

Westcott Village Magazine

February 2019



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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.

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8th February 2019

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FROM THE EDITOR



Well hello, and welcome to February! I always have high hopes that spring is nearly here when we get to February, as the daffodils are nearly out in some places (my mum's test of getting through winter!) but then usually I am sorely disappointed with much rain, frost and still-dark evenings.

Even if the weather is awful, there are lots of things to brighten your days in this issue of the magazine. The monthly village coffee morning starts up again on 6th after a break for January, and there's a pop up art exhibition there too this month.

Amanda, our local National Trust Ranger, has several things to look out for at this time of year, including the cheery hazel catkins, and there is a North Downs Way 'Ales of the Trail' walk (details on page 35) if you want to get out and enjoy our local countryside.

The first open meeting of the Village Association for 2019 is on 21st, so do go along to Holy Trinity at 7.30pm and have your say. The Association can only represent your views if you make them known first.

As usual there are also plenty of musical events, and Dorking Museum has a very interesting Minerals exhibition,

from Lord Ashcombe's collection.

If one of your new year's resolutions was to get more involved in village life, or meet new people, it's not too late to begin now, most of the contact details for village clubs and groups can be found in the magazine, so if you wanted to join the Westcott Women's Group, or the History Group, or help out with Baby Meal provision, or help fundraise at school with F@sh, then all the details you need will be in here somewhere.

If you'd prefer, just turn up at the St John's cafe on a Monday morning and see who's there, and start talking to someone you don't recognise, you never know, you might make a good friend. And if not, you'll have had a cup of coffee and a slice of cake anyway, what's not to like?



Surely there is something to appeal to everyone in these pages, and the more people who are involved the better a place the village will be, as we'll all connect with more people, and that can only be a good thing.

Keep warm and dry this month and I'll see you when the daffodils come out!

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



"I AM..."

I guess you would not go into work, or meet up with friends, and say, "Oh by the way, I am the Resurrection and the Life".

According to John, a friend of Jesus who knew him for three/four years, this is exactly what Jesus said, and more. Bowled over by his experience of Jesus, John recorded in his "Gospel" ("Good News") seven "I am" statements:-

"I am the true vine" – good life, fruitfulness is grounded in Jesus.

"I am the way, the truth and the life" – there is a way through this life, there is truth to be found, there is fullness of life to be experienced, in Jesus.

"I am the resurrection and the life" – death is not the end. In the "mini-deaths" of pain and suffering we all experience in this life, and in the seeming finality of physical death, God in Christ Jesus is yet at work bringing resurrection.

"I am the good shepherd" – you are cared for, loved, looked out for by Christ Jesus.

"I am the gate" – we are not free to make up our lives; we will get it wrong and mess will be caused. There is a

"gate" to go through – Jesus – that leads to truth and life.

"I am the light of the world" – there is illumination for all, the light, clarity that Jesus brings.

"I am the bread of life" – "Whoever comes to me", says Jesus "will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty". All you need for this life – peace, strength, fulfilment, hope, grace, love, mercy – is found in Jesus Christ.

No-one would dare to say these things, unless you are mad... or you are God.

For John and the other friends of Jesus

who knew him, it was, of course, the latter.

"I am" is a reference to the Old Testament where God is known as "I am". John records Jesus saying, and being, "I am... God"

Even short reflection

on the seven "I am" statements of Jesus can tell us what utter riches and

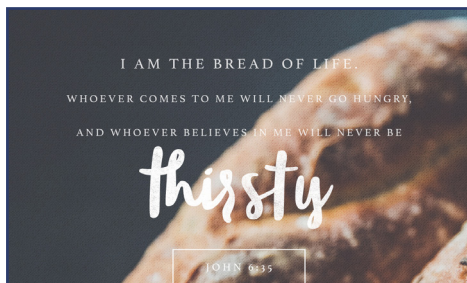
...THERE IS A WAY
THROUGH THIS LIFE, THERE
IS TRUTH TO BE FOUND,
THERE IS FULLNESS OF LIFE
TO BE EXPERIENCED,
IN JESUS...



...FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT

glory there are to be found in following Him; believing, trusting, putting our faith, shaping our lives in Jesus Christ, who is "I am".

Please note the Vicarage telephone number has changed to 01306 644868.



CANDLEMAS

3rd February

**Breakfast 9:30am All-Age Service 10:15am
Prayer Book Services 8:30am & 4pm**

"the official" end of Christmas with a lovely focus on light

Annual Marriage Focus



Sunday, 10th February

Annual Marriage focus with Jane Hellier leading reflections on the meaning of love at 8.30 am and 10.15 am services. (Evening service at 4 pm)

SERVICES AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



We run a regular programme of worship services and other activities for young and old.

Everyone is welcome as we build friendships and share life together!

8.30 am: A traditional Communion service with hymns and organ, unless stated.

10.15 am: A 'parish' service, reflecting the people of the Church in Westcott, with organ and music group. Regular creche and children's activities.

4.00 pm: A quiet traditional service, usually 'Evensong'. Communion with prayer for healing monthly.

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM	4:00PM
3rd Feb	Candlemas Lord teach us to pray	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Celebrate Breakfast Communion	Evensong
10th Feb	Marriage Matters	Book of Common Prayer Communion No music	Morning Worship	Holy Communion with Prayer for Healing
17th Feb	Vision: Community	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Parish Communion	Evensong
24th Feb	Vision: Community	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Parish Communion	Evensong



Evening Service now at 4 pm for the winter months (to end of March)

I hope you agree this is a more convivial time in the dark winter months.

Join us for this lovely time of reflection. *Alan J Vicar*

MID WEEK SERVICES

Wednesdays	10am	Communion at St John's
Thursdays	8:30am	Morning Prayer at St John's

..FROM ALAN JONAS, VICAR OF WESTCOTT



THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who again made our Christmas celebrations in Westcott so special.

- **Westcott Guides** for assembling our 'Christingles', **Francesca Leaver** for co-ordinating, and **Waitrose, Dorking** for providing the oranges.
- **Sue Bax** and the team who decorated Holy Trinity so beautifully again. Many thanks to Sue for co-ordinating flowers in Holy Trinity over many years. Sue is now retiring from this position, so a new co-ordinator is needed.
- **Madeleine Brooks, Hannah Mayo, James Tunstill, Eddie Maxwell, all singers and musicians** for all the work on our Carol Service.
- **Hannah** again, and **Ellie Lister** for our lovely Crib Service and **Ellie** and the team of 20+ for an excellent "After-School" service at Surrey Hills.

Thank you to all who worked so hard – **churchwardens, refreshment providers, audio-visual provision, sidesmen, and more.**



WHAT'S ON AT THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



February Spotlight:

3rd Feb Candlemas "The official" end of Christmas with a lovely focus on light (including demonstration of our new lighting system? – TBC)
All-Age service at 10.15 am. Prayer book services at 8.30 am and 4 pm. Breakfast at 9.30 am.

10th Feb Annual Marriage focus with Jane Hellier leading reflections on the meaning of love at **8.30 am and 10.15 am** (Evening service at 4 pm).



Parent, Baby and Toddler Group

St John's Community Hall, Westcott
Thursday mornings 9:30-12:00 term time

All babies & pre-school children, their parents, grandparents & carers are warmly invited to join us each term time Thursday morning! £2 per family.

Cookie Club is supported and run by members of Holy Trinity Westcott and the wider village community. All are welcome! We aim to provide

- A welcoming and friendly place for parents, grandparents and carers to enjoy good coffee, friendships and time to play with their children
- A safe, fun place for babies and pre-schoolers to play together, laugh, learn and grow.



ASH WEDNESDAY

6th March, 8pm

Communion & Ashing at Holy Trinity

Join us to mark the start of Lent.

(No 10am service in St Johns today).

