Westcott Village Magazine July/August 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 September issue: 8th August 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



So far summer has been a bit of a let down - more rain and wind, and less sun than I would like! I am trying to stick with tradition and sit

outside in the evening with a book, but more often than not I need a jumper - unheard of for me! Hopefully by the time you read this in July and August the weather will have decided to behave in an appropriate manner!

This month sees the Gardeners' Club Summer Show on July 6th, check

out pages 17 and 21, and see their website for details of classes to enter.

Wotton Fete is just down the road on the bank holiday, August 26th, and this year has a colouring competition (see centre pages) along with all the usual stalls, entertainment and some of the best tea and cake in the county!

The other best tea and cake is available at the Westcott coffee morning on 3rd July and 7th August.

Cath editor@westcottmag.com



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 emaila or Skype/Zoom accounts and how to shop on the internet, plus staying safe - all using your own Laptop/ Smart phone/iPad/Tablet, etc.



To register your interest please call 01306 899104 or 07442 017169, or by email info@ageconcernmolevalley.org.uk

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



ON BEAUTIFUL DISTRACTIONS

What a summer of sport lies before us. The risk with writing this at the beginning of June is that by the time you read it there is every chance that England have crashed out of the Euros, been humiliated by Namibia in the T20 Cricket World Cup, and managed to scupper the majority

of their rowing boats at the Olympics, but at the moment I am enjoying the thrill of a cautious optimism.

Sport is a wonderful thing - whether you prefer Wimbledon or The Open. There are of course the health benefits - although

I am reliably informed that these sadly only apply when playing it rather than watching it. Sport can bring a sense of community and identity. It can enable us to wonder at the sheer possibility contained within the human body. Watching and playing it can be, at times, akin to a spiritual experience.





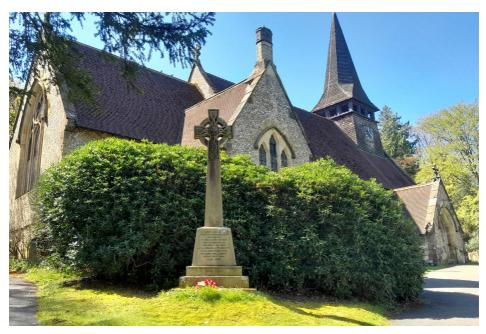
At various moments in my life "WHOEVER YOU ARE, sport has brought both elation me WESTCOTT CHURCH IS FOR and desolation. YOU - REGARDLESS OF YOUR It has given me friendships and a FAITH. CREED OR LACK sense of belonging. It has made laugh and, at least on occasion. one

> cry. (It was when England lost a penalty shootout to Argentina in the 1998 World Cup round of 16 in case you were wondering). The one thing it cannot offer, is a meaningful way of engaging with the big existential questions that life throws our way.

> In the strange and alien world of March 2020 as lockdown forcefully entered our collective vocabulary and memory, Gareth Southgate wrote an open letter to England fans where he spoke of 'the

THEREOF."

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



beautiful distraction that football can bring'. Sport truly is a beautiful distraction – and I hope you enjoy it this summer whether you are tuning into the Olympics or playing village cricket. We all need beautiful distractions, meaningful distractions, from time to time. But sport is not the entity of what it is to be a fully alive human being.

Going to church may well sound less appealing than many other ways you could spend a Sunday morning, but it is in the context of this community over the decades that I have found meaning, purpose, hope and grace amid the challenges, joys and grief that life has thrown at me. I'm all for the beautiful distraction of sport –

but I have found something more beautiful still which has given a meaning and hope which lie beyond even sports most glorious triumphs and dramas. You too are invited to explore this hope, so as you sit down to watch the Euros why not consider exploring the deeper possibilities of life. Whoever you are, Westcott Church is for you - regardless of your faith, creed or lack thereof. And I hope and pray when you do visit us that you will find space to explore, question, hope and wonder which can run alongside the beautiful distraction that sport can bring.

JULY & AUGUST 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
7th July	Transformation	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Forest Church
14th July	Ephesians 1.3-14, Mark 6.14-29	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
21st July	Ephesians 2.11-end, Mark 6.30- 34	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
28th July	Ephesians 3.14-21, John 6.1-21	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship with Sunday Club
4th Aug	Ephesians 4.1-16, John 6.24-35	Book of Common Prayer Communion	All Age Morning Worship
11th Aug	Ephesians 4.25-5.2, John 6.35, 41-51	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
18th Aug	Ephesians 5.15-20, John 6.51-58	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
25th Aug	Ephesians 6.10-20, John 6.56-69	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship with Sunday Club

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP





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Life groups:

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

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

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WESTCOT

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:

01/06/2024 James Nicholas Neville Reif and Imogen Hanna Rutherford

Death:

27/04/2024 Karen Ann Wilde (79)



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to all our summer sponsors.

