# Westcott Village Magazine February 2024



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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:

### ${\bf editor@west cottmag.com}$

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

Copy deadline for March issue:

8th February 2024

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



Hello all and welcome to February! I find it hard to believe we have already finished one month of the year, it doesn't seem 5 minutes ago

we were preparing for Christmas! It's no wonder I'm confused, some of my garden thinks it's the middle of spring already, while the rest of it is still sound asleep for the winter, but I suppose it will all even itself out eventually.

This month the coffee morning is back in the village hall on 7th February, so pop along and have some coffee and cake, and swap a book or jigsaw to give you something to do when it's wet and windy!

Surrey Hills All Saints School is celebrating 170 years of opening this year, and the children had a Victorian Day last month, with dressing up and various workshops, it sounds like a lot of fun was had by all. More details and photos can be found on pages 36-37.

This year is a leap year, with an extra day at the end of February (could do with a few more of those throughout the year!) so I would like to wish a very happy birthday to those whose birthday falls on 29th. I've met a couple of people recently who claimed they 'were nearly born

on 29th', or 'could have been born on 29th' but not anyone who was actually born on 29th. I've been wondering how many people in the village do have a birthday on leap day, and do you normally celebrate before or after? Let me know if that's you.

All the best for what can be a cold and wet month so make the most of any sunshine we happen to get, and I'll see you in March when spring really will have sprung!

Cath editor@westcottmag.com



### ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

"IF YOU WANT TO

UNDERSTAND OUR

CUITURE AND OUTLOOK

THEN GETTING TO

GRIPS WITH THE BIBLE'S

WFIRD AND WONDERFUL

CONTENT IS NOT A BAD

PLACE TO START."





#### WHY READ OLD BOOKS?

I've just finished reading a book by the Roman historian Suetonius (a pretentious way to begin an article I know – but stay with me – I'm going somewhere with this). Writing in the early part of the 2nd Century, his rather gossipy account of the lives

of the first twelves Caesars of the Roman Empire makes for rather gripping, if often grim, reading. Blood, sex scandals. auts, plots, coups, murdermysteries, geopolitical complexities all it is there. left me with two distinct impressions.

First, I am grateful to be alive in a place and time where (however imperfectly implemented) there is general agreement that all human lives matter and have inherent

value. Secondly, Suetonius' work is full of stories and phrases that I already half knew and didn't appreciate the context that they came from.



I feel I have an ever so slightly richer understanding of my own world, values and outlook having read it. C.S. Lewis, the Oxford Don and author of the Narnia books, once made the case for why we should

> read old books: 'Every age has its own outlook. It is specially good at seeing certain truths and specially liable make to mistakes. certain therefore. We all. need the books that will correct the characteristic mistakes of our own period.

And that means the old books.' The 'old book' that has impacted our culture more than any other, and indeed is probably most misunderstood today, is the Bible. It is actually a seemingly erratic collection of 66 'books' which contain a mix of Hebrew poetry, historical narrative, letters, prophecies, songs, and four compellina proverbs, and strange eyewitness accounts of the life of a Jewish carpenter named Yeshua (although we tend to use his Anglicised name, Jesus).

### ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

If you want to understand our culture and outlook then getting to grips with the Bible's weird and wonderful content is not a bad place to start. I happen to think it is far more than just an old book - it is the key to understanding who we are as human beings - but even if vou don't believe that, there is much to be gained by exploring more. If you like reading, then the finding the Gospel of Mark - one of the four accounts of Jesus' life makes for a short, fascinating, and gripping read. You may have an old Bible lying around home - if not come and grab a free copy of Mark's Gospel from Church it is interesting bedtime reading. If books aren't for you, then there is a brilliantly done TV series on the life of Jesus called 'The Chosen' currently available to stream online - why not give it a go as your next potential boxset to binge watch.



Or if you want space to explore the Bible with others, we are going to be flying through the big story of the Bible as a church community this Lent beginning on Sunday 18th February. Come and join us at the 8.30 or 10.15 service each Sunday – all are welcome and no prior knowledge needed! It may just prove to be even more interesting than reading Suetonius...

- Revd Tim Armstrong



### FEBRUARY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



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

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM
4th Feb	All Age Worship - Be Free (Dedication of Eliya Auton)	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
11th Feb	Walk by the Spirit	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
18th Feb	Lent 1: God's Covenant with us	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
25th Feb	Lent 2: God's Covenant with us	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion



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### 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@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk









### **FLOODLIGHTING**

Many thanks to Westcott Village Association for sponsoring the church floodlighting for February.

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



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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS 🔌



The WVA has recently funded upgrades to both the AED Emergency Defibrillators we are lucky enough to have in Westcott. One is located on the outside of the Nisa village shop and the other is in the old telephone box in The Burrell. The machines are used to restart the heart of someone who has experienced a cardiac arrest. If you need to dial 999 the call handler will give you a code to unlock the box and the AED's voice prompts will talk you through how to use it while wait ing for the ambulance to arrive. This life-saving equipment is just one of the ways WVA's funds are used to support Westcott.

