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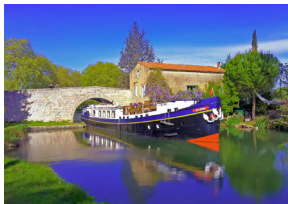
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Below: Two of our European Inland Waterway Vessels:
The Anjodi (left and right) and the La Bella Vita (middle).



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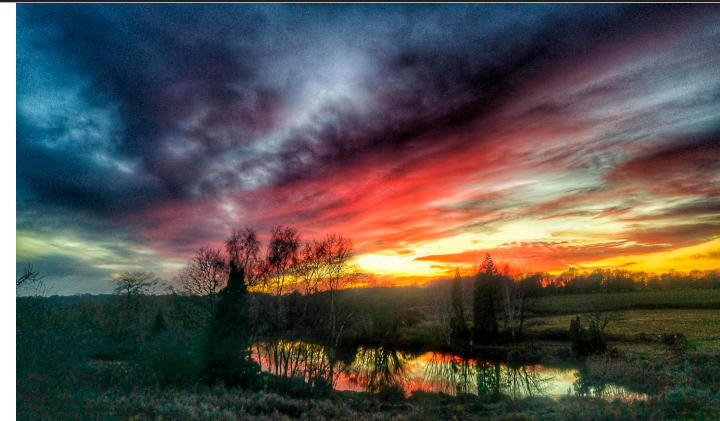
Sue Chapman
PHOTOGRAPHY

THE WESTWELL EYE

173

July

2017



Top: Sunset by Iris Freemantle. **Bottom:** Oak on Foxenhill Toll by Ian Rickards. Bottle Brush by Audrey Perkins

7th July

11th July

16th July

15th, 16th July

16th, 21st July

17th, 31st July.

23rd July

Coffee morning - at Jamieson's

Book Club, p.13

Pet Service

Fete Collection - p9

Local Plan drop in p5

1.30pm Westwell Art Group

2.30pm Fun Day - p13

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2 3rd Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion St. Mary Westwell 3.30pm Messy Church	3 7pm Parish Council Meeting	4	5 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	6 R.F.W.G 9.15am Plates 10.30 Dog training	7 10am Eucharist Coffee Janieson	8
9 4th Sunday of Trinity 11am Iona Eucharist St. Mary Westwell	10 7pm Fitness	11 11am Book Club p13	12 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	13 Rc.F.T. 9.15am Plates 10.30 Dog training 7.30pm WI	14	15 10am - 4pm Fete collection - p9
16 5th Sunday of Trinity 11am Family - Pet Service St. Mary Westwell 12- 4pm Parish Hall Drop in Exhibition - Local Plan + Fete collection - p 9	17 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	18	19 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	20 R.F.W.G 9.15am Plates 10.30 Dog training	21 4pm-7pm Hothfield Village Hall Drop in Exhibition New Local Plan	22
23 6th Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist St Mary Westwell 2.30pm Fun and Games Playing Field - p 13	24 7pm Fitness	25	26 11am Over 50s Fistssteps	27 Rc.F.T. 9.15am Plates 10.30 Dog training	28	29
30 7th Sunday of Trinity 10.30am G7 Communion Service St. Mary Westwell	31 1.30pm Painting 7pm Fitness	Aug 1	2	3 R.F.W.G	4	1

From the Editor's desk...

Thank you to all of those who made the Safari Supper the fun and success it was - as always.

Once again this month's Eye is very full, with information about the Wheel, the Fete and the Local Plan, together with the usual contributors. Do support the Fun Day on the 23rd - p13, particularly if you have children who use the playing field, it is with your support that it will get more equipment for them to enjoy.

Talking of children, the school holidays are nearly here, so make them aware of taking care on the roads, on foot, bike, or horse and drivers be careful of wayward children round the next bend!

I am making my usual request for copy to get to me by the 20th of the month please. When the magazine is this full there is a certain amount of juggling, together with a little editing, to do and this takes time.

I am having to put the postage for the Eye up to £8 per annum - increased from £7 - due to rise in postage, sorry!

Have a good summer, it's looking promising.

Carolyn Thorneloe ✍️

Stop Press.

