

Westcott Village

Magazine July/August 2025



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



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

editor@westcottmag.com

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

Copy deadline for
September issue:
8th August 2025

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

FROM THE EDITOR



Welcome to summer. (I'm hoping the weather is playing ball and has also decided it's summertime by now!)

The village coffee mornings are on 2nd July and 6th August so get out and see some friends, have some cake and a chat, and find a new book or jigsaw in case the weather lets us down!

The next couple of months will hopefully be filled with fun and sunshine, and in the village we have the Gardeners' Club Summer Show on 5th July with many different classes for all to enter, have a look at last month's magazine or westcottgardenersclub.org.uk for all the details. If you miss it there is always the Autumn Show to look forward to in a couple of months (see below).

On page 21 you can see some of the children's amazing entries for the Westfest cover design competition, have a look and see if you can spot yours!

Have a great summer, whatever you are doing,

Cath
editor@westcottmag.com

A top-down photograph of various craft supplies on a light brown burlap surface. In the top left is a small potted succulent. Next to it is a white paint palette with several colors. To the right are several colored pencils. Further right is a white watercolor palette with various colors. In the bottom left and bottom center are several pink roses. In the bottom right are some green leaves and a yellow container with a red lid.

Fancy some crafty competition?

Take on the challenge of being Westcott's Handicrafts or Home Produce master in our Autumn Flower Show (Saturday 13th September). Try your hand at making the best handmade wrapping paper, hat, watercolour or enter for photography!

See full details about the home produce and all other Autumn show classes at www.westcottgardenersclub.org.uk

...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



A DIFFERENT KIND OF SUMMER HOLIDAY

Are you planning on heading off over the summer months to have some kind of vacation? We are certainly hoping to get away for a few days here and there. With four children in tow, holidays are not exactly restful, but they are extremely precious times.

There is another way of travelling – one that seeks to offer a different kind of rest and relaxation. It is the ancient act of pilgrimage. Now, admittedly, at various points in history religious pilgrimages were pretty much the ancient equivalent of package holidays, replete with souvenirs, much drinking, occasional brawls and generally causing a headache for the local populace. If you have ever read Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales you could be left with this view of pilgrimage as a sort of 14th century Club 18-30.

But pilgrimage as a concept is something deeper.

It is an intentional act of setting out on a journey to seek meaning, purpose, direction and, just possibly, the divine. The trip itself may be long or short. It is the act of setting out which defines the nature of the journey. That, and the willingness to leave everything that isn't absolutely essential behind. Especially those things which demand attention and offer no ultimate fulfilment – phones, social media, podcasts, the endless news cycle.

The beauty of this is that anyone can go on a pilgrimage. Maybe you are fortunate enough to be in a position where you could set out on a well-trod pilgrims path for a week or two – along the Camino de Santiago in Spain or Saint Cuthbert's way taking you from the ruins of Melrose Abbey in Scotland to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne in Northumbria (a place you simply must visit if you get the chance).

“A WALK TO THE KETTLE
CAN BE AN INTENTIONAL
SET ASIDE JOURNEY OF
SEEKING AND OPENNESS.”



...FROM THE CHURCH IN WESTCOTT



Maybe you are at a moment in life which is defined by responsibilities – to children, work, or being a full time carer for a loved one – but perhaps you could set off on half day trek to Guildford Cathedral with your phone on mute to find some stillness. Maybe your mobility is limited but you could make your way up the hill as an act of pilgrimage to Westcott Church (which a wonderful team of volunteers from across the village arrange to keep open during the day). Or if that is too far, then a walk to the kettle or a seat in the garden can be an intentional set aside journey of seeking and openness.

I have found that acts of intentional pilgrimage like these, both big and small, have been transformational moments in my own journey – even more so than holidays to beautiful places.

They have, sometimes unexpectedly, been times when Jesus has been more than an abstract figure but a very real and undeniable presence and peace. The Bible says: 'Draw near to God and He will draw near to you' (James 4.8). That is my lived experience.

Pilgrimages tend to change people in unexpected ways regardless of their faith or prior expectations. The BBC series Pilgrimage (available now on iPlayer) which takes a diverse group of celebrities on such a journey offers a good sense of this. So this summer, amidst all your other plans, why not take a pilgrimage – to a cathedral, a mountain, or your sofa – to breath in the deeper things. You can visit britishpilgrimage.org for inspiration. Who knows what you might find.

Rev'd Tim

JULY & AUGUST SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY



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

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



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

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

| DATE | 8:30AM | 10:15AM |
|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6th July | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion with Sunday Club |
| 13th July | Book of Common Prayer Communion | 20-20-20 with Breakfast |
| 20th July | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion with Sunday Club |
| 27th July | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion with Sunday Club |
| 3rd Aug | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Morning Prayer |
| 10th Aug | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion |
| 17th Aug | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Morning Prayer |
| 24th Aug | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion |
| 31st Aug | Book of Common Prayer Communion | Communion |

MIDWEEK PRAYER & WORSHIP

Wednesdays

10am

Communion at St John's

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First Tuesday of every Month



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or reflection

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pray, reflect, breathe, be.

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 for more information

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS SHARING LIFE



Westcott's baby & toddler group

COOKIE CLUB

snacks
crafts
games
music
friendship
fun

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@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk
or visit thechurchinwestcott.org.uk



MARKING LIFE EVENTS

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



Floodlighting

If you'd like to sponsor the church floodlighting for July, August or any other month, please contact Sarah Massey at admin@holyltrinitywestcott.org.uk. (Suggested donation of £75 to Westcott Church Funds.)