FLOODLIGHTING

The church floodlighting is being upgraded during February, but if you'd like to sponsor it in future, please contact Sarah Massey at sarah@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk or on 01306 887413.

The suggested donation is £75 (payable to Westcott Church Funds).

We are very thankful to all the sponsors of the lights - your gift is gratefully received as a contribution to both the electricity bill and our general fund.



Thinking about a Christening?

Everyone is welcome to have their children christened in their parish church. During the christening service your child will be baptised and with the support of the church, parents and godparents, your child begins an amazing journey of faith.

All you need to know about planning and going to a Church of England christening can be found on churchofenglandchristenings.org

Thanksgiving Services

A special church service, different from a christening, can be used as a way to say 'Thank you' to God for your child. It is called a Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child. This is a lovely time when you can be with friends and family, ask for God's blessing and pray for your baby. It's possible to have this service instead of a christening if you decide that now isn't the right time to have your child baptised. Or you could even have the Thanksgiving service as well as a christening. You might also choose this service when your baby is just born, or if you have adopted a child into your family and you want to celebrate this with special words said by a vicar in church. You can find out more at churchofenglandchristenings.org/for-parents/thanksgiving-service

If you would like to find out more about a baptism or a service of thanksgiving for the gift of a child, please contact:

Alan Jonas, Holy Trinity Vicar 01306 885309 alchasjonas@aol.com

ECO CHURCH

'LOVE YOUR CLOTHES'

It is claimed that, when all three stages of clothing life-cycle is taken into account – production, use and disposal – the clothing industry is one of the top five most polluting industries in the world, alongside the oil industry.

The abundant availability of cheap clothing produced by the fast fashion industry, has led to clothing being increasingly regarded as a disposable item. This has devastating social and environmental impacts. If we can buy it cheap, it generally means that someone somewhere else is paying the price.

Globally people consume 80 billion new pieces of clothing every year - 400% more than 20 years ago - and each of those garments has an impact on resources, energy and pollution. But we can easily make a difference. If we don't buy it, they won't make it. There are many simple ways that we can lessen the impact of what we wear, with the added benefit of saving money too!



If cared for properly, clothing can last a long time... as we discovered a few Sundays ago when we invited the

congregation at Holy Trinity to come along wearing their oldest item of clothing. It was an amazing spectacle, with some fantastic retro outfits!



The best way to benefit the environment is to extend the life of existing clothes, by wearing them for longer, repairing or altering them as required, or buying 'new-to-you' clothes. If each garment was

**IF EACH GARMENT WAS
WORN FOR TWICE AS
LONG, GREENHOUSE GAS
EMISSIONS WOULD
DECREASE BY 44%**

worn for twice as long, greenhouse gas emissions would decrease by 44%! Many people hang onto clothes that don't get worn as they no longer fit – reselling or donating these items

will allow someone else to make use of them. Swishing parties, where good quality clothes are brought along and swapped for others, are a great way to create a fresh wardrobe.

All these actions benefit the environment by reducing demand for new clothing, and thus the impact of its production.

Jakki Phillips, Westcott EcoChurch

ECO CHURCH

COTTON FACTS

Nearly half the fibre used to make new clothes is cotton. But it is not the natural fibre we might believe it to be.

Over 90% of cotton is now genetically modified.

Cotton production accounts for 18% worldwide pesticide use and 25% of insecticide use.

Cotton farmers suffer the consequences of pesticide use with an estimated 20-40,000 dying each year from poisoning.

Organic cotton is a better choice, although there is still concern regarding the quantity of water required for growth and fabric manufacturing.



ECO TIPS

The '**Love Your Clothes**' website gives great tips for helping to make small conscious changes to reduce the environmental impact of clothes. www.loveyourclothes.org.uk

Ethical Consumer website suggest the 30 Wears Challenge whereby you only buy new items of clothing that you will commit to wearing at least 30 times. www.ethicalconsumer.org



Make do and mend. If you have clothes that need repairing and you need some help, visit the Dorking Repair Café at the Christian Centre on the 1st Saturday of every month 10:30-1pm.

Visit their Facebook page for more information.

Keeping it simple:

Buy better quality clothes. Buy less of them. Wear them more.

We welcome your comments & input. Email: ecochurch@holyltrinitywestcott.org

Harbottle & Jonas

'Stunning songwriting and heart-rending arrangements 9/10' - Americana UK

'Disarmingly honest and spine-tingling moments' - R2

Touring with the new album

The Sea is My Brother



Sunday 3rd March, 4pm
Holy Trinity, Westcott

Harbottle & Jonas are a stunning young folk duo based in Totnes, Devon.

Tickets: Retiring Collection (doors at 3.30pm) Bar Available



I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE.

WHOEVER COMES TO ME WILL NEVER GO HUNGRY,

AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME WILL NEVER BE

thirsty

JOHN 6:35

Westcott Baby Meals

For over 14 years, families of new babies in Westcott have been receiving 'Baby Meals', a gift of a hot meal for the whole family, delivered to their door for two weeks. An initiative driven by the Church in Westcott, it is a practical and highly valued service, provided by people across the Westcott community.

Please join our 'Baby Meals' cooks' rota and support this wonderful community gift, OR if you live in Westcott and are expecting a baby, or know someone who is....

Please get in touch: annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk or 07710 425487



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Our January meeting was our annual social evening of fun, mulled wine to warm up the cold winter evening, and some brain testing quizzes

kindly put together by Janet Dawkins. There was also plenty of chat to catch up on with Christmas news and New Year antics.

I think we have an interesting year ahead of us, one way and another. The whole world seems politically discombobulated but WW will continue to enjoy our friendly meetings and our interesting speakers. Next month remains a mystery as the

Speaker is being kept "under wraps", but it is sure to be enjoyable. Come and find out for yourselves!

Our evenings at St John's Chapel start at 7.30pm and are good value for an evening out, to meet up with old friends and make new ones, especially if you are new to the village/area.

Teas and coffees and even a glass of wine (donation of £1) for a mere £4 non members, whilst our annual membership of £15 covers the rest of the year.

All enquiries to Jacki Moss, 01306 881481 or email johnjacki.moss@btinternet.com

Jacki Moss



Some of the WW members about to enjoy our annual social evening



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Slow Cooked Pomegranate Ox Cheeks

2 ox cheeks, cut in half
100g plain flour
Freshly ground salt and pepper
1 onion
1 carrot
1 stick of celery

2 bay leaves
1 knob of butter
1 large glass of red wine
1.5 cups pomegranate juice
1 tbsp pomegranate molasses
Large glug of extra virgin olive oil

Method (Serves 2)

1. Pat the ox cheeks dry with kitchen paper, then season with freshly ground salt and black pepper.
2. Toss the cheeks in plain flour, then lightly sear in a pan with a glug of oil, on both sides until nicely browned, then remove from the pan.
3. Finely dice the onion, carrot and celery and sauté in a knob of butter on a medium heat for 6-7 minutes.
4. Place the onion, carrot and celery mixture and with the bay leaves into a slow cooker on a medium heat setting, followed by the ox cheeks, pomegranate juice, molasses and red wine.
5. Cook for six hours. (If cooking in an oven, cook at 150 degrees C for 4-5 hours).
6. When ready, remove the ox cheeks from the slow cooker/oven, and loosely cover with foil to keep warm.
7. Discard the bay leaves and transfer the liquid into a saucepan, bring to the boil and allow to reduce until it is syrupy. Stir regularly.
8. Serve the ox cheeks with butternut squash mash and the reduced sauce drizzled on top, finished with some fresh pomegranate seeds.

WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Personalities in Westcott History

Charles Joseph Wills 1848 – 1921

You may have noticed the supported Angel Monument for the Wills family in the Churchyard this last summer. The temporary support was installed by the Church and a permanent repair being expensive the WLHG was asked to help tracing the Wills family in the hope that they could assist.



