# Westcott Village Magazine March 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 **April** issue:

8th March 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



It's a busy month in March this year, what with Mother's Day and an early Easter, the associated bank holidays and don't forget the clocks

go forward on Easter Sunday - I've a feeling it'll go quite fast!

We have lots to keep you occupied during the month, with plenty of musical events, a new U3A pickle ball session for the older members of our readership, and a Gardeners' Club talk on 18th March about honeybees, including tips on how



we can help these most important visitors to our gardens. It is open to all, so see page 36 for more details.

Westcott Sports Club are after a couple of new trustees to join the team, see below for contact details if you think you might be able to help. The next Village Association open meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st March at St Johns, so put that in your diary too.

As usual, the community fridge van will be at St Johns on a Tuesday afternoon, and the coffee morning this month is on Wednesday 6th March, with cakes, books and jigsaws, so get along there and catch up with a cup of coffee.

Cath editor@westcottmag.com

## **Westcott Sports Club Trustees Needed**

Westcott Sports Club, home to our village football and cricket teams, and a whole lot more fun, are looking for up to two new trustees to join the existing dynamic team.



There are only four meetings a year and clear roles and responsibilities. If you are interested please email for an application form to wsctrustees1@gmail.com

## ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT







going to step down from his role. At fans or the board after a poor run of

the time I write this, Liverpool are at the top of the table and playing some glorious football. He is loved by the fans and backed by the board. He explained his decision by saying that he was running out of energy - he knows that he cannot carry on giving everything at this level indefinitely and the time to take a step back is now.

ONE OF THE MESSAGES OF **FASTER IS LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS IS FOUND NOT** BY GAINING OR HOLDING ONTO POWER. BUT BY CHOOSING TO LAY IT DOWN FOR SOMETHING DEEPER. SOMETHING GREATER.

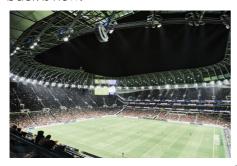


announcement caused almost universal surprise is because we are Even if you have no love for the so unused to people laying down beautiful game, you may well have roles at the height of their success picked up on the news back on without having a shinier and more January 26th that the manager of appealing prospect to go to. The Liverpool, Jürgen Klopp, made a normal trajectory of a football shock announcement that he was manager is to be driven out by the

> form, or there are the lucky few who get poached by a bigger and better club. But to choose to laydown your power. authority, position and influence because there are more important things in life than success? This seems a world away from life as we normally

observe it through the media perhaps most notably from certain world leaders and politicians who seem determined to gain and/or hold onto power at all costs.

What reaction would it garner if a world leader choose to step down at the height of their powers and popularity - to lay it all down for a areater cause?



## ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



One of onto power, but by crucifixion.'

choosing to lay it down for something (Philippians deeper, something greater. The Christian Translation) claim is – shockingly – that this is exactly what the creator of the cosmos did for We will all face the temptation at us. In a letter written almost 2000 years some point in our lives of holding onto ago to some of the first Christians at a power or position to feed our own place called Philippi, in modern day egos. What if there were another Greece, a chap called Paul made this way? A way in which we may find a very point:

thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much Wishing you all a very happy Easter of himself that he had to cling to the season, advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came.

the he set aside the privileges of deity and messages of Easter took on the status of a slave, became (and do join us on human! Having become human, he March 31st for our stayed human. It was an incredibly celebratory Easter humbling process. He didn't claim Service in Westcott) special privileges. Instead, he lived is life in all its fullness a selfless, obedient life and then is found not by died a selfless, obedient death—and gaining or holding the worst kind of death at that—a

> 2.5-8, The Message

life filled with meaning and purpose by choosing to let go of the very things 'Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus that the world defines as success.

**Rev Tim** 



## MARCH 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
3rd March	All Age Worship Lent 3: God's Covenant with us	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
10th March	Mothers' Day Lent 4: God's Covenant with us	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
17th March	Lent 5: God's Covenant with us	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion
24th March	Palm Sunday Lent 6: God's Covenant with us	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship
31st March	Easter Sunday	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion



## MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

#### Wednesdays

#### 10am

#### Communion at St John's









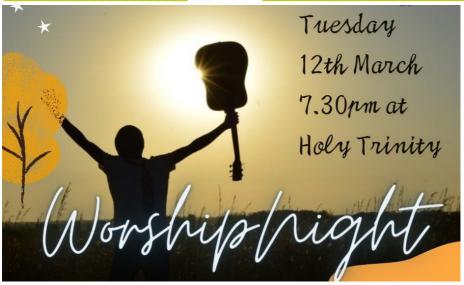




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8.30AM - BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER COMMUNION
10.15AM - PALM SUNDAY SERVICE WITH SUNDAY CLUB

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28TH MARCH 7.30PM - BRING AND SHARE MEAL WITH COMMUNION

GOOD FRIDAY - 29TH MARCH 9AM - MORNING PRAYER AT THE CROSS 7.30PM - REFLECTIONS AT THE CROSS

EASTER SUNDAY - 31ST MARCH
8.30AM - BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER EASTER COMMUNION
10.15AM - ALL-AGE COMMUNION SERVICE



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



thechurchinwestcott.org.uk

## THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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

(alimabley.htw@gmail.com)

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

## **FLOODLIGHTING**

The church floodlighting for March has been sponsored by Hazel Shearing to say:

"Thank you very much to all those who signed a birthday card for me - it was lovely to get your messages."