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a wonderful Summer term we have had, brimming with outdoor learning; the children have had so many opportunities to delve into the natural world around them, not to mention Year 3 and 4 who are loving their swimming and tri golf lessons. We have had some amazing trips this term - including to Painshill Park for our Reception, Year 1 and 2 classes, and a Forest School walk for Year 3 to our local nature reserve. We were absolutely thrilled with over £5000 raised from the Teddy Bear's picnic - a wealth of community spirit shining through in partnership with Peaslake school. A huge thank you goes to all our volunteers from F@SH and beyond who made this sun and joy-filled evening possible. Whether it is reading, running lunchtime clubs or supporting with visits, life at Surrey Hills would not be the same without you and a special thank you goes to Becky, Ekpen and Amy who go over and above to raise vital funds and support our super Surrey Hills.

Reception -Year 2 enjoyed a fabulous (but very chilly!) trip to Painshill Park. We were treated to a fairytale storytelling walk through the magical landscape of Painshill, past the Three Bears' house in the woods to Sleeping Beauty's Gothic Temple.



extremely busy planting their very own sunflower seeds.



Reception have been learning all about the life cycle of plants and been

Year 3 had a fantastic morning at Bury Hill Lakes. We were extremely fortunate with the glorious weather and even more fortunate enough to be lucky enough to explore the beautiful grounds. We got to see fish and tadpoles swimming in the pond, lots of different types of birds including multiple herons flying around and even got to see some crayfish too. Mrs Phillips wowed us with her plant knowledge where we learnt the difference between English and Spanish bluebell varieties. We also looked at some history of our local area seeing how we can use the

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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

house names to help give us clues about what it would have looked like many years ago. We were even lucky enough to see the rock that was used in the filming of Star Wars!



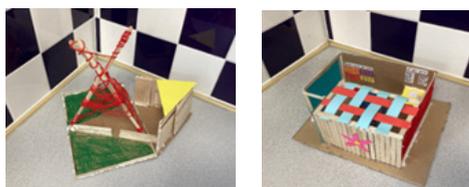
We want to say a huge thank you to F@SH for buying new wheelbarrows for all to use in our Forest School sessions. Year 3 have been putting them to great use already carrying important equipment for their den building!



Year 3 have been extremely busy in the afternoons this half term. Not only have they been focussing on their swimming skills but they have also been developing their golf skills too. Watch out, we may have just found the next new Tiger Woods!



Year 4 have been working extremely hard to make a pavilion structure in DT. We thought about the target audience for our pavilion as well as



looking into a variety of techniques we could use to make them look unique and appealing.

In art, Year 5 have been looking at creating poem self portraits using a range of media. We sketched our



own portraits in pencil and then went over the top on tracing paper with words to

describe our personality. Once we had done this we created a background

using either a wash of colour with water colour or collage using our



favourite colours. The final step was to transfer the poem words on top of the background. This results in a creative portrait that reflects each child.



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SURREY HILLS ALL SAINTS SCHOOL (cont.)

This term we were very fortunate to have a whole school assembly from Suez. We spoke about why is it important to recycle properly and the effects of not doing so correctly. After this, Rabbits and Hedgehogs completed a workshop, producing a poster or bookmark made from recycled materials. We had so much fun doing this and loved everything that we learned!



All the hard work and effort that our Year 6's have put in this year culminated in last week's tests. All of them showed a positive attitude, working calmly throughout the week and fully supporting each other. Each morning they sat down together for a hearty breakfast prepared by Dawn in the kitchen. Her continued support over the last two years has been



greatly appreciated. Everyone is so proud of all of them. Now they can enjoy their final, jam-packed, half term at Surrey Hills!

The weather was amazing for the 42nd Teddy Bears' Picnic. Parents from our school and Peaslake infant school came together to organise this wonderful family event and we were so grateful to the teachers, local governing committee, family friends and past pupils from Surrey Hills who came along to help with setting up, manning the car park, and running the various stalls including the iconic duck race on the stream. Our school choir led by Paige Potterton did a wonderful performance for the crowds. Special thanks to some of our year 4 girls who ran their own "Little Bites Bakery" and raised £179. Total raised from the event stands at over £10,000 with more money to come in so each school will receive over £5000 to support the education of our children.



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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. July's live talk is:

- **Christopher Whall, Arts and Crafts stained glass artist: the Dorking Years:** Professor Anne Anderson talks about the stained glass works which made Christopher a leading player in the Victorian Arts and Crafts Movement. Some of his best work in the 1880s and 1890s was produced at Stonebridge, near Dorking. Monday 7th July at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking RH4 3HB, 7.15 for 7.30pm, £2 at the door for non-members.

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



Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

Tuesday 22nd July 2025, 7.30 p.m.

The King's Men Cambridge are returning to

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

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Look out for day-flying moths

July is a good month to look out for moths, as many are now on the wing. While most moth species are nocturnal and so fly at night, there are plenty of day-flying moths to look out for. In fact, here in the UK there are actually more day-flying moths than there are butterflies.

One colourful species that is found throughout most of the UK is the Cinnabar moth, so named for the red on their hindwings and markings on their forewings. Their black and yellow caterpillars are often found munching their way through Common Ragwort. Head to grasslands and heathlands to look for them. Another red and black



Cinnabar Moth: Image courtesy RSPB images

moth found in grasslands is the Six-spot Burnet. You can identify it by counting the six spots on each forewing – but be warned, sometimes the outmost spots can merge together.



