

# Westcott Village Magazine

## February 2026



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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  
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**8th February 2026**

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



Spring is nearly upon us (well, at least that's what I am telling myself as the daffodils are starting to come up early!)

There is a lot going on this month, with Valentine's Day on 14th, thinking about what to have on your pancakes on Shrove Tuesday on the 17th - are you a traditional lemon and sugar lover, or a Nutella nut? We also have Lent, and community crafting on a couple of Thursdays (see page 50 for details) to mention just a few.

If you're a keen marmalade maker you need to know that Kingfisher Farm Shop's marmalade competition closes on 24th so get busy and take your entries down before that (p16).

If you fancy being a part of village organisation then the Village Hall is looking for new Trustees, see page 17 for all details and get your application in. It's a rewarding role and you would be part of a team.

If the weather is bad then curl up with a cup of tea (and possibly a bit of cake!) and have a go at the wordsearch on page 33. No prizes given but you do get the satisfaction of having stretched the little grey cells for a bit.

The Westfest team are having a year off this year, after 10 years of effort, so I'm sure we all want to thank them, particularly Anna Kemkers, for all their efforts so far and look forward to another great event in summer 2027.

Cath  
[editor@westcottmag.com](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com)



# ...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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## CONFESION TIME

So, I should probably own up to one of my many failings as a village Vicar. Here it goes... After three and a half years here, I am still not entirely sure what all the various parts of the church building are called. I am oblivious as to where the 'nave' begins and ends. I have no recollection as to what an 'apse' is. And I had always assumed that a 'transept' was a popular van made by Ford but apparently not.

If you are into church architecture and the like, then you may also have noticed on more than one occasion over the past three years I have put the wrong-coloured cloth on the communion table for the season (I did it again at Christmas this year).

**"I HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT A 'TRANSEPT' WAS A POPULAR VAN MADE BY FORD BUT APPARENTLY NOT."**



Now, most of you are thinking (and my heartfelt apologies if you fall into the other camp) that this does not really matter – and I do not entirely disagree with you.

I come from what is known as the 'low church' stable of the church and have often worried that the religious trappings of robes and coloured cloths can get in the way of the very real, intimate and personal relationship with God that

I have encountered throughout my life. I want people to encounter the presence of God – not simply a religious looking space.

However, over the past few years I have begun to appreciate that my suspicion of these 'religious trappings' was at least in part due to a lack of maturity in my own understanding of the breadth of ways in which God encounters people. The author and thinker C.S. Lewis was once asked about what style of church he liked and replied that his preference was neither for high church nor for low church, but rather for deep church. The style and the look of the place only matter in so much that they help form the people who make up the church into deeper, wiser, bolder followers of Jesus.



I have come to appreciate that the church building itself, with all its strangely named parts, is designed to tell a story about God, the world, and us. I have come to realise that in changing the colours around the church to symbolise the various parts of Jesus' life, death and resurrection can create a profound annual rhythm which reminds us about the God we follow and how He calls us to live.

We are about to enter the season of Lent, a time Christians around the world have traditionally set aside for confession, reflection, and lament at all that is wrong in our own lives, and the wider world.

As an outward sign of what we long to be happening within us this season the alter is sparsely covered and decorations hidden away.

I began this article with a confession. Admittedly it was not particularly juicy as confessions go, but over the coming weeks I will be saying sorry to God for the stuff that I do get wrong. Reflecting on my mess is not about wallowing in guilt – but it does make the forgiveness God freely offers seem all the more extraordinary. My mess does not exclude me from God. It is the most extraordinary, freeing, humbling gift – and bit by bit over the years it has begun to push me beyond being low church, or high church, and slowly, oh so slowly, on towards the glorious depths of God's grace.

Rev'd Tim

# SUNDAY SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



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

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**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 Feb	Candlemas	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
8th Feb	Eco Church	Book of Common Prayer Communion	20-20-20 Service with Breakfast
15th Feb	tbc	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion with Sunday Club
22nd Feb	Lent 1: Vineyards	Book of Common Prayer Communion	Communion 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@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk) for more information.

# MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's



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# THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

Ash  
Wednesday  
Services  
at Holy Trinity



9am - A Short Reflective Service

10am - Communion at St John's

7.30pm - Ash Wednesday Service with Communion

JOIN US AT HOLY TRINITY FOR OUR

## PANCAKE PARTY!

TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY



3.15 - 5 pm



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

# THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT

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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.hwt@gmail.com)

For help, or more information, please contact  
Tim Armstrong, Vicar: [vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:vicar@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk)  
or visit [thechurchinwestcott.org.uk](http://thechurchinwestcott.org.uk)



## FLOODLIGHTING

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Many thanks to Westcott Village Association for sponsoring the church floodlighting for February.