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.)













FUNERALS

## MARKING LIFE EVENTS

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

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## WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS **W**



#### Speeding

We know that speeding through the village continues to be an issue and is of concern to a great many residents. We are pleased to say that following an application by the WVA, funding has been approved by MVDC using money from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Fund, to and install a new vehicle activated speed warning sign on the A25 as vehicles approach from the west. This will replace the old sign currently positioned on the grass near the church that hasn't worked reliably for some time



This means we will have working speed activated signage on the approaches to the village from both the east and west. The Community Speed Watch team is also due to be relaunched shortly and alongside the more frequent enforcement action by Surrey Police that we have seen of

late, it is hoped that all these measures will start to make a difference. Look out for further details about how you can take part in the Community Speed Watch on our social media pages and future village magazines.

Surrey County Council are currently running a public consultation on a new strategy to minimise risk on Surrev's roads to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. The strategy is called the Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy and has been developed by SCC Highways, Surrey Fire & Rescue Service, National Highways and Surrey Police. Use this link to review the strategy and have your say https://visionzerosurrey. commonplace.is/ The consultation runs until the 24th March 2024.

### **Planning**

Following the recent news about the planning permission for the development of new homes at Sondes Place Farm, another housing developer, Thakeham, is currently considering a development between 80 and 100 homes at Milton Court Lane, Dorking. They have recently run their own consultation on the plans and are aiming to submit a planning application to MVDC in the Spring. This site is another Green Belt location and is also overlooked by the Surrey Hills National Landscape









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## WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)



initial (AONB). The consultation suggests 86 homes with only 40% being affordable and a minimal biodiversity net gain of 10%. The WVA registered an objection on the developer's own consultation based on the adverse impact to the Green Belt and the Surrey Hills National Landscape, highways and access concerns, a further reduction in the separation between Dorking and Westcott and a lack of ambition with regard to percentage of affordable homes and biodiversity gains. We will continue to monitor this development and the actual planning application when it is submitted.



Possible site layout at Milton Court Lane (from Thakeham's consultation)

Following a pause, MVDC agreed at an Extraordinary Meeting on the 25th January 2024 to progress with the examination of the draft Local Plan, as originally submitted in 2022, for examination by the government appointed Inspector. This draft Local Plan includes a number of

Green Belt sites and we will provide further updates when we have more information.

We have recently updated the WVA Planning pages on our website with a useful interactive tool, developed by the Planning Portal, which helps homeowners understand whether they need planning permission or building control approval if they are considering changes or work to their property. Check it out on our website https://westcottvillage.com/planning/

### **Open Meeting**

And finally, a reminder that 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. Please do put the date in your diary and come and join us.

In the meantime, do get in touch via contact@westcottvillage.com with any queries or to find out more.

WVA Committee Paul Goddard, Edwin Harland, James Leaver, Sally Hewetson, Nick Lund, Jo Astor



## **Open Morning**

Wednesday 13 March



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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)

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## WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



#### Westcott Village Hall is Looking for New Trustees

Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO is the charity which runs Westcott Village Hall for the benefit of our community. The charity is currently governed by 6 trustees but this can be as many as 12 trustees.

Our constitutional policy requires us to refresh and renew the group of trustees by appointing new trustees regularly. This enables us to involve a changing group of established and new residents in the management of Westcott Village Hall, and so representing residents and their views from across the village. With the current redevelopment project we meet around once a month.

Accordingly, we now invite applications by inhabitants of Westcott and the surrounding area who are willing to put themselves forward (or who are nominated with their consent by other residents) for appointment to become trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO.

If you are interested in helping us shape the future of your village hall, please email info@westcottvillagehall.com by April 10th with a few words about your background and your reasons for wanting to become involved. No specialist skills are needed, but an interest in making Westcott Village Hall a vibrant community asset would obviously help.

We will contact you for an informal discussion. Please note that incoming trustees will be appointed at the trustees' open meeting which is to be held on April 24th 2024.

Sally Hewetson Interim Chairman Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO



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## Notice of a Meeting of the Trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO at the Westcott Village Hall on Wednesday, April 24th 2024 at 7pm



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

This year, the trustees' April meeting will be held in Westcott Village Hall at 7pm on Wednesday, 24th April 2024 and all residents of Westcott and the neighbourhood are warmly invited to attend as observers. The business of the meeting will include:

- (i) a review of the CIO's report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are currently in the course of preparation;
- (ii) the appointment (or, if eligible, re-appointment) of trustees;
- (iii) a proposal to defer the review of the ClO's report and accounts for this and future calendar years to the trustees' meeting to be held in September or October of the following year to allow for the possibility that the preparation by the trustees of the accounts, and their review by an Independent Examiner, will become more complex if the redevelopment project proceeds as is intended, annual accounts not being due for filing with the Charity Commission until the end of October in the following year;
- (iv) a proposal to increase the quorum requirement for meetings of trustees from two to four:
- (v) consequential amendments to the Governance Rules and to the Constitution to reflect items (iii) and (iv) above, if adopted; and
- (vi) such matters concerning the operations of the CIO as may arise and be appropriate for discussion in an open forum.

