

Westcott Village Magazine

May 2025



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Westcott has a population of over 2,000 and this is the only magazine written specifically for the Westcott area by the people of Westcott. It is hand delivered, free of charge, to every household and further copies are available at the church, local shops, pub and doctor's surgery.



If you have any articles, photos, letters, etc that you think we may like to feature in the next issue, please email the Editor on:

editor@westcottmag.com

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

Copy deadline for

June issue:

8th May 2025

This magazine, published by the Church in Westcott, is printed on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited paper from a sustainable source. The views expressed are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Church, Editor or Westcott residents.

FROM THE EDITOR



It feels like the year is really moving on now, with the lighter evenings, sunshine (sometimes) and lots of flowers showing in the gardens all

around. Sending lots of luck to all those sitting any exams this month. It always seems the weather gets better as you're stuck revising, but it won't be long until they're over!

This month the Quiz in aid of the Village Hall redevelopment fund is on the 10th, so get your little grey cells out and have a fun evening, obviously it's the winning not the taking part that counts!

Dorking museum have a celebration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day on

10th from 10am to 3.30pm, see page 45 for more details.

On Friday 16th the Teddy Bears' Picnic is back at Abinger Hammer, so gather up your furry friends and get along there to enjoy the afternoon. There will be duck races, a barbecue, face painting and of course the teddy bear competitions. Coldharbour fete follows on 17th, so why not make a weekend of it after the picnic the day before? Fingers crossed for good weather!

Please do keep sending in your local photos and you might see one of them on the cover one of these days.

Cath

editor@westcottmag.com

GROW WESTCOTT'S LARGEST SUNFLOWER (BY DIAMETER)

At Westcott Gardeners' Club we have a new class in our Autumn Show (13th September) - it rewards the entrant with the largest sunflower by diameter (width).

All classes at our flower shows are free to enter BUT join us for £5 today and we will give you a FREE special packet of giant sunflower seeds!

Email info@westcottgardenersclub.org.uk to find out more. See www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk for full details of our Summer and Autumn shows.



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



THE IMPERFECT GLORY OF THE ENGLISH VILLAGE

What do the following English villages and towns have in common?

Sandford, Little Dimpton, Market Blandings, Ambridge, Badger's Drift, Walmington-on-Sea, Brideshead and Dibley.

At least one of these settlements may well have given away that they are all fictional locations from film, TV, radio and literature. How many of them can you identify where they came from without the help of Wikipedia? If you manage 8 out of 8 then let me know and I'll buy you a Twix at Westcott Food and Wine (or indeed the Nisa – for the sake of community balance).

"IN MY VIEW, VILLAGES ARE MARVELLOUS PLACES TO BE AS THEY ARE SMALL ENOUGH THAT EVERYONE CAN THEORETICALLY GET TO KNOW EVERYONE ELSE."



Small settlements and villages have long been the subject of amusement, intrigue and entertainment to the population at large. The fictionalised locations of countless murder mysteries, sitcoms, and novels. Some of the humour is admittedly drawn from the idiosyncratic nature of small communities. When I was growing up in a Shropshire Village the school holidays

would happily be spent directing large lorries to the village industrial estate the indirect way via a very narrow 2 mile circular track. My driving instructor doubled as the coordinator for the village pheasant shoots. The village fête was, well, very village fête -like with Victoria Sponges and more Jam for sale than you could shake a large wooden spoon at. (A far cry, I might add, from the awesome Westfest which has its 10th anniversary this year).



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



Our village also had its fair share of colourful character who would not have been entirely out of place in Dibley or Market Blandings.

In my view, villages are marvellous places to be as they are small enough that everyone can theoretically get to know everyone else. This can, of course, also be a downside. When I first took Jenny to meet my parents my Mum had received a call from a nosey neighbour who had spotted us out walking past the village Post Office before Jen arrived at the front door. Overall though, being in place where we can get to know and look out for one another is a wonderful thing.

Maybe you feel a bit disconnected from life in the village – whether due to a busy job, ill health, a lack of confidence or just not knowing where to begin to get to know people. If this is you, and you want to get to know others in community, then have a look through this magazine for the numerous ways to meet other villagers. From the monthly coffee morning at the reading rooms which is always warm and welcoming, to Cookie Club on a Thursday morning for those with preschoolers.

For the sporty or those looking to get fit there is cricket and stoolball at the Cricket Club, friendly classes at CorefitPhysio, and organised bike rides from Nirvana Cycles. If you are looking to meet others then you will almost certainly bump into someone at the Hub at St John's chapel if you pop in for a coffee or a browse. And I promise that whatever your age and background you will always receive a warm welcome at the Church at 8.30am or 10.15am on a Sunday morning – if you are looking for community, rhythm, meaning and a deeper spirituality then I hope you will find it the special place that I have. I better stop there - apologies to the many other excellent groups, activities and businesses that make our community what it is – flick through this mag to find out more about them.

Villages can be peculiar places. 'There's nowt as strange as folk' as the saying goes. The popular parodies have the smallest amount of truth to them. But they can also be wonderful places because all walks of life can mingle and get to know one another. So come and get stuck in – and if you are unsure where to start drop me or the Westcott Village Association an email and we would love to help you get to know the others who make our community what it is.

