



# THE WHEEL INN



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**Every Wednesday**  
Senior citizens' lunch  
2 courses £9.95

**Every Wednesday**  
Steak night £10  
8oz steak, fries & salad

**8th October**  
Burger night £10

**13th October**  
Curry Night £10  
Choice of Curries  
with rice, naan and rita

**20th October**  
Starter and main from menu  
£12.50

**27th October**  
Asian Night 1 course £10  
2 = £15, 3 = £16.50

**Christmas Menu**  
Bookings Available



**23rd October**  
Sunday Surgery 4 - 8pm  
Live Music, free nibbles

**29th October**  
10am Big Breakfast  
choice of breakfast,  
space limited, please book

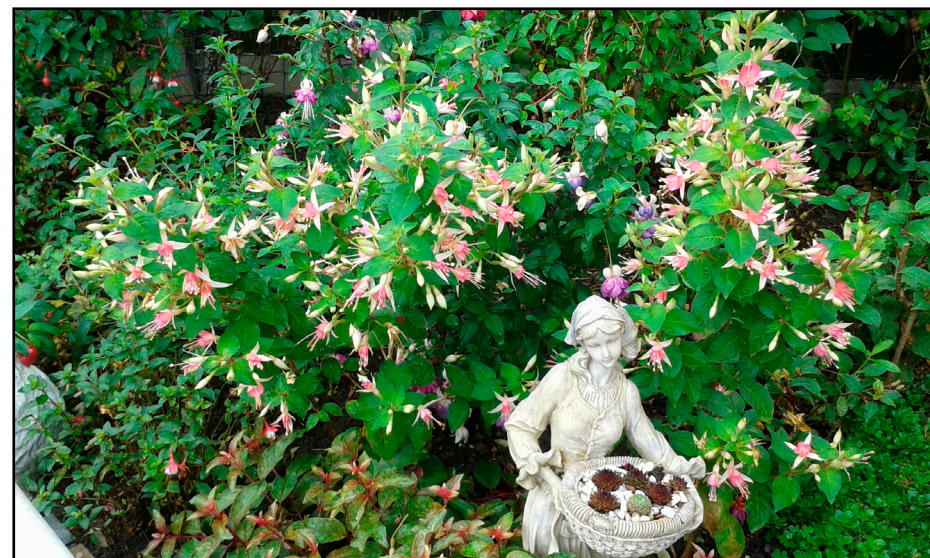
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*Princess Charlotte Fuchsia*  
taken by Iris Freemantle

**Every Mon, Wed, Fri 6am Early Morning Fitness - Parish Hall**  
**1st October Harvest Supper - Parish Hall, p13**  
**1st October Night at the Races - Charing, p13**  
**3rd October Harvest Festival - St.Mary's**  
**11th October Book Club The Wheel, p13**  
**13th October Charing History Society**  
**29th October 10am Big Breakfast at The Wheel**  
**30th October Classic Cars at The Wheel**

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2 Trinity 19 11am Harvest Family Worship St. Mary Westwell	3 6am Early Morning Fitness 1.30pm W1 Painting 7pm Fitness Parish Hall	4 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	5 6am Early Morning Fitness 11am Over 50s Fistepts	6 Re.F.T 9.15am Plates 10.30am Dog training	7 6am Early Morning Fitness 10am Eucharist 10.30 Coffee The Wheel	8
9 Trinity 20 11am Iona Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	10 6am Early Morning Fitness 7pm Fitness	11 11am Book Club p13 The Wheel 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	12 6am Early Morning Fitness 11am Over 50s Fistepts	13 R.F.W.G 9.15am Plates 10.30am Dog training 7.30pm W1	14 6am Early Morning Fitness	15
16 Trinity 21 8am Holy Communion St. Mary Westwell 3 - 5.30pm Messy Church Parish Hall	17 6am Early Morning Fitness 1.30pm W1 Painting 7pm Fitness	18 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	19 6am Early Morning Fitness 11am Over 50s Fistepts	20 Re.F.T 9.15am Plates 10.30 Dog training	21 6am Early Morning Fitness	22
23 Last After Trinity 11am Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	24 6am Early Morning Fitness 7pm Fitness	25 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	26 6am Early Morning Fitness 11am Over 50s Fistepts	27 R.F.W.G 9.15am Plates 10.30am Dog training	28 6am Early Morning Fitness	29
30 All Saints 8am Holy Communion - BCP Pluckley 10.30am Benefice Service Charing	31 6am Early Morning Fitness 1.30pm W1 Painting 7pm Fitness	Nov 1 7.30pm Players' rehearsal	2 6am Early Morning Fitness 11am Over 50s Fistepts	3 Re.F.T 9.15am Plates 10.30 Dog training	4 6am Early Morning Fitness	Oct 1 Harvest Supper p13 Charing Scouts p13 Night at the Races