Dorking Choral Society
Summer Concert 2025

A Fantasy of Folk Songs

Mårten Jansson Missa Popularis
Cecilia McDowall A Fancy of Folk Songs
Vaughan Williams English Folk Songs

Accompanied by **The Janus Ensemble**
Conductor: Daniel Mahoney

Saturday 5th July 6.30pm

St Paul's Church Dorking
RH4 2HT

Tickets £16

There will be table seating
You are invited to bring your own refreshments

For more details and to book tickets
visit www.dorkingchoralsociety.org.uk

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

Facebook: RSPB Dorking and District

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

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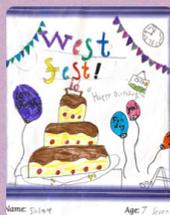
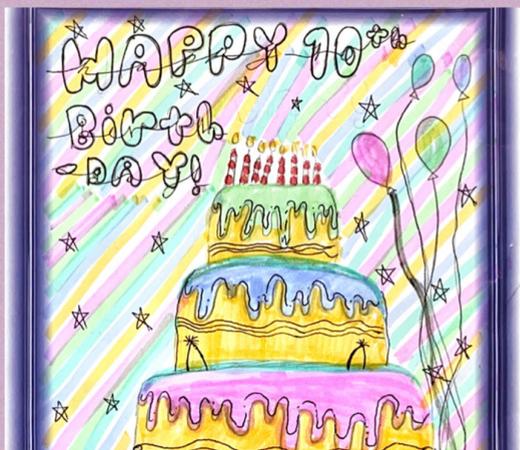
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Westfest Design Competition



Here's a small selection of the AMAZING WESTfest programme cover competition entries we received!
Thanks to the children at Surrey Hills All Saints who entered the competition.

Full WESTfest update next issue!

Thanks for coming!



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WESTCOTT BABY MEALS

What are "Baby Meals"?!

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

As I write, one of our lovely Cooks Hayley is about to have her second baby so we're eagerly waiting to cater for the family when baby arrives!

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

Community Fridge

Westcott
Village



Take what you need,
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Opening Hours

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP

350 Years of South Eastern Weather by Ian Currie



Ian Currie has spent his life recording the weather of the North Downs and the Weald and writing about the extremes of weather in

Britain. He is a full-time weatherman, broadcaster, author, columnist, speaker and editor of *Weather Eye* magazine and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. He gave us an extensive talk, accompanied by an amazing collection of slides, on several centuries of weather with particular reference to SE England, from 7 metre high snowdrifts, cricket ball sized hail, blazing summers to violent tornadoes or devastating floods.

Ian started his talk looking at the varying climate over this period and explaining that a 30 year average gives us data for assessing climate change. Information about changing weather patterns can be collected from tree ring analysis, soil samples, ship's logs, diaries: all of these can give us some understanding of weather patterns over time. After thermometers were invented, vicars and people in country houses kept regular temperature readings, many of which have survived.

The bulk of Ian's talk concerned major weather events, which would have had a massive impact on people living at the time. We were told about the great storm of 1703, when there were 160 mile an hour winds off the Kent coast, leading to an enormous death toll in southern England (estimates of 15,000 have been suggested) as people were unable to find shelter and of course, the one in most people's memories, that of 1987, which had a huge impact locally.

He mentioned extremely cold winters between the 16th and 19th centuries when Frost Fairs were regularly held on the Thames, and in particular that of 1683-1684, with the river frozen over at London some 12" thick for two months. The eruption of Mount Tambora, in the East Indies in 1815, drastically lowered temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere over the next 2-3 years, and resulted in the "year without a summer" in 1816. This had a huge impact on agriculture in the UK, Europe and the US and may explain why an ancestor might have moved at this time.

In 1881 there was a memorable Great Snow Storm which covered the country from top to bottom, a violent hailstorm in 1911, and very cold winters during WWII and that of 1962-63 still recalled by some of us. The very dry sunny time we have had this year from mid March till mid May will likely prove to be

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WESTCOTT HISTORY GROUP (cont.)



unmatched for centuries.

Ian's collection of facts and figures on our weather was almost encyclopaedic and the question and answer session at the end was as entertaining as the jumper he wore.

Never Mind the Weather

by Alan S Jeeves

*The coldest, forceful wind may blow;
The sun may, sometimes, golden glow;
The rain may, often, showery show;
The sky may dust the land with snow.
When it blows my hat is tied;
In the heat, 'neath shade I hide;*

*I shy from rain until it's dried;
As it snows I stay inside.*

*So come what may my senses see
All that nature gifts to me.
Fair or foul, wild and free,
That's the way it's meant to be.*

As always the WLHG Committee encourages members and readers in general to submit articles or suggestions for talks. Contact us by email at westcottlocalhistory@gmail.com and for local information at our website www.westcottlocalhistory.org.

WLHG Scribe

LETTER FROM GREAT GRANDMOTHER IMOGEN

Here is a letter written by a great grandmother to her grandchildren and great grandchildren. It is a lovely reminder of how times have changed and also of what has stayed the same, over the years.

Greetings Grandchildren! I have been asked by Grandson Tobias to share a few childhood memories, some of which may surprise you, some of which you may recognize!

I was born as the Battle of Britain raged during the second world war. As a toddler, I accompanied my grandmother as she shut the shutters against lighting a route for

the German bombers as they flew north to Liverpool. I celebrated the end of the war in 1945 riding on my father's shoulders down the Mall towards Buckingham palace, to see King George and Queen Elizabeth on the balcony. In 1953 aged 12, I had my first glimpse of TV as I watched the coronation procession of Queen Elizabeth 2. We finally owned a TV when I was 24.