Sally Hewetson, Interim Chairman, Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO



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## WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



Wednesday 6th March at The Village Hall 10.30 - 12.00 midday



Jigsaw and Book exchange Sandra's delicious cakes & scones

Come and join us

## A Huge Thank You

The time has come for us to move on, to pastures new in West Sussex after 22 years of living here in Westcott.

Having moved here in 2002, we settled in Rokefield which proved to be a lovely location to raise our two girls, Millie & Anna. We will always have fond memories of the local primary school, toddler, dance & yoga groups. This combined with the welcoming church community and being involved with the village Rainbows, Brownies & Guides. We have made some lovely friends and believe that Westcott has a very special blend of village traditions, kind

people and a beautiful location set within the Surrey Hills.

We wish you all well for the future and will continue to see many of you for sure!

Jane & David (Hersee/Craddock), Millie & Anna X







## DORKING AND DISTRICT RSPB



### Weekend Walks & Events Spring 2024

We are part of the RSPB charity. Do come and join us! Our group covers an area of mid-Surrey centred on Dorking and includes Leatherhead, Bookham, Epsom and Ewell. New members are always welcome but please contact the group if you'd like to attend a walk so we can manage numbers. We also run midweek walks, details on the website or by request.



**Sunday 17th March** Stocker's Lake Nature Reserve, Colne Valley The reserve hosts a large number of wintering birds, including the spectacular goldeneye, shovellers and occasionally pochards and smews. There is a large heronry on the lakes' islands and we should see siskins in the alders around the lake. Reed buntings & starlings roost in the reedbeds.

Sunday 21st April RSPB Pulborough Brooks Uppertons Barn Visitor Centre, Wiggonholt, Pulborough RH20 2EL Bring RSPB membership cards for free parking & entrance. The summer migrants will be arriving, including blackcaps, whitethroats & nightingales. The lakes should be good for a variety of waders

and with luck, the white-tailed eagle will fly over!

Saturday 4th May Dawn Chorus Day at Bookham Common Meet at Tunnel Car Park Church Road, Great Bookham KT23 3ES 5am start to hear the birds wake up & start their morning routine claiming spring territories. Expect a good range of resident and migratory songbirds and maybe even bats & owls. With luck we will hear nightingale again.

Saturday 18th May RSPB Otmoor Otmoor Lane, Beckley, Oxfordshire OX3 9TD Junction 8 off the M40. The car park is free with no facilities. This is an extensive wet meadow reserve with good paths. Spring visitors include sedge, reed and grasshopper warblers. Lesser whitethroats & turtle doves are occasionally seen. Hobbies are frequent visitors.

Saturday 1st June Woods Mill Nature Reserve – Sussex Wildlife Trust HQ Wood's Mill, Henfield BN5 9SD The car park is free but donations are encouraged. There are toilets and a cafe. Great variety of woodland and farmland birds. Turtle doves & nightingales are summer visitors.

For more details on the events please visit the website or Facebook page, or email us at rspbdorking@gmail.com.
Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District
Website: https://group.rspb.org.uk/dorkinganddistrict/

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## WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP



## The Trouble with Bees - Lecture by Tim Lovette MBE



Tim Lovette is a past President of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA - www.bbka.org.uk) and is their Director of Public Affairs. On Tuesday 9th January he gave a fact filled talk illustrated with excellent slides. He explained that his role in the BBKA Charity includes educating the public about the role of bees in pollination and bee keeping, training people and farmers to keep bees, lobbying the EU and UK authorities on bee matters, and helping to support beekeepers' events for the BBKA. Ho offers support for bees and beekeepers and is involved in disease insurance.

Bees have been around for thousands of years as Apis mellifera, Apis cerana and Apis scutellate. Even the Ancient Egyptians kept and developed bees. A honey bee colony in summer typically consists of 6,000 female workers, a Queen and 2,000 drones. In winter there is likely to be 2,000 female workers, a Queen and a few

drones. The worker bees initially search for new nectar bearing forage and when found they perform a "waggle dance" to indicate in which direction to find the forage in relation to the hive. The bees recognize the direction in which to fly by the light of the sun's rays.

The remarkable Queen bee is larger than the others, has a long abdomen with a sting and usually lives for some 3 to 4 years. The sterile female workers survive on the hoarded food collected in the previous year and stored in the waxy cells. At the start of summer the drones mate with the Queen and she proceeds to lay around 2,000 eggs per day (more than her bodyweight). The Queen lays 5 million eggs in her lifetime and needs to be very well fed by the worker bees. In the bee social organisation the sterile female worker bees forage for nectar and pollen to feed the Queen Bee and provide stores for themselves in the hive. Individual bees only live for 6 weeks in the summer season and they are constantly replaced by new bees created by the drones mating with the Queen. A drone dies after mating.