I was just about to send this to the printers when Joan Richards rang to say what a wonderful evening Nick and Tracey Faulkner had organized for all the village on the playing field; rounders, sausages and chips and lots of fun - THANK YOU!

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

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Useful Contacts

Telephone Numbers

Age UK	642094
Ashford Volunteer Bureau	633219
Bees (swarming)	
Andy Bithell	740650 / 07933892413
Borough Councillor:	
Larry Krause	01233 643497
CAB	626185
Carers Support Group	664393
Childline Freephone	0800 1111
Cinema	0871 2208000
Citizens' Advice Bureau	626185
Cruse Bereavement Counselling	878225
Doctors (Charing)	01233 714490
(Hayesbank)	624642
Dog Warden	01233 330340
Hospital (William Harvey)	633331
KCC Community Warden for Hothfield and Charing - Dave Beckley	07811 271306
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	angie.burden@kent.pnn.police.uk
Samaritans	610000
Shopmobility	621196
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Victim Support	0845 30 30 900
Water Supplies Queries	0333 000 0002
Water Leak Line	0333 000 3330
Wealden Wheels	01233 840000
Wheel Inn (landlord James Meire)	712430
Westwell Community Website:	
http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

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Neighbourhood Watch

Telephone scams continue to hit our local residents with a number of variations on the same theme "You are owed money which we want to refund but need your Bank details to send it to you" NO legitimate organisation works like that so don't be fooled. Ask them to write to you with the details. Tell them they must already have your address **DON'T GIVE IT TO THEM!** If they are genuine they will agree – if not....

There has been a spate of vehicle batteries being removed from lorries parked in Watery Lane (close to bitumen batching plant), Westwell. If you have any information please contact 101, quoting references ZY/23819/17, ZY/23820/17 or ZY/23820/17.

If you want to get an email notice about these, or other incidents, from our on-line Alert Scheme, please send your name, post code to me at; email westwell.community.watch@gmail.com Also indicate whether you would like to get Westwell Events news including updates from the Parish Council.

2-WATCH- 4

As I write this I am missing the lovely sunshine and high temperatures outside. But, and it's a big but "too much sun can be dangerous to your health" – and to your pocket. As the temperatures soar so we spend more time with the windows and doors of both our homes and our cars open and unlocked. Toys, BBQs and garden equipment are left lying around.

All of this is a summer bonanza for opportunistic burglars. So keep "cool" in your home and personal security

We are off on holiday soon but I won't say when. Tell your neighbours you are going away and ask them to keep an eye on your property, but DON'T tell all and sundry. Burglars love to hear when a property is unoccupied for any length of time. It goes on their "to do" list.

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

Keep Vigilant - Tony Bartlett – WCWS Co-ordinator

1st Charing Scout Group

Our new headquarters now has walls! There is a long way to go but it's beginning to look like a building. We are so grateful to the people who have turned up to help.

At our AGM three beavers were presented with their bronze award and one Cub Scout with his silver award. These are the first of these awards gained by our group. Well done. Beaver leader Angela Adams has finished all her training and was presented with her wood badge. Cub Scout leaders Ron and Julie Spicer were presented with the Chief Scout's Award for Merit for many years of exceptional service. We are very proud of them all

The date is set for The Great Charing Colour Run on October 1st. Check our Facebook page and make a date to run, walk or just get creative with colour! There will be lots to do for supporters as well as participants. It will be a real family occasion

gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Terry Lister

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The Gardening Group at Charing Surgery

It has been another lovely few months down at the gardens at Charing Surgery. The wallflowers and bulbs in particular have given a great display. Since our last update, we were absolutely delighted to have been contacted by a couple who are moving abroad and kindly offered us a wonderful greenhouse in perfect condition. This means that we can begin another small project, growing seeds and take cuttings, giving us the ability to produce our own plants.

We are keen to upcycle where we can. So with spring cleaning and de-cluttering being on a lot of people's minds, we are wondering if there may be other things that we could put to good use in the coming year? We are particularly looking hand forks, trowels, border forks, border spades, loppers, secateurs and weeding trugs. Surplus herbaceous plants are always welcome for the woodland area, and if anyone has any spare greenhouse staging, that too could be put to good use. Later in the year, we will be looking for a five bar gate and a few tons of gravel, does anyone have any suggestions on the best buys for these items?

