

# Westcott Village

## Magazine

June 2025

*The Westcott Village Fair*

2015-2025

# WEST *fest*

10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party

SUNDAY

22<sup>nd</sup> TWENTY TWENTY FIVE  
JUNE

Cradhurst 11.30-4.00  
Recreation Ground

CARNIVAL DRUMS ★ BUNGEE TRAMPOLINES ★ LIVE MUSIC  
★ FUN RUN ★ DOG AGILITY ★ FOOD & DRINK ★ MAYPOLE  
★ FUN DOG SHOW ★ CREAM TEAS ★ SCARECROWS ★  
★ ARTISAN STALLS ★ POETRY ★ CANDY FLOSS ★  
★ ROCK CHOIR ★ SILENT AUCTION ★ RACES ★  
★ JAZZ ★ FREE GAMES ★ COCONUT SHY ★ SOFT PLAY

Cheers to 10 years!

Cheers to 10 years!

Cheers to 10 years!

Cheers to 10 years!

Cheers to 10 years!



[facebook.com/WESTfestSurrey](https://facebook.com/WESTfestSurrey)

Free entry. No on site parking.



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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](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com)**

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

Copy deadline for

**July/August** issue:

**8th June 2025**

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## FROM THE EDITOR



Summer is here and with it the 10th anniversary of WESTfest on 22nd June, so see page 21 to sign up for the fun run, make your scarecrow and then get down to Cradhurst on the day for some fun, music and entertainment!

On 15th there are 12 different village gardens open to the public to raise funds for the new village hall, see page 29 for information, or page 31 if you can help in some way on the day. If you miss this date then Logmore Place is open for the NGS Open Gardens' charities on 29th (p43 for details).

There is also a jazz concert by JAZ2 in Broomfield Park on 29th raising money for the Brigitte Trust (p15), so lots of fun things to enjoy while raising money for good causes this month.

If you get organised there is a 'design a Westcott postcard' competition with the closing date of 8th June, see page 15 for all details, with the winners being given out at Westfest and all entries being shown at the Mole Valley Arts Alive festival later in the year.

Whatever you do this month, enjoy it!

**Cath**  
**editor@westcottmag.com**



### Calling all Bake-Off fans

Take on the challenge of being Westcott's best baker in our Summer Flower Show (Saturday 5th July). Classes will include cheese straws, a handmade loaf of bread, treacle tart, a jar of fruit jam and Mary Berry's ginger and treacle spiced traybake!

See [www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk](http://www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk) for full details on entering our Summer and Autumn shows.

## ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



### “IT’S WORSE THAN YOU THINK”

In 2001 Tony Blair (remember him?) mentioned in a speech how a colleague had asked him if, now they were elected, they could finally drop this modernising of the Labour Party nonsense. He famously replied: “It’s worse than you think - I really do believe in it’.”

I occasionally have conversations around the village where people, having got to know me a bit and concluded that I am relatively normal (opinions may differ), seem surprised that I genuinely believe in God. Because I do! I can assure you that I am not a Vicar because I thought it sounded like a career with good prospects, but because I believe in God and discerned over time that this is what He was calling me to do.



We seem to be emerging from postmodernity – a hard to define period which brought much that is good into our cultural understanding of the world, but also eroded our trust that holding a coherent big-picture view of the world was positive – or even possible. There has been an academic and popular shift over the past five to ten years which has made the case, in various ways, that we need a coherent story to belong to. There seems to be a growing body of evidence

“THEY BELIEVED THAT  
JESUS DIED FOR THE  
BROKENNESS OF THE  
WORLD AND ROSE TO LIFE  
DEFEATING THE POWER OF  
EVIL AND DEATH.  
AND SO DO I.”

that belonging to communities of faith is good for your wellbeing<sup>(1)</sup>, mental health<sup>(2)</sup>, and even your academic prospects<sup>(3)</sup>. None of this proves empirically that God is real – but it is part of a wider trend which is reconsidering

the value of faith to our culture, identity and self-understanding<sup>(4)</sup>. But I’m not a Christian just because I think it is good for me – that’s why I eat my kale. And I’m not a Christian just because I think it has defined our cultural identity and our understanding human rights – that’s why I read history. It’s worse than you think – I really do believe in it.

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# JUNE 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](http://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
1st June	"We believe in Jesus Christ"	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
8th June	"We believe in the Holy Spirit"	Book of Common Prayer Communion	20-20-20 with Breakfast
15th June	"We believe in the Church"	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
22nd June	TBC	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
29th June	TBC	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Morning Worship with Sunday Club



## 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](mailto:vicar@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk) for more information.

## MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's

BUILDING  
FRIENDSHIPS



SHARING  
LIFE

### Gathering to **Pray**

Holy Trinity Church, 7.45pm  
First Tuesday of every Month



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All are welcome



# THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

## 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](mailto:vicar@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk) for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



snacks  
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fun

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

parents  
grandparents  
guardians...  
all welcome!

