



The Wheel

Throughout January the local menu is back:

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This is alongside the All Day Menu

Except Sunday: Roast 12noon – 4.30pm

18th January - Curry night

**25th January - Quiz
£2 per person and cash prize**



THE WESTWELL



191

January

2019



Top: Susan Hillyard with Sheikh Shakhbout and her daughter Deborah, P13

Bottom: Volunteers in the mist on Hothfield Common

4th January

7th January

15th, 22nd + 29th Jan.

25th January

26th + 27th January

10.30am Coffee in The Wheel

7pm Parish Council - Parish Hall

7.30pm Play Reading - Parish Hall

Quiz - The Wheel

Village Consultation - p3

January 2019

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
3	4	1	2	3	4	5
				N0 Dustbins 9.15am Plates	10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	**DUSTBINS** R.F.W.
6 Epiphany 8am Holy Communion St. Mary Westwell Messy Church - Parish Hall	7 1.30pm WI painting 6pm Fitness ? 7pm Parish Council	8	9 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	10 **N0 Dustbins** 9.15am Plates 7.30pm WI Meeting	11 **DUSTBINS** R.F.T	12
13 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 11am Iona Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	14 7pm Fitness	15 7.30pm Players Play reading	16 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	17 R.F.W 9.15am Plates	18	19
20 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 11am Family Service St. Mary Westwell	21 1.30pm WI painting 7pm Fitness	22 7.30pm Players Play reading	23 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	24 R.F.T 9.15am Plates	25	26 12noon - 3pm Village Consultation Parish Hall - p3
27 4th Sunday of Epiphany 11am Eucharist St. Mary Westwell 10am-1pm Village Consultation Parish Hall - p3	28 7pm Fitness	29 7.30pm Players Play reading	30 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U Go	31 9.15am Plates	Feb 1	2

From the Editor's desk...

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

I hope you all had a good Christmas, mine was very busy with 8 grandchildren and their parents, but I didn't do any cooking, just sat on my buggy and bossed! Actually our children and other halves were wonderful.

There were lots of people at the carol service and also the Christingle, which was attended by many families and enormously enjoyed by the younger children in particular.

The Christmas Bazaar was the usual success, with those attending enjoying breakfast and shopping.

Read all about the pantomime on page 12, it was fraught with difficulties but the show must, and did, go on. Play reading for the next production starts this month on Tuesdays, see the calendar and front page for dates.

New Year's Eve saw many villagers enjoying the hospitality at The Wheel.

I wish all my readers a happy and fulfilling 2019.

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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More on the Village Confines Consultation - Have your say this month .

Since the article about this consultation in the December Eye the deadline has been moved to February 11th which is much more sensible.

The Parish Council will be considering the map at its meeting on Monday 7th January at 7pm. The Borough Council have indicated they are willing to consider changes – recognising that local knowledge is best.

The draft and the proposed changes will be available after 7th January on the Westwell Parish Council website and the Westwell community website. Send your comments to Sue Wood: susanwood@uwclub.net. or on 01233 623902.

The proposals will also be on display in Westwell Parish Hall for your comments on Saturday 2th January 12 noon until 3pm and Sunday 27th January 10am until 1pm .

Parish councillors will be available to answer any questions. Do drop in especially if you live in Westwell village

This is a consultation just about the built area of the village of Westwell. No other boundaries are affected. It does not change the conservation area of Westwell village. Nor does it change the AONB boundary, or the already agreed change to the boundary of the parish to include all properties on the east side of Sandyhurst Lane.

1st Charing Scout Group



Last month was busy for our young people. Cubs and beavers went to the district advent service which was great fun. We decorated a Christmas tree for the Hothfield Church festival of trees. We had a fantastic turnout at Sainsbury's when we helped shoppers to pack their bags. We had so many people there that we also formed a choir to sing Christmas carols. A very successful fundraising day. We are now looking forward to good weather so we can all get outdoors again.

January sees the official opening of our new headquarters. We are so pleased to have completed the project and now have a base to be proud of.
gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Church Cleaning Rota.
Cleaning etc. Christmas Team



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	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
Police (rural matters only - crime should be reported on 101 or 999)	07980978202
Samaritans	610000
Shopmobility	621196
Solicitor (Thorneloe & Co.)	01622 859416
Victim Support	0845 30 30 900
Water Supplies Queries	0333 000 0002
Water Leak Line	0333 000 3330
Wealden Wheels	01233 840000
Westwell Community Website:	
http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk	
Wheel Inn (landlord James Kelland)	712223
email : info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk	

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Etc

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, **Friday 4th January**
from 10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.