Queen larvae are deliberately reared when the hive becomes overcrowded or the Queen is failing. They build several larger cells to attract the Queen to lay an egg for a Princess who will mate with a drone and form a new colony. When a Queen leaves



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## WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



a hive it takes a few thousand workers and a some drones with it. A fortunate beekeeper may find a swarm and collect it in a skep basket.



WBC hives on a farm

Bee hives have been developed over the years to optimise the colony performance from the original hole in a tree trunk which a swarm will use if it is on the move. In medieval times the hive was a basket skep with an opening for the bees and a lid. Nowadays the WBC hives are wooden boxes with vertical sliding dividers providing cell spaces for the bees. These boxes are arranged in an orderly way in a larger area, on a farm for instance. National Hives are



individual boxes with similar vertical sliding dividers usually arranged in a random way by amateur beekeepers in a more limited woodland area.

The bee keeping year follows a pattern. In spring the colony increases and the Queen is in need of pollen and nectar as she begins to produce eggs. In the warmer weather of summer the female bees are busy gathering pollen and nectar and 'swarming' may take place if the Queen moves out of the hive possibly due to shortage of food. Beekeepers have to watch out for this as they may lose their colony of bees.



Bee swarm

To help prevent swarming beekeepers must increase the size of the hive to make adequate space for storing the honey in the wax cells. There may be an increase from 10,000 to 80,000 bees and they must be shaken into new hives to give them room or you would risk losing a Queen early in the summer. In autumn the hive cleans up and declines in size and in winter they cluster rather than hibernate.

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## WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)

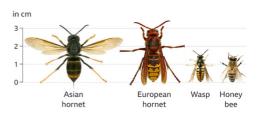


#### Bee facts

- Hive honey consists of 18% water, 35% glucose, 45% fructose and 2% pollen or other.
- The products that honey bees make include honey, wax, royal jelly, propolis and venom.
- A bee carries 0.04 gm of nectar on each trip to forage.
- Bees make about 40,000 journeys for a small jar of honey!
- It is estimated that bees pollinate 30% of the crops that we eat, in particular 90% of apples and 30% of raspberries and pears.

Tim Lovette said that there were an estimated 40,000 bee keepers and 300 bee farmers in the UK. The annual UK output was about 5,000 tons with a value of some £12 million. He said that honey bees and wild pollinators such as bumble bees share the same foraging and weather problems. The main challenges facing bees and beekeepers include pests and diseases, a lack of remedial medicines, habitat changes, poor forage, bad weather, pesticides and poor beekeeping.

Pests that bees may have to face include Varroa, (from the East) – a type of mite that can be treated with Oxalic acid, and hornets. The Asian Hornet (Vespa Velutina) has a dark brown or black velvety body, and brown legs with yellow tips. It



steals bees to feed to its own young. The European Hornet has a yellow striped body and yellow legs.

The task of the Beekeeper is to ensure his bee colonies are healthy, pest free and have adequate stores to minimize the chance of swarming. This can be done by feeding 'fondant' a type of sugary substance, to the hive. The BBKA will celebrate 150 years at its 2024 Convention on 12th-14th April.

Our Events Organizer, Martin Finnis, thanked Tim Lovette for his interesting and instructive talk and jars of various types of honey were provided by Tim for members to buy.

The next WLHG event will be the 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 relevant articles from the members.

Email: westcottlocalhistory@gmail.com and for local information our website: www.westcottlocalhistory.org

Roger Christian





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## MUSIC IN DORKING



10th at 7.30, LHMF St Matthew Passion at Dorking Halls, £17-24, 01306 881717

16th at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church

17th at 3.00, Jubilee string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619

23rd at 7.30, Brockham choral society at St Martin's church, £20

26th at 7.15, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717

31st at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717

March sees the first concert of this year's Leith Hill Music Festival, a performance of Bach's great masterpiece, the *St Matthew Passion*. This large-scale choral work, telling the story of Jesus's betrayal, trials and crucifixion, will be performed by a large choir of Leith Hill singers and an outstanding group of soloists, with the excellent professional baroque orchestra Canzona. The concert will be conducted by Jonathan Willcocks, now in his final year as conductor of the Leith Hill Festival. The competitions and concerts of the main festival will follow in April.

The Dorking Concertgoers present the third and final concert in their string quartet series, this time with the Jubilee quartet. Alongside an early Haydn quartet, their programme includes three Czech works - Janáček's very personal second quartet (Intimate letters), a selection from Dvořák's set of short pieces Cypresses, and the Coventry meditation by Vilem Tausky, written to commemorate the destruction of that city in the second world war.

The Dorking Philharmonia's concert includes two familiar works – Beethoven's fourth symphony and Rodrigo's lively and melodious guitar concerto – along with the first performance of a new piece, *Lichen on Bricks*, by the orchestra's own conductor, Paul Newbold.

Brockham choral society will perform Verdi's monumental *Requiem*. This intense and moving, highly dramatic setting of the Latin Requiem text, with its powerful choruses, large orchestra and soloists, is undoubtedly a peak of the choral repertoire. Conducted by Cole Bendall, the choir will be joined by the British Sinfonietta and four solo singers.