St John's Hall, Westcott  
9-11am every Thursday during term time  
£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

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

---

### Death:

02/04/2025 Rosemary May Brown (80)



### Floodlighting

If you'd like to sponsor the church  
floodlighting for June  
or any other month,  
please contact Sarah Massey at  
admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk.  
(Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott  
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[www.attunereflexologydorking](http://www.attunereflexologydorking)  
Instagram @attunereflexologydorking  
Tel: 07811526156



# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bees and Butterflies Year R-2 had a session from our catering company learning how to use cutlery correctly. They all tried really hard and by the end had mastered the skill. Well done and don't forget to impress your parents at home when you eat your dinner!



posters to raise awareness and to collect as many items as they could. Throughout March, we managed to collect over 231 items which is an outstanding achievement for only 20 pupils in the class. We took all the collected items and delivered them to the food bank. It was great to be able to look around, chat to the volunteers and see how much a little help can make a big difference to support families locally. It has been such a pleasure watching their determination and kindness over the past month and I am so incredibly proud of them all.

Hedgehogs thought about how they could help a local charity. They set themselves the challenge to collect 100 items in March for Dorking Food Bank. They worked so hard to make



Throughout the whole half term Hedgehogs and Rabbits have been preparing for a very important battle. Will it be the Vikings (Rabbits) or the Romans (Hedgehogs) who win? Each class prepared a battle song as well

James Croft  
IMAGES

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## SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

as accompanying battle shields or long ship. We then performed our songs to each other where we proved to the other class why we should be victorious.

Rabbits have been busy making slingshot cars out of lolly sticks and sugar paper. Firstly, we made our car chassis and launch mechanism, then planned how we wanted the body to look so that it was as aerodynamic as possible. We finished off by racing our cars to see which one would travel the furthest.



In Art Otters Year 5 have been looking at Retro-futuristic art as part of our /



need space art topic. We have been exploring the purpose and impact of images from the 'Space Race' era—the 1950's and 1960s. We have been experimenting with a range of media to create our own space themed visions of the future. The class especially enjoyed making printing plates for the background of their art work.



Here is our fantastic Surrey Hills team. They all did very well in the Rugby Tournament.

**Mrs Fyson**  
**Headteacher**



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## Design a Village Postcard



Calling amateur photographers, artists and graphic designers of all ages! Westcott Village Hub is running a competition to design a postcard to promote Westcott with the theme of *Village Life*. The three winning designs will be used on postcards for distribution at the 10th Anniversary Westfest on June 22nd and at other events. The cards can be designed in any medium – a scenic photograph, painting or watercolour, graphic artwork or a cartoon (not too saucy please!). They should be in standard postcard size 148mm x 105mm (A6) and include the name Westcott. Entries preferably should be submitted by email as pdfs to [westcottvillagehub@gmail.com](mailto:westcottvillagehub@gmail.com).

Alternatively, hard copies may be put in the competition box at Westcott Village Hub. The closing date for entries is Sunday 8th June. All entries will be showcased at Westcott Village Hub during Mole Valley's Arts Alive festival in October.

**JAZZ**  
in the garden  
**Live Music**  
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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:

- **The Changing Face of Local Media:** David Rose worked in Surrey local journalism for decades, starting not long after hot-metal printing had been replaced by computers, but he has many stories of the days of inky hands and hard drinking, right through to today's mainly online world. His talk includes vintage photos that show some of the many characters he knew. Monday 2nd June at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.

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



## Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Tickets £18

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## Rare Swallowtails and other Summer Butterflies

If you visit East Anglia in early June, you might be treated to a rare sighting of the UK's largest butterfly. Swallowtails in the UK are restricted to the Norfolk Broads (with occasional migrants sometimes turning up further south) where these wet fenlands specialists lay their eggs on Milk Parsley. They overwinter in a chrysalis which can withstand the low temperatures. However, these chrysalises cannot survive prolonged periods of flooding throughout winter, and so populations may be impacted

as the climate changes and extreme weather events increase. The butterflies take flight for only a fleeting time, generally three to four weeks, with peak sightings occurring in late May through to June. If you'd like a chance to see one of the UK's rarest butterflies, then RSPB Strumpshaw Fen, one of the few remaining breeding sites, is open for visitors.

If you can't make it to Norfolk, then fear not! Keep your eyes out in your garden or local green space for some summer specialities like Painted Lady, Holly Blue, Small Copper and Marbled White.

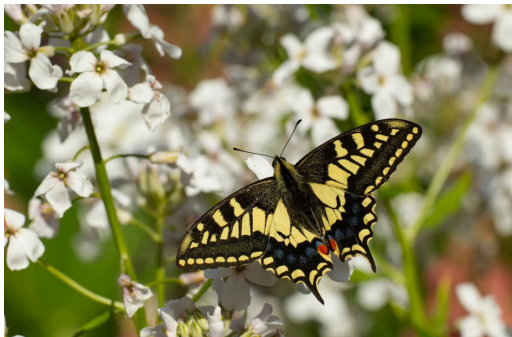


Image courtesy RSPB images

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

Instagram: @rspb\_dorking

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

**Jonathan Groves**

## Brockham Choral

Brockham Choral's concert *What a Wonderful World* is on the 7th June, 7pm, at St. Paul's Church, Dorking, RH4 2HT. Bring friends, food, and drink. Tables and chairs provided. Relax and enjoy, including a piece commissioned by Ian Assersohn and Tony Earnshaw to commemorate the life of Fred Harrison.