Our thanks to Richard Packer and his small team of volunteers who look after the AEDs to ensure they are available when needed.



е q congratulations to Tim Way who has been recognised in the New Year Honours and awarded a BEM Medalist

of the British Empire, for Services to the Community of Westcott. Over a period of more than 30 years Tim has been actively involved in our community including several years as Chair of the Westcott Village Association as well as roles within the both the Church and our lovely village school. Congratulations to Tim on this well deserved honour.

We are lucky to live in such a beautiful area and we all have a responsibility eniov the to



natural landscape with care and consideration. Unfortunately, the woods to the east of the Church between Westcott Heath and Heath Rise, have been severely damaged by mountain bike activity including the illegal building of jumps and tracks.

These are causing significant damage to the trees and ecological balance of the woods and the Wotton Estate. who own the woodland, will shortly be arranging for their demolition and removal. Signage will also be installed as a future deterrent. Please remind those who like to enjoy the outdoors that they must do so responsibly to protect the area for future generations to come.

The next WVA Open Meeting is currently scheduled for 7.30pm on Thursday 21st March at St Johns. These informal events are a great way to catch up on village news and share views with friends and neighbours.









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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)



Please do put the date in your diary and look out for further details nearer the time

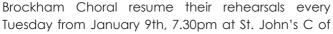


A reminder that the WVA is also looking for a new Treasurer as

after five years as part of the team, Edwin Harland, has signaled his intention to stand down as Treasurer at the AGM in June this year. Ideally, we would like someone to come forward in the next couple of months so they can shadow Edwin through the year-end report and accounts process which isn't onerous but obviously requires great diligence. If one of your New Year's resolutions was to do something new or give back to your community this could be the perfect opportunity. Do get in touch via contact@westcottvillage. com if you would like to find out more.

WVA Committee contact@westcottvillage.com

#### **Brockham Choral**





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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!

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Mid Surrey Community Fridge relies upon these donations (£2.50 is suggested)

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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



The trustees' professional advisers have submitted a pre-application document with a covering letter requesting pre-application advice from Mole Valley District Council Planning Department. Our advisers set out in some detail the limitations and opportunities offered by both the Hut and the current Village Hall sites, setting out ideas for site layout, general design, car parking and highlighting community engagement and preferences expressed during the recent public consultation exercise. This is a process that gives both applicant and planners an opportunity to raise any major concerns and to resolve them before the final planning application is submitted.

The trustees should hopefully be in the position to update residents on the outcome of the pre-application process within the next two months and then expect to submit an actual planning application later on this spring. This application will primarily be focussed on access, site layout, building scale and massing and materials and will not yet include the developed internal design. Mindful of spending trustee funds wisely, the developed and technical design stages will follow receipt of planning permission when secured.

Sally Hewetson Interim Chair



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### ABINGER NURSERY



There was a flurry of snow and we all rushed to peer out the big nursery windows BUT by the time we had all (and there are a few of us) suited and booted would you believe that the flurry had gone? The promise of snow is an exciting but sometimes impossibly short lived dream. Who knows by the time this is published it could be a different story,

Staying cosy inside isn't a problem though - not when there is a beautiful beanstalk climbing the stair banister and a castle to clamber in and out of. We were treated to the story of Jack and the Beanstalk – all mesmerised as we travelled throughout the nursery as Jack -first with our cow in tow and

then with our magic glow in the dark beans in our pockets.



Whilst digging in the garden making sure our trucks were fully fed we came across a familiar wriggly individual wanting to join in the fun! And then another! Big juicy worms! They just loved to wriggle across the palms of our (already) muddy hands.

On the streets of Paris is where we found ourselves one Thursday – choosing from an array of all things delicious in our French Café. We can now order all the essentials of a petit dejeuner and eat them up too!

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!

**Kate Fairbrass** 



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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 7th February at The Village Hall



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The otherworldly view from the Coach Road to Landbarn Farm by Gill Todd









### DORKING AND DISTRICT RSPB



#### **Great Spotted Woodpeckers**



Early spring is a great time to look for birds – they are starting to sing making them easier

to locate, and before the trees come into leaf they are easier to see than in high summer. Although perhaps not what a human would call song, the distinctive drumming of a male woodpecker against a tree in short sharp bursts in spring defends territory and aims to attract a mate.



Great spotted woodpeckers are black-andwhite birds with red underneath. Adult males have red patch the hind on crown (left), the female's crown is plain black (1st

photo above) while the youngsters' heads are mostly red.

The powerful bill is fitted on a skull reinforced to absorb the shock of striking wood and complemented by strong neck muscles. This enables the drumming, the excavation of the nest hole in a tree trunk, the cracking open of

tough seeds and also, aided by a long, bristly tongue, allows it to chip away wood to feed on hidden invertebrates. In the garden, a peanut feeder is an especial favourite. In late summer, the adults can be seen teaching the young how to cope with this alien bounty. The brood of between four and six young leave the nest about three weeks after hatching, at which point each parent takes complete responsibility for half the youngsters.

