Westcott Village Magazine May 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:

editor@westcottmag.com

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

> Copy deadline for June issue: 8th May 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.

Cover photo - Blossom by Hayley Macdiarmid

FROM THE EDITOR



We have finally got to the season of the early summer fairs - starting with the Teddy Bears' Picnic on 6th May, see page 21 for details.

This helps raise money for Surrey Hills School so dig out your teddy and take him for a grand day out!

The village hall committee have a quiz night (with pie and mash) on 18th May to raise funds for the new village hall, why not get a team together and get competitive, or just have a catch up over some impossible questions (until someone gives the answer and you think "Oh, I knew that"!)

The Westcott coffee morning is on the 1st this month, so I hope you're looking at this nice and early, and can get along for coffee and cakes, books and jigsaws and a good chat.

Hope you get to do something you enjoy over the next few weeks, whether it's one of the things in this magazine or just sitting under a tree enjoying the outdoors.

Cath editor@westcottmag.com



Westcott Baby/Volunteer Meals

Calling all new and expectant parents in Westcott, Did you know, the village of Westcott has a long tradition of delivering "baby meals"... contrary to the name, this is

a hot meal for the family (rather than the new baby!), delivered to your door every evening for two weeks. It's a welcome respite from the chaos a new baby brings and a pretty unique service we are incredibly proud of. We have a list of 40+ volunteer cooks in the village who will buy, cook and deliver a meal. Many of the residents of Westcott will tell you how incredible it was to have people from their community arriving on the doorstep with dinner every day as they struggled to adjust to life with a new baby, and what's more, we love to do it! If you're living in Westcott and expecting a baby or know someone who is, PLEASE get in touch we'd love to help!

By the way - if Westcott residents need meals while adjusting to a family crisis, illness or discharge from hospital we can also help. Please get in touch.

Anna & the Westcott Volunteer Cooks team.

Anna Kemkers 07710425487

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

OFFERS US THAT HOPE.

FIRSTLY BECAUSE IT SPEAKS

OF A GOD WHO NEVER

GIVES UP ON US, AND

SECONDLY BECAUSE IT

OFFERS US THE HELP WE

NEED TO GROW."



A GROWTH MINDSET

What a delight it is to be in the growing season again! After the dormant winter months, we are at last enjoying a resurgence of life in our gardens and in the hedgerows,

familiar plants reappearing like old friends. Growth is one of the seven characteristics of living things and. though we may have stopped arowing physically many years aao (and some of us may even be shrinking!), I'd suggest we all have the capacity to grow in other ways,

whether we're 5 or 95. Psychologists and life coaches talk about the importance of a growth mindset – a belief that we can improve our capacities and talents over time.

Conversely, a fixed mindset is the limiting belief that we cannot learn and improve ourselves. I wonder which of those you most identify with.



Of course, thousands of selfhelp books on this subject have been published over the years, a number of which can be found on my own shelves. I'm all for alegning

> inspiration and ideas from those who've delved into this field, but I can't say in all honestly that they have radically changed mv life. Working on our own selfdevelopment, our personal growth, can at times feel like a slow and painful task, particularly if we are attempting

to overcome unhelpful attitudes or patterns of behaviour, and cultivate positive ones. Such a task requires honesty and the courage to take a long, hard look at ourselves, to acknowledge weaknesses our own and vulnerabilities. It involves motivation, effort, perseverance and wisdom, all of which we may find within ourselves.

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

But what if our inner resources aren't enough? What if, despite our best intentions, our efforts don't bring about the changes we'd hoped for? Our disappointment can easily cause us to give up on ourselves, to lose faith in our ability to grow. If, however, our faith lies in a source (something or someone) beyond ourselves, there might yet be room for hope. The Christian faith offers us that hope, firstly because it speaks of a God who never gives up on us, and secondly because it offers us the help we need to grow. And that growth comes from rooting ourselves in Jesus Christ – the one who described himself as 'the true vine' and his followers as the branches.

He longs that each of us should, in relationship with him, become our 'best self', to use another popular phrase, growing and bearing fruit.

At the end of this month, the Christian church celebrates Pentecost - the coming of God's promised Holy Spirit. Two thousand years ago, that Spirit transformed a small group of timid, disorientated disciples into dynamic, gifted and fearless leaders, who went on to share a message of hope and launch a movement that would ultimately reshape the spiritual landscape of the world. And that same Spirit can still bring hope and transformation today.