Our Musical Director David Swinson with Marion Lea leads and accompanies the choir with a selection from musicals and opera. ADVANCE tickets only, Adults £15.00, Children, Students under 18 in full time education £10.00

Tickets : <https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral>

More information [www.brockhamchoral.org](http://www.brockhamchoral.org)



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*Sunday 22 June*

2015-2025

11.30 - 4pm

# WESTfest

10<sup>th</sup>

*Birthday Party*

**SIGN UP OPEN NOW!**

# FUN RUN



**5KM / 2.5KM**

**ARRIVE: 11.30AM**

**START: 12.00**

**FEE: £5 / £2**

**TWO ARENAS OF  
LIVE MUSIC &  
ENTERTAINMENT!**

MAIN ARENA	ACOUSTIC ARENA
11.50 Surrey Hills All Saints Maypole	11.50 Rock Choir
11.50 Fun Run warm up & GO	12.00 SH All Saints Choir
12.15 Bloco do Sul – drums & dancers!	
1.00 D2D Dance display	1.00 Boxhill Bedlam
1.50 The Fabulous Jam Band	1.45 Poetry Andy J & Barnzy
2.50 Paige Potterton	2.15 Boxhill Bedlam
3.00 Dog Show	2.45 Kim and the Kameleons (rock/country)
4.00 Raffle and end of show!	

## SCARECROW COMPETITION

Did you come to WESTfest in 2016? We had a scarecrow making competition! Let's do it again to celebrate the Westcott Open Gardens and WESTfest's 10th Birthday in 2025!

Display your Scarecrow in your front garden or window, ready for the Westcott Open Gardens event on 15 June and bring it to WESTfest on June 22 for judging! GOOD LUCK!

*Theme: Dressed to party!*



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## WESTCOTT BABY MEALS

## June Update

The Westcott Baby Meals team catered last month for the family of Sebastian, first baby for Elise and Tom on St John's Road. Elise said her friends were surprised to hear about our very special "baby meals" initiative... "What, strangers turn up on your doorstep with dinner?!" Thank you so much to the marvellous Westcott Cooks!

## Can you help us?

Our volunteer Cooks buy, cook and deliver a meal directly to the recipient family. Sign up when it suits - there's no obligation.

## Can we help you?

If you live in Westcott and you're expecting or have recently had a baby and would like help with (free!) meals for the family for a couple of weeks, or if you need meals during a challenging time, please contact:

Anna: 07710 425487 [annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annakemkers@hotmail.co.uk)

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# WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

## Archbishop George Abbot of Guildford (1562 – 1633)



George Abbot was born in Guildford in Surrey on 29th October 1562. His parents were cloth workers and he had three brothers.

He attended The Royal Grammar School in Guildford and in 1578 went to Balliol College, Oxford to join his brother, Robert - they stayed there for 10 years, both becoming ordained. He must have been an outstanding scholar as he became Master of the University College in 1597 aged 35. He was appointed Dean of Winchester Cathedral in 1600 and he was appointed three times as Vice Chancellor of Oxford University. He played a major part in translating and preparing the authorised version of the New Testament from the original Aramaic and Greek. It was published in 1611 and known as the King James Bible. He was also elected as the Chancellor of Dublin University from 1612 to 1633. His brother Robert became the Bishop of Salisbury and his brother Maurice became the Lord Mayor of London.

In 1608 he went to Scotland with George Home, 1st Earl of Dunbar, to arrange a union between the

churches of England and Scotland. This so pleased King James that George Abbot was made Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry and was later translated to be the Bishop of London. The King made Abbot the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1611 and Guildford celebrated the 400th anniversary of the St James Bible in 2011. He was described as being a sincere but rather narrow minded Calvinist.

Two attempts were made to assassinate Abbot. The first was in 1614 when a man rushed into his study waving a knife while Abbot was writing. Abbot stopped him and the man was put in the stocks and then imprisoned. Four years later there was another attempt to assassinate Abbot but the attacker was apprehended and put in the Tower of London. In due course he was released and banished. In July 1621 Archbishop George Abbot, while hunting on horseback in Bramshill in Hampshire shot a bolt from his crossbow, aimed at a deer, that accidentally happened to strike one of the keepers who died within an hour. Abbot was very distressed and fell into a state of melancholia. The King set up a commission of ten to review the incident, which was equally divided but the King voted in Abbot's favour and signed a formal pardon. After this incident Abbot rarely appeared at Court though he did perform the coronation service of Charles I in 1625. He lived in retirement in his last years.