The woodpecker has short legs with strong claws on the toes, of which two point forwards and two backwards (zygodactyl) which facilitate moving up the tree trunk by two-footed hops. Their stiffened tails act as a pivot and extra support. These also work well on garden bird feeders, where the woodpecker is often the most dominant species. Images here are courtesy of Rob Carr, RSPB Dorking & District local group.

RSPB Dorking and District Local Group includes the areas of Dorking, Leatherhead, Bookham, Epsom and Ewell. We offer regular walks, both at weekends and midweek 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 @ "RSPB Dorking and District" or our website https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/groups/dorkinganddistrict/

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### WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP



#### Westcott School from 1854 until now

In the years before 1854 schooling in Westcott was confined to a few 'cottage' schools run by enlightened individuals who had a good education themselves These included Ruffell's School at the Old Barracks in Westcott Street and Milton Street School (at House numbers 4 and 5) which was most likely supported by the Barclay family for the families who lived and worked on the Bury Hill Estate. There were other small 'house schools' where the payment was 6 pence and 3 pence weekly.

The Westcott Holy Trinity Church had been built and opened in 1852 and the Reverend Henry Seymour, the new

Vicar of Westcott, initiated planning for a Village School with the support of Richard Fuller of The Rookery Estate and a group of benefactors. An application was made to the National Society to open a school for 80 boys and 80 girls and 50 infants. It was to include accommodation for the Head Master and Head Mistress. The site for the proposed school was on a piece of land provided by Richard Fuller, Robert Barclay and William John Evelyn, the Lord of the Manor. A committee of senior citizens was formed to raise the funds for building the school. After the school was opened it was managed by a committee including Rev. Henry Seymour as Chairman and R.Barclay, Esa as Hon Treasurer.





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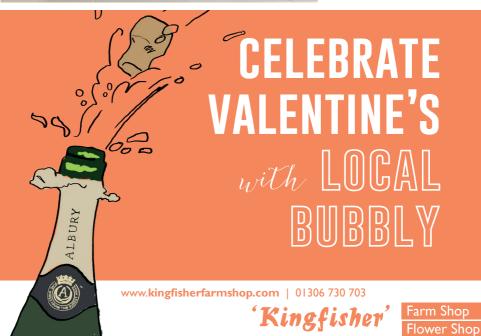
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# WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



The annual Government Grant was some £187 and the total income was £508 to cover Teachers' Salaries, Books and Stationary, and Maintenance of the school buildings. This was largely made up by private contributions to the school from people in the village. There were 88 boys, 79 girls and 155 infants with the Headmaster and 2 Mistresses running the main school and a Head Mistress and 3 assistants for the Infant School. Each child had their own 'slate'.

Let us not forget that Britain was at war in the Crimea during this period, and in 1854, the famous battles of the Alma, Balaclava and Inkerman and the Siege of Sevastopol took place.

Further improvements were made in 1899 when mains water was installed which made it no longer necessary to draw water from the well in the playground. In 1912 the headmaster elected to live in his own house Dorking and the school took on its more recent appearance. The rooms on the ground floor became available as school rooms and a single-story extension provided 2 more rooms and a school hall.

After WWII with smaller numbers of pupils and some new schools in Dorking the numbers of pupils at Westcott declined despite raising the school leaving age to 15 in 1944. As a result Westcott was given Primary School

status to provide education only up to age 11 in 1949. More changes to the



educational organisation have taken place since then.

The wealthier local residents often provided the school children with contributions such as Sir George Touche with a box of chocolates for each child at Christmas: Mrs Woolly sent a large Suet pudding with treacle on Tuesdays and a large Rice pudding on Thursdays in bad weather. Mrs Rate of Milton Court provided tooth brushes for poorer children. Many children turned up with shoes and boots in deplorable condition and the Vicar very kindly supplied 35 new pairs. Every opportunity was taken to celebrate a national event for the children's benefit. On 23rd January 1901 when the news came that Queen Victoria had died, the Headmaster gave an summary of her glorious reign.

#### **Headmasters of the School**

Mr Humphrey 1854 – 59 Mr Coxhead 1860 – 65

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# WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



Mr Brown 1866 – 67 Mr Prescott 1888 – 94 (Infants combined with main school in 1899)

 Mr Johnson
 1895 – 1909

 Mr Gore
 1910 – 25

 Mr Williams
 1926 – 32

 Mr Earl
 1933 – 57

Miss B.I.Hutchinson Summer'57 – Easter'58

Mr Dittert 1958-72

(Reorganised as a First School in 1972)

 Mr Barter
 1973 – 79

 Mrs Illsley
 1980 – 96

 Miss Happé
 1997 – 2004

 Mrs Weaver
 2004-2013

 Mrs Ratcliffe
 2013-2021

 Mr Coles
 2021-2023

 Mrs Fyson
 2023 - present

#### **Assistant Teachers of Note**

Miss Greathurst 1879 – 1925 45 years Miss Johnson 25 years as scholar, pupil teacher and assistant

