



# THE WESTWELL EYE

198

August

2019

## **The Wheel** **Normal Menu and Special Deals**

+

**EVERY WEEK**

**Wednesday Night: Burger Night**

**Thursday Night: Tapas**

**Thursday 22nd August: Quiz Night**

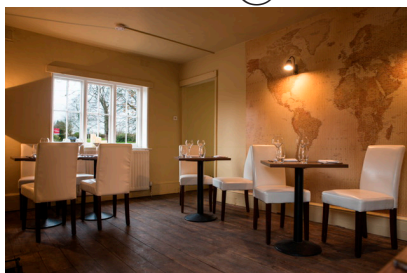
**Friday Night: Fish Night apart from:**

**Last Friday of the Month: Chinese Takeaway**

**Saturday Night: Steak Night**

**Contact: 01233 712223**

**info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk**



SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Sept 1	2	3	4	1	2	3
	7pm Fitness		NO Fistssteps	R.F.W 9.15am Pilates	10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7th Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion	7pm Fitness	7.30pm Players	NO Fistssteps	Re.F.T. 9.15am Pilates 7.30pm WI Meeting		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8th Sunday of Trinity 11am Iona Eucharist	1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness	Book Club - p13 7.30pm Players 8pm Fete meeting the Wheel	NO Fistssteps	R.F.W. 9.15am Pilates		10am - 12noon Fete Collection Parish Hall
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9th Sunday of Trinity 11am Family Service	1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness		NO Fistssteps	Re.F.T. 9.15am Pilates		10am - 2pm Set-up Fete
25		27	28	29	30	31
NO SERVICE 8.30am - 12noon Fete set up 1pm - 5pm Fete 5pm - 10pm Music & BBQ The Wheel			NO Fistssteps	NO Pilates		

## From the Editor's desk...

There has been so much sadness in the village, I am sure you would like to join me in sending condolences to all those family and friends who have been bereaved in the last few months. Theq main event in Westwell happens this month, yes it's fete time again. Read all about it on page 3. Your help is needed in numerous ways, I am sure you could all volunteer for something! If that's not possible then make sure you turn up and enjoy yourself on the day! Not only is August fete time, but it is my usual time to plead to keep the young of Westwell (and every other village) safe. Round every bend in the road there could be a young person on a bike, a horse or stradling the road chasing a ball or talking to friends. Please make them aware, without stifling their independence and if you are behind the wheel be extra vigilant; lecture over!

*Carolyn Thorneloe* 

### Thank You

I would like to say a very big **Thank You** to all friends who attended my Tony's funeral on 19th June. I had so many complimentary remarks on the service, the friendship of everyone there and of course the very welcome spread we had at the Beefeater afterwards. Thank you too to all those kind and wonderful people who contributed to Tony's and my chosen charities; Diabetes UK and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Thanks also to all those who sent beautiful cards, which, with their lovely sentiments, I will always treasure. God bless you all, my lovely Westwellians, I hope to see some of you soon.

*Pat Richardson, Park Farm*

<b>2nd August</b>	<b>10.30am Coffee in The Wheel</b>
<b>12th, 19th</b>	<b>1.30pm Art Group</b>
<b>13th August</b>	<b>The Wheel</b>
<b>17th August</b>	<b>11am Book Club + 8pm Fete Meeting p13</b>
<b>22nd August</b>	<b>10am -12noon Fete collection p3</b>
<b>24th / 25th August</b>	<b>7pm Quiz - the Wheel</b>
	<b>10am-2pm Fete set-up and 1-5pm Fete p3</b>

The views of any contributor to this publication may not necessarily be those of the editor and team, nor can the Westwell Eye accept any responsibility in connection with any companies or organisations mentioned or any advertiser.