Book Club December 2018

This was our last meeting for the year. The book, 'Before the Oil' by Susan Hillyard is a personal memoir of the life of a British family with an infant daughter in Abu Dhabi from 1954 to 1958. Tim Hillyard worked for what was to become BP and was involved in establishing the infrastructure for prospecting for offshore oil. His wife Susan describes in detail (from her diaries) her daily life in very basic surroundings: no electricity, running water, roads, clinics or schools. No sea or airports Using camels or, when available, land rovers. Susan and Tim spoke arabic and had lived in Iraq so were familiar with Arab tribes and traditions. Abu Dhabi conditions were much more basic and desert climate meant food was sparse and hunger rife. The writer describes in detail her daily interaction with people of all walks of life and her involvement in providing some significant basic health care as well. Our group enjoyed the memoirs and found the language very interesting. There were many subtly humorous moments such as the first football game between the crew of HMS Owen and Abu Dhabi. The latter team included a couple of princes(sheikhs), Tim Hillyard and two Indian cooks. There were several interesting questions such as why did mothers powder new babies with turmeric(made them more placid) and how delicious a treat was a cooked manatee.

A very interesting read and from real life. After the discovery of oil in 1958 the Hillyards were

transferred to Libya and then Canada and Malta. In the New Year we will meet to have a lovely lunch at the Wheel on Tuesday January 8th and in February we will discuss 'This is going to hurt' by Adam Kay

Charing & District Local History Society

A Spitfire Girl: Speaker: **Melody Foreman**
Melody Foreman is the biographer of First Officer Mary Wilkins Ellis. Mary died in July 2018, aged 101, she was the last remaining pilot from this extraordinary group of women at the ATA. Melody reveals the life and times of this pioneering woman pilot who played a key role in helping the RAF during WW2.
10th January at Charing Parish Hall. 7.45pm for prompt start at 8pm.

Charing Gardeners' Society

The new year starts with an afternoon talk on Monday **21st January at 2pm** in the Church Barn, Charing, Hilary Newman will give an illustrated talk 'The winter Garden'. All welcome, £3 for non-members includes a cuppa after the talk. Raffle, seed swap and plant stall. Annual membership of £3 includes our 2019 annual, hot off the press, packed with articles, show schedules and details of members' events. Check our facebook page for news and photos of recent events and for further information about the society see:- <http://charinggardeners.org.uk>.

WI Details

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th January 2019

Talk: The Westwell Defibrillator – Andrew Saunders and Clive Bainbridge

Vote of Thanks – Mary Ann Pitt

Hostesses – Ella Young, Mary Ann Pitt and Valerie Hooper

Competition – Holiday Photograph



Westwell Players

May I be one of the first to wish all Westwellians 'A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR'! We put 'Fly Me' to bed in December amidst a flurry of accidents; we had one case of vertigo, 2 falling downstairs which resulted in one lady with 8 broken ribs and a broken wrist and ankle and the other with surgery to mend three broken vertebrae and a broken wrist and ankle too. One gentleman who fell off a ladder and despite dosing himself up to the hilt, he had to miss the dress rehearsal which resulted in Neil dashing about like a ruptured fairy playing two parts at once and going down (even before the show had finished) with such a bad case of 'flu' that the Doctor told him he had been overdoing it and needed complete rest. I'll say he overdid it. That man did more than anyone ever, to make sure the show was a success and I feel very indebted to him and so grateful too! Thank you Neil from all of us at Players. I hope everyone is better by now and the broken bones are beginning to knit together well! So on to happier subjects. Our new clothes store is scheduled to go onto the field once we have a good strong frost so that there is minimum damage to the grass when the heavy container is driven on to the field and installed! Fingers crossed that it is in position and being made ready to receive all our props and clothes as neatly as possible by the time you read this. We have as yet to decide on our next production but have been promised a Pantomime for next November so all is well and more of our forthcoming Spring Show in February. Meanwhile we are on the lookout for new talent so please get in touch via our Website - www.westwellplayers.co.uk or telephone our Chairman, Neil Cackett on 01580 243274. We would love someone who would like to make tea/coffee for rehearsals, this would mean just popping into the Hall on a Tuesday evening between 8.00 and 9.00 to boil the kettle and make the drinks, such a lovely job for someone who lives not far from the Hall and would enjoy interacting with the Players and cheering us on! We also need actors, both male and female and all ages, to come and join in and act. Also a PRODUCER and a PIANIST would be welcomed with open arms. Lets start 2019 off with a real 'bang' with some new blood to add to the talent we have already and help to 'spread the load' so to speak!



Westwell WI

This month was our annual Christmas party, and whilst not quite as spectacular as our centenary dinner last month, it was an excellent evening and very well attended. A two-course dinner of baked salmon with topping plus vegetables followed by apple crumble and cream was prepared and served by committee members.

We were entertained by singing duo Dee & Em, two young ladies who sang a variety of songs, some from our era (or some of us there!), some Christmas ones and ending with a rousing sing-along session of old music hall favourites, for which the duo had thoughtfully provided the words for those younger members who were unfamiliar with these old time popular songs. We had a welcome visit from Father Christmas with his Elf, who gave each member a gift. We had a raffle and wished one another a Merry Christmas before departing.