It was quickly established that Charles Joseph Wills, a prosperous engineering contractor had built Westcott House in 1906 and he and his family lived there until his youngest daughter, Dorah Jane, died in 1939. Using the five family names on the monument a search on a genealogical website succeeded in finding a living descendant with the happy result of a site visit by four family

members, including one from Canada, none of whom had met before. The monument has been successfully repaired.

Charles Joseph Wills was born in Radcliffe-on-Trent in Nottinghamshire and probably left home around 1863 when he was about 15 to make his own way in life. His parents had a large family and were not at all wealthy, so he was expected to seek employment when he left school. He started work as a store keeper on an engineering site and gradually worked his way up the business.

In 1869 he was working in Diggle, Saddleworth where he met his future wife Frances Amelia Shaw, the daughter of a local woollen manufacturer and they were married on 12th October 1870 in Levenshulme, Lancashire – He was 22 and Frances was 25. In their early days Charles worked in various places in the north establishing himself as a civil engineering contractor on different projects, and Frances and their increasing family moved with him. Their first child, Mary Matilda, was born in July 1873 in Sedgefield, County Durham where C.J.Wills was working as a contractor manager for Lucas & Aird the civil engineering company.

Over the subsequent years C.J.Wills was occupied on railway works from Kettering to Manston completed in

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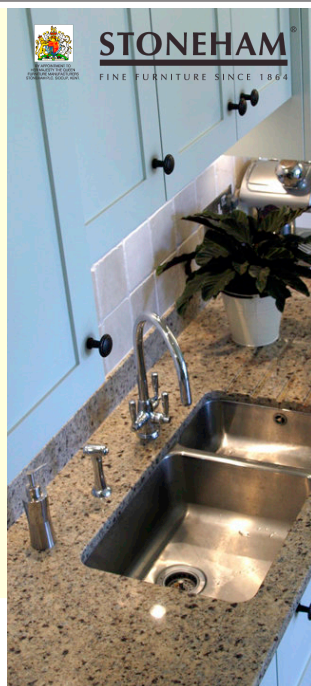
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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)

1880, the Glaston Tunnel and the Welland Viaduct, both completed in 1878. The Welland Viaduct is the longest masonry viaduct across a valley in Britain. While living in Lancashire C.J.Wills was agent for T.A.Walker on the Warburton to Barton section of the Manchester Ship Canal. When Walker died C.J.Wills continued first as the contractor's agent/manager then as an employee of the Canal Company who took over the works and finally the contract for the final Mill Bank – Pomona section of the Canal.

C.J.Wills had reached the stage in his career when he wanted to establish his own contracting company and he linked up with associates Thomas James Reeves and John Price sometimes working together and sometimes alone on projects as Price, Wills & Reeves. Their office was listed at 71 Mosley Street, Manchester and in 1903 at 28 Victoria Street, Westminster.

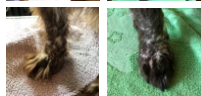
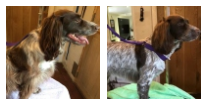
His own company was C.J.Wills & Sons and his sons Arthur Shaw Wills and James Frederick Wills were partners while he was chairman. Two of C.J.Wills brothers worked for him, Alfred as an accountant, until he emigrated to Canada in 1902, and Adderley as a civil engineer. The company continued to function with Arthur and Frederick at the helm until it went into voluntary liquidation in 1936.

They participated successfully in a wide variety of projects in the UK and abroad including the Spen Valley Railway and Sheffield District Railway, the Barry Railway and numerous parts of the Great Western Railway and the Grimsby Dock Extension. Overseas in the early 1900s they built the Amsterdam Waterworks, Famagusta Harbour in Cyprus, Port Said Breakwaters and in 1912 they were working on the River Nile delta local drainage works. In 1911-12 they worked on a project in Canada – the central railway Montreal to Ottawa.

In 1906 C.J.Wills commissioned a house to be built in Westcott, to his own design with an impressive specification on a piece of land extending to 15 acres. The house was set in parkland with a lake and his family settled there after many years of moving around on work projects. He owned a pedigree herd of cows of which he was very proud. C.J Wills died in July 1922 and his wife Amelia pre-deceased him in December 1907. His youngest daughter Dorah Jane continued at the house until it was sold.

There is no lecture in February and the next lecture will be on Tuesday 12th March at the usual time. It will be about Broadmoor & Lonesome Valley given by Robin Daly.

Roger Christian



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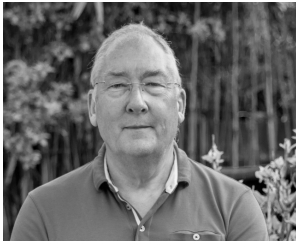


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WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS



By the time you read this article, Christmas and New Year will be a distant, and hopefully happy, memory, but over the holiday period I have taken the opportunity to reflect, talk to people in the village, attend festive events, and catch up on some reading.

The January edition of the Village Magazine demonstrated how much goes on in the village, what an interesting mix of activities, clubs, and events happen here, and just how many lively, enthusiastic, and interesting people – young and old – live in our community. Finding time to support events is the best way to ensure they thrive, and of course joining committees or doing things adds the extra dimension of shaping what happens in the village.

There are quite a few positions needing to be filled in these organisations – the Village Association, the Hut, and the History Group being just three by way of example – and I again encourage you to make the time to help ensure they continue to thrive by stepping forward to fill one of the vacant positions. As my mother used to say “many hands make light work” – although as I recall this

related to all her children helping with the washing up!!

All registered members of the WVA should have received an email before Christmas wishing you season's greetings. We sent out 190 emails and 118 (62%) opened it; 27 bounced back and we are working on checking the accuracy of our information; it still means that only about 20% of households received the email and less than 10% of residents are members of the Association. If you're a member and didn't receive an email from us please update your details by confirming your email, name and address to membership@westcottvillage.com.

We want to find ways of improving this so that, when events are planned or we need to share information, we can make as many people as possible aware of what is going on rather than relying on word of mouth or the village magazine – which gets to most households in the village but we know not everyone reads it.

Again, by the time you read this article the new Village Association Web site (www.westcottvillage.com) will be available and hopefully we will have had more villagers join us on Facebook; in this way we can share information in a timely and accurate way. Please take a few moments to look on the new site which we have designed to make it easy to navigate and be very user friendly, and to focus on what you

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (cont.)

want to know rather than what we think you should know! And make sure to follow us on Facebook.

What we would like is for more residents to become members of the Association. It's simple to join and costs only £10 per year; if only one person per household became a member we would generate £10,000 per annum to spend on the community as a whole. Please give this some serious thought and if you or anyone in your household are not a member currently then please join up today; if you do this by standing order with your bank you need never have to think about it again – but get all the benefits of being the first to know what's going on in the village!

The first draft of the new Village Association constitution is now available on the web site and we will have sent this out to current members for them to consider and comment on. Please read it, particularly the Association's Objects which govern what we do on your behalf, because this will determine how we do things in the future. Even if you are not currently a member, we invite your comments – although it will only be members who eventually vote on whether the new constitution gets accepted or not.

On **Thursday 21st February** we will hold the first of our four Open Meetings of this year, honouring our pledge to make the WVA more inclusive and

consultative. Please come along and raise any issues you feel the Association needs to be tackling on your behalf.

The meeting will start at 19.30 in Holy Trinity Church and conclude at 20.30 when the committee will continue their regular formal meeting. Knowing what you think, listening to your views and opinions, and understanding what is important to residents is what we need to do more of – it is one of the reasons why we are discussing running another Village Survey to ensure everyone gets to have a say. We recognise that everyone leads busy lives and the easier we can make it for you to be heard the better.