Correspondence to: Carolyn Thorneloe, Gaoler's Retreat, 5, Faversham Road, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2PN.Tel: 01622 859376, Email: westwellye@gmail.com

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## Useful Contacts

### Telephone Numbers

Age UK	642094
Ashford Volunteer Bureau	665535
Ashford Volunteer Car Service	633219
Bees (swarming)	
Andy Bithell	740650 / 07933892413
Borough Councillor:	
Larry Krause	01233 643497
CAB	626185
Carers Support Group	664393
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Citizens' Advice Bureau	626185
Cruse Bereavement Counselling	878225
Doctors (Charing)	01233 714490
(Hayesbank)	624642
Dog Warden	01233 330340
Hospital (William Harvey)	633331
CROP	01622 851200
Library (Ashford)	03000413131
(Charing)	713177
MS Therapy Centre	01227 470876
NHS Direct	0845 4647
NSPCC	0800 800500
Parish Hall Booking	01233 712016
	doriscackett@btinternet.com
Parish Council (clerk, Sue Wood)	623902
Pilgrims' Hospice (Admin)	504100
(Patient enquiries)	504112
PCC Secretary (Heather Lister)	712981
Police (rural matters only – crime should be reported on 101 or 999)	07980978202
Samaritans	610000
Shopmobility	621196
Solicitor (Thorneloe & Co.)	01622 859416
Victim Support	0845 30 30 900
Water Supplies Queries	0333 000 0002
Water Leak Line	0333 000 3330
Wealden Wheels	01233 840000
Westwell Community Website:	
<a href="http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/">http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/</a>	

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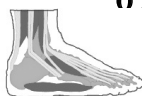
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## Westwell Fete : This month!

Buy a Raffle Ticket – great prizes; Be part of the team: sell raffle tickets  
 Contacts Doris 712016; Sue 623902; Christine 07796930430

Meeting : Tuesday 13th August 8pm at The Wheel.

Final meeting for the Fete. If you are part of the set up team on Saturday 24th or running a stall on Sunday 25th please come along. This meeting is an important briefing to make sure all points are covered and questions answered.

Collections Saturday 17th August 10am – 12 midday at the Westwell Parish Hall.

Bring chipped and broken crockery and china - for the China Smashing. No glass.

Bring unwanted gifts for the Tombola

Bring clean items for the Bric- a- brac

Advance setting up On Saturday 24th August. 10am – 2pm

Come and be part of the team.

Team of 8 needed to install the large stall tents.

White-line marking team for stall layout and arena.

Fete Day Sunday 25th August

8.30 – 12.00 setting up: stalls, gazebos, tables,

Bring cakes for the cake stall, homemade jams and chutneys for the Produce stall .

Bring bags of apples, plums, beans, courgettes/ marrows etc for the produce stall;

1pm The Fete. Opened by Rev Sheila Cox (asking God to keep the rain away please!)

Bring your children, grandchildren, friends, dogs, running shoes and some money for a fun day. Childrens races – and adults too this year, plus all the usual favourites;

Tug of war, Cow pat, Egg throwing etc

4.30 Raffle draw.

5pm Put everything away and move to the Wheel for music

Outside from 5-10pm and inside till late. BBQ serving from 5pm at the Wheel.

See the Insert in this Eye with all the details of the Fete. See you there !

STOP PRESS: The Chillybillies will be headlining at the Wheel!

## Time for tea?

Imagine how it must feel to be stuck in your house, with nobody to talk to and no means of getting out. That's the reality for many people today, and that isolation can have a massive impact on people's physical and mental wellbeing. Ashford Volunteer Centre is helping reduce this loneliness in two ways: by matching people who have a little time to spare with people who would like to receive regular visits, and by providing a transport service to help people get out and about.

If you have some time to spare, would you consider becoming a volunteer driver? Or perhaps you could make someone's week by having a cup of tea, sharing a hobby or playing games with someone in the village? In doing so, you could have a direct and positive impact on someone's life.

If these don't quite fit with your other commitments, there are many other opportunities to volunteer. To find out more call Lindsay on 01233 665535, email [contact@ashfordvc.org.uk](mailto:contact@ashfordvc.org.uk) or visit [www.ashfordvc.org.uk](http://www.ashfordvc.org.uk).