I remember rationing, sharing one Mars Bar per week with the family of 6, seeing my first





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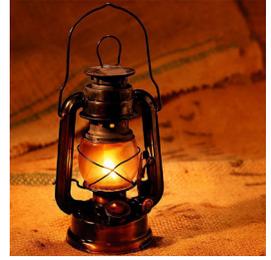


LETTER FROM GREAT GRANDMOTHER IMOGEN (cont.)

bananas and oranges at 5 years old, queueing at the gasworks in Leatherhead for a bucket of coal to keep the fire burning (no central heating), going to primary school in a pony and trap due to petrol rationing. Being wrapped in a rug for a winter car journey, (no heating again), playing I spy games in the car as no radio, (certainly no ipad!) and passing squashed hedgehogs - now nearly extinct - on the road and seeing the windscreen covered in bugs whereas now there are no bugs.



I felt shy at parties, but there were not many given, as they were expensive. I felt free riding my bike alone down the Oxshott road aged 9 to visit friends and felt safe to wander on the family farm and on oil lamp lit holidays in Anglesey. We always took a picnic if we went out, which was rarely, as my father worked a 6 day week, of boiled eggs, brown bread sandwiches, dates, fruit, and after swimming in the sea, a square of chocolate and a digestive biscuit.



I helped my grandmother to tear newspapers into squares to use as toilet paper. I learned to swim in an unheated pool, I was not allowed to use the public pool for fear of polio, I did catch whooping cough and measles, and lay in bed listening to *Dick Barton, Special Agent* and *Children's Hour* on the radio.

I learned to ride my bike by falling off, no stabilisers then, and to ride a horse, also by falling off (and getting back on again)! I danced the polka as my grandmother played the piano, and to an old gramophone with '78' classical records. I learned to milk a cow by hand, and was kicked across her stall, but made to get back under her and continue.

I think the biggest change in my lifetime has been the tremendous increase in lifestyle opportunities for most people, and the revolution in communication, some positive, some negative. But one thing does not change, and that is human nature! One of the exciting things about being a grandmother for me is the fact that I know people who have lived over a span of 200 years. my Grandfather was born in 1865, and my grandchildren will hopefully live for most of the 2000s. I wonder what you will write in turn for your grandchildren! I have had fun. I hope you do too!

With love

Imogen Barker

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Thank you to everyone who joined the trustees at our annual quiz night, when about 90 people enjoyed our very own Andy Johnson masterfully directing proceedings. It was a close race to the finish line and the much sought after prizes. The evening raised around £900 for the Westcott Village Hall Redevelopment Fund.

By the time you are reading this we will have held the open garden event on Sunday June 15th when 12 beautiful gardens were opened to the public - fingers crossed for good weather! The proceeds from this event are being shared by the trustees of Westcott Village Hall with the Chapel/Hub, reflecting the importance of both of these buildings in our village life.

The following Sunday (22nd June) is Westfest, and Westcott Village Hall redevelopment fund is one of the village charities benefitting from funds raised.

We continue to wait for the planning permission for the redevelopment projects at both the Village Hall and Furlong Road sites. We remain optimistic, and with a view to moving forward as soon as we hear from the planners, we have started to engage with additional professional advisers. We remain focussed on the task of delivering a new village hall for our residents.

Thank you for your continuing support.

The Trustees of Westcott Village Hall



Notice of Loss

*24/04/2025 Peter David Brown - 85 loving husband,
father and grandfather passed away at home.*

WESTCOTT VILLAGE COFFEE MORNING

*Wednesday 2nd July
and
Wednesday 6th August*



*The Village Hall
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DORKING SOCIETY BEST DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Congratulations go to Latchmere Properties whose development at Pilgrim Lane Dorking has won the Dorking Society Best Development Award 2025. Following the tensely competitive process, in addition to the overall award a Highly Commended award was given to the Coach House in Parsonage Lane Westcott – again, innovatively reusing a previous near derelict building fitted within the character of the immediate surrounding to maximise the contribution to accommodation.

James Friend, chair of the Judging Panel and Dorking Society Community Team explained, *“When we refreshed the Community Team a few years ago, we asked people what they wanted us to focus on and themes around good development management, preserving green space and encouraging appropriate investment in our area emerged. I am delighted with the breadth of entries we received and the opportunity to celebrate the creativity of architects and developers working in our market town and its villages.”*

Graham Clark, developer and resident at the Highly Commended Coach House, added, *“I am pleased to receive this award and consequently an acknowledgement of the hard work in planning, detailing and altering an old Coach House to a new role as a comfortable and fun house. A lot of attention was paid to ensure that details, especially of new windows*

and also brickwork and roof, were traditional as well as practical and also without unnecessary decoration which this building type would never have displayed.”



The Coach House (old)



The Coach House (new)

The ‘Best Development’ Competition was established in 1990 by the then Dorking & District Preservation Society and aims to recognise and promote good building design in Dorking and its surrounding villages. The Best Development Awards will re-open for new nominations in 2026/27 so if you are currently planning or delivering a development in Dorking or its villages and want to take part, please think about how your investment provides ‘social benefit’ to and within the community, sensitivity of design, relevance to surroundings, energy efficiency and, in the case of a redevelopment, the positivity of re-use as a value to and in the community.

David Burton
Dorking Society

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Our nursery took a stroll to the top of
Leith Hill,
We found a fox who was having a chill,
'Where are you going to, little pitter
patters?
Come chat with me and we'll talk
about matters.