As a number of prominent citizens of the UK have said over the Christmas period however, we do need to remember to express what we want to say constructively, and to respect each other's views and opinions even though they may not accord with our own. Looking for the things which we have in common rather than focussing on our differences is the way to build strong communities. We look forward to seeing as many residents as possible at the open meeting.

As always, you are invited to write to me on issues which concern you, and the WVA will do their best to address them.

Tim Way

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THE READING ROOM



Over the holiday period, the Reading Room has been refreshed with a repainted Hall, Entrance Lobby and Committee Room to welcome all users.

The free Wi-Fi access is proving very successful and popular also allowing for better calling options to what has been a notorious black spot in mobile communications.

Our committee room is a very warm and convenient space for piano lessons on our excellent piano and an inexpensive neutral venue for small meetings or interviews - at only £5 an hour hire with a separate entrance.

Car parking by non-users has been steadily increasing causing major problems for our users so we are appointing a parking company to monitor the car park for unapproved parking. Substantial fines will be imposed for vehicles parking illegally in the Reading Room car park at any time of the day or night. However, we still have a parking place available in our car park for £600 per annum for a local resident or business user 24/7.

Do you have some time and commitment to be a Reading Room trustee or supporter with operational or administrative skills in helping us keep the Reading Room in excellent shape and planning for the future? If so please do contact Alan Reif on 07831 805275 to discuss joining our team.

THANK YOU!

Sheila and Rob Hedges would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and prayers during Rob's recent serious illness. He is now making slow but steady progress. It is so lovely to live in a village where there are so many caring people.

Sheila and Rob Hedges





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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES...



Be Winter Ready

As I write this, so far Westcott has escaped the worst that the British winter can throw at us, but as we go into February that might not continue to be the case.



Through the Healthy Surrey partnership, the NHS and your local councils have joined up to highlight a few things that you can do to see you through to the summer months.

Keep well – stay hydrated

Eating well can help improve wellbeing, manage weight and reduce the risk of developing illnesses and diseases.

Food is also a vital source of energy,

which helps keep the body warm. It is important to have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day



and keep active in the home. Avoid going out and risking a fall in icy weather by stocking up the freezer with milk, bread, ready meals and even soup.

Keep Well – stay active

The more we keep moving the better for our circulation and heart health. Being active every day helps everyone to stay healthy. As winter approaches it can be tempting to hang up our exercise gear, eat more food and hibernate.

However, exercise can help increase energy, banish those winter blues and help maintain a healthy body weight.

Breathing in cold air can increase the risk of chest infections. So wrap a scarf around your mouth to protect your lungs from the cold air.

Don't forget to encourage warm ups and safety if exercising after dark.

Open Mornings

February, May and October

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)



Keep Well – choose well

Get Help Early: If you are over 60 tell your friends, family or carer as soon as you feel under the weather and get advice from your local pharmacist before it gets worse.



For some people, minor winter ailments can become more serious and could lead to admission to hospital for treatment. Getting advice as soon as possible when feeling unwell can help residents avoid becoming seriously ill.

It's really important to respect your prescriptions:

- Take any medicines as directed
- Get any repeat prescriptions filled in advance
- Keep a supply of cold and flu

remedies in the house so you don't need to go out if the weather is bad

- If antibiotics have been prescribed ensure you finish the course

Keep Well – preventing winter bugs

Cold and flu viruses, as well as others, are easily passed on. Catch It, Bin It, Kill It, to help prevent them from spreading.

- Catch it – Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch a cough or sneeze.
- Bin it – Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of tissue as soon as possible.
- Kill it – Hands can transfer germs to every surface touched. Wash hands with soap and water.

For more information on preventing winter bugs, the flu, prevention, symptoms and treatment go to the 'Preventing Winter Bugs' page on www.healthysurrey.org.uk or visit www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/10-winter-illnesses



Seasonal flu is a highly infectious



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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

disease caused by influenza viruses. It occurs every year, and spreads rapidly through coughs and sneezes of people who are carrying the virus. People sometimes think of flu as a bad cold but having flu is more serious. The most common symptoms of flu are fever, chills, headache, aches and pains in the joints and muscles, and extreme tiredness. You are more at risk of suffering severe illness if you are elderly, very young or someone with underlying medical conditions – and even healthy people can still develop severe complications from flu.

The flu vaccination provides the best protection against flu. The vaccination is offered free of charge to people who are at risk. Please contact your GP or local pharmacy if you have not been offered a vaccine – there is still time to protect you and your family this winter.

Keep Warm - Wrap up warm

Wearing several thin layers of clothes is an effective way to keep warm. Wrap up warm, inside and out and to wear shoes with a good grip if going outside. If you have a heart or respiratory problem you should stay inside during a cold period.

Top tips are:

- If you have reduced mobility, are 65 or over, or have a health condition such as heart or lung disease, your

home should be at least 18°C (65°F). It's a good idea to keep your bedroom



at this temperature all night.

- Use either a hot water bottle or electric blanket (but not both at the same time) to keep warm while in bed
- Get your heating system, cooking appliances and electric blanket checked and keep your home well ventilated
- Consider replacing your old energy inefficient boiler with a new one
- Babies don't need hot rooms. Keep the room at a temperature that's comfortable for you at night – about 18°C (65°F) is ideal

Ales of the Trail

Following on from last month's plug for the North Downs Way, if you need any further incentive to get your walking boots on then why not look into its Ales of the Trail?

The North Downs Way National Trail celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2018

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

with a whole host of events taking place. To mark the anniversary "Ales of the Trail" was launched in September with local breweries nominating an ale with a link to the trail either through name, local ingredients or links to military or cultural heritage.



A map and beer passport for walkers to seek out the different ales as they pass along the trail is available and breweries also make a contribution to the upkeep of the trail.

These can be found at www.nationaltrail.co.uk/north-downs-way

Surrey Hills Trust Fund

The Surrey Hills Trust Fund has been established to safeguard the future of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The fund will help to conserve and maintain the

fragile environment of the Surrey Hills through a programme of projects and activities.



Your donations will support a wide range of local projects from landscape conservation to community enterprise schemes.

The Fund has been established within the Community Foundation for Surrey, an independent charitable trust, which inspires local giving to create new community resources that will permanently improve the lives of people in Surrey.

Details of how to make an application to the fund can be found at www.surreyhills.org/trust-fund/apply-for-a-grant

If you are interested in applying for a grant from the Surrey Hills Trust Fund, or are aware of a local project that could benefit from funding please contact the Grants Team at the Community Foundation for Surrey on 01483 478092. To enable the Community Foundation for Surrey to make the best recommendations they actively encourage applicants to submit a quick Expression of Interest form online

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THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR WRITES... (cont.)

to their Grants Team before filling out an application form. That way they can save your time if your project is not one that they are able to support as well as advising you on how much funding would be appropriate.

The Community Foundation for Surrey supports local charities, community and voluntary groups in Surrey whose work benefits our communities. They award grants to a wide range of organisations and welcome applications from both new and established groups.

Mystery Trees

There was a slight clue in last month's picture, which was taken a while ago on

Milton Court Lane heading towards Unum.

Interestingly, the trees in question are actually in Dorking rather than Westcott, officially, but as it is the only motorised access route to some homes that are in Westcott, I felt justified in including them!

Also on a location that some might think is on the outskirts of the village, but in reality very close to the centre, is this month's picture:



WATER PUMP UPDATE

Following on from Amanda's article in the November issue she refers to a pump which used to pump water to Denbies from Landbarn Farm. It is a Richard Hornsby engine and is now fully restored and running and is the Westcott Stationary. Anyone interested is welcome to come and see it.

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After a busy Autumn term, we are looking forward to the Spring term. Some events we are preparing for include Parent Lunches, Science Week and celebrating Mother's Day with an afternoon of activities, for Mothers and Grandmothers to join in with.

