



The Wheel

New Lunch Menu 12noon-3pm

New Dinner Menu 6pm-9pm

Sunday Roast 12noon-4.30pm

Curry night - Wednesday - 4th April

Pie Evening Thursday - 12th April

Pub quiz - 20th April 7pm

Quiz £2 per person, cash prize and fizz. Free juke box after quiz

Steak night + New band - 27th April (?) see p3

Contact: 01233 712223

info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk



THE WESTWELL EYE

182

April

2018



Top: St. Mary's in the snow, taken by Michael Briest. **Bottom right:** Elsa March and a snow drift! **Left:** The thaw.



6th April

9th, 23rd April

10th April

11th April

19th April

20th April

26th, 27th, 28th April

10.30am Coffee in The Wheel - all welcome

1.30pm Painting Group

11am Book Club - The Wheel

Local plan hearings start - Civic Centre - p3

7pm Fete meeting - The Wheel

7pm Quiz - The Wheel

7pm Players Production - p10

April 2018

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Easter Sunday 8am Holy Communion 11am Family Eucharist	2 7pm Fitness	3 7.30pm Players	4 Curry Night The Wheel	5 Re.FT 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog Training	6 10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	7
8 2nd Sunday of Easter 11am Iona Eucharist St. Mary Westwell 2.15pm Players	9 1.30pm WI painting 7pm Fitness	10 7.30pm Players	11 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	12 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog training 7.30pm WI Meeting Pie Night - Wheel	13	14
15 3rd Sunday of Easter 11am Family Service St. Mary Westwell 2.15pm Players	16 7pm Fitness	17 Book Club - p13 7.30pm Players	18 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	19 Re.FT 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog Training	20 7pm Quiz The Wheel	21
22 4th Sunday of Lent 11am Eucharist St. Mary Westwell 2.15pm Players	23 1.30pm WI painting 7.30pm Players	24	25 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	26 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 10.30 Dog Training 7pm Players	27 7pm Players Steak night? The Wheel	28 7pm Players
29 5th Sunday of Lent 8am Holy Communion - Pluckley 10.30am G7 Communion - Charing	30 7pm Fitness	1	2	3 Re.FT	4	5

From the Editor's desk...

First, I must apologies for omitting the date of the Sandyhurst Lane Residents Association AGM from the March Eye, a complete failure on my part!

This month sees new menus at the Wheel and also three special meal evenings, curry, pie and steak – see back page for dates. Please support these evenings if you can, as James wants to make these a regular monthly thing! **The date of the steak night might change to avoid clashing with the Players' production, so keep a look out.**

The Players' Spring Production is this month – see page 10 for details. Tickets are selling well so book now to avoid disappointment.

Also on page 10 there is a notice about the Fete, together with a date for the first meeting, please volunteer to help – your village needs you.

Lorry parking, local plan and playing field parking is all up dated in this issue. And then there are all the usual items.

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.

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

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE WESTWELL EYE

Classified ads from £3 p/issue - Business block ads from £60 p/year.

Prices include free design, illustration and layout.

Copy & payment to be received by the 20th of each month.

Payable to:- The Westwell Eye, either direct to bank or cheque

Sue Wood, 14, Sandyhurst Lane TN25 4NS

Would you like to receive the Westwell Eye but don't live in the area?

You can now receive it every month by post. For an annual subscription, simply send the editor your name and address and pay £8 to Sue Wood, cheque payable to The Westwell Eye

Printed by Print Junction - 01233 624462 - info@print-junction.co.uk - Drum Lane, Ashford, TN23 1LQ

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
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:	
http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

AZ CARING SERVICES



For all aspects of care and support work,
Daily and Live In
please contact Arthur and his team on
07552 766428
email: arthurzvik@hotmail.co.uk.
Excellent local references

Oil Boiler Service

established 1987

Family friendly business
Professional, efficient service



For servicing, breakdowns and
commissioning contact: P&V Quenby Ltd
01227 760428 www.oilboilerskent.co.uk

CHIROPODY & PODIATRY

Podplus Shop & Clinic
Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford, TN24 8NG
01233 660 851 www.podplus.co.uk

Local Plan Update

Planning Inspectors start hearings on the Local Plan this month.