It is with much love that I sponsor the church floodlights in June, in remembrance of my mum, Diana Mary Newson, Nana to Alisha, and whose birthday was the 7th June. She is buried alongside my father, Patrick, in the upper graveyard and stayed with us many, many times in Westcott, where we shared many great memories. She lit up the life of many people and is very much missed. Wishing her a happy heavenly birthday, Mary Fowell.

The Church floodlighting for July has been sponsored by Lynn and Terry Donaldson.

The Church floodlighting for August is in memory of Scott, beloved eldest son of Steve and Madeleine Brooks, who died aged 20. He would have celebrated his 50th birthday on 25th August.



If you would like to be a church floodlighting sponsor, please contact Sarah Massey at admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk. (Suggested donation of $\pounds75$ to Westcott Church Funds.)

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As the July edition of the Village Mag goes to print well before WESTfest on June 23rd, you'll have to wait until next issue for photos and a full report! In the meantime, here's a selection of the BRILLIANT WESTfest programme cover design competition entries from Surrey Hills All Saints pupils. Also check out our Facebook page: @westfestsurrey







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PAPUA PARTNERS WALK





P a p u a Partners is an international NGO that was founded here in Westcott in 2006.

'West Papua' refers to the Indonesian half of the Island of New Guinea, which is home to some of the largest and most biodiverse tropical rainforests and coral reef systems in the world. It is also culturally and linguistically diverse - with over 250 ethnically diverse groups, who play a critical role in protecting these vital ecosystems. Unfortunately, decades of conflict, political instability, human riahts violations and inequitable and illegal resource extraction have begun to take their toll, as outsiders - including the Indonesian government - have looked to profit from West Papua's rich natural resources.

Meanwhile, Indigenous West Papuans - who have long contested Indonesia's annexation of West Papua - are becoming a minority in their own lands as a result of ongoing marginalisation, and ever increasing migration from other islands. Papua Partners is working alongside our partners in West Papua to secure peace and justice for the Indigenous peoples and, in September, we'd like to invite you to join us to Walk With West Papua. We will be walking to raise awareness about West Papua and raise funds for the work of Papua Partners. We will be gathering at Guildford Station and walking approximately 20km back to Westcott, along the North Downs Way via St Martha's Church to Newlands Corner and then on through the villages of Shere, Gomshall and Abinger. It will be a great opportunity to spend time together, get some exercise and act in solidarity with our friends in West Papua who will be walking in pilgrimage the same week.

We hope you will join us!

Do follow us on social media or sign up for our newsletter to receive more specific information on the walk route and timings.

www.papuapartners.org





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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 Baby Meals

For more than 20 years, the Westcott 'baby meals' volunteer cooks have been buying, cooking and delivering a hot meal to families with a new baby in Westcott.





If you live in Westcott and you're expecting a baby, or you know someone who is, please get in touch, we're delighted to help out during the chaos that a new baby inevitably brings!

Anna Kemkers 07710425487





Calling allyoung gardeners, chefs and creative minds! Are you ready to showcase your talents and creativity in the Gardening Club Summer Competition? Whether you're a crafting genius or a budding chef, there's something for everyone (age9 years and under) in this exciting event! Here are the competitions waiting for you:

- A decorated selfie photo
- A coloured picture from the gardening show schedule
- A boat made from any material
- 5 piecesof fridge cake

Don't miss your chance to be part of this blooming extravaganza! Get your entry form from the NisaLocal shop in Westcott and deliver your entries before 11am on Saturday 6th July to the Westcott Village Hall.





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WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



The trustees and the Development Group continue to work towards replacing our current village hall with a new building, offering modern, flexible space for our village and surround area. The intention at the time of writing this article is to submit a planning application to Mole Valley District Council towards the end of June. There is still significant work to be carried out by the team before we reach the point of submission so there could be slippage on the timing, but currently this is not expected.

As mentioned in an earlier article, the trustees have met with the immediate neighbours of both the Village Hall and The Hut so that they are aware of where we have got to, and have an idea of where we are heading. Please note that when planning consent is secured, hopefully in the final quarter of this year, we will consult with the village regarding internal layout. When the planning application has been submitted it will be available on the Village Hall website (www.westcottvillagehall.com) and Mole Valley District Council's (MVDC's) usual planning website (www.molevalley.gov.uk). Anyone will be able to communicate with MVDC during the application process in either support or otherwise, as with all normal planning applications.