We have been pleased to welcome new members to the group over the last few weeks, but more are welcome at any time, just turn up on a Tuesday between 9-12. You do not need to commit to every Tuesday, or to stay for the whole session.

Since the gardens at the surgery have been developed, we have been delighted with the amount of pleasure they clearly give to patients and visitors. We are very pleased to receive their encouraging remarks and contributions of plants. The group does have some running costs such as insurance, training etc - any financial donations would also be greatly appreciated.

For enquiries about becoming a member or donations, please call Jo on 01233713582.

Ashford Gateway Plus

There have been some exciting changes over the last year at the Gateway. Due to lack of demand we no longer hold wedding ceremonies at the Gateway but still continue to register births and deaths. We offer KCC appointments including assisting people to complete their online Blue Badge application. We are keen to promote this service; appointments can be made either in person at the Gateway, by calling 03000 416666 or by emailing info@ashfordgateway.co.uk. We also assist with all other KCC services such as reporting highway faults and school admission applications.

The Foot Clinic for senior citizens, held every Wednesday, is proving to be very popular; appointments can be made by phoning the chiropodist on 01580 242802.

The Food with Friends Café is on our 2nd floor with views over the memorial gardens. They are a charity social enterprise contributing to the community and supporting learning disabled adults in the workplace. Products are sourced or produced locally and they have a range of homemade cakes, come to enjoy tea and cake for £2.50 on Wednesdays or Fridays.

As the toilets are now closed in Vicarage Lane, we are happy for members of the public to use our facilities; we have disabled toilets, a changing place and a baby change room.

If you aren't familiar with Ashford Gateway and the services we offer, you may be interested in having a short tour, we would love to show you around, please email info@ashfordgateway.co.uk

We signpost people to a number of different organisations so please encourage people to contact us by phone, email or in person for guidance with any issues. Contact: the Meet & Greet Team, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, TN23 1AS, 03000 416666,

News on the Ashford Local Plan.

There are two opportunities in July to visit Drop-In events.

Sunday July 16th Drop – In from 12 noon – 4pm Westwell Parish Hall. There will be a display of what the latest version of the Ashford Local Plan says about our parish. Parish Councillors will be on hand to answer your questions.

Friday July 21st Drop- In/ Exhibition 4pm – 7pm Hothfield Parish Hall.

The proposals for Westwell will also be covered at this event and there will be Borough Council officers there to answer your questions and take your comments.

This time last year the first version of the draft Ashford Local Plan was published for comments. Many of you responded to the consultation. ABC then considered all the comments and the new information that came in about how many sites for homes and businesses the Borough has to provide, and the policies needed to manage planning applications. This has all now been worked through and Ashford have published a revised draft Local Plan.

This means that one year on we are about to go into a second round of consultation. This will run from early July to the end of August. We will be asked to comment, not on the whole plan, but on the bits that have changed.

Ashford Borough Council Cabinet Committee had the 462 page document for their meeting on June 15th and agreed to extend the consultation period from 6 weeks to the end of August. The relevant bits for Westwell will be set out at the drop-in sessions on 16th and 21st July.

Do come along, or if you cannot make either session but want information contact Sue Wood, Westwell parish Clerk on 627087 or susanwood@uwclub.net

If you want to delve into the cabinet documents now find them through the Ashford Borough council website: Go to Home Page, click Councillors and Meetings; from Drop down menu click Committees; click Cabinet; scroll to Past meetings to 15th June; click view in Agenda column; scroll down to Item 10 and click view. Beware the document is 462 pages! Policies particularly relevant to the parish are:

1. On page 33 (S20 Eureka Park – minor amendments and sewerage comments)
2. On page 46 (S44 Watery lane Traveller site access updated)
3. On page 51 (policy to manage “windfall” sites in any village including Westwell)
4. On Page 55 (a separate Planning document to be prepared for Traveller needs)
5. On page 85 (S47 land east of Hothfield Mill)
6. On page 91 (S49 land at Tutt Hill)

The consultation documents will include the evidence on which the changes are being made. The evidence is not part of the cabinet papers.