If you would like to sponsor the floodlighting, please contact Sarah Massey at [admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk](mailto:admin@holytrinitywestcott.org.uk). (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)

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## Reception Bees



classroom to talk about dentistry and caring for our teeth.



## Years 1&2 Butterflies



this half term. We found out that a 'line is a dot that goes for a walk'. We worked hard to use different media to produce



different shades and found out that holding a pencil in various ways can

Butterfly class have been learning all about lines, shades and tones in art



alter the thickness of lines. Our end product was a self portrait based on the artwork of Paul Klee and we are very proud of what we produced.

## Year 3 Hedgehogs

In geography, we have been looking at all things Antarctica. Hedgehogs had a special visitor to bring their learning to life. Our special visitor went on a 3-week expedition to Antarctica in 2013



with Walking with the Wounded. He came to tell us all about how to survive the freezing temperatures, what he



had to wear, how they cooked their meals, where they slept and what they saw. Hedgehogs

were fascinated about his adventure and asked some brilliant



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# SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)



questions. They loved trying on his different clothing and even learning about where you go to the toilet in Antarctica!

## Year 4&5 Otters



To kick off our 'Why do oceans matter?' topic, Otters had a go at using some VR headsets. They were absolutely amazing and transported us straight to the Great Barrier Reef. We learnt all about different corals and how they survive. It



was mesmerising to watch them move right next to you.

## Year 6 Owls

The children visited the synagogue in Weybridge to gain insight into the Jewish faith as part of their learning in R.E. We were proud of the insightful questions they asked and the respect they showed when handling the artefacts.



Additionally, the children all took part in the ROAR project - a nationwide initiative to develop their skills as design engineers. We wish to congratulate all the children for their innovative designs. Saskia and Orla won. Emily, Tegan, Matilda, Bobby and Heath were Highly Commended.

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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

*Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February*



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*The full moon this month rises on 1st February and is known as the Snow Moon*

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# WESTCOTT VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES



## A Public Call for New Trustees for Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO

In accordance with Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO's constitution and the CIO Administration Rules (dated April 24th 2024), Rule 2, which sets out the appointment of new CIO Trustees, the current trustees are required to refresh the existing group of trustees. Accordingly, each year, we invite applications by inhabitants of Westcott and the surrounding area who are willing to put themselves forward, or, who are nominated by other residents with their consent.

There are currently 6 trustees all of whom are remaining as trustees. They consist of Helen Everett, Deborah Lewis, James Broderick, Andy Gray, Andy Taylor, and Sally Hewetson. We are permitted up to 12 trustees to serve at any one time. A trustee can serve for three years up to a maximum term of 9 continuous years.

Please refer to the CIO's website [www.westcottvillagehall.com](http://www.westcottvillagehall.com) and the Charity Commission's website <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5098773/governance> for further information on this specific charity. The Charity Commission's general website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do> is useful for broader information on the role of a charity trustee in the UK.

Anyone interested in becoming a trustee please apply by submitting an email to [info@westcottvillagehall.com](mailto:info@westcottvillagehall.com) or a letter addressed to Westcott Village Hall, Institute Road, Westcott RH4 3NP. Please set out the reasons why you wish to be appointed giving details of the skills and experience that you will bring to the Trust.

All applications will be considered by the trustees and a meeting with applicants may be requested. The trustees will decide before the end of April on any appointment.

**Save the date for our annual open meeting of the Westcott Village Hall Trust CIO where all residents of the village are invited to observe a trustees' meeting. This is will be on Wednesday April 29th at 7:00pm, in the village hall.**



**Westcott Village Hall Trustees**

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## Grey Heron

With their long bills and hulking grey bodies, Grey Herons are unmistakeable and commonly seen along rivers, lakes and even garden ponds. Usually seen alone, this all changes from February, when the birds head to communal nesting sites, known as heronries. Here they will lay their eggs, with typically 3 to 5 chicks hatching in March and April.

In 2022, the largest heronry recorded by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) contained 110 nests. Since 1928 the BTO Heronries Census has monitored nest sites. Overall the UK's breeding population has increased, and this is reflected in the local site at Bookham Commons which has recorded up to 20 nests.



Grey Heron: Image courtesy Rob Carr

See more on our activities and photos or if you're interested in joining below  
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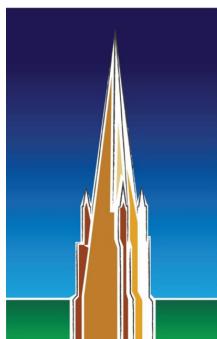


## Dorking Local History Group

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:

- **Munich and the Czech refugees in Surrey:** Live talk by Trevor Brook. As Hitler took over the Sudetenland in 1938, Social Democrats, trade unionists and Jews fled for their lives. 150 of them came to live in Albury. Come along and hear about a piece of "lost" WW2 history. Monday, 2nd February at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.
- **The History of Shepperton Studios:** Zoom talk by Nick Pollard. An incredible array of films have been produced at Shepperton Studios – *Goldfinger*, *The Day of the Jackal*, *Bridget Jones's Baby*, *Carry on Camping*, *Black Narcissus*, *Oliver Twist*, *Full Metal Jacket*, *A Night to Remember*, *Stan & Ollie*, *Les Misérables*, *The Heroes of Telemark* ... the list goes on. Thursday, 19th February 7.30pm, <https://www.meet-up.com/Surrey-History-Meetup/>.