# From the Editor's desk...

What an amazing September we have had, but actually it is so often nice weather in September.

An alternative to the Harvest Supper on 1st October is 'Race Night' in aid of Charing Scouts new HQ, details are on Page 13.

Calling all fitness fanatics who can't get to a class in the evenings, Hayley has got the answer for you - Early Morning Fitness, 6 – 6.45am, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Parish Hall, and she is still doing her class on Monday evenings.

Page 18 gives you a breakdown of the takings at the fête, the record is broken every year!

Barney Stay's poem has provoked various responses see pages 10 and 11 – more poems welcome – on any subject.

*Carolyn Thorneloe* 

## STOP PRESS: Staff Required At The Wheel

Stop, stop press: Christmas Bazaar Appeal.

This year's Christmas Bazaar which is scheduled for the 3rd December in the parish hall as usual. I would love any volunteers to help set up on the Friday, help run stalls and help clear up. We are also looking for raffles prizes, tombola prizes, good quality bric a brac, any unwanted gifts, homemade cakes and other delicious goodies, jams and chutneys and anything Christmassy.

I will be posting more in formation in next month's Eye. Many thanks and please contact me if you are able to help.

Penny Knatchbull 07976 522908 / 01233 714983 pennyknatchbull@gmail.com

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: westwelleye@gmail.com

### **COPY DEADLINE - 20th of the month**

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## Westwell Fête 2016: Another Record Result !

September Eye had the photos. Now here are the results. Thanks to huge efforts by lots of people on the day: setting up; running the stalls and making the day work for everyone, plus those who so generously covered our costs, we matched last year's total.

£4452 is being distributed. The playing field has had £668, already used towards the matting that has been laid. St Mary Westwell will have £2003 towards the loos project; £1336 goes to the Parish Hall towards external access improvements and £445 will get us closer to having a village defibrillator.

<i>Gross takings</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Gross takings</i>	<i>£</i>
BBQ	594	Barrow of Booze	453
Bowling	65	Books , DVDs CDs	91
Dog Show	102	Face painting	64
Golf	93	Childrens Tombola	57
Greasy Pole	83	China Smashing	95
Nails in Wood	86	Coconut shy	178
Pimms tent	193	Cowpat sweepstake	100
WI Teas	345	Plants and Produce	293
Raffle	864	Tombola	224
Tug of War	32	Bric- a – Brac	148
Pitch fees	181	Wine or Water	82
for Donuts, Ice cream, Chain saw carving, Find a voice etc			
<b>Total takings</b>		<b>£4423</b>	
<i>Plus: Contributions to costs and donations</i>		<i>£996</i>	
<i>Less: Expenses</i>		<i>- £967</i>	
<b>Distributed</b>		<b>£4452</b>	

Thanks to Leeds Castle, Kent Gliding, Westwell Wine, Trevor Richards, Simon Cole, George Horne and others who donated raffle prizes. Thanks to Tarmac for another Barrow and the Booze in it; to the Coles for the coconuts, Classic Lettings and Country Funerals for the burgers and sausages, to the Westwell villagers who contributed to covering other usual expenses for the 2016 Fete; to Tom and Trevor for straw bales. and to everyone who brought gazebo's! *Christine Drury*

***The 2017 Fête will be Sunday August 27th SAVE the DATE!***

## This is the 26th in the series Who do you know who can drive sheep over London Bridge and has won a prestigious Golf Tournament?