Anyone can attend on any day. Speakers are generally limited to one per parish on each issue being discussed. Sue Wood as the Parish Clerk is booking the speaker slots we might need. Look out on Westwell Events for meetings to discuss key points we should make at the hearings and who should be the speaker. Hearings start on **11th April** at the Civic Centre. They will continue on certain days – not continuously! – until **13th June**.

For your diary the hearing dates which may be of particular interest are: **1st May 2pm**: issue 10, when some of the general planning issues of all the A20 sites will be discussed under the “separation of settlements” policy SP7. **2nd May 9.30am** Issue 7: provision of gypsy and traveller accommodation. Contact Sue Wood if you have any questions.

The hearing calendar and list of issues are on the Ashford website, but these two documents will also be on the Westwell parish council and community websites.

The Inspectors’ task is to consider all the evidence they have and determine whether the Plan that has been submitted by Ashford Borough Council is satisfactory on a number of planning criteria. If they conclude that it is they will be able to recommend that the Plan is approved. It is unlikely that there will be any very significant changes overall because Ashford needs to have an up to date approved Local plan. However the discussion on Traveller sites and policies under issue 7 may lead the Inspectors to recommend that these are only provisional while Ashford completes the work on a separate gypsy and traveller plan. This plan has just started and the first stage is in consultation now.

The inspectors already have the huge amount of evidence that was submitted in August 2016 and August 2017. This includes all the very comprehensive comments made by everyone in Westwell parish.

Next update in the May Eye !

Playing field parking

The wet weather in the last few weeks has made it necessary to close the parking on the playing field despite the protective matting. The rain has washed soil out from parts of the matting and onto the top of other parts of the matting making it too slippery to use as a parking area. As the area affected is relatively small and shallow we hope that we can remove the surface soil with garden tools and re-expose the matting and reopen the parking. A working party will have started on this on March 24th. If needed there will be another working in April notified through Westwell Events.

Thank you for finding alternative solutions while the playing field parking has been closed, and to Gold Hill residents for being accommodating.

Planning applications

18/00296/AS 3 Westwell Lane, Tutt Hill Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of two story rear extension

The Parish Council had no objection to the application and a decision is awaited from the Borough Council.

TO LET
TO LET
TO LET
TO LET
TO LET

We are an Independent Residential Letting and Property Management company based in Ashford, Kent.

Established in 2004 Classic Lettings has grown to become a leading Residential Letting Agency in Ashford, the surrounding villages and the wider Kent area.

We offer Letting Only, Rent Collection or Full Management services.

Give us a call for a chat and see how we can help with your investment property.



Classic Lettings
Residential Letting Agent


01233 623534
info@classiclettings.co.uk
www.classiclettings.co.uk

Your property investment in trusted hands

CURTAINS
CUSHIONS
ROMAN BLINDS, ETC

01233-713130 07788-600262

DAWNLEONARD63@BTINTERNET.COM



SOFT FURNISHINGS

WINDOW TREATMENTS FOR BEAUTIFUL HOMES

Country Funerals

Ashford's only independant Funeral Directors

For a caring 24 hour service contact Leah Hutchinson

01233 712222
07708407229

Pre-paid funeral plan available
Yonderway, Westwell, Ashford, Kent TN25 4LE




CHIROPODIST

CHRISTINE GRIFFITHS
MSSCh MBChA
HPC reg

FOOT CLINIC
Mon - Sat including evenings
Home visits available
Tel: 01233 664702
07958 328525




Suzie's Care Service

Personal Care and Support

Sitting Service

Transport to Dr's and Hospital

Housekeeping



07581 013899 / Suzieusher12@gmail.com



Thorneloe & Co.

Solicitors

Michael and Harriet Thorneloe



An independent family practice providing a friendly, high quality personal service.

Specialists in:

- Wills
- Estate Administration
- Trusts & Taxation
- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Court of Protection

- Residential Conveyancing
- Commercial Conveyancing
- Re-mortgaging
- Equity Release
- Buy-to-Let

01622 859 416

thorneloe@thorneloe.co.uk www.thorneloe.co.uk

Now at St. Mary's House, Lenham, Kent ME17 2PH

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority
Registered Number 70429