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



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Tuesday 10th February 2026

### The Art of the Automobile - Roger Mendham

Once, in the early days of automobile manufacture, cars were purely functional - even the most basic of passenger comforts like doors and windscreens were lacking.

By the mid-1920s though, car designers saw an opportunity to express their creativity and automobile design entered a golden age. A new generation of cars, influenced by the art deco movement and the 'Great Gatsby era', led to some of the most famous and fabulous cars ever built. And so it has continued with stylists and coachbuilders inspired by the art movements to create 'mobile works of art'.

The lecture will be held at 10.30 in Martineau Hall. Coffee is available from 9:30am.

Visitors are welcome for a fee of £10.00 but contact Linda Packman [ljpackman@gmail.com](mailto:ljpackman@gmail.com) to book. For more information and details of the forthcoming programme, visit [www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietydorking.org.uk)



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## SPRING Music Celebration!

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
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<https://tinyurl.com/WMC261>

**More Info in March!**

## Lonesome Valley and Lodge

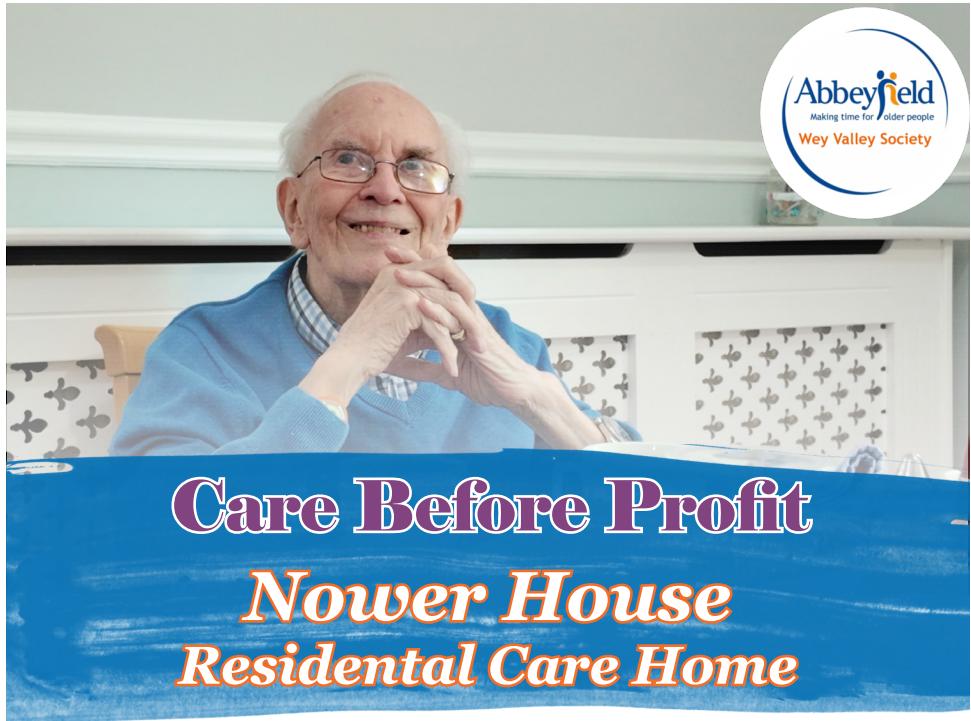
Lonesome Valley may well sound as if it was somewhere in the mid-west of the USA but in fact we have one very close to Westcott - you probably know it, but might not be aware of the name. Take the turn left just before the Wotton Hatch and head up Sheephouse Lane towards the hamlet of Broadmoor and you are then effectively going up the Valley, along the bottom runs the Tillingbourne stream which begins life on the lower slopes of Leith Hill.

Always a picturesque area it attracted the attention of a wealthy 18th century gentleman, Theodore Jacobsen (1686-1772), who had made his fortune trading in London with the Hanseatic ports of Northern Europe. He was inspired by the Dorking countryside and the natural beauty of the area between Leith Hill and Wotton

with its streams and ponds and began buying plots of land to build himself a country retreat. By 1740 he had designed and built himself a Palladian mansion, which he called Lonesome Lodge. The Villa Ragona in Italy provided the inspiration for the house and it was finished with sumptuous interior rooms and landscaped around a large pond with decorative fountains and trees on the slopes behind.

