



The Wheel

**3rd August - Kentish Sparkling Wine,
Cheese and Charcuterie Evening**

10th August - Curry Night

11th August - Old School MB and Garage Night

17th August - Steak Night

24th August - 7pm Pub quiz -
Quiz £2 per person, cash prize

31st August - Bingo, with band to follow
£2 a card

Contact: 01233 712223
info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk



THE WESTWELL EYE

186

August

2018



3rd August
13th August
14th August
24th August
26th August

10.30am Coffee in The Wheel - all welcome
1.30pm Painting Group
11am Book Club - The Wheel - p13
7pm Quiz - The Wheel
FETE

August 2018

| SUNDAY | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 11am Fists - Dance as U Go | 2 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates | 3 10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel | 4 |
| 5 10th Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion | 6 7pm Fitness | 7 | 8 11am Fists - Dance as U Go | 9 R.F.T 9.15am Pilates 7.30pm WI Meeting | 10 | 11 |
| 12 11th Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist | 13 1.30pm painting 7pm Fitness | 14 Book Club - p13 | 15 11am Fists - Dance as U Go | 16 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 7pm Fete Briefing Village Hall | 17 | 18 |
| 19 12th Sunday of Trinity 11am Family Service + Baptism | 20 7pm Fitness | 21 | 22 11am Fists - Dance as U Go | 23 R.F.T 9.15am Pilates | 24 | 25 Set up Fete |
| 26 13th Sunday of Trinity No Service FETE | 27 7pm Fitness | 28 | 29 | 30 R.F.W | 31 | Sept 1 |

From the Editor's desk...

What a fantastic summer we are having, except as I write this letter the garden will welcome the rain.

The only significant thing to happen in Westwell in August is the Fete – Sunday 26th – read all about it on page 9

On page 3 you can read about this year's Ride and Stride on 8th September. Do start training and get sponsors for this worthy cause; you can however take part without getting sponsors.

An update on the Local Plan is on page 10.

The school holidays are here, so make all youngsters aware of taking care on the roads, on foot, bike, or horse; and drivers be careful of wayward children round the next bend! - not just in Westwell but on all country roads and in all villages.

The front cover photographs are of the Westwell Classic Car Show held in June.

Carolyn Thorneloe ✍

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.

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Useful Contacts

Telephone Numbers

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Age UK | 642094 |
| Ashford Volunteer Bureau | 633219 |
| Bees (swarming) | |
| Andy Bithell | 740650 / 07933892413 |
| Borough Councillor: | |
| Larry Krause | 01233 643497 |
| CAB | 626185 |
| Carers Support Group | 664393 |
| Childline Freephone | 0800 1111 |
| Cinema | 0871 2208000 |
| Citizens' Advice Bureau | 626185 |
| Cruse Bereavement Counselling | 878225 |
| Doctors (Charing) | 01233 714490 |
| (Hayesbank) | 624642 |
| Dog Warden | 01233 330340 |
| Hospital (William Harvey) | 633331 |
| KCC Community Warden for Hothfield, Charing and Challock, Dave Beckley | 0797798199 |
| 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 |
| PCSO | lee.sinden@kent.pnn.police.uk |
| Samaritans | 610000 |
| Shopmobility | 621196 |
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| 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: | |
| http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/ | |

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Ride and Stride

Ride and Stride will be on Saturday 8th September. Last year R&S raised more than £130,000, a magnificent effort that is invested by Friends of Kent Churches to support repairs and projects like our church loo.

An active Ride & Stride presence is very helpful when requesting a grant from Friends of Kent Churches. I assume that Westwell PCC will be applying for a grant towards the loo project in the not to distant future.

By the time you receive your « Eye » R&S will still be some 5 weeks away: time flies so please begin to make plans to support Ride & Stride by walking and cycling between as many Kent churches as you can. I have placed yellow entry forms in church with a list of all the churches that should be open. If in doubt contact me or go on the Friends of Kent Churches web site friendsofkentchurches.co.uk

Good walking or cycling!