It's terribly kind of you fox but no-
We're hiking to find a Gruffalo.
A Gruffalo? What on earth is one of
those?
OK let us explain to you - here goes:

He has wobbly knees and drool that
flows and a green little spot on the top
of his nose!

Where will you find him?
Hopefully right at the top and his
favourite food is sautéed fox!

Sauteed fox? Oh golly no!!
Goodbye nursery children off I go!



And the hunt did not stop there! We
carefully sauntered through the woods
stopping here and there for a climb on
a fallen tree or to peek inside a dusky

den. As we ascended we ticked off
owl, snake and finally the Gruffalo who
did happen to be at the summit!



Spurred on by some exceptional
homemade cake, delightful snacks
and a healthy dose of rolling down
the hill we trekked all the way back
to the carpark. What an amazing feat
with our feet! Thank you hugely to all
the parents that were able to come
and to those who raised a tremendous
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Kate Fairbrass

Here are some great floral photos
from Tanya O'Carroll.
Keep sending them in!



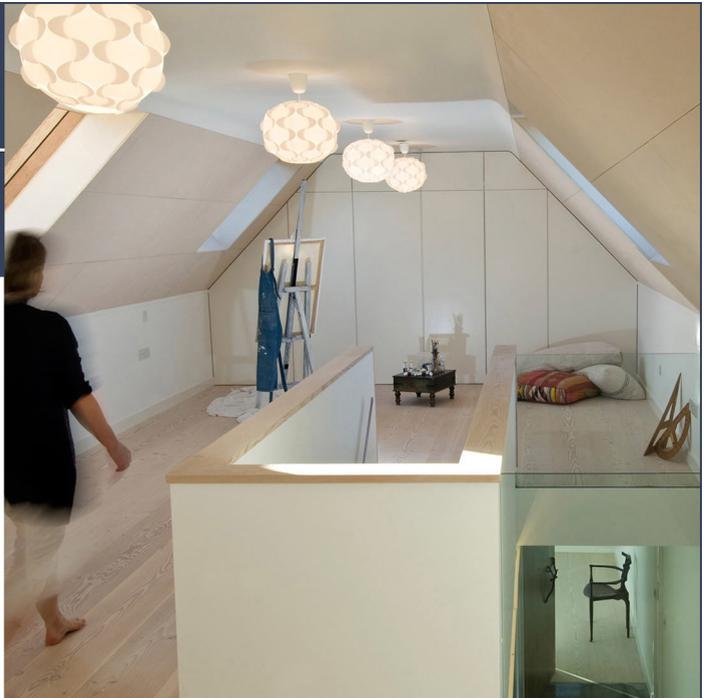
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The Westcott Village Forum is pleased to invite every household in the Neighbourhood Area (Westcott and the surrounds) to complete a Community Survey and if appropriate to also complete the Surrey Community Action Housing Needs Survey. This is your chance to shape the future of our village and the surrounding area. The outcomes of both surveys will be used by the Westcott Village Forum and its working groups to shape the policies within the updated Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan. Please complete the survey(s) by *Sunday 20th July 2025*

1. Community Survey – for every household in the Neighbourhood Area

The Community Survey has been designed to capture your views on a variety of topics, to find out what is important, what you would like to see improved and your thoughts on the future of our local area. All households in the Neighbourhood Area are invited to complete the survey.

Scan the QR code or use this web address to complete the survey online

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Westcottsurvey>



If you prefer a paper copy you can

pick one up from Holy Trinity or drop an email to contact@westcottvillage.com and someone will drop one to your door.

2. Housing Needs Survey by Surrey Community Action – if you plan to move within 5 years

Surrey Community Action are an independent charity that supports rural communities across



Surrey. They have been appointed to undertake a full Housing Needs Survey to assess possible future housing needs in the Westcott Neighbourhood Area. If you are considering moving within the next five years, please also complete this survey, in addition to the Community Survey above.

The individual responses of the Housing Needs Survey are seen only by Surrey Community Action and will be kept strictly confidential. An anonymised report, which protects the personal and sensitive information in the survey, will be presented to the Westcott Village Forum to help inform future housing needs as part of the updated Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan.

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WESTCOTT VILLAGE FORUM (cont.)



www.surveymonkey.com/r/S6DT92J to access the survey online.

If you would prefer a paper copy you can pick one up from Holy Trinity or email Nicola Davidson at Surrey Community Action nicolad@surreyca.org.uk who will arrange for one to be sent to you. A representative from Surrey Community Action also plans to be available at The Community Hub to answer any questions or help you fill in a paper copy of the survey if you wish.

The survey is also relevant to anyone you know who currently lives elsewhere but would like to move in to the area, or someone who moved away because they could not afford to live in the area but would like to return. Please ask them to contact Surrey Community Action by emailing nicolad@surreyca.org.uk to obtain their own survey form.

Thank you for taking the time to submit your views and help shape the future of our community.

Westcott Village Forum

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All proceeds to go to the NGS charities and to GRACE. Any donations of cakes and plants for the plant sale are very welcome. Please park on the Heath and use the entrance at the bottom of the garden.

<http://www.helenthomasdesign.co.uk>

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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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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE



It's been a busy few months at Mole Valley District Council, and we wanted to share some key updates - including potential changes that could reshape local government across Surrey. We're pleased to announce that Mole Valley's Local Plan has been shortlisted for the Royal Town Planning Institute's Awards for Planning Excellence. Among the many features receiving national recognition are two important commitments:

- A requirement that all new developments deliver a net gain in biodiversity, supporting and enhancing our natural surroundings.
- A commitment that at least 40% of new homes be affordable, helping local families, first-time buyers, and younger residents put down roots in areas like Westcott.