Heather Shakespeare



MAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



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

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

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

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

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM
5th May	To Be Confirmed	Book of Common Prayer Communion	All Age Morning Worship
12th May	Ascension	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
19th May	Pentecost and APCM	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
26th May	Faith and Science	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club



MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP





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

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

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

The Church in Westcott is part of the Westcott Good Neighbour Scheme and we are always here for a chat, prayer, pastoral need.

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

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage:

15th March 2024

Harley Charles Lillywhite and Olivia Alice Shakespeare



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to Jane Clarke for sponsoring the church floodlighting for May to celebrate her dear mother's 95th birthday.

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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There are several people to thank this month, starting with all those who took the time to submit comments and observations for the Surrey County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation. As a result, we were able to submit a very comprehensive consultation response to Surrey CC, which has been positively received. A copy of the response can be viewed on the Westcott Village website under https://westcottvillage. News on com/wva-latest-news/. Key elements include the footpaths along the A25, the Greensand Way footpath from Milton Street to School Lane, the footpath from Masters House north to Springfield Road, the cycle route & footpath from Westcott to Dorking, the by-way along Wolvens Lane, as well as plenty of others.

This work also links to Surrey CC's and MVDC's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which is a long term (10 years plus) plan focused on making short journeys more attractive to assist with practical and commuting trips, rather than purely leisure. Although Stage 2 of this work



is yet to be funded by MVDC and so progress at present has stalled.

We were also really pleased to have six volunteers respond to our call to join the Steering Group for the Review Westcott of the Neighbourhood (WNDP). The Development Plan Steering Group met for the first time in April to start scoping out the project which is likely to take 18 months to complete. When the current Plan, which runs until 2026, was put together, over 75% of Westcott households completed a survey to help define the needs of the village and in a subsequent village referendum 91% then voted in favour of adopting the draft WNDP. To achieve this level of engagement again for the updated plan will require an army of volunteers with a variety of skills. If you think you are someone who can lend a few hours of time for the greater good of your village please get in touch via contact@westcottvillage.com so we can discuss roles which suit your skills and available time.

We have also been working on a consultation response for MVDC's proposed modifications to the emerging Local Plan which is now being progressed once more. The most significant modification is the proposal by MVDC to increase the target number of dwellings which Westcott is required to provide from

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)



68 the in 2020original 2037 period 123 in a to revised 2020-2038 period. WVA The is not antidevelopment

and we firmly believe that more housing is needed but targets must be realistic and deliverable, ensuring housing is built in sustainable locations and includes the provision of much needed genuinely affordable housing. So far, we do not believe provided MVDC has sufficient evidence to demonstrate that their assumptions are either sound or sustainable. We are also lobbying our local councillors to make sure that our views are heard.

Our thank you theme continues with thanks to Chris Dale who has volunteered to take on the role of Speedwatch Co-ordinator for the village and he is now looking for volunteers to join him. Residents regularly tell us that traffic noise and road safety are two big concerns and we know that Speedwatch activity has a tangible, positive impact on both of these but we can't do it without residents volunteering to take part. Speedwatch sessions are only run in dry weather for 1 or 2 hours at a time, so even if you just volunteer for one session a month you will be making a big difference. Please get in touch with Chris Dale by email and volunteer to join the team on email. cd@sky.com

We have recently been given a list of the Surrey Police - Mole Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team contacts with individual contact names and emails for Police Officers who have specific Westcott and local area responsibility. If you need to get in touch with them the list can be found on the Westcott Village website under Our Community https://westcottvillage.com/ourcommunity/

Finally, the **Westcott Village** Association AGM 2024 will be held on Thursday 27th June 2024 at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, please pop the date in the diary and come and join us.

The WVA Committee continues to thrive and energetically drive forward a full agenda and we are particularly keen to swell our ranks and have more people join the Committee to enable us to deliver the priorities ahead and broaden our activities. Sadly, Edwin Harland who has served as the WVA's Treasurer for many years and Sally Hewetson who has been the focus for WVA membership, are both standing down at the AGM to enable them to focus on other volunteering commitments. We are



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enormously grateful to both of them for everything they have done over the years to support the WVA and hope to entice them back on to the Committee again in the future. In the meantime, we are delighted to already have a volunteer from within the village who is keen to stand for election at the AGM as a new Treasurer and we are keen to encourage anyone else who is interested in joining us to get in touch via contact@westcottvillage.com or come along to the AGM and have a chat.

An AGM Agenda, Trustees' Report and Accounts will be published on the Westcott Village website prior to the meeting. We look forward to welcoming you all to the AGM.