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As Archbishop and defender of the Catholic nature of the priesthood, he was harsh in his treatment of Roman Catholics and often showed courageous resistance to the royal 'will'. At the Archbishop's Palace in Croydon he forbade the reading of the Declaration of Sports which listed the permitted Sunday recreations. He was a promoter of the match between the King's daughter, Princess Elizabeth and Frederick 5th, Elector of Palatine and he was a firm opponent of the projected marriage of the Prince of Wales (to be Charles I) and the Spanish Infanta, Maria Anna. This policy brought Archbishop Abbot the hatred of William Laud, with whom he had been in collision at Oxford and also at the King's Court.

Abbot was a conscientious prelate though narrow in view and harsh towards Catholics. He had endowed Abbot's Hospital with land valued at £300 per year. Guildford remembers Archbishop Abbot with his hospital, a statue on the High Street and the school of 2000 pupils in Burpham. His tomb is in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford where his death is inscribed as 4th August 1633.

William Laud was a Bishop in the Church of England appointed by Charles I in 1633 (following Abbot) and was a keen advocate of Charles' religious reforms. However in 1640 he was arrested by Parliament, accused of treason and executed under a Bill of Attainder

(conviction for high treason) on Tower Hill on 10th January 1645 towards the end of the first English Civil War. Laud believed in rule by Bishops, emphasizing liturgical ceremony and clerical hierarchy enforcing uniformity in the Church of England, nowadays known as 'high church'. He was accused of 'arminianism' favouring doctrines of the historic church and defending the continuity of the English Church with the primitive medieval and opposing Calvinism. He was regarded by Puritan clerics as a dangerous and formidable opponent. His use of the Star Chamber to persecute opponents made him very unpopular.

Laud was 60 years old when he became Archbishop of Canterbury, having waited a decade to replace George Abbot. The Emeritus Professor at Cambridge, Patrick Collinson, an expert on Elizabethan Puritans, in 1980 published this rebuke of Laud: *the greatest calamity ever visited on the English Church – give great praise to the Lord and little Laud to the devil*. Laud was known to be touchy about his diminutive stature.

As always the WLHG Committee encourages readers to propose talks and articles of interest. Email: [westcottlocalhistory@gmail.com](mailto:westcottlocalhistory@gmail.com) and for local information see our website – [www.westcottlocalhistory.org](http://www.westcottlocalhistory.org)

## Abinger Medieval Fair



Another fun-filled Abinger Medieval Fair is coming on Saturday June 14th from 2pm on Abinger Common, RH5 6HZ. This quintessentially English village fair is where villagers and visitors dress up in Medieval costume. Together they raise funds

for local amenities and charities and provide a wonderful afternoon out for all the family. This year there is a new act for the main arena, Come Bye, with a sheepdog display herding ducks, yes, ducks. It should be great entertainment whether it goes to plan or whether it proves the old saying that you should never work with children or animals!

There will also be delicious food and drink available with a new crepe stall. As usual, there will be a chance to win great prizes on the tombola or raffle and you can visit a variety of stalls selling everything from jewellery to plants, cakes and books. There will be Punch and Judy shows for the kids, Splat the Rat and much, more. Plus a program of music in the church. It is always a memorable day out for all the family that raises funds for local causes. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information see

[Abingerfair.com](http://Abingerfair.com)

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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL UPDATE



## Open Garden Event – June Sunday 15th June

There will be 12 private beautiful gardens opening to the public on 15th June from 11:00am till 4:00pm. In addition, tea/coffee and homemade cakes will be served on The Heath and demonstrations on flower bouquets will be given by a local expert with the opportunity to buy the finished bouquets. However, we do however need some help - please!

- \* Homemade cakes – please drop them off on the Heath the day before or on the day. Alternatively email [info@westcottvillagehall.com](mailto:info@westcottvillagehall.com) and someone can pick them up. Please mark your name on the tin.
- \* Help to run the café either serving, clearing tables or washing up.
- \* Help to organise the car parking on the Heath and at the Village Hall.

Finally please come along and take part and enjoy the day!

Please email [info@westcottvillagehall.com](mailto:info@westcottvillagehall.com) to volunteer so our team can get back in touch. Tickets are available on the Heath and at The Hub on the day.

All proceeds from the day will go towards our community buildings recognising the important role they play in our village life. Westcott Village Hall redevelopment fund will receive 75% and the Chapel/Hub will receive 25% towards maintenance and upkeep.

Many thanks

**The Trustees of Westcott Village Hall Trust**



As I write this we are enjoying the hottest day of the year so far! We had a great time when our Easter Egg Hunt and family fun day took place in April. So many children enjoyed not just the hunt but egg and spoon races and the games and the Mums' and Dads' egg and spoon race was great entertainment too! We were so pleased to see so many local residents from the villages surrounding our Woodland. The woodland is looking really beautiful with the woodland anemones and bluebells plus woodland violets. It's also great to see the leaves on the trees and the ferns unfurling. The birds are now busy in their nest with young hatchlings and before we know it they will be fledglings and flying the nests. It really is a wonderful time of year for nature, I love it.