All the best,
Revd Tim

MAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



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

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



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

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

DATE	THEME	8:30AM	10:15AM
4th May	"Feed my sheep"	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
11th May	"Get up"	Book of Common Prayer Communion	20-20-20 with Breakfast
18th May	Nicea	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
25th May	We believe in God	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship



MARKING LIFE EVENTS

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

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's

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All are welcome

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Join a Life Group

Small groups of people who meet online or in person every 2 weeks to chat and pray about life & faith.

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@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk for more information

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Westcott's baby & toddler group **COOKIE CLUB**

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£2 voluntary donation



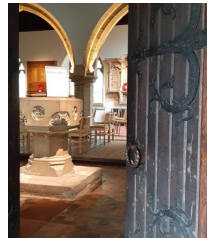
THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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

Debt advice: Paul Stacey (paulstacey88@gmail.com)

Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistants: Mark Shakespeare (01306 888010), Ali Mabley (alimabley.htw@gmail.com)

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



FLOODLIGHTING

Many thanks to our sponsors for April and May.

The April floodlighting was sponsored by the Wilde family:
In memory of Karen Wilde, much loved wife of Edward and mother of daughters Louisa and Katrina. Greatly missed by all.

The May floodlighting is sponsored by Bryan and Katherine Bletso:
In memory of Tom who died on 26th May 2024.

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

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have been delighted with the learning and passion shown by all the children through the many fantastic opportunities offered to them. We loved sharing their outcomes and next steps at our Parent Consultations and would like to thank you all for your kind words about the wonderful reports written by our teachers. We also thank you for all your contributions to make our learning experiences so special, particularly our Multicultural Book Week costumes and your help with so many experiences throughout the term.

Some of our Year 5s are busy training to be Peer Mentors to make our school even better at lunchtimes and our choir have sung at our local Care home. I am sure you will all agree with me that our recent SIAMS report shares the successes of our wonderful school and we are so grateful to our teachers and leaders for their contributions every day to this outcome.

After the Easter break, F@SH will be surging ahead with our community events including the upcoming Teddy Bears picnic, WESTfest and Abinger Medieval Fayre. A huge amount of organisation goes into these events and volunteers to join F@SH and help out with events are hugely welcome.

Years R-2 had a fabulous Easter Bonnet Parade. As always it was a joyous parade around the playground

in front of parents and the rest of the school.

Some of Reception showing off their beautiful hats created for our annual Easter Bonnet Parade.

Abel said 'I liked wearing my hat, but the carrots were a little bit tickly'



Year 3 have been learning all things Roman. We have looked at why the Romans wanted to invade and how they changed Britain. We designed and made our own Roman shields, practised our marching around the playground and even invaded the rest of the school!



Year 3 also were lucky enough to have a Roman workshop. We looked at real Roman artefacts, studied different

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



coins and got to pretend to be archaeologists.



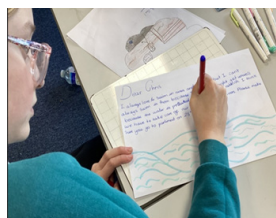
Year 4 were extremely lucky to be granted permission to have a tour around Bury Hill Lakes. We saw so much different wildlife on the complex and just how large the lakes there are! We were even shown the crayfish traps which had caught an unbelievable amount of the invasive species.



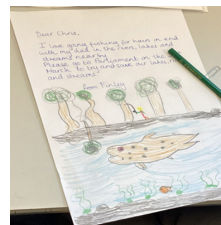
The children in Year 5 and 6 really felt that they could make a difference when Sandy and Catherine from

Reboot the Future visited to talk about water quality and the urgent need to protect our streams,

rivers and lakes. Reboot the Future co-developed PACTS (Politicians Accountable for Climate to Students); a new school-based government initiative that empowers students to



influence politicians and make them accountable for climate action.



Art club produced some brilliant oil pastel drawings based on Vincent Van Gogh's *The Starry Night* painting.



Some of the paintings are now on display in the school corridors.







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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

Peter Faulding, the founder and CEO of Specialist Group International (SGI), and Mr Stephen Owen-Hughes (Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey) proudly welcomed Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal to their headquarters in Dorking, Surrey.



An important part of the day was dedicated to raising awareness about the Lucas Dobson Water Safety Campaign. The campaign, established in memory of six-year-old Lucas Dobson who tragically

drowned in 2018, aims to promote water safety and prevent further tragedies. The Princess Royal learned more about this vital campaign and met Nathan Dobson, Lucas's father, whose personal loss has inspired other significant community impact and safety initiatives. St John's and Surrey Hills, who have received free lifejackets as part of the water safety campaign, were also proudly in attendance and gave testimony to the Princess Royal about the positive impact that the water safety initiative has already made.

