



The Wheel

6th July - Bingo at The Wheel - 7pm
£2 a card

13th July - Pie Night

20th July - 7pm Pub quiz -
Quiz £2 per person, cash prize

21st July -from 12noon -
Glastonbury in the Garden 2!

27th July - Tapas Night, with band to follow

Contact: 01233 712223
info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk



THE WESTWELL EYE

185

July

2018



Left: top: White foxgloves, **bottom;** orchids. both taken by Val Butcher.

Right: top; WI Tactile Book p6, **bottom** Irish Pilgrim p5



6th July
2nd, 16th, 30th July
10th July
14th July
19th July
20th July

10.30am Coffee in The Wheel - all welcome
1.30pm Painting Group
11am Book Club - The Wheel - p13
10am-4pm Items for fete to Parish Hall - p9
7pm Fete briefing - Parish Hall - p9
7pm Quiz - The Wheel

July 2018

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 5th Sunday of Trinity G7 Communion - Egerton - p12 Messy Church	2 1.30pm painting 7pm Parish Council	3	4 11am Fistepts - Dance as U Go	5 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates	6 10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	7
8 6th Sunday of Trinity 11am Iona Eucharist	9 7pm Fitness	10 Book Club - p13	11 11am Fistepts - Dance as U Go	12 R.F.T 9.15am Pilates 7.30pm WI Meeting	13	14 10am - 4pm Items for the Fete to Village hall
15 7th Sunday of Trinity 11am Family Service	16 1.30pm painting 7pm Fitness	17	18 11am Fistepts - Dance as U Go	19 R.F.W 9.15am Pilates 7pm Fete Briefing Village Hall	20	21
22 8th Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist	23 7pm Fitness	24	25 11am Fistepts - Dance as U Go	26 R.F.T 9.15am Pilates	27	28
29 9th Sunday of Trinity G7 Communion - Hothfield	30 1.30pm painting 7pm Fitness	31	Aug 1	2 R.F.W	3	4

From the Editor's desk...

There were between 30 and 40 people at the Safari Supper, slightly fewer than other years, but none the less a huge success, and not such a scrum at the Parish Hall for the dessert. Thank you to everyone who hosted a course and those who made puddings.

An Irish pilgrim camped at Dunn Street farm recently and Helen Stuart-Smith has written about her on page 5.

The members of the WI are making tactile books for blind children, there is a picture on the front cover and Joan has written a few words about the project on page 6.

Nada sent me a copy of the translation of Ithaca – a poem the book club discussed last month – see p13 – but unfortunately I did not have room to include it this month, hopefully next month.

There is no more Tai Chi but I gather something is coming in its place, so watch this space!

Items for the fete can be taken to the Parish hall on 14th July between 10am – 4pm and also there is a stall holder's, etc., briefing on 19th July at 7pm also in the Parish hall.

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!

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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Parish Council (clerk, Sue Wood)	623902
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The Wheel Inn - update

A couple of years ago, when the future of the pub was looking very uncertain, the Parish Council formally applied to make it an (ACV) Asset of Community Value, so that in the event of the pub being sold the local community would have an opportunity and time to decide whether it wanted to put in a bid for the premises, with a view to keeping the pub open.

You will probably be aware that Shepherd Neame were finally granted planning approval for the erection of 3 houses (1 pair of semi detached houses and one detached house) on what used to be the beer garden for The Wheel Inn and are now looking to sell the building plots to a developer.

However, as technically the beer garden is still covered by the original ACV designation the Borough Council is legally required to give a 6 week notice period to allow any local community group interested in the purchase of the land for the purposes of operating it as a continuing community asset to make their interest known before Shepherd Neame can sell the land. As we have already achieved our community aim of securing the continued operation of The Wheel, the Parish Council do not anticipate any community group will want to come forward but we wanted to give residents a bit of background to the formal public notices that have been posted, in case they were causing undue concern or confusion.

If anyone has any questions the next Parish Council meeting is on 2nd July at 7.30 pm.