Miss Venis 1908 – 1945 37 years
Miss Gore 1925 – 1949 24 years
Mr Roberts 1914 – 1923 (interned
as a POW in Germany during WWI)
Miss Beasley 1947 -1976 29 years



The school's 150th Anniversary was celebrated on the weekend of 16th/17th October 2004 when Terry Wooden, the Chairman, and members of the WLHG committee invited over 100 former pupils back to the school for a 'Westcott United Weekend'. A great many people returned to see their old school and they were entertained in the school and to dinner in the Reading Room. Terry Wooden and the WLHG produced a book entitled The History of Westcott School 1854 - 2004 which provides many photographs and recollections of school life over the years.

The Head Master has been required to keep a School log book since July 1863 to record school matters such as official visits and significant events in school life. Much of this has been extracted by the WLHG and is accessible on the WLHG archives.

The next WLHG event will be a Talk by Rachel Oxberry about the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance Service on Tuesday 12th March at our usual venue in St Johns Church Hall at 8pm. The WLHG committee welcomes suggestions for talks and speakers and can be contacted at westcottlocalhistory@amail.com

Local information is available on our website - www.westcottlocalhistory.org.

**Roger Christian** 





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### MUSIC IN DORKING



4th at 3.00, Piatti string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

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

10th at 5.00, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Nicolas's church, Bookham, £15

16th at 7.30, Royal Marines band at Dorking Halls, £23.50, 01306 881717

18th at 3.00, Carducci string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

20th - 24th at 7.45, Grease the musical at Dorking Halls, £20-24, 01306 881717

24th at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at St George's church, Ashtead, £16

The Dorking Concertgoers present the first two concerts of a three-concert string quartet series. In the first, the Piatti string quartet will play quartets by Mendelssohn and *Dvorak*, plus a quartet by the rarely-heard Irish composer Ina Boyle. In the second concert the Carducci quartet will play an early Haydn quartet, a middle-period work by Beethoven, and Ravel's ravishingly beautiful quartet. Please note that both these concerts take place in the afternoon. The third concert in the series will follow in March.

The Dorking Chamber Orchestra, performing in Bookham, will play symphonies by Haydn and Mozart, along with Respighi's Ancient airs and dances. The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashtead, opens its programme with Mendelssohn's Hebrides overture, follows it with Mozart's lovely clarinet concerto (soloist James Gilbert), and finishes with Haydn's last symphony, his London symphony.

The band of His Majesty's Royal Marines comes to Dorking Halls. These talented and versatile musicians will present a varied evening of music including solos, marches, overtures and film music.

The Dorking Dramatic and Operatic Society presents a production of Grease, the musical – a story of teenage romance and with a score containing several well-known numbers. It runs over a period of five days, and there will also be a matinee performance on Saturday 24th.

In a screening at the Dorking Halls, Massenet's ballet Manon can be seen in a live relay from the Royal Ballet in London.

Ian Codd

# Save the date!



Sunday 23 June 2024



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### WESTCOTT GARAGE UPDATE



#### Nick Fletcher, owner of Westcott Garage Ltd.

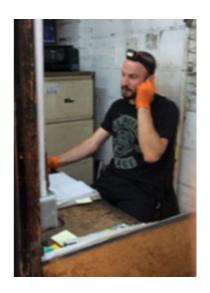


After 19 years running the garage, Nick has decided to semi-retire, and has sold the business.

Nick started his working life in aircraft electronics with Racal. The next phase of his working life was restoring vintage cars. After he acquired the Westcott Garage he continued to restore vintage vehicles while also servicing modern cars. Now in semiretirement, he will continue to be involved with vintage cars, and will also have more time for his other hobbies, including motor cycling.

Nick wishes to thank all his customers for their loyal support over nearly 20 years.

The new owner of Westcott Garage is Michael High. After school, Michael served an apprenticeship sponsored by Nissan. He later worked for a BMW garage and more recently was an AA patrol man. Michael always wanted to have his own business, and heard about the opportunity to acquire the Westcott Garage through a mutual friend. He is really looking forward to working with us in the village.



**Gordon Williams** 

### SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL



It has been so inspiring to see your children flourish and enjoy their learning, showing such enthusiasm for every aspect whether it be sports tournaments or Doodle maths! The spiritual feeling and warm community togetherness makes Surrey Hills so special to us all.

#### Year 3 Hedgehogs creating cushions!





Ir

DT Hedgehogs have been very busy making cushions! They first drew out their designs and practised the different types of stitching (running stitch and cross stitch). After 5 hours of hard work, they had all finished their cushions. They should all be incredibly proud of their determination with threading needles and making their cushions look like their designs!





#### Year 5 Owls and Otters DT

Year 5 pupils have designed, cut out and sewn waistcoats this half term in their Design and Technology lessons.