**Lindsay Wratten | Volunteer services coordinator**





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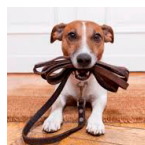
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## Refill: A New Scheme to Reduce Single Use Plastic Bottles

Ashford Borough Council are supporting a new nationwide scheme to encourage people to refill their reusable water bottles on the go rather than buy a new bottle of water, therefore helping to reduce plastic waste. Over 40 businesses have already signed up in the Ashford area alone, including our very own Wheel Inn and Hare and Hounds! The Halfway House at Challock, Vision Hair and Beauty in Eurka Cafe and The Pheasant pub are also on board, as are four pubs in Wye, The Swan at Little Chart, Black Horse at Pluckley, and many cafes in central Ashford. ABC has also installed a free water bottle refill fountain in Park Mall.

Wherever you see a business displaying the sticker below, you know your request for a refill will be well received, and you can also download the Refill App onto your phone which will show you the location of your nearest Refill station anywhere in the country! If you would like any more information about the scheme please contact Lucy on 07980658656.



**1st Charing Scout Group**



We've had a fabulous term with all our young people! The wonderful weather in June meant that our meetings were outside giving us lots of opportunities for nature trails, pioneering projects, athletics and so much more. Scouts are now getting ready for camp.

At the moment, when our young people reach the age of 14 they have to leave Charing and find an explorer unit elsewhere. Now that our new headquarters is up and running we are starting an explorer unit in Charing. We're not sure yet exactly when this will start but it won't just be for our scouts. Anyone aged 14-18 can join. We are also looking for more leaders to help and to enjoy the adventure

[gsl\\_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk) **Terry Lister**

### Plans

The following were approved by the Borough Council:

18/00022/AS & 18/00023/AS Park House Farm, Westwell Lane

19/00356/AS Oakover Nurseries, Maidstone Road

The following were due to be discussed at a Parish Council meeting called for late July:

19/00943/AS Bridgewood Farm, Watery Lane

19/00951/AS Tylers, The Street

**The Old Forge:** An appeal has been lodged at the Planning Inspectorate against the refused planning application 18/00876/AS for a single dwelling on land at the rear of the Old Forge.

The Inspector's decision will be by written procedure and representations need to be emailed to the Planning Inspectorate no later than 28th August. For further details on how to respond see the planning application on the ABC website or contact Sue Wood, on 623902



## WESTWELL WI

We had a different beginning to our meeting this month when we were entertained by a ukelele band called 'Up the Creek'. Members sang along with the band who donned wigs or hats to enhance their performance of many familiar songs - sailor and pirate hats were worn for What shall we do with a Drunken Sailor and Sloop John B, cowboy hats were worn for Rawhide and a pink wig was worn for Lily the Pink etc. We were entertained for almost an hour before the business side of the meeting started.

After the entertainment, members were reminded about the Summer Fete and asked to continue to contribute craft items for our stall, to sign up for help on the day and/or to make cakes for the refreshments.

There were two sad announcements – firstly a previous member Barbara Burgoyne had passed away and secondly Bob Scarfe, husband of member June Scarfe, who was known to many of us, also passed away.

Carol Godden reported on the Croquet Evening which, after an earlier postponement due to inclement weather, turned out a lovely evening. Members had a lot of fun followed by a tasty supper, provided by the Committee. The contest was won by Marilyn Warner, and £78.00 was raised for our funds.

Natalie Harman reported that the Group Meeting on Wednesday 26th June had been well attended. The presentation on stained glass making by Eve Muggridge had been very interesting with Eve making sure that she also had her Blue Peter moment with "the one she had made earlier!" The use of our racehorses for social time had been well received with all four WIs entering into the spirit of it. The competition of a stained glass window was won by Egerton.

Forthcoming events are:- BBQ – Friday 9th August at 6.30pm at Gail Hunt's and a Quiz Night-Friday 18th October which is open to anyone and everyone (if you don't have a team sign up and you will be put in a team on the night)

Members admired the finished Centenary tablecloth and thanks were given to all those who had helped to make it. These included Ivy Clifton who had embroidered the names, Liz Hewitt who had stitched the beautiful wheels and leaves, the knitters Catherine Hazelden, Barbara Gardner and Carol Godden who had made the lace edging and Angela Osborne who had hand stitched the edging in place.