Lucas Dobson Water Safety Campaign:

<https://www.lucasdobsonwatersafety.com/>

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Dorking Local History Group

The DLHG continues its popular programme of both live and Zoom talks on a fascinating range of topics. These are free to members, but non-members are welcome. Upcoming dates include:

- **Cast-iron Firebacks: More Interesting than you'd think:** Live talk by Jeremy Hodgkinson. 16th/17th century firebacks often contain information about the house and family owning it; detective work is sometimes needed to unlock their secrets. Monday 12th May at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **Why is Dorking called Dorking?:** Zoom talk by Robert Briggs explains that the most likely derivation of Dorking's name illuminates the archaeology and historic landscape of our area. Monday 19th May, 7.30pm, <https://www.meetup.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.

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



Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

Tuesday 22nd July 2025, 7.30 p.m.

The King's Men Cambridge are returning to

Westcott for another concert, with a programme of church music, spirituals, folk and modern songs.

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Baby Birds

We spend the spring months listening to birds serenade potential partners with their songs. Over the following few weeks, we can see them in our gardens and greenspaces, flitting back and forth from their nests to bring back food for their chicks. And finally, as late spring arrives, we begin to see the evidence of all their hard work as young birds leave their nest for the first time.

While Robins and Blackbirds can be seen as early as April, many of our other garden visitors like Blue Tits, Starlings and Great Spotted Woodpeckers begin to appear in late May and early June.

You might see fresh fledglings out and about, exploring the world for the first

time, their feathers still downy and the yellow gape peeking from the edge of their beak. At this stage, the fledgling is learning how to live in the outside world without its parents, but its mother will be somewhere nearby, keeping an eagle eye.

It's important to leave a baby bird undisturbed. If you are concerned about the safety of a bird, check out the RSPCA website or the Wildlife Aid Foundation (based in Leatherhead)

See more on our activities and photos or if you're interested in joining below Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

Instagram: @rsbp_dorking

Website: <https://group.rspb.org.uk/dorkinganddistrict/>

Jonathan Groves



Image courtesy RSPB images

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The Westcott Village Fair

2015-2025

WEST *fest*

10TH Birthday Party

SUNDAY

22nd TWENTY TWENTY FIVE
JUNE

Cradhurst 11.30-4.00
Recreation Ground AM PM

CARNIVAL DRUMS ★ BUNGEE TRAMPOLINES ★ LIVE MUSIC
★ FUN RUN ★ DOG AGILITY ★ FOOD & DRINK ★ MAYPOLE
FUN DOG SHOW ★ CREAM TEAS ★ SCARECROWS ★
★ ARTISAN STALLS ★ POETRY ★ CANDY FLOSS ★
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to 10 years!

Cheers to 10 years!

Cheers to 10 years!

Cheers to 10 years!

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WESTCOTT BABY MEALS



What are "Baby Meals"?!

The Westcott "Baby Meals" service has been running over 25 years! It's a highly valued community initiative; our fabulous volunteer cooks buy, cook and deliver a (free!) hot meal for families living in the village with a new baby, usually for 2 weeks. At a time of chaos as the family adjusts to baby, dinner is one less thing to think about!

The cooks have had a month or so off but we've just been called on to help a family during a serious illness.

Please do get in touch if you are expecting a baby, or if we can help during a challenging time - we're always really pleased to help out! We're also keen to hear from potential new cooks - there's no obligation, just sign up to rotas as and when you can. Anna: 07710 425487 annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk 

SUNDAY 22 JUNE

2015-2025

WEST *fest*
10th Birthday Party

5KM / 2.5KM

FUN RUN



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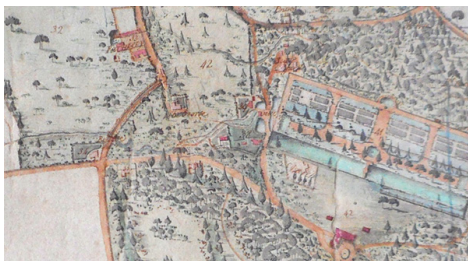


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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

Community Archaeology in Albury Park – the medieval deserted village.

On 11 March we had a thought provoking talk by Dr Anne Sassin, our community archaeologist, about the efforts being made to investigate the medieval settlement along the Tillingbourne Stream through the Park. The Domesday Book records this settlement with a church and a mill on the stream. In 1784, Captain William Clement Finch obtained an order to close the road to Shere which ran through the park past the manor house. This began a period of harassment for the villagers, which continued under Charles Wall (1811-1819), who demolished the cottages and moved their occupants to Weston Street – the current Albury – half a mile to the west. By the time of Henry Drummond c.1842, the present New Road from Albury Heath was built, replacing the original Dog Kennel Lane.



The current mansion in Albury Park, assumed to be the site of the medieval manor house, has Tudor origins but was rebuilt in the 17th century. The wooded pleasure grounds and park are thought

to have been planted as early as the 15th century, though the ornamental terraced gardens – for which the site is best known – were designed by John Evelyn in 1667 and have elements including the bath-house, pool and crypta/tunnel still largely intact. The only surviving cottage from the old village is Grange Cottage, at one time the Little George Inn, which has been dendro-dated to the 16th century.