Born in Chislehurst three days before the outbreak of the Second World War, this mystery guest was evacuated to live with his Grandparents in Sidmouth, Devon. Memories of the war years include marching alongside the Air Force Band on Sundays after Church Parade and of the gun emplacement which he had in the front garden overlooking the sea, from which machine gun practice took place monthly, which terrified him. He also remembers the spectacular sight of the Royal Navy Fleet anchoring in the bay the night before the Normandy landings.

Returning to Kent in 1946 to live in Bearsted, His father was a Director of the family Laundry and Engineering business in Woolwich. After prep school in Maidstone, he went to Sutton Valence School and became captain of the 1st XI cricket team. In 1958 he played in an Eastern Counties Tour arranged by the Association of Kent Cricket Clubs, against young amateur sides in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridge. He is proud to have led his team to victory. He also played against amateur teams in Surrey and Hampshire.

He was called up for National Service in 1959, but temporarily rejected at the time, having broken a leg playing rugby. By the time he recovered, National Service had been discontinued. Qualified as a Chartered Surveyor at the College of Estate Management, part of London University, he worked in London for a number of years.

Married in 1963 and soon with three young sons and not wanting to continue commuting to London, he joined a firm of Surveyors and Estate Agents with offices in Kent and Sussex to set up a commercial property department and became a partner in 1972. An early transaction arranged at that time included letting their first offices to Charter Consolidated who wanted

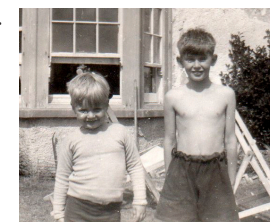
to decentralise to Ashford.

The business was sold to Lloyds Bank in 1982 and he established his own business of Commercial Surveyors in Canterbury in 1991, later to be joined by one son - also a Chartered Surveyor. At the time he became Director and later Managing Director of a PLC property investment company before retiring in 2013. During his time in London his uncle sponsored him to become a Freeman of the City of London (hence the right to drive sheep across London Bridge!), and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers which provides support to the British Leather Industry, to a number of Charities and to Education.

When serving as a Warden, he met Diana Princess of Wales. He was elected to the Court in 1993 and became Master in 2004/5. Whilst Master he had the opportunity to travel, to attend Leather Fares in Hong Kong and Bologna. He also had the pleasure of meeting The Duke of Edinburgh (in his role as Master of Trinity House - an organisation dedicated to the safeguarding of Shipping and Seafarers and the maintenance of Lighthouses), and Prince Andrew.

He married a local farmer's daughter, bought a property in Westwell and has enjoyed living in the village for over 40 years. Sadly, his wife died in 2015, but his three sons have their own families, live locally and between them they have given him seven grandchildren.

His sporting activities have included cricket, hockey, golf, squash and sailing. A highlight of his golfing was when his team won the Prince Arthur of Connaught Cup at Wentworth, a competition for the City Livery companies and one if the principal amateur events of its type in the country.





## Community News

### Useful 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 and Charing - Dave Beckley	07811 271306
CROP	01622 851200
Library (Ashford)	620649
(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	angie.burden@kent.pnn.police.uk
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
Wheel Inn (landlord James Meire)	712430
Westwell Community Website:	
<a href="http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/">http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/</a>	

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## Charing and District Local History Society.

Meetings are held in the Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing TN27 0JA. The lecture starts at 8pm. Annual Membership: £9 for adults, £8 concession for senior citizens and a joint family fee of £15. Full time students are free. Non-members: £3 per meeting.

**13th October speaker: Dr Anne Kneif: *The Bevin Boys***, directed to the mines in the 2nd World War. Find out what awaited the young men who were sent down the pits by Ernest Bevin, the minister of Labour in Churchill's Coalition Government.

### Plans

16/01387/AS Oakover Nurseries, Maidstone Road Change of use from sui generis to B8 (storage and distribution) and erection of a warehouse with car parking, hardstanding and landscaping. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council  
KC/AS/0065/2016 Tarmac Works, Watery Lane, Westwell A decision is awaited from KCC  
16/00519/AS 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Downsview Cottage, Westwell Lane, Westwell  
Approved by ABC  
16/00980/AS 1 Malthouse Cottage, Westwell Lane, Westwell Approved by ABC

Mystery Guest  
revealed:

Tony Lister



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## Livestock at Hothfield Heathlands

More and more people are visiting Hothfield Heathlands to see the livestock, which have become an integral part of the landscape. People are always asking us for more information about our animals, so I have put together some facts about our hairy workers. Grazing is an essential part of nature conservation. The open habitat of Hothfield Heathlands has been created by thousands of years of grazing, more recently by domestic animals and before that, wild herbivores such as deer and even bison!