Marilyn Warner

Details of January meeting on page 13

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Letter to the Parishes

Happy New Year to all of you! Writing for the January edition of the magazine two weeks before Christmas is always a challenging task. I am still with John the Baptist calling people to prepare for 'the One who is to come', or with the Angel Gabriel calling Mary to be the Mother of Jesus Christ while you will already have celebrated the birth of the One who came to redeem the world.

Maybe by the time you are reading this you will have begun to pack away the trimmings of Christmas, the tree, the decorations, the Christmas cards, all that reminds us of this great celebration. But our story does not end there for Epiphany, celebrated on January 6th when we welcome the wise men to the stable, is just round the corner.

We all know the frustration of losing something. Maybe it is one's glasses, frequently found on the head, or car keys which we know we put on the hook as we usually do, except that this time we didn't. Or maybe it is the passport we need when we are just about to set off for the airport. There is a compulsion about searching that drives us on until we find what we are looking for. The Magi, also known as the three kings or the wise men, were also searching. We sing about them, we build a picture of the environment from which they came, we even give them names so that we can identify with them even though their only appearance in Matthew's Gospel gives no indication of number nor name. Such details become irrelevant when we enquire of the reason for their long journey all the way from 'the East' to Bethlehem. They were searching, not for something they had lost but something that was yet to be found. Such was their inner compulsion to find the object of their searching that they left the relative security of their own land and livelihood and travelled into the unknown. There would have been hardships on their journey and challenges to overcome, not least of which was the political scheming of King Herod who tried to use them to his own advantage. Guided by the star, their search came to an end, as Matthew's gospel puts it "over the place where the child was". Until this moment, they hadn't known what they were looking for but when they saw the baby, they knew they had found the object of their long search. According to Matthew 'they were overwhelmed with joy' as they knelt down and offered their gifts.

We may not find ourselves travelling across challenging terrain with only a few companions and camels for company, but we live in a world where peoples' compulsion to search for something they sense is missing affects all societies. I was privileged to join Year 6 pupils and their teacher at Charing Primary School for the visit of Domenica Pecoraro, Kent Refugee Projects Officer.

Through a series of questions, Domenica helped the children to understand what makes people leave their own country, hoping to find a place of refuge in another place. Amongst other things, they are searching for safety, stability and provision. As I write, we are trapped in the political chaos of the Brexit negotiations. At the heart of the dialogue is a searching for what some may describe as a better world. With such polarity of opinion, it is hard to see where the solution may be found. Have we perhaps lost sight of the star? Jesus came into a searching world in order to look for the lost, even when they didn't know that it was Him they were looking for. So this year, wherever we find ourselves on our journey of faith, let us keep searching for the One who came to bring light and life and when we have found Him let us share our discovery with all we meet. Wishing you all peace and joy in 2019

Sheila Cox 

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Parish News

Westwell Church Services for January
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Friday 4th:

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 6th: Epiphany

8am Holy Communion

Sunday 13th: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 20th: 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

11am Family Service

Sunday 27th: 4th Sunday of Epiphany

11am Eucharist

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Family Church for January

Messy Church 6th January at 3.30pm in Westwell Parish Hall. Theme Kings and Camels. Join us for twelfth night celebrations, crafts, games, a bible story and tea.

Messy February is on February 3rd when we join together to rejoice

Family service Sunday 20th January 11 am. Theme: Celebrations, the wedding at Cana. An informal service for all the family.

Coffee collections this month and next are for the Archbishop's charity:-A place to call home, the Advent Justice Appeal.

Christmas Services, Any thoughts?

Usually we have Christmas Eve communion at 11.30, the Christingle earlier in the afternoon of Christmas Eve and the carol service on the Sunday before Christmas. This year we changed things a bit:- the Christmas Eve communion started at 11pm; Christingle was on the Sunday before Christmas and the Carol service the Sunday before that.

What do you think? Was it a good idea? Would you like the same pattern in 2019? How would you change things? Feedback to hlister@hotmail.com please

The Trail maps and flags will remain until Easter to reflect the time when the soldiers started to return from war.

If you want to keep your flag please do. Otherwise I'll collect them after Easter. The biographies will remain available in church after this if you want to refresh your memory.

Heather Lister

New Bishop of Dover

As you will know, Bishop Trevor will be retiring in May 2019. The consultation process for his successor is now under way and as part of this there is a public meeting scheduled for 16 January 2019 at 7pm in the Clagett Auditorium, Cathedral Precincts, CT1 2EH. All are welcome to attend. No booking is necessary. Please make your voice heard in this process.