Westcott Village Association Committee Paul Goddard, Edwin Harland, James Leaver, Sally Hewetson, Nick Lund and Jo Astor





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The Mid Surrey Community Fridge van now visits Westcott every Tuesday opening at 2:15pm

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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WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



Although we are still waiting for Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) Planning Department to formally respond to our request for pre-application advice, we have now received an informal response and they have also confirmed what supporting documents they require us to submit with our planning application. Surrey County Council (SCC) has also responded in relation to highways. We can now confirm that our indicative scheme proposals for the pre-app were based on 'Option C' for each site as presented in the community consultation last November. This reflected the strong preferences expressed by our village. Option C is for the new community building to be on the Institute Road site and to fund the majority of the rebuilding costs by using the sale proceeds of the land for nine 2 and 3 bedroom houses to be built on the Furlong Road site.

We are pleased to report that the comments received from MVDC and SCC so far are positive and reinforce village preferences. Assuming the formal response from MVDC is forthcoming by our next Trustee meeting, the Trustees hope to instruct the preparation of a planning application for submission by the end of June. We will be inviting immediate neighbours of the two sites to briefings before the planning application is submitted and we will keep the broader community and our existing users informed via https://www.westcottvillagehall.com/ and other digital communication channels.

The planning application will include an indicative internal layout of the new community building. This is not fixed however and the developed internal design will be the subject of further consultation with the village and existing users after planning consent has been secured.

Funding the new community building

As we have previously said the charity has budgeted sufficient funds to meet the cost of submitting the planning application and this position remains unchanged. An approval of our planning application is our route to unlocking the residential land value of the Furlong Road site that the trustees would then need to sell. We expect the proceeds of this sale will provide the majority of the funding for the new community building and we have a clear strategy to secure top-up grant funding for this building project.

Shorter-term Fundraising and Community Support

It is a priority for the trustees that we maintain funds for the operation and management of the Village Hall to ensure that it remains open for business until we replace the building. We need to raise $\pounds6,000$ in 2024 to replenish our





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WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

operational fund to a prudent level. To raise money the trustees held a Table Top sale on Saturday 18th April, and there is still time to get involved in the Quiz night on Saturday 18th May and the Rock Choir night on Friday 7th June. Adverts are in the village magazine with QR codes for online ticket purchases.

These fundraising events are really important for us. We will use all money raised to maintain and operate the current village hall. The fund-raising events will also be used to demonstrate to external funding organisations that the village is engaged and part of this process. You can help us by getting involved and supporting us by buying tickets. Alternatively, please feel free to book the hall for your own event!



Sally Hewetson Interim Chair

Village Hall

Bring your Teddy to Abinger Hammer on 6th May and join all the bears that have gone down to the woods today for a picnic and lots of family fun!



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DORKING AND DISTRICT RSPB



The Cuckoo

Identifying birds by their songs can be tricky; but you know at least one - the male cuckoo, which calls its name across our local commons in early summer. The female voice is an excited trilling also described as bubbling. As April arrivals with a distinctive call "Cuck - Koo" and the habit of conning other smaller birds into rearing its chicks, the cuckoo has a major place in our folklore. From letters to the Times, music by Delius and the old country saying 'The hawk never strikes when the cuckoo calls', it is known even to those with little interest in wildlife.



A slim, grey, long-tailed bird with a small head, its general appearance can be confused with a hawk. It perches almost horizontally and flies with very rapid shallow wingbeats, often low and far. Many mornings on Bookham Common I've hopefully watched a fly past only to have the bird disappear in the distance before landing. On Thursley Common, a more obliging bird had been encouraged by photographers who fed him and over the past eleven years had become known as Colin. Unfortunately Colin didn't make it back to Thursley last spring but perhaps another male will take over this well fed spot.

Cuckoo are in trouble, almost certainly from changing climate and habitats on their long migrations to tropical Africa. The availability of satellite tracking kit small enough to attach to birds has told us a lot more about the journeys these birds make. You can follow the journeys and discover a lot more about cuckoos at https://www.bto.org/our-science/ projects/cuckoo-tracking-project

RSPB Dorking and District Local Group covers the local area (includina Dorkina, 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/

Jonathan Groves

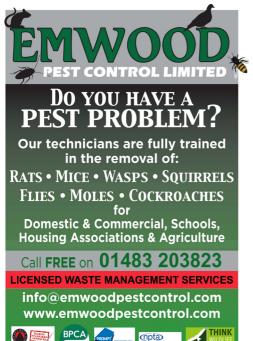


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Air Ambulance: Kent Surrey and Sussex



On Tuesday 12th March Keith Smith (a KSS Volunteer) gave us an illustrated talk about the activities of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Charity based at Redhill aerodrome. He said there were 21 similar organisations in the UK and this organisation compares with the best in Europe. It has 150 volunteers like him to support the charity and three helicopters with professional operating staff of 12-18 pilots and 25 maintenance experts. Their concern is 'saving lives and ensuring the best possible outcome of every incident'.