Jolyon Drury 07860 512793

FREE

First Aid Emergency Training - Saturday 4th August 10-12 Westwell Parish Hall

You will hopefully be aware that there is an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit located on the outside wall at the top of the stairs leading to the Parish Hall and available 24/7 for your use.

Every year around 86,000 people die of a heart attack and many of these deaths could be prevented if emergency assistance was provided quickly. To emphasise this fact it is generally recognised that for each minute defibrillation is delayed the chances of the casualty recovering is reduced by 10%. Therefore, after about 10 minutes the casualty will have little chance of surviving.

This machine was purchased by the Parish Council so that in the event of a local emergency a heart could be restarted by you before the paramedics are able to attend. Although it is fully automated it is extremely helpful to have confidence when using the machine as every minute saved is vital.

The course will cover everything you need to know to use the AED and in addition, you will learn how to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) which goes hand in hand with use of the AED.

The course will also cover choking hazards and how to deal with them.

If you are interested in spending just a couple of hours getting some vital skills which could one day save someone's life, then please call Clive Bainbridge on 07720 908001 or send an email to clive.bainbridge@gmail.com This is serious stuff but we have a lively and very experienced trainer who will ensure that we get the skills and have some fun doing it.

Clive Bainbridge

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Benenden Hospital appeal for volunteers

Benenden Hospital is appealing for volunteers to help meet and greet patients and visitors. The hospital currently has a small group of volunteers providing guiding services, reception and patient queries, as well as a range of administrative duties. However they want to recruit more people who will give their time to help with a range of roles including administration, catering, portering, grounds maintenance and gardening on the estate.

Benenden Hospital Support Services Manager Emma Clements said: "We are enormously grateful and indebted to our volunteers for the invaluable support they provide our patients and visitors. "For many people, volunteering offers them the chance to give something back to the community, meet new people, boost their confidence and gain work experience. So if you're a friendly person who is willing to give the gift of time, however much, we would love to hear from you."

Benenden Hospital is a state-of-the-art independent hospital and not-for-profit organisation with charitable status. All volunteer opportunities are subject to a satisfactory Standard or Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service, evidence of an applicant's Right to Work in the UK and acceptable reference checks."

If this appeals to you, email volunteering@benenden.org.uk/Emma Clements - 01580 857406.

1st Charing Scout Group

We are starting to get excited about finishing the work on our new headquarters. There is still a lot to do, but we are working flat out to get the final major jobs completed. We have a provisional date for changing over the electricity supply. After that we are committed to getting the new building finished.

We are still fundraising to pay for the final expenses. The colour run was a huge success with over £3000 profit. We are so grateful to all those who helped on the day and all the colourful runners.

We are delighted to say that Nigel Wills, our Cub Scout Leader, was presented with one of Ashford's Civic Awards. This was in recognition of his tireless work for cubs over the last 30 years and involvement in many village and church activities.

gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk **Terry Lister**

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WESTWELL WI

At this month's meeting we were joined by the ladies from Stockbury WI. The evening began with the normal business and we were lucky enough to have reports from three events which had taken place since last month's meeting. One report had been on a very entertaining croquet evening held in one of the member's garden, the overall competition being won by Doris with a grand total of 21 points. The second a walking treasure hunt around the lovely village of Lenham, held on the hottest day of the year so far (with thanks to Ros and Carol for organising this and arranging a cream tea to finish with). The third report had been from the Group meeting where, for the second year running, we were the proud winners of the competition. This had been to produce something depicting your village on A4 paper in any medium. Terry had entered a beautiful painted picture of Westwell village. Well done and thanks Terry!