It won't be long before we will be holding our annual Celebration of the Opening of the Woodland (11th Anniversary this year) and Commemoration Service at which local Reverence Virginia Smith and friend of the Woodland Deacon James Snyder will be taking the prayers. It will be a special occasion for me as a fellow boxer in the Queen's Regt (and a very good and respected one he was too) sadly passed away at the end of last year and his son who lives close by, fellow veterans and some of his family who are coming over from Germany will be honouring him and laying him to rest

at the Woodland on 8th June. There will also be three other veterans who will be honoured the same day.

As we always say the Memorial Woodland is not a sad place, it is a place of celebration of life, for reflection and remembrance. To ensure it is a celebration of life we are going to have the Redhill Corp of Drums and Band playing not just the Last Post during the Commemoration Service but some cheerful tunes as people arrive at the woodland at 12.30. We also have my niece, a professional classical singer, and a friend who is a popular singer with an amazing voice which will be great in the woodland.

Stalls with home made cakes and pastries, a bottle tombola and a Grand Raffle are all going to be there to help us raise a few pounds for the charity which enables us to fulfil our charity purpose. There will also be a bar and a BBQ on the go with a professional cook, so please come and join us for this special occasion. Do bring some cash as cards do not work in the woodland!

I look forward to seeing you all.

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



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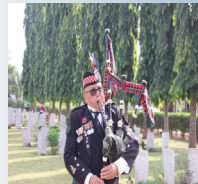
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What could be better than watching a beautiful butterfly? Well one landing on your finger for a start! And one that you carefully and patiently looked after from caterpillar to chrysalis before the wonderful transformation into the delicate winged creature before you.



Our bug theme continued as we learnt about the life cycle of a frog – not to be deterred by a lack of real frogspawn we made our own! A simple recipe of chia seeds and water chilled in the fridge gave us the opportunity to have a squidge and a squeeze with our hands. What a scrumptiously slimy texture! We also had a visit from a real frog thanks to Henny! Now some people like to munch on real insects but not us! We created edible bugs

from fruit and vegetables. Imagine our parents' surprise when they opened our cooking boxes! To celebrate St George's day we made the best scotch eggs in Surrey. It was tricky but fun to peel the boiled eggs and to get fully involved in more squishing with the sausage meat and breadcrumbs.

We love to take time to tell each other about the exciting things we do at home and have the opportunity most days to show and tell. Our very clever and musically talented teachers decided we needed a show and tell song so they composed one just like that! They also brought us a much bigger basket as we have been bringing in some huge objects to talk about!

Do you remember the hottest week ever? It was rather too hot for a walk to the woods, so we stayed at nursery and had a wetter than wet water fight in the garden! The hose pipe came in handy to keep us cool and we were all armed with a squirly bottle and water balls!

We are really pleased to announce that our after school club has been extended to 5pm Monday to Thursday. 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](mailto:abingercommonnursery@gmail.com). We can't wait to show you around!

**Kate Fairbrass**



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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE FORUM

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## **Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan – a Community Survey question relating to Westcott becoming a Parish Council:**

In July, a Community Survey will be circulated asking all residents their views on a number of matters as a base for the Village Forum to prepare an updated Neighbourhood Development Plan. Included in that survey will be a question about whether residents want to explore becoming a Parish Council given County Council restructuring. Many communities where unitary authorities are being proposed are asking the same question and in order to start the process at least 250 adult residents need to agree they want a Parish Council.

You might already be aware that in response to Central Government prompts, Surrey County Council is looking to change the way the county is governed. The proposals, submitted on 9th May, seek to create two Unitary Authorities to replace both Surrey County Council and the eleven District and Borough Councils operating in Surrey - including Mole Valley District Council. It seems likely that all public services for Westcott Residents will be managed by one of the two new Unitary Authorities, probably a new East Surrey Council.

Westcott has had a Village Association for 45 years which has tried to represent the village when important matters

affecting residents arise. However, a Village Association is only ever advisory and does not have the formal administrative, enforcement or legal powers that a Parish Council enjoys. Removing Mole Valley District Council could seriously impact what and how services are provided in the village. Becoming a Parish Council has been discussed in Westcott in the past, but with a much flatter, revised local government structure it could become the best way to ensure proper consultation and involvement in local public service provision. Most Parish Councils would argue that they can be more effective than a Village Association because:

1. Parish Councils have elected officials who have statutory powers and are accountable to the whole community.
2. Parish Councils have legal and financial status which allows them to set budgets, enter into contracts and organise things at a local level to best suit their local community.
3. Parish Councils can set a precept on the rates - usually in the region of £20-30 per annum per household - to operate services locally, and receive delegated finances from what will be the Unitary Authority, to cover the cost of maintaining village assets. For Westcott for instance, these assets could include Cradhurst recreation ground, the village green, village footpaths and the dovecote bus shelter.
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## WESTCOTT VILLAGE FORUM

monies raised from developers within a Parish Council boundary is given directly to that Parish Council to fund local community projects. Village Associations have no such rights, so monies raised from developers go into a pot which is distributed by an outside Committee of Councillors who decide what to spend it on. Of around £160,000 CIL recently awarded in Mole Valley none of that money was spent on Westcott even though the Crown development had generated a

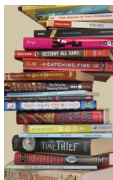
significant proportion of the total fund.