Come and find out more at Westwell Parish Hall on Sunday July 16th.

If you are reading this in mid July you may find that the local plan consultation documents have been published. The page references above apply only to the cabinet version of the local plan. The consultation page references will be published in the August Eye.

We are trying to make this simple, but it isn't !

The important thing is that you know about what is happening, and we all have until the end of August to respond.

Christine Drury and Sue Wood on behalf of Westwell Parish Council

Westwell WI

Well, they did it! Five intrepid members braved the elements (well it was windy I believe) and scaled the dizzy heights of the O2 Arena. They found the ascent not too difficult – the downward journey was harder though. Well done ladies!

Our speaker this month was a return from Judie Knight, talking this time on 'Eeking out the rations'. Judie talked about war time rationing, how it was introduced and how the two systems worked – the basic ration which was the same for everyone and the 'points' element where you could choose on which extra other items you used your points. Both systems enabled everyone, rich or poor, to have access to the same foods, provided they were available in the shops. Judie also told us of ways that housewives extended their food supply. One was with the economic use of tinned meat by adding different ingredients making one tin last for two different meals. Another was the imaginative use of wild plants such as dandelion leaves which, were a nutritional addition to a salad or 'sweated' and spread on toast, provided a nourishing teatime meal (or so they said!). Following this, Judie took on the role of a Ministry of Food Advisor, who may well have been a WI member or a teacher and gave us a demonstration on making a 'tasty' meat cutlet from sausagemeat mixed with 'Potato Pete' and shaped to resemble a meat chop. I understand that mashed potato was a war-time staple used to stretch ingredients in many recipes. Judie also showed us how to make chocolate truffles, again using Potato Pete, and we were assured that the cocoa powder really did mask the taste of mashed potato. I imagine that after a year or two of rationing your taste buds must have been easily fooled!

Our competition brought in a variety of 'violet' entries, violet coloured flowers, a photo of Violet, daughter of member Lindsey Peddle and a bottle of violet nail varnish.

Marilyn Warner 

Next Meeting: Thursday 13th July at 7.30pm.

Talk: 'The Work of St Martins Emmaus' - David Evans

Hostesses: Natalie Harman, Joan Richards, Sue Starkings

Vote of thanks:: Ros Williamson

Competition - White

Egerton Gardens Open in July

5th July; Kathy Hooke, Mundy Bois House, Mundy Bois Road.

12th July; Rebecca Southall, Hill Cottage, off Egerton Road, Pluckley.

19th July; Margie and Chris Stevens Barnham's Mill Farm, Barnham's Mill Road.

26th July; Elaine and Cedric Narborough/ Kath and Harold Hilder, 10 and 7 Stisted Way.

£2 for a cup of coffee and a affle ticket!

Plans

17/00826/AS Hothfield Mill, Maidstone Road, Hothfield. The demolition of lean-to loading bay and erection of a larger lean-to loading bay. The Parish Council supported the application and a decision is awaited from the Borough Council

17/00902/AS Tutt Hill House, Maidstone Road, Hothfield Erection of rear two storey and part first floor extension (resubmission of planning application 14/00882/AS). The Parish Council objected to the the application and a decision is awaited from the Borough Council

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Update of The Wheel.

On 7th June your Parish Councillors had a second meeting with Jonathan Neame (Chief Executive) and George Barnes (Dir of Property) from Shepherd Neame (SN) and discussed in a very open and frank way the future for The Wheel Inn. It is now clear to us that the Wheel in its current format as a tied business is not viable and explains why so many hundreds of village pubs have closed. The economics of running a public house are more onerous than we at first thought and although a pub may look busy it is not necessarily even taking sufficient to cover its overheads, which leads to a common misunderstanding that pubs are closed for someone's financial gain rather than the simple fact that it is not a viable business. This fact has been stated by SN but has also been echoed in conversations that we have had with others who are familiar with this type of business.

Fortunately for us The Wheel has assets (the current beer garden) which can be utilised to provide a second chance to keep our village pub. The proposal to build two pairs of semi detached cottages on the site would provide funding to refurbish the pub, transform the remaining grounds into a proper beer garden and then offer the pub on a substantially reduced rent to a tenant, as a free house able to purchase products from any source.

