational encounters to happen – but this does not occur without a degree of intentionality.

One of our three core aims at Holy Trinity is to be a church of, and for, all ages. This means that we aim to create spaces where quiet, reflection,

and space to talk over a cuppa are provided (such as our 8.30am Sunday and 10am Wednesday services) as well as facilitating spaces where young ones can thrive, and parents meet (such as Cookie Club and our lively Kid's Sunday Club

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

during the 10.15 service). We do our best to provide long-term support both to our wonderful care homes and our excellent village school. The holy grail for us is to find spaces where all ages can mix to the benefit of all (our monthly All Age Worship gathering on the first Sunday of the month being one attempt at doing this).

“ONE OF OUR THREE CORE AIMS AT HOLY TRINITY IS TO BE A CHURCH OF, AND FOR, ALL AGES.”

Intergenerational contact begins, of course, not with organised events but with each of us being intentional in getting to know those around us who may be at different stages of life. Who could you get to know better in the coming weeks to the benefit of all concerned?

- Revd Tim Armstrong



SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



8.30am Book of Common Prayer Communion, A warm welcome in our beautiful, traditional service.

10.15am Friendly, relaxed service, using Common Worship and a range of music styles. This service is also livestreamed on Zoom.



For 10:15am Zoom service connection, please scan this QR code, or visit the Online Services page of thechurchinwestcott.org.uk and follow the link.

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

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM
5th Nov	Spiritual Formation: Our Rule of Life	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
12th Nov	Remembrance	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
19th Nov	The Story of Stephen: Part 1	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
26th Nov	The Story of Stephen: Part 2	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion



MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's



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All are welcome



YOUR CHURCH
WEDDING



MARKING LIFE EVENTS

All who live in Westcott or have a connection here are very welcome to have christenings, funerals, weddings in Holy Trinity. Contact vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk for more information.

THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Westcott's baby & toddler group

COOKIE CLUB

snacks
crafts
games
music
friendship
fun

parents
grandparents
guardians...
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St John's Hall, Westcott
9-11am every Thursday during term time
£2 voluntary donation

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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 at vicar@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk for more information

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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.

Debt advice: Paul Stacey (paulstacey88@gmail.com)

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants: Mark Shakespeare (01306 888010), Ali Mabley (01306 889641)

For help, or more information, please contact
Tim Armstrong, Vicar: vicar@holymtrinitywestcott.org.uk
or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism:

3rd September 2023 Ivy Joy Upton

Marriage:

30th September 2023 Christopher James Myhill &
Frances Jane Robinson

Death:

30th October 2019 Gordon Leslie John Reynolds
(98)

15th February 2023 Kelvin Douglas Fred Knowles
(68)



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Carol Smetham, who has sponsored the church floodlighting for November: In Loving Memory of Basil Smetham from all the Family.

To become a sponsor of our floodlighting, which is powered by 100% renewable electricity, please contact admin@holymtrinitywestcott.org.uk. (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)

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We know it's only November but as the song goes "it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas". Not long now until the Westfestivity Christmas Fair on Saturday 18th November at the Westcott Village Hall. With 40+ stallholders it's going to be a super event and a great place to get some Christmas shopping. It's open from 12pm to 4pm so this is a real must for your diary.



The WVA will be running our ever-popular Christmas Hamper themed Tombola but we can't do that without your help so we need your donations please – any Christmas fare is welcome – sweets, nuts, festive nibbles, selection boxes and suitable bottles. Donations can be dropped off to either Queen's Court, Westcott Street (near Bramley House Care Home) or 5 Heath Rise. Donations without alcohol can also be dropped off to Jon and Mum's

Groceries at St John's. Or if it's easier please feel free to make a donation via the *Donate* button on the Contact Us page of the Westcott Village website and put *Christmas Fair* in the notes and we will use your donation to buy some suitable goodies for the tombola on your behalf.