The talk this month was from Pat White on Willesborough Windmill. We learned that this was only one of the two working windmills in Kent. It is a white smock windmill and was built in 1869 which means that it will be celebrating its 150 years soon. The sails are called "sweeps" and can be seen working when there is sufficient wind. However, due to flour becoming commercially produced more economically a steam engine was fitted which was eventually replaced by a motor engine powered by electricity in 1938. The windmill was also used as a family home with the inhabitants living their lives around all of the workings inside the building. The building was eventually restored back to a working mill by Ashford Borough Council and is now run by a charity called the Friends of Willesborough Windmill. The venue can be hired out for weddings, is available for tours, has a splendid tea room serving clotted cream teas etc. and hosts events such as Norman Cycles Days, the ever-popular Teddy Bears' Picnic and an evening of music including dinner.

Following the talk, we all enjoyed homemade sausage rolls, cakes, scones, and fresh fruit, many thanks to Gail for the delicious spread. The evening ended with the competition and raffle.

Catherine Hazelden

Next Meeting: Thursday 9th August.

Talk: The Great Train Robbery by John Walker and is open to members to bring their partners.

Hostesses: Mesdames Joan Richards, Terry Roach and Angela Osborne

Vote of thanks: Mary Ann Pitt

Competition: Weather Picture

Kent Gliding Club

Kent Gliding Club have kindly agreed to run another gliding event on Friday evening 10th August from 5pm. Winch-towed flights will zip you into the air so you will see Westwell from above - subject, of course to weather.

£25 per person including BBQ. £5 per person BBQ only

All profits will be allocated to the Church Loo Project

Cheques in advance please made payable to 'St Mary Westwell PCC' to Sue Wood. (Refundable if rained-off)

email: susanwood@uwclub.net Tel: 01233 623902. Address: 14 Sandyhurst Lane TN25 4NS

Westwell Classic Car Show

The Westwell Classic Car Show on 24th June had a great response from both car owners and visitors.

We had 30 plus cars on the day and the sun shone brightly. People sat around and ate their picnics and drank gin and tonics from the Gin tent. Owners and visitors alike wandered around the immaculately turned out vehicles that were on show. From a Model T to a Militant ex army vehicle, MG's to Jaguars. There was plenty on offer and the owners were very enthusiastic to tell anyone the history of their pride and joy.

James Keland The Landlord of the Wheel Inn presented a prize for the best runnable Classic to Mr Alan Web of Staplehurst for his amazing 1952 Alvis.

We were entertained by Freeloader who played a couple of great sets. If you missed these chaps catch them again at the fete after party on 26th August, well worth listening to.

A total of £415.50 was raised for the St Mary Church Loo fund.

We would like to thank everyone again who showed their vehicles and to all who attended

Watch out for next year. **Graham and Leah Hutchinson**

Parish Council

The PC met on Monday 2nd July. No matters were raised during the Open Session Larry Krause (borough councillor) gave a report, noting that he is in discussions with the BC on the costs of removing unauthorised encampments: these are borne by the landowner, including PCs where the land is owned by the PC, but Larry Krause thought this unfair – costs of removal on BC-owned land are met from council tax receipts and thus paid by all council-tax payers. Payments by PCs would be from money raised by the Precept and therefore only paid by residents of the parish.

Local Plan: The inquiry was held during May and June and the Inspectors published their guidance notes at the end of June. These found that the Plan as submitted by the BC was acceptable ('sound') subject to a number of changes, which included removal of some of the proposed sites from the Plan and changes to others. For the parish this means that the sites at Hothfield Mill and Tutt Hill, and the gypsy and traveller site for 5 pitches in Watery Lane behind the existing temporary pitch, will be deleted from the Plan.

Minutes from the May and June PC meetings were approved. The PC must comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Requirement and the policies adopted to ensure compliance have been uploaded to the PC website.

Four planning applications were discussed. see p14. The application for 18 dwellings on the sandpit, Sandyhurst Lane, has been withdrawn.

The financial report was approved. Requests for donations from 2 charities were turned down, the PC's policy for such requests being that donations from public money should not be made unless there is a direct link to the parish.

The PC will submit a response to the consultation on Operation Stack, given its impact on the parish.