Jacobsen had very deep pockets and lavished attention on creating his idyllic summer retreat. He only stayed there for 23 years though and sold the house and the 440 acre estate in 1763 to Jeremiah Joye, a London merchant and stockbroker, for £8,500. Jeremiah died within 3 years and the estate passed to his wife Mary Margaret with an ample inheritance but she chose not to remain there, and in 1767 John Gritton, Jeremiah's nephew, sold the property at auction to David Franco,





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## WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



a very wealthy diamond dealer and business man in London, for £10,000. When Franco died in 1778, he left the estate in trust for his daughter Catherine, wife of Daniel Haynes, and her family. He also left many generous bequests to family and staff, including one to The London Hospital. Daniel died at Lonesome in 1787 and Catherine died in 1796. The estate passed first to William, the eldest son until he died in 1804, and then to David until 1811 when it passed to his son Daniel Franco Haynes.

The estate was broken up and sold to Robert Barclay of Bury Hill for £9450 in 1821 but quickly sold on to a Rev Thomas Haughton Harding and renamed Tillingbourne Lodge. Harding did not practise as a clergyman and his tenure was marked by many problems in his family, and by 1840 he sold the Tillingbourne Estate to the Duke of Norfolk for £14,000. He decided to dismantle the Lodge, and using the stone, built a smaller house further down the valley as a Steward's lodge, named Tillingbourne House.

Over the years it was let to a series of tenants including, in the 20th century, the Army and the Youth Hostel Association. By 1960, however, it was deteriorating from dry rot and was demolished and plots



sold off for private development, including the very stylish and modern Tillingbourne House of today. A further two houses have been built in the grounds. The footprint of the original Lonesome Lodge and the remnants of the landscaping remain in the hands of Wotton Estates.

All this, and more, on Lonesome Lodge can be found in an extensively researched book of that name, by local historian Robin Daly who gave us a fascinating talk a few years ago. All proceeds from the sale of the book go his very worthwhile UK registered charity Yes to Life.

Extensive local history records can be viewed on the Westcott Local History Group website at [www.westcottvillage.com/westcott-history-group](http://www.westcottvillage.com/westcott-history-group)

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## Mole Valley Ramblers Spring Walk Festival, Wednesday 26th April to Wednesday 6th May 2026

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Rob Tomlinson  
Mole Valley Ramblers



### What are “Baby Meals”?!

Westcott “Baby Meals” is a highly valued community initiative running for over 25 years. The fabulous volunteer cooks buy, cook and deliver a (free!) hot meal for families a new baby, usually for 2 weeks. So during the new baby chaos, dinner is one less thing to think about!

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**THU-FRI**

8:00am - 4:00pm

**SAT**

10:00am - 2:00pm

*For upcoming events and activities visit the website, opening hours change during school holidays.*

# HISTORICAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

---

## **1st February 1901**

The royal yacht Alberta brings the body of Queen Victoria into Portsmouth harbour en route to her funeral in London the next day. The Queen, aged 82, died on January 22nd, at Osborne on the Isle of Wight.

## **2nd February 1665**

British forces capture New Amsterdam, the centre of the Dutch colony in North America. The trading settlement on the island of Manhattan is renamed New York in honour of the Duke of York, its new governor.

## **4th February 1927**

Malcolm Campbell sets a new world land speed record of 174 mph (278 kmph) at Pendine in Wales.

## **8th February 1587**

Mary, Queen of Scots is beheaded on the orders of her cousin, England's Queen Elizabeth I.

## **11th February 1975**

Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman leader of the Conservative Party.

## **15th February 1971**

Shillings, bobs and half-crowns all disappear as Britain's currency goes decimal.

## **21st February 1804**

British engineer Richard Trevithick demonstrated the first steam engine to run on rails.

## **22nd February 1797**

Around 1,400 French troops attempted to invade Britain, landing on the Welsh coast. The determined ladies of Fishguard helped save the day.

## **26th February 1797**

The Bank of England issues the first ever one pound note, in part a result of the panic in London caused by the French invasion of Fishguard.

# WORDSEARCH

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C	R	P	Y	P	R	I	M	R	O	S	E
M	W	S	W	I	N	T	E	R	H	K	L
A	O	U	D	S	E	N	C	P	S	A	E
Q	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	F	N
U	B	R	I	E	S	G	V	N	K	L	T
A	J	T	A	S	H	E	I	S	A	O	D
R	F	Z	W	D	X	T	Q	W	C	W	V
I	H	O	B	L	N	Y	J	M	N	E	F
U	N	A	L	E	A	P	Y	E	A	R	L
S	I	S	L	T	O	B	T	L	P	S	Z
Q	E	A	M	E	T	H	Y	S	T	U	N
G	V	X	E	K	D	A	R	W	I	N	A

Words to find:

Amethyst

Lent

Aquarius

Pancakes

Ash

Pisces

Chocolate

Primrose

Darwin

Snow

Flowers

Valentine

Leap Year

Winter

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Then back inside to a cosy home corner where we can warm up in front of our (pretend!) fireplace and settle down to listen to a story or two! Or even better see a story brought to life with our beloved puppet theatre. How delighted we were with our first show of Jack and the Beanstalk. So delighted in fact that we decided we simply must have our own beanstalk. We set about making a stalk that tickled the sky with leaves of all sorts of glorious greens! Watch out people of Abinger, you might just hear a Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum if you listen very carefully!