SN has been losing money on The Wheel for a considerable time and having looked at the figures we can see that this is undoubtedly the case and understand the business imperative to stem this flow. However, SN is proposing a scheme which to their knowledge is one of the first of its kind which would enable them to do this in a way that gives maximum chance of retaining our village pub.

Although we shared some of the early cynicism about the SN proposals we do now feel that this is potentially an exciting proposal which, whilst not guaranteeing the future of The Wheel provides probably its best chance of continuing. Without the building plots the scheme becomes unviable and The Wheel will, without doubt, close, so we have an almost unique opportunity that as a community we ought to seize. The new tenancy has been advertised and there has already been an expression of interest from a Kent based family who know our community and have experience in this field.

Although the Parish Council is working with SN and accepts many of the principles of this project we will remain impartial on the design of the properties and as a statutory consultee retain the right to object, or comment on what is put forward if we do not believe that the plans are best for our community. Others may yet come forward but the Parish Council will support and assist SN and any potential tenant in every way that is both lawful and helpful to the Parish. We hope that residents will also rally round and show support when the pub finally reopens if all goes according to plan, later this year.

As soon as we have more firm information about the building plans we will be holding another public meeting and we will of course keep you regularly updated using Westwell events and The Eye.

For any questions contact the Parish Clerk,
Sue Wood: 01233 623902 or susanwood@uwclub.net
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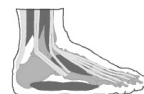
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Letter to the Parishes

Do you have a favourite apostle? Of the original 12, I imagine you quickly delete Judas and, as several others have little recorded if anything other than their name, you probably discount them. I admire Peter, headstrong and fallible but a great preacher at Pentecost and a loyal martyr for his faith in Rome. I suppose I should vote for Philip and he deserves a mention as one of the first evangelists bringing Nathaniel to meet and be a follower of Jesus. However, my vote goes to Thomas whose feast day is July 3rd. We know little of his background, his name in Aramaic means 'twin' – Jesus uses the Greek word Didymus which has the same meaning. All the biblical events mentioning him are in John's gospel, but for me, these 3 episodes sum up a very human person who displays characteristics similar to many of us who try to follow Jesus.

Event 1 (John 11:16 LOYALTY)

Jesus and the disciples have learned that Lazarus is dead. In due course Jesus raises him to life but Thomas' instant reaction is to urge his fellow disciples to go with Jesus to Lazarus' tomb even though it may mean death for them also (at the hands of the Jewish authorities). "Let us also go that we may die with him".

Event 2 (John 14: 5) SEEKING ANSWERS

This is part of a reading very familiar to us at funerals. When Jesus promises that those who follow Him on earth will be with Him in heaven, Thomas says, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" It must be very comforting to have no doubts or anxieties, but I feel Thomas reflects concerns of the 'average' Christian of whom I am one. Lord, everything is not clear to me – I believe, but please help my unbelief.

Event 3 (John 20: 24-29 TRUST)

Thomas' nickname 'Doubting' comes from his statement that he will not believe in Jesus' resurrection unless he can physically touch the wounds in Jesus' hands, feet and side. When Jesus appears a second time to the disciples, with Thomas present, He invites him to touch His wounds as Thomas had demanded. Thomas responds, "My Lord and my God" without any physical contact. Jesus then blesses all those who have not seen and yet believe which, of course, includes us.

I try in my Christian life to display Loyalty and Trust whilst not being afraid to search for answers. In a world so full of suffering, recent headlines can lead us to question our faith in a loving God. I pray we may still be Loyal and Trusting even though we have unanswered questions. Prayer is central to our Christian life and our relationship with God, so whilst we rightly commend the suffering to God's loving care, may we also be bold enough, like Thomas, to ask for more understanding of God's world and all its problems.

May God bless us all.