I am a member of the Vacancy in Committee and have been part of the drafting group putting together a profile for the role of Bishop of Dover. If you are unable to go to the meeting but would like to have your say, please email me with your thoughts and I will feed them back to the meeting on January 16th. sheila.m.cox@btopenworld.com **Sheila**

Church Rotas

I am pleased to announce that Sarah Stevenson has kindly taken over the Church Rotas from me and she has all the volunteers's telephone numbers so you will be receiving the 2019 rotas in due course.

I would like to thank Sarah for organising the helpers for the Christmas decorations which are lovely, her idea of getting several children to decorate the Christmas tree proved so successful and all the other ladies did their arrangements to a very high standard.

Thank you all for your support over the years and I am sure it will continue with Sarah.

Joan Richards

January on Hothfield Heathland

Happy New Wildlife Year. Aren't we lucky to have this fragile SSSI close by, cared for and protected by Kent Wildlife Trust staff and so many loyal volunteers.

Walkers in late winter last year may have seen birch and sycamore tree stumps weeping quantities of slightly sticky sap which soaked back into the ground. In places the tree stumps looked like candles, as the sap dried into a waxy layer. This astonishing sight is slightly disturbing to humans associating the sap with our finite blood supply. But the roots of the cut trees had continued to make new sap drawing water and minerals from the soil by osmosis, ready to feed the surge of springtime growth, and the resulting physical root pressure pumped the sap upwards and out of the cut trunk.

The sap is the concentrate of nutrients which with shortening days and lower temperatures, has been withdrawn from twigs and thin branches and pulled down into the trunk and roots. This is the trees' defence against winter extremes; sap freezing in thinly protected cells will expand, burst through cell walls killing them. Pulled into the roots and tree trunk by the tree's circulation system the sap, source of next year's energy for spring growth, is protected by a thick layer of bark. In a similar way, biennial root vegetables such as parsnips and carrots store and protect the nutrients needed to power the flowering and seed production of the second year of their life-cycle.

Humans first dipped fingers into tree sap, tasted it and found uses for it centuries ago. Raw sap doesn't keep so the first fermented or concentrated products may well have been natural accidents, and tasting mistakes along the way horrible or fatal. Ash, birch and elm sap are useful, each with their distinctive flavour. The raw sap of some maples, principally *Acer saccharum* actually tastes mildly saccharine. Sugar content is very low, 1 litre of maple syrup takes 40 litres of raw sap. In all cases the window of opportunity for tapping sap is short, a few weeks as it starts to pump back into the tree crown to support spring growth; after that it is too bitter to use.

Tree felling on the heathland is a carefully considered conservation measure. A large tree can take over 200 litres of water from the soil in a day in summer, and the peak sap flow in springtime can be 70kg/hour. So self-seeded trees on the slopes above the lower bog will quickly stop water draining into the bog and create very dry shade; trees in the bog will suck it dry, alter the nature of the site, and deprive all weaker specialised plants, animals, birds and insects of this rare habitat.

If weather, wine, paper bags or maple syrup waffles keep you from exploring the heathland look at out the regular postings of photos and comments by Val Butcher and others on the Hothfield Heathland's flora and fauna facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/360156841000304/>

The KWT talks, courses and guided walks I mentioned last month are open to non-KWT members as is Hothfield Heathland, visit www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk for more information. 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. The noticeboard down the main slope from the Cade Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. 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

Westwell Community Watch Scheme
Keeping you Safe and Secure
Neighbourhood Watch
Rural Policing

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Do they have equipment, dogs or firearms with them?

Are you aware of where suspects have been or where they are heading?

What do they look like?

Have they any vehicles? What are the number plates and vehicle models?

Can you safely get a photograph?

You can report a crime to police online or call 101 for non-urgent issues.

Dial 999 if crime is taking place

Get more advice and to read the latest Rural Matters, the Kent Police rural news magazine, at <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/rural-crime>

Neighbourhood Watch

There have been reports of local “distraction burglary” which is where someone calls at your door, claims to be an official (the latest was as a trainee police cadet) who needs to come with you to check something outside in your garden. Whilst you are out with them a second person goes into your property and steals things. Trust no-one unless you know them!

KEEP SAFE and DON’T FORGET: If YOU see anything suspicious call 999 (if urgent) or 101 or use Country Eye to report it

May I Wish You All A Peaceful, Healthy And Safe New Year

westwell.community.watch@gmail.com

Keep Vigilant - Tony Bartlett – WCWS Co-ordinator

Planning applications

The following applications will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council:

18/01741/AS Dunn Street Cottage, Pilgrims Way, Extension, remodelling and part re planning of Cottage including demolition of existing conservatory, extension of summerhouse including demolition of flat roofed store, construction of external storage building/workshop, construction of new garage and car port and associated external works and landscaping

18/01729/AS Bears Corner, Westwell Lane, Ashford Retrospective application for Summer House/Store

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