Anyone wishing to know more about any of the above or the Westwell WI and what it means to be a WI member should email Catherine at [westwellwi2015@gmail.com](mailto:westwellwi2015@gmail.com)

**Marilyn Warner**

**Next Meeting:-** Thursday 8th August.

**Speaker:-** The Red Box Peep Show -Roy Entwistle

**Vote of thanks:-** Ella Young

**Hostesses:-** Tracy Shaikh, Sam Henley and Sue Starkings

**Competition:-** Bring a keepsake with a story

## Howard Preston

Tuesday July 9th was another sad goodbye day. Howard Preston's friends and former colleagues and neighbours in Sandyhurst Lane gathered with his family at St Mary Westwell to say goodbye, but also to celebrate a notable life lived to the full.

Howard was born in Southwark, and like so many London families was evacuated to the west country at the start of the war in 1939, first to Shepton Mallet then Kentisbury in North Devon. A bout of tonsillitis saved his life – Howard was due to travel to Canada on the City of Benares – the children's evacuee ship that was sunk by a German submarine torpedo in 1940.

Schooling in North Devon went well – Howard went on to read organic chemistry at Southampton university. Life was fun too: Howard loved raising money for the University's RAG, and once confronted Stanley Matthews dressed as a gorilla. He tried cricket, opting to umpire after a ball broke his nose. In 1956 his national service was with the RAF as an air radar fitter. His career started at ICI Welwyn but soon moved to Unilever who operated on the same site. In 1967 Howard moved to Unilever's Food Industries on the Wirral where he met Janet Lloyd. By 1968 they were renovating a cottage in Willaston and Claire arrived 9 years later. In 1982 Food flavour work brought the family to Ashford, he was expert at GLC; PPF's merger with Naarden took them for a while to Holland in 1988.

Howard was as passionate about his community as he was about chemistry. He was a founder member and a long time chairman of the Sandyhurst Lane Residents Association. Friends remember him for his assiduous study and commentary on planning applications. Howard loved his garden and his prize rhododendrons and azaleas. His tall stooping charm and that beguiling smile and manner of a slightly absent-minded professor was Howard Preston's hallmark. Janet and Howard celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2018. Howard will be missed by all his friends in Sandyhurst Lane and Westwell.

*Janet Preston and Claire*

## A20 News

Monday 22nd July a new traffic order came into effect limiting speeds on the A20 to 50 mph between the Hothfield Station Rd - Westwell Watery lane junction and the bridge over the M20 by the Holiday Inn. As at the end of July the 50mph signs have not yet been installed. The order is not effective until the signs are up.

The reason for the speed restriction is a combination of accumulated accident statistics along this section of the A20 – which makes it a “ safety action hotspot”- and a recent request by Hothfield parish council for speed survey work to be done at Tutt Hill at the Chapel road junction. It is the combined results of this data that led KCC Highways to progress a traffic order reducing the speed along this stretch from 60 to 50.

On Monday 15th July the overnight no waiting restrictions for HGV's came into effect permanently along the A20 between Drovers and Charing roundabouts. This is combined with ABC being able to clamp vehicles that do not observe the no waiting restrictions. HGVs are allowed to stop along the roads in safe places during the day. The restriction is for 8pm to 7am. There are similar restrictions on 4 of the industrial estates in Ashford. The HGV's are encouraged to use the Ashford international Truck stop at Waterbrook which has an additional 200 spaces and is a 5 star facility.

This is better working conditions for truck drivers and a better road safety, and less air, noise and environmental pollution for residents.

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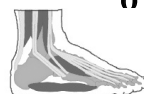


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## Westwell Community Watch Scheme

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Neighbourhood Watch

One of our Neighbourhood Watch Police Volunteers, Steve Bartlett, no relation, has advised us that, in the last month alone, there have been over 20 REPORTED incidents of criminal damage across the borough. These range in severity from a broken window from a ball bearing fired from a catapult, to plastic tables being broken and hose left on resulting in flooding of the Bowls Green on Tenterden Recreation Ground. However trivial every one of these incidents is distressing to the property owner and cause them cost and disruption. I am sure we all fondly remember the excitement of fine weather, light evenings and the lack of pressure of school the next day,

but I like to think this was never an excuse for mindless vandalism.