Staying with Christmas for a moment the Westcott Village Christmas Tree is going up on the village green on Saturday 2nd December. James Leaver is looking for a small group of willing volunteers to help erect the tree and decorate it. If you would like to help out, please drop James an email on jamesandfrancesca@hotmail.co.uk

Prior to all of the Christmas festivities taking place we will of course come together as a nation to remember the service and sacrifice of those who



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have served in the Armed Forces from Britain and the Commonwealth and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism. The WVA will put up the Remembrance Poppies and the Silent Soldier along the A25 for the two week period either side of Armistice Day which takes place on Friday 11th November.



In other news, the WVA has recently submitted an application to Mole Valley District Council Neighbourhood Fund (formerly known as the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy) for funds to install a new vehicle activated speed limit sign to help slow traffic through the village. A further application is being prepared

for submission with the next round of funding requests in the new year, for repairs and refurbishment to the Westcott Dovecote and Thatched Bus Stop, both of which are an important part of our heritage and an essential facility for bus passengers waiting at the village green. We will update on how these applications progress in due course.

The Sondes Place Farm Planning Appeal is being heard by public inquiry which started on Tuesday 31st October, it is open to the public and is expected to last six days. Further details are available on the MVDC website for anyone who would like to attend in person or follow proceedings online. The WVA has made strong representations on Westcott's behalf and has also been in contact with the HM Planning Inspectorate to ensure our opinions have been heard and we will follow the inquiry proceedings.

As always, if you would like to get involved in a specific project with the WVA or better still, come and join our committee, please do get in touch.

WVA Committee

**Paul Goddard, Edwin Harland, James Leaver,
Sally Hewelson, Nick Lund and Jo Astor
contact@westcottvillage.com**



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Tuesday 14th November 2023 Marathon - Ancient Greece

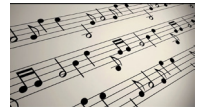
The Battle of Marathon - Rupert Willoughby will recreate the background and the battle itself in its thrilling detail. He will look at its various influences on our art and culture, in an eye-opening, edge of your seat Lecture.

Do come and join us. The Lecture will take place in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls commencing at 10:30am with coffee available from 9:30am. We welcome visitors for a fee of £7.50 but as seating is limited you should contact Sue Bax on 01737 223932 sue.bax@btinternet.com to book.



Our Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month and we welcome new members. Please visit our website to find out more about us <http://www.theartssocietydorking.org.uk>.

Brockham Choral



Brockham Choral invite you to their Concert on Saturday 2nd December at 7.30pm in St. Martin's Church Dorking RH4 1UX.

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WEST *festivity*

Sat 18 Nov
10-3



Westcott Village Hall
& Church

Live music at
Holy Trinity Church

Rock Choir! 11am
Surrey Hills School Choir
12 Midday
Ralph Sutton Jazz 1pm
Plus more throughout
the day!

Christmas jumper sale, treasure hunt,
face painting, fun games & craft activities

Cafes at both venues
Mulled wine & mince pies
Tea, coffee, hot chocolate
Homemade cakes
Prosecco, lager, soft drinks

Christmas gifts &
local crafts

Delicious hot
food

Hot pie & mash, sausage
rolls + veggie options
catered by Jon&Mum
with Ginger Rookes

Handmade cards, candles,
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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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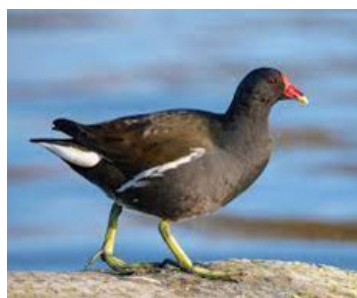
The advertisement features a collage of three fence styles: a dark wood fence on the left, a light wood lattice fence in the center, and a white vinyl fence on the right. Below the collage is the RBFencing logo, which consists of the letters 'RBF' in a bold, white, sans-serif font inside a dark oval, with the word 'FENCING' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The background of the advertisement is a gradient of dark brown and gold.