The biggest change on the horizon is the Government's plan for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Currently, Surrey has a two-tier system: Surrey County Council handles highways, education, and social care, while Mole Valley District Council looks after housing, planning, waste collection, and leisure. Under LGR, these services would be merged into new unitary authorities - single councils delivering all local government

functions. The aim is to reduce duplication, improve efficiency, and open the door to greater local powers. In February, County Council elections were cancelled, and councils across Surrey were asked to submit their proposals for how the new system should work. At the council meeting in May, Mole Valley supported the two-unitary proposal, where Surrey would be divided into East and West. Under this proposal, Mole Valley would join Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Reigate & Banstead, and Tandridge to form an East Surrey authority.



Of the options presented, we believe this provides a balance between being large enough to streamline services and finances, whilst retaining some locality and sense of place to remain responsive. Critically, the model meets all the criteria set out by the Government and ensures each division would be represented by at least two councillors. Of course, reorganisation brings challenges. The transition will be complex and costly, and although long-term savings are expected, financial uncertainty remains - especially with the Government's new funding model potentially reducing central support. That's why we've written to the Minister of State, Jim McMahon MP, and to

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATE

Surrey County Council, supporting the two-unitary approach while pushing for key safeguards:

- Three councillors per division
- The option to create new town or parish councils in areas like Westcott.
- Protection for valued community assets - including libraries, village halls, and leisure centres.
- Flexibility for new councils to offer enhanced services where residents want them.
- Continued focus on climate commitments.
- A fair funding settlement - including writing off Woking and Spelthorne's debts, which would otherwise burden taxpayers across both new authorities.

Here in Westcott, the question of parish councils is especially relevant. As an unparished area, we may soon be included in a Community Governance Review to explore forming new town or parish councils. In other parts of the country, these have played a vital role in preserving and delivering local services - particularly where larger councils have had to scale back. That said, several questions remain:

- How will smaller parish councils be supported financially and administratively?
- Will services like leisure centres and public toilets continue to receive funding?
- What happens if the Government does not write off existing council debts?
- How will residents' views be gathered and reflected?
- And what shape will local democracy

take under the new system?

LGR Timeline at a Glance:

- December 2024 – Government publishes Devolution White Paper
- February 2025 – County Council elections cancelled
- May 2025 – Proposals for new unitaries submitted
- Summer/Autumn 2025 – Government reviews proposals
- Early 2026 – Shadow Authorities formed
- May 2026 – Elections to new councils
- April 2027 – New authorities take full control

Mole Valley continues to serve residents while preparing for this once-in-a-generation reform: ensuring Westcott's voice is heard every step of the way.

Lastly, please join us for a Town Hall meeting with our new MP, Chris Coghlan, on Monday 21st July, 6–9pm at St John's Chapel, Westcott.



It's a great chance to meet Chris, ask questions, and discuss the issues that matter to you. As a Parliamentary event, all are welcome.

With warmest wishes,

Abhi, Chris and Leah

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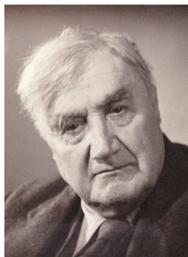
DORKING MUSEUM

A Place of Safety:



The Museum's s u m m e r exhibition, *A Place of Safety*, tells the stories of the various groups of refugees who have found refuge in Dorking and the surrounding villages, and their experiences of generous support – and occasional conflict. 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 5th July, 10am-2pm, *Create a Blue Plaque for Yourself!* How would you like to be remembered in the future? What are your hopes and dreams? Create a blue plaque to commemorate the life you hope to lead! Thursday 7th August, 10am-2pm, for Dinosaur Week, *Dinosaurs Briefing Room* includes spectacular models from the 'Hidden in Stone' exhibition by Southampton University. Free events, materials provided, aimed at 4-11-year-olds.

Dorking Halls Family Fun Day:

On Sunday 20th July, 11am-4pm, Meadowbank is the venue for this family-friendly annual event, with lots for all ages to get involved in, to try, take part in, and enjoy. With free entry, there will be live music and performances, stalls to browse, food and drink to buy and a funfair. Dorking Museum will be there, so look out for our stall, come along for a chat and find out more about our activities.

Walking in Dorking:

Explore the area's magnificent heritage with the Museum's popular programme of guided walks. On the edge of town, a Betchworth Castle tour



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| Monday August 25th | 2pm - 4pm |
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DORKING MUSEUM (cont.)

includes exclusive access to the Castle enclosure, the romantic ruin of the only remaining fortified medieval manor house in Surrey: Sundays 13th July and 17th August, 2pm, from the entrance to Betchworth Park Golf Club. Nearby, our guided walk takes in the magnificent views on the Deepdene Trail, including exclusive access to the grade 2* Hope family mausoleum: Sunday 20th July, 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': Sundays 13th July and 17th August, 2pm. 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: Sundays 27th July, 2pm, and 3rd August, 6.15pm, from the Cubitt statue opposite Dorking Halls. Our ever-popular Dorking Historic Pub Walk reveals stories of hostleries, pubs and inns both past and present (and of their landlords and

customers): Saturday 9th August, 6pm.

All walks last around an hour and a half and should be booked in advance: details and booking at dorkingmuseum.org.uk/guided-walks-around-dorking/. Walks also available for private groups: see website for details, enquiries and group booking.