Dorking Halls has a live relay from the Royal Opera House of Puccini's *Madam Butterfly*, followed by a repeat screening a few days later. The opera tells the story of a young Japanese girl who is betrayed by the American naval officer she marries, with Puccini's beautiful but heart-rending music.

Ian Codd

## Table Top



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## ABINGER NURSERY



Once upon a time there was a nursery as cosy and as welcoming as could be, nestled in a beautiful little village called Abinger. All the local children looked forward to playing there and seeing their friends every day.



One day the children arrived not to one, not two but THREE houses 0 them to explore a n d learn the storv of

the three little pigs. The third house was only half built so they all worked together to finish the remaining wall and although the wolf huffed and he puffed he could not blow their house down!

Later that afternoon a hand painted wooden bridge appeared with three billy goats gruff wanting to trip trap across it. But who should appear from under the bridge? That's right! A terribly troublesome troll! The brave goats and the brave children weren't afraid - they all courageously made it across to the other side for a munch on some glorious grass.

The children were often hungry even after snack time! So imagine their surprise at discovering a gingerbread house smack bang in the middle of the nursery! With sparkling lollipops,

sticky icing and crumbly biscuits adorning the walls but with space for them to make their own mark. Thankfully nobody



decided to take a bite!

Talking of cake - a date for your diary - the much loved Abinger Bake Off will be taking place on Sunday 17th March at 2pm in the Evelyn Hall. Don't miss this super special Easter affair and get ready to bake! Keep an eye on our facebook page for more details.

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** 



# Dorking Group of Artists Spring Exhibition: Betchworth Village Hall, Station Rd, Betchworth, Surrey RH3 7DF Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th May 10:00 - 17:00, Monday May 6th 10:00 - 16:00

The Dorking Group of Artists, are delighted to be returning to Betchworth Village Hall for their popular Spring exhibition. The original art in our exhibition is all for sale at affordable prices and the paintings demonstrate a wide range of different subjects, styles and media. Entrance to the exhibition is free. Betchworth Village Hall is opposite Knights Garden Centre.

For more information see www.dga.org.uk, Facebook @dga4art, or contact@dga.org.uk.

Angela Hall, Chair, Dorking Group of Artists Email: jackycowdrey@hotmail.com



## Pickleball has arrived in Dorking





Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports; it can be played outdoors or in, and we're excited to announce that we are launching a Pickleball Group on Thursday 21st March at Oddfellows Hall, High Street, Dorking between 1pm-3 pm.

Pickleball is similar to tennis with wooden paddle bats and played on a Badminton court. If you would like to learn how to play and have fun at the same time, then this group is for you. Come along for a session before signing up to the group.

If you want more information, contact the group organiser Nicholas Jupp by emailing him at njbjupp@gmail.com.

If you are interested in other activity and interest groups in the local area you can contact the Dorking & District u3a membership secretary on 01306 711542 or email membership@dorkingu3a.org.uk

## SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL



We are bursting with pride over the children's achievements already this term. You will discover many of the experiences that children have taken part in right across the school in order to achieve their best. As a community, we are lucky to have so many volunteers who come to support us. Our small class sizes and wealth of adult support make learning very special at Surrey Hills. Have a look out for our pupils modelling this term's value of Respect. With our children's passion for sustainability and protecting our planet, they have also set up our very own Eco Council. named the Eco Heroes, who will be leading our Eco Schools journey this year. In sports news, we have had some super sessions of girls football lead by Chelsea football club and won a place in the girls football final at Meadowbank this month. We wish you the very best as we make our way towards Spring and all that it promises.

## **Reception Bees Class**



B e e s enjoying building dens as a team!

#### Year 1 & 2 Butterflies Class

Butterflies have had great fun learning about and building windmills in our design technology project. We learnt how to make a structure stable and



the importance of careful cutting and fixing to make functional sails. We then went outside and tested them to see if they were stable in the wind. "It was tricky to get the sails the same length and width" Scarlett. "I like testing to see if they were stable, mine balanced outside!" Archie

#### Year 3 Hedgehogs Class





Hedgehogs have also been enjoying our science topic all about forces and magnets. We have been loving testing out the strength of different magnets and thinking about how you can make





Unlike honeybees, which are doing quite well, our wild bees – and in particular our Bumblebees – are under threat. They face a perfect storm of problems from habitat loss to pesticide use and climate change – but also competition from honeybees.

As well as looking at some of the history of Bumblebees and how they differ from other bees, our guest speaker Peter Smith takes us through the practical steps we can all take to encourage and protect these fascinating creatures in our gardens.

Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> at St John's Church, Furlong Road

Tea and biscuits at 7.45pm for an 8pm start

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# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



magnets attract or repel. We even tested out our push and pull forces with a mini tug of war!

#### **Year 4 Rabbits Class**



We have had a lovely first month back at school and have been very busy learning all about the Victorians and how children's

lives have changed throughout the years. The children have continued to learn more about the Victorians and their jobs in our History topic. The class have also been working very hard on their times tables and division in maths and we have seen lots of fantastic improvements. We have also been very lucky to welcome two new pupils into our class this half term, the class have done an excellent job of making them feel very welcome.