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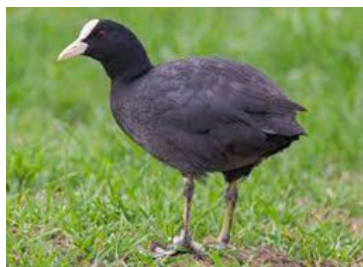
Coot & Moorhen

Anywhere there is quiet water, there are Rails, dark birds with a distinctive shape and gait. Their bodies are slim to slide through reeds or grasses; the legs, feet and toes relatively long to aid progress running over land, floating vegetation and mud. Only two species are easy to see, swimming on open water and feeding on grassy banks – the Coot and the Moorhen. Nests can be obvious as both species build bulky structures, platforms of vegetation close to or in shallow water.



The Moorhen is black with white flashes along its sides and shows a white tail as it runs away – as it frequently does! Adults have a red frontal shield with a yellow tip, while young birds have black bills. An omnivore, the moorhen eats leaves, worms and insects. It rarely dives, feeding on surface insects and leaves when swimming, or walking on mud or grass and even climbing into shrubs in search of food.

The Coot is black with a prominent white head shield, origin of the phrase “bald as a coot”. Mainly vegetarian, it feeds on land, on floating vegetation and in water. It may surface feed, scrape algae off with its head just submerged or dive to reach water plants on the bottom. Its long legs enable it to sprint when required and its toes have distinctive lobes to assist swimming and diving. It brings any weed collected on dives to the surface before eating, so is sometimes robbed by aggressive ducks. Coots can be extremely aggressive to each other as well, having spectacular fights over territory. They feed their fluffy red-billed chicks for a month, longer than most water birds.



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 about nature in a friendly way. Check out our activities on Facebook @Dorking RSPB or our website <https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict/>.



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

The History of Degenhardt's the Draper of Dorking

This was the story of the Degenhardt family and the celebrated shop in South Street which purveyed cloth, clothing, gloves, stockings and many items of haberdashery between 1907 and 1979, told with verve and many anecdotes by Susan Hoad who is the granddaughter of the original founders Charles Degenhardt and his wife Suzie Helena. Charles had been an orphan in Germany and came to England as a Master Baker in the early 1900's. He met his future wife who worked in a Drapers shop and they were married in 1906 and rented a shop in South Street, Dorking with a little house behind it.

They had three daughters May (Susan's mother), Ruth and Joan before the war and Tom and Helen after the war. Each child married and had three children but none joined the firm although they willingly helped during holidays for a small reward. Charles and Helena were very thrifty proprietors and in 1925 they bought the freehold of the shop they were renting from Mr Attlee, the corn merchant, and also the shop next door (which is now Santander).

Susan Hoad related her experiences working in various departments of the shop as a young woman in the late 1940's during her holidays. Many of the staff stayed for a very long time and became experts in their department selling cloth or corsetry, hats, gloves or stockings and haberdashery. There was a workroom on the top floor where customers could have alterations made to clothing they had taken 'on approval' and needed adjustment. The shop was known for its personal service. Actually many people made their own clothes in the early days and measuring out cloth for the requirements in the 'pattern books' which the shop had was a particular expertise.

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)

helped customers fitting corsetry and brassieres – a very personal affair. Several schools in the Dorking area had nominated Degenhardt's as their official uniform supplier which was very good for trade. When new stock arrived each department's staff had to sew on all the labels for their goods and had to arrange their own window displays. There was no chatting allowed between staff and a 'floor walker' kept an eye on security and dealt with problems.

Items costing under 5 shillings could be paid in cash over the counter but for amounts above this the bill and the money had to be inserted in a little metal 'tube' which was placed into the pipe system leading to the cashiers sitting in the basement. They would return it in the same way with a receipted bill and the change. All spare brown wrapping paper was

carefully preserved and string was kept and knotted together in lengths – a very thrifty policy prevailed. At the end of the day everything had to be covered with sheets and damp sawdust put on the floor to prevent dust rising while it was swept.

Susan remembered the shop's staff as a very friendly group of people, many of whom had worked for the Degenhardt's for 20 or 30 years. It was a very sad day when the final sales took place and the shop was closed in 1979 because there was nobody in the family or otherwise who was interested in carrying it on, Dorking lost a well regarded business.