The trustees held a very successful quiz night in May which raised over £1,440. It was a fun night, orchestrated by our very own brilliant quiz master Mr Andy Johnson. Pie and Mash was expertly served by Jon and Mum Groceries, and the raffle prizes are worth mentioning as we have a few thanks to make. The prizes were donated by local companies including The White Horse in Dorking, The Wotton Hatch, The Prince of Wales, CorefitPhysio, Brew Bird Coffee, Jon and Mum Groceries, and Esmae's Sweet Treats. Thank you to you all for your generosity and support.

By the time you read this, the Dorking Rock Choir will have held a concert at Holy Trinity Church, again to raise funds for the redevelopment project. We also have a massive thanks to be made to the Westcott Village Association who have agreed to donate their takings from their tombola at Westfest and round the sum up to £3,000, and the Westcott 100 Club who have also agreed to donate £3,000. These funds will help us pay for the final costs with regards to the planning application and ensure that we can maintain and operate the current building going forward until the redevelopment. Thank you to all of you who have supported us through this complex process, we are getting there!





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SUMMER SHOW

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Weekend Walks Midsummer 2024

Wednesday 10th July, Knepp Rewilding Estate, 11:30am

Swallows Lane, Dial Post, Horsham RH13 8NN. Park at the walkers car park. what3words///runners.pickle. stickers Leader Derrick Tel 07753 719170. Voluntary £5 donation for parking. Toilets near the kitchen & shop (where you can also park temporarily). The farm shop now has a click & collect service for estate meats. There will be storks with young and summer migrants and lots of other butterflies on the way to the purple emperor sites.

Saturday 13th July RSPB Farnham Heath, 10:00am

The Reeds Road, Tilford,Farnham GU10 2DL The reserve is behind the

Rural Life Living Museum. Park to the rear of their carpark what3words:/// laser.difficult.rent Leader Glenn 07483 848837. The parking is free. There are no facilities but the museum has toilets and a good cafe. A lovely heathland walk, looking for resident Dartford warblers, tree pipits and woodlarks.

For booking (required to manage numbers) and further details on the events above please visit the website below or Facebook page, alternatively email us at rspbdorking@ gmail.com.

Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District Instagram: @rspb_dorking Website: https://group.rspb.org.uk/ dorkinganddistrict/

Jonathan Groves



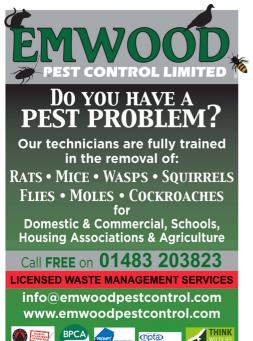


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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP



A tour round Surrey Villages in Postcards with David Rose

At our lecture on 21st May, David Rose showed us his amazing collection of Surrey Village postcards that he had collected over a lifetime living in Guildford. He began with the first postcard of 1st October 1870 with 1/2 penny stamp printed on it and no picture. Cards with a picture on it and a space for a message soon appeared and they were delivered remarkably quickly - carrying short but urgent messages. By 1894 stamps had to be stuck on as the cards became more elaborate. Percy Loyd, the Albury postmaster and a keen photographer saw the potential of picture postcards because people liked seeing pictures of places they knew. Of course others followed. The aolden age of postcards was from 1901 until the start of WWI but they are still popular. Most of David's cards were from before 1930.

The journey round Surrey took in 22 postcards. He started in Albury with a picture of the tall chimneys seen from



the road and some comments on the ancient St Peter & St Paul Church set in Albury Park which had been built around Saxon remains with a tower added in 1140. He mentioned the Silent Pool on the slopes above Albury and dispelled the myth that a peasant girl had drowned in the pond at the sight of King John and his men as it was only a few feet deep.

Next came Shere with the big tree in the road leading to the church. At Gomshall the picture showed the little children playing in the flooding river Tillingbourne. At Abinger there was the clock at the difficult turning. In Westcott the picture included the old thatched village dovecote sign near the bus stop, which is the memorial erected in 1922 to Lt Boyd Geake who was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916.



At Brockham, after crossing the bridge over the river Mole the Common appeared as it was years ago, but with no curb stones as there are now, and the sight of the soaring spire of



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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)

Christ Church built in 1846 by the Rt. Hon Henry Gouldburn MP, one time Chancellor of the Exchequer and the owner of the Manor of Fast Betchworth as a memorial to his eldest son. The next card showed the cattle grazing on the southern slopes of Leith Hill with patches of bracken but no trees at that time. In Coldharbour village the feature was the old pub, the Plough Inn recommended for a good meal by many. In 1841, the year that the Coldharbour Christ Church was built by the generosity of John Labouchere of Broome Hall, Queen Victoria gave birth to Princess Alice who married Louis 4th of Hesse and their grandson was Louis, later Lord Mountbatten of Burma.