Councillors will attend seminars on 'The Big Conversation – Rural Transport', to discuss rural transport options with KCC.

Reports from representatives to other organisations were given, and the meeting closed after Any Other Business, which included a warning to road users that extra care should be taken because of increased farm traffic.

The next meeting will be held on Monday September 3rd in the parish hall. All meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

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Westwell Community Watch Scheme

Keeping you Safe and Secure
Neighbourhood Watch

All the evidence shows that most household and vehicle burglaries are spontaneous and opportunistic. So as we all enjoy the summer weather and spend more time outdoors here are a few tips to make your property and valuables more secure. If you live in a house open the upstairs windows not those downstairs. Hot air rises so the cooling is more effective. If you live in a single storey dwelling open rear windows, not the ones visible from the road.

Keep front external doors locked when you are in the back garden. You may not hear, let alone see, an intruder until it's too late. For the same reason keep cars locked. Put garden equipment away at night.

And of course take extra security steps when you go away on holiday. Make sure the property is secured with decent door and window locks; put valuables away ideally in a proper safe but if not use a less than obvious storage place.

Tell your neighbours - that's what Neighbourhood Watch is all about, but DON'T advertise the fact that your house is empty to the rest of the world. Be careful what you put on social media. Tell your friends about your holiday when you get back, not before you go. Avoid using "out of office" messages on email sites and be discrete on the information on your luggage labels. Don't put your full address.

And of course be extra careful with your valuables in hotel rooms etc

As the dry weather continues we have also had warnings from Kent Fire and Rescue about the risk of wild fires from careless actions. Bonfires and barbeques are the obvious culprits but cigarettes butts are still a hazard. Do keep an eye out for wisps of smoke, with the dry ground they quickly become major fires.

Enjoy the summer and your holidays and be safe

Keep Vigilant - Tony Bartlett - WCWS Co-ordinator

Planning applications

The following were supported by the Parish Council and a decision is awaited from the BC.
18/00581/AS & 18/00642/AS The Bull Pen, Westwell Court Replacement of 5 conservation rooflights

18/00857/AS Rhodes Cottage, Westwell Lane. Erection of a new porch with pitched roof

18/00869/AS The Wheel Inn, The Street, Replacement kitchen extract system including new filters, flue and an acoustic enclosure.

The following will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting

18/00876/AS The Old Forge, Westwell Lane The erection of a single dwelling with associated access, parking and landscaping on land at the rear of The Old Forge

18/01003/AS Fallowfield, The Street Proposed conversion of garage space including proposed roof lights, porch extension and single story rear kitchen extension.

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One Year On ...

Letter to the Parishes

We have just celebrated Petertide, the Christian festival on the 29th June whereby the church remembers St Peter and St Paul. The nearest Saturday to Petertide is traditionally when the church has ordained those called to Holy Orders, particularly Deacons and Priests.

So it was, on the 1st of July 2017 I was ordained as a deacon and sent to the G7, armed with a theology degree and a new wardrobe of rather peculiar frocks. Since then I have been trying to learn as much as I could, as quickly as I could. I have wrestled service sheets, fought with robes, and even managed to turn up in the right church at the right time (mostly).

As a deacon my role has been to serve, and to learn. You may have noticed on a Sunday morning I have been with Canon Sheila, and the others, as they prepare for the Eucharist. I have read the gospel, preached, invited you all to share the peace and bid you to 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. All of these parts of our services are associated with the office of deacon.

I am, and always will be, a deacon, as are Canon Sheila, Rev Richard, Rev Bonnie and Rev Philip. Like them I have also now been ordained as a priest. On the 1st July this year I found myself presiding at the Eucharist for the first time. It was truly moving. I must say a huge thank you to all those who came to the Benefice Service here in Egerton, and for the gorgeous food afterwards. Thank you all for your prayers, support and encouragement over the past year.