Some pupils decided to design their waistcoats for themselves, whereas others made one as a present for a family member. Several children adapted the pattern to make a small one for a teddy! Each waistcoat was completely original as pupils were

able to decide what motif to add to the waistcoat and whether they wanted to include buttons or pockets.



### Years 5 and 6 Greek WOW day

Otters and Owls had a fabulous day celebrating their work in the half term unit What did the Greeks ever do for us?.

We had the most amazing display of Greek costumes and the children each made a Greek pot. They also



## SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



learnt to write their name in Greek and in the afternoon, had a wonderful Greek feast! Thank you to all parents and carers for their generous and delicious contributions - we had a brilliant day!





### Year 6 Visiting Artist Louise Scillitoe-Brown

The Year 6s have also been working hard over the past three weeks creating 3D pieces inspired by the Parthenon Marbles. We were so lucky to have the expertise of Mrs. S-B to guide us in creating masks, armour, clothing and jewellery inspired by the period using a range of materials and media.





The children surprised themselves with their results:

I love working in 3D, I knew exactly what I wanted to make, but am surprised it has come out just like I wanted it to! Aidan I





I've never sewn a button before, now I can take my jewellery on and off easily! Pei

I didn't realise that the marbles started off really brightly coloured when they were first painted and then faded over time! I love how bright mine has turned out! Odett



### Movie night

We have been busy raising funds for the new trim trail for the field. We held movie nights over a two-week period and raised over £350. The children had a wonderful time, chilling out with their friends and eating sweets.

## SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



#### Victorian Day Tuesday 9th January 2024

On 9th January Surrey Hills All Saints School celebrated the school turning 170 years old with a Victorian Day. The children arrived dressed in a variety of Victorian costumes and were very excited for the day ahead. There were numerous chimney-sweeps with sooty faces and brushes, poor children dressed in rags and more wealthy pupils wearing beautiful sailor suits and pretty long dresses. Teachers had also dressed for the day, borrowing aprons, mob caps and shawls.

The day began with a short assembly in the hall which gave everyone the opportunity to show their outfits to the other classes and learn a little bit more about the day. Then everyone assembled in the playground to take a whole school photograph. Children learnt that photography had only just been invented when the school first opened and that they should not smile and sit very still as this was necessary in Victorian days to get an unblurred photograph.



After this, children filed off into their separate classes for a day of Victorian schooling. Children experienced Victorian style teaching such as sitting at desks in rows, the use of chalk boards instead of interactive whiteboards and strict teachers who used surnames instead of first names. The only thing pupils didn't experience was the type of punishment given to misbehaving pupils in past times. Children were able to look at a genuine school punishment book however; written one hundred years ago; which detailed some of the punishments given, such as when the headteacher smacked a child on the hand for throwing a carrot! Other activities over the day included diary writing and learning about old money, which was very complicated. Children also looked at old maps, and

#### SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)





Dressing up in washday costumes



Using an old camera

Handwriting practice with slate and chalk



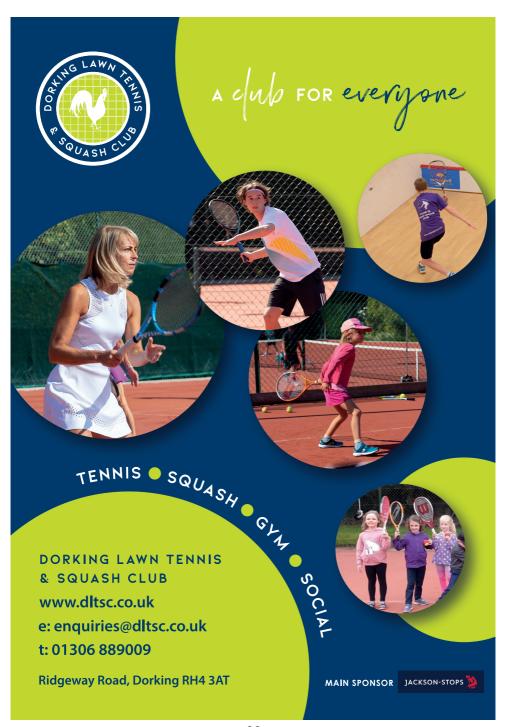
Workhouse jobs: Unravelling rope and crushing rocks



photographs of past pupils in classrooms in their school and other artefacts such as irons and the old school bell.

The highlight of the day however was the workshops delivered by Horsham Museum. The youngest children learnt about Victorian clothing and how they were washed in big cast iron tubs. The children in Lower Key Stage Two learnt more about Victorian schooling and the older children found out about some horrible jobs that children and adults had to do as well as finding out about workhouses and trying some workhouse jobs such as crushing stones! We are all very grateful to Westcott History Society for paying for these workshops and we are looking forward to working with them in the future.