There is little on the ground today to suggest a former village at Albury Park, although landscape clues can give indications of the former settlement. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) uses laser scanning from an aeroplane to create a precise 3D map of the landscape surface. The LiDAR of the park clearly shows not only the former road running through the meadow, but also raised platforms of the former cottages. Following this a magnetometry survey was made in 2023 and 2024 to try and identify attractive spots with potential ancient buried remains where test pits would be dug. About 18 test pits were dug in 2023. The pits were dug one metre

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



square and excavated in 10cm layers. The early finds included a coin from Edward II in 1300 and a metal 'strap end' from the 14/15 century, as well as an abundance of CBM (ceramic building material). The process was 'dig – sieve – record' down to one metre depth then backfill.



In the following year, 2024, 48 test pits were dug with over 350 volunteer days. Findings included a metal 15th century hinged book clasp and a lot of pottery shards and CBM. This included material

dating back through the 19th century to Medieval, Roman and Prehistoric periods.

Anne Sassin explained that it was planned to continue this research in the summer of 2025 and she was keen to enlist as many helpers as possible. Information could be found at outreach@surreyarcheolgy.org.uk. As always the WLHG committee encourages readers to propose talks and articles of interest. Contact us by email at westcottlocalhistory@gmail.com and for local information at our website www.westcottlocalhistory.org. Our next talk is scheduled for Tuesday 13th May and will be on 350 years of SE Weather by Ian Currie.

WLHG Scribe

Friday 16th May 4pm–8pm
Abinger Hammer

Teddy Bears Picnic 2025



Surrey Hills All Saints Primary
Peaslake Free School & Nursery

Westcott Open Gardens



Sunday
June 15th
11am – 4pm

Fundraising for
Westcott Village Hall
Development Fund and
maintenance
of The Chapel



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WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



To date there has been no response from Mole Valley District Council's Planning Department regarding our planning application, but we hope to obtain a response shortly. In the meantime, the trustees recently toured an existing village hall to help understand what a well-designed, modern, insulated and light building could offer the village, and this gave us some useful insights.

The trustees are concentrating efforts on fund raising for the Redevelopment Fund. On May 10th we have our annual Quiz Night, and tickets are available from the Hub or by contacting info@westcottvillagehall.com. The tickets cost £16 and includes the quiz and a curry and sides made by Jon and Mum - hurry as tickets are selling fast!

Our Open Garden event has secured over 12 hosts who have very kindly invited us all into their gardens on June 15th from 11:00am - 4:00pm. Tickets will be available from mid-May at The Hub or on the day at the Hub and The Heath. Tickets are £5 per person, and children go free. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available to buy on The Heath where demonstrations of garden bouquet making will provided at various times of day. Free parking will be available on The Heath, the Village Hall car park and if needed some overflow spaces will be offered by the parking stewards on the day. Please note that no dogs are allowed in the gardens and toilets will be available at the Village Hall, The Heath, The Hub, The Prince of Wales and The Hildens. Some gardens are at least part disability accessible and this information will be shown on the map. The proceeds of the Open Garden event will go towards the Village Hall Redevelopment Fund, with 25% being donated to the Chapel/Hub for maintenance, recognising the importance of both of our village buildings to our community.

We would be grateful for some extra help please!

- Cakes and biscuits – please drop off at Libby Witt's (Hill Farm House, The Heath) on the day or email info@westcottvillagehall.com to arrange collection
- Garden greenery and cut flowers are needed for the bouquet demonstrations
- Help with the tea and cake stall/washing up/clearing up
- Help with stewarding the car parking

If you are able to help please contact info@westcottvillagehall.com. Most of all, please do come along with your family and friends to our lovely community events.

Many thanks,

The Trustees of Westcott Village Hall

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ST JOHNS CHURCH

Spring has well and truly arrived at the woodland, the birds are full of song and really busy, and the Spring bulbs are out in full bloom plus many other plants and trees bursting into life. As I write this I am looking forward to our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the woodland which is taking place on Sunday 13th April.

My Trustees and I are now concentrating on our Annual Anniversary of the opening of the woodland and Commemoration Service that will be taking place at the woodland on Sunday 8th June. This event is very special to us and is a reminder of what we have achieved in the last 11 years since the woodland was officially opened. We currently have 76 memorials at the woodland soon to be 79 come June 8th.

When I first thought of purchasing the land I envisaged a place where Veterans would come together to talk and feel at ease, which it is, and I am pleased to say many visit the woodland from all over the UK, some from further afield on occasions. However soon after the woodland opened we were asked by one family if they could honour their Veteran father by planting a sapling and having a small memorial placed at the woodland so that they always had a place to come and remember him and bring children of their own to learn about their grandfather's military service. Others asked if they could have a memorial

for their husband or father because they liked the opportunity for him to be remembered alongside many of his former comrades. So the Memorial Woodland evolved naturally and has become the special place it is today. Not a sad place, but a place of peace and remembrance for generations to come.

On Sunday 8th June it will be a celebration of life for all who attend and a coming together of friends made over many years. The event is open to everyone so please put the date in your diaries and come and join us for a day of celebration. There will be a big BBQ, a bar, a Grand Raffle and a bottle tombola, plus a sweet and pastry stall and a display of armoury and of course a chance to visit our museum where we have militaria that has been donated by families of Veterans. We are of course in a woodland in the middle of the beautiful Surrey Hills so please bring some cash with you as plastic does not work in the woodland!