Most of these village postcards include their churches, and St Margarets, Ockley on Stane Street is one of the oldest, probably dating from 1291. It was from here that Rev Henry Whitfield, Rector from 1618, took his flock to America in 1639 some 19 years after the Pilgrim Fathers left Dorking in 1620.



At Holmbury St Mary the church was built in 1879 through the generosity of wealthy local residents. The architect was George Edmund Street RA (b 1824) who was an assistant to Sir George Gilbert Scott who had designed a number of churches in the area and also the Albert Memorial in London. It has many fine artistic attributes including a crucifix showing St Peter, the porter at the gates of heaven. In 1880 William Gladstone and his cabinet came to Holmbury House and attended church being obliged to sit in the pews with the villagers. The church tower clock which chimes every quarter hour was installed to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887.

The story moved down onto the Weald at Forest Green which was a hamlet conveyed to George Evelyn in 1593. The Parrot pub has a mounting block and is alleged to have been a staging post for smugglers travelling up from the south coast. At Wallis Wood we saw the Scarlett Arms, built in 1620 and named after Sir James Scarlett, the first Baron of Abinger. Next came Cranleigh with its beautiful Green, famous for its school and supposed to be the largest village in England.

Chiddingfold village has a place in history and a reputation for glass making. St Margaret's Church and the shops and houses border three sides of the Green, while the Crown Inn was established in 1295 as a resting house

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



for Cistercian Monks travelling from Winchester to Canterbury to visit the shrine of Thomas Beckett. Edward VI visited it with 4000 soldiers and Elizabeth I stopped there in 1591 en route from Losely Park to Cowdray Park. Bramley and Wonersh level crossing and gate was a notable picture near the railway station on the Cranleigh to Guildford line which opened in 1865. There is an impressive sign for the village of Shalford where the River Tillingbourne joins the River Wey as it flows north to the River Thames.

Pirbright has a long history and is best known as the home of the Guards' Training Depot but is also known for the Pirbright Institute for the National Farm Animals Disease Research Centre, which has been there for the past 100 years. Two well known characters at Pirbright, namely Henry lived Morton Stanley (1841-1904) who went to Africa to find David Livingstone, and Vice Admiral John Byron, the grandfather of Lord George Byron the celebrated poet. Ripley was on the main road from London to Portsmouth. now bypassed by the A3. The Talbot Inn (1453) is said to be where Nelson stayed with Lady Hamilton before sailing for the Battle of Trafalgar. It was also here that penicillin was first produced commercially by Kenneth White in 1944.

Postcard number 20 took us to East Horsley, mentioned in the Domesday



Book in 1086 and known more recently as the meeting place of the Surrey Union Hunt. At Frensham there were ponds and heathland in 1920. We finished at Hindhead at the Royal Huts Hotel with views of the Devils Punchbowl and the entrance to the new twin tunnels. A notable resident of Hindhead was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1817-1907).

Although David Rose had some entertaining anecdotes of the 'past and present' pictures on his postcards, it was deemed useful to add some more historical background to the story of Surrey villages and their past.

As always the WLHG committee encourages suggestions for talks and relevant articles from the members.

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

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TODAY



MUSIC IN DORKING



6th at 3.00, Leatherhead Choral Society at The Lighthouse, Leatherhead, $\pounds15$

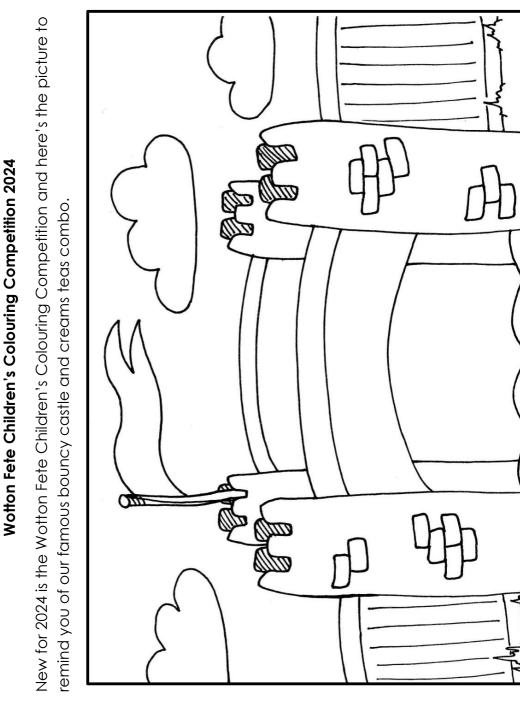
7th at 4.00, Bookham Choral Society at St Nicolas' church, Bookham, $\pounds15$