Cattle, ponies and sheep that are used for wildlife conservation are normally traditional breeds that are tough enough to cope with rough grazing. These tend to be smaller and more docile than modern breeds. The cattle at Hothfield are Highland cattle. We do not have any bulls, the herd is made up of cows (adult female cattle that have had calves) heifers (young female cattle) and steers (castrated male cattle). All the cattle (male and female) can have horns.

The sheep on the reserve are Hebridean or Herdwick sheep. Both of these old breeds are adapted to browse on young trees and bramble.

The Konik ponies that grazed Hothfield in 2014 are currently grazing a grassland nature reserve near Dover.

People and Livestock:

If you would like to know where the animals are before you bump into them, there are maps on all the information boards, detailing which compartments they are currently grazing in.

I also have an email group, to which I send updates on location, dates of moves etc. If you would like to be added to this group, please send a message to [ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk)

Encountering the animals on site:

It is important that people do not feed the livestock – this can have health implications, and will encourage them to be a nuisance to other people.

When walking through the animals:

If they have not seen you, let them know you are there by talking. “Hello cow” works a treat. Ideally walk around the outside of the group. If that is not possible, move through the group quickly and calmly. If the animals start following you, or run towards you, Do not panic and run away, if they are inquisitive they may run to keep up with you. If you stop they will keep a safe distance from you. Raise your voice – but do not shout – and raise your arms to make yourself look bigger – but do not wave them about. Make eye contact with the cattle to keep them at a distance. Walk briskly away, keeping an eye on the cattle and on your footing.

If you have a dog:

Follow signage that asks to keep dogs on leads. Always keep dogs on leads when sheep are present. In all other areas on the reserve keep your dog close to you, in sight and/or on a lead when visiting an area with livestock. Avoid walking amongst cattle wherever possible. If cattle chase you and your dog, it is safer to let go of your dog's lead – Cattle see dogs as a much greater threat than humans, and a dog free from its lead is able to escape. Most of the cattle and ponies are owned by the Kent wildlife Trust. We have a team of volunteers who help check them on a daily basis. If you would like to get involved contact the warden on [ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk) or 01622 662012



## Westwell WI

Our September meeting was the ever popular annual 'Members' Night' which was well attended and certainly did not disappoint, for that thanks must go to Mary Ann Pitt, who not only wrote, but also directed a comedy composed in the guise of a visual radio play entitled 'Honesty is the Best Policy'. Mary Ann's imaginative plot involved three 'old biddies', played convincingly by Kay Hooper, Ella Young and Valerie Hooper, who are overly concerned with what would likely become of them in old age. Doris Cacket's vote of thanks mirrored general

approval and delight, which was followed by a presentation of attractive 'Thank you' gifts from members to the committee for their work over the past year.

The competition, 'Linen' was only entered by two members, so well earned joint prizes were awarded to Mary Ann Pitt and Angela Osborne.

*Margaret Carden* 

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 13th October at 7.30pm.

**Talk:-** Canine Partners by Malcolm Wells

**Competition -** Tin

**Hostesses:** Pat Guy, Mary Thiele and Pat Warren.

**Vote of thanks:** Sue Starkings

### The Westwell Eye - Facts and Figures.

**370** copies of your magazine are printed by Print Junction each month. The cost is covered by advertisers and regular contributors, any short fall being met by the Parish Council. It is delivered to every household in the parish, some houses on the Ashford side of Sandhurst Lane, including Hoads Wood and the Maidstone Road. Fourteen are posted to subscribers.

The Eye is edited by Carolyn Thorneloe who asks that all reports, pictures etc. be received by her by the 20th of each month for inclusion in the next issue. This is very important as there is a lot of work involved before it goes to the printers.