Planning applications

The following has been withdrawn

17/01636/AS Sand pit, Sandyhurst Lane Up to 18 dwellings

The following were supported by the Parish Council and approved by the Borough Council

18/00566/AS 11 Leda Cottages, Maidstone Road, Westwell Two storey side extension

18/00155/AS Fallowfield The Street, Westwell Proposed single storey timber framed garage

18/00384/AS The Harven Watery Lane, Westwell Erection of oak framed garage to house a horse box & a tractor to replace existing woodshed. Existing garden wall to be reconstructed towards the house

The following was supported by the Parish Council and a decision is awaited from the Borough Council

18/00581/AS & 18/00642/AS The Bull Pen, Westwell Court Replacement of 5 conservation rooflights

The following will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting

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

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

18/00913/AS Sunnybank, Watery Lane, Westwell Conversion of, and extension to, garage into annexe ancillary to main house

18/00867/AS The Old Forge, Westwell Lane, Westwell The erection of a single dwelling with associated access, parking and landscaping on land at the rear of The Old Forge, Westwell

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The Vicar's Picnic - Kent's Biggest Little Festival

The Vicar's Picnic is back with an outstanding musical experience held in the picturesque setting in Yalding between Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells in Kent. The Kent's Biggest Little Festival in Kent takes place on the banks of the River Medway on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st July 2018, which will be the sixth year that the festival has been held. The festival is run by a small group of volunteers with the aims of providing a true value for money experience. We aim to provide a great weekend for first time and regular festival-goers from both the local community and from further afield catering for the needs of all ages so that everyone can experience a wide range of musical acts within a safe environment. In 2016 the Vicar's Picnic was short-listed as finalists for two national festival awards. Last year we sold out of tickets prior to the event and had a total of more than 3,500 people for what was acclaimed to be the best Vicar's Picnic yet. This year the headline acts on the stages will be Fun Loving Criminals, Star Sailor, Cast, Nine Below Zero and in the dance tent we will have Norman Jay MBE, Mr Doris, Nightmares on Wax, Crazy P and many others. As always all the profits from the festival will go to local charities, which this year are Dandelion Time, Kenward Trust and the Yalding Supper Club. More information and tickets are available at <http://vicarspicnic.co.uk>



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WESTWELL WI

June has been a busy month for our members. On the 6th, a party of 38 members, friends and members of other WIs in the area boarded a coach from the A20 layby and took a daytrip to Le Touquet. After a shaky start, the coach arrived in France not long after planned and we were driven down the scenic route from Coquelle to Le Touquet. En route the sun came through the cloud and stayed with us for the rest of the day. On our arrival in the town we made our way down the main street – some went straight for a meal, some went for a pre-prandial drink (or two) first, others looked at the shops. When we met up later that day, everyone had had a good lunch, a nice walk along the promenade and a browse in the shops, all at our own pace. We had a short stop at City Europe for some important shopping then home, already planning to do it again next year. (Watch this space!)

This event was followed on the 16th by a Fashion Show put on by Ibbidy-Bobbidi-Boo of Tenterden. This is a small boutique selling clothes and accessories for ladies of all ages. Paula has a good eye for what suits people and although some of the members who were modelling were reluctant to wear one or two items, the audience agreed that the clothes were a perfect choice. This was an open event and around 40 ladies came. They were treated to a glass of fizz (either with or without alcohol content) and the atmosphere was one of great merriment.

For our monthly meeting, we had a talk and demonstration of Crochet by Kathryn Hart. This was of great interest even to those of us who were taught this skill at an early age as Kathryn had done a lot of research into the history of crochet and the various different types of crochet, including Tunisian crochet and Broomstick crochet, which she then demonstrated to us in small groups.

Our competition was for a single bloom, which created a lovely aroma in the hall from the many beautiful roses that had been entered. The winner, however, was a lovely pink waterlily brought in by Marilyn Warner, which stayed open just long enough for everyone to see before closing up for the night.

Next Meeting: Thursday 12th July.