Our creative minds have been whirling and what with the post over Christmas bringing us many a cardboard box or tube we decided we just had to build something. And build we did! At present we have sculpted and painted our way to a stunning St James' Church and a wonderfully rustic Abinger Hatch. Then moving on from buildings we felt we needed a marvellous marble run so we transformed some tubes and

an old pin board into a magnificent boredom buster!

If you would like to join our nursery family please don't hesitate to get in touch. Call 07842 978823 or email [abingercommonnursery@gmail.com](mailto:abingercommonnursery@gmail.com)

We can't wait to meet you and show you around! We are also on Facebook and now Instagram.



P.S the pictures are of our wonderful Angel, one of our very wisemen and of course the lovely Father Christmas! We just had to share them with you even though it's February!

Kate Fairbrass

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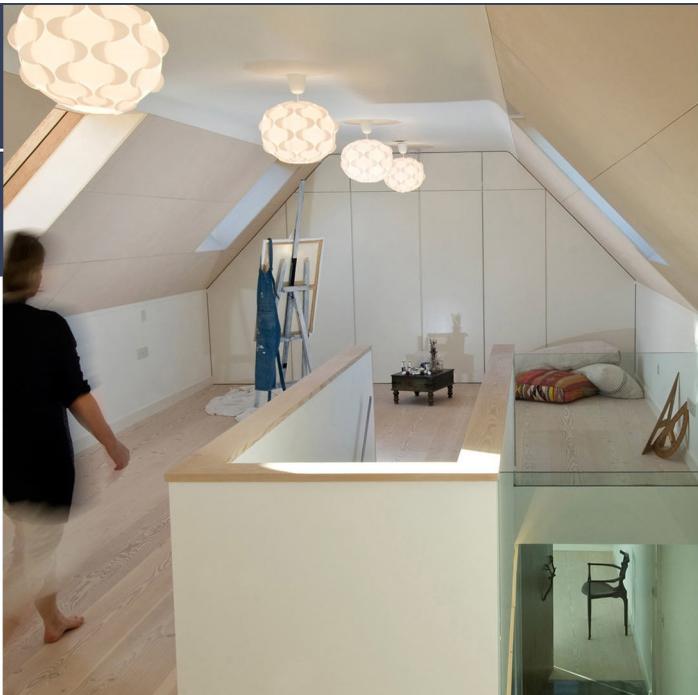
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I do hope everyone got through January which is often the most difficult month of the year after the Christmas festivities and meeting up with friends and family. However the signs of life are very apparent at the woodland. There are spring bulbs popping up all over and buds on some of the trees already. I also saw a couple of blue tits eyeing up one of the bird boxes!

We have a big fundraising event for the QRMW Charity in April which is keeping us very busy indeed. It's The Reverse London Marathon which one of our Trustees organises very successfully, with this year being the third taking place overnight on 26/27th April (the night before the London Marathon). It has become extremely popular for those who have not been able to obtain a place in the daytime Marathon and amazingly last year there were some participants who did both events! This year the clothing being made for participants of the Reverse Marathon is selling incredibly well and £4 from each item sold is donated to QRMW. But we have to coordinate all of the orders, parcel them up and send them out - to date we have over 600 orders! Also a number of QRMW Trustees are marshalls and will be on duty at various locations on the route in London overnight. We did it last year and it is good fun cheering on the runners as they come past us and take a handful of sugary sweets to keep up their energy.

In June we celebrate our 12th Anniversary of the opening of the Woodland and we will be holding a Commemoration Service at the Woodland on Saturday 6th June when families will be honouring a number of



Veterans who are no longer with us by planting a young tree. During this event we will also be celebrating 'D' Day and 60 years of the Queen's Regiment.

We have some entertainment lined up, a military band and a duo who will be singing the songs of the 1940s. There will be lots of stalls with some goodies and a grand raffle plus a big BBQ and a Bar. This event is open to everyone so do put the date in your diaries and look out for more details in due course. All proceeds from this day go into the Memorial Fund to assist our Veterans in need. Your support is so important and appreciated.

Do remember if you fancy a walk during the months leading up to June the woodland is open 24/7 and if I am there the kettle will be on! I look forward to seeing you.

**Paul Cooling, Chairman  
The Quick Response Memorial Woodland  
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WESTCOTT HUB



MID SURREY

COMMUNITY FRIDGES

ST JOHNS CHURCH



These beautiful winter photos were taken by Fiona Humphrey at Landbarn Farm, aren't we lucky to live somewhere so picturesque? If you have been out and about and have any pictures to share, send them in to [editor@westcottmag.com](mailto:editor@westcottmag.com).