South Street Caves tours:

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Dorking Museum, 62 West Street, Dorking RH4 1BS. Open Thursdays 1pm-4pm, Fridays and Saturdays 10am-4pm, free entry. www.dorkingmuseum.org.uk. 01306 876591.

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The full moon in July is on the 10th this year, and is known as the Buck Moon after the appearance of antlers on male deer that occurs this month.

In August, it is on the 9th and named the Sturgeon Moon after the abundant fishing available now.

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MUSIC IN DORKING



12th at 4.00, Leatherhead choral society in Tithe Barn, Bookham, £18

As the concert season winds to a close and everyone enjoys a summer break from rehearsing and concert-giving, it just remains to mention the summer concert by the Leatherhead Choral Society. Held in the Tithe Barn, Manorhouse Lane, Bookham, this will be an afternoon of Shakespeare-themed music and readings, with refreshments, in the amazing atmosphere of a mediaeval tithe barn. Tickets are available on the internet.

To whet your appetite for next season: the Dorking Concertgoers have their usual enterprising series of concerts planned, including three visits from the Carducci string quartet and an appearance in December from the Grimethorpe Colliery Band; the Dorking choral society will be singing Haydn's 'Nelson' mass in November; and next year's Leith Hill Festival will include Haydn's glorious Creation, music by Vaughan Williams, and a concert of baroque music. Full details to follow!

Ian Codd

DESERT ISLAND DISCS



Reverend Tim Armstrong

Imagine if you will a cross between Anthony Trollope's Warden and BBC's Vicar of Dibley and that's my impression of this month's castaway. The Reverend Tim has Mr. Harding's depths of faith and desire to serve his community and Geraldine's warmth, humour and accessibility. He does not of course have her girth, he is fit, running most days, nor the narrowness of outlook of Barchester clerics. He is widely read, with interests spanning Dostoevsky to Hardy, and open to challenge.

There are seven steps to becoming a C of E vicar. First you have to join the Church of England. Tim grew up in a Christian family by virtue of his

father being a vicar. His early life was spent in Shropshire where music and singing were very much the order of the day with the dining table ringing with verses of Flanders and Swann's *The gas man cometh* voiced by the four young Armstrongs. Tim's was a happy upbringing where, he says, his parents' faith and service were his living reality. Although never pushed and despite his share of teenage angst in which Indie Rock featured, Tim pretty much always knew he too wanted to serve. Ruling out being a vicar, he had more romantic ideas of a missionary vocation. This was fueled by what he described as an early transformative experience offered to him by his father.

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DESERT ISLAND DISCS (cont.)



old Tim had been was Wolverhampton when his Dad invited him to a project in Nepal. Those two weeks in Kathmandu hooked Tim, leading to his second step of completing a theological degree at Redcliff College, Gloucester. Here he was immersed in the multiple nationalities of fellow students creating liturgy from their various heritages. This exposure was further explored through his study of anthropology. But it was also a time for questioning, guided by a favourite philosophy professor inspiring students to take their walls down and dig into their roots. The cross cultural and searching themes are reflected in Tim's disc choices: *Gone* by the band Switchfoot and Chopin's *Prelude Opus. 28, No. 15*, also known as *Raindrops*. The first is from an album, *The Beautiful Letdown* all about the human condition, and the second by way of contrast is more meditative, allowing time to ground his beliefs.

His third step took a while as he was not quite ready to jettison his plans for missionary work in South East Asia. He took a six week placement in Peckham which turned out to be a wonderful mix of African, Caribbean, South American, Indian and Bangladeshi. It was here Tim met Jenny. Marrying in 2010, they danced to *One Love* by Bob Marley and the Wailers. Tim's choice of Guvna B's song *Nothing but the Blood* represents something of the challenging demands of youth work which he and Jenny carried out

for seven years. Then he had what he described as a sudden awakening, a palpable push towards parish life. With Jenny's support, he took his forth step and further training at St John's College, Durham. In keeping with the splendour of the cathedral, Tim chose Thomas Tallis' lovely choral piece *Spem in Allium (Hope in the other)* and the quieter *Come thou Fount* by Kings Kaleidoscope.

Spending his curacy in Southfields being ordained as a deacon (step 5) then as a vicar (step 6) taking his final step of being licenced, Tim was free to apply to a parish. He and Jenny poured over parish profiles courtesy of unlimited coffee in Wetherspoon's and the one for Westcott he thought fitted him to a tee. The rest as they say, is history. His final musical choice is Duke Ellington's *Mean a Thing* which contains the line 'give it everything you got' which is the signature of Tim's commitment to all our community here in Westcott.

His choice of luxury was his running shoes and the one record he would cherish is *Come Thou Fount* which he says reminds him of his core beliefs. And the book, *the Narnia Chronicles* by C.S. Lewis. I think he can be permitted to have the seven volumes in a compendium in keeping with the seven steps that brought him to Westcott.

Jennifer Brown

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GREEN WESTCOTT

The Beauty of Butterflies

A brief glimpse of a butterfly fluttering in the sunshine is a sight that fills my heart with joy. It is especially wonderful to have the chance to observe the intricate patterns on their delicate wings, as they soak up energy from the sun.



Transience

A butterfly's fleeting beauty evokes of the delicacy of life. Their lifespan is short – ranging from a week to a month – and reminds of the precious nature of life, encouraging us to be fully present in the here and now.