Talk: Willesborough Windmill speaker Pat White

Hostesses: Mesdames Mary Anne Pitt, Celeste Muir and Lindsey Peddle

Vote of thanks: Ella Young

Competition: Tea towel

Celtic Harp - photo page 1

The harpist was a pilgrim on her way to Rome. She had walked from Cork in Ireland and was going via Canterbury and then Dover. As a pilgrim she was carrying every thing she needed, but also a Celtic harp which weighed 14 pounds. The harp apparently had to be played every day, to keep it in tune, so we were fortunate to hear her playing and singing sitting under our Mulberry tree in the evening sunshine.

Helen Stuart-Smith

Royal Wedding Day at The Wheel

James put on a delicious lunch whilst we watched the wedding of the year on a big screen. The sun shone, the new pub garden (extremely well planted out) came into its own and many people (villagers and others) enjoyed English and American fare on trestle tables.

We tucked into mini cottage pies and toad in the hole as well as cucumber sandwiches and scones and cream. Delicious! Crossing the Pond for culinary alternatives, we ate hamburgers and onions and hot dogs! Oh yes, and I ate smoked salmon bagels - a step too far but filled me for the remainder of the day. All washed down with cooling ale and lager.

Well done, James, for making a splendid day extremely memorable. Bet they didn't eat so well at the Castle. **Richard Scarratt**

Tactile Book Project

Westwell WI have completed their second book for The Tactile Book Project, this is a project to establish a loans collection in the UK, a national children's Braille library of hand made books for blind and partially-sighted children. These children enjoy touch, shake, sniff or rattle, enabling them with little help to read a book. The books are sent to schools and libraries. Westwell are now starting their third book. **Joan Richards**



Pond Creation

Our countryside partnership has recently taken on a role through Natural England, to restore and create ponds within the Low Weald. This project has been created to increase the resilience of the Great Crested Newt population in this area.

I am looking for any landowners who may be interested in having pond/s created on their land or have pond/s which require restoration, perhaps they are so full of plants that space for water is limited or there are too many trees round the pond. The work to create/ restore these ponds would be undertaken by Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership with funding from Natural England, with no expense for the landowner.

Newts like quite large ponds so we are aiming at ponds with a surface area of 100sqm (10m x 10m) or bigger. Creation/ restoration of ponds does not only benefit newts, but a whole host of wildlife as well.

Annie Thurgarland **Watercourse Officer / Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership**

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Westwell Community Watch Scheme

Keeping you Safe and Secure
Neighbourhood Watch

Sadly we have experienced a couple of distressing incidents this last month. The first, a blatant, daylight burglary from a house in Westwell village. A break-in during the short time the residents were out resulted in the theft of electrical equipment and valuables. The benefit of Neighbourhood Watch demonstrated itself when, after we publicised the crime through Westwell Events, a neighbour came forward with valuable witness information which was passed to the Police.

The second is a couple of reports of youngsters vandalising both Sandiacres Sports and Social Club and Ashford Golf Club, both in Sandyhurst Lane. Concerningly the youths responded in an aggressive and threatening manner when approached. The message is clear, observe, note, photograph/video if possible and use 999 or 101 as necessary to report at the time or after the event. But please DON'T put yourself in harms way by intervening!

Neighbourhood Watch is not just looking out for villains - it's looking out for our community

Kent Police

Kent Police /NHWS are now producing a very useful daily email digest of crime in the area categorised into borough Wards. This means we can quickly scan for what is happening locally and through Westwell Events keep you aware. Please check your emails regularly and let your neighbours know if they haven't signed up

Now that the weather is better and we both leave windows open and get around more the Police have issued the following

Top tips to keep your valuables safe

- At home, avoid leaving keys or other valuables on display near windows or doors.
- Consider installing a good quality safe to the appropriate British/European standard. Safes should be bolted to a solid wall or floor and concealed, for example in a cupboard or fitted wardrobe. Further information on safes can be found at www.securedbydesign.com
 - When you go out, only take with you what you need – leave valuables at home.
 - When out and about, keep valuables out of view (for example in a zipped pocket) and spread them around your person. If you have a bag, keep it fastened and to the front of your body where you can see it. Use a purse chain if you can.
- Never leave your belongings unattended or in easy reach, for example on the top of a pram, a shopping trolley or a mobility scooter.

All common sense - but how often do we forget!