The Commemoration Service that will take place early afternoon will be to honour Veterans whose families wish to have a memorial for their loved ones. This is always a really lovely service and prayers will be said by Deacon James Snyder, Veteran Burnette Raphael and our local Reverend Virginia Smith. To conclude the service our friend Jock the Scottish Piper will play Amazing Grace. After the service we have two

amazing vocalists, professional classical singer, my niece Alexis Cooling-Hunt and popular singer Harry Nicol whose voices fill the woodland beautiful song.

The Redhill Corp of Drums and Band will welcome you to the woodland from midday but please do arrive by 12.30 in time for our Chairman's opening speech. Parking is at the new Leith Hill School, which is of course only about 400 yards up the hill from us. We will be running a shuttle service to and from the school and woodland. Please come and say hello to me and the team of voluntary Trustees who look after our woodland and run the Charity which assists Veterans who are in need. Without your help we would not be able to do what we do

for them. I look forward to you joining us on June 8th at 12.30.

Paul Cooling, Chairman
The Quick Response Memorial
Woodland
Registered Charity No: 1174651



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It takes a very special person to stick a job for 25 years and thank goodness we have one such person at the heart of our nursery. From cooking to campfires, gutting fish to foraging

for blackberries, from next level kindness to a crazy green witch face, from marmalade to marshmallows this wonderful lady can do it all. We wouldn't and couldn't be without her and are eternally grateful she chose us. Henny – This is your life! Your nursery life! Let's hear from some lovely parents...

Well this is a request that is easily fulfilled! I smile whenever Henny's name is mentioned because she is a very special person. She was in charge on our child's first day at nursery and as soon as I arrived to collect him I knew he had been in an incredibly safe pair of hands. I felt slightly in awe of her to be honest! She has always seemed to strike the perfect balance between being very competently in charge but having lots of fun and just being a complete natural with the children. I felt totally confident that I could have approached her about anything and she would have handled any situation in the right way. We are extremely grateful to know Henny and thankful

to her for everything she has done for us. She really is one of a kind!

A very warm, special and talented lady. Both my boys were so lucky to have been taught by you at Abinger Common Nursery. Many congratulations Henny! Xxx

We've such fond memories of our children's time at Abinger nursery, and we're so grateful to you for the kindness and the great sense of fun you brought to their days there. Your big, welcoming smile at the door each morning made such a difference to us all! Thank you so much, Lots of love, xx

Thank you Henny for all the support and fun you gave us at nursery and for teaching us how to make marmite sandwiches! xxx

Henny is the beating heart of Abinger and any little person lucky enough to be in her care can be guaranteed the best start in life! xx

How grateful we are that Henny was behind that door (along with Hayley and Coral!) when we knocked at Abinger Common Nursery. I knew she was special when our child's tears dried the moment she felt Henny's kind, safe arms around her. Our second child felt





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wicked
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and our
whole family*

*has felt her love and her support ever
since. How fortunate we were to find
her - we will never let her go. xxxxx*

We are really pleased to announce that our after school club will be extended to 5pm Monday to Thursday from the Summer Term. If you have a child looking to start nursery please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please call 07842 978823 or email abingercommonnursery@gmail.com We can't wait to show you around!

Kate Fairbrass

Westcott 100 Club

Our 38th quarterly draw was held on 12 March. The winning numbers are:



Since the scheme started in 2015, our members have won over £9,000 in prizes and we have awarded grants of over £14,500 to local good causes. We remain open for more members – if you can spare £25 a year (less than 50p a week) we'd love to hear from you. Joining the scheme is simple and can be done by email. Our next draw will be at WESTfest on 22nd June – to be in with a chance of winning, you need to be a member by 01 June.

For more information on joining the scheme or the process for applying for funds (we still have funds available!) please email us at: westcott.100.club@gmail.com

*Alda Andreotti (Chair) Edwin Harland (Treasurer)
Richard Packer (Secretary)*

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The current village hall is likely to be redeveloped within the next 1-2 years, replacing it with a modern, flexible, sustainable community facility. We will give our users at least 6 months' notice of the anticipated closure date so that everyone will have enough time to secure a replacement venue during the building period.

Mobile: 07967 286636 Email: info@westcottvillagehall.com
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Diary Date - Westcott Village Forum
Thursday 22 May 2025, 7.30pm at Holy
Trinity



Please come along to this next meeting of the Westcott Village Forum, there will also be an option to attend on zoom. The Westcott Village Forum is currently in "start-up mode" and following your input to the Forum Constitution and Neighbourhood Area (the geographic area the plan covers), an application has been made to Mole Valley District Council for both the Forum and the Neighbourhood Area to be officially designated. MVDC are currently running a public consultation on both these items. A link to the consultation and the individual documents can be found on the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan pages of the village website <https://westcottvillage.com/westcott-neighbourhood-development-plan/>

The consultation is running until the 16th May 2025 and MVDC will then decide whether to designate the Westcott Village Forum at their Cabinet Meeting on the 17th June 2025. Assuming it is then designated, the Westcott Village Forum can start

in earnest and will quickly move to consult with the community on their wishes for the updated Neighbourhood Development Plan by way of a survey. The survey will be delivered to every household in the Neighbourhood Area and will be able to be completed either on-line or on paper. In addition there will also be a professional housing needs survey commissioned to capture views on new housing needs and characteristics to help plan for future provision in the village. In the meantime please put the 22nd May in your diary and come along to the Westcott Village Forum meeting to find out more.