Although Canon Sheila is my Training Incumbent, mentor, and boss, I have learnt so much from the lovely (and very patient) people of G7. So, thank you all for the times you have encouraged, corrected, and laughed, as I have grappled with my first year as a curate ...what is that? A deacon, a priest and a curate, isn't that just greedy having three titles??? I was asked this week why I hadn't changed my e-mail signature from 'Assistant Curate' to 'Priest'. Simply put, being a deacon and a priest are the offices your clergy hold and are ordained to. My role is an Assistant Curate, just as Canon Sheila's role is our Rector.

Over the past year I have been your Assistant Curate, and over the next few years I will continue to be your Assistant Curate. My role is to continue to serve God here in G7, as well as preparing myself for the day when I may have a parish, or seven, of my own. I still have a lot to learn, not least in celebrating the Eucharist, but also in baptising and performing weddings.

In the meantime I really do appreciate the roles God has given to you as you serve in your own way in G7. Thank you for the continued support, the cakes, the prayer, the cakes, the laughter, and the cakes ... OK, best not mention the cakes, those rather peculiar frocks are feeling a little tight!!

With thanks and blessings,

Jack Bateson

Etc

Dates for diaries

August 26th. Fete

September 29th. Pimms and Hymns

December 1st Bazaar

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, **Friday 3rd August** from 10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.



Book Club July 2018

Our meeting had fewer readers this time, some on holiday and some ill or with family.

The book was enjoyed by all who read it. It had excellent reviews. '**The Quality of Silence**' by **Rosamund Lupton** is the story of a mother and her deaf child..their search for the father who was assumed dead in a fire in farthest villages in Alaska. He was a wildlife journalist and went missing after a fire devastated a village he was at..the mother and daughter believe he is still alive...trudging through the snow by sometimes unbelievable means and being followed by people who want to stop them..it is a good story of survival against all odds. Most of us had read it and enjoyed it. The description of the wilderness really makes one feel the cold...brrr...also describes fracking.. The determination of the two is admirable and the feeling of tension is very plausible. We also talked about deafness and blindness...we all know of someone with these problems. We remembered a book we had read before, about a blind girl in occupied France ('All the Light We Cannot See'). We managed to read in spite of the Football World Cup and the heat ...and the pub was a cool enough meeting place.

Our next book is '**Our Hidden Lives**' by **Simon Garfield**, these are short stories about life in Britain after WWII

WAGS

August 13th



Music and Musicals

Challock Flower Festival

25th, 26th and 27th August 2018

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Pimms and Hymns at 3pm

Saturday 29th September. Come along to St Mary's Westwell for a fun and social afternoon of sipping Pimms, and enjoying the wonderful building in the heart of our village whilst singing rousing hymns.

Shine Jesus, Shine or Praise My Soul The King of Heaven? Maybe both. We can promise there will be something for everyone, but if you have a particular favourite hymn do let us know and we'll be sure to sing the village's clear favourite – very loud!

Nominations to Saskia: saskialp@live.co.uk
All welcome, so put the date in your diary, tell your neighbours and come to have fun with friends and meet new people in our community! Doubtless many of the congregation will retire to the pub following the singing. No tickets required. Further details in next month's Eye...

Parish News

Westwell Church Services for August
www.g7benefice.org

Friday 3rd

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 5th: 10th Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th: 11th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 19th: 12th Sunday of Trinity

11am Family Service with Baptism

Sunday 26th: 13th Sunday of Trinity

NO SERVICE

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

A Service to Commemorate The 127 Canadian Wing and the American 362nd Fighter Groups

Each year, a number of people gather at the Memorial Bedlam Lane Memorial in Egerton Forstal to remember the men and women of 127 Canadian Wing, and 362 American Fighter Group, who were stationed here during the Second World War. Many gave their lives, or were injured during the war. Each year, we have recalled the part they played, and their sacrifice, with gratitude and thanksgiving. The short service will take place this year on Sunday 2nd September. All are very welcome to attend. Please look at next month's magazines for confirmation of time.