Neither is it now for the vast majority of our youngsters who have just ended a trying year at school and have six to eight weeks to relax. However sadly there is a small, irresponsible minority, for whom damaging other people's property is fun and how they get their kicks.

Fortunately so far none in Westwell!!

We cannot be complacent though!!

If you see something be careful about getting involved. Try and get some video and report it through 999 if it is still going on but 101 if it's all over.

The video will still be useful in identifying the perpetrators.

2-WATCH-4

Closer to home the SLRA Committee have been getting fake emails purported to come from me, as Chair, asking for "help" They are sent from a false, but apparently recognisable, email address stating I am "busy" and need their urgent help. This normally comprises getting them to buy something like store or Itune gift cards and sending me (at the fake email address) the activation details. No-one's email account has been hacked but the names etc have been harvested from public domain websites. On these occasions the scam has failed as the recipients know we do not use my title "Chair" in our internal emails.

But this scam, and others like it, means you should always check with the supposed sender by a known secure method before responding to any such unexpected requests for "help".

Sad, but that is the world we live in!

To report suspicious activity call 101 or use Country Eye – in an emergency call 999

For more information go to  
[westwell.community.watch@gmail.com](mailto:westwell.community.watch@gmail.com)

You can also indicate whether you would like to get Westwell Events news, including updates from the Parish Council

Keep Vigilant - Tony Bartlett – WCWS Co-ordinator

## Godinton House and Gardens



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# Letter to the Parishes

Our recent theme of talks at Cornerstone has been on Community. Each week we have been considering the following:- A community who cares for each other, a community who worships together, a community who serves together and a community who prays together. I would like to think about what we mean by Community.

To begin with a community is a group of people who mutually support each other. In the words of the Book of Common Prayer relating to marriage ‘...for the mutual society, help and comfort that the one ought to have of the other...’

The first part of this is to get to know each other so that we can get past the conventional answer to the question “How are you?” of “I’m fine.” and really understand whether someone really is ‘fine’. This also means that we have to feel safe with each other and be able to trust and be trusted.

Worshipping and praying together are probably specific to church or other religious communities and we clearly need to care for each other and serve each other within that community. But our worship and prayer within that church community should equip and inspire us to reach out to care for and serve our wider communities. Words alone are not enough. Jesus showed us that we must serve each other by washing his disciples’ feet.

James in his letter asks the questions

‘What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill”, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?’

We at Cornerstone are thinking how we can be not just ‘Sunday Christians’ but be a real part of the communities in which we live, to reach out and serve them.

So the question which I ask you as worshipping communities but also as individuals is: How can you serve your community?

I would be very happy to hear any ideas which you might come up with.

*Kevin Moon*

## Etc

### Dates for diaries

25th August: Fete  
19th October: Harvest Supper  
7th December: Bazaar

### Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, **Friday 2nd August** from 10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.

**WAGS – Westwell Art Group**  
**12th and 19th August.**



### August with Charing Gardeners Society

Check out our Facebook page for photos of the very successful summer show held on 13th July.

Friday **2nd August** at 6.30pm members will visit Tram Hatch garden. This local garden is open under the NGS scheme but this is a private visit for CGS, the £5 entrance includes a glass of wine. To join the society in time for that just contact Nicky Bromley - 01233 713615. The membership form is available on the CGS website <http://charinggardeners.org.uk>.

We have a talk in August, on **Wednesday 14th** at 7.30pm in the Church Barn. The retired filmmaker Hugh Raggett will give an illustrated talk about the Hanbury Gardens at La Mortola in Italy, perfect for a staycation summer’s evening. Everyone is welcome, admission £3 for non-members includes a cuppa and a chance to chat after the talk. There is a raffle, seed-swap and plant stall, for which contributions always welcome.

