

## Westerham Town Partnership Newsletter March 2023



We are delighted to report that the **Concert by Cabrera Ensemble** raised £2336 for the Ukraine Relief Group in Tunbridge Wells. The concert opened with the Ukrainian National Anthem and included music by Mozart, Brahms and Elgar, ending with a spirited performance of a famous Brahms Hungarian Rhapsody. Richard Akehurst who founded the charity exactly a year ago, showed a moving video about life in Ukraine. If you would like to contribute goods to be utilised by refugees or forwarded to Ukraine, Ron Alexander has set up a drop-off point in Brasted. Call him on 01959 561245.

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April Alice's EGGcellent Adventure Trail



Alice Hargreaves, for whom Lewis Carroll wrote the famous stories, spent the last years of her life in Westerham. This year, the Saturday week before Easter, there will be a competition trail around town to hunt for clues in shop windows and win a special egg. The Mad Hatter and several well-known characters, including Alice, are due to make an appearance. Put the date in your diary, look out for posters around town and check out [www.visitwesterham.org.uk/whats-on/alices-eggcellent-adventure-trail](http://www.visitwesterham.org.uk/whats-on/alices-eggcellent-adventure-trail) and Facebook .

**Community News - Westerham's new Community Hub** Work has been underway during the winter months in St Mary's John Fryth Room. Following some community fundraising, Carlton Whitfield has magically been at work with his paintbrushes and created a welcoming new space for events in Westerham. There's another opportunity to help raise funds with a quiz on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May at Grasshopper on the Green.



### Westerham and Crockham Hill's Annual Town Meeting Wednesday 26th April from 7.30pm.

The Town Council would like residents to find out more about how to volunteer with the agencies and community organisations that cover Westerham and Crockham Hill. Come and meet your council and see what is going on in your community- and learn who is standing for the **Council Elections on May 4<sup>th</sup>**

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May Beating the Bounds, the Rotary Fair and Maypole on the Green

Churchill School children will dancing around the maypole on Bank Holiday Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May and Punch and Judy and stalls and music and food will be competing for your attention – possibly after an early start to take part in the annual Beating of the Bounds, arranged by the Westerham Society. Why not try one of the shorter sections The Westerham Scouts and Sea Cadets will be raising money for their own activities. If you'd like to get involved in the day, email [info@visitwesterham.org.uk](mailto:info@visitwesterham.org.uk).





## The Coronation Weekend 6 – 8<sup>th</sup> May

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May Coronation Picnic on the Green.** Dress up, bring your picnic and listen to live music from Ian Fox 1.00pm to 3.30pm. The best dressed shop window competition will be judged that day on social media.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May The Big Help Out Day.** An opportunity to find out how you can help in the community, or to tell others about your own ideas and talk to Kent Wildlife, DRiPS and other local societies. Come and meet up on the Green.

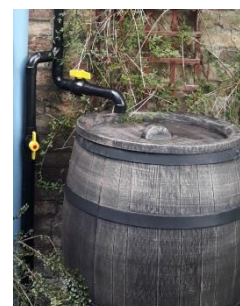
**Community News – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2pm Churchill School PTA presents “Happy’s Circus comes to Town”** - Acrobats, Aerialists, Magicians and Dancers – plus comedy thrown in from Mr Happy and Serhiy, the Clown. Opens 12 noon. £10 entrance fee, book via Churchill School PTA Facebook.



### Community News –

#### The River Darent needs Your Help

You may have seen Thames Water clearing the sewer pipes in the fields – they are not sure what caused the blockage but we all need to think before we “flush things away”. You’ll probably already know that winter rains haven’t been able to fill our aquifers and it’s time to prepare for another dry summer. Perhaps it’s time to buy another water butt?



Maybe you can see how you can intercept grey water from your bathroom. DRiPS (aka the Darent River Preservation Society) asks you to think how you can support nature. When water levels are low, any pollution can be fatal for river life. Please think about how to share water with other life that needs it too. Spring is coming - it will soon be “No Mow May” again.



**Community News - Plastic Pollution is killing our rivers.** We all need to thank the NWKCP (North West Kent Countryside Partnership) workparty in February, who pulled more stuff out of the river alongside King George’s Field. It looks fairly innocuous, but left in the river, plastic breaks up and degrades until it becomes impossible to recover and it gets washed out to sea, gobbled up by fish and quite likely served back to us. They collected 1260 items including 62 plastic bags, 38 food containers, 51 drinks bottles, 68 metal cans, 31 nappies, 36 wet wipes.... They were last here in August!



**Kent Wildlife - and Community Payback** Kent Wildlife’s Greensands Commons project team was working at Farley Common in March – what a great band of volunteers. And the Tunbridge Wells Community Payback scheme has been working there too. They help to look after St Mary’s Churchyard and tidy some of Westerham’s footpaths.



### And finally, another date for your diary

**Saturday 16<sup>h</sup> September - Country Fayre and Horticultural Show**

Westerham Town Partnership is a Community Interest Company formed in 2010  
Directors: Bill Curtis, Christina Cusick, Melvin Debono, Stuart Merrylees, Nick Tonge  
Website: [www.visitwesterham.org.uk](http://www.visitwesterham.org.uk) Email: [info@visitwesterham.org.uk](mailto:info@visitwesterham.org.uk)