Local Government reorganisation will take some time to achieve but so would a process to assess whether Westcott should consider setting up a Parish Council. As noted above, your answers in the July survey will determine whether this process should be started now.

**Tim Way**

**Chairman, Westcott Village Forum**

## WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING



***Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June***  
***The Village Hall***  
***10.30am - 12.00 midday***



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# Westcott Village Hall

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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.

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## Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP)

Another productive Westcott Village Forum



meeting was held at the end of May. The Village Forum is made up of over 100 people who have stepped forward from right across the village to oversee the updating of this Plan. The various working groups have been busy and the next key activity is undertaking a Community Survey which will be sent to every household in the Neighbourhood Area (Westcott and some areas beyond) at the end of June. This survey has been designed to capture your views on a variety of topics, to find out what is important to you and what you would like to see improved and to ask you for your thoughts for the future of our local area.

The outcomes of the survey will be used by the Westcott Village Forum and its working groups to shape the policies within an updated Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan. Survey replies are needed from as many residents as possible, please complete the survey online if possible or paper copies can be provided on request. Details of how to access the survey are included on the flyer which has been delivered with this magazine and can also be found on the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan pages of the Westcott Village website

Once updated, the draft WNDP is checked and verified by an Independent Inspector, then the Local Authority will organise a public referendum (vote) so that everyone who lives within the Neighbourhood Area can decide whether they support it or not. The target is to hold this referendum in May 2026 to coincide with Polling Stations being open for local government elections. Once agreed, the WNDP forms part of the statutory development plan for the area and sitting alongside the Mole Valley District Council Local Plan, it is referred to when considering the outcome of any planning application in the Neighbourhood Area. With the likely changes in local government structures, it is important that we take the opportunity to update the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan now. Members of the Village Forum team will be at WESTfest so please drop by their stand and find out more.

**WESTfest 2025** 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 Fun Run. We will also be present with our ever popular Bottle Tombola

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## Diary Date: Westcott Village Association



**AGM on Thursday  
26th June 2025,  
7.30pm at Holy Trinity**

Please come along to the AGM to hear an update on village life and to share your thoughts. The meeting includes electing the Trustees of the WVA who will serve the community in the next year.

## Dorking Masterplan

MVDC signed off the Dorking Masterplan last month. A copy of the

final Masterplan can be read on the MVDC website using the link [FINAL Dorking Masterplan \(19 March 2025\)](#). The Masterplan includes enhancements to the town centre, public spaces, public transport infrastructure and protecting the heritage character of the town. While the proposal to pedestrianise West Street has been dropped, an HGV restriction will be introduced which diverts through-traffic HGV's along Chalkpit Road and Ashcombe Road instead. There is some opposition to this HGV diversion with a local petition being organised by concerned residents along the route. If you wish to read and support the petition please use this link <https://chng.it/HvfzPJgN77>

We look forward to seeing you at WESTfest and also the AGM.

**Westcott Village Association Committee**  
**Jo Astor, Paul Goddard, James Leaver,**  
**Nick Lund, Magesh Ramakrishnan**  
**[contact@westcottvillage.com](mailto:contact@westcottvillage.com)**

## NGS Open Gardens



Private garden open Sunday 29th June from 12-4pm in aid of the NGS charities. Delicious cakes and tea/coffee available. Dogs welcome. Children up to 14 free. £7.50 entry Logmore

Place, Logmore Lane, Westcott  
Contact Jane on 07770 781317 for  
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# DORKING MUSEUM

## A Place of Safety:



The people of Dorking and the surrounding villages have given generous support to those in need on many occasions. But there have been clashes of culture between residents and incomers, and sometimes demands on scarce resources have given rise to conflict. The Museum's summer exhibition, *A Place of Safety*, tells the stories of the various groups



of refugees who have found refuge in the town and their experiences.

It starts with the eminent group of émigrés fleeing the French Revolution in 1792 and taking up residence in Juniper Hall on the slopes of Box Hill. In the 20th century, they were followed by those fleeing the Kaiser's army in 1914, Nazi oppression in the late 1930s, and the Blitz in 1940. The work of the Dorking Refugee Committee, in which Ralph Vaughan Williams was a leading



voice, is featured. The story continues in the present century with refugees from war and persecution in the Middle East. The treasures on show include 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 émigrés of the 18th century.