#### Year 5/6 Otters and Owls Class

The children in Year 5 and 6 were treated to a Maya workshop funded by FASH. The children dressed up as archaeologists and experienced a





whole range of different activities. We played traditional Maya games; explored hunting technique and weapons; the Maya counting system;

Calendars and also dressed up to re-enact the story of The Hero Twins.



#### 5000 Project



The project is run by Chelsea FC as they commit to helping 5000 young girls get into football. Our KS2 girls were

very lucky to have had one of the Chelsea football coaches come into Surrey Hills to teach them some new skills! They all thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and learnt some fantastic drills.

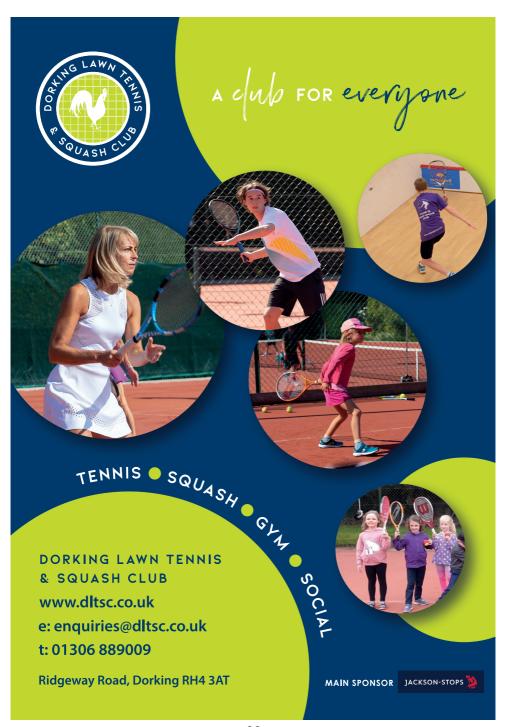
## 5/6 Girls Football Surrey County Finals

We were so thrilled that the Year 5/6 girls got into the finals at Dorking FC Stadium Meadowbank. Unfortunately, they didn't win the tournament but played

really well.

Welldone





# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



#### **Rocksteady Assembly**



What a treat to have Rocksteady perform in an assembly for Surrey Hills this week! Children are still buzzing about it and parents are wanting to know how they can get their child signed up! Rocksteady will be providing instrument lessons after half term for

just £10 per lesson (half hour). Lessons take part in school time and timings are rotated around each week so that children are not missing the same lesson each week.

Children can choose from the electric guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals and get to learn alongside friends as a band! Lessons are taught by real musicians, and best of all, there will be regular live performances! For more information, visit https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/info-forparents/

Mrs Fyson

# COMBINED CONCERT

As a musician, I love that tingle of excitement in the air just before a performance. And on December 7th we had 2 interesting, and very different, musical works to look forward to, performed by The Duffers and Gruffers Choir of Abinger, ably supported by the choir of Surrey Hills All Saints Primary School.

The first piece was Noah's Ark by Adrienne Foster Potter written for primary school-age children. It tells the story of Noah and the flood, and how he rescued all the animals. It was highly tuneful and uplifting storytelling. The choir, especially the children, sang their hearts out. It was an absolute delight.

After the interval the second piece was a cantata entitled St Nicholas written by Benjamin Britten in 1948. A cantata is usually a medium length narrative piece of music with musical accompaniment, typically with one or more soloists with choir and orchestra. St Nicholas tells the story of the legendary life of St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, Lycia, in a dramatic sequence of events. These take place in 9 movements in the cantata, from his birth, his finding and devoting himself to God, how he becomes a bishop, his journey to Palestine through a terrible storm, his piety and death.



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# COMBINED CONCERT (cont.)

As I sat in the audience, I came to realise what a massive musical challenge it was for the choir and professional tenor soloist to express a story of this scope and magnitude. It is a wonderful piece of music. However there seemed to me to be a fundamental difficulty in portraying all the various events in the story musically that evening. The original arrangement was scored for mixed choir, tenor soloist, strings, piano, organ and percussion. Our choirs and the tenor soloist only had one piano and organ in support. In his original orchestration, Britten skilfully uses a range of instruments to introduce musical 'light and shade' which makes it easier for the listener to distinguish each individual movement,. This makes the music more accessible than was possible with the limitations of only piano and organ.

However, it must be said that the professional piano accompanist, the organist and conductor/musical director were all amazing. They generated huge energy, and the choir truly sang their hearts out. This expressive energy alone was uplifting and really heart-warming, and given the circumstances, the evening was a great success.



The concert raised £350 for Surrey Hills School parents association, FASH, here shown being presented last month.

Martin Hall was the choirmaster, conductor, and musical director. Peter Gould was piano

accompanist for the first half, and organist for the Britten cantata. Iain Ledingham was the professional pianist who accompanied the Britten. Harry Ross was the professional tenor.

Finally, let me say that I believe this is the kind of local event that brings our community together and enriches all our lives. Our heartfelt thanks go to the organisers, led by Jan Way, and to the church decorators, the two choirs and accompanists, the professional tenor, and the conductor/musical director.