Jacky Fyson Executive Head



# FEBRUARY WORDSEARCH



W	V	I	0	L	Е	T	Н	Α	F	N	Α
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Т	Α	F	Е	В	R	U	Α	R	Υ	Q	T
Е	М	U	Υ	С	0	Е	Z	I	D	S	I
R	Е	G	F	Р	V	S	R	М	S	Е	Υ
В	L	R	Υ	L	Е	D	S	R	T	K	S
J	D	Ι	Р	F	J	Α	Е	0	G	Α	T
S	Z	Е	Α	W	Α	Υ	F	S	Υ	O	Ш
V	Α		Е	Ν	Т		Z	Ш	0	Z	Z
D	С	Q	L	Χ	Ι	Μ	K	T	В	Α	J
Р	0	R	D	W	0	N	S	V	N	Р	С

All the words in this wordsearch are to do with February, so grab a pen and exercise those little grey cells!

February	Pancakes	Violet
Leap	Valentine	Snowdrop
Year	Candlemas	Amethyst
Shrove	Winter	Snow
Tuesday	Primrose	



# The Perfect Venue for any event

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- 1 x meeting room (8 pax)
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- 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







#### Did you know...?

There are two public access defibrillators (AEDs), provided by the Westcott Village Association, in Westcott – one in the old telephone box in the Burrell and one outside the Nisa shop.

#### Why do we need them?

AEDs are used to attempt to restart the heart of someone who has experienced a cardiac arrest (which means their heart has stopped beating normally).

#### How do I know if someone is in cardiac arrest?

If someone is unconscious (not awake) and not breathing normally, assume they are in cardiac arrest. Call 999 immediately and ask for Ambulance.

#### What do I do next?

The call handler will talk you through what to do. It will be something like this:

- Start CPR (chest compressions, ideally with rescue breaths) and don't stop until the ambulance crew take over or the AED tells you to stop.
- Send a helper to collect the nearest AED. The AED cabinets are locked. The call handler will tell you the access code. If on your own, DO NOT STOP CPR!
- Ask your helper to stick the pads on the casualty's bare chest (there are pictures on the pads to show you where to put them) and then listen to the AED's voice prompts.
   Do whatever it tells you to do.

#### Who can use an AED?

Anyone. You do not need training. They are designed to be used by members of the public. You cannot hurt a casualty by using an AED.

#### Where can I get more information?

We have run some free Emergency First Aid courses in Westcott. Keep your eyes peeled for the next one. In the meantime, St John Ambulance have some "how to" guides online at <a href="https://bit.ly/SJA-CPR">bit.ly/SJA-CPR</a> and <a href="https://bit.ly/SJA-AED">bit.ly/SJA-AED</a> (links are case-sensitive).







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#### DORKING MUSEUM



Although the main Museum exhibition area was closed for much of 2023. it was still an eventful year for the including volunteer team, the unveiling of two new blue plagues in the town and a wide range of outside activities (walks, tours, talks and other events). It also allowed an opportunity to strengthen links with other bodies in the community, including working closely with Dorking Library. We have made changes and additions to the Museum's displays and external space - if you have not visited recently (or at all) please do come and have a look.



during the First World War, when many of its members served in India and the Middle East. The exhibition includes two historic uniform jackets presented to the Museum by the Surrey Yeomanry Trust.

# A Call to Arms: The History of the Surrey Yeomanry:



The Museum's current temporary exhibition follows the history of the Surrey Yeomanry from its original formation as a voluntary unit in 1794 during the war against Revolutionary France. Having been disbanded at least twice during the early 19th century, it was revived in 1900 at the time of the Boer War, being commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Cubitt. It was based in Dorking

#### **Great Game!**



The centrepiece of the February half-term family activity will be the return to Dorking of Shrove Tuesday Football – as a blow football game for all to try. This is based on the famous Shrove Tuesday Football match that was played on the High Street until it was banned over a century ago! Other historical games to try include bagatelle, shove

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#### DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



halfpenny and some surprises from the museum collections. Families can also help create a bowling alley out of recycled drinks bottles. With generous support from the Arts Society, Dorking & Dorking Library. his takes place at Dorking Library on Tuesday 13th February, 10am-2pm. The Shrove Tuesday Football blow football game will then be available to play in the Museum on Thursday to Saturday of that week (15th-17th February).

#### Family Activities at Dorking Library: The Museum is also continuing monthly free family activities in conjunction with Dorking Library. For Chinese New



Year, we will be at the Library on Wednesday 14th February, 2pm-4pm, when children are invited to make a concerting

dragon for the Year of the Dragon. Aimed at 4–11-year-olds, materials are provided free – with grateful thanks to the Arts Society, Dorking – and children must be accompanied.

**Enhance the Museum experience:**Dorking Museum now has a presence on Bloomberg Connects, the app for museums worldwide, which enhances the visitor experience by using video,

# Bloomberg Connects

audio and text to tell the history behind the objects and paintings. Search for Bloomberg Connects in the app store or scan the QR code at the Museum.