SELECTA TWIST

40oz WOOL TWIST
MADE FROM 80% PURE
NEW BRITISH WOOL

£19.95 SQ.M

INCLUDING FITTING

VISIT US TODAY AT
SELECTA HOUSE
CHARING HILL
CHARING
KENT TN27 0NL
8AM - 6PM MON-FRI
9AM - 5PM SATURDAY

CALL 01233 714 999

CARPETSDIRECTCHARING.CO.UK



CARPET

WOOD

LAMINATE

VINYL

Walk Church: A church on the move

Reverend Alex Bienfait, Rector of Smarden Church and Biddenden Church writes: "Can we create church by gathering and walking in nature? This might seem an odd idea, but look at it like this: the traditional ramble can have many of the elements of traditional worship, such as gathering, sharing the word and sharing food. Ideas are still in formation but would involve: a welcome and explanation of the gathering, an introduction of the theme, prayer, a Bible reading, and then the walk.

Walks would involve some silence, asking people to be attentive to what they notice and see around them. There would also be conversation; reflecting on set questions arising from the scripture reading. A stop for a break will also allow the possibility of drawing together responses and a time for prayer. If the break didn't include the sharing of food, at the end there might be the chance of a shared meal in a pub: the communion. Why a "Walk Church"? There has been a huge growth in numbers of people meeting for rambling and we are all encouraged to take more exercise. With Sunday rambles, some are torn between the desire to take part in church and going for a walk. There are also many people who are uninspired by church, but who still want to explore questions of faith and pray together with others in a natural setting. Walk Church might also help us connect better with God? Where do people in the Bible most often encounter God? – It is outdoors. Just how often do we hear about people speaking about how they experience God in the "cathedrals of nature".

The first 'Walk Church' event, 'An Experimental Congregation Celebrating God in the Outdoors', will meet at 10am on Sunday 22nd April at the Market Place in Charing.* You are invited to bring suitable footwear and clothing and a snack and something to drink. Walking time will be about 2 hours, some of which will be uphill on to the downs. Well-behaved dogs are welcome but must be kept under control. For further details please contact the Rev'd Alex Bienfait, rector@sbcofe.org, or ringing 01580 281454.

* Although 'Walk Church' is leaving from Charing, this is a wider diocesan initiative and is not being organised by the G7 Benefice.

Milk to your door

I felt I wanted to make villagers aware that we have a milkman who still delivers to our village and has been delivering to me for the last 25 years, probably the last traditional service to serve our village. The milkman sells more than just milk, but sells a number of essential items. They supply milk in glass bottles (which will please David Attenborough!) and are known as Milk and More. If you would like to use this service please contact, Milk and More 0345 6063606

Leah Hutchinson



Godinton House and Gardens



Walks and Workshops

April 21st The Annual Garden
with Head Gardiner

April 27th Estate Walk
with Estate Manager

For information and to book a place contact

01233 643854

www.godintonhouse.co.uk

WESTWELL WI



As our President, Barbara Gardner, is on an extended trip to Australia, this month's meeting was taken by our Vice-President, Marilyn Warner.

Our speaker this month was David Fagg from the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust. David talked about the service, inspired by Kate Chivers, began in 1989. He told us how the initial funding was raised, and continues to be raised, to support the two helicopters and crews. Each crew consists of a pilot, doctor and paramedic, all highly trained and experienced in their field.

We also learned of some of the ground-breaking equipment used to save lives, the advanced techniques used and some of the stories behind those lives saved. It was a very informative and moving evening, paying tribute to those dedicated personnel who man the helicopters.

Members were reminded of some of our forthcoming events, including a second evening of Cribbage on 19th April and a Ladies Lunch at The George at Molash on 20th April. We are also holding a Horse Race Night on 3rd May and members were asked to sign up for this well in advance so catering could be planned.

We were also reminded of the day trip to Le Touquet on 6th June. Regrettably, we need a few more to sign up as we have not yet reached the minimum number. This has been opened up to other WIs in the area, so fingers crossed!

Members were also informed of another Fashion Show from Ibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo of Tenterden. This will be held at the Parish Hall on the afternoon of Saturday 9th June. It will be an open event for anyone who wishes to come to see the fashions.

Our competition this month brought forth a number of entries including horse brasses, candlesticks, but the winner was a beautifully elaborate toasting fork.

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th April.

Work of the Barnados

Hostesses: Mesdames Natalie Harman, Meg Lloyd, and Valerie Hooper

Vote of thanks: Sue Starkings

Competition: Flower arrangement in an egg cup



1st Charing Scout Group



A huge thank you to The Village Voice who have now completed their year's fundraising and donated money towards the new kitchen.