Their sensitivity to weather, limited range (some butterflies never leave their own woodland!) and short lifecycle means that butterflies adapt quickly to changes in their environment. Therefore, they can be a valuable indicator – both for overall habitat health and for the wellbeing of other insects. Because we are attracted to them and it is relatively easy to tell one species from another, butterflies are one of the best-monitored insects globally.

Alarmingly, research shows that the number of butterflies in the UK has been decreasing over the past 50 years, with over a third of species being in significant decline. This is largely due to lack of suitable habitats caused by changes in farming practices and the growth of industrialised agriculture - which relies heavily on the use of pesticides - and urbanisation. Climate breakdown is also impacting butterflies. The wet spring of 2024 coupled with the late arrival of summer heat resulted in a dramatic fall in the



number of butterflies observed during the annual Big Butterfly Count, leading wildlife charity, Butterfly Conservation, to declare a national 'butterfly emergency'.

Being an indicator of how the natural world is faring, this is a stark warning sign for all life on our planet, including us humans. Moreover, butterflies and their caterpillars play a valuable role in the food chain, including in the diet of birds and their offspring. Fewer caterpillars means fewer birds.

Hope & Transformation

Butterflies are deeply symbolic, particularly because of their unique lifecycle. The process by which a caterpillar transforms, into a cocoon



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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)



and then emerges as a beautiful butterfly, is a powerful metaphor for significant life changes and unforeseen possibilities. This inspires hope. When we fully appreciate the deep entanglements between humans and the web of life, we become aware of our interdependence and the reciprocal role that we can play in the world.

Our role

Humans have a great ability to learn and adapt. Thanks to the dedicated work of many lepidopterists, from Richard South, who wrote a guide on 'Butterflies of the British Isles' in 1906, to local butterfly expert Gail Jeffcoate, we have a wealth of information on how to work in harmony with the natural world to regenerate habitat to help butterflies.

Adult butterflies mostly feed on nectar, which they will take from wildflowers and cultivated garden flowers, and wildflowers. To attract them, grow plants to provide nectar all through from spring to autumn, including:

aubretia, Buddleia, candytuft, hebe, sedum, lavender, michaelmas daisy, marjoram, perennial wallflower, red valerian, verbena bonariensis. And don't forget the importance of messier, uncultivated areas for wildflowers too.

Looking after butterflies is not simply just a matter of providing nectar rich plants for them to feed on. To increase their numbers, they need to reproduce, and different types of butterflies need specific plants, that their caterpillars have evolved to feed on, on which to lay their eggs (please see the list at the end of this article). And anyone who has read the wonderful children's book *The Hungry Caterpillar*, will have an idea of the amount of food a caterpillar needs to prepare for the incredible transformation it will go through!

Additionally, please help feed into the bigger picture of how butterflies are faring by taking part in the 2025 Big Butterfly Count. This runs from 18th July to 10th August and people are asked to spend 15 minutes (preferably in sunny weather) counting the different butterflies you see wherever you are – walking along the street, in a park, woodlands or your garden. For more information search Big Butterfly Count on the internet or contact us at info@greenwestcott.org I, for one, cannot bear to think of a world without butterflies. With their notable decline nature is sounding an alarm

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GREEN WESTCOTT (cont.)

call! We must act now to stop harmful practices and help create and protect habitats in which butterflies and their caterpillars can thrive, so that our children and grandchildren will have the chance to know their beauty too.

Plants for Breeding Butterflies

Here are some specific plants which butterflies need to lay their eggs:

Holly – Holly Blue will lay spring brood on holly buds

Ivy – Holly Blue late summer brood on flower buds. (Red Admirals feed on this too)

Alder Buckthorn- Brimstone

Cuckooflower (Ladies' smock) – orange tips

Nettles – peacocks, commas, red admirals, small tortoiseshells

Nasturtiums (and brassicas!) – Large

White and Small White



Blackthorn – Brown Hairstreak lays in September on young shoots (many are lost when hedges are cut)

Common Sorrel – Small copper

Birdsfoot trefoil – Common Blue

Many eggs are lost when areas of long grass and hedges are cut in the late summer and autumn. Leave some areas uncut to help them survive.

Jakki Phillips

Organ Celebration and History Talk Saturday 20th September; 7- 8pm Holy Trinity Church, Westcott

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INTERESTING DATES IN JULY AND AUGUST

July

1st 1838 Charles Darwin presented a paper to the Linnean Society in London, on his theory of the evolution of species and natural selection.



9th 1877 The inaugural Lawn Tennis Championship was played on top of the croquet lawns at Wimbledon, Spencer W Gore taking the men's singles title.

14th 1858 Birth of Emmeline Pankhurst, English suffragette who suffered imprisonment in order to gain the vote for women

26th 1978 The world's first test-tube baby is born in Oldham General Hospital near Manchester. Gynecologist Patrick Steptoe and physiologist Dr Robert Edwards are credited with this pioneering work.

30th 1966 England win the FIFA World Cup Jules Rimet trophy at Wembley Stadium in London after beating Germany 4-2 in extra time.



August

3rd 1926 Britain's first set of electric traffic lights appear on the streets of London.

4th 1914 Britain declared war on Germany in support of Belgium and France, and on Turkey because of her alliance with Germany.



5th 1962 Nelson Mandela imprisoned for attempting to overthrow South Africa's apartheid rule.

11th 1897 Birth of children's writer Enid Blyton, who sold more than 600 million books.

24th 1875 Captain Matthew Webb started his attempt from Dover in Kent, to become the first person to swim the English Channel. He reached Calais, France at 10.40am the following morning, having been in the water for 22 hours.

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