The charity started in Kent, and Surrey and Sussex joined it in 2007. Training takes place at the Redhill base. The aerodrome began operations with the Redhill Flying Club in 1933 and after WWII Bristow Helicopters established a large base here between 1960-1999 when they were involved in North Sea operations. During the war from 1937 to 1946 the RAF used it for training and operations. Several squadrons of Spitfires were based here as well as supporting aircraft. It has several grass runways and one hard runway of a little under one kilometre as well as a helicopter landing pad and associated hangars. Applications to extend the runways have always been refused.

As well as Redhill there are bases at Cox Hill and Rochester with the dispatcher organisation at Gillingham. They serve a population of 4.8 million in this area and some 9 million including transient travellers. In 2023 they responded to 3300 emergency incidents of which just over 2000 were taken to hospital, meaning 9 incidents on average every day.

They have three AW169 helicopters to ensure that there are always two available in service and they fly with two pilots, a doctor and a paramedic. The pilots are not employees of the charity - the doctors serve for about 6 to 9 months at a time and the paramedics for 3 to 4 years. The helicopters can fly at 70 mph, important bearing in mind that their job is saving lives when every second counts. The helicopters can fly in automatic mode in bad weather over the South Downs back to Redhill and can reach any part of Kent, Surrey or Sussex in under 30 minutes. Keith displayed a map covering the four counties showing the location of all the recent incidents which illustrated the wide area of operations. The



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



charity also has 4 Volvo XC90 cars for rapid response where needed.



The types of incident to which they responded in 2023 can be listed as follows:- 28% road traffic accidents, 28% medical emergencies, 20% accidents, 9% assault cases, 8% self-harm (intentional) cases, 2% sport and leisure and 1% transfer between hospitals working with the NHS.

They are trying to develop their aviation ambulance capability all the time and have weekly meetings to try and progress this policy. When the helicopter is on the ground they can carry out operations including Medfield Brain Scanner, whole blood transfer and others. They are also working on developing patient and family after care service.

The charity spends some $\pounds 18.8$ million per year to provide their life-saving service. Of this total some 88% is raised from public

contributions. You are encouraged to make a contribution to their website at www.aaks.org.uk, or scan the QR code below.

Our next event will be a talk by David Rose on 'Surrey Villages, Past and Present' on Tuesday 21st May at our usual venue in St Johns Church Hall at 8pm. The WLHG committee encourages suggestions for talks and relevant articles from the members. Contact by email at westcottlocalhistory@gmail.com and for local information at our website – www.westcottlocalhustory.org

Roger Christian



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Westcott 100 Club

The Westcott 100 Club held its 34th quarterly draw at St John's Chapel after the Westcott Local History Group's talk on 12th March. The speaker, Keith Smith from Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex did the honours. The winning numbers are 127 (\pounds 112.50) and 125 (\pounds 56.25).

Since our first draw in December 2015, we have awarded nearly \$8,000 in prizes and donated over \$10,000 in grants to good causes in the village. Our next draw will be held in June.

We have further funds available for the next round of applications. It's open to any Westcott club, society or individual – just give us a shout and we'll be happy to have a discussion with you.

For more information on joining the scheme or for the process for applying for funds from the scheme, please email us at westcott.100.club@gmail. com.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Alda Andreottí (Chaír), Edwín Harland (Treasurer), Ríchard Packer (Secretary)

The Westcott 100 Club is a Small Society Lottery registered with Mole Valley DC no. 48965

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TODAY



MUSIC IN DORKING



1st at 6.45, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717 5th at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717 11th at 7.30, cello & piano at Dorking Halls, £21-26, 01306 740619 18th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Nicolas's church, Bookham, £15 22nd at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19, 01306 881717 25th at 7.30, Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra at Ashtead Peace Memorial Hall, £16

The highlight of the month will undoubtedly be the final concert of the season for the Dorking Concertgoers – a recital by Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason, the distinguished cellist and pianist. Brother and sister Sheku and Isata come from an extraordinary musical family which has been much in the news and they need no introduction. Their programme is an ambitious one, comprising four major cello sonatas by Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Chopin and Fauré. Perhaps not surprisingly, this concert was sold out long ago.