In May the whole group is camping together for the first time. This will be an interesting challenge! One problem is that we do not have currently enough tents for everyone. We are so grateful to Charing Parish Council who have sponsored two new tents for us.

The date for this year's colour run has been announced. Why not come along on July 1st. It will be great fun. gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk **Terry Lister. Group Scout Leader**

April by Helen Hunt Jackson

No days such honored days as these! While yet
Fair Aphrodite reigned, men seeking wide
For some fair thing which should forever bide
On earth, her beauteous memory to set
In fitting frame that no age could forget,
Her name in lovely April's name did hide,
And leave it there, eternally allied
To all the fairest flowers Spring did beget.
And when fair Aphrodite passed from earth,
Her shrines forgotten and her feasts of mirth,
A holier symbol still in seal and sign,
Sweet April took, of kingdom most divine,
When Christ ascended, in the time of birth
Of spring anemones, in Palestine.

Always Marry An April Girl by Ogden Nash

Praise the spells and bless the charms,
I found April in my arms.
April golden, April cloudy,
Gracious, cruel, tender, rowdy;
April soft in flowered languor,
April cold with sudden anger,
Ever changing, ever true --
I love April, I love you.

Over The Land Is April by Robert Louis Stevenson

Over the land is April,
Over my heart a rose;
Over the high, brown mountain
The sound of singing goes.
Say, love, do you hear me,
Hear my sonnets ring?
Over the high, brown mountain,
Love, do you hear me sing?

By highway, love, and byway
The snows succeed the rose.
Over the high, brown mountain
The wind of winter blows.
Say, love, do you hear me,
Hear my sonnets ring?
Over the high, brown mountain
I sound the song of spring,
I throw the flowers of spring.
Do you hear the song of spring?
Hear you the songs of spring

Kilby's Chimney Sweep

All Types of Fires and Stoves
Swept Using Brush and Vacuum

Pots, Cows
and Birdguards
Supplied and Fitted.



07756 007428 / 01233 840948

ICS Registered - Fully Insured
Certificates Issued

ANP Security



Supply, install and maintain
security systems, including

Intruder Alarms
CCTV

Free no obligation
survey and quotation

Andy Peddle 01233 224874 - Westwell

Airport Transfer & Chauffeur Service ETM Cars

Competitive Prices

Professional Service

Safe Comfortable Journey

Bottled Water Provided

Free Wi-Fi

Dave Hopper

01233 629551

info@etmcars.co.uk



KINGSLAND CARPENTRY

Flooring, Doors, Windows

Kitchen and Bedroom Furniture

Quality Bespoke Carpentry and

Cabinet Builds



City and Guilds Qualified

Call Simon (Westwell)

07899 968179/01233 612242

COUNTY PROBATE SERVICES

Easing the Stress of Bereavement

- We are practical and fast and above all sympathetic
- Less costly than banks and most solicitors
- Part of Malcolm Horton Chartered Accountants Practice so expert on Inheritance Matters and Trusts
- If there is no will can advise on Intestacy
- Free Initial Consultation

Contact: 01233 712112

Info@countyprobateservices.com www.countyprobateservices.com

Accredited by ICAEW C004168781



W
C
W
S

Westwell Community Watch Scheme

Keeping you Safe and Secure
Neighbourhood Watch

As I gratefully reflected on the winter just passed and the relatively light impact of the so called "Beast from the East" on our area my thoughts turned to the importance of Community Watch at times of disrupted life and travel. How important it is for those of us able to more easily get around because of our mobility both physically and by the vehicles at our disposal, to think of our less fortunate neighbours.

If you are making the effort yourself to pop to the shops or to the doctors or pharmacy think about your neighbours, can they get out?

If not, see what they need and how can you get it for them.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just looking out for villains in the area - it is looking out for the members of your community.

Kent Police

Now that we have celebrated Easter our thoughts turn away from winter and look forward to the warm balmy evenings in our gardens with a glass of "something" in our hands. But apparently so do the bad guys.