Collating and folding takes place at Carolyn's house in Lenham by Rosemary Harding, Liz Jamieson, Joan Richards and Carolyn.

Rosemary and Joan distribute, immediately, bags containing the copies to **fifteen** Westwellians who in their turn give up their time to deliver to all the households.

All this is done on a completely voluntary basis and those concerned are not happy when they hear of certain receivers who complain the Eye is sometimes late getting to them.

These people might wish to give up their time and energy and Volunteer themselves.

**Joan Richards.**

### B & B in Westwell The Lodge - at Glebe Cottage



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## Westwell Players

Our new Chairman, Neil Cackett, is very disappointed to say that there are not enough Players to cast "Act Your Age" and so he has reluctantly decided to look at other scripts and put that particular play on the back burner! Maybe next year when we have more actors raring to go!! If you are reading this and thinking that you would like to come and join us, please telephone me on 01233 713002 and I will arrange to meet you and have a chat before you commit yourself to coming to a meeting. We may do two one-act plays or maybe a pantomime or how about "Daisy Pulls It Off" or does someone out there have some other brilliant idea of something that we can put on to keep the new members and the old hands occupied and happy over the autumn and winter months? We were thrilled to welcome three new faces at our last reading and we are sure there are others who are just waiting in the wings to join us for some fun and games in the Parish Hall. See you all on **Tuesday 27th September at 7.30** when Neil will have made his decision.

*Mary Anne Pitt* 

### Age Concern UK

Ashford Age UK is a local charity dedicated to promoting the well being of older adults and making later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience.

We are undertaking a wide ranging review of our services and resources and planning to develop a much broader range of opportunities for older people in Ashford and surrounding areas.

We are looking to recruit a number of volunteers to help us provide and support services both at our community centre at Farrow Court in South Ashford and also in local communities as we develop locally based opportunities.

Volunteering can be a wonderful experience for a wide range of people of all ages. For some it is a gateway into work and for others the chance to meet other people and develop a range of interests and also of course to make a big difference to the lives of older people.

We are looking for volunteers to help with supporting a wide range of our services including leisure and educational activities, helping with refreshments, answering the telephones, other office based duties, gardening, trips out and befriending.

All volunteers will be trained and supported and vetted to ensure we continue to provide a safe and secure service.

Please call Jennie Double, Chief Officer, on 01233 754942 or call 01233 668765 or email [enquiries@ageukashford.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageukashford.org.uk)

### Fly Tipping

There seems to be an increase in flytipping in the village, especially near residential areas, we are so lucky to live in this village, surrounded by beautiful countryside, flytipping not only spoils this, but does so much harm to wildlife.



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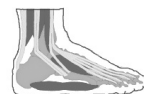
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# Letter to the Parishes

Greetings from the Rector.

This week, the combine harvesters have been at work opposite the vicarage. It doesn't matter how old I get, I find I am still fascinated by this process as the large agricultural harvesting machinery moves slowly across the field, the tractors and the vehicle that collects the harvest conveying the contents to an unseen destination before returning to collect more. How fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful part of the country to be able to witness the ploughing, the sowing and the reaping of the bounties of the earth. At our services during October we will have a chance to come together to celebrate the harvest, to remind ourselves of God's gracious provision and to pray for our farmers and all who work the land.

Although this is highly appropriate we are increasingly mindful of those in countries where the harvest has failed, where drought has led to poverty, where gratitude for God's provision seems like a hollow echo. We all know that poverty is not to be found only in the developing nations but is here on our doorstep too. Contributions to the Foodbank boxes located in all the churches are gratefully received and allocated to families in need almost as quickly as they are received. Thank you for all your contributions so far. Let us not stop contributing in this way, for it is a certain fact that the poverty that drives people to the Foodbank will not stop overnight either. There are very many charities that dedicate themselves to bringing relief overseas and to the UK, No doubt you have your favourite charities that you choose to support. In recent months I have come across two new ones that have caught my attention that I share with you here.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has taken a very public stance on the need for a more just financial system and to kick start the Mustard Seed Appeal, he has donated a generous gift of money. Over 8 million people in the UK are struggling in financial distress. Without access to other finance options, many resort to high cost loans to cover basic needs such as food and fuel. This is having a devastating effect on physical and mental health, families and entire communities.