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

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Letter to the Parishes

Dear Friends,

“They’re all God’s creatures” is a phrase sometimes used to reprove people (like me) who would like to see an end to slugs, snails, lily beetles, rabbits, grey squirrels and wood pigeons in their gardens and fields. Tylden and Stephanie’s monthly column in the Charing Magazine with news from, ‘Our Little Bit of Heaven’ is, on the other hand, an inspiration to those who try to encourage and sustain wildlife in their gardens: butterflies, reptiles, birds, amphibians and more. But things are seldom black and white as I too enjoy the company of birds and butterflies and provide them with numerous feeders and favoured flowers and bushes.

The book of Genesis records God as saying to Adam and Eve, “Have dominion over every living thing that moves upon the earth”. Nevertheless, are we ‘playing God’ if we encourage some species and eliminate others? As the dominant species, do we have the right to act like a Roman Emperor turning our thumbs up or down as ‘pests’ or ‘beneficial creatures’ are paraded before us.

Undoubtedly tensions and debate have increased in recent years as the internet allows access not only to greater knowledge and understanding of our environment but also the publicising of extreme views including the recent targeting of a family butcher in Ashford by allegedly vegans with vitriolic language and threats to the personal safety of the family.

Jesus’ teaching on the subject is limited but, living as he did in a rural environment with largely subsistence farmers and fishermen, he must have been well aware of the delicate balance between feeding his family and earning a living whilst caring for the environment. He was an interventionist in nature, approving of the rooting out of a fig tree, pruning vines that were non-productive, protecting sheep from predators whilst, perhaps more controversially, the curing of a man with demons was at the expense of a herd of pigs which perished in a lake when the displaced demons entered them. However, Jesus was very critical of those who simply gathered larger and larger harvests and built bigger and bigger barns to store grain for greater profit and status in society rather than meeting people’s needs.

We are faced with world-wide environmental issues these days including global warming, plastic oceans and habitat destruction in the tropics yet there are issues much closer to home: Should badgers be culled to prevent T.B. in cattle?

Is it right to reduce the seal population around Scottish islands so puffins can flourish?

Should grey squirrels be controlled so that reds can be re-introduced as is happening in Kielder Forest? I’m not offering an opinion as to yes or no – either way I’d probably get an avalanche of emails and tweets! However, as Christians I believe we are custodians rather than owners of the earth and it is right we should listen to the arguments and evidence on both sides and prayerfully seek God’s guidance.

With every blessing,

Philip Cox 



Church Cleaning Rota.

Cleaning. Wendy Bartlett
Flowers. Sarah Stevenson
Brass. Sue Norman

Etc

Dates for diaries

August 26th. Fete

December 1st Bazaar

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

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



Book Club May 2018

This meeting was to enjoy and discuss our individual choices in poems. There were six of us and we began with ‘Ithaca’, the famous poem in Greek by Cavafy. The poet was born in Egypt in the 19th Century and lived there all his life but wrote in Greek and we heard a translation. It is about adventure in life and rich tapestry of experiences. What we can learn on any journey in life, that the journey is more important than the destination and reaching that. It is a parody of Ulysses’s story in the Odyssey where he sets off to Ithaca, a beautiful and peaceful place in Greece. On the way he and his men are imprisoned by a cyclops but they manage to escape. In the poem Cavafy pleads with the traveller to cherish encountering the Egyptians and the Phoenicians (people of Lebanon) ..and all that can be learnt in these foreign lands.

We also listened to other poems..one by a dying girl who pleads with the listener to ‘take life slowly and enjoy what it offers’. Here we discussed how hard it is for doctors who treat dying people and may be there to see the end of life.

Another poem was ‘I carry your heart within me’ by E E Cummings: “I carry your heart with me(i carry it in my heart) I am never without it(anywhere i go, my dear, and whatever is done by only me is your doing, my darling) I fear no fate (for you are my fate, my sweet)....”

A very appropriate poem for a wedding.

Then we talked about more humorous poems.. like Pam Ayers’s ‘They have asked my husband’. Here are a few snippets:

“You know how the world is complicated, imperfect and oppressed,people want solutions but they don’t know where to go. Opinions abound but who is wrong and who is right. People need a prophet, a diffuser of light. Well, they should have asked my ‘usband, he’d have told’m then and there his thoughts on immigration, teenage mothers, Tony Blair, the future of the monarchy, house prices in the South, the wait for hip replacements...”