The Dorking Chamber Orchestra, performing in Bookham, has a programme of melodious music to celebrate the spring. They open with Fauré's *Pavane* and follow this with Mozart's lovely clarinet concerto with Andrew Meredith as the soloist. The second half begins with Schubert's ballet music for *Rosamunde* and concludes with one of Mozart's finest symphonies, *no.40 in G minor*.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashtead, opens its programme with Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*, a lovely short work using themes from his opera Siegfried and written as a birthday greeting for his wife. Then comes Richard Strauss's first horn concerto, a brilliant and virtuosic early work, and the concert finishes with Gounod's first symphony, rarely heard but a delightful piece.

The Dorking Halls has two screenings of Bizet's opera *Carmen* from the Royal Opera House, the first being a live relay, and also a screening of a ballet, *The Winter's Tale*, from the Royal Ballet with music by Joby Talbot.

Ian Codd



WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 1st May at The Village Hall 10.30 - 12.00 midday



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ABINGER NURSERY



If ever you were looking for the original children's entertainer, story teller and mesmeriser then that would be the star of our Tuesday afternoons - the one and only Dena. The made up songs and rhymes and jiggly fingers iust captured our imaginations every time we sat to listen. And the nurturing helping hand and guidance of someone who has a wealth of experience in childcare was second to none. We will miss you Dena! Thank you so much for the years of hard work and fun you gave us. Keep popping in!!



We held a delicious tea party to wish Dena well and feasted on homemade (well of course!) scones as a treat. Not the first baking event of the year what with the super success of another Great Abinger Bake Off taking place. The rain managed to stay mostly away



and the chocolate Tombola w a s brimming w i t h bunnies,



eggs and eager children! A spread worthy of Prue Leith and a Paul Hollywood handshake was entered so thank you to all our Star Bakers and Judges. Thank you also to everyone who contributed and came along to have fun and raise important funds to support our learning journeys.

Our Vegetable Patch in the pub has been visited by our green (or mainly brown) fingers recently in preparation for growing season. There is lots of very important digging and weeding to be done which we enjoy immensely and can't wait to get stuck in with the planting. Thank you once again to the Abinger Hatch for this perfect patch – we hope to produce the lushest of veggies this year!!

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



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Bees



Just a small sample of our fabulous Easter Bonnet designs, Bees enjoyed showing parents their amazing creations while

parading around the playground.

Butterflies

Butterflies have really enjoyed finding out all about the history



of toys. We started with a workshop from Horsham Museum where we were able to investigate a whole range of artefacts. We were especially fascinated by a doll made out of wax (super creepy was the general conclusion!) and Meccano, which was marketed as just for boys! We have learnt how toys have changed over the past 100 years and thought about what kind of toys are more environmentally friendly. We then designed and made



hand puppets and are super proud of the results! Thank you to everyone who came in to help us sew - we couldn't do it without you!

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs had a brilliant day at Hever Castle! They started their day with a tour of the Italian gardens where they learnt about lots of different statues

and Roman structures. They then made

their own Aqueducts out of tubes and blocks. At lunch time, we were joined by some friendly ducks!



After lunch we had chance to explore the maze (several times!), go inside the castle and even visit the playgrounds.

Rabbits

We have had a fantastic month in Rabbits class, we have been busy at forest school, making sling shot cars, writing letters and learning about fractions and decimals! The children have absolutely loved their forest school sessions. They have been very engaged with den building, looking at a range of habitats, fire starting and melting marshmallows! As well as this, our DT project this half term has been to



SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



design and make sling shot cars. They each carefully considered their designs and have now put them together with extra care, ready for our races.





They also worked very hard on writing letters to our local community, letting them know that we were going to be floating paper boats down the Milton Street stream after the Easter holidays. They have also now completed their maths units on fractions and decimals, which they all worked incredibly hard on.

Owls and Otters



Children in Years 5 and 6 (Owls and Otters Class) carried out Geography Fieldwork on the Milton Brook.

We measured width, average depth and speed as well as recording river processes and features at two sites

to compare the difference between and artificially straightened stream and a natural stream. We considered effect the the



straightening of the channel would have on flooding and interviewed a local resident about this. Once back in class, we drew cross sections of the channels at both sites so we could compare the shape and size of the channel more easily.