Spotlight on Butterfly Class

Butterfly class has been busy getting in the festive spirit recently. Last week much of our literacy learning was linked to a book called, 'The Santa Trap', about a beastly boy with a dastardly plan that could ruin Christmas! With links to our Design and Technology Curriculum, the children worked hard in groups to design and then make their very own 'Santa Traps'. Problem solving and creative ideas flowed and resulted in some rather ingenious traps that could fool even the most observant of Santas! The activity also allowed the children to refine their teamwork skills and to practice the art of compromise, when the ideal junk modelling item had been used by someone else! They all did a great job. Well done Butterfly class.

ROAR2018

Three members of Year 6 attended the final of ROAR2018, an enterprise competition organised by Cranleigh Lions designed to give pupils the opportunity to put forward an innovative, world changing idea. Taking place at Wakehurst Place in

Sussex, the pupils presented their product, 'The Dreamiliser', to a panel of judges. It was brilliant to see so many young people taking part, and the children represented Surrey Hills with real pride and passion; they even walked away with an award for best poster of the day! Well done to Tegan, Abbie and Florence!



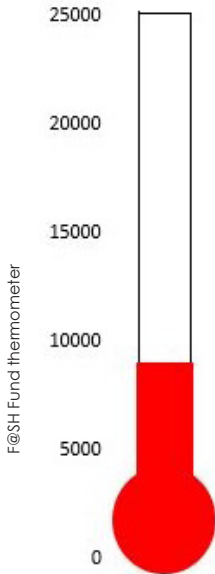
Choir

The choir have been in full voice, spreading joy across our community. In December, the children performed at the Westcott coffee morning, St Johns Chapel and our thank you coffee morning, where they wowed an audience with their beautiful carol singing. They are now busy rehearsing for a performance at the O2 Arena in February and the Mole Valley Festival taking place in April, at Dorking Halls.



Friends at Surrey Hills School (F@SH) Surrey Hills School PTA

Charity events raise significant funds for Surrey Hills school



Friends at Surrey Hills have now raised £9,000 towards the all-weather running track for Surrey Hills school, Westcott site. Growing our funds to 36% of our target £25k has been the result of two fundraising events and raffling off 17 Christmas hampers.

Our first event was in partnership with Majestic Wines who hosted a tasting evening for school parents with the sale of all tickets going directly to the school charity. A total of 51 tickets were sold and parents had the pleasure of tasting, wines, gins and whiskies and receiving a £10 voucher from Majestic.

A clear winter evening held out for our children's Christmas Ho Ho Ho Down at the Westcott school site. The children opened the event with Christmas carols and were then able



Our Christmas entertainer was full of tricks

to enjoy fun stall activities, a Santa's grotto and be entertained by a very skilled circus entertainer. The candy floss stand was also a winner along with fake dog poo selling fast at the elves' stall.

Parents dug deep into the backs of their cupboards or into their pockets





Anyone for Candy Floss?

to donate many wonderful items for F@SH to produce a total of 17 fantastic

hampers to be raffled. A huge thank you goes to local pubs Prince of Wales and Abinger Hatch and Kingfisher Farm Shop for promoting

our hampers and raising significant funds.

Plans are afoot for 2019 fundraising activities, yet to be finalised. In the meantime, be sure to mark these dates in your diary for our important local summer fairs.

- Teddy Bear's Picnic – Bank holiday Monday 6th May 2019
- Abinger Medieval Fair – Saturday 8th June 2019
- Westfest – Sunday 30th June 2019

If you would like to contribute any goods, services, donations or your time to our fundraising efforts please contact F@SH at fash@surreyhills.surrey.sch.uk. Funds raised all go towards the health and well-being of the children in our community school.

Vere Perry
Co-Chair F@SH

Car Service - Help Needed

Owing to a shortage of members from the list of available drivers operating the Westcott Car Service we urgently need more assistance to ensure this help to the local community can continue.

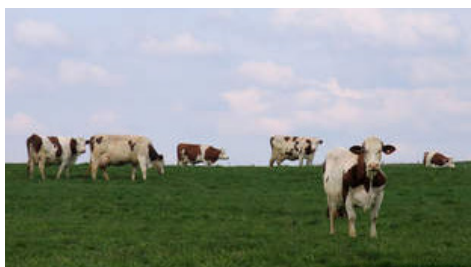
If you can consider putting your name forward as a Driver please contact David Johnson on 01306 885300 who will be pleased to provide more details

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



New Year's Resolutions, I hear you say. Isn't this the February magazine? Well, that's true, and if you are anything like me you will be struggling to remember what they are, or perhaps, just struggling to hang on to them.

So how about some completely different New Year's Resolutions. This time, for the planet. The following is a Digest of 6 short programmes on BBC Radio 4 in the first week of the month. Called New Year's Solutions for the Planet, they were some simple ideas, backed up about facts about why doing any of them could make a difference to global climate change.



One: Eat Less Meat

We know all about carbon footprints (even though we may not know

how they work, but more is bad and less is good). Did you know it takes 1/50th of the carbon footprint to achieve the same amount of protein from a plant diet as it does from getting that protein from a burger? 50 per cent of the world's surface is farmed and animal products need 80 per cent of the farmland, for grazing land, and animal feed crops. 10,000 square metres of land provides meat for one person for one year, and by reducing our meat intake we could save up to 80 per cent of that.

What can we do? One extra meat-free day? Or trying soya milk in your tea? Or stick to soft cheese, which uses less milk than hard cheese?



Two: Use the Car Less

Why? Well, we know they're bad don't we? Cars and driving make up 1/6th of the total carbon footprint of the average person and half of it comes out of the exhaust. Any asthma sufferers out there?

What can we do? How about a car free day each week? Could you organise that? It's probably doable, with a bit

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS (cont.)

of organisation. Give more people lifts? Get out that bike from the shed? Get the Dorking bus as it goes through Westcott?



Three: Re think our wardrobe

Clothes and shoes account for 8 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. It's a very damaging industry, because of the processes. There's a frightening statistic about modern fast fashion. We buy 4 times more items than we did ten years ago and wear them half as much before we get rid of them. The second largest amount of plastic in the sea comes from our clothes. How? 34 per cent comes from our synthetic clothing though the washing machine in their first 8 to 10 washes, which cause a huge shedding of the plastic fibres, through the filters, into the waterways and seas.

What can we do? It's interesting to learn that freezing will disinfect our jeans as well as washing does. We are cleaner these days so perhaps can wash clothes less. Think if clothes will 'go again'. And we can just buy fewer

clothes, and make sure we recycle them when we have stopped using them. We can remember the equation $\text{Price} \times \text{Wear} = \text{Value}$. That good coat that's twenty years old is much better environmentally than a new one each year.



Four: Use less Water

Have you any idea of how much water we use a day? 141 litres a day is the average amount per person per day in the UK. Did you know that London has less rainfall than Sydney, and we know how careful the Australians are about water. So even though it's wet and rainy here, we aren't far from water stress and drought. This summer was joint hottest on record. Imagine we got lots of those, and have to use tankers and hosepipe bans. Water is heavy and it takes lots of energy to distribute, so if we use less we need to push it around less. And remember that 25% of household energy goes on heating the water we use.

What can we do? Time your showers, and think about clipping a minute or two off them. Can you have a shower

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS (cont.)

in under 3 minutes? Or collect your shower water in a bucket and use it to flush the loo. Try washing your clothes in cold water instead of 40 degrees.



Five: Stuff and Space

Some experts say we really don't need to store all the things we do. The Japanese have a culture where if they haven't touched something for six months, they shouldn't be holding on to it. We have to change direction on the size of our houses, the space we need, the clutter we are desperate to hold on to. If we aren't using something, someone else could be. And that goes for space as well. The more compact the settlement is, the more sustainable it is.