Kent Police tell us that Spring also sees the re-growth of garden thefts. In a statement Andrew Judd, our local NHW Liaison Officer advises

Protect your Garden

Maintain hedges and fences to prevent unwanted visitors from entering your garden

Close your garden gate and lock it from the inside

Store bins and ladders carefully so they can't be used as climbing aids

Store tools and equipment somewhere secure after use so they don't get stolen or used to break into your home

Secure sheds and garages with suitable locks and consider fitting shed alarms and security lights

Disable lawn mowers and other large machinery when not in use and chain items together or to a solid anchor point

Security mark valuable items – taking photographs and recording details such as serial numbers and identifying marks can also help to identify items if they get lost or stolen.

Consider registering valuables on a property database such as www.immobilise.com

We now have two PCSO dedicated to our area which we will share with five neighbouring rural wards.

If YOU see or suffer anything suspicious call 999 (if urgent) or use Country Eye, Phone 101 or log in to <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/>. to report it For further details of Westwell Community Watch visit our Police & Community Watch web page on the Westwell website at www.westwell.org

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

Shear Pawfection Mobile Pet Grooming Service

No mess, no stress.

I require 2 parking places +
hook up to power

New customers £5 off
ref: Eye10



07592 779502

www.shearpawfection.co.uk

Facebook

[www.ShearPawfectionMobilePetGroomingSpa](https://www.facebook.com/ShearPawfectionMobilePetGroomingSpa)

B & B in Westwell The Lodge - at Glebe Cottage



Self Contained Annexe,
Twin Room, Ensuite Shower,
Continental Breakfast

£60pn,

<https://www.airbnb.co.uk/rooms/13655402>

Ring Geraldine Bortoli
01233 713919/07852 271886

Simply Gardens



General Garden
Maintenance
One off or Regular

Andy Jenner
07584060447

info@simplygardensashfordkent.co.uk

Proud members of

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

High Quality Painter and Decorator

for all your domestic needs



David Farnfield
Excellent Westwell reference
available

www.davidfarnfield.com
07710 130275/01233 750450

French Polishing Furniture & Antique Restorations

Some Upholstery Repairs
Old Furniture Refurbished

Gordon Forster
35 years experience

01233 712665
07973440309

www.rga-forster.co.uk
gordon@rga-forster.co.uk



PARISH HALL RENTAL

Would you like to hire the Westwell Hall
for your next event? Equipped with:-
Full Catering Facilities,
Stage with lighting and Piano

Rates from - £8 per hour

Table and chair hire also available
(to take away)



Please contact:
Doris Cackett (01233) 712016
doriscackett@btinternet.com



Letter to the Parishes

For the first time in my memory Ash Wednesday was the same day as St Valentine's Day which felt rather at odds with one another and now we are faced with Easter falling on the same day as April Fools' Day.

Many times over the years I have been 'fooled' and have 'fooled' others with a variety of jokes on April Fools' Day but it gets harder every year to find something original. Perhaps the ultimate 'joke' is that the resurrection of Jesus seems so unlikely that it feels like an 'April fool'.

Jesus seemed to enjoy jokes. He spoke to a group of country folk saying 'It's obvious that if a shepherd loses one sheep he'll leave the other 99 roaming around on the hillside whilst he spends his time looking for the one that is lost!' You can almost hear the roar of laughter come from his audience. After all which of them would be prepared to risk the lives of 99 sheep for one who had wandered off? Then Jesus finishes with the clincher – that God the Father is one such 'joker' who would put himself out for each one, however lost they may be. One can almost hear the pin drop as he finishes his story.

And what about the surprise he gave everyone when, up on a hillside the hungry crowd were asked to sit down, over 5000 of them, and out came a boy's picnic. What sort of a joke was this? How was this small amount going to feed so many? What was Jesus thinking about? Well, they were laughing on the other side of their faces when every one of their tummies were filled.

Jesus was a man who lived a life caring for others, preaching good news and pointing people to God. He cured the sick and hung out with near-do-wells. He annoyed the authorities and got into bucket loads of trouble ending in a conviction on trumped up charges at a kangaroo court and sent for execution, all done in illegal and undue haste. He died – but he had the last laugh because he didn't stay dead. Three days later he was raised from the dead. Can you imagine Jesus being raised from the dead and shouting 'April fool'? Or perhaps the people wouldn't recognise that he was actually alive and think the rumours of his resurrection were an April Fool.