World Book Day

Everyone had a great time on World Book Day this year. As usual,



children and adults were invited to dress as a character from a book. In addition, children brought in a 'story in a jar' to share with their class. Children were able to showcase their iar to the class and explain why they had put the various items in their jar to represent their chosen book. A winner from each class won a £5 book token and the jars are now displayed in the classes or in the library. Children were also invited to bring in a book that they no longer wanted and to swap it with another one. On the Monday preceding World Book Day, we launched a 'class to class' book which was created over the week and read out in the celebration worship that week. It was interesting to see how a simple picture of two children climbing over a mountain or hill inspired such a detailed story.

> Mrs Fyson Headteacher



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MOLE VALLEY COMMUNITY FUND



I was very grateful to the Village Association for inviting me to talk about a new initiative in Mole Valley. A small team of enthusiastic and socially minded volunteers has been put together to set up the Mole Valley Community Fund (MVCF). This is part of the Community Foundation for Surrey (a registered charity) which is one of 47 Community Foundations across the country set up over the last 20 years. It has been one of the fastest growing philanthropic movements in the country and has generated many thousands of pounds which have been used to improve the lives of individuals within local communities

simple MVCF aims to In terms raise money from companies and organisations, individuals, families and trust funds to establish an Area Fund which will then be used to support arant applications from within the local community to support or launch local projects. Within Surrey there are some long established Community Funds, including Guildford, who in the last 10 years have raised £1.3m with a further £0.75m in endowment investments. In the first three months of this year MVCF has raised £12,500 - a good start, but with a long way to go before we can claim to be changing the lives of residents within the area.

In order to get this new initiative off the ground we need your help;

Marketing and Communications skills to set up and manage our social media, and volunteers who have a commercial background to to generate corporate sponsors.

• We need people who are willing to give their time and talents to help organise fund raising events; and

• We need as many people as possible to spread the word about what we are setting up and hope to achieve.

Without the necessary funds to support Grant Applications none of this will be possible, and so we also need the community to find ways of generating an income stream for the Fund. We are fortunate to live in an affluent part of the country, but we also have a need to fund some fantastic projects which will change the lives of adults and young people alike. Encouraging business contacts, family and friends to consider giving to the MCVF is something we can all play a part in. The QR code will take you to the Community Foundation for Surrey website where there is much

more information. Please go online to learn more about supporting the fund and applications for grants.



If you would like to talk to me, please contact me at timway.westcott@ gmail.com.

Tim Way

• We need volunteers who have

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SPRING FLOWERS





This picture was taken by James Friend between Westcott and Wotton, I do love a forget-me-not, even as they take over my garden!





These photos of Deerleap (above) and The Burrell (left) were taken by Melanie Jane Banner and prove that spring is definitely here with a flurry of white petals!





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DORKING MUSEUM



A Call to Arms: The History of the Surrey Yeomanry: There is a last chance to see the Museum's current exhibition, which follows the history of the Surrey Yeomanry from its original formation as a voluntary unit in 1794 during the war against Revolutionary France. It was based in Dorking during the First World War, when many of its members served in India and the Middle East.



The exhibition includes historic uniform jackets, weaponry and profiles of some who served. The exhibition will close on 25th May.

Sweeping Through History: 100 years of Johnston Sweepers: Opening on 30th May, the Museum's new exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of Johnston Brothers moving to Dorking. Over the past 100 years the company has employed many local people, becoming a world leading designer and manufacturer of truck-mounted road sweepers with machines in 120 countries around the world all produced in Dorking: an essential tool in the battle to keep our environment clean. It was acquired by Bucher Industries in 2005. The exhibition tells the Johnston story and the company's connections to the industrial history of Dorking.

Family Activities at Dorking Library: Tuesday 28th May, 10am-noon: for Local and Community History Month, families are invited to come and put objects from the Museum in age order and guess what the mystery items were used for (aimed at 4–11-year-olds). Thursday 30th May, 10am-1pm: Spy School: The secrets of the World War 2 spies

revealed. Send a message in Morse code, make invisible



ink, create hidden maps and a homemade compass. Try secret disguises and camouflage. Includes an exhibition (aimed at all ages) about a World War 2 secret spy school on Box Hill. Both are held at Dorking Library, St Martin's Walk.

Walking in Dorking: The Museum's popular programme of guided walks. On the edge of town, a Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure: Sunday 12th May, 2pm, from the gateway opposite Hillier garden centre on the A25 Reigate Road. The Deepdene Trail walk takes in the grotto, woodland walks, parterre and temple, and offers exclusive access to the grade 2* listed Hope family Mausoleum: Sunday 19th May, 2pm, from Dorking Golf Club clubhouse.