It’s not too soon to be thinking about our Autumn Show, which is on Saturday **21st September** and is always a spectacular end to the showing season. Held in the Parish Hall, Pluckley Road, there are classes for flowers and plants, fruit and veg, cookery crafts and floral art and a class for children. Entries from non-members are very welcome. The fee is £1 whatever the number of entries. Bring exhibits

between 9 and 11.15am, view the show with cake and a cuppa from 2pm. Full details of the classes can be found on our website - have a look and have a go!

### Book Club July 2019

We met at the Wheel to discuss ‘The Long Song’. This was the late Andrea Levy’s last book. She died in February this year and it had been mentioned at length on the radio and in obituaries as well worth reading. And it was indeed. The saga about a woman in Jamaica who was born into a slave community but who ended up working as chambermaid to the lady of the plantation. She does not accept her status as a slave and rebels in small doses. And herewith lie several funny episodes of the story. This happens near the middle of the 1800s when Britain abolished slavery in the Caribbean and colonies. But the free slaves do not know how to manage without land and housing..they are expected to pay rent and their pay is not enough to survive on. They rebel..and the story of our protagonist July becomes more complicated. The story may well be an autobiography of Ms Levy. It is very well written in dialect which can be very enjoyable though not easy to read quickly. For those who skim read, take more time.

Our next read is any title by the comedienne and writer Jenny Eclair..so much choice of well written but light-hearted tales.

**13th August at 11am**

### Westwell Cricket

On **18th August** cricketers from Westwell are playing Little Chart at Little Chart Forstal. This is the annual President and Vice Presidents match. We are looking for some more Westwell residents for the team. It is a very relaxed friendly game with a splendid tea and families are very welcome. We’d love to hear from anyone interested.

**Terry Lister 07748818660**



## Parish News

Westwell Church Services for August  
[www.g7benefice.org](http://www.g7benefice.org)

### Friday 2nd

10am Iona Eucharist

### Sunday 4th: 7th Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion

### Sunday 11th: 8th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

### Sunday 18th: 9th Sunday of Trinity

11am Family Service

### Sunday 25th: 10th Sunday of Trinity

**NO SERVICE**

### Every Tuesday

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

### Funerals

**Howard David Preston** died on Thursday 23rd May aged 85. His funeral took place at St. Mary, Westwell, followed by burial in Bybrook Cemetery, on Tuesday 9th July.

*May God enfold Howard  
in his tender love and care.*

### Family Church in August

There is no Messy Church in August and we start back on the 2nd Sunday of September, 8th September. This is the new pattern to avoid clashing with school holidays and bank holidays. **Creation Month** Westwell parish hall 3.30 to 5pm. For children with an accompanying adult. Fun, games, Crafts, Story, Songs and Tea all with a bible theme.

**All age service 18th August** celebrates Good News in Jesus. An informal service with coffee and cake. Things to do for adults and children. 11am at St Mary Westwell. This month's coffee collection is for Water Aid

Don't forget to drop off something for the food bank if you can. The box is in church. School holidays are often the most difficult times for parents who are otherwise just coping. Without school dinners things can get very hard. Any non perishable foods are very welcome..

### Looking forward...

Samaritans child shoe boxes and leaflets are now in church. You can drop off items in the church or if you would like a box to fill between you and your friends please ask Heather to drop one off or collect one from the church. Email [hlist@hotmai.com](mailto:hlist@hotmai.com) if you are interested.

Harvest services will start in September, from 15th September when we celebrate Harvest festival.

### St Mary - Loo Project - update

The Parochial Church Council is looking at a number of different designs in order to gain the best solution at the best price.

Whilst we will have to continue fundraising ourselves, we are fortunate that there are quite a few organisations whose sole purpose is to grant funding for just such a project, so we will be applying to them for financial assistance as planned.

We will keep you posted.