WESTfest 2025



WESTfest is coming up fast and we're looking forward to celebrating the 10th Birthday of this great community event with you all on Sunday 22nd June at Cradhurst Recreation Ground. The WVA is delighted to be sponsoring the medals for the 2025 Fun Run. We will also be present with our ever popular Bottle Tombola and of course need your donations to ensure this is a great success. Please

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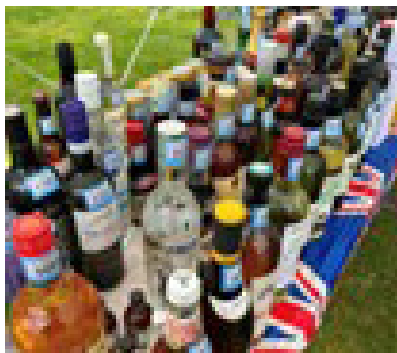
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Diary Date - Westcott Village Association AGM – Thursday 26 June 2025, 7.30pm at Holy Trinity

Please come along to the AGM to hear an update on village life and to share thoughts and plans moving forward.



Local Government Re-organisation

The final proposals for the reorganisation of the existing Surrey County Council and its eleven Borough and District councils

(including Mole Valley) into just two or three unitary authorities instead are due to be submitted to the Government by the 9th May 2025. The Government will make a final decision on what form local government in Surrey will take in the Autumn. Full details of the current options under consideration can be viewed on the devolution pages of the Mole Valley website <https://news.molevalley.gov.uk/category/devolution/>



We will continue to stay abreast of the various proposals to ensure Westcott's voice continues to be heard as part of whatever new structure is decided. It has been suggested that Westcott's interests may be better served by a Parish Council rather than a residents' association in the future so this will need further consideration and consultation with the community in due course.

Westcott Village Association Committee
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DORKING MUSEUM

Last chance to see: The Museum's exhibition, *Building between the vines – the story of the Denbies LEGO house*, has been a big hit with visitors but will end on 10th May.

VE Day commemoration: “We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing...” (Winston Churchill declaring Victory in Europe, May 1945).



Join Dorking Museum in celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day: Saturday 10th May, 10am-3.30pm. Another chance to see the popular Blackbrook Bomber display and find out what the people of Dorking lived through during WWII. Children are invited to dress up in our wartime costumes and make their own souvenir flags, bunting, poppies and medals to take home. All materials provided free (with generous support from the Arts Society Dorking).

A Place of Safety: The Museum's summer exhibition opens on 15th May and ties in with the National Trust's focus

on Vaughan Williams and the Dorking Refugee Committee. Widening



the refugee theme, *A Place of Safety* tells the stories of the various groups of refugees who have found refuge in the town and their experiences – including those fleeing the French Revolution in 1792, the Kaiser's army in 1914, Nazi oppression in the late 1930s, the Blitz in 1940 and, in the present century, war and persecution in the Middle East. Amongst the treasures on show will be the Dorking Nursery Scrapbook from the 1940s, showing the experiences of those bombed out of their homes, and four beautifully detailed dolls, made by Mickleham and Westhumble WI in the 1970s and representing the high-profile French emigres who found refuge at Juniper Hall.



Family Activities at Dorking Library: In conjunction with Dorking Library, on Saturday 24th May, 10am-noon, for Local History Month, there will be an opportunity to handle objects from the Museum. Aimed at 4-11-year-olds, children must be accompanied.

Walking in Dorking: With warmer and sunny weather arriving last month, it was great to welcome the new season

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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)



of the Museum's popular programme of guided walks. Scheduled for May, on the edge of town, a Betchworth Castle tour includes exclusive

access to the Castle enclosure, the romantic ruin of the only remaining fortified medieval manor house in Surrey: Sunday 11th May, 2pm, from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club. Nearby, the first of the season's walks on the Deepdene Trail, including exclusive access to the grade 2* Hope family mausoleum, is on Sunday 18th May, 2pm, from the Dorking Golf Club clubhouse.

In the town centre, see Dorking as you have never seen it before on the guided walk of Hidden Historic Dorking, where some features will be hidden round corners or above you, others will be hidden 'in plain sight': Sunday 11th May, 11am. The Blue Plaques and Statues walk tells of some of the famous people who lived or were active in Dorking, revealing a diverse range of interests and activities: Sunday 25th May, 2pm, from the Cubitt statue opposite Dorking Halls.

All walks last around an hour and a half and should be booked in advance: details and booking at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. Walks may also be arranged for private groups on these or other itineraries: see

website for details, enquiries and group booking.