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



In the town centre, starting at the Museum, see Dorking as you have never seen it before on the guided walk of Hidden Historic Dorking: Sunday 12th May, 11am. The Family Treasure Hunt for young history detectives offers a prize for all participating children: Tuesday 28th May, 2pm. The Blue Plaques and Statues walk tells of famous people



who lived or were active in Dorking, r e v e a l i n g a diverse range of interests and

achievements across more than two centuries: Sunday 12th May, 2pm, from opposite Dorking Halls.

All walks should be booked in advance at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guidedwalks-around-dorking/. Walks may also be arranged for private groups: see website for details, enquiries and group booking.

South Street Caves tours: One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets, complete with graffiti carved into the walls, the oldest

dating back to 1666. A series of staircases, galleries, wine



vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level. Guided tours on the last Saturday of each month: 25th May, tours start at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, lasting 45 minutes, led by a trained guide. For details and open day bookings see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-streetcaves/. Private group bookings may also be made.

Get involved: The Museum is looking for new volunteers who can spare a few hours a month 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 in events, digital communications / website, school / youth visits, artefacts and recruitment and training. See dorkingmuseum.org. uk/about/volunteer-opportunities for further details.

Enhance your visit: Explore more ways to enjoy Dorking Museum from anywhere, anytime with Bloomberg Connects, the free arts and culture app. Use the app to find out more about our collection. The QR code at the Museum or on dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/ will take you straight to our beautiful guide.

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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Delacroix's Liberty is the title of the Art Society's May lecture and looks in detail at Delacroix's most iconic painting - Liberty Leading the People. Lecturer Daphne Lawson explores this powerful work, placing it at the heart of French Romanticism and its role in the aftermath of the July Revolution.



The talk will take place in the Martineau Hall, Dorking Halls with coffee available from 9.30 am. Visitors are welcome for a fee of £7.50 but please contact Sue Bax on 01737 223932 (email - sue.bax1@btinternet.com) to book as seating is limited. For more information and details of the forthcoming programme, please visit www.theartssocietydorking.org.uk

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QRMW



We were so blessed when we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday 24th March, after weeks of rain the day was bright and sunny and the atmosphere was amazing with so many parents and children enjoying themselves. The children had great fun with the new



Easter Egg Hunt we devised and the egg and spoon races were just great. The raffle was a great success as was the tombola, lucky dip and games and the BBQ was a great hit in the sunshine. An amazing £1011 (gross) was paid into the Memorial Fund to assist those Veterans in times of difficulty. A huge thanks goes to all those who donated eggs and raffle prizes and also to everyone who helped us make the event so successful on the day.

The woodland is looking so bright with green buds on trees and shrubs, everything is bursting into life and the birds are nesting in several of our bird boxes. One of our male pheasants sadly has an injury to his foot but it hasn't stopped him chasing the females who come to feed every day as soon as they hear my car pull into the car park. since the woodland officially opened which is taking place on Saturday 1st June. This is going to be a very special event and attended by a number of dignitaries as well as our local residents and veterans from all over the country. ALL are welcome to attend this event which will be really enjoyable commencing at 12.30 with the Redhill Band and Corp of Drums to get everyone in good spirits followed by a Commemoration Service for the families of 8 Veterans; saplings will be planted to honour them.

Professional Piper Jock McCulloch will play Amazing Grace at the end of the Service and my niece, a professional classical singer, will be singing Ava Maria and Angelicus Cesar Franck, which I know will be guite incredible under the canopy of the woodland. There will be a Pimms Stall, BBQ, Bottle Tombola and Grand Raffle, something for everyone. You must bring cash to spend because cards do not work in the memorial woodland! Parking will be at Bulmer Farm paddock and we will be running a shuttle service for the short journey between the Farm and the Woodland. Do put this date in your diaries, and I look forward to you joining us at the Memorial Woodland for what will be a day of reflection and celebration of life.

So now it's full speed ahead with the organization of our 10th Anniversary

Paul Cooling Chairman 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:

• Barnes Wallis's Civilian Inventions: Live talk by Peter Hoar: best known for the 'bouncing bomb', most of Wallis's inventions were in civilian aircraft and communications technology. Monday 13th May at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, \pounds 2 at the door for non-members.

• LiDAR in Surrey: its uses in archaeology: Zoom talk: Anne Sassin explains Light Detection and Ranging and its revolutionising impact on Surrey archaeology. Monday 20th May, https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/.