Work has already started to address these problems. The Mustard Seed Appeal aims to support the development of Credit Unions and the training of volunteers to provide budgeting and debt advice, thus addressing the problem of financial insecurity at source rather than trying to alleviate the effects of poverty at a much later stage. (<http://www.cuf.org.uk/mustard-seed-appeal>)

Shared Interest ('Investing in a fairer world') is another financially related ethical investment initiative where money raised through the purchasing of shares goes into a shared interest pot. The interest is used to provide fair finance across the globe. The aim of the charity is to alleviate poverty by enabling people in remote and disadvantaged communities to trade and earn a living. (<http://www.shared-interest.com/> Be sure to add the hyphen!)

I finish on another agriculturally related matter – the licensing of Rev Chris Hodgkins to the new post of Associate team Priest and Rural Business Chaplain in the Diocese of Canterbury and the Diocese of Chichester. The church in Rolvenden where the licensing took place was packed for this occasion. Before singing the harvest hymn "God whose farm is all creation" Bishop Trevor Willmott spoke to the gathered crowd using Psalm 104 as the basis for his words. "You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth, wine to gladden the human heart and bread to strengthen the human heart". We are all labourers in God's farm tilling the land and reaping the harvest for the building of his kingdom. Let us continue to pray for Chris and Julie and family as they settle into their new roles.

Happy Harvest!

*Sheila*

## Etc

### Future Fund Raising events.

Harvest Supper and Auction of promises  
Saturday 1st October.

Bazaar. Saturday 3rd December.

### 1st Charing Scout Group

Over the summer our scouts have been hiking and camping. The new term has now started and we are welcoming new young people and leaders.

Our thoughts are still with the huge amount of fundraising we need to do for our new headquarters. Our next event is a race night on October 1st. This promises to be great fun, see below.

Gsl\_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

**Terry Lister**

### A Night at the Races Saturday 1st October

Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing

Doors open 7pm, first race 7:45pm

Free entry Tables of 6 to 8 adults

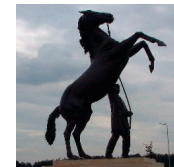
Licensed Bar, No Experience needed

To book; Email:

phil\_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Text or phone: 07783 470013

All profits to the new Scout HQ



### Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel **Friday 7th October**  
from 10.30 - 11.45am. Before coffee there will be Iona Eucharist at 10am in St Mary's



### Book Club,

13th September, 'Driving over Lemons' by Chris Stewart,, a very inviting title and front cover image . The story of an English couple who start a life-long adventure by buying a derelict farm and house in Andalusia, and actually end up settling there. The description of landscape and dealings with the locals are true to life in that part of Spain. Funny overall, but a story of a brave life-changing decision. The writer was the drummer for Genesis band for a short while and then became a farmer and, laterly, travel writer who contributed to Rough Guide books. There were nine of us at the meeting and the discussion was very entertaining. This is a real holiday read, lighthearted and funny. Our next book will be any work by Alexander MacCall Smith, the African or Scottish series', for the **Tuesday 11th October**. And for **November**, 'The Elegance of the Hedgehog' by Muriel Barbery. Meet at the pub, 11am. New blood welcome!



### Harvest Supper and Auction of Promises

The Harvest supper is on 1st October in the Parish Hall. The menu and cost remain the same as last year. Sarah Scarrett is organising the food this year and Martin Wyatt with Dave Harding are in charge of the Auction of Promises. Ring Sue Wood for tickets.

### Promises Promises...

Do you have a skill that you'd like to share? Sewing, baking, combine harvesting, wood whittling and more have been promised in the past. Could you offer a promise for this year's Auction? Contact Dave Harding, with details please [dharding37@btinternet.com](mailto:dharding37@btinternet.com).