Get involved: The Museum is run entirely by volunteers but is still looking for new recruits who can spare a few hours a month to contribute to this important community resource. This could be at the front desk or in a varied range of other specialist roles with flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home. Current vacancies include a digital communications manager assistant(s) for website maintenance, e-communication, social media and ticketing, assistance with ad hoc school and youth visits, a shop manager and a curator of artefacts. dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/ volunteer-opportunities for further details and an application form.

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

www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk.









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### FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS



We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves, Abhiram Magesh, Chris Budleigh and I (Leah Mursaleen-Plank), are your local Councillors for the new Mickleham, Westcott and Okewood area within Mole Valley District Council, that Westcott is now part of.

Abhi is currently a law student who has lived in Westcott for 8 years. He is passionate about affordable housing that meets the needs of the local community and enjoys jazz and reading in his spare time.

Chris is a chartered accountant and has lived in Westhumble for 30 years. He is an active walker and cyclist, with a particular interest in protecting Mole Valley's natural environment.

I live close to Westcott on Ranmore Road with my husband and daughter. For 10 years I have worked in the charity sector, currently as Head of Clinical Research at Alzheimer's Research UK, collaborating with patients, industry, the NHS, academia, funders and regulatory agencies to move Parkinson's and Dementia research forward. I strongly believe everyone should have access to quality services locally.

We have been your local Councillors since May 2023 and in that time have been working hard to support residents in Mickleham, Westcott and Okewood. For example, in Westcott we were delighted to support the funding that was then awarded by the District Council to develop a Forest School programme in Westcott, through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Fund. This is a fund that is generated from a levy paid by developers when new properties are built to support local infrastructure projects.

We have also been working closely with your Surrey County Councillor, Hazel Watson, in a number of areas including supporting a bid for real-time bus information at bus stops in Dorking town centre, meaning that residents in Westcott would be able to plan their journeys home from town. We have reinstated the sign for the 20 minute parking bay outside the shops and replaced the road signs between Westcott and Dorking that were vandalised a year ago, and replaced the posts on the island at the junction

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cupboards on rainy days,
reading by the fire

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#### FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (cont.)

of Logmore Lane / Westcott Heath.

We are here to represent you at Mole Valley District Council so if you have any issues or queries that you think we might be able to help with, please do contact us using the details below:

Leah - Councillor.Mursaleen-Plank@molevalley.gov.uk

Abhi - Councillor.Magesh@molevalley.gov.uk

Chris - Councillor.Budleigh@molevalley.gov.uk

Leah, Abhi, and Chris



The tranquil and meditative artwork of Johannes Vermeer is loved around the world, but to what extent was his technique due to his use of the camera obscura? Art historian and TV and radio journalist Rupert Dickens tackles this controversy head-on looking at Vermeer's beguiling work afresh through a different lens.

The talk will take place in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls with coffee available from 9.30 am.

# Tuesday 13th February 10.30am



Visitors are welcome for a fee of £7.50 but please contact Sue Box on 01737 223932 or sue.bax@btinternet.com to book as seating is limited. The society meets on the second Tuesday of the month and welcomes new members. For more information and details of the forthcoming programme, please visit www.theartssocietydorking.org.uk



#### **QRMW**



February is upon and I am delighted to say that the woodland is well and truly springing into life. The spring bulbs are well up with buds on many of them and the birds are immensely busy and quite vocal throughout the woodland. I have even seen a couple of the bird boxes being prepared to make a home for this year's family!

We have a very exciting year ahead of us as it will be our 10th Anniversary since the Memorial Woodland was officially opened on 1st June 2014. We will be holding a big celebration at the woodland this year precisely 10 years on to which everyone is invited. So do put Saturday 1st June in your diaries.

Before that though we have our extremely popular Easter Egg Hunt and family fun day at the woodland which will taken place on Sunday 24th March from 12.30. The Easter Egg Hunt is going to be great fun this year, we have a new supporter who is organizing it and



I know the children will love it. The children do need to be registered so please

contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo. co.uk and advise her of the names of the children to register. The cost is £8 per child for which they all get a goody bag at the end of the Easter Egg Hunt. Apart from that there are Egg and

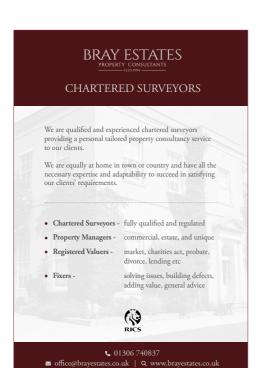


Spoon races for all! We have games for the children, an Easter Raffle, an Easter Egg stall (so come and buy your eggs cheaply from us and help us to help our Veterans). There will also be a BBQ with hot dogs and Burgers and other stalls to enjoy. Do bring cash with you because bank cards do not work in the woodland.

Just a thought if anyone would like to donate an Easter Egg for the raffle or some smaller ones for the Easter Egg Stall all donations would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds from this event go towards assisting those Veterans who are in difficulty. We are all volunteers and take nothing from the Charity.

I really look forward to seeing you at both of the above events but of course you are always welcome to visit the woodland at anytime, it is open 24/7. If I am there then the Visitors Centre is open and the kettle is on but if I can't be there on the day you visit you can park at the front and enter through the side gate.