The WLHG committee welcomes new members and also lecturers on historical and topical subjects

The website is www.westcottlocalhistory.org.uk where much useful information may be found.

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Christian**



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MUSIC IN DORKING



7th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717

11th at 7.30, oboe and piano at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

12th at 2.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717

12th at 6.30, Dorking Choral Society at St Martin's church, £18

17th at 8.00, Ukelele Orchestra of Great Britain at Dorking Halls, £32, 01306 881717

18th at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at St George's church, Ashtead, £16

2 Dec at 3.00, Ladybirds Choir at United Reformed Church Hall

In November the Dorking Choral Society has its autumn concert. Taking place on Remembrance Sunday, it will feature three works by French, German and British composers. First comes the lovely *Duruflé Requiem*, with its serene plainchant-inspired vocal lines. This will be followed by a setting of the *Stabat Mater* by Joseph Rheinberger and a short setting of the Mass by Imogen Holst, who was a distinguished composer as well as being the daughter of Gustav Holst.

The Dorking Concertgoers present a recital for oboe and piano, given by Hannah Condliffe and Mark Rogers. Their programme is a wide-ranging one, including sonatas by Bach, Saint-Saëns and Poulenc, along with shorter pieces by Ravel and Britten. Debussy will also be featured in a number of his atmospheric preludes for piano solo.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashtead, has a programme comprising Mahler's lovely *Blumine*, originally intended as a movement for his first symphony, a rarely-heard viola concerto by Franz Hoffmeister, and Mendelssohn's ever-popular *Scottish symphony*.

The Ukelele Orchestra of Great Britain makes a visit to the Dorking Halls. This playful and virtuosic group promises an evening of great entertainment and fun. There are also two ballet screenings at the Dorking Halls: *Don Quixote*, with music by Ludwig Minkus, comes live from the Royal Ballet on 7th, telling the adventures of the eccentric nobleman and his loyal squire. There is a repeat screening of the same show on 12th.

And finally – as it comes right at the beginning of December – a quick mention of the Ladybirds Choir's Christmas concert. Conducted by Helena Twentyman, it will celebrate several singers who have died during the year, including Tony Bennett and Roger Whittaker, along with a selection of Christmas carols and songs.



WEST *festivity*



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Free entry!



You are invited to a public consultation event for various redevelopment options for the Westcott Village Hall and Hut sites to provide a new Community Centre for Westcott

From 3pm – 9pm on 1st November 2023

at Westcott Village Hall (former Reading Room), Institute Road, RH4 3NP

Presentations with Q&A sessions will be held at 4pm & 7:30pm

It's your village hall and it's time to get involved!

Your views matter, and you are invited to share them by completing the questionnaire available at the consultation event or online from 1st November.

Questionnaires must be received by 5:30pm on Wednesday, 15th November 2023.



<https://www.westcottvillagehall.com/>

I hope that you and your families are all well at this point of the school year. The children are certainly full of positivity and enthusiasm and are coming to school with so much joy and happiness.

As you will probably now be aware, the Trust have appointed Mrs Jacky Fyson as the Surrey Hills All Saints Headteacher going forward in an executive leadership role. She has introduced herself to the children in one of our celebration assemblies and held a successful meeting with parents and carers. I would like to thank again all those who were able to attend. Mrs Fyson and the team will swiftly become familiar to you all and I am sure that all stakeholders will be in very good hands stepping into the future.

I find that the process of moving on is all at once exciting and thrilling and comes with unique challenges and fears too. But knowing that change is inevitable, we can make it a positive and affirming experience and it can be a catalyst that can allow us to flourish.

I offer you my thanks and warmest wishes for the future. May light and love and joy be with you all.

With sincere thanks and warmest regards

Simon Coles

Reception Bees Class

Bees have settled beautifully into school life. Here are just a few of the activities they have enjoyed.



Sampling our delicious lunches!