# 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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## **WESTfest**

# **TAKING A BREAK IN 2026**

After 10 years of WESTfest, the team are taking a much needed break in summer 2026. We'll be back in 2027.

WESTfestivity the Westcott Christmas Fair will run as normal on Sat 14 Nov 2026.

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## A new Parish Council for Westcott

[www.molevalley.gov.uk/cgr/](http://www.molevalley.gov.uk/cgr/)

Mole Valley District Council launched a Community Governance Review in July to review how local communities right across the district are represented and whether changes are needed. They ran a 12-week initial consultation posing a number of questions to draw out views on whether new Parish Councils should be created where they do not currently exist (such as in Westcott) or whether existing Parish Councils should be merged, altered in some way or things should be left as they are. Parish Councils are democratically elected and have a range of powers and responsibilities relating to local matters including planning, community amenities and representing the views of residents.

### Shape the Future of Your Community



Responses to the consultation were reviewed by the MVDC Devolution Working Group and further information including the Council's report can be viewed on the Community Governance Review pages of the MVDC website <https://www.molevalley.gov.uk/cgr/>

As a result of the initial consultation we are pleased to report there was a strong recommendation for a new Parish Council to be created in Westcott made up of nine Councillors, along with new Parish Councils in Ashtead, Boxhill, Dorking, Fetcham, Leatherhead and Westhumble. MVDC will now consult further on these recommendations and all households in the areas affected will be asked to respond to a postal ballot on whether they agree to a Parish Council being set up.

At the time of writing the timing for a postal ballot in Westcott is unknown as it is due to be discussed at a Council meeting on the 13th January. As one option being considered is to proceed immediately, by the time you are reading this magazine you may have already received a postal ballot through your door! If so, please ensure you send in your ballot form in plenty of time.

If the outcome of the postal ballot is agreement to proceed then Westcott residents will need to put themselves forward as potential Parish Councillors and stand for election in May 2027. The WVA will hold an Open Meeting in due course where we will ask MVDC representatives to explain the next steps and the process moving forward, the date for this



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JACKSON-STOPS

# DORKING MUSEUM

Open Meeting will be published via newsletter, notice boards and social media once it is known.

## **Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan (WNDP)**



Following feedback received during the consultation

run by the Westcott Village Forum in October and November, a revised Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan, taking account of that feedback, has been put out to a further consultation this time run by Mole Valley District Council. The MVDC consultation closes on 2nd February 2026. All the documents can still be viewed on the Neighbourhood Development Plan pages of the Westcott Village website, including a Consultation Statement which details all the feedback that was received through the Village Forum's consultation and what action was taken as a result.

Following MVDC's consultation the Plan is then submitted to a Planning Inspector who will review all the documentation for compliance with the process. The Plan is then put to a public referendum in the village where all households are asked to vote on whether they want the Plan to be

adopted and come in to force. Once adopted the new Neighbourhood Plan will replace the existing one and become part of the MVDC Development Local Plan to be taken in to account in the determination of planning applications in the area.

## **Christmas Carols on the Green**

On a lighter note, we are pleased to report that £255 was raised at the Christmas Carols on the Green event which has been donated to the charity Crisis on behalf of everyone in Westcott. It is a real team effort to put on the event which is now firmly established as a favourite in the Westcott calendar, our thanks once again to all those involved.

Highways queries to Nick Lund  
[highways@westcottvillage.com](mailto:highways@westcottvillage.com)

Planning queries to Paul Goddard  
[planning@westcottvillage.com](mailto:planning@westcottvillage.com)

Treasurer queries to Magesh Ramakrishnan  
[treasurer@westcottvillage.com](mailto:treasurer@westcottvillage.com)

**Westcott Village Association Committee**  
**Jo Astor, Jane Betterton, James Croft,**  
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## Hidden in Stone: Dorking's Dinosaur Discovery:

The Museum's new exhibition celebrates Dorking's contribution to the developing understanding of the wild life that roamed the area 125 million years ago. At that time, the Dorking area was part of a vast tropical river delta with swamps, sand flats and lagoons that extended across much of what is now South-East England and the Isle of Wight. Extreme seasons and changing conditions resulted in the evolution of amazing species and the Wealden clay has yielded much evidence of the dinosaurs that evolved.



A discovery of a giant claw by fossil enthusiast Bill Walker in a quarry near Ockley in 1983 led to the excavation of an almost complete skeleton which resembled a crocodile that stood up on its hind legs. This provided evidence of a previously unknown dinosaur species and led to the recognition



of a new group of specialised fish-eating dinosaurs. The creature was given the scientific name *Baryonyx walkeri* in honour of its finder and provided the key to understanding more fragmentary remains of similar dinosaurs that were being unearthed on other continents. They became known as Spinosaurids because some had elongated neural spines and they had a semi-aquatic lifestyle based on hunting fish and scavenging whatever they could find.