**Ralph Sutton** 







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# DORKING MUSEUM



#### Family Activities at Dorking Library:

In conjunction with Dorking Library, on Saturday 9th March, 10am to noon, we will be celebrating Women's History Month, when you can find out about local famous women, aeronautical engineer Beatrice Shilling and the Dorking suffragettes. Aimed at 4-11 year olds, materials are provided free (with grateful thanks to the Arts Society, Dorking) and children must be accompanied.

#### The Cabinet of Curiosity:

Family Activity in the Museum will be the Cabinet of Curiosity, involving children in choosing museum objects from a selection to determine the contents of a new children's 'touchyfeely' rolling museum exhibition. There will also be an accompanying craft activity making cabinets of curiosity out of recycled egg boxes and shoe boxes. At the Museum on Saturday 16th March, 10am-4pm.

## **Easter Challenge:**

Between 23rd March and 13th April, families are invited to come and follow the clues around the Museum to spell a name. When you have completed the challenge, collect a small edible prize!

#### **Book Launch:**

Mary Neal and the Suffragettes Who Saved Morris Dancing by local historian and author Kathy Atherton explores the unexpected and little-known local links between the Morris dance revival



and the suffragette movement fighting for votes for women more than 100 years ago. At the Museum on Wednesday 20th March at 6.30pm, Kathy tells the story of

Mary Neal and the Esperance Girls' Club, which she ran with local suffrage leader, Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence. The Club's dancers were often to be seen dancing on Holmwood Common in the early 20th century.



Without them, Morris dancing would have been lost to history. The evening will include a book signing, a short talk by the author and a free glass of prosecco. No booking necessary.

## Behind the scenes at the Museum:

Museum Chairman Kathy Atherton gives a talk at Dorking Library on Thursday 21st March at 7pm. She relates the history and background of the museum and what we do, and reveals what goes on behind the scenes – collections care, looking after artefacts and archive material as well as environmental monitoring,

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# DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)





quarantining, cleaning and the like. Historic items from the museum's collection will be available to look at and handle. Tickets are free (one per person) and are available by signing up at Dorking Library, emailing dorking. library@surreycc.gov.uk or callina the contact centre on 03456 009009. Numbers are limited, so please book early.

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

This temporary exhibition follows the history of the Surrey Yeomanry from its 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, being commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Cubitt. It was based in Dorkina



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

# Enhance the Museum experience: Dorking Museum has launched a digital guide on Bloomberg Connects. Download the app or scan the QR code at the Museum and

vou can access additional material about individual objects and themes as you view the exhibits.

#### Get involved:

The Museum is run entirely by volunteers and is looking for new recruits who can spare a few hours a month. This could be at the front desk or in a range of other roles with flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home. Current opportunities include managing or assisting with the museum's digital communications activities (website, direct mail, etc), assistance with ad hoc school and youth visits, a curator of artefacts and a walks' guide. See dorkingmuseum.org. uk/about/volunteer-opportunities 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. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. 01306 876591.









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What I love about March - daffodils, crocuses, warmer days, sunshine, lighter evenings

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# **Tuesday 12th March**

#### **Barkers Fashion Shows 1918-30**

England of the 1920s was a time of profound social change. Four years of a devastating World War led to a new perspective. Society began to change, not least in ladies' fashion which suddenly took on an importance that has never disappeared. Our March lecture provides an intimate look at the fashions of the 1920s at Barkers Department store, Kensington, London. Drawing on historic album of photographs and promotional material, lecturer Susan Bishop will paint



a picture of the spectacular fashion shows held at the store.

The talk will take place in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls at 10:30am with coffee available from 9:30am. Visitors are welcome for a fee of £7.50.

Seating is limited, so please contact Sue Bax on 07899 797557 - sue.bax1@ btinternet.com to book.

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of the month and we welcome new members.

For more information and details of our forthcoming programme, please visit

https://theartssocietydorking.org.uk/





March is with us and as well as many spring bulbs fully in bloom, the woodland is incredibly busy with the birds nesting in our numerous nesting boxes around the woodland. We had one surprise last week when we noticed a face looking out of the owl box which is high up in one of the trees in the woodland; we were thrilled to think that the owl who was in there last year may have returned and rushed to get the binoculars.



To our slight disappointment we saw clearly that it was a squirrel who was inside the box with her head resting quite happily at the entrance. She had obviously decided it was an ideal place to produce a family. Not what we had intended, but I guess that is the wonder of nature for you!

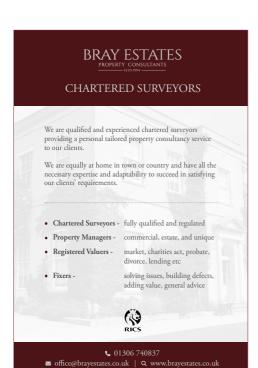
Later this month on Sunday 24th March we will be holding our popular family Easter Egg Hunt day, there are a few places left so if you would like to join us please contact Debbiehornblow@

yahoo.co.uk as soon as possible to register the children. It's only £8 per child and they get to join in the fun of the Easter Egg Hunt with a goody bag once completed, and then to enter the Egg and Spoon races with a prize for the winner of each age group. Also a Mums' and Dads' Ega and Spoon race which can be quite competitive! There will be games for the children, an Easter Egg stall, soft toy tombola and lucky dip, craft stall, cake stall, Easter raffle and BBQ plus hot and cold drinks. Do bring some cash with you for all these exciting things to enjoy as cards do not work at the woodland. This is always a great fun event for all the family.