**Martin Wyatt on behalf of PCC**

### Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning	Sarah Scarratt
Flowers	Jane Richards
Brass	Sue Norman



## Parish Council

The Parish Council met in the parish hall on Monday July 1st. Larry Krause (borough councillor) was present and reported on proposals to make the overnight lorry parking ban permanent and to reduce the speed limit on the A20 between Tutt Hill and Watery Lane. In addition to his responsibilities on a number of Borough Council committees, Larry Krause is also a Trustee of Sandy Acres Sports Club in Sandyhurst Lane; he felt that a Westwell parish councillor from the Sandyhurst Lane area should be invited to take up a Trustee's role.

With a minor correction the Minutes of the May meeting were agreed and Matters Arising taken, these included works to the hedge in the Garden of Remembrance and the future of the Playing Field Association (more properly called the Playing Field and Young Persons' Association).

No planning applications had been received. Other planning matters discussed included the delay in deciding a planning application at Park House Farm; Openreach's postponement of moving the telegraph pole by the Wheel, which is delaying the development on the former pub garden; the Oakover planning application was to be discussed at the Borough Council Planning Committee on 3rd July, the Parish Council would speak at the meeting in support of the application but would ask for conditions re traffic; the failure to remove second caravan from the travellers' site in Watery Lane as required. The Parish Council's submissions on the following consultations were ratified, the deadline for submission being before the meeting: Boughton Aluph and Eastwell Neighbourhood Plan consultation; overnight lorry parking ban; speed limit reduction on the A20.

Parish Council finances were discussed including ongoing works: The hall access track will be repaired after the Players' storage container has been moved onto the field; a site meeting will be arranged re the proposed pedestrian access onto Westwell Lane from the playing field; the noticeboard outside The Old Vicarage is in need of repair/replacement. A financial report on the Westwell Eye was given. The annual survey of trees on Parish Council-owned/maintained land revealed the need for minor works to a number of trees in the churchyard; a quote from Blean Tree Care was accepted.

It was agreed to set up a Parish Council email account for use by councillors and the Clerk for Parish Council business. The Parish Council's Risk Register was updated and agreed. A request for Parish Council-organised litter picks in Sandyhurst Lane was declined on safety grounds. Reports from Parish Council representatives were received, including the Kent Association of Local Councils, Action with Communities in Rural Kent, the Hall Management Committee, the Playing Field and Young Persons' Association. No improvement has been reported in broadband provision, this will be raised at the next meeting of the Kent Association of Local Councils. The meeting ended after Any Other Business. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 2nd September at 7pm** in the parish hall.

### Egerton Gardens Open - August

7th August: Lois Filden, Potters Forstal Farm, Chapel Lane TN27 9BX

14th August: Margaret Morris, Burnside, Rockhill Road TN27 9EA

21st August: Peter Stevens: Verralls Oak, Stonebridge Green Road, TN27 9AP

28th August Dizzy Pragnell: South Barn, Stonebridge Green Road, TN27 9AN



## Westwell Players

Westwell Players are taking a well earned break for the summer months! We have had a party at the Hall with food brought along by all partygoers and some games organised by the Committee with lots of chat and memories re-lived. Scripts are being read and Pantomimes discussed with who could do what in mind! I am going to give you some names and numbers to ring if you are interested in helping out with our November Production. Please ring up if you are at all interested in any aspect of front or back stage participation. We would love to hear from you.

Neil Cacket, Chairman - 07454 714186 Viki Faulkner, Treasurer - 01233 714001

Mary Anne Pitt, Vice Chair - 01233 714241

We would particularly like someone to come forward who is interested in the technical side, the taped music, lighting etc. and a tea lady or gent would be lovely too! In anticipation -- !!!!!!! Wishing all our readers a wonderful summer! enjoy!!

*Mary Anne Pitt* 

## Step in to Hothfield's History 7th/8th September, St Margaret's Church

Immerse yourself in an exhibition of Hothfield's memories in and around our beautiful 13th century church. Admire the colourful Tufton tomb and learn about the Lords who owned the estate and built the manor houses. There will be displays of past Hothfield inside and outside the church to tell the stories of notable past residents now in the churchyard. Further displays in Church Lane will compare past views of the country estate with the current scene. Stand where the estate's horses once worked and where the army trained in both World Wars. Touch the tree that was hit by a doodlebug and read Private Cresswell's story.