**Family Activities at Dorking Library:** In conjunction with Dorking Library, on Saturday 21st June, 10am to noon, for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Month, there will be an opportunity for families to come to the Library, sort photos of old transport and make a card where the gypsy caravan moves along the road. A free event, with materials provided, aimed at 4–11-year-olds, children must be accompanied.

**Walking in Dorking:** Take advantage of the summer weather and explore the area's magnificent heritage with the Museum's popular programme of guided walks. 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 8th June, 2pm, from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club. Nearby, take a guided walk and take in the magnificent views on the Deepdene Trail, including exclusive access to the grade 2\* Hope family



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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

mausoleum: Sunday 22nd June, 2pm, from the Dorking Golf Club clubhouse.



In the town centre, see Dorking as you have never seen it before with Hidden

Historic Dorking, where some features will be hidden round corners or above you, others will be hidden 'in plain sight': Sunday 8th June, 2pm. Our ever-popular Dorking Historic Pub Walk reveals stories of hostelrys, pubs and inns both past and present (and of their landlords and customers): Saturday 14th June, 6pm. 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 22nd June, 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/](http://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, 28th June, tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm, lasting about 45 minutes. For details and open day bookings (which sell out fast!) see [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/south-street-caves/). Private group bookings may also be made, e-mail [caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk](mailto:caves@dorkingmuseum.org.uk) to arrange a date.

**Get involved:** The Museum depends on its enthusiastic team of volunteers to maintain this valuable community resource. Maybe you could spare a few hours a month, with opportunities in a range of key roles with flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home, including digital communications and HR. See [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities](http://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](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk). 01306 876591.

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## MUSIC IN DORKING



May 31st at 7.30, Guitar Recital at Dorking Halls, £18, 01306 881717

7th at 4.00, Ladybirds Choir at United Reformed Church Hall, £8, 01372 878321

21st at 7.30, Dorking Philharmonia at St Martin's church

21st Mickleham Choral Society at Mickleham village hall

21st Buckland & Betchworth choral society at St Michael's church, Betchworth

21st at 7.30, Epsom Choral Society at St Andrew's church, Cheam, £20, 01372 274418

28th at 7.30, Holmbury St Mary Choral at St James' church, Abinger Common, £15

First of all, here is late notice of a concert right at the end of May. Classical guitarist Mark Jennings will play a programme of classical and Spanish guitar music, including pieces by Rodrigo, Albeniz, Bach and others. Mark is a brilliant virtuoso of the guitar and this concert should have wide appeal.

The Ladybirds choir, directed by Helena Twentyman, has a summer concert entitled *Songs of the Sea*. The varied programme includes sea shanties, folk songs, popular numbers and music from the shows. The choir is raising funds for Dorking Beatitudes, a charity that sells good quality second-hand goods to support those on a low income or facing financial difficulties. There will be tea and cake after the concert!

The Dorking Philharmonia has a concert beginning with Cimarosa's overture to his opera *The Secret Marriage*, followed by Mozart's oboe concerto in which the soloist will be Julia Philpott. In the second half the orchestra will play Beethoven's seventh symphony, a magnificent work on a large scale.

This is the time when the various Leith Hill choirs, after taking part in a very successful Festival in April, relax and present their summer concerts of lighter music. Epsom choral society are singing Will Todd's jazzy *Mass in Blue*, plus some John Rutter madrigals and a Russell Hepplewhite world premiere! Holmbury St Mary has a programme of coronation classics. Buckland & Betchworth has songs from the British Isles. And Mickleham choral society sings *Captain Noah and his floating zoo*, followed by a second-half party with dance music.

**Ian Codd**



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## WESTCOTT COMMUNITY FRIDGE

### **More Than Just Food: Why Supporting the Westcott Village Hub Community Fridge Matters.**

In the heart of Westcott, the Village Hub Community Fridge stands as a beacon of community spirit and practical support. It's more than just a place to access food; it's a vital initiative that nourishes both bodies and the bonds that hold the village together. Supporting this fridge, in whatever way you can, is an investment in a stronger, more sustainable, and compassionate Westcott.

Firstly, the Community Fridge tackles the pressing issue of food waste. By rescuing perfectly edible surplus food from local businesses and individuals, it prevents unnecessary landfill and the environmental impact that comes with it. This simple act of redistribution is a powerful step towards a more sustainable way of living, ensuring that good food doesn't go to waste while others in the community can benefit.

Beyond its environmental impact, the fridge plays a crucial role in addressing food insecurity. It provides a dignified and accessible way for individuals and families facing hardship to obtain nutritious food, without stigma or judgment. This can be a lifeline for those struggling with rising living costs or unexpected financial difficulties, ensuring that everyone in Westcott

has access to the nourishment they need.

However, the benefits extend far beyond simply providing food. The Westcott Village Hub Community Fridge fosters a sense of community and connection. It's a place where people can meet, share, and support each other. Volunteers from all walks of life come together to manage the fridge, creating opportunities for interaction and building friendships. For those who may be isolated, the fridge can be a vital point of contact and a source of belonging.