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Exploring the provision



Year 1 & 2 Butterflies Class



Butterflies have had a great time making felt-a first for all of us! First we had to create a design using wool roving, then use soap flakes and water to squash it all together, roll it out and squeeze out all the water. We were all amazed by the end product and look forward to putting them all together to create an abstract map. Many thanks to Mrs Todd for giving up her time to help us.



Year 3 Hedgehogs Rock Adventure



This half term, Hedgehogs are learning all about rocks in science. To immerse the children in their learning, Mrs Phillips took the children on an amazing rock walk around Westcott in one of their Forest School sessions.

We spotted lots of different types of rocks and soils, thought about what they might be made of and how they have been made. We even climbed a cliff!





Mole Valley Stroke Club

Can you spare a couple of hours a week?

Mole Valley Stroke Club (affiliated to the Stroke Association) is looking for volunteers to help with the running of the group.

There are very many ways in which you can contribute to giving opportunities to our members, who have all survived a stroke, to meet others in similar circumstances and to take part in a range of activities. There are opportunities to help with administration, driving, helping at meetings.

We meet on Wednesdays at St. John's Community Hall, North Holmwood from 1030-1230.

For more information please contact Jacqui at molevalleystrokeclub@gmail.com

Dorking Friends of Cancer Research UK

The Dorking Friends will be holding their Coffee Morning at the Betchworth Park Golf Club, Reigate Road, Dorking RH4 1NZ between 9:30am-11:30pm on Thursday 16 November 2023.

Tickets £12 to include coffee, tea, pastries as well as stalls selling tempting items.

For tickets call 07733 960273 or 01306 881364 or email dfcancerresearchUK@btinternet.com.

Together we are beating cancer.



Together we are beating cancer



Meet the New Executive Head at Surrey Hills All Saints - Jacky Fyson



So, Jacky, tell us a bit about yourself

I have lived in various places around the world and the UK, but 10 years ago I settled into the wonderful Surrey life with my husband, two rather grown up children (which ages me slightly!) and my laid back Labrador. I'm from a background in publishing and advertising and I found myself working in a school out in Germany, where I fell in love with education and have simply never looked back.

What's your favourite subject?

I have a particular passion for reading and so you won't be surprised to know that over my teaching career I have loved the role of English lead. And I am known for inviting more authors into schools than anyone thought possible! As a child however, French was my favourite subject although history and science both came a close second! But as all primary educators will tell you, we all love to teach a whole range of subjects and seeing the children come alive with their curiosity for learning more.

What do you do for fun and to unwind from the stresses of the day?

I can't think of anything better than walking amongst our beautiful Surrey Hills or heading off to a castle or finding out about the natural world. That's when I'm not singing in my choir, where I enjoy music with my friends.

What's your ambition/what drives you?

Since moving out of the classroom - over 10 years ago now - and into a leadership role in schools, I have loved the many opportunities this brings to make a real difference to the education and learning outcomes of a much wider group of children. I particularly enjoy ensuring that there is an enriched curriculum so the children can really thrive and love their learning, setting them up with the knowledge and skills they'll need for their future.

Anything else you'd like to share?

I am just delighted to have joined the incredible team at Surrey Hills All Saints and continuing to work collaboratively to build on the strong teaching team already in place. Everyone has been so welcoming and I look forward to getting to know the children, families and wider community.



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THE DUCKS MAY SLIDE....A POEM



The ducks may slide at Hallow-tide
Though I'm sure they'd rather skate,
But at Christmas-time they may well swim
In gravy on our plate

On Springtime morns the flock adorns
itself in finest plumage,
But on Easter days they may end their ways
Seasoned with finest plum 'n sage,

On summer days they rest in the shade
so's not to get too hot,
But come the Fall we heed the call
and put them in the pot,

A duck's life is fine and given time
they live long and wise,
But they must beware for without due care
They're the filling in our pies!

A simple moral for water-fowl
Is beware in all the seasons,
But should a duck just chance on luck
They may perish for culinary reasons!

Nick Jordan Moss



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.