The Rev. Canon Sheila Cox

Family Church in August

Family Service for all ages on **18th August** will include the baptism of Joan Richards's great grandson. 11am start with refreshments to finish.

Messy is on holiday until **2nd September** when we will be thinking about New Starts, Westwell Parish Hall at 3.30. Activities, crafts, a story, songs, prayers and tea. Lots of fun for under 10's with an accompanying adult.

Looking forward to November.

In November we celebrate the centenary of the end of WWI. There were 14 men from the current Westwell parish who died in WWI and a further 51 men went to war and came back. Other men commemorated in the church lived in parts of Westwell that now belong to Hothfield, Charing or Challock but who were remembered by Westwell villagers. There are 9 of these who died and 24 who came home. In addition there are 23 men listed who I cannot trace.

The PCC would like to help Westwell community remember these men and we have two ideas at the moment.

1. A village trail identifying the places where these men lived with a reference map in the church and available booklets to describe what we know about them. If you know of a relative who was involved in WWI and lived locally I would love to hear from you, hlist@hotmail.com

2. A river of poppies falling down the wall near the war memorials, inspired by the poppies on show at the Tower of London in 2014. We are inviting villagers to make poppies to add to this display. We hope for a waterfall rather than a trickle so any help would be very gratefully received, this will be erected around Harvest time when these men would have been most missed from Village life.

Please contact me if you would like to be involved in either of these projects.
hlist@hotmail.com.

We are hoping for many other ideas and events in the village but this may help you begin to reflect on what you could do.

Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning. Melanie Major

Flowers. June Jones

Brass. Rosemary Harding



Westwell Fete - Sunday 26th August

Where: On the Westwell Playing Field.

Fete: 1pm – 4.30pm **Live Music and Food:** 5.15 – 10pm.

Where to park: In the adjacent field by kind permission of the Horne family.

All the usual Westwell specials for our Traditional Village Fete :

In the Arena : Fun Dog show, Childrens Races, Flying display from the Sky Birds of Prey, Tug of War. Visit by the Westwell Cow and of course the Egg Throwing.

Around the Arena: Coconut shy; china smashing, greasy pole, golf, bowling, nails in wood, barrow of booze to win; tombola; bric a brac, books, honey, craft and produce stalls, face painting, bouncy castle, games stalls, ice cream, barbeque, WI teas in the Hall, Pimms Tent and Beer Tent, Westwell Wines to buy. And More...

New supplies of Westwell mugs for sale.

The Fete is an essential fundraiser for our community : 45% will go to the Church Loos project ; 45% to projects for the village hall and playing field and 10% to a charity : this year will be Citizens Advice. Books and bric a brac remaining go to the Pilgrims Hospice .

A huge thank you to all our generous sponsors again this year.

Getting ready:

Marking out will be on Saturday 25th;

the Wonky Wheel Beer Tent will be installed on Friday by Perfect Day Marquees .

Please continue to deliver crockery, books and quality bric a brac to the village hall: we are collecting it all. **Contact Doris on 712016** for access to the hall.

Bring any the following to the Produce stall on Fete Day :

Jars of jam, jellies and marmalade

Home grown courgettes/ marrows, tomatoes, beans etc

Bags and baskets of fruit: apples, plums , figs, blackberries etc

Homemade cakes, buns, cupcakes, brownies, biscuits etc

See you there , but if you will be away do get your raffle tickets. All the usual great prizes

Contacts : Sue Wood 623902 ; Doris Cackett 712016; Christine Drury 07796930430

Diary dates: Friday 24th Marquee and tables delivered

Saturday 25th: marking out and deliveries.