Philip Cox

Etc

Dates for your diary

August 28th.	Fete
September 17th	Harvest Festival
October.14th	Harvest Supper.
December 2nd	Bazaar

Village Coffee

Coffee at Kincraig, Mike and Liz Jamieson
Friday 7th July from 10.30 - 11.45am.
Before coffee there will be Iona Eucharist at 10am in St Mary's

Dates for WAGS (Westwell Art Group)

July 17th and 31st
August 14th

Book Club June 2017

'The Amber Keeper' by Freda Lightfoot
We met at Celeste's and had a lovely discussion. We all liked this story of an English governess who is offered a job with a Russian Count's family and sails with them, at the tender age of 19, to Petrograd (as St Petersburg was known in 1910). The story unfolds as the now grandmother, in Britain of the 60s, is telling her story to her grand daughter. Difficulties in dealing with a young and arrogant countess, lavish lifestyle of the gentry, and the impending demonstrations which precede the revolution. It is a well-researched historic novel which raised awareness of the domestic life of certain aristocrats and the repercussions of the changes on their lives.

There were nine at the meeting and we agreed to read Daphne du Maurier's 'My Cousin Rachel'. It is a new film in cinemas as well, so we may just make a trip to the movies as well!

Our next meeting will be at June's on 11th July, 11am. Happy reading.

Westwell Family Fun Day

23rd July will see Happy Westwellians playing games, taking part in Treasure Hunt, Bat and Trap, Colouring competition, Teddy-throwing and Wellie-throwing and many other enjoyable entertainments

The fun starts at 2.30pm, the Sunday afternoon tradition of consuming cakes and copious cups of tea will be upheld. Bring a rug for your own picnic.

Entry fee £1 -Teddies free, profit from sales of consumables will be used to improve the playing field equipment.

Further information: Val Hooper 713824

Safari Supper

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this year's Safari Supper. On a balmy summer's evening we were wonderfully entertained by this year's hosts and hostesses, before adjourning to the parish hall for puddings. About £500 was raised for St Mary's Church we could not have done it without all who came or generously acted as hosts. Thank you!



Homemade pizza at Chris and Martin's

Classified ads

Holiday House Sitting incl. pet care
From £50 per day (animal dependent)
Imogen Stevens (19, University of Bristol student) Free July and August. Driver. Good with all animals, including horses.
Also experience with childcare, DBS checked. Contact: is16793@my.bristol.ac.uk
07792711511 / 0123371248
References available

Westwell Church Services for July

www.g7benefice.org

Sunday 2nd: 3rd Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion

Friday 7th:

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 9th: 4th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

4.30pm Flower Festival Songs of Praise

All welcome - Hothfield

Sunday 16th: 5th Sunday of Trinity

11am Family Service - Pet Service

Sunday 23rd: 6th Sunday of Trinity

11am Eucharist

Sunday 30th: 7th Sunday of Trinity

10.30am G7 Communion Service

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Family Church in July

Messy Church 2nd July 3.30 - 5pm in the

Parish Hall. **Theme:** Looking for Jesus. Solve

the mazes; Make Catapults and egg cradles,

Learn about how far people went to see Jesus.

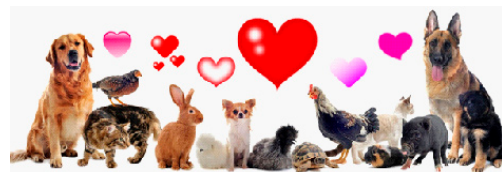
Get the most out of the playing fields,

And enjoy Tea together



Family Service 16th July; Pet Service 11 am

All Welcome



Coming Up soonish:-

The PCC discussed ideas to exploit the best qualities of the Church.

1. Have a monthly Charity collection to extend our help to others whose need is greater.

Possibly combined with a monthly coffee morning? Interested? Let us know.

2. Remove nine surplus Pews to give more space at the back for moving around.

Are you interested in buying a Pew? Ask the churchwardens for more details.

3. Display the plans for the changes at the back to provide loos and kitchen area so that everyone can see what we're hoping to achieve.

4. Look out for the Open evening and Days in September so that you can find out more.

5. Invite more people into the churchyard to enjoy the peace and tranquillity. We are hoping to buy some benches so visitors can sit back and enjoy the surroundings.

What do you think?

Get in touch with the Churchwardens or any member of the PCC to let us know your opinions.

PCC members

Stephen Bates; Jolyon Drury; Penny Knatchbull; Saskia Leigh-Pemberton; Heather Lister; Joan Richards; Evan Thomas. .

Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning Liz Jamieson

Flowers: Sarah Stevenson

Brass: Sue Norman



Westwell Fete Day Sunday 27th August

This year is Special : A Back to Back Extravaganza on the Playing Field :

8am – 12noon : Fete setting up

1pm – 4.30pm Westwell Fun Fete

5pm – 6pm Fete clearing away and starting the evening with beer and music

7pm – 11pm Westwell Fun Evening :

Beer Tent, Food and Music including Reggie and Soul band .

The Westwell Fun Fete will be the traditional event from 1pm until 4.30pm starting with the Dog Show and ending as always with the famous Westwell Egg Throwing Competition. Bring the children, to participate in the Children's races, tug of War and to experience the amazing low flypast display by the Sky Bird of Prey Team.

All the usual side shows and stalls : still need to allocate so please let Sue Wood know if you would like to run one of the stalls.

The innovation this year is an all day beer tent which Nick and Tracey are organising , that will also house the traditional Pimms table .

The beer tent will stay up for the evening festivities.

A big thank you in advance to Nick and Tracey for organising the evening: much needed while we don't have The Wheel to go to.

A key part of the Fete is the Raffle: Tickets will be on sale from 15th July. All the usual great prizes: Family days at Leeds Castle: Port Lympne or Howletts Animal Parks: Gliding and Birds of Prey experiences and lots more.

What to do this month :

Are you collecting old Crockery, the cracked mugs and plates you know you want to throw out but haven't quite yet?: put them in a bag or a box and bring them to the Parish Hall from 10am on Saturday 15th July, they all go to making a better crockery smashing stall on Fete Day.

Also books, good clean unwanted presents and pre-owned items, you'd be happy to admit to, bring them all along so they can be used for the bric a brac and tombola stalls. If you are wondering what happens to any unsold items or unclaimed tombola prizes, everything is taken to the Pilgrims Hospice.

The Westwell Parish Hall will be open from 10am - 4pm on Saturday 15th July and 12- 4pm on Sunday 16th July. Bring your contributions, there might be a cup of tea or coffee and cake. On Sunday 16th there will be the exhibition about the Local plan in the Hall, so come for both.

On both days you will be able to buy raffle tickets and take a few books of tickets away to sell to your friends, family and work colleagues. There are great prizes. The draw is at 4.30pm on Fete day 27th August. The raffle is the biggest fund raising activity of the Fete. Lets make it a record this year. £1 a ticket; £5 a book of 5 .


See you at the Westwell Village Hall on Saturday 15th and /or Sunday 16th .

Christine Drury



Westwell Players

What a headache for 'our Sarah' and 'our Gordon'!! These are the two brave Players who have chosen our new Pantomime – "Once Upon a Time"

Oh, no they haven't, I hear you cry but I am going to ignore you! We had our second reading of the script last night and liked it even more than last week! Sarah and Gordon have a very difficult job, trying to decide who to cast in which part. We had so many excellent readers that it will be tricky to decide who will do what best!! It may well come down to which male has the best pair of legs when wearing a dress – we had four contenders All of whom would have been brilliant as our Dame. However there are plenty of other good parts to go round and the best part of the contest is that we will end up with a rattling good cast and our audiences will go home with a smile on their faces and even (hopefully) a song in their hearts! There are lots of pretty young girls in this show and we might not have quite enough to go round so if you know of anyone who would make a good Alice in Wonderland or Red Riding Hood, small parts with not too much to learn – please let them know we are on the prowl and will give them a warm welcome should they wish to join in the fun. Our first rehearsal is on Tuesday 5th September but please give me a telephone call on 01233 713002 to have a chat first! Many thanks. I cannot wait to hear which songs have been chosen as Panto songs are always the most sing-a-long ones and we will have such fun rehearsing them. Westwell Players will now go into hibernation mode when we cuddle up in corners learning our scripts and muttering odd phrases – sotto voce! Looking forward to seeing some more pretty young maidens jostling for the best roles! See you in September!" *Mary Anne Pitt* 

Relay For Life Ashford

Relay For Life Ashford is a year-round team fundraising challenge that will bring our community together to beat cancer. Teams of friends, family or colleagues register for free and then fundraise for Cancer Research UK; with support from your Local Fundraising Manager and a team of wonderful volunteers.