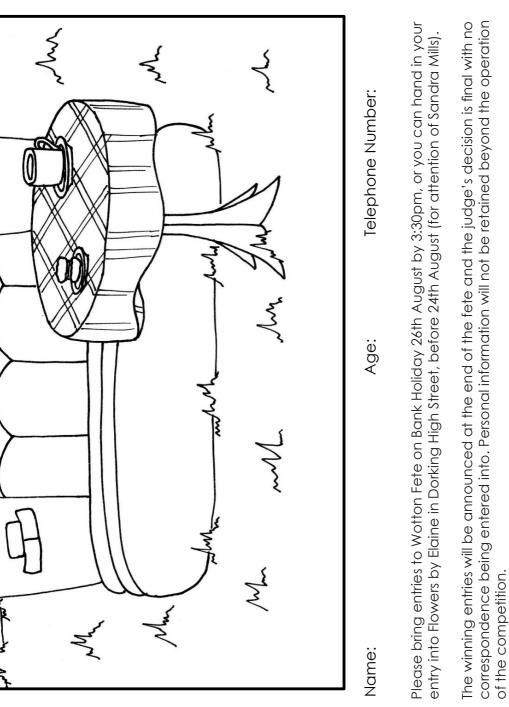
There are just a couple of choir summer concerts to mention this month. The Leatherhead Choral Society, conducted by Ian Assersohn, has a concert entitled The Great American Songbook. This will be a short afternoon concert celebrating the golden age of American songs.

Bookham Choral Society's summer concert, conducted by Elliot Mercer, includes the Songs and Sonnets by jazz composer George Shearing and a set of Birthday Madrigals by John Rutter.

The Dorking Halls are now closed until December for essential maintenance work on the ceiling of the grand hall. So there are no opera and ballet screenings or other events to mention at the moment.









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ABINGER NURSERY





We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful area and make it our business to explore it as often as we can. So on the sunniest of Fridays (Big thank you mother nature!) we met at the foot

of Leith Hill, armed with cake and caterpillars – yes caterpillars! - (Ok so they were the jelly variety) to see us to the top. Parents aplenty joined us for a jolly jaunt to the tower stopping only to explore a fallen tree and natural dirt slides. Once we reached the summit we still had the energy to roll and run down the grassy slopes with gleeful giggles! (some of those from our parents running alongside us!).



The trek to the Tower whilst hugely fun was also a fundraising opportunity and our friends and family sponsored each one of our footsteps. We are a committee-led charity and so to sustain such outstanding childcare our nursery relies on the generosity of parents and the wider community and put the ooo into community they certainly do! We are so lucky to have tight bonds within the village and the most amazing neighbours at The Abinger Hatch who - through a genius app idea - raised a staggering £355! Thank you so much to everyone who walked and donated we are always hugely grateful.

The time came this week so say a fond farewell to our butterfly babies who



had been with us since caterpillars. We patiently but eagerly waited throughout each stage to welcome the beautiful winged minibeasts we knew were coming. On returning after our half term holiday that day had come! Five super spotted fluttery wings were flying ready to be released. We opened their doors and watched them as they made their way into the big wider world - just as our school leavers are getting ready to do with visits from their new teachers and dressing up in their new uniforms in the role play area. Maybe they will sprout wings too!

If you have a child looking to start Nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch – spaces for September are available and the government have just introduced 15 hours of free childcare for working parents of 2 year olds. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!



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WESTCOTT PHOTOS









These beautiful pictures were sent in by Fiona Humphrey, all taken round Westcott.





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ALAN O'HEA OBITUARY

Alan O'Hea 1927 – 2024



born in Leatherhead. Alan was the eldest of four children. He was educated at the Jesuit Stonyhurst College in Lancashire, arriving there at the outbreak of the war. In 1944 eighteen-year-olds were being called up to serve our country and Alan opted to enter the RAF, but by the time he was qualified to fly Spitfires the RAF were putting their pilots on "hold" and he never flew in combat. However, this is probably where his love of flying was nurtured, and he later gained a full civil aviation pilot licence enabling him to fly on professional routes in the UK and abroad.