South Street Caves tours: One of Dorking's most popular attractions, the 17th century South Street Caves lie beneath Dorking's busy streets. A series of staircases, galleries, wine vaults and chambers lead down to the 'Mystery Chamber', 50 feet below street level. Guided tours take place on the last Saturday of each month of the season. Open Day, 31st May, tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, lasting about 45 minutes and led by a trained guide. For details and open day bookings (which sell out fast!) see dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/. Private group bookings may

also be made, e-mail caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk to arrange a date.



Get involved: The Museum is looking for new volunteers who can spare a few hours a month in a range of key roles with flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home. 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.

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Random May Facts!

*A maypole was built in 1543
that was 100 feet high. Isaac
Newton later purchased the pole
in 1713 and used it to prop
up a telescope.*

*The Eurovision song contest is
always held in May.*

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MUSIC IN DORKING



10th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Martin's church

24th at 7.30, Surrey Phil. Orchestra at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, £16, 01372 275907

There are two orchestral concerts to mention for May:

The Dorking Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Morley, opens its concert with the overture to *Lucio Silla* by JC Bach, and follows this with two pieces by Mozart – a divertimento and a horn concerto. They then play the *Symphony no. 3* by Louise Farrenc, a nineteenth-century French composer and pianist whose music has been increasingly heard in recent years.

The Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, playing in Ashted, begins with Beethoven's dramatic overture to *Egmont* and follows this with Max Bruch's well-known *Violin Concerto no. 1*, with soloist Joshua Hugo von Bohlen. Then comes Gounod's second symphony, displaying typically French elegance but also some dramatic moments.

Ian Codd

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Chloe Stone

Three series and five rounds of Mastermind to her credit makes Chloe a definite must have pub quiz team member. Her quiz master was John Humphrys who said of her *"I liked Chloe's technique. There was no nonsense wasting time over questions she did not know the answer to, no. Such questions were met with a firm pass which ensured she got through no less than 19 questions in the round scoring 14."* Her specialist subjects were the Cazalet novels of Elizabeth Jane Howard, British History from the Congress of Vienna 1815 to the outbreak of the First World War, The Rumpole Stories of John Mortimer (which featured in a semi-final), British History of the fifteenth century (the houses of York and Lancaster) and the Fethering murder mysteries of Simon Brett. So impressed was the author, he sent Chloe a copy of the latest novel in the collection.

Perhaps there are shades of Carole Seddon, Brett's sleuth who is often dragged out of her comfort zone, wearing her sensible overcoat and applying her enquiring mind to solving the case, accompanied by an exasperated and deprecating sigh. Earlier, in 2005 with her mischievously named Densa (a play on Mensa) she and the team were anything but dense and beat the Eggheads to win a handsome £20,000. Like Carole, Chloe

is often to be seen toggled up taking her daily walk, or wander as she calls it, around Westcott's lanes although more a stately Spanish galleon than a quinquireme of Nineveh with her treasure trove mind musing on her disc selection. *"Walking"*, she says *"is in my DNA having had dogs for many years."*

In no nonsense fashion, Chloe's choices were not so much steeped in remembrance but neatly ordered into categories, with two discs in each of Pop, Folk, Classical and Sacred. Bach's *St Mathew's Passion* and Isaac Watts' *When I survey the Wonderful Cross* were perhaps reference to her adoptive parents and her faith. The great hymn composer, Charles Wesley would have given his eye teeth to have composed this hymn, and Chloe mused that the Wesley brothers' legacy of Methodism has given a great deal to the politics and social justice to our country.

She discovered her Welsh birth mother and two half siblings only much later. Twenty seven years earlier, her Mum attracted male attentions as an army poster girl with Chloe as the unintended result. In those days the army offered terminations for unmarried pregnancies, but bravely and despite family disapproval, Chloe entered the world and was placed in a National Children's Home. She does recall growing up with Housewives' Choice on the old BBC Light programme in the

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DESERT ISLAND DISCS (cont.)



background with Frankie Vaughan's *Green Door*, the Everley Brothers' *Wake Up Little Suzie* and *Little Donkey* by Nina and Frederik as favourites, although her desert island pop discs were Simon and Garfunkel's *Bridge Over Troubled Waters* and Elvis Presley's *Love Me Tender*. She was crushed when Elvis married Priscilla as she had rather fancied herself in that role.

Not especially enjoying school, Chloe took a secretarial course, and a succession of jobs followed which included working in a book shop, a short stint with the Prospect Theatre Company and au pairing in Germany although she and her fellow au pair spent more time speaking French than learning German. Deciding secretarial work was not really for her, Chloe took 'A' levels by correspondence and got a place at Lady Margaret Hall, one of the first two Oxford colleges to open their doors to women undergraduates. She studied history and dabbled in law and the theatricalities of the bar before taking up teaching at Stanway and Belmont in Dorking and Millais in Horsham.

Ever willing to push the envelope she responded to an ad in the Epsom Labour Exchange to run classes offered by Club Français in a variety of schools. Dual language features in one of her folk choices *Ar Hyd y Nos* (All Through the Night), the other being the enigmatic *Farewell Angelina* by Joan

Baez, incidentally the one disc she would rescue from the waves if they were all to be swept away. She was not sure why she would protect this record perhaps saving the puzzling words.