Supporting the Community Fridge can take many forms. Donating surplus food, volunteering your time, or even making a small financial contribution can make a tangible difference. Every act of support, no matter how small, helps to ensure the sustainability and reach of this invaluable community resource.

In conclusion, the Westcott Village Hub Community Fridge is a cornerstone of a caring and resilient community. By reducing food waste, addressing food insecurity, and fostering connection, it embodies the true spirit of Westcott. Supporting it is not just about food; it's about investing in a stronger, more sustainable, and more compassionate future for everyone in the village.

**Jon Mears**

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## *Songs of the Sea*

*The Ladybirds Choir directed by  
Helena Twentyman  
Saturday 7th June at 4pm in the  
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Supporting Dorking Beatitudes*

*You are warmly invited to the Ladybirds Choir's summer concert to hear a selection of songs inspired by the sea, sailors and ships. In Songs of the Sea the choir will present a varied programme of sea shanties and folk songs as well as numbers from the world of popular and show music. Favourites include Sit down, you're rocking the boat from Guys and Dolls, a lovely arrangement of Blow the wind southerly and Rod Stewart's 1975 hit Sailing (actually written by Gavin Sutherland and first performed by the Sutherland Brothers in 1972).*

*This year the choir is delighted to be raising funds for Dorking Beatitudes, a family charity with a shop situated in St Martin's Walk, Dorking selling quality low-priced second-hand children's and maternity clothing, toys, books and equipment. This is a lifeline for those on a low income or with financial difficulties. There is also a play area for children and space for families to relax, have a hot drink and feed babies. The emphasis is on building a community of kindness and love and children and adults alike appreciate the warm and welcoming atmosphere.*

*Please do join the Ladybirds Choir at 4pm on Saturday 7th June at the United Reformed Church Hall in Dorking and enjoy tea and cake after the concert. Tickets are priced at £8 and are available on the door or in advance from 01372 878321 (cash or cheques).*



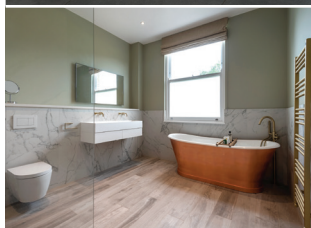
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## GREEN WESTCOTT

### **Making Money Work for Good**

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Barclays is Europe's foremost fossil fuels financier globally and the largest funder of fossil fuel projects in Africa, whilst also providing backing for agribusinesses implicated in deforestation and human rights abuses in the Global South. In fact, none of the top 5 UK banks – Barclays, Lloyds, NatWest, Santander and HSBC – score very well on ethical



issues. Despite the UK government's commitment to halt deforestation by 2030, UK banks continue to provide finance for companies engaged in destroying forests. From 2016 to June 2024 HSBC provided £2.9 billion in finance to 'forest-risk' companies.

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for socially and environmentally beneficial projects, such as renewable energy and reforestation initiatives. Building societies can also be a good choice, as they are mutual organisations owned by their members and are unlikely to invest in controversial industries. Triodos, the Co-op Bank/Smile and Nationwide come top in the Ethical Consumer's guide to current accounts and these and several other building societies, including Skipton Building Society and Yorkshire Building Society, feature in the Good Shopping Guide top 10.

If you don't already use an ethical bank, then it's easy to switch. The Current Account Switch Service operated by over 40 UK banks means the process is simple – just choose your new bank and they arrange to transfer your balance and all your regular payments.



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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

### How Green is Your Pension?



Pensions are another area to consider when trying to make your money

work for good. Currently UK pension schemes invest around £88 billion in fossil fuels and £300 billion is linked to deforestation! When pensions are meant as an investment for your future, it makes little sense if the money invested in them is used to fund environmental destruction. Imagine if this money was invested instead in renewables or reforestation projects. Visit the Make My Money Matter website to find out how to go about asking your employer to switch to a greener pension provider. Nest ranks best of the 12 largest pension providers.

Make your money work for good!

### Don't forget...



Do come along and visit us at Westcott Community Garden as part of Westcott Open Gardens on Sunday, 15th June, 11am-4pm and at our stall at WestFest on Sunday, 22nd June

**Jakki Phillips**

*The fully referenced article is available at [www.greenwestcott.org/blog](http://www.greenwestcott.org/blog) and please do get in touch with ideas for future environmental articles [info@greenwestcott.org](mailto:info@greenwestcott.org)*

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Spring Reach  
**Nursery**

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[info@springreachnursery.co.uk](mailto:info@springreachnursery.co.uk)  
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### **RIVERBANK SURGERY**

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OPENING		<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
TIMES:	Monday	8.00-1.00	2.00-6.00
	Tuesday	8.00-1.00	2.00-6.30
	Wednesday	8.00-12.30	Closed
	Thursday	8.00-1.00	2.00-6.00
	Friday	8.00-1.00	2.00-6.30

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EST. 2004



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