A lovely meeting.

Our next meeting will discuss ‘The Quality of Silence’ by Rosamund Lupton. 10th July and in August: ‘Our Hidden Lives’ by Simon Garfield

WAGS

July. 2nd, 16th, 30th



Music and Musicals

Challock Flower Festival

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Parish News

Westwell Church Services for July
www.g7benefice.org

Sunday 1st: 5th Sunday of Trinity
10,30am G7 Communion - Egerton, see below

Friday 6th

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 8th: 6th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 15th: 7th Sunday of Trinity

11am Family Service

Sunday 22nd: 8th Sunday of Trinity

11am Eucharist

Sunday 29th: 9th Sunday of Trinity

10,30am G7 Communion - Hothfield

Tuesdays:

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Jack's Ordination to the Priesthood.

Jack will be ordained priest in a ceremony of ordination in the cathedral on Saturday 30th June at 5pm.

Jack has been called to exercise his ministry here in the G7 and we look forward to welcoming him as Priest. He will celebrate his first Communion with us at a benefice service on Sunday 1st July at 10.30am in Egerton Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sheila

Family Church in July

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

Messy celebrates the church in India. Join us for lots of colourful activities, old clothes recommended. 3.30pm **Sunday 1st July** in the Parish hall.

Sunday 15th July at 11am. All Age service enjoys animals, big or small and their friends. Please come along with your animal(s) and share your love of animals with us. outside if fine.

Do you have any favourite hymns? Let us know. Email hlist@hotmai.com

Looking forward to November.



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

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

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

2. A river of poppies falling down the wall near the war memorials, inspired by the poppies on show at the Tower of London in 2014. We are inviting villagers to make poppies to add to this display. We hope for a waterfall rather than a trickle so any help would be very gratefully received.

This will be erected around Harvest time when these men would have been most missed from Village life.

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

hlist@hotmai.com.

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



Westwell Fete Sunday 26th August

Meetings this month 19th at 7pm - The Village Hall

Hi Everyone ,

This month we need to finalise the layout for the Fete and confirm pitch sizes. alongside all the usual events – including childrens races , fun dog show, cow pat, egg throw, tug of war, not to forget sky birds of prey, we may be able to have a Fire appliance visiting (if not required for a fire !) and stalls, which this year will I hope include a Crafts tent. This is in addition to book stall, produce stall, cakes, bric a brac and tombola .

On Saturday 14th July from 10am – 4pm in the Village Hall

There will be a big collection of all non perishable contributions.

Please bring books, crockery, bric a brac, items for the tombola stall.

Your “ might use it or read it one day” can be some one else ‘s “ just what I wanted”. Clothes welcome too. Bring your items in bags or boxed.

There will be empty boxes and hangers to receive them .

On Thursday 19th July at 7pm in the Village Hall - Fete Meeting:

this is briefing meeting for everyone involved before the summer holiday get away.

Do please attend.

Any questions contact Doris on 712016 or Christine on 07796 930430 Christine Drury

On behalf of the National Coordinator Protect and Prepare please find below information in relation to ‘CT Summer Security’

As the UK prepares to kick off the summer months with a busy May Bank Holiday weekend filled with festivals, concerts and sporting events; police security experts will again be working in partnership with event organisers to ensure that safety and security remains top of the agenda.

Launched for the first time last year in response to the terror attacks in both London and Manchester, ‘Summer Security’ has already delivered advice, best practice and training to thousands of festival workers, staff and security guards across the UK.

This year, experts from Counter Terrorism Policing will once again be working in partnership with organisers at major entertainment and sporting venues up and down the country to ensure that thousands more staff will be able to minimise the chance of attacks and mitigate the impact they can have.

While there is no intelligence to indicate an increased threat to summer events, the new National Coordinator for Protect and Prepare Policing, T/Chief Superintendent Nick Aldworth, wants the public to familiarise themselves with the existing safety information so they too, can play a part in the UK’s collective security.