## Westwell Church Services for October

[www.g7benefice.org](http://www.g7benefice.org)

### Sunday 2nd: 19th Sunday of Trinity

11am Harvest Family Worship

### Friday 7th: 10am Iona Eucharist

### Sunday 9th: 20th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

### Sunday 16th: 21st Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion

3.30pm Messy Church

### Sunday 23rd: Last Sunday after Trinity

11am Eucharist

### Sunday 30th: All Saints

8am Holy Communion BCP - Pluckley

10.30am Benefice Service - Charing

### Tuesdays:

9am The Eucharist - Charing

7pm Prayer and Bible Study - Charing Heath

### Baptism

Gemima Carolyn Gelson Callanan was baptised at St. Mary, Westwell on Sunday 4th September.

*May God make her home*

*Christian and loving*

### Family Church October 2016

All Age Service Sunday 2nd October, 11am Join us to celebrate Harvest with familiar hymns, a chance to share the riches of our harvest, ending with homemade soup and bread.

Gifts of food will be gratefully received. It will go to the Food Bank so they should be non perishable with a long lead in time.

**Messy Church Sunday 16th October** at 3.30pm in the Parish Hall.

We will be celebrating autumn with crafts and games and a bit of baking together.

All children 10 and under are welcome with an adult or more. A fun way to spend an autumn afternoon working together to produce happy memories. Friends are always welcome.

### Operation Christmas Child

Last year we made up 6 shoeboxes full of gifts for children in difficult times and places. They were sent to orphanages in the Ukraine.

This year we'd like to do the same with your help. You can fill an entire shoebox or bring some items in to join with others so that together we fill a box.

These may help you think of ideas to help fill a shoebox. Remember space is limited!

Wow" Item

Delight a kid! Start with a medium to large item that will capture the child's attention the instant he or she opens the box.

Ideas include: Soccer ball with pump, Stuffed animal, Toys (puppets, trucks, etc.), Doll (baby, Barbie, etc.), Musical instrument, Outfit, Shoes

Toys: Include items that children will immediately embrace such as toy cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc. Non-liquid Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.

Accessories: T-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

Crafts: Make your own items such as hair bows, finger puppets, and friendship bracelets.

A Personal Note: You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself, your family, or group. If you include your name and an address, the child may be able to write back.

Do Not Include

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items aerosol can.

Empty Shoeboxes are to be found in Church if you want to add a couple of items. If you want to fill your own you can leave your completed box in the church to be collected with other boxes. The closing date is 12th November.

Contact Heather Lister [hlisters@hotmail.com](mailto:hlisters@hotmail.com) for more details.

## Update From Ashford College – New Build – Elwick Road.

Exciting news! The Topping Out ceremony for Phase 1 of the new college in Elwick Road took place on 23rd September. The event was attended by Gerry Clarkson, leader of Ashford Borough Council; Tracey Kerly, CEO Ashford Borough Council; Cllr George Koowaree and Mrs Gloria Champion, Mayor and Mayoress of Ashford; Reverend John Mackenzie, Team Rector Ashford Town and other VIPs.

The Hadlow Group, of which Ashford College is a part, was represented by Paul Hannan – Group Principal and CEO, Mark Lumsdon-Taylor and members of the Executive Team. BAM, the Construction company responsible for Phase 1, was represented by senior executives.

Putting the last structural steel beam or final roofing piece in place on a building is a project milestone. In celebration, many contractors place an Evergreen on top of the building. The Evergreen usually remains in place until the building is finished; sometimes it is decorated at Christmas.

This celebration has ancient roots. The most widely cited story credits pre-Dark Age Scandinavian cultures with the practice of placing a tree on the top of a new building to appease the tree-dwelling spirits of their ancestors displaced when construction commenced.

At that time it was common for everyone to pitch in to help a farmer build a new house or barn. The community would contribute their labour until the ridge pole, the highest horizontal beam, was in place. At that point, to express his appreciation, the farmer would hold a party for all his friends. An Evergreen tree was placed on the highest point of the structure for good luck and to indicate the building was nearing completion - thus calling for a celebration.

Scandinavian invaders brought the practice to Britain in the mid to late 8th century. English architect William of Wykeham attended one of the earliest known Topping Out ceremonies at Winchester College on 28 March 1393. In 14th century England it was customary to put a Yew tree branch at the highest point of the building to keep evil spirits at bay.