Marriage, motherhood, divorce, a second marriage and widowhood, were further staging posts in Chloe's biography. Her classical category discs are the famous Mozart *Horn Concerto* and *The Pilgrim's Chorus* from Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. The wandering knight of the opera, taking part in a song contest has perhaps some resonances of her life.

Following her retirement from teaching, she makes rather splendid curtains, plays bridge online and with a local club and swims regularly as well as having an ongoing project to de-clutter in which, by her own admission, she is slowly triumphing. The swimming venue was occasioned by her surprise winning of a free 3 month subscription to a local health club and ever open to opportunity, gave it a go and is still swimming, useful for a castaway. Her luxury is the practical mosquito net if she is to survive a desert island and her book a large dictionary so she can look up all those words she doesn't recognise in the Bible and her copy of Shakespeare, although it's hard to imagine there are many she does not know.

Jennifer Brown



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B-Lines – A Network for Pollinators



Spring and summer would not be complete without the buzz of bees and the delicate

beauty of butterflies. These fascinating creatures are among a richly diverse group of insect pollinators – including hoverflies, moths, wasps, flies, beetles – that play a crucial role in helping the majority of plants, including food crops, produce seeds and fruits.

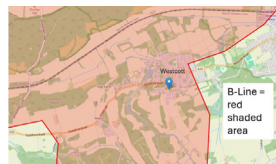
Pollinators also help create the diversity of wild plants and habitats that support the UK's wildlife, resilience and natural beauty. In turn, these insects themselves are an important source of food for birds, bats and frogs. Sadly over recent years populations of pollinators have been dramatically declining, for reasons including habitat loss, pesticide use, pollution, pests and diseases. The most prominent threat is posed by climate change, as changes in water and temperature can lower the quality and quantity of resources and habitats accessible to pollinators. The drop in the health and populations of bees and other pollinators are threatening biodiversity, food security and human health and wellbeing.

One of the best ways that we can help these creatures, and others that help life thrive, is by creating a

welcoming habitat in our homes. In Westcott, we can play a particular role in a nationwide project developed by Buglife to help pollinators – B-Lines – ‘an imaginative and beautiful solution to the loss of flowers and pollinators’.

What are B-Lines?

B - L i n e s are ‘insect pathways’ running through our



countryside and towns, creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones. They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network, weaving across the UK. This provides large areas of habitat specifically aimed at benefiting bees and butterflies whilst also encouraging other wildlife too. Westcott falls within one of these B-Lines and so we are encouraging everyone to ditch pesticides and grow an array of plants to attract insect pollinators to allow them to thrive and migrate through our village and beyond!

Insect pollinators & how to help them

Most pollination in the UK is performed by bees (wild solitary bees and bumblebees, as well as domesticated honeybees), flies, butterflies, moths, wasps and beetles. Domesticated honeybees are estimated to account for around 5-15% of the UK's insect pollinated crops, but can outcompete

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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

and negatively impact native bees, especially when appropriate food sources are in short supply. Therefore, it is particularly important to provide habitat and plants to support native bees, and other wild insects, that help pollinate the other 85-95%. Leaving areas of gardens undisturbed, hedgerows, rotting wood and compost heaps – can all provide suitable nesting sites for bees. Putting pebbles at the edge of bird baths or ponds can give them a platform from which to drink water.



Around a quarter of the UK's 4,000 native beetle species are pollinators. Delaying cutting back dried

stems of plants until spring can provide nurseries for baby beetles. In the UK we have lost 97% of our wildflower meadows since WWII, due in large part to changing farming practices and land development for building projects. Avoiding cutting areas of lawn and allowing daisies, clover and dandelions to grow undisturbed is hugely beneficial for insects. The humble dandelion supports over 50 different species. Importantly, dandelions flower from late March when many insects are emerging from hibernation and provide a vital source of early food. The fluffy seed heads are also enjoyed by birds such as goldfinches and sparrows.

Flowers for pollinators

Diversity and simplicity are key for best supporting a wide range of pollinators. Prioritising a mix of food, herbs and native plants over purely decorative, showy plants (that often have complicated petal forms which make it hard for insects to access pollen) will help to encourage beneficial insects. Good plants for pollinators include: apple trees, aster, beans, birds foot trefoil, comfrey, evening primrose, foxglove, grape hyacinth, hawthorn, lavender, mint, nasturtium, oregano, pumpkin/squash, red valerian, scabious, sunflower, thyme, verbena.

Westcott Community Garden will be one of a number of open gardens on Sunday, June



15th for the 'Westcott Open Gardens' event. Of course, the community garden is always open to all, but on that Sunday we will also be promoting the B-Lines project and will hopefully have plenty of pollinator-friendly plants available for people to take back home to help create our B-Line network to benefit these crucial insects.

Jakki Phillips

For more information on pollinator plants, B-Lines and the fully referenced article see www.greenwestcott.org/blog and please do get in touch with ideas for future environmental articles info@greenwestcott.org



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