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Hire rates:

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

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www.westcottvillagehall.com

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PYJAMA APPEAL 2023

Unfortunately, some children will be spending their Christmas in hospital. I am volunteering for a charity who help to bring a smile to children's faces at the hardest of times. I am collecting PJs for children in East Surrey and Royal Surrey Hospitals and would love your help. Pyjamas HAVE to be brand new, and we need boys' and girls', newborn to age 18 (young adult). Please do not wrap them as they need to be checked by the individual hospitals. You can drop them off at Jon & Mum or Holy Trinity Church. Alternatively you can email sallycroftis@gmail.com and I will collect.



Westcott Sports Club Welcomes New Sponsor

Westcott Sports Club, home to Westcott (1935) Football Club and Westcott Cricket Club as well as many other local teams, is delighted to welcome a new club Sponsor - local building firm DV Read and Son (Surrey) Ltd. Sponsorships keep the sports club running and with over 200 people regularly visiting the ground provide a captive audience for local firms wanting to profile their businesses. As well as DV Read and Son, Dorking Butchery are already in place and Flowers by Elaine will be coming very soon.

The club has also applied for a national government grant to install a defibrillator for players, visitors and local people not served by others in the village.



If you'd be interested in sponsoring the village's Sports Club please email the Treasurer James Friend via james@10rookery.com - and in the meantime why not come down to Milton Street and support one of our local football teams on a Saturday or Sunday this winter?

James Friend

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DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking Museum was finally able to re-open after nearly a year of closure following a fire in an adjacent building. Although many of the diverse activities of the Museum continued during closure, the volunteer team have been very pleased to welcome visitors back through its doors and resume 'normal service' in the main exhibition space.



All of the cleaning and refurbishment gave some opportunities for reorganisation. If you have not visited recently, there are some interesting new exhibits to look out for. One of the more eye-catching is the model Pterosaur flying from the beams – this is a fish-eating reptile that hunted in this area in the Cretaceous period. A new cabinet houses some of the Ralph Vaughan Williams items that were donated recently, including original photographs and manuscripts signed and amended by the composer when conducting the Leith Hill Music Festivals.

Among other items 'new to view' are

a Presidents' Chain of Office of the Rotary Club of Dorking with names of Presidents from 1930 onwards, two delightful pre-WWI sewing workbooks by sisters at Mickleham National Schools, a sign from the station newly named as Dorking Town in 1923 and a beautiful wooden panel depicting St George and the dragon carved by a local craftsman in the late 19th century.



Mickleham Workbooks

Hedgerow Heritage Exhibition: The Museum is hosting an exhibition in conjunction with the Surrey Wildlife Trust's Hedgerow Heritage Project, an ambitious 4-year project aiming to restore and protect hedgerows across the North Downs. There has been a





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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

serious decline in the number and condition of these essential habitats with their cultural, environmental and historic value. The exhibition explores the history and heritage of the area's hedgerows, their importance to the environment and community, and how they might be restored and renewed for the future.

Family Activities at Dorking Library:

The Museum is continuing free family activities in Dorking Library. On **Saturday 18th November, 10am-noon**, come to the Library and make some moving Nursery rhyme characters using simple levers, pulleys and split pins. Make the seesaw in Seesaw Margery Daw, make Jack and Jill fall down the hill, or make the mouse run up the clock. Aimed at 4-11-year-olds, materials are provided.

On the following **Saturday, 25th November,**

10am-2pm,

join us at the Library to get Christmas off to a great start. Make your own sparkling peg doll Christmas tree hangers and festive baubles to take home. All materials are provided free – with grateful thanks to the Arts Society, Dorking – and children must be accompanied.



Get involved: The Museum is run entirely by volunteers – the team was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2021 – but is still looking for new recruits who can give a little spare time to contribute to this important community resource. In order to continue to meet visitor expectations, Visitor Assistants are required to meet and greet visitors, deal with queries and sales, help out with special activities and help maintain the visitor experience. Just a few hours a month, no experience is necessary, and training is provided.

There are also specific opportunities for volunteers who can bring their skills to a range of other roles that will assist in the management, development and smooth running of the Museum. These can involve flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home. Among the current opportunities, the team is particularly keen to recruit an events coordinator and a sales and shop manager. Further details of opportunities and an application form may be found at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities.