On demobilisation he went up to Oxford, to Brasenose College, gaining a degree in Engineering while at the same time enjoying his passion for sport. He played both tennis and squash for his College and narrowly missed out on a rugby Blue. After University he joined his father in the family business, the Colt Group, which specialised in industrial scale engineering projects to do with heating, ventilation, and fire protection. Alan worked his way up the business ladder joining in time the main Board and eventually taking over from his father as CEO where, together with his younger brother Jerome, he continued to develop the business which became the international market leader.

Alan and his beloved wife Gill moved to Highbury in Westcott Street, in 1955. Their four children arrived in quick succession, and they needed a bigger house so from 1977 they lived in Tor Hatch, Shere. Alan will be remembered for his involvement with so many aspects of local life. He was very much a 'people person' and Tor Hatch became his base for hosting friends and family as well as local events. He loved nothing better than a party.

In 2008 Alan and Gill returned to Westcott and lived in the Paddock. For many years he served the local Conservative Party organising fundraising events and delivering leaflets. He was an active member of the Surrey Beekeeping Association, regularly giving demonstrations at the County Show. Alan was also very involved with his local Catholic

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ALAN O'HEA OBITUARY (cont.)

Church, both at the small chapel in Gomshall where he was a lay reader and at the Friary in Chilworth where for years he ran the tombola stall at the annual Friary Fete. Alan was also a pretty useful man to have around with a toolbox and regularly attended the local antique restoration group.

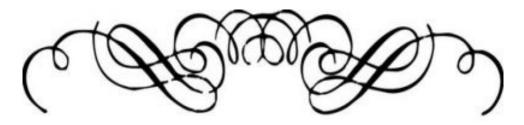
Alan always kept up his life-long love of sport, he was fiercely competitive on the tennis court where he would dominate at the net and only gave up playing shortly before his ninetieth birthday. He was a regular squash player and a passionate Rugby player who played first team rugby for Dorking for many years, mostly playing wing forward. He played his last match with the 'Old Boys' at the age of 54, and on retirement from the game became a committed spectator, following England in the Six Nations wherever they were playing.

Alan was a keen sailor who enjoyed offshore racing in his younger years and more recently kept a Solent Sunbeam for racing in Chichester Harbour and Cowes Week. He served for 3 years as Rear Commodore Sailing of the sailing club at Itchenor. He skied until he was in his late eighties and continued playing bridge until his health made it too difficult.

Alan was above all a family man who took huge pleasure in time spent with his children, 13 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He loved being back in Westcott where he spent the last 16 years of his life. It was a great sadness that he and Gill lost their eldest daughter Nicki to cancer in 2009, but this was faced with the same courage and dignity with which Alan faced his last few years of declining health due to Alzheimer's.

He remained gentle and smiling to the end and died very peacefully on February 28th at home in Westcott with his family. His funeral in a packed church was held in Dorking on April 5th. Alan's was indeed a very long life, lived to the full.

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DORKING MUSEUM



Sweeping Through History: 100 years of Johnston Sweepers:

The Museum's current exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of Johnston Brothers moving to Dorking, telling the Johnston story and revealing the company's connections to the industrial history of Dorking.



With road construction in its infancy, acauired the Road thev Plant Construction Co. Ltd, based in Vincent Lane, where it remained until moving in 1992 to a much larger site in Curtis Road. Over the past 100 years, the company has employed many local people, some for their entire working lives. A world leading designer and manufacturer of truck mounted road sweepers, with machines operating in 120 countries around the world, all produced in Dorking, Johnston Sweepers was acquired by Swiss based Bucher Industries in 2005. They may not have glitz and glamour, but road sweepers are an essential tool in the battle to keep our environment clean.

Family Activities: We continue to offer a programme of free family activities held at Dorking Library in St Martin's Walk. Materials are provided and children must be accompanied.

• Saturday 20th July, 10am-2pm: Butterflies, Bees & Bugs

(supported by The Arts Society Dorking): Celebrate Dorking's extraordinary insect heritage. Marvel at giant pullapart insect models, have your face

painted like a bee and create your own beautiful paper butterfly!



• Tuesday 30th July, 10am-noon: Festival of Archaeology: Come and join in a pretend archaeological castle dig. What do the items tell you about what might have happened at the castle?

• Saturday 17th August, 10am-noon: National Playday: Come and try games from the past, such as shove halfpenny.

Walking in Dorking: Guided walks on the edge of town, the Deepdene Trail includes exclusive access to the grade 2* listed Hope family Mausoleum, leaving from Dorking Golf Club clubhouse: Sunday, 7th July, 2pm.