What can we do? Some people can downsize their houses when they no longer need the space. But could the rest of us share meals with our neighbours (only one oven used), be ready to lend tools and equipment? And remember, if you haven't touched it for six months, let someone have it who will use it. Recycle, recycle, recycle.



Six: Flights

In 2016 Airlines carried 3.7 billion passengers. Somewhere between 2 and 4 percent of greenhouse gases are created by the airline industry. And burning carbon in the atmosphere causes much more pollution than burning carbon on the ground. If we accept we are in the middle of an acute climate crisis, one of the nettles we have to grasp is how much we fly. Holidaying is a really difficult issue. People work so hard, they feel they deserve a holiday. And we went into meltdown when Gatwick closed down for a few days before Christmas.

What can we do? Environmental psychologist Lorraine Whitmarsh says there's a status involved in international travel. Perhaps we should think of it like smoking. Everyone used to do it, and now it's much less socially acceptable. Perhaps we can travel to exotic places less often. And remember, if you fly economy we take up less of the plane and are responsible for less of the pollution the plane is causing. So you may be at the back of the plane, but you have the moral high ground.

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With Christmas over and the New Year well and truly underway we are seeing spring bulbs not just up but with buds on them ready to open and the birds have been investigating the boxes looking for suitable homes to raise a family.



January and February are quiet months for the woodland and for the Charity although sadly we have had more ex-servicemen than in the latter part of 2018 contact us in need of help for various reasons. Its a wicked shame this happens but at QRMW we are available and prepared to help those deserving immediate assistance and thereafter we assist them with contacting the appropriate organisations to advise and help them longer term.

To enable us to do this we keep up with our fund raising throughout the year and 2019 will be no exception.

We are already planning our Grand

Easter Egg Hunt which will take place at the Woodland on Saturday 13th April commencing at 12.30. Easter eggs are in great demand to enable this event to be a success so the Trustees are contacting local supermarkets to ask for donations, are grateful for any donations of Easter Eggs that we can get. As well as the Easter Egg Hunt for the children we have an Easter Raffle and an Easter soft toy Tombola.

If anyone has any unwanted Christmas gifts we would always be grateful for them at the Woodland for raffles and tombolas which we hold at all of our events throughout the year. Just give Debbie a call and we can arrange to collect or see you at the woodland (Tel: 07778873706). Numbers of children have to be limited so if you would like to register for the Easter egg hunt do so as soon as possible and email: Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk.

This year is a very special year for QRMW it will be our Fifth Anniversary since the Woodland was officially opened by our Patron Sir Paul Beresford. We are planning a very special day for that on Saturday, 1st June which is precisely the same day as we opened "The Glorious First" which is the greatest battle honour for The Queen's Regiment.

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QRMW (cont.)

All are welcome to this event which will commence at 12.30 when The Queen's Regt Walkers will arrive at the woodland, having walked 110 miles from Shorncliffe Barracks in Sandgate, Kent to raise funds for our Charity. We have the Regimental band The First Cinque Ports Corp of Drums and an ex-soldier who is a pretty good Crooner singing for us throughout the afternoon.

There will be a fantastic BBQ and Bar run by our great friend and Publican, also Raffle, Tombola and Merchandise stalls and this year we will have a unique ceremony in the woodland when one of our Trustees and an ex-Queensman will be getting married!



As well as all this frivolity we never forget that we have the Memorial Woodland available for those to remember friends, colleagues and loved ones who have passed away so at the request of some

during the afternoon there will be a Commemoration Service up in the Garden of Remembrance with a tree planting ceremony and bugler to reflect on those who have been lost either through active service or ex-servicemen who are sadly no longer with us.

All are welcome but to help us with catering arrangements please contact Debbiehornblow@yahoo.co.uk to let us know you are going to attend.

That takes us up to June which is probably enough for The QRMW Events Committee who are an excellent band of ladies dedicated to our Charity to get on with until the second half of the year which looks just as busy as the first six months. Do remember that the woodland is open 24/7 even if I am not at the woodland myself there is sufficient parking at the front of the main car park and the gate to the Memorial Woodland is always open for you to come and sit, walk, enjoy the birds and tranquillity of the place and if the weather is nice bring a picnic.

I look forward to seeing you all there sometime in 2019.

Paul Cooling
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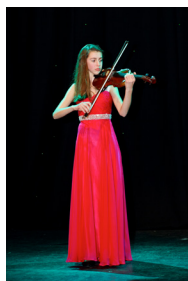
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MOLE VALLEY YOUTH AWARDS

Do you know someone aged 11–18 who has Achieved Great Things?



Nominations are now open for Mole Valley's glittery and very glamorous Youth Awards.

The event, now in its fifteenth year, shines a colourful spotlight on the achievements of young people in Mole Valley, and will feature a variety of performances by talented young local performers.

This year's ceremony, organised by Mole Valley District Council and Youth Voice, Mole Valley's Youth Council, will take place on the evening of Friday 22 March at Dorking Halls.

The award categories are Young Volunteer Award, Sporting Achievement Award, Young Artist Award, Young Chef Award, Young Musician Award, Young Dancer Award, Drama Award, Young Team Award and Outstanding Achievement Award.

Councillor David Hawsworth CBE, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, said:

"This year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever, with more local young performers set to take to the stage and the introduction of new awards including Young Chef and Young Dancer. I can't wait to meet the nominees and learn of their achievements."

Nominate at www.molevalley.gov.uk/youthvoice or pick up a nomination form at Mole Valley District Council's Pippbrook office, Dorking Halls, libraries or youth clubs, email YouthVoice@molevalley.gov.uk or call 01306 879366.

The closing date for nominations
is Monday 4 February 2019.

Successful nominees will be informed
by the end of February.

Tickets to the event are free, and will be bookable
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DORKING MUSEUM

Dorking Museum was able to celebrate another amazing year in 2018. Chairman Nigel Arch says, "Dorking Museum is a real jewel in the crown for both the town and the whole district. We reach far and wide, our activities not confined by the Museum's walls, celebrating our shared heritage. Every year our reach gets wider, and more people within our community are able to benefit from our services and facilities. With no paid staff and no guaranteed funding, none of this could have happened without the hard work of our dedicated volunteers."

Are you making the most of the Museum? In 2018, we welcomed 4,000 visitors to the Museum; took 660 people underground on Cave tours; guided 450 people on walks in Dorking and on the Deepdene Trail; benefitted 385 children on school and youth group visits; welcomed 300 participants to our school holiday and half term family activities; attracted over 650 people to our temporary exhibitions 'on the road' and 200 to our regular Gallery Talks; as well as adult group visits, Open Day tours of the Dutch House and much more besides.

We hosted several community activities, mounted three all-new temporary exhibitions, hosted two film-makers, funded and unveiled two blue plaques, and, of course,

played a key role in the Rob Walker Centenary Festival.

Our current exhibition: 'Lord Ashcombe's Minerals – the gentlemen collectors and the advance of science'.

The Museum's spring exhibition showcases the history of and examples from Lord Ashcombe's stunning mineral



collection. In the 19th century, George Cubitt, the first Lord Ashcombe, amassed an extensive and impressive collection of fossils and minerals, which were displayed at his Denbies home. The collection was donated to Dorking Museum in 1948 by his grandson, Roland Cubitt, the 3rd Baron Ashcombe. The fossil collection, fondly known as 'Lord Ashcombe's teeth', is on regular display at the Museum and



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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

is a favourite for many visitors.

Apart from the fossils, mineral specimens were also collected by Lord Ashcombe. Many of the quartz crystals originate from Derbyshire, some from other parts of the country (Cornwall and Staffordshire) and from overseas (India and Italy). Cubitt displayed these dazzling minerals in glass-fronted cases at Denbies for the enjoyment of his family, friends and visitors at a time when there were few museums and no television or internet so these were the only opportunities that people had to view the wonders of the natural world.



