

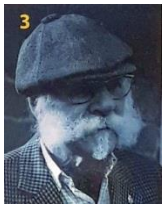
## Westerham Town Partnership Newsletter November 2021



### The Country Fayre

We were delighted to help get the party going again with the Country Fayre on the Green on September 18<sup>th</sup>. With a record variety of stalls, the sun shone and the music played on. We plan to repeat the joint event with the Westerham Horticultural Society again next year. Thanks to all our volunteers and to the

Council and the Westerham Society for their sponsorship and to our wonderful musicians and especially to all our Proud to do Business subscribers without which events like this would not be possible.



**Who do you think they are?** As we all emerged from lockdown, we had the idea to create an outdoor picture quiz, using faces from the past 100 years of people whose story you could find on the Westerham Society's website [www.westerhamheritage.org.uk](http://www.westerhamheritage.org.uk). Lots of people stopped to look at the A boards but there were less quiz entries than we had hoped for. Was it really that hard, or was everybody too busy meeting old friends outdoors again and looking to the future?

**Tell us another story.** We can all conjure up a flavour of the past when we know the stories behind the pictures. Historian Bill Curtis, who has his feet in both the Town Partnership and the Westerham Society, spent some of lockdown selecting old photos to create virtual tours about town. Some were on display at our Country Fayre, but any time you go to the Heritage website you can slip back in time. Go to "Heritage Trails" and drive into town down Westerham Hill, or up Vicarage Hill, walk along the High Street and stop at the ironmongers and do some shopping and have a drink at one of our fourteen pubs.

*Westerham Heritage*



**Heritage Trail** Back in 2015 WTP created the first three sites on the 'Talking Town Heritage Trail' with Plaques for General Wolfe, Sir Winston Churchill and Alice in Wonderland which let you listen to re-enactments on your smartphone. We hope to create 17 more sites and during lockdown flour more scripts were written and three recorded. Soon we hope you will be able to listen to stories about the Railway, the workhouse in Quebec Sq and the philanthropist who started Westerham's first library and lived in The Grange.

### Welcome and farewell

It was sad to see some of our shops leaving town but good to see new businesses appearing. We are grateful to all our faithful business subscribers who help to fund our activities. We bade farewell to Rev Kevin Barnard and Caroline as they embarked on their next adventure and are delighted to welcome Rev Dave Fox-Branch as the new Priest-in-charge at St Mary's together with his wife Jo.

**New Town Signs** A few years ago, after discussions with the Town Council and KCC, the Town Partnership agreed to sponsor some new finger posts to direct visitors around town. More recently,

there have been discussions about new “Gateway Signs” on the major roads in to town. We’re hoping there should be some examples to look at early in 2022.

**Remembrance Sunday** reminded us that it is now 102 years since the end of the WWI and 76 since the end of WWII. A total of **79 Westerham men** left town never to return. In 2018, we had 50 ceramic poppies hand cast by Aylesford Pottery to mark the end of WWI. We would like to find a way to display them for the future. One idea is to ask the current owners of the homes where these men once lived whether they would like a poppy to keep by the fireside, or maybe by the front door. We have created a list of these addresses and if you happen to be the present owner, you will receive a letter over the coming weeks.



### Telephone Box

Thanks to Nik and Anna for their work in restoring and decorating the telephone box on Verralls Corner. The box was bought for £1 some years ago and is jointly managed by the Town Partnership and the Westerham Society. It has become a “History Pod” and has a picture of Hubert Verrall at work at the Forge opposite. It is proposed to display other items both ancient and modern themes in to catch the eye of passers-by. Maybe you have some ideas for a display?



### Town Centre Stakeholder Workshops

You may have been approached by SDC to take part in various consultations regarding strategic planning. The Town Partnership team took part in a Zoom discussion with SDC planners on our town centre and also on a District Character Study, both of which look to inform future development. WTP is keen to promote a bus service along the A25 corridor between Oxted and Sevenoaks and other projects to help us all reduce our carbon footprint.



### The Three R’s: Recycle, Re-purpose and Repair

**“It will cost you more to repair than to buy a new one”**

We have all heard this before and it’s often true. But as there is no Planet B, we can’t go on like this. Where are the wizards in Westerham who would like to fix things and reduce landfill? *Men in Sheds* can give us advice, but we need volunteers and a home. Mail us at [info@visitwesterham.org.uk](mailto:info@visitwesterham.org.uk) and get in touch !



### Beating the Bounds Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

We’ve already started planning this with the Westerham Society and Edenbridge and Westerham Rotary for Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. We hope that children from Churchill School will once again dance around the maypole under the expert eyes of our Town Crier John Scholey and his wife Liz and we can again welcome new young talent from the music department at Knole Academy and other favourites, and as always our Scouts and Sea Cadets, alongside local charities and lots for stalls.



**WTP AGM. Look out for notice of the date for our AGM early in the new year.**

Westerham Town Partnership formed 2010 is a Community Interest Company  
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