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



The Betchworth Castle tour has exclusive access to the castle enclosure, leaving from the gate opposite Hillier Garden Centre on the A25 Reigate Road: **Sundays 14th July and 18th August, 2pm.**

In the town centre (from the Museum except where stated), the Family Treasure Hunt offers a prize for all participating children: Thursday 1st August, 2pm. The Dorking Historic Pub Walk reveals stories of hostelries, pubs and inns both past and present: Saturday 17th August, 6pm. The Blue Plaques and Statues walk tells of famous people who lived or were active in Dorking: Wednesday 3rd July and Tuesday 27th August, 6.15pm from opposite Dorking Halls. The Hidden Historic Dorking Walk, revealing the hidden treasures of the town, Sundays 14th July and 18th August, 2pm.

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: Take a trip under the streets of Dorking to explore the famous 17th century caves. Discover how they were created and how they evolved over the centuries. A series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level and possibly used in the late 17th century for political, criminal or religious gatherings. Open Day tours are sold out, but private tours on a date and time to suit you are popular. Tours last 45 minutes and are bookable by appointment for any group or organisation, family or friends. See dorkingmuseum.org.uk/ south-street-caves and email caves@ dorkingmuseum.org.uk to arrange a private tour.

Get involved: The Museum is looking for new volunteers who can spare a few hours a month at the front desk or in a variety 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.



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. See dorkingmuseum. org.uk/digital-guide/.



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ABINGER D&G CHOIR CONCERT

Abinger D&G Choir with Vox Veritas French Connection Concert Church of St Romald, County Durham



Following last summer's highly successful French Connection concert at St James's church, the Abinaer D&G Choir headed north at the end of May to reprise their performance of Fauré's Requiem, plus other French favourites, at the Church of St Romald in Romaldkirk. County Durham. This was the choir's second visit to Romaldkirk and on this occasion they were joined by local a capella chamber choir, Vox Veritas. The combined choirs were conducted by D&G Musical Director, Martin Hall, and supported by professional organist and regular accompanist, Canon Peter Gould.

The evening commenced with Menuet Scherzo by Joseph Jongen, a stirring organ solo played by Peter Gould, which was followed by D&G Choir's delightful rendition of Fauré's ever popular Cantique de Jean Racine. Vox Veritas, led by Verity Young, continued the evening with aplomb, singing *Le* Baylère, arranged by Goff Richards, before D&G chorister, Lynne Robb, gave a fine solo performance of Sept Melodies op.2, No. 6 Hébé, by Ernest Chausson. To round off an enthralling first half, Vox Veritas returned to sing Salve Regina in G minor FP110, by Francis Poulenc, and the D&G Choir performed Maurice Duruflé's Notre Pere.

Following a break for refreshments, kindly provided by members of the Church of St Romald, the second half was devoted to The D&G Choir and Vox Veritas performing Gabriel Fauré's achingly beautiful *Requiem*, which concluded the evening to enthusiastic applause. Verity Young and D&G Choir chairman, Martin Perry, sang the soprano and bass solos, respectively.



Prior to arriving at Romaldkirk, many of the D&G choir members and their partners spent two days at the Charles Bathhurst Inn in the Yorkshire Dales, where they enjoyed excellent hospitality and walks; not to mention an hysterical karaoke evening!

If you think you'd like to become a member of one of the Surrey Hills' finest community choirs, please get in touch with Martin Perry on 07778 675118. Any level of previous experience welcome. Martin would love to hear from you.

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TRADIN





10th Anniversary and Commemoration Service for QRMW

Saturday 1st June was indeed a momentous occasion for The Quick Response Memorial Woodland to mark the 10th Anniversary since

the official opening of the Memorial Woodland in Holmbury St Mary.



The day's activities commenced at 12.30 with the Redhill Corp of Drums and Band followed by my welcome and opening speeches by our Patrons, Sir Paul Beresford, Lt. Col. Rowney MBE and Blue Cooper BEM. A Commemoration Service took place

up in the woodland for the families of 10 Veterans who had travelled from all over the UK. The Service prayers were led by Reverend Virginia Smith and Deacon James Snyder, and



tributes were made by families, friends and our own Celebrant Gloria Walsh.



Things were concluded by Jock McCulloch playing Amazing Grace on the bagpipes and my niece professional (a classical singer) Alexis Cooling-Hunt sang Ava Maria

which resounded throughout the woodland. After the service the stalls were very well supported; a 100 bottle tombola, Grand Raffle, plants and sweets, home made cakes, crafts and merchandise a fantastic couple of ladies running the very popular Pimms stall and magnificent BBQ sponsored by Tesco plus our own NAFFI providing teas and soft drinks.