The fossilised skeleton found by Walker – and dubbed 'Claws' by the media at the time – is now on display at the Natural History Museum. Four decades on from the discovery, two new *Baryonyx* cousins have been found in the cliffs of the Isle of Wight, and maybe other unknown species are still down there in the clay.

The new exhibition explores Dorking's dinosaur connections in greater detail, displays including

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## DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

lifelike replica models on loan from the University of Southampton. Takeaway model templates of Dorking's most famous dinosaur are available to go with the exhibition.

28th February, 10am-2pm. Free, materials provided and children must be accompanied.

### Get involved:

#### Museum Saturday Family Activities at Dorking Library:

The Museum is pleased to continue its collaboration with Dorking Library in a series of monthly events linked to library themes. Chinese New Year: Make a horse mask or Chinese lantern to celebrate the year of the horse: Saturday 14th February, 10am-noon.

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 an interesting range of key roles with flexible working in the Museum, in the community or from home. Perhaps you could help maintain our collections, recruit and train volunteers, maintain our website, train as a guide on our walking tours, organise events, welcome visitors, help with maintenance or be a trustee. See [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/about/volunteer-opportunities) for further details.



Create a Blue Plaque for yourself: What are your hopes and dreams? How would you like to be remembered in the future? Create a blue plaque to commemorate the life you hope to lead: Saturday

Dorking Museum, 62 West Street. Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. [www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk). Visit [dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/](http://dorkingmuseum.org.uk/digital-guide/). 01306 876591.





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# MUSIC IN DORKING



7th at 12.00, lunchtime recital at St Martin's church

7th at 5.30, Dorking Chamber Orchestra at St Nicolas' church, Bookham

7th at 7.30, English Chamber Orchestra at Dorking Halls, £20-30, 01306 740619

9th at 7.15, ballet screening at Dorking Halls, £19.50, 01306 881717

17-21 at 7.30, DDOS Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, £22-24, 01306 881717

The Dorking Concertgoers Society is delighted to be able to host the English Chamber Orchestra to play in Dorking. This excellent and well-known ensemble has a very attractive programme, including Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, alongside concertos by Bach and Handel.

The Dorking Chamber Orchestra, playing in Bookham, has a concert including Haydn's *Farewell* symphony and Mozart's *Sinfonia concertante*, with solo parts for violin and viola. There will also be music by Telemann, and Pachelbel's famous canon.

The lunchtime recitals at St Martin's church continue with a concert given by cellist Chloe Chen. Together with her pianist they will play Beethoven's cello sonata op.69 along with music by Fauré, Martinu and Edith Piaf.

The Dorking Dramatic and Operatic Society presents its major production of the year, a week-long run of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. As well as the evening performances, there is also a Saturday matinee.

The Royal Ballet's production of *Woolf Works* will be screened at the Dorking Halls. Created in 2015 for the Royal Ballet and directed by Wayne McGregor, this is a collage of themes from the works of Virginia Woolf.



**Ian Codd**

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## National Emergency Briefing

Last November in Westminster Central Hall, MPs, business leaders, cultural figures and faith and community leaders gathered to hear experts present powerful evidence of the interconnected threats facing the UK.

The National Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis was an invitation only event where experts – in fields ranging from economics and health to national security - gave stark science-based assessments of the situation and the scale of action needed to adapt to the rapidly changing climate and ecological situation.

## An honest conversation

"The UK is facing a national emergency not only because the climate is changing, but because



homes, and feed our people are breaking down. This is exposing our country to escalating risks: floods,

fires, heatwaves, food insecurity, and economic instability. ...This is not an environmental issue on the margins of policy. It is a national security issue." (Nature - Prof Nathalie Seddon). Nature is not a 'nice to have', it is critical national infrastructure.

The climate crisis is a "threat multiplier, making existing threats worse or more frequent and fuelling new ones – climate shocks fuel global instability...Competition for water, food and land is rising.... [we are] not yet acting as if peace and addressing climate crisis two sides of same coin." (National Security - Lt General Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE).

Emergency doctor, Prof Hugh Montgomery OBE, contributed to the report which led The Lancet to declare that 'Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century' in 2009. He says "We were pointing out risk, but we weren't adequately pointing out the hazard – because I don't think any more it's about risk - it's about survival."

Prof Paul Behrens added that the crisis presents "a threat that will affect every family...a threat for which we are woefully unprepared ...the increasing pressure on global food supplies in the face of accelerating climate change and nature loss....



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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

What concerns me most...when families can't afford to feed their children, societies break down."