There will also be a rare opportunity to visit the bell tower, plus there will be children's competitions with prizes. Light lunches and delicious home-made cakes and refreshments will be available at the church café.

Open from 10.30am to 4.30pm on both days. Admission is free, and there is ample parking. The church is wheelchair accessible, with accessible loo. All welcome! Proceeds to Hothfield History Society and Friends of St Margaret's. For more info [www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk](http://www.hothfieldmemories.org.uk)

## Parish Hall Loos

The twinning of the Parish Hall toilets through the charity Toilet Twinning is now complete. Graham Hutchinson, organiser of the Classic Car show, has donated £60 to twin the accessible toilet with a latrine in NamSheKaw, Ptao, Kachin State, Myanmar. This gives families in a very poor area access to a basic toilet, clean water and education about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives. Having a toilet close to the house makes families feel safer, especially the women and girls who are at risk of attack when having to go out into the bush.

The three framed certificates with a photo of the twinned overseas toilets and their GPS coordinates will be hung in the Village Hall. This village has now generously donated £180 towards the life-saving trio of toilets, taps and training through twinning the village hall loos. Thank you very much to Graham, Leah at Country Funerals, the WI, Dance as U Go donors and Westwell Players.

Families can twin the toilets in their own homes, groups can run fund-raising campaigns for loos in schools, churches, etc. All the information is available at [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)



## August on Hothfield Heathlands

The spangle of midsummer flowers across the heathland gives way in August to the glory of the heather or ling, *Calluna vulgaris*. Flowering had started in July but August will be the peak, sheeting the open slopes in purple pink. The tiny flowers consist of four petals and four petal-like sepals which seem surprisingly flimsy for such a tough wiry survivor of a plant. The energy the plant manages to draw from poor nutrients and - certainly this year - abundant sunshine is put into producing nectar and pollen to attract the bee species and other insects essential for pollination and prolific production of seed assuring future generations of the plant. The flowers wither and remain on the stem often until the next flowering season, long after seed dispersal. The botanical survey that concluded on 25 July records seedling and developing heather in many areas of the heathland, which is good news. The name ling comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lig* for fire, as heather was an important fuel.

The regular survey team of volunteers led by Ian Rickards or Christina Juan was helped by occasional volunteers including a trio of university students from Canterbury following up their personal interest in conservation and wild flowers. It has been hard work at times, struggling through or around thickets of bracken, gorse and bramble over our heads, or trying to keep dry stepping from one sedge tussock to another in the lower fen, not always successfully, but extremely satisfying, and a constant learning curve. The mewing of buzzards was an occasional accompaniment, the myriad of insects, butterflies and moths a constant delight, and close-up encounters with the specialised bog plants such as the mini-meadows of pink bog pimpernel a privilege. Someone is now patiently entering all the information from the botanical surveys onto the KWT database for analysis and use by the warden planning future management of the site. Meanwhile other volunteers are monitoring the dragonflies and demoiselles across the heathland, with keeled skimmer, emperor, banded demoiselle, four-spot chaser and broad-bodied chaser recorded so far, their names reflecting their aggressive approach to life.

Another tiny August delight is the flowering of the insectivorous sundews (*Drosera rotundifolia*) in the upper bog. Slender stems rise several inches above the reddish rosettes of sticky leaves, each stem bearing a spike of tight round bud opening to small white flowers. There are several colonies easily seen close to the causeway across the bog. *Drosera*, from the Greek *droseros*, alludes to the dewy look of the leaves covered in glands tipped with a globule of shining liquid used to deceive insects into landing on the leaf instead of on genuine water.

Hothfield Heathland is open to everyone; trails are signposted and marked on entrance maps, along with the location of livestock. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cades Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. Please keep dogs in check, especially around children and livestock, and keep them away from the heather and undergrowth where they will disturb sensitive wildlife. Please remove dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment. For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield contact Ian Rickards [ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk). or 01622 662012.

*Margery Thomas* 