Please go to the link for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ct-summer-security>. If you see something suspicious, call the anti-terrorism hotline 0800 789321. To contact the counter terrorism security advisor office with a general enquiry, please email ctsabouvierie@kent.pnn.police.uk



Westwell Players

Players 'rest' period is almost over! The Committee met on Monday evening, 11th June with lots to discuss. We have had two readings of our new show – 'Fly Me' to be produced in November or December this year and our next excitement will be a bring and share Players Picnic on the Parish green on SUNDAY 15TH JULY AT TWELVE NOON. This is such an easy concept because we all bring something - from a plate of ready cut sandwiches through plates of cold meat or fish to packets of crisps with a dip or some wonderful concoction as a dessert or a quiche or pork pie – time for all you clever individuals to think of something different to bring and share. Please also remember to bring your own plate, cutlery, glass and drink as the idea is that no-one spends the end of the afternoon in the sink!! We hope the weather is kind to us and we will be mostly outside but we do have our lovely Hall in case the heavens open! We spend so much of our time together working hard on a show that this is our time for social banter and getting to know each other better. I will bring the old Scrap Books so we can look back at old triumphs and we all hope that some new faces will appear so if you fancy being a member of our motley band of friends, please – just turn up with some food and you will be welcomed with open arms. Bring your husbands, wives, and children and let's make this the best one yet. We need a prompt for the next show too, and a permanent tea/coffee maker so please come along to the field if you want to take part in any guise whatsoever.

The new show is all about a group of holidaymakers who fly off to Spain on holiday and the high jinks they get up to while there! There is a young honeymoon couple, a dance group with their leader, a family complete with Granny and many other interesting parts, something for everyone so come along and see if there is a part that is right for you.

The weather forecasters have suggested that we are in for a scorching summer, I hope this is true for all who read this article! Happy Holidays from Westwell Players!

Mary Anne Pitt 



1st Charing Scout Group



Even though we have a long way to go we managed to hold our AGM in our new headquarters. The electric hardware is being fitted so the inside is getting very close to looking finished. The disabled access pathways have been a real challenge but we are getting there.

Our whole group camp was a great success. Scouts are now looking forward to their canoe camp. It sounds very exciting

gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Terry Lister



July on Hothfield Heathlands

The words Hothfield and heathland both derive from the Old English word "hath" meaning heather. This heather is a key component for wildlife across the Hothfield nature reserve, and we have been carrying out surveys to measure its health.

Last year's survey carried out over 8 weeks, not only showed the location of the heather, but assessed the location of the heather in all phases of growth stages from (seedlings nested in the grass) through developing to mature and dead are located. The thousands of tiny heather flowers on the heath all shed seed and walkers on the open sections may see young plants with fresh green foliage nestled low in the grass. Keeping those areas clear of bracken and birch will enable mature colonies of heather to develop. The presence of heather at all stages of development add to the richness of the habitat, serving myriads of birds animals and insects at different stages.

The sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, collectively known as hymenoptera were reported on for the survey by Grant Hazlehurst: "I found the wasp *Crabro peltarius* (it doesn't have a common name) - this was the first Kent record for many years, It is a heathland specialist. I haven't seen it here before and I suspect it is a recent arrival on the site. I also found *Dysmachus trigonus*, the fan-bristled robber fly more commonly found on sand dunes - a good indication of a quality sandy habitat. The site continues to hold a high diversity of wasps, including Red Data Book species *Crossocerus exiguous* (one of the square-headed wasps) and *Cerceris quinquefasciata*, (another wasp) reflecting the open sand and dead wood in sunlight."

Grant found two common species of ant including *Lasius niger* which is the host of the caterpillar of the (long disappeared) silver studded blue, so good news for any introduction attempt.

Now is a good time to look for disturbed sand around holes where the female pantaloone bee (or hairy-legged mining bee) using her hairy back legs to clear sand out of her burrow in the sandy open ground, or as described by Matt Parrott at Minsmere, "a tiny black and yellow shape moving like an out-of-control Scalextric car".

If you would like to get involved contact Ian on 01622 662012 or at ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk.

Margery Thomas