To celebrate your team's achievements, you'll then be invited to a special 24 hour event at Julie Rose Stadium on 16th-17th September. Team members will take it in turns to walk around the track for the whole 24 hours, showing that together we are stronger than cancer. There'll be lots of entertainment including a silent disco for the overnight period! It promises to be lots of fun and a great way to meet new people, as well as supporting our life saving work.

Our group of volunteers also need your help to make Relay For Life Ashford a great success. We're looking for anyone with a passion to help beat cancer that can give anything from 1-2 hours per week. The group meet once a month in the evening which will increase to fortnightly as September approaches. We have lots of ways for you to get involved: -

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/volunteer/relay-for-life-logistics-chair-ashford>

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/volunteer/relay-for-life-ashford-survivorship-chair-0>

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/volunteer/relay-for-life-ashford-cancer-awareness-chair-0>

<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/volunteer/relay-for-life-ashford-team-chair-0>

Find out more about Relay For Life: <http://relay.cancerresearchuk.org/>

Register your team right now: http://relay.cancerresearchuk.org/site/TR?fr_id=1677&pg=entry

For more information or to register your interest in joining the group, please contact your Local Fundraising Manager, Lynette Farley: lynette.farley@cancer.org.uk / 07717 652679.

July on Hothfield Heathlands



In the rural delight of Hothfield Heathlands stand hundreds of leafy cities of the sky, tree communities teeming with life from basement to penthouse and with an impeccable carbon footprint. Of these the oak, great national symbol, supports more life forms than any other native tree, all year round in on and below the tree. In the company of an oak you are never alone! The well-shaped specimens of *Quercus robur* on the open heath down the slope from Cade Road are not usually associated with heathland habitat and at 70-80 years old are mere toddlers who only bore acorns at around 40. Here they provide vantage points for crows and magpies looking to raid the nests of ground nesting birds, one of the reasons these birds nest as far from trees as possible.

A few teenager oaks (150-200 year olds) stand at the edges of the Tolls up the slopes, already with holes and dead branches used by tree creepers or nuthatches for nests, young smooth bark now growing deep fissures, home to the insects and grubs the birds feed on with their specialised beaks. Dead branches indicate that the tree withdrew nutrients from its extremities when water was short. Their vast communities or ecosystems are developing. Fungi help the tree extract nutrients from the soil and benefit from sugars provided by the oak. Lichen and mosses grow on the bark. Many species of insect munch oak buds in spring, some of the thousands of leaves in summer or are parasitized by other insects or munched up by small birds, themselves prey to larger birds. Many gall wasps lay their eggs in embryo acorns or on the leaves, the oak responds by producing galls and spangle galls, homes to the wasp grubs and other

micro-inhabitants. Oaks arrived 9,000 years ago after the ice age, new pathogens are still arriving, such as the horned knopper gall first seen in the UK in the 1960s. The oak tolerates it all, producing tannic acid in the leaves, and if necessary, a flush of new Lammas leaves in August, but will grow with a characteristic crooked appearance. A straight growing tree in the countryside usually suggests that it's from foreign climes, leaving its parasites behind.

The starchy acorns are food for insects, mammals, birds and pigs. They are distributed with least damage and best germination rate, away from the canopy, by jays. Soft leaves break down easily into rich leaf mould, plants flourish under the thin canopy that lets in essential sunlight for spring flowers in the woodland. In the middle of the heath however the oaks can suck the ground dry and shade out the desirable heathland species. Humans who had learned of the many uses of the oak named it *robur* or sturdy. Locals might have used galls to make indelible ink and will have used the wood for building or charcoal for furnaces, fed their pigs, used crushed bark for tanning leather, made acorn flour or coffee, the latter perhaps only once.

The heathland is open to all, including dogs kept in check; a human toddler can become terrified of dogs, not knowing that an unleashed bounding dog larger than her just wants to play. Various trails are signposted and indicated on the maps at entrances, which also give the location of the livestock. There are plenty of fallen trees to clamber over. 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, or to join the volunteers who help maintain the reserve, check the cattle and carry out summer surveys contact the Warden on 01622 662012 or at ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk.

Margery Thomas