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk 01306 876591.

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Bonjour! This term we are broadening our horizons and learning another language. Every week we have a lovely local French mummy visit us and teach us a plethora of new words. We are thoroughly engaged in fun games to pick things up naturally – we don't even feel like we are learning. If you happen to hear any children speaking fluent French it's bound to be us!

Currently it is conker season – you can't miss them! Shiny and magical little nuggets of treasure. We filled two whole bags and plenty of pockets on our last forest school trip. We proudly carried those conkers all the way back to nursery and found the most fun things to do. We rolled them in paint and watched the autumn colours mix together to make different shades. We may have got a teeny bit of paint

on our hands too!

Have you ever seen a dinosaur swamp? No? Ah you are missing out!! The slimiest and gooiest swamp happened to appear in our tough tray and tramping through it were many dinky

dinosaurs. We have some impressive roars!

At this time of year the best thing to cook (and eat) is comfort food. So bring on the Blackberry pies with real homemade pastry, pear and apple crumble and stuffed marrow to name but a few. We just love getting messy and producing something wonderful at the end of it. We believe a few of the parents look forward to cooking day just as much as us!

If you have a child looking to start Nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

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It was lovely to have the late Summer weather during September and see a number of visitors to our memorial

woodland enjoying a late summer picnic. September was a busy month for us we were invited to attend as Guests of Honour at the Vipers Annual Dinner by one of our Patrons, Blue Cooper BEM, and also to join a large group of Ex-Queensmen for a memorial service at The National

Arboretum with our other Patron Lt Colonel Michael Rowney MBE. Both events were very special.

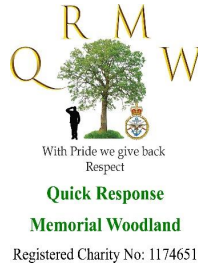
In October the leaves on the trees at our woodland turned yellow and golden brown bringing yet another beauty to our place of remembrance and tranquility. Remembrance is of course foremost on our minds with the 11th day of the 11th month drawing close. Our Remembrance service will take place at the woodland on Saturday 11th November when we will gather around the memorial at 10.40. Please do join us for our service and a cup of tea afterwards.

We are also now looking forward to and planning our annual Christmas at the Woodland event for families. A treasure hunt for the children and a visit by Father Christmas with a sack load of presents. Do please register the children early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited. Contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk to register.



So lots to look forward before Christmas. I look forward to seeing you very soon at the woodland for these events or of course anytime you may like to visit. Keep safe.

Paul Cooling, Chairman
QRMW



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SATURDAY 11th November 2023

At

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Dorking Local History Group

The DLHG continues its popular programme of both live and Zoom talks on a fascinating range of topics. These are free to members, but non-members are welcome. Upcoming dates include:

The Doods Road Great Pigeon Loft: Why did an ordinary house in Reigate require an armed guard in both World Wars? Why were its inhabitants decorated? And what did this have to do with James Bond and Spike Milligan? John Griffiths-Colby has the answers. Live talk, Monday 6th November at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.

Arts and Crafts Gardens: A Zoom talk by Cherrill Sands about gardens in and around Surrey, and their connections to visionaries like William Morris, Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens. Monday 20th November: <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.



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

Bridge Club - Help Wanted



Help to prepare refreshments on Monday evenings in the Village Hall for the Bridge Club.

Westcott Bridge Club meet every Monday evening in the Village Hall and are looking for someone to make teas and coffees during the interval. Hours are 7.30pm to 9pm.

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If you are interested, please call Jill Attfield on 01306 882040.



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This hot air balloon over Westcott was noticed by several people but the only one to send me a photo was Andy Cunningham!
The young kestrel below was taken by Tom Boshier.





GREEN WESTCOTT

We need to talk about ALAN

When Thomas Edison first illuminated a New York street in 1879, he set in motion the modern era of electric lighting. Many at the time hailed his invention as revolutionary and so it was, but now many environmentalists, naturalists, and medical researchers consider light pollution to be one of the fastest growing and most pervasive forms of environmental pollution there is. A growing body of scientific research suggests that light pollution is having a lasting adverse effect on both human and wildlife health.