The Egg Hunt starts at 12.30 and there's plenty of parking in our car park. If anyone would like to donate some Easter Eggs for our Easter Egg stall it would be great as all proceeds from the day go to help our Veterans who are down on their luck and in need of help.

We look forward to seeing you at the QRMW Woodland, Pasturewood Road, Holmbury St Mary the nearest post code is RH5 6LG and the woodland is 300 yards up the road from there.

Paul Cooling
The Quick Response Memorial Woodland
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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 nonmembers are welcome. Upcoming dates include:

• The History of East Surrey Museum: An entertaining live talk by Museum curator Peter Connelly on the history of the museum established in 1980 in Caterham after years of effort from local enthusiasts. Monday 4th March at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.



• Cricket origins: Surrey vs the North – Different Class? Zoom talk: Cricket has often been portrayed as one of the most class-bound of British sports, but regional differences have always been important. Author Duncan Stone shares some of his insights. Monday 25th March 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**

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.

Anna Kemkers 07710425487



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# **GREEN WESTCOTT**



#### **Cultivate Hope**

Last month's article spoke about eco-anxiety, a growing issue which is understandable in the context of the climate, nature and other intersecting crises we are faced with. It is human to be concerned about the things we care about and love. When hope appears to be hard to find, it can help to turn to nature for inspiration.

After the darkness of winter, spring is the season of hope, with new shoots aplenty emerging from the ground. Where there are signs of life, there is hope. But hope needs nurturing. For hope to be fulfilled it needs to know clearly what its intention is and actively work towards it.

For a sprouting seed the first task is to send up a green shoot to find light, whilst simultaneously sending out roots



to seek connection with moisture and nutrients and anchor itself into the ground. We can nurture hope for the future through seeking light in creativity and courage, and seeking nourishment and grounding through connection and compassion.

#### Creativity

imagine what a better future might look like & communicate this vision any way you can - through poetry, song, visual images, storytelling or by living it! Look out for positive, innovative ideas and help bring them to life.

### Courage

We need courage to sit with our feelings, to acknowledge them, rather than turn away, and give ourselves space to process them. Accepting reality opens up the possibility of change and can help us step into the responsibility of what it means to be alive at this time. It takes courage to turn away from the 'normal' way of things, to step away from the systems that are bringing harm and into uncertainty, to find new ways towards practices that bring life and hope.

'May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears' Nelson Mandela

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# **GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)**



#### Connection

We are a part of the interconnected and interdependent web of life. We thrive when we are connected:



Connect with those with similar values, or values you aspire to. Look for groups of people who understand the seriousness of the current situation to share your feelings with and find support.

Show up and take opportunities to connect with others. Move to build bridges between different groups, learn from different experiences and find ways to enjoy doing things together. Help to build diverse, resilient communities.

Volunteer some time to help those working collectively towards bringing a more healthy, equal society.

Practice being fully present, as this enables us to listen, pay attention more deeply and discover new things. Spend time with nature - walking,



sitting, observing, listening.

Help things grow. Feed the soil. Make space for native plants which sustain insects and birds. Help move towards a society that lives as part of nature, rather than apart from nature.

#### Compassion

Practice compassion for ourselves by taking time out to do something we enjoy, which nourishes our soul.

Cultivate an open heart and compassion for the world in all its beauty and diversity – of nature, of our human and more-than-human family-this helps us to find common ground and inspires us to act to help life thrive. Hope lies in playing an active role in the flourishing of life.

Connect with us at Green Westcott email info@greenwestcott.org, visit our website greenwestcott.org or come along to Westcott Community Garden on Saturdays 11am-2pm.

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# SENSORY SERVICES BY SIGHT FOR SURREY



Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey is a charity dedicated to enabling and empowering the lives of over 8,000 people living in Surrey who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, partially sighted and deafblind, of whom around 50 people live in Westcott.

The charity champions independence, where people thrive in their communities and achieve their aspirations. They offer expert support, services and advice delivering services in homes, communities, and from their main office hub in Fetcham.



People who are deaf, or have sight or hearing loss, can become incredibly isolated. The charity has specialist teams of qualified and skilled professionals that support each individual by arming them with the knowledge, equipment and confidence to live and work fulfilling and independent lives.



In addition, they provide a wide range of activities and events that will connect them with others in the local community. To enhance and complement their practical services they have a bank of volunteers that go out in the local community and are always looking for more volunteers.

If you need help and support, or would like to become a volunteer, please contact Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey on:

Telephone: 01372 377701

SMS: 07860 026 269

Email: info@sensoryservices.org.uk

Skype: sensoryservices

FaceTime: dutysw@sensoryservices.

org.uk

Sensory Services by Sight for Surrey, Rentwood, School Lane, Fetcham, KT22 9.JX.

Lynn Witten

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	Thursday	8.00-1.00	2.00-6.00
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