Sunday 26th: 8.30- 12noon Setting up, bringing materials from the container

1pm – 4.30 Fete Raffle draw at 4.30

5pm – 6pm Clearing away the Fete

5.15- 10pm Live music from Kelly Bourne and Freeloader

Hog roast and alternatives and Beer Tent



Westwell Players

Players have had two readings of our latest play which is called 'Fly Me', and is all about a group of assorted holidaymakers who jet off to Spain and have various adventures while there, it is to be produced by Viki Faulkner with back up by Neil Cackett. Neil and Viki have had a long and interesting discussion – trying to decide which part to give to which Player and had no problem in coming to a successful and unanimous decision! The cast list has been posted and so far no-one has wept or wailed at not getting the part they wanted which is always a good sign. As usual Neil chose the script and has come up with yet another winner with parts for all the old hands and all the newcomers too so it was a very happy band who met for the picnic on the field on Sunday 15th July. Everyone brought something to eat and a good time was had by all. We had the video to distribute from Death by Paintbrush and great discussions ensued as to how we were to play our parts, what accent to assume and what clothes to wear not to mention the sets and who will be doing all the backstage hard work. We are delighted to have some exciting new blood this time who seem to be experienced in all forms of dramatic art which can always be quite a challenge. Please watch this article in the next few months to see how we all progress. We thought we had made Christmas come in Springtime so this year in December we would cheer everyone of our cast and audience alike with sunshine and holiday memories! More details to come...

Mary Anne Pitt 

Update of Local Plan

The Planning Inspectors have now published their advice note to the Council explaining that Ashford is now planning enough sites and houses to meet the 5 year housing land supply requirements. This is a critical milestone because without it the Council has faced unwanted speculative development and fought costly planning inquiries. So, for now, the Council planners have more control over what is refused or approved. The July Planning Committee refused the Lenacre Hall Farm application and approved flats on a brownfield site near the Outlet centre. They also approved expansion of the Waterbrook Lorry park – this decision will help to keep in place the overnight HGV parking clamping enforcement.

The next version of the Local Plan will incorporate the changes the Inspectors require to make it sound. The changes include taking out the proposed travellers site extension on Watery lane - because it is in the AONB. The Inspectors also took out all the housing sites proposed along the A20 (S47, S48 and S49). The additional homes are not needed for the 5 year housing land supply and the Inspectors had clearly read the many comments submitted. This all means that, for now, the western rural boundary of Ashford remains the cul de sac Westwell Lane, Potters Corner and Sandyhurst Lane.

Expect another round of consultation on these and the other Main Changes to make the Local Plan sound. The Inspectors will write their Examination report when they have the consultation responses, and we may have an approved Local Plan late December or January. The Local Plan does require a huge number of houses to be built so the pressures will continue. We can only hope that some will be at prices that those wanting to get onto the housing ladder can afford. More news in the October Eye about responding on the Main Changes. The result so far shows that commenting is well worth doing.

Christine Drury



August on Hothfield Heathlands

For the last few years one of the neighbours at Hothfield Heathlands has been monitoring the activities of the mammals that live on our boundary. He started using a camera trap in 2014 to get a better idea of who was living in one particularly active area, and the story that emerged was remarkable. For several years a family of badgers raised cubs, with occasional visits from curious foxes. Over winter 2017/18 the population of badgers using the sett reduced to one animal. During the snow we had in spring of this year, a one eyed fox (we'll call her Silver) started settling around the hole, and before too long the lone badger decided to move out. With the help of an attentive dog fox supplying her with rabbits, Silver had produced a litter of cubs by the beginning of April. The unusual thing happened soon after, when a second vixen was allowed into the den, along with 2 of her own cubs. The group seem to live happily together, with the two vixens and dog fox raising 5 cubs between them. By the 27th May, the foxes have all moved on, but it appears that the badger may take advantage of the vacated home. For more information about the wildlife on your doorstep visit the Kent Wildlife Trust website. The Hothfield Heathlands nature reserve is open to everyone. Please keep dogs in check and clean up. Various trails are signposted and indicated on the maps at entrances, which also give the location of the livestock. For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield, or to join the volunteers to help maintain the reserve or check the cattle contact the Warden on 01622 662012 or at ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk



Page 11: Top, New vixen with cub.
Fox cub practising hunting techniques.
Bottom, Badger visiting sett.