The fact is, the resurrection remains a bit of a problem for many people. It seems unbelievable, so it is easier to put it to one side and see it as a 'joke' or a 'myth' that can't quite be explained. But the resurrection of Jesus is fundamental to Christian belief. Jesus DID rise from the dead and that means Jesus conquered the taboo of death and had the last laugh himself. Without the resurrection, Christianity is meaningless. All those that sighed a sigh of relief at his death on that Friday afternoon woke up on Sunday morning to the reality of a risen Jesus in their midst. They could choose to believe it or not – as can we.

So whose joke is it?

Happy Easter and April Fools' Day.

Bonnie Appleton

Etc

Dates for diaries

May 19th Pimms and Hymns

June 16th. Safari Supper

August 26th. Fete

December 1st Bazaar

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, **Friday 6th April** from 10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.



Charing & District Local History Society
Horatio Nelson and Emma Hamilton: This month the speaker is: *Sheila Boyd*. The more human side of Admiral Lord Nelson through his relationship with Emma Hamilton. **12th April** at Charing Parish Hall. 7.45pm for prompt start at 8pm

WAGS

9th, 23rd April



Book Club March 2018

We met at the pub where some of us had lunch afterwards. It was cosy and warm and the coffee and lunch were superb!

The book was **Radio Girls** by Sarah-Jane Stratford. The writer is American and the protagonist is half American, that was reflected in the language which many of us thought was not suitable to a story which starts in 1926 and takes place in London. It is about a young woman who manages to get a job at the BBC and is successful. The story is based on facts surrounding the early years of the corporation and the struggle for effective women to be heard. The discussion was very lively. Many of us remember the programmes when we were younger and there was no television. Listen

with Mother, Children's Hour, and Worker's Playtime were mentioned. There was some intrigue as the war years dawn and the main young woman is asked to obtain documents from German companies to find out if they were collaborating with Germany!

Our next meeting is **April 10th** and we discuss Paradise Lane. One of two titles of your own choice. Either the book by Ruth Hamilton or by Elisabeth Gill. Same title, two books. Interesting to compare.

In May we discuss **A Moveable Feast** by Ernest Hemingway, and in June we talk about a poem of our own choice.,

Charing Gardeners' Society

The next talk, "Survival of the Weediest" is on **Wednesday 18th April at 7.30:** Richard Moyse, Warden of Ranscombe Farm in North Kent, will give an illustrated talk about this amazing reserve. Owned by the international wildflower charity Plantlife, this is one of the UK's most significant reserves. Meeting at Church Barn. Market Place, Charing, TN27 0LP. All welcome, £3 for non-members includes a cuppa after the talk. Raffle, seed swap and plant stall.

You can join this very friendly society at any time. Annual membership of £3 includes our annual, packed with articles, show schedules and details of members' events. Membership benefits include discounts from some local businesses, and "Wine and Wander" visits to members' gardens, the first of which is on **Sunday 15th April**. To join contact Nikki Bromley on 01233 713615 or nixbrom@googlemail.com

Local Plan

**** May 1st and May 2nd ** Page 3**

Car Show

Watch This Space for more news on our Village Classic Car Show **Sunday 24th June**.

Parish News

Westwell Church Services for April

www.g7benefice.org

Sunday 1st: Easter Sunday

8am Holy Communion

11am Family Service

Friday 6th:

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 8th: 2nd Sunday of Easter

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 15th: 3rd Sunday of Easter

11am Family Service

Sunday 22nd: 4th Sunday of Easter

11am Eucharist

Sunday 29th: 5th Sunday of Easter

8am: Holy Communion - Pluckley

10.30am G7 Communion - Charing

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Family Church in April

All church services start with a cuppa and cake from 10.30am and finish with a chance to chat over coffee.



April 1st Sunday Family communion at 11 am finishing with an Egg Hunt.

April 15th All age service, an informal service involving all ages in a friendly look at the Gospel and life in Christ. You are very welcome to come and try us out.

April 22nd celebrates God in the great outdoors. Walk from the market place in Charing to the Downs and back leaving at 10am. You will need suitable clothing and a drink and snack. Well behaved dogs welcome. The walk will last about 2hrs.

Messy Church May 6th explores Christian ideas in an informal family setting in Westwell Parish Hall at 3.30pm with time for creative activities, energetic fun games, outdoor if possible, a bible story, songs and prayers and of course a yummy tea.



We collect charitable donations at coffee after services. February and March were dedicated to the Ashford Family play Nursery which supports deprived families.

In April and May we will be collecting for the Hospice.