Paul Cooling Chairman, QRMW Registered Charity No 1174651







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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:

• Ashtead Pottery After WW1: Live talk by Anne Anderson on the pottery set up after WW1 to provide employment for disabled ex-service officers and their dependents. Monday 5th February at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.



• **Dunsfold Airfield in WW2:** Zoom talk by military historian Paul McCue on the airfield built by the Canadian Army and used by allied air forces and the Dutch Resistance in WW2. Monday 19th February https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/.

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

#### **Westcott Baby/Volunteer Meals**

No new additions in January, but if you know anyone expecting a baby or in need otherwise of meals, please encourage them to get in touch.





We are very proud of our long-running 'baby meals' service and only too pleased to be asked to help.

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#### GREEN WESTCOTT



# Eco anxiety – what is it and should we care?

Any of you who have read many of the articles we at Green Westcott have written over the years, will know that we care about the planet and our impact on it. But talking about it and raising the issues we face, can have an impact on people's mental health. Children are particularly vulnerable to this and can suffer from eco anxiety.

#### What is Eco Anxiety?



Eco anxiety is the overwhelming feeling of sadness and grief when confronted by the state of the planet and the reality of where it's headed if nothing changes. Does this sound familiar? You may have suffered from it yourself or have heard your children or grandchildren expressing their own worries about the world they'll be left when we're gone.

A recent survey by Save the Children revealed a worrying snapshot of children's perceptions of the world. It states that 70 % of children in the UK

are worried about the world they will inherit. 75% of those children surveyed want the government to take stronger action, not only on the climate crisis but also the inequality crisis. The two are intrinsically linked and the more the world deteriorates with global warming the bigger those inequalities will become.

Save the Children previously warned that today's children are set to face seven times more heatwaves during their lives than their grandparents did and many in the UK have experienced record-breaking temperatures in recent years, attesting to the facts of the climate crisis.

#### Don't they just need to 'get a grip'?

Those of the older generation, may wonder about the mental health of the young and conclude that many are 'soft' and need to 'get a grip'. Indeed, I met a someone in the village who contended that there was "no such thing as mental health" and that "during the war, we just got on with it". Unfortunately, the research shows that far from being no such thing, mental health issues were rife during the war, with many suffering in silence and returning from war with PTSD, depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation, to say nothing of the women who had to deal with their own mental health issues and those of returning soldiers.

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#### **GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)**





In fact, we can go back even further to Hippocrates (460-377 b.c.) to find early evidence of mental health disorders where Hippocrates identified depression which he described as melancholy. Later, Galen (130-200 b.c.) described 'pain and breathing difficulties' in women as hysteria and attributed this to a wondering womb! The Greek word for womb is hyster.

Thank goodness research has progressed somewhat and mental health difficulties are thankfully not attributed to wandering parts of the anatomy nor are they dismissed out of hand now but are increasingly being seen as a symptom of a system or environment, which is breaking down.

# What can we do when we feel overwhelmed?

So, what can we do when we are swept along by these enormous feelings which threaten to overwhelm us? How can we get some kind of perspective without denying the realities of what is happening to our

planet?

Often anxiety is brought on by sensing a lack of our own capacity to change anything. Structural problems can limit the possibilities of individuals to affect change. We can recycle, reuse and repurpose all we like, we can buy electric cars, stop using single use plastic, turn the heating down, yet all the while our governments continue to invest in the very drivers of climate change that they are admonishing us to get rid of! When there is inaction by the powers that be, we are left feeling that the survival of the planet rests solely on our shoulders.



If we think of governments as being parents and we, the people are the children, the lack of good responsible parenting has resulted in the children becoming overanxious about the state of our world. Meanwhile, the parents seem hell bent on ignoring the immediate dangers and are failing to keep their children safe. The result, understandably, is anxious and depressed children!



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## **GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)**



As children who are now grown, we can look back at our parents and recognise their failings and that we all have varying levels of agency and thus differentiated responsibilities. Engaging in action to work towards change, both at a structural level and in our local communities, can be a helpful way to channel eco-anxiety. This is best when done alongside others and with time embedded for emotional support too.

If you have been affected by any of the topics raised in this article please seek help from mental health charities. Dorking Minds or the Climate Psychology Alliance may be able to help you.

It can often be difficult to talk about

our worries for our planet and the future. We will be holding a Climate Café at St John's Community Hall on Tuesday 27th February 7.30-9pm, to offer a space to share concerns around the climate and nature crisis. All are welcome.



**Nancy Lund** 

#### Dorking Dhamma:

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to anyone interested in practicing meditation and learning a bit more about the Buddhist perspective on this. The drop in classes are open to any experience levels, from complete beginner to someone who has been practising for years. The group meets at a location in Dorking from 7.30 to 9.00 pm each Monday.

For more details call Paul on 07821158271 or visit the group website www.dorkingdhamma.com

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