However, this part of the collection – some of the pieces up to 20kg in weight – has not been on regular display, so the exhibition provides a rare opportunity to view.

As Museum curator Clare Flanagan says, "we want to retain the collection as a whole for historical and research purposes and to give a full picture of what Lord Ashcombe was trying to achieve. The collection if all displayed

would take up four times the amount of space we currently have in our prehistoric / geological area. It is a magnificent collection and we are proud to be able to retain it for visitors now and for future generations."



Lord Ashcombe's collection and those of other gentlemen collectors played an important role in an age of amateur science, in the development of the study of geology and palaeontology and the scientific understanding of the earth's history.

Guided walks: The Museum's programme of guided walks of the town and the Deepdene Trail is available for group bookings. Open Days will resume in March (the Deepdene Trail 10th March). See the Museum website for details and bookings.

The Museum is at 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10am-4pm.

Visit www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk
Enquiries to admin@dorkingmuseum.org.uk or phone 01306 876591.

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MUSIC IN DORKING



2nd at 12.00, Music at Midday at St Martin's church, free, 01306 884229
2nd at 5.55, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
3rd at 3.00, Dante string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619
4th at 2.00, opera screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
5th 12th 19th 26th at 8.30, Watermill Jazz at Betchworth Park golf club, £19-24, 07415 815784
9th at 5.00, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Nicolas's church, Great Bookham, £15
13th-16th at 7.45, My Fair Lady at Dorking Halls, £12-20, 01306 881717
19th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717
24th at 3.00, Dante string quartet at Dorking Halls, £21, 01306 740619
25th at 2.00, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £18.50, 01306 881717

February sees two further concerts by the Dante string quartet, continuing the series they began last month. Each concert will include one of Beethoven's 'Razumovsky' string quartets. The first concert will feature Razumovsky no.2, in which Beethoven included an old Russian tune, so it is appropriately partnered with two Russian quartets by Shostakovich and Glazunov. The other concert includes Beethoven's last Razumovsky quartet, a large and powerful work, along with quartets by Haydn and Schumann.

The Dorking Chamber Orchestra, playing in Great Bookham, has a predominantly baroque programme with music by Bach, Handel and Albinoni. They will also play the Serenade for strings by the Swedish composer Dag Wirén.

The musical My Fair Lady is performed by the Dorking Dramatic and Operatic Society. Written by Lerner and Loewe, and adapted from Shaw's play Pygmalion, this is the story of how a professor of phonetics attempts to transform a Cockney flower girl into a duchess. One of the most enduring musicals, it includes many well-loved songs. As well as the four evening performances, there is also a Saturday matinee at 2.30 in the afternoon.

There are several screenings of opera and ballet at the Dorking Halls this month. Bizet's colourful Spanish opera Carmen comes live from the Metropolitan Opera in New York (2nd), while Verdi's tragic tale La traviata is shown in a recording from the Royal Opera House (4th). The ballet Don Quixote is broadcast live on 19th and then in a recording on 25th.

February's lunchtime recital at St Martin's church will be given by the Brass Buck trio. And finally, Watermill Jazz has the following performers this month: the Jam Experiment (5th), Sara Dowling (12th), Pete Long's Jazz Planets (19th) and Vein (26th).

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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

Forbes and Schuster **- The Big Yellow Dog Bus**

Tony and Odette Forbes are Westcott residents, running a dog walking and grooming service for local clients and their owners. It sounds like a great way to earn a living.



'You both had major careers before you started this business. What did you do, and what finally decided to make you leave?'

'I was head of media relations at Nestle, so a frantic career, and Tony was project managing for a building company. We'd had enough of London life so moved out of West Kensington about 5 years ago, and Westcott was a completely random choice. We can't believe how lucky we are! We moved into a house that needed huge amounts of work,

and that kept Tony very busy. But we'd moved with one dog, and then adopted two more, and Tony, as he was at home, did the walking. And you know how you chat, and somehow, quite often Tony got asked if he could help out with walking other people's dogs. An inheritance from our parents gave us the chance to set up a business.'

'Did you need to get qualified before you started' I asked. 'Oh yes, We both did our qualifications at Merrist Wood college, which we think is really important. At the moment you don't have to have a licence to walk dogs round here but in some boroughs in London, you do. We have all the qualifications in walking and grooming, health, safety, pet care and hygiene and the insurance that we need. I groom a dog on a 1:1 basis and Tony walks a maximum of four dogs.

The business went live in April, when we bought The Big Yellow Dog Bus, which is an ex AA van we have specially kitted out. Everyone sees the Bus around. (And we go to the pub for lunch in it too and people always ask us) It's amazing how much business we pick up from it!!'

I asked, 'What's the best part of the business for you?' And the answer was instant: 'For me it's seeing owners'



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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH (cont.)

faces and comments after their dog is groomed. For Tony it's seeing the welcome from the dogs when he turns up, and the owners' feedback when they know their dog is happy.'



'So when the owner sees their newly groomed dog, do they speak first to the dog, or to you who's done all the work?' 'Oh no', Odette laughed. 'I don't get a look in. Straight away, the owner says, 'aren't you beautiful, how handsome you look' and then after a minute they probably turn to me! I always put a picture of the dog looking its best on our Facebook page.'

These dogs are really members of the family, and we send them Christmas cards. Tony often gets the comment that owners just want someone to love their dogs as much as they do.

What about your human clients? What sort of profile do they have, and what

are their reasons for needing The Dog Bus?

Our humans love their dogs but have busy lives with work and responsibilities, so that's why they need us. We have people in every career imaginable but the one thing they all have in common is their total love for their dogs. As well as the walking, we do quite a lot of work with puppies who have to stay at home while they are very young. We go and feed them, and give them a little gentle walk until they grow strong. That's the sweetest bit of the work. And they have usually been asleep, and they get so excited to see us. All love and (for us) an easy job!

You've been going nearly a year now, what has surprised you and what have you learned?

Grooming-wise, I've learnt never assume the same dog will behave the same way twice - angels become devils and vice versa! Also, people may spend a fortune on their hair but forget their dog has hair too and a six to eight week short back and sides (or beautiful style) keeps dogs looking groomed and well looked after. Tony gets to know each individual dog and thinks very hard about how dogs will socialise with each other. He always walks dogs who get on well together, they have so much more fun.

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BUSINESS OF THE MONTH (cont.)

There are lots of opportunities to expand, from offering dog boarding or doggy day care to adding new services such as teeth cleaning and pet goods sales but at the moment we are very happy with walking and



grooming and getting to really make a difference to our local doggies' lives.

Finally, do you have any tips for new owners? I asked. 'Yes', responded Odette, 'play with your puppy's feet. We walk in the countryside round here, and nails need to be clipped, so if you play with their feet, they get used to having their feet handled.'

So next time you see The Big Yellow Dog Bus around the village, give it a wave. You'll know it's got Tony or Odette in it with some very happy clients.

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THE PAST IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY; THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THERE

One hundred years ago a public meeting was held in the Reading Room to consider how best to remember the men who had died in the Great War. The War Memorial outside the parish church, and plaques in Holy Trinity and St John's resulted from that meeting, but it was also agreed that a YMCA Hut, similar to those that had been provided for the troops in Belgium, should be acquired.

The Vicar, the Revd. F H Salzmänn, who chaired the meeting, suggested that such that a facility would be a great blessing to the men who were shortly coming back to their homes ... it would be just the place for them to spend their evenings instead of sitting at home, or in the public houses or walking aimlessly about the village. The need for a meeting place had been recognised earlier in the year when St John's Sunday School had been opened as a recreation room for all Naval and Military men in the District. The objective was 'to provide music, billiards, bagatelle, writing materials daily papers and other recreation and generally provide a home from home as far as possible.'