Mole Valley

oncern

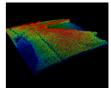
For further details of talks and other activities – or to join DLHG – go to https:// dlhg.org.uk.

Need Help with Information Technology?

If you are over 50 and live in the Mole Valley area, you can get help by using Age Concern's IT/Digital Learning sessions in either Dorking or Leatherhead. The sessions run on Tuesdays for 6 weeks.

Topics covered will include: browsing on the internet, keeping in touch, setting up and using your own email or Skype/Zoom accounts and how to shop on the internet, plus staying safe - all using your own Laptop/Smart phone/ iPad/Tablet, etc.

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GREEN WESTCOTT



Hedgerows - Nature's Unsung Heroes

This Spring volunteers at Westcott Community Garden have been busy planting an edible 'wild harvest' hedge at St John's churchyard. We applied to the Woodland Trust 'Free trees for Schools and Communities' programme and were fortunate to receive from them a variety of fruiting species: hazel; elder; dog rose; crabapple; rowan and blackthorn.



By planting this hedge we are hoping to help increase wildlife diversity in the churchyard, by providing shelter and a variety of flowers, nuts and berries for insects, birds and animals, as well as provide some foraging for us too! We are looking forward to learning how best to make good use of the harvests for preserves, jellies and drinks etc, whilst also doing our little bit to contribute towards increasing this important habitat.

Why are hedgerows important?

Hedgerows - which are either single or multi-species hedges with incorporated features such as banks, walls, ditches or gateways - provide an important habitat for many species of plants and animals. Thick hedging provides



a good habitat for nesting birds and hibernating hedgehogs, while the base of a hedge gives shelter for small mammals, like dormice, and also for frogs and toads. The RSPB says that "hedges may support up to 80% of our woodland birds, 50% of our mammals and 30% of our butterflies.' Having a diversity of plant species that make up a hedgerow helps to support a greater variety of wildlife. Many declining species rely on them to survive. The hedgerows crisscrossing our countryside act as wildlife corridors, providing safe passage linking habitats together. 'If the woods are the lungs of the land, the

hedgerows are the arteries.' Richard Negus, working hedgelayer.



Hedgerows are important 'pollution busters', capturing carbon and absorbing other pollutants to help clean our air. They help prevent flooding and soil erosion by absorbing water and holding soil together.





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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



They can also play a valuable role in lessening the amount of polluting fertilizers, pesticides and sediment that reach streams and rivers, by acting as a physical barrier and through increasing filtration into the ground. Hedges can help shield animals and crops from extreme weather – something that is an increasing risk.

Managed habitat

Being entirely man-made, the creation and maintenance of hedaerows is a great example of a positive collaboration between humans and the natural world, being beneficial to each. Hedgerows attract a range of insects, birds and mammals which are natural predators to other creatures that may be damaging to crops. They also attract crop pollinators. The art of hedgelaying is a valuable ancient, rural skill, which is in need of more practioners. Hedgelaying involves partially cutting live trees to enable them to be laid at an angle, to allow growing from the base. Laying a hedge encourages strong new growth which revitalises the hedge as a whole and helps to fill gaps



where parts have died off. This helps to create thicker hedges and also forms a year-round impenetrable barrier, whereas just constantly trimming hedges encourages growth on the outer edges but tends to cause the insides to hollow out and weaken.

A programme of hedge management over a period of about 20 years, ensuring that hedges in an area are at various different stages in the cycle, can help maximise the range of habitats suited to a wider variety of birds. Hedge cutting should not be done between 1st March and 31st August in order to protect nesting birds and should preferably take place in January or February, after most of the berries have been eaten by birds.

Hedge-planting, or restoration, can be a great community-building activity and those who have invested time in creating part of the living landscape are likely to have a keen interest in its future thriving. This time of year hedge surveying is another way to get to know local hedgerows better, whilst providing valuable information to help determine hedgerow health and management advice – find out more at www.hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org

National Hedgerow Week runs from 6th to 12th May – www.hedgelink. org.uk has details of how you can get involved!

Jakki Phillips



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at St. John's C of E Primary school, Dorking. Come & join them as their conductor Cole Bendall takes

the choir from Dawn to Dusk for a cafe style concert to be given on June 8th at St. Pauls Church, Dorking.

Lots of enjoyment is guaranteed as you shake out your party dress.

If you are interested in singing with them, no audition required please visit www.brockhamchoral.org for more information.



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The emergency out of hours mobile number is **07501 655200** The surgery is closed and the phones are diverted from 1.00-2.00pm.



Dorking Service Centre Ltd

