

Westerham Town Partnership Newsletter October 2022

Rotary Fair and Beating the Bounds

Westerham celebrated May Bank Holiday Monday and it was good to see Churchill School children dancing around the maypole once more.

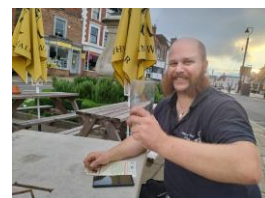
Accompanied by our Town Crier on the accordion, it felt like pre-Covid times again. The Rotary Fair on the Green was busy with lots of stalls, live music and Punch & Judy. Whip-the-cloth raised money for a Ukrainian charity through the ever-encouraging showmanship of Martin Kelly and Rob Brown. The Westerham Society 'Beating the Bounds' walking event was expertly managed by David and Richard and their team, while the Scouts ran a Jubilee Quiz along the North Downs part of the trail.



Platinum Jubilee and memories of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Sadly, as far as we know, the Queen never came to Westerham. Not being able to light a real beacon on the Green, we organised an electric beacon and sang British and Ukrainian national anthems. Our Jubilee Tea Party in a marquee on the Green was led by the Sea Cadets. We played music from some of our popular local musicians and community singing with a commemorative songbook was led by Katy Secombe. We took turns to gather around Her Majesty's official cardboard image and had a lovely day. Your Majesty, you were Long to Reign over us, now Rest in Peace. *Pictured Rev Dave and Jo Fox-Branch.*

Country Fayre Following a three-hour meeting with the Church, the Town Council, Westerham Society and several local residents on Friday September 9th we took the difficult decision to cancel the Country Fayre out of respect following the sad death of the Queen. We could not see how the event could be run without music and entertainment and felt we had no other choice. The result was also cancellation of the Horticultural Society's late summer show and the standing down of Carl Wise from Muttonchop Forge who we were all looking forward to welcoming as a working country craftsman.



School Bus services In July we were all appalled to discover that TW4 and S1 buses serving schools in Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks were to cease. Many local residents and families who would suffer wrote to KCC alongside the Town Council and the Town Partnership and we're glad to say that the decision was reversed.



Parking Charges An unexpected development from Sevenoaks D.C. Everyone did their best to argue the case and the Town Partnership and Town Council lobbied against the plans, but the minimum charge for parking went up from 10p to 50p and it's no longer possible for visitors to park free for the first 3 hours in the Darent Car Park.



Community Payback The Town Partnership is delighted to report that it is working with the Tunbridge Wells Probation Service again. The Community Payback scheme will be helping to look after St Mary's Churchyard and will do maintenance work around Farley Common working alongside members of the Kent Wildlife Greensand Commons project.



Heritage Trail A few years ago, WTP created the first three sites of a '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. Our first public library opened in 1922. Guess where? You can now listen to the story – it's today's *Rendezvous*. Coming, soon, the story of Westerham's Workhouse (now demolished, in Quebec Square, opposite Quebec House).



Welcome and farewell

It was sad to see some of our shops leaving town but good to see new businesses appearing. We bade farewell to Krasi, Sir Winston's Tea Rooms, Westerham Pet Shop and The Real Ale Way. We give a hearty welcome to Calissa Restaurant, Gaia Homeware, Brunch and the wonderfully restored George and Dragon which now has 13 rooms for visitors.

We remain grateful to all our faithful business subscribers who help to fund our activities, along with our newly recruited 'Patrons'.

We also said farewell to Owl, Otter and Squirrel. Carved out of a fallen tree by our Sussex Chainsaw friend Alasdair Craig, perhaps we could have cared for them better. Do you have any ideas for their replacements?



Our Telephone Box through the Seasons

Our thanks to Nik and Anna and their creative family skills including their tribute to the enduring courage of the Ukrainian soldiers.

Halloween has just swept past us and before long the Christmas tree will reappear with a new seasonal twist.

The Christmas Lights Switch-on Thurs 24th November 5pm-7pm

The event is organised by our Town Council, Westerham Society (who provide the tree) and Churchill School who provide the Choir, Quebec House who host carol singing and the Town Partnership who have helped arrange for Father Christmas to be in town that night. Switch on will be at 6pm.



Alice's Eggcellent Adventure Trail 2023.

On Saturday April 1st, a week before Easter, shops will be invited to decorate their windows with some extra things to remind us of Alice in Wonderland - and display clues for families to take part in a trail around town. There will be activities on the Green and prizes for the best Easter bonnet or hat.

Do you remember this event in 2017? Take a look at the Flickr album on the Visit Westerham website and see if you recognise anyone you know...

Date for your 2023 Diary: St Mary's Church Sunday afternoon 12th Feb 2023
Concert for Ukraine – A Virtuoso Piano Trio plays Mozart, Brahms and Elgar.



Town Partnership 2022 AGM. You are invited to a meeting at 6pm upstairs in the Grasshopper on the Green on 8th December to hear the latest news from the Town Partnership. All welcome.

Westerham Town Partnership is a Community Interest Company formed in 2010
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