So it was that the Red Triangle Hut came to be built in Furlong Road as a thanksgiving for the 230 men of the parish who returned safely from the

First World War.

What else was happening in 1918? The Local History Group has read archived copies of the Dorking Advertiser and discovered that in January the local bobby, PC Hancock reported that William Grover of Watson Road had been seen riding a bicycle at night with no lights. He was fined half a crown.

A more severe sentence, two months hard labour, was meted out to Tom Harrison when he was convicted of stealing a box of matches, a hairbrush, and a clock from Holy Trinity Church. Evidence was given by Alfred Gibbs, the Sexton, that the items were missing after Mr Harrison had attended the 11am Sunday Service. He was arrested the following morning at the Bricklayers Arms and the missing items were found in a barn at West Lees Farm.



In February much publicity was given to the introduction of food rationing



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THE PAST IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY; THEY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY THERE (cont.)

and the parish magazine reported that one unfortunate consequence was the abandonment of the Communal Kitchen that had been set up in the Reading Room to ensure that all villagers would be able to obtain at least one hot meal a day.

In May a whist drive was held at The Rookery, and a sales table was set up on the Green. Both ventures were in aid of Surrey Red Cross; as was a concert in the Reading Room with a programme of songs, cello, cornet and piano solos, humorous monologues, sketches and tableaux.

In August the fourth anniversary of the war was commemorated by 'Day of Remembrance' services in the Parish Church and in St Johns, followed by a joint meeting on the Village Green. This was the first time that the two churches had united in a public service.



During the year, the failure of the

standard fruit crop led to an appeal to village people to collect wild blackberries and crab apples for making jam. (NB The Westcott School log book records that pupils collected 879 lbs of blackberries. It also notes that the school was closed for a week; not because of tummy aches, but because of an influenza epidemic).

The Advertiser also reported an extraordinary sequence of events in Bailey Road. Firstly a lad called Lapford went into his garden one dark evening and fell down a well when the cover gave way. His cries for help attracted his brother, who in the dark and unaware of the hole, also fell down. Their combined cries for help brought their mother to the scene, and she too disappeared in the cavity. Their predicament eventually came to the notice of a neighbour, Mr Bird, who obtained a ladder and rescued all three, fortunately uninjured, although they had fallen 22 feet. Now, who says Local History is boring!

Note to parents: If your young child reads this it might be helpful to explain that in 1918 television had not yet arrived; likewise the RAF, hence the reference only to Navy and Military men.

Terry Wooden



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MOLE VALLEY RAMBLERS



We have a wonderful choice of walks planned for February, ranging from ambling around Albury and a Box Hill hike to following the river Wey and a winter woodland walk on the North Downs. So no excuses – and it's great fun! Dig out your walking boots and come and join us. Part of the Ramblers Association, Mole Valley Ramblers organises friendly group walks across the heart of Surrey and further afield,

on weekdays and at weekends, with a range of distances and difficulties, as detailed below in the list of our walks organised for February. Visit www.molevalleyramblers.org.uk for full information.

Saturday 2nd: Ripley-ing our Wey to Wisley. 10am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Sunday 3rd: ABC walk: Albury Blackheath and a luxury caravan park. 9.30am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Monday 4th: Newdigate in the dry. 10.30am, 3.5 miles, leisurely.

Wednesday 6th: Nature reserves and fields around Maldon Rushett. 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 6th: In search of ancient oaks on Shere Heath. 10am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Sunday 10th: Gomshall – woodland and farmland. 9.30am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 13th: Winter woodland walk on North Downs. 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 13th: It's a fair mile to West End. 10am, 6 miles, moderate

Saturday 16th: Epsom asylums and Horton Light Railway. 5 miles, moderate.

Sunday 17th: A winter forest warmer. 9.30am, 6 miles, leisurely.

Monday 18th: Polesden Lacey to Effingham golf course. 10.30am, 5 miles, leisurely.

Wednesday 20th: Clandon Park to East Clandon (the long way). 10am, 6 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 20th: The Box Hill hike. 10am, 8 miles, strenuous.

Saturday 23rd: A circuit around Chiddingfold. 10am, 12 miles, strenuous.

Sunday 24th: A gorgeous Gomshall gyration. 9.30am, 9 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 27th: Brand new Bookham circle. 10am, 6.5 miles, moderate.

Wednesday 27th: Milton Heath, Pilgrims Way, Wotton. 10am, 7 miles, moderate.

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RANGER @ LANDBARN FARM

February and the Yellow-hammer

This month, named after the old Roman festival 'Februa', is rightly called the 'Gateway to the Year'. It is a cold and often cruel month, yet despite the harshness of its sleet and frosts, the frail promise of spring is to be sensed in the air and the familiar song of the Yellow-hammer is heard.



An old proverb states that on St. Valentine's Day, 'all the birds of the air in couples do join'. The Yellow-hammer appears to abide by the saying and during the month can be seen constructing its large, bulky, cup-shaped nest, strategically positioned within the prickly confines of a blackthorn bush (where even the most persistent predator would be reluctant to venture).

The noted song of the cock bird sings in quick, harsh notes, to which the words 'a little bit of bread and no cheese' might well be added! This I find is one of the easiest birds to identify by song

alone and I often hear them on the downs. With a bit of careful looking it can be seen too - it's a beautiful little bird, with a vividly coloured yellow body and a chestnut rump.

Brimstone Butterfly

Warm sunny days in early spring rouse the beautiful adult Brimstone butterfly from its winter hibernation. They can often be seen resting with their wings at right angles to the sun to gain the full effect of the warm rays at this relatively cool time of year.

Later in spring males can be seen patrolling woodland edges, hedgerows and other habitats looking for a mate. They are a very distinctive butterfly being quite large with leaf shaped wings, the males are bright sulphur-yellow and the females are a pale greenish white. It is thought by some that the term butter-fly originally referred to this insect because of its butter yellow colouring.



RANGER @ LANDBARN FARM (cont.)

The Brimstone is a great wanderer and can be found in almost any habitat, from chalk downland to woodland rides to gardens but it will only lay its eggs on buckthorn trees. Adults emerging in the spring nectar on a variety of available flowers, such as Dandelion, Primrose, Cowslip, Bugle and Bluebell. This is all the more reason to leave those dandelions in your lawn!

Dandelions are a valuable source of nectar for insects in early spring when there isn't much else about. Think of the bumblebee that's spent winter living in a hole in the ground and hasn't eaten since July. Think of the hoverfly that's flown here from the continent, the butterfly that needs nectar to give it the energy to find a mate. Think of the endangered moths, whose caterpillars eat dandelions, of the birds that eat the seed. Think of pollen beetles if you must. But please, think before you kill your dandelions.

The Hazel Tree

The hazel is the first deciduous tree to awake from winter sleep. In early February its pinkish-brown tassels burst into fluffy yellow catkins – drooping strings of small florets bearing male stamens. These produce large quantities of pollen which are shaken by the February wind, and carried in the air to tiny scarlet anemone-like flowers. From this union a hazel nut will form and ripen.

The sight of hazel catkins is one of my favourites as it signals the end of winter. This lovely little poem by Cicely Mary Barker, author and illustrator of *The Book of the Flower Fairies* sums it up perfectly.

Like little tails of little lambs,
On leafless twigs my catkins swing;
They dingle-dangle merrily
Before the wakening of Spring.

Beside the pollen-laden tails
My tiny crimson tufts you see
The promise of the autumn nuts
Upon the slender hazel tree.

While yet the woods lie grey and still
I give my tidings: "Spring is near!"
One day the land shall leap to life
With fairies calling: "Spring is HERE!"



Amanda
National Trust Area Ranger
amanda.barnicoat@nationaltrust.org.uk
Office: 01306 887485

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