### The scale of action required

"We risk sliding into a state of permanent crisis management. .... Every year we delay urgent investment in resilience and emissions reductions, the window for successful action gets smaller...Until we stop burning fossil fuels, extreme weather will continue to get worse. So, cutting emissions isn't enough. It isn't a choice. We must also adapt to protect people and livelihood" (Extreme Weather – Prof Hayley Fowler).

"What would reducing emissions have to look like? ...Well, firstly, technology...technology is absolutely a prerequisite of delivering on Paris [climate agreement], but after choosing to fail on climate change by our leaders for the last 30 years is now far from sufficient. We also need...profound shifts in our social norms." (Climate – Kevin Anderson).

"We currently produce and consume in a way that doesn't factor in our impact on the planet. And that is an economywide problem." (Economics – Angela Francis). Our

economic system is unravelling the web of life that it depends on: subsidising pollution; rewarding short-term extraction, discounting the future.

Additionally, the system that we rely upon to feed us "is also undermining foundations that we depend upon. The food system itself is damaging the very foundations of our food security. It's a large driver of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions – it drives catastrophic habitat loss, pollutes our water, pollutes our air, depletes our freshwater, drives antimicrobial resistance and creates the conditions for the emergence of new pandemics." (Food Security – Prof Paul Behrens).

Animal agriculture in the UK occupies 85% of agricultural land and relies on extensive land use overseas for imported feed and livestock. It drives 80% of the UK's agricultural emissions and causes the majority of biodiversity loss.

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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

without food supply available to us, we cannot run a health service. We cannot have health....I recognise an emergency. This is one...There may be no liveable future for us and our children...we haven't got time for doing a little bit of recycling, we need transformational change now if we are going to survive." (Health, Prof Hugh Montgomery OBE).

### Act Now

Many of the speakers at the briefing highlighted how many actions that help tackle the crisis have clear benefits for human health and wellbeing.

Energy Transition - "Thankfully the evidence is clear that an energy system powered by renewables, will indeed be more affordable and more economically secure.... we also know how to get there ...in a way that is genuinely just for ordinary people." (Energy Transition – Tessa Khan).

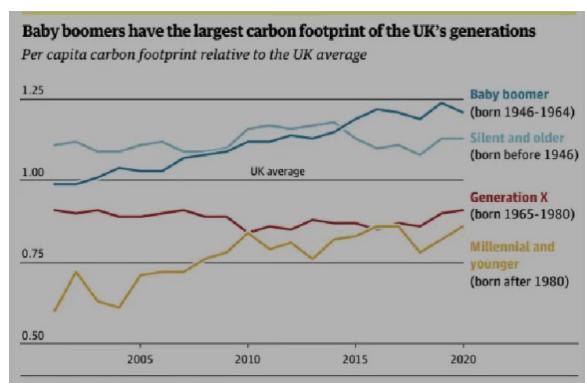
Economy - "We need to stop funding harm and we need to reward restoration...We have to end these subsidies [that support pollution] and apply a simple universal test to spending and investment - does this harm the biosphere, or can it help

it?" (Nature – Prof Nathalie Seddon).

"We need to consistently reward the businesses that are doing the work to be competitive in a new world where success includes lowering carbon, restoring soils, keeping forests standing, circular use of resources, and less waste. All things that add to our resilience." (Economics – Angela Francis).

Adaptation - "And adaptation pays for itself. Every pound we invest now saves many more pounds in avoided damage and disruption. And it also creates skilled jobs. Adaptation is a triple win – good for the economy, good for communities and good for nature." (Extreme Weather – Prof Hayley Fowler).

Plant-rich diets – "Scientific consensus is clear that moving to a plant-rich diet is one of the most impactful actions that individuals can take"





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## GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

(Food Security - Paul Behrens). This would reduce emissions, help bring a healthier population - reducing pressure on the NHS, free up land for nature and climate resilience.

New social norms - “Targeting a climate resilient, sustainable world involves fundamental changes to how society functions, including changes to underlying values, worldviews, ideologies, social structures, political and economic systems, and power relationships.” Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The energy footprint of the wealthiest 10% in the UK is nearly five-times higher than the lowest 10% (Climate – Prof Kevin Anderson) Those of us in these households therefore have more ability – and responsibility - to act to cut these discretionary emissions. There is also a generational divide with baby boomers (born 1946-1964) having the largest and growing carbon footprints, significantly higher than generation X and millennials. (Guardian graphic, source: Dr Anne

Owen, University of Leeds).

The National Emergency Briefing website has more information and recordings of each of the expert contributions: health; food security; nature; energy transition; weather extremes; climate; tipping points; economics; national security. You may like to add your name to the open letter calling for a televised emergency briefing to the nation like we saw during the pandemic (<https://www.nebriefing.org/open-letter-keir>)

Do feel free to get in touch at [info@greenwestcott.org](mailto:info@greenwestcott.org) to share your thoughts, or with suggestions for future articles.

**Jakki Phillips**

Fully referenced versions of this and other articles are available at <https://greenwestcott.org>

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