Who exactly is ALAN?

Artificial Light At Night (ALAN), impacts on all levels of biodiversity from genes and cells to individuals and populations, communities, ecosystems and landscapes and comes in many forms.



Sky glow - is the bright halo that appears over urban areas at night, you can often see this as you look

towards Dorking from Westcott when you're out in the evening. It is produced by light being scattered by water, dust and gas molecules in the atmosphere.

Light trespass - is where unwanted artificial light from say, a street light, spills into an adjacent property or land which would otherwise have been dark. Think Denbies – if you've ever witnessed this building at night!

Glare - is produced by horizontal lighting such as vehicle lights.

Over-illumination - is where the use of light goes beyond what is required of the lighting, ie, leaving office lights on in a building which is empty.

Why should we care?

Numerous studies have shown the negative impacts of light pollution on our human health. ALAN interferes with our circadian rhythms, and this has been linked to several medical disorders including, insomnia, depression, cancer and cardiovascular disease. 10-15% of our genes are controlled by circadian rhythms, which means that disruption to these cycles will have a negative impact on our health.

ALAN is known to affect the very processes of life, from tiny enzymes

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right up to entire largescale ecosystems. When circadian rhythms get disrupted, they cause the dysregulation of many natural processes such as sleep, feeding patterns and hormone production, which in turn affects the overall health of human and wildlife populations. With new houses popping up all over the place on brownfield and now even greenbelt land, this trend is eating away at those precious 'dark' areas which before, had little light pollution.



We are lucky to live in the Surrey Hills and have an abundance of wildlife on our doorsteps. However, the insects, birds and mammals that we perhaps take for granted are being negatively impacted right under our noses by ALAN.

What is the impact on nature more widely?

Over millions of years, mammals, birds

and insects have evolved to use light cues to determine their behaviour, behaviours such as reproduction, foraging and navigation. Unfortunately, ALAN disrupts these natural behaviours often with dire consequences. We are all familiar with insects madly flying around lights, but this attraction is not natural and can have fatal consequences for those insects drawn in by the light. It can cause exhaustion, increased predation and an inability to navigate – meaning that a whopping third of all insects attracted to artificial lights die prematurely.

In recent years, an increase in security measures on many people's houses has meant that we now often have more lights shining on or around our homes, creating even more localised light pollution.

Reproduction and Breeding

Numerous species rely on natural light/dark cycles to regulate their mating behaviours. Courtship displays, finding mates, and territorial marking, are all activities which take place in response to light cues. ALAN has been shown to disrupt these natural behaviours, resulting in lower reproduction rates among certain species.

In the UK alone, studies have shown



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

that caterpillar populations have declined by 52% in areas with street lighting. Glow worm populations are significantly reduced in artificially lit areas, and dung beetles, who use the moon and stars to navigate, have been found to become disorientated under light polluted skies. The situation is now so serious that ALAN is reducing the nocturnal pollinator visits to flowers, by 62% in some areas.

But it's not just insects who are being affected. Data from a study into the effects of ALAN on blackbirds, found that even low intensities of ALAN, can dramatically negatively affect their reproductive systems.

Trees

Although the data on the impact of



ALAN on birds and mammals is limited, the data on the impact on flora is even more sparse. But one study I did find indicated that, on streets with street lighting, ALAN was impacting leaf growth on trees and shrubs. This study showed that the leaves of certain species developed up to 20 days earlier in the spring than those in the control conditions. This undoubtedly will have implications for the wildlife that depend on the trees for their natural habitat and food.

You see nothing we do in this world is without consequences, each action will and does have an impact. Our skies are so light polluted now, that all life on our planet is being impacted even in the oceans.

If we want to keep our balance on this planet, we need to find ways to live in harmony with nature, respecting it's 'laws' and instead of imposing ourselves onto it, perhaps finding nature's rhythms and beating our drum in tune with hers.

Nancy Lund

green WESTCOTT 

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