The Topping Out ceremony continues to be celebrated around the world. In Brazil, branches and leaves are attached to the building and the workforce eat, drink and dance as part of a ritual known as Fiesta da Cemieira. In Germany, Laurels are hung around the chimney of a residence to acknowledge the 'birth' of a new building. The Danish decorate the roof of the building with Evergreen garlands.

The Topping Out Ceremony for Ashford College is the first of the big 8 projects to 'Top Out'. The new-build Ashford College will open to students in September 2017. Further information from Patricia Crawford Associates – 01622 618628 [pat.crawford@hadlow.ac.uk](mailto:pat.crawford@hadlow.ac.uk)

### Church Cleaning Rota.

**Cleaning:** Melanie Major

**Flowers:** Sarah Stevenson

**Brass:** Sue Norman



**Conundrum by Barney Stay - September Eye**

Has anybody noticed  
The dearth of gliders  
In the skies over Westwell these days ?  
Where are they all I wonder?  
Is this some preternatural sign?  
Or are they simply victims  
Of a verbal ground - to - air missile  
From Lady Anonyma Philistine?

**A Response to Barney Stay from a villager who wishes to remain anonymous.**

It ain't Old School romantic,  
Merely creepy (and frantic),  
When silent spindly craft,  
And their raucous tows,  
Ply the air above my home,  
Without request or warning,  
Every sunny weekend morning .  
Wordless Watchers and their  
Grumbling Motor Escorts;  
Round and round and round again  
All for the pleasure of two Magnificent Men.  
Nought thought for the vestiges of Tranquility ,  
Within our precious AONB,  
They join chorus with the motorway:  
Noise pollution and invasion of privacy  
The very modern price for their  
Pretty vintage ride.....  
But where on Earth can you have been hiding?  
I have seen plenty of recent gliding  
And no need for aviation-lovers to vent spleen unseen  
Or through the medium of  
Perverse public verse.  
If you feel you are missing out,  
Do feel free to give me a shout,  
Perhaps I can arrange for a remote control drone,  
To endlessly circumnavigate your own home?

(PS as modern drones are so quiet I'll throw in the tow-plane sound effects for free!)

From someone who suspects she may be a Lady Anonyma, although if you're unable to accept dissenting views might I suggest that the "philistine" label sits more comfortably on your own shoulders, Sir?

**More response to Barney Stay!**

Just a little note to allay any concerns regarding a deficit in the historic sight of gliders in our skies, this summer has I believe been a rather good season for gliding, with blue skies dappled with separate cumulo nimbus clouds. These clouds mark the top of rising columns of air which gliders circle in to gain height above the ground, before setting off across country, usually in a straight line (and descending!) to the next column of rising air - called a "thermal". Thus flights of several hours can be achieved, covering surprisingly long distances, maybe 50 -100 kilometers, regarded as a "local" cross country flight. Or perhaps 150-300 or occasionally 500km if meteorological conditions are good. Gliders are the ultimate solar powered aircraft, powered by the sun heating the ground, which in turn provides the thermals of rising warm air.

So the mystery is solved...on these ideal days, often referred to by glider pilots as "stonking!" when you look up and see just a few gliders, these are maybe pilots under training and the experts are elsewhere, perhaps over Canterbury (local x-country) or maybe Winchester, or further! These flights can exceed the time in which a powered aircraft would land to refuel. Kent gliding club is thriving and would welcome local residents to experience a taste of this aerial sport for themselves.

Give the club a call if you are interested in a different view of your village, and a memory you will not forget.

Regards Bob Burden , Gold Hill.

**And now for something completely different! - submitted by Anne Pitt**

When I was in my younger days, I weighed a few pounds less,  
I needn't hold my tummy in - to wear a belted dress,  
But now that I am older, I've set my body free,  
There's comfort in elastic, where once my waist would be!  
Inventor of those high-heeled shoes, my feet have not forgiven,  
I have to wear a nine now, but used to wear a seven,  
And how about those pantyhose, they're sized by weight you see  
So how come when I put them on, the crotch is at my knee?  
I need to wear these glasses as the print's been getting smaller  
And it wasn't very long ago, I know that I was taller  
Though my hair has turned to gray and my skin no longer fits  
On the inside I'm the same old me, just the outside's changed a bit!

*Anon*