Water Aid is our focus in June and July then in August and September running up to the Harvest services we will be supporting the Food Bank administration costs.

Annual Church Parochial Meeting.

Asking questions about the way we run church services and finances after Church on April 8th at St Mary. The annual meeting allows all members of the church's electoral roll to find out more about the way the PCC operates. Come and find out for yourself.

Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning.	Tanya Scott
Flowers.	Rosemary Heddle
Brass.	Suzanne Pier



Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 5th March. The meeting began with the Open Session which gives residents the chance to bring matters to the Council's attention. This was followed by a report from Larry Krause, borough councillor, who confirmed that the grant towards the new chairs had been paid from his ABC fund.

The Minutes of the January and February meetings were approved and planning applications were discussed. An amended application for the Wheel (now for one pair of semi-detached houses and a 3-bed detached) was supported. No objection was raised to an application for an extension at a property in Westwell Lane, Tutt Hill. An update on the Local Plan was given: the Parish Council will submit comments on policies relevant to the sites allocated in the parish, and leaflet nearby homes. The PC will respond to ABC's consultation on Gypsy & Traveller Issues and Options. When planning permission was granted to Tarmac to extend its out-of-hours working, a condition was imposed that part of Watery Lane would be resurfaced, works begin on 9th April.

The financial report was given followed by an update on works to which the Council is committed, including plans for a storage container on the playing field for use by the Players; repairs to the hall access track; remedial works to the matting on the parking area by the hall. Reports from councillors on: Kent Association of Local Councils, Action with Communities in Rural Kent, Highways issues, Tree Warden, Hall Management Committee, Playing Field Association, lorry parking and broadband provision in the parish.

The meeting closed after Any Other Business. The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 8th May at 7pm in the parish hall, all meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

Overnight HGV Parking Ban Trial Makes the A20 Safer and Cleaner.

Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting at the Hare and Hounds on 20th February, and those who commented by email. ABC officers Jo Fox and Catherine Darlington who are running the 18 month overnight parking ban trial came to the meeting and we were able to thank them and their teams for their enforcement and clamping work at night week after week. No trucks have been clamped twice. We have also been able to add a report to the council transport meeting. The report is that the overnight parking ban has already brought big improvements to road safety with far fewer dangerous manoeuvres by HGVs across the A20 at Cades Road and Potters Corner; those that happen during the day are visible and therefore safer. The driving stress and near misses are much reduced. The roadside is clearing, cleaner and the footways more usable for pedestrians. Air quality is much improved, because the diesel chillers are no longer turning on and off through the day and night and because there are fewer HGVs arriving and leaving. Quieter nights and therefore better sleep is a blessed relief. As one resident near Cades road described it: 'it had felt we were living on an industrial park, now we're rural again.

There are still a few HGVs chancing it at night, not all get clamped. But there are far fewer. The trial will run for 18 months before any decisions or extensions.

The lorry parks are now full which is much better working conditions for the drivers. The expansion of the truck stop at Waterbrook is now very important. Support for their planning application 18/00098/AS will help make that happen. If you have comments on the lorry parking situation please email them to Sue Wood: susanwood@uwclub.net.

Westwell Players

The Players are at a very tricky part of any production and that is 'Books Down' suddenly it all seems real and you realise that it is not just a great laugh and a romp once a week when we all get together and have a social evening but it is actually a serious matter and although we thought we knew our words, saying them on stage with no script in sight is quite scary and turn the hardest thespian into a gibbering wreck!!! However Westwell Players are a hardy breed and by next week everyone will be word perfect and ready for anything with costumes chosen and altered or titivated and relatives persuaded to buy tickets too! One major upset is the new hall chairs – are they uncomfortable now that they are finally with us? NO, they are the wrong colour and as such they have got to go back and then we wait for the right colour to be delivered. Will they come before our show? We all hope so, I have promised all my relatives a comfortable evening and now I am worried about that promise!! Anyway tickets are selling fast so if you want to come and find out 'whodunit' and what with, please get in touch with our Box Office – Tracey Faulkner is once again kind enough to be the lady in charge, and the details are as follows: **Price - £15, venue: Westwell Parish Hall. Dates: 26th, 27th, 28th April. Time: 7.00pm**, to include a two course meal with a vegetarian option and coffee and a Murder Mystery which will give you a chance to decide who is the murderer – pitting your wits together with the other folk on your table! We have a licensed bar with wine available either by the glass or by the bottle and beer and soft drinks too. Tickets are available NOW by writing to Tracey at 'Alcina', Watery Lane, Westwell, TN25 4JJ including a stamped addressed envelope for quick return and your cheque made out to Westwell Players. Or if you prefer to collect them the e-mail address is Boxofficewestwellplayers@gmail.com. We would love it if you would like to dress up in 1920's style and really 'get into the spirit' but that is purely optional.