My thanks go to my Trustees (all volunteers) and amazing helpers who made this special event so successful and raised £3k which has gone into our Memorial fund to assist those Veterans





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since I purchased the land and I am immensely grateful and proud.

May our Memorial Woodland continue to thrive and be a place of comfort and peace to all. Everyone is welcome and I look forward to meeting up with old friends and making new ones for many years to come.

> Paul Cooling Chairman QRMW



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 Battle of Dorking: an influential book:

Live talk by Nick Cook about the 1871 novella by George Tomkyns Chesney, widely credited with starting the genre of "invasion literature". It was written just after the Franco-Prussian War and translated into German – did it influence Hitler? Monday 1st July at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.

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



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Their money or your life?

I have recently started training to become a paramedic and as such, I have a new interest in health matters. Even from my so far limited experience within the service, I have been struck by the number of calls from people complaining of chest pain and respiratory distress.

As we are all aware, the Ambulance service (and the NHS more widely) are under increasing pressure due to the health care demands of the populations they serve. It might be easy to conclude that this is purely due to increasing populations in the UK, however, I would argue that the problem lies deeper than this.

If the populations within a given area are healthy, to some extent it wouldn't matter, as the increase in population would not be demanding of health services. So, what is it that is making us ill?



The possible causes

Of course, there are many situations that influence death and ill health - lifestyle factors, genetics and the environment all play a part. However, research from 2021 suggested that as many as 1 in 5 deaths worldwide are due to pollution, specifically the pollution created by burning fossil fuels. This striking fact was double what was previously estimated.

Moreover, a more recent study in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, published in June 2024, has confirmed the aforementioned study, suggesting that pollution is the biggest killer we face today – bigger than that of war, terrorism, malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, drugs, and alcohol combined.

This research suggests that outdoor and indoor air pollution together, are associated with over seven million premature deaths per year, of which over 50% are attributable to cardiovascular causes, principally ischemic heart disease and stroke. Professor Kovacic states: "every year around 20 million people worldwide from cardiovascular disease die with pollutants playing an everincreasing role". Indeed, the research goes on to suggest that a fifth of all cardiovascular deaths are caused by air pollution.





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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)





So how are the pollutants affecting our health?

Whether you are a fan of ULEZ or not, the principles behind it might well be for your benefit. This study was published within a cardiology journal and the researchers considered the wider alobal issues of the climate crisis on cardiac health. They suggest that smoke and other toxins, (such as exhaust fumes) are inhaled and cause issues with respiratory diseases. This is certainly what I have seen (anecdotally) on the Ambulance. These respiratory diseases such as asthma and COPD impact on other systems within the body, causing oxidative stress which can lead to cell damage to organs, including the heart.

But it is not all about those most obvious pollutants, the study also considered noise and light pollution too. We already know that noise pollution (specifically from traffic) has

been shown to stunt the growth of baby birds, even whilst inside the egg, and that birds nesting near the noise of traffic have considerably fewer clutches. Further research suggests that birds in close proximity to aircraft noise are also negatively impacted. It might therefore be reasonable to suggest that humans might similarly be negatively impacted by noise pollution in some way. This cardiac study proposes that noise and light pollution lead to inflammation within the human body which increases blood pressure and weight gain. These factors inevitably further impact on the functioning of the heart and other body systems.

As global temperatures continue to rise, extreme heat events across the globe are on the increase. These not only lead to dehydration, resulting in low blood volume, but forest and bush fires increase pollution, further increasing the strain on the heart, lungs and kidneys. The paper also points out that there are other pollutants, that we are exposed to on a daily basis within our homes and gardens, which might also be playing a part and suggest more research is needed in this area.

So, what can we do?

The researchers make a number of



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)





recommendations in order to improve the health of populations.

They suggest that city designers consider "heart healthy" options such as planting more trees in built up areas and pedestrianising more of these spaces, along with switching to cleaner vehicles using renewable energy sources. Thev suggest ending subsidies to the fossil fuel industry to enable more investment in renewables and cleaner energy production. They advise that there be medical education about the dangers to health of pollutants and public health campaigns to the highlight these dangers. greenswESTC

The report from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that "it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land", leading us to the conclusion that we humans have, in many respects, brought this on ourselves. We have been sold a belief system that is now killing not just the planet, but the human population. At what point will we wake up and sever our ties with these industries?

For me, as a trainee paramedic, I feel the issues raised in these articles need to be heeded, in order to stop the NHS and the Ambulance service from buckling under the strain of an everincreasingly unhealthy population, made ill by the continuing pollution created by the fossil fuel industry. This is not a difficult decision to make the choice is simple – it's their money or your life.

Nancy Lund

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