Title of our show - **Death by Paintbrush**, Cast seven speaking parts together with a few invaluable extras who will drink champagne, eat cake and thoroughly enjoy themselves! Please come and see us, we promise you a thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment with a 7.00 start and carriages at 9.45 approx!

Mary Anne Pitt 

Westwell Fete Sunday 26th August

The annual Westwell Fete will take place as usual on August Bank Holiday. So be in Westwell on Sunday August 26th to make it another great day. Tidying up and marking out of the playing field is on Saturday 25th August.

As it now April we need to start planning and agree what is the same as usual and what is new, a craft tent has been suggested to have more good quality things to buy, alongside Westwell's now very special traditional village fete activities and, of course, the dog show: all those amazingly well behaved dogs.

We need to decide who organises which activities and how it comes together. Yes, we need a team! So let's gather at the Wheel at 7pm on Thursday April 19th to get organised. See you there. Christine 07796 930430.



April on Hothfield Heathlands

It was great to hear the Konik ponies on our local nature reserve featured on 12 March in the first of a short series on Wild Horses by Clare Balding Radio 4 (iPlayer - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09v2x6n>). Ian Rickards explained that they are one of the few animals to tackle soft rush and hard rush, really tough plants which can take over whole fields. Koniks are now used worldwide in conservation projects, the Hothfield ponies arriving as two separate herds from Holland. Clare watched them using nose and top lip to sweep away things they didn't want to get in between the moss to what they did want.

The recording was made on a "misty murky damp" day in December, Balding meeting the misty coloured ponies up close: "Hello you lot, they look grumpy with each other, it took a while but now they're following us, this one's right up behind, wondering what have you got there, are we friends now?.. This one has a fantastic mane as if it had a little peroxide streak put in the top - good highlights!"

Ian explained that the Koniks were an attempt by Polish breeders to recreate the Tarpan, the wild European pony (Konik is Polish for horse). Horse historian Susanna Forrest gave more detail on ancient breeds and the programme had news of DNA research only published this February in The Scientist showing that all breeds considered wild to date share genes with breeds that became the domestic horse. So Tarpan and Konik should be considered as feral rather than wild. Sadly there are no truly wild horses left, but as Clare concluded, the Koniks on Hothfield are "a really interesting experiment, it's working, they are healthy hard animals, they're funny as well."

Ian emphasised the significance of this single remnant of ancient heath and peat bog in Kent, with a 96% loss of heathland countrywide

over the last 200 years, an enormous reduction. He said it's amazing how quickly things change if you take the foot off pedal and abandon grazing, the heath would be under layers of scrub and we would lose the species that rely on heathlands. "There are not many places in this part of the world that have horses as part of the natural landscape, it's nice that somewhere in Kent that's still the case," as the heathland birds twittered on in the background.

Hothfield reserve includes a sliver of land at the junction of Watery Lane and the A20, diagonally opposite the Triangle section. This wetland site had been abandoned for decades, slowly disappearing under loads of sycamore trees, an example of what happens when grazing and management stops – nature doesn't stop, inexorably altering the habitat. Ian has organised grazing on it for 8 years now, but its isolation from the rest of the reserve makes it challenging to look after "it's difficult to run the cattle across the road at the exact right time". This spring, volunteers have been tackling some of the bramble growth, and the prolific sycamore. This segment is ideal habitat for the great crested newt and grass snake and Ian reports that even a water vole turned up a few years ago. The work will also benefit the marsh marigolds, southern marsh orchids and skullcap that grow here, all significant plants of dwindling habitats.

The KWT website has details of talks, courses and guided walks for 2018. The Wild About Gardens Scheme has tips on encouraging more wildlife into gardens, the garden awards and volunteer advisers. Hothfield Heathland is open to everyone. Please keep dogs in check and clean up. Trails are signposted and on the maps